

Stratford College

2021-2023

Year
Book

Stratford College

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Year
Book

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Printers: McGowans Print

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

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Forewords



Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the latest issue of our biannual Yearbook which provides a memorable snapshot of the personal and collective highpoints across the school year.

We take pride in all we do in Stratford College and creating an environment where our students can thrive and succeed, both personally and collectively, is our guiding mission. As you will see when reading, with the support of teachers, our students have taken every opportunity to get involved, share their voice and make a difference.

From the greening of our spaces to student achievements in science, technology and the arts, and a real commitment to social action, the school has never been more confident of itself, its place within the community and of its future as a growing, vibrant campus within Dublin 6.

I'd like to thank all staff, parents, guardians and students, as well as our Board of Management, for the part you have all played in our learning and growth over the last 14 months.

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

Finally, we wish you all a safe and peaceful summer - make sure to get enough sleep, take time away from phones and devices, exercise and enjoy the much deserved time off!

Patricia Gordon
Principal

It is truly an honour and a delight to introduce you all to the Stratford College Yearbook of 2021 – 2023. A Yearbook serves as a reminder of all that has been achieved by a school community – and it has certainly been a pleasure to look back over Stratford's many activities, challenges and successes from the last two years.

Life has recently reminded us just how essential community is to our development, our health and our happiness. More importantly, it has shown us that a good sense of belonging, and a supportive atmosphere are crucial to our children's mental health, their wellbeing as well as their academic development. Even a glance through this Yearbook will show just how talented and hard-working the Stratford students are. Over the last two years, Stratford students have garnered a Sixth Green Flag, have published poetry in the Fighting Words anthology, and have won multiple awards: the Mary Elmes Prize in Holocaust Studies awards, the Senior Young Classicist Award, Young Scientist awards, the Bebras Computing Challenge prizes, SciFest@College Award winners, Best Speaker at Les Joutes Oratoires to name a few.

With a particularly renewed appreciation for all the things that we associate with 'school', it was a true joy to see a return to regular school events such as the Annual School Walk, Sports Days and of course, the first school play since Covid; The Brother Grimm Spectaculathon! Students also enjoyed some new experiences, such as cookery classes in the newly-opened Chabad in Rathmines. The TYs took on a rewarding project in collaboration with JACI (Jewish Arts Culture Ireland) called Lives Illuminated. The students hard work was showcased in the Illuminated Exhibition in March with a follow up achievement of their Heritage Trail and Map being listed in The Irish Times, "50 Fun Family Days Out".

The Parents Association were able to return to in-person meetings, having been on Zoom over the previous two years. This year in particular, the Parents Association wanted to support staff in its dedication to strengthening the idea of Stratford College as a community. We focused on First and Second Years and held Trivia Night Quizzes for parent-child teams which were great fun and we hope to hold more of those next year. We also supported the Careers Information Evening with past pupils, the Graduation parties, First Year Parents evenings, Open Days and various social events. The PA acts as a collective voice for the parents – all parents are members of the association and are welcome to join the committee and monthly meetings.

We know you will enjoy the memories the following pages will bring. Thank you, as always, to Ms. O'Kelly and Trish Connolly for all their hard work in producing the Yearbook. To the Class of 2023, your successes and your best selves are here on display, and we are all proud of you. We wish you all the very best for your futures and remember, you are always a part of this Stratford community which you helped build.

Stratford College Parents' Association

September 2021



6th Year Leaving Cert Results



Stratford's grounds, June 2023 #flourish #sustainability #global citizenship

September: News around the World

"The warmest September on record for Ireland, Met Éireann confirms"

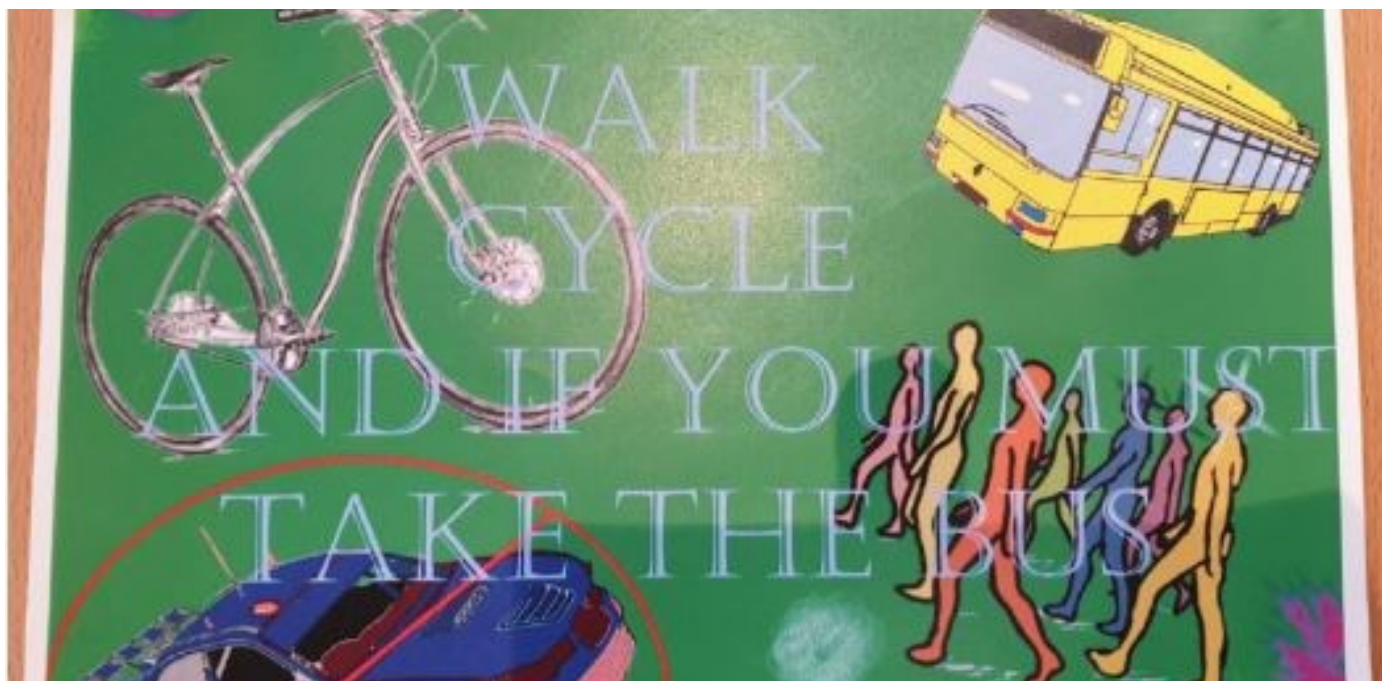
"WHO warns urgent action needed on air pollution, is on a par with smoking and a poor diet, causing seven million premature deaths a year"

"Pfizer announces they have developed a safe COVID-19 vaccine for 5-11 year olds with the dose 1/3 of the strength"

"McDonald's announces plans to 'drastically' reduce plastic in its Happy Meals by 2025 (these meals make it one of largest toy distributors in the world) James Bond film"

"No Time To Die", the last Bond film starring Daniel Craig, premieres after an 18 month delay due to the pandemic

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



Green Schools awarded 5th Flag for Travel

On the 27th of May 2021, key members from the Green Schools Committee took part in our inspection visit online for the 5th Green Schools Travel Flag application. The meeting was a great success. Every student presented and were able to discuss their own personal involvement and the school community's involvement in our Travel Flag application.

This was our 5th Green Schools Application, and I am delighted that it was another success for the students and the school. It was an extra challenging application given the restraints posed by Covid.

In June, the Green Schools Committee completed all the final parts of the application form - a special thanks to Carrie and Caoimhe who attend online meetings with me during their summer holidays. The dedication of the Green Schools Committee is commendable, and I look forward to more new members as we start our journey towards our 6th flag - Biodiversity. The poster was drawn by Skye Deans (1st Year).

Ms Donohoe

Green Schools Co-Ordinator



Stratford integrates Global Citizenship Education into classroom activities

Stratford College is continuing to integrate Global Citizenship Education into all aspects of teaching and learning this year as part of the World Wise Global Schools Programme.

Actions will be teacher and student led to equip us to act sustainably and ethically in our interconnected world. Student Council will be working with Green Schools on the themes of sustainability, biodiversity, and active citizenship.

Of note is the Global Citizen Live online concert on 25th September. To see the latest line check out [GlobalCitizen.org](https://www.globalcitizen.org). It's a truly global stage from New York City, Lagos, Paris and Rio de Janeiro! Check social channels for @GblCtzn.

