



# St Andrew's College Secondary School

## Annual Report June 2018

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## **Introduction**

This report has been prepared to cover the period from 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018.

## **School enrolment**

At the beginning of the 2017–2018 school year, secondary school enrolment was 995 (496 boys and 499 girls). Of the total, 830 were Irish nationals, 32 were US citizens and 133 were third-country nationals.

## **Faculty**

In 2017/18 there were 101 full-time and 20 part-time faculty members of which 110 are Irish citizens and 11 other nationalities. The mixture of nationalities adds to the international character of the College.

## **Mike Allen**

In October came the sad news that one of the pillars of the St Andrew's College community, Mike Allen, had passed away after a long illness. Over his long career in St Andrew's, Mike performed many different roles: boarding master, American Counsellor, teacher of history, Classical Studies and theory of knowledge. However, it was as coordinator of the MUN that most students will remember him and it was because of Mike's unstinting devotion to MUN that generations of our students learned the invaluable skill of public speaking.

## **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.

## **Mind One Another – We all Matter**

The academic year began with a Whole School Opening Service on Friday 15 September where the theme for the year was shared with the students. The motto chosen was **Mind One Another – We all Matter**.

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.

## **Wellbeing**

Over the coming years Wellbeing will become a central element of Junior Cycle and will encompass SPHE, CSPE and PE. In St Andrew's College we will design our own Wellbeing Programme to suit the needs of our students and the strengths of our school. This year our First Year students have had one wellbeing period a week in their timetable. This has been divided into 3 modules, digital literacy, literacy and the friendship programme. The wellbeing requirement will increase to 400 hours over 3 years for 1<sup>st</sup> Years joining in 2018.

## **New Building Programme**

A series of information evenings were held on Monday 9 April, Tuesday 10 April and Thursday 12 April for all current parents and those parents whose children will be entering the College in 2018, 2019 and 2020. Mr John Parker of ABK Architects gave a detailed overview of the plans for our new building programme which will include a new Junior School, a Strength and Conditioning Centre, a library and study centre, new changing rooms, a classroom block extension and extensive refurbishment of the existing school. This will include a new science block in House Area 4. There were a number of high quality drawings and images on display and a CGI fly-over was played as part of the presentation. This allowed the audience to get a very real sense of what the project will look like on completion. The plans were very well received, with genuine enthusiasm for the project in evidence.

The images and 'fly-over' remained on display outside the Library during the following week and the students are all very excited about the design plan.

On Tuesday, 17 April an information evening was held in the College to afford our neighbours the opportunity to see our design plans prior to our planning application submission. The evening was attended by approximately 13 residents from the surrounding area. Questions regarding the height of the buildings and the distance from the boundary walls were answered by Mr Geoff Brouder of ABK Architects who gave a detailed presentation on the project. The building of most concern to the neighbours is the proposed new Junior School.

A planning application was lodged with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018.

## **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 2017:

Junior Certificate	149
Leaving Certificate	164
International Baccalaureate	25

Our Sixth Year students performed exceptionally well in their certificate examinations. Overall we were delighted that over 67% of our students secured over 400 points, 32% scored over 500 points, with 22% 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
French Club	Spanish Club	Maths Club
Choir	Grapevine (College Magazine)	Orchestra
Christian Union	Politics Club	Student Council
Lego Club	Green Committee	The President's Award (An Gaisce)
Model United Nations (MUN)	Intercultural Week	Wine Dark Sea
Writers' Club	Instrumental Lessons	Young Scientist
Tea and Chats	Literature Aloud	Poetry Aloud
From Page to Stage	Philosophical Club	Cross Fit

## **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 2017-2018***

#### **Hockey**

This year was another good year for the school on the hockey front. The Senior A Boys won the All-Irelands in October beating Wesley College on strokes for our fifth success in the competition in the last six years. They retained the Whiteside Trophy for the seventh year in a row and won the Senior Cup beating High School on strokes having played out a 1-1 draw in the final.

Our Junior Boys were beaten 4-1 and 2-1 in the League and Cup Finals by High School but had some notable wins through the course of the season.

Our U-14's had an outstanding season winning the League where they beat Wesley 4-1 in the final. They prevailed 2-1 against St Killian's in the Cup Final before going on to win the John Waring All-Ireland Title with three wins and two draws in their five games enough to lift the trophy and complete a perfect season.

The U-13's also enjoyed a good season winning the Cup with a 2-0 win against Kings Hospital in the final.

At national level, Ben Walker added to his national caps for Ireland at Senior Men's level by representing the country at the European Championships.

At U-18 level Matteo Romoli and Cian Murphy are in the panel for this summer's European Championships. Riain McDonald and Riley Marchant also received trials off the back of their showings for Leinster at the Inter-Provincials but failed to progress any further.

Cian Murphy was selected for the Under 20's national squad to play in the 4 Nations Tournament in New York at the end of May.

At U-16 level Ryan Spencer, Josh Filgas and Sam Walker are in the training panel preparing for the European Championships this summer.

Our Senior A Girls enjoyed an outstanding season but unfortunately came up just short in the Cup when they were beaten 1-0 by Loreto Foxrock in a game of few chances. In the

league they again had their chances before going down 3-1 to Mount Anville at the semi-final stage.

Our Senior 2's reached the final of their league where they were beaten 1-0 by Mt Anville. The Senior 3's, Senior 4's and Senior 5's all progressed in their leagues to the knock out stages but failed to progress to the finals.

The Junior A girls were beaten by Muckross College in the Cup and advanced to the league quarter-finals where they were eliminated by Alexandra College.

The Minor B's were beaten in their League Final by Mount 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.

At Minor and 1<sup>st</sup> Year level it was again a case of just coming up shy of finals with our Minor C and D teams advancing as far as the knock out stages of their respective leagues.

