

Newsletter



St. David's
Holy Faith Greystones

Autumn '21

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear students, parents and staff,

It is with great pride and joy that I write to you as school principal, of this great school of ours, St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School, Greystones. We are a very proud school of 675 students and 65 staff, and part of Le Chéile Catholic Schools Trust.

As you all know, there has been change in our school - I am now school principal, after seven years as school deputy principal. We have welcomed Louise O' Sullivan to our school as our deputy principal, and we are honoured to have Ms. O' Sullivan working with us.

In September 2021 our Leaving Certificate students of June 2021 received their incredible set of results. We are so proud of the incredible results achieved by all. So good were our Leaving Certificate results, that three students achieved the maximum 625 points. Our departing class of 2021 are now in all nine universities in our country, as well as other universities in the U.K and the Netherlands. A number of other students have now taken up vocational training, and some are now gainfully employed. Well done folks!

On Monday, 30th August 2021 we welcomed to St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School, Greystones, 140 new first year students. With covid - 19 restrictions still in place we have students based within their base classes. This has allowed the development of great class group friendships. There is a tremendous 'can do' and 'will do' attitude of students and staff.

We are nearing completion of our whole-school uniform

review, with its roll-out for First and Second Years and Transition and Fifth Years, next September 2022, and a new P.E uniform, for First - Fifth Years, next September 2022.

There is incredible student activism in St. David's Holy

Faith Secondary School, Greystones with Amber Flag teams focusing on mental health and wellbeing; Covid - 19 team; Green Schools team; Transition Year school magazine team; Charities; Coaching and mentoring students, with focus on rugby and G.A.A, as well as google suites and I.T teams. I am thrilled to see so many staff working with our lovely students.

It is fair to say that St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School, Greystones is growing, developing and changing rapidly - bring it on, I say!

Kind regards,
Simon Carey
Principal

From the 22nd to the 26th of November the first, second, third, fifth and sixth years all engaged in their Autumn school exams. There was a lot of work put in by everyone, as can be seen by the results. Meanwhile the TY's were engaging in their first week of work experience in various firms and courses around the country. This was a great, much needed opportunity for them. There was then a day off on the 29th for a well deserved rest.



On the tenth of November we celebrated the legacy of Margaret Aylward, the founder of the Holy Faith Order.

Margaret Aylward was born in Waterford in 1810 and when she was young she volunteered her time in helping with charity work. She continued with this throughout her life and dedicated her time to improving the circumstances of people affected by poverty,



particularly children. She established the Holy Faith congregation in 1867 with a focus on the provision of education.

The women of the Holy Faith live and work in communities across four continents. They improve the lives of the poor and marginalised through education and faith development.

A huge thank you to all of the students who kindly helped out to celebrate the day!

During the month of November the students and staff of St. Davids celebrated the November We Remember. During this month we all remembered loved ones who had passed on before us. They were also remembered by people hanging

their loved ones' names on a tree that was placed outside of the office. The names were written on a leaf shaped piece of paper. It also is a time we empathise with families and people over grief.



Greetings to students, teachers, parents, guardians and friends who will be reading this wonderful publication!

I may not be long in my role as Deputy Principal in this school but what I have encountered in this very special place is life, energy, commitment, dynamism and good humour. We are at a juncture in the school which is exciting because we are continuing a legacy handed down to us by the Holy Faith Sisters in 1906 and yet looking forward to the future with confidence, hope and generosity to the world. It is a collaborative process with everyone involved along the way. I am delighted to be part of this process and to have been welcomed so warmly by the school community.

I commend the students for their commitment to this beautiful production which

gives a lovely sense of what Transition Year is all about. The programme is diverse, engaging and is giving the students the opportunity to develop general, technical and academic skills. It also is giving them the time to mature and develop without the pressures of examinations. We can see students blossoming in this year. In my first days here in St David's, the Transition Year students who were mentoring first years were also mentoring me and giving me my first introductions to the student body. Since then, they have continued to engage in a myriad of activities, sporting, academic, creative, social, and have the lens also cast wider at our society, and our world, and how they might make life better for those on the margins or those who are vulnerable. It is heartening to see this.

