



# St Andrew's College Secondary School

## Annual Report June 2017

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## **Introduction**

This report has been prepared to cover the period from 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017.

## **School enrolment**

At the beginning of the 2016–2017 school year, secondary school enrolment was 987 (503 boys and 484 girls). Of the total, 813 were Irish nationals, 39 were US citizens and 135 were third-country nationals.

## **Faculty**

In 2016/17 there are 100 full-time and 21 part-time faculty members of which 108 are Irish citizens and 13 other nationalities. The mixture of nationalities adds to the international character of the College.

## **Marlene Kramer**

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of our colleague and friend, Marlene Kramer on Wednesday, 22 February 2017. Marlene passed away after a long illness borne with dignity and courage.

Marlene joined St Andrew's College in 2006 and taught Art in the Junior School. As well as being a gifted and enthusiastic teacher, Marlene was the loving mother of two of our students, Emily (class of 2015) and Zara (Sixth Year). She will be sadly missed by her colleagues, friends and the wider College community.

## **Facilities**

The school buildings and grounds are owned by the College. Facilities include 63 classrooms, 21 tutorial rooms, 7 laboratories, a science garden, 4 art rooms, 2 home economics rooms, 2 libraries, 20 resource rooms, 2 computer laboratories, a chapel, 2 assembly halls, a dining hall, a sports hall, gym and an administration centre. Outdoor sports facilities include 2 rugby pitches, 2 hockey pitches, one water-based, the other sand-based, 2 tennis courts and 2 basketball training hoops.

It has a dedicated Sixth Form Centre. It comprises 2 private study rooms and an open area for Sixth Year interaction and activities. The College also has a designated Guidance Suite, Study Centre and Support for Learning Centre. We have parking for approximately 120 cars.

## **Tada Gan Iarracht – Nothing without Effort**

The academic year began with a Whole School Opening Service on Wednesday 21 September where the theme for the year was shared with the students. The motto chosen was **Tada Gan Iarracht – Nothing without Effort**. Assemblies were used to promote this

theme and it was referred to at appropriate intervals throughout the year. In keeping with our philosophy and ethos, we constantly strive to instil in all the children, the need for hard work and a determined effort.

## **Curriculum**

The curriculum is designed to provide a liberal, balanced and comprehensive education. A programme comprising 30 academic subjects and a wide variety of sports and extra-curricular activities is offered. The majority of students take courses leading to the Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations, while others follow the International Baccalaureate programme. Support for Learning and English as an Additional Language services are provided. The Transition Year programme offers a multi-faceted course of study intended to help students choose the most suitable subjects for the Leaving Certificate. The school is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and the Council of International Schools (CIS).

The College provides the following programmes of education for its students:

- The Junior Certificate Programme (3 years)
- The Transition Year Programme -compulsory for all students
- The Leaving Certificate Programme (2 years)
- The International Baccalaureate – (Diploma Programme – Fifth and Sixth Year)

## **Junior Certificate Programme**

The Junior Certificate is a 3-year programme. Students with their parent(s)/guardian(s) have to choose the subjects which are available at Junior Certificate level.

Details of each option available are outlined in a booklet which is prepared annually. If necessary, further information can be obtained from the subject representative at the Options Meeting held in January.

All students will study the following subjects:

- English
- Irish (except where officially exempted)
- Mathematics
- Geography
- History
- Science
- CSPE (Civic, Social and Political Education)
- SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education)
- Religious Studies
- Physical Education

In addition to the above subjects, students choose two subjects from the following list:

- Art
- Business Studies
- Classical Studies
- Home Economics
- Music
- Spanish
- Technical Graphics

And one of the following modern languages:

- French
- German
- Spanish

The range of subjects offered is in keeping with the aim of the Junior Certificate programme in that it provides a broad and balanced curriculum to all students in the first years of post-primary school.

### **Transition Year Programme**

Transition Year lays the foundation for Fifth and Sixth Year.

The aim of the year is to provide the skills and encourage the maturity necessary for the successful completion of the Leaving Certificate. A central theme of the year is autonomous learning. Students will take responsibility for themselves and their future. They will be given the opportunity to explore many subjects in areas including the Arts, Science and Technology and the Humanities.

It is also possible for students to explore the possibility of new subjects prior to making their Leaving Certificate choices.

The St Andrew's College Transition Year Programme will also facilitate students in exploring their own talents, abilities and interests beyond the confines of the timetable.

### **Leaving Certificate Programme**

Half way through Transition Year students with their parents/guardians, must choose the subjects they are going to take in the Leaving Certificate. It is important to consider the implications these choices may have on future third level and career choices. There are 21 subjects to choose from within the Leaving Certificate programme in the school. Students will be required to choose seven/eight of these.

It is recommended that students choose subjects which will give them a good balance in order to keep as many options open as possible for future career choice. It is not recommended that students over-specialise, e.g. take all three Laboratory Sciences, or all three business subjects, unless they are sure that these really are the areas they want to get into when they leave school and that they are course entry requirements.

It is important to make a balanced choice of subjects. This would probably include:

- Irish
- English
- Mathematics
- A Continental Language
- A Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) – **if a requirement for your College course**
- And 2/3 other subjects.

*The following subjects are available:*

Irish	English	Maths
Physics	Chemistry	Biology
Agricultural Science	French	German
Spanish	Accounting	Business
Economics	Music	Art
Design & Communication Graphics	Classical Studies	Geography
History	Home Economics	Applied Mathematics
Religious Education		

## **International Baccalaureate Programme**

The school has offered the IB programme since 1982 and we have found it to be an excellent preparation for courses at universities and colleges all over the world in a wide variety of subject areas. We believe that it provides an ideal training for students who are moving on to further education, and produces young adults with a broad academic base, enquiring minds and diverse social interests. The IB is different to the Leaving Certificate. In the IB students focus on critical thinking, understanding and processing knowledge. Their examinations test that they understand the concepts as opposed to just learning them. The IB is viewed globally by the top universities including the Ivy League as the premier academic programme for undergraduate success.

Students entering 5IB will be expected to enrol in six subjects in addition to studying Theory of Knowledge, participating in the CAS programme and writing an Extended Essay. These subjects will be selected from offerings in groups 1 to 6 to ensure that all students are able to study at least one subject from each group. All students taking the Diploma programme must take 3 subjects at higher level, 3 subjects at standard level and complete an Extended Essay.

Subject selection at this stage in a student's life involves making important decisions and should be made in consultation with parents, teachers and the guidance counsellor. These choices must take into account each student's

- ◆ long term education and career goals
- ◆ demonstrated skills and strengths
- ◆ current interests

## THE IB Hexagon



### Student Progress and Reporting

Student progress is monitored on an on-going basis by teachers. Any matters of concern can be recorded by teachers in the student's school diary for signing by parents or issues can be recorded on the school's database, VShare.

Additionally, the school organises a parent-teacher meeting for each year group on an annual basis.

Below are the reporting structures. Whilst formal reports are sent at regular intervals, parents are encouraged to make contact at any point during the year with subject teachers or form teachers if they are concerned about their son/daughter's progress.

