



St Andrew's College Secondary School Annual Report June 2025

Board of Management Members

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Ms L Marshall, (TCD), BEd (QUB) **(In attendance)**

Mr I Schuster, BA (NUI), FCA, Secretary **(In attendance)**

Introduction

This report has been prepared to cover the period from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025.

School enrolment

At the beginning of the 2024–2025 school year, secondary school enrolment was 1010. Of the total, 873 were Irish nationals, 32 were US citizens, and 105 other nationalities.

Faculty

In 2024/25 there were 173 full-time and 30 part-time faculty members of which 162 are Irish citizens and 11 other nationalities. The mixture of nationalities adds to the international character of the College.

Facilities

The College buildings and grounds are owned by the College Patron – the Board of Governors. Facilities include 72 classrooms, 21 tutorial rooms, seven laboratories, a science garden, five art rooms, two home economics rooms, library, 20 resource rooms, two assembly halls, a dining hall, a sports hall, gym and an administration centre. Outdoor sports facilities include two rugby pitches, two hockey pitches, one water-based, the other sand-based and two basketball training hoops. The College has a dedicated Sixth Form Centre. It comprises two private study rooms and an open area for sixth year interaction and activities. The College also has a designated Guidance Suite, Study Centre and Additional Educational Needs (AEN) Centre. We have parking for approximately 120 cars.

College Theme

The academic year began with a Whole School Opening Service on Wednesday, 11 September where the College theme '*Responsibility; Resilience and Respect*' which emphasises our three core values, was shared with the students as the theme for the year.

New Building Programme

The new building programme was due to commence in 2022. However, the escalation in both construction costs and interest rates led to a reassessment of the overall scale and phasing of the project. A revised masterplan was agreed by the Board of Governors and planning permission for a new four storey building was submitted to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council in Q1 of 2025. Planning was granted in May 2025 but is subject to the appeals process. A final decision is expected in mid to late June.

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 (three year)
- The Transition Year Programme - compulsory for all students
- The Leaving Certificate Programme (two year)
- The International Baccalaureate – (Diploma Programme – fifth to sixth Year)

Junior Cycle Programme

The Junior Cycle is a three year programme. Students with their parent/guardian 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:

- CSPE (Civic, Social and Political Education)
- English
- Geography
- History
- Irish (except where officially exempted)
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Science
- SPHE (Social, Personal and Health 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 National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) 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 2021).

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 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 a college course**
- And 2/3 other subjects.

The following subjects are available:

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

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 one to six to ensure that all students can study at least one subject from each group. All students taking the Diploma programme must take three subjects at higher level, three 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, VShare. 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, either in person or online. 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) Christmas (full report)	Spring (brief report)	Summer (full report)
Second Year	Autumn (brief report) Christmas (full report)	Spring (brief report)	Summer (full report)
Third Year	Autumn (brief report) Christmas (full report)	Trial (marks)	Letter from Year Team
Transition Year	Autumn (marks) Christmas (full report)	February (marks)	Summer (full report)
Fifth Year/IB	Autumn (marks) Christmas (full report)	February (brief report) Spring (marks)	Summer (full report)
Sixth Year	Autumn (marks) Christmas (full report)	Trial (LC marks)	
IB	Trial (IB full report)	Predicted Grades (IB)	

Examination Results

The following numbers of students took part in State Examinations in 2024:

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

We were delighted to celebrate the wonderful, International Baccalaureate and Leaving Certificate results which saw 17 of our students achieving 625 points in the Leaving Certificate with average points being 500. The average points scored per candidate in the IB was 34.15 points.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The following activities took place in the current academic year:

Art Portfolio Club	Badminton	Ballet
Basketball	Chess Club	Choir
Competitive Coding Club	Debating Club Senior and Junior	Drumming
Environmental Group	French Speaking Debating Club	Gaisce – The President’s Award
Grapevine (College Magazine)	Green Schools Committee	Guitar and Ukulele Group
Hockey	Intercultural Week	International Economic Olympiad
Instrumental Lessons	Jazz Ensemble	Linguistics Olympiad Club
Maths Club	Model United Nations (MUN)	Music Technology Club
Orchestra	Robotics and Coding Club/First Lego League	Rugby
Sailing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keelboat Team Racing Powerboat Licence Course 	Speech and Drama	Strength and Conditioning
Student Council	Student Literacy Committee	Traditional Irish Music Group
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

Boys Basketball

The Senior Boys enjoyed another excellent season but lost to Coláiste Éanna in the Dublin A League final 63-55. Reaching that stage of the competition meant they qualified for the All Ireland playoffs. The All Ireland's were held in Tralee in January and after an easy win against Coláiste Choilm, Cork 71-36, they followed it up with a superb 57-56 win against Mercy Mounthawk, Kerry. They lost out in the semi-final to St Mary's, Portlaoise in the National Basketball Arena on a final score of 51-46.

The U16 Boys team lost out narrowly in the All Ireland Cup 54-50 against rivals, Coláiste Éanna. They also lost out in the Dublin quarter-final 49-48 in a close fought game away to St Fintan's High School.

The U15 Boys Cup team played three teams in their pool stage, losing to Coláiste Éanna 41-21, but bounced back with two victories over St Vincent's, Castleknock 39-29, and Malahide Community School 43-31. This unfortunately wasn't enough to progress any further in the competition. In the league they topped their pool before going on to finish 4th place in the Dublin Division A which resulted in their qualification for the All-Ireland playoffs against Castleisland Community College. With a number of injuries to some key players, the hosts won out on a scoreline of 48-28.

The First Year Boys team topped their pool in the Dublin Division A. Unfortunately, a single basket loss to Belvedere College in a home Dublin quarter-final, ended their season.

Representatives

Crosby O'Connor (second-year) was selected for the Basketball Ireland U14 Dublin South Academy side while Harley Bruncker, TJ Marfil (second year) and Conor Bates (third year) were selected for the Basketball Ireland U15 Dublin Academy side that trained monthly throughout the season. Piers Postma (fifth year) was selected to represent Ireland U18's in the European Championships taking place this summer in Romania.

Girls Basketball

The Senior Girls were promoted to Division A this season. In the league they were very competitive, recording wins against Loreto Foxrock 46-34 and a 69-45 victory over Loreto Bray. In the Cup they fought hard against Mount Anville School before being beaten 43-34. The U16 Girls team also moved up to the Division A but lost out to Loreto Foxrock, Loreto Dalkey and Loreto Bray in their league encounters, while a strong Dalkey team knocked them out of the Cup 52-29. The U15 Girls Cup team failed to progress out of their pool in December, losing to a strong Malahide Community School team 50-8. A further loss to Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock 37-27 was followed up by a good win over Mount Sackville School 39-25. In the league they failed to progress past the pool stages. The First Year Girls team began their league campaign with a win over Manor House School 20-11 but failed to progress following a 33-24 loss to The Teresians School, Holy Faith School 48-16 and Malahide Community School 35-20. In the U14 Cup they faced some difficult opposition, losing to Loreto Dalkey 50-19 and Mount Anville School 41-26 before overcoming Mount Sackville School 43-28.

Representatives

Síofra Vandamme (Transition Year) and Scarlett Livingston (fifth year) were selected to the U17 Irish Academy. Peaches Livingston (second year) was selected to be a part of the Dublin U15 panel while

Chigozirim Ezenwa (second year) was selected to the Basketball Ireland U14 Dublin South Academy side.

