



St Andrew's College

Secondary School

Annual Report June 2023

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Introduction

This report has been prepared to cover the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.

School enrolment

At the beginning of the 2022–2023 school year, secondary school enrolment was 1029. Of the total, 891 were Irish nationals, 28 were US citizens, and 137 other nationalities.

Faculty

In 2022/23 there were 141 full-time and 37 part-time faculty members of which 165 are Irish citizens and 18 other nationalities. The mixture of nationalities adds to the international character of the College.

Facilities

The school buildings and grounds are owned by the College Patron – the Board of Governors. Facilities include 72 classrooms, 21 tutorial rooms, 7 laboratories, a science garden, 5 art rooms, 2 home economics rooms, 2 libraries, 20 resource rooms, 2 assembly halls, a dining hall, a sports hall, gym and an administration centre. Outdoor sports facilities include 12 rugby pitches, 2 hockey pitches, one water-based, the other sand-based, and 2 basketball training hoops.

The College 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.

Motto

The academic year began with a Whole School Opening Service on Tuesday, 20 September where the College motto 'Responsibility of Citizenship', was shared with the students as the theme for the year.

New Building Programme

Planning permission for our new building programme was granted on 6 March 2019 and following the delays as a result of Covid-19, the intention was to start construction in 2022. However, there has been a very significant escalation in both construction costs and interest rates that has proved challenging for the school. We have decided to pause the project and reassess the overall scale and phasing of the project. We recognise the need to redevelop the campus but also need to be mindful of the financial sustainability of any building programme.

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

Junior Cycle Programme

The Junior Cycle is a 3-year programme. Students with their parent(s)/guardian(s) have to choose the subjects which are available at Junior Cycle 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 Cycle programme in that it provides a broad and balanced curriculum to all students in the first years of post-primary school.

Wellbeing

In the context of Junior Cycle reform, there is an increased focus on the need to ensure that the wellbeing of our students is at the forefront of school life. Accordingly, the NCCA (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment) have developed Wellbeing Guidelines. These guidelines govern what we, as a school, now set out to achieve. Wellbeing is present when students realise their abilities, take care of their physical wellbeing, can cope with the normal stresses of life, and have a sense of purpose and belonging to a wider community (The Guidelines for Wellbeing in Junior Cycle 2017).

The College has always placed a strong emphasis on the wellbeing of the school community. The introduction of a formal wellbeing programme complements the support structures already in place to support wellbeing. Through its policies and procedures, the College seeks to provide a safe, caring environment for all.

As part of this programme Junior Cycle students have timetabled classes in CSPE, SPHE and PE. They also partake in modules on digital literacy, morality, and nutrition.

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 International Baccalaureate or the Leaving Certificate. A central theme of the year is autonomous learning. Students take responsibility for themselves and their future. They are 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 or International Baccalaureate choices. The St Andrew's College Transition Year programme facilitates students in exploring their own talents, abilities and interests beyond the confines of the timetable.

Leaving Certificate Programme

Halfway 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 23 subjects to choose from within the Leaving Certificate programme in the school. Students are required to choose seven/eight of these.

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

- Irish
- English
- Mathematics
- A Modern Foreign 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	Mathematics
Physics	Chemistry	Biology
Agricultural Science	French	German
Spanish	Accounting	Business
Economics	Music	Art
Design & Communication Graphics	Classical Studies	Geography
History	Home Economics	Religious Education
Applied Mathematics	Politics and Society	

International Baccalaureate Programme

The IB programme has been offered in the College 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 are 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 are selected from offerings in groups 1 to 6 to ensure that all students can 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

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, VSware. The College email system is also an effective tool providing a two-way communication platform between parents and teachers during term time. 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 child's progress.

Year	First Term	Second Term	Third Term
First Year	Autumn (brief report)	Spring (brief report)	Summer (full report)
Second Year	Christmas (full report)		
Third Year	Autumn (brief report) Christmas (full report)	Trial (marks)	Letter from Year Team
Transition Year	Autumn (marks)	February (marks)	Summer (full report)
Fifth Year/IB	Christmas (full report)	Spring (marks)	Summer (full report)
Sixth Year/IB	Autumn (marks) Christmas (full report) Trial (IB–full report)	Trial (LC- marks) Predicted Grades (IB)	

Examination Results

The following numbers of students took part in State Examinations in 2022:

- Junior Cycle 162
- Leaving Certificate 137
- International Baccalaureate 22

We were delighted to celebrate the wonderful, International Baccalaureate and Leaving Certificate results which saw nine of our students achieving 625 points in the Leaving Certificate with average points being 513. The average points scored per candidate in the IB was 35 points. All students were awarded the Diploma including two students who were awarded a Bilingual Diploma. Five students were awarded 40 or 40+ marks and two students achieved a remarkable 43 marks. The average grade awarded was 5.49 out of a possible 7.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The following activities took place in the current academic year:

Art Club	Attenborough Club	Baking Club
Badminton	Basketball	Chess Club
Christian Union	Circuit Training	Choir
Debating	Drumming	Environmental Group/Green School
French Speaking and Debating Club	Grapevine (College Magazine)	Guitar and Ukulele Group
Hockey	Intercultural Week	International Economic Olympiad
Instrumental Lessons	Jazz Ensemble	Keelboat Sailing and Team Racing
Linguistics Olympiad Club	Literacy Committee	Maths Club
Music Technology Club	Model United Nations (MUN)	Orchestra
Reading Club	Robotics and Coding Club/First Lego League	Rugby
Speech and Drama	Strength and Conditioning	Student Council
Traditional Irish Music Group	The President's Award (An Gaisce)	Wine Dark Sea
Writers Club	Young Economist of the Year	Young Scientist

Sports

Participation in sporting activities is regarded by the College as desirable for all students 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 students and the morale of the teams.

It will always be necessary to strike a balance between the needs of students 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 seeks to provide opportunities for participation in many different sports and activities.

Sports Highlights 2023-2024

Boys Basketball

The Senior Boys had a mixed season in what was a very competitive age group. A win against St Fintan's in the first round of the Leinster Play-offs on a scoreline of 50-37 set up a quarter final match with All Ireland favourites Templeogue College which the boys lost 66-49.

In the Cup the boys were beaten by a strong Presentation Bray team on a score line of 70-44. It was a transitional year for the Seniors with a young side and a strong group coming behind them.

The U16 boys started off their season in fine style with a win in their first round Cup game against Belvedere College on a scoreline of 35-31 followed by their second-round win against St Eunan's College, Donegal – on a scoreline of 46-34. In the League a 47-33 against Presentation Bray set them up well for a strong finish to the season, however, a disappointing loss in the Cup to St Joseph's Patrician College 64-51, followed and a 55-51 loss to Templeogue College brought their season to a close.

The U15 Boys in their All-Ireland group beat Templeogue 58-34 before losing to Coláiste Éanna and Presentation Bray in the round of 16.

The U14 Boys had a strong season beating Templeogue 37-26 in the All-Ireland Cup round of 16 before losses to Coláiste Éanna and Presentation Bray saw them eliminated from the Cup competitions.

In the League they beat Coláiste Éanna 43-40 in a tight Dublin quarter final before losses to St Vincent's Castleknock 43-38 and Adamstown 60-41 ended their season at the semi-final stage.

The First Year Boys and Girls season kicked off with the Christmas Invitational Tournament which took place in school before Christmas. Teams from St Conleth's, Blackrock College, Coláiste Íosagáin, Coláiste Eoin and Sion Hill attended with the boys playing well and losing out in the final against Coláiste Eoin.

In the League the First Year A team won two and lost one of their three games. This qualified them for the League quarter final where they lost out to a strong Adamstown CC side 37-18.

Piers Postma was selected for the U16 National Team that played England, Scotland and Wales at Easter in the National Basketball Arena, Tallaght.

Max Geaney has been selected to represent the East Regional Team in the U15 Schools Inter-Regional. Max Geaney was selected to the East Regional U15 Team for the 2022/2023 season.

Adam McCormick was selected by Basketball Ireland to be a part of their U14 Regional Academy programme for the 2022-2023 season. They train monthly with the best players from the East Region.

Girls Basketball

The Senior Girls beat Coláiste Cois Life in their opening League game 64-13 followed by a close win over Teresian School 45-40. A 44-20 loss against Mount Anville saw them eliminated from the League after a promising start. A disappointing loss in the second round of the Cup saw the Senior Girls lose to Coláiste Bhaile an Chláir 42-35.

The U16 Girls beat Coláiste Cois Life in their opening League game 41-4 before losing to Teresian School 55-11. In their final League game, they beat Castleknock 27-10 but failed to progress any further. In the quarter final of the National Cup, they lost on a scoreline of 67-39 to St Joseph's Ballybunnion.

The Second Year Girls got their season under way as they travelled to Holy Child Killiney for their annual tournament in December. Unfortunately, they lost 23-19 to Loreto College St. Stephen's Green and 26-22 to hosts Holy Child Killiney. In the League an opening round loss to Mount Anville on a scoreline of 49-29 was followed by their first League win of the season beating Coláiste Íosagáin. A last second score by Castleknock saw the girls lose their final game of the season 25-24.

The First Year Girls got their year off to the perfect start winning the annual SAC invitational tournament in December with Sion Hill, Coláiste Íosagáin and St Conleth's visiting the campus.

The First Year Girls kicked off their League campaign, unfortunately losing 45-29 to Mount Anville before going on a five-match unbeaten run to finish their season in style.

Jodi Geaney represented Ireland U17's in August playing against Denmark in Copenhagen.

Abi Lyons and Síofra Vandamme were selected to the U15 Basketball Ireland East Regional Team for the 2022-2023 season.

Ruby Tilson was selected by Basketball Ireland to be a part of their U14 Regional Academy Programme for the 2022-2023 season.