Year	First Term	Second Term	Third Term
<b>First Year Second Year</b>	Autumn (short report)  Christmas (full report)	Spring (short report)	Summer (full report)
<b>Third Year</b>	Autumn (short report)  Christmas (full report)	Trial (marks)	Letter from Year Team
<b>Transition Year Fifth Year / IB</b>	Autumn (marks)  Christmas (full report)	February (marks)  Spring (marks)	Summer (full report)
<b>Sixth Year / IB</b>	Autumn (marks) Christmas  (full report) Trial (IB-full report)	Trial (marks)  Predicted Grades (IB)	

## Examination Results

The following numbers of students took part in State Examinations in 2016:

Junior Certificate	168
Leaving Certificate	122
International Baccalaureate	28

Our Sixth Year students performed exceptionally well in their summer examinations. Overall we were delighted that over 76% of our students secured over 400 points, 41% scored over 500 points, with 30% securing over 520 points. The average points scored per candidate set a new school record of 453 points. Our IB students also did well, recording an average point score of 32.

## Extra-curricular Activities

A wide range of extra-curricular activities is available to students of the College. It is expected that students will give serious consideration to participation in one or more of these activities which are widely advertised on official school notice boards and our website. The following activities, with some variation from year to year, take place:

Ballet	Drama Club	Debate Club
Chess Club	Equestrian Team	One-Act Drama Festival
Choir	Grapevine (College Magazine)	Orchestra
Christian Union	Grapevision (Video & Photography Club)	Student Council
Coircal Comhrá	Green Committee	The President's Award (An Gaisce)
Computer Club	Intercultural Week	Wine Dark Sea
Creative Writing	Instrumental Lessons	Young Scientist
Crossfit	Literature Aloud	Poetry Aloud
Model United Nations (MUN)	Philosophical Club	Politics Club
Writers' Club		

## **Sports**

Participation in sporting activities is regarded by the College as desirable for all pupils as it provides a means of complementing their academic and social development. While participation is the basic objective it must also be recognised that the pursuit and achievement of success in competitive sport is essential in maintaining the interest of the pupils and the morale of the teams.

It will always be necessary to strike a balance between the needs of pupils and teams which represent the College in local, regional or national competitions and the policy of maximising the numbers of students who can participate in the sports of their choice. In order to accommodate the wide range of sporting interests among students, the College will seek to provide opportunities for participation in many different sports and activities.

### **Sports Highlights 2016-2017**

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## **Hockey**

### **Boys**

This year was another good year for the school on the hockey front. The Senior A Boys won the All-Irelands in October beating Banbridge Academy 3-2 for our fourth success in the competition in the last five years. They retained the Whiteside Trophy for the sixth year in a row and won the Senior Cup beating Wesley on strokes having played out a 2-2 draw in the final. They also won the Senior League again prevailing on strokes in the final against High School. The team were awarded the Evening Herald School Sports Team of the Year at a ceremony hosted in the Aviva Stadium at the beginning of May.

Our Junior Boys were beaten 2-1 in the League by High School with a goal deep into extra-time.

The U-13's completed a League and Cup double prevailing over Wesley by the odd goal in both finals.

At national level, Ben Walker was capped by Ireland at Senior Men's level and played at the World League III competition held in Belfast in March.

Guy Sarratt, John Guilfoyle, Ben Bradley and Ben Walker are all in the Irish U-21 squad preparing for this summer's European Championships.

At U-18 level Guy Sarratt, Nick Judge, Matteo Romoli and Ben Walker are in the panel for the Home Nations which are coming up in July.

At U-16 level Riley Marchant, Cian Murphy and Roan Kennedy are in the squad preparing for the European Championships this summer. They were selected to play a tournament in Holland in preparation and hopefully make the final cut.

### **Girls**

Our Senior A Girls lost out to Mt Anville in the league semi-final going down 1-0 to a late goal and were eliminated from the Cup by Loreto Beaufort.

Our Senior 3's were beaten 2-0 by Muckross in the semi-final of the league while our Senior 4's beat Mt Anville 2-0 in the final of respective League.

The Junior A girls beat Mt Anville on one on one's in the League Final having played out a 2-2 draw in normal time.

The Minor B's were beaten in their League Final by Mt Anville going down on 1 v 1's. The Minor C's were beaten 2-0 in the semi-final of the league by Naas while the Minor D's were beaten 1-0 in the semi-final of the league by Muckross.

The First Year girls 11 a-side team were beaten by Alex in the semi-final of the Cup going out on 1 v 1's having played out a 0-0 draw.

The First Year girls A and B 8-a-side teams have qualified through to the finals day of the 8 a-side league and performed very well in the round-robin format on the day.

On the national front Katie-Jane Marshall, Amy Elliot and Gaby Lewis are involved in the Irish U-16 Squad that is preparing for this summer's European Championships. Over Easter they played a three match series against USA U-17's and were invited to Aras an Uachtarain to meet President Michael D Higgins as part of the series.

### **Rugby**

The SCT topped their pool in the league and progressed to the semi-final of the league with a dramatic 23-22 win over Newbridge secured with the last kick of the game. In the semi-final an injury hit side were eliminated by Gonzaga the eventual winners of the competitions. In the Cup they were also eliminated in the first round by Belvedere College who went on to retain the Cup.

Our team qualified through their pool but went down 58-0 to a very strong Newbridge side. In the Cup they were eliminated in the first round by Wesley College.

At provincial level Nathan Murphy, Josh Kuh-Hogan, John Hewson and SJ de Klerk received Leinster Trials at U-16 Level. Stephen Keane was trialled at U-18 while Harry McCarthy was trialled at U-19.

At national level Peter Sullivan ran in a hat trick of tries for Ireland U-19's in a test against Japan in Donnybrook and travelled to France with the side over Easter where they played two test matches against France.

Jordan Larmour (Class of 2016) and last year's SCT captain was the stand-out player for the Irish U-20's in this year's Six Nations.

Andrew Porter (Class of 2014) has received a full Leinster contract and we look forward to following his progress in the coming years.

## **Basketball**

We had an incredibly successful year with our Senior, Junior, Minor and First Year Teams winning their South Dublin Leagues. This is the first time in the school's history that we have managed to win all four South Dublin League titles in a single season.

The girls had a good year also with the Junior and Minor teams winning through to semi-finals. The First Year girls got to the final.

## **Golf**

Our Junior Boys again reached the Leinster Final where they finished a very respectable 8<sup>th</sup> out of the 12 teams that competed on the day in testing conditions at Tulfarris Golf Club.

Charlie Denvir (Transition Year) qualified to play in the West of Ireland Championships in Rosses Point over the Easter break. This is one of the most prestigious amateur tournaments in the country.

We had great interest again in girls' golf and fielded full Junior and Senior Girls golf teams for the Irish Schools Strokeplay Championships. Both sides posted good nett scores on the day in Clontarf Golf Club but with qualification based on gross scores we were a little off the pace.

## **Cricket**

Our Senior Boys reached the final of the Leinster Cup where they played CUS. They unfortunately lost by 48 runs to a very strong side.

Our U-14's were beaten by CUS in the Cup semi-final. The U-13's beat CUS in the semi-final of the Cup and beat St Mary's, Rathmines in the Final on Thursday 1 June. Our U-13 B team reached the League Final and were beaten by 2runs by St Marys.

The Senior Girls fell at the final hurdle as they were beaten by High School in the Senior Cup. The girls were looking for their fifth straight win in a row in the competition.

The Junior Girls also went down in the final to High School while our First Year Girls won the Cup beating Wesley in the Final by 20 runs.

Joshua Little travelled to Dubai in January with the Senior Men's team for a series of One Day Internationals. Earlier in the year he was named Irish Academy Player of the Year.

Gaby Lewis, Robyn Lewis and Lucy O'Reilly travelled with the Irish Ladies Squad for the World Cup Qualifiers in Sri Lanka in February of this year but failed to progress. Louisa Little (First Year) was also called up to the ladies Senior Squad in April of this year.

