



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



Message from the Principal

Welcome to our school's Autumn Newsletter, the first of the academic Year 2019/2020. 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 Open Evening and Annual Awards, 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.

Launch of TY "In Transition" Exhibition



On Monday, October 7th, students from the TY class of 2019 and their families and friends, joined with the management and staff of St. Farnan's to celebrate the official launch of the "In Transition" photographic exhibition in the Riverbank Arts Centre in Newbridge.

This is the first time the school has held an exhibition in a public gallery and we very much hope that this valuable collaboration will continue with many other projects planned for the future. The audience was welcomed by Linda Geraghty, Venue Director, the Principal, Mr. Collins and Eoghan Kenna, 5th year, who spoke on behalf of the students. The exhibition contains images created by students in last year's TY class in the Photography module they undertook with Ms. Richardson. The exhibition was hosted in the McKenna Gallery in the Arts Centre until Oct. 19th.

Open Night

The Science Lab. was very popular with the large crowd who attended our Open Night on October 10th — not least due to Mr. Furey's exciting experiments!



Some of the Events & Successes celebrated this term!

- Class Representatives from each class have been elected to the school's Student Council—2019-2020
- Breakfast Club taking place every morning in the canteen
- Open Mic sessions taking place every Tuesday lunchtime
- 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
- TY & SLCVP students attended the National TY Fair in Punchestown
- 25 students selected to take part in the Skills@Work Programme with SAP Ireland
- TY Students completed Team Building Challenges in Baysports, Athlone
- TY Tour-guiding Course in Glasnevin as part of their Heritage Module
- Maths Week celebrated in the school with various events including STEM Workshops for 1st years and TYs & Maths Trip for TYs to Castlecomer Discovery Park
- Career Talks to 6th year students from TU Dublin, Maynooth University, Carlow College, IT Carlow, DCU, Athlone IT & St. Patrick's Pontifical University with more planned for the coming weeks
- TY, 5th year Construction & Agricultural Science students attended the National Ploughing Championships in Carlow
- Annual Awards Night held on October 24th
- Open Night held on October 10th
- Planning Meetings have taken place for the European Tour which this year will see 5th year students travel to Germany in April 2020
- TY students have begun the European Parliament Ambassador Schools and Gaisce programmes
- Community Garda Shane Smith visited the school and spoke with all year groups
- Croi Laighean Credit Union representatives spoke with our 6th year students regarding their bursary programme

Key Dates for next term



- Nov. 4th:** 6th year Careers Talk—University of Limerick
- Nov. 4th:** Skills@Work Programme begins
- Nov. 7th:** TY Trip to Mount Lucas
- Nov. 7th:** 3rd year Parent-Teacher Meeting
- Nov. 11th:** 6th year Irish play
- Nov. 13th:** 6th year Careers Talk—UCD
- Nov. 18th:** 6th year Careers Talk—Waterford IT
- Nov. 19th:** Study Skills Programme for 3rd & 6th year students
- Nov. 21st:** TY Trip to Dail Eireann
- Nov. 26th:** School Closed due to JCT training for all teachers
- Nov. 27th:** 5th year students will visit SAP headquarters in Citywest
- Dec. 2nd:** Skills@Work Programme, CV & Interview preparation
- Dec. 5th:** 4th & 5th year Parent-Teacher meetings
- Dec. 9th:** SLCA Work Experience begins.
- Dec. 12th:** School Closed due to JCT training for all teachers
- Dec. 17th:** Christmas House Exams begin for 1st, 2nd & 5th years
- Dec. 20th:** School will close for the Christmas Break.

TY Overview of the Autumn Term:

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 are enjoying our work experience every Wednesday and we are busy working on the European Parliament Ambassador Schools and the Gaisce programmes. We've been to the Ploughing Championships, Baysports, Glasnevin Cemetery, the Riverbank Arts Centre and Castlecomer Discovery Park.

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. We are all reading "The Girl who came home", an historical fiction novel by local author, Hazel Gaynor and we are looking forward to meeting her when she comes to visit us in December. Check out the TY Page of the website for more details and lots of photos of what we have been doing! The TYs are pictured right enjoying their day in Baysports in Athlone!



Irish Heart Foundation



Map Boards

We are delighted that we now have two Irish Heart Foundation Map Boards on the school grounds. The boards display walking routes around the school which can be used by staff and students at break and lunchtimes as well as during PE or tutor class. Well done to the PE Department for organising this initiative!

IRISH HEART FOUNDATION
Fighting Heart Disease & Stroke

Sports Update:

The U16 and Senior Ladies football teams have got their campaigns off to a fantastic start with wins over Piper's Hill and Pres. Carlow respectively.

The U14 boys football team are well into their campaign also and have one victory and one defeat to their name.

The Junior & Senior camogie and hurling teams have been busy also with several matches already completed despite the poor weather conditions.

Huge congratulations also to Orlaith O'Mahony, 3rd year, on her selection on the U15 Leinster Schools Panel—a tremendous achievement—well done from everyone in St. Farnan's! Pictured below is the Senior Ladies Gaelic Football team with their new gear.



St. Farnan's Credit Union Update:

St. Farnan's Credit Union is about to reopen for this year with all required training just completed by the Transition Year students. Elections have been held for a new Board of Directors, a new Supervisory Committee and a Marketing Committee. It is always a great opportunity to serve the School and the Credit Union as a member of the Board of Directors. There was great interest this year again and we are happy to say that the new Board is now in place, pictured below, with Hanah Toman elected as



Chairperson. We look forward to many St. Farnan's Credit Union events during the year.



HSCL Update—

Andrew Little:

This has been a busy start to the term. This term has seen the school and a group of parents invited to participate in a Social Media awareness campaign in conjunction with Foróige and TUSLA. Over the coming weeks this process will continue with a number of parents recorded on video or audio giving advice to parents/guardians on monitoring and managing their child's social media use. A number of new courses and opportunities for parents/guardians are coming in the next few weeks so keep an eye on the school Facebook page and school website.



Wishing all our students, parents and staff a very enjoyable midterm break!
St. Farnan's will reopen on Nov. 4th.