Girls Cricket

This year we fielded six cricket teams with two teams at Senior, Junior and First Year level. Our First Year A team lost their opening League game to Mount Anville. They received a walk-over in their only other League fixture from Alexandra College. Our First Year B team had two wins and a loss to show for their season but failed to progress through their group.

Both our Junior teams qualified for the semi-finals of their Leagues but lost out to Sandford Park and Mount Temple respectively.

Our Senior A team lost out on a place in the semi-final with a 1 run loss against High School. Unfortunately, that was their only game of the season as Alexandra College gave them a walkover in their other pool match.

Our Senior B team had 2 wins and a loss to show for their season but failed to progress beyond the pool stages.

Boys Cricket

This year we fielded three cricket teams with our Senior team playing only one match, a win against Blackrock. At U14 and U13 level we reached the quarter finals of the Cup before losing to St Joseph's Rush and St Columba's College.

Cross Country

We had a very successful season in cross country with excellent numbers of both social and competitive runners out training. The races started in September the "Brother at your Side" race which took place on the 21 September. This had a lot of first time runners competing. In the Junior Girls event Sophie Lawrence finished 5th and Phoebe Peare finished in 10th place.

On 19 October, in torrential conditions, the DSD invitational race was run. We had over 40 enthusiastic runners braving the elements with the First Year Girls winning the team event, Anna Butler finished in 3rd place in her race and our Inter Girls also won the team event with Holly O'Brien in 1st place, Natasha Armah-Kwantreng 3rd place, Ruby Mullen 4th place and Rosanna Hickey 6th place. In the Boys Inter Event Luc Maher ran well to finish in 8th place.

The Blackrock Invitational took place on Wednesday, 9 November. Our First Year Girls team of Tatiana Duffy, Ella Galligan, Cathy Kennedy and Emi Walsh placed 4th overall. Our Minor Girls consisting of two First Year students, Sophie Lawrence and Phoebe Peare, as well as Anna Butler and Yasmin Murray placed 2nd overall. The Inter Girls Team of Natasha Armah-Kwantreng, Rosanna Hickey, Ruby Mullen and Holly O'Brien continued their winning streak coming home in 1st place.

The East Leinsters took place in the Phoenix Park on 25 January where a strong team lined up to compete. Seventeen First Year girls competed with the team finishing 5th place overall. Louise Hanley qualified for the Leinster's winning 13th place out of 114 participants.

First Year student, Peter Wood ran well on the day also and qualified for Leinster's in 13th place out of 116 participants.

The Junior Girls Team, Anna Butler, Grace Fanning, Sophie Lawrence, Ruby McNaughton, Phoebe Peare and Amy Wood qualified for the Leinsters. Anna and Sophie finished 5th and 10th place respectively and qualified also in the individual category.

The Inter Girls retained their title in winning the team event and have qualified for Leinster. Natasha Armah-Kwantreng, Rosanna Hickey, Holly O'Brien and Ella May Spain all finished in the top 10.

Andrew McGilton finished 5th in the Senior Boys' race which qualified him for the Leinsters.

In the Leinsters, the Junior Team finished 3rd place and qualified for the All-Irelands.

Louise Hanley (Minor) and Holly O'Brien (Inter) secured top 15 individual finishes to qualify for the All-Irelands.

A team of seven St Andrew's students ran in the XC All Irelands in Waterford on Saturday, 11 March. It was a very tough course in undesirable weather conditions, and it was a fantastic achievement for those involved to get there.

Track and Field Athletics

At the beginning of May, a strong team travelled to compete in the East Leinster Championships. On day one of the Championship Andrew McGilton (Senior boys 800m) and Antia Agulla Perez (Minor

Long Jump) both came away with gold medals. Síofra Vandamme (Junior Shot), Alanna O'Neill (Junior Javelin), Holly O'Brien (Inter 3000m) and Eva Spain (Inter Long Jump) all had top 3 finishes to qualify for the Leinsters.

On day two of the event, which was held in UCD, Holly O'Brien (Inter 1500m) and the 4 x 300m U-16 Girls' Relay Team won gold medals. Sophie Lawrence (Junior 1500m), Alanna O'Neill (Junior Long Jump), Jack Fairmaner (Senior Javelin) and Jack Clarke (Minor 500m) all finished in the top three to qualify for the Leinsters.

In the Leinsters, Jack Clarke won the Minor Boys 500m and qualified for the All-Irelands. Our U16 girls 4 x 300m (Anna Butler, Yasmin Murray, Eleanor Selby and Eva Spain) finished in 2nd place and Antia Agulla Perez finished 3rd place in the Long Jump to qualify for the All-Irelands.

Equestrian

This year we fielded an Equestrian Team to compete in the Interschools Competitions which took place throughout the course of the year at Killossery Lodge Stud.

Having missed the first two meetings, our team of Freya Alken, Mary-Kate Carroll, Sarah Gadloff, Fiala Ní Mhurchu won their first competition with Mary-Kate and Fiala holding their nerve in a jump off to see off Mount Sackville.

In our second meeting on November 20, the team finished 6th place out of 12 schools with two double clear rounds and one round with an unlucky 4 faults. Due to injury to ponies and lack of availability of riders, our results were mixed over the remainder of the season. In the final event of the season Sophie Crosthwaite competed in the All-Ireland Schools Final in the 90cm category. She finished 2nd place out of 40 competitors.

Golf

The Senior Boys' team finished in the middle of the pack in their qualifiers which were hosted by Woodbrook Golf Club in windy conditions in September. Dylan Holmes shot the round of the day 73 points, but it wasn't enough with four scores counting. Tom Bean, James McGrath and Andrew O'Brien-Holohan made up the remainder of the side.

The Junior Boys qualified for the Leinster Final against all the odds. An outstanding score of 41 points, best of the day, from Theo Phelan got us across the line. Henry Walsh made up the other half of the team and an outstanding 29 points playing off 15, 7 shots below his official handicap got us through. In the Leinster Final the boys played well but finished in the pack a good way off the winning score.

The Junior Girls of Rachel Connelly, Alex Kearney and Abbie O'Connor represented the school in Hermitage Golf Club on , 17 September, again in very windy conditions. Scores of 34, 30 and 22 points saw the girls finish second overall. Unfortunately, only one team qualified for the finals in Milltown.

Girls Hockey

This year saw Girls' Hockey field twenty teams in total (5 Senior, 4 Junior, 4 Minor, 7 First Year).

The Senior Girls enjoyed a fantastic season topping their pool in the League with wins over Muckcross Park College, Rathdown School, Loreto Foxrock, Loreto Kilkenny and the Teresian School as well as a hard-fought draw against Holy Child Killiney. Their progress saw them face off against Mount Anville in the League semi-final where they went down 1-0.

In the Cup they progressed all the way to the final with wins over Sandford Park, St Columba's College and the Teresian School before progressing to the Senior Cup Final following a comfortable 3-0 win against King's Hospital in the semi-final.

In the final they lost to Wesley College, going down 2-1 on the day to a goal which came late in the game.

Our Senior 2's enjoyed a good season. Having been handed a tough draw in the League they progressed to the League semi-final following a great win against Muckross Park College late in the campaign. In the semi-final they lost 1-0 to Mount Anville.

Our Senior 1 and 2 players rounded off a great year with a highly successful end-of-season trip to London. Past pupil Rachel Diggin captained Oxford University and as a curtain raiser for the colours match versus Cambridge our girls were invited to play against the alma mater of the Cambridge captain. The girls played out a 0-0 draw in their game to bring a hugely successful season to a conclusion.

Senior 3's, 4's and 5's all had tough League draws and with a round of games to go all were still in with a chance of qualifying through their pool. Alas, for these teams it wasn't to be with our Senior 4's losing a play-off to qualify from the pool.

Our Junior A team was competitive this year without threatening to win anything. A number of draws in the League saw them fail to progress through their pool stages. In the Cup they progressed through a couple of rounds before being beaten 5-1 by a strong Loreto Beaufort side in the quarter final.

Our Junior B, C and D teams all enjoyed great seasons progressing through to the knockout stages of their Leagues, however, none of them managed to get to a final.

A series of draws in the League and a loss to a strong Muckross Park College team saw the Minor A team fail to qualify through their pool in the League. In the Cup they made it through to the quarter finals with wins against Temple Carrig and Rathdown School. In the quarter final they lost 1-0 against King's Hospital in a game that could have gone either way.

Our Minor B, C and D teams all competed well but failed to progress through to the knockout stages of their Leagues.

The First Year season was split up into their 8 a-side League before Christmas and their 11 a-side competitions after Christmas. In the 8-a-side Leagues we fielded 7 teams, of which 4 progressed to the final stages, which consisted of a one-day blitz. The A and B teams lost on 1 v 1's when they tied in their group play-offs. The D team finished runners up in their League while the F team went on to win their respective League.

In the 11 a-side Cup the A team was eliminated by Loreto Beaufort in a tight match, 1-0, but in the League, they progressed through a very tough pool stage with wins against Rathdown School and Loreto Dalkey as well as a draw against Wesley College which sealed their progress. In the semi-final they beat King's Hospital 7-0 before beating St Gerard's School 2-0 in the League Final.

Our 11 a-side B and C teams also progressed through their pool but were both eliminated on 1 v 1's in their respective semi-finals.

Martha Duignan was selected for the Leinster U21 Squad. Ruby Mullen, Emilie O' Brien and Charlotte O'Neill all played for Leinster U18 Squad. Natasha Armah-Kwantreng, Abbie O'Connor and Eleanor Selby were selected for the Leinster U16 Squad.

Boys Hockey

A squad of 32 players travelled to Liverpool in the middle of August on a pre-season tour. The teams trained on the first day and played Deeside, a local club with the 1st XI winning 4-0 and the 2nd XI winning 2-0. The boys attended a Manchester City v Bournemouth game in the afternoon. On Sunday they played a practice match in the morning and a round of gold in Holyhead in the afternoon before returning home.