## **Tennis**

Good numbers played tennis in the school this year with five boys' teams and seven girls' teams competing in Leinster Leagues.

The Junior Boys were beaten 4-1 by St Fintan's College in the final of Division II. The Junior B girls reached the final of their League but were beaten 2-1 by Mt Anville.

## **Swimming**

A strong team travelled from the school to the Leinster Schools Swimming Gala in Tallaght Sports Complex on January 8<sup>th</sup> with the Junior Girls Medley Relay Team of Elena Gallagher, Pippa Guy, Ellen Keaney and Lily Harrington coming away with a bronze medal and qualifying for the All-Irelands Our Intermediate Girls Medley Relay Team and Senior Girls Medley Relay Team also qualified for the All-Irelands and both teams finished fifth in their respective races.

## **Athletics**

A strong team of 40 students travelled to Avondale House to compete in the East Leinster Cross Country Championships this year. Ellen Keaney (First Year) won the Minor Girls race while Nicole Devitt (Fifth Year) finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Senior Girls event. Our Junior Girls Team of Aoife Linnane, Sarah Forbes, Sarah Flaherty and Natacha Byrne finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the team event and went forward to compete in the Leinsters where they ran well along with Nicole Devitt but failed to progress any further.

Ellen Keaney just missed out on a medal at the Leinsters and All-Irelands finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in both events.

At the East Leinster's Track and Field we sent a team of 50 students over two days to Santry. We had some outstanding performances with James Meier 1<sup>st</sup> Senior Javelin, Gavin Heffernon 1<sup>st</sup> Minor High Jump, Hugh Plunkett 1<sup>st</sup> in Inter 800m & 2<sup>nd</sup> Inter 1500m, Ellen Keaney 2<sup>nd</sup> Minor 1100m, Crystal Meier 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Javelin, Andres Herranz Harman 3<sup>rd</sup> Minor Shot, Mark Kilmartin 3<sup>rd</sup> Senior High Jump, Ciara Schafer 4<sup>th</sup> Minor Javelin and Max Guilfoyle 5<sup>th</sup> U-16 Mile being the pick of the performances and qualifying for the Leinsters. At the Leinsters Ellen Keaney finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the girls 1100m, Gavin Heffernon won Minor Boys High Jump, James Meier won Senior Javelin and Crystal Meier came third in Junior Girls Javelin. All the athletes qualified for the All-Irelands which take place at the beginning of June.

## **Sailing**

Our sailing team competed in the Leinster Team Racing Championships in Dun Laoghaire. It was a very young side who gained great experience from the preparation phase running up to the day and the days racing itself. They will no doubt reap the benefits of the experience gained in the coming years.

We also entered a team in the St Gerard's regatta where we won the overall team prize with some outstanding performances on the day beating off opposition from 7 other schools.

## **Soccer**

Cormac Moore (Third Year) played for the Irish U-15's in Poland in October.

Neil Farrugia was selected for the Republic of Ireland schools team that played Australia and Wales in February.

## **Transition Year**

This year we have had 161 students taking part in the Transition Year Programme, 8 of whom are new to the college.

The year started in August with a variety of orientation meetings and parent information events. The students were then broken into three groups and travelled off to the Aran islands, Donegal (An Gartan Adventure Centre) and Mayo (An Uisce water adventure centre) for a three-day Irish Culture and Adventure sports experience involving surfing, cycling, Irish dancing, bog jumping and much more. Upon our return, with new friendships forged and old acquaintances renewed, the timetable-based activities started. Core subjects and extended core subjects (Business, Religious Education, Economics, Accounting, Geography, History, Physics, Chemistry, Biology) featured strongly with 4 regular assessment periods throughout the year underpinning the teaching and learning. In addition, large sections of the timetable consisted of 'option subjects' which included, for example, yoga, web design, journalism, film studies, dance, philosophy, Latin, Italian, architecture and creative cooking to name but a few.

Assessment continued to be an essential consideration throughout the TY year.

Our core subjects (Irish, English, maths and Languages), along with our extended core subjects (business, religious education, accounting, economics, geography, history, physics, chemistry and biology) operate a 'continual assessment' model, with four assessment periods throughout the year. The data from these assessments is conveyed home. In addition, our languages also have oral examinations and in the case of Irish, we participate in the Fáinne scheme.

A main strand to the year and indeed the assessment structures centres around our Portfolio interviews which take place twice during the year, these aim to give a forum to the students to demonstrate their engagement in the TYP in all its facets, from academic, to creative, physical to psychological, It also showcases and explores volunteerism and

collaboration projects. Indeed the SACA support an award scheme centred around this portfolio assessment process.

This year we continued our Spanish Exchange Programme. 14 St Andrew's College students participated in a family to family exchange with students from El Altio school in Jerez southern Spain. Each student hosted a Spanish student for three weeks and visited Jerez for three weeks. The programme took place in the first term of the year and was deemed to be a great success.

In addition, the French department also organised a similar exchange. 24 St Andrew's students participated in the Exchange with a school from Hyères in the south of France. This Exchange took place between January and March and was very successful.

In January 2017, we held a parent/teacher meeting with all our form teachers, directly after one of the two portfolio interviews. This gave an opportunity for informed discussion concerning students' involvement in the TY programme as well as academic progress reporting.

Also, during the year, there were two periods of work experience (February/March and May/June). Students sought and arranged work placements to gain experience and insight into the adult world of work. Diaries and post-placement reports encouraged students to reflect upon their experiences.

Several students were accepted by An Garda Síochána, the Defence Forces and Dublin Airport. Students also travelled to The United Kingdom, China, France, Spain, Dubai and the United States for their work experience placements.

Throughout the year, we invited guest speakers into the College to speak to pupils to provoke interest in a diversity of subjects or to encourage students to become involved in a range of activities or organisations. Many of the speakers were past pupils or friends of the College. James McManus from *Earth's Edge*, Gillian Bird from *DSPCA*, John O'Shea from *GOAL* and Mark Pollock were among those who visited to give presentations. All received a warm reception from our TY group.

Friday afternoons offered a range of physical and sporting activities – Jump Zone, rock-climbing, soccer, golf, hill walking, orienteering, tennis, to name but a few.

During the course of the school year, students also participated in a range of activities outside the daily timetable. These included charity activities from local bake sales to national street collections and even an international fun run where more than 90 of our students ran through the streets of Dublin in the dark in aid of the Mark Pollock trust. Our TY Uganda project continued to flourish with many activities including the winter fair, the U-Live concert and a 5km sponsored run. This year will be the thirteenth year a group of SAC students has travelled to Uganda to represent the college. As part of the application process students who were interested in being selected were asked to fundraise €100 which will go directly to Rubiriizi School to pay for school fees. Other extra-curricular school activities of note this year included anti-bullying Ambassador training and the participation in both the local and the national enterprise award scheme.

As well as these new developments, many of the well-established school and TY activities continue to flourish - MUN, *Grapevine*, One-Act Drama, Ski trip, adventure walk, Gaisce, and, of course, our team sports all featured prominently in the TY programme.

### ***Walk in My Shoes***

On Thursday 4 May, more than ninety students and twelve staff members took part in a 'Walk in my Shoes' event in support of Focus Ireland and Merchants Quay Ireland. The aim of the event was to raise awareness and funds for the homeless. The students' efforts raised €651.15. This figure includes a donation of €200 from SACA (the Alumni Association). This year was the first year of the 'Walk in my shoes' event. It was the brain-child of a few of the Transition Year students, who were inspired by a guest speaker from Focus Ireland. It occurred on Thursday 4 May.

