



Confident תושב
Courageous אומץ
Caring תויתפכא

Stratford College

2023-2025

Stratford Stories

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Contributors: Stratford College Parents' Association, Stratford College Teachers & Students
Design & Production Editors: Ms. O'Kelly, Trish Connolly

Art Director: Ms. Mahon

Photographs: Students and Teachers, Past-pupils, Stratford archives, John Ohle

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Forewords

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

It's with sincere pleasure that I introduce Stratford College's biannual yearbook. Reflecting on my inaugural year as Principal, I'm deeply impressed by the dedication and spirit that define our school community.



This past year has been one of significant development and positive new directions. We've collectively focused on embedding our core commitments and pillars into the very essence of Stratford College: Confident, Courageous and Caring. These values have guided our collective endeavors and shaped the vibrant environment within our school.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our parents and guardians for their invaluable support and partnership throughout the year. Your engagement is crucial to our students' success. To our dedicated staff, thank you for your unwavering commitment, hard work, and for creating such a nurturing and stimulating learning environment. And to our students, thank you for the incredible welcome you've given me. Your enthusiasm, resilience, and willingness to embrace new challenges have made this first year truly rewarding.

This biannual yearbook serves as a comprehensive record of the past two year's events and achievements. It captures the diverse contributions, memorable milestones, and shared experiences that have enriched our time together. Each page within these covers represents the culmination of hard work and the strong sense of community fostered at Stratford College.

As we look ahead to the next academic year, I'm excited by the possibilities that await us. I'm confident that, together, we will continue to build upon our strengths, embrace new opportunities, and further cultivate a school where every individual can thrive.

I invite you all to explore the contents of this publication and appreciate the journey we've undertaken together.

Nathan Barrett
Principal

It is a privilege to introduce the Stratford College Yearbook for the academic years 2023–2025 — years that have once again reminded us of the deep importance of connection, empathy, and education. This yearbook is a celebration of the daily effort, creativity, and spirit of our students and staff, and we are proud to share these moments with you.

The last year also marked a significant moment in the life of the school, as we welcomed Mr. Barrett as the new Principal of Stratford College. With warmth, vision, and integrity, Mr. Barrett has guided the school through a dynamic year, continuing to build on the legacy of excellence, inclusivity, and care that defines Stratford. He has already proven to be a real hit with students, who appreciate his approachable manner, genuine interest in their wellbeing, and fresh leadership style.

Throughout these academic years, Stratford has continued to thrive. From sports days and drama productions to science fairs, creative writing and trips to Rome, Berlin, Amsterdam and Paris, the energy and resilience of our students have shone through.

The Parents' Association was delighted to support and organise several meaningful events these past years, including the highly successful Careers Night, which gave students valuable exposure to a diverse range of career paths and inspiring speakers. We also hosted our annual Teachers' Breakfast — a heartfelt thank-you to the Stratford staff for their dedication and care. We were proud to support other important events including the Graduation Ceremony, Open Day, and social gatherings that brought parents, students, and staff together.

The PA continues to serve as a collective voice for parents and a bridge between families and school life. All parents are automatically members of the association and are warmly encouraged to join our monthly meetings, get involved, and help strengthen our shared community.

To the Class of 2025 — you began your journey in Stratford in 2019, entering First Year just months before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. The world changed dramatically in the middle of that school year, and you were called upon to adapt at a time when everything was unfamiliar. You have grown into grounded, thoughtful, and resilient young adults. Your strength, adaptability, and kindness have left a lasting mark on this school. We are proud of everything you've accomplished.

Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to the entire Stratford College staff for their tireless work, and in particular to Ms. O'Kelly and Trish Connolly for bringing this beautiful yearbook to life.

Stratford College Parents' Association

September 2023



TYs kayaking in Delphi

Biodiversity in Stratford's grounds



Stratford's grounds, June 2025 #flourish #sustainability #global citizenship



Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

We are all so proud of their wonderful achievements and were delighted to welcome so many of the students back to Stratford this morning to share this momentous occasion with their families and staff.

And warm congratulations to Jonah, Sean and Ayush who each achieved the maximum of 625 points! Enjoy the celebrations!

Ms. Gordon



Stratford College Open Day

Stratford College hosted our annual open day on Sunday 10th September.

Students, teachers, ancillary and administrative staff greeted the hundreds of visitors, including current and prospective families.

Despite the intermittent rain visitors enjoyed musical performances, science experiments and computer science exhibits, and a welcome presentation from the Principal, Ms. Gordon.



TY Trip to Delphi

The TYs headed off to Delphi Activity Centre in Co. Galway on Tuesday, 12th September amidst huge excitement. The weather is proving to be glorious making all the outdoor activities even more special!

For three days the TYs will stay in Delphi and do activities that will push them out of their comfort zone. Thanks to Ms. Finnegan for organising the trip. Thanks too to Ms. Tomlin and Ms. Casey who were in Delphi with the TYs.

Biodiversity in Stratford's grounds



Stratford's grounds, June 2025 #flourish #sustainability #global citizenship



Stratford gets its own Polytunnel

Green Schools were delighted to finally get the school polytunnel installed on Wednesday 11th October.

The TY's and Green Schools Committee members helped out. Green Schools have plans in place ... so watch this space!

Ms. Donohoe, Ms. Skehan and Green Schools



TYs organise Maths Week activities

For Maths Week in Stratford College, Transition Year students helped to creatively celebrate all things Maths! To kick the week off, some of the TYs ran an obstacle course during PE classes for 1st and 2nd Years, involving maths questions at different parts of the course.

