

# Sharing Excellence

*“In partnership with parents, guardians, staff, governors and pupils, St Louise’s promotes effective teaching and learning within a Catholic, Vincentian, Comprehensive ethos”*



**Volume 1, Issue 2**

**January 2006**

## Orchestral Concert Hits a High Note!



Inside this Issue:	Page
Playing for the President	2
Young Enterprise	
Open Night	
Praying at Fatima	3
Road Safety	4
Rotary Club	5
Aim Higher Road Show	
Making Money—Investors	
Rainforest	6
Charity Begins at School	
PE News	
Cleaning Up the Community	7
Drama Practicals	
Marillac Christmas Party	8
More 'Drama'	9
W5 Visit	10
'Smoke Free' Competition	
Moving on with Media	11
Public Speaking Competition	13
Art News	14
Coming Events	

### Special point of interest:

#### Do you know ?

**St Louise's is one of thirteen schools (out of forty six) selected to proceed to the second stage in the process of becoming a specialist school in Performing Arts (Drama, Dance, Media).**

Our Orchestral Concert was held on Thursday 24 November 2005.

This was a very special opportunity to share excellence with our parents and visitors.

What a variety of music we heard that evening from Pachelbel's Canon, from the Orchestra, to the American folk music of the Junior Choir; from music for the theatre to the beautiful solo melodies of Elgar and Faure, from the glory of Handel's

Messiah to the foot-tapping Irish selections, and finally the wonderful memories of our last show - Fiddler on the Roof, shared with us again by the combined choirs.

The evening was a wonderful celebration of the dedication and commitment of our pupils and their teachers.

Our thanks go to the Junior Choir led by Miss Morris and Mrs Friel, the Orchestra led by Miss O'Neill and Miss Morris, the Senior Choir led by Mrs Friel and Miss O'Neill,

and the Irish Music Group led by Mrs Friel and Mr McKee.

Congratulations and well done to all those who made the Orchestral Concert such a success.

## Greetings from the Principal

Welcome to the second issue of our *Sharing Excellence* Newsletter.

You may have heard on the news that St Louise's is one of thirteen schools out of 46 which have been selected to proceed to Stage 2 to become a Specialist School in Performing Arts (Drama, Dance, Media Studies).

This means that we have been recognised as a Centre of excellence for teaching and learning. Needless to say we are working very hard to do everything possible to ensure that we are successful at Stage 2.

## St Louise's Girls play for President McAleese



A group of St Louise's music students performed for President Mary McAleese during the opening ceremony for the new Corpus Christi Services headquarters on Tuesday 25th October 2005.

Chantelle, a Year 9 pupil, sang "Castle on a Cloud" from "Les Miserables" and sixth formers Ciara (accordion), Leah and Suin (Fiddles) and Laura and Niamh (flutes) played a short set of Irish traditional tunes.

## Young Enterprise have it all wrapped up



Louise McGann and Lisa Trowlen (Year 14) sell their wares. Our Young Enterprise students have been a hive of activity in recent weeks. They have been selling and taking orders for their many hand-crafted products. Items included hand-knitted scarves, bracelets, candles, novelty boxes, cups, gift wallets and Christmas cards. Recently the students took part in a Trade Fair in Ballymena. Sales went well on the day and a nice sum of £130 was made. They also received a certificate for taking part. On the whole the students found it a rewarding experience and are already thinking of the next Trade Fair in February! Keep on the look out for unique items at a good price.

## St Louise's Open Night 2006

St Louise's Open Night will be held on Wednesday 18 January 2006. This year the theme is "Excellence Through Caring". Families with surnames beginning A-M are invited to the Principal's Address at 6.30 pm. Families with surnames beginning M-Z are invited to the second address at 7.30 pm. *All primary 7 girls and their parents and students wishing to come to St Louise's for Post-16 Courses will be most welcome to come to our Open Night which always proves to be a most informative and enjoyable evening.*

## Pilgrimage to Fatima



Twenty one Year 9 and 10 pupils went to the first school pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal. This is the site of the appearance of Our Lady to three children in 1917.

It was truly a pilgrimage and not a 'trip' as the girls participated with surprising enthusiasm in the Masses; Rosaries; Candlelight Processions; Sacrament of Reconciliation; Stations of the Cross; visits to birthplace, baptism and death of the children; visits to the apparition sites of Our Lady in Fatima and Valinhos; and to Santarem the site of a Eucharistic miracle.

