**Jack B. Yeats: Painting & Memory Schools Competition through the National Gallery of Ireland**

To celebrate the exhibition Jack B. Yeats: Painting & Memory, the National Gallery of Ireland announced an art competition for primary and post-primary schools on the island of Ireland back in October 2021. The Gallery provided schools the opportunity to engage more deeply with the themes of place and memory in Yeats’ work, with a unique competition celebrating the diverse communities of Ireland.

The aim of the project was to produce a piece of art work as a team. The artwork was to be inspired by the memories of people in our local area. In St Louise’s we are fortunate to have the Bog Meadows, an urban nature reserve attached to our school. This provides us with a great space for drawing and painting outside, experiencing nature and creating great memories.

In St Louise’s our GCSE after school club is made up of year 11 and year 12 students. 12 students from the two year groups completed the large jigsaw piece that was designed to represent a patchwork quilt of our beautiful landscape. Each girl took one piece of the jigsaw completing a landscape of their choice from our local area. We called our piece, “Local Beauty”.

The National Gallery of Ireland has always been my favourite gallery as an artist and a fantastic resource for my teaching. Each school participating in the competition took part in a webinar exploring paintings from the exhibition Jack B. Yeats: Painting & Memory and a resource pack to support a class-based investigation and creative response to the theme ‘Memories of our Local Area’.

St Louise’s has won first prize in the post primary section receiving an exciting prize package worth €1000.

Our prize includes:

• A voucher for transport costs to visit the Gallery in Dublin

• An artist-led workshop in the gallery

• Art materials.

• Framed reproduction of a work by Jack B. Yeats to hang in your classroom.