Thank you to Ms. Finnegan for letting us do this in her lessons. Then, on Friday, TYs also organised an event in the hall involving numerical versions of different board games such as Monopoly, Uno and chess as well as a maths karaoke. Everyone involved enjoyed it immensely and the TYs loved being able to organise it.



Celebrating the Awards Ceremony

Student Council, led by Ms. Talbot, organised a fantastic Awards Ceremony. It started early in the morning with the ISSU President, Shari Irfan meeting with the Student Councils from Stratford College and The High School, Dublin. This was then followed with refreshments out front of the school where last year's 6th years all met up again.

The Awards Ceremony itself started with musical interludes co-ordinated by Ms. Conlon, followed by Ms. Gordon speaking to the school and then a Q&A session with the ISSU President - with many excellent questions from students. The Awards Ceremony celebrated the many achievements of our students in 2022-2023. We finished up with more fantastic music from senior students.

Thanks to John our caretaker, Student Council and TY's who helped set up and tidy up the hall.

November 2023



Senior Cycle Geography Trip to Kippure

Biodiversity in Stratford's grounds



Stratford's grounds, June 2025 #flourish #sustainability #global citizenship



Stratford celebrates Stand Up Awareness Week

Stand Up Awareness Week (6 - 10 November) was celebrated all around Stratford during this week. This week is an opportunity to take steps to make spaces safe and supportive for LGBTQ+ young people.

The TYs worked really hard to make really striking noticeboards in the hall highlighting Stand Up Awareness week.



Science Week: visits to the National Botanic Gardens

To celebrate Science Week 2023 the students went to the National Botanic Gardens with Ms. Tomlin, Dr. Ryan and Mr. Fennell.

They went on a guided tour around the magnificent glasshouses and were overawed by the huge plants from all over the world.



The HETI Crocus Project: TYs plant yellow crocus bulbs

In November the TY's planted yellow crocus bulbs as part of The Crocus Project run by HETI (Holocaust Education Ireland).

The yellow crocus bulbs, planted in autumn, are in memory of all of the children who died in the Holocaust. We look forward to seeing them bloom in early Spring.

Ms. Kenny

December 2023



Junior Winter Concert

Biodiversity in Stratford's grounds



Stratford's grounds, June 2025 #flourish #sustainability #global citizenship



Student Council Activities

December is always a busy month for Student Council as they prepare for the Mitzvah Raffle, organise Mitzvah Social Action Week and Elections (Prefects & Junior Representatives).

Over the last few weeks, the Student Council has been organising and managing Mitzvah Social Action Week in Stratford. The objective of Mitzvah Social Action Week is to encourage members of our student body and staff to support our local community and charity in the weeks before the festive season.

Several year groups in our school have displayed exemplary social awareness and generosity to their community over the past fortnight. The 3rd Years organised a litter clean-up of the Dodder greenway, TY students donated prizes to the Harold's Cross Hospice, and the 5th Years have participated in a Winter shoebox appeal.

Ms. Kenny



Hannukah Lunchtime Party

Students and teachers came together in the hall to celebrate Hanukkah with music, laughter, dancing and plenty of treats. Adding to the fun, many wore party hats topped with candles!

Traditional food like doughnuts from Deli 613 were shared as students learned about the meaning of Hanukkah. It was hard going back to class after such an energising party! A huge thank you to Ms. Wieder, Ms. Bachar, Ms. Caspi and all the students involved in making this a lunchtime to remember.



Stratford College Drama presents 'The Snowflake Factory'

Let it snow, let it snow...! The Stratford College Drama Society presented The Snowflake Factory on Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 December in the school hall.

Tickets cost €7 and sold fast. Students, parents/guardians, family and friends came along and enjoyed a night of music, song and amazing performances by our students. As always it was a super night!

Lots of great photos from the Dress Rehearsal and the Tech Rehearsal too are on the school website...! It looks fabulous! Thank you Ms. Visocchi and all the drama students.

January 2024



BTYSTE: Four Stratford College entries

2024: Stratford celebrates 70 years



Stratford hockey in the 1960s



BTYSTE: Stratford wins three prizes

Stratford College was thrilled to have four projects invited to exhibit at the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition this month. This is a huge result for the school and comes after the best individual project last year was won by our former 6th Year student Ayush Tambde. There were over 2,000 entries with 550 projects selected for the final exhibition.

Ritvik, Noah and Hao Wen (Third Year) were entered in to the Intermediate, Group, Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences category with their project, "Investigating if AI can help us make better batteries".

Bláithnáid (TY) designed a robot to help provide assistance to older people called "Helper 347". Bláithnáid is entered in the Intermediate Individual, Health & Wellbeing category. Awarded Best Display Award

Liam and Joseph, (TY) are entered in to the Intermediate, Group, Technology category with their project, "Sienna: Your dynamic AI Voice companion – Redefining Personal Assistance". Awarded 1st prize in Group, Intermediate, Technology section and Regeneron Special Award.

Stratford's fourth project, (Second Year) Ciara's project title is "ISL (Irish Sign Language) Translator and is entered in the Junior, Individual, Technology section.



Stratford participate in Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration

A number of Stratford students took part in the annual Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration in Dublin.

Among those present were Holocaust survivors Tomi Reichental and Suzi Diamond who both shared their stories, along with President Michael D Higgins who gave the keynote address.

A candle lighting ceremony is an integral part of the commemoration at which six candles were lit for the 6 million Jews who perished, as well as candles for all the other victims.



Junior Irish Gael Linn Debate team

Comhghairdeas! Ghlac Julia (an dara bhlian), Killian agus Olwyn (an chéad bhlian) páirt i gcomórtas díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh an tseachtain seo chaite.