The girls had the privilege of taking active parts in Masses when they did readings, prayers of the Faithful and led the singing of the hymns. They also gave out some decades of the Rosary in the Capelinha (chapel of the apparition) on three evenings to a large international group of pilgrims. They undertook all of these spiritual activities with breathtaking reverence, clarity and pace and were evidently to all, a tribute to their parents, themselves and the school.

Some of the girls undertook a very difficult penitential exercise in the Sanctuary area after imploring us all week for permission.

Their dedication to prayer intentions was moving. We were bursting with pride on every occasion that they were in the public eye and ear. This emotion was shared by all the Irish pilgrims particularly those in our hotel who repetitively commended the girls to us concerning their spiritual devotion, good manners and behaviour in the hotel, respect for school and hotel staff, and warmth and respect for the Irish adult pilgrim party in the hotel. (A very special group of girls, most of who have been coming together for Eucharistic Adoration in school at lunchtimes for several months).

We received a letter from a gentleman who was also there. He wrote: *"It was a joy to see such a young group there and the way they behaved and took part in the pilgrimage was a credit to all. The girls were always well-behaved, good mannered and pleasant and showed great respect to the older people ..."*

The girls are now determined to return to Fatima and would especially love to bring their families.

Congratulations to all the girls who took part and helped to build upon the good reputation of St Louise's as a centre of excellence — well done!



# Road Safety Road Show



A clear message to our students—Speed Kills!

On 17 November St Louise's hosted the PSNI Road Safety Road Show aimed at Year 13 students. We were joined by six other West Belfast Schools. The Road Show was specifically aimed at young and inexperienced drivers.

The experience of the Road Show was very moving and hard-hitting. The force of the message was brought home even harder by the campaign advertisements that are broadcast on television by the DOE.

Some of the lower sixth students who attended the Road Show had these comments:

*"I thought it was a very moving experience, it was very effective in getting the message across. Hopefully it will convince young people to be more responsible on the roads".*

**Stephanie—Year 13.**

*A brilliant eye-opener and a very thought provoking experience".*

**Bronagh—Year 13.**

*I thought it had a good impact on future drivers to be safe on Northern Ireland's roads".*

**Michelle—Year 13.**



The Road Show was a great success and really brought home the central message of the campaign—*"Next Time it could be You!"*

## 'On the Buses' Some good news

Translink has confirmed that from Monday 9 January 2006 the Crumlin buses will be in the school grounds at more suitable times for our girls.

The first bus will arrive at 3.35 pm and the second bus at 3.45 pm. We hope that this suits everyone better than the previous arrangements.

We are also piloting a private bus from the Lisburn area in the mornings and afternoons. If there is enough demand then we hope to make it available all the time.

We will keep you updated!

## Rotary Club Leadership Competition



Well done to six of our Head Girls who participated in the Rotary Club Leadership Competition on 8 November 2005.

Colleen O'Neill won a place in the Regional Heat on 21 November 2005.

## Aim Higher Road Show



The "Aim Higher" Roadshow visited St Louise's on Wednesday 17th November 2005. This project, sponsored by the Department for Employment and Learning, is aimed at encouraging young people to pursue courses at University by pointing out the benefits of Higher Education.

During their visit to the "Aim Higher" mobile unit, our girls were given a presentation by a full-time "Aim Higher" official.

## St Louise's Investors Lead the Way

A group of year 14 Economics students from St Louise's are leading the way in an investment challenge organised by the Belfast Telegraph.

Twenty six schools have entered this year's competition and at present St Louise's are the clear leaders.

The students were given a nominal £100,000 to invest in shares sold on the London stock market. The six budding entrepreneurs invested their money very astutely and have earned a return of over £7,000 in only three weeks.

The six students have actually outperformed the FTSE 100 and many professional fund managers, with a return on their investment equivalent to an APR of **86%**.

Anyone requiring advice on investments, pensions, mortgages or general financial matters would be well advised to seek out one of these students. We are told they charge very reasonable rates!!



Paula Flannery, Edel Doran, Joleen Gillen and Sinead Armstrong study the financial pages in an attempt to find stock with the greatest growth potential.

## A Rainforest Inside St Louise's



Caroline's Model Rainforest

Caroline Cushnan (11K) made an outstanding model of a tropical rainforest as part of her GCSE Geography Coursework on Ecosystems and sustainability.

