

Stratford College

2018-2019

Year Book

Stratford College

2018-2019

Year
Book

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Sincere thanks for all the contributions from the Stratford College Parents' Association,
Sponsors, Board of Management, Teachers, Staff and Students.

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Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to the second edition of our biannual Year Book.

In honouring the past, valuing the present and committing to the future, Stratford College seeks to provide meaningful learning opportunities for all our students. This book celebrates the life of our school through the large range of curricular and co-curricular activities that are provided by an enthusiastic staff.



Stratford College is committed to providing a challenging and rigorous curriculum that helps each student progress and provide a safe environment for all students. As you will see, each year aims to provide important transitions and the acquisition of new skills that will enhance each student's ability to apply learning in many ways.

Our guiding teaching and learning principles are:

Quality: all learners will be offered a high quality education, characterised by high expectations of the learner and the pursuit of excellence. It will aim to generate engagement and enthusiasm and encourage participation.

Inclusive education: the curriculum will be inclusive of all learners and contribute to the achievement of equality of opportunity, participation and outcome for all.

Continuity: the curriculum will build on students' learning to date, actively support their progress in learning, and facilitate them in preparing and planning for future learning.

Lifelong learning: Students will develop the skills of managing and directing their own learning that will assist them in meeting the challenges of life beyond school, in further and continuing education, and in working life.

My thanks to the Parents Association for again taking the initiative on this and to Ms. O'Kelly, our much valued librarian and editor of this beautiful book.

Patricia Gordon
Principal

Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2017-2019 Stratford College Yearbook. So much happens in the life of a school every year and it is truly special to have some of these moments captured in this way. Since the publication of the last year book there has been a lot to celebrate.

Stratford students have demonstrated social and political awareness as well as academic achievement across all subjects, earning the opportunity to represent their school at the European Parliament in Strasbourg in February 2018. Stratford has also added two green flags to its total - the issue of climate change has been very much in the news on the international stage and this has also been reflected in Stratford.



An involved and committed PA also plays its part and it has been a privilege to work with such a great group of people. I would like to pay particular tribute to Anne Baker who is leaving this year having been a wonderful Secretary of the Stratford PA for four years. We will miss her.

We meet monthly with Ms Gordon and have parent representatives from all year groups. This provides a unique opportunity to hear different points of view and to keep abreast of what is happening in the school. Over the past two years we have been working on the Parent-Student Charter as an ongoing project, with Communication as the area of focus. We have also invited guest speakers on Cyber Safety and on Parenting, we have conducted surveys to obtain the views of parents and guardians on these and other issues, and we have had the opportunity to meet both the Board of Management and Student Council to hear their perspectives. The PA have provided support at school events including the annual social event for First Year parents, the two outstanding musicals Matilda and Strictly Ballroom, the Stratford College Open Days, and the Careers Night for 5th and 6th years in 2018, as well as being involved in consultations regarding updated school policies.

The Parent Association is there to give parents a voice but also to support the school in providing a positive learning environment. We welcome new members from all year groups and enjoyed meeting the parents of First Years 2019 at the recent social evening organised in Rathgar.

A big thank-you to Ms O'Kelly who has done a great job of putting this yearbook together for all of us to enjoy. Congratulations to the Leaving Certificate classes of 2018 and 2019 and we wish every success to the class of 2020.

Stratford College Parents' Association

September



TY Trip to Delphi



September: News around the World

“Brazil’s National Museum Catches on Fire”

“Tiger Woods wins Tour championship, first title in five years”

“President Higgins signed the Thirty-Sixth Amendment of the Constitution Bill 2018, thereby repealing the Eighth Amendment

“A Status Orange wind warning was in effect due to Storm Ali. Over 186,000 homes, businesses and farms were without power as a result of the storm.”

“The second day of the National Ploughing Championships in Tullamore was cancelled due to public safety concerns following extreme weather conditions.”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.infoplease.com



TY Trip to Delphi

The TYs headed off to Delphi on Monday, 3rd September. Spirits were high and the weather forecast was reasonably good. The TYs got to experience many challenges, including canoeing, surfing and climbing (very high).

Ms Finnegan saw students really pushing themselves to do things that they wouldn't normally attempt. Thanks to Ms Finnegan for organising the trip - its always a major highlight for TYs!



TY students go Paintballing

The TYs, Ms Finnegan and Ms Donohoe drove off on their paintballing adventure on Thursday, 13th September.

Competition was fierce! Everyone had a good afternoon.



Leaving Certificate students attend Higher Options exhibition

Senior Cycle students from Stratford attended the Higher Options exhibition on Friday, 14th September with Mr. Culliney. The Higher Options exhibition gives students the opportunity to talk with representatives from colleges, universities and the new Apprentice Hub.

Photograph: Natasha Kinsella/Twitter



Sport for all, sport for life!

Regular exercise is important to teenagers because it helps maintain their physical and mental health. Students should strive for at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily, aiming to spend less time being sedentary and more time being active.

If students can discover physical activities they enjoy, they are more likely to exercise on a regular basis and continue exercising into adulthood.

Parents can encourage students to exercise regularly by setting a good example and becoming more active themselves. Physical exercise encourages the body's production of endorphins, chemicals that improve our mood. Exercise reduces the risk of depression, increases self-esteem, builds self-confidence and promotes restful sleep. It also enhances thinking and learning skills and may improve academic performance. See also www.livestrong.com

Ms. Finnegan (PE Teacher)



Senior Cycle students go see “Black 47” in Rathmines

On Friday, 28th September, all our senior students traipsed down to the Omniplex in Rathmines to assess Lance Daly's new film, "Black 47".

We're analysing this text for Daly's vision of the famine and how he communicated this to his audience. We'll be comparing this text to Colin Murphy's novel, 'Boycott', (also set during the famine) for their routes through fictionalising a tragic historical event. Mr Murphy is due to visit our school on Wednesday, 3rd October, to discuss these questions and more with our sixth years. Please check out Rory Glynn's (a 5th year student) astute and remarkably insightful review of Daly's film on his blog (<https://moviebuffstuffs.wordpress.com/>). Enjoy!

Ms. Reynolds

Image: www.imdb.com

October



The Herzog Family Visit



Student Art Work

October: News around the World

“Lewis Hamilton secures fifth Formula 1 title, putting him joint second in all-time standings”

“Pepper becomes the first robot to appear at a UK parliamentary meeting, talking to MPs about the future of artificial intelligence in education.”

“A march through central London demanding a vote on the final Brexit deal attracts an estimated 700,000 people, according to its organisers.”

“Ethiopia Approves First Female President”

“Michael D. Higgins was officially declared President of Ireland after receiving 822,566 first preference votes.”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.infoplease.com



National Heritage Week: visit by Colin Murphy, historical novelist

Have you ever wondered how accurate a writer needs to be to write historical fiction? Is it okay to compress a historical figure/figures into one character for the sake of an engaging storyline? What about the importance of adhering to the timeline, is it okay to compress the timeline as long as the facts don't change?