Rinne siad jaib iontach ag plé an rúin 'ba cheart go mbeadh daltaí an tSraitha shoisearaigh Eacnamíocht Bhaile a dhéanamh mar ábhar scoile'. Bhíomar i bhfabhar an rúin. Taitní iontach a bhí ann. Maith sibh!!

Ms. Maxwell

February 2024



Senior Cycle Classics Trip to Rome

2024: Stratford celebrates 70 years



Children in the kindergarten hard at work 1961-1962



Girls Basketball teams on gold run

Following on from Stratford boys under-16 historic win in basketball, the first years and under 15's (second years) commenced their respective campaigns. The girls have kicked off in a blistering run of three consecutive and comprehensive wins needing only one victory from two games to clinch qualification to the last 16.

Their last game a 40-10 victory saw debuts to Emma, Edenne and the previous week to Amelie. They were magnificent given their limited training this season. Stalwarts Julia and Captain Aoibhin were top scoring in tremendous fashion. Allie, Lucy, Rhea and Noga have been tenacious and full of endeavour on the court. Grace gave an epic performance in scoring two vital baskets in a row to increase our scores to an unassailable lead. Grace was awarded the MVP for this game!!! Mia, Leona and Alannah also contributed to our squad's performance. First year Olwyn showed off her wonderful talented ball handling skills. Ciara returned from extra curricular activities to show that she was missed with a very positive game. Isla was consistently great in defence. This team is a dedicated bunch of players who ALL want to play and to win ... their coach was so proud of them.

Mr. O'Callaghan



Dublin City Student Enterprise Awards— two awards for Stratford

Two fantastic wins at the 2024 Dublin City Student Enterprise Awards on Wednesday 28th February! Stratford also received a special e-Bay award - well done Mr. Brilly, Mr. O'Callaghan and Co!

Congratulations to 1st Year Business students - Vihaan, Christian and Eli - who won 1st prize in the Junior Section. Congratulations also to TY Business students - Joseph and Liam - who won 2nd prize in the Senior Section.

The Junior prize-winning project was "Slobber Stopper" - a product that all dog-owners should have. You can scoop up the ball with this nifty invention! The Senior prize-winning project was "Zapp" - www.zappai.xyz - where you can create a WhatsApp chat bot for your business!



Senior Classics students visit Rome

Stratford College's 5th and 6th year Classics students left Ireland to go on an exciting and educational trip to Rome, Italy to learn about Ancient Rome. When we landed and arrived at our hotel, we dropped our bags off and ran to the Pantheon to later have a nice walk to the Trevi fountain where we threw a coin over our shoulders into the fountain to wish to return to Rome one day. On our 2nd day we woke up bright and early to set off to see the Colosseum in all its glory. After the Colosseum we walked to the Palatine Hill, which is located right beside the Colosseum, during our walk through the Palatine hill we were amazed by the architecture created by the ancient Romans. After a good few hours of learning we were allowed to have lunch and try the Italian cuisine which I must say was out of this world. Shortly after our lunch break, we went to see Trajan's column where everyone was amazed by the detail on the column, but we only stayed for a few minutes since we had an exciting trip to the Capitoline Museum.

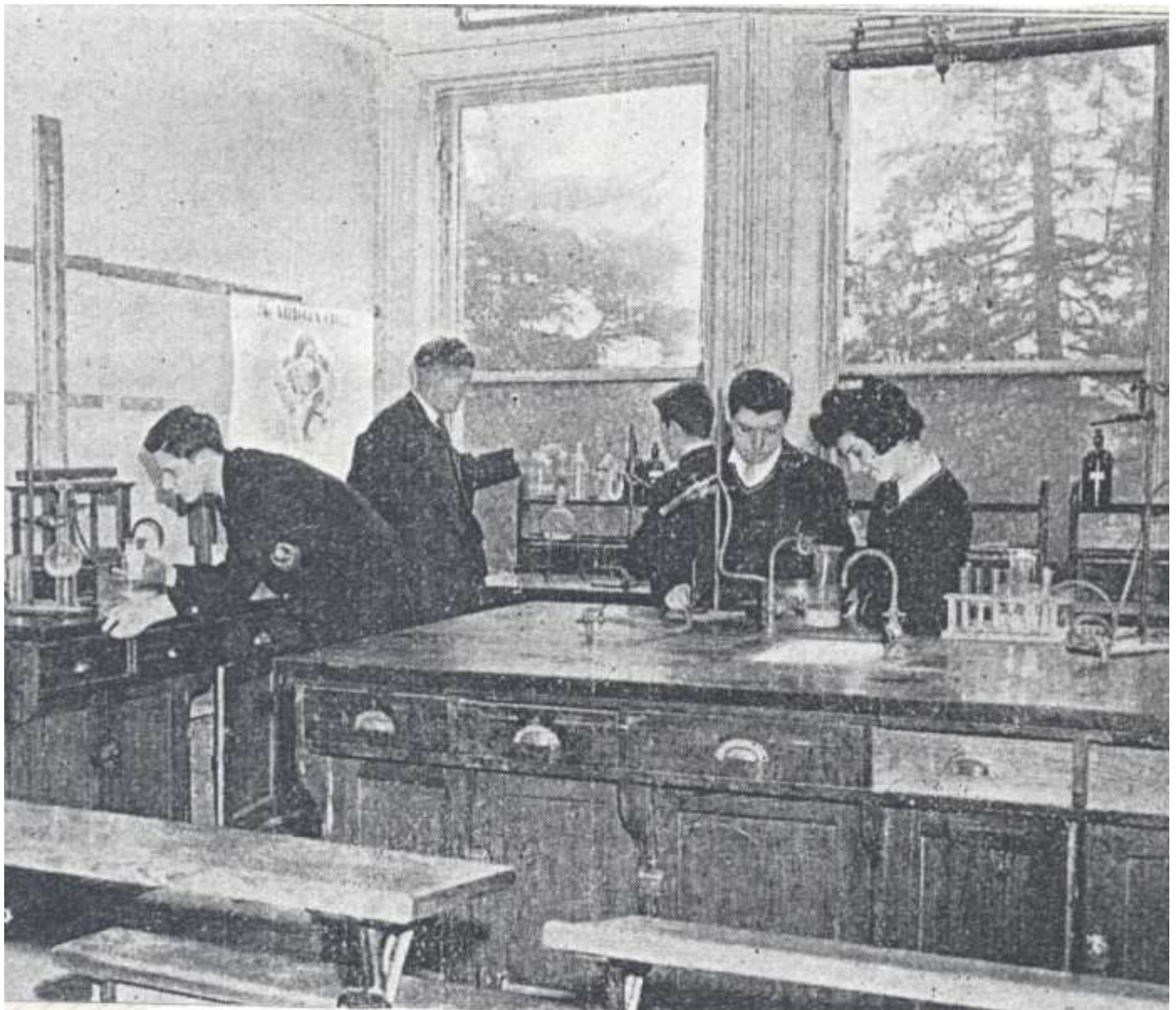
After a long day of learning we all went off to the Stadio Olimpico to watch the Roma Vs Torino football match, Stratford chanted for Roma. Some students bought Roma t-shirts, scarves, and hats to express their support for the team. After an exhilarating 90 minutes the match ended 3 – 2 in Roma's favour which we were all delighted with. We all headed back to the hotel on our coach for a well-deserved sleep. On day 3 we had some time to grab breakfast and have a chat before heading off in our coach to Ostia Antica to visit the ancient ruins. Later we all sat in the theatre to have lunch and a sing and dance since everyone was so lively during the whole trip. A big shout out to Ms. Donohoe and all the teachers for an amazing trip.

