



St Mary's High School

Miss Dystopia



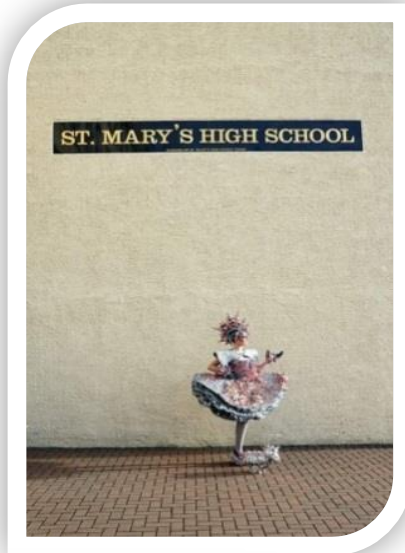
Grand Final Junk Kouture 2016

Newsletter 2015 - 2016



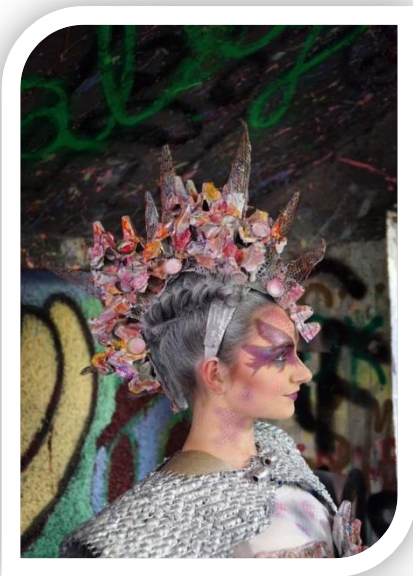
2015 - 2016

St Mary's Celebrates Dystopian Success



The Junk Kouture Grand Final was a wonderful occasion for St Mary's. Our entry 'Miss Dystopia' was selected as one of the Ulster finalists in the Millenium Forum, Derry in February. The winning team and their enthusiastic supporters from St Mary's, staff and pupils, travelled to Dublin in May for the Grand Final in the 3 Arena. The standard of the entries was overwhelming and the judges had a very challenging job selecting the three finalists from each of the four provinces. Cliodhna Hollywood, model and co-designer was thrilled to be selected as one of the top three Ulster finalists in such a prestigious competition. Not only did her team represent the school and province but we were thrilled when her picture covered the front page of the Irish Times on the day after the competition. Congratulations to Cliodhna, Andzelika and Lauren and to our wonderful Art Department, Mrs Ward and Mrs Whyte.

Cliodhna stated *"This has been a highlight of my year and meeting stars like Louis Walsh and the model Vogue Williams was just amazing. I really appreciate the hard work and inspirational guidance from Mrs Ward and Mrs Whyte."*





2015 - 2016

ETI Reports.....

An "Outstanding" Inspection for St Mary's High School (October 2015)

"The quality of the arrangements for care and support in the school is outstanding. The school's mission statement "Optimum Semper Facere - Always To Do One's Best" pervades the life and work of the school. All of the staff are highly committed to the academic and pastoral needs of the pupils and there are excellent relationships at all levels throughout the school."

(The Inspectorate October 2015)

"In public examinations, the pupils' attainments are very high and reflect the pupil-centred provision and the high expectations of the staff. The results in public examinations at the end of key stage (KS) 4 are outstanding and a significant strength of the work of the school."

(The Inspectorate October 2015)



"The senior leadership team (SLT) has a clear strategic vision for the school and provides outstanding, transformational leadership. This has resulted in an engaged, dynamic school with a clear sense of purpose and identity."

(The Inspectorate October 2015)



2015 - 2016

Celebrating 'AS' and 'A' Level Success

Staff and students at St Mary's High School were delighted to celebrate another successful year where students exceeded the excellent standards of recent years. Principal, Mrs Cosgrove, praised the students on maintaining the high standards within the school stating *"These superb results reflect the students' dedication and commitment to their studies. As ambassadors and role models within the school they have had a very positive impact on school life through 'Student Voice' demonstrating their fine leadership qualities. Hard work, excellent teaching, pastoral support and the dedication and support from parents ensured the students achieved their potential, allowing progression onto their chosen course at University and Further Education."* The Principal also acknowledged the enriching effect of St Mary's collaboration with St Colman's College, St Mark's High School and the Southern Regional College.



Celebrating GCSE Success

St Mary's students celebrated another successful year where the high standard set in previous years were exceeded with an increased number of students achieving the top grades at GCSE. The staff were delighted by the wonderful results achieved by the students which consistently outperform the targets set for non-selective secondary schools in Northern Ireland. Mrs Cosgrove, Principal, praised the students, teachers and parents, commenting *"These excellent results are very well deserved, reflecting everyone's hard work and commitment not only after five years in St Mary's but also keeping in mind the sound foundations laid in our "feeder" primary schools. Our parents can certainly enjoy their daughter's success as their support, encouragement and loyalty to St Mary's has been outstanding. Valuing every pupil and having high expectations of each one is at the core of the ethos at St Mary's and this group of students have certainly lived up to these high expectations. We also commend the achievements of the students who are involved in the collaboration with the Southern Regional College. This collaboration has enriched the vocational opportunities for the students and has encouraged a breadth of study of Applied and Vocational Subjects."*





2015 - 2016

Junior Presentation Award Ceremony

The Junior Presentation Award Ceremony celebrates the many achievements of those students who have completed Key Stage 3. Principal Mrs Margo Cosgrove congratulated the girls on their magnificent junior results. She commended the hard work of the teachers, pupils and thanked parents for their support. *"There is indeed no secret to academic success – it is the result of working to the best of your ability, attending school and being focused on class work and homework. The students have definitely lived up to the school motto – "Optimum Semper Facere - Always To Do One's Best."* The guest speaker Ms Ciara Boyle B.Ed praised the achievements of the students for their many successes, academic, pastoral and sporting. She spoke warmly about her experiences as a student and encouraged the students to work hard, aim high and follow their dreams.



