

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS



2010 - 2011

ROLE OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors has a statutory obligation to provide an annual report to parents on the implementation of college policies, the college curriculum and the management of the college in the year previous to the report's publication. Parents of all registered pupils in the college and all persons employed by the college are entitled to a copy of this report.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2010 – 2011

Mrs Gay Durkan	Chairperson (WELB)
Mr Enda Rainey	Vice-Chairperson (Trustee Representative)
Mr James Doherty	Trustee Representative
Mr Jim McCallion	Trustee Representative
Rev Stephen McLaughlin	Trustee Representative
Mrs Deirdre Hamill	WELB
Mr Sean Ferguson	DE Representative
Mr Michael Grant	Elected Parent
Mr Gavin Molloy	Elected Teacher

The principal, Mrs Marie Lindsay, is a non-voting member and secretary to the Board.

The term of office of all representatives ends in October 2011.

End of Year Financial Statement - 2010 - 2011

INCOME

Balance b/f from 2009-2010	£41,233
Budget Share	£3,655,911
Contingency	£17,168
Funding correction	-£200
DE Initiatives	£0
Collaboration Between Schools	£76,023
Extended Schools	£34,290
Revised Curriculum	£3,420
Other Funding	£0
Music Fees	£0
Other Funding	£6,691

TOTAL BUDGET

£3,834,536

EXPENDITURE

Teaching Staff	£2,837,082
Auxiliary Staff	£331,001
Ancillary Staff	£33,753
Training Expenses	£436
Fuel Oil	£9,144
Electricity	£51,896
Water	£8,553
Gas	£1,815
Natural Gas	£14,069
Toilet Requisition	£1,095
Contribution for Eye Tests	£217
Wheelie Bin Charge	£1,144
Maintenance of Building	£1,067
Maintenance of Grounds	£2,463
Furniture/Fittings	£687
Equipment, Books & Materials	£58,800
Computer Equipment	£0
Equipment under £3,000	-£491
Exam Fees	£68,921
Food	£15,662
Protective Clothing	-£124
Hire of Equipment	£1,002
Licence Fees	£5,489
Hire of Facilities	£3,625
Professional Fees	£17,421
Link Courses	£27,587
Maintenance of Equipment	£2,644
Contractual Cleaning	£106,477
Travel & Subsistence Expenses	£14,059
EOTAS	£5,502
Hire of Transport	£33,177
Advertising	£10,408
Printing & Stationery	£20,897
Photocopying	£6,179
Publications	£1,735
Postage	£7,941

Telephones	£13,613	
Music Services	£7,859	
Sundry Expenses	£1,298	
Conferences Expenses	-£59	
HQ Admin Charges	£151	
PPP Unitary Contribution	£26,955	
Income	-£1,770	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£3,749,380
BALANCE REMAINING (Includes Extended Schools Funds)		£85,156
BALANCE AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET		2.22%

No member of the Board of Governors receive any remuneration

Annual Report

We will look back on 2010-2011 with mixed feelings. In June we said goodbye to our beloved Creggan where for 50 years St Mary's had been at the heart of the Creggan community. In September we moved to our stunning new state of the art school at Northland Road which was officially opened on the 7th October by the Minister for Education Mrs Caitriona Ruane and the Bishop, Most Rev, Seamus Hegarty. 3 generations of St Mary's pupils, Mrs Connie Hegarty (nee Cooper) a new pupil in 1959 at Fanad Drive and her grand-daughter Hannah Lynch a new pupil in 2010 at Northland Road and Hannah's mother Mrs Danielle Lynch who also attended St Mary's College cut the tape to officially open the new school. In addition we were joined by Past staff and friends of St Mary's and a number of special guests including the Mayor Colum Eastwood, Bishop Edward Daly, Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, Mr Donal Flanagan Chief Executive CCMS, Mr Barry Mulholland, Chief Executive WELB, Rev David Latimer Former Principals Sr Assumpta and Dame Geraldine Keegan, Mr and Mrs John Hume, the First Head Girl (1959) Dolores Barr and our current Head Girl (2010) Rebecca White.