March 2024



Dressing up for Purim and World Book Day

2024: Stratford celebrates 70 years



Students working in the science lab 1961-1962



TY students go to Berlin on History trip

When we landed, we took a short coach ride through the German countryside to the Sachsenhausen Memorial. After leaving the Memorial, we took another coach ride to the Stasi Prison, where we were given a tour around the cells and facilities that were used to house the prisoners during the Cold War period in Berlin. Our tour guide gave us some insight on how the prisoners were psychologically manipulated into giving up information to the people imprisoning them. Later we visited the Reichstag, which offered amazing views of Berlin, and gave us the opportunity to see the political heart of the city.

After our long and eventful day, we headed to our hotel which was lovely. We all had a great night's sleep, and we were ready for our next busy day. After a delicious Continental breakfast, we went on our walking tour with Tatiana, seeing loads of historical sites such as the Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie and the Holocaust Monument. We later visited the Olympic Stadium and the Topography of Terror.

Our next exciting day began with a visit to the Berliner Fernsehturm (Berlin TV Tower). We had some free time before we headed to the Jewish Museum, where we took in a compelling history through modern architecture and art.

Sincere thanks to Ms. Kenny, Ms. Finnegan, Ms. Gordon and Rabbi Wieder from all the TYs who are delighted to have been able to experience the beautiful city of Berlin.



Seachtain na Gaeilge Ceoilchoirm

Stratford has really been celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge this year! From going to see Irish films in the Stella Cinema in Rathmines, to visiting the Books of Kells, a big school quiz, a fantastic 2nd year assembly, dressing up in green and finally a massive céilí!

A huge thanks to Ms. Maxwell and Ms. Deegan for organising so many events, with the support of other teachers.



Poetry Salon in the English room

Thursday, 21st March at lunchtime in the English room and it was brimming with students reciting their own poetry at the Poetry Salon 2024! The English Department curated the body of poetry written by students. Special thanks to our Guest Adjudicator and award winning novelist, Ms. Rachel Donohue.

The winning poem was written by 1st Year student Vihaan Reddy. Congratulations also to Emily (5th Year), Rose (3rd Year), Matthew (1st Year) and Edenne (1st Year) who also won prizes for their poems.

Thanks to Ms. McGill, Ms. Talbot and Ms. Wieder for organising the Poetry Salon! A wonderful way to spend a lunchtime.

April 2024



TY & 5th Year Computer Science trip to Regenoron

2024: Stratford celebrates 70 years



Boys' football team of 1961-1962



First Year's Reptiles Workshop

Friday 12th April, first year students engaged in an immersive reptile workshop, delving into a hands-on learning experience with a variety of fascinating creatures including snakes, lizards, turtles and spiders!

This interactive session provided them with valuable insights into the diverse adaptations of these animals.

Ms. Tomlin



11 Stratford students reach Bebras National Finals

What an achievement! Stratford had 11 students competing in the 2024 Bebras (Computational Thinking) National Finals in Maynooth University in two age categories: 12-14 and 14-16.

To make the Finals is an achievement in itself - approximately 100 in each of these age categories from a starting point of 6000 (across post-primary age groups) back in November! Not everyone is in the photo!

Well done to each of you - 15 tasks to be answered in 45 minutes - no mean feat. Thanks to all the parents who were there for further support and driving duties.

