

CELEBRATING
75
YEARS



St. Farnan's Post-Primary Autumn Newsletter 2018.



Message from the Principal

Welcome to our school's Autumn Newsletter, the first of the academic Year 2018/2019. This has been an extremely successful and positive beginning to the new academic year for our school community. Since we returned to school at the end of August, our students and staff have participated in a wide range of extracurricular events that have complemented the teaching and learning taking place in our classrooms.

We have also held our Annual Awards and Open Evening, which were both well attended and which are valuable occasions for us to highlight all that we value and promote in St. Farnan's. May I take this opportunity to say thanks to you as Parents/Guardians for your continued support to our school and to remind you that our very active PTA is always looking for new members.

May I wish all students and staff an enjoyable and well-deserved midterm break.

Mr. Eddie Collins, Principal.

6th year Trip to Carlingford



On the 21st September, the 6th Year students went on a weekend trip away to Carlingford Adventure Centre with our teachers Mr Little, Ms Breslin, Mr Furey, Ms Reilly, Mr Kenna, Mr Curtin and Ms Cronin. We left Prosperous on Friday afternoon and made our way to Carlingford in Co. Louth. Our weekend was packed full with a wide range of activities including a blindfold challenge in the forest, Frisbee golf, kayaking, water trampoline and pier jumping. There really was something for everyone to do! I really enjoyed the blindfold challenge as we all had to work in teams to get across the forest by passing over obstacles such as tyres and planks of wood. We also visited the Sky Park where we did rope climbing and zip lining. The group also participated in laser tag which was so much fun but got quite competitive at times! On behalf of the 6th Year students, I would like to thank all of the teachers for organising a fantastic trip away! Written by—Sarah O'Rourke, 6th year.

Open Night

Some of our talented musicians and singers who met with prospective students and parents at our recent Open Night, ably guided by Ms. Lawlor from the Music Dept.



Some of the Events & Successes celebrated this term!

- Class Representatives from each class have been elected to the school's Student Council—2018-2019
- Breakfast Club taking place every morning in the canteen
- 6th year students attend the Higher Options Careers Fair in the RDS
- European Day of Languages celebrated with a Table Quiz and Poster Competition for 1st year students
- 38 students selected to take part in the Skills@Work Programme with SAP Ireland
- TY Students completed Team Building Challenges in GoQuest in Dublin
- TY Tour-guiding Course in Glasnevin as part of their Heritage Module
- TY GAA and Ultimate Frisbee Coaching Courses
- Maths Week celebrated in the school with various events including STEM Workshops for 1st years and TYs
- Career Talks to 6th year students from UL, Athlone IT, Apprenticeships, Carlow College, UCD, Waterford IT and Maynooth University with more planned for the coming weeks
- Wellbeing Day organised for the 1st years on Sept. 26th
- Annual Awards Night held on September 27th
- Open Night held on October 11th
- 6th Year Geography Field Trip to Glendalough on Oct. 18th
- Planning Meetings have taken place for the European Tour which this year will see 58 5th year students travel to Italy in April 2019
- TY students have begun the European Parliament Ambassador Schools Programme
- Our new and improved School Website has been published.
- Ms. Flanagan was awarded the title of Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques by the French Ambassador, H. E. Mr. Stéphane Czouzat for her work in language education and promotion in Ireland.

Key Dates for next term

- Nov. 5th:** 6th year Careers Talk — IT Blanchardstown
- Nov. 6th:** TY Tour Guiding Course—Glasnevin Cemetery
- Nov. 9th:** Visit by Mairéad McGuinness, MEP & Vice-President of the European Parliament to the school.
- Nov. 12th:** 6th year Careers Talk—St. Patrick's College, Maynooth
- Nov. 13th:** TY Work Experience begins.
- Nov. 15th:** 3rd year Parent-Teacher meetings.
- Nov. 19th:** 6th year Careers Talk—Dunboyne College
- Nov. 19th:** Skills@Work Programme — CV & Interview Workshop
- Nov. 26th:** 6th year Careers Talk—Carlow IT
- Nov. 29th:** 6th year Careers Talk—DCU
- Dec. 3rd:** School Closed.
- Dec. 10th:** SLCA Work Experience begins.
- Dec. 10th:** 6th year Careers Talk—Defense Forces
- Dec. 11th:** TY Ultimate Frisbee Course
- Dec. 12th:** TY & LCVP Trip to Careers Fair in Punchestown
- Dec. 18th:** Christmas House Exams begin for 1st, 2nd & 5th years
- Dec. 19th:** TY Film-making Course
- Dec. 21st:** School will close for the Christmas Break.