The year also saw us say a very sad farewell to some staff and former colleagues. We were all stunned by the sudden death of Ms Colette Mc Laughlin a lunchtime supervisor and cleaner on Boxing Day. Mrs Annie Morgan, former secretary of St Mary's College, died in June after a short illness. Her death was all the more poignant when, at the beginning of July Mrs Rosina Carrigan also died suddenly. Mrs Carrigan was a former Head of Art in St Mary's College and sister of former Principal Sr Aloysius Mc Veigh (RIP) and former Art teacher Sr Perpetua McVeigh. Both Mrs Morgan and Mrs Carrigan were great friends of St Mary's and were present for the 50th anniversary celebrations and the official opening of our new school. A former Head Girl Laura McLaughlin died at the very young age of 27 after an illness very bravely borne. We extend our prayers and sympathy to all their family and friends.

Snow and school closures

Due to the very severe weather conditions the school was closed for two and a half days in early December when temperatures as low as -18 degrees were recorded in parts of the north. We would like to thank parents and pupils for their co-operation and understanding in these very difficult circumstances

Highlights of the Year

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the handing over of the keys to our fabulous new state of the art school on September 3rd 2010. The official handover of Phase 11 took place on April 4th. They include a 3G pitch, 5 hard courts, a full size Gaelic pitch, car parking and social spaces. Codie Weir, All Ireland Boxing Champion (under 48kg) and Brannagh Barford, All Ireland Schools' judo Champion cut the tape.

Awards and Digital technologies and Innovative Teaching and Learning

We received the Inclusion Quality Mark in July and we have been officially recognised as a Fair Trade School. We received the BECTA ICT Mark of Excellence and we were one of only three schools on the island of Ireland recognised as a Microsoft Pathfinder School, along with Ashfield Girls in Belfast and Blackrock College in Dublin.

The principal Mrs Marie Lindsay and Mrs Katrina Kealey attended a week long Microsoft Innovative Teachers Forum in Capetown South Africa in October as part of the Pathfinder Programme. Mrs T Mc Vey and Mrs Y Connolly were both runners up in the Microsoft Innovative Teachers Award 2011. This year also saw The Nerve Centre produce our first ever digital prospectus which has been a huge success

The Launch of the Foyle Cloud took place in June. We, along with St Columb's College and Lisneal College are involved in this virtual learning pilot funded by Ilex.

Mrs Mc Morrow V.P. hosted a video conferencing link up with a class in Mississippi that looked at how the Civil rights campaign in the North compared to the Civil Rights campaign in the United States. Mr John and Mrs Pat Hume were special guests and Mr Hume addressed both groups of pupils on Civil rights and answered some questions

At 3rd Annual Learning Conference in March saw us welcome a large number of guests from the North West, Ireland and the UK. The Northern Ireland Microsoft Innovative Teacher Ms Mary Roulston from Ballyclare High School and Mr Barry Corrigan Runner up in the World Microsoft Innovative Teacher showcased their innovative classroom strategies. A number of our own staff hosted workshops - Mrs A Blanking, Mrs N Doherty, Mrs T McVey and Mr E Moore. We also showcased St John's Primary School and their Musical Pathways programme.

Mrs Mc Morrow V.P. and Mrs D Mc Donald visited a number of schools in Finland to look at the teaching of Literacy and Numeracy

STEM Success

Two of the 4 projects that qualified for the BT Young Scientist Competition Dublin were highly commended. Cara Molloy, Megan McClean and Adele Cullen who investigated the permeability of rubber gloves have been invited to Trinity College, as 'Science Gallery Ambassadors'

We picked up 6 trophies and 2 Teacher's awards at the SciFest Letterkenny in May. Saoirse Nash won both the Intermediate Physical Sciences Award & Year of Chemistry Trophy.

Danielle McGlinchey and Maria McHugh won the Senior Physical Sciences Award and were runners-up in the Discover Sensors category. Lavina Blanking was runner-up in the Junior Physical Sciences category. Aimee McDaid, Rebecca Roockley and Caoimhe McPhilemy were winners of the Discover Sensors Award.

Mrs Blanking won two awards; Winner and Runner-up of the Discover Sensors Teacher Award.