Madrid Trip

A group of 23 Senior Boys and Girls travelled to Madrid, Spain during the second week of the Easter holidays for five days of sightseeing, training, games and even a theme park. Both teams trained at the practice facility used by professional side CB Getafe before playing our hosts on two occasions over the course of the week with the boys winning one and drawing the other, while the girls won the first game before losing the second.

Girls Cricket

A total of six teams were entered into various leagues this year. Due to the short summer term, most matches were played in the three week period after the Easter holidays. Senior 1 failed to make it out of their group after two losses and one win. Senior 2 made it to the semi-finals where they lost to a very strong Wesley College side. Junior 1 unfortunately did not make it out of their group. Junior 2 narrowly missed out on a semi-final place due to St Vincent's Dundalk getting a higher cumulative run count. Our First Year team qualified for the Cup final in which they lost to Wesley College.

Boys Cricket

This year we fielded a Senior Team which consisted mainly of Transition Year students. Our Minor Boys team reached the semi-final of the Cup where they lost out by eight runs to The King's Hospital. On the day of the semi-final however, five players had exams and were unable to play. The U-13's reached the final of the Cup where they lost to Adamstown.

Golf

Dylan Holmes (sixth year) qualified for the All Ireland Schools competition shooting a round of two under par in Old Conna Golf Club to win the qualifier by a shot. Aaron Hickey, Henry Walsh (Transition Year), Theo Phelan (fifth year) and Rory Vaughan (sixth year) also competed. Dylan went on to compete in the All Ireland's held in Milltown Golf Club and was three shots off the winning score of -2. He successfully won the West Of Ireland Amateur Championship in Rosses Point, Sligo during the Easter holidays. Past winners of this competition are Pdraig Harrington, Shane Lowry, Rory McIlroy and Des Smyth.

In the Leinster qualifiers, Ella-May Spain (sixth year) competed in the Senior Girls category in Lucan but failed to advance any further. In the Junior Boys event, Tom Murray, Ryan Whelan (second year) and Cameron McConnell (Transition Year) all posted respectable scores in a field of 65 but failed to progress.

In the Junior Girls competition held in Bray Golf Club, Amy O'Connor (second year) and Alex Kearney (Transition Year) both played very well against very tough competition. On the gross cards Alex and Amy finished 5th and 6th place respectively, which is more of a reflection of how well they played on the day in Bray.

Girls Hockey

The season commenced with the Senior and Junior Girls pre-season trip to Holland in August where they trained and played a number of matches. The Senior A Girls, finished 5th place in their pool, failing to progress into the quarter-final stages of the competition by one point. In the Cup they went out in

the quarter-finals to the eventual winners Loreto Beaufort. In a hard fought game, which could have gone either way, the girls were eliminated by a late goal going out 1-2. Our other Senior sides all failed to progress through their league pools. Our Senior Girls competed in two indoor tournaments, winning the Rob Abbott Invitational Indoor Hockey competition. The team beat The King's Hospital in the semi-finals and then won in a shootout against a very strong Strathearn School team featuring three U18 Ulster players. Yasmin Murray (Transition Year) won Player of the Tournament. In the Senior Girls Indoor Competition hosted by Ireland Hockey in Gormanstown, we finished as runners up to The High School.

Following a strong start to the season, the Junior A team finished with two tough losses. Firstly, against Muckcross School in the Cup going down 1-0 and then in the league playoffs with a 2-0 loss against Mount Anville School. The Junior C team were the only other side to advance from their pool but failed to progress past the quarter-finals. Our Minor A team lost 6-1 to a very strong Mount Sackville School team in the quarter-final of the Cup. Our Minor D team had success in reaching the semi-final stages of their league competition only to be convincingly beaten by Rosemont A team.

The First Year A team won the 8 a-side A league beating Mount Sackville School in a penalty shootout final. In the Cup, they went out 1-0 to Loreto Beaufort in the first round and finished joint 2nd place in the league. Our 1st Year B and D teams reached the final of their respective leagues. Sadly, the B team lost the final 1-0 against East Glendalough A team. The D team drew their final with Mount Temple B team. The shootout went down to sudden death with nine penalties taken per team. Unfortunately, Mount Temple came out as eventual winners.

Representatives

Lienkies de Klerk, Ella Galligan, Daisy Ovington and Emilia Walsh (third year) were selected to play on the Leinster U-16's team and won the Interprovincials competition 2-1 against Ulster in the final. Abbie O'Connor (sixth year) played on the Leinster U-18's which reached the final but were beaten 3-0 by Ulster. All five girls received Irish trials with Abbie, Daisy, Ella and Emilia making the squads. The four girls travelled to play a three match series in Lilleshall against England over February half term before the three under 16's made the squad for three matches over Easter against Austria, Germany, and Holland in Hamburg. All four girls are hopeful of making the squads for the European Championships in Holland during the summer.

Boys Hockey

The Senior Boys participated in a pre-season trip to Liverpool where they played a couple of matches against local opposition as well as training. In the All Irelands in October, they were undefeated with four wins and a draw from their five games. A draw against Banbridge Academy, who went on to win the competition, saw the team finish 2nd place in their pool on goal difference. In the semi-final of the Herbie Sharman Trophy, they beat Midleton College 2-1 and Wallace High School on the same scoreline in the final to win the Herbie Sharman Trophy for the first time.

In the league, the Senior A team were nine wins from nine up to the final game of the season but lost to Wesley College. The team also lost to Wesley College 1-0 in the Cup semi-final. It was a disappointing finish to a great season but injuries and absences played a huge role in those final two games. In the week leading up to Christmas the Senior A Boys travelled to Abu Dhabi for a week to compete in the World Schools Festival. It was a fantastic trip where they won their matches and also had the opportunity to experience the culture.

The Senior B team had a tough start to their league campaign, losing against Sutton Park and Sandford Park and drew the Wesley College B team. However, they recovered well to finish mid-table in Division 2 and qualified for the Senior B Cup final where they beat the Wesley College B team in the final of the Des Buggy Trophy. An equaliser with the final touch of the game brought the game to 1 v 1's, finally winning 1-0.

The Junior A team finished 3rd place in Division 1A and reached the Cup final where they lost 2-0 to a very strong Wesley College side who boasted 12 Irish U-16 internationals in their squad of 16 players. After a slow start to the season, the Junior B team gathered momentum as the season went on to finish 4th place in Division 2A. The Junior C team reached the final of the Junior C league for the second year in a row where they were beaten by Skerries Community College who had an Irish U-18 player among their ranks. The game finished 6-1 to Skerries with their international player scoring all 6 goals.

The Minor Boys had a strong season finishing 2nd place in the league going out to Wesley College 2-0 in the Cup quarter-final in a tightly fought game. The Minor B team enjoyed a great season and rounded off a fine year by topping Division 2B.

The U-13 team lost out 4-0 to Wesley College in the Cup and were beaten 2-0 by St Columba's College in the semi-final of the league.

Representatives

The following students were selected for the Leinster U-18 team: Toby Slye O'Connell (Transition Year), Guy Sheehy O'Shea, Henry Rhys Thomas (fifth year) and Jacob Davy, William Knatchbull (sixth year). The following students were selected for the Leinster U-16 team: Isaac Bell, Morgan Duignan and Charlie Trotter (third year). Toby Slye O'Connell and William Knatchbull are currently on the Irish U-18 panel, while Charlie Trotter has been selected to the Irish U-16 panel.