These are the questions we put to our visiting historical writer, Colin Murphy, author of 'Boycott', during his visit with our fifth and sixth-year students. They are looking at different ways in which, different authors (Lance Daly's film, 'Black 47', Eavan Boland's poem, 'The Famine Road' and Colin Murphy's novel, 'Boycott') approach the challenging and difficult subject of the famine. We also discussed why there was a lack of texts that addressed this subject, the question of sensibility was undermined by the extensive coverage of the Holocaust, yet the assertion that it might be still a politically sensitive issue got greater credence. This made for some great discussions around the presence of bias in the vision and viewpoint of each text and the impact this had on the audience's viewpoint.

Ms Reynolds



Stratford teacher presents at Researchmeet of Féilte 2018

Stratford College was represented at this year's FÉILTE - the Teaching Council's Festival of Education in Learning and Teaching Excellence - held in Limerick on 5th and 6th October.

At the Researchmeet Ms O'Kelly spoke with her Trinity co-researcher, Sinéad O'Sullivan, about aspects of teaching and learning of Leaving Certificate Computer Science using the Bridge21 Learning Model developed in Trinity College, Dublin. The moment was captured on Twitter!



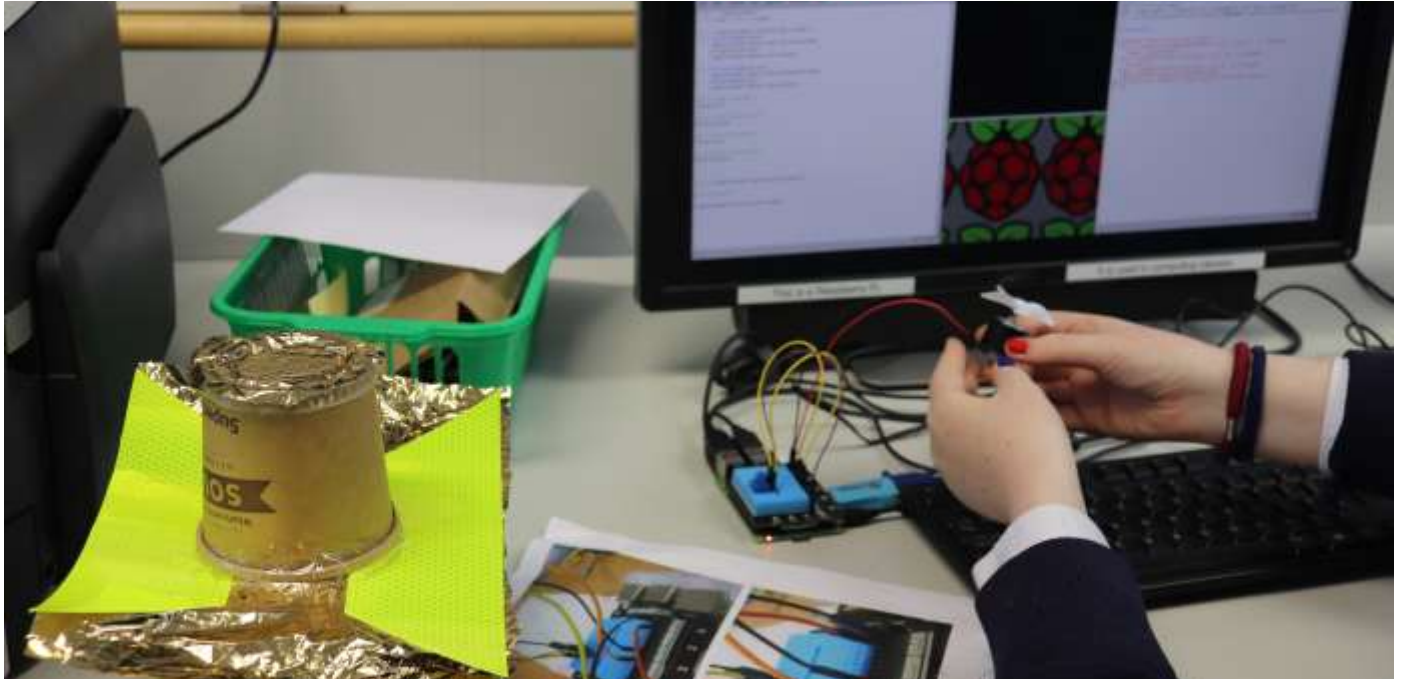
Opening-day win for First Year Futsal

After a busy few weeks getting to know their new school and classmates, the First Year Boys Futsal team made a winning start to their debut season representing the school.

The team played two hard-fought matches in the annual FAI Futsal tournament on Monday, 8th October, and showed great teamwork, effort and skill in victory and defeat.

Players will now for part of the wider football programme at Stratford and will compete with students from other years on school teams. We all look forward to seeing them step-up to 11-a-side competition next year.

Mr Priestley



EU Code Week: Stratford codes

EU Codeweek kicked off on 6th October. Stratford students have been exploring problem solving and coding activities (including unplugged activities) during Computer Studies classes throughout the week.

Students were given a choice of coding and problem solving problems, such as:

- Blockly Games
- Scratch
- Scratch 3.0 (beta version)
- BBC micro:bit
- Problem Solving: online Bebras Challenges
- 20years.withgoogle.com (analysing global search patterns in different categories)

Ms O'Kelly



The Herzog Family visit Stratford Schools

On Wednesday, 17th October 2018 the children of Chaim Herzog and their families, visited Belfast and Dublin to retrace the footsteps of their father to celebrate the Centenary Anniversary of the birth of Chaim Herzog, sixth President of Israel, 17th October 2018.

Born in Belfast and raised in Dublin, their father Chaim Herzog served as Israel's sixth President between 1983 and 1993. In 1985 Chaim Herzog visited Stratford College. Photographs of that occasion were presented by the Student Council to the Herzog's at a special assembly held in both Stratford College and Stratford National School on the morning of the 17th October. Many visitors were invited, including the Principal and some TY Politics students from Wesley College.



Maths Week 2018

Students experienced numeracy through many subjects during Maths Week (15th - 19th October 2018).

1st years completed maths puzzles during maths class and went on a "Maths Eyes" walk to discover how much numeracy is present in the physical world around them.

Ms Mahon encouraged numeracy through Art by making geometric patterns. In Computer Studies classes, students watched a video about Dr Christine Darden, a mathematics researcher and also one of the 'human computers' who started working in NASA during the 1960's. Students discussed the many barriers that Dr Darden encountered in her education and working career.