On the national front Katie-Jane Marshall, Amy Elliot and Iseult Cambay are involved in the Irish U-18 Squad that is preparing for this summer's European Championships. They travelled with the squad to Paris during the Easter break where they played a three match series against the French.

At U-16 level Martha McCready has made the squad as they prepare for a European Championships over the summer.

## **Rugby**

The SCT enjoyed a good league campaign but were beaten 30-13 by the eventual winners St Gerard's College at the quarter-finals stage. Their strong league showing put them into the main draw for the Senior Cup where they were drawn against St Mary's College. The team turned in an outstanding performance and were within 4 points with 4 minutes on the clock but eventually went down 29-18.

At JCT were beaten by Wilson's Hospital 14-10 in the semi-final of the Leinster Junior League Division 1B. They went out in the first round of the Father Godfrey Cup going down 31-19 to Kilkenny College.

At provincial level Nathan Murphy, Josh Kuh-Hogan, John Hewson, Jack O'Brien, Zane McClatchie-Ombima, Patrick Perrem, Stephen Keane and SJ de Klerk all received Leinster Trials at their respective levels. Stephen Keane has been retained at U-19 level for summer training while Zane McClatchie-Ombima has been retained at U-18 level.

At national level Peter Sullivan enjoyed a good Six Nations campaign with the Ireland U-20's until injury cut short his involvement.

Jordan Larmour (Class 2016) and Andrew Porter (Class 2014) continue to go from strength to strength with both Leinster and Ireland with both involved in the Irish side that won the

Grand Slam in March 2018. They also received Winners' Medals following Leinster's victory over Racing in the Champions Cup Final and victory over Scarlets in the Pro 14 Final.

## **Basketball**

We had another incredibly successful year in Basketball with both girls and boys teams reaching the finals of their respective leagues.

The Senior Boys were pushed all the way in the final of the South Dublin League by Blackrock College. Down 18 points at half time they fought back to retain their title on a scoreline of 56-53 with the winning points coming in the final 30 seconds.

The Junior Boys also reached the final of the South Dublin League where they went down 55-33 to a strong St Conleth's College side.

The Minor Boys beat Newpark in the final of the South Dublin League on a scoreline of 41-18.

The Senior Girls were beaten 52-32 by Claiسته Pobail Setanta in the semi-final of the Dublin League. They also just came up short of a place in the final of the South Dublin League going down 40-38 to Holy Child, Killiney at the semi-final stage.

The Second Year Girls won through to the Final of the South Dublin League where they were beaten by St Columba's College by three points in overtime.

## **Golf**

Charlie Denvir (5<sup>th</sup> Year) has enjoyed a fine year on the golf course winning the U-18 Connacht Boys Championship in October 2017.

Our Senior and Junior Boys Teams competed well but failed to progress in any of their competitions.

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.

## **Swimming**

St. Andrew's College had a very successful Leinster Schools Swimming Championships in October 2017 with many swimmers achieving personal bests in individual events.

The Senior Girls Relay team (Nicole Devitt, Robben Beatty, Ameila Johnson and Emma Forbes) took home a bronze medal in the IM (individual medley) relay and the Freestyle relay, qualifying for the All-Irelands in the process.

The Intermediate Girls Relay Team also qualified from the event in Freestyle and IM Relay.

At the All-Irelands, the Senior Team came 6<sup>th</sup> in the medley relay and 4<sup>th</sup> in the freestyle relay.

The Inter Team (Ellen Keaney, Sarah Forbes, Erin Armah Kwantreng and Elena Gallagher) came 5th in the medley relay and got bronze medal (3rd place) in the freestyle relay!

### **Cross Country**

A team of 62 of our finest athletes competed in the East Leinster Cross Country Championships in Avondale House.

The Minor A girls had 4 top 50 finishes, with the Minor B girls getting 4 inside the top 25.

The Junior A girls team performed superbly well with Ellen Keaney finishing third and going forward to the Leinsters. Excellent finishes from Charlotte McSharry (16th) and Evanna Hoey (25th) meant the team finished second overall and secured a place in the Leinster Championships. Kate Kelly, Kellie Deasy and Robyn-May Cassidy completed the team.

The Junior B girls achieved an outstanding result with Kate Kohler winning the Junior B Girls race. She was brilliantly supported on her team by Abbie Walker (12th), Katherine Kiersey (9th), Zara Savage (21st) and Ilona Plissonneau (11th).

The Inter A Girls performed well as a team and were unfortunate not to have progressed to the Leinsters. Aoife Linnane with a 10th placed finish progressed as an individual to the Leinsters with all five of her teammates coming home in the top 34.

The girls as an overall team took third place at the East Leinsters, our first podium finish at an athletics meet by the school.

The Minor A boys saw Atlas Loutfi (8th) and Christian O'Toole (9th) through to the Leinsters. The remainder of the team all finished in the top 50, but unfortunately the team just missed out on Leinster qualification. The Minor B boys ran well with four of the team coming home in the top 30.

The Junior A boys qualified in third place as a team for the Leinsters with all six boys coming home inside the top 25. Daniel Wann (15th), Calum Hewat (10th) and Luke McCarroll all qualified to compete as individuals at the Leinsters.

The Junior B boys dominated their race with Rhys Armah-Kwantreng (1st) and James Light (3rd) coming away with individual medals. Thomas O'Brien (7th), Luke Oslizlok-Wood (12th), Matthew Johnson (19th) and Jonathan Walsh-Dowd (32nd) completed a powerful display by the team.

A young Inter Boys team performed well with all 6 boys inside the top 50. Theo Kohlmann (18th) just missed out on Leinsters qualification by 3 spots.

The Senior Team of Pierce Hanley (30th) and Hugh Plunkett (14th) ran well with Hugh securing a spot in the Leinsters.

The boys as an overall team finished second to cap a hugely successful meet for the school.