Rugby

The Senior Cup Team (SCT) travelled to the south of France for a week long training and team building camp last August with 33 players in the squad. Early wins over Newpark Comprehensive School 55-5, Glenstal Abbey 19-15 and Rainey School 14-0 set them up for a good league campaign. They qualified through the pool to set up a semi-final meeting against The High School which they won convincingly 43-24. In a closely fought final against Temple Carrig School they came through 20-17, lifting the league trophy for the first time. In the Vinnie Murray Cup, they lost to Presentation College, Bray 28-8 in the first week back after the Christmas break. In the Vinnie Murray Plate, a win against Wilsons Hospital set up a final against The High School which they won 27-19 to round off a good year.

The Junior Cup Team (JCT) also started the season well with an away trip and win over Rainey School 19-10. In the league, they enjoyed wins against Skerries Community College 24-19, Temple Carrig School 42-20, St Pat's Navan 55-7, The King's Hospital 15-5, St Fintan's High School 42-12 as well as a 24-24 draw with CBS Naas. This qualified them for the league semi-finals where they easily beat Skerries Community College 64-10. In the final, they were beaten by The High School who came in off the back of a strong Cup run to the Father Godfrey Cup final, a competition we had exited in the second round going down 19-10 to Temple Carrig School.

Representatives

Serge Broughton (fifth year) was selected for the U-19 summer panel while James O'Toole (Transition Year) was selected for the Leinster U-17 summer panel.

Girls Rugby

The JCT Girls beat Wesley College 45-15 and Dundalk Grammar 45-12 to reach the semi-final of the Junior Cup. There, they were beaten by a strong St Mary's Arklow side going down 26-37.

Representatives

Isabelle Scanlan (Transition Year) and Ivy Lyons (third year) were both selected for the Leinster U17 Metro side.

Swimming

A strong team travelled to the National Aquatic Centre in February for the Leinster Senior Schools Swimming Gala. On the day we had a number of our swimmers achieve personal bests with a few notable successes. Eva Butler (first year) took gold in the 100m Fly with a huge PB, winning comfortably by four seconds. She also took silver in her 200m Individual Medley with another PB. Daíre Finlayson (Transition Year) took silver in the 100m Breaststroke while Ian Middleton (fifth year) took two silver medals in the 400m Freestyle and 200m Individual Medley. In the relay competition, the girl's team made up of Eva Butler (first year) Edith Middleton, Rebecca Middleton (third year) and Jessica Grogan (Transition Year) were clear winners taking the gold with a time of 2.09.64, a huge four seconds ahead of 2nd place.

Our first mixed relay team of Edith Middleton, Rebeca Middleton (third year), Ian Middleton and Matei Constantinescu (fifth year), swam the senior 200 Individual Medley taking placing 2nd against Rathdown School in a tightly fought race. Our second mixed relay team of Eva Butler (first year), Jessica Grogan (Transition Year), Matei Constantinescu and Ian Middleton (fifth year) competed in the 200m Freestyle relay. This was a very tight race again against Rathdown School who won with a time of 1.49.64. We took the silver medal in a time of 1.49.79.

Sailing

Our sailors completed a busy summer of Team Racing Programs and an introductory two week program for all new first year students leading into September. In October, the SAC Alumni Team Racing Championship with over 70 St Andrew's College sailors due to participate across both the TR competition and the helming clinic, sadly, had to be cancelled due to strong winds. Regardless, the sailors had a fun day followed by dinner at the Royal Irish Yacht Club (RIYC), Dun Laoghaire with plenty of awards and prizes.

This year the school entered two teams in the Shanahan Cup. This competition ran in four parts over the course of the year, starting in October and concluding in March. Our fleet finished in 2nd place, which was a great result for such a young side.

We entered three teams into the Team Racing Leinster Championships which took place in March at the RIYC. It was a huge success where SAC 1 was awarded Gold and SAC 2 awarded Silver. SAC 3 finished a very creditable 4th place with all three teams receiving an invitation to the Fastnet Trophy and National Championships where they had an opportunity to compete against teams from the US and UK. The level of racing at this event was very high with over 346 races over the course of two days. SAC 1 was awarded Bronze in Gold Fleet and SAC 2 were awarded Gold in Silver Fleet. SAC 3 competed hard but finished outside the medals. It was a challenging and competitive event and gave our sailors a wonderful opportunity to compete at the highest level.

Girls Tennis

A total of eight tennis teams were entered into the Leinster leagues with all teams reaching the quarter-finals of their respective competitions. Our Minor B team reached the semi-final before bowing out.

Boys Tennis

Our Senior Boys qualified for the Senior Division 2 final in Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club by winning all five of their matches. In the final they beat St Fintan's High School 4-1 to win the title for the first time since 2010. They will move up to compete in Division 1 next year. The Senior B team registered two wins in their group but failed to progress to the finals.

A very young Junior A team competed well in their pool but failed to progress while our Junior B registered a couple of wins from their five matches to finish mid-table in their pool.

The Minor A team, on the back of winning Division 2 last year moved up to Division 1 this year. They lost out on a place in the final having lost to St Michael's College on the head to head. The Minor B team won two and lost two of their pool matches and failed to qualify for the knockout stages.

Athletics

There was excellent attendance at training sessions on Mondays and Thursdays, with strong interest in the relay trials held at UCD at the end of April, which involved 60 students. New equipment purchased for the season, including hurdles, ladders, and wickets greatly improved the training quality and students' running techniques.

There was great participation from students in the East Leinster Schools' Track and Field Championship this season, although many of our top performers did not participate due to state examination preparation and injury. 13 students qualified for the Leinster Schools' Track and Field Championship, along with the Junior Boys Relay team. Students involved in the championship are listed below:

First Year Students: Hugo O'Neill – Javelin, Elliott Ryan – Discus and Ciara Sengupta – High Jump.

Second Year Students: Harry Fiel – Pole Vault, Samuel Garrigan – Relay, Ethan Hall – Javelin and Relay, Zitong Ma – Relay, Melanie Norris – Race Walk, Edward O'Shea – Long Jump, Pole Vault and Relay, Molly O'Suilleabhain – Long Jump and Rachel Roddy – Pole Vault.

Third-Year Students: Lauren Armitage – Pole Vault, Evan Campbell – Discus, Isabel O'Reilly – One Mile and Aibhlin Ryback – Race Walk.

Three athletes competed in the All Ireland Championships which took place on the 30th and 31st of May. Second year students, Melanie Norris competed in the Race Walk and Edward O'Shea competed in the Long Jump while Isabel O' Reilly (third year) competed in the Mile Race.

The East Leinster Cross Country Championships took place in the Pheonix Park with 38 of our athletes taking part. The Inter Girls team finished in 1st place consisting of second year students; Aoibh Ni Scannail, Charlotte Shields (16th place), third year students; Grace Fanning, Sophie Lawrence (10th place) and Isabel O'Reilly (2nd place). The team qualified for the Leinster Schools' Cross Country Championships. In the Inter Boys race, Oisín Hughes (third year) finished 8th place, Sam Walsh (Transition Year) finished in 10th place and Daniel Butler (second year) finished 13th place. All three students also qualified for the Leinster Schools Cross Country Championships.

In the Leinster Schools' Cross Country Championships, our Inter Girls team finished 3rd place with Isabel O'Reilly (third-year) finishing 2nd place. Isabel went on to qualify for the All Ireland Schools' Cross Country Championships at which, she recorded a top 25 finish out of 80 athletes.

