



St. Louis Grammar School

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A2 Results Day 2020



AS Success at St. Louis

St. Louis Celebrating Excellence

St. Louis students have once again performed with distinction this year despite all the challenges and uncertainty surrounding the awarding of grades. St. Louis Principal, Mr Kevin Martin stated, "I am very proud of the effort, commitment and resilience demonstrated by our students last year. Students and their teachers remained focussed and determined while working diligently to ensure they achieved the outcomes they deserved." Thankfully their hard work paid off as the Class of 2020 continue to keep up the tradition of high academic achievement and excellence associated with St. Louis with the majority securing their chosen places at Universities.

Success was also felt amongst the Year 12 students with their GCSE grades being awarded by CCEA based on the predictions of their teachers. The evidence produced by the teachers was extensive and largely reflected the fantastic efforts St. Louis students had put into their studies up until the forced closure of schools. The majority of the Year 12 Class of 2020 returned to St. Louis to study their chosen AS Level and BTEC courses. Many have picked up where they had left off and are excelling in their chosen courses. With the help and direction of their teachers, the students, now in Year 13, continue to make excellent progress with online and blended learning.

The current Year 14 and Year 12 students have yet to face the examinations they have worked so tirelessly towards. In light of the cancellation of examinations in 2020, few would have thought this situation would be replicated in 2021. However, both our current A2 and GCSE students have embraced the uncertainty of the future with greater focus to ensure the continuation of their studies and the generation of the evidence that may be needed for the awarding of grades in 2021.



GCSE Success at St. Louis

Annual SVDP Appeal



The Annual SVDP Hamper Appeal was slightly different this Christmas - no Hampers! In place of the Hampers the St. Louis Community were asked for monetary donations. As usual St. Louis stepped up and raised the wonderful sum of £1,177 to purchase food vouchers for those most in need.

‘Thank You’ to the St. Louis Sisters

‘Don’t be afraid of change, it leads you to a new beginning’

The Sisters of St. Louis have recently announced the transfer of ownership and trusteeship of St. Louis Grammar school to the St. MacNissi’s Educational Trust of the Down and Connor Diocese. It is through this transfer that the future of Catholic Education will be sustained in the 21st Century. As we approach our Centenary at St. Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel, all associated with the school over the years would like to thank The St. Louis Sisters for their wonderful efforts in educating and developing generations of children.

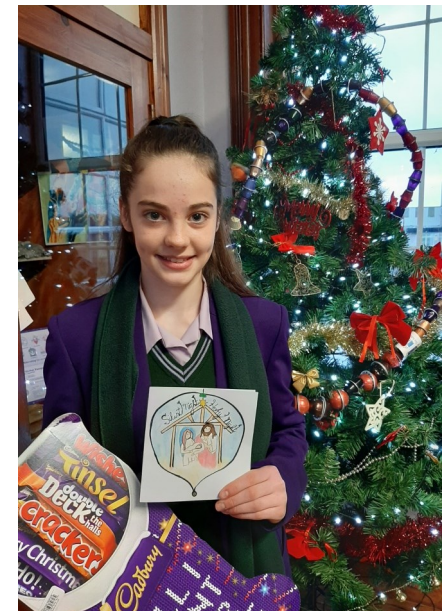
Christmas Senior Quiz Winners



Sixth Form students at St. Louis donned their Christmas jumpers for a festive Quiz in the Study Hall. However, they spread the festive joy throughout the school as they organised the Annual ‘Wear your Christmas jumper to school day’. Some wonderfully colourful attire was on display throughout the school, but more importantly, much needed funds were raised for local charities.

Christmas Card Competition Winners at St. Louis

The Art Department once again displayed plenty of festive spirit as Key Stage 3 students immersed themselves into creating magnificent designs for this year’s Christmas card competition. The highly talented Matthew Speers’ (9D) creation was enough to secure the top spot. However, the competition was tough as he was challenged all the way by Emma Quinn and Caitlin Trainor (both of 10C) who came in 2nd and 3rd respectively. Matthew’s Christmas card was then used as the official St. Louis Christmas Card, and sent electronically to all our associates by Mr Martin over the festive period.



