

# 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"*

St Louise's Comprehensive College

Issue 1 October 2005



## A Word From Our New Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter in which we share with you some of the many successes and achievements of your daughters over the last few months. It is indeed inspirational to read about the different ways your daughters are not only achieving excellence but also sharing it with the community outside the school. When you read this newsletter you will appreciate why I am so proud to be the Principal of our excellent college in which dreams are coming true for your daughters.

I pledge to you my determination, and that of a dedicated, committed staff, to continue to pursue excellence for your daughters

in this wonderful, Catholic, Vincentian, Comprehensive college. In this outstanding college we have always rejected the unjust, selective system of education in Northern Ireland. I have often shared with the girls over the last two months that our shared mission is to ensure that Saint Louise's continues to be a community where justice and caring walk hand in hand. I reiterate the tremendous strength of this college in that it is one of the few schools in Northern Ireland which can offer the new curriculum required by Government. All our academic and vocational courses are taught by highly-qualified, subject specialists. Our successful examination record bears witness to the excellent quality of teaching and learning in the college.

I would urge you to spend a few minutes reading about some of our successes. Indeed I would also encourage you to visit our website at [www.stlouises.org.uk](http://www.stlouises.org.uk) where you will get more details and see beautiful images of our young people's achievements. A special word of congratulations if your daughter's name or photograph features in this term's newsletter. If your daughter is not in this issue of our newsletter she may feature in a future edition!

With every best wish,

*C. M<sup>c</sup>Cartan*

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Mrs C McCartan (Principal)

## Ukrainian Music Group Visits St Louise's



A music group made up of students and graduates from Pernopil University in Ukraine visited St Louise's on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2005 and performed a short musical programme at the year 14 assembly, consisting of Ukrainian and Irish songs.

The group, who are in the middle of a tour of Ireland aimed at raising funds to help the Redemptorists in their work with impoverished people in Ukraine, stayed for a week with the Redemptorists at Clonard Monastery.

During their stay in Belfast the group gave concerts at local churches, including St Gerard's, Antrim Road and St Bernadette's at Rosetta.

## "Women in Politics"

Two Politics students took part in "Women in Politics" Conference at Stormont where they discussed women's issues with Northern Ireland politicians.

## St Louise's Wins Action Cancer School Action Award

St Louise's has been awarded the overall secondary school prize in the Action Cancer School Action Award. This is in recognition of the work going on in the school to promote healthier lifestyles for all. The award was presented in the Kelly Studio at UTV Headquarters on 27 September 2005.

## P.E. News

At the Belfast Schools Under-16 Netball Trials held on Tuesday 20 September 2005, Helen Wilson and Seaneen Monaghan were selected for elite training. On Friday 30 September both Seaneen and Helen attended the Regional Development Netball Squad Trials and were selected. Both girls have also been selected on the Belfast Area Squad which will involve training twice weekly - congratulations to Helen and Seaneen.

On Wednesday 12 October the Junior Year 10 Team and the Minor Year 9 Netball Team played their first league match of the season against Rockport School, Craigavad. Both teams won! The Year 10 girls by 11 goals to 3 and the Year 9 Team by 7 goals to 4.

## Key Programme

Twelve lucky Year 11 pupils are involved in this year's KEY programme, completing four residential courses throughout the year and concluding with their graduation event in May 2006 in the Europa Hotel.

## Shakespeare Schools Festival at Lyric Theatre



The BBC's biggest ever off-air drama event, "One Night of Shakespeare" took place on 3 July 2005 and saw 100 theatres across Britain play host to 400 hugely successful productions of Shakespeare, featuring over 10,000 students.

Twenty two St. Louise's Year 11 G.C.S.E. Drama students performed an interpretation of "Macbeth" in the Lyric Theatre. The 30 minute performance brought to life the Shakespearean text for a 21<sup>st</sup> century audience.

## A Decade of Dance

"A Decade of Dance" was performed in Stranmillis College Theatre and celebrated 10 years of dance on the St Louise's curriculum.

The programme featured pupils past and present, including our first male Dance student. It was indeed a night where the talents of St "Louise's were on show for all to see!