The students left school at 4.00pm, with strict instructions not to go home or to eat a huge meal. This was to try to simulate what homeless people experience. They returned to the College around 7.30pm and were given soup and sandwiches. These were generously donated by Sodexo. Students then went to the hall for activities. The sleeping areas were assigned and students had the option of sleeping in or outside. Most decided to sleep outside. After an uncomfortable night on cold concrete, students and staff embarked on a normal school day.

Even though it was a tough and chilling experience, all staff and students who participated were glad they did it and were more aware of the difficult life faced by those less fortunate than ourselves.

Overall, The Transition Year programme has been very successful this year and continues to garner favourable support and comment from students, parents and teachers.

### **Charitable Activities**

Students and staff have been active fundraisers for, and participants in, many local and national charities this year. These have included:

Mark Pollock Trust	N Murray – Berkeley Fund Raiser	Child Vision
Immigrant Council of Ireland	The Samaritans	Temple Street Foundation
The Capuchin Centre	Focus Ireland	GOAL
Dublin Central Mission	The Salvation Army	St Vincent de Paul
The Alzheimer's Society	DSPCA	Merchant's Quay Project
Our Lady's Hospice and Care Service	Mental Health Ireland	Amnesty International Ireland
Caroline Foundation	St Michael's House	MS Ireland
Jigsaw	Irish Cancer Society	ARC

In addition, the proceeds from this year's non-uniform days have been distributed to the following charities:

Bóthar	Marie Keating Foundation
CMRF Crumlin	MS Ireland
Fighting Blindness	Our Lady's Hospice
Epilepsy Ireland	Peter McVerry Trust
Human Appeal Ireland (Humanitarian Aid for Syria)	Samaritans Ireland
Make a Wish Ireland	Spinal Injuries Ireland
Cystic Fibrosis Ireland	

This year's Transition Year students have continued to fundraise for our Transition Year Uganda Project. Other years carried out a variety of fund raising events – for example, Third Year organised a *Christmas Movie* for Focus Ireland; Second Year a Copper Crawl and First Year a Dog Walk in aid of the DSPCA.

## Child Protection

The Child Protection Policy was approved by the Board on 14 June 2016. All College staff completed Child Protection training online prior to the start of the academic year.

The Board of Management review was conducted in May 2017. This review was conducted in accordance with the checklist set out in Appendix 2 of the Department's 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools'.

Child Protection is listed for discussion as an Agenda Item at all Board of Management meetings. The full child protection policy can be viewed on the St Andrew's College website at [www.sac.ie](http://www.sac.ie). A hard copy is available upon request from the College Office.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mrs Joan Kirby, Headmistress. Ms Monica Lynott, Deputy Principal is the Deputy DLP.

## Mobile Phones

This year we introduced new rules regarding mobile phones. All First, Second and Third Year students have to have their mobile phones locked in their lockers for the day. Transition Years, Fifth and Sixth Years are permitted to use their 'phones at break and lunch only. At all other times, their mobiles must be in their lockers. These new rules have been a great success and as time goes on, we would hope to see the absence of mobile phones, especially for our younger years, becoming part of the culture.

## Student Council

The Student Council structure in St Andrew's College is comprised of Year Councils and a Whole School Council (WSC). Year Councils are in operation in Second, Third, Transition and Fifth Year. Elections for student representatives are held in May for the upcoming year. Students from First to Transition Year vote to elect two representatives from each form to the relevant Year Council. These councils then elect two representatives to sit on the Whole School Council. The Head Girl and Head Boy set the agenda and chair the WSC meetings. Minutes of the WSC are taken by the students, the teacher representative Ms Brianán McGrane distributes the minutes to Year Heads, Management and the Facilities Manager.

Incoming First Years do not attend Year Council meetings. Toward the end of the second term elections are held after which point two students will attend WSC meetings for the remainder of the academic year.

The Year Councils and the Whole School Council endeavour to maintain a positive line of communication between the school body and the management team with the aim of improving the day-to-day running of the College in small yet important ways. These councils are in a unique position to inform management of a student's perspective of life in the College.

In addition the councils aim to involve themselves in other initiatives in the College and help to promote new initiatives which have a positive impact on life in the College. This year the student council was involved in fund raising at the ***Give Us a Song*** lunch time concert for The Caroline Foundation which supports cancer research.

The Whole School Council has represented the school on a number of occasions this year, for example there is a representative on the Comhairle na nÓg Council which is organised by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. The Whole School Council represented the school at a recent civic ceremony in Dun Laoghaire which gave the Irish Naval Service Honorary Freedom of Entry to the County.

## Bullying Awareness

The First Year team repeated last year's useful survey of all students about bullying and it revealed significant information. It involved a short interview with each student in the year to try to find out about bullying and related social problems in the school.

We ran our Friendship week in January with the theme of ***Free to be Me***. We had a day of internet safety talks from Dr Maureen Griffin and had special assemblies for each year with wonderful music and readings. The students under the guidance of Ms Carroll and Ms de Courcey made a great movie which can be viewed on the school website.

We ran our second ***Cycle Against Suicide*** event on May 9<sup>th</sup> which was a huge success. We had a stationary cycle competition on twelve spin bikes in front of the school from 7.00am to 5.00pm which included all students and the staff. The winning participants got a prize of a pizza lunch. It was great fun and above all a promotion of the motto ***It's ok not to feel ok***

*and it's certainly ok to ask for help.* The event could not happen without the sponsorship of Flyefit who have been extremely generous to us.

## **Mentor Programme**

We had a great response to the Mentor Programme from this year's Fifth Year students. A very large number of them applied to the programme and were accepted, having submitted pretty detailed and thoughtful application forms. The quality of work done by a core of these students was wonderful, they were really committed to making a difference.

We ended up with 98 mentors, each with one or two First Year students. Some of them met the incoming First Years informally in April. We had a training session at the end of August before they met their charges. The Mentors have their lockers in the immediate vicinity of their First Year students, this means that they are around them, informally at break and lunch time and in the mornings to keep an eye on them and have a chat. This kind of casual contact with each other makes the whole system work much more successfully rather than basing it all on formal meetings.

The Mentors showed the First Years around the school, helped them with their lockers and locks and gave them advice on where to go at lunch and break time, what extra-curricular activities to join...etc. Above all, they made it clear that they would be there to lend a hand or a sympathetic ear should it be necessary. They had lunch together and finished the day with a fun challenge around the school.

The Mentors had several formal meetings organised with their charges during registration up to the Autumn mid-term break, but this was no longer necessary once they had established a relationship. They kept a check on their lockers and bags, their progress in terms of organisation and, above all, how they are integrating socially and whether or not they have settled in happily.

We gave the Mentors a checklist to fill out with their First Year students which they have returned to the Form Teachers. This concerned their organisational skills and their involvement in extra-curricular activities. We hoped that the Mentors might pick up on any problems that staff can miss.

At Christmas we held our annual quiz for Mentors and First Years which was great fun.

Several meetings were held with the Mentors and discussions centered around how the system was working. The feedback was very positive and this year's First Year students were lucky to have such a nice, committed and friendly group of Mentors. Mentors were told to let the Mentor Coordinator know if they had a specific worry about a student. Issues brought to the Mentor Coordinator were discussed with them individually and in confidence and were then brought to the attention of the Form Teacher.

## **Green Schools**

After being awarded our second Green Flag under the theme of Energy, the Green Schools' Committee continued to look at ways to improve the energy usage and litter in the school.