Ms O'Sullivan



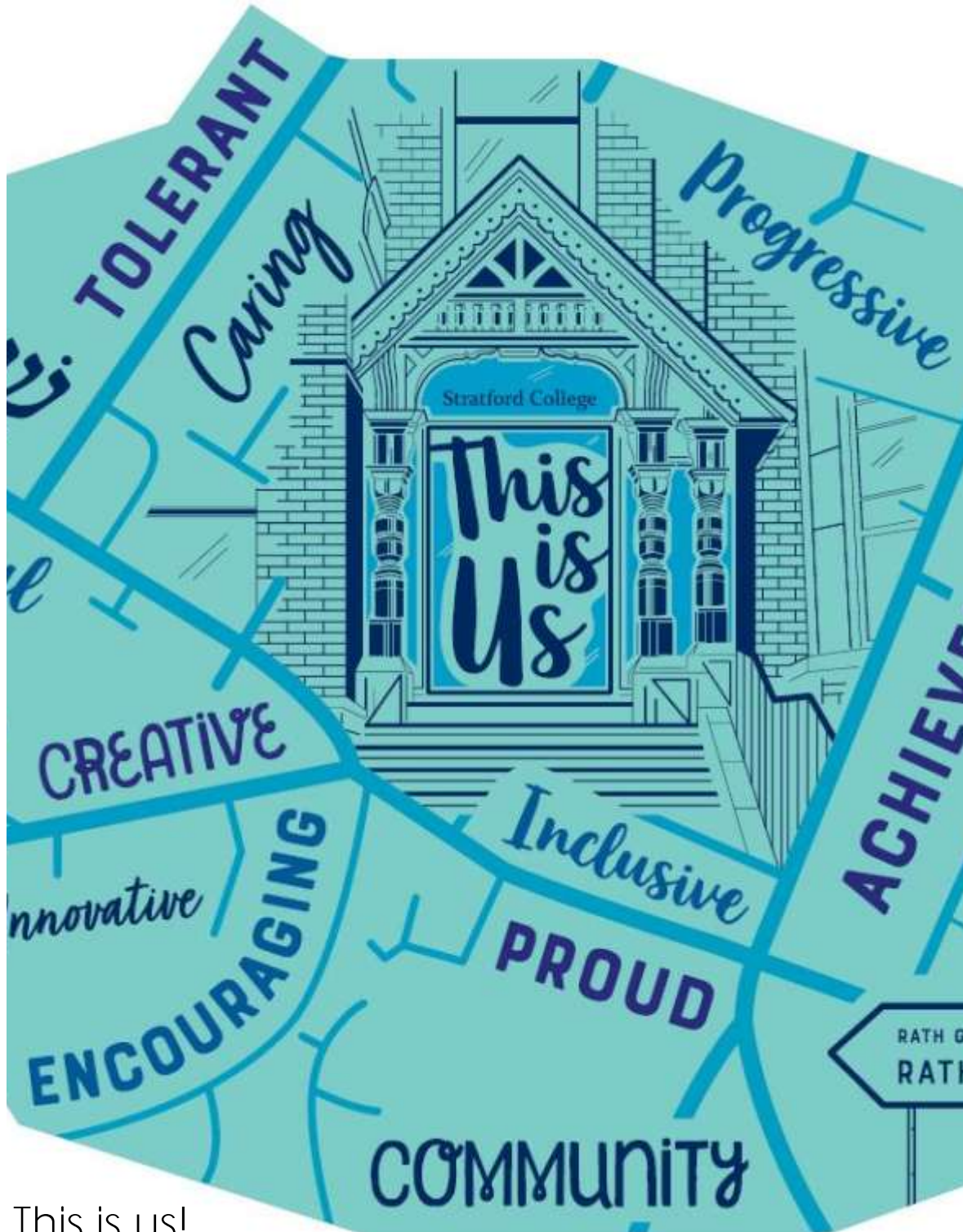
Annual Awards Ceremony

Student Council hosted the Awards Ceremony on Friday, 26th October. The Awards Ceremony celebrates the achievements of excellence by Stratford students in the Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle, as well as leadership, sporting and extra-curricular activities during the school year 2017-2018.

This year's Keynote Speaker was Noleen from Concern. Student Council are planning on having a Concern Fast on Friday, 7th December to highlight the needs of others. This is also part of Stratford's sustainability goals.

Ms Conlon and the School Choir provided fantastic musical interludes during the ceremony. Two past pupils from 2008 spoke briefly about their memories of Stratford which was terrific to hear! Finally, the Tuck Shop Boys played us out!

November



This is us!



Student Art Work

November: News around the World

“Renewable energy capacity overtakes that of fossil fuels in the UK for the first time, at 41.9 gigawatts.”

“After more than 18 months of negotiations, EU leaders endorse the Brexit withdrawal agreement.”

“Hundreds of people attended an event in St Stephen's Green to mark the arrival of a six-metre-high (20 ft) sculpture of a World War I soldier.”

“Michael D. Higgins was inaugurated for a second term as President of Ireland.”

“Stolen Picasso Found”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.infoplease.com



Street Theatre in Rathgar Village

In Rathgar Village today (Thursday, 8th November), our second year English students performed six plays that they had written based around a local literary or historical event.

For example, Jonah Miller wrote and directed a play about local man W. B. Yeats, Maria Todorova wrote and directed her play on Harry Clarke, the celebrated Irish stain glass artist, whose work is housed in St Joseph's church and Annalivia Pezzillo created her play around Mr Chaim Herzog, the former Chief Rabbi of Ireland, whom Herzog Park is named after in his honour.

Ms Reynolds

Image: Villages of Dublin, www.dublinbus.ie



Stratford's Open Day Extremely Busy

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, 11th November, Stratford celebrated its teaching and learning by inviting the public to visit its classrooms and campus. As in past years, it was a very busy and engaging afternoon for visitors, students and teachers alike.

The many families who visited Stratford were ably guided around the school by the many Stratford students who came in to help on the day.

At 3pm Ms Gordon gave a brief talk about what it means to be a student in Stratford College. Visitors were entertained by the School Choir. Many thanks to Ms Conlon and the Choir.

Also many thanks to Ms Donohoe and all the guides (in the above photo), and to Brendan and all the teaching staff for making it a day to be very proud of Stratford College!



Senior Music Students go see “Bohemian Rhapsody”

6th Year Music students went to the cinema with students from the music lunch-time club on 13th November to see *Bohemian Rhapsody*, the film.

It was an evening of bliss to the music lover, and Queen's Live Aid performance played in full, which felt like we were at a concert. "*Bohemian Rhapsody*" is on the Leaving Cert Music course this year and as a group we came away with great insight into the characters of the band, Freddie Mercury, Roger Taylor, John Deacon, Brian May.

