

Stratford College

2019-2021

Year Book

Stratford College

2019-2021

Year
Book

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

Contents

2019-2021

9	September 2019
15	October 2019
21	November 2019
27	December 2019
33	January 2020
39	February 2020
45	March 2020
51	April 2020
57	May 2020

63	September 2020
69	October 2020
75	November 2020
81	December 2020
87	January 2021
93	February 2021
99	March 2021
105	April 2021
111	May 2021

Forewords



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

As we come to the end of two tumultuous academic years dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic, school closures and remote learning, what have we in Stratford learnt going forward?

Human connections and interactions are at the heart of education and the role of the teacher in our school community is irreplaceable. Education is fundamentally a social contract and teachers and students thrive and flourish when in school. The sense of excitement and relief felt by teachers and students as Stratford reopened in August 2020 and again in March 2021 was palpable!

Our teachers have shown remarkable resourcefulness, collaboration and creativity in the way they adapted to a new on-line learning environment. Their passion and commitment is second to none.

Student agency has put students at the national table where decisions were being made. They have a very important role to play in our school life. It is their voices we celebrated in on-line assemblies and graduations as well as in the classroom and in the relationships they have with their teachers.

Effective forms of on-line learning and blended teaching and learning have become an integral part of education. We have learnt a lot about how to do this better!

The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA)'s review of Senior Cycle could not be more timely. Thank you to staff, parents, students and our Board of Management for the part you have played in our learning over the last 14 months.

My thanks to the Parents Association for again taking the initiative on this, and to Trish Connolly and Ms. O'Kelly co-editors of this beautiful book.

Patricia Gordon
Principal

It is a real privilege to present the 2019-2021 Stratford College yearbook. The past two years have been challenging for us all and while our activities have been curtailed and our worlds have shrunk in many ways, Stratford College students have continued to demonstrate their talents and ability in school and beyond. Stratford students have been published in Fighting Words, have won awards in the Fresh Film Festival, in the BT Young Scientist Exhibition, and in SciFest; First Year Business students arrived at the regional finals of the Bank of Ireland MoneySmarts competition; TY students reached the National Finals of Codeweek Hackathon, and students from all years have continued to engage on the issue of climate change by their involvement in Green Schools.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, the Stratford PA committee has continued to meet monthly via Zoom, and Ms Gordon has provided updates and reassurance at these and at additional meetings. As opportunities for parents to meet on other occasions have reduced, our PA Committee has grown, and our meetings have provided a unique opportunity to hear different points of view and to keep abreast of what is happening in the school.



In December 2019 the PA helped with the last musical production that was possible in the school and Alice in Wonderland was a huge success. 2020 started well. Ms Donohoe and colleagues took the 5th and 6th year Classics students on a wonderful trip to Rome, the TY students managed to get to London to visit Bletchley Park and to see a West End show. Then in March 2020 everything changed. Schools were closed and teaching moved to online platforms. This was a huge challenge for teachers and students alike, but everyone worked hard to make a success of it all. 2020 TY and 6th year graduations were held online and were notable not only for this fact, but also for the way in which everyone involved ensured that the occasions were both moving and deeply meaningful. The Stratford Open Day went virtual. The 6th year graduation for the class of 2021 was different from traditional graduations as attendance needed to be restricted, but by all accounts it too was memorable and the garden party atmosphere contributed to this. Well done to this year's First Years who have successfully made the transition to Secondary School in a very challenging year.

The Parent Association is there to give parents a voice but also to support the school in providing a positive learning environment. Parent feedback in December 2020 confirmed that parents felt affirmed in their choice of school and confident that their sons and daughters were being challenged and supported academically in a safe environment.

A big thank-you to Ms O'Kelly and Trish Connolly who have done a great job of putting this Year Book together for all of us to enjoy. Congratulations to the Leaving Certificate classes of 2019 and 2020 and we wish every success to the class of 2021. You have already shown ample proof of your talents and resilience, and long may this continue.

Stratford College Parents' Association

September 2019



TY Trip to Delphi



Photo by 1st Year CSPE student for Green Schools: Ocean Week 2021

September: News around the World

“Co-founder and CEO of Twitter Jack Dorsey has his Twitter account hacked”

“Exhibition on Christian Dior sets new attendance record of almost 595,000 in seven months on closing at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London”

“YouTube fined \$170 million for illegally collecting data on children's viewing habits by US Federal Trade Commission”

“ "The Joker" directed by Todd Phillips and starring Joaquin Phoenix wins the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival”

“Budget 2020: Brexit impact to hit Irish social welfare increases”

“Dublin house prices now falling for first time in seven years”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com



Stratford marches for Climate Change

In March 2019, many Stratford students and staff walked to Dáil Éireann on the Greta Thunberg-inspired Climate Change marches that happened all around the world. Friday, 20th September 2019 proved to be another day of marching by Stratford students and staff, organised so ably by Green Schools.

This time Stratford students walked to Rathmines and back along the Rathmines-Rathgar main road. Shouting and singing, while displaying posters about the problems of Climate Change, Stratford students got a lot of reaction from passers-by.

Charlie Morris McGill (1st Year) wrote the following piece: On Friday 20th of September 2019 a group of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd years at Stratford College went on a march for climate action. We all marched from our school to Rathmines for a good hour! We had a brilliant time shouting our chants for climate action till our voices hurt. With this march we wanted to raise more awareness about the problems going on with climate change and the worry of what it all means for our generation's future. We marched on behalf of our planet. We got plenty of beeping of car horns and ringing of bicycle bells. This showed to us that there could be some hope left for our planet and our futures.



TY Trip to Delphi

The TYs headed off to Delphi on Monday, 9th September 2019. 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 Corrigan, Ms Talbot and Ms Gordon 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! Thanks to Emily Rowe (TY) for the photo.



Rosh Hashanah - the Jewish New Year

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. It is celebrated on the first day of the Jewish month of Tishrei. On Wednesday morning, 25th September 2019, there was an assembly hosted by the Jewish Studies students and Rabbi Lent who spent time explaining the importance of the Jewish New Year holidays. Mrs Walsh explains further.

We celebrate Rosh Hashanah with sweet foods, like apples dipped in honey and honey cake, as a wish for a sweet year. Some families also celebrate with symbolic foods like the head of a fish, pomegranates, and carrots.

Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the Yamim Noraim, the ten days of atonement. On Rosh Hashanah, all mankind is judged. HaShem (G-d) writes the judgement for each of us in the Book of Life. This judgement is based on our lives of the year before, and is the decision of what will happen to us in the coming year.