## St Louise's Students Visit Auschwitz

Three 6th year students visited Auschwitz with Southwell House Project in London. They were Paula Flannery, Mairead McGuinness and Christina McGarrity. Miss O'Halloran received several impressive emails from the Project after the visit. One of them reads - *"I just thought I would let you know how brilliant your students were. They are really fantastic young women and it was a real pleasure to work with them."*

## BBC Hardspell Competition



On the 15th October 2005 Stranmillis College was the venue for the Northern Ireland Regional Heat of the BBC'S HARDSPELL competition. Representing St Louise's were Christina Cromie and Kiara Lavery from Year 9. Both girls went into a period of intensive training for the big event. Sacrificing lunchtimes, they had to learn 1,000 words selected by the BBC. Although the girls were unsuccessful in their bid to reach the next stage of the competition we should all feel proud of how they represented St Louise's on the day.

## St Louise's Girls Push The Boat Out!



**Dragon Boat Racing In The Lagan**

A group of 28 students from St Louise's took part recently in a cross-community initiative with pupils from Coleraine Academy and Lisnasharragh High School, Belfast.

The project involved Dragon Boat racing on the River Lagan. Accompanied by Ms O'Connor and Mr Brown, the girls enjoyed a successful day in which they beat the boys from the other schools in some of the races.

## Young Enterprise in the Money!

Year 14 Business Education students achieved profits of £800 which were donated to various charities - MS Society, Downs Syndrome, New Baby Unit at the Royal Hospital and two personal projects run by Mrs Stewart and Miss Magee. Students also achieved exam success at OCR Level 1.

## Past Pupil Bronagh Taggart "Lights Up" Drama Department



St Louise's past pupil Bronagh Taggart made a welcome return to her much loved St Louise's Drama department.

Bronagh left St. Louise's in 1998 where she threw herself into every drama opportunity that came her way. Leading roles in school musicals made her all the more determined to make it as a professional actress.

Currently, Bronagh is working on 'Limbo', her one-woman show. She didn't reveal too much about the dark monologue, but warned us of the twists and turns within it! The time Bronagh spent with us was helpful and entertaining, directing us in the correct career path for acting. We absorbed her useful advice and wish her continued success. I just get the impression from meeting her that someday we will see her name in lights!!

Extract from a Report  
by Mairead Campbell (Year 13)

## St Louise's Girls on the Move

Our pupils are very fortunate in the many opportunities they get to engage in field-work and visits outside the classroom. Here are some of the interesting trips during the months of September and October 2005 -

- \* Year 9: Bog Meadow Science Trip
- \* Year 10: Gael Linn Quiz
- \* Year 11: Retreats/Key Programme/Old Museum Arts Centre
- \* Year 12: History/Geography Field Trips
- \* Year 13/14: AVCE Trip to Carlingford Outdoor Activity Centre/Cultra Drama Residential/English Department Theatre Trip to Trinity College, Dublin/Business Studies Trip to the Tayto Factory/ Geography Trips to Stormont and Duncrue Landfill Site/Youth Community Schools Conference.
- \* Girls also went on assorted sports trips.
- \* School trip to Fatima.

## Views of Senior Prize Night

Senior Prize Night was held on Wednesday 28 September 2005. The Guest Speakers were Sister Catherine Prendergast, the Provincial of the Daughters of Charity in Ireland and Fiona White, a Past Pupil .



## Another Drama Success in “New Beginnings - A Coming Together of Minds”



The performance of “New Beginnings — A Coming Together of Minds” in the Lyric Theatre on 18 October 2005 was very well received by a large audience.

This joint community project comprised of adults and young children with learning disabilities and a number of our Performing Arts students. It was a celebration of the performers individual uniqueness, shared spirit and their mutual enthusiasm for simply performing.

The performance was described as “*Moving, memorable, uplifting and a wonderful chance to see inclusivity at work*”.



## Vincentian Time

Much of the pastoral programme content in Years 13 and 14 is delivered through “Vincentian Time”. This is a one-hour weekly meeting attended by all Post 16 students. At these meetings a programme of talks is delivered by invited guest speakers from external agencies. During September and October 2005 the girls have had talks from:

- ◆ The NSPCC
- ◆ Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child
- ◆ Save the Children
- ◆ Children in Cross Fire



On Wednesday 12 October 2005 Father Alex Teputepu from Malawi (pictured above) was invited to address the 6th Form. He told the girls about his parish of over 20,000 parishioners spread throughout a vast rural area where many of the people are malnourished. The girls responded immediately by taking up a collection at the door which raised £190. Father Alex was very impressed with the girls who have pledged their intention to raise more money in the near future through a variety of fund-raising methods.