## **Cricket**

Joshua Little and Andrew Vincent travelled to New Zealand with the Irish U-19's in January to compete in the U-19 Cricket World Cup. Both boys acquitted themselves well as Ireland failed to progress past the pool stages.

The Senior Boys were beaten in the Cup semi-final by CUS and the Senior B's failed to qualify through their pool. The Junior Boys were beaten in the semi-final by Gonzaga and the U-14's went down to Sandford Park in the quarter-final losing out on the last ball of the game.

The U-14 B Team lost out Mt Temple in the semi-finals.

The U-13 B's were beaten by Mount Temple in the quarter finals.

St Andrew's College beat Willow Park in the First Year A Leinster School's Final.

## **Girls Cricket**

Gaby Lewis won the Hanley Energy Women's International Player of the Year and the Devenish Nutrition Female Youth International Player of the Year awards at the Cricket Ireland awards evening. She scored 340 runs during the senior tour to Dubai and South Africa last May before leading the Under 19s to three wins out of four at the prestigious Malvern Festival.

The Senior Girls beat Mt Temple in the final of the Cup to regain a title they lost last year.

The Junior Girls beat Mt Temple comfortably in the final of the Junior Cup to complete a Senior/Junior Double.

The U-13's lost to Kings Hospital in the semi-finals of the Cup.

## **Boys' Tennis**

The Junior Boys missed out on a place in the final of Division II losing 3-2 to St Gerards in the key pool game.

The Senior's and Two Minor Teams were competitive this year without ever looking like qualifying for the knock-out stages.

## **Girls' Tennis**

There were good participation levels in Girls' Tennis this year with the 1<sup>st</sup> Years entering a beginners side for the first time.

The Senior Girls finished one point short of qualifying through to the knock-out stages of their league.

The Junior B's lost 2-1 to Alex in the semi of the League.

The Minor B's were one point short of qualifying through while the Minor C team competed well in their section.

The First Year beginner's league was a great success with the team winning two of their three games.

### **Track and Field**

A team of 60 students travelled to Santry to compete in the East Leinsters. Hugh Plunkett qualified for the Leinsters with a 2<sup>nd</sup> placed finish in the Senior 1500m. Gavin Hefferon placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Junior High Jump and went on to finish 5<sup>th</sup> in the Leinsters. Crystal Meier competed well in the Inter Javelin finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and going on to finish in the Leinsters. Ellen Keaney qualified for the Leinsters off the back of a 2<sup>nd</sup> placed finish in the 800m and went on to place 8<sup>th</sup> in the Leinsters.

### **Transition Year**

This year we have had 168 students taking part in the Transition Year Programme, 9 of whom were new to the college.

From 6 – 8 September, shortly after the start of the academic year, the students travelled to 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. On return 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, culinary arts, salsa dancing, architecture, ECDL and creative writing 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 the 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. SACA support an award scheme centred around this portfolio assessment process.

This year, the French department organised a very successful exchange. 22 St Andrew's students participated in the Exchange with a school from Hyères in the south of France. This Exchange took place in the Spring term.

In January 2018, 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.

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.

Students completed placements in the Immigrant Council of Ireland, World Horse Welfare, the Air Corps, Amnesty International and the Law Library amongst others. Students also travelled to The United Kingdom, United States, France and Turkey 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. Mark Pollock, Denis Sexton, Tony Fox, James O'Callaghan, John O'Shea, Dan Ram, Tom Clonan and Patrick Van Loij 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 70 of our students ran through the streets of Dublin in the dark in aid of the Mark Pollock trust and a sponsored coastal walk in aid of the Irish Cancer Society. Our TY Uganda project continues to flourish with many activities including the Winter Fair and the U-Live concert. This year will be the 14<sup>th</sup> 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 were: 'Walk in my Shoes' fundraising for Focus Ireland, 26km sponsored walk in aid of the Irish Cancer Society and the participation in both the local and the national enterprise award scheme.

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

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:

Simon Community	Blackrock Hospice	Focus Ireland
Goal Mile	Dublin Central Mission	The Salvation Army
ALONE	DSPCA	Cycle for Suicide
St Vincent de Paul	Mark Pollack Trust / Run in the Dark	

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

Dublin Simon Community	Alone
Depaul	Cycle Against Suicide
DEBRA (for people with <u>epidermolysis bullosa</u> , a genetic debilitating skin condition)	VITA (Fighting hunger and climate change in Africa)
Irish Heart Foundation	

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 Fifth Year had a Green Ribbon collection for Mental Health Month in May, Third Year a Quiz for Focus Ireland, Second Years the Goal Mile Challenge, and First Year a Dog Walk in aid of the DSPCA and fundraising for the Simon Community.

## Child Protection Procedures

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'.

As a consequence of the Children First Act 2015, Child protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools were revised. The requirements of the new procedures came into effect on 11 December 2017.

All schools had to adopt a Child Safeguarding Statement and carry out a Risk Assessment by 11 March. St Andrew's College undertook a comprehensive Risk Assessment and arising out of this we identified a number of policies, which had to be revised or created. The Practice and Procedures Relating to the St Andrew's College Safeguarding Statement was written to address these issues. These new procedures included:

- A policy in relation to Work Experience, both in terms of students who undertake work experience in the College and our students who go off site.
- A policy regarding supervision of students outside class times
- A policy regarding substitute teachers who come into the school for short periods of time
- A policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum (Sticks and stones etc)
- A policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements

All staff completed online Child Safeguarding training before Christmas and the Child Protection Procedures 2017 were emailed to all staff. The St Andrew's College Child Safeguarding Statement was completed as required and ratified by St Andrew's College Board of Management.

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

## **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 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.

The Whole School Council has represented the school at a number of meetings this year, for example there is a representative on the Comhairle na nÓg Council which is organised by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. Also at a local level a number of students from the Whole School Student council have met with representatives from other school councils from schools in the South Dublin region to discuss mutual issues such as the running of the student council.

