

Summer
2017



High Times

'Excellence every day for every child'

Return to School & Important Dates

Bank Holiday

Monday 28 August 2017

Year 14 UCAS

Registration Day

Wednesday 30 August 2017

Year 13 Parents Info Evening at 3.30pm

Wednesday 30 August

Year 13/14 Present

Thursday 31 August 2017

Friday 1 September

Years 8, 11 & 12 Present

Monday 4 September

All Pupils Present

Thursday 7 September

Prize Night

Principal's Message

So, another school year draws to a close and it seems as if each one is more action-packed than the last. Once again our mission statement of 'excellence every day for every child' is being lived out both inside and outside the classroom. We hope you enjoy this edition of 'High Times' where you will be able to read about just some of the exciting events that have taken place. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students every success in their public exams. I would also like to wish all our readers a happy and refreshing Summer break. See you in September!

Ms Pat McGuckian

Sporting Success

To say we have had a lot of sporting success this year really is an understatement!! We have had an incredible year on the sports field...our most successful ever! From Year 8 camogie and Year 10 girls' gaelic football to Tavistock Cup success in golf (retaining the trophy!) – from Kirk Cup success in hurling to All Stars in hurling (Paul Green) and camogie (Hannah Hughes, Leah McGoldrick and Eimear Smyth)...we really have had an unforgettable year. Success in athletics and netball has been matched by two of our pupils (Connor Renaghan and Gareth Nugent) winning Ulster titles in boxing. So, whatever your sport...St Patrick's Keady is the centre of sporting excellence for you!

Key Stage 3 Prize Giving

The Key Stage 3 Prize Giving took place on Thursday 22nd June and dovetailed perfectly with the 'Deep Learning' Exhibition in the TMAC, Keady. It was a very vibrant occasion and provided the opportunity to celebrate the successes of the Year 10 pupils, both inside and outside the classroom. It was a lovely event and a fine tribute to a very talented year group. The Guest Speaker was Year 13 student Jim Shortt, who certainly provided an excellent role model for the pupils attending the Key Stage 3 ceremony.



Top Year 10 English students with Mr McGeary (Senior Teacher)



Ms McGuckian accepts the Workplace Excellence Award

School takes 'Workplace Excellence' Award at Irish News Awards Ceremony!

St Patrick's Keady is now the proud winner of the 'Workplace Excellence' Award (Large/Medium Organisation) which was presented recently at The Irish News Workplace and Employment Awards 2017 in the Europa Hotel, Belfast. This is yet another accolade which endorses the excellent teaching and learning taking place in the school. The Principal, Ms McGuckian, spoke of the school being "a model based on creating the right climate where all pupils can grow and make progress. We believe it is the job of schools to mine for human talent." The judges of the award clearly agreed with the Principal and the award is another external endorsement of the school's core value of 'excellence every day for every child.'



All parents / new members welcome
Keep an eye on the website / Facebook / Twitter for dates of meetings

Twitter



Facebook



PE Uniform Stockists

Year 8 Girls' PE Uniform is available from local stockists Hugh Mc Elvanna and Brenda's Fashions.

Year 8 Boys' PE Uniform available online from O'Neills by 10th July 2017.

PE uniform for older pupils will also be available from our local stockists.



School Aid Romania

Early in the Spring Term twenty-four Year 13 students and two teachers, headed off on the week-long School Aid Romania (SAR) trip. This charity venture is now an annual feature on the school calendar. The students go to Brasov in Romania to help the most needy, the most deprived and the most vulnerable in society. As ever the work carried out by our pupils was very rewarding but often very difficult and emotional too. Although it is obviously a different group of students each year, each Year 13 group rises to meet the challenge of helping those children and young people in greatest need in the Brasov area. Our students, like their predecessors, proved themselves to be outstanding in their capacity to help out, in often very difficult circumstances. The Year 13 students on the SAR trip were tremendous ambassadors for the school and for our local area.