Songs played during the film included 'Radio Ga Ga', 'Love of my Life', 'Who wants to live forever', 'Another one bites the dust', 'We will rock you' and of course 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. Some of our favourite parts included behind the scenes studio recordings, portraying the innovative way the band approached new recording techniques. They put coins on their drums, used multi-tracking techniques for the operatic section 'Galileo' and even had a radio swinging from the roof to create the 'panning' effect. We especially enjoyed the Live Aid performance. Thank you to Ms Conlon and Ms Mulhern for organising the trip.

Holly Cullen, Hannah Conheady and Sonny Daly (6th Year)

Image: www.google.com



Past pupil: Maser, Street Artist

Street artist, Maser, was featured in The Irish Times on Saturday, 24th November. Maser, now also known by his given name, Al Hester, is a past pupil of Stratford College.

The mural opposite the side door in Stratford was painted by Maser for a CSPE project some years ago.



Stratford students attend Presidential Inauguration rehearsals

Two students from 2nd Year - Sarah and Ayush - had the honour of attending the Presidential Inauguration rehearsals with Rabbi Lent in Dublin Castle on Wednesday, 7th November.

Rabbi Lent attended the Inauguration of President Michael D. Higgins on Sunday, 11th November 2018 in Dublin Castle. This is the President's second term in office.



Science Week 2018

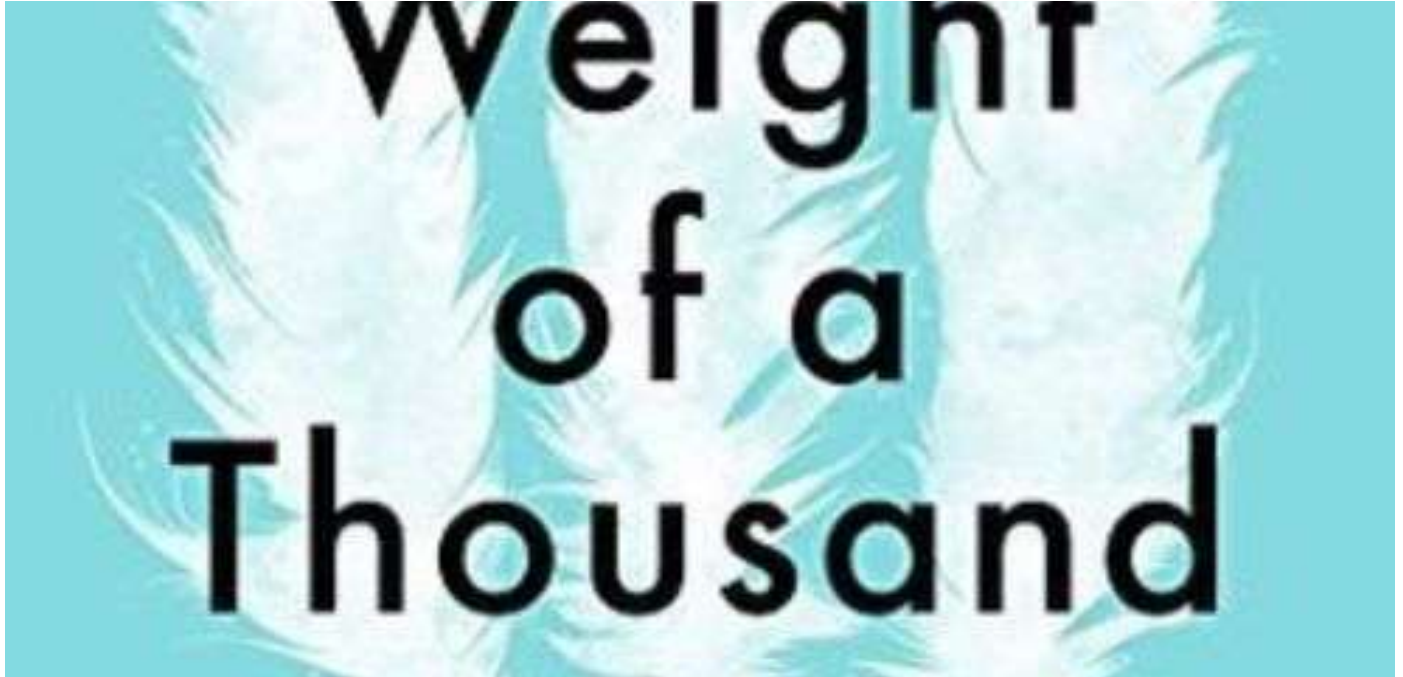
Science Week 2018 (12th - 16th November) was celebrated in a myriad of different ways throughout the week. The TYs organised a week of workshops and events in the hall and the 2nd Years went to the National Gallery of Ireland to see the "Art in Mind - How Nature Inspires" Exhibition. Watch the Science Week @ Stratford College video on our YouTube channel.

Activities were planned for classes too. 2nd and 3rd Years participated in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. The workshops and events organised by the TYs included:

- Frankenstein Talk: Science Fiction and Science
- Sensory Workshop
- Electron Game
- and the highlight of the week for many students - the animals! We loved the meerkat!

In Computer Studies classes, 2nd and 3rd Years participated in the Bebras Challenge - an online international computational thinking competition. It is run by Maynooth University and we hope that some Stratford students will be selected to compete in the National Finals next May!

A huge thanks to Ms O'Sullivan, Mr Fennell, Mr Byrne and the TYs for organising such a fantastic week!