## **Bullying Awareness**

We started the year by setting up our anti bullying committee with representatives from all years who contributed to ideas for ensuring a school environment free from bullying. This involved poster campaigns, speeches at assemblies, announcements at registration of forms all enforcing a theme of speaking out about any incidents of bullying and feeling confident about doing so. This year we emphasised the importance of by-standers in the prevention of bullying.

Simon James, a singer, visited the College to do a concert for first and second years, promoting an anti-bullying message with questions and answers included.

Monica Rowe came in from the ISPCC to talk to the second years in their class groups about bullying prevention and techniques to deal with bullying.

Zeeko came in for a day to talk to third years about safety and anti- bullying on line.

We ran our Friendship week in January with the theme of "Everyone Starts as a stranger". We had two big assemblies with wonderful music and readings. The students under the guidance of Ms Carroll and Ms de Courcey made another wonderful movie which can be viewed on the school website.

As it was decided not to have any events in the final term, instead of our usual **Cycle Against Suicide** event, we ran an Orange Ribbon Day in support of the charity and above all to promote of the motto ***It's ok not to feel ok and it's certainly ok to ask for help.***

The big success of the year has been the Tea and Chats in Room 4.01 on Tuesdays at lunch time. We felt that students who are not always with a crowd but who don't want to be on their own, might like a place to go to meet others in a casual way. So we offer tea and biscuits to students from all years. This went really well, largely thanks to exceptional input from some sixth years: Patrick Quinn, Derry McCaffrey, Tori Dunne and Kate Orr. We hope to expand on this next academic year.

## **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 be part of 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 92 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.

During the Orientation Day on 25 August 2018, 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 were integrating socially and whether or not they had settled in happily. We hoped that the Mentors might pick up on any problems that staff can miss. This proved to be the case with several first years this year. We had some exceptional mentors among this year's fifth year.

At Christmas we held our annual quiz for Mentors and First Years which was most enjoyable.

Several meetings were held throughout the year with the Mentors and we had discussions about 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**

This year the Green School committee worked towards the completion of the Water theme. An Taisce sent out an inspector to view all the work that the committee has done over the last two years. After the school visit An Taisce said that they were very impressed with the amount of work that was carried out and were very pleased to award us our third Green Flag. During the year students worked on highlighting methods of reducing water, we had a poster competition in first year for our water slogan of "Every Drop Counts", surveying students as to their thoughts on the amount of water used in the school. During this time the committee also continued to work on the Litter and Waste and the Energy themes that the College has already been awarded Green Flags for. 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 had a strong group comprised of Transition, Fifth and Sixth Years.

## **Parental Involvement**

### Parent Events

The College organised the following information meetings for parents in 2017/18:

- Parent / Subject Teacher Meetings for First, Second, Third, Fifth and Sixth Year groups
- Information Meeting for parents/guardians of students involved in the Transition Year French Exchange Visit
- Information Meeting for parents/guardians of Transition Year students travelling to Uganda
- Information Meetings for parents/guardians of students involved in School Trips during the year
- Induction Meetings for First Year parents/guardians – August 2017
- Parent Information Evenings for the following Year groups – Sixth, Fifth, Transition, Third, and Second Years – August and September 2017
- Study Skills Evening for Third Year parents with talk by Mr Rory Mulvey of Student Enrichment Services – September 2017
- First Year Parent and Form Teacher Meeting – October 2017
- Talk by Dr Harry Barry for parents of Third, Fifth and Sixth Year students – October 2017
- Information Meeting for parents of incoming First Years (2018) – November 2017
- CAO Information Presentation for Sixth Year parents – November 2017
- Information Meeting for parents of incoming First Years (2017) – November 2017
- Bullying and Cyber Safety Talk for parents – January 2018
- Options Evenings for First, Transition and Fifth Years – January 2018
- TY Parent / Form Teacher Meetings – January 2018
- First Year Parents – Student Enrichment Morning Talk – April 2018
- Series of New Building Information Evenings for parents – April 2018

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 2017/18 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 2017
- International Night – November 2017
- SciFest Second Year Science Fair – November 2017
- PTA Ladies Lunch – November 2017

- Annual Prizegiving Evening – November 2017
- Transition Year Winter Fair – November 2017
- PTA Christmas Social Evening – December 2017
- Carol Service – December 2017
- Transition Year Enterprise Showcase - February 2018
- Transition Year U-Live Concert – February 2018
- Page to Stage – February 2018
- One-Act Drama Festival – March 2018
- PTA Table Quiz – March 2018
- Music and Dance Festival - March 2018
- Litter to Glitter Fashion Show – April 2018
- Rugby Awards Evening – April 2018
- SACA Rugby Grand Slam Evening – April 2018
- First Year Dog Walk in aid of DSPCA – April 2018
- IB Art Exhibition – April 2018
- Music and Dance Festival Prizewinners' Concert/ Secondary Department Music Concert – May 2018
- Launch of *The Wine Dark Sea* – May 2018
- Transition Year End-of-Year Ceremony – May 2018
- Sixth Year Valedictory Evening – May 2018

## 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 2017/2018:

- The on-going review of SAC policies
- The on-going work on the Junior Cycle Curriculum Plan
- The on-going work on the introduction of the Well-Being Programme
- 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 Digital Strategy and the Assessment Strategy
- The formal revision of the following policies:

Concussion Policy	Professional Conduct for Teachers Policy
SNA Policy	Attendance and Punctuality Policy
Policy on School Trips	Protected Disclosures Policy
Complaints Procedure Policy	Policy on Parent Meetings
Code of Behaviour for Students Policy	Supporters Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy	Library – Policy on Acquisitions
Irish Language Policy	Library – Policy on Kindle Usage
Uganda Selection Process Policy	Garda Vetting Policy
Policy on Dignity and Respect	Critical Incident Plan
Child Protection Policy	Practice and Procedures relating to the Child Safeguarding Statement
Electronic Device Policy	E-Safety and Acceptable Use Policy
Students Driving to School Policy	Policy on Substance Abuse
Food Supplements Policy	Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
Data Protection Policy	Data Breach Management Policy

