



St. Farnan's Post-Primary Spring Newsletter 2019.



Message from the Principal

Welcome to our school's Spring newsletter! As always, St. Farnan's has been a hive of activity again this term. Thank you to all the students and staff who have participated in and organised sporting teams, cultural events, trips and fundraising activities.. Special thanks and best wishes also to everyone involved in the school's Talent Show which was very well received. Another significant occasion in the school's calendar has been the conclusion of the partnership for this year with SAP Ireland through the Schools' Business Partnership. Well done to the 5th year students who were fortunate to be part of this excellent project and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with SAP Ireland next year. As we approach our final summer term, may I take this opportunity to wish our Junior and Leaving Certificate students well as they prepare for practical and written examinations having recently completed the Oral Examinations in Irish, French and Spanish. Enjoy our Newsletter and read for yourself the opportunities afforded to students in St Farnan's.

Best wishes for a very enjoyable Easter break!

Eddie Collins, Principal.

U16 South Leinster Champions!



Congratulations to our U16 South Leinster Champions as they were dominant in victory against Scoil Conglais of Baltinglass with a final score line of St. Farnan's, Prosperous: 3-16, Scoil Conglais Baltinglass: 0-6. The team will now progress to a Leinster Semi Final which will be after the Easter break. Well done also to the team's coaches, Mr. Malone and Mr. Langton!



Double Bursary Win

St. Farnan's Post Primary School is proud to announce that two of our students have been awarded the Croi Laighean Pat Jones Student Bursary awards for 2019. The winners were announced at a ceremony held in the Westgrove

Hotel, Clane on March 8th. The winners are Nathan Bolger (Muldoon) and Lauren Mitchell. Six schools are involved in the competition from Edenderry, Clane and Leixlip. The competition is open to all Leaving Cert. students to enter. Each school nominates 3 students to go forward to represent their school. St. Farnan's also nominated Sarah O'Rourke. The winners each receive €6000 to help towards their Third Level education. As a school community we are very proud of our three nominees and wish to congratulate our two winners.

Some of the Events & Successes celebrated this term!

- Breakfast Club is taking place every morning in the canteen
- Aaron Cullen received a Garda Youth Award at a ceremony in Punchestown on January 25th.
- 35 students completed the Skills@Work Programme with SAP Ireland and received their certificates at the final Wrap Session on February 27th from the CEO of SAP Ireland, Mr. Liam Ryan
- TY students were successful in their application for a European Parliament Ambassador School Award on behalf of the school. Some TYs attended the award ceremony on April 5th in the Cashel, Heritage Centre, Co. Tipperary.
- The Talent Show held on March 14th was a huge success—congratulations to all involved!
- The French Ambassador visited the school on March 11th
- 5th year Ag. Science students visited the UCD Farm on March 12th
- 1st year students went Swimming & Roller-skating for four consecutive weeks as part of their Wellbeing Programme
- Autism Awareness Week was celebrated in the school.
- Planning Meetings have taken place for the European Tour which this year will see 58 5th year students travel to Italy in April/May 2019
- There were Career Information Talks to the 6th years by the National College of Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, Mary Immaculate College & the Army Reserves.
- The TYs went on several trips including the European Studies Trip to the European Parliament Offices and the National Gallery in Dublin and the Leinster Driving Campus and did workshops on Public Access to Law and Self-Esteem & Confidence
- 5th years attended the Ireland Skills Live event, RDS on March 21st
- 6th year students attended Biology, Physics and Chemistry practicals in NUI Maynooth
- TY, 5LCA, 6LCA and the PLC students completed their Work Experience modules
- Theatre Trips for the 3rd and 5th years to the Helix to see Romeo & Juliet and Hamlet respectively
- Spanish Club Cosmo is meeting every Tuesday lunchtime in Room 17
- Open Mic sessions are on every Tuesday lunchtime in R. 19

Key Dates for next term

Apr. 30th: European Tour to Italy departs.

May 1st: LCVP Exam.

May 1st: TY Forensics Workshop.

May 3rd: Deadline for Leaving Cert History Research Study Report.

May 7th & 8th: Interviews for TY 2019-2020.

May 8th: 5th year Ecology Fieldtrip to Dublin Zoo.

May 13th: TY Trip to Croke Park.

May 21st: TY Graduation

May 23rd: 6th year Graduation

May 28th: House Summer Exams begin for 1st, 2nd & 5th years

May 31st: Summer Holidays commence.

June 5th: State Examinations begin.