Items have been highlighted in notices in registration folders and through presentations at assemblies. The College has started working towards its third Green Flag under the theme of Water so the committee have been under-taking a monitoring of water usage in the school. Students went around the school and carried out a water survey as to the volume of water that comes from taps throughout the school. Information on the work of the Green Schools' committee is shown on the noticeboard on the main corridor between House Area 1 and 2.

The Green School Committee normally meets every second Tuesday at lunch time in House Area 3 and is open to all students to join at any time. This year we have a strong group comprised of Transition, Fifth and Sixth Years.

## **Parental Involvement**

### Parent Events

The College organised the following information meetings for parents in 2016/17:

- Parent / Subject Teacher Meetings for Third, Fifth and Sixth Year groups
- Information Meetings for parents/guardians of students involved in the Spanish and French Exchange Visits
- Information Meetings for parents/guardians of students involved in School Trips during the year
- Induction Meetings for First Year parents/guardians – August 2016
- Parent Information Evenings for the following Year groups – Sixth, Fifth, Transition, Third, and Second Years – August and September 2016
- Study Skills Evening for Third Year parents with talk by Mr Rory Mulvey of Student Enrichment Services – September 2016
- Information Meeting for parents of incoming First Years (2017) – October 2016
- First Year Parent and Form Teacher Meeting – November 2016
- CAO Information Presentation for Sixth Year parents – November 2016
- Information Meeting for parents of incoming First Years (2017) – November 2016
- Options Evenings for First, Transition and Fifth Years – January 2017
- TY Parent / Form Teacher Meetings – January 2017
- First Year Parents – Student Enrichment Morning Talk – March 2017
- Second Year Parent and Form Teacher Meeting – April 2017
- First Year Parent and Form Teacher Meeting – May 2017

All meetings were well attended by parents.

### **School Events**

Parents were invited to attend a variety of school functions and events throughout the year. In 2016/17 these included:

- PTA Coffee Mornings for all year groups
- Coffee Mornings for international parents and host parents of Junior and Secondary School students
- PTA Debs Reception – September 2016
- International Night – November 2016

- PTA Ladies Lunch – November 2016
- Annual Prizegiving Evening – November 2016
- Transition Year Winter Fair – November 2016
- PTA Christmas Social Evening – December 2016
- Carol Service – December 2016
- Transition Year Enterprise Showcase - February 2017
- Transition Year U-Live Concert – February 2017
- One-Act Drama Festival – February 2017
- Secondary Department Music Concert – March 2017
- PTA Table Quiz – March 2017
- Music and Dance Festival - March 2017
- First Year Dog Walk in aid of DSPCA – April 2017
- IB Art Exhibition – April 2017
- SciFest Second Year Science Fair – April 2017
- Music and Dance Festival Prizewinners' Concert – May 2017
- Launch of *The Wine Dark Sea* – May 2017
- Transition Year End-of-Year Ceremony – May 2017
- Sixth Year Valedictory Evening – May 2017

## School Development Planning

### School Policies

All policies that make up the school plan are available on the College website: [www.sac.ie](http://www.sac.ie)

The following have been the main developments in school planning in 2016/2017:

- The on-going review of SAC policies
- The on-going review of subject development plans in all departments
- The on-going work on School Self-Evaluation with the continuing work of Literacy and Numeracy Core Teams, the ICT Strategy and the commencement of the Assessment Strategy
- The formal revision of the following policies:

Sports Policy	Code of Behaviour for Students
Concussion Policy	Anti-Bullying Policy
EAL Policy	Child Protection Policy
Substance Abuse Policy	Support for Learning Policy
E-Safety Policy	Guidance Policy
Data Protection Policy	School Trips Policy
First Aid Policy	Homework Policy
Acceptable Usage Policy (AUP) for Students	Acceptable Usage Policy (AUP) for Staff
Code of Behaviour for Students	

## Whole School Evaluation – Follow through inspection Thursday 19 January 2017

Two Inspectors from the Department of Education and Skills visited the school on Thursday, 19 January as a Follow Through Inspection to the Whole School Evaluation which was completed in April 2014. A Follow Through Inspection only looks at the key recommendations from a WSE Report.

The Inspectors were very impressed with the organisation and volume of documentation which was available to them. They reviewed much of the paperwork in relation to the School Plan and a sample of the Subject Department Folders. They also met with a number of teachers and students.

### Recommendations for Further Development from the WSE held on 4 April 2014 and Findings from Follow Through Inspection 19 January 2017

1. The Board should ensure that action plans, relevant to the achievement of its identified priorities, are developed and collated into a single document, incorporated into the development section of the school plan, and communicated to the school community.

Finding	Additional Information
Very Good Progress	Very good work has been completed in this area. Priorities have been identified.

2. A review of the overall post of responsibility structure should be undertaken, to assess if the assigned roles are fully meeting the administrative, pastoral and academic needs of the school.

Finding	Additional Information
No Progress	The Follow Through Inspection will recommend that this be completed. Some work done this academic year but not enough to merit partial progress.

3. Management should explore ways of enhancing student's contribution to the school improvement process.

Finding	Additional Information
Good Progress	The inspectors felt that there may be a misreading of the term 'School Improvement Process'. They were unsure as to whether this relates to a School Development Plan or the SSE School Improvement. They will seek clarification on this. Either way there is good progress in terms of student involvement in various aspects of the school. They commented that the students they spoke to were very polite, eloquent and represented the school extremely well. They recommended furthering student contribution to all aspects of school development.

4. Teachers should revisit the principles of assessment for learning, with a particular emphasis on formative feedback.

Finding	Additional Information
Good Progress	Good work has been done on AFL. The Inspectors viewed 30 samples of student work. They recommended a more consistent approach to assessment strategies especially in relation to written feedback on how students can improve their work. Some subject plans were lacking in detail and need to be more comprehensive.

## Literacy, Numeracy, ICT and Assessment Strategy

### Literacy Strategy

During this academic year, the literacy team sought to build on the previous literacy cycle.

This involved the continued implementation of the College's literacy strategy as well as trialling new literacy initiatives. During the year, a survey of First, Second, Fourth and Fifth Year groups was conducted and the results are currently being collated. The survey was designed in conjunction with the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) and focused on the following areas: Reading, Oral Literacy, Composition and Critical Thinking. Guidance was sought from staff members about which comprehensions strategies they found to be best-practice in their classrooms. The literacy coordinators are collating this information in a document with a view to distributing it to all teachers in the next academic year.

Based on the findings of last year's surveys, a number of areas were prioritised for improvement as part of the literacy strategy with which we are engaged. We hope to increase the number of students who read for enjoyment, to increase the use of student voice in the school's literacy initiatives and to promote comprehension and critical thinking strategies in the College.

A major innovation to this year's literacy programme was the inception of the Student Literacy Council. Monthly meetings were inaugurated in which students met with the literacy coordinators to evaluate current initiatives and to generate new, student-led initiatives. It is anticipated that the Student Literacy Council will play a significant role in the literacy programme moving forward.

Literacy remains prevalent in the College's co-curricular programme. There are a number of staff-led and student-led initiatives that promote literacy. This includes the Model United Nations, Debate Club, French Debating, Writers' Club, Poetry Aloud, Grapevine, One Act Drama, Page to Stage, The Wine Dark Sea, etc.