Caroline was commended for her model and said "I made a tropical rainforest model to help me understand more about this topic in geography. I enjoyed this because it was interesting and I like art."

When asked how difficult it was to make, she said "It wasn't very hard. I cut out a large box out a large box to show the rainforest. I covered it and then I took leaves and branches from the garden. I then searched for pictures of fruit and animals on the internet. I then laminated them. I added all the labels and put it all together. It took me about a week!"

## Continuing generous spirit of St Louise's

Congratulations to our Year 8C pupils who, before Christmas, bought Gift Aid presents from Trocaire for families in Africa.

The lady in the Trocaire shop in Kings Street, commented to our teacher, Miss Mallon, "What generous, wonderful young people are in St Louise's."

Congratulations also to our pupils, caretakers and cleaners for raising £250 for the Northern Ireland Hospice in December. Ina Henry, Director, wrote "We are deeply indebted to everyone who contributed to this very generous donation ... our work is only possible because of the loyal support of people like yourselves".

## Hat-trick for Netball Team

St Louise's Intermediate Netball Team had three major wins during November.

On Monday 21 November the Intermediate Team played a league match against Strathearn Grammar School. Following a very good game St Louise's won by an incredible 33 goals to 5.

On Wednesday 23 November the team played a league match against St Genevieve's High School. An equally excellent result from our girls who won by 23 goals to 15.

Then on Monday 28 November our girls were on top form again when they played another league match against Victoria College and won hands down by 31 goals to 14.

Congratulations and well done to our Intermediate Team—we wish them continuing success.

Year 11 Team:

Helen Wilson (Captain), Natalie McGuinness, Seaneen Monaghan, Colleen Murphy, Hannah Savage and Fionnuala Lowe.

Year 12 Team:

Gina Fusco, Grainne Kennedy, Maura Denny, Jenny Drain and Laura O'Doherty.

## St Louise's 'Cleans Up' with Belfast City Council Challenge

St Louise's certainly 'cleaned up' when they took first prize in the Clean Community Challenge Initiative organised by the Belfast City Council and supported by Tesco. St Louise's was selected by the judging panel as the winners of the Clean Up Competition (in the West Belfast Category). This particular initiative is part of the Belfast City Council's anti-litter campaign called "Litter—don't drop it, stop it!" which aims to reduce litter in all areas of the city.

The Belfast City Council was very encouraged by the number of entries and by the manner in which all the groups involved in the initiative approached the cleanup challenge facing them. Indeed, the campaign was of a very high standard.

Mrs Mullan and three 6th form pupils attended a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Wallace Browne in the Lord Mayor's Parlour in Belfast City Hall on 1 December. They were presented with a certificate and will receive £1000 worth of equipment for our school.



Our prize-winning team. Also pictured are Gerarda O'Connor, Marketing and PR Executive for Tesco, Lord Mayor Councillor Wallace Browne, Heather Loudon from the Brighter Belfast Campaign, and teacher Mrs Mullan.

## Year 14 'A' Level Theatre Studies Practical Examinations



Twelve Year 14 Drama and Theatre Studies students performed their Unit 4 examination on 27 October 2005 to parents, teachers, pupils and members of the wider community.

The piece, based on the theme of Child Abuse, was intensively researched by the students with the help of the following members of the community—Mrs Anne Leitch and Mrs Joan Withers from the NSPCC and Mr Kevin McKenna a Residential Social Worker.



The Year 14 students have raised to date £215 for the NSPCC. They raised the money through their sale of the green wrist bands and badges promoting the Full Stop Campaign.

# The Marillac Christmas Party

## PHOTO GALLERY



The Marillac Christmas Hampers



The Party Begins



The Choir sing for our visitors as they arrive

The Marillac Society had a very busy Christmas season this year. A lovely party was held for the senior citizens in the Assembly Hall on 30 November and over 200 Christmas hampers and other gifts were distributed.

St Peter's/St Vincent De Paul Conference wrote *"A sincere thank you ... the donations received from the school will allow us to help families most in need"*

Fruithill Fold wrote to say *"... We would like to compliment the pupils for their graciousness and to seeing we were all well cared for. It was a lovely experience."*

Grainne Family Unit wrote to say *"Many, many thanks for the lovely hampers .. They will be much appreciated. Thank you for the trouble you went to"*.