Mrs Blanking's Science pupils had more success in June when they won 6 awards at The Young Innovators competition in W5. Saoirse Nash was crowned Northern Ireland Young Scientist of the Year 2011. 3 projects were selected for the Big Bang Science Competition in Birmingham. In addition to all this we won first and runner up prizes in the Intermediate category.

All Year 9 pupils took part in a joint Geography/Science educational visit to the Lough's Agency. They all got an angling licence and went fishing on the Foyle.

Two pupils Emma Smith and Megan McDermott were selected by Sentinus for the week long Insight into Engineering placements and attended E&I Engineering, Queens and UU Jordanstown

In October St Mary's hosted the launch of "Into the Future" a short film commissioned by the Chamber of Commerce to provide insight into the exciting range of STEM careers available in Derry. It focuses on six innovative and successful local companies - 360 Production, E&I Engineering, Singularity, Nuprint, Rural Generation and Darkwater Studios. The DVD will hopefully inspire some students to become the business innovators of tomorrow.

A very high profile STEM CEIAG conference was held in the school in Feb. The Conference was one of 3 interboard conferences focusing on developing pathways and careers in STEM. Phillip O'Doherty (Managing Director, E & I Engineering) spoke on *Into the Future* and Gerry Kindlon (Executive Director, Seagate Technology) spoke on '*What is Engineering*'.

Patrice Williams, a former pupil, currently studying Nursing at UU was awarded a £1,000 scholarship by the Step-Up Scholarship Awards Committee.

Other Notable Successes

Rebecca Mc Laughlin (Lower 6th) came second in the 400m at the Ulster School's Athletics Championships and qualified for the Irish School's Athletics Championships.

We had a number of pupils nominated for awards at the Derry Credit Union Awards ceremony. Caitlin Doherty, Erin Doherty and the Bits and Bob team were all finalists and Sheryl Clabby and Carla Mc Devitt were overall winners!

The Maths department went through a one day inspection in February. The Department was praised for its planning, teaching and learning, use of ICT, relationships in the classroom and pupil engagement. Dr Todd was very also complimentary about the girls and the academic nature of the school which he said was very palpable.

Charities

We have supported a number of charities this year including Trocaire, St Vincent De Paul, Age Ni and Children in Crossfire. We also have been fundraising for 'A School for Africa'. Over 120 staff and pupils took part in the Foyle Hospice Run/Walk despite atrocious weather conditions.

A hugely successful St Mary's Got Talent was held in April with about 800 in attendance. All the finalists deserve great credit. The amount raised for charity was £2202.50.

Examination Performance

In 2010/2011, 88% of our year 12 pupils achieved 5+ A* - C grades at GCSE. This outstanding performance ranked us a very impressive 6th in the Irish News School League tables for all ability schools in Northern Ireland. One of our pupils, Una

Quinn, achieved the 2nd highest mark in N.I in GCSE Applied Art and Jane Casey achieved maximum marks in her GCSE Art. These are superb achievements. At GCSE level pupils achieved 100% pass rates at grades A* - C in Art, Health and Social Care, Music, Spanish and Technology. At A2 pupils achieved 100% pass rate at grades A- C in History and 10 of our A2 subjects achieved a pass rate of 100% at grades A-E. All in all, in terms of examinations, it was our most successful year ever in St. Mary's.

Farewell and Congratulations

We welcome the following staff;

Ms E Donaghey-Librarian; Mrs T Mc Connell-Home Ec.Technician, Mr J McGill English teacher, Ms V Bruce PE teacher and Mr M Fryer Maths Teacher.

During the year we said goodbye to Mr A Barrett (AV technician) and Mr D. Duffield (IT Technician). Ms V Bruce our new PE teacher got a teaching post closer to home and in February Mr P McGratten Maths Teacher retired after 11 years service

In June We bid a very sad farewell to the following staff

Ms G Mc Comish - English, Designated Teacher	17 years service
Mrs M Kelly - Head of Business Studies	17 years service
Mrs P Crosbie - Maths, Learning Support Co-ordinator	20 years service
Mrs M R Ward - Home Ec, Irish, LLW, Head of Year	36 years service
Mrs Aileen Mc Daid - Head of Art, and Head of Year	37 in total
Miss Moira Curren - Head of Careers and RE teacher	38 in total

Mrs Michelle Gallagher an ICT Teacher on a Career break has also resigned her post. We thank them all for their years of dedication and commitment to the pupils of St Mary's and we wish them health and happiness in the future.