October 2019



Stratford College: by drone



Photo by 1st Year CSPE student for Green Schools: Ocean Week 2021

October: News around the World

“China celebrates 70th anniversary of Communism with military parade in Beijing with 15,000 soldiers”

“Duke of Sussex and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex sue British newspaper The Mail on Sunday claiming it published her private letter”

“Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed for peace deal with Eritrea”

“UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announces new Brexit deal with the EU, removes the Northern Ireland backstop clause”

“Minister for Education announced that history would be mandatory for all future junior cycle students from next year onwards”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com



Hell & Back - senior students survive!

"You made it thru!"

A number of 5th and 6th Year students put themselves forward for the ultimate challenge of doing the "Hell & Back" course in early October on the grounds of Kilruddery House, Bray.

Ms Finnegan was so proud of all the efforts put in by each student as it is a most gruelling challenge. Hell & Back is aptly named!



Maths Week 2019 - an Escape Room, a Maths Scavenger Hunt and more!

Stratford celebrated Maths Week 2019 from 16th - 18th October. The TYs set up an Escape Room, a Maths Games morning and Maths Scavenger Hunt. All classes were involved in the activities. In Computer Studies classes, students learned about Alan Turing and his visionary work on universal computers, code-breaking during World War 2 and artificial intelligence.

A group of TYs organised an 'escape room' activity for the other year groups to do during Maths Week. The students had to complete multiple maths problems/riddles in order to unlock the box in which the key to get out was placed.

Everyone who took part really enjoyed the experience which consisted of team work and forcing their brains to think outside the box under extreme pressure with only 20 minutes on the clock to escape!!



Green Schools organise 'Zero Power Hour' for Climate Action Week

Green Schools organised a 'Zero Power Hour' for 12.15pm on Friday, 18th October to highlight Climate Action Week.

Teachers and students were asked, where possible, to turn off all power for last class on Friday. Teaching and learning unplugged!

Each year group has been tending their biodiversity garden boxes too in preparation for the winter.

November 2019



Preparing for Open Day



Photo by 1st Year CSPE student for Green Schools: Ocean Week 2021

November: News around the World

“Olivia Newton-John's black leather outfit from the film "Grease" sells for \$405,700 at auction in Beverly Hills, California”

“Queen Elizabeth II confirms she is no longer buying clothes made with real fur”

“First public testimony in Donald Trump's impeachment inquiry held in Washington, D.C.”

“A delegation of youths represented Ireland during sessions of the U.N. committee dealing with human rights issues”

“Thousands of schoolchildren joined in the Global Climate Strike Friday”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com



Open Day & This Is Us! (Version 2)

Stratford College opened its doors on Sunday, 17th November 2019 at 2pm. We had so many visitors come to the school to experience the vibrant educational environment. Thanks to all staff and students who made it a special afternoon.

Staff and students undertook some work on what Stratford College means to them and how they define their experience of being in school here. We have animated this in our short video 'This is Us' and it was presented at Stratford's Open Day, Sunday, 19th November.

It was very interesting to see both groups coming up with similar themes. The results can be seen in the mural displayed in the office, on the Ground Floor and here!

Thanks to Eugene Grey and Cian, Finn and Josh (TY) for their work on making the video.



Stratford students watch Youth Assembly in Dáil debate issues on Climate Change

On Friday the 15th of November 2019, the students in Stratford College watched the first four Youth Assembly speakers talk about Climate Action in the House of the Oireachtas. After listening to inspirational Youth Activists, we were tasked with reflecting on what was said.

- ◆ Food and Agriculture
- ◆ Buy local, seasonal produce
- ◆ Self-sufficiency
- ◆ More sustainable food and agriculture
- ◆ Cut down of meat and vegetables

We also think it is critical that we focus on re-forestation and re-claiming form land. A huge amount of land in this country has unused previous form land, with most people moving to large cities, farmland is being abandoned and it is of great importance that we don't let this land go to waste. Using this land for forests will increase the oxygen and improve the quality of the air as a whole. It is of extreme importance that we take action and work now on these issues to ensure a clean environment for both ourselves and future generations.



Awards Ceremony

This year's Awards Ceremony celebrated the achievements of current Stratford students.

Thanks to Ms Talbot, Mr Priestley, Brendan and the 6th Years for such a heartfelt Awards Ceremony. Photographs by Hannah Flynn (6th Year).

December 2019



School Musical: Alice in Wonderland



Photo by 1st Year CSPE student for Green Schools: Ocean Week 2021

December: News around the World

“Earliest traceable patient, a 55-year-old man, develops symptoms of a novel coronavirus (Covid-19) in Wuhan, China”

“70th anniversary of NATO marked by gathering in London of world leaders and reception by Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace”

“Climate activist Greta Thunberg is named Time magazine's Person of the Year”

“World leaders discussing US President Donald Trump in unflattering terms at NATO reception caught on camera and goes viral”

“Ryanair again named worst short-haul airline in consumer survey”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com



Class of 2019 Awards Reception

The class of 2019 were invited to the Awards Reception held in the Herzog Room on Friday, 13th December to celebrate their Leaving Certificate academic achievements. Well done to all!



Stratford College Drama Production: Alice in Wonderland

This year's Drama Production was "Alice in Wonderland" directed by Ms Tamar Keane. The cast and back stage production team put in a huge amount of effort over the whole term and the audience were rewarded with a fast-paced and humorous production!

Well done to everyone involved!



Student Council organise a most fantastic Variety Show!

For weeks Student Council were extremely busy organising auditions, rehearsals, posters, speeches and all the logistics in running a successful Variety Show, held on Friday, 6th December.

Students from 1st year through to 6th Year auditioned and were included in the final programme. Talents ranged from Irish dancing to drumming to singing and playing a variety of musical instruments.

Two guest acts opened the show and closed the show. It was a fantastic event and full credit goes to everyone in Student Council.

January 2020



Lunchtime Music Session



Photo by 1st Year CSPE student for Green Schools: Ocean Week 2021

January: News around the World

“Impeachment trial of US President Donald Trump begins in the Senate”

“China locks down the city of Wuhan and its 9 million people, in a belated but ultimately successful effort to control the city’s COVID-19 epidemic”

“LA Lakers basketball legend Kobe Bryant dies in a helicopter crash in foggy conditions in the hills above Calabasas, southern California; considered one of the greatest players in the game’s history”

“WHO warns new coronavirus is increasingly likely to spread to EU”

“Election 2020: Micheál Martin rules out Fianna Fáil-Fine Gael ‘grand coalition’”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com



2nd—5th Years compete in Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge

In November 2019 during EU Code Week, students from 2nd Year to 5th Year all sat the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge during Computer Studies class - 15 online problem solving questions in 45 minutes.

Approximately 6000 students all around Ireland competed in the challenge in a number of different age categories. The highest scoring students are then invited to compete in Bebras National Finals in Maynooth University on 28th March 2020.