Performing Arts

U-Live

The **2025 U-Live Concert** took place on Wednesday, 5 February 2025, showcasing performances from over 130 students across all year groups. It was a spectacular night that brought together the entire Transition Year student body, along with a dedicated team of teaching and support staff managing front-of-house, backstage, photography, lighting, and sound.

College Play

'**The Diary of Anne Frank**' was performed in January with a cast of 12 students from third year, Transition Year and fifth year over three nights. Students from second, third, Transition Year and fifth year formed the backstage crew.

Music and Art Festival

The 2025 Music and Dance Festival took place from Monday 28 to Wednesday 30 April and was followed by the End of Year Music and Art Department Evening on Tuesday 6 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. A wonderful exhibition of art was displayed by the art department showcasing the incredible talent of our art students.

Transition Year

The Transition Year programme traditionally strikes a balance between classroom based learning and experiential activities outside the classroom. The year commenced with trips to Donegal's Gartan Outdoor Education and Training Centre and Mayo's An Uisce Water Adventure Centre. During these excursions, students engaged in a variety of outdoor sports and activities, including kayaking, archery, orienteering, and climbing. These trips also provided an opportunity to meet new people and many students consider them among their favourite experiences of the year.

The year began with a structured schedule of courses and a variety of physically engaging off-campus activities every Friday afternoon. Core subjects and extended core subjects, such as accounting, business, biology, chemistry, economics, geography, history, physics, and religious education, were emphasised, with regular assessments conducted throughout the year to support teaching and learning. Additionally, the timetable included a wide range of optional subjects, including architecture, creative writing, culinary arts, film studies, journalism, philosophy, salsa dancing, web design, and yoga, among others.

In November, preparations for the Winter Fair began and it was, as always, a tremendous success. Transition Year students played a vital role in organising, running, managing, and fundraising, collaborating with staff to generate essential funds for the institutions supported by the College in

Uganda. During Christmas week, the students had the chance to boost their CV's by acquiring First Aid skills, taking aptitude tests, and honing their interview techniques in discussions with their form teachers about their Transition Year experiences so far.

In January, Transition Year subject parent/teacher meetings were held over two evenings. In January, meetings were scheduled with modern foreign language, English, mathematics and Irish teachers. U-Live took place again in February, showcasing the tremendous effort students put into performing, organising acts, promoting, and producing an outstanding show. After the mid-term break, students embarked on their first work experience sessions in various companies and organisations both in Ireland and abroad. In February, they also enjoyed a week long ski trip to Pinzolo, Italy.

In May, students travelled to Barcelona for an exciting and activity packed four day exploration of the Spanish city. It was delightful to witness the students' enthusiasm and enjoyment from these experiences.

In October and May, students participated in a hike and overnight camping experience in Glendalough. This event is always a highlight of the year and contributes to the Gaisce awards for participants. Transition Year concluded with a busy week of assessments, interviews, and preparations for the Transition Year Evening showcase. It was heartening to hear students describe their learning and experiences in their own words and to see them recognised for their efforts. To complete the year, 19 students, accompanied by four teachers, travelled to Uganda. Prior to the trip, they engaged in extensive fundraising to support school fees, supplies, and building initiatives during their visit.

Charitable Activities

Students and staff actively fundraised and participated in many local and national charities throughout the year. As part of the College strategic five-year plan, it was agreed that the Pieta House would be our chosen charity for support through the year.

Charities that have been supported also in this current academic year are as follows:

Blackrock Hospice	Concern
Daffodil Day – Irish Cancer Society	DSPCA
Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind	Pieta House
Seal Rescue Ireland	The Gavin Glynn Foundation
St Vincent de Paul	Unicef

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 April 2025. 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 29 April 2025. 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 Ms Louise Marshall, College Principal and Ms Mary Keddy, Deputy Principal is the Relevant Person and 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. First year students joined the WSC in January after their own election within the year group for a first-year student council. Each year council elects two representatives to sit on the Whole School Council. The Head Girl and Head Boy set the agenda and chair the WSC meetings. Year Councils and the WSC serve as vital channels of communication between students and school leadership enabling students to actively contribute to improvement in student school life experiences. The WSC plays a key role in cultivating and promoting a positive school culture that embodies our core values of responsibility, resilience and respect. The WSC provides a forum where students are heard, listened to, and valued for their input and contribution to the day-to-day life of the College.

WSC meetings took place once a month with an initial Student Council assembly of all the Year Councils taking place on 16 September during which the council members discussed their aims and aspirations for the year. The WSC students made invaluable contributions during the academic year which included highlighting the need for more clocks in the school, clarity on food allergens and pricing of food items more clearly and discussion on the current school coat design for greater comfort. Students reviewed The Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and Statement and Acceptable Usage Policy. Their contribution to developing the student friendly version of our Bí Cineálta Policy was very helpful and insightful. Students also involved themselves in organising our special end of term assemblies for the various year groups. At the end of this academic year, the WSC organised a student vote for their chosen charity for the next two years 2025-27 as part of the College strategic plan. This summary of WSC 2024-25 participation and involvement throughout the year emphasises the importance of their role in enhancing the College community.

Bullying Awareness

The 2024/2025 academic term has been another very successful and productive year the College anti-bullying initiatives. The main focuses this year have been the St Andrew's House Cup, implementation of the new Bí Cineálta Policy, (Practice and Procedures for Preventing and Addressing Bullying Behaviour) and Tea and Chats.

The goals for the House Cup this year were to build on the success of the last two years and further embed it in the culture of the school. Like last year the House Cup was divided into three events. A dress up competition at Halloween, a festive decorating competition at Christmas and a House Cup Day on the last day of Easter term.

At the start of the year, House Cup Heads and Deputies chose "decades" as the theme for the dress-up competition. It was a big success, with House White winning by dressing as Ancient Greeks and Romans. The winner was chosen by the whole staff voting for their favourites.

The Christmas event was also very successful. We realised last year that it is most effective for the students to make their own decorations on the day out of recycled materials. House Red emerged victorious on the day.

The House Cup Day was planned as a whole school day event this year which meant including new activities. Students participated in various activities such as a water relay race, dodge ball tournament and a design an egg protector competition. A whole school karaoke took place in the afternoon in the sports hall using our new PA system and the day concluded with the whole school dance off. House Red won the Cup taking it from the two-time winners House Yellow.

As part of the Bí Cineálta Policy implementation for the academic year 2025-26, whole school staff training took place in March and surveys were shared with staff, students and parents to gather information and insight into practice and procedures for preventing and addressing bullying behaviour. Meetings were held with the Student Council and with the anti-bullying prefects to discuss the creation and promotion of the student version of the Bí Cineálta Policy around the school. Tea and Chats continued with great success and consideration was given to how this initiative could improve going forward.

The Need toTalk Posters were revamped in the College and an anti-bullying notice board was created to promote the various events throughout the year. The Junior Cycle curriculum continues to reinforce the theme of Upstanding.

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 with over 100 applicants. As in previous years, most mentors recall their own experience and want to offer support while also enjoying the role of responsibility.

At the first induction day in April, it was wonderful to see the response from volunteers to come in and initiate the first contact between 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 return, we held a Mentor Training morning where the role of mentor was outlined, and strategies explained and guidance as to how best to build a good relationship with their mentee. 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.