Ms Kenny



5th Year team come 2nd in 2021 EU CodeweeK Hackathon National Finals

On Thursday afternoon, 23rd September and all Friday morning, team 'SC-Babbage' (5th Year students - Annalivia, Adam, Dónal, Lysander and Ayush) competed in the National Finals of the 2021 EU CodeweeK Hackathon. Similarly there were National Finals in Romania, Italy, Greece, Slovenia and Latvia. On Thursday afternoon, the team were told of their new brief: to add accessibility features (voice-to-text etc) to their digital solution to promote local communities/groups to communicate with each other. So basically they had to add new functionality to their 'charitable donations' website which they had built from the first round of the competition back in April.

The deadline for the finished project? 10am on Friday morning. Some of the team coded/tested, while others joined an online meeting (all through discord) to learn more about accessibility issues and software.

On Friday morning once the 10am deadline was met, the next task was to prepare the pitch to be finalised by 11.30am. All done through discord again! Well done to Ayush who demo'd the website live, with voice-to-text recognition working! Nervously we all waited for the results to be announced just before 2pm. It was a great achievement for team 'SC-Babbage' to come 2nd. Everyone learned a lot about teamwork and meeting punishing deadlines!

Ms O'Kelly

October 2021



Physical Education classes



October: News around the World

"US COVID-19 death toll passes 700,000, with daily deaths averaging 1,900 a day"

"Global outage of Facebook and its apps, including Instagram and WhatsApp, for six hours"

"Michael Jordan's 1984 Nike Air Ships sell for \$1.472 million at Sotheby's, a new record for sneakers at auction"

"India has more girls than boys for the first time in its history and its population boom is ending, according to new government survey"

"NASA scientists announce they may have detected the first planet outside our galaxy, in Whirlpool Galaxy (M51), 28 million light-years away"

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



The Crocus Project

Transition Year and Third Year students as part of The Crocus Project, 'an inclusive project of remembrance for young European citizens about the Holocaust' led by Holocaust Education Trust Ireland (HETI), planted yellow crocus bulbs in memory of one and a half million Jewish children who perished in the Holocaust and thousands of other children who were victims of Nazi atrocities.

Crocuses bloom at the end of January or early February, around the time of International Holocaust Memorial Day. This project is part of learning about the Holocaust and issues of racism and discrimination, both past and present, with students engaging as active promoters of more just, fair, inclusive, and sustainable societies.

The HETI Crocus project is for young people over the age of 10 to remember all the children who perished in the Holocaust.

Ms Kenny & Ms Donohoe



Stratford U19 Boys Football team

Following a two-year hiatus from inter-school Football due to the Pandemic, members of the Stratford U19 Football team were delighted to participate in a competitive match away to Ballinteer Community School on Wednesday, October 6th. The game also presented Stratford's U19 players an opportunity to build a professional relationship with our recently appointed Football Coach, Ciaran Fadden.

There was a varied reaction to the first-half amongst the Stratford squad, since numerous players didn't feel satisfied with a four-goal deficit at half-time. Stratford commenced the second-half in a positive manner, as a result of organised/structured passing and improved application from the attack. Ballinteer struggled to contain Stratford's momentum for the majority of the second-half, which boosted the away team's morale.

In spite of numerous lively periods, the game wasn't a breathtaking contest, although the Stratford squad will not be forgetting Nathan Slattery's heroic penalty save for the foreseeable future.

Luke Higgins (TY)



Online Awards Ceremony

This year's Awards Ceremony was again held online on Friday morning, 22nd October but with a mix of livestreaming from each classroom as awards were announced! Ms Talbot and Student Council co-ordinated an incredible online production, involving filming, editing and producing many videos as each award was announced.

Past-pupil, Leah Gaynor (2017) was guest speaker who spoke about sustainable fashion. Leah was doing a Masters on this topic in The Netherlands. Green Schools committee members, Carrie and Caoimhe also spoke about the importance of what each of us can do to take care of the earth. As ever, students were awarded books as their prize.

Olivia sang beautifully to round off the Awards Ceremony. Sincere thanks to all the students, staff and Ms Talbot who put in a tremendous effort to make this year's Awards Ceremony so special.

November 2021



Tomi Reichental online talk



November: News around the World

"WHO says Europe is again the Epicenter for COVID-19 after cases rise 50% in a month"

"105 year old Julia Hawkins sets world record as first woman and first American her age to run 100 meters Louisiana Senior Olympic Games"

"Longest partial lunar eclipse since 1440, lasting 3 hours, 28 minutes and 23 seconds"

"Sweden's first female Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson resigns after 12 hours in the job after her coalition government falls apart"

"Passenger arrivals to Ireland close to pre-pandemic levels for the first time"

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

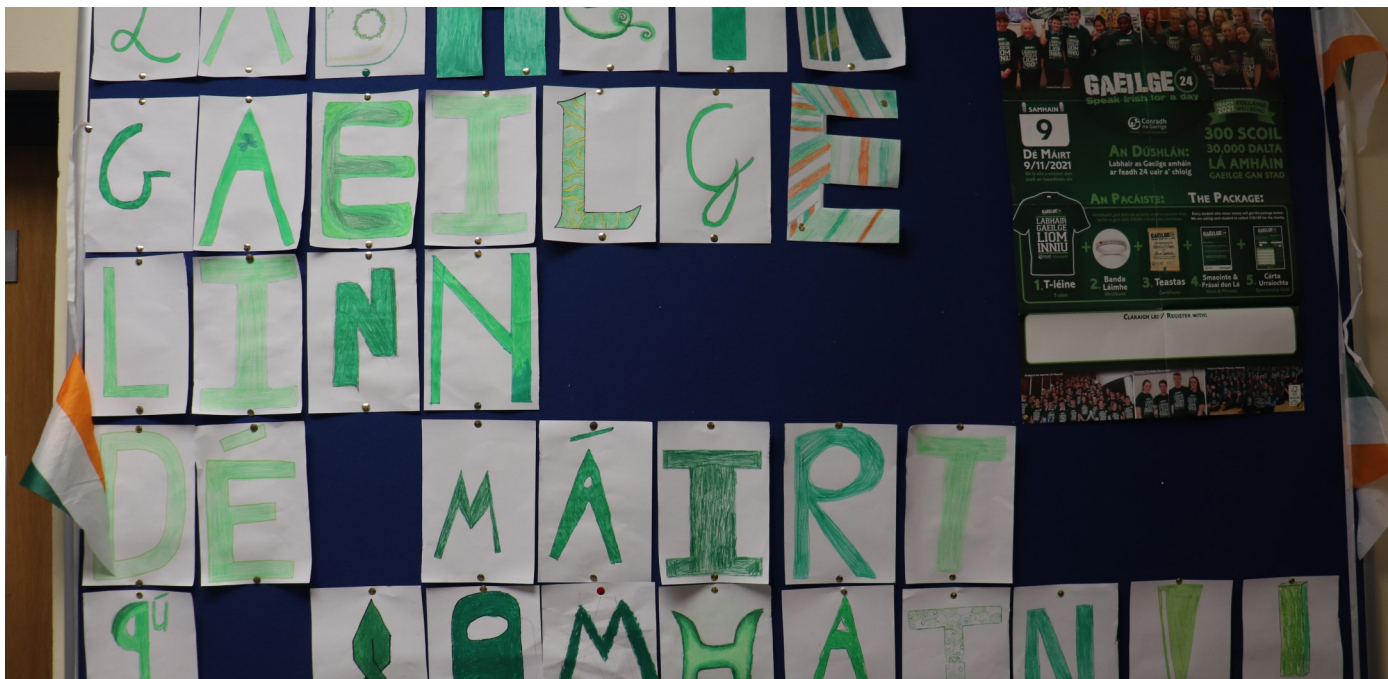


Stratford selected for BLAST Arts-In-Education Programme

Stratford College has been selected as one of 400 schools to participate in the Department of Education's new innovative Arts-in-Education BLAST Residency Programme in 2021. Adrienne Geoghegan, a visual artist and illustrator, is going to work with the TY class in January and February 2022 to help them write and illustrate their own children's books.

We're very excited to get started on this collaboration and look forward to documenting the Transition Years' creative process. Thanks to the Blackrock Education Centre for facilitating this project.

Ms Talbot



Gaeilge 24 9ú Samhain

Tuesday (Dé Máirt) Conradh na Gaeilge are running Gaeilge24. The aim is to speak Gaeilge non-stop for one full day (lá amháin!). In Coláiste Stratford we're going to 'bain triail as' and bring Gaeilge outside the classroom that day.

While completing this challenge we hope to have lots of 'spórt agus craic'. Some activities will focus particularly on Wellbeing (Folláine) including:

The 5ú Bliain agus an Idirbhliain will coordinate the day. You will see them 'timpeall na háite' wearing their tléine. Say hi or even better 'Dia dhuit'. Along with the organised events we hope that the students will 'teach the teachers' a few more 'cúpla focal' so 'cuir ceist orthu'. They will be very proud to show off what they know.