Ms. O'Kelly



U15 Boys Basketball team reach finals

Major congratulations to the U15 Boys Basketball team who gave everything in a challenging Final on Thursday 11th April against a very strong team from St Tiernans. At no point did the team ever give up! Making it to the Finals is a brilliant achievement and proved to be a great learning experience.

Stratford had fantastic support from the Junior years with a special mention to the 1st years. Next year! Thanks to Mr. O'Callaghan for his amazing coaching throughout the year.

May 2024



Ms. Gordon's retirement celebrations

2024: Stratford celebrates 70 years



Stratford College in the 1960s



Wellbeing Week—so many highlights

Wellbeing Week 2024 was busy, busy, busy. The School Walk and Sports Day were only two of the many activities during the week— Culture Day, HITT sessions, karaoke, aromatherapy and visits to Rathmines Library are only some of the other activities organized for the week.

Stratford's School Walk along the Dodder Greenway kicked off Wellbeing Week on Tuesday 7th May. 1st - 5th Year students, teacher's and Rolo the dog walked approximately 15km! The route started at Stratford College and the school walked to Tymon Park for a picnic. The weather was just perfect and there was lots of chatting! Thanks Ms. Maxwell and Ms. Finnegan for organising such a great day. Thanks Ms. Kenny for bringing Rolo!

Thank you Ms. Finnegan for organising not only a fabulous Sports Day on Thursday 9th May, but fantastic weather as well!!! Football, basketball, 100m sprints, tug-of-war, three-legged races and more!



Sports Assembly & TY Graduation

This year's Sports Assembly and TY Graduation was held on Tuesday 14th May, hosted by Ms. Finnegan and the TYs. Student Council presented Ms. Gordon with presents to mark her retirement. Thank you Ms. Gordon for all you have done for Stratford.

Students received their medals for their Sports Day endeavours (Thursday, 9th May) and then the TYs reflected on the huge variety of activities and achievements they achieved over the past year.



6th Year Graduation Ceremony

We celebrated this year's 6th Year Graduation back inside in the hall because we couldn't trust the weather! It was wonderfully decorated by Student Council led by Ms. Talbot. All the 6th Years looked splendid as they assembled to hear speeches from Ms. Gordon, Ms. Conlon, Student Council and Parents Representatives. Ms. Gordon was given a presentation of flowers on the occasion of her retirement after 25 years as Principal.

A delicious buffet was provided by Deli 613, which was followed by a very creative 6th Year video made by Christopher. Thanks to Edenne (1st Year) and Lunna (5th Year) for a wonderful musical interlude and to Petya (1st Year) for her surprise appearance!

September 2024



1st Year & TY Scavenger Hunt in Bushy Park

2024: Stratford celebrates 70 years



Class Photo Taken in 1978/1979



Stratford to teach Drama, Film and Theatre Studies as a Phase 1 school

In early September, Ms. Visocchi, Drama Teacher and Ms. Talbot, English Teacher, along with two TY students, Alex and Christopher, attended the official launch of the new Leaving Certificate subject - Drama, Film and Theatre Studies - at the Irish Film Institute. Stratford College is one of the Phase 1 schools rolling out this new subject.

Keynote speech was delivered by Ms. Normal Foley, Minister for Education. Also speaking was the Assistant Secretary General for the Department. Special guests included producer and director of *An Cailín Cuan* (The Quiet Girl), which the whole school attended as part of *Seachtain na Gaeilge*. Dearbhla Walsh also spoke about her youth in Tubbercurry in Sligo and how she became an Emmy nominated director. As did Alisha Weir, only 14 years of age, the star of the movie musical adaptation of Roald Dahl's *Matilda* and the recent horror *Abigail*.



Stratford College Open Day

Stratford College hosted hundreds of visitors to tour around the school and grounds on a glorious autumnal afternoon on Sunday, 15th September.

Stratford College warmly welcomed current and prospective families to our campus. Thankfully the rain dried up and a great afternoon was had by all who attended.



2nd Year Culture and Local History Walk

The 2nd year students went on an educational walking tour to learn about the poets, people and writers that had connections to our local area. We followed a walking map designed by the English Department.

Alec from 2X read a Yeats poem outside his old school The High School, Sagi talked about the history of Herzog Park, Petya talked about the site of the old Mother and Baby home Bethany House, and Jacob and Shay talked about the War Memorial Hall in Terenure. We were even invited to enter the shul to learn more about Jewish history in Dublin, with an informative talk by Emmet. We are now going to take inspiration from some of these places of interest to create our own scripts, and stage some site-specific plays!

Thank you to Ms. Maccaba, Ms. Caspi, Mr. Eppel and Ms. Talbot for coming with us.

October 2024



Green Schools visit Bull Island

2024: Stratford celebrates 70 years



Stratford College Library, 1980s



TYs have great fun in Delphi

The TYs, accompanied by Ms. Kenny and Ms. Mahon, went to Delphi Adventure Centre from Monday 1st October to Wednesday 3rd October! Kayaking, making rafts, bog jumping and combat archery are only some of the activities that the TYs took part in during their stay in Delphi.

Rose and Sophia had the following to say about the Delphi trip: It was a highlight of TY so far. Everyone loved the activities and we all bonded! We got to do loads of new things like bog jumping, high ropes and campfire. The weather didn't affect the spirit.

Tam also wrote about the Delphi trip: An amazing experience. Loved every minute of it. My favourite activity was kayaking even though it was hard, still amazing. The weather was fantastic as you can see by the photos. It was a great bonding trip and lots of great memories have been made.

Thanks to Ms. Kenny and Ms. Mahon for taking their time to come.



