



St. Farnan's Post-Primary School

Winter Newsletter 2022.



Welcome to the Christmas edition 2022 of the St. Farnan's School Newsletter.

It has been a very busy and engaging term of achievements and activities. Recently many students received their long awaited Junior Cycle results. As part of our school planning for this year, our staff have been engaging in many Teaching & Learning professional development meetings seeking to continually improve students' learning in our school. Our live Parent Teacher meetings are back and it is so good to meet parents/guardians and give detailed feedback in person. As you look through this newsletter you will again see the huge variety of activities that have taken place throughout this term. The range of workshops offered to students on bullying, cyber safety, study skills and team building add to a comprehensive programme of Wellbeing in the school this term also. My sincere thanks to all staff and students involved in such inspiring activities whether in class, on the field or court, on buses - you are all a credit to the good name of the school. We strive to be an inclusive school welcoming and open to all families in our local community but we are also conscious of the huge number of incoming 1st year students still on our waiting list, who really want a place in St. Farnan's. I am working hard to achieve the best outcomes possible over the next 3 years before our brand new 1,000 pupil school will be completed. A positive work ethic in our school coupled with a friendly and courteous attitude is a success story every day, in my mind. We all are the winners when everyone tries their best to follow our rules - this also applies to wearing our full school uniform with pride, no matter what year you are in! New Year - new resolution (for some): wear your school jacket and take the extra piercings out! I wish to express my thanks to all students and staff, the members of the Board of Management, parents and guardians for their commitment to the school this term. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable Christmas break!

Andrew Purcell, Principal.

School Choir sings at national ETBI event



Our school choir, under the able baton of Ms. Lawlor, was asked to sing at the ETBI's national launch of the Framework on Ethos in the Killashee Hotel,

Naas on November 23rd. Their performance was very well received and they also performed a Christmas Carol Service in Whitewater shopping centre in Newbridge on December 19th.

International FAI Award for Orlaith

Our warmest congratulations to Orlaith O'Mahony, 5th year, who was awarded Women's U17 International Player of the Year and her U17 International Cap at an FAI event in Dublin recently. Orlaith received her award and cap from former Irish International Olivia O'Toole. Orlaith played in matches against Portugal, Norway, Hungary, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Finland, Slovakia and Iceland and scored two goals this season. Wishing you continued success Orlaith - everyone in St. Farnan's is very proud of you!



Some of the Events & Successes celebrated this term!

- Breakfast Club welcomes students every morning
- Career Talks to 6th year students from UCD, Dunboyne College, SETU Carlow & Maynooth University
- Student Council officers elected & meetings held
- 2nd year students involved in the World of Work Programme visit SAP HQ in Citywest and have international webinar meeting with SAP colleagues from Argentina, Spain and Singapore!
- TY workshops in Bodhran making, Forensics, teamwork and communications, digital futures, disability awareness and Reptile Haven
- Study Skills Workshop for 3rd year students
- Iceskating trips for 1st, 2nd and TY students to Dundrum
- Carol Singing in the Whitewater Shopping Centre, Newbridge
- Science Week celebrated in the school
- Christmas Hampers collection organised
- Very popular Open Mic sessions every week
- Candle making and Christmas wreath workshops organised for Parents & Guardians
- Walking Club for Parents & Guardians
- TY Class Abbey attend webinar with Maria Walsh MEP
- College Awareness Week marked—Art Competition won by Corey Talbot
- Christmas Card Design Competition—won by Sarah Carroll, 3rd year
- In November we Remember noticeboard organised by RE Dept.
- School Choir performed at ETBI'S National Launch of Framework on Ethos in the Killashee Hotel, Naas on November 23rd
- Christmas Door Competition held throughout the school
- EiSHT Wellbeing workshops for 5th year students
- Stand Up Awareness week celebrated including Rainbow day!