Hope you'll come 'ar bhord' that day and join us with Conradh na Gaeilge.

Beatha teanga í a labhairt! Le gach dea-ghuí!

Ms Maxwell



‘One Kind Word’: Stratford’s Anti-Bullying Week theme

Stratford supported Anti-Bullying week (15th - 19th November) by highlighting this year's theme is 'One Kind Word' at form tutor time. Form tutors also did sociograms with their class groups.

The Anti-Bullying Alliance website said: "Kindness is more important today than it has ever been. The isolation of the last year has underlined how little acts of consideration can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us. This is one of the reasons that 'One Kind Word' has been chosen as the theme of Anti-Bullying Week taking place from 15 to 19 of November 2021".

The Alliance asked over 400 young people, teachers and parents what they wanted from this year's Anti-Bullying Week and they were told people wanted anti-bullying work to be about hope and the positive and kind things we can do "to halt hurtful behaviour in its tracks".

Ms Reynolds

December 2021



1st Years celebrate Hanukkah



December: News around the World

"Tel Aviv named the world's most expensive city for the first time ahead of Singapore and Paris, with Damascus the cheapest"

"First known Hippo's test positive for COVID-19 at Antwerp Zoo in Belgium, with staff putting Imani (14) and Hermien (41) into isolation"

"Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX and Tesla, named Time's Person of the Year"

"First COVID-19 Omicron death in the UK reported by PM Boris Johnson"

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



Junior End-of-Term Classics Quiz

Monday, 20th December heralded the 1st Year End-of-Term Classical Studies quiz! Ms Donohoe, Ms Corrigan, Ms Caspi with the help of some TY students ensured that the 1st Year Classics students had a gripping quiz in the hall... and it was gripping!

There were five rounds in total and each round was tightly fought by the eight 1st Year teams. Throughout the whole quiz the results were very close between the teams. Who was going to be the eventual winner?!

All is revealed in the photos! Thanks to Sam, Luke, Josh and Daniel in TY who helped with the technicalities of running the quiz.

Ms Donohoe

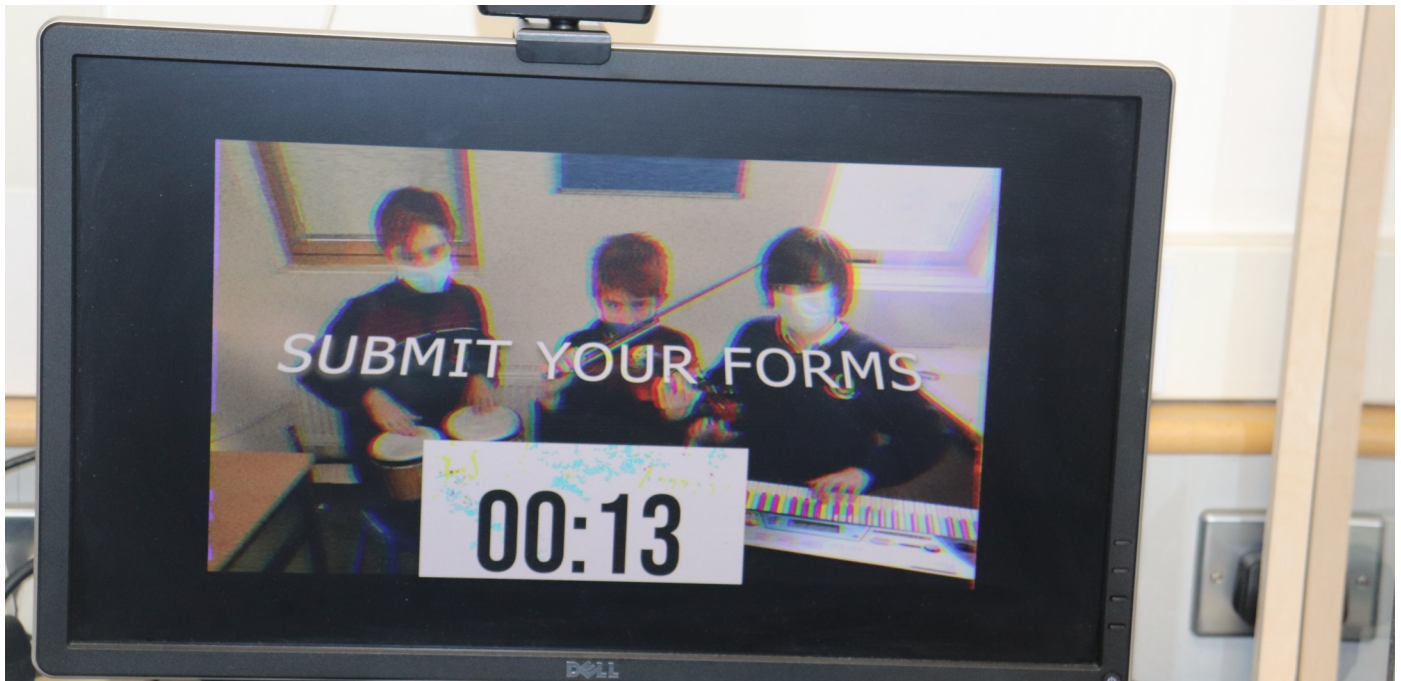


Mitzvah Week: Student Council organise food voucher collection

Throughout the last week of term, Student Council and Ms Kenny helped organise a food voucher collection for Focus Ireland as part of Mitzvah Week.

Thanks to everyone who donated and encouraged students to do so - almost €400 was collected. Thanks to Student Council especially Carrie & Sam, and Jamie who reminded classes, and collected and counted the vouchers for us.

Ms Kenny



TY's organise an innovative online Winter Quiz!

Last day of the winter term—well it has to be the end-of-term quiz! For a second year running it was run online and organised so brilliantly by the TY's. Not only was it a quiz (6 rounds of 10 questions), but it was highly entertaining and technically brilliant!

Each class stayed in their base room and joined the quiz online. The broadcasting centre was in the Computer Lab where the TY's ran the counting centre and broadcast the videos. Major shout-out to Noam in 5th Year who was also part of the team!

Each class had to submit their answers through an online form, where all answers were checked by the TY's. It was closely fought contest throughout with the eventual winners as follows:

- 1st place - 6th Years
- 2nd place - 2nd Years
- 3rd place - 5th Years

January 2022



A win for the U15 Girls Basketball team



January: News around the World

“‘Time to be ourselves again’: Taoiseach confirms end to almost all Covid-19 restrictions”

“Israel becomes one of the first countries to offer a fourth vaccine dose against COVID-19 amid an Omicron surge”

“The US Mint issues quarter coins commemorating poet Maya Angelou, first black woman to be depicted on a coin”

“Online word puzzle Wordle bought for “low seven figure sum” by The New York Times”

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



5th Year wins two awards at BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition

Massive congratulations to Ayush Tambde, 5th Year Computer Science student, for winning two awards (for a second year in a row!) at the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2022 with his project called "A System For The Development And Execution Of Hybrid Classical/Quantum Tasks".

Ayush won the "Irish Patents Office – Intellectual Ventures" Special Award and came 2nd in the Senior Individual Technology category.

What a fantastic achievement Ayush - we're all so proud of you!

Ms O'Kelly



6th Year reads at National Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration

Senior students and Staff from Stratford College attended the annual National Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration at the Mansion House on Sunday 30th January.

6th Year student, Dragos read at this year's Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration. Dragos won the inaugural Mary Elmes Prize in Holocaust Studies in 2019 when he was in TY and got to meet Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Organised by the Holocaust Education Trust of Ireland (HETI), "the ceremony cherishes the memory of those who perished and recalls the millions of innocent Jewish men, women and children and others, who were persecuted and murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators because of their ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliations or their religious beliefs. The commemoration includes readings, survivors' recollections, the Scroll of Names, candle-lighting and music.



Irish debating teams reach Gael Linn Díospóireachtaí Regionals

Comhghairdeas! Last Wednesday 26th January our Senior and Junior Irish debaters performed brilliantly and both groups secured a spot in the next round of the Comórtas Díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh.

Our Junior Team (Caoimhe Acres, Elizabeth O'Neill and Devlin Murphy) were in favour of the motion 'Is fiú ár gcuid laethanta saoire a chaitheamh in Éirinn - It's worthwhile spending our holidays in Ireland'.

Our Senior Team (Ayush Tambde, Jonah Miller and Seán Noonon) argued against the motion 'Tá go leor béime ar chúrsaí aclaíochta agus folláine sa churaclaim scoile - There is a lot of emphasis on activity and wellbeing in the school curriculum.'