Senior Presentation Evening

Present and past students of St Mary's celebrated their achievements at the annual Presentation Evening on 18th November 2015. Paris Cregan, Head Girl, welcomed the guests who included members of the Board of Governors, Primary School Principals, representatives from Danske and Bank of Ireland, parents, pupils past and present and the guest speaker Mrs Deborah Loughran. The Music Department's Traditional Group and Choir provided the entertainment for the guests. Mrs Deborah Loughran congratulated the Music students and commended the students on their excellent GCSE, GCE Advanced Level results and on their many curricular and extracurricular achievements while at St Mary's High School. Her inspiring words encouraged the students to nurture the values and opportunities they have experienced in their lives and enjoy the rewards of an excellent education.





2015 - 2016

Success for GCSE Health and Social Care Students



Well done to Courtney Keenan and Orla O'Hanlon who achieved Joint Third in Northern Ireland in GCSE Health & Social Care (August 2015). Huge congratulations from everyone at St Mary's and Miss Bellew, Head of Health and Social Care.

Year 8's Perform 'The Pippa Piper Show'

The new Year 8 pupils in St Mary's enjoyed an action-packed week of drama, dance and music, during the annual Summer Scheme, directed by the Sheridan Stage School. The students availed of the opportunity to challenge their dance, singing and drama skills.





2015 - 2016

St Mary's Welcome Irish Singer Songwriter John Spillane



St Mary's had a rapturous cead mile failte for Irish singer/songwriter and two times Meteor award winner John Spillane. Our school choir had the unique opportunity to practice with John ahead of their collaboration at a special concert in St Paul's High School, Bessbrook.

“Reality is what you make it” Dynamo

St Mary's students Shanice Gilmore, Sara Thompson and Courtney Keenan travelled to the BBC studios in Belfast to interview 'Magician Impossible' Dynamo. They were working as part of BBC School Report, which this year celebrated its 10th year. Once the girls heard that Dynamo would be playing the SSE Arena in 2016, they, like all good journalists, worked tirelessly to secure an interview with the magician. Their interview was broadcast by the BBC on School Report Day. It is available to view on the St Mary's Website and Facebook page. The girls were delighted to secure an interview with Dynamo and presented him with a St Mary's school scarf as a token of thanks. Courtney added *“To interview Dynamo, a hero of ours, was a dream come true. We have watched his TV performances for years. We were truly privileged to see him perform a card trick in front of our very own eyes. It really was a magical day.”*





2015 - 2016



St Mary's – An Award Winning School For Promoting Health Initiatives Gold Award at Action Cancer Health Awards 2016

St Mary's are delighted to have been honoured at the Action Cancer Health Awards 2016. During the ceremony in Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn, the school was awarded the Gold Award for promoting Health Education and was deemed as the best health promoting school within the Education Authority, Southern Region. Staff and pupils were delighted when the school also received another prestigious award as the 'Most Improved School' and a further £600 for the school. Two SNAG representatives, Hollie Hughes (Year 11) and Aoife McLoughlin (Year 9) along with Miss Boyle (Temporary Health Co-ordinator) collected these awards from BBC presenter Claire McCollum, on behalf of the school. Both Hollie and Aoife enjoyed a range of fitness activities prior to the award ceremony. These awards are a tremendous achievement for St Mary's and are a testament to the hard work of SNAG and all our school community who help to promote Health Education.



Love For Life Visit St Mary's

In November, Year 9 and Year 11 pupils were given a presentation from Love For Life entitled 'Icebergs and Babies'. In St Mary's, we recognise the many pressures that young people may be under and identify the sources of that pressure. With Love For Life's presentation, the girls became aware of issues relating to sexual health including self-image, media and the consequences of poor lifestyle choices.





2015 - 2016



Health Awareness Workshop



A first year class, 0824 attended a Health Awareness Workshop, as part of The Health Action Schools Programme, from Action Cancer. This programme is designed to improve knowledge of health and to encourage pupils to take ownership of their lifestyle choices. The students gained an insight into the dangers of smoking and alcohol whilst also realising the importance of healthy eating and exercise.

Holistic Health Coach Visit

Health Coach Jenny McParland (Proprietor of Hot Yoga, Newry) visited St Mary's to work with our enthusiastic SNAG team. Jenny is a Bikram Yoga teacher and also a certified Holistic Health Coach who has spent seventeen years working in the United States and now Newry. SNAG is committed to encouraging the St Mary's community to eat nutritious food particularly breakfast that will prepare them for the day ahead. With Jenny's work in dietary theories and understanding of bio-individuality, she was able to share some easy yet delicious breakfast ideas.



Holistic Nutritionist and Wellness Coach



Our SNAG Team were delighted to welcome Lisa McManus to St Mary's. Lisa is a Holistic Nutritionist and Wellness Coach who has healed herself from chronic illness through nutrition and lifestyle. Lisa gave SNAG some amazing ideas to promote 'Better Breaks' at school. She encouraged students to campaign for healthier snacks for students to enjoy in the canteen.