In the League the Senior A's qualified through their pool into the A League where a win against King's Hospital and narrow defeats to Wesley College and The High School saw them finish 3rd in the League and gain an automatic spot in next year's All-Irelands.

In the Cup a last-minute goal saw them go down 2-1 to Wesley in the first round.

In the All-Irelands a 2-0 win against Cookstown and a 2-2 draw against Newtown saw us needing a win against Wallace in the final game of the pool. Leading 2-0 going into the final quarter we were well positioned to qualify for the semi-finals, but three goals for Wallace in the final quarter saw us go down 3-2 in the end and bow out of the competition.

The B team enjoyed an excellent season. Wins against St Killian's and St Columba's College as well as a draw against Kilkenny College saw them qualify for the B League and enter the Senior Cup where they progressed through to the semi-final with a first round win against Newpark Comprehensive. In the semi-final they pushed King's Hospital hard before going down 4-1 with two late goals taking the game away from the boys.

In the B League a 4-1 loss to Sutton Park and a 3-2 loss to Temple Carrig saw them going into their final game of the season looking for a win against Newpark Comprehensive. A 3-0 win saw them finish 3rd in their League and round off a great season.

At Junior level our Junior A team won the League and Cup double. Wins against Wesley College, The High School and King's Hospital saw them win the League comfortably, however, they faced the same opposition enroute to the Cup Final, needing a late equaliser and 1 v 1's to scrape past King's Hospital in the semi-final. A 6-0 win in the final followed to round off a great season.

Our Junior B team competed well in their League without ever looking like threatening the top half of the table.

Our Minor A team enjoyed an excellent year losing two games over the entirety of the season. Two tightly contested games against Wesley College in the League and Cup went against us. However, their improvement over the season was fantastic and the signs are good moving forward.

Our Minor B team competed well in their League with performances and results improving as the season wore on.

The U13 boys won the League and Cup double. A 1-0 win against Wesley College secured them the League in their final game of the season. In the final of the Cup, they ran out comfortable 5-0 winners against Newpark Comprehensive.

Our U13 B and C teams were hugely competitive all season and finished in the top half of their respective Leagues.

Zach Bailey, Jacob Davy, Callum Keeley, Samuel Nichols and Toby Slye O'Connell were all selected on the Leinster U16 Squad. Thomas Bean, Jack Fairmaner, Jack Flanagan, Jamie Miller, Alex Murphy, and Zach Silverman are all included in an extended Leinster U18 Squad which went on to win the Inter-Regionals in convincing fashion.

Off the back of the Inter-Provincials, Thomas Bean was selected for the Irish U18's to play against England in 3 tests over the mid-term break in February. William Knatchbull, although not selected to play on the Leinster U16 Squad was selected for the Irish U16's.

Rugby

Following Mr Doel's departure in June 2022, we welcomed Matt Jarvis as our new Head of Rugby.

Our SCT enjoyed a highly successful season without getting their hands on a piece of silverware to show for their efforts. In the League they finished top of their section undefeated with wins over Temple Carrig 18-10, Gorey 52 -19, Ardscoil Na Trionóide (walkover), High School 41-0. In the semi-final after a slow start to the game gained a win of 27-8 victors over Wilson's Hospital. In the final they lost out to a last-minute score against Temple Carrig on a scoreline of 27-30 in what, was a great game in Donnybrook before Christmas.

In the Vinnie Murray Cup they beat St Gerard's School in the first round on a scoreline of 22-12. In the quarter-final they beat St Columba's College 43-0, advancing to a semi-final against Temple Carrig for a place in the final. This time they came out the right side of a 20-12 scoreline to qualify for the final. In the Vinnie Murray Cup final, they lost 26-13 to CUS. This was our first appearance in the final in over a decade and brought an end to a very good season for the SCT where unfortunately they came up just shy in the League and Cup.

As a result of their exploits in the Vinnie Murray Cup the SCT qualified for the first round of the Senior Cup for the first time since 2016. They put up a brave display against a strong Gonzaga College side going down eventually to a score of 64-15. Gonzaga College went on to win the Cup for the first time in their history.

Our JCT team had a mixed season losing key players at vital stages of the season. In the League they beat High school 51-19 and Gorey 52-28 but lost to CBS Nass and Ardscoil Na Trionóide. This was not enough to qualify them through to the knockout stages.

In the Father Godfrey Cup, they were beaten 32-10 by a strong Temple Carrig side who went deep into the competition. Their elimination put them into the Plate where they beat High School 34-21 before going out to King's Hospital in the semi-final.

Our First Year and Second Year teams competed well over the course of the season, and we look forward to seeing them continue to progress next year.

SCT players Kiran Byrne and Josh Perrem were selected for Leinster U19 trials and Jake Dolly was selected for the U18 trials.

Girls Rugby

Thirty-eight senior and junior girls played in the Leinster Metro 7's on International Women's day in Energia Park with the Seniors winning the tournament and qualifying for the Leinster finals. In the Leinster finals, they won one and lost two of their games.

Hannah Scanlan was selected for Leinster U18 Squad.

Swimming

A strong team travelled to the Aquatic Centre to compete in the Leinster School Gala at the beginning of February. Daire Finlayson placed 1st in Junior Boys Breaststroke, 3rd in 100m Freestyle and 4th in the 400m Freestyle. Hannah Poynton placed 3rd in the Inter Girls 100m Fly and 8th in the Individual Medley. Rebecca Middleton placed 4th in Junior 200m Individual Medley and 6th place in the 100m

Breaststroke. Edith Middleton placed 7th in the Junior Girls 100m Breaststroke and 200m Individual Medley. The Junior Girls finished 3rd in the Freestyle Relay and the Inter Girls finished 8th in the Medley Relay.

Daire Finlayson and Hannah Poynton went on to swim for Leinster in the Irish Schools Interprovincial which Leinster won.

Sailing

St Andrew's Sailing Club has been growing from strength to strength with now over one hundred active members, not including another twenty-six sailors in the St Andrew's Junior School Program.

The first event of the season was the Shanahan Cup which took place in February with very cool winds and low winter sea temperatures. Four teams entered and two teams were awarded podium positions, 2nd and 3rd place. This was followed by the TR Leinster Championships at which our teams were nicely rewarded for their continued training throughout the year and became the Team Racing Leinster Champions. Not only was this a huge achievement, but all three qualifying teams managed to reach podium places and received an invite to the TR National Championships. The winning team was captained by Oisín Hughes who did a fantastic job supporting and encouraging all three teams throughout this event.

Over the May bank holiday, our teams competed in a long and tough weekend of racing in the TR National Championships where they competed against fifteen other schools from all over Ireland. Team 1 had a podium finish and were awarded 2nd place after a very challenging sudden death final, and Team 2 were placed joint 3rd place.

Keelboat Program

Our Keelboat Program took place every Wednesday at the Royal St George Yacht Club and allowed our new sailors to build on their skills gained from the previous Autumn term. This program also provides a pathway for those sailors who wish to eventually progress to the more competitive side of sailing in the Team Racing Program which runs throughout the entire academic year.

Summer Clinics

The summer clinics run throughout June, July and August at the Royal St George Yacht Club. They are available to all members of the St Andrew's College sailing club. They allow sailors improve their skills in the warmer weather in advance of their first event, the Elmo Cup at the end of August.

Optimist Class

Caoilinn Geraghty-McDonnell qualified to represent Ireland in the Optimist World Championships which are being held in Spain in June.

ILCA4 Class

Kate Flood and Seth Walker qualified to represent Ireland in the ILCA4 European Championships in Germany taking place in June and the ILCA4 World Championships which will be held in Greece in July.

Girls Tennis

This year we fielded several teams across the various Leagues.

Our Minor B team made it all the way to the final where they lost out to Loreto Dalkey's A team on a scoreline of 2-1. Our Junior A team also made it to the final where they lost out to Holy Faith Clontarf on a 2-1 scoreline with the deciding match going to a championship tie-break.

Boys Tennis

This year we fielded five teams across the three age groups, Senior, Junior and Minor. All five teams managed to qualify through their pool stages to make it through to the semi-finals.

Our Seniors were edged out 3-2 by St Fintan's in a high-quality match.

Our Junior A team went one better beating Clongowes Wood 4-1 in the semi-final which qualified them for the final against St Gerard's School. In the final they beat St Gerard's School 5-0 without dropping a set. This was our first-time winning Division 2 at this level and means we are promoted to Division 1 next year.

Our Junior B team qualified through to a semi-final encounter with Ardscoil Rís where they lost 5-0 to a very strong side.

Our Minor A team, having battled through a five-team group winning all their games on a 3-2 scoreline were eliminated at the semi-final stage, going down 4-1 against a solid St Mary's College side. Three of the games went to a third set with us losing all three.

Our Minor B team battled hard to get to a semi-final where they were beaten 4-1 by Kilkenny College.

Sports Awards

The College Sports Awards took place on Monday, 22 May, with a whole school assembly in the sports hall. Students were given recognition for their contribution made to sport by our athletes. Player of the Year Awards were presented in all sports as well as Spirit Awards to the players who encapsulated the spirit of what we look for in our players. Representatives were also recognised while the Sports Cups for Sports Day were also distributed.

Performing Arts

College Play

This year's school play "Murdered to Death" took place on Tuesday 25, Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 October. The play had a cast of ten students onstage and approximately ten to fifteen more students behind the scenes. It was a superb night of entertainment, and allowed many students to shine.

One Act Drama Festival

The College One-Act Drama Festival took place from the 7 - 9 February. The drama festival was re-imagined this year in order to maximise student and staff involvement and make the event more inclusive. Instead of inviting neighbouring schools to perform, the College staged six one-act plays which included three junior plays and three senior plays featuring our own students. There was great buzz and energy as teachers and students involved themselves in the production of a number of plays.