Annual Awards Ceremony

The Annual Awards Ceremony took place on the 11th October, expertly led and organised by Ms. Talbot and the Student Council. We welcomed back so many of the Class of 2024, who along with current students, were the recipients of numerous awards and accolades. As Mr. Barrett, said "Is fearr forás na foirfeacht".

Special thanks to our guest speaker, Leah Johnston of Dublin City Council East Area, who presented the Dublin City Neighbourhood Award 2024 and spoke so eloquently on the topic.



2nd agus 6th Years Turas go dtí an Ghaeltacht

The second and sixth years went to the Gaeltacht on the 21st of October for three days. We had sport and fun. We were in the water every day, We did body boarding and climbing, We were on the SUP, did archery, and had a ceilí that evening. The second and sixth years had classes and it helped to improve our Irish. We had an amazing time and enjoyed it loads.

Chuaigh an dara agus an séú blian go dtí an Ghaeltacht ar an gcéad lá is a fiche de mhí Deireadh Fómhair ar feadh trí lá. Bhí spórt agus spraoi againn. Bhíomar san uisce gach lá, Rinneamar clár cóirp agus dreapadóireacht. Bhíomar ar an SUP, ag boghdóireacht agus bhí ceilí againn san oíche. Bhí ranganna againn ar an dara lá agus chabhraigh sé le snas a chur ar ár gcuid Gaeilge. Bhí am iontach againn agus bhaineamar an-taitneamh as.

November 2024



Science Week: Trip to Birr Observatory

2024: Stratford celebrates 70 years



Stratford Computer Lab, 1980s



Stratford marks Science Week with lots of activities

Birr Observatory! Reptiles! Science jokes! Sustainability Tour to Airfield Estate ... and more! The Science department has been busy organising a packed Science Week kicking off Wednesday, 13th November with a trip to Birr Observatory and separately back in Stratford there will be lots of reptiles.

Thank you so much Mr. Fennell, Dr. McAdoo and Dr. Ryan for all your work.



U16 Boys Basketball make it to Cup semi-finals

Stratford 16's came up against another big sporting school ... Cabinteely Community School in the Cup quarter finals on Wednesday 13th November. Our boys had an eventful start to their day as a misunderstanding with the Coach led the team having to race to the match in two taxi's, as Trains, Planes and Automobiles came to mind!

The Coach would like to thank management and the brilliant Stratford staff for their wonderful support and accommodations and is looking forward to the boys and the girls juniors carry on the tremendous success to date. The girls under 16's are awaiting external results to see if we qualify for the knock out stages. Fingers crossed. Onwards and upwards!

Mr. O'Callaghan



Stratford dress up in rainbow colours for Stand Up Week

This week, our school proudly participated in Stand Up Week, an initiative to raise awareness and support for LGBTQ+ students while standing against bullying. Shockingly, nearly 50% of LGBTQ+ students in Irish secondary schools experience homophobic, biphobic, or transphobic bullying. Our goal is to create a safe, supportive environment where every student feels accepted and valued.

Throughout the week, we ran a poetry, art, and creative writing competition, inviting students to express their perspectives on diversity, acceptance, and inclusivity.

On Friday, we capped off Stand Up Week with a vibrant fundraiser where students wore rainbow colours to symbolise solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community. Together, we raised funds for Pieta House, an organization supporting mental health.

Stand Up Week has sparked meaningful conversations in our school about acceptance, respect, and allyship. We're hopeful that these discussions will continue, helping to create an environment where everyone feels safe and celebrated for who they are.

December 2024



Stratford Drama presents: Happily Never After

2024: Stratford celebrates 70 years



Stratford College basketball court (with Rathgar Tennis Club in background), 1980s



New Senior Prefects elected

We are thrilled to announce the election results for Stratford College's new Senior Prefects. After a wonderful show of support from staff, TY, 5th, and 6th year students, we are excited to introduce:

Head Prefect: Ofri

Deputy Head Prefect: Amelie

And our Senior Prefects: Gali, Sonny, Aaron, and Skye!

A huge thank you to Ms. Kenny for all of her work as the Student Council Liaison teacher, and for organising the elections. A huge thank you to everyone who voted – your voices have helped shape the future of our school leadership. We look forward to seeing these talented students lead with passion and dedication in the year ahead.



Juniors wow at Junior Winter Musical Concert

Students and teachers were treated to a fantastic Junior Winter Musical Concert during last class on Friday, 13th December! Singing, dancing and playing a fascinating array of musical instruments.

A huge shout-out to all the students who performed in the concert. Thanks too to all the students who helped organise the show. Thanks to Mr. Barrett for musical accompaniment.



End of term Winter Quiz

Well, that's a wrap! It has been a wonderful last week of the academic year, with so many events and so much friendship and laughter among students and staff. From all at Stratford College we take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy, happy and relaxing holiday break. We hope you and your families enjoy this time and look forward to meeting again in 2025.

January 2025



BTYSTE: 2nd Prize, Intermediate Group

Biodiversity in Stratford's grounds



Stratford's grounds, June 2025 #flourish #sustainability #global citizenship



BTYSTE: Stratford has two project entries

Major congratulations to Hao Wen, Ritvik and Noah who won 2nd prize in the Intermediate-Group-Biological & Ecological Sciences category at the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE) 2025 Awards Ceremony on Friday 10th January with their K.E.V.I.N project and to 3rd year students Ciara and Callum for presenting their excellent BUZZ project to many interested organisations and well-known visitors!

Over the course of the four days (8th - 11th January) both Stratford projects had a stream of visitors and judges to their stands. Thanks to Ms. Skehan and Ms. Maxwell for organising tickets and bringing the TYs and 5th Year Computer Science students to BTYSTE on Friday morning!