Prizegiving

This year's prize giving was a real opportunity to celebrate our best ever GCSE results with 88% of our pupils achieving five or more A*/C grades. It was our first prize giving in our new school and we were very proud to show what a wonderful new school we have. Our school orchestra opened the ceremony by performing two pieces and our Award winning choir performed two songs which set the tone for the evening. With over 650 people in attendance we welcomed our special guest Mr Albert Reynolds (Former Taoiseach). Mr Reynolds was received very well by both pupils, staff, parents and other invited guests. The evening was a great success and some of the prize winners achieved among the highest marks in their subjects in N Ireland. Megan Meenan was awarded top A level student having achieved three grade A's in History, Applied Health and Social Care and ICT. Una Quinn and Seanan Mc Kinney shared the award for top GCSE students. After the event refreshments were served in our very own Blue Belles restaurant. Mr Reynolds and other invited guests mingled with the pupils and parents and there were many great photo opportunities.

Pupils Health and Wellbeing

It has been a busy year for promoting healthy lifestyle. Occupying a new school building has allowed us all to think about the energy we consume and how we can be more environmentally friendly. An environmental group has been established in an effort to promote us as a 'green' school. We have also been recognised as a Fair Trade School, we celebrated the event by hosting a Fair Trade Conference, and local businesses displayed their products and demonstrated their commitment to Fair Trade. We are recognised as a GOLD standard in the health Promoting School Award. We have created a healthy eating leaflet providing information to pupils and parents about the importance of opting for healthy food choices. We ask parents to support us in our efforts to ensure that pupils eat a healthy snack at break time and include healthy food in their lunch boxes.

Staff Training and Development

Financial considerations in 2010-2011 meant that by necessity some staff development had to be postponed. However, despite this, staff were able to access a number of whole school training programmes. The first cohort of teaching and support staff accessed the '*Safe Talk*' programme. Further training in this area will take place in 2011-2012. Whole school training on Autism, Inclusion and Diversity and the Whiteboard took place in terms 2 and 3. Staff became familiar with the *CEFR- Common European Framework*. This programme allows teacher assessment of how well 'newcomer' pupils access the curriculum. Departmental training in this area allowed a number of departments to meet with the Inclusion and Diversity service link teacher in term 2. Two more departments are scheduled to meet this term. Staff had the opportunity to access Whiteboard training on 3 occasions during the year. The first part of training on Autism took place in term 2. Further training is scheduled for August 2011.

Departmental training for a number of departments was provided in term 2 and term 3. Training in the use of machinery proved invaluable for the Technology department. First Aid training was provided for those who needed to renew their certificate. 14 staff will be trained in First Aid at Work during the week beginning 20 June.

Parents' Information

- Ongoing and updated information for parents on all aspects of college life is available online on the school website www.stmarysderry.com. This contains staffing and pupil information, admissions criteria, complaints procedures and a wide range of policy documents on areas such as curriculum and pastoral provision, discipline, child protection, drugs awareness and sex education. Newsletters and policy documents are also available in hard copy to parents on request to the school office and the School Development Plan is available for inspection by parents in the school.
- Parent Information Evenings were held for Years 8 and 12 and afforded parents an opportunity to gain information on a wide range of issues including careers advice, subject choices, sex education programme, child protection, special

educational provision, study skills, drugs awareness and preparation for university.

Specialist Science Programme

In the fifth and final year of the Science Specialism the science department enjoyed more pupil success in examinations and in lots of extra-curricular activities.

In September all Year 8 pupils attended the 'A case of Identity' Murder Mystery where they had to follow forensic clues to solve a murder case!

In November St. Mary's hosted the Seagate Real World Science Conference during which over 300 pupils from schools across the North-West attended a series of science workshops in the school. The event proved to be a huge success. Also in November we hosted an Institute of Physics Workshop on the use of the Van de Graaff Generator. Again all staff from local schools enjoyed the event and the feedback was very positive.