Striking a pose under the tree



Irish Dancers entertain our visitors



Two Year 13 Marillacs take a well-earned break!

## More 'drama' from our A Level Practical students



All 31 Year 14 "A" Level Drama Students completed their Unit 4 examinations this term. Three original plays were written and performed for audiences who were most impressed by the depth of research and high quality of the work in performance.

*"Senseless"* was a play about the anti-social behaviour of joyriding. It was a hard hitting, thought provoking, moving play that reminded the audience of the harsh effects of joyriding in our community.

*"The Story of Catherine McBride"* was a Theatre in Education promenade performance piece set in Cultra Folk Museum. Travelling through the courtroom, schoolroom and house the audience, made up of Mrs Kelly's 10C English class, had to decide the fate of the young school girl accused of damaging school property in the early 1900's.

*"Talk Till It Stops"* examined the serious and dark issue of abuse. It was a poignant and heart-rending reminder that while many people suspect child abuse, they often face significant barriers in taking action against it. Alongside the NSPCC campaign the performance outlined the three forms of abuse and aimed to encourage people to have the courage to talk to someone if they suspect or know child abuse is happening. (Photos on page 7).



## Visit to W5

On Friday 9 December 2005 the Year 13 GCE Applied Business group took 17 pupils from Glenveagh Special School to W5 Interactive Science Centre at the Odyssey.

The trip was organised as part of the Project Planning Section of the 'A' Level Business Course. The girls spent a month organising the trip and arranging the workshops. They also organised a number of fundraising events to pay for the visit.

The aim of the event was to build meaningful relationships between the students of St Louise's and the students of Glenveagh. All those involved agreed that the day was a huge success.

The students behaved with great dignity throughout the day and the whole event epitomised the Vincentian ethos which is at the heart of everything which takes place in St Louise's.



Miss O'Hara, Ross and Michelle Masterson



Martina Clarke and Ryan

## Exchanging ash for cash!

St Louise's students entered the '*Just Be Smoke Free*' Competition, organised by The Ulster Cancer Foundation. The competition was open to pupils aged 14-18. The entrants had to commit themselves to not smoking any cigarettes during the month of October. The competition was open to smokers, and believe it or not, to non-smokers—how easy was that!

St Louise's won top prizes—£100 for each student to spend on herself!

Irene McDevitt (Year 12) and Caroline Scott (Year 11) both received a cheque for £100.

This is the third year in succession that girls from St Louise's have been major prize winners in this competition. Last year we had one £100 winner and two runners up—they each received £20.00 worth of vouchers and the previous year a student won the top prize.

Everyone who took part knows why not smoking pays!



Caroline Scott receives her cheque from our Principal, Mrs McCartan. She can't wait to hit the shops just in time for some Christmas retail therapy.

# Moving on with Media

## MEDIA PARTNERS

Media Studies at St Louise's College has a long history of working with agencies and festivals in the local community which also is a key requirement of our bid for specialist status. Long established partners are Cinemagic, the Film Festival for Young People, and Film Education, host of the National Film Week at venues across the UK. Cinemagic is a major promoter of film culture in Northern Ireland catering principally for young people of school-going age. They are all year providers of master classes and training offering workshops, including: *presenting to camera, casting for film and TV; animation; acting, producing and directing* which are delivered by top names from the television and film industry.

No longer is it an impossible dream to have a career on screen as past successes prove. So girls, **lōök out** for all forthcoming opportunities to get "hands on" training from the experts—[www.cinemagic.org.uk](http://www.cinemagic.org.uk) or [www.filmeducation.org.uk](http://www.filmeducation.org.uk)



## ACTING WITH KELVIN FLETCHER EMMERDALE

Congratulations to girls from Media Studies who were chosen to attend a Master Class for Acting to Camera with Kelvin Fletcher, better known as Andy from Emmerdale. Andy won Best Newcomer in his first year of joining the soap as a young teenager, over five years ago. He is now a stock, cast member involved in some of the most gripping storylines.

Suzanne Kane (Year 11) was so anxious not to miss this opportunity, she completed her Media Studies exam in the morning and then dashed off to the Odyssey to the Workshop. And it was worth it!! - Andy was "a bit hot" and now Suzanne and the girls from Year 11 Media Studies have many hot acting tips to share with their not-so-lucky classmates!!