TY Update, written by Fiona Ennis. We have had a busy few weeks so far in Transition Year. We've gone on trips, had talks, organised events, and completed projects. We will soon be heading off to work experience and Mairead McGuinness herself is coming to visit us to speak about our European Parliament Ambassador school programme and the school's new website. We've been to the Ploughing Championships, GoQuest, Glasnevin and the National Botanical Gardens. We're working our way through the GAA future leader's programme and the Gaisce President's Bronze award. We have done a lot of work with the 1st years, teaching them card games and encouraging them to take an interest in STEM subjects through a workshop. We also visit the primary school each week to help them with their literacy. We also organised the European Day of Languages table quiz and Art Competition for 1st years.



Open Mic on Tuesdays!

A new and very popular initiative this term has seen students gathering in Room 19 on Tuesday lunchtimes to spend some time singing and playing music together. The idea for these Open Mic sessions came from Mr. McGovern and he says that there are growing numbers every week coming down to give it a try. So if you like music, like to sing or play an instrument, please call in to Room 19 on Tuesday and you are guaranteed a good time and a laugh!

Sports Update -

- Our Girls Senior Football team have just finished a hard fought campaign with a win over Rathangan and a defeat to Holy Family Newbridge. Unfortunately they do not progress from their group to the knockout stages but they have gained a lot of valuable experience this year. U16 and U14 girls competitions commence soon.
- Our under 14 boys had a narrow win over Naas C.C by a point which qualifies them for the Kildare final against St. Paul's, Monasterevin.
- Our under 16 boys team will commence their South Leinster D championship after the midterm with games against Naas Community College, Pipers Hill and Gaelcholáiste Chill Dara. The winner of the group qualifies for the Kildare final.
- The senior boys team have been drawn against St. Fergal's Rathdowney in the 1st round of the South Leinster D championship which is fixed for the last week in November.
- Students have recommenced training and competitive games also in rugby, camogie and basketball at various age levels.

St. Farnan's Annual Awards Night

Our Awards Evening was held in the school on September 27th. In all over 150 awards were distributed for academic, sporting and cultural achievements to students from 2nd-6th Year and to students from the Leaving Cert. class of 2018.

Pictured with Mr. Collins is Liam McManus who received the award for Outstanding Results in the Leaving Certificate Exam while Bella Xue received the award for the highest academic achievement at Junior Certificate level. Special awards for outstanding participation in the Skills@Work programme were presented to Niamh Clare and Jay Dwyer by Victoria Carroll from SAP Ireland. PJ Ewing was the recipient of the Colin Fox Award, which was presented to him by Mr. Joe Fox. Among the many award winners for their extracurricular activities, a number of students were recognised for their outstanding sporting endeavours at County and National levels including Killian Heffernan, Lauren McArdle, Katie Byrne, Eoghan Ashe, Liam Dempsey and Eoghan Dempsey.



St. Farnan's Credit Union Update:

A very close election took place earlier this term among TY students with three students topping the polls for the positions of Chairperson and Vice-Chair. Stephen Agbele topped the poll to become the Chairperson of the Branch and then a third round of counts was required to edge Darragh Cosgrove over the line to become Vice-Chair with Ryan McGinley just losing out by the narrowest of margins. Lucy Shortt was elected to the position of Secretary of the Branch.



Pictured left is the newly elected Board of Directors for 2018/2019.



This year's work has started early and plans to date include a Credit Union Workshop for our 1st year students and new advertising posters to be designed. A decision was made for a more regular opening hours and there will be a big push to get teachers to lead the way when it comes to joining our Credit Union. We also are planning a trip to the Central Bank to see the work they do—stay tuned for further updates, developments and events!

HSCL Update— Andrew Little:

Mr. Little has organised a wide variety of courses and workshops throughout this first term for students, parents and staff alike. Many more courses are planned for the coming months, including workshops on Numeracy, Cybersafety and Building Resilience. The participation and success of these courses has been tremendous with all courses held and the ones planned full to capacity. Parents and guardians are asked to please contact Mr. Little directly if you are interested in doing a course or if there is an issue you would like to see covered in a future course or workshop.



Wishing all our students, parents and staff a very enjoyable midterm break!
St. Farnan's will reopen on Nov. 5th.