2015 - 2016

Fruity Friday 2015



Healthy lifestyles were the topic of conversation during a celebration of healthy eating on Fruity Friday. The entire school community got involved in sampling smoothies, fruit kebabs, vegetables and hummus and we got to taste Katie Sands (0909) winning entry entitled 'Katie's Freaky Friday Smoothie'. Students and staff also enjoyed Zumba classes courtesy of Paul Byrne. St Mary's Student Nutrition Action Group (SNAG) are committed to encouraging healthy lifestyle and healthy eating with the aim of promoting our students self-confidence. The proactive SNAG team have devised an ambitious action plan to encourage pupils to drink water, eat their 'five a day' and resist junk food at break time, with their 'Better Break' initiative. Through assemblies and the schools social media, all the projects are promoted across the school.





2015 - 2016



Year 14 Enterprise in Buttercrane



Congratulations to our enterprising Year 14 Business Studies students who set up a bakery business for a day in Buttercrane as part of their coursework. This year the two classes ('Bun'n'Roses' and 'Bake That') had a very successful day selling all types of tasty treats ranging from cupcakes to cheesecakes. All proceeds from the day were donated to the Zambian Street Children Appeal. Thanks to the staff and students of St Mary's who so kindly supported the girls in their business venture and helped make the day such an overwhelming success. Special thanks also to Buttercrane for giving the girls this fantastic opportunity.





2015 - 2016

Aunt Sandra's Visited Year 12 Business Students



Aunt Sandra's Handmade Candy Factory made a house call to Year 12 Business Studies students. The pupils attended an interactive workshop learning about the history of the business, how the business operates and the skills needed to be a successful entrepreneur. Everyone had the opportunity to make their own sweets and prizes were given to the most creative designs. We would like to thank the staff of Aunt Sandra's for a very enjoyable day.



Your School, Your Business

Year 8 students attended the Young Enterprise 'Your School Your Business' seminar held in St Mary's in September. Students were given an opportunity to meet new people, learn about enterprise capabilities, reflect on their own capabilities and set goals for the future.



They also learnt about different jobs within the school, teaching and non-teaching and were introduced to the idea of the school as a business. The morning culminated in the groups applying their enterprising characteristics to problem solve.





2015 - 2016

Local and National Educational Visits

Throughout the year, many departments organised educational visits for the students. They enjoyed trips to the theatre, cinema, outdoor adventure parks, caves, bowling, ice skating and trampolining to name but a few. All of these wonderful experiences go to prove there can be a lot of learning outside the classroom too!

Year 8 Trip to The Ulster American Folk Park



Our Year 8 students basked in the Halloween spirit while enjoying a trip to the Ulster American Folk Park.

Year 12 Trip to Dundonald Ice Bowl

A tremendous team building day was enjoyed by our Year 12 at Dundonald International Ice Bowl where both staff and students had a great day ice skating and bowling.





2015 - 2016

Year 9 Trip to Paris



The day in Disneyland was wonderful. To be there with all my friends was a dream come true

I couldn't believe I was in Paris until I got my first glimpse of the Eiffel Tower. It was breathtaking



The cruise on the River Seine was great fun

A highlight of second year is undoubtedly the annual trip to Paris. The enthusiastic students planned all year for this exciting trip. The pupils visited the Eiffel Tower, Trocadero, Disneyland, Arc de Triomphe, Champs Elysees, Tuileries Gardens, Montmartre and the Montparnasse Tower amongst other sights and enjoyed a cruise on the River Seine as well as bowling, swimming and shopping in Val d'Europe.

The girls and staff thoroughly enjoyed the trip and have many precious memories of their time in the French capital.



I loved listening to the Parisians speaking French and I tried a little French when I was in Paris



This was my first time on a plane, it was all so exciting



2015 - 2016



Northern Ireland Youth Congress



Rights Respecting School Council members joined other youth groups in the Northern Ireland Assembly chamber for debates on motions including Youth Participation, Votes at 16, Age Discrimination and Mental Health. Three St Mary's High School pupils prepared speeches to support two of the motions.

Zara Powell prepared remarks on Youth Participation and drew on her experience as a Newry and Mourne Youth Council member. Molly McCartan spoke about Youth Participation Structures as an active Junior Council member with St Mary's. Courtney Keenan provided valid arguments and statistics to voice her opinion on bringing the voting age down to 16 years old. School Council members who participated in the morning's workshops were highly commended and selected for a special mention by Politics Plus and NIYF representatives.

Junior Minister, Ms Jennifer McCann highly praised our three speakers and spoke with Miss Murray, School Council Coordinator, about the confidence and preparation that the pupils demonstrated. She commented on the importance of young women taking up a role in public speaking and congratulated the pupils on their research, confidence and delivery.





2015 - 2016



Links with Primary Schools

ICT Collaboration Project with St Joseph's Convent Primary, Newry

St Mary's participated in an ICT collaboration project with local primary school St Joseph's Convent Newry. The young pupils have been working with iPads and learning new skills such as creating their very own movies and interactive books using apps such as Book Creator and iMovie. The theme of the project was based around the transition from the old school building to their new state of the art build and the children reflected on the exciting move in a creative technological fashion. Well done to all the boys and girls in class P5C and many thanks to Mrs Campbell for welcoming us into her classroom.





2015 - 2016

P6 Maths Interactive Fun Day

The Maths Department welcomed P6 girls from St Malachy's Primary Carnagat, St Joseph's Convent Primary and St Ronan's Primary School to St Mary's for a Maths Interactive Fun Day. All the students were fully engaged in many different Maths challenges to win points for their teams. Congratulations to the winning team, 'Clementine's', from St Ronan's Primary.

The day was a great success thanks to the wonderful students who took part!