Táimid an-bhrodúil as an éacht mór atá déanta ag an dá fhoireann agus táimid ag tnúth go mór leis an gcéad bhabhta eile. Ádh mór oraibh!

Ms Maxwell

February 2022



Classics Trip to Rome



February: News around the World

"XXIV Olympic Winter Games open in Beijing, China"

"Britain's 95-year-old Queen Elizabeth II tests positive for COVID-19"

"Census 2022 results, first time in 171 years that Ireland's population exceeded the five million threshold"

"Horn of Africa with 13 million people now facing humanitarian crisis amid drought where the rainy season has failed three years in a row, according to UN World Food Program"

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



Green Schools share daffodils with everyone in Stratford

On Friday, 11th February, in anticipation of the 14th February (!), Green Schools distributed daffodils to every teacher for every classroom.

Students and teachers were also given "hearts of hope" for our planet. Thanks to Davi Cancelli, our intrepid 1st Year photographer.



3rd Years visit Museum of Literature Ireland (MOLI)

As the last hurdles of Covid were lifted our 3rd year students had their first school tour in three years. Covid arrived half way through their 1st year, putting an end to all the trips that normally mark that last term: Arts week, 1st year Mentor trip, Friendship week and Sports Day. In their stead were 2D classes conducted on the screen, requiring no further movement than walking down the stairs.

Gleefully we hopped on the 15 bus from outside our front door to get the bus into St Stephen's Green. Here we broke up into three groups to compete in the Literary and Historical Treasure Hunt, hosted by the The Little Museum of Dublin. The students loved discovering interesting facts about the park that they would normally just walk through. Knowing that Countess Markievicz held down a battalion here during the 1916 rising gave the girls an added pep to their step.

At 11 am it was time to enter the gloriously restored Georgian building housing the Museum of Literature. We revelled in the stunning visual and audio installations of Beckett, and Joyce. Then out through their rose garden for lunch in the Iveagh Gardens. They were such a grateful and engaged bunch of students. I was delighted to be the first teacher to bring them somewhere post covid restrictions. They can now look ahead to a day long Feile on March 16th and a trip to Avon Ri.

Ms Reynolds & Ms Kenny



5th and 6th Years go on Adventure Activity Day!

Wednesday morning, 23rd February proved to be sunny and spring-like when the 5th and 6th Years drove off to the Wicklow hills to the Avon Activity centre near Blessington.

For the 6th years it was a brilliant release after the Mock exams. For both the 5th and 6th years it was a great treat after two years of Covid-19 lockdowns and restrictions.

Thanks Ms Finnegan for organising a great day.

March 2022



Féile! Time to be ourselves again!



Stratford's grounds, June 2023 #flourish #sustainability #global citizenship

March: News around the World

"The World Health Organization said Ireland was among some countries that eased COVID-19 restrictions too "brutally" and were now seeing a spike in cases as a result."

"US announced it will release 1 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve for six months to drive down oil prices"

"178 wildfires burnt more than 108,000 acres across southwest Texas according to local fire officials with 23 still active"

"Actor Will Smith issues an apology on Instagram to Oscars host Chris Rock for slapping him live on stage during the ceremony"

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



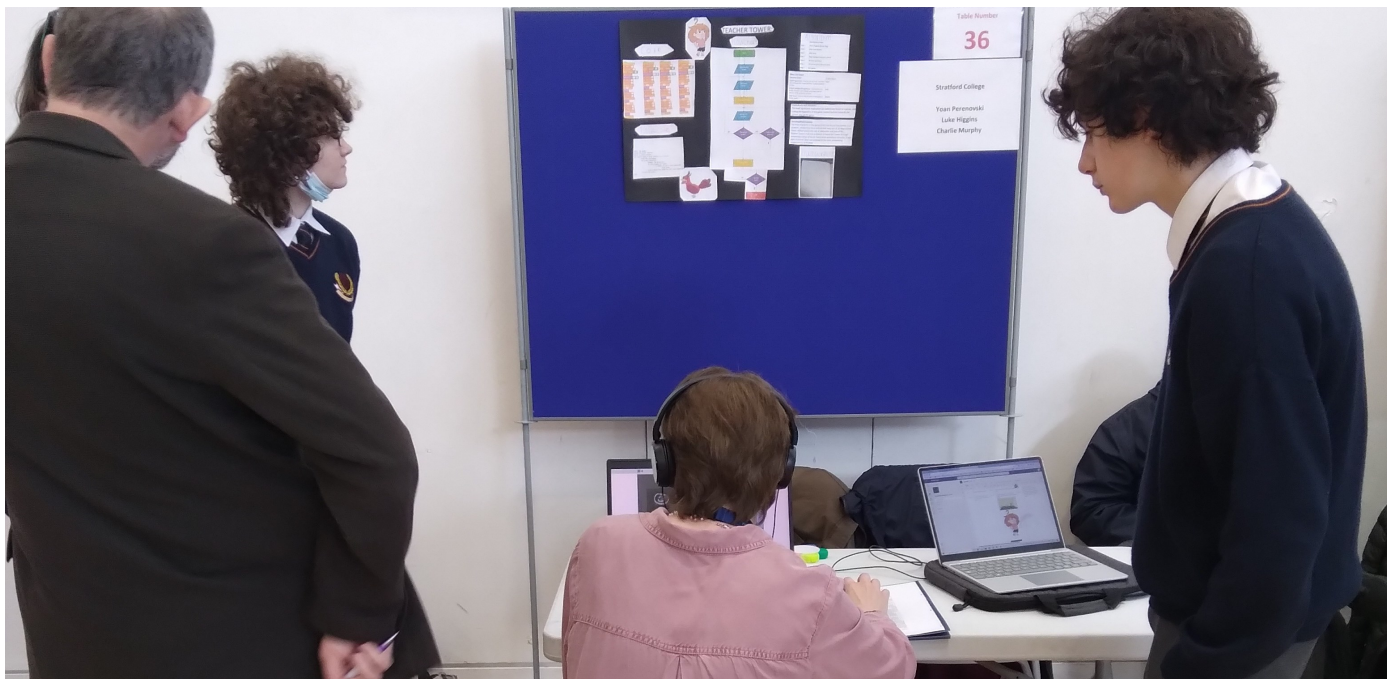
Stratford celebrates Féile 2022

On Wednesday 16th March Stratford College hosted a special festival and celebration for students and staff in the school grounds. Based around the theme of "time to know ourselves again" the day long event featured outdoor activities and treats that aim to inspire, challenge and engage.

It has been a long two years for all of us and this special festival is our small way of marking all that has been achieved (and endured) by our students and staff in that time, while looking to the future in a fun and stimulating way.

It is a combination of events from Seachtain na Gaeilge, World Book Day, Purim and much, much more!

Thanks to Ms Reynolds who made this amazing event not only happen, but rock!



TY Business students runners up in Dublin Student Enterprise Programme

Congratulations to the TY Business students - Luke Higgins, Yoan Perenovski, Cassie Murphy and Brendan Doorley - who not only reached the second stage of the LEO Student Enterprise Programme Dublin City Finals, but came second place with their project 'Teacher Tower' on Thursday, 24th March.

Over 1,000 Students and not only getting to the last six groups in the final, but finishing 1st Runners Up (Second Overall).

The four TY students were judged online in both rounds. They had to present their project 'Teacher Tower' - an online teaching and learning game for Junior Cycle students - which they coded in Scratch. They also designed the script and the illustrations for this project.

Thank you for your support of the team. The students did Stratford College proud both at the Tuesday interviews and the Thursday final six teams interviews.

Mr Brilly



Stratford Girls Football team

Throughout the football season the Stratford Girls football team played with determination and great team spirit. Some matches proved more demanding than others, but thanks to Ciaran our football manager every match was enjoyable.

The team trained hard and learned many new skills in each match. Overall, the team had great fun!

April 2022



1st Years visit Dublinia



April: News around the World

"Elon Musk buys 9.2% of Twitter stock, making him the company's largest shareholder"

"Shanghai lockdown extended to cover the whole city as COVID-19 cases increase, as China remains one of the last to employ a "zero-Covid" system"

"First all-private space flight, Axiom-1 launches to the International Space Station"

"Global COVID-19 known cases pass 500 million, with 5.1 billion (66%) having received at least one vaccine shot"

"Terrorist attack on the New York subway injures 26, 10 by gunfire, with the suspect arrested a day later"

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



6th Year student competes in Fresh Film Festival 2022

Congratulations to 6th Year student, Cian Glynn, who's film 'Rumination' competed in the finals of the Fresh Film Festival 2022.

Cian has been developing his craft here since his arrival in first year. He has created many stunning films in English, History and Classics. We have also been the beneficiaries of his creative vision through his work on school promotional videos. Now watch Cian's film 'Rumination'.