In late November Year 9 pupils attended the Step-Up engagement lecture 'Alien Lights in the Sky' and enjoyed it hugely.

Also in January the STEM bus made the first of its four visits to the school for a Year 8 workshop on Forensic Science.

In February all Year 13 and 14 Science students were registered as official STEM ambassadors by Sentinus for their work in assisting with various science events in the school including the Seagate Real World Science Conference.

In May 2011 2 pupils from St. Mary's College won the 6 categories at the Letterkenny Scifest winning ahead of over 150 other projects from schools across the North-West of Ireland.

On the 27th May St. Mary's co-hosted the North-West Schools festival of Science at the Magee Campus of the University of Ulster in which over 200 pupils from over 15 schools from across the North-West showcased their science project work.

In June St. Mary's hosted the Young Enterprise BT Master class for all Year 8 pupils to encourage participation in Science project work with a view to further participation in the Young Scientist competition in Dublin. On the same day St. Mary's Science Department also hosted a conference for local Heads of Science to encourage local schools to increase participation in the Young Scientist and to share project ideas. This conference was organised in conjunction with Young Enterprise.

Also in the third term pupils from 1st Year and 2nd Year attended the 'Science 2 Life' Shows in the school and enjoyed the experience thoroughly.

Finally on the 14th June over 40 St. Mary's College pupils from Year 8 right up to Year 12 travelled to Belfast to participate in the SENTINUS N. Ireland Young Scientist competition.

St. Mary's pupils won six awards overall including best project and runner up in the Intermediate age category. The highlight however was undoubtedly **Saoirse Nash**

from year 11 who was announced as the **2011 Young Scientist of the year**. We are very proud of the achievements of the girls, many of whom will now represent N. Ireland at the Big Bang in Birmingham next year.

This year our partner primary school pupils enjoyed a series of science workshops including 'Funtastic Science', 'CSI Science' and many others. Over 1000 Primary school pupils attended. As well as this many pupils from Ballougry PS, Ebrington PS and Holy Child Ps worked on projects for the NW Science festival at St. Mary's during April and May.

With the Science Specialism now at an end, we are striving to continue the success we have enjoyed over the past number of years, both in external science examinations and in the wide range of extra-curricular science activities open to our pupils.

The School's Links with the Community

During 2010-2011 the school continued to develop these already strong parental/community links;

- PFTA
- Saturday School
- Microsoft Academy computer course for parents and the community
- 'Bring Your Parent to School' Day for Year 8 pupils
- Involvement with invigilating examinations
- Hire of Facilities (Multi-Purpose Hall, Gym, Playing Fields, Tennis Courts)
- Open Day for New School
- Invitations to school celebrations including St Mary's Got Talent

Community links

- Involvement with NSPCC
- Savings Club using Derry Credit Union
- Involvement with Richmond Chambers Career Service
- Involvement of Industry in vocational courses
- Involvement of industry in the Young Enterprise Scheme
- "Back to School" day for the local business community
- Involvement with School Employer Connections in Careers Education
- Shared Education Programme
- University of Ulster Step-up
- PSNI – Supporting Citizenship Education
- Derry City Council

Other Educational Organisations who work in partnership with us

- CCMS
- Western Education & Library Board
- Department of Education
- The Laurel Centre
- Feeder primary schools and local post primary schools
- Links with colleges of Further & Higher Education, eg NWRC, and UU.
- Activities with Oakgrove, Lisneal College, Foyle & Londonderry College and primary schools

- Links with several schools in sporting activities.
- Foyle Learning Community – 15 schools working in partnership.

Primary/Secondary Links

Pupils from a range of local Primary Schools attended Saturday School on a regular basis. They enjoyed participation in a wide number of activities including Art, Horse-riding, Hairdressing, Golf, Cookery, PE and ICT training.

Primary pupils also took part in Story writing, Singing and Cookery classes.

We had huge interest from pupil's city wide hoping to gain a place in St Mary's College and were oversubscribed with a number of pupil's disappointed

Clubs & Societies

A wide range of clubs and societies are available to pupils during the course of every week. Clubs take place at lunch time, after school and on Saturday. The homework club and Saturday school are a regular feature in the school. Pupils were also able to access 3 Study skills nights during April. Music and PE clubs are in abundance and pupils regularly take part in competitions.