The six plays were: 'The Self Eatery', 'Little box of Oblivion', 'Why all the Fuss about Free Will', 'Gene of the Lamp', 'Tracks' and 'Whatever it Takes'. The occasion was enjoyed immensely by everyone.

U-Live

U Live, in support of the St Andrew's College Uganda Project, returned to St Andrew's College in February and, with thirty one acts taking to the stage, the sold-out event was a resounding success. The incredibly talented students delivered extraordinarily professional performances in an evening that brought great joy to all present.

Music and Art Festival

The 2023 Music and Dance Festival took place from Tuesday 2 to Friday 5 May and was followed by the End of Year Music and Art Department Evening which took place on Wednesday 10 May. The audience were treated to a fantastic variety of extremely high-quality performances from the Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Orchestra, Trad Group and Guitar ensemble in addition to the prizewinners of the Music and Dance Festival. In addition, a wonderful exhibition of art was displayed by the art department and showcased the incredible talent of our art students.

Transition Year

The Transition Year programme is traditionally all about a balance between classroom-based learning and outside classroom experiences. For the first time since 2019, Transition Year in its true sense was restored and we were able to offer the variety of experiences that were not possible in previous years.

It began with start of year trips to Donegal (Gartan Outdoor Education and Training Centre) and Mayo (An Uisce Water Adventure Centre) where students took part in many outdoor sports and activities such as kayaking, archery, orienteering and climbing. They spent time getting to know some new faces and many site it as one of their favourite experiences of the year.

The year commenced with timetable-based courses and an extensive Friday afternoon set of physically active 'off campus' activities. Core subjects and extended core subjects (accounting, business, biology, chemistry, economics, geography, history, physics, religious education) featured strongly with 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, architecture, creative writing, culinary arts, film studies, journalism, philosophy, salsa dancing, web design and yoga to name but a few. In November, the lead up to the Winter Fair began which was a huge success. It involved all Transition Year students in organising, running, managing, fundraising, and liaising with staff to raise much needed funds for the institutions we support in Uganda. During Christmas week, the students got the opportunity to enhance their CV with First Aid Skills, aptitude tests and interview technique, as they sat opposite their form teachers to discuss their experiences so far. They also had some fun with a drumming workshop and hike around Glendalough.

U-Live took place once more in February. There was immense effort put in from students performing, organising acts, promotion and producing a great show on the night. It was wonderful to see the students using many of the skills that they had developed over the year, take ownership of the event. Following mid-term break, students headed off for their first session of work experience in various companies and organisations both in Ireland and abroad. In February, students travelled to Pinzolo in Italy for a week long ski trip, which was enjoyed by all. In May, students travelled to Barcelona for a

packed four-day experience of the Spanish city. It was great to see the students take such enjoyment from these experiences.

In October and May, students had the opportunity to take part in a hike and overnight camping experience in Glendalough. This is always a highlight of the year for students and goes towards the Gaisce awards for those taking part. Transition Year ended in a busy week of assessment, interview and preparation for the Transition Year evening showcase. It was heartening to hear students describe their learning and experience in their own words and to be recognised for all they had invested. To end the year, eighteen students accompanied by five teachers made their way to Uganda, the first trip to Uganda since 2019. They were busy fundraising in advance of the trip to ensure they could contribute to school fees, supplies and building initiatives once over there.

The Transition Year Programme has run in its entirety this year and it has been wonderful to see the students reap the benefit of the full complement of subject, trips, experiences and individual opportunities available to them. It has been a very positive return for the Transition Year Programme.

Home Economics Subject Inspection

A Department of Education Home Economics subject inspection was conducted by Freda Byrne on 12 May and 15 May in the College. The focus of this inspection was on Junior Cycle Home Economics.

Inspection Activities undertaken	12-05-2023 and 15-05-2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of relevant documents • Discussion with principal and key staff • Interaction with students, including a focus group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation of teaching and learning during four lessons • Examination of students' work • Feedback to principal and relevant staff

Following Ms Byrne's two day visit to the College, she delivered a positive report to our teachers. She described everyone as being 'good'. She found many examples of good collaborative learning and she commented that the whole-school support and subject provision was of a very high standard.

The report from the inspection was issued on 25 May 2023.

Charitable Activities

Students and staff have been active fundraisers for, and participants in, many local and national charities this year. As part of the College strategic five-year plan, it was agreed that the Down Syndrome Centre Ireland and Peter McVerry Trust would be our two chosen charities for supporting in the next two years. Charities that have been supported also in this current academic year are as follows:

Aoibheann's Pink Tie	Daffodil Day – Irish Cancer Society
DSPCA	Focus Ireland
Pieta House	Saoirse Foundation
Seal Rescue Ireland	Simon Community
Third Age Failte Isteach	Ukraine Appeal
Unicef	

This year's Transition Year students have continued to fundraise for our Transition Year Uganda Project. Other Year groups also carried out a variety of fundraising events.

Child Protection Procedures

The Board of Management annual review of The Child Protection Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was conducted in May 2023. 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'. The policy was sent to the PTA and the Student Council for their consideration as part of the review process. The policy was also emailed to all staff and parents to inform them that a review was underway, and staff and parents were asked to consider the document and revert to the Principal with any queries or comments as appropriate. The Board of Management approved the review on 9 May 2023. The newly approved policy was sent to all staff and parents of the College. The Child Protection Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is posted in the main reception area and in the Junior School reception and Collen building.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mr Rob Micallef, Acting Principal. Ms Mary Keddy, Deputy Principal is the Deputy DLP.

Student Council

The Student Council structure in St Andrew's College comprises Year Councils and a Whole School Council (WSC). Year Councils are in operation in Second Year, Third Year, Transition Year and Fifth Year. Elections for student representatives are held in May for the upcoming year. Students from First Year to Transition Year vote to elect two representatives from each form group 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 meetings are retained in files on the WSC Teams Page for the attention of Year Heads, and the Senior Leadership Team.

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

This year, WSC meetings took place at least once a month with an initial meeting taking place on 15 September during which the council members discussed their aims and aspirations for the year. Throughout the year and in consultation with year councils, students proposed charities for the next two years, considered how student leadership could be developed and provided input on the SAC spirit awards, all of which are facets of the five-year strategic plan. The WSC students made invaluable contributions during the year, focusing on needs and concerns of the student body, which included indoor/outdoor social spaces, canteen, storage of sports equipment. They provided student input on the review of new uniform items and the proposed change to our mobile phone policy with the introduction of Yondr pouches for the next academic year. Students reviewed The Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and Statement. Students represented the College and student body in a meeting with the Reverend Dr John Kirkpatrick, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in February.

In conclusion, the WSC 2022-23 led by the Head Boy and Head Girl, along with the senior prefects, showed great commitment and diligence in contributing to the promotion of a positive, inclusive learning environment as they represented and advocated for the student voice while also supporting

the College community as a whole, and in doing so, lived out themselves the College theme of the year “responsibility of citizenship”.

Bullying Awareness

One of the key takeaways from last year’s focus groups with the student component of the anti-bullying committee was the desire to have a whole school event that was structured vertically i.e. with year groups working with one another. After further discussion with both students and staff and the senior leadership team, it was decided that the school would hold the St Andrew’s College House Cup. The aim of the day was to create a school event that was structured vertically as opposed to horizontally. Each house would be comprised of an equal quota of students from each year, and each house would be run and led by two Sixth Year students and students from Fifth Year. By structuring the day vertically, we hoped to empower the senior students to be leaders in the school and promote the importance of working as a group and helping each other. Given the huge success of the day, the school plans to expand on the House Programme next academic year, by adding another event around the Christmas period.

While the House Cup was a part of Wellbeing Week, the anti-bullying committee organised a whole school karaoke which has become a school tradition and, as always, was immensely successful at bringing the school together. The ‘need to talk’ posters were updated with a new list of relevant staff members that students can reach out to if they are going through a difficult time.

In conjunction with the Second Year Team, it was agreed that we would trial the idea of Reflective Practice. The initiative revolves around the idea that when conflicts occur in school, an important part of the process is to engage the student in a process of reflection as to why the incident occurred and how they may learn from it so that it doesn’t happen again. A newly revised rollout plan for Upstanding was created post Covid-19 to commence in September 2023 with First Year students. This initiative aims to promote empathy amongst the students so that they feel empowered to act on cases of bullying that they may observe. The Upstanding plan involves the anti-bullying team, form teachers, and SPHE teachers. We continued with the immensely successful Tea and Chat’s programme every Thursday lunchtime. This year we increased the responsibilities of it being student led which worked very well.

Mentor Programme

The Mentor programme began as usual with the promotion and application process through the Transition Year system and form teachers. As always, there was great enthusiasm for the roles with over 100 applicants. As in previous years, most mentors recall their own experience and want to offer a support while also enjoying the responsibility role.

At the first induction day it was wonderful to see the response from volunteers to come in and initiate the first contact with mentors and First Year students. A small number of mentors acted as receptionists, welcoming everyone in and eventually having an opportunity to meet up with groups of First Year students and give them a warm welcome into the senior school. At the end of August, prior to our full return we held a Teams Mentor Training morning where the role of mentor was outlined, and strategies explained. We also outlined the limits of their role and the importance of passing on any concerns or observations, up the line to the First Year Team .

A major positive this year was the return of the locker system and therefore there was daily casual contact between mentors and First Year students most mornings. This was the place that students

really got to know each other and gave mentors an opportunity to keep a watchful eye over the younger students. Even the art of opening the combination lock was an icebreaker in the early days. We chose 'Themes', such as finding your way around, sports and extra-curricular, organisation and books, the school digital technology system, friendships, and issues such as bullying or exclusion. The limitations of the previous year were removed allowing mentors to build a connection. Many mentors made a real effort to use this to good effect and it helped new First Years make the transition to senior school smoothly.