The previous literacy cycle identified the promotion of the school library as a priority. Our College Librarian, Ms Ryan, has continued to implement a number of initiatives this year. She resumed her literary genre module for First Year students. This involves each First Year English class visiting the library weekly to learn about different genres of writing. First year students then had a '*blind date with a book*'. Based on information from their English teachers, students were issued with a book based on their reading level chosen for them by their fifth year mentors. Furthermore, Ms Ryan has debuted use of the STAR rating system in the library catalogue to encourage students to read more challenging literature. This has been run alongside the Accelerated Reader programme.

There are a number of other whole-school literacy initiatives which occurred in this academic year. We have continued with the '*Book in the Bag*' initiative for Junior Cycle students. This is where students are encouraged to have a book of their choice in their bag at all times. When a subject teacher finished a module or topic with some time left in the lesson, students were encouraged to take out their book and read it for the remainder of that class. Similarly, our "Guess Who's Reading?" competition was again run this year in which students were invited to guess which teacher is reading which book. Additionally, the Word Challenge was created this year. This is a monthly competition that marries literacy and critical thinking by posing a verbal challenge which students were invited to solve, alongside a quote of the month and word of the month submitted by students.

Finally, we celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 2 March with 'Drop Everything and Read'. All students and staff in the College dropped what they were doing at 11.00am and read a book of their choice for one class period. The St Michael's House, 'Bring A Book, Buy A Book' sale took place on the same day with all monies raised going towards St Michael's House, Dun Laoghaire.

### **Numeracy Strategy**

The Numeracy Team's primary aim for the current academic year was to continue to contextualise and develop students' abilities to use mathematical understanding in everyday life and problem solving.

The College's numeracy team believe numeracy involves being able to:

- Think and communicate quantitatively
- Make sense of data
- Understand patterns and sequences
- Recognise situations where mathematical reasoning can be applied to solve problems across all subject areas within school curricula.

The initiatives and activities which were developed to promote numeracy in the college this year, while not exhaustive, have included the following:

- Cross Curricular Links and the appointment of Numeracy Co-ordinators in each specific subject area. All departments have adopted numeracy into their scope and sequence planning.
- Numeracy Journals – Students have recorded numeracy moments in their lessons.
- Entry of Junior Cycle students into worldwide competitions such as Khan Academy (Mathletes)
- Parent/Guardian Numeracy Workshop evenings
- Increased use of the College library, collating resources for numeracy cross-curricular and the holding of specific lunchtime numeracy competitions.

To investigate the success of the above initiatives a survey was carried out on First Year students at the beginning of the current academic year and again at the end of the academic year.

Some of the results of the survey were as follows:

- "I like Maths", up from 78% to 81% (3% increase).
- "Different methods used by parents", down from 100% to 76% (24% decrease).
- "Maths is important", up from 90% to 95% (5% increase).

## **ICT Strategy**

### ***Summary of 2016/17***

We have:

- ✓ Introduced an induction for First Year students on basic skills and using ICT.
- ✓ Re-surveyed Second Year students (original focus group) on use of ICT and basic skills.
- ✓ Ran an ICT challenge for Second Year based on the use of basic skills.
- ✓ Continued to seek feedback on integration of ICT basic skills through subject departments.
- ✓ Conducted a teacher survey on the use of ICT and CPD.

### ***Plan for 2017/18***

We plan to:

- Continue the induction for First Years on basic skills and using ICT with a possibility of extending this into a digital literacy module.
- Continue to collect feedback from departments on student use of ICT and basic skills of original focus group.
- Provide CPD training for teachers within individual departments in areas of ICT based on the teacher survey.

- Provide informal teach meet sessions to share use of ICT subject specific practice among peers.

## Assessment Strategy

### Summary of 2016/17

We have:

- ✓ Invited staff to volunteer for an Assessment committee
- ✓ Committee met with a representative from the PDST who went through the SSE process
- ✓ Committee chose to focus on feedback on written work as an area for improvement
- ✓ Staff survey created focusing on AFL techniques and feedback in detail
- ✓ Data to be collated by end of term

### Plan for 2017/18

We plan to:

- Survey students on AFL techniques and feedback on written work
- Establish a focus group of students to further investigate and provide student perspective on formative feedback
- Use data gathered to set targets for feedback
- Devise strategies to help both teachers and students accomplish this goal
- Collate information on AFL/feedback practices that staff currently use and share with entire staff
- Explore possibility of CPD/teach meet sessions on AFL and formative feedback

## Staff Development

St Andrew's College staff has attended a wide range of CPD training throughout the year. Conferences/workshops attended by staff included the following:

Posts of Responsibilities Seminar	DELF Course	IASTA AG- Venture 2017
Assessment of JC Science and LC Biology and Chemistry	Dyslexia and Foreign Language Teaching	Senior Cycle Personal Safety Lessons
Special Educational Needs ( <i>understanding policy- updating practice – unlocking potential</i> )	ABC of Course - SFL	Junior Cycle RSE – 2 Day Course
Garda Vetting Seminar	Professional Diploma in Mathematics for teaching	New Model for allocating SET to schools

History Seminar	Post Primary Music Teachers Conference	Degree Certificate BA-Swedish as a second language
Mental Health	Wilderness First Aid Level 3	NEASC Training Course - English
Surviving and Thriving in School	Course B Discussion – Science	Foundations Mindfulness Training
Teachers’ Branch Conference – Classical Studies	Coursework B - Biology	NCCA Syllabus LC Classical Studies
IB-Bringing Structures to Life - The New ways of teaching Biology	My Friends Youth Resilience Seminar	IB Diploma Category 2 Language B
A Common Approach to Grammar Teaching	Managing Aggression and Violence in Schools	Guidance Supervision Session(5)
ChemEd-Ireland 2016	Manual Handling Training	Section 3 Q’s for LC Higher Level
National Conference – French Teachers Association	IB – Category 3 Geography Seminar	JMB Teacher Allocations
Student Engagement in the MFL Classroom	NCCA – Classical Studies	Swedish as a second language course
InThinking Educational Consultants- History	Leinster Workshops - Rugby	New Deputy Principals Posts
InThinking Educational Consultants – French	Legal-Island Seminar	PDST Coursework B - Biology
State Examinations Commission – Spanish		

## Significant Student Achievements

### Trinity College Entrance Examination Awards

The following students were selected for an Entrance Exhibition Award to Trinity College based on their high performance in the Leaving Certificate Examination 2016: Aidan Coll, Milo Dunne, Jessica Keane, Hannah Marshall, Aoife McCormick and Sophie Pickering.

### UCD Entrance Scholar Awards

The following students from the leaving certificate class of 2016 were selected by UCD for an Entrance Scholar Award: Ciara Beecham and Alex McDaid.

### DCU Business School

In the Junior Certificate Business Studies Award, Alice Doherty was an *Academic High Achiever*.

### All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad

Yan Li (Sixth Year), Joaquin Gil-Leal (Fifth Year) and Eoghan O'Mahony (First Year) qualified for the National Final of the All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad (AILO) which was held in DIT Grangegorman on Friday, 24 March. Commendations were awarded to Eoghan and Yan Li.

### **All Ireland Senior Chemistry Olympiad**

Sixth Year students Yan Li, Gavin McDaid and Sam Laing participated in the Senior Chemistry Olympiad on Saturday, 1 April at DCU. Arising from his strong performance, Yan Li has been invited to participate in training workshops.

### **SciFest – DIT**

'*The truth about cleaning brushes*', a project by Isobel Moloney (Transition Year), won the Abbott Runner-Up Best Project award on Thursday, 6 April at DIT SciFest.

### **BT Young Scientist**

Aaron Speer was awarded First Place in the Intermediate Individual Technology category. His project was entitled '*Developing a Smart Water Meter*'.