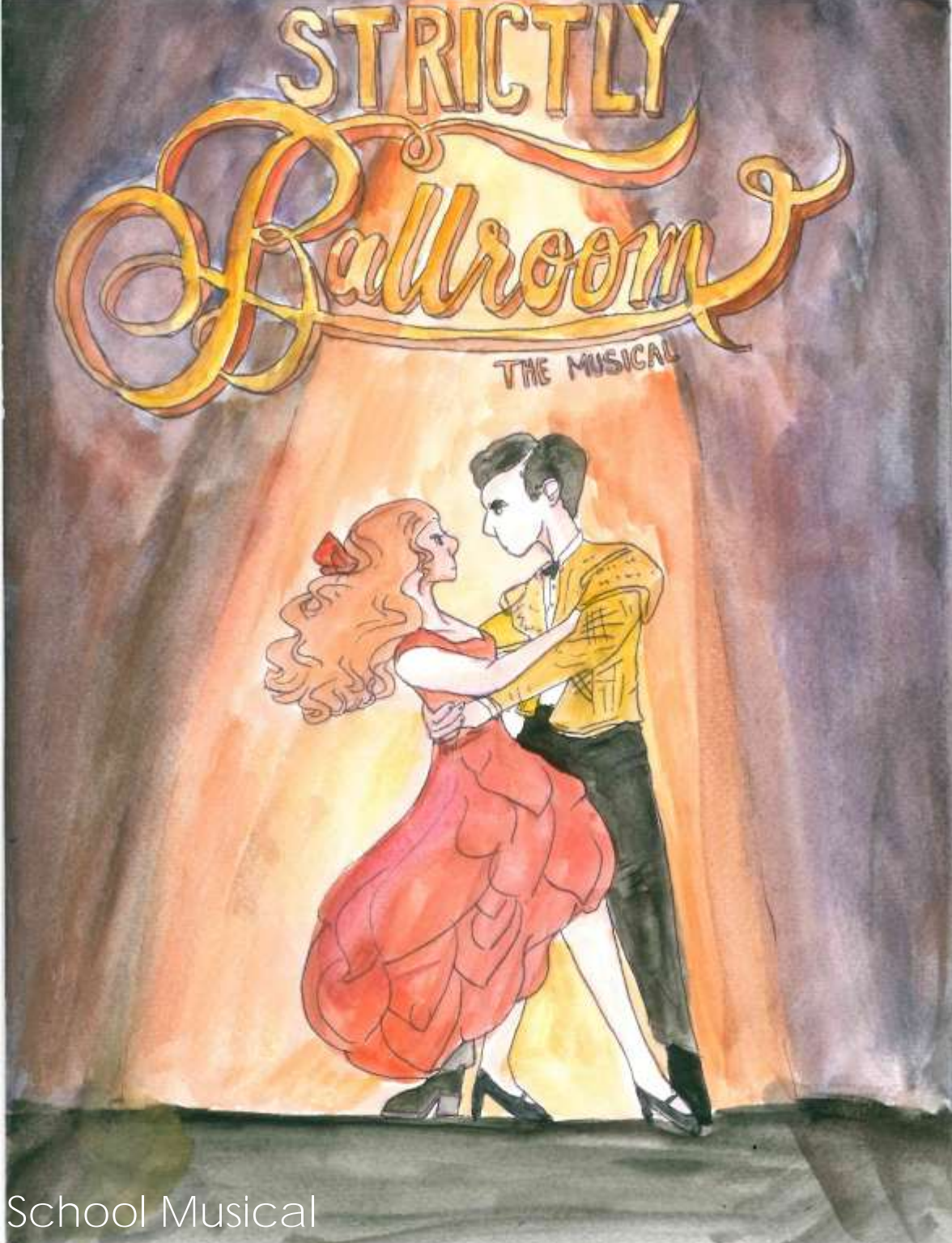
Brian Conaghan book voted Teen/ Young Adult Book of the Year 2018

Congratulations to Brian Conaghan who won the Teen/Young Adult Book of the Year Award in the 2018 An Post Irish Book Awards on Tuesday, 27th November.

"The Weight of a Thousand Feathers" was featured as the October Book Club Choice in the library (see blog). Brian Conaghan (or Mr Conaghan as he is also known, when he was teaching English and Classics here!) is no stranger to winning awards. He has previously won the Costa Children's Award in 2016 for his book "The Bombs That Brought Us Together".

Image: www.goodreads.com

December



School Musical



December: News around the World

“London’s Gatwick Airport Closed due to Drones”

“The annual Climate Change Performance Index deemed Ireland the worst country in the European Union on climate action for the second year in a row.”

“The Department of Foreign Affairs said that a record 822,000 Irish passports were issued in the past 12 months, up around 43,000 from 2017.”

“The 100,000 Genomes Project is completed by scientists in Cambridge.”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.infoplease.com



Stratford Junior student gets best Classics result in Ireland

Congratulations to Alexey (TY) who was awarded the Jack Henderson Medal for achieving the best results overall in the combined Junior Certificate Classical Subjects including Classical Studies, Latin and Greek. He was presented with the medal in UCD on 30th November by Classical Association of Ireland President, Tom Seaver.

The Jack Henderson Medal is awarded annually by the Classical Association of Ireland (CAI). Alexey received both the Junior Certificate Classical Studies and the combined Junior Certificate Classics awards. Congratulations too must go to Ms Donohoe, Stratford's Classical Studies teacher.



Strictly Ballroom! The dancing was fantastic!

'Strictly Ballroom' hit the stage on Wednesday and Thursday, 19th and 20th December! Thanks to the really hard work of students both on-stage and backstage, and under the expert direction of Mr Downes, 'Strictly Ballroom' hit the mark!

It was truly a Stratford affair: the script was adapted by Ms Reynolds from the film, the dance routines were choreographed by TY student, Valery Goulakova, the poster by TY student Nellie Warren (see page 39), and the acting lived up to the high standards expected of all Stratford Drama Productions!



TY Law Week: Visit to Criminal Courts of Justice

TY Law Week involved students participating in a mock trial and visiting the Criminal Courts of Justice.

The TYs found the mock trial most interesting and watching live court cases in the Criminal Courts of Justice most fascinating.



SciFest@Schools Competition: TY Technology Projects

Having worked diligently on their Scratch games and applications since September, and armed with explanatory posters and their Design Process log to show all the work that went into the design of these computer games, the TYs were ready to face the SciFest judges on Wednesday, 19th December.

There were 10 groups and 10 different games coded in Scratch. Each group worked very hard on their code to create a game using Scratch. Lots of problem solving was done to work things out. Detailed posters were created and the Design Process log was diligently filled in throughout the process.

Hugo Rowsome, Project Manager for SciFest, judged all the groups on the day. 1st prize was awarded to Rebecca, Siuin and Valery; 2nd prize was awarded to Josh, Alexey and Max.

The next step for these prize winners is to participate in the SciFest@Colleges competition which will be held in early May in the IT Blanchardstown (now a part of the Technological University Dublin). Well done to all!

Ms O'Kelly



Student Council organise Concern Fast and raise €1,480

Student Council organised a sponsored Fast in aid of Concern on Friday, 14th December. Students were asked not to eat from 8.55am - 5pm. Students were also given a choice to fast from their phones instead if they couldn't fast from food. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to end poverty and hunger in the world today is core in this endeavour. The Fast proved to be really successful!

Student Council were aiming to raise €1,000 but easily raised more - €1,480 in total. Sincere thanks to all those who participated and raised sponsorship for this worthy cause. Thanks too, to Ms Kenny for helping to organise this fundraising event.

Students have made a great contribution to the non-perishable food collection for Mitzvah Week as part of our school's contribution to our local community and the charity Focus Ireland.

Ms Kenny and Student Council

January



Lenny Abrahamson Visit



January: News around the World

“Yellow Vest Protests Continue in France”

“Macedonia to Change its Name”

“A commemoration was held to mark the 100th anniversary of the Soloheadbeg Ambush, which is considered to have started the War of Independence.”

“The Government published legislation that will underpin Ireland's plan to deal with a no-deal Brexit.”

“RTÉ 2FM was renamed Larry Gogan FM for the day in honour of the DJ who retired after 40 years with the station.”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.infoplease.com



Past Pupil (2014) in Irish premiere of Stephen McNeff's opera 'Banished'

Congratulations to Katie Richardson-McCrea (2014) who was featured on the front page of the Irish Times (Monday, 14th January 2019).