With the mentors paired up with either one or two mentees, a big effort was made to give mentors a locker above their mentees, facilitating a daily chat and interaction. This is where students really got to know each other and it gave mentors an opportunity to keep a watchful eye over the younger students. The art of opening the combination lock was, at times 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. Many mentors made a real effort to use this to good effect and it helped new first year students 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 set of house exams. 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 challenges of social interaction for our younger students. 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 standout 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 through weekly meetings, assemblies, posters around the College and social media platform. We currently have 343 followers on Instagram. The page has been highlighting issues around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and environmental issues. There are, currently, 100 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 action projects. This group is student led and facilitated by coordinating teachers.

We were delighted to have been recently awarded a Travel Flag with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown (DLR) County Council. The students were busy conducting idling surveys, air pollution and traffic surveys over the past two years. We also had guest speakers from DLR presenting to students. The GS/EG has also achieved the following:

1. House areas have been planted with vegetables and various plants to increase 'green' areas.
2. Compost cages have been installed and are being maintained.
3. An outdoor classroom.
4. '1000 Tree Project' – has continued. We have planted 'Pocket Forests' and given out a total of 3000 trees.
5. We have developed biodiversity in the school grounds by marking off areas as 'no cut zones.'
6. We took part in the 'Global Air Project' 2024/5 (<https://www.globe.gov/about/overview>), see website for information. We installed a permanent NOx meter at the school gate in conjunction with DPD (courier company).
7. A donation was made to the Seal Sanctuary in Courtown, Co. Wexford.
8. Beach and park clean ups.
9. 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.
10. Walk on Wednesdays (WOW), Cycle on Wednesdays (COW) have been established to encourage students to walk/cycle to school. Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council (DLR) have put in many cycle lanes and students have responded in numbers to them by opting for the bike.
11. Clothes Swap Shop.
12. Bike to school for spring and summer term campaign 2025.
13. Sustainability for Education is a core subject for Transition Year and is now becoming a Leaving Certificate subject in 2025.
14. The canteen continues to support the school using sustainable products.
15. 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 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, 21 August	Sixth Year
Thursday, 22 August	Fifth Year + 5IB
Monday, 20 August	Third Year
Tuesday, 26 August	Second Year
Thursday, 27 August	Transition Year
Wednesday 4 September	6IB

- Options Evenings for first, Transition and fifth year students – January 2025

School Events

Parents were invited to attend a variety of school functions and events throughout the year. In 2024/2025 these included:

- PTA Coffee Mornings for all year groups
- Coffee Mornings for international parents/guardians and host parents/guardians of Junior and Secondary School students
- International Night – November 2024
- PTA Table Quiz – November 2024
- Winter Fair – December 2024
- Carol Service – December 2024
- PTA Christmas Social Evening – December 2024
- College Play – January 2025
- U-Live Concert - February 2025
- PTA Charity Lunch – March 2025
- Music and Dance Concert – May 2025
- Launch of *The Wine Dark Sea* – May 2025
- Sixth-Year Valedictory Evening – May 2025

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 2024/2025:

- 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:

Additional Educational Needs Policy	Admissions Policy
Anaphylaxis and Use of Adrenaline Pens	Attendance and Punctuality Policy
AUP for Staff Policy	AUP for Students Policy
Bí Cineálta Policy	Child Safeguarding and Risk Assessment Statement
Code of Behaviour for Students Policy	Code of Conduct for Support Staff
Code of Conduct for Teachers	Complaints Procedure Policy
Concussion Policy	Critical Incident Plan
Diabetes Policy	Electronic Device Policy
E-Safety Policy	Employment Checklist
First Aid Policy	Garda Vetting Policy
Guidance Policy	Guiding Statements + Core Values
Library Statement	PE Policy
Practices and Procedures in relation to the SAC Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and Statement	Policy on Reviewing Guiding Statements
Prefect Policy	Privacy Policy
Protected Disclosures Policy	School Nurse Policy
SNA Policy	Staff Development Policy
Substance Abuse Policy	Work Experience Policy

School Self Evaluation (SSE)

This year, the focus was on teacher feedback. Based on findings from last year's staff survey, student survey, and student focus group, it was decided to prioritise both feedback and wellbeing

Feedback

The SSE Staff Committee met to plan the next steps in improving feedback. Feedback had been identified as a key focus based on last year's student survey, student focus group, and staff survey. These indicated a need to strengthen one-to-one verbal feedback and introduce a practical strategy to help students act on feedback. At a staff meeting, a survey was conducted to gauge support for permitting sixth year students to attend the first of the two scheduled Parent-Teacher Meetings. This invitation was declined by a narrow majority of teachers who completed the survey. Instead, staff were asked to return fifth year Christmas exams individually to students to facilitate one-to-one verbal feedback. To support students in acting on their feedback, the SSE Committee created a reflection sheet. This was shared with all staff at a whole-staff meeting, and subject departments were encouraged to adapt it to suit their specific subject areas. The SSE Coordinator invited teachers to use an online version of the reflection sheet with first and second-year classes before the midterm break, and again after the Christmas exams.

Staff Survey

Staff were surveyed following the introduction of the feedback reflection handout. The survey received responses from 31 staff members. 71% of staff responded that they found the reflection handout beneficial.

Wellbeing

The SSE Coordinator and SSE Committee met to review the Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice, with the aim of highlighting the positive wellbeing initiatives already in place and identifying areas for further development. Together, they examined the statements of effective practice across the four key areas: culture and environment, curriculum, relationships and partnerships, and policy and planning. During this process, they noted existing initiatives and considered areas for improvement.

Following this meeting, the SSE Coordinator met with the Wellbeing Coordinator to continue the audit. The Wellbeing Committee also reviewed the Framework document. Wellbeing initiatives will be introduced based on the outcomes of this collaborative review.

Amber Flag

The College was recently successful in achieving the Pieta House Amber Flag under the stewardship of our SSE Coordinator. The Amber Flag initiative recognises schools and educational institutions for promoting positive mental health and wellbeing. Staff and students across the school contributed to this application. The Anti-Bullying Committee organised House Cup Days as part of Wellbeing Week, while a Pieta Fun Run held in December saw over 60 participants run a combined 300 km. Additional fundraisers included *Lá Geansaí Glas* as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge celebration in March. As part of a new wellbeing initiative, the Whole School Council prefects designed and displayed a wellbeing poster outside the nurse's office, guiding students to key wellbeing supports within the College.

Digital Learning

The Digital Learning Team (DLT) at St Andrew's College is committed 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.

A highlight of the year was the continued rollout of the expanded Digital Skills module for first year students. This eight-week programme supported students in developing foundational skills with platforms such as Microsoft Teams, OneDrive, and online collaboration tools. The module placed strong emphasis on digital responsibility, netiquette and academic independence, ensuring all students began their post-primary journey as confident, ethical users of technology. Staff were equally supported through a structured calendar of digital drop-in sessions. The sessions which were held regularly throughout the year, addressed practical classroom applications such as using OneNote for feedback, using AI in teaching, retrieval practice strategies and device management tools. These sessions played a vital role in promoting confidence, creativity, and collaboration in teaching practices. One of the most significant developments was the refinement of the school's digital strategy through student and staff surveys. First and second year students provided valuable insights on device usage, showing widespread engagement with digital platforms and growing self-awareness about screen time and focus. Many students reported that digital tools enhanced their ability to manage learning and collaborate with peers. Their constructive feedback informed the ongoing development of the school's device use policies, particularly regarding consistency across subjects. Regular digital technology clinics were held to support students with both software and hardware issues, complemented by the establishment of the Student Digital Leadership Committee to foster peer-led digital competence and responsibility.