Mrs Short and Daniel helping out in Romania

Barcelona Trip

The now annual Barcelona trip proved as popular as ever! Our Year 10 pupils and their teachers had a great time in sunny Spain. It was an action-packed trip and our group made the most of their time in Barcelona. The pupils enjoyed the panoramic views from Montjuic and were wowed by Gaudi's masterpiece, the Sagrada Familia. The tourist hotspot of Las Ramblas allowed our group the opportunity of a leisurely stroll. Ever popular were the visits to the Camp Nou (home of Barcelona FC), to Barcelona Zoo and to the Olympic Stadium. As the group's hotel was in Salou, this meant the famous adventure park, PortAventura, was on the doorstep. This was a test of nerve for both students and teachers...which they passed with flying colours! So, all in all, a brilliant trip to Barcelona!



Year 10 pupils enjoying the Barcelona trip

Krakow Trip

At the end of June a group of Year 11 students, accompanied by their teachers and some Year 13 students, made the trip to Krakow, Poland. This History trip certainly was one to remember, with the very poignant trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau providing the indelible memory. As one History student said: "it is one thing to learn about the Holocaust in History class but a totally different experience to be there standing in the prisoners' footprints and trying to understand the reality of what happened there." On a lighter note, staff and students enjoyed the medieval castle in the centre of Krakow, the river cruise on the Vistula, the visit to the bowling alley and the water park. Another highlight was the descent into the Wieliczka Salt Mines. You needed to be fit...climbing down seventy flights of stairs! A fantastic experience – seeing the carved salt statues and rooms! All in all a trip to remember – one that was both thought-provoking and highly enjoyable. The weather helped too...31 degrees on the day of arrival. As one student remarked: "we are leaving Poland very tired, with a suntan and lots of great memories."



Pupils and staff in Wieliczka

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'Deep Learning' - A great success!

'Deep Learning' which was a new departure for the school, turned out to be a great success. It required a lot of hard work and teamwork (nothing new in our school!) and turned out to be a revelation. On three different weeks throughout the year, the timetable was 'collapsed' for Year 10 pupils and everyone focused on the question as to whether it is better to be a teenager in 2017 than in the past. The Year 10 pupils were able to call on the skills and expertise of their teachers, their parents, their families, their grandparents, the staff of the AMMA Centre and other external agencies. The whole experience was revelatory and opened the pupils' eyes to a different, innovative and exciting model of learning. Just before the end of term, the work of the Year 10 pupils was exhibited in the Tommy Makem Arts and Community Centre (TMAC) in Keady. The work was highly creative, imaginative and...amazing! The exhibition in the TMAC has already drawn many visitors to see the fruits of the 'Deep Learning' programme. All the visitors have been suitably impressed! Indeed, 'bowed over' by the quality of the innovative and inventive work on display! 'Deep Learning', which allowed pupils to enjoy a very different learning experience, has been a great success. It really was education in the broadest sense, affording an opportunity to draw out skills and talents from our Year 10 pupils – perhaps skills and talents they didn't fully realise they possessed. 'Deep Learning' was an intensive but very rewarding experience for all involved.



Our Year 10 pupils step back in time to 'the black and white days'



Mr Clarke (CCMS), Ms McGuckian, Mr Hughes and Sadhbh Gorman at the TMAC Exhibition

A'Level and GCSE Art Exhibition

Towards the end of term, everyone had the chance to view the amazing work done in the Art Department by our GCSE, AS and A' Level students. The standard of work on display was extraordinary. The exhibition offered the opportunity to showcase the brilliance of our students. Anyone who viewed the work was highly impressed. The exhibition was a great testimony to the superb work done by both students and staff. Well done everyone!



Rowan Bradbury with his grandparents



Jack McParland with family and Ms Finn-Thompson



Year 14 student Alisha McGeown with her mother



Tavistock Cup (Golf) Winners with Mr McStay



Kirk Cup hurlers celebrate!

The Bigger Picture

It's said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Well, these photos of our very talented sporting pupils certainly help to paint a picture of their sporting excellence.



Year 10 netballers with their medals



Year 8 camogie – Ulster Champions



Year 8 footballers –Winners of Maurice McCloughan Memorial Tournament



The victorious Casement Cup squad with Mr Holywood and Mr Feeney



Senior Camogie squad – Ulster Champions