Thank you to the very dedicated teachers who work so closely with the Transition Year students in

planning activities which push individual's boundaries, and open eyes and hearts to what is possible. I am reminded of the words of the poet, Mary Oliver, 'What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?' Transition Year presents a significant moment which influences your life into the future. You only get one life! Keep looking out. Believe in yourself. Be open to all experiences and welcome all that comes to you, even if it may not be easy or



DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Extracurricular Sample

DEBATING

This year one of our many extracurricular activities is chess, which is run by Mr O Donnchadha after school on Mondays. It is one hour, meaning you can play one or two games. There is a ranked system which is quite simple. You are in a box with three other players and you play one match with each person. Depending on how you do, you move up or down a box. There is also the option to play friendly matches.

Debating club is phenomenal and crucial to the school. It's a calm environment that truly brings out the most logical and creative thinking in our students. It is mixed and has a variety of hardworking and impressive students from all year groups.

In debating, we do three different types of debates: walking, where a motion is said and you choose to agree or disagree, concern, a debating style where facts and figures are crucial, and your research can be the difference between first place and last place, and British Parliamentary Style, where your confidence is worth more than gold.

We do a variety of debates, from "are school protests effective?" to "the challenges for world hunger are insurmountable".

We truly have a debate for everyone,

We strongly recommend that all of our students to take part in our extra curricular programme. Please log on to www.stdavids.ie for further details.

CHESS



Extra Curricular List 2021

Activity	When	Where	Co-ordinator
Amber Flag	Weekly meetings	Dining Hall	Ms. Clifford
Art Club	Thursday (A/S)	Art Room	Ms. Sheridan
Athletics	As is required	various	Ms. Foynes
Chess	Monday (A/S)	TBC	Mr. Ó Donnchadha
Choir	Tuesday (A/S)	Music room	Ms. Murphy, Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Aylmer
Christian Union	Friday (L)	Room 10	Mr. Gardiner
Debating	Monday A/S	Library	Ms. Stynes
Diversity Club	Wednesday (A/S)	Room 8	Ms. McCormack
Enterprise Awards	Every 2nd Wednesday (A/S)	Room 19	Ms. Curley/ Mr Short
French Debating	Thursday (A/S)	Room 6	Ms. Foynes
Gaelic Football-1st year boys	Wednesday (1-45 - 2-45)	Eire Og.	Mr Short/Mr Geoghegan
Gaelic Football-1st year girls	Wednesday (1-45 - 2-45)	Eire Og.	Mr Short/Mr Geoghegan
Girls Fitness/ running club	Wednesday (A/S)	Beach/Burnaby park	Ms. Clifford
Golf (membership required)	TBC	TBC	Mr. Doyle
Green School	As needed	Room 23	Mr. Ryan
Media Club	Once a month	Room 23	Mr. Ryan
Music-Guitar/Ukulele	Monday (L)	Music room	Mr Lynch
Music Club	Thursday (A/S)	Music room	Ms. Wilson/Murphy/Cunningham/Alymer
P.E Expo	Monthly meeting (A/S)	Library	Ms. Clifford
President's award	As needed	Room 27	Ms. Bailey
Rugby-Boys	Monday and Thursday (A/S)	Rugby club	Mr. Davies
Rugby-Girls	Monday and Thursday (A/S)	Rugby club	Mr. Davies
Sailing-experience required	Sept/May- as required	various	Ms. Cavey (School Liaison Person)
Soccer-1st year boys	Subject to fixtures	TBC	Mr. Doyle and Mr. Brady
Soccer-Minor boys	Subject to fixtures	TBC	Mr. Greaves
Soccer-Junior boys	Subject to fixtures	TBC	Mr. Egan
Soccer-Senior boys	Subject to fixtures	TBC	Mr. Boland
Student Council	Every 2nd/3rd week (L)	Prefab 5	Ms Brady
Tennis	Wednesday (A/S)	Greystones Tennis club	Mr. Fernández
Young Scientist	Monday (A/S)	Science Labs	Ms. Keaveney/Mr.Lynch/Ms Knightly

Please speak to the coordinator before arriving at any activity as days and times are subject to change. A/S - After School L-Lunch. Times will vary depending on activity. The list will be updated in 2022 following additional Covid guidelines.