Revision clubs in a number of subjects take place weekly – Maths, Health and Social Care, Art, Science and Drama to name but a few. Science is central to the life of the school and clubs are in operation on a regular basis. The School Council and the Unity Team meet once a week and their work contribute greatly to the on-going development of the school. The St Vincent de Paul Conference meet regularly and during the course of the year this group raised substantial sums for charity. The 'Destined' team work with young adults with special needs and their commitment is due to continue throughout the summer. Increased numbers of pupils access the Credit Union Savings club on a Thursday. A small group of pupil take part in a Knitting club!

The Young Enterprise company 'Bits and Bobs' was run. They received a prize for 'Runner Up Best Company' in the Foyleside Trade Fair. They also received the 'Entrepreneurship Award' for best product at the Trade Fair.

Bits and Bobs were Runners Up in the Derry Credit Union Awards Entrepreneurship Category and Georgina Breslin (Managing Director of the company) was a Finalist in the Derry Credit Union Awards under the leadership Category.

Arrangements for the Security of Staff and Pupils

- Security cameras have been installed externally at all entrances/exits.
- An emergency evacuation drill was conducted in the first term.
- The college employed the services of an NSPCC Counsellor 1 day per week to provide independent counselling for students.

- All teachers are involved in supervisory duties on corridors and stairs.
- Visitors to the school are required to report to reception, to sign in and wear a visitor's badge.
- The main building is serviced by a 24 hour security system (operating in and out of school hours).

Sharing Education

St. Mary's College has been involved in the Sharing Education Programme for 4 years. The S.E.P. encourages schools to form cross community, curricular partnerships thus creating enhanced educational and personal development opportunities for everyone involved. The programme is funded by the International Fund for Ireland and Atlantic Philanthropies and is being managed by Queen's University, Belfast.

St. Mary's SEP programme involves different strands.

- i) Shared science classes for pupils from three local primary schools, Ebrington, Ballougry and Holy Child Primary Schools. The three primary schools are feeder schools for St Mary's and Lisneal Colleges. The classes are facilitated by science teachers from St. Mary's and took place on Tuesday mornings.
- ii) Strand 2 involved shared citizenship classes with Lisneal College. A year 8 class from St. Mary's and Lisneal Colleges were timetabled together once a week to study the compulsory Learning For Life and Work element of the Revised Curriculum. This joint timetabling will continue until the end of the pupils' year 10. This shared learning has provided pupils with the opportunity to discuss issues of citizenship and identity.

We had, in partnership with Lisneal and St Cecilia's Colleges, bid for Contested Space funding based on the work joint LLW programme that has been carried out between St Mary's and Lisneal College over the last 4 years through the Shared Education Programme. This LLW programme was featured in a 6 page article in the TES magazine in July 2011.

Citizenship

- Unity Team lead an assembly on the topic of Cyber Bullying. They have produced anti Cyber Bullying book marks and distributed them to first years during class form time.
- New members of the Unity Team have received further training from ICORE to enable them to deal with conflict and to promote understanding of the issues surrounding racism, sectarianism and bullying. They have co hosted the annual conference in the millennium forum
- Year 10 pupils have attended a leadership training course organised by Common Purpose.
- A22 have commenced work on a shared education programme with Lisneal College. The LLW programme is delivered jointly.

- A Year 10 class have taken part in “In your face project organised by Derry City Council.
- Year 10 pupils hope to visit the guildhall on a fact finding mission regarding the work carried out by the council. (Do you get the guildhall?) They will be given an opportunity to discuss issues with an elected councillor.
- A41 are working in collaboration with Foyle View School examining various cultures. We have visitors from various country including USA, India, Poland and Africa. Our visitors have given us a flavour of their food, dress, music and culture. The pupils are actively involved in the workshops.
- We are in the planning stages of become a Rights Respecting School.

Extended Schools and Star Programme

Pupils, parents and members of the community have benefited from the various activities organised from the Extended School programmes.