Staff survey findings, collected in March 2025, showed a thoughtful and engaged response to the 1:1 device programme. Teachers highlighted the benefits of platforms like Teams and OneNote while noting the need for greater support around classroom management tools and AI integration. The survey identified professional learning priorities including digital classroom strategies, AI ethics, and subject-specific applications. These responses directly informed upcoming CPD planning. The school continued to champion digital wellbeing through the Yondr programme. Student feedback confirmed that the initiative reduced distractions and improved focus, particularly in classroom engagement. This was complemented by updated screen-time policies and the use of "digital balance" discussions in wellbeing modules, all contributing to a culture of mindful technology use.

Preparations for the reformed Senior Cycle advanced significantly with the planning of a fifth year Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) pilot scheme and a new Senior Cycle Digital Skills module. A key staff-wide survey identified core competencies needed in the new cycle, such as research skills, critical evaluation of sources, and responsible AI use. A second year refresher module on responsible device use was also launched to support this transition.

These themes were brought together in a whole-staff presentation in April 2025. The key findings from student feedback, staff development priorities and strategic progress made during the year were presented along with an outline of student tech clinics and the launch of the Student Digital Leadership Committee. Staff were also updated on device logistics and Wriggle support.

Finally, in May 2025, the school began a comprehensive review of its E-Safety Policy. This review will ensure the policy reflects new developments in AI, data protection, digital citizenship, and screen-time management, aligning with both national frameworks and community expectations. In conclusion, the 2024–2025 academic year at St Andrew's College has exemplified a holistic and strategic approach to digital learning. Through thoughtful innovation, strong leadership, and the active

participation of students and staff, the school continues to prepare its learners to thrive in an increasingly complex digital world.

Staff Development

St Andrew's College staff have attended a wide range of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) training throughout the year. Conferences/workshops attended by staff included the following:

Art Researcher Summer Professional Development Day - Drogheda	Bullying Awareness Bí Cineálta Professional Learning Experience (Oide)	Business Business Webinar (Oide)
Business Business Webinar (Oide)	Chemistry 2 nd Sub PLE Day (Oide)	Council of International Schools CIS Global Forum on International Admission and Guidance
Computer Science National Workshop (Oide)	Data Protection Subject Access Requests (IAHIP)	English English A: Literature – IB Global Centre, Germany
Guidance CIS Global Forum on International Admission and Guidance – Basel Disclosure of Third-Party Records (Counselling/Psychotherapy/Client Notes) Irish Council of Psychotherapy	Health and Safety Manual Handling, Health and Safety Authority of Ireland	Music Post Primary Music Teachers Association – Annual National Conference
New English Association of Schools and Colleges NEASC Leadership Conference, Boston	School Self Evaluation SSE Workshop (Oide)	SPHE HSE Training - Skills for facilitating SPHE (SSE, Sligo)
Transition Year Relection and Renewal: Embracing TY Full Day Professional Learning Experience (Oide)	Wellbeing in Education Teastas Tinrimh - Supporting Anxious Teenagers Leading Wellbeing	

Significant Student Achievements

Trinity College Entrance Exhibition Award

Trinity Entrance Exhibition awards were awarded to the following six students, Class of 2024 students: Aimee Balmer, Patrick Fahy Feng, Anna Florides, Anna Sophia Keane, Eibhe Lubliner, Theo Lynn and Evie Ni Oisin.

UCD Entrance Scholars (Academic High Achievers)

UCD Entrance Exhibition awards were awarded to Class of 2024 students, Freya Alken, Fiachra McDonnell, Eve O'Meara, Dara Smyth and Alice Walsh.

International Chemistry Olympiad

Yitian Chen (6IB) was selected to represent Ireland in the 57th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) which will take place in Dubai in July 2025.

BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2025

The BT Young Scientist and Technology exhibition 2025 took place in January at the RDS. Alois Plissonneau (fifth year) was awarded 1st place and a special award trip to Japan in his category in the Chemical Physical Maths Sciences. Niall Hennessy (fifth year) was also awarded 1st place and a special award trip to Japan in his category in the Biological and Ecological Sciences.

Chess

The St Andrew's College Chess Club had a very busy year. They took part in various tournaments, organised their own tournament as well as weekly school activities. Chess continued to be a popular activity across all year groups with weekly attendance of 20-40 students.

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

- Lunchtime Chess every Monday
- First Year Chess every Friday lunchtime

The student led chess committee held a tournament in the College on 27 September. The event was a tremendous success with over 300 students from over 40 schools across Leinster attending. Over 40 students volunteered to come in on their day off to assist with the running of the event which demonstrated the level of community spirit within the College. Later in the year, our students attended smaller tournaments held by neighbouring schools which gave them the opportunity to participate in competitions with local schools.

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 Submerged, focusing on the oceans. Six teams emerged to represent the school in the regional rounds which included secondary school and P6 students.

UCD Regional Round

The third year team (Coral Coders), second year team (Sigma Seals) and P6 teams (Bob's Minions) and (White Hot Chilli Peppers) went to UCD in March 2025 to partake in their regional round. All teams did very well and gained lots of valuable experience for future competitions.

All Ireland National Finals

The students in Brobots (third year) and Coral Coders (second year) represented the College at the All Ireland National Finals in April which made up a total of 24 teams. St Andrew's College was the only school to have two teams qualify for the event. The Brobots won the Rising Start Award which was an excellent result.

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.

Competitive Coding and Algorithmic Problem Solving Club

This is a student led club at the College. Pioneered by sixth 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, students aim to design fast and efficient algorithms to solve problems in a contest-based setting. In doing so, students 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. Three of our students participated in the challenge which was held over three weeks in November. The students found it to be a good, interesting challenge and learned a lot from the experience.

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 Andrew's College had 22 entries this year from first to sixth-year students. Projects are initially categorised as Participation, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Gold medal projects are eligible to win further awards, such as 1st place in their year, or one of the special interest prizes at the National Awards ceremony, which took place on the 7 May in the Knocknarea Arena, Sligo.

All of our projects were awarded gold medals, six of the 14 gold medalists went on to win further prizes as follows:

Government Economic Policy Award: Sponsored by IGEES (Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service)

Winner: Jim Kirby and Cian Sengupta (fifth year)

Project: The Trump Effect: How US Policies Are Reshaping Ireland's Future.

Trade/FDI/Migration Award: Sponsored by Maynooth University

Winner: Hugo Griffin and Niall Hennessy (fifth year)

Project: The Effects of Immigration on the Irish Economy

Public Policy Award: Sponsored by Atlantic Technological University

Winner: Finn O'Donaill (Transition Year)

Project: Should Ireland make public transport free of charge?

2nd Place in Fifth Year

Winner: Breixo Agulla Perez and Isaac Keating (5IB)

Project: Would an Underground Train System in Dublin Be Feasible?

Joint 3rd Place in Sixth Year

Winner: Adrian Romero (6IB)

Project: To what extent is the long haul transatlantic airline market between Dublin Airport and the USA a monopoly in November 2023.

Winner: James Hayes (6IB)

Project: Investigating the lack of regulation in the aircraft manufacturing industry.

Prize Giving Ceremony

Our annual Academic Prize Giving ceremony took place on Monday, 18 November in the O'Reilly Hall, UCD. The Guest of Honour was Mr Lee Cole, a past pupil of the College, Class of 2013.