GAISCE
THE PRESIDENT'S
AWARD

The gaisce presidents award is the highest youth award in Ireland. It is a several month endeavour undertaken ages 15 to 25. There are three levels; bronze, silver and gold. Candidates must do an hour a week of physical recreation, personal skill development and community involvement. The number of weeks they do is decided by the level of the award they are aiming for. They track this on their record sheet and when their PAL signs off (Ms Bailey in this school) they go on a 2 night long adventure journey and after that they are presented with their award by the president of Ireland. Last year 13 students managed it, earning a collection of gold, silver and bronze. This year approximately 12 people are going for it, good luck to them!



On October 13, the students who sat their Junior Cycle exams in 2021 received their awards. Each base class was called down into the dining hall. Mr Carey and Ms O'Sullivan, along with the head boy and girl and deputy head boy and girl, presented the students with their certificates. Each student was presented with two certificates, one for their Junior Cycle results and one for their CBAs. The students who were the overall best achievers in each class were Duncan Gillespie (3A), Aoibhe Hickey (3B), Lisa Garcia (3C). Rin Acton, Martha Doyle, Georgia Kelly, Carine Lamoste, Matthew Lawless, Edie Tritschler and Charlie

Junior Cycle Awards



ETHOS



The Amber Flag is a new committee in the school that contributes to the students mental health. Most fundraising and activities support Pieta House, a charity that helps people with their mental health. There are different teams on the Amber Flag that all do something different. There is the Nutrition Team, Sports and Exercise Team, Inclusivity Team, General Wellbeing and Mindfulness Team, Social Committee and Fundraising Team and, Social media and Advertising Team. The Committee consists only of Transition Years and has done many things already to promote mental health.

The first major event hosted by the Amber Flag committee was the Lady's Mini Marathon. It happened on the 8th of October. The girls left the school in the morning to walk from Greystones to Kilcoole. They arrived back at school around twenty to one for snacks, sweets and hot chocolate.

Diversity Club is every Wednesday after school in Room 8 and is supervised by Ms McCormack. It's a welcoming environment where students are able to chat to one another about things that are on their mind or get advice on some problems. Students get to anonymously write what they want discussed on a piece of paper. The pieces of paper are read one by one and the topics get discussed. The club is all about positivity and friendliness, and is a safe space where everyone is welcome.

As An gCofra is every Tuesday after school in Room 10 and is supervised by Mr Monahan. It's a safe space and inclusive group for people to bond and make friends, and all are welcome. It's a very relaxed environment with different activities each week, such as fun games or watching movies. There's also Art and Creative Writing Tables, as well as snacks some weeks too.

Green-Schools is an international environmental education programme, offering a well-defined, controllable way for schools to take environmental issues from the curriculum and apply them to the day-to-day running of their school. In St Davids, the green school committee is working towards their first flag which is the litter and waste flag. The committee is run by our head of Green Schools, Conor Keogh and our deputy head Mikolaj Majcher. The full committee is made up of a class warden from each base class in the school, giving every class from every year an input and a voice in how to make our school more environmentally friendly.

The school is working towards its first flag; a seven step process that will take approximately 18 months to achieve. The first two steps are complete. Step one entailed the organisation of the whole school committee, involving contributions from our caretaker, Mr Liam Murtagh, our cleaning team of Mrs. Anne Doyle, Yola Stochla and Iwona Pawlak, our Principal and Deputy Principal and everybody in between! Our next step will involve implementing actions in response to step two - our audit. The audit found that we currently produce almost 3 tonnes of recyclable waste annually. We're really looking forward to step three - our saction plan.



On October 8th, the ladies mini marathon took place in support of Pieta House. The girls met in the dining hall and they got t-shirts and took photos. The teachers that went with the girls were Mr Ryan, Ms Sheridan, Ms Clifford and Ms Brady. Mr Ryan wore a very flattering wig to walk with the ladies mini marathon.

The group left early in the school day at half nine in the morning. The group walked from St Davids along the beach walk to Kilcoole and back. The girls arrived back at the school at around forty minutes past twelve to a party with hot chocolate and sweets in the dining hall.



Baking Competition

The St. David's cake competition that was set up by one of the home economics teachers, Ms Noone, and was a great competition that got many students from all years involved. It was for the Kenwood young baker competition. The baking of the cakes began on the 6th of October.

The theme of the cake competition was 'Dreams'. Although the theme was the same, all cakes were varied and unique. The next day at lunch time students brought their cakes down to the staff room where they were then judged by Mr Carey, Ms O' Sullivan and Cathy. There were 5 first year students and 2 fourth year students who participated in the

competition.