## Spanish Subject Inspection

The Spanish Department had a Department of Education and Skills subject inspection on the 17 and 18 April. The inspection was carried out by Ms Ailbhine Ni Bhroin. Following her two day visit to the College, she delivered an extremely positive report to our teachers. She described everyone as being ‘very good’. This is the highest level of grading in terms of Teaching and Learning and she commented that for everybody in the Department to be described as ‘very good’ is an achievement. She said that she found many examples of exemplary practices. In terms of planning, she said that the collaborative practice in evidence in the Spanish Department is exemplary and she added that she had never given a Department that feedback before. We await the full DES Inspection Report which we will receive in due course.

## 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.

This year, we continued to prioritise increasing student engagement with the College Library, reading for pleasure and the student-led Literacy Committee. We hoped 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 Literacy Prefect in conjunction with Ms M Ryan’s overhaul of the College prefect programme. Monthly meetings of the Student Literacy Committee were continued in which students met with the literacy coordinators and Literacy Prefect to evaluate current initiatives and to generate new, student-led initiatives. It is anticipated that the Student Literacy Committee, led by the Literacy Prefect and facilitated by the Staff Literacy Core Team will play a

significant role in the literacy programme moving as well as promoting and validating student voice on this topic.

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 K Ryan, has continued and implemented a number of initiatives this year. The library is now part of the First Year Wellbeing programme. This involves each First Year English class visiting the library once a month to learn about ICT, research skills and the role the Library plays in this. First year students then had a '*blind date with a book*', which was run by Ms K Ryan in conjunction with the successful Fifth Year Mentor Programme, encouraging vertical literacy promotion. As per previous years, 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 continued to use of the STAR rating system in the library catalogue to encourage students to read more challenging literature. This has been run alongside the successful Accelerated Reader programme which students and parents can access through the College website.

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 are invited to guess which teacher is reading which book. Additionally, the Word Challenge was continued and developed this year by the Student Literacy Committee. This is a monthly competition that marries literacy and critical thinking by posing a verbal challenge which students are 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 1 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**

This year marked the third year of promoting numeracy at St Andrew's College. The key focus has been to adopt a cross-curricular approach to numeracy, thus providing students with context and opportunities to engage with numeracy outside of math's lessons. Another

focus is to encourage students to use ICT and the internet as a valuable aid to supplement their learning.

The opportunities to engage with numeracy available to students in our Junior Cycle Years are ever growing. Math's Club was established this year and has attracted a large number of First Year student. The Math's Club aims to challenge students with fun activities and encourages teamwork and research. Students in Second Year presented their SciFest @St Andrew's College projects. The data collected was processed and presented in graphs and the students drew conclusions and discovered relationships between their independent and dependent variables. These students also utilized numeracy strategies while on geography trips to survey the land.

The promotion of ICT and the internet as a valuable resource for numeracy to the Third Year students showed its most significant spike across the three years. The use of exam preparation sites such as examinations.ie and studyclix.ie accounted for much of the uptake, with looking at videos on YouTube.com also being represented in surveys.

The numeracy team has followed the current Third Year group through their Junior Certificate Cycle from First Year and monitored their changing attitudes towards numeracy as well as their changing strategies for study. The lessons we have learned will aid us to put greater emphasis on what worked and make changes to the ideas which fell short of our expectations.

Next year we will take the incoming First Years as a new focus group. They will be surveyed twice annually and their feedback will guide the numeracy team's decisions over the next 3 years.

## **ICT**

In line with the ICT SSE plan, the First Year induction was changed into a Digital Literacy module to deliver basic ICT skills and was delivered throughout the year on a three-week rotation. Following the results from of the teacher survey carried out in 2017, we have created four easy to use screen-casts for all staff on how to use OneDrive to cover the basic skills and 1:1 tutorials were offered. We have also added a OneDrive Resources Tab on the school Intranet where the screen-casts and future ICT related resources will permanently be available, and where new staff can be directed to become familiar with how to use OneDrive. In addition, a new Digital Leaders team has been formed with teachers spanning various subjects. They are receiving ongoing advanced training (CPD) on the school's platform Microsoft 365. Currently, we are in the process of reviewing the Digital Learning Framework for Post-primary Schools and building it into our future ICT plan.

## **Assessment**

This year the SSE Assessment Committee decided to focus on the area of feedback following a teacher survey completed on AFL techniques in May 2017. The committee composed five questions related to feedback and a total of 30 students were interviewed to elicit their views on this area. From the findings of both teacher and student responses, recommendations were made to subject departments. They were asked to provide

feedback to students following the mock examinations by providing them with either 1:1 verbal feedback, a reflection sheet for the student to complete or targeted specific written comments on exam papers. The Departments implemented these recommendations and reported that they mostly found them to be very effective. In the next academic year the recommendations will be rolled out to every year group following house examinations and further evaluation of these will occur. They will be shared with parents at parent teacher meetings and embedded into department schemes of work.

