



St. Farnan's Post-Primary School

Autumn Newsletter 2022.



Welcome to the St. Farnan's Autumn newsletter, and as usual, it has been a very busy and productive term in school. As this is the first newsletter of the new school year 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 year thus far—students, staff, parents and members of our Board of Management. This newsletter can only highlight a small number of the many educational, sporting and cultural activities, events, successes, trips, awards, charitable work etc. taking place in our school but I hope that it will convey what a very special school community we have and what a busy place our school is. It was especially lovely to be able to welcome families back to the school building and we were delighted to have hosted a very busy Awards Night and an extremely well-attended Open Night. Thank you to everyone to help organise these very successful events and thanks also to those who attended.

We look forward to another busy term when we return in November and in the interim, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and to wish you all a very happy midterm break.
Mr. Andrew Purcell, Principal.

Welcome return for our school Open Night



After a three year break due to the pandemic, we were delighted to be able to host an Open Night for prospective students and their families on October 20th. Huge crowds from all our local feeder schools came to meet with management and staff and to tour the building. Sincere thanks to all our students who assisted us so well as tour guides, demonstrators and presenters and who also helped prepare all the rooms with displays of students' work and projects during the day. Pictured left is Rory who helped out in the Woodwork room!

Awards Night Also following a break of a few years, we hosted our Awards Night on September 29th. A very large crowd of award winners and their families joined us for a very enjoyable evening. Awards were presented for excellence in all academic subjects, as well as awards for achievements in extracurricular activities including sport, debating and involvement in the World of Work programme with SAP. Students achieved excellence in their studies from last year's Leaving Cert. class were also acknowledged and it was lovely to welcome them back to school and to hear how well they are all doing in university, the work place and on apprenticeships. The Award for Outstanding results in the Leaving Cert. 2022 was presented to Karen O'Donohue while the awards for best Junior Cert. results was given to Ellen Kenna. We were very happy to welcome back Mr. & Mrs. Joe and Christine Fox to our school to present the Colin Fox Award for students who excel in the use of their hands. The 2022 award was given to Dylan Dunne McDonagh while the 2021 prize was awarded to Michael Behan. Another guest on the night was Garda Gary Cogan who presented Garda Youth Awards to Suzanne Carew, Sophie Cullen, Lauren McArdle, Aoife Cashman and Amy Cooney and an overall Regional Award to Keenan Brereton for his work with young people and sports promotion in the local area.



Some of the Events & Successes celebrated this term!

- Breakfast Club welcomes students every morning
- Team building Days for all year groups with Teamworks
- Career Talks to 6th year students from DCU, TUD, Carlow College, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth
- Student Council elected & representatives attended the Kildare Comhairle na nOg
- Team building trip for our 1st years to Redhills Adventure Centre
- TY Team building days to Baysports in Athlone & Redhills
- Emotional Resilience Workshops with EISHT for TYs & 5th year LGAs
- Leaving Cert. Careers trip to Higher Options in the RDS
- TY & Ag. Science students visit the National Ploughing Championships
- Rooms 25 & 26 tour to Athy Heritage Centre and Barge Trip
- European Day of Languages celebrated in the school
- Leaving Cert. Ecology Trip to Dublin Zoo
- Senior Prefects trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre
- Leaving Cert. Geography Field Trip to Kippure Estate, Co. Wicklow
- Maths Week celebrated in the school
- Coffee Morning for 1st year Parents & Guardians
- Walking Club for Parents & Guardians
- TY Guest Speaker, Minister Martin Heydon TD
- Senior Boys Soccer win against Clongowes Wood College, 6-1
- Senior Boys Basketball win against Dunlavin

Maths Week activities in school

Maths Week 2022 ran in St. Farnan's from October 17th–21st. Students took part in various activities and competitions over the week to help promote a love for maths and have



some fun. A 'Problem of the Day' was announced each day and all students in the school took part. The winners of these problems were Holly, Nia, Alanna, Glen, Alex and Finn and they are pictured with Mr. Purcell and Mr. Kenna. Other competitions which ran were 'Creating a Maths Clock' and 'Maths Eyes' where students took pictures of places they saw maths in their everyday lives. Winners of these competitions will be announced next week. Congratulations to all students who took part in the events over the week!