Transition Year students read at the National Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration

On Sunday, 26 January TY students attended the National Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration in the Mansion House organised by HETI (Holocaust Education Trust Ireland).

Three of the TYs read from the scroll of names. Sincere thanks to Ms Kenny for organising Stratford's participation.



Green Schools complete Walkability Audit around Rathgar

On Tuesday, 28th January Green Schools undertook a walkability audit along the roads around Rathgar to Terenure and back to Stratford College as part of their work towards getting a Travel Flag.

Green Schools walked the route from Stratford to Rathgar to Terenure and back to school, auditing the route to see what needs to be addressed in order to encourage everyone to walk or cycle to school.

February 2020



Junior Boys' Basketball



Photo by 1st Year CSPE student for Green Schools: Ocean Week 2021

February: News around the World

"Date of the 1st COVID-19 related death in the US (confirmed by the CDC April 21)"

"Locusts swarm across East Africa leads Somalia to declare national emergency, largest in 25 years"

"US Senate votes to acquit President Donald Trump 52-48 on charges of abuse of power and 53-47 on obstruction of Congress"

"Deaths from COVID-19 virus overtake those of Sars (2003) with 813 deaths worldwide, with more than 34,800 known infections"

"Varadkar remains in caretaker capacity after Dáil fails to elect new Taoiseach"

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com



TY students visit central London and Bletchley Park

The TYs flew out from Dublin to Luton airport extremely early on Sunday, 2nd February on the TY London Trip to explore World War II History, English/Drama and World War II Codebreaking and Computer Science history.

From Luton airport the TYs went to have brunch in Covent Garden (cool!) and then on to focus on the Holocaust Exhibition and World War II exhibitions in the Imperial War Museum @IWM. We then met our guide, Vivian, who walked and talked us through Whitehall (no sign of the Prime Minister), watched the Horse Guards Parade and then up The Mall to Buckingham Palace. After all the walking we had a well deserved meal in Covent Garden and then on the watch "The Play that Goes Wrong" in the Duchess Theatre. And did it go wrong! Lots of laughs.

We took the scenic route through Piccadilly Circus to get to our impressive hotel overlooking Kensington Gardens. After such a long day everyone was very tired! We also knew we had to get up early again the next day for Bletchley Park... Completely top secret work in codebreaking went on during World War II there and it was great to have watched "The Imitation Game" in Computer Studies classes to understand the importance of breaking the Enigma code and the work of Alan Turing @alanturing making the Bombe computer to do it! We also got to appreciate the hard work that is involved in codebreaking and the importance of it to help the Allies win the War. After all that thinking we had a light snack and then went to the Luton Mall for a more substantial meal, before getting back to Luton airport.



TY Business students win Best Presentation award at Dublin City Student Enterprise Awards

Congratulations to TY students - Mia Warren, Grace Wright, Isobel Murphy and Hannah Morgan - who won the Best Presentation award at the Dublin City Student Enterprise Awards ceremony on Thursday, 27th February.

They had to give a four minute presentation to all the other competing groups much like a "Dragons Den" presentation. Their product called "SUP" which stands for Save your Product allows you to scrape out all the foundation from your favourite foundation bottle.



Classical Studies students visit Rome

5th and 6th Year Leaving Certificate Classics students went to Rome on a four-day trip leaving on Sunday, 23rd February.

According to 5th year students, Siuin O'Shea and Aoibhe Dunne, "it was an extraordinary experience, full of sun and laughs in a Classical world. The dreams of the classroom came alive! We saw the Garden of Livia, the Colosseum, the Pantheon, Trajan's Column, the Vatican and threw a coin into the Trevi Fountain to make a wish. Hadrian's Villa was very special."

Sincere thanks to Ms Donohoe, Ms Caspi, Ms Brouder and Mr Fennell for organising such a fantastic trip.

March 2020



World Book Day



Photo by 1st Year CSPE student for Green Schools: Ocean Week 2021

March: News around the World

“World Bank pledges \$12 billion in emergency aid for developing countries dealing with COVID-19”

“Italy announces it is locking down northern region of Lombardy, including Milan, with 16 million people, as COVID-19 cases reach 5,800 with 233 deaths”

“America registers 521 cases of COVID-19 with 21 deaths across 33 states”

“COVID-19 declared a pandemic by the head of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, with 121,564 cases worldwide and 4,373 deaths”

“Irishwomen Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamar, of Grafton Architecture, are the 1st women to share the Pritzker Architecture Prize”

“Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates steps down from the company's board to focus on philanthropic activities”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com



Stratford College Classics students win both the Junior and Senior Young Classicist Awards 2020

On the 10th March, all of the 1st years along with students participating in the competition headed to UCD with Ms. Caspi and Ms. Donohoe. This is the second year of the competition. There were 200 students attending the action packed day with 100 students participating in the competition. The event is organised by the CAI-T (Classical Association of Ireland - Teachers) and UCD Classics department. Dr. Martin Brady was the head judge on the day.

The standard of projects was very impressive and dozens of schools were represented, mainly from Dublin. Students from 1st to 6th competed on the day. There were artistic and dramatic presentations, Powerpoints, movies and more. There was even a Classics rap provided by our very own Alexey G. Alexey was singled out by Dr. Brady for the best performance.

At 2pm, everyone was asked back to lecture hall P where the winners were announced. Needless to say we were thrilled when Stratford College won 1st place in both the Junior and Senior sections. Both projects tied in with key sustainable development goals which was a key criteria. The students success is truly an Herculean achievement. A colossal congratulations to all of the students who participated. Caoimhe and Charlie in 1st year, Frank in 3rd year, Alexey and Eva in 5th year and Hannah, Emma, Melanija and Sophie from 6th year. Thank you to all of you for an inspiring day for your teachers and the 1st years.



TY Student Wins Inaugural Mary Elmes Prize in Holocaust Studies

Congratulations to Dragos Cazan who won first prize in the inaugural Mary Elmes Prize in Holocaust Studies for TY students! See [here](#) for more details.

Dragos wrote an essay about a Romanian mayor during World War II who saved many Jewish people's lives in his village.



Stratford hosts its first ever online school assembly during the COVID-19 closures

Instead of moving to the sounds of the bell announcing the start of the school day, Stratford staff and students move to their laptops at 8.55am, and login to our first ever Online Assembly. Beginning with the uplifting song 'We're All in This Together' from High School Musical, Ms Gordon welcomes the whole school, and reminds everyone that although this can be a lonely time away from friends and family, we are still a strong school community, to which we all belong. The latest numbers show that incredibly there are now over 1.5 billion children around the globe — or nearly 90 percent of the Earth's student population — at home due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, and more than 63 million teachers are affected as well, according to UNESCO. While our Leaving Cert students are understandably worried about what will happen with their exams, they share this concern along with students across 185 countries.