Ms Reynolds



1st Years and Green Schools plant Spring bulbs

On Thursday 7th April 1st years with members from Green Schools planted various Spring bulbs and seeds to mark the end of term and celebrate Spring. It is also one of the steps towards Green Schools achieving their Biodiversity flag.

It was a perfect day for spring planting ... so now we wait!

Ms Donohoe



TY students make video for Concern Speak Act Do programme

The TYs created the following informational video about Afghanistan as their entry to Concern's Speak Act Do programme.

The TY's and Ms Kenny were invited to show this video at the Concern Agents of Change showcase event on Friday, 6th May.

The TYs put in a lot of hard making this video which is very professional and informative.
Ms Kenny

May 2022



6th-Year Graduation



May: News around the World

"WHO study of excess deaths worldwide says 15 million more people have died than normal, far above the official COVID-19 death toll of 6 million"

"Brooke Scullion to represent Ireland in the Eurovision Song Contest in Turin with the song "That's Rich"

"Sinn Féin, led by Michelle O'Neill, wins the most seats in Northern Ireland elections for the first time with 27 seats to Democratic Unionist Party's 25"

"Apple ends production of its iPod music player after 21 years"

"Premiere of "ABBA Voyage", a virtual concert with computer generated images of the Swedish pop band and live musicians at the specially built 3,000 seat Abba Arena in London, England"

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



Global Justice, Sustainability and Active Citizenship

Art, Global Justice, Community Activism are intertwined in murals that explored themes such as Climate Action. The main mural - 'Rising tides' is in an open-art museum/classroom/teaching and learning space: a busy space where students move about in. The goal is to capture attention and trigger action.

A whole-school approach to addressing important Global Justice Themes was achieved by creating a student-led open art museum/teaching and learning space/global garden and reflection areas: Student-Staff Collaborative Projects are a democratic process of raising awareness and empowering student activism through art, gardening, and dialogue in curricular and extra-curricular spaces about important global themes.

Each space opens dialogue and creates awareness about sustainability; inequality of various types (social, cultural, economic, gender etc); the importance of taking climate action through student projects. Democratisation of teaching and learning processes enable students and staff to have a space to collaborate in, be active and reflective citizens on important global issues, past and present.

Ms Kenny



Bronnadh na nDuaiseanna - Comórtas Tráchtairíochta Gael Linn

Congratulations to TY student, Luke, who entered an Irish competition to find the next Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh and won an award at Croke Park on Wednesday, 4th May!

He recorded a 10 minute commentary as Gaeilge to the 2020 Dublin v Kerry Football final and did a great job!

Ms Maxwell



Sports Day 2022! Back with a bang!

Ms Finnegan's favourite day of the year - Sports Day! It was our first Sports Day since 2019 and for all the Junior students this was their first Sports Day - so this was always going to be a special event. And it was!

The football competition was held on the astro pitch next door in Herzog Park, which meant we were able to have a marked running track. We had the music, the weather, the table-tennis tables, the extra activities and a lot of extremely competitive competitions in basketball, running and the tug-of-war.

Thanks to Ms Finnegan, Wayne, Brendan and all the teachers and students who helped make it a superb day! Glad it's back.

September 2022



Open Day



September: News around the World

"More than 61,000 Leaving Certificate students received their results, which were artificially boosted in order to comply with a commitment made by Minister for Education Norma Foley"

"Enoch Burke, a secondary school teacher was suspended with pay following his refusal of a request to recognise a transgender student by their preferred pronouns, they/them."

"Queen Elizabeth II dies at Balmoral Castle after ruling for 70 years, as the UK's longest-serving monarch. Her eldest son inherits the throne as King Charles III."

"23-time Grand Slam tennis champion Serena Williams plays her final match at the US Open"

"UK's ruling Conservative party appoints Liz Truss as their next leader and Prime Minister, replacing scandal-ridden Boris Johnson"

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



TY's celebrate National Fitness Day in Swan Leisure

The TY's celebrated National Fitness Day on 22nd September by going down to Swan Leisure to work through their paces.

The TYs really pushed themselves in all the challenges! Well done TY's.



Stratford College Open Day

Stratford College hosted hundreds of visitors to tour around the school and grounds on a glorious autumnal afternoon on Sunday, 18th September.

Students, teachers and administrative staff greeted the many visitors, including past-pupils, to look around the school. It was the first face-to-face Open Day since 2019!



Junior students take part in West Leinster School Cross Country Run

39 junior students took part in the West Leinster School Cross Country 2022 run for the first time ever on Thursday, 29th September.

Racing conditions were perfect for the first-time runners - no wind, no rain and good going underfoot! Thanks to Ms Tomlin for making this happen.

October 2022



TY Delphi Trip—its back!



Stratford's grounds, June 2023 #flourish #sustainability #global citizenship

October: News around the World

"Lidl Ireland becomes first employer to commit to living wage for 2023."

"China continues its Covid-zero policy with 28 cities and 207 million people affected by some form of lockdown, including Wuhan"

"Nobel Prize for Economics awarded to Ben Bernanke, Douglas Diamond and Philip Dybvig for discoveries which improved how society deals with financial crises"

"K-pop band BTS announces that all seven members will be serving in the South Korean military for the required 18 month minimum"

"The Republic of Ireland women's football team qualified for the World Cup for the first time, following a 1-0 victory over Scotland."

"Brightest cosmic explosion ever seen - a gamma ray burst 2.4 billion light years away, thought to be a massive star collapsing to form a black hole in a 1 in 10,000 year event"

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



Les Joutes Oratoires - Stratford wins best speaker

Congratulations to the 6th Year French students who competed in Les Joutes Oratoires organised by the Alliance Française on Wednesday, 19th October. Sean was elected best speaker and received a medal at the end of the debates!

Ms Dos Santos was so impressed with how Maria, Annalivia, Ayush and Sean prepared and delivered their speeches so beautifully - in a very short space of time. Felicitations!



Stratford celebrates Maths Week 2022

The Maths Department with the able help of the TY students organised a really engaging Maths Week from 17th - 21st October.

Every day there were activities in the hall and around the school. From a murder mystery set to eating plates of chilli peppers to hoola hoops, the TYs had it all figured out!



Minister Eamon Ryan TD responds to questions at Awards Ceremony

The 2022 Awards Ceremony was held on Friday, 28th October with Minister for Transport, Climate, Environment & Communications Eamon Ryan TD as guest of honour. Five students asked the Minister questions about issues concerning climate change.

Student Council worked incredibly hard in the weeks leading up to the Awards Ceremony organising the audio visuals, rehearsals and the labelling of all the prizes - all to the theme of James Bond!

Music was delightfully played by Joseph in 3rd year. Thanks too to the 6th years who organised the coffee dock outside Ms Reynolds' office where visiting past pupils and parents were greeted before the Awards Ceremony started.

Thanks to the Student Council, the 6th Years, Ms Kenny, Ms Finnegan, Ms O'Kelly, Ms Gordon, Brendan, teachers and office staff who made it such a memorable morning. It was delightful to have an Awards Ceremony in person again!

November 2022



Stand Up Awareness Week



November: News around the World

"More than 67,000 students received the long-awaited results of their Junior Cycle exams, five months after they sat the tests"

"Archaeologists announce the most significant find of Etruscan and Roman bronze statues for 50 years excavating an ancient spa in San Casciano dei Bagni, Italy"

"US Powerball jackpot rises to a world record of \$1.9bn after no winners for more than three months"

"Crypto currency FTX, founded by Sam Bankman-Fried files for bankruptcy, amid accusations of financial mismanagement and criminal misconduct"

"Cervical check campaigner Vicky Phelan died at the age of 48"

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



TYs participating in JACI 2022 programme

Transition Years welcomed Saul Woolfson, Director of JACI Programme and Steven Jaffe, Director of Belfast Jewish Heritage, historian and lawyer from JACI to the school on the 21st of November for a Heritage Trail Presentation.

(Jewish Arts and Culture Ireland (JACI) are a branch of the Jewish Representative Council of Ireland with the aim of fostering and supporting the arts relating to Jewish culture and heritage in Ireland)

Steven Jaffe spoke about the process of researching and creating a Jewish heritage trail, and the history of Jewish culture and heritage in Belfast as part of the JACI programme.

Transition Year students will work with their teachers in the creation of their own Dublin Jewish Heritage walking tour inspired by the work of Steven Jaffe. We look forward to this exciting local history project and the opportunity to learn about the history, culture and impact of the Jewish community in Dublin in the Spring term.

Steven Jaffe explained about the map that was created on belfastjewishheritage.org as an example of a digital historical artefact.



Science Week - check out the cool reptiles!

1st and 2nd year Science students experienced reptile heaven on Friday, 18th November in the Hall!

Students got to hold many reptiles - some much larger than others. Weren't they brave?!