Well done to you all - each of you did Stratford proud!

Ms. O'Kelly



TY students reach semi's of Certified Irish Angus Schools competition

Congratulations to Omri and Paddy in Transition Year who reached the semi-finals of the Certified Irish Angus Schools competition on 9th January. The competition challenges students to rear five Irish Angus calves over 18 months while completing a research project.

They had to present their project to a panel of judges in Airfield Estate.



Junior Basketball wins—a great start to 2025

Stratford Students had a great win to start the season for our girls basketball under 15's team with a record 54-6 win against Mount Anville.

First year boys and Second year boys recorded two very strong wins also.

February 2025



1st Year Geography Trip to River Dodder

Biodiversity in Stratford's grounds



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3rd Year Wellbeing Games: Celebrating end of Mock exams

To mark the end of the Junior Cycle mock exams, on Thursday 6th February, 3rd year students gathered in the hall for an exciting Squid Game-themed wellbeing event organised by the Senior Prefects. The atmosphere was filled with energy and laughter as students competed in a variety of team-building exercises designed to promote collaboration and fun.

Activities included the challenging Human Knot, Silent Cup Stacking, a lively quiz, and more, all inspired by the thrilling spirit of the popular series—but with a positive twist focused on teamwork and wellbeing. The event was a huge success, providing students with a much-needed break from academic pressures. It was great to see everyone working together and enjoying themselves after weeks of hard work. Thank you to Mr. Barret for making this refreshing activity possible!



Senior French students visit Paris

Our class trip to Paris was nothing short of an adventure—complete with unexpected weather, breathtaking sights, and the occasional minor disaster. The journey began as we landed at Charles de Gaulle Airport and made our way to our charming (read: small but cozy) hostel.

After a well-deserved food stop and a quick reshuffle of our itinerary, we visited the recently renovated Notre-Dame Cathedral. By some stroke of luck, we managed to go inside, marveling at its stunning restoration. We wrapped up the first day by dining at traditional French restaurants, where we put our best (and sometimes questionable) French skills to the test.

Day two brought a complete weather transformation. We took the metro to Montmartre and climbed the steep hill to Sacré-Cœur. We ended our final full day with yet another delicious meal, followed by sheer exhaustion upon returning to the hostel. On the final morning, we had one last treat—a scenic boat trip down the Seine. The city looked even more beautiful from the water, and we finally got that iconic view of the Eiffel Tower, along with the stunning Pont Alexandre III bridge. A huge thank you to our incredible teachers for organizing this unforgettable experience—and an even bigger thank you to Ms. Dos Santos, Mr. Fennel, Dr. Ryan, and Ms. Caspi for putting up with us for three days. Paris, you were amazing (even with the rain), and we'll definitely be back!

Gali Bachar (5th Year)



Polytunnel Spring gardening

The TYs have planted potatoes and onions during their horticulture class and these should be ready by May. They've also built some teepees for beans and peas outside.

The green committee have "bean" helping too with indoor pea frames and carrots and salad planted as well as wildflowers to encourage pollinators. We also had our first mini harvest of purple sprouting broccoli!

Dr. McAdoo

March 2025



Tráth na gCeist winners

Biodiversity in Stratford's grounds



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Five 1st Year coding projects reach **Young Environmentalist Awards semi's**

Stratford was represented by five 1st year groups at the semi-finals of the 2025 Young Environmentalist Awards in Airfield Estate. Each group has coded a Scratch game aimed to heighten awareness about the UN Sustainable Development Goals. They will be presenting their projects in Eco-Dens - think Dragons Den - to a panel of judges.

Well done to the following 1st years:

Tree Clicker: Greta, John and Gracie

Stop Plastic Pollution: Diana, Zhi Hang and Katie

Sustainable Threads: Rory, Hayley and Ruiqi

Save the trees: Anna, Jarlath and Abi

Save the shark: Thomas, Angelia and Robert

Well done to all the 1st years - there were 12 coding teams who entered the Young Environmentalist Awards with a Scratch game! That is a major achievement.



Student Enterprise Awards 2025 - 3rd years win Innovation Award!

Congratulations to Ciara and Callum who won the Dublin City Innovation Award at the Student Enterprise Awards 2025 at the Mansion House! Five Stratford College students attended the event which was opened by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Emma Blain.

The students set up their stands to showcase their projects and waited patiently as they were judged and interviewed. Thank you Mr. Brilly for leading this programme and well done to all five students who entered the awards - Ciara, Callum, Noah, Ritvik and Hao Wen.



2nd Year CSPE CBA Fair

Students from 2X and 2Y participated in the CSPE CBA Fair where they discussed their projects on Fast Fashion. This followed up their excellent workshop run by past pupil, Leah Gaynor who works on sustainability initiatives for Oxfam. This was facilitated by the WorldWide Global Schools grant awarded to Stratford College.

Students researched and developed projects around the topic of Fast Fashion such as the impact of microplastics in drinking water, Social Media Influencers endorsing Fast Fashion brands, and the working conditions for textile workers in the Developing World. Students got to showcase their work and peer teach what they had learned.