Katie is a student in the Royal Irish Academy of Music and is in Stephen McNeff's opera 'Banished' which opened in Kilmainham Gaol on 15th January.



3rd Years visit Irish Aid and Kildare Street National Museum

The 3rd Year students visited Irish Aid and the Kildare Street National Museum on Tuesday, 15th January with Ms Kenny and Ms Donohoe.

The 3rd Year Class Groups visited Irish Aid as part of their Civic, Social and Political Education Project on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. They have gained a greater understanding about world hunger and poverty and will take action in January 2019. They will also work with Green Schools on a Dodder Tidy Up Project in raising awareness about climate change.

The 3rd years learned about the global issues of poverty and hunger when they visited Irish Aid, and how the Irish Government helps respond to international emergencies. Students then visited the National Museum Kildare Street where they had time to explore some of Ireland's most famous archaeological artifacts such as The Ardagh Chalice and the Tara Brooch. Photos taken by Robyn Ward-Pratt (3X).

Ms Kenny



Boys' Basketball teams

Throughout the winter months, Ms Finnegan organises many matches for the Junior and Senior boys' and girls' basketball teams.

In addition there is after-school basketball training every week in school. Within Stratford there is so much enthusiasm for basketball and it is evident on the basketball courts every lunchtime.



3rd Years participate in Shout Out workshop

The 3rd Year SPHE classes participated in a Shout Out workshop on Wednesday, 30th January.

Inclusivity is a key facet of society today and SPHE addresses this issue. Students were actively engaged in the Shout Out workshop.



Lenny Abrahamson, award-winning Film Director visits Stratford

Stratford students, staff and some parents were thrilled to listen to an interview-style discussion with award-winning Film Director, Lenny Abrahamson on Monday, 25th January. Lenny spoke about the creative challenges of directing his films, including 'Room', 'Garage', 'Adam & Paul' and his latest film 'The Little Stranger'.

Last Monday, the school was lucky to receive a visit from Lenny Abrahamson, the Oscar-nominated Irish director of films such as 'Room', 'Frank' and 'What Richard Did'. Lenny gave a talk during which he offered many fascinating insights into the film-making process, and afterwards, he stayed for a workshop with students who were interested in film.

We all very much enjoyed this event, and would like to thank Ms. Reynolds and Ms. Talbot for organising it.

Rory Glynn (5th Year)

February



Junior Girls' Basketball



Student Art Work

February: News around the World

“Roy Hodgson becomes the oldest man to manage in the Premier League, at the age of 71 years and 198 days.”

“European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said Ireland will not be left alone and the EU is ready to assist Ireland in the event of a no-deal Brexit.”

“An Irish ticket holder won the EuroMillions jackpot worth €175,475,380.”

“Newly-released figures revealed that a record number of 9,987 people were homeless in January, including 3,624 children.”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.infoplease.com



Safer Internet Day 2019

This year's Safer Internet Day celebrations take place on Tuesday, 5 February 2019. Follow the #SID2019 and #SaferInternetDay hashtags.

The campaign's slogan, "Together for a better internet", is a call to action for everyone to join together and play their part in creating a better internet for everyone, and especially for younger users.

Students in Computer Studies classes are watching the video called 'Promise': "Bullying won't go away if we do nothing! But it can if you do something. It's up to all of us to create and shape the on-line spaces that we like to spend our time in. Stand-up to cyberbullying by visiting our site watchyourspace.ie."

Image: www.saferinternetday.org



TY students learn to drive

On Thursday, 14th February, Ms Finnegan and the TYs went to the Rosemary Smith School of Driving to learn both the driving theory and to practice driving a car.

There were many laughs during the day and the TYs had a fantastic day.



Tomi Reichental visits Stratford

Tomi Reichental visited Stratford on Monday, 25th February to speak with students from 3rd Year to 6th Year. Tomi Reichental is a Holocaust Survivor and now speaks to many students in Irish schools.

It was an honour to hear him speak. Parents, staff and students listened intently to him for an hour and were deeply moved by what he had to say. Tomi's life is featured in his book "I was a Boy in Belsen" and in the documentary "Condemned to Remember".



SciFest@Schools Science competition

Throughout January and February, the TY Science students have been working extremely hard preparing their Science projects for their second SciFest@Schools competition. The competition was held on Thursday, 28th February.

The range and depth of Science projects - both Life Sciences and Physical Sciences - proved really interesting. "How important is sleep for hand-eye co-ordination?" "The making of crystals?" to name a couple.

Congratulations to Alexey, Jeremy and Josh for coming 1st place. In 2nd place were Nellie, Eva and Jools. Both these groups, along with the TY Technology winning group (Siuin, Rebecca and Valery) will be competing at the SciFest@Colleges competition hosted by TU Blanchardstown on Wednesday, 8th May.

"SciFest was an incredible and fulfilling experience that taught us how to design, plan and carry out an investigation to a high standard." *Jeremy Messam, TY*



Girls' Basketball Teams

The 1st and 2nd Year Girls are getting into their stride now and beginning to play together well. They played Coláiste Chillain on Wednesday, 13th February.

Some great team work and skills are on show now - so keep it up!

Ms Finnegan



Wellbeing in Stratford College

This Spring, Transition Year SPHE & CSPE participated in the Young Social Innovators Programme (YSI) and chose the theme 'Mental Health & Young Children'. Other popular activities such as Build a Bank, SciFest and TY Classical Mini Olympics have also promoted student wellbeing.

Co-Curricular activities such as Creative Writing Club, Drama, Music Society and Film Club facilitate wellbeing as students feel empowered and emotionally connected through Arts and Culture. 'Mindfulness' is practised in classes such as Science, Biology, Music.

More active pursuits such as Tennis, Basketball, Yoga, Historical Fencing as well as Coderdojo and Gaming Club offer another area where students feel connected in their school community.

Based on a school-wide consultation about wellbeing in Stratford College the priorities identified are as follows:

- improved participation in school sports programme
- social media awareness
- nutrition

Ms Kenny, Ms Finnegan, Ms Donohoe, Mr Culliney



Stratford awarded SciFest STEM School Award

Stratford College were awarded a SciFest STEM School award on Thursday, 28th February. The award was presented to Ms O'Kelly who received it on behalf of Stratford. Stratford College has been entering SciFest competitions with TYs since April 2014.

Since then, TYs every year have competed in two categories of the SciFest competition - Technology and Sciences. Last year, Stratford TY students came first in the Intermediate Technology section in ITB and second in the Intermediate Life Sciences section.

Every year, the teachers and judges all agree, the standard gets better and better!

March



Schools 4 Climate Change March



March: News around the World

“Comedian Ahead in Ukraine Election”

“Aer Lingus confirmed that its female cabin crew will no longer be required to wear make-up or skirts as part of new uniform rules.”