Lee delivered a considered and engaging speech recounting his memories of St Andrew's College, his path to playing international hockey as part of the Irish panel and his experiences as an Olympian. Lee stated in his speech that the school core values of Responsibility, Respect and Resilience resonated with his career path and choices.

In her speech, Ms. Marshall highlighted that Prizegiving is not only a celebration of excellence in achievement but also a recognition of the effort, determination, and motivation that underpin such success. She also connected this to our school's core values of Responsibility, Respect, and Resilience, reminding students that their accomplishments at Prizegiving are a testament to their embodiment of these principles.

The ceremony was well attended with a mixture of 609 students, parents and staff.

Student Spirit Awards

The Student Spirit Awards were presented during special assemblies for first, second, third, and fifth-year students at the end of the academic year. Introduced last year, these awards recognise students who truly embody the spirit of our College. What makes the Spirit Awards unique is that they go beyond traditional measures of achievement. They honour students who live out our core values of responsibility, resilience, and respect in everyday College life. These values are reflected through acts of kindness, generosity, helpfulness, and enthusiasm, demonstrated both in and outside the classroom. The awards also celebrate students who display responsibility and respect in their outstanding behaviour in areas such as attendance, punctuality, and pride in wearing the St Andrew's College uniform throughout the year. Through their positive contributions and active participation, these students help foster a caring, supportive, and inclusive community where everyone is valued.

Remembrance Service

The annual Remembrance Ceremony took place on Monday, 18 November 2024. 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 Rev. Alastair Dunlop and Rev. Andrew Gill (Board of Governors), Mr John Ingram (Advisor to the Board of Governors), Mr Finn Walker (President of SACA) and Mr Tristan Wood (PTA committee) with special guests of honour Mr Paul Stephenson, District Chairman for the Royal British Legion, Republic of Ireland and Mr Brian Crawford, also Royal British Legion, Republic of Ireland. The Head Boy and Head Girl read out the roll of honour and wreaths were placed at the memorial.

Holocaust Memorial Day

As part of the Holocaust Education Ireland (HEI) crocus project, the IB history students planted yellow crocuses to remember the victims of the Holocaust.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025 took place from Monday, 10 March to Friday, 14 March, featuring a wide range of activities for each year group to enjoy throughout the week. The Irish Department was festively decorated, with vibrant posters displayed to promote the week's events. Announcements were made during assemblies to keep students informed and engaged.

The week officially began with a traditional Irish music session organised by the music department. This year, both the junior and senior schools collaborated to celebrate the occasion, with a number of cross-school events taking place. The school's traditional music band, also led by the music department, performed during a special junior school assembly held in the hall. A *Sos Gaelach* was held for both the junior and senior schools, with strong staff participation in the staff room. Irish teachers from the senior school worked closely with their junior school counterparts to bring fun and interactive Irish-language activities into classrooms. First year students participated in *Comórtas Litríúcháin* and their projects were proudly displayed as part of *Comórtas Tish Parsons*. The winners were Elsie Burke, Robyn Godfrey and Daire McArdle. Second year students created eye-catching posters based on traditional Irish proverbs (*seanfhocail*), which were displayed outside their

classrooms. The winners of the *Comórtas na Póstaer* competition were Samuel Garrigan, Denise Liu, and Shen Qi. A table quiz was held for third year students and was enhanced by a group of students performing traditional Irish music on the tin whistle. Transition Year students enjoyed a trip to Dundrum Cinema to watch the Irish-language film *Róise and Frank*. As part of *Comórtas Scannánaíochta*, fifth year students showcased a selection of short films which they had written, acted in, and recorded themselves. Sixth year students took part in *Scóráil Sciobtha*. The annual *Céilí Mór* also took place at lunchtime in the senior hall, drawing a lively and enthusiastic crowd. For the first time in the College, the Irish Department organised a whole school charity event, *Lá Geansaí Glas*, where students wore green to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge. Donations were collected in aid of Pieta House. Nearly €1,000 was raised and will be donated as part of Pieta House's Amber Flag initiative, which recognises efforts to create healthy, inclusive environments that support the mental wellbeing of school communities.

Junior and Senior Debate Club

Junior Debate Club met on Tuesday lunchtime and was open to all first to third year students. Senior Debate Club met on Thursday lunchtime and was open to all Transition to sixth year students. Both clubs continued to grow with over 30 students engaging with Senior Debate Club and 40 students engaging with Junior Debate Club. 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.

World School's Debate Competition

The World Schools Debate Competition took place in September. Finn O'Donail (Transition Year) qualified for the Team Ireland Training panel and Development Squad.

PhilSpeaks Novice

In October, the College was represented by three teams at the PhilSpeaks Novice competition. Team A, Gabriella Nelson O'Neill and Síofra Vandamme (Transition Year) were awarded 1st place.

Literary and Historical Society and Law Society Mace Debate

In October, the College was represented by three teams at the Literary and Historical Society Mace competition. Team A, Alisha Manoj and Zahra Nassiri (fifth year) were awarded 1st place.

Oxford Schools Debate Competition

The Irish Regional Round of this prestigious international debating competition took place in January. St Andrew's College was represented by three teams of Transition Year and fifth year students.

PhilSpeaks Schools Mace

This event took place in February. The College was represented by three teams; Alisha Manoj and Zahra Nassiri (fifth year), Gabriella Nelson O'Neill and Norah Tinney (Transition Year) and Breixo Agulla Pérez and Isaac Keating (5IB).

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. We entered four teams, one of which made it through to the semi-final held in March.

Hist Girls Mace

This competition was held in March. Alisha Manoj and Zahra Nassiri (fifth year) qualified for the finals and finished 2nd place.

Sion Hill Junior Mace

In April, the College was represented by four teams, one of which Elsie Bush and Lara Hood (first year) progressed to the final.

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 College entered five teams, one of which made it through to the final in April.

National Junior Mace Debating Final

The final of the Junior Schools Debating competition took place in UCD in April. Isabella Shields (first year) was awarded 'Best First Year' student and was placed 2nd in 'Speaker Tab.'

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 running 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 conferences 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 after Christmas and second year students were also involved in SAIMUN which was held from 14th to 17th February in the Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoghaire. This year, a total of 400 students participated in MUN.

Terenure College MUN: September

Represented by 21 students from Transition to sixth year. We were awarded six Distinguished Delegate awards and delegation France won Outstanding Delegation award.

Royal Russell School: October

Represented by 42 students from fifth and sixth year. We were awarded eight individual Distinguished Delegate awards. Our delegations representing United States won Outstanding Delegation award.

Newpark MUN: November

Represented by 20 students. We were awarded seven Distinguished Delegate awards. Switzerland and France were awarded Highly Commended Delegation award and Alanna O'Neill (Transition Year) won Junior Delegate award. We had one committee chair: Zahra Nassiri (fifth year).

Rathdown School: November

Represented by 34 students from Transition to sixth year. We were awarded seven individual Distinguished Delegate awards. China was awarded Outstanding Delegation award. We had three committee chairs: John Celano, Patrick Fanning and Sadhbh Sheehy (sixth year).

Belvedere: January

Represented by 34 students. We were awarded seven Distinguished Delegate awards and USA was awarded outstanding Delegation award.

The Hague Model United Nations (THIMUN)

Represented by 33 students from fifth and sixth year. Guilia Doherty (fifth year) was given the position of Head of Approval Panel. The Hague MUN does not present awards. This year we were privileged to have Isaac Keating (5IB) as International Criminal Court representative, Zahra Nassiri (fifth year) as committee chair and Mabel Forsyth (fifth year) Alexia d'Arcy, Patrick Fanning and Aidan Leahy (sixth year) as student officers.