U16 Boys Basketball team beaten in semi-finals

The U16 Boys Basketball team played brilliantly and with such fight in their semi-final match against Grifteen Community College. They lost 67-50.

Not once did they give up. Thanks to the team, Wayne and Ms Finnegan for all their hard work in getting this far. A great achievement!

December 2022





December: News around the World

"4 in every 10 voters in Northern Ireland are in favour of re-joining the European Union"

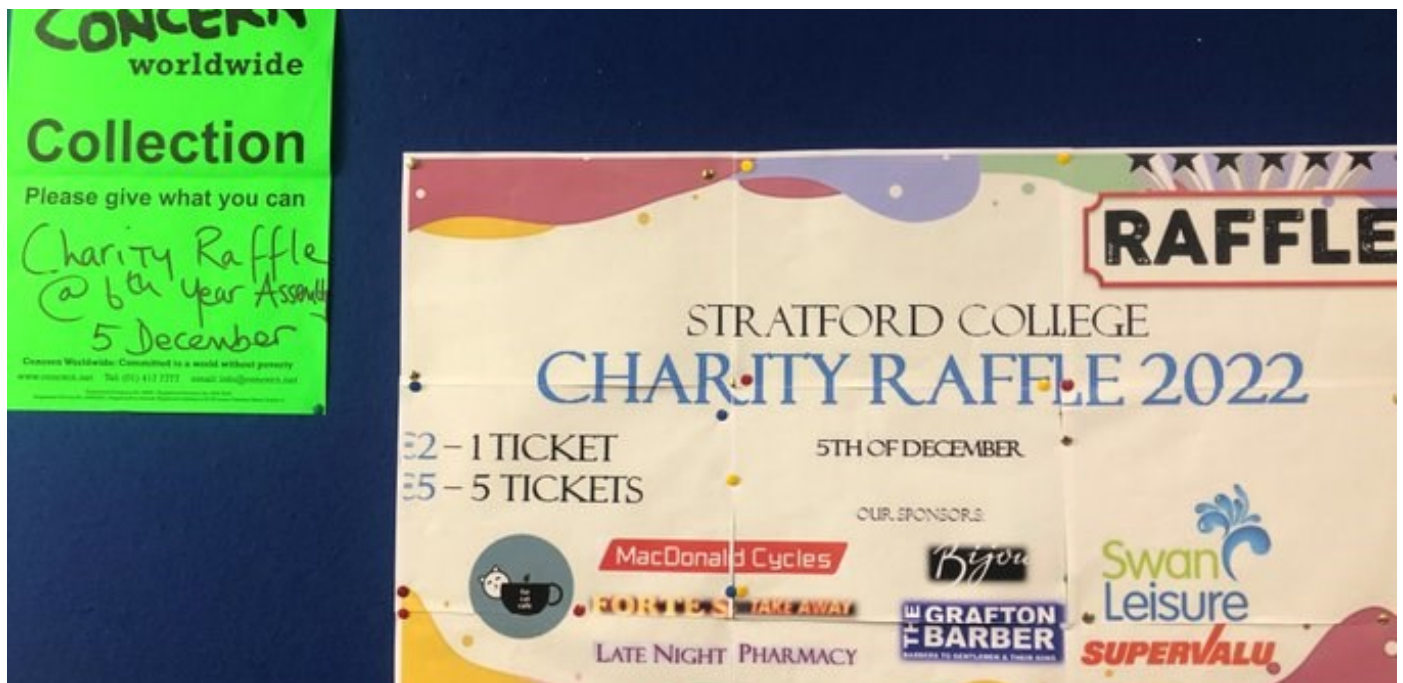
"The 1,574th - and last - Boeing 747 jumbo jet rolls off production line in Everett, Washington"

"Construction begins on world's biggest radio telescope - the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) in South Africa and Australia with collection area of nearly 500,000 square meters. Built to test Einstein's theories and search for extraterrestrial life"

"Former US President Donald Trump calls for "termination" of all rules including US Constitution in a Truth Social post, so to overturn the 2020 election, which he again falsely claims that he won"

"Documentary series "Harry & Meghan" about Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex begins streaming on Netflix"

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



Stratford super-busy supporting Social Action Week & Mitzvah Day

Student Council, Green Schools and every year have contributed to this year's Social Action Week and Mitzvah Day. All of our efforts are part of our learning for our WorldWise Global Schools passport award.

So what did Stratford do? All our fundraising activities contributed to Focus Ireland and Concern. The 1st years did a 5km sponsored walk. Green Schools and 2nd years collected 11 black sacks of litter along the Dodder. The TY's planted crocuses in memory of children who perished in the Holocaust as part of HETI's Crocus Project. Student Council organised a major charity raffle which was celebrated at the 6th Year assembly on Monday, 5th December (thanks to the many Rathgar businesses who sponsored the great prizes). The 5th & 6th years organised a football match and the 3rd years are doing a sleep over.

The charity auction raised just over €1000 and the other activities raised over €800. Phenomenal fundraising to help the many people who are in such need in these difficult times.

Ms Kenny



Stratford College thanks long term members of Dublin Talmud Torah

Stratford College, Dublin, announced that three long serving members of its patron body Dublin Talmud Torah (DTT) will be stepping down after over 40 years of committed leadership and service. Following a recent AGM and in line with charity regulations, long standing members of DTT - Mrs Carolyn Collins, Mr Alan Green and Mr Monty Ross - will be departing their roles as trustees.

Principal of Stratford College, Ms Patricia Gordon said: "Their contribution to the school, its legacy and its growth has been incalculable...they will be hugely missed on both a professional and a personal level. As past pupils, and as past parents, their knowledge and involvement with school life has been deep and impactful, and on behalf of all of us in Stratford schools, I want to thank them most sincerely for their work, passion and support over the years. We wish them well in their retirement". "I'd also like to very much welcome the nomination of Dr Hadromi-Allouche to the post of chairperson of Dublin Talmud Torah as I know she will bring a wealth of relevant and positive experience to the role. We very much look forward to working with her in her new capacity as chair".



TY's organise the Annual Winter Quiz

The TYs put in a huge effort for this year's end-of-term Annual Quiz - from dressing up, to acting out scenarios, to broadcasting over Teams, using Excel spreadsheets to calculate the scores and putting together all the questions in the first place!

Congratulations to the 6th years who were the overall winners. Special thanks to Ms Finnegan and the TYs who made it a great ending to the term.

January 2023



BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition



Stratford's grounds June 2023 #founish #sustainability #global citizenship

January: News around the World

"80th Golden Globe Awards: best drama, "The Banshees of Inisherin""

"Cristiano Ronaldo joins Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr for the "biggest salary ever known in football", after leaving Manchester United"

"Chinese Year of the Rabbit begins with China marking the largest celebration of the New Year since 2020"

"Funeral for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome"

"Mexico brings into force world's strictest anti-smoking laws, banning smoking in public places such as beaches and parks"

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



BTYSTE Best Individual Project 2023!

And our two 3rd Year Finalists!

Ayush Tambde, aged 17 and in sixth year in Stratford College won the prize for Best Individual, with his project, 'Analysis of single-cell proteomic data to understand the mechanisms of oncogenic transformation and how to control them'.

Ayush also won the Horizon Student Award for the best overall Biological and Ecological project.

Contest judge Dr John Monahan said the project had "taken new protein biology approaches to relook at an important existing data set and come up with novel insights into potential treatments for these difficult to treat basal cell breast cancers". [Irish Times]

Liam and Joseph who were Individual Intermediate Technology Category finalists with their respective consumer robotic arm and hybrid Japanese typewriter projects. Tánaiste, Micheál Martin TD took a keen interest in the robotic arm and Japanese typewriter on Friday afternoon. Spot the Japanese typewriter in Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan's video on Twitter.

Our Science teachers and 3rd and TYs visited on Friday! We are so proud of you all! Thanks to all the family support.

Ms O'Kelly



TY student qualifies for Cross Country Leinster Finals

On Thursday 26th January a hardy group of Stratford cross-country runners headed off to the Phoenix Park to compete in the West Dublin Leinster Cross Country Championship races. Congratulations to TY student Charlie Morris McGill who qualified for the Leinster Finals!

Thanks to Ms Tomlin, Ms Maxwell and Ms Caspi for organising the event and for doing Running Club.



5th Years compete in All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad (AILO)

On Monday, 23rd January all the 5th years competed in the preliminary round of the All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad. The qualification mark for the National Final this year was 74.9%. While no Stratford student qualified, well done to Sam who just missed out on the Finals, getting 72.98%. So, so close!

Well done to Yoan, Charlie and Georgii who all achieved above 61%! Students have to answer 5 linguistic challenges in two hours using logic and problem solving skills.