Ms Gordon referenced the leadership we've witnessed from President Michael D. Higgins who called for 'compassionate citizenship', and Taoiseach Leo Varadkar's historic St Patrick's Day speech: 'In years to come, let them say of us, when things were at their worst, we were at our best.' Ms Gordon also quoted the President of the EU Commission, Ursula Van Den Leyden's acknowledgement of the importance of 'small acts of kindness' and solidarity. This is echoed in Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks' words, 'Selfishness will not protect us from coronavirus'. This idea of the social contract we all belong to is something TY students will recognise from our study of John Locke in Philosophy class.

April 2020



Surviving Lockdown: 3rd Year Assembly image



Photo by 1st Year CSPE student for Green Schools: Ocean Week 2021

April: News around the World

“All England Lawn Tennis Club cancels Wimbledon for the first time since World War II because of the COVID-19 pandemic; entire grass-court season abandoned”

“Number of COVID-19 cases worldwide passes 1 million, with 1,002,159 cases and 51,485 deaths reported, according to Johns Hopkins University”

“British Prime Minister Boris Johnson admitted to hospital suffering from COVID-19”

“First findings of a frog fossil 40 million years old, found on Seymour Island, Antarctica (2015) published in "Scientific Reports”

“New Zealanders queue for coffee and return to work as lockdown eases”

“Irish government announce quarantined Leaving Cert students could sit exams in isolation”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com



Stratford's experience of remote teaching and learning during the COVID-19 lockdown

Since Friday 13th March 2020 schools in Ireland have been closed but teaching and learning has continued remotely using the power of technology. While the IT infrastructure within Stratford's school walls worked very well, never did we think that we would have to extend it to remote teaching.

The initial weeks before the spring holidays proved arduous as we all adjusted to this new realm, but since our return for the summer term, teaching and learning remotely has stabilised to a significant extent!

"While parts of online learning may be difficult I believe that this experience will stand to us. This situation is allowing us as senior students to practice and refine our skills of self-directed learning. When something is in a crisis, you learn more than when things are going smoothly and I think that these circumstances are teaching us about ourselves in many ways." 5th Year student

"At first I found it quite hard getting used to OneNote and Teams but as both the students and teachers came to terms with remote teaching and learning I have found it to be very productive." 5th Year student



We're all in this together!

For the past couple of months people all over the world have had to face unimaginable challenges and the real superheroes are the front line health care workers.

On Thursday, 12th March at 6pm all Irish schools closed and switched to online teaching and learning. Stratford students made a video of how everyone is coping.

Thanks to the form tutors for sending on the images - themes included 'superhero characters', 'how we survived', amongst others. Credit: Derek Mahon reading his own poem "Everything is Going to be All Right".

Stay safe everyone and stay at home.

Stay Home, But Not Alone

Written by Zohar

There's a current pandemic called Covid

Can't be out and about, you have to stay home,
but that doesn't mean that you always alone,

It won't affect you as much if your five,
but if elderly catch it they might not survive,

The next thing I'll say about the corona virus,
is what it did that affected the Irish,

1,102 people have died,
they died alone with no family or friends

9,233 people recovered,
haven't suffered,

Altogether 19,648 people have caught it,
each and every one of them bravely fought it,

So please stay home for your loved ones safety,
through these hard times that are going on lately.



Making history - the 1st Years host School Assembly online!

Well done to the 1st Years and Ms Kenny who made a little history this morning, Friday 1st May, when they were the first class to host their assembly online!

All week they've been working hard rehearsing musical pieces to play, writing poetry, creating their presentation and speeches, plus very importantly rehearsing how to host a meeting online with so many 1st years presenting in the assembly. The theme of their assembly was: "We Are All in This Together - 'Thank you Frontline Workers' – Friday, 1st May International Workers' Day.

Everyone was really, really impressed with what the 1st years did and we're all very proud of you!

May 2020



Stratford College
Co-educational Secondary School

Congratulations!

CLASS OF 2020

15. 05. 20

6th Year Online Graduation



Photo by 1st Year CSPE student for Green Schools: Ocean Week 2021

May: News around the World

“Spain makes masks compulsory in public, even for children”

“Countries in Europe begin cautious reopening after COVID-19 lockdown, Italy restarts construction and takeaways, Germany reopens schools”

“Two US White House staffers test positive for COVID-19 and three members of the coronavirus task force go into self-isolation after possible exposure to the virus”

“Colombian airline Avianca, and world's 2nd oldest, becomes 1st major airline to file for bankruptcy”

“Ireland extends Covid-19 lockdown to 18 May before phased exit”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com



6th Year Graduation - a very special occasion celebrated online

Friday, 15th May 2020 heralded another first in Stratford - an online 6th Year Graduation - hosted by Ms Talbot and Student Council all through Zoom! 6th Year students, their families and friends, the Board of Management, teaching staff and past teachers, admin staff and 5th Years were invited to a most moving occasion.

Ms Gordon opened the graduation with a thought-provoking speech. Then Mr Priestley as the 6th Year's form teacher gave a moving and heartfelt speech. This was followed by Jakob Miller giving his speech on behalf of the 6th Year students. Annabel Murphy (5th Year) responded as chair of Student Council. Eithne Kelly on behalf of the Parents Association spoke movingly about Stratford's sense of community.

There followed a series of short videos from the teachers who all gave their insights into the legacy that the 6th Years have left behind - and critically explaining to the 6th Years why they will be missed! The much-awaited 6th Year Graduation video - so ably produced and edited by Jack McAvinue - brought us through the full cycle of their years in Stratford. So many strong and positive memories were evoked!

The Graduation finished up by being dedicated to Sebastian who will always remain in our thoughts. It was a wonderful online 6th Year Graduation. Sincere thanks and congratulations to Ms Talbot for all the time and energy in organising it and ensuring that technologically there were no major issues. Thanks too to the Student Council for their help.



TY students of 2020 graduate in an online ceremony

Stratford celebrated another first today! An online TY Graduation ceremony on Tuesday 12th May. Congratulations to all the TYs for creating a glittering assembly.

1st, 2nd and 3rd years were invited to the Graduation where they were treated to very impressive videos, singing and an interactive quiz - all created by the TYs!

Dragos Cazan was the MC and opened up the Graduation with an insightful speech. From there followed a series of videos and superb singing by Olivia Foley. Ms Finnegan and Ms Gordon both spoke of how proud they were of the TYs.

Thanks to Joshua Wynne (technical production manager), to Cian Glynn and Finn Nankivell for film production and to Olivia Foley. Thanks to Ms Reynolds, Ms Finnegan and Ms Conlon for all their support in preparing the Graduation. Thanks to every single TY for all their work in making this happen.