Key Dates for next term

- Nov. 10th:** Module 1 in the World of Work Programme with SAP
- Nov. 17th:** 6th year Parent-Teacher Meeting
- Nov. 24th:** Information Evening for 6th year students & their parents on Options for after the Leaving Cert.
- Nov. 24th:** Module 2 in the World of Work Programme—visit to SAP
- Nov. 29th:** School closed to students only. JC Cluster Inservice Day for Staff.
- Dec. 1st:** 3rd year Parent-Teacher Meeting
- Dec. 5th:** School closed as per the school calendar
- Dec. 6th-9th:** Christmas House exams for 1st, 2nd & 5th years
- Dec. 13th & 19th:** TY end of term interviews
- Dec. 21st:** School ends for the Christmas break





Comhgairdeas le Paul Kenna!

Congratulations to 6th year student Paul Kenna on the awards that he received while attending a Cúrsa Samhraidh sa Ghaeltacht this summer. Paul received Duais an Príomhoide, Rí an Chúrsa plus Gaeilgóir an Lae. He also received his Fáinne Óir. Well done to the many other students

who attended courses this summer. The Irish department hopes to have scholarships available again this year for students to experience a summer course in the Gaeltacht. If your child is interested, please ask them to speak to their Irish teacher.

St. Farnan's Transition Year Update

The students in Transition Year Classes Abbey and Druid have had a very busy beginning to the school year. In addition to their core course work and taster senior cycle modules, the TYs have enjoyed several workshops which included Dance & Fitness, Resilience & Emotional Wellbeing with EISHT, Internet Safety, Introduction to Coding and Personal Safety & Consent with Alex Walsh. They have also had workshops which were tailored to their Work Experience preparation including Workplace Etiquette & Communications with the School of Life, Manual Handling with Tyrus Training and Communications and Confidence with Movement More. Our first guest speaker was Minister Martin Heydon TD. The students have been on several trips including to the National Ploughing Championships and teambuilding days in Redhills Adventure Centre, to Bayports in Athlone and to Donadea Forest. They have been involved in many school activities including the Breakfast Club, the European Day of Languages and Maths Week, as well as helping with the school teams. They continue to do their work experience and also they starting a new suite of online courses and their Gaisce challenges after the midterm break. They are a fantastic bunch and they have been an absolute pleasure to work with this term! Well done and thank you all for your cooperation and participation and we hope you have a lovely midterm break!

New clubs & student activities in the school

Staff in the school have collaborated to put together an amazing range of extracurricular activities for our students. As well as the established sports in the school, new sports and activities have been added to ensure that every effort is made to provide opportunities for fun, learning and engagement outside as well as inside the classrooms. Activities on offer include:

- Speech & Drama
- Board Games
- Open Mic
- Choir
- Spanish Club (pictured)
- Debating
- Ally Club



The school also has organised teams in soccer, gaelic football, hurling, camogie, basketball, athletics and equestrian events.



Wishing all our students, parents and staff a very happy and restful Midterm break!
St. Farnan's will reopen on Monday, November 7th.

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Sports Update -

Senior Girls soccer have progressed to the Leinster B Cup quarter final on (Oct. 28th) vs last year's winners Ardscoil Ciaran Naofa Clara after an excellent win against Larkin CC last week while Senior girls LGFA play their last group match on Monday 24th of Oct.

2nd year Boys football had 1 win and 1 loss in their group games and will progress to knockout games after mid term.

Senior Boys soccer commences next week against Clongowes Wood College (Oct. 25th) while Senior boys football will take place after the midterm.

Our Senior Girls soccer team.



HSCL Update

The first term of this academic year certainly was a busy one. A big welcome to all those new families that I have met over the past few weeks.



A number of HSCL initiatives are back up and running. On Wednesday October 19th we welcomed 1st Year Parents, Grandparents and Guardians for a lovely coffee morning. They met with the Year Head Ms. Cassidy and her tutor team as well as members of the student support team. Our Book club has its first meeting and we are currently reading 'The Tattooist of Auschwitz'. Our Walking Group meet Tuesday and Thursday at 9.15am and Wednesday at 4.15pm at the front gate.

Some dates for your diary:

November 7th – Mental Health Talk with Caroline O'Connor Eisht, 7pm in the school

November 16th – Candle Making Courses. Places are limited and booking is essential.

Keep an eye on the Facebook page for upcoming courses!

Have a safe Halloween break.

Jennifer