## 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:

Child Protection	IB Global Conference	Literacy and Multilingualism
CPD For Science Teachers – ISTA		ABE CPD Event
Misconceptions evident in marking LC Physics	Gaisce PAL Training	'Agility and Change of Direction' and Performance Nutrition
Frontiers of Physics	BSTAI National Conference	PDST – Chemistry
JCT Level2 Learning Programme	Applied Maths	PDST – SFL Team Teaching
JCT Level2 Learning Programme	INOTE Conference	Junior Cert Classics – Focus Group Consultation
Intro to SPHE (2 days)	The Rise of multilingualism	Introduction to Teacher wellbeing
PE – The Way Forward	JMB Law Day	Swedish as a second language in a development perspective
Biology – Biotechnozology and DNA Technology	'Weight Room Transfer to Sprinting Speed' and 'Hips and hamstrings – a risk reduction approach'	Planning and Periodisation in GAA and Squat Screening in Adolescents
JMB Conference-JC Framework	BA Swedish as a Second language - Stockholm University	Symptoms and meaning in adolescents

Mechanics Investigations	Laos & SSE	Dyslexia and Foreign language Teaching
Physics Lab Induction Day	Amgen Biotech Experience CPD	Therapeutic Responses to Anxiety
Mental Health	Supporting Students with Autism as they Transition to Post Primary	Concepts for the development of speed and power
Laos & SSE	BSTAI National Conference	Curam
Earth and Space Workshop –ISTA	Coursework B Investigations	Developing an eye for assessing speed
NAPD Conference	IBSCA Theory of Knowledge Seminar	IGC Supervisions
PDST – Child Protection Training	Identity and Inclusion in the School Library	Managing the Extended Essay
PDST – Child protection training	Promoting Mental Health through the School Library	Guidance Counsellor Inservice BEC
ED CB course	ChemEd Ireland	

## 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 2017: Marcus Beale, Harry Craig, Finola Crowley, Sam Laing, Harry McCarthy, Claire Mooney, Makayla Murphy, Sophie Pickering and Eoin Puplett.

### UCD Entrance Scholar Awards

The following students from the Leaving Certificate class of 2017 were selected by UCD for an Entrance Scholar Award: Neil Farrugia (High Achiever and Sports Scholarship), Ciara Fogarty, Holly Kehoe and Gavin McDaid (High Achievers).

### All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad

Sixth Year Student Lucy Dornan was awarded 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Senior Category of the All-Ireland Linguistics Olympiad. Professor Vincent Wade presented Lucy with her award. Professor Wade holds the position of Associate Professor in the School of Computer Science and Statistics, Trinity College Dublin. Lucy will travel to Prague in July 2018 to represent Ireland at the International Linguistics Olympiad.

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

Alice Decaminada was highly commended and invited for a further training round.

### **SciFest – DIT**

Robert Priestley was awarded the *BioPharmaChem Ireland Chemistry Award* for his project *Anaerobic Digestion*.

### **BT Young Scientist**

Aaron Speer, Yasmin Ryan and Oscar Doyle were awarded a COMREG Prize for their project *Guided Emergency Evacuation for the Visually Impaired* in the Intermediate Technology Section. This award is for the project which provides the most innovative application of technology in radio communications.

Isobel Moloney received Second Prize as an Individual Senior in the Social and Behaviour Category for her project, *What's the deal with the HPV?*

### **Chess**

#### *St Andrew's College Chess Classic*

The inaugural St Andrew's Charity Chess Classic took place from 29 September to 1 October. The event was organised by Transition Year student Ross Beatty and Mr Matthew Williams. Over 70 competitors participated in the event, which was won by Grandmaster Matthew Turner from Millfield School, England. The event raised €2,802, which was donated to the TY Uganda Project.

#### *Millfield International Chess Tournament 2017*

Seven students from St Andrew's College represented the school in a successful outing at the Millfield International Chess Tournament in Somerset, England from Friday 6 October to Sunday 8 October. Mr Gary Quinn accompanied the students to Millfield.

St Andrew's was represented by the following students: Ross Beatty (C) 4M; Sacha Bistany 4FN; William Walsh-Dowd 4M; Callum Scanlon 3McC; Eoghan O'Mahony 2McK; Jonathan Walsh-Dowd 2M; and Gavin Holahan 1OA.

Every player on the team won at least one match in a highly competitive tournament, and the team finished fourth overall in their group. Congratulations are due to Captain Ross Beatty who won an individual prize for the number of matches he won at his board level.

#### *Leinster Schools Chess*

The Junior Chess team played Castleknock College on Wednesday 22 November, losing the match 5 boards to 0.

The Senior Chess team played Newpark School on Wednesday 13 December, losing the match 4 boards to 1. Ross Beatty won his match on Board 1. On Wednesday, 24 January, the Senior Chess team played St. Benildus away with Ross Beatty again winning his match on Board 1 in a 4-1 defeat. The Senior team played their final game at home to CUS, losing 3 ½ to 1 ½. Second Year student Jonathan Walsh-Dowd won his match on Board 4 and Ross Beatty drew on Board 1.

### *FTPA Youth Chess Tournament*

Transition Year student Ross Beatty and First Year student Felix Jordan represented Ireland on the Irish youth team at the 2<sup>nd</sup> FTPA Youth Chess Tournament in France. The event took place over the Easter break at Chateau d'Asnieres, near Paris.

### **Prize Giving Ceremony**

On Monday 13 November, 964 people attended our annual Academic Prize-Giving Ceremony in the O'Reilly Hall, UCD. This year we were honoured to welcome former St Andrew's College pupil, Ms Kirsten Fitzgerald, Consultant Paediatric Dental Surgeon, to distribute the prizes to the students in recognition of their academic achievements throughout the year.

### **Grease – The Musical**

The College performance of **Grease** took place over three nights from 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November in front of packed out audiences. The production was conducted by Ms Sawyer and directed by Mr Williams. With performers and an orchestra that included student players; it was a true whole school event. What was seen on stage was only a fraction of what was involved, with a large back stage team of costume, hair and make-up artists, set designers and programme sellers. 185 students took part in this memorable production.

### **November Service**

November is a month for remembering and in 2016, the Art Department designed and Roger Hill crafted a wooden remembrance tree which was placed outside the library. At the end of November we held an early morning service, organised by Declan Flattery and attended by Reverend Chris Kennedy. This initiative, in its second year, is proving to be a very welcome addition to the school diary and is very much in keeping with the spiritual core of the College.