Technology Practical Skills Insight Day 2016

In April, St Mary's Technology Department hosted two Practical Skills Insight Days for pupils from St Joseph's Convent Primary School. Year 7 pupils were taught key practical workshop skills by Mr Morgan and Miss Meehan. The purpose of the full day programme was to introduce pupils to some of the practical skills carried out in Technology and Design classes in KS3. The STEM programme included skills such as measuring and marking out, fabrication using plastics, card and wood, and practical activities using hand tools and workshop machinery such as the pillar drill and soldering equipment. At the end of the session each pupil had produced their very own battery racer and challenged one another in a race.





2015 - 2016

Year 8 and 9 Imagineering Project

Our Year 8 and 9 students enjoyed two action packed Interactive ICT days as we hosted The Imagineering Project in collaboration with First Derivatives and The AMMA Centre. Each team used their imagination and creativity to come up with a product or service based on a standard brick. They filmed a 2-3 minute pitch using green screen technology and created a prototype app for their product. St Mary's would sincerely like to thank First Derivatives for their support and sponsorship of the event and also the AMMA centre for all their technical support.



Virtual Reality Gaming

The ICT Department were delighted to welcome back past pupil Deirbhile Larkin. Deirbhile is now a student of Dundalk Institute of Technology studying computing. Along with three of her fellow students Charlie Behan, Minh Thu Le and Guion Smith, Deirbhile returned to St Mary's to test a game that the group had created for a Microsoft competition. The game was created using game development software Unreal Engine 4 and oculus rift. The rift is a virtual reality headset and uses state of the art displays and optics to transport you into the game. Both students and staff enjoyed an exciting afternoon sampling their computer game and feedback was extremely positive.





2015 - 2016

Year 8 ICT Workshops

Year 8 pupils participated in a programming workshop developing and implementing coding to instruct a robot to manoeuvre a race course. We would like to sincerely thank David Pilkington from Sentinus for a very enjoyable and productive day. The girls also had the opportunity to create their very own movie trailers in a workshop organised by Miss Bartlett. The girls showed some very impressive ICT skills and enjoyed learning new skills and technologies. We eagerly look forward to our next ICT events in the coming year.



Amazing Brains 2015



St Mary's welcomed Bernie McAllister from Amazing Brains to host workshops with our Year 8 and Year 11 pupils. The Amazing Brains concept is that every student, through effort and hard work, can achieve great things. Their mission is to nurture students' intrinsic motivation for learning and help them understand that they truly have an Amazing Brain. The Year 8 programme has been designed to captivate, motivate and educate young people about their brain and learning. It aims to create a success-oriented mindset amongst students, boost academic performance and foster a positive, lifelong attitude to learning. The Year 11 programme gave guidance to our students on how to develop the study techniques and strategies essential for success at GCSE.



2015 - 2016

Scientific Sue

In recognition of National Science and Engineering Week beginning the 14th March, the Science Department organised for a member of the Institute of Physics to visit. Scientific Sue delivered 'The Science of Dragons Show' to all Key Stage 3 pupils. The show covered a wide range of topics covered in the Key Stage 3 Science Curriculum and proved not only to be educational but highly entertaining.



Year 8 Climb On Board

The Newry & Mourne Waste Discovery Truck

The Newry & Mourne Waste Discovery Truck visited St Mary's in November. This interactive educational vehicle was purchased jointly by the member Councils of the Southern Waste Management Partnership (SWaMP2008) with support from DOE's Rethink Waste Campaign, and is the latest weapon being used to get across the recycling message to the public.

Year 8 students listened to an interactive recycling talk and produced their own badges from recycled materials.

Our thanks to Noel Lyons for helping us to "Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful"!





2015 - 2016

Students Enjoy Feis Success

St Mary's students were very successful in the Speech and Drama section of Newry Feis. They entered a range of competitions including Verse Speaking, Good Conversation and Public Speaking classes and displayed their talent and versatility.

The following students were awarded:

Under 12 set poem:

1st Katie McGuinness

3rd Aleksandra Trojanowska

Over 12 and under 13 set poem:

1st Olivia Pentony

Over 13 and under 15 set poem:

1st Molly McCartan

2nd Yukthi Sivakumaar and Hollie Hughes

Highly Commended Fiona McGahan and Caoimhe O'Hare

Over 15 and under 17 set poem:

1st Elsa Nasibi

Public Speaking:

1st Caragh Coyle, Jamie Lee Anderson, Hollie Hughes and Shelby Connolly

2nd Megan McCann, Aleksandra Trojanowska, Ellie O'Hanlon and Erinn McLoughlin

3rd Hannah Kelly, Amy Connell, Rachel O'Hare and Dana Dillon

Most Promising Speaker Caragh Coyle

Good Conversation:

3rd Fiona McGahan, Olivia Pentony, Hollie Hughes and Dineen White





2015 - 2016

Success at Warrenpoint Feis



Congratulations to our KS3 students who were highly successful during the verse speaking section of Warrenpoint Feis. Katie Sands received the cup for first prize in the Year 8 and 9 'own choice' category and Megan McCann was highly commended. In the Year 10 section, Hannah Kelly won 1st prize receiving the Credit Unions Trophy and Caitlin Carlisle and Niamh Thompson were awarded joint third. In the Poetry Writing Section, Aoife Smith won the shield for her poem that was inspired by the poem 'Grown-ups'.





2015 - 2016



Public Speaking Competition 2016

In February, the final of the Public Speaking Competition was held and it was the culmination of three weeks work carried out by the pupils and English Department in St Mary's. All pupils from Years 8 to 11 prepared and delivered speeches during English class and the best from each class were selected for the final stage of the competition. The grand final was adjudicated by Mrs A Garvey, a highly acclaimed Speech and Drama teacher and examiner.