Blackrock College MUN

Represented by 29 students, mainly from third and Transition Year. We were awarded one Distinguished Delegate award and two Junior Delegate awards.

St Andrew's College Model United Nations

The 36th St Andrew's College Model United Nations (SAIMUN) 2025 took place from Friday, 15 February to Monday, 17 February in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire. Almost 430 students and advisors attended the conference, representing over 71 countries. Schools travelled from many countries to Ireland including Florida, Italy, Norway, Romania and Turkey. The ceremony began with an introduction of all the esteemed speakers, including the guest speaker, Mary Lawlor, a United Nations special rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. The keynote speech by Mary Lawlor followed, highlighting the struggles human rights activists face on a daily basis and emphasising the importance of young activists in shaping the world. A traditional Irish performance by a live band captivated the audience's attention. The opening address reflected on the conference's long lasting legacy, with the SAIMUN being hosted at the hotel venue for over 17 years.

Administration and IT departments ensured that everything in our paperless conference ran smoothly. The executive team was led by Secretaries-General, Alexia d'Arcy, Julia McCutcheon (sixth year), James Hayes (6IB) and Deputy Secretaries-General, John Celano, Patrick Fanning, Aidan Leahy, Keelin O'Carroll, and Sadhbh Sheehy (sixth year). At the closing ceremony, which was sponsored by the PTA, the awards were presented including multiple awards for the College. The highlights being a Highly Commended Delegation award for the six students representing Pakistan and thirteen Distinguished Delegate awards to students representing Pakistan, Russia, Cote d'Ivoire and Japan. SAIMUN students representing Russia were awarded outstanding delegation award. Approximately 190 St Andrew's College students participated in the conference.

Wesley College MUN: March

Represented by 18 students. Two of our students were awarded the Highly Commended Delegate awards along with Commended award.

Wicklow MUN: March

Represented by five students. Finn O'Donaill, Max Wang (Transition Year), Genevieve Costello Doherty, Niall Hennessy and Cian Sengupta (fifth year) represented the College as Committee Chairs. We were awarded a Best in General Assembly for UK Delegation and award and four individual Distinguished Delegate awards.

High School MUN: March

Represented by 12 students. Alex Kearney, Max Wang (Transition Year) and Genevieve Costello Doherty (fifth year) represented the College as Committee Chairs.

Gonzaga MUN: April

Represented by 16 students. Delegation of China was awarded Best in General Assembly and two students from the delegation of China were awarded Highly Commended delegate.

The end of year MUN Awards Dinner which was sponsored by the PTA, took place on Friday, 9 May in the College. There was a presentation of certificates to all of the students, some musical performances and a reflection of the year from sixth year students. This was a lovely evening and a fine way to finish MUN for the year.

Intercultural Week

Intercultural Week was held from Monday 11 to Friday 15 November. A large number of students participated in, and assisted with, the running of many diverse events intended to showcase our international student body and the diverse cultures of the College.

Each morning, students were welcomed to school by their peers and teachers announcing morning messages in a variety of languages over the intercom. Some of the activities held in the junior and senior halls included whole school karaoke, language kiosks (learn a few words in a new language), IB International afternoon tea, European quizzes, just dance competitions, USA and Canada games and more. It was a fun filled week with students embracing the cultures celebrated each day. Sodexo designed a very successful Intercultural Week menu for the students and staff to enjoy.

International Night

The 2024 International Night took place on Wednesday, 13 November with a record number of applications this year. The evening commenced with an opening ceremony which included a welcome address from Ms Louise Marshall, College Principal. Head Boy, Conor McFadyen and Head Girl, Izzy Duggan were co-presenters for the event which comprised a colourful ceremony of 51 flags from every corner of the world and a record participation of 240 students proudly walking in the parade. There were wonderful musical performances both before and after the ceremony of flags, which was followed by the opening of the food stalls and activity booths.

Food stalls from 21 different countries displayed an amazing array of food and drink from all over the world. We had food from a wide range of countries displaying their national cuisine, which included America, Bulgaria, China, France, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malta, Moldova, Nigeria, Romania, Portugal, South Africa, Thailand and Turkey. There was also a collaboration of a family from Uganda and a group of fifth year students who had visited Uganda last May as part of the TY Uganda Project. After the success of last year, many regular participants returned with enthusiasm and excitement and as a result, the atmosphere was electric. Over 80 parents worked together for weeks in advance to prepare their food stalls, some of them forging new relationships and many of them promising to return again next year.

The musical entertainment was spread out over the course of the night. Over 30 students and teachers participated in the musical components of the evening entertaining those in attendance. The welcome music was performed by a formation of students and teachers playing traditional Irish music outside the library. After the parade, a wonderful rendition of 'Coming Home Baby' was performed by 'The Jazz Club', a collection of six talented students on trombone, bass, guitar, piano, keyboard and drums. It was wonderful to have this lively mix of music throughout the evening.

Both sound and lights technology were coordinated entirely 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 24 August which was well supported. They hosted the Debs reception for the Class of 2024 in the College on the 18 September and this joyful occasion was appreciated and enjoyed by everyone in attendance. The PTA Table Quiz was a most enjoyable evening in November for staff and parents with all teams contesting closely for the winning prize.

In August, the PTA hosted a coffee morning to welcome all new first year parents to the College which was a lovely way for parents to meet each other as their children began their journey in St Andrew's College senior school. In addition, the PTA hosted a coffee morning in September for all new and international parents.

In early October, the PTA organised social evenings for the parents of First Year, P3 and K1. A super time was had by all who attended, and it was another great opportunity to meet other parents in an informal setting. The PTA hosted a Christmas Social Evening in the Royal St George Yacht Club in December which was hugely supported. This was followed by an online presentation in February by Dr Sarah Cassidy entitled "Anxiety in Teenagers". The Annual Charity Lunch organised by the PTA and compered by radio and television presenter, Clare Byrne in the InterContinental hotel in March was a huge success and raised a substantial amount of money for the Purple House Cancer Support Centre and for our College.

The PTA provided support to several College 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 staff appreciated the 'Advent Calendar Gifts' which the PTA arranged again this year as well as the 'staff breakfast' hosted by the PTA. 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. The committee were very grateful for the great support that they received from fifth year parent volunteers and students to make this event such a success. A mini uniform sale for incoming first year parents was held in April, which was very well attended and a great success. Finally, our Transition Year students recently returned from Uganda where they presented the Rubrizi School with a substantial donation from the PTA.

SACA

It was a busy year for SACA and the Alumni community. Events commenced with the Annual SACA Dinner held at the Clayton Hotel, Ballsbridge, which was a huge success. The Annual Clyde Road lunch took place in the Royal St George Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire in May. It was a most enjoyable event which gave the past pupils of Clyde Road the opportunity to meet up and reminisce. The Annual Alumni table quiz was held at the Punch Bowl, 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 the Annual Rugby Lunch in Old Wesley Rugby Club which raised a great sum of money for its chosen charity.

SACA members attended many annual dinners hosted by 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, the Transition Year End of Year Ceremony, to mark the Transition Year 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 of SACA's wonderful events.

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 costs across most goods and services purchased by the College. Salary increases significantly in excess of inflation continue to reflect the 2024-2026 public sector pay agreement. The College is fully aware of the financial pressures that parents are experiencing. As a consequence, any increase in fees in the academic year 2025/26 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.