### **Seachtain na Gaeilge**

Seachtain na Gaeilge ran from Monday 12 March to Friday 16 March. On Monday, 12 March the Irish department decorated House Area 1. On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> a '*sos gaelach*' was held in the staffroom for all staff members. The staffroom had been decorated and refreshments were made available. Staff were encouraged to use their '*cúpla focal*.' The first years did a spelling Bee as Gaeilge. The winner was Sofía Herranz Harmen (1CY). On Thursday 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. The students had been learning the dances in Irish classes leading up to the céilí. A table quiz was held for Transition Year students in the senior hall that evening.

On Friday morning each 5<sup>th</sup> year class played their short film which was based on a *sraith pictiúr*, the picture sequence section of the leaving cert. oral exam. Classes had been

working on the short films in the Irish classes leading up to that morning. Each group chose a picture sequence and acted it out. The winning class was Mr. Keddy's class with '*Seachtain na Sláinte*', health week.

On Friday afternoon a debate was held between debaters drawn from two classes in 2<sup>nd</sup> year for *Comórtas Tish Parsons*. The motion was "*ba cheart deireadh a chur le héide scoile*", (an end should be put to school uniforms). Mrs. Keddy's class were for the motion while Ms. Murphy's class were against. After a very tight and well fought debate, Ms. Murphy's class were chosen as slight winners, with Moss Simington being chosen as best speaker and therefore winner of *Comórtas Tish Parsons*.

### **From Litter to Glitter**

From Litter to Glitter was a student-run environmental fashion show created by Fifth Year students Rosie McFadyen and Isabel Bosch which took place in the College on Wednesday 11 April. Some of the outfits modelled on the night were hand-made by students completely out of recyclable materials. The event raised in the region of €3000 for the marine conservation organisation, Oceana.

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

This year was the 35<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 were eight MUN conferences throughout the year. Five of them were one and a half day conferences in Dublin – Terenure College MUN in September, Rathdown School MUN in November, Blackrock College MUN in January, Wesley College MUN in February and new for this year was High School MUN which was held in April. The two international conferences were The Royal Russell International Model United Nations, in London which is held in October and The Hague International Model United Nations which is in late January. The first week of Easter was the 30<sup>th</sup> St. Andrew's International Model United Nations Conference held in The Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoghaire. Our students met throughout the year on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons for practice debates and research sessions.

#### ***St. Andrew's International Model United Nations (SAIMUN) – 26 – 29 March 2018 – Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire.***

In late March, we hosted the 30<sup>th</sup> annual SAIMUN. It was opened by Mrs Kirby with Adi Roche as the guest speaker. The conference was presided over by joint Secretaries General, Lucy Dornan and Harry Deacon and joint Presidents of the General Assembly Emma Fogarty and Robben Beatty. There were just over 800 participants from 48 schools travelling from 19 countries. The theme of the conference was Women. At the closing ceremony, Mr William Hehir (MUN Director) and Mrs Sandra Tiernan, (President of the PTA) 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, which was The Marshall Islands versus The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of India, had two sets of advocates representing their countries and up to 18 judges. Witnesses were also called. This year we had one set of the advocates (Harry Deacon and Elvi Wilson) and a judge (Anna Browne) in The Royal Russell MUN. The advocates won their case their case on a split decision. We had a judge in The Hague ICJ (Hugo Given) and four of our students (Hugo Given, Nina Cullen, Sam Dornan and Sadhbh O'Mahony) were judges in SAIMUN

#### *Summary of conferences:*

Terenure MUN: Represented by 35 students from Fifth and Sixth Year. We were awarded an outstanding delegation award and 11 individual distinguished delegate awards. We had three student officer committee chairs: Emma Fogarty, Elvi Wilson and Lucy Dornan.

Rathdown MUN: Represented by 41 students from Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Year. We were awarded an outstanding delegation award and seven individual distinguished delegate awards. We had three student officer committee chairs: Anna Browne, Naomi Tilles and Harry Deacon.

Royal Russell MUN: Represented by 42 students from Fifth and Sixth Year. We were awarded a two highly commended delegation awards and an outstanding delegation award (out of the 6 awards) and 14 individual distinguished delegate awards. We had five student officer committee chairs: Greg Bateson, Lucy Dornan, Anna Hackett, Naomi Tilles and Robyn Tuohy.

Blackrock MUN: Represented by 30 students from Transition Year: We were awarded four individual distinguished delegate awards. We had three student officer committee chairs: Sorcha Byrne, Ailbhe Herity and Elvi Wilson.

The Hague MUN (THIMUN): Represented by 40 students from Fifth and Sixth Year. This was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of THIMUN. Nearly 3000 students attend THIMUN. We represented USA (which would be considered the top country to represent), Liberia and UNFPA. The Hague MUN does not present awards.

Wesley College MUN: Represented by 24 students from Fourth and Fifth Year. We were awarded four individual distinguished delegate awards. We had one student officer committee chair: Max Lynch.

The High School MUN: Represented by 28 students from Third, Fourth and Fifth Year. We were awarded five individual distinguished delegate awards. We had four student officer committee chairs: Luke Horgan, Sadhbh O'Mahony, Nina Cullen and Devin Aikins.

St. Andrew's MUN: We had 180 involved students from Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Year. There were 91 delegates, 37 administration students, 35 student officers, five ICT students, seven students in press and five students in The International Court of Justice. Awards: An outstanding delegation award, two highly commended delegation awards and 17 individual distinguished delegate awards.

In total 202 students from St. Andrew's College participated in MUN in the school this year.

## **International Night**

The 2017 International Night took place on Wednesday, November 15 and was a fantastic success. The number of students taking part in the evening exceeded 200. Hannah Leggett and Ruth Devane coordinated the event again this year.

Food stalls from 16 different countries displayed an amazing array of food and drink from all over the world. We had food from a wide range of countries which included Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Greece, Guatemala, Ireland, Portugal, Sicily, Malta, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands and the USA.