Darkness into Light Sunrise Appeal organised by Senior Prefects

As we are unable to physically come together to walk for the Darkness into Light Sunrise Appeal in aid of Pieta House, Stratford's Senior Prefects and Ms Finnegan met online yesterday and came up with a great idea. Ms Finnegan set up a padlet page where students, teachers, staff, family and friends could post photos of their sunrises and their thoughts.

Everyone was joined together (virtually) on Friday, 8th May at 5:30am and held a light, torch or glowstick. Students uploaded stunning sunrise photos and thoughts onto our padlet "Darkness into light" collaborative page.

However you chose to participate always remember hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness.

Thanks,
Senior Prefects

September 2020



Stratford re-opens



Photo by 1st Year CSPE student for Green Schools' Ocean Week 2021

September: News around the World

"Global death toll from COVID-19 passes 900,000 with the US the most deaths at 190,589"

"MacKenzie Scott, philanthropist and ex-wife of Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, becomes world's richest woman worth \$68 billion"

"Strain of Bacteria nicknamed 'Conan the Bacterium' survives three years attached to the International Space Station in open space"

"India overtakes Brazil to record the second-highest number of COVID-19 cases with 4.2 million"

"OECD reports many secondary students lack access to online learning amid Covid-19 pandemic"

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com



Stratford's first 'hybrid' assembly to celebrate the Jewish New Year

On Tuesday morning, 15th September Ms Gordon, the Senior Prefects and 1st Year Jewish Studies students broadcast our first assembly of the year to celebrate the Jewish New Year. Rabbi Lent joined online.

The broadcast was delivered on a Teams meeting from the Computer Lab while the teachers in their base classrooms joined the Teams meeting through the teacher's PC. The meeting was projected to the screen and everyone watched as 'normal'!

While there were technical hiccups - every day we learn so much - it was a great success! It proved that we could do it quite easily!

Thanks to the Senior Prefects, the 1st years who spoke so well, Cian who spoke about Green Schools initiatives and Ms O'Kelly who talked about the technical challenges that we face daily. Patience is key!

Ms Gordon shared two videos with us to watch: "Song of Hope" by a Principal from Alabama who became a YouTube sensation and secondly RTE's 'Together Apart' broadcast featuring Rabbi Lent.



Together Apart

6th Year Senior Prefect, Annabel Murphy reflects on the return to school: "Coming back to school with all the new changes was strange at the beginning."

"Seeing students and teachers with face masks on, having to stay socially distant and sticking to the one-way system was disheartening at the start but slowly it is becoming the new normal.

With all the new challenges, the positives are far greater. Getting to come into school every day and see my classmates is such a motivating part of the return this year. It is a gift to be able to return to our usual environment in classrooms and be taught face to face.

While it was annoying at the beginning to give up my locker, especially in sixth year, the use of personal devices has been a new learning experience for the students and teachers. I believe we are currently working in a modern, technology embracing environment and this new experience will stick to students like myself in the future."



Ice-cream Tuesday!

The day the ice-cream van arrived at lunch - Tuesday, 22nd September! A free ice-cream for everyone in school!!

"Thanks so much for organising such a treat for everyone. It was one of the best days to ever happen in Stratford." 2nd Year student

October 2020



Outdoor classes



Photo by 1st Year CSPE student for Green Schools: Ocean Week 2021

October: News around the World

“US President Donald Trump announces via twitter that he and First Lady Melania Trump have tested positive for COVID-19, President later hospitalized”

“The UN's World Food Programme is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize”

“China announces it will test entire city of Qingdao, 9 million people, for COVID-19 within five days after a dozen cases discovered”

“A copy of William Shakespeare's First Folio sells for a record \$9.98 million at auction in New York”

“Five tonne WW2 bomb found in Poland detonates while being defused”

“Brexit sees big decline in food trade between Ireland and UK”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com



Awards Ceremony

This year's Awards Ceremony was like nothing before! The 6th Year Prefects filmed each of the teacher's who presented Awards and teacher's who could not attend sent in their video presentations. Tomi Reichental, as our special guest, sent a video with a very powerful message about the importance of having an education.



Local History Brought to Life!

Animating the notoriously dangerous old tram line that ran through Terenure to recreating the murder of a local gardener at St Joseph's Church, our second years first researched their local history, wrote their script, directed it and performed it live on the spot where these historical events took place.

Other events they recreated was the reimaging of the Old Bethany Laundry (a Protestant run laundry similar to the more infamous Magdelene Laundries) that was situated on Orwell Road.

Another group of students based their play around Bram Stoker (he was once a resident on Orwell Road), Dracula awakes to find imposters littered around the 'Bram Stoker' festival. Dracula visits Orwell Road to have it out with his apparent creator!

A huge well done to 2X, who showed enormous creativity, passion and commitment to their task.



Eight Stratford students get their Bebras National Finalist 2020 certs!

Congratulations to the eight Stratford students who were invited to compete in the Bebras Computational Thinking National Finals in May 2020! Over 6000 students entered this competition - so to make the finals is a great achievement. Having 8 students from one school is superb!

While the 2020 Finals were cancelled, each student received a certificate of qualification.

Well done to: Cassie Murphy and Josh Taylor (3rd Year); Sean Noonan and Dónal Ó Maolagáin (TY); Nathan Siung, Jason Li, Ross Gaynor and Togii Chilkhaajav (5th Year).

Students in Computer Studies classes and Computer Science classes are already practising for the Bebras Challenge in November 2020. Why don't you try?

November 2020



Science Week



November: News around the World

“Former Vice-President Joe Biden declared the winner of the US Presidential race, four days after the US election, defeating sitting President Donald Trump”

“Baby Shark by Pinkfong becomes the most-watched video on YouTube with over 7.04 billion views”

“Drugmakers BioNTech and Pfizer announce their COVID-19 vaccine to be over 90% effective in a first look at the results from their phase 3 trial involving nearly 44,000 people”

“Word of the year is "Lockdown" according to Collins English Dictionary”

“RTÉ's top news presenters apologised after being present at a gathering in Montrose where social distancing was not fully observed and presenters posed for photographs”

“Two primary schools in counties Laois and Mayo closed early for the Christmas holidays due to an increase in COVID-19 cases among students”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com



Two 5th Year students win award at SciFest National Finals 2020

Congratulations to Finn Nankivell and Cian Glynn in 5th Year who won the "Berlin Long Night of Science" Award at the online SciFest National Finals on 21st November for their coding project called "Lost" which they started in TY. They won a three-day trip to Berlin in June 2021 to celebrate its Long Night of Science - when Berlin opens up its labs, libraries and museums! How wonderful!