Topics ranged from the whimsical, 'Child Beauty Pageants' to the more serious, 'Education is the key to success' and 'Human Trafficking.' Mrs Garvey praised all pupils on their speeches, stating that all were of a very high standard, extremely engaging and informative.

All finalists received a certificate and the overall winner from each year group was presented with a plaque.

Congratulations to all our speakers on a very enjoyable morning.

Best Overall Speaker Simone Kucina – Why our generation have no good role models

Year 8 Megan McCann – Beauty Pageants are cruel!

Year 9 Katie Sands - Greed

Year 10 Narelle Connolly – Technology- Useful or harmful?

Year 11 Caragh Coyle – Human Trafficking





2015 - 2016



Success at Newry and Mourne

Soroptimists Public Speaking Competition



Three Year 12 pupils, Aoibheann O'Hare, Rebecca Goodman and Natalie Rice, represented St. Mary's in the annual Newry and Mourne Soroptimists Public Speaking Competition. The girls joined pupils from local schools, Our Lady's and Sacred Heart, to present sophisticated speeches on a range of controversial issues from 'The Strive for Perfection' to 'Human Trafficking' and 'E - voting.' All speeches delivered were extremely interesting, informative and highly engaging. We are delighted that all three of our pupils received recognition. Both Aoibheann and Natalie were highly commended, while Rebecca was placed second. A massive congratulations to our three pupils, and indeed all pupils who took part.

St Mary's Student Wins Lions Award



Zara Powell, a highly accomplished student from St. Mary's recently won the Newry Lions Youth Award. Zara received both a cup and bursary which will be spent on her chosen community project and will now take part in the All Ireland Final in Dublin with the opportunity of receiving a further bursary of £1,000. Zara is extensively involved in her local community. The Lions Award recognises, encourages and supports young people who are actively involved in their local community, promoting the welfare of others. Mr Fitzpatrick, Senior Teacher in St. Mary's said *"we are delighted with Zara's success, the award recognises her contribution to the local community and in particular to sport."*





2015 - 2016

Pope John Paul II Award Success

The RE Department in St. Mary's is proudly celebrating the achievements of six Year 14 pupils who have received the Pope John Paul II Award for voluntary work carried out in their parishes and local communities. The award requires a total of 40 hours voluntary work and the girls received their awards at a special ceremony in Banbridge Parish Centre in March 2016. The girls who received the award were Meibh Byrne, Rachel Curtis, Louisa Dillon, Ellen Murphy, Clodhna Doherty and Aoife Turner.



YAFTA Winner

The Newry and Mourne Youth Council held their annual Youth and Future Talent Awards (YAFTAs) ceremony in the Canal Court. The awards were introduced to help raise the positive profiles of the work young people are involved in across Newry, Mourne and Down District. The aim is to highlight the 'unsung heroes' who don't normally receive recognition. We were delighted that St Mary's students were nominated in two areas: ICT Ambassadors for their work with Internet Safety and Chloe Watt as a Young Carer. Chloe won the 'Young Carer Award' and the award was presented to her as the 'young person who devotes much of their time and energy to caring/supporting a friend or relative who needs additional or extra support. Chloe demonstrates her commitment beyond the normal expectations and she has made a positive impact to the life of an individual, improving their wellbeing.' Congratulations to Chloe on her award and the ICT Ambassadors on their nomination.





2015 - 2016

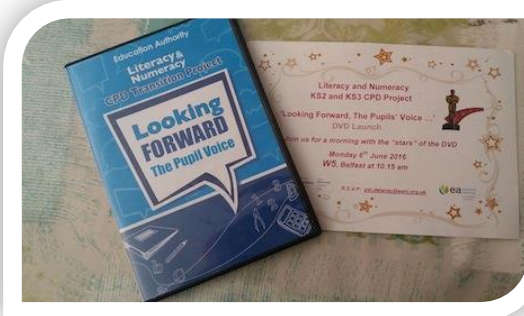
Students Attend Brexit Debate



Students Shannon Kavanagh and Laura Devlin attended the Brexit Debate organised by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to highlight the challenges of the referendum on the European Union. The students are pictured with former Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern.

Success at Literacy and Numeracy Project

Students Sarah Hughes and Ellen Mc Evoy have participated in a Literacy and Numeracy Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 project which will assist with the continuing improvement of transition from Primary to Post Primary School. The students along with 19 other pupils across Northern Ireland were first filmed in their Primary 7 year and then again this year when they settled into Year 8. The students shared their learning experiences in literacy and numeracy alongside their aspirations and concerns during this transition stage. In June, Sarah and Ellen were invited along with the 19 other students, to launch the DVD entitled "Looking Forward, The Pupils' Voice" in W5 in Belfast. Parents, Principals, Members of The Department of Education along with Education Authority Advisers congratulated the students for their participation in the project and for raising the profile of Pupil Voice. During the ceremony the girls were presented with miniature Oscars as they most certainly gave award winning performances.





2015 - 2016

Celebrating World Book Day



As part of our celebrations for World Book Day, Years 8-10 took part in a sponsored ReadOn, in aid of the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children. All pupils and some staff enjoyed some quiet time to read their favourite books, while supporting a fantastic charity. A group of Year 8 star readers also visited Waterstones book store in The Quays, Newry. The girls gained knowledge of how a book store operates, the different sections and types of books available and a brief history of Waterstones.



Scholastic Book Fair

The annual book fair arrived in school showcasing a great selection of books for students and staff to peruse. We hope you all enjoyed your purchases and remember to keep reading...

