



Stratford College

Co-educational Secondary School

Dear Friend of Stratford,

Safe Internet Use



The theme for this year's **Safer Internet Day**, celebrated on Tuesday, 10th February, is "Let's Create a Better Internet Together".

To coincide with this date, DIT researchers Dr. Brian O'Neill (parent of two Stratford College past pupils) and Thuy Dinh published the **Net Children Go Mobile** report on Monday, 9th February. It is part of an EU research project looking at the European context of children and the mobile internet.

For more details go to the **Parents Association blog**. [Image: www.webwise.ie]

Ms. Patricia Gordon
Principal

Stratford College ranked highest co-educational school in the country

The Sunday Times ranked Stratford College as the highest co-educational school in the country over three years, when it published its findings on 31st August 2014.

It was ranked 28th overall in the same Top 400 rankings list. For more details see the **General News blog**.



Benefits of Co-educational education in Ireland



In an interesting [article](#) in the Irish Times Peter Maguire wrote about the benefits of co-educational education in Ireland. 'While there are mixed findings on the relative academic merits of single-sex versus co-educational schools, there is more reliable evidence that co-education better prepares young people socially' he writes.

Teachers in mixed and girls' schools, the research showed, used better teaching methods, with a greater emphasis on active learning, challenging and higher-order

teaching, and positive learning climates.

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One line of thought on why males aren't doing as well at school puts it down to boys being taught predominantly by female teachers, especially in primary schools. Others suggest that learning styles differ by gender, but this is disputed. Some research points to a laddish culture where boys don't take school as seriously as girls.

In a recent study she co-authored, [Prof Dympna Devine](#), head of the school of education at University College Dublin, found the gender of the students being taught – rather than the gender of the teachers – may be particularly important in shaping teaching practices in the classroom. "This was most evident in the significant differences observed between all-boys schools and co-education and all-girls schools," she says.

Teachers in mixed and girls' schools, the research showed, used better teaching methods, with a greater emphasis on active learning, challenging and higher-order teaching, and positive learning climates. With this in mind, is it any wonder that boys don't do as well?

Devine urges caution, stressing that social class and ethnicity also influence teaching styles. That said, the study identified clear stereotyping among teachers in how they spoke about boys and girls.

"Girls were invariably categorised as calm, pliable, timid, mature, focused, 'tale tellers' and easier to discipline," says Devine. "Boys, by contrast, were spoken of as lively, boisterous, energetic, competitive, show-offs, spontaneous and potentially disruptive." Peter Maguire The Irish Times Tues Jan 20 2015 ([click here to read more](#))

Key Skills for 21st Century Learning

In a very interesting key note speech, Professor Gordon Stobart described 21st Century Skills and how different countries were adapting them to their own educational

systems. Speaking at the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment's **Annual Conference**, Professor Stobart of University College London spoke about the challenges this 21st Learning Agenda meant for education.

Click on the following links to read more about what changes are in place in Stratford College to implement these skills:

- Key Skill: [21st Century Learning](#)
- Key Skill: [Keeping Well](#)
- Key Skill: [Managing Information](#)



Co-curricular Activities



The first week of the new year saw students visiting **Austria to ski** and the **Young Scientist** in the RDS. A combined History/Science trip to London for senior students is planned for March. They will visit the Imperial War Museum where they will take in the fantastic newly opened **First World War Gallery** and **Holocaust Exhibition** followed by the **Science Museum** and all its wonders.

There are many things planned already for the remainder of the year not least the very important event of **World Book Day** when we will be celebrating the joy of reading and hope that you as parents will join in!

Don't forget to support the Friends of Stratford Private Members Draw which is fund raising for the benefit of the both schools – details are available on our **website** or the school office.

Dates for Your Diary

Thursday, 12th February: *Diamond Jubilee Visit to Áras an Uachtaráin*

Wednesday, 25th February: *Subject Choice Information Meeting*

Parents of TY students, students and any new prospective TY parents (2015) welcome to attend.

Monday, 2nd March: *TY Information Meeting*
Parents and 3rd Year students

(Contd.)

Thursday, 5th March: *World Book Day*
Events organised throughout the day.

Monday - Friday, 9th - 13th March: *Seachtain na Gaeilge*
Events organised during the week.

Tuesday 10th March at 7pm: *1st Year Information Meeting*
Parents of 1st Year students 2014 and any new prospective parents (2015) welcome to attend.

Enrolment 2017: offers for 1st Year 2017 are currently underway

New 2015 and 2016 applicants will be put on a waiting list and offered places according to our **Admissions Policy** and available places.

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