Prior to Christmas, another initiative was organised to encourage the students and give support with organising their study and preparation for the Christmas examinations. Study plans were explained which helped reduce the worry attached to the first proper house exam.

Mentors were also enrolled throughout the year to help with the organisation of other College activities related to First Year.

The mentors in their roles are best placed to spot behaviours, friendship or exclusion, contentment or not. It helps them to see how they are now the new role models. The mentor process enables senior students to develop their leadership skills and it encourages them to take on the mantle of responsibility, which is an important part of their development also as citizens of the College.

Finally, as we begin the process again it is always useful to get the support of stand-out mentors to help promote the presentation of the Mentor programme for the next year group.

Green School/Environment Group

The Green School/Environment Group (GS/EG) committee continued to raise awareness of all environmental and green school initiatives. This was through our weekly meetings, assemblies, posters around the College and our social media platform. We currently have 340 followers on Instagram. The page has been highlighting issues around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Environmental issues.

There are, currently, 140 email members and a group of students meet weekly. All updates and events are shared on an email to the group to ensure that all students are up to date on activities and that they have ample opportunity to get involved with projects to take action. This group is student led and facilitated by coordinating teachers.

The GS/EG has achieved the following:

1. House areas have been planted with vegetables and various plants to increase 'green' areas.
2. Compost cages have been installed.
3. An outdoor classroom has been installed outside area 4.
4. '1000 Tree Project' – we looked to plant 'Pocket Forests' by giving out a total of 2500 trees so far. We reached out to the school community with the possibility of planting trees in areas of land that they own (or some of the smaller spaces in the school).
5. We have developed biodiversity in the school grounds by marking off areas as 'no cut zones.'
6. A Green Policy for the school was developed.
7. We took part in the 'Global Air Project' (<https://www.globe.gov/about/overview>), see website for information. We installed a permanent NOx meter at the school gate in conjunction with DPD.
8. A donation was made to the Seal Sanctuary in Courtown, Co. Wexford totalling €250. Seals are sponsored for rehabilitation and release. Their progress is available online and on the Green schools notice board.

9. Various beach and park clean ups occur on an ongoing basis.
10. We created a plastic Art installation of plastic waste in conjunction with the Art department. (House area 2). A new 'Biodiversity' mural has been installed.
11. WOW COW's have been established to encourage students to cycle/walk to school. DLR have put in many cycle lanes and students have responded in numbers to them by opting for the bike.
12. Clothes Swap Shop.
13. Bike to school for summer term campaign 2023 is underway.
14. Sustainability for Education is still a core subject for Transition Year and is now becoming a Leaving Certificate subject in 2025.
15. The kitchen continues to support the school in being as sustainable as possible and this is very much appreciated.
16. Support for SAC plastic free school continues through online awareness.

Parental Involvement

Parent Information Evenings

Parent Information Evenings were held for all year groups on the dates below. All meetings were held in person and contained a welcome from the Acting Principal along with a presentation by the relevant Deputy Principal and a year specific induction delivered by the Year Heads. Parents had an opportunity to ask questions as the evening progressed and there was the opportunity for further questions at the end of the Year Head presentations.

Wednesday, 24 August	Sixth Year
Thursday, 25 August	Fifth Year
Monday, 29 August	Third Year
Tuesday, 30 August	Transition Year
Thursday, 1 September	Second Year

- First Year Parent and Form Teacher Meeting – October 2022
- IB Information Evening – November 2022
- Options Evenings for First, Transition and Fifth Year students – January 2023

School Events

Parents were invited to attend a variety of school functions and events throughout the year. In 2022/2023 these included:

- PTA Coffee Mornings for all year groups
- Coffee Mornings for international parents and host parents of Junior and Secondary School students
- College Play – October 2022
- International Night – November 2023
- Winter Fair – December 2023
- Carol Service – December 2023
- PTA Charity Lunch – January 2023
- One Act Drama Festival February 2023

- U-Live Concert - February 2023
- Launch of *The Wine Dark Sea* – May 2023
- Music and Dance Concert – May 2023
- PTA Golf Classic – May 2023
- PTA Summer Social – May 2023
- Sixth Year Valedictory Evening – May 2023

School Development Planning

School Policies

All policies that make up the school plan are available on the College website: www.sac.ie. The following have been the main developments in school planning in 2022/2023:

- The on-going review of St Andrew’s College policies
- The on-going work on the Junior Cycle Curriculum Plan
- The on-going work on the introduction of the Wellbeing 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:

Admissions Policy	Anti-Bullying Policy
Attendance and Punctuality Policy	AUP for Staff Policy
AUP for Students Policy	Child Safeguarding and Risk Assessment Statement
Coaches’ Policy and Specialist Teachers’ Policy	Code of Behaviour for Students Policy
Complaints Procedure Policy	Concussion Policy
Data Breach Management Policy and Procedures	Data Protection Policy
Driving to School Policy	E-Safety Policy
Guidance Policy	Library Policy
Parents Meeting Policy	Physical Education Policy
Practices and Procedures in relation to the SAC Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and Statement	School Nurse Policy

Student Support Policy	Student Teacher Policy
Substance Abuse Policy	Substitute Teacher Policy
Supporter's Policy	Student Wellbeing Policy
Uganda Selection Policy	Work Experience Policy

School Self Evaluation (SSE)

This academic year did not have a prescribed area of focus. Instead, each school was advised to use the year as a review year to recalibrate its SSE programme. During this year, schools were advised to take stock of their SSE progress to date and review student experiences under four specific headings:

- Educational experiences and outcomes.
- Student Wellbeing.
- Motivation and engagement in education.
- The potential lasting effects of Covid-19.

Student Survey

The survey received responses from 628 students (approximately 63% of the student body). Three specific areas of focus were identified as being the most common areas for concentration going forward:

- Student motivation in relation to attendance and study.
- Student comfort in seeking emotional and mental wellbeing support.
- Support with subject-specific study skills (including focused study skills support for those with SEN).

Staff awareness and familiarity SSE

At the beginning of the academic year, a survey was sent to all staff to do a stock take on the SSE initiatives that have been introduced to date. It has been acknowledged and recorded that the more recent initiatives of oral communication and assessment for learning are being upheld, while some of the earlier initiatives such as literacy and numeracy presented the need for a renewed effort. A secondary internal SSE objective for this academic year was to increase staff awareness and familiarisation with the school's SSE programme along with its successes and challenges. To aid this familiarisation, a poster was designed recounting the school's SSE progress to date. These posters are on view in the Staff room and a digital version will be made available to staff as part of the new teacher induction process next year. A brief presentation was given at the February staff meeting to update staff members on the progress of SSE this year. The details of the student survey were outlined in order to keep staff abreast of developments.

Student Study and Revision Booklets

To address the study skills and study motivation concerns raised during the aforementioned student survey, a new initiative has been devised. This initiative involves the production of department-specific study booklets for Junior Cycle students. It is proposed that next year each subject department, with the aid of a Support for Learning department representative, designs a study booklet for their subject. A sample booklet has been designed by the geography department.

Digital Learning

The Digital Learning Team (DLT) at St Andrew's College is dedicated to implementing the [Digital Strategy for Schools](#) and developing the Digital Learning Plan (DLP) in alignment with it. To ensure its relevance and effectiveness, the DLP is reviewed and updated annually. Our focus this year was on Pillar 1 of the Strategy: Supporting the embedding of digital technologies in teaching, learning and assessment which aims to empower schools in leveraging digital transformation opportunities. By fostering digital competence and creating an effective digital education ecosystem, we strive to develop competent, critically engaged, and active learners who can excel and participate as global citizens in a digital world. Our primary objective is to empower teachers by boosting their confidence and competence in using digital tools, ensuring that all learners acquire essential digital skills. Simultaneously, we provide support to school leaders in building capacity and guiding teachers through appropriate professional learning sessions.

At the beginning of the year, all new staff received induction on how to use the school platform and VSware. The Digital Learning Team facilitated ongoing individual and group training sessions, including weekly drop-in sessions covering various topics such as Class Notebook, Teams, OneDrive, and screen sharing in the classroom using LetsView. Additionally, we updated the instructional videos and documents compiled by the Digital Learning Team in 2020/2021.

The SELFIE (Self-reflection on Effective Learning by Fostering the use of Innovative Educational technologies) tool has proved valuable in integrating digital technologies into teaching, learning, and assessment practices. The findings suggests adopting a "think big, act small" approach by setting smart targets and focusing on one or two specific areas.

Starting in September 2023, as part of the induction for incoming First Year students, we will introduce a comprehensive digital skills program. This program is structured into three categories: Basics, Productivity and Creativity, and Digital Citizenship. Each category focuses on essential skills for beginners, improving productivity and creativity, and fostering responsible technology use.

The Digital Learning Team at St Andrew's College remains dedicated to the ongoing implementation of the Digital Learning Framework and the development of the Digital Learning Plan. Through continuous professional development, ongoing support, and strategic initiatives, we are committed to ensuring that digital technologies become deeply embedded in teaching, learning, and assessment practices throughout our school community.