### **DCU High Achiever Award**

Transition Year student Alice Doherty was presented with a DCU High Achiever in Business Studies award at a reception held in DCU on Thursday, 19 January. This award was in recognition of Alice's excellent Junior Certificate Business Studies results. Alice was accompanied by her Business Studies teacher, Ms Rhonda Jenkinson

### **Institute of Chemistry of Ireland Schools' Chemistry Newsletter**

David Shanahan (5C) was runner-up in the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland Schools' Chemistry Newsletter Competition 2017 with an essay on '*The Chemistry of Climate Change*'.

### **Irish Junior Maths Competition**

Eoghan O'Mahoney (1MCK) was awarded full marks and won the Irish Junior Maths Competition on Friday 12 May.

### **Share Trading Competition**

Second Year student, Tom O'Gorman, entered an All-Ireland university student Share Trading Competition with Share Navigator, a Dublin trading business, from 10 October to 16 December 2016. Tom came second in the Best Option Only Trades Returns with a +0.63% return. This is a superb result for a Second Year student against University level students.

### **Business Studies Awards UCD**

Seven Transition Year students, Jean Nam, Sam Byrne, Alice Doherty, Hugo Given, Lia Quinn, Emma Forbes and Rachel Diggin were invited to attend an event at the UCD Quinn School of Business on Tuesday, 14 March to recognise their achievement in the Junior Certificate Business Studies exam.

### **Chess**

#### **The Glorney-Gilbert International 2016**

Two St Andrew's College students represented Ireland on the team that retained the Glorney Cup in 2016. Second Year student Tom O'Gorman led the team on Board 1, while Third Year student Ross Beatty was on Board 4. The Glorney Cup is a five nations' tournament between Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales and France. It is only the third time Ireland have won the trophy since 1948.

St Andrew's College alumnus Alice O'Gorman led the Ireland ladies team to second place in the Gilbert Cup for the second year in a row.

St Andrew's College alumnus Alex Byrne was on the Irish team that retained the Robinson Cup. This is only the second time Ireland has won the Robinson. Ross Beatty was on the winning team in 2015.

Third Year student Ross Beatty is the only player to have represented Ireland to win the Stokes (2013), Robinson (2015) and Glorney (2016) cups. Tom O'Gorman is the only other Irish player to have played on a winning team three times (Stokes, 2015, Glorney, 2016 & 2017) in the tournament's 68 year history.

### **Millfield International**

St. Andrew's College participated in the Millfield International Chess Tournament in Somerset, England in October 2016. Tom O'Gorman and Ross Beatty both won individual prizes for winning all their matches on their respective boards.

The St. Andrew's team comprised First Year students Eoghan O'Mahony and Jonathan Walsh-Dowd; Second Year students Tom O'Gorman and Callum Scanlon; and Third Year students William Walsh-Dowd, Aaron Speer, Ross Beatty and Sacha Bistany Savi. The team finished third in their group and ninth overall.

### **Leinster Schools Chess League**

The St Andrew's College chess team, comprising Third Year students Ross Beatty, Sacha Bistany Savi, and William Walsh-Dowd, Second Year student Tom O'Gorman, and First Year student Jonathan Walsh-Dowd, came second in the Leinster Schools tournament, only losing the final to Gonzaga.

The St Andrew's team had previously defeated Colaiste Eoin in the semi-final, and St. Benildus, Newpark, and Clonkeen to top their group.

Prior to this Tom O'Gorman was awarded best U-18 performer at the Gonzaga Charity Chess Classic.

### **Copenhagen Classic**

Second Year student Tom O'Gorman defeated his second International Master at the Copenhagen Classic, bringing his chess rating over 2300 and thereby earning the title FIDE Master (FM). This will be formally awarded after the publication of the ratings in June. Tom is St. Andrew's College's first ever FM and is believed to be Ireland's youngest ever. Currently there is 1 Grand Master in Ireland, 7 International Masters and 15 FIDE Masters.

### **Prize Giving Ceremony**

873 people attended our annual Academic Prize-Giving Ceremony on Wednesday 23 November in the O'Reilly Hall, UCD. The Guest of Honour was Professor Patrick Murray, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology in UCD and Consultant Physician at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital.

This year a new prize was established, the *Lorcán Miller Memorial Prize* which will be awarded to the student with the highest points who goes to UCD. Lorcán (class of 2012) achieved the maximum 625 points in his Leaving Certificate and was awarded an Entrance Scholarship to UCD where he was studying medicine until a tragic accident in Berkeley, California ended his life on 16 June 2015. This prize is St Andrew's way of recording in a permanent manner our appreciation of everything that Lorcán achieved. It is our acknowledgement that Lorcán represented excellence on so many levels and it signals our hope that Lorcán's spirit will light the way for future generations of students.

We were particularly delighted to welcome Lorcán's parents, Sinead and Ken, and grandparents, Ruth and Stanley Miller to the Prize Giving. Sinead and Ken presented the memorial prize to the first recipient Alex McDaid (class of 2016). While this was an emotional evening for the Miller family, it was lovely to see them back in the St. Andrew's fold. They were delighted with the tribute paid to Lorcán.

## **November Service**

November is a month for remembering and this year, the Art Department designed and Roger Hill crafted a wooden remembrance tree which was placed outside the library. All the students were asked to write the names of loved ones they have lost on leaves that were placed in baskets at the base of the tree and at the end of November we held an early morning service, organised by Declan Flattery, our RE Coordinator. This new initiative was a very welcome addition to the school diary and is very much in keeping with the spiritual core of the College.

## **Seachtain na Gaeilge**

On Monday, 13 March the Irish Department House Area was decorated by staff members. All classroom doors were decorated by First Year classes and were themed around topics they had covered since September. One door was decorated with a family tree, another with a diagram of a DART line and each place name documented in Irish. Other designs included a fridge full of hand-drawn food items all labelled in Irish, a diagram of the house with all rooms again labelled in Irish, another was decorated with school subject titles and coordinating pictures, there was a door of geographical and weather terminology completed by Ms Crotty's class, and the final door was a collage of terminology and phrases learned in the topic of 'My Area' decorated by Ms Murphy's class. At lunchtime, a whole-school céilí was held in the Senior Hall. Students danced to Ballaí Luimnigh, Ionsaí na hinse and An Dreoilín. Many staff members also got involved and great fun was had by all.

On Wednesday, 15 March the Gaeilge 24 Challenge was run in the College. Stickers were placed in all registration folders which students could wear in order to promote their participation in the challenge. The task was to speak as much Irish as possible throughout the school day and we were delighted to see so many students and staff take part. A 'Sos Gaelach' was also held in the staffroom at breaktime on Wednesday. Treats were provided by the Irish Department along with handy phrase sheets that could be used in general conversation. This event provided an extra opportunity for staff to use their 'cúpla focal'. Second Year students also took part in the Comórtas Tish Parsons after the Easter break. Students worked in groups of two and three to prepare a presentation based on a topic

covered in Irish class. A winner was chosen from each class and these students then presented their project to the year group in the Senior Hall. The aim of the competition was to use and promote spoken Irish and the standard was extremely high. Claire Holohan and Nicole O'Connell were the overall winners.

## **Model United Nations (MUN)**

This year was the 34<sup>th</sup> year of Model United Nations in St. Andrew's College. It was also the year with the largest number of students participating in MUN. There are six MUN conferences throughout the year. Three of them are one and a half day conferences in Dublin – Terenure College in September, Rathdown School in November and Blackrock College in January. The two international conferences are The Royal Russell International Model United Nations, in London which is held in October and The Hague International Model United Nations which is late January. The first week of Easter was the 29<sup>th</sup> St. Andrew's International Model United Nations Conference held in The Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoghaire. Our students meet throughout the year on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons for practice debates and research sessions.