## TRIP TO THE MOVIES: THE REAL THING

Who would have thought ten years ago that a trip to the movies would be a part of study for 'A' Level? But guess what, that's exactly what Year 14 Media Studies did as part of Film Education's *National Film Week*. On 20 October 2005 we went to the Strand Cinema in East Belfast to see *CRASH*, Certificate 15, directed by Paul Haggis.

*CRASH* released in 2004, with an all-star cast including Sandra Bullock and Matt Dillon, is about racial difference, a melting pot of cultures going about their daily lives in a busy American city. On viewing we found that it was less to do with racism and more to do with the pressure of modern life that all groups and classes share. This pressure manifested itself in *anger, violence, brutality and racism*. The film illustrated that everyone has faults and despite colour we all share similar emotions and pressures. *CRASH* was intriguing to watch as all the individual stories became intertwined with one another. It was a fantastic story-line which left us expecting the unexpected. The message was that as human beings we share more than we realise: desires, emotions and needs.

*Reported by Deirdre and Claire (Year 14) Media Studies students*



## The Media Hot Desk

On Tuesday 4 October 2005, four Year 13 Media Studies pupils were invited to attend a workshop hosted by Cinemagic in Belvoir Studios where we were able to meet and work with the well-known BBC Sports presenter, Denise Watson.

We had to introduce ourselves to one another as there were students from other cross community schools from different areas of Belfast. We were a mixed bunch but that was part of the fun. Some were quite shy, some were loud but we all worked as a team, helping each other.

During the workshop we were able to *present to camera*, like real presenters. We were placed in the middle of the stage for everyone to see but were encouraged by the praise and applause of everyone willing us on.

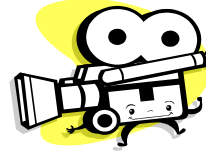
There was a prize for the best presenter so it was quite competitive. The winner would get the chance to present coverage of the Motor Rally on 16 November, on live, regional television. Kieran Rogan was the lucky winner. He had come on his own to the workshop. This showed us that you didn't need your friends or familiar faces around you to achieve your dream!

The Master Class was a great day to boost self-esteem and confidence especially for anyone looking for a job in the media.

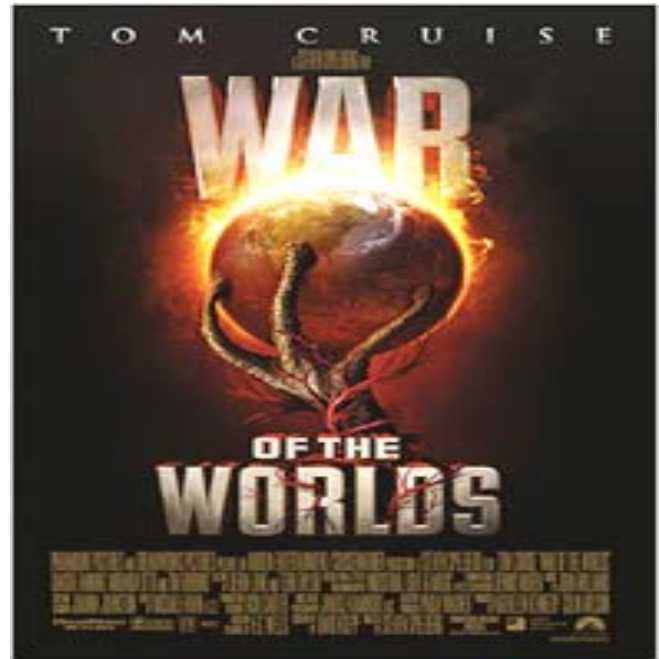
*Reporters on the day—Danielle Murray (Year 13) and Laura McIntyre (Year 13).*



Danielle Murray 'Presenting to Camera'



## War of the Worlds



Girls from Year 12 Media Studies attended *The War of the Worlds*, the latest Spielberg release to hit our screens. The venue was the Odyssey.

The genre was Science Fiction, our exam theme for 2006. The narrative is based on an attack by an alien life form. The key themes of the film focus on how we, as humans, deal with major conflict; family conflict, and the survival of mankind against an alien force. The idea of some life-threatening force is not so far-fetched as we might think. In recent years we have been struck with tsunamis, hurricanes—*Rita, Catriona and Wilma* and the forces of Al-Qaeda.