Top Academic Award for Aoibheann



Year 14 student, Aoibheann Quail, was awarded the coveted Hans Sloane Award for combined results in GCE A Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Aoibheann received her award from Professor Tom Moody (VP Technology Development & Commercialisation, Almac Company and Dr Sally Montgomery (Chair of Hans Sloane Trust). Also present was Mr Kevin Martin, Principal of St. Louis Grammar School.

Members of the St. Louis Eco-Schools Committee and the School Council were busy over the course of the year with a variety of projects. However, one project in particular saw the students and staff participate in the planting of native tree species on the grounds around the school. Former St. Louis student, James McConville of Restorify, contacted his old school to see if they were interested in helping the environment by planting trees - not just any tree, but native Irish species such as Rowan, Hawthorn and Oak. Mr Martin was delighted to help with this initiative as were up to 100 students of the Eco-Schools Committee and the School Council. An excellent contribution to combating climate change by reducing St. Louis' carbon footprint.



Restorify at St. Louis



Top Exam Accolade For St. Louis Student

Hard work really does pay off as displayed by Year 14 student, Aoibheann Quail, in her external examinations over the years. Aoibheann is an excellent role model of academic excellence in that her approach to her studies has always been symbolised by a strong work ethic and will to succeed. Aoibheann's success has been recognised at a national level as she was awarded the CCEA Top Candidate Award for First Place in A-level Biology for her examinations sat in 2019. Aoibheann is pictured above with Mr Eamon McGlue (Head of Senior School at St. Louis) and Mr Justin Edwards of CCEA.



New School Announcement for St. Louis

On June 23rd 2020, the Minister for Education, Mr Peter Weir, announced 9 schools to advance in design under the major capital works programme, at an overall anticipated cost of £156million, £120million of which is anticipated on construction.

The Board of Governors and the Trustees of St. Louis Grammar school, Kilkeel, are delighted that the school was included in that announcement.

A Project Steering Group has been established to direct the project through the initial development stage. It is anticipated that the appointment of the Integrated Consultant Team, who will take the project through design to completion, will be finalised in Spring 2021.

St. Louis Art Students portray life in a Global Pandemic



The events of the past year have brought challenges and difficulties to many in equal measure. However, to 'get through it' Art students at St. Louis were given the task of depicting this moment in global history to inform future generations of the events faced by all of us today.

A huge congratulations to our Art & Design COVID-19 competition winners Emilia Zillinskaite, Aoife McGrath, Sarah Forsyth and Madison Crawford for their depictions of life during the Global Pandemic. Such was the quality of their work that St. Louis Principal, Mr Kevin Martin, deemed all four as joint winners.

St. Louis Network

This year, the St. Louis Network have organised virtual workshops for St Louis schools across Ireland and Africa. Co-ordinated by Sr. Finola Cunnane SSL, the workshops focussed mainly on environmental issues including combating waste and in particular, plastics. The School Council and the Eco-Schools Committee participated keenly as the overall aim of the master-classes was to facilitate learning and generate leadership skills among young people.



St. Louis Past Student Podcast helps Irish Migrants in Australia



Past student of St. Louis, Caroline McKenna, excelled in her studies whilst at St. Louis. She also personified the values and ethos of the school. Caroline's studies took her onward to St. Mary's Teaching College, Belfast and eventually to Sydney Australia, where she has secured a teaching post.

Caroline felt strongly about how people, especially Irish people, deal with being away from home. Caroline then set up a podcast to share her experiences, thus helping reduce the anxieties amongst the Irish ex-pats.

Caroline first started her podcast 'A County Down Under' earlier this year detailing her life as an ex-pat in Australia and, in just a few months, has surpassed 85,000 downloads and over 10,000 followers on Instagram. In one episode she spoke with former Aussie Rules and Down Footballer, Martin Clarke, reminiscing fondly about their days at St. Louis.