"Lost" is a maze game for the visually impaired coded in Scratch. They started working on this project in TY Computer Studies classes in September 2019 and continued to work on their project right through to October 2020. Sid Katepally worked on the project in the earlier stages, while Josh Wynne helped with making the video in the latter stages.

Watch the two minute video on Stratford's YouTube channel which they created for the SciFest STEM Outreach competition which explains their project.

A truly fantastic achievement! We're all so proud of you in Stratford!



6th Year French students debate in the Alliance Française Joutes Oratoires competition

In early November, a 6th Year French debating team took part in the online French debating competition - Joutes Oratoires - organised by the Alliance Française.

The students involved were Valery Goulakova (who was the captain), Alexey Gorelov, Nellie Warren, Siuin O'Shea and Annabel Murphy. They were the opposition for the motion 'All schools should be co-educational' and competed against Blackrock College.

Well done everyone - it was a great challenge to not only debate in French, but to debate in French and online!



Stand Up Awareness Week

Friday, 20th November saw Stratford students and staff dress up in colourful clothes to celebrate Standup Awareness Week (16th - 20th November).

Student Council worked hard to create a beautiful poster for their noticeboard outside the hall. Students and staff put in a great effort to dress up brightly and to take the opportunity to look at how to make school a safe and supportive places for all students.

December 2020



PE classes in Herzog Park



Photo by 1st Year CSPE student for Green Schools: Ocean Week 2021

December: News around the World

“Warner Bros studio announces all its 2021 movies will stream online the same day they appear in theatres because of the pandemic”

“Russia begins vaccinating people with its Sputnik V vaccine in Moscow, despite the vaccine not finishing clinical trials”

“The UK becomes the first western country to authorize a vaccine for COVID-19, the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine”

“The Irish Government agreed to move the entire country to Level 5 lockdown restrictions with a number of adjustments from Christmas Eve until 12 January 2021 at the earliest”

“The Chair of the NPHET Irish Epidemiological Modelling Advisory Group Philip Nolan announced that a third wave of COVID-19 in Ireland is clearly underway”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com



3rd Year Minecraft project wins 2nd prize in Classics Now national competition!

Congratulations to Daniel, Sam and Josh in 3rd Year for winning 2nd prize in the Classics Now national competition for secondary students held in mid-November. They created a Minecraft project which you can watch in the video that they submitted! Josh writes of their experience.

"Daniel, Sam and I entered the competition with not much hope, doing it just for fun. We slowly built up the scenes in a blank Minecraft world, and recorded the audio to go alongside it. I put it together in an editing app, and added music to make it more enjoyable. Each member played a key role in the building and editing of the video, and no one did more work than another. We worked really well as a team, and were ecstatic to discover we had landed the second-place prize in a national competition!"

Josh Taylor (3rd Year)



Student Council organise food voucher collection for Mitzvah Week

On the first week of December, from the 7th to the 11th, the school celebrated Mitzvah week. Every year, we have an annual Mitzvah Box collection, where we collect non-perishable food donations from each class group and donate to charities such as Focus Ireland.

A "mitzvah" is a Hebrew word that means a good deed done by a person, and there are 613 central "mitzvot" that can be done in Jewish law. Usually, each class group would bring in products to donate to charities, but this year we had to change things because of the pandemic. Instead, we asked students to purchase food vouchers from local supermarkets, which we collected on Wednesday, December 9th. Overall, we are very happy with the efforts of students and teachers and we would like to thank you for your generosity. The photo shows some of the vouchers collected by the 1st years - approximately €1000 was collected in food vouchers.



#GRMA Day! Friday 11th December 2020

GRMA Day - A day to show national solidarity and appreciation, and to say thanks and “go raibh maith agaibh” to our school communities. A short video made by 5th Year Stratford College students was produced to celebrate the day.

Friday morning, 11th December not only celebrated #GRMA Day but a further delight was the arrival of ‘Barista Bike’ to serve coffees and hot chocolate drinks, plus doughnuts for Stratford students and staff.

Many thanks to Ms Gordon for organising such a great surprise in appreciation of all the hard work that everyone has put in over the term! Stratford College thanks everyone in our school community for all their hard work and dedication to those in our care since our school reopened.

January 2021



Covid-19 Pandemic: Ireland's Third Wave



Photo by 1st Year CSPE student for Green Schools: Ocean Week 2021

January: News around the World

“First Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccinations given in the UK”

“Elon Musk, co-founder of Tesla, becomes the world's richest man, worth \$186 billion, overtaking Amazon founder Jeff Bezos”

“Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg blocks President Donald Trump from Facebook and Instagram till January 20, following suspension of his other social media accounts the previous day”

“China places two cities, Shijiazhuang and Xingtai, under lockdown after over 130 cases of COVID-19 reported”

“Pope Francis, 84, and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine”

“Leaving Cert students should have option of predicted grades, Opposition politicians appeal for ‘clarity and certainty’ over exams”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com



Quantum project wins two big prizes at 2021 BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition!

Breaking news! Ayush's quantum programming language that he developed himself and is called "Q" won 1st prize in the Individual Intermediate Technology section and the Stripe Special award at today's @BTYSTE BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition.

The criteria for the Stripe award is: '*Most ambitious use of software in enabling a device or creating a service which will likely have a significant economic and/or social impact when deployed at scale*'. This is an amazing achievement!

Furthermore, Ayush and Ms O'Kelly would like to thank Professor Brendan Tangney, Computer Science & Statistics and a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin and Dr Keith Quille, Lecturer of Computing in TU Dublin, Tallaght Campus and CSInc for their insights and their help in the narrative of Ayush's project report. We would also like to thank Dr. Lee O'Riordan from the Irish Society For High-End Computing for offering his thoughts on future developments of this project.

A proud day for Ayush, his family, everyone in Stratford College and Quantum Computer Science! See also Awards & Achievements and BTYSTE results.



5th Year online assembly - watch the **video on Stratford's YouTube channel!**

Chasing Joy was the theme of the 5th Year's online assembly broadcast over Teams on Tuesday, 19th January. The 5th Years filmed and produced a 20 minute video with inputs from many students and teachers!

Watch and enjoy the video published on Stratford's YouTube channel! Have a look at the photos of the innovative TY/English Toastmaster classes with Ms Reynolds ...delicious food!



TYs attend online He@lthFest 2021 exhibition

Ms Finnegan and the TYs joined the online He@lthFest exhibition on Wednesday, 27th January. It was a free event aimed at teenagers and it featured experts in the areas of physical activity, nutrition and mental wellbeing.