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:

<p>Applied Mathematics</p> <p>National Seminar 6</p>	<p>Art</p> <p>Arts in J Cycle Elective Workshop</p> <p>LC Art Specification Seminar</p>	<p>Classics</p> <p>JCT Classics Workshop</p>
<p>CSPE</p> <p>JC – Approaches to Planning a Unit of Learning for Strand One JC CSPE</p>	<p>English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC – Comparative Study • LC – Composition • Macbeth – Thinking about and revising the play • Active AFL Strategies in a Mixed Ability Classroom • Handling Hopkins – Teaching the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins 	<p>French</p> <p>DP Catégorie 2 Français B</p>
<p>Graphics</p> <p>Graphics Workshop</p>	<p>SFL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voice Recognition for Schools • Inclusion and Wellbeing for the child with Dyspraxia/DCD • Teaching Organisational Skills at Post-Primary Level • The Dyslexias: Origins and Interventions • Working Memory in the Classroom 	<p>SPHE</p> <p>JC SPHE – An introduction to the updated JC SPHE Specification 2023</p>
<p>TOK</p> <p>DP Category 2 Theory of Knowledge Workshop</p>		

Significant Student Achievements

Trinity College Entrance Exhibition Award

Trinity Entrance Exhibition awards were awarded to the following seven past pupils: Martha Bolger Webb (Class of 2020), Karlo Vidovic (Class of 2021), and Aoife Haines, Elisha Keogh, Martha Prendergast, Leah Rossiter and Moss Simington all from Class of 2022.

UCD Ad Astra Award was awarded to Olivia McKeivitt (Class of 2021).

UCD Entrance Scholars (Academic High Achievers) awards were awarded to Sarah Forbes (Class of 2021), and to the following students from the Class of 2022: Leela Brook, Callum Hewat, Robert Hough, Shireen Kamali, Samuel Lucas, Laoise McGuinness, Evan Naughton, Thomas O'Brien, Robert Priestly, Shiv Suresh and Phillip Talbot.

BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2023

The BT Young Scientist and Technology exhibition 2023 took place in January at the RDS with our school having much success.

Weichen Huang (Third Year) was awarded the Stripe special award and came first in his Intermediate Individual category.

Alisha Manoj (Third Year) won the EPA Special Award and was awarded first place in her Intermediate Individual category. In addition, Alisha was invited to attend the 2023 BT Young Scientist Business Bootcamp which took place in March.

Chess

The St Andrew's College Chess Club had a very busy year this year. Unfortunately, many of the regular chess events, such as the Millfield International Chess Tournament, the LSCA Leinster Chess Leagues, and Chess Z Chess events did not resume after Covid-19. However, that did not stop us from organising a number of our own chess activities.

The main weekly meetings of the Chess Club were as follows:

- Lunchtime Chess every Monday
- Intermediate/Advanced Coaching every Tuesday Lunchtime
- Online Chess every Thursday evening at 7.30pm on the platform LiChess.org

It was great being able to return to weekly Monday chess meetings. These proved incredibly popular, with attendance of 50-70 students from all year groups every week. During Covid-19, we moved the chess club online on Thursday evenings, and due to popular demand, this was continued every week this academic year with approximately ten students participating on average each week.

Due to the significant growth in the chess club this year, a chess committee was set in January 2023 for a one year term.

Robotics Club (First Lego League)

First Lego League is a global competition designed as an introduction to robotics for First to Transition Year students. The competition is made up of Regional Rounds, where teams then qualify for a National Round, which is the qualifier for the world finals.

This year the theme was Superpowered, focussing on renewable energy. The year started off with an Open Day on the 12 October, where Learn-It (the organisation that co-ordinates the event in Ireland) came into school and led a taster session for students. Five teams emerged to represent the school in the regional rounds.

UCD Regional Round

The First Year Team, and Team Uno went to UCD in February 2023 to partake in their regional round. Both teams did very well with Team Uno winning the trophy for the Best Robot Game and the First Year Team winning the Best Robot Design trophy. Unfortunately, the two teams in UCD regionals narrowly missed out on qualifying for Nationals.

Monaghan Regional Round

Spaceoddities, the Robotanists and The Primes attended the Combi-Lift Global HQ in Monaghan which took place in March. It was a very competitive day but also very successful as Spaceoddities won the Monaghan Regional Tournament, which earned them a place in the National Finals and the Robotanists won the Best Robot Design trophy. They also qualified for the National Finals through a wildcard.

All Ireland National Finals

The students in Spaceoddities and the Robotanists represented the College at the All Ireland National Finals at the Crowne Plaza Dublin Airport Hotel in March which made up a total of twenty four teams. St Andrew's College was the only school to have two teams qualify for the event. Spaceoddities finished in 9th place in the Robot Game and finished 11th place overall. The Robotanists finished 12th place overall. They were excellent results for all involved as well as a great learning experience.

The teams continued to meet on Wednesdays and Fridays, trying out new designs and tricks that they observed at the All Irelands, learning how to use different sensors and motors, all in preparation for next year. The theme for 2023-2024 has recently been launched and is called 'Masterpiece'. We will have to wait until next year to find out what that means.

Competitive Coding and Algorithmic Problem Solving Club

This is a newly formed, student-led Club at St Andrew's College. Pioneered by Transition Year student Weichen Huang, the club meets at lunchtime on Thursdays. The club aims to promote and improve the College's STEM offering building on the coding opportunities afforded to students that partake in First Lego League and want to take their coding skills to the next level. In the competitive coding club, we aim to design fast and efficient algorithms to solve problems in a contest-based setting. In doing so, we will also begin to understand many fascinating areas in the field of computer science and mathematics that are typically reserved for university, along with teaching basic coding skills to those that want to give it a go and learn a new skill.

Bebras Challenge

The Bebras Computing Challenge which is run in Ireland by the Irish Computer Society, introduces computational thinking and computer science to students from 6-18 years, by allowing them to solve interactive tasks online. The aim of Bebras is to get students all over the world excited about computing. The Challenge was held over three weeks in November. We had four students that took part in the challenge. They found it to be a good, interesting challenge and learned a lot from the experience.

EU CodeWeek TY Hackathon

The EU Code Week Transition Year Hackathon took place in October in AWS Think Big Space in Tallaght. The College entered one team into the event, which was made up of Weichen Huang, Yitian Chen, Robert Boles and Stanislev Stamenov. Our team looked at designing an app to help people with hearing impairments. They worked on it throughout the day and pitched their idea at the end. Our team came third with their pitch and Robert Boles received a special prize for a presentation on how to use a program called figma.com.

Young Economist of the Year

The Young Economist of the Year competition is an inquiry-based research competition for students of First to Sixth Year in the area of Economics. The competition is sponsored by the PDST in association with the Irish Economics Association (IEA), Maynooth University, NUI Galway, UCD, UCC, Trinity College, Limerick University, the Central Bank of Ireland, and the Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service (IGEES). St Andrews College had thirteen entries this year from all year groups, First to Sixth Year. Projects are initially categorised as Participation, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Gold medal projects are eligible to win further awards, such as first place in their year, or one of the special interest prizes at the national awards ceremony, which took place on the 28 April.

Our medal results were as follows:

- 3 Silver Medal Awards
- 10 Gold Medal Awards.

9 of these 10 gold medalists went on to win further prizes. They were as follows:

Best Use of Data Award: Sponsored by the Central Statistics Office

Winner: Alexia d'Arcy and Keelin O'Carroll (Transition Year)

Project: The Irish housing crisis: An issue of supply or demand?

1st Place in Second Year

Winner: Rory Kinsman

Project: Why did electricity prices in Ireland increase by so much in 2022?

1st Place in Third Year

Winner: Sophie O'Connor

Project: An investigation and comparison of the Japanese and Irish fiscal policies

2nd Place in Third Year

Winner: Hugo Griffin

Project: Are National incentives to reduce carbon emissions likely to harm global trade

3rd Place in Third Year

Winner: Kiku Nakajima

Project: How Covid-19 affected Ireland's airline industry

1st Place in Fifth Year

Winner: ZiQi Ma

Project: How Inflation Affects Economic Inequality?

3rd Place in Fifth Year

Winner: Valentina Baratta

Project: How can renewables tackle current inflation crisis? EU case study.

(Joint) 3rd Place in Sixth Year

Winner: Issac Lee, Luke Yang, Mathis Zeissig

Project: What are the Factors Influencing NBA Ticket Pricing

(Joint) 3rd Place in Sixth Year

Winner: Fabiola Grimmeisen, Mona Manno, Marlene Minch

Project: Croatia and the Euro

More information about the event, including the programme, and a recording of the prizegiving can be found on the official website www.youngeconomist.ie

Prize Giving Ceremony

850 people attended our annual Academic Prize-Giving Ceremony on Monday, 21 November in the O'Reilly Hall, UCD. The Guest of Honour was Ms Clare O'Malley, a past pupil of the College, Class of 2006. Clare is a prizewinning Actor and has performed in the Abbey, the Gate, the Gaiety, The Olympia and Smock Alley theatres in Dublin, at the Irish Repertory Theatre off Broadway in New York City and as part of the Delaware Theatre Company. Clare delivered a captivating and engaging speech in which she talked about her time in St Andrew's College and her journey to becoming a professional actor. She highlighted the importance of hard work and being adaptable, of trusting those who inspire and challenge you and to trust in your ability to carve out a life that works best for you.

Mr Rob Micallef (Acting Principal), spoke about the wide variety of academia, sports, arts and extra-curricular activities that are part of the school programme and admired the excellent work ethic and resilience of our students and the dedication and commitment of those who guide them. Mr Micallef congratulated all our academic prize-winners for their exceptional efforts but also drew attention to the fact that what we provide in the College is not just access to academic excellence but rather an all-round education so that our students leave us well prepared to take their place as global citizens with a deep sense of responsibility of citizenship, the school theme for 2022/23.

Mr Micallef also noted the tireless work of SACA and the PTA in representing, assisting and connecting College parents and past pupils. Mrs Hilary McCowen Rabbette (Chair of the Board) welcomed Clare O'Malley and delivered highlights of Clare's professional career and thanked Clare for giving so generously of her time to our Prizegiving Ceremony 2022. Alumni Cups, presented by SACA, were awarded to Lana Kaminska Knight and Eoghan O'Mahony.

