



# St. Farnan's Post-Primary Christmas Newsletter 2019.



## Message from the Principal

Welcome to the St. Farnan's Winter newsletter, and as usual, it has been a very busy and productive term in our school. As we come to the end of the 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. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas break and every good wish for 2020.

Mr. Eddie Collins, Principal.

## Ice-Skating Christmas Trip to Dundrum



## Skills@Work Update

For the sixth year, St. Farnan's is delighted to partner SAP Ireland in the Skills@Work Programme which is organised by the Business in the Community group.

A large group of 5th year students from the school are currently undertaking the six-module programme which aims to give them an insight into the world of work and help them decide which career options would be best for them. This term the students travelled to the SAP Irish headquarters in Citywest, where they met the programme coordinator, Victoria Carroll, the CEO of SAP Ireland, Liam Ryan, as well as a team of company employees from the design, engineering, IT, facilities and administrative divisions. They had a tour of the company's extensive campus in Citywest, which will no doubt be of great assistance as they prepare for their mock interviews in January. As in previous years, the SAP team was highly complimentary of our students.



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

- Very successful Christmas Raffle organised by the Parents' Association—congratulations to John O'Reilly who won the first prize!
- Lindsay Davies, Dublin LGFA All-Star and Sports & Wellness Ambassador for Lidl, spoke with our girls' gaelic football teams
- 1st year Wellbeing Day held on November 6th
- TY Trip to Mount Lucas Windfarm
- 6th year Irish students attended Irish Drama in the Civic Theatre in Tallaght
- 6th year students have successfully completed their pre-mock Irish oral exams in preparation for their mock orals in March
- Breakfast Club is taking place every morning in the canteen
- The 35 students selected to take part in the Skills@Work Programme with SAP Ireland have completed three modules of the programme and will have their Mock Interviews in Citywest on January 22nd.
- TYs completed their Tour-guiding Course in Glasnevin as part of their Heritage Module
- Sponsored walk and spinathon held for Cancer Charities
- 2nd year Class CuChulainn went on an Ecology Trip to Dublin Zoo
- Careers Information Evening held for 6th year students
- Science Week celebrated in the school with various events including STEM Workshops for 1st years and TYs and a table quiz
- Career Talks to 6th year students from UL, UCD, Waterford IT, Apprenticeships & KWETB, Dunboyne PLC and the Defence Forces with more planned for the coming weeks
- 6th year Geography Field Trip to Kippure, Co. Wicklow
- GAA Sponsored Walk & Spinathon held for cancer charities
- Planning Meetings have taken place for the European Tour which this year will see 58 5th year students travel to Germany in April 2020
- 5th year LCVP Class held a very successful Cake Sale for Pieta House
- End of Term Review Interviews were held with TY students
- SLCA & GLCA students completed their Work Experience modules
- Iceskating Trip for 1st and 2nd students to Dundrum
- Open Mic sessions are on every Tuesday lunchtime in R. 19.

## Key Dates for next term

**Jan. 6th:** School reopens after Christmas break

**Jan. 8th:** TY Trip to Microsoft Dreamspace

**Jan. 11th:** DARE/HEAR Applications Information Day in Maynooth University

**Jan. 16th:** 1st Year Parent-Teacher meetings

**Jan. 22nd:** Skills@Work Programme, Mock Interviews in SAP

**Jan. 23rd:** TY European Studies Trip—European Commission Offices & the National Gallery

**Feb. 1st:** CAO Applications Deadline

**Feb. 3rd:** Skills@Work Programme, Team-Building Workshop

**Feb. 3rd:** Mock Exams begin for 3rd & 6th year students—timetable available on the school website

**Feb. 8th:** 1st year Assessment / Entrance Exam

**Feb. 17th:** Midterm break begins.



## 5th year Pieta House Charity Fundraiser

Ms. Delaney's 5th year LCVP class organised and hosted a very successful Cake Sale for Pieta House on December 5th as part of their Enterprise Module. They had a gorgeous array of home-baked biscuits, buns and cakes and they raised much needed funds for this very worthy charity. Pieta House helps families, young people and children at risk or affected by suicidal distress so it was a particularly good choice of charity at this time of year.



## St. Farnan's Transition Year Update

The Transition Year Class Abbey has had a very busy few weeks since Halloween. In addition to their core course work, the TYs have gone on trips to the Mount Lucas Wind Farm and to the Dail and the National Museum. They have also had guest speakers including Tom Crehan (pictured below) and Garda Shane Smyth and enjoyed a Christmas Baking Workshop with Emma from the Busy Bee Bakery. They continue to have weekly Work Experience, to work with the literacy programme in Scoil an Linbh Iosa, to establish their Mini-Companies and to work on the European Parliament Ambassador Schools Programme. We are finishing this term on a high note with a Christmas treat visit to see Mama Mia in the Bord Gais Theatre!

Looking forward to the Spring term, they will be working on the Croí Laighean's Credit Union school's branch, the school's community clean-up, the EU Model Debate in Dublin Castle as well as the school's Talent Show. 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.



**Wishing all our students, parents and staff a very happy and peaceful Christmas! St. Farnan's will reopen on Monday, Jan. 6th. 2020.**

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## Sports Update - Gaelic Football



### Boys

Senior Boys football - Our senior team won their first game of the senior championship beating Blessington CC on a scoreline of 6:12 to 2:3. The team now advance to a South Leinster quarter final after Christmas.

Junior Boys football- Our junior team have won their first two group games against St Conleths CC and Naas CC. They now advance to a Kildare decider after Christmas against St Paul's of Monasterevin.



### Girls

Senior Ladies football - Our senior team were unlucky to be knocked out of the championship after losing to a very strong Nobber side. The girls had previously beaten Presentation College Carlow, Gaelcholáiste Carlow and St. Paul's Monasterevin.

Junior Ladies football - Our UI6 team have had a very successful term with comprehensive wins over Piper's Hill, St. Paul's Monasterevin and O'Carolan College, Nobber. They now advance to a Leinster quarter final in the new year.

UI4 Ladies Football - The UI4 girls completed a workshop with four time All-Ireland Champion Lyndsey Davey of Dublin LGFA where they learned about the importance of sport and healthy lifestyles. Part two of the workshop will take place after Christmas, as will the commencement of the UI4 competition.

Interprovincial Soccer win - Congratulations to Orlaith O' Mahony on winning the 2019 FAI Interprovincial U15 soccer tournament!

## HSCL Update: Andrew Little:

The second term was a busy one. Lots of different activities and courses were provided for Parents/Guardians. A group of twelve parents completed filming for a TUSLA/ Foróige joint project on creating awareness of acceptable social media usage in teens and how parents/guardians can monitor this. Keep an eye out for the short video clip on social media platforms in the New Year. We ended the term with Christmas Flower/Wreath Arranging and Christmas Cake Decorating. Lots of new opportunities coming in the New Year so always watch out for information on the schools Facebook page and website. For now, wishing you all a Happy, safe and enjoyable Christmas. Andrew