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers."— Charles William Eliot





2015 - 2016

Bring IT On Careers Talk

'Bring IT On NI', delivered a careers talk in IT to our Year 10 pupils. Our Year 10's are currently in the process of choosing their GCSE options and this talk gave them a good insight into the varied career prospects available by choosing the IT path. Thank you to Gary Harden for a very informative and inspiring talk.



Young Enterprise Programme 'Moving On'



Year 8 students took part in the Young Enterprise Programme 'Moving On'. This programme helps students with the transition from Year 8 to Year 9. They learned the importance of working in a team, listening skills and much more.

Year 13 Childcare Visit to Giggles Nursery

Year 13 Level 3 BTEC Childcare, Learning and Development students enjoyed a visit to Giggles Nursery and Daycare in Bessbrook to gain an insight into the care routines of children in an early years care setting. This worthwhile visit allowed our students to learn more about the early years childcare sector and how toys, activities and staff interactions are used to promote important development in the children. It also helped inform the girls about future career choices within this sector and allowed our new younger friends to learn more about them and our school.





2015 - 2016

First Aid Training For Year 13 Students



Marion Mullins from Prestige Training visited St Mary's to deliver First Aid Training to the Year 13 Childcare class and staff. Marion planned and delivered a fun packed informative session. The pupils received a wealth of knowledge on everything from how to treat cuts and burns to how to administer CPR and how to put a person into the recovery position.



Year 10 Attend NI Assembly Workshop

Year 10's attended a workshop about the work of the Northern Ireland Assembly. We were delighted to welcome four local MLAs, Dominic Bradley, Megan Fearon, Danny Kennedy and John McCallister. Pupils had the opportunity to ask the MLAs questions as well as having their very own mini election.





2015 - 2016



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Host Schools Media History Initiative

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council hosted a schools media history initiative, in partnership with The Nerve Centre, to celebrate the decade of centenaries. The event which took place in Bagenal's Castle involved digital design and digital audio workshops. The workshops were fun and interactive and explored the history of 2016 while utilising today's technology and social media resources.



St Mary's Welcome French Theatre Company

St Mary's students were delighted to welcome the French Theatre For Schools company once again. Year 9 and Year 10 pupils had the chance to see the play *Le Rendez-Vous* performed entirely by native French speaking professional actors. The emphasis was on fun and learning by doing. Eight pupils had small parts in the play, and that, with lots of general audience participation, made for a very enjoyable afternoon.





2015 - 2016

Lunchtime Recital

Congratulations to our very talented musicians who participated in our latest Lunchtime Recital. The Recital featured performances from Mr Cosgrove's Musical Ensemble and the newly formed Junior Traditional Group.

The school orchestra performed Aura Lee (Love Me Tender), Happy Talk and We Will Rock You. Abby Patterson performed Over the Rainbow and it was the first performance of our Junior Traditional Group playing The Dawning of the Day and The Britches Full of Stitches/Kerry Polka. Well done to everyone involved.



GCSE Home Economics Practicals

Our GCSE Home Economics students enjoyed another successful year of practicals, cooking mouthwatering starters, main courses and desserts.



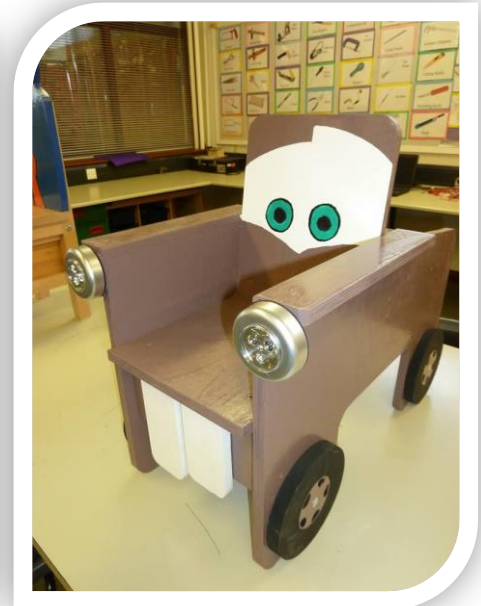


2015 - 2016



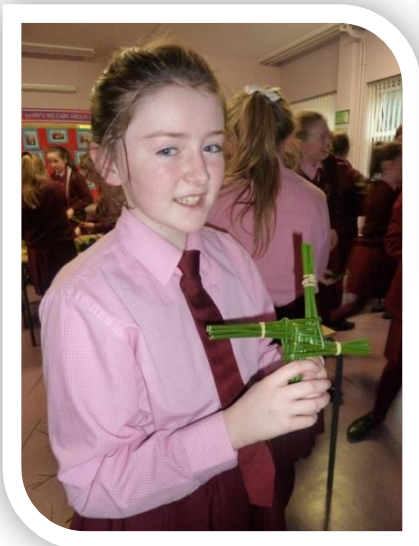
GCSE Technology

Congratulations to our GCSE Design and Technology students who have excelled in creating some wonderful designs for their GCSE projects.



Celebrating St Brigid's Day

Our Year 8 RE classes learnt about the life of St. Brigid and Mrs Woods, School Counsellor, visited RE classes to teach the girls how to make a St. Brigid's cross. Pupils and teachers had good fun learning a new skill and everyone got a cross to bring home.





2015 - 2016

Christmas Fayre



Everyone in St Mary's enjoyed a wonderful day of Christmas spirit at our Christmas Fayre. Pupils and staff dressed up in their best Christmas jumpers and fancy dress to join in on the fun and indulge in some Christmas treats. The day was a tremendous success and we were delighted that the event raised £470 for charity. Proceeds were split between Zambian Street Children and Davina's Ark.

A massive congratulations to Mrs Hughes who organised the event.