The next day the winners of the competition were announced. In first year for the junior prize, Brianna Gallagher-Kilbane won and in fourth year for the senior prize, Ella Fitzsimons won.



HALLOWEEN FUN DAY

On the 22nd of October there was a Halloween day in school. The students and teachers dressed up to raise money for charity. There was also a bake sale for charity during the day with lots of cakes and buns. Throughout the day there was lots of fun in each class and best costume awards were given to the students. Together the whole school raised over €2300 for Pieta house charity. At the end of the day everyone had a very good time and it was very successful. This success is thanks to the TY students on the Amber Flag committee.



Deputy Witch!

Principal (S)carey!



It's easy to get in the photo when you can fly.

Three wicked witches photobombed by a dinosaur.



A right pair of cowboys!



One sheet does plenty!

Who you gonna call?



Just a normal day in this base class.



Winner of the teachers' prize. Ms Cunningham A.K.A CoVid Barbie.



Mr. Boland going bear-back.



HALLOWEEN FUN DAY

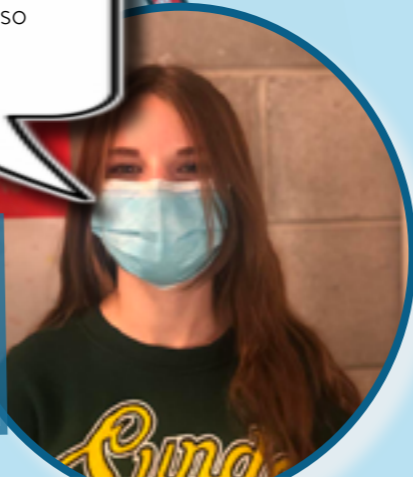


Hi my name is Isla. I am in 5th year and I really have enjoyed the year so far. When I was picking my choice subjects, I considered many choices for my Leaving Cert. but I chose French, Biology, Geography, Business and Politics. I decided on these subjects because I did well in them in TY and I want the best possibilities for my future. 5th year is a bit stressful as there is much to learn in preparation for exams and the inevitable Leaving Cert. As of now I am a Prefect. This means I help out with events and represent the school body. I also do many jobs. For example, my friends and I made the first year club. I hope fifth year will be a good year for academics and new experiences.



Our 5th Year Prefects play a very important role in the school. They aid and assist during any school events that take place and act as mentors and guardians to the younger class groups. It's an excellent opportunity for students to develop their skills in leadership.

My name is Jenny and I recently started my first year in St.Davids. First year has been really fun, I made loads of new friends on my first day and the teachers are so nice and understanding since we are still getting used to secondary school. I'm glad that I came to St. Davids because it has been really welcoming. We had a First Year Funday which was so cool and we have also had so many fun opportunities to get to know people.



St. David's offers a wide variety of extracurricular activities. These are available to all students in the school. They range from G.A.A, Rugby and Soccer to Chess, Debating and Media Club along with another 24 clubs and societies. See our website for more information.

My name is Craig and I also started my first year in St. Davids this year. My favourite parts about St. Davids are my friends and the extracurricular activities. I joined the GAA team with some of my friends and it has been a lot of fun. The TY's come down to organise games and matches for us so that we get to train and have fun at the same time.



STUDENT INTERVIEWS

The New School

Since September the building has gone through many changes.

Firstly the construction of the sports arena is half way done as the exterior is close to being finished. In the new building there will be a gym including sports equipment, weights and other accessories. It will also include a new P.E. hall having three basketball courts being separated by nets.

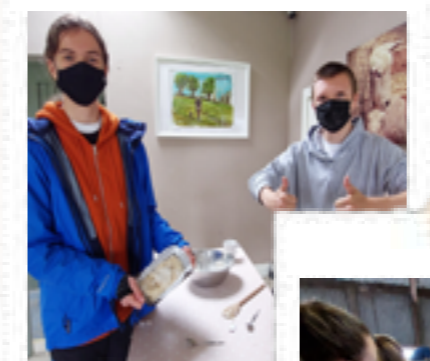
When we went back on the first day the school had changed a lot. The new windows and new doors made the school feel open and modern. The new bathrooms and new classrooms added a new sense of modern living in the school and a fresh sense of adventure. The school was also painted a new lovely shade of beige on the outside and the walls on the inside changed to an arctic white, from the past dull gray walls we were used to seeing. The biggest thing that has changed was that the section between the two buildings has become a busy landscape, preparing for the new corridors that will be made shortly. This means that for the time being we have to walk around the building to get to the creative block. We are all so excited to see what the school will become.

