



St. Farnan's Post-Primary School

Winter Newsletter 2021.



Message from the Principal



Welcome to the St. Farnan's Winter newsletter—it certainly has been a very busy and productive term in school. I am delighted that we can share in this newsletter the wonderful news and images of the significant progress towards our new school building - the new building will be transformative and no less than what our amazing school community deserves. We can only give you a flavour of life in St. Farnan's in this newsletter—I would like to thank all members of the school community for their dedicated and enthusiastic engagement with all school activities, both academic and extracurricular this term. There has been tremendous teaching and learning as well as sporting, cultural and charitable activities—well done to all. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas break and every good wish for 2022.

Mr. Andrew Purcell, Principal.

Exciting plans for our new school building!

We are happy to announce that the Buildings Team in the Department of Education & Skills has 'Approved in Principle' that KWETB and their appointed design team can proceed with designing/planning of our new school.

These are some of the MCDH Design Team's initial drawings of the new St. Farnan's building that were presented to the Department of Education & Skills. More detailed work is ongoing.

KWETB and the design team will be holding meetings to showcase the plans and to liaise with interested school and community groups over the coming year.



Congratulations to the 1st years in R. 14 who were the Junior winners of our Christmas Door Competition and to the Leaving Certs. in R. 2 who were the winners of the Senior Prize!



1st years enjoying the Board Games Club in school which is organised by our Senior Prefects!

Some of the Events & Successes celebrated this term!

- Career Talks to 6th year students from UCD, DCU, TCD, TUD & Maynooth University
- Elections held for the school's Student Council
- Careers Information Evening held for 6th year students and their parents & guardians
- Christmas Door Competition held throughout the school
- TY Tour to the Abbey Theatre, Dublin
- Anti-Bullying Workshops held for 3rd and 5th year students
- Christmas Hamper Collection held throughout the school
- 2nd year students begin their involvement in the World of Work programme with SAP Ireland and Business in the Community
- Sports make a welcome return to schools as teams take part in soccer, gaelic football and hurling competitions
- Lots of beautiful Christmas artwork and displays around the school
- College Awareness Week was marked in the school with various events and an art competition
- Maths Week was celebrated in the school with many events including a Maths trail for our 1st years and a Maths Olympiad for our 2nd year students
- Stand Up Awareness Week was celebrated with huge success throughout the school
- Board Games Club established for the 1st year students
- Transition Year Students have their End of Term reviews

Key Dates for next term



- Jan. 6th:** School reopens after Christmas holidays
- Jan. 7th:** TY Barista Training
- Jan. 9th:** HEAR/DARE Application Information online session
- Jan. 11th:** TY First Aid Training
- Jan. 12th:** Maynooth University online CAO Information session
- Jan. 13th:** TYs to attend Just!Life event
- Jan. 18th:** School will end at 12.40 to facilitate staff meeting
- Jan. 21st:** Workshop 2 in the World of Work Programme with SAP
- Jan. 21st:** TY Percussion Workshop
- Jan. 25th:** School closed to facilitate Staff JCT Training
- Jan. 27th:** TY Greatest Showman Workshop
- Feb. 1st:** Closing Date for CAO Applications
- Feb. 1st:** Deadline for online HEAR/DARE Application form
- Feb. 5th:** CAO online facility to change course choices opens
- Feb. 21st:** Midterm Break begins
- March 15th:** Deadline to submit supporting documents to CAO for HEAR/DARE applications.



Valued Partnership with SAP

We are delighted that our school is beginning an eighth year of partnership with SAP Ireland through the Business in the Community initiative. In the initial years of the partnership, many of our 5th year students completed the Skills@Work programme. Since last year, the focus has now moved to the 2nd year cohort and this year 28 of our 2nd years will participate in the World of Work (WOW) programme. During this online modular programme, they will gain insights into the world of work by reflecting on their skills, their ambitions and looking at key concepts like teamwork and communications. They will meet with SAP employees from all over the world and even meet the Managing Director, Mr. Liam Ryan as part of the next workshop in January.



St. Farnan's Transition Year Update

The students in Transition Year Class Bailey have had a very busy few weeks since midterm. In addition to their core course work and taster senior cycle modules, the TYs have had guest speakers including Suzie O'Neill from AYU on Entrepreneurship, the Brilliant Mondays talk by Stephen Kiernan and Frank Diamond on Resilience. They have enjoyed several workshops which included Develop Me, Forensics and Circus Skills and they made their own Bodhráns with Michael from Galway. There has been an emphasis on their physical wellbeing also Kickboxing classes with Vinny and GAA Coaching. Some of the students excelled in their Christmas Baking making wonderful cupcakes and Christmas Chocolate Puddings. They enjoyed a very welcome trip to Dublin to get a very special backstage tour of the Abbey Theatre and then soak up the Christmas atmosphere in the shops afterwards. To finish off the term, they TYs were treated to some Hot Chocolate and treats before welcoming Melanie and the exotic animals from Reptile Haven. The TYs also coordinated our very successful Christmas Hamper campaign and together ensured that generous hampers will be given to families in need in our school community before Christmas. The students make the most of all of the learning opportunities being offered to them and every facilitator and speaker we have welcomed to work with them have commended them on their good manners, participation and positive attitude—they are certainly very deserving of their Christmas break and we hope they come back ready for another busy term in January!



**Wishing all our students,
parents and staff a very happy
and peaceful
Christmas break!
St. Farnan's will reopen on
Thursday, January 6th 2022.**

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Sports Update -



Ladies Football and Soccer:

- The senior ladies football team (pictured below) had good wins over Edenderry and Clara and have topped their group. They now advance to the knockout stages and look forward to a quarter final against Granard in the New Year.
- The U19 soccer team were unlucky against Clane and narrowly lost out on a scoreline of 3-2.
- The U17 soccer team had a 12-2 win over Dunamase in their Cup game. They go through to a quarter final.
- Competitions for our U14 and U15 Gaelic football and soccer teams begin after the Christmas break.



Boys Gaelic Football and Soccer:

- The senior Gaelic footballers lost out to Avondale CC Rathdrum in the first round of championship.
- The senior soccer team (pictured below) defeated Clongowes Wood College 4-3.
- The U16 gaelic footballers were defeated by Monasterevin.
- The second year boys came third in their group.
- All teams have shield competitions to compete in after Christmas.



HSCL Update: Jennifer Reilly:

The second term was a busy one. I have had some wonderful welcoming conversations with parents and guardians both through phone calls, doorstep and home visits. January will see the establishment of a parent/guardian book club. Thank you to those who have completed the survey. The first book up for discussion is 'The Outsider' by Emily Hourican. Looking forward to this and grabbing a cuppa. Lots of new opportunities coming in the New Year so always watch out for information on the school's Facebook page and website. For now, wishing you all a Happy, healthy and safe Christmas. Jennifer