In total 1044 students from 106 schools in 30 counties took part. Many thanks to Ms Dos Santos who has been running the Linguistics Club at lunchtime every Wednesday since September. The 5th years have also been practicing AILO problems in Computer Studies classes throughout January.

Ms O'Kelly & Ms Dos Santos

February 2023



6th Year French/Art/Science Trip to Paris



Stratford grounds, June 2023 #flourish #sustainability #global citizenship

February: News around the World

"Gardaí resume checks at the steps of aircraft as part of a crackdown on people travelling to the State without documents."

"Coldest wind chill ever recorded of minus 108 degrees, taken at Mount Washington Observatory, New Hampshire, USA"

"World War II era bomb found in Great Yarmouth, England explodes in "unplanned" detonation as experts attempt to disarm it"

"US President Joe Biden makes a surprise visit to Kyiv, Ukraine"

"FBI Director Christopher Wray confirms the bureau believes COVID-19 pandemic likely originated from a lab accident in Wuhan, China"

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



TY students experience unique work and cultural programme with JACI

Jewish Arts and Culture Ireland (JACI) continue to deliver a varied and unique programme to TY students covering a range of artforms and aspects of culture including poetry, literature, language, oral history, music, visual art, and heritage.

Students have been enjoying the opportunity to explore Jewish culture and heritage in Ireland, in a very practical and hands on way, learning new skills and growing in confidence while doing so - from developing their critical skills, media literacy, and film making abilities, to collaboration and communication.

Speaking about the student experience, Siobhan Reynolds, Deputy Principal said "Shivaun Woolfson, author and historian, recently provided students with a two-hour workshop on interviewing skills - how to frame a question, how to ask question extensions, etc. This proved invaluable as I watched our students turn into empathetic, professional interviewers. They forgot about their own needs and focused entirely on their role as hosts and interviewers".



6th Year French, Art & Science Trip to Paris

Sixth year students, accompanied by Mr Fennell, Ms Caspi and Ms Dos Santos all went on a French/Art and Science trip to Paris from Sunday 12th to Tuesday 14th of February.

Staying in the Meininger hotel Porte de Vincennes, students and staff found the perfect location to complete their busy itinerary, hopping on the metro from line to line and accumulating an average of 25,000 steps a day.

Students paced up and down the city to admire numerous sites with boulangeries, markets and luxurious boutiques in the background: the Eiffel Tower, the Arc du Triomphe, the Champs-Élysées, the Moulin Rouge, Montmartre, the Sacré-Coeur, the Sorbonne university, the Panthéon, the Lutèce Arenas, the place Vendôme, the place de la Concorde, Notre-Dame and the Opéra Garnier.

The trip included a boat cruise along the Seine river, an exhibition on the 60th anniversary of Street Art in Paris at the Hôtel de Ville, downtime in the Jewish Marais district and a focus on science on Valentine's day with a visit of the Musée des Arts et Métiers and the Cité des Sciences. A trip that allowed students to bond while broadening their cultural awareness!



Green Schools Action Day - Flower bombs workshop

This year for our Biodiversity Action Day on Friday 24th February, the Green Schools Committee were delighted to have Natalija Cvetic come in, a devoted and committed gardener and a mother of a past Green Schools leader, who taught the committee and the 1st years how to make flower bombs.

A flower bomb is a small ball made up of a mixture of compost, clay and seeds. It was quite messy but a lot of fun and luckily we had the committee to help clean up so a big thanks to them!

Everyone in the school community will be making flower bombs next week, promoting a diverse biodiversity in our school atmosphere, as it attracts a variety of insects and animals, like butterflies and birds.

The flower bombs can be planted anywhere, if you live in an apartment or a house, the flowers only need a small space to grow. Later this week, the flower bombs will be planted in our school and people's homes.

March 2023





March: News around the World

"Social media site TikTok announces a 60-minute daily screen time limit for users under 18, though with an opt-out clause, in response to concerns about its addictive and harmful algorithms"

"A major emergency was declared at Wexford General Hospital as a result of a fire, with four wards including the ICU and over 200 patients being evacuated"

"Microsoft founder Bill Gates says development of artificial intelligence (AI) is the most important technological advance since the graphical user interface (GUI) in 1980"

"Leaked US documents from the war in Ukraine from US Defence Department begin appearing on a Discord server associated with online game Minecraft"

"Vinyl records outsell CDs in the US for the first time since 1987 (41 million vinyl records vs 33 million CDs)"

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



Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis returns to Stratford Schools

Stratford College held a Special Assembly to distribute Junior Cycle Profile of Achievements (JCPA) to the Class of 2022. Our very special Guest of Honour was Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

"I am so proud to see Jewish Studies as a subject alongside all the other specifications on the Junior Cycle Website" said Ms. Gordon which was examined for the first time this year. Carrie Barling and Mori Cox from Transition Year then shared their experience of the Jewish Studies Specification.

Student Council representatives from Second and Third Year had the chance to ask the Chief Rabbi some questions relating to his job and position, interfaith dialogue, the impact of Covid on his role and responsibility and how he is encouraging young people to practice their Jewish faith. The Chief Rabbi had very interesting answers and a very positive frame of mind. "People respect you if you are proud of your identity" he said inspiring all of us to be proud of who we are. And he urged us to take time off from the demands of everyday living, to digitally detox regularly!



TY student wins Senior Young Classicist Award 2023

A huge congratulations to Caoimhe in TY who won the senior Young Classicist award 2023 on Tuesday, 14th March. Caoimhe was picked as a finalist to present her project on 'Disability in the Ancient Classical World' to a theatre of 420 people in the Newman building in UCD.

There was great excitement in the packed theatre and Caoimhe had great support from her Stratford peers. Caoimhe's project and presentation were a winning combination resulting in first place.

In 2020 Caoimhe won the Junior Young Classicist award for her project on a young ancient Roman's girls carbon footprint. Such achievements are truly Herculean.

Congratulations to all of the Stratford students who entered the competition, Ciara and Julia (1st year), Sophia (2nd year), Amelie and Sonny (3rd year).

Ms Donohoe



Lives Illuminated: A Joint TY Jewish Arts Culture Ireland (JACI) project

Jewish Arts and Culture Ireland (JACI) delivered a varied and unique programme to TY students covering a range of artforms and aspects of culture including poetry, literature, language, oral history, music, visual art, and heritage.

Students enjoyed the opportunity to explore Jewish culture and heritage in Ireland, in a very practical and hands on way, learning new skills and growing in confidence while doing so - from developing their critical skills, media literacy, and film making abilities, to collaboration and communication. Thank you to all who participated with special mention to the 'elders' whose generosity of spirit was so evident throughout this intergenerational project.

And to our long serving Trustees, Alan Green, Carolyn Collins and Monty Ross who are stepping down after over forty years of service. As past pupils, parents, grandparent sand Trustees they have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of our schools.

This project is dedicated to them.

'....the windows of a classroom always open to the future.....' Yehuda Amichai

Ms Gordon

April 2023



Rehearsals: The Brothers Grimm
Spectaculathon



Stratford's grounds, June 2023 #flourish #sustainability #global citizenship

April: News around the World

"US President Joe Biden arrived in County Louth, one of his ancestral homelands, where crowds lined the streets in Carlingford and Dundalk. This followed a visit to Northern Ireland the previous day, as part of a four-day visit to the island of Ireland."