LCVP—Leaving Cert. Vocational Programme

The introduction of the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) into the school curriculum in St. Farnan's has been very successful. The students have had exposure to countless invaluable learning experiences including the following:

- Arranging visits out of school to sites of interest in the context of conducting investigations – the students have investigated community enterprises and relevant agencies. They visited The Chocolate Warehouse in Dublin to learn about business management and participate in a practical workshop.
- Inviting visitors into the classroom – the students engaged in an enterprise activity whereby they arranged fundraisers for Focus Ireland and Muscular Dystrophy Ireland and then invited representatives from these organisations into the classroom to learn more about their work in our society. This developed their teamwork and organisational skills.
- Actively preparing for work – the students conducted career investigations into occupations they wish to pursue after school and gained job searching skills and practice at interviews.
- Experiencing the world of work, work experience, work simulation and work shadowing.
- Using Information and Communications Technology – entering, editing, storing and retrieving and printing information, word processing CVs, letters and reports, sending and receive e-mail messages etc.

The programme is hugely beneficial in that the portfolio of coursework that the students prepare in 5th year is worth 60% of the final exam grade. The written exam (40%) is completed on the first Wednesday in May and hence is done before any of the other exams begin in June, again alleviating the pressure on students at exam time. Please contact me should any student or parent need more information on LCVP for Senior Cycle.

Ms. K. Delaney.

St. Farnan's becomes a European Parliament Ambassador School



St. Farnan's Post Primary School became a European Parliament Ambassador School on Friday, April 5th at a very enjoyable awards ceremony in the Brú Ború Heritage Centre at the Rock of Cashel in Co. Tipperary.

The Transition Year students have been working towards the award as part of their European Studies module with Ms. Flanagan.

A number of the TYs attended the ceremony to collect the award and Eoghan Kenna spoke on behalf of the school. In his presentation, Eoghan gave details of the work that we have done in the EPAS programme including the promotion and celebration of the European Day of Languages, inviting Mairead McGuinness MEP to the school, our trip to the European Parliament Offices in Dublin and our new EU Info Point in the school.

Eoghan also gave details of the TYs' plans to celebrate and increase awareness of Europe Day on May 9th.

St. Farnan's was presented with a plaque which we will display in the school and certificates for all the students who contributed to the successful completion of the programme in TY.



Wishing all our students, parents and staff a very happy Easter Break! St. Farnan's will reopen on Monday, April 29th. 2019.

Spring 2019—page 2.

Historic French Ambassador's Visit

In October 2018, Ms. Flanagan was awarded the prestigious title of Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques by the French Government at the French Embassy in Dublin for her work in the area of language teaching and the promotion of language learning in Ireland.

On that occasion, Ms. Flanagan invited the French Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. M. Stéphane Crouzat, to visit St. Farnan's and so on March 11th, we were delighted to welcome him and his staff to our school.



With the French and European flags flying proudly alongside our Irish tricolour, the Ambassador was greeted by the school's Senior Prefects. He met with the Principal, Mr. Collins, the Chair of the school's Board of Management, Mr. Brendan Weld and distinguished guests and then was treated to an excellent performance by the school's Traditional Music Group, led by Mr. McGovern.

A presentation in French and Polish, the latter in honour of the Ambassador's Polish heritage, by six students from the French Department was followed by speeches by Ms. Flanagan and Mr. Collins. In his reply, H.E. M. Crouzat complimented the warm welcome he had received from the students and staff and said that he was delighted to be able to accept Ms. Flanagan's invitation to visit the school. He spoke enthusiastically about the students' language skills and encouraged them to work on their French, as it is a world language spoken by 300 million people in 50 countries around the globe. He acknowledged Ms. Flanagan's award and complimented her on her dedication to language teaching both in St. Farnan's and in other roles outside of her school life.

The Ambassador was then taken on a tour of the school, firstly stopping by the gym to meet with some of the school's sport stars who have represented their county or their country in their respective sports. He was even treated to a hurling demonstration by Liam Dempsey and Eoghan Dempsey, who are on the Kildare Minor Hurling team - he did very well and certainly seemed to enjoy the chat with the boys. As a memento of his visit, he was presented with a hurley and sliotar by Anna Power, who is a member of the Kildare UI4 Gaelic Football team.

His Excellency then met with students at work in the Art and Woodwork rooms before enjoying refreshments which were freshly baked by the 5th year Home Economics class. Ms. Cassidy presented the Ambassador with some delicious brown bread and some shamrock, as parting gifts from the school community. The Ambassador brought some beautiful French posters and resources for the school and these were presented to Ms. Flanagan and Ms. Finlay. It was a really lovely morning and a wonderful opportunity to showcase the dynamic and talented school community that we have in St. Farnan's.

The TYs had a fun time at the Motown Musical in the Bord Gais Theatre in February!