School begins at 8.00am for many pupils as they enjoyed a healthy nutritious breakfast at the Sunrise Club and also had the opportunity to attend the morning club to “catch up” on any outstanding work. Pupils from all years benefited from attending the supervised Homework Club’s were they were able to complete their work in a relaxed atmosphere conducive to learning and had the opportunity to avail of state of the art ICT equipment. Saturday school continued to attract over one hundred pupils every week. Twelve activities were offered including Horse Riding, Golf, Cookery, Art, ICT and Mathematics.

Over 20 mothers and daughters took part in a Healthy Eating Cookery programme over a six week period. Mums and daughters were guided in the principles of Healthy Eating and spent quality time together preparing and making delicious food together.

After school activities also included Cheerleading, Body Combat, Cookery, Hip Hop and Football. 25 members of the local community graduated from the Microsoft Academy.

In June, pupils from Lisneal College and St Mary’s College took part in a week long summer school based in Magee College. It was a tremendous success and 160 pupils graduated in a ceremony in the University attended by the provost and University staff members.

Religious and Spiritual Life in the College

Religious Education/Liturgies

Fr Stephen McLaughlin, School Chaplain, celebrated the first ever Mass in the new school on Wednesday 1st September 2010 for all staff in the new Multi-Purpose Hall. The first whole school Mass took place in the Hall on Wednesday 16th September. Both Masses were filled with symbolism of ‘New Beginnings’ as well as thanksgiving for all that went before.

The Official Opening of the New School took Place on Thursday 7th October, the Feast of the Holy Rosary. Bishop Seamus Hegarty led the congregation in prayer before Blessing the school. It was a wonderful occasion for the whole school community.

In early September Year 12 attended the LIFE Conference in the Millennium Forum.

On Friday 15th October Year 9 spent a day in the IOSAS centre, Co Donegal visiting the Prayer Garden and studying Celtic Saints.

Mass was celebrated in the Oratory two mornings per week during the season of Lent. There was an impressive number of staff and pupils in attendance each morning.

Many commented that it was a wonderful way to begin each day.

Also during Lent each year group had the opportunity of receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A team of priests from neighbouring parishes came along each week to assist with the Penitential Services. The School is deeply indebted to Fr McLaughlin and the visiting priests for their commitment to our Liturgy programme.

Year 10 and Year 14 attended a Lenten workshop in Columba House.

On Monday 7th March, the following girls from Year 14 received their Pope John Paul 11 Award for their work and commitment to both their parish and their local community; Carla Crossan – Silver, Lisa Harrigan – Silver, Stephanie Knox – Silver, Clare McCallion, Silver, Dervla O’Connell, Bronze, Emma O’Neill, Silver. The girls received their award from Cardinal Theodore E McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington at a ceremony in the Millennium Forum.

The Year 12 and 14 Leavers’ Masses were held on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th May. Both Masses were very well attended by family and friends.

Successes were achieved at both GCSE and AS Level in the 2010 summer exams. The Religious Education Department is currently piloting AQA GCSE RE as an additional GCSE subject. We await the final results in August 2011.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

Physical Education

Netball took centre stage from September with our Minor, Junior, Intermediate and Senior Netball teams competing successfully in league and cup competitions. The Intermediate team got to the quarter finals of the Northern Ireland plate.

Two students were selected for Regional Development Netball Squads. Natasha Deane year 11 and Cara McGonagle, year 8, were selected on the minor and intermediate squads.

Rebecca Mc Laughlin, lower sixth, came second in the 400m sprint at the Ulster Athletics championships. Rebecca then qualified for the Irish schools Athletics Championships held in Tullamore on Saturday the 4th June.

St Mary's has had a strong team of cross-country runners this year. The team have competed in the District 'C' Cross Championships in Coleraine, Antrim Forum and Oakgrove Integrated College. Erin O'Donnell, year 9, Emily McKinny, year 8, Rebecca McKinny year 8, Georgia Green, year 10 and Kristen McClintock year 10 have beat their own personal best times and were placed in the top ten runners in their respective age groups at Oakgrove Cross Country event.

The minor football team have played in two tournaments this year and were very successful in the Dale Farm tournament at Oakgrove on the 24th May.