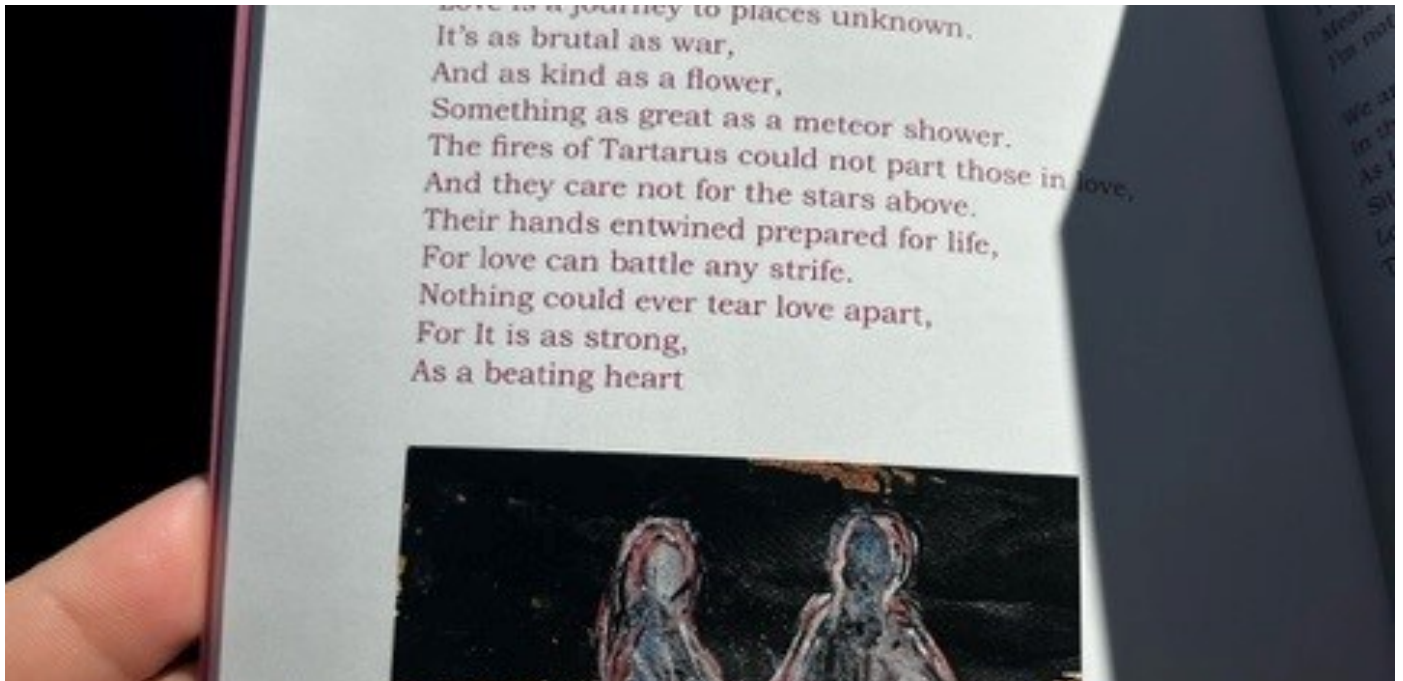
"Dublin house prices have fallen for four consecutive months and while nationwide, homes now being sold for just one per cent over asking price versus 6 per cent this time last year."

"Leaving Certificate grinds school, the Institute of Education in Dublin with 7,000 pupils, founded by Ray Kearns in 1969, had been sold to a British educational company."

"Broadway's longest-running show, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Charles Hart's musical 'Phantom of the Opera, closes at Majestic Theater, NYC, after 13,981 performances and 7 Tony Award wins"

"Russian volcano Shiveluch erupts spewing ash 20 kilometers into the air in the country's eastern Kamchatka region"

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



3rd Year student's poem published by Fighting Words

Congratulations to Skye Deans in 3rd year who has been published in the Fighting Words publication, "Words of Love". The book was launched on Friday, 14th April.

Skye's poem was selected for a publication with Fighting Words, which was seen through her submission for the Irish Times supplement competition. A fantastic achievement!

Ms Reynolds



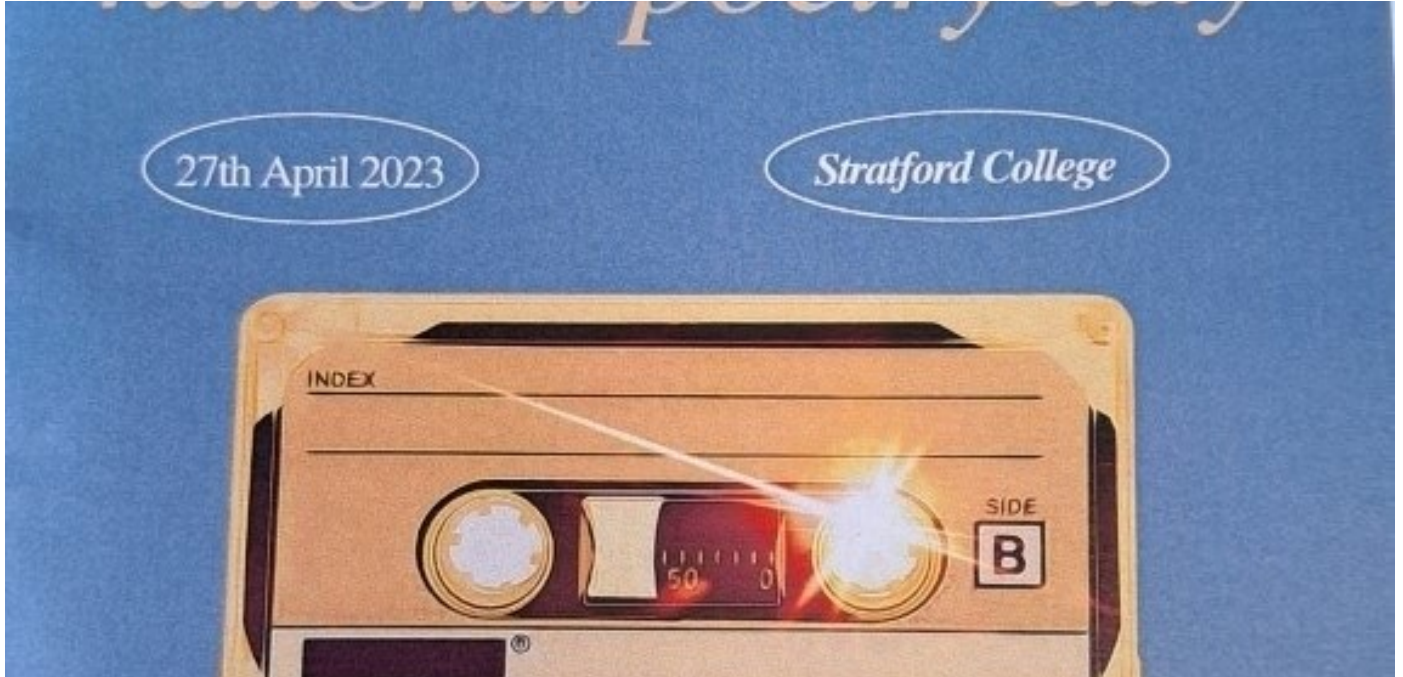
Stratford's Classics students excel in Ides of March quiz

Congratulations to the 16 students who competed in the Ides of March Quiz on the 25th of April in Blackrock College at 7pm. This was the return of the quiz after Covid. The last quiz was in 2020. 62 teams entered and Stratford came a very impressive 6th and 7th in the competition!

There were teams from all over the country. The annual event is organised by the CAI-T (Classical Association of Ireland - Teachers). It consists of 8 rounds with 5 questions per round. This year was particularly exciting as the questions were based on both the new Junior and Senior cycle specifications for Classics.

A big thanks to all of the students for giving up their time, displaying such positive school spirit and a love of the subject.

Ms. Donohoe



Celebrating National Poetry Day 2023

We celebrated National Poetry Day with readings from our 1st to 6th year students' book of published poems. Published poets, JACI poems, story excerpts, themes of war, love and friendship.

Congratulations to all who participated and to our winners in the poetry competition, judged by the award winning author Rachel Donohoe.

May 2023



Green Schools 6th Green Flag for Biodiversity



May: News around the World

"Geoffrey Hinton 'the Godfather of AI' resigns from Google to speak out about the dangers of AI - eliminating jobs and creating a world where many may "not be able to know what is true anymore""

"Patrick Kielty was confirmed as the new host of RTÉ's The Late Late Show, taking over from Ryan Tubridy and becoming the show's fourth permanent presenter."

"Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla at Westminster Abbey, London - first monarch crowned in the UK in 70 years"

"Michael D. Higgins and Leo Varadkar, respectively, became the first Irish president and taoiseach in history to attend the coronation of a British monarch, at Westminster Abbey in London"

"WHO declares Covid-19 over as a global health emergency, but remains a significant threat, with seven million known deaths (real total likely to be 20 million)"

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



6th Year Graduation Garden Party

The 6th Year Graduation Garden Party was hosted by Ms Maxwell and Student Council on Friday, 19th May. Smart casual was on the invitation and it was a fantastic smart casual afternoon.

Speeches by Ms Gordon, Ms Kenny, the Parents Association, current and past Student Council Chairs were insightful and thought-provoking. They were followed by a musical interlude in the hall and the 6th year video. We had a wonderful salad buffet thanks to Bijou and the ice-cream van helped out too!

We also acknowledged the retirement of two longstanding members of staff after 21 and 16 years respectively, Ms. Lynne McGuckin and Mr. Brendan Meehan. We wish our staff and students every success in the next phase of their lives.

Overall, we were treated to wonderful speeches, slideshows, memories and even a few silent tears. The weather was on our side as we dined on the lawn.



Fond farewells to valued members of staff

During April and May we wished a fond farewell to some of our long standing and valued members of Stratford. Janice O'Byrne retired at the end of April, while Brendan Meehan and Ms McGuckin retired at the end of May.

Thanking each of you profoundly for all your contributions to Stratford College over the years.

Produced by:

Stratford College

and

Stratford College
Parents' Association

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