2015 - 2016



Internet Safety Week

St Mary's ICT Ambassadors delivered a successful week of internet safety tips to the whole school community and helped to raise awareness of the risks and dangers facing the modern world through social media. They offered advice to anyone suffering abuse online and tips on how to keep safe.

In February, St Mary's received a visit from Laurie McCann, Carol Todd and the PSNI to promote Safer Internet Week 2016. They met with our ICT Ambassadors to emphasise the importance of internet safety and how we can focus on preventing cyber abuse and online bullying. Laurie and Carol were guest speakers at the Internet Safety Event at Newry Leisure Centre on Friday the 12th and Saturday the 13th of February. The ambassadors also introduced our 'play your part, share a heart' campaign. Our Year 8 pupils created a heart shape and they wrote down positive messages that they would like to share with others through social media. #PlayYourPartShareAHeart.



Our ICT Ambassadors also delivered a very powerful assembly to highlight the dangers and benefits of the Internet. #SaferInternetDay2016





2015 - 2016



St Mary's Rises to the Challenge to Help Local, National and Global Charities

The Season for Giving



The annual Christmas Hamper appeal in aid of St Vincent de Paul raised £180 and 45 hampers were presented to Louis O'Donnell from the Newry SVDP society.

Cheques and hampers were presented by senior teacher Mrs Pauline Morgan and members of the Fundraising Committee - Kate Lavelle, Shauna Torley, Shannon Hilsden, Katie Matthews, Alison Murphy, Rachel Curtis and Therese McNeill.



A total of £7960.00 was raised in the first term. Cheques were presented to

African School Project	£5000
Refugee Crisis Appeal	£810
Davina's Ark	£335
Zambian Street Children	£1105
SVDP	£180





2015 - 2016

African School Project



In developing its global outreach, St Mary's High School is actively working with Fr Donall O'Cathain SMA to support the development of education in Africa. As a Rights Respecting School, St Mary's is keen to improve the life opportunities of children in developing countries by supporting quality education. Before travelling back to Africa, Fr Donall visited St Mary's to attend a special assembly where he spoke to the school community of the progress made in developing education in Africa. He praised the work of the students through their fund raising activities and curriculum links. To date, St Mary's has raised £30,000 to support Fr Donall in his school building programme.

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

This year, over 100 shoeboxes have been collected by the Blythswood care team from the staff and pupils of St Mary's. A huge well done and thanks to everyone who contributed this year. Included in the photo are some girls from 0824 who were one of the classes who responded so enthusiastically to the appeal.

The boxes could end up in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania or Serbia. The boxes were delivered to families who otherwise may have had no presents to open at Christmas. We were assured that they do go to the most needy in society and we trust they made it there safely.



Davina's Ark



A cheque was presented to Rosemary Rooney, founder of Davina's Ark, for £370. Money was raised from our Christmas fun day. Davina's Ark provides an invaluable voluntary service to our community, which we at St Mary's are committed to supporting.



2015 - 2016

Zambian Street Children Appeal

Through a range of sponsored events, cake sales and raffles, the school was delighted to present Barry Traynor with a cheque for £2500. 0824 held a cake sale to raise money for the appeal. Thanks to their hard work and the support of family and friends a magnificent sum of £500 was raised. Well done 0824 and Mrs Kearney on a tremendous effort.



Cheque Presentation to Aid Refugee Crisis



Like so many people, the pupils and staff of St Mary's were moved by the images and stories detailing the plight of refugees making their way across Europe. The school community raised an amazing £810 for this appeal. Phelim Convery from Newry Lions Club visited St Mary's to receive the generous donation, which went directly to helping those most in need.

Newry and Mourne Romanian Appeal

Pupils and staff from St Mary's presented a cheque of £700 to Mrs Ann Bradley from Newry and Mourne Romanian Appeal. For the past 17 years Ann has travelled to Romania to help some of the country's poorest families. Each year St Mary's supports a range of local and global charities as part of its outreach programme and the school is delighted to support Ann in her work.





2015 - 2016



Cheque Presentation for St Mary's Restoration Fund



Kevin Bell Repatriation Fund



St Mary's were delighted to present a cheque to Canon Francis Brown in support of the refurbishment of St Mary's Chapel. Students and staff were also eager to support the very worthy, Kevin Bell Repatriation Fund (KBRF). We presented Eithne and Colin Bell with a cheque for £1,000.



Presentation to NI Cancer Fund

Our English Department presented a cheque of £140 to Rebecca Oates, from the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children. The money was raised through a sponsored ReadOn which was organised as part of Reading Week celebrations.

PTFA Make Presentation to Students

The St Mary's Parent, Teacher and Friend's Association (PTFA) were proud to make a donation to support the students who will represent their school and parish in Poland as part of the Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to World Youth Day. The following students Zara Powell, Ellen Murphy, Mary Kernan, Louisa Dillon, Aoife Turner and Rachel Curtis will travel to Poland to join millions of others from around the world to celebrate their faith as part of the World Youth Day Pilgrimage.