World Wide Global Passport for St. Louis

St. Louis has been awarded the World Wise Global Passport for the third time. The Global Passport Award is an EU recognised quality mark, which offers schools a framework to integrate Global Citizenship Education into their teaching and learning. Well done to our students and their teachers.

Aoife Receives Carers Award



Year 13 student, Aoife McGrath, was formally recognised for her dedication to the caring of others in the community. Aoife is the proud recipient of The Michaela Foundation Wings Award. Aoife continues to be an excellent role model for all St. Louis students.

St. Louis Help Ditch the Plastic



“A water bottle for everyone in the audience - and the rest of the school, once you sign the St. Louis Plastic Pledge.” NI Water representative, Pat McAuley, presents water bottles to St. Louis Eco-School members who encourage other St. Louis students to go plastic free!

Student Leadership Team Elected at St. Louis



St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel, have recently announced the names of those students who have been elected to the posts of Head Boy and Girl and those who fill the roles of Deputy Head Boy and Girl.

These prestigious posts are the result of the students, initially, being elected as a Senior Prefect during Year 13 by both peers and teachers. Applicants then undergo an application process which involves completing detailed application forms and attending an interview with the Senior Management Team in school. Head of Senior School, Mr Eamon McGlue, emphasised the importance of these roles and the high esteem in which they are held within the school and the wider community. “At St Louis we are immensely proud of all our students and we acknowledge that they are all fine ambassadors for St Louis. However, the Senior Student Leadership Team reflect the characteristics which are necessary to be responsible leaders and role models for their peers”

The posts of Head Girl and Boy for 2020-21 went to Michaela McKay (formerly of St. Mary’s Primary School, Newcastle) and Jack Brennan (Killowen Primary School). To assist them in their duties, Ciara Cunningham (Holy Cross Primary School, Attical) and Cillian McLaverty (Moneydarragh Primary school, Longstone) were also appointed in the respective roles of Deputy Head Girl and Boy.

Former St. Louis Student first Nurse to be Vaccinated



Coronavirus: First Covid-19 vaccine in NI given to nurse

Former St. Louis student, Joanna Sloan, recently became the first nurse in Northern Ireland to receive the vaccination against Covid-19. Sister Joanna, who studied at St. Louis from 2003-2010, is also responsible for managing the ‘rolling out’ of the vaccine in the Belfast Trust Centre. For those who studied with her, and for those teachers who taught her, it would not come as a surprise that Joanna would have the strength and conviction to lead the way forward during this Pandemic. Joanna stated on a BBC News interview that, “I want my daughter to be proud.” Well, Joanna you can add plenty more people to the list that are proud of you and many of them are your former teachers at St. Louis Grammar School. You are an excellent role model to all of us, Joanna!

'I want my daughter to be proud'



Year 11 Boys Quarter finalists in the Paddy O’Hara Cup



Year 10 Girls Ulster Ladies Football Quarter finalists

2020 has been a strange year for schools, impacting on all aspects of school life, in the classroom, examination halls and on the sports fields. In 2019, St. Louis sports enthusiasts had competed in Gaelic football (boys and girls) and Camogie. Given the rich tradition of success of Gaelic sports at St. Louis, it proved to be another exciting year with all teams representing St. Louis with great honour and distinction, following in the footsteps of wonderful Down players such as Martin Clarke, Sorcha McCartan and Lauren Cunningham.

However, the Global Pandemic put all aspects of life on hold, including our participation in Ulster Schools Gaelic sports. We look forward to the end of this pandemic and competing once again against other schools for Ulster titles. We also look forward to the wonderful experiences that come with team sport and in particular, playing as teammates on St. Louis teams.



Junior ‘Camogs’ lift Down Shield Title in Castlewellan

Former St. Louis Students Bask in All-Ireland Glory



Congratulations and well done to three former St. Louis Camogs, who were part of the Down Senior Camogie Squad which secured the All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie title. Well done to Sorcha McCartan, Danielle Harrison and Aoife Murphy as Down beat Antrim in a pulsating final played in December.