The He@lthfest online exhibition was attended by approximately 8000 students nationwide. Ms Finnegan has also made a new 2021 PE & Wellbeing Padlet for this current lockdown.

There were some really good talks on nutrition, health related fitness, a HIIT workout, a really good talk on mental health which was very relevant during this time and meditation.

They were running online engagement competitions and Jessica Lawlor (2nd Year) came 12th, while Benjamin Luntley (3rd Year) came 17th. Well done!

February 2021



Stratford Reads!



Photo by 1st Year CSPE student for Green Schools: Ocean Week 2021

February: News around the World

“Military stage a coup in Myanmar, detaining civilian leaders including Aung San Suu Kyi and declare a one-year state of emergency”

“5 Ocean life is being drowned out by human noise, especially shipping, construction, sonar and seismic surveys according to new research”

“US Senate Impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump begins in Washington D.C.”

“Archaeologists announce discovery of oldest known beer factory in Abydos, Egypt, from early Dynastic period 3150 B.C.- 2613 B.C”

“Nphet says normal life ‘some way off’ and vaccination unlikely to fully halt Covid-19”

“Secondary schools to reopen to special classes on February 22nd but Leaving Cert return in balance”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com

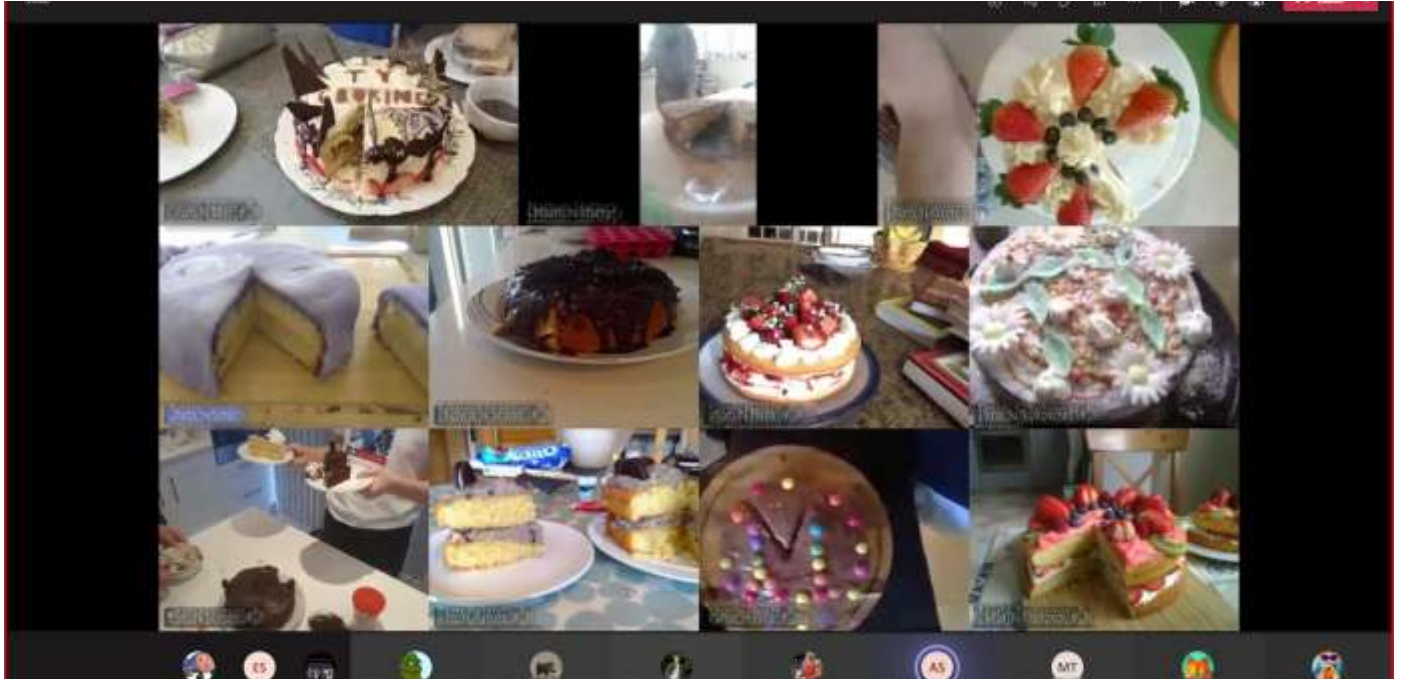


Chasing Joy - February Challenges!

Student Council organised and promoted some of our Chasing Joy challenges for February! The theme was Wellbeing and Sustainable Living.

Challenges include:

- ◆ Take a picture of your healthy, sustainable cooking
- ◆ Set goals for yourself and track them - stay motivated
- ◆ Take pictures for the Eye on Nature competition
- ◆ Try something new - easy sequence like sun salutation
- ◆ Continue the challenge - get to 5K



The Great TY Bake Off!

Ms Reynolds, Ms Beamish and the TYs have been creating amazing bakes during English classes!

Following quite intricate recipes and baking under pressure - just like the Great British Bake Off itself! Really, really impressive bakes TYs!



3rd Year Online Assembly & Chasing Joy (January) winners announced

On Friday, 12th February - the last day before mid-term - the 3rd Years had their online assembly. The winners of the Chasing Joy (January) competition were announced. Watch the 3rd Year's assembly on Stratford's YouTube channel - very impressive!

There were many student entries for this competition all of which can be seen on a padlet set up by Ms Reynolds.

Thanks to the judges - Mr Downes, Ms Corrigan, Brian Conaghan (author) and Ms Reynolds - who after a lot of deliberation chose the following winning entries!

1st Year Winner - Anna : Film of 4 crafts

2nd Year Winner - Zohar and Jessica : Poem and illustration– Body image

3rd Year Winner - Josh and Daniel : Minecraft construction of London Bridge

Overall Junior Winner - Caoimhe : Illustration of William Blake Poem

1st in the Senior Category - Nellie : Animation, 'Buachaill'

2nd in the Senior Category - Alexey : Odyssey rap

3rd in the senior Category - Noam : Documentary 'Chasing Joy'

Overall winner - Stephen (2nd Year) : 'Chasing Joy' Song

March 2021



TY Life Experience during 2020-2021!



Photo by 1st Year CSPE student for Green Schools: Ocean Week 2021

March: News around the World

“Former French President Nicholas Sarkozy is sentenced to three years for trying to bribe a judge”

“Dolly Parton receives the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine she gave \$1 million to help develop”

“Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama is vaccinated against COVID-19 in Dharamsala, India and urges others to do so”

“Queen Elizabeth II publicly expresses “concern” after Harry and Meghan, Duke and Duchess of Sussex interview, saying allegations including of racism with be dealt with privately”

“March 1 target date for start of phased school re-opening as announcement on Leaving Cert expected this week”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com



World Book Day

Thursday, 4th March was World Book Day! It continues on from Ireland Reads - Ireland's new national day to celebrate reading - on Thursday, 25th February.