April 2025

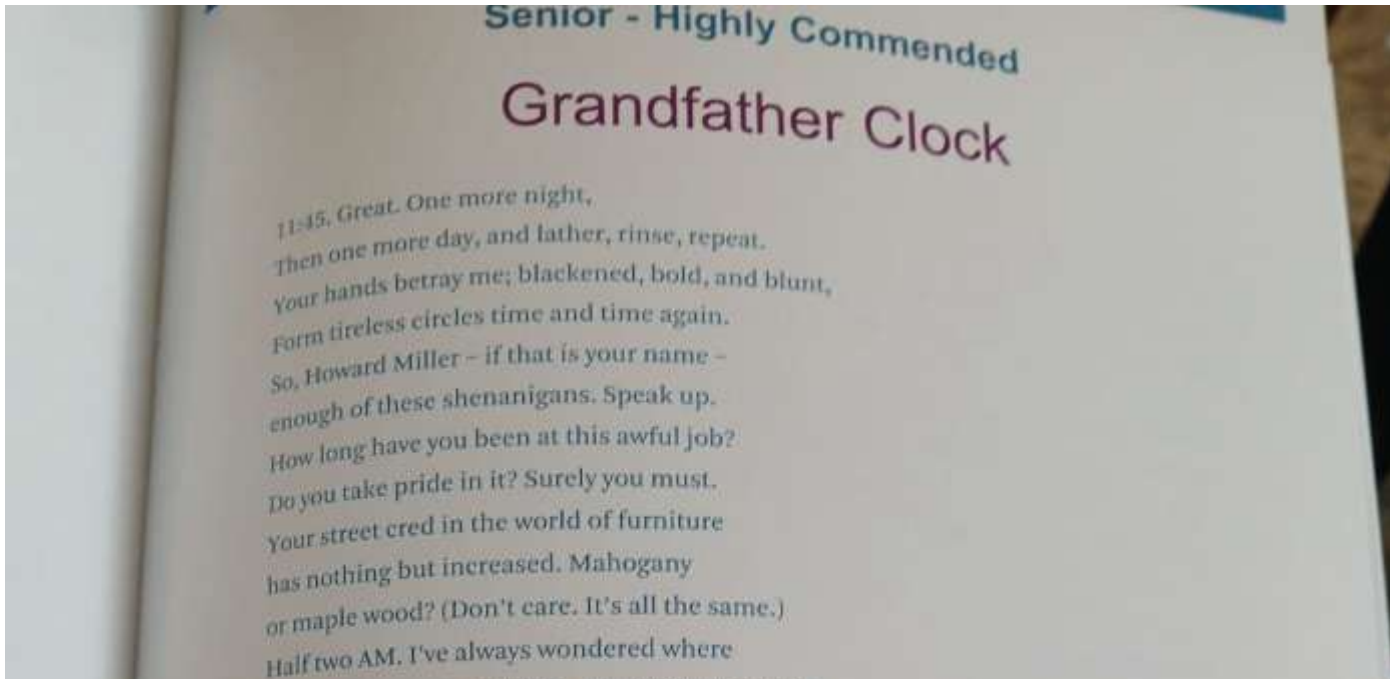


TY Trip to Amsterdam

Biodiversity in Stratford's grounds



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5th Year awarded Highly Commended at Wellread Ceremony

On Tuesday 1st April, 5th year English student, Joseph Mudrak, was awarded a commendation for his poem at the Oide Wellread and National Write a Poem Ceremony at the Killeshen Hotel in Portlaoise.

Joseph was one of six recipients in the Senior category on the day for his entry "Grandfather Clock". Only twelve students out of over five-hundred received awards, so this really was a great achievement.

Ms. McGill



Stratford celebrates Semaine de la Francophonie

Stratford is celebrating all things French (Mon 7th April - Fri 11th April) with many activities happening in French classes, fun facts every day and the highlight of the week being a whole-school French quiz organised by the TY's

Thank you Ms. dos Santos for organising such a great week! Merci!



3rd Years engage in European Design Thinking research project

In 3rd Year Computer Studies classes, students are participating in a European-wide Design Thinking research project called extenDT2 with Trinity College and Learnovate. Students are focusing on thinking of solutions using problem solving technologies to address the Sustainable Development Target #2 - Zero Hunger.

Students are targeting three particular issues - nutrition, biodiversity around Stratford College and collecting water for the school polytunnel. The technologies they are researching with are called ChoiCo, SorBET and Malt2 on the extenDT2 platform. They will be presenting their solutions at the end of the summer term.

Sincere thanks to Helena Ledermann from Learnovate for her deep involvement with this project and to Dr. McAdoo (Science teacher), Ms. Skehan (Geography teacher) and Ms. Donohoe (Green Schools co-ordinator) for their support on this project.

May 2025



Wellbeing Week: School Walk, Sports Day ...

Biodiversity in Stratford's grounds



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Wellbeing Week—many highlights!

As part of our Wellbeing Week, 1st, 2nd & 3rd year students took on the incredible challenge of Hell and Back Ireland's toughest outdoor obstacle course. It was an amazing day filled with mud, laughter, and plenty of determination.

Our students rose to the occasion, showing outstanding resilience, teamwork, and comradery throughout the course. Though we were all exhausted by the end, the sense of achievement left everyone buzzing. Congratulations to all the students who took part, and a big thank you to the teachers who participated and helped supervise on the day. A day to remember!!

Other major highlights included the Boys to Men Programme climbing Croagh Patrick, the School Walk, Culture Day and Sports Day! An incredible week, helped so much by great weather. Thank you to Ms. Finnegan for organising a superb week.



6th Years celebrate their graduation

The Class of 2025 graduated on a glorious Friday morning on 16th May. Speeches by Mr. Barrett, Ms. Kenny, the Parents Association and Student Council reminded us what the 6th Years have achieved and to consider the excitement of their next steps as they leave secondary school.

The 6th years showed off their musical prowess before having a delightful lunch outside. Thanks to Ms. Talbot and Student Council for organising a fantastic morning!

Produced by:

Stratford College

and

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