



Stratford College

Co-educational Secondary School

Dear Friend of Stratford,

The Key Skill of Staying Well. Students need a wide range of skills to help them face the many challenges presented to them in today's world. As part of the new Junior Cycle programme, a general set of skills have been identified that support students in their personal, social and work lives.

One of these skills is "Staying Well" and this year Stratford College will be focusing on this skill as a key strategic priority. This follows from the Board's approval of our school policy on positive mental health and a survey of our student's participation in physical activities.

Being healthy, physically and emotionally, being socially active and being able to take care of oneself and of others helps learners become happy and confident. This key skill also helps young people become positive and engaged in their learning and supports them in the safe and ethical use of digital technology.

Visit Stratford College on its **Open Day**, Sunday 8th November from 2pm - 3.30pm.

Ms. Patricia Gordon
Principal

Being webwise in Stratford



Stratford College recently revised its **Acceptable User Policy (AUP) for IT** in order to balance the web's potential in terms of education as well as safeguarding student's welfare from the sinister nature of the internet.

We have as much ring fencing in place as possible through a centralised schools' firewall. Phones should be left in student lockers unless a teacher requests their use. We do this as much to promote activity and

social interaction as to monitor student safety.

There are social media guidelines on our website and a very good website to consult on these matters is www.webwise.ie.

Science Department and TY students start preparing the school biodiversity garden

Ms. McCarthy, Ms O'Sullivan and the TY students started work on the school biodiversity garden on Thursday, 22nd October. A lot of work needs to be done over the coming weeks to prepare the ground for spring bulbs and a number of fruit trees. TY students, Jake Henry and Julia Tatar Cancado, describe what they did on their first day in the garden.



Second Green Flag (for energy) formally raised after the Awards Ceremony

The theme of this year's Awards Ceremony on Friday, 23rd October, was renewable energy - in light of Stratford's Green Schools Committee formally raising its second Green Flag for Energy. Green Schools organised for an electric car to come to the school with ESB Cars. Students had great fun getting into it prior to the start of the Awards Ceremony!

U16 Boys basketball team lose to Clonkeen by 1 point

Tough luck to the U16 Boys basketball team who lost by one point to Clonkeen on Wednesday, 21st October. A team to watch!



Web Summit for Schools - Stratford will be there again!

A large group of students and parents from 1st year to 6th year have got much coveted tickets to the Web Summit for Schools on Tuesday, 3rd November at 7.30pm in the RDS. We were there last year and it was an incredible experience.

Manga High craze during Maths Week

The Maths Department organised Maths Week events centred around Mangahigh and daily puzzles from Monday 12th to Friday 16th October. Competition was extremely keen amongst the classes. In addition to Maths Week it was also EU Code Week. Students from 1st year to 5th year practiced coding during their IT classes.



TY students teach computers in Log on to Learn programme

Throughout late September and early October, a number of TY students were involved in teaching local residents how to use their computers/mobile devices more effectively.

Curriculum Evening on Thursday 19th November at 7pm

Annette Honan from the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) will be speaking about Assessment for Learning. In addition members of staff will be presenting on Junior Cycle English, Literacy, Numeracy, Well Being, Learning Support and Testing.



TY students have a fantastic trip to Delphi

Ms. Finnegan brought the TY students to Delphi on Monday, 7th September for the start of their four-day adventure sports week. Congratulations to all the TYs on their Junior Certificate results which they received while they were in Delphi. TY student, Sam O'Brien, recounts the week.



1st and 2nd Year students participate in MS Readathon



This year's MS Readathon started on 9th October and finishes on 9th November. 1st and 2nd Year students are participating in this national readathon which raises significant funds for Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland. Students can win different prizes depending on how much money they

raise. They can also be entered into a national draw to win one of 20 iPads.

Assessment for Learning

Teaching and Learning has enjoyed many changes in the last few years with a new focus on **Assessment for Learning (AfL)** and active teaching methodologies. AfL practices enhance learning rather than just measure it. International research, Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and our own experience clearly demonstrates the benefits of AfL on teaching and learning strategies and outcomes.



Briefs

Stratford College Arts Week is from 16th - 20th November. See the **Arts Week events calendar**.

Non-perishable food is being collected by students for Social Action/Mitzvah Week, 16th - 20th November. It will be donated to Focus Ireland.

Stratford College Productions present "Grease" on 16th and 17th December at 7pm in the school hall.

Connect with Stratford

Stratford College website

Stratford National School website

Stratford College Facebook page

Stratford College YouTube Channel