Student Council Officers Elected

We are delighted to announce that our Student Council has elected Faith Agebele, 6th year and Clodagh Percival, 3rd year, as Chair and Secretary respectively. They have been invited to meet with both the staff and the school's Board of Management after Christmas and we wish them every success in their new important roles.



Key Dates for next term

- Jan. 11th:** Maynooth University Virtual CAD Information Evening.
- Jan. 12th:** Module 4 in the World of Work Programme with SAP
- Jan. 14th:** HEAR & DARE Application online Information Day
- Jan. 18th:** TY & 5th year Parent-Teacher Meeting
- Jan. 26th:** Module 5 in the World of Work Programme
- Jan. 30th:** Mock Exams begin for 3rd & 6th year students
- Feb. 1st:** Application Deadline for CAD for 6th year students
- Feb. 6th:** School closed as per the school calendar
- Feb. 10th:** Module 6—final wrap sessions in the World of Work Programme with SAP
- Feb. 13th-18th:** Midterm break
- Feb. 23rd:** 1st year Parent-Teacher Meeting
- Mar. 1st:** Deadline for submission of online Hear & Dare Applications



Sports Update -

Senior Girls Soccer:

Our Senior Girls soccer team captained by Ireland U19 international Orlaith O' Mahony have had a fantastic run in the senior B cup this year. They have reached the Leinster final to be played in Carlow on January 11th, an occasion that the entire school is looking forward to. Best of luck to the team and mentors Mr Malone & Ms McKenna!



Girls Basketball: Both our U19 and U16 Girls Basketball teams had a very successful season. The U19's got to the semi final of the cup and the U16's got to the semi final of the plate competition.



HSCL Update

The school's HSCL, Jennifer Reilly, has had another very busy and productive term supporting students and families in our school community. The walking group and book club remain active and a number of additional events were organised for parents and guardians including a Candle-Making course, a Christmas wreath making course and a Youth Mental Health workshop with EISHT.

Ms. Reilly has also liaised with the TY Coordinator with the Christmas Hamper Collection throughout the school. Look out for more events in the New Year! Happy Christmas and thank you for all of your support and engagement.

Jennifer.



Positive Behaviour Initiatives

Our Positive Behaviour for Learning Initiatives allow the whole-school community to celebrate the successes and achievements of our students. We use them to reinforce their social, emotional, behavioural and academic development and progression. They play a key role in creating a positive learning and teaching environment in our school. Pictured are some of the postcards that teachers send to students to acknowledge great efforts, progress and achievement in their learning.

St. Farnan's Transition Year Update

The students in Transition Year Classes Abbey and Druid have had a very busy term. In addition to their core course work and taster senior cycle modules, the TYs have enjoyed several workshops which included Forensics, Develop Me, Digital Futures, Circus Skills and an inspiring talk from Stephen Kiernan called Brilliant Mondays. They have worked hard on their scripts and filmed, produced and edited two films with the New Media Institute. They have had workshops which were focussed on Disability Equality and Awareness with the FAI and Katie Bourke. We enjoyed a very enjoyable webinar with Maria Walsh MEP as part of our EPAS programme. The students have been on several trips including to the Mount Lucas, the Abbey Theatre and a Christmas trip to Ice-skating in Dundrum and they even made their own Bodhrans! They have been involved in many school activities including the Breakfast Club, Science Week, the Christmas Hamper collection, as well as helping with the school teams. They were also outstanding in their assistance to the junior students during the exams. They continue to do their work experience and also they are working away on a suite of online courses and their Gaisce challenges. 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 Christmas!



2nd years participate in WDW programme with SAP Ireland

This is the school's ninth year of our valuable partnership with SAP Ireland in conjunction with Business in the Community. This year we have over 40 second year students participating in the programme and in recent weeks they have visited the SAP Irish headquarters in Citywest and had a zoom webinar with SAP employees from Argentina, Spain and Singapore. There will be more three workshops in the New Year.



Wishing all our students, parents and staff a very happy and peaceful Christmas!

St. Farnan's will reopen on Thursday, January 5th, 2023.