Remembrance Service

The annual Remembrance Ceremony took place on Friday, 11 November 2022. The ceremony, commemorates all those who lost their lives in both World Wars and, in particular, St Andrew's College students who made the ultimate sacrifice. Guests in attendance included Mrs Hilary McCowen Rabbette (Chair of the Board), Dr Krysia Lynch and Mrs Sandra Tiernan (Board of Management), Mr John Ingram (Advisor to the Board of Governors) and Mr Graham Weir (President of SACA). The Head Boy and Head Girl read out the roll of honour and wreaths were placed at the memorial. The College was delighted to have the new plaque, which was unveiled last year, installed on the wall beside the memorial.

Holocaust Memorial Day

As part of the HETI crocus project, the 6IB history class planted yellow crocuses to remember the victims of the Holocaust. The crocuses bloomed in time for 27 January which was International Holocaust Memorial Day.

In November We Remember

November is a month for remembering and in 2022, an early morning service took place during period one. In the month of November, we take time to remember those whom we've met on life's journey and who have now passed on to eternal life. We may be remembering someone very dear to us – a mother, father, brother or sister, a grandparent, a dear friend or relation, - and we may also call to mind people who walked alongside us in life's journey for only a brief time, but who touched our lives deeply. We remember those who have died during the past year, and all our loved ones who passed on to their eternal reward. Students were given an opportunity for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2023 took place from Monday 13 to Wednesday 15 March with a variety of activities taking place each day. The Irish department was decorated, and posters were hung up to promote the events of the week. Announcements were made at assemblies to remind students of the events taking place. On Monday 13 March, the choir, organised by the Music department, performed an Irish song, Mo Ghile Mear, at the morning assembly. First Year's projects were displayed in house area one as part of Comórtas Tish Parsons. Transition Year students watched the award-winning film 'An Cailín Ciúin'. As part of the Comórtas Scannánaíochta, Fifth Year students screened several short films that were written, acted and recorded by the students. On Tuesday, 14 March, Second Year students created posters, based on old Irish proverbs, which were displayed outside of their classrooms in house area one. The annual Céilí Mór took place at lunchtime in the Senior Hall.

On Wednesday, 15 March, Transition Year students participated in a debate as Gaeilge. The Transition Year culture class performed their first traditional music public performance in the Senior Hall. First Year students competed in Comórtas Litriúcháin (spelling bee) and a table quiz was held for Third Year students.

Junior and Senior Debate Club

Junior Debate Club met on Tuesday lunchtimes and was open to all First to Third Year students. Senior Debate Club met on Thursday lunchtimes and was open to all Transition to Sixth Year students. Both clubs saw exponential growth this year, with sixty six students engaging with Senior Debate Club and fifty one students engaging with Junior Debate Club throughout the year. Throughout the year, the clubs met weekly, engaging in mini debates and various public speaking/debate practice exercises. In addition to this, there were numerous competitions that the students took part in throughout the year.

UCD Junior Debate Competition

This is a competition run by UCD's two debating societies, Literary and Historical Society and Law Society for First to Third year students. The two teams representing the College were as follows; Team A - Alisha Manoj and Zahra Nassiri (Third Year) and Team B - Hanna Berhanu and Finn O'Donaill (Second Year). Both teams progressed through the first two rounds with Team A making it through to the final of the competition which took place in March in the Sutherland School of Law, UCD.

Trinity PhilSpeaks Pro-Am

In October, Erin Egan (Transition Year) and Alice Papon (Fifth Year) represented the College at the annual Philspeaks Pro-Am event held in the Graduate Memorial Building in Trinity College. Alice Papon, was selected to go forward to the Gold Finals. The motion for this was 'This house would rather be an astronaut than a cowboy'.

Leinster Schools Debate Competition

This is a competition run by UCD's two debating societies, Literary and Historical Society and Law Society for Transition to Sixth Year students. Schools are allowed to enter a maximum of five teams of two students. We entered the maximum five teams, three of which made it through to the Octo-Finals held in January. The students performed very well but unfortunately, neither team made it through to the next round.

Concern Debates

The Concern Debate is a competition organised and ran for the past 30 years by the charity Concern, with topics focused on education, gender equality, health and nutrition, emergencies, livelihood and climate and environment. Our teams finished 46th in the League stages out of 184 schools. This result put them through to the knockout stages of the competition in January where they did not progress further but did an excellent job representing the College.

EYP: European Youth Parliament

An EYP Session is split into three distinct parts and takes place over a weekend; Teambuilding, Committee Work and General Assembly. The basic idea of a session is that the delegates come together in Committees, with each Committee discussing a different European-related topic. St Andrew's College sent a delegation to the Dublin regional session of this event on the weekend of Friday 21 to Sunday 23 October in Holy Child Killiney. There were ten committees in total, debating issues ranging from fast fashion to tackling period poverty. The debate was represented by five Transition Year delegates: Erin Egan, Amelia Hoggett, Elsa Moran, Fiala Ní Mhurchú and Sadhbh Sheehy. The delegates had a fantastic time and are all eager to partake in other EYP sessions in the future.

National Junior Mace Debating Competition

This event is a one day, mace debating style competition. All motions are unprepared, meaning that participants are told the motion 20 minutes before the debate starts during which time, they have to prepare their 5 minute speech. We were represented by Second Year students Hanna Berhanu and Finn O'Donaill and Third Year students Isabel Jordan-Beristain and Elizabeth Manzocchi.

The event took place in UCD on Saturday, 28 January. Hanna and Finn finished in 7th place. In the individual speaker tab, Finn finished an incredibly impressive 8th place. Transition Year students Elsie Bath, Amelia Hoggett, Amy Rabbette and Aylin Ustuner, were Junior Judges for the competition and also helped with the organisation of the competition. As Finn and Hanna did so incredibly well, they qualified to represent Ireland at the International Championship for Young Debaters (see below).

Oxford Schools Debate Competition

The Irish Regional Round of this prestigious International Debating Competition took place in January at the Institute of Education. St Andrew's College was represented by Transition and Fifth Year students. Whilst the students did not progress to the International Round in Oxford, they spoke very well and learned a huge amount from the experience.

Senior Mace Debate Competition

The senior debate club took part in the annual, Literary and Historical Society Mace Debate Competition in UCD in February. Team A placed 1st, 3rd and 2nd in their respective debates. Team B placed 3rd, 2nd and 2nd and Rory Rusnak (individual entry) placed 2nd, 4th and 3rd.

PhilSpeaks Schools Mace

This event took place in Trinity College in February. We were represented by one team of Transition Year students, John Celano and Amelia Hogget.

ICYD: International Competition for Young Debaters

The International Competition for Young Debaters, a global British Parliamentary debating competition took place in April in Cambridge University. Second Year students, Hanna Berhanu and Finn O'Donaill travelled as one of six teams representing Ireland after qualifying earlier in the year at the National Junior Mace Debating Competition in UCD. It is a huge achievement to qualify for this competition but Finn and Hanna managed to place an incredible joint 8th overall with over 2000 teams from all over the world entered, to finish in the top ten is truly remarkable.

The Great Debate

As the competition season drew to a close, the Debate Committee organised a Debating Competition within the school for all students, regardless of their debating experience. This proved to be a very successful initiative, with lots of students from all year groups signing up to take part, many of which had never taken part in any debating competition, or even the lunchtime debate clubs throughout the year. Overall, it proved to be a very successful event and something to build on for next year.

Model United Nations

Model United Nations (MUN) ran throughout the year with meetings taking place three afternoons per week. MUN is a simulation of the United Nations where students research and debate topics of global significance from the perspective of different countries. The meetings are organised and chaired by students. A key aspect of MUN is the older students learning leadership skills and using these skills to run the meetings and to teach MUN to the younger students. St Andrew's College has been doing MUN since 1983 and has hosted our own four day conference, St Andrew's International Model United Nations (SAIMUN), since 1988. In recent years, many other Irish schools are hosting their own day and a half conference which has led to a busy MUN calendar this year for the students. At the start of the year, students from Transition, Fifth and Sixth Year took part in MUN. Third Year students got involved just after Christmas and some Second Year students were involved in SAIMUN which was held during the first week of the Easter holidays in the Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoghaire. This year, in total, 293 participated in MUN.

Terenure College MUN Represented by students from Transition to Sixth Year. We were awarded a Highly Commended Delegation award and two Distinguished Delegate awards.

Royal Russell School Represented by students from Fifth and Sixth Year, we received fourteen individual distinguished delegate awards. Our delegations representing the United Kingdom and Ukraine also both won an Outstanding Delegation award. This is the first time in forty years that any school has won two of the top three awards. In the Model International Court of Justice our student, Ava Donohue was register. We also had three judges in the court, Anna Moore, Amelie Rose Tiernan and Joshua Ryan.

THIMUN Singapore Admin St Andrew's College is affiliated with The Hague International MUN (THIMUN). As well as the conference in The Hague, THIMUN organise The Singapore MUN. This is an online conference which took place from Monday 14 – Friday 18 November. As it was Singapore time the thirty students arrived into school at 4.30am to participate in the MUN. This year we also had two Transition Year students, Aidan Leahy and Patrick Fanning who were able to fill in on the highly technical Security Council representing Brazil and Gabon respectively.

Rathdown School MUN Represented by 40 students from Transition to Sixth Year, they won five individual Distinguished Delegate awards. We had three committee chairs: Hugh Brownlee, Amelia Flanagan and Pepjin Brama.

The Hague Model United Nations (THIMUN) Represented by 18 students from Fifth and Sixth Year. This year we were privileged to have two student officers at the conference, Ava Donohue as a committee chair and very impressively Sarah Brownlee (Head Girl), was appointed to the position of deputy secretary general. Sarah was part of a group of six students tasked with running the entire conference of three thousand students. This is the first time we have ever had a student in such a role and our whole group were very proud to see Sarah in this position throughout the week. Aside from the delegates, two of our group, Billy Williams and Alice Papon were members of the press team who published a daily conference newspaper. The Hague MUN does not present awards.