“Thousands of students took part in school strikes and demonstrations around the country in protest at what they say is Government inaction on climate change.”

“Prime Minister Theresa May writes a letter to EU Council President Donald Tusk, requesting a three-month extension to Article 50.”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.infoplease.com



TY film screened at IFI Film Festival

Congratulations to Eva's film crew in TY. Eva's film 'Pearls' was screened at the Irish Film Institute regional heats on Wednesday, 6th March during the annual Fresh Film Festival, that awards the Young Filmmaker of the Year.

It has been selected to progress through to the final in Limerick. Eva wrote and directed 'Pearls', with Siuin behind the camera, Finn on sound, Zack as editor, with a cast of Nellie, Zack, Eva and past pupil Juno.

'Pearls' is a short film that follows protagonist Anna as she stays at her Father's new house which used to belong to her grandmother. Very soon after she settles in, she begins to realise strange occurrences are happening in the house. These lead her to believe that something sinister may be going on in the house.

Thanks to Cal McGhee, a filmmaker and past pupil for showing the TYs the possibilities of film, and to Ms Reynolds for facilitating the TY film module.

Ms Talbot



TYs participate in YSI Dublin City Speak Out in Mansion House

The TYs have worked hard over the past couple of months preparing their presentation for the Dublin City Young Social Innovators (YSI) Speak Out in the Mansion House, held on Monday, 4th March.

The TYs prepared their Speak Out project which was about communicating mental health to primary school children. Thanks to Ms Kenny, Ms Donohoe, Mr Culliney, Ms Finnegan and Mr Downes who all helped in the preparation of this project.



World Book Day celebrations: "Booky Breakfast" book swap sale raises €180

World Book Day 2019 in Stratford College kicked off with high-powered fruit juices and smoothies made on the spot by the TYs, while students, staff and parents browsed the many, many books in the book sale. Student, staff and parents were actively encouraged to bring in two books and €2 to make it the best book sale and 'booky breakfast' ever! And it was - we raised €180 for St. Michael's House. The juices and smoothies were also awesome!

At form-time, classes were competing against each other in the 'make-a-jigsaw-puzzle' as fast as you can (30 pieces) and 'guess-the-teacher's-shelfie' quiz. 1st years made the jigsaw puzzle the fastest and 3Y got most of the teachers' shelfies correct! Throughout Computer Studies classes students took part in a World Book Day Kahoot quiz ... but with a twist! If you answered the right answer, you were wrong!

At lunchtime Ms Talbot organised a Poetry slam - "Reading is Power" - in the Library where students read out their favourite poems or ones that they had written themselves. In the afternoon, Ms Finnegan brought the TYs to the Lexicon Library in Dun Laoghaire to relax for the afternoon in this beautiful building.

Ms Talbot and Ms O'Kelly



An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Curaclaim agus Measúnachta
National Council for Curriculum and Assessment

Stratford's Principal, Patricia Gordon, appointed to incoming NCCA

Congratulations to Ms Gordon who has recently been appointed to the incoming National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) by the Minister of Education and Skills for a three year term.

Ms Gordon explains that "this is a very exciting time for Irish Education as the NCCA reviews Senior Cycle and I look forward to making a contribution to the debate. I, will of course, be using our parents and students, past and present, as sounding boards and welcome your participation! Please follow Senior Cycle developments. I am particularly concerned by student consultations highlighting the pressure students are under.

Image: www.ncca.ie



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2019

Ceiliúradh Seachtain na Gaeilge sa scoil ó 11ú- 15ú Márta. I measc na n-imeachtaí a cuireadh ar siúl na rince gaelach le Bliain a hAon agus Amhránaíocht as Gaeilge le Bliain a Dó. Chuir grúpa daltaí ó Rang na hIdirbhliana físeán le chéile faoi 'Céard is Éireannachas ann?', agus taispeánadh é ag an gceolchoirm ar an Aoine. Ghlac go leor daltaí páirt sa cheolchoirm, agus bhain gach duine sult as an damhsa, an canadh, agus an físeán a taispeánadh. Maith sibh do gach duine a ghlac páirt sna himeachtaí éagsúla!

Seachtain na Gaeilge was celebrated in the school from the 11th - 15th of March. There were lots of different events during the week, including irish dancing for 1st Years, and singing as Gaeilge for 2nd Years. A group of TY students put together a short video on the topic of 'What does it mean to be Irish today?', and it was shown at the concert on Friday. Many students took part in the concert, and we were treated to a great display of dancing, singing and the showing of the video. Well done to all who took part in the various events!

Ms Mulhern



Stratford marches in Schools Strike 4 Climate protest

Almost half the students of Stratford College marched to Dáil Éireann, along with some of their teachers on Friday, 15th March as part of the Strike 4 Climate Change protest. Walking from Rathgar, through Rathmines and then around St. Stephen's Green, Stratford students made their voices heard with their banners, whistles and chants.

Joining thousands of other students outside Dáil Éireann, Stratford College students and teachers got to talk with Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment and asked him questions about what the government intends to act on to make a positive difference to climate change.

It was a very special afternoon for everyone involved. Thanks to Green Schools for making it happen,



Stratford wins Ides of March Classical Studies Quiz

Congratulations to Eva (TY), Sophie (5th Year), Alexey (TY) and Senan (3rd Year) who won the annual Ides of March Classical Studies quiz on Thursday, March 21st in a nail-biting finish of two tie-breaker questions!

Four teams from Stratford College went to the Ides of March Classics quiz in Mount Anville. The four teams had to answer questions about the Classical Studies Junior and Leaving Certificate syllabus. The Stratford teams all came within the top ten teams at the end of the night.

Table 13 made up of Eva, Alexey, Sophie and Senan were the night's winning team. We won a trophy for the school and €20 each. I hope we can do well again next year. Thanks to Ms Donohoe for all her support.

Eva (TY)

April



Healthy Body, Healthy Mind



April: News around the World

“Tiger Roll wins the 2019 Grand National, the second consecutive year the horse has won the race.”

“WikiLeaks co-founder Julian Assange is arrested after seven years of living in the Ecuadorian embassy in London.”

“Former UKIP leader Nigel Farage launches the Brexit Party.”

“Notre Dame on Fire”

“Comedian Wins Ukrainian Presidency”

“Japan’s Emperor Abdicated”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.infoplease.com



TY Business student wins Judge's Merit Award at Student Enterprise Awards

Congratulations to Nellie in TY who won a Judge's Merit Award at the Dublin City Finals of the Student Enterprise Programme on Tuesday, 26th March. Nellie writes about her experience of the Dublin City Finals held in Croke Park.

