

Dear Friend of Stratford,



Student Voice

On the 31st of January 2018, twenty-six students from TY and 5th Year flew into Stuttgart Airport for an amazing trip. We couldn't anticipate what the **European Parliament** would be like, so we had come prepared for any situation, armed with facts and statistics on treaties and EU legislation. We were nervous but excited. We had an early start that morning going to the Parliament, with many of us up at 5am Irish time.

Firstly, on our agenda for the day was the chamber session. In this session we got acquainted with the European system and listened to each country's speech. Sophie from TY spoke insightfully about Ireland and Stratford College, through French which was very impressive. We had the opportunity to speak to an MEP from Slovenia. Like most MEP's he showcased his knowledge of the European Parliament whilst doing little to address our questions. However, it was interesting to speak to an MEP as it helped us to understand how the Parliament works. Following this we listened to a very insightful speech by Euroscola President in which he talked about how it is

our responsibility to vote in the upcoming elections and that if we want to make change we have the ability. He used the inspirational African proverb: "If you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go far, go with others", which sums up our experience at the Parliament.

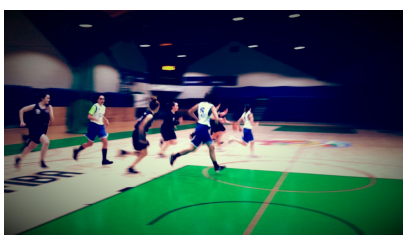
Following lunch, we broke into our committees on various topics such as Migration and the Future of Europe. We elected representatives and came up with our own solution as to how we could solve these problems. Here we learned the true value of patience and good debating skills. We met again in the chamber where each solution was proposed and we had to find arguments against the other solutions. Ross in TY represented his committee which was Youth Unemployment where he not only spoke confidently about their solution on the main panel but he also defended it. Three out of the five solutions proposed passed.

Over-all the trip was very worthwhile and educational. We learned a lot about how the European Parliament works and we gained a new respect for how difficult it is to create legislation and policies.

*Rebecca Lee,
5th Year*

5th Years hear Cillian Murphy talk at Youth Empathy Day in NUI Galway

Mr. Priestley and Mr. Fennell, with a large group of 5th years and some TYs, visited NUI Galway on Thursday, 1st February to participate in Youth Empathy Day, organised by the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre. Actor and patron of the centre, Cillian Murphy attended and spoke with the students - including Stratford students.



1st and 2nd Year girls basketball teams on a winning streak

The 1st and 2nd Year girls basketball teams have been playing really well over the past few weeks. In particular, the 1st Year girls basketball team have been all their games since December! Go Stratford go!

Student Voice: a teacher-student partnership in school experience

The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) is consulting with students to help inform them in their curriculum development work in early, primary and post-primary education levels. On a European level there is the Bridge to Learning project.





Junior Girls footballers on the march!

Tuesday, 16th January and the Junior Girls football team visited Alexandra College as part of their bid to enter official FAI competitions next season.

Film Director Nick Kelly holds Q&A with TY English students

TY student, Rory Glynn, not only reviews the film but also writes about the visit that Film Director, Nick Kelly, made to the TY English class in mid-December.



2nd versus 3rd Year Annual Classics Quiz

Another closely contest contest in the annual 2nd versus 3rd year quiz. Well done to Valery, Grace, Lizzy and Alexey who took first place.

Matilda! A major dramatic success!

Matilda proved to be a major highlight of the term with two fantastic performances by all the cast on Wednesday, 20th and Thursday, 21st December. Will we forget Rudolpho and Miss Trunchbull?! Matilda was a marvel, as was Miss Honey. Well done to everyone involved both front of stage and back stage. Huge credit goes to Mr Downes. Thank you for two fantastic nights!



TY students compete in SciFest@Schools with coding projects

On Tuesday, 19th December the TY students presented their coding projects for inspection to two external judges as part of the SciFest@Schools competition (Intermediate Technology category). In groups of 2 or 3, students had to present both their coding projects as well as explain the design process. Some of the winning groups will represent Stratford in the

SciFest@College competition next May in IT Blanchardstown.

Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement: Special Assembly to mark the occasion for TY students

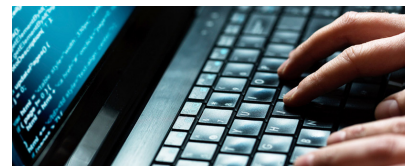
This month marks another small watershed in Irish education when young 16 year old students will receive the first Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement around Ireland. Here in Stratford we are marking this occasion with a school assembly.



Group of 1st Years raise over €300 for MS-Readathon

Well done to Grace Robbins, Sarah Nelkin, Evan Pender, Nathan Slattery and Sean Noonan who raised approximately €340 for MS-Ireland as part of the recent MS-Readathon.

Stratford College selected as one of the pilot schools for Leaving Certificate Computer Science



Stratford College has been selected to be one of the pilot schools to be part of the phased introduction of Computer Science as a subject in the Leaving Certificate. Being a pilot school means that Leaving Certificate Computer Science will be introduced to Stratford College 5th Year students starting September 2018. They will sit the Leaving Certificate Computer Science online exam in June 2020. Computer Science will be the first online Leaving Certificate exam.

School Calendar

28th February: **Half-day** for Staff Training

1st March: **Subject Choice meeting**, 7pm
(TYs & parents)

6th March: **Half-day** for Staff Training

6th March: **TY Information meeting**, 7pm (3rd
Years & parents)

12th March: **Incoming & Prospective Parents**
meeting, 7pm

School Events

22nd February: **Green Schools Expo**, RDS

25th - 28th February: **Classical Studies/Art**
Trip to Rome

1st March: **World Book Day & Bring a Book,**
Buy a Book Sale

1st March: **Purim**

12th - 16th March: **Seachtain na Gaeilge**