## “Future Calling”

CragRats Educational Theatre Company, commissioned by the Department of Employment and Learning, visited St Louise's on Friday 14 October and presented “Future Calling” - a dramatization of Post-16 Options for all Year 12 pupils.

## Mencap Sponsored Spellathon

Three Year 11 pupils—Maria Barr, Danielle Ward and Nicole Jenkins, were recently interviewed by the Irish News about the Spellathon.

St Louise's had undertaken to raise money for Mencap. Catherine Cox of Mencap said *“I would like to comment on the pleasant manners and presentation of the pupils.”* Well done girls!

## Clean Community Challenge

On Tuesday 25 October 2005 girls from St Louise's Junior Greenpeace Society took part in Belfast City Council's Clean Community Challenge by picking up litter in the street nearest to, and including, the school's back gate.

## “Blood Brothers”

Year 12 Drama GCSE students participated in a MYT:UK workshop on their set text “Blood Brothers” on Thursday 13 October. The course leaders were most impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of our students.

## Middle School Prize Giving

Middle School Prize Giving took place on Thursday 13 October 2005. The Guest Speaker was the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland Nuala O'Loan. The two guest past pupils speakers were Dr Imelda Haran (nee Wilson) who is a Transport Lecturer in the University of Ulster and Ms Alison O'Brien who is a Sub-Editor with the Irish News.

Following the Prize Giving Mrs O'Loan wrote a letter to Mrs McCartan. She said *“I would like to congratulate you on all the work that is being done and the tremendous atmosphere which is obvious as one moves around the school.”*

## COMING EVENTS

**Wednesday 9 November 2005:** Visit of 15 First Year Business Education and Technology students to St Louise's.

**Tuesday 15 November:** Mass for Year 8 Parents and Parents' Meeting.

**Thursday 17 November 2005:** Road Safety Road Show Presentation for Year 13 pupils and West Belfast Schools.

**Thursday 17 and Friday 18 November 2005:** Visit of Aim Higher Road Show for Year 10 pupils.

**Thursday 24 November 2005:** St Louise's Orchestral Concert.

**Wednesday 30 November 2005**  
Marillac Party for the Elderly.

**Monday 5 December 2005:** Christmas exams begin.

## Other Successes in Brief

Aisling Kelly, Year 12 and Seanna Davidson, Year 10: Special Merit Award in the Texaco Children's Art Competition which attracted 35,000 entries.

\* \* \*

Emma Power, Year 14 - Direct Entry to Art College (University of Ulster - no foundation course necessary).

\* \* \*

Clare Manson, Year 11 - was chosen to appear in 'Les Miserables' as part of a Youth Company Theatre - 'Fusion Theatre', at the Waterford Festival of Light Opera on 20, 21 and 22 September.

\* \* \*

Vickey Duffy, 11H - who is an aspiring pop singer, has been on radio, has made a CD and had her first 'gig' on Friday 7 October 2005.

\* \* \*

Two St Louise's 6th form students - Maria Quinn and Laura McCluskey, were invited by the Royal College of Psychiatrists to participate in a public speaking event to mark World Mental Health Day.

\* \* \*

Mr Lonergan, Director of the RSPB (N.I.), wrote to commend the performance of two of our pupils - Orla Vallely (14F) and Laura McCloskey (14D) - at a recent RSPB event at Stormont. Mr Lonergan described the girls as *"great ambassadors for your school"*.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to the 319 girls in Year 11 who obtained at least a Level 6 in the Summer 2005 CCEA Key Stage 3 ICT Accreditation Scheme. This is the highest total achieved by St Louise's in this scheme since its inception in 1998.

## Batik Presented to St Louise's by Daughters of Charity



The St Louise's school community was recently presented with a beautiful batik by the Daughters of Charity.

The batik, entitled "Opening Doors - Saint Louise de Marillac" is the work of the foremost batik artist in Ireland, Bernadette Madden. Two of her pieces have been presented from the people of Ireland to Pope John Paul before his death and Pope Benedict the 16th.

Perhaps, parents, on your next visit to St Louise's you will be able to see our beautiful new batik in all its glory.

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

School finishes for Hallowe'en on Friday 28th October and all pupils return to school on Tuesday 8th November.

**Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!**