Blackrock College MUN Represented by 20 students, mainly from Transition Year. We were awarded four Distinguished Delegate awards.

Wesley College MUN Represented by 27 students including ten Third Year students. This was the first MUN for Third Years and we were delighted that Zahra Nassiri won a Best Delegate award as long with Transition Year student, Robert Talbot.

St Andrew's College Model United Nations The 34th St Andrew's College Model United Nations (SAIMUN) 2023, took place from Monday, 3 April to Thursday, 6 April. Almost five hundred students and advisors attended the conference, representing over fifty countries. Schools travelled from many countries to Ireland including Ethiopia, France, South Africa, Turkey and USA. For the first time since 2019, the conference was held in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire. Following an opening speech by Mr Robert Micallef and some excellent musical performances, we were incredibly lucky to have Ambassador Orla Tunney open our conference. Reaffirming the UN Charter preamble, she urged us all "to advance and uphold these principles" of justice and respect, of practising tolerance and living together in peace, and of uniting our strength during our lifetimes. Inspired, over the four days delegates were introduced to, and began debating. Committee Chairs oversaw proceedings. Administration and IT made sure everything, in our first paperless conference, worked without a hitch. The executive team led by Secretaries- General, Myrtle Collins and Martha McCutcheon, Deputy Secretaries-General, Pepijn Brama and Lucy Simpson and The Presidents of The General Assembly Sarah Brownlee and Rachel Flood gave excellent leadership. At the closing ceremony, which was sponsored by the PTA, the awards were presented including multiple awards for the school. The highlights being, a Highly Commended Delegation award for the eight students representing Japan and an Outstanding Delegation award for the eight students representing China, as well as many individual awards. Just under two hundred St Andrew's College students were in the conference.

Wicklow Education Together Secondary School ran their first MUN in April. We had two Transition Year students, Amelia Hoggett and Aidan Leahy representing the College as Committee Chairs. Also, in April, High School ran their own MUN for the first time in many years. We had eleven students, mostly from Third Year, representing Argentina and Malta. Fifth Year student, Zara Griffin was a Committee Chair and Third Year student, Zahra Nassiri won a Best Delegate award. On 21 May, we held our End of Year MUN Awards Dinner which was sponsored by the PTA. The dinner was held in the Senior Hall with presentation of certificates to all of the students, some musical performances and a reflection of the year from the Sixth Year students. This was a lovely evening and a fine way to finish MUN for the year.

Intercultural Week

Intercultural Week took place from Monday 14 to Friday 18 November. Many students participated and assisted with the running of many diverse events intended to showcase our international student body and the diverse cultures of our school.

Each morning, students were welcomed to school by their peers and teachers announcing morning messages in a variety of languages over the intercom. Fusion music was sung in assemblies to different year groups throughout the week. Activities that took place in the Senior and Junior Halls included whole school karaoke, language kiosks (learn a few words in a new language), IB International afternoon tea, European quizzes, Just Dance competitions, bake sales, USA and Canada games, Grúpa Ceoil agus Damhsa, games in the library, African inspired activities and more. It was a fun filled week with students embracing the cultures celebrated each day.

International Night

The 2022 International Night took place on Wednesday, 14 November, and was a superb success. We had a record number of applications this year with over 155 entry forms from the Senior School showing interest in International Night and Intercultural week.

The format for International Night was an Opening Ceremony with a welcome address from Mr Rob Micallef (Acting Principal), and the evening was presented by our Head Boy, Jude McCrea and Head Girl, Sarah Brownlee. It comprised of a colourful ceremony of flags and a wonderful musical and dance performance, followed by the opening of the food stalls and activity booths.

43 senior school staff and 8 junior staff members volunteered to assist in the running of International Night. Between student involvement, staff assistance, food stall managers, musical performances and general attendance the total number involved was approximately 790.

Due to the absence of International Night over the last number of years, many students and staff had no experience of this much-loved school event. The 'promotions committee' worked tirelessly to advertise the event in October and encourage students to get involved by communicating the importance of the event in our school calendar. As a result, 145 proud students from the Junior and Senior School walked in the ceremony of flags representing 43 countries.

Food stalls from 19 different countries displayed an amazing array of food and drink from all over the world. We had food from a wide range of countries showcasing their national cuisine which included China, France, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, the USA, Vietnam and Wales. After the two-year break, a large number of regular participants returned with more enthusiasm and excitement than ever before and as a result the atmosphere was electric. Over 67 parents worked together for weeks in advance to prepare their food stalls, some of them forging new relationships and all of them promising to return again next year. One parent from the Spanish stall remarked it was his 12th year participating but an emotional one, as it was his last.

The stage and school were decorated by the 'decoration committee' with an impressive display of art on every corridor and every empty wall. The postcard competition entries brought some colour to the newly constructed walls in the canteen. A generous donation from the PTA meant we could add to our ever-growing decorations collection, which are fundamental to building the atmosphere in the school. This is something the students, staff and parents always comment on and appreciate.

Musical entertainment took the form of a collection of students and teachers dancing and playing music together in a "Trad Band". 33 students and 5 teachers took to the stage filling it with music and dance. Although it was showcasing Irish music, it was delightful to see a large number of the performers dressed in a range of national dress from the countries they represented in the parade, further adding to our international showcase. In addition, a Jazz Band of 8 students playing music outside the library before the opening ceremony and during the food fair, it was wonderful to have this lively yet calming music as a relief from the busy food fair and activity booths.

Sound and lights tech were coordinated by students and staff this year, making it a genuine St. Andrew's driven event.

PTA

The PTA continued their valuable support of the College throughout the year. The PTA commenced their programme of activities with a Uniform Sale on Saturday 3 September which was well supported. They hosted the Debs reception for the Class of 2022 in the College on the 14 September and this joyful occasion was appreciated and enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

The PTA hosted a Cyber Safety Webinar Parent Evening for First Year and P6 parents/guardians on 7 November. This was followed in April by a Talk on Anxiety in Teenagers presented by Mark Smyth, chartered senior clinical psychologist.

The PTA hosted a Christmas Social Evening in the Royal St George Yacht Club in December. The Annual Charity Lunch organised by the PTA in the Shelbourne hotel in January was a huge success and raised a substantial amount of money for its two chosen charities. The PTA Table Quiz was a most enjoyable evening in March for staff and parents with all teams contesting closely for the winning prize.

The PTA annual fundraiser, the Golf Classic at Elm Park Golf Club and Social Evening were both held in May. The PTA provided support to several school activities. These included SciFest, Junior School Performing Arts Festival, Intercultural week, Senior School Music and Dance Festival, Junior School P6 Class Graduation, MUN and the Junior School Sports Day. Students were treated to ice-cream in both Junior and Senior schools sponsored by the PTA as part of their Sports Day celebration. The PTA worked with the Junior School staff and children to create a beautiful Christmas calendar which was purchased by many Junior School families.

The staff appreciated the 'staff breakfast' hosted by the PTA as well as the 'Advent Calendar gifts' which the PTA arranged again this year. In addition, the PTA played an important role in the success of the Sixth Year Valedictory evening. They supported the event in both their generous donation and their time serving soft drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

Our Transition Year students have just returned from Uganda where they presented the PTA in the Rubrizi School with a letter and donation from the St Andrew's College PTA which hopefully signals the beginning of a flourishing partnership between the two PTAs.

Coffee mornings for all year groups were held in the first term and a coffee morning for international parents was held during intercultural week. Events such as these coffee mornings and the various social evenings provide a great opportunity for parents and guardians to come together and develop their St Andrew's network.

SACA

This year has been a breath of fresh air for SACA and the Alumni community, where all events have reverted back to in person events. Events commenced this academic year with the Annual SACA Dinner at the Clayton Hotel Ballsbridge, which was a huge success, with some wonderful speakers. The Clyde Road lunch then followed in the Royal St George Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire.

The Spring term started off in fantastic fashion, with the Annual Alumni table quiz, held at the Punch Bowl in Booterstown, where a terrific sum of money was raised for the TY Uganda Project and CHEEERS Developing Healthcare Together. The table quiz was then followed by two superb back to back events; firstly, the Annual Rugby Lunch in Wanderers Rugby Club, which again raised an incredible sum for its chosen charity and also the Celebration of 50 years of Girls Hockey in the College,

which was hosted at Old Wesley Rugby Club. Both of these events were greatly enjoyed by all attendees. A further Clyde Road Lunch was held in the Royal St George Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire, with a large attendance.

SACA attendees, were invited and attended multiple Annual Dinners, from a variety of other schools this year, which were greatly enjoyed and are a charming tradition between the various schools. The Alumni were also represented at the Annual Prizegiving ceremony in November, held in UCD, the Transition Year End of Year Ceremony, to mark the TY student award winners and the Sixth Year Valedictory Night in the College; all excellent occasions.

The SACA social media presence and communications, are being refined and enhanced all the time, to ensure that news and information is shared as far as possible to the Alumni community, as to all SACA's wonderful events.

As we come to the end of the academic year, SACA would like to wish all Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle students, the very best of luck in their exams. SACA look forward to our Annual Business event in September 2023 and then the Annual Dinner once again in October 2023, to finish the SACA year.

Financial Report

The key financial objective of the College is to ensure that adequate funding is available to carry out its educational mission, maintain and improve its existing facilities and generate sufficient funds to service existing school building loans. The financial environment is extremely challenging, there has been a significant increase in energy costs, inflation is also evident across most goods and services purchased by the College and, is also likely to give rise to salary increases in the future. The College is fully aware of the financial pressures that parents are experiencing. As a consequence, any increase in fees in the academic year 2022/23 will, insofar as possible, be minimised whilst maintaining services to our students. A major redevelopment of the campus is planned in the coming year, and this will present new funding challenges for the College.