The TYs organised online events to celebrate World Book Day - not quite the same as our annual book sale and Booky Breakfast - however all these events can be done in a slightly different way from home.

St Michael's House have come up with an idea to #PassTheBook. Instead of a Book Swap sale, get a book you're okay about giving away, put it in an envelope and post it to someone you know.

Thursday morning, TYs encouraged everyone to make their own smoothie and have it at 11am as you chat about what book you're reading.



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021 was celebrated in numerous ways - all online of course! The 1st years created very nice work on Grainne Mhaol on padlet (see image). There were Tráth na gCeists for the 2nd-4th years and the 2nd Year's online assembly.

The 2nd years produced a fantastic online assembly - watch it on the Stratford YouTube channel and enjoy!

CARTOON SALOON AWARD FOR **BEST ANIMATION**

WINNER
"BUACHAILL"
DIRECTOR
NELLIE WARREN

6th Year student wins two Awards at Fresh Film Festival 2021

Congratulations to Nellie Warren who won two awards at the Fresh Film Festival on Friday, 26th March for her short film 'buachail!' Nellie won the Cartoon Saloon Award for Best Animation and the Highly Commended Storytelling Award for 'buachail!'.

Based on a true story. Over the years, a young girl named Kit is repeatedly mistaken for a boy. Written, directed and animated by Nellie Warren. Editing and sound also by Nellie Warren. This film was animated entirely using Flipanim. It was edited using iMovie. Thanks too to some of the 6th years who were part of the cast.

Congratulations too, to Jonah Miller (TY) who's film "There is no I in Team" also made it to the Fresh Film Festival finals.

April 2021



Earth Day



Photo by 1st Year CSPE student for Green Schools: Ocean Week 2021

April: News around the World

“Recording-breaking price of \$3.25 million for a comic book as Action Comics #1, that introduced Superman for the first time, sells at auction”

“Dr. Anthony Fauci thanks American health workers for their sacrifice during the pandemic, acknowledging their more than 3,600 deaths”

“China orders Alibaba pay a record fine of 18.2 billion yuan (\$2.8 billion) after anti-trust regulations say it has been acting as a monopoly”

“Voice actor Hank Azaria who is white apologizes for voicing Indian character Apu on "The Simpsons" for 30 years”

“Department of Education reaffirms plan for return of all Irish secondary pupils on 12th April 2021”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com



Stratford College receives Diplomatic Passport Award from WorldWise Global Schools

Stratford College is delighted to be awarded a Diplomatic Passport Award by WorldWise Global Schools that acknowledges its work across the school community in pursuing Global Citizenship Education.

Teaching and learning about global justice themes through a global justice lens and enabling students to act and engage in activities that promote knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values necessary to become global citizens is a key component of this work in Subject Departments and in school life. This work continues beyond the classroom, into extra-curricular activities, student leadership and school events.

Our approach to Global Citizenship Education complements the National Youth Strategy (2015) which places the student at the centre of a participative learning process where young people are 'socially included, environmentally aware, their equality and rights upheld, their diversity celebrated and are empowered to be active global citizens. Young people's autonomy is supported, their active citizenship fostered, and they have a strong voice through political, social and civic engagement.'



TYs compete in EU Codeweek Hackathon - one team gets to National Finals

Six countries, six hackathons! The TYs competed in a new EU Codeweek venture - a 24 hour hackathon - which started on Monday, 26th April. Students aged 15-19 from Ireland, Romania, Italy, Greece, Slovenia and Latvia were invited to create an innovative tech solution. On Tuesday afternoon they had to pitch their solution to a panel of judges.

On Monday afternoon the TYs were given the task - to create a digital solution to promote local communities/groups to communicate with each other. The TY groups were competing against each other and all the other groups from other schools in Ireland. The communications platform used for the hackathon was discord.com.

Each TY group got thinking, coding, designing. Each group had to have a coder, a designer and a pitcher, however there were other roles such as engineers, creators/inventors, tech enthusiasts, entrepreneurs, marketers, curious minds.

The TYs pitched brilliantly on Tuesday afternoon and at 3.30pm the teams going on to the National Finals (to be held in the autumn) were announced. Well done to Annalivia, Adam, Bailey, Dónal and Ayush, who made it to the EU Codeweek National Finals!



Barista Bike surprise visit!

After a long Spring term spent doing remote schooling, Stratford was treated to a surprise in the car park - Barista Bike with hot chocolate & coffee as a treat for everyone. The rain made no difference at all!

May 2021



TY Neoclassical Walking Tour of Dublin



Photo by 1st Year CSPE student for Green Schools: Ocean Week 2021

May: News around the World

“US F.D.A. authorizes the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for 12-to-15-year-olds”

“China lands its Zhurong rover on Utopia Planitia, Mars, for the first time as part of the Tianwen-1 mission”

“Eurovision Song Contest won by Italian metal band Maneskin with 524 points in Rotterdam”

“India’s official COVID-19 death toll passes 300,000 (303,720), the third country to do so, with experts saying it is a vast undercount”

“Virtual graduations and dance challenges: Irish Schools mark end of turbulent year”

References: www.irishtimes.com and www.onthisday.com



6th Year Graduation reimagined as an outdoor Garden Party

This year's 6th Year Graduation on Friday 14th May was held outdoors and reimagined as a Garden Party, following strict public health guidelines. At noon it was pouring rain... but then it stopped and from 12.30pm it was such a beautiful sunny afternoon!

A huge amount of credit and thanks goes to Ms Maxwell, the Student Council, Brendan, Ms Donohoe, Ms Gordon and everyone involved in making it such a memorable graduation.



Student Council 'Eye on Nature' competition: prizewinning photos announced

The Wellbeing committee have been working especially hard this term to devise challenges for each month. We had a variety available for students to choose from including, sustainable cooking, couch to 5k and even yoga challenges. We also had competitions to spark the competitive side amongst each year group which were the "Chasing Joy" competition at the start of 2021 and more recently our 'Eye on Nature' competition.

'Chasing Joy' was the inspiration for the competition and you had to come up with an idea that resonated with them. The students got very creative with their entries, some of which were, drawings, photos and songs.

Our most recent competition was the 'Eye on Nature'. This was a photography competition where students had to go outside (within their 5k of course) and take pictures of what they thought was beautiful in nature. Student Council had a hard time deciding who should win, so we asked for expert advice from Ms Mahon and Mr Brilly.

1st prize: Miruna Cazan, 2nd Year

Produced by:

Stratford College

and

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Parents' Association

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