In excess of 55 students from the senior school represented 32 countries in the annual parade and 100 students from the junior school represented 35 different countries. Over 30 staff members volunteered to get involved in assisting the running of the night and even more during intercultural week. Between student involvement, staff assistance, food stall managers and general attendance the total number involved was approximately 720.

This year's format for International Night was an opening ceremony with welcome music and the parade, this was then followed by the food stalls and activity booths. This new format is in its third year and has created more of a festival atmosphere for the evening. The stage and school were decorated by the art department and as always the school looked fantastic.

Our presenters for the opening ceremony were head girl Robben Beatty and head boy David Shanahan.

The Junior School involvement was coordinated by Sarah Falconer and Sylvia Miajlovic.

## **Intercultural Week**

Intercultural Week was held from 13 - 17 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.

This year's chosen charity was UNICEF, a total of €533 was raised by the fundraising committee.

## **PTA**

The PTA continued to develop and nurture their partnership with the college, parents and teachers throughout the year.

They assisted with annual events such as International Night, Sci-fest, Drama and Music Festivals and Performing Arts for both The Junior and Senior schools, SAIMUN and MUN, International Night and Intercultural week and the student led Litter to Glitter Fashion Show.

They worked closely with the school to once again organize the Debutantes Reception, and provided funding as well as hands-on support in organizing the Valedictory Ceremony for the Sixth Year students.

In addition the PTA organized the annual Ladies Lunch last November, breaking their record in raising over €43,000 for Barretstown. The PTA also organized their annual Table Quiz and Golf Classic raising funding to support school activities and departments. The Golf Classic is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the PTA. Every penny of profit raised is used to enhance and support student learning within St. Andrew's College. Again they exceeded records and raised over €10,000 this year at the Golf Classic alone.

The PTA last September, in a bid to support the school's green initiative, converted to biodegradable coffee cups at their coffee mornings. They committed for the year to issuing correspondence and receipts electronically where possible.

The Committee set-up an electronic Second Hand Uniform Inventory which they hope to use to launch a PTA on-line Pre-Loved Uniform Shop in September for parents.

## **SACA**

In September SACA ran a business-related event 'Stories from Start Ups' at the Bank of Ireland Innovation Centre, Grand Canal Dock. Jack Kirwan from Sprout, Evan Gray from Laundrie and Kevin Glynn of Butternut Box spoke about their thriving start-up businesses.

On 13 October SACA hosted the annual dinner at Old Wesley Rugby Club. The audience enjoyed listening to guest speaker Kingsley Aikens and celebrated with the classes of '57, 67, 77 and 87.

Over the course of November and December the alumni celebrated their 10 and 20-year reunion at the school followed by a night in town. The School hosted a 5-year reunion closer to Christmas.

SACA ran a highly successful Careers event on 23 October entitled 'A Conversation about Careers' for Fifth and Sixth Year Students. The evening consisted of two sessions of talks with professionals from the areas of Arts, Business, Culinary Arts/Nutrition, Design/Engineering, Health Science, Law, Psychology and Science. The volunteer alumni discussed their experiences in their respective fields and students actively participated in the conversations.

SACA supported the annual Transition Year trip to Uganda by hosting a table quiz in January in coordination with the CHEEERS charity. Conal Hamill again MC'd a successful evening in the Punchbowl.

SACA were delighted to support the One Act Drama Festival, Grease the Musical and two hockey players on the Irish team (Geoff Cole and Jamie Carr).

In March SACA hosted the Annual Rugby lunch at Old Wesley RFC where Past Pupil Ryan Bailey was in conversation with fellow past pupil Ben Marshall. Ian Larmour, Ernie Porter and Mark Jones (fathers of Jordan, Andrew and Greg) were invited to share their views on their sons' exciting season. David McHugh interviewed Tony Ward and Peter O'Reilly who were enjoying Ireland's 6 Nations progress.

The Clyde Road Lunch was attended by 71 'Old Boys at the Royal St. George Yacht Club in April.

### **Grand Slam Evening**

On Wednesday, 26 April, SACA hosted a Six Nations Glam Slam celebration evening at the College. Mr Paul McClatchie, President of SACA, interviewed former students Andrew Porter and Jordan Larmour about their experience of being on the 2018 Six Nations Grand Slam winning squad. Sunday Times rugby correspondent Peter O'Reilly (former St Andrew's College teacher and parent of current St Andrew's student Lucy O'Reilly) chatted with our Director of Rugby, Mr Charlie Doel and our Strength and Conditioning Coach, Mr David Jones and our previous Director of Rugby, Mr David Boyd. Funds raised by SACA on the Grand Slam evening and on the SACA quiz night (18 January), totalling €1884 were equally distributed between the Transition Year 2018 Uganda Appeal and a fund established by past pupil Killian Armstrong, a student in the University of Limerick. This fund will help purchase medical equipment in Tanzania.

### **Facilities**

- Installed floodlighting to lower sand based hockey pitch.
- Replaced heating circuits and controls .Phase 4 of 4 now complete.
- Upgraded internal finishes to the school kitchen.
- Installed rugby dugouts and back stop netting to senior rugby pitch.
- Remodelled and refurbished the existing boys changing rooms to provide a full size senior boys rugby changing room.
- Increased and remodelled sports storage facilities to the sports hall.

- Replaced roof lights to various roof areas with energy efficient triple glazed modules. 60% of a phased programme to existing roof lights is now complete.
- Formed a new combined props and store room to rear of the stage.
- Extended the fob activated access controls to the Junior School.
- Normal maintenance and redecoration to the buildings.

## **Floodlights**

During the course of 2016/17 we began the planning application process to place floodlights on the sand-based pitch. The floodlights were erected during the summer of 2017 and were fully in use last Autumn and Winter. The floodlights have enabled girls and boys far greater access to the pitches.

## **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.