Our school building is now in its twelfth month, out of twenty-four months, of refurbishment and development. The main school building is 80% fully refurbished, with completion of this expected next summer 2022; the brand new sports arena is on schedule to be completed by the end of March 2022; our new three storey extension (which will contain a new library, new D.C.G lab, two new Visual Art rooms, new Graphics room, a new prayer room, three new base classrooms, new stairways and lifts) and creative building on Kimberley Road will be fully refurbished next summer, 2022. It is hoped all building work will be completed by October/November 2022 with astro turf laid on the existing car park by Christmas 2022.



At the start of the year the TY's went on their first trip to Greystones Sailing club. Each class went on a different day. They arrived down at the club at 9:30 and got changed into their sailing gear for the day.

Everyone learned how to successfully rig a sailboat and tack and gybe on land before they took to the seas on their first voyage around the harbour. The TY's were really lucky with the great weather they had, which made capsizing and falling in a lot more enjoyable. They played some exciting games, like sailing football, which turned out to be a lot harder than it sounds. Many people had struggles such as drifting off course, crashing into the harbour walls and getting stuck in the marina or the rocks rather than actually sailing. Nonetheless, it was still a very enjoyable experience.



On the 17th of September, fourth years went on their yearly trip to Causey Farm. There were three main activities: bog jumping, baking bread and seeing the farm animals.

The bog jumping was the highlight of the trip. The students had to jump into a very muddy and wet bog. Overall it was great fun for all students.

When baking, the students were given the task of baking their own loaf of sodabread. The students were paired off and the instructor told everyone what to do and gave out the ingredients.

Seeing the farm animals was another fun part of the trip. There were pigs, rabbits, horses, llamas, goats and a camel named Ian.

By the end of the day, all of the students and teachers had had a great time, and would definitely go again.

TRANSITION YEAR

On Monday the 11th of October the TYs had their annual team bonding day in Éire Óg. The purpose of this was to bring the TYs closer together after the class splits. They left the school first thing in the morning and after arriving were split into eight different groups. They rotated through five different activities, all great fun. First was archery, then there was plank walking and a blindfolded wheelbarrow race. There was also a brain game where they had to move a series of boxes with strict rules that made it quite difficult. Lastly, there was a bottle rocket competition to decide the overall winning team. It was a great day for all.

Yoga classes for TY students happen every Thursday in the dining area for all TY students for one hour per base class. Each base class has a designated time in which they can reflect and relax. This time is rotated every week. This module runs for six weeks (excluding the work experience week) up until Christmas. After Christmas, the instructor will do a drama module with the TYs. Yoga is a beneficial exercise for mental health and flexibility.



1st Year G.A.A.

1st year GAA takes place on a Wednesday after school, it is run by some of the TY students in Eir Oige. The TY's walk down to the pitch on a Wednesday and set up different warm up games for the 1st years when they arrive. It is a great way for the TY's and 1st years to get to know each other and also a great way for the 1st years to make some friends. Two friendly matches were recently played by the first year girls and boys in which they all played very well.



SPORT



On the 8th of October 2021, St David's first years played against Temple Carrik's first years. Kickoff was at 14:20 and it was a close match with the score being 25 - 26 to St Davids. The team played exceptionally well and fought to the last minute with fantastic tries by Max Waddington and Tiernen Williams. Incredible conversion by Cian Levins. The team had great support from parents and families, who encouraged the team until the end.

On the 14th of October St Davids played Newpark in Greystones Rugby club. Kickoff was at 14:25 and the first try was scored within the first 10 minutes by Rory Williams. It was a close match overall and great tries by Rory Williams, Sean Lehan, Lugh Brady and Keelan Lewis, scoring a combined seven tries between them! The tries were followed by three fantastic conversions by Sammy. The score at the end of the match was 39-36 to Davids, an incredible win for the team.



Junior Rugby



St. David's
Holy Faith Greystones

**Proudly produced by
the Transition Year
Media Team**

www.stdavids.ie