The message in the film is not to take life for granted and for the human race to work together to protect one another and our planet not just for the present generation but also for the future of mankind.

*Reporters: Christine, Aisling and Bronagh*

## Cinematic Festival

This year again, I was privileged to attend two workshops during the Cinematic Festival. Studying A Level English, Media Studies and Theatre Studies, I have my heart set on a career in the media industry, and Cinemagic continues to broaden my experience in the different aspects of this field.

The Dermott O'Leary Masterclass this year comprised mainly of university students from different part of the UK. These students shared their stories and experiences to date. For example, one girl had just finished filming a series on TV advertisements for a well-known product, while another had made it through to the final stage of auditions for Blue Peter Presenter. They offered me some very useful advice, passed on the names of agents and exchanged mobile numbers, promising to keep in touch.

I attended the Masterclass Presentation ceremony in the Odyssey to mark the close of the festival, which was hosted by John Daly. I got the opportunity to meet him. He encouraged me to pursue my ambition and I hope to gain some work experience with him later this year.

I am grateful to Cinemagic for putting me in touch with the professionals of the media industry and make me more determined than ever to follow a career in media.

**Reporter Mairead Campbell (Year 13)**

## Don't miss Coach Carter!

If you haven't already seen *COACH CARTER*, make a point of getting it out on video. It is a story of inspiration and motivation. Coach Carter (Samuel Lee Jackson) takes over a failing high school basketball team and turns it into a winning outfit. But, NOT without courting controversy, with school governors, the principal, parents and some of the students themselves.

Soon the students recognise the benefits of regular training and setting targets as well as achieving success in the more traditional subjects necessary for progressing to college. The film is an inspiration for all involved in the learning process and is relevant to Personal & Social Development, Citizenship, English and Media Studies.

**Reporter Emma Lavery (Year 12).**



## Public Speaking Competition

Congratulations to Year 14 students Maria Quinn and Laura McCloskey for their excellent presentation at the first Royal College of Psychiatrists Public Speaking Competition, which took place recently at the Odyssey Arena. St Louise's was one of only six schools in the North of Ireland to be invited to participate in the event, organised to celebrate World Mental Health Day. Maria and Laura won runners-up prizes of vouchers for HMV and certificates of merit for their contribution.



Maria and Laura are pictured receiving their awards from Nigel Williams, the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People.

## News from the Art Department Youth of Belfast Project

Youth of Belfast Project was an activity centred on ecotourism promotion of Belfast and its surroundings through the work of young people. Delivering an option of doing creative activities to young people became an aim of the project. Young people between the age of 14 and 18 years were offered an opportunity to join the competition in taking photographs, drawing pictures and writing stories about their local environment. The second aim of the project was to promote Belfast as a tourist destination. This happened through the website [www.enjoybelfast.org.uk](http://www.enjoybelfast.org.uk).

Louise McCrory's work can be seen on the website and postcards of the winning entries. Louise McCrory (Year 13) was the overall winner of this competition. Her painting of Belfast Zoo is on the website. The work of some other St Louise's girls is on the website also. The competition organiser said "St Louise's work was the highest standard in the Competition". Congratulations to Louise who received £30 of art materials.



*Among those young people who entered the competition in the category of Drawing/Painting, the winning work was 'Belfast Zoo' by Louise*



[View Youth of Belfast Project participants and their work on www.enjoybelfast.org.uk](http://www.enjoybelfast.org.uk)

## All-Ireland Art Competition

Mary Delaney (Year 11) was the overall winner in the All-Ireland Art Competition for children aged 11-15 years.

Congratulations to Mary who won a prize of 50 euros.

## COMING EVENTS 2006

### Important Diary Dates:

**Wednesday 18 January**  
Open Night

**Tuesday 31 January**  
Year 9 Parents' Night

**Tuesday 7 February**  
Year 11 Parents' Night

**16, 17 and 20 February inclusive**  
School Holiday: Mid-term Break

**Tuesday 21 February**  
Year 8 Parents' Night

**Tuesday 28 February**  
Year 10 Options Night

**Tuesday 14 March**  
Year 12 Options Night

**Thursday 16 March**  
Early dismissal in honour of the Feast of St Louise (15 March)

**Friday 17 March**  
School Holiday: St Patrick's Day

**Monday 20 March**  
Staff Training Day -  
Non-school day

**Look out for more diary dates in Issue 3**