### ***St. Andrew's International Model United Nations (SAIMUN) – 10 – 13 April 2017 – Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire.***

In April, we hosted the 29<sup>th</sup> SAIMUN. It was opened by Mrs Kirby with the noted economist David McWilliams as the guest speaker. The conference was presided over by joint Secretaries General, Marc Cobuzzi and Hilary McKenna and The President of the General Assembly Alex McGinn. There were nearly 800 participants from 44 schools travelling from 22 countries. The theme of the conference was children. At the closing ceremony, Mr Micallef presented the awards to the victorious delegates and delegations. It was a very successful conference receiving very positive feedback from the visiting schools.

## **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**

One of the areas of MUN which is attracting more and more interest from our students is the ICJ. This is an international civil court adjudicating on complaints between countries. It is one of the five main bodies of the United Nations. The model ICJ is held in Royal Russell, The Hague and in our own MUN. It is run by a retired teacher/judge/lawyer Mr Bob Stern. Effectively it is a four-day workshop on International Law and differs from the rest of MUN in that there is more direct involvement and teaching by Mr Stern. The case has two sets of advocates representing their counties and up to 18 judges. Witnesses are also called. This year we had one set of the advocates and a judge in The Royal Russell MUN who narrowly lost their case on a split decision. We had a judge in The Hague ICJ and Olivia Heron (Sixth Year) was President of the court in SAIMUN where two of the judges were also our students.

### ***Summary of conferences:***

Terenure MUN: Represented by 32 students from Fifth and Sixth Year. Awarded an outstanding delegation award and 14 individual distinguished delegate awards

Rathdown MUN: Represented by 24 students from Transition and Fifth Year. Awarded an outstanding delegation award and eight individual distinguished delegate awards.

Royal Russell MUN: Represented by 40 students from Fifth and Sixth Year. Awarded a highly commended delegation award and 13 individual distinguished delegate awards.

Blackrock MUN: Represented by 16 students from Transition Year: Awarded two outstanding delegation awards and seven individual distinguished delegate awards.

The Hague MUN (THIMUN): Represented by 40 students from Fifth and Sixth Year. Nearly 3000 students attend THIMUN. We represented China, Haiti and ECA. The Hague MUN does not present awards.

St. Andrew's MUN: We had 170 involved students from Transition, Fifth and Sixth Year. There were 97 delegates, 36 administration students, 23 student officers, five ICT students, six students in press and three students in The International Court of Justice. Awards: outstanding delegation award, highly commended delegation award and 11 individual distinguished delegate awards.

In total 182 students participated in MUN in the school this year.

## **International Night**

The 2016 International Night took place on Wednesday, November 16 and was a fantastic success. The number of students taking part in the evening exceeded 220. Hannah Leggett and Ruth Devane coordinated the event again this year.

Food stalls from 22 different countries displayed an amazing array of food and drink from all over the world. In excess of 170 students from 47 different countries took part in the annual parade. Over 35 staff members volunteered to get involved in assisting the running of the night and even more during intercultural week. Approximately 120 parents and guardians helped bring the evening together by giving assistance with or managing a food stall.

This year's format for International Night was an opening ceremony and parade which was then followed by the food stalls, activity booths and art exhibitions. This new format is in its second year and has created more of a festival atmosphere for the evening.

Our presenters for the opening ceremony were Fifth Year students Emma Fogarty, Anna Reid and Tori Dunne. Robben Beatty opened the show with a song and piano piece.

The Junior School involvement was coordinated by Sarah Falconer and Sylvia Miajlovic. 96 Junior School students, from Junior Infants to Sixth Class, took part in the event, representing 31 nationalities. They all participated in the parade and then sang the Michael Jackson song "Heal the World". All participating Junior School students attended multiple song practices over a period of six weeks, in addition to the two combined Junior and Senior School rehearsals.

## **Intercultural Week**

Intercultural Week was held from 12 - 16 November. A large number of students participated in and assisted with the running of many diverse events intended to showcase

our international student body and the diverse cultures of our school. Activities were set up and run before school as well as during break and lunch.

Sodexo designed a very successful Intercultural Week menu to pair with the different days during the week. The Art Department created a fantastic stage design as well as decorating the school beautifully.

An art exhibition was displayed outside the library with Second Year wire sculpture work inspired by international buildings.

This year's chosen charity was CARE who work in 90 countries around the world to support over 880 poverty-fighting development and emergency projects. CARE focus on disaster relief, education, women's empowerment, hunger, health, economic development. Students chose this charity to support CARE in raising funds for the people of Haiti (in the wake of Hurricane Matthew). A total of €586 was raised by the fundraising committee.

## **PTA**

The PTA continued their valuable support of the College throughout the year. They assisted with events such as the P6 Musical, MUN, the One Act Drama, Scifest, Intercultural week and Tennis Night. In addition, the PTA organised fund raising activities like the Ladies Lunch in November for Pieta House and the Table Quiz. A particular highlight was the PTA Staff Breakfast before Easter. The PTA also undertook sterling work in preparation for this year's Valedictory Evening. Their assistance in making evenings such as the Sixth Year Valedictory Ceremony special goes to the heart of their commitment to the College.

## **SACA**

In the first term, SACA organised an outstanding evening whereby nine past pupils of the College who had taken part in Olympic Games came in and were interviewed. The Alumni support the College in many ways and over the last few years the SACA President has attended the TY evening and our Valedictory Ceremony to give out Alumni Prizes. This year, as in others, they also organised class reunions and offered career advice to students through our Guidance Department. Another SACA highlight this year was the SACA Rugby lunch to honour the contribution of David Boyd and Walter Hosford to Rugby in the College. This took place in Wesley Rugby Club in Donnybrook on Friday, 24 February.

## **Feasibility Study**

Throughout the course of the year, a Feasibility Study was undertaken to investigate the development needs of the College. All staff were asked to submit their ideas in relation to the faculty needs of the school. By year end, stage one plans had been drawn up and presentations will be made to the Board of Management, staff, parents and students at the start of the next academic year.

## **Facilities**

### **Main School Building**

- Replaced heating circuits and controls. Phase 3 of the 4 phases now complete.
- Completed the second and final phase of cavity wall insulation.
- Completed the second phase of replacing single glazed with double glazed windows.
- Upgraded the internal courtyards.
- Completed the final phase of installing energy efficient lighting.
- Revamped Sixth Year Centre study rooms.
- Installed new playground equipment to Junior School yard
- Normal maintenance and redecoration

### **Floodlights / Sand based Hockey Pitch**

Plans were drawn up to put floodlights on the sand based hockey pitch. Our neighbours were invited into the school to view the plans and a planning application was submitted to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. Planning for the floodlights was approved and these will be installed during the summer months ready for the next hockey season.

### **Financial Report**

The College strives to ensure that adequate financial resources are available to carry out its educational mission, maintain and improve its existing facilities and generate sufficient funds to service existing school building loans. Whilst the financial environment remains challenging for all fee-charging schools, the College is fully aware of the financial pressures that parents experience and accordingly seeks to minimise fee increases whilst maintaining services to our students.

The College has a rigorous approach to cost control and the elimination of any unnecessary expenditure whilst ensuring that educational excellence is maintained. Substantial infrastructural investment continues to be made in order to enhance the environment within which students and staff operate and to maximise efficiency in energy usage.