



# St. Farnan's Post-Primary Autumn Newsletter 2021.



## Message from the Principal

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 my first 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 extra-curricular 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. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy midterm break.  
Mr. Andrew Purcell, Principal.

## Culinary Ability Awards National Launch



Well done to Tommy, Pdraigh, Tadhg and Dara for representing St. Farnan's so impeccably at the National Launch of the Culinary Ability Awards in the Killashee House Hotel in Naas recently!

## Retirement Celebrations for Mr. Collins & Sheila



October 1st was a significant day in St. Farnan's as we said good bye and celebrated the contribution of Mr. Eddie Collins, Principal and Mrs. Sheila Walsh, School Secretary, to the school on their retirement day.

All members of the school community were happy to be involved in the morning's events which culminated in a guard of honour for both Mr. Collins and Sheila around the school to great applause and then the presentation of gifts and speeches in the canteen. The official ceremony in the canteen which was attended by family members, staff and the students were represented by the Senior Prefects, pictured above with Mr. Collins.

Ms. Kennedy was an excellent Master of Ceremonies and made a warm speech in which she thanked Mr. Collins for his kindness, leadership and dedication to the school during his tenure as both Deputy and Principal since 2004. It was agreed that Sheila has been an integral part of school life and she will be very sorely missed by students and staff alike. Gifts were presented to Mr. Collins and Sheila from their colleagues on the staff and from the student body - we wish them both every happiness for their next chapter!



## Some of the Events & Successes celebrated this term!

- Career Talks to 6th year students from NUI Galway, Athlone IT and St. Angela's College, Sligo with more planned for the coming weeks
- 6th year Geography Field Trip to Kippure, Co. Wicklow
- 1st year Art Competition to celebrate the European Day of Languages
- Tours to Carlingford and Belfast & Derry have been organised for our senior students in the Spring term
- TY Teambuilding trips to Baysports, Redhills Adventure Centre and Donadea Forest Park
- Pupils from St. Farnan's participate in the national launch of the Culinary Ability Awards in the Killashee House Hotel in Naas
- Maths Week was celebrated in the school through project work
- Sports make a welcome return to schools as teams take part in soccer, gaelic football and hurling competitions
- Lots of excellent Artwork and projects are on display around the school
- Awards Day was celebrated on Sept. 30th
- Student Council elections are planned for the week after midterm

## Key Dates for next term

- Nov. 1st:** School reopens after midterm break
- Nov. 2nd:** 6th year Careers Talk with St. Patrick's College, Maynooth
- Nov. 2nd:** TY students welcome guest speaker, Maria Walsh MEP
- Nov. 4th:** 6th year Careers Talk with IT Carlow
- Nov. 5th:** CAO Online Application Facility opens
- Nov. 9th:** 6th year Careers Talk with Maynooth University
- Nov. 16th:** 6th year Careers Talk with TU Dublin
- Nov. 23rd:** 6th year Careers Talk with Trinity College Dublin
- Nov. 30th:** 6th year Careers Talk with DCU
- Dec. 6th:** School closed as per school calendar.
- Dec. 14th:** 6th year Careers Talk with University College Dublin
- Dec. 16th:** House exams begin for 1st/2nd & 5th year students
- Dec. 23rd:** Christmas holidays begin



## International Soccer Stars

We are so proud that two of our students have been selected to represent their country in underage women's squads. Orlaith O'Mahony, Transition Year and Leona Heffernan, 1st year, are members of the Irish U17 and U15 teams respectively. Orlaith has just returned from her second away trip with the Irish team this term—she featured prominently in matches on both of the trips to Portugal and Norway and scored the opening goal in their match against Hungary. Future stars in the making!



## Sports Update - Gaelic Football



Gaelic games have resumed in St. Farnan's for the first time since March 2020. The first team to get back into competitive action were the junior hurlers who in a competitive showing were edged out by a fine Patricians Newbridge side. They face Carlow C.B.S. away after the mid-term to see if they can advance from their group.



Later that week the Second-year boys football team (pictured above) took on Kildare Town C.S. and were beaten by a very strong outfit who must be a contender to win the competition outright. The Second-year team have one match left in their group against Oaklands C.C. Edenderry which will be played after the mid-term.

Both the Junior and Senior boys Gaelic football teams will start their respective competitions after the mid-term. The Junior footballers are in a group with St. Pauls Monasterevin and Kildare Town C.S.

The Senior team are straight into the quarter finals of the South Leinster competition where they will meet the winners of Avondale C.C., Rathdrum and Blessington C.C.



The ladies football teams have also resumed competitive action with the senior ladies (pictured above) defeating Oaklands C.C. away in Edenderry in a hard fought match. They have another game after the mid-term against Ard Scoil Chiaráin, Clara at home on Friday, November 5th at 11 am. The Junior ladies play their first game v Ard Scoil Chiaráin, Clara at home on Friday, November 12th at 11 am.

## St. Farnan's Transition Year Update

The Transition Year Class Bailey has had a very busy few opening term. In addition to their core course work and taster senior cycle modules, the TYs have gone on teambuilding trips to Baysports in Athlone and the Redhills Adventure Centre. They have also had guest speakers including Minister Martin Heydon, past Principal, Tom Crehan and Nicola Turley from Breast Cancer Ireland. They have enjoyed several workshops which included Health & Safety, Workplace Etiquette and of course they planned, scripted, acted and directed their own Film Day with KYTV. There has been an emphasis on their physical wellbeing also with a fun morning with Teamworks, dance classes with the Grainne Kennedy Stage School, an Orienteering trip to Donadea and the GAA Coaching programme. They continue to have weekly Work Experience, to establish their Mini-Companies and to work on the European Parliament Ambassador Schools Programme. They are also learning to play the Ukelele!

Looking forward to the coming weeks, they will be welcoming more special guests, getting involved the school's community clean-up and leading the school's involvement in both this year's national Think Languages event and the Christmas Hamper collection. There are many more special courses, trips and events planned so we hope that they will continue to make the most of the learning opportunities being offered to them this year—they are a great bunch and it has been a pleasure to work with them so far this year.



**Wishing all our students,  
parents and staff a very happy  
Midterm break!  
St. Farnan's will reopen on  
Monday, Nov. 1st 2021.**

## HSCL Update: Jennifer Reilly:

I feel the first years and myself have something in common this past September – new school for the first years and a new role for myself! Although nervous and excited in equal measure, I hope that the first years have felt as welcomed and supported with their transition to Post Primary as I have in my position as Home School Community. I want to thank the parents that I have made contact with either through phone calls or Home visits. Over the coming term, I am hoping that lifting of restrictions will allow for new courses and opportunities for parents/guardians. I am looking forward to welcoming parents and guardians back into the school. Keep an eye on the school Facebook page and school website for updates & Happy Halloween!