For the second round in the Student Enterprise competition, I went to Croke Park on the 26th of March. I was able to set up my stand and be interviewed by the judges as they came around. There were plenty of amazing businesses, so I didn't have high expectations. But when they announced the winners of several awards – they announced my business for the merit award! This wasn't like coming first place: it didn't mean I had to go on to the next round, but it did mean I got two glass plaques and 100 euro in one-for-all vouchers! I was delighted and it was a great experience overall.



3rd Year student's film premiered at the Dublin International Film Festival

A huge congratulations to Finn Ninkavel from 3Y, whose film on homelessness premiered at the 2019 Dublin International Film Festival.

Finn was selected from scores of students to participate in a Screen 8, Digital Hub project. According to the director Mia Mullarky, Finn was chosen for his creative, energetic and imaginative requirements. He had multiple roles in producing this film and was commended for being excellent at film editing.

Finn's film is also showing at the Dublin City Learning Festival, in the Harry Clarke Room at NCAD.

Ms Reynolds



RTÉ Broadcast 'An Irish Passover'

See An Irish Passover which was broadcast on RTÉ on Sunday, 14th April for some of the universal lessons of the Jewish Passover from Stratford students of all and no religion.

A strong message about Diversity and Inclusion from our students.



Stratford celebrates Wellbeing Week - 'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind'!

Stratford's Summer term started with a bang with a Wellbeing celebration week called "Healthy Body, Healthy Mind" from Monday, 29th April through to Friday 3rd May.

Every day, throughout the day, there are many activities including 'Drop Everything and Dance' (and sing!) activities at lunch, reading and relaxing in the Library, 10 minute HIIT workout sessions in the morning, Mindful Mile activities and many others! Check out the posters around the school and take part in activities which interest you!

Thanks to Ms Finnegan and Ms Kenny for organising the week's events, and all the staff and students helping to run them!



Stratford College participate in DES School Excellence Fund – Step Up Project

The 2nd Years started work on their CBA (Classroom Based Assessment) in Business classes in late February and are now working on their Science CBA. Since September, the Science, Business and English teachers have been working very closely together on the Step Up Project to closely plan the 2nd Year CBAs in these three subjects. Stratford is one of the pilot schools for this Step Up project.

According to Ms Brouder, the 2nd Year's Business teacher, students have to develop a product or service of their choice based on ideas they saw from their recent visit to the Science Gallery. They have four weeks to outline their product design, how to promote it, how to price it and where to sell it.

Ms O'Sullivan, their Science teacher, students have to design and conduct their own science investigation. This means that they must gather data and write a report.

All 2nd Year students have their own mobile devices, i.e. tablets and laptops, and are using them to research and create their CBAs.

May



Sports Day



May: News around the World

“Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg visited the company's international headquarters in Dublin and discussed a range of “policy issues” with a number of TDs.”

“An earthquake with a magnitude of 2.4 in Killybegs, County Donegal was detected by the Irish National Seismic Network.”

“The 70th anniversary of Ireland becoming a Republic was commemorated.”

“The Duchess of Sussex gives birth to a son, Archie Mountbatten-Windsor.”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.infoplease.com



Sports Day 2019

Sports Day 2019 was scheduled for Thursday, 7th May but this year the rain forced us to postpone it to the following Tuesday afternoon. Well done to a great decision Ms Finnegan! Tuesday, 14th May was a glorious day.

There was a much-needed refreshments centre organised by Student Council. This year for the first time there was a pop-up library organised by the Library prefects, with loads of magazines to read and a chill-out place.

Thanks to the 1st Year Digital Media Team (Josh, Kate and Sarah) and to Emma and Adam in 5th Year for taking the photos.



Six Stratford students reach Bebras Computational Thinking Finals

Congratulations to Joshua, Mia, Ross, Alex, Shane and Finn who all reached the Bebras Computational Thinking National Finals held in Maynooth University on 11th May. The finals kicked off this year's Tech Week.

Approximately 6000 students competed in the Bebras Challenge during EU Code Week in November 2018 and of those, approximately a small percentage of those students were invited to compete in the National Finals.

The Bebras Challenge involves a 45 minute online test of 15 problems to solve. The problems are all grounded in computer science and computational thinking - breaking problems down into smaller parts. Try them yourself!

Well done everyone, a very proud achievement for Stratford.

Ms O'Kelly



Annual School Walk raises over €1,600

This year's school walk was held on Wednesday, 22nd May and students walked a 10km section of the Wicklow Way. Student Council selected Jigsaw, a Youth Mental Health charity, for all its fundraising efforts. Just over €1,600 was raised by Stratford students!

Teachers and students from 1st Year to 6th Year went on the walk and the weather proved to be perfect for walking, i.e. no rain!!

Thanks to Ms Brouder and Student Council for arranging the school walk which is always a great way to experience the Dublin mountains, which are so close to school.



TY students compete in SciFest@College competition

On Wednesday, 3rd May the TY SciFest students from the two strands—Science and Technology sections—went to TU Blanchardstown to compete in the all day competition.

We all went with very high hopes as the TY students had worked so hard on their projects. Unfortunately it was not to be Stratford's day this year and we came home empty handed. We had a good day and it's a great experience to see all the other SciFest projects.

Ms O'Kelly



Green Schools awarded 4th Green Flag for Marine Litter

On the 22nd May, four members from the Green Schools committee and myself attended the Green Flag Awards Ceremony in The Helix, DCU. This ceremony marked the achievements of schools from all over Dublin who had successfully completed a two year action plan in order to be awarded a Green Flag.

Stratford College was awarded our fourth flag for Global Citizenship - Marine Litter. It is a prestigious and well deserved award for our school community. After a successful inspection visit to our school involving an extensive audit of our plan, actions and results over the last two years we were awarded the flag. I would like to thank all of our school community and in particular our phenomenal Green Schools committee with representatives from 1st-6th year for all their commitment and hard work.

In our current climate, Green Schools with a focus on Global Citizenship is core in educating and supporting our students in becoming responsible and active citizens. We are awaiting our letter from An Taisce to inform us which flag we will be aiming for next. I hope to see our committee grow in numbers next year.

Ms. Donohoe



TY Graduation and Sports Assembly

The Sports Assembly and TY Graduation was held on Thursday, 16th May. Well done to all the winners of medals and to the TYs who made such a memorable assembly about their year.

Thanks to Ms. Finnegan and all the students and teachers who made it such a memorable afternoon. Thanks too to Brendan for having the hall look so well.



6th Year Graduation

This year's 6th Year Graduation was celebrated on a beautiful sunny mid-morning on Friday, 24th May. Speeches were made by Ms Gordon, Ms Kenny, Tim Murphy, Jakob Miller and Anne Baker.

Thanks to Ms Kenny, Ms Talbot and Student Council for organising the hall, Lynn and Hilary for providing wonderful food and to Olivia (3Y) and David (5th Year) for the musical interlude. Thanks too to Brendan for having the hall look so splendid.

Infinity Bathrooms



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