2015 - 2016



Random Act of Kindness Week



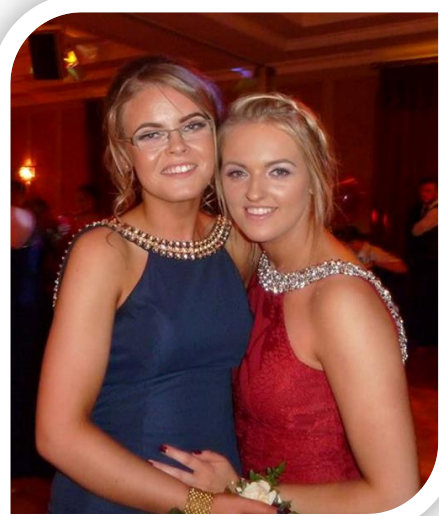
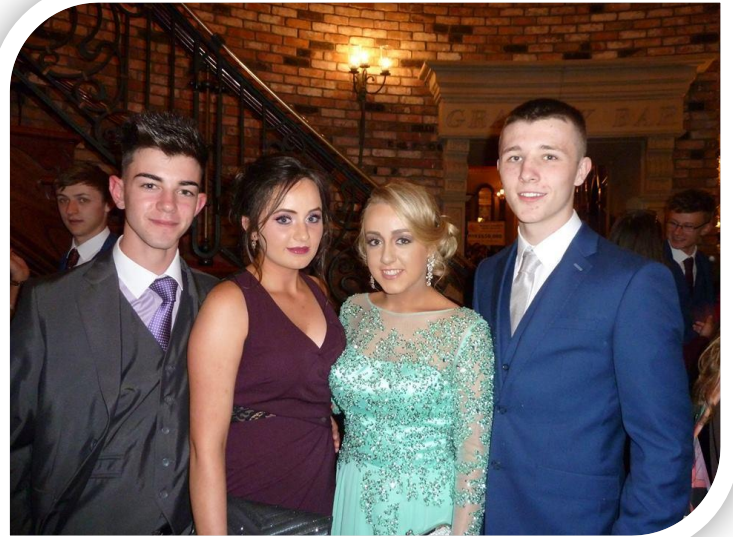
Our School Council celebrated another successful week with their Random Act of Kindness campaign in the run up to Valentine's Day. They were very busy delivering hearts and presents to the whole school community. Remember kindness is contagious, so pass it on.....





2015 - 2016

Year 14 Formal





2015 - 2016



Year 14 Leavers Mass

Students, parents, families and staff all gathered together to say an emotional farewell to our Year 14 girls. A meaningful mass was celebrated by our School Chaplain Fr Corr. We wish the girls success and every good wish for whatever path they choose to follow. Everyone in St Mary's would like to thank the girls for 7 wonderful years...



Earlier in the year, Bishop John McAreavey also celebrated Mass in St Mary's with the school leavers. He wished them success in their 'A' Level exams and in their future studies and career paths. On behalf of the students, Head Girl Paris Cregan presented Bishop McAreavey with a gift to thank him for his visit.





2015 - 2016

New Appointments in St Mary's

After a moving ceremony, where the outgoing Head Girl, Paris Cregan thanked everyone for their support, she wished the new Head Girl, Deputy Head Girls and School Council every success for 2016 – 2017. We are proud to announce that St Mary's new Head Girl is Courtney Keenan. Sara Thompson and Elsa Nasibi have been appointed as Deputy Head Girls. Cliodhna Doherty has also been appointed as Sports Captain. The remaining members of the new School Council are Ciara Scott, Amy Redmond, Sinead O'Hare, Magda Kurasiewicz, Colleen Anderson, Leah McLoughlin and Shauna Dillon. We would like to wish the girls the best of luck in their new roles and we are sure you will be fantastic representatives for our school.



We would also like to thank our Year 14's for all their hard work and commitment to their posts throughout the year.



2015 - 2016



Sporting Achievements

Intermediate Netball Team Win NI Schools Plate



St Mary's Netball Team secured a comfortable win in the Northern Ireland finals. Miss Maeve Murray, Head of PE and Intermediate Netball coach commended her team and highlighted their improvements in skill, athleticism and confidence this year. *"We knew we had a group of passionate and committed players and I am so proud to see them reach their full potential, in front of our supporters and take home a Northern Ireland title for our school."*

Mrs Margo Cosgrove, Principal congratulated the St Mary's team commenting on their dedication and thanking them for achieving such a great honour for both the school and Physical Education Department.





2015 - 2016

Year 8 Schools Blitz



St Mary's Year 8 Gaelic footballers are proving to be the up and coming sporting talent in the PE Department. The players took part in the Year 8 Schools' blitz in the sunshine on June 2nd at Wolfe Tones GAC, Derrymacash Lurgan which was organised by Ulster Ladies GAA. A delighted Miss Murray, Head of PE, praised the participants as it was the first time in recent years that the uptake for Gaelic football after school has allowed the school to field two competitive Year 8 teams. This is evidently down to the hard work this term from Maria Fox and assistance from Nicola O'Gorman. The added presence of our Year 13 Sport & Exercise Sciences' pupils at some after school sessions has undoubtedly helped motivate the younger age groups.



Ulster Rugby Trip

Year 8's had the exciting opportunity to take a tour of the newly refurbished Ravenhill stadium, home of Ulster Rugby. This event allowed the pupils to experience first-hand the impressive facilities available to elite sports professionals. The pupils were also involved in an iPad workshop which honed their creative talents producing excellent video pieces on various sports.





2015 - 2016

Interclass Netball Tournament



Well done to 0823, 0918, 1008 and 1117 who won their Interclass Netball Tournaments. Thank you to all staff and students who supported the tournaments and a special word of thanks to our outgoing and current Sports Captains Zara Powell and Clíodhna Doherty for running these events.

Fitness Freddy

The Physical Education Department hosted their annual fitness event to get pupils active and highlight the importance of lifelong physical activity. Many thanks to "Fitness" Freddy McKinstry, Energy Fitness Ltd, who led a full day of activity for Years 8 -11.





2015 - 2016

Students Showcase Artistic Talent

Our Art Department celebrated their annual exhibition by inviting pupils, parents and guests to view and appreciate the many GCSE and 'A' level Art works. The invited audience were impressed by the high standard of work and praised the talents of the students.