GCSE PE continues to be an extremely successful subject. Some of the awards acquired through GCSE PE study included; Bronze Level national Navigation Award, Bronze Medallion Life Saving Award and Outdoor Education Presidents Award. High praise was received from the GCSE moderator.

A'Level students completed their PE practical examinations in May. Once again outstanding results were achieved.

Derry City Council offered a 6 week 'get fit' programme to the senior school. Activities the pupils were involved in were: gym, boxercise and health and nutrition advice was offered.

Sports available last year included:

Adventure Training, Aerobics, Athletics, Badminton, Bowling, Dance, Gymnastics, Netball, Orienteering, Tennis, Gaelic Football, Soccer, Circuit Training and Trampoline.

Allocated Time

Year 8, 9, 10, 11, 12; (2 x 45 minute) sessions per week

Year 13, 14; (2 x 45 minute) sessions per week

Local Facilities Used Last Year

Bishop's Field, Brooke Park Leisure Centre, St Columb's Park, Templemore Sports Complex, Longtower Youth Centre, Brunswick Superbowl Bowling Alley, Lisnagelvin Leisure Centre, Energise Fitness Gym.

Mathematics

A number of girls received Bronze Certificates in both the Junior and Intermediate UK Mathematical Challenge. (This competition is targeted at the top third of pupils in the UK). We also entered the UKMT Junior Team challenge.

The online resource Mathletics, the world's most used online website (over 500,000 users) was once again made available to all KS3 classes. It can be accessed at home with pupils able to work at their own pace or play live challenges against pupils from around the world.

We also introduced Kerboodle for KS4 pupils – a new online resource to support our students and reinforce their GCSE work. Once again this can be used at home.

A team of Year 11 pupils were entered for the 'Stock Market Challenge' which for the first time ever was held in Derry in our own new school. This gave the girls the opportunity to experience the excitement of dealing on a live Stock Market trading floor and interact with pupils from schools throughout the North West.

Geography

The Geography department had a very busy and successful year. Examination results were excellent both at GCSE level and at A'level. Congratulations to all the girls for all their hard work. The modular exams at GCSE , AS and A2 level were a great success which was clearly reflected in their very good exam results.

We wish them all luck in their modules in June.

To promote ICT skills within the geography department this year all year 9 pupils researched the factors which affect population distribution in the world. The pupils presented their findings for the first time ever using a podcast. As a direct result of this activity the pupils developed a plethora of IT skills and communication skills. We hope to develop the use of podcasts for our GCSE and AS/A2 students as a revision tool.

This year the geography department also helped to develop numeracy skills with the year 8 pupils as they all had to complete a weather task. The task involved the pupils working independently on the weather data whereby they had to manipulate the data in a number of ways as well as present the data in a variety of formats.

In the geography department at St Mary's College we always strongly advocate the importance of field work opportunities and as a direct result we ensure all students have at least one field work opportunity each year to increase their understanding and appreciation of the environment. For example all year 9 students visited the River Watch Centre to see how an environment agency helps to look after the river and to ensure fishing remains sustainable in this river. On this visit every year 9 pupil went fishing and many of the pupils came home with smiles on their faces as they had caught several fish each. This was a fabulous experience for all our year 9 pupils. The pupils were also given a fishing licence so they could avail of the experience again. All year 11 geography students attended Magilligan field centre and completed a river study. They will use this data to complete their controlled assessment which is worth 25% of their GCSE.

This year on Environmental day, Seagate invited pupils from across the city to attend an active learning session on environmental issues. The purpose of the visit was to deepen the pupil's awareness and knowledge of how a large multinational company in the city is trying to reduce their carbon foot print. As a direct result, a group of 15 year 10 students went to Seagate on this exciting day and met pupils from across the city. They returned to class and shared this information with their class.

Throughout the year a number of visitors were invited into the school, to talk to the geography students about Environmental issues, Industrialisation and Development in LEDCs. All geography students were given opportunities to participate in active learning activities which were highly successful both for the pupil and teacher.

English

A41 participated in a joint 10 week project with pupils from Foyle View School on the topic of Cultural Awareness and Diversity. The pupils enjoyed working together and have to date examined the lifestyles of visitors from many countries such as Africa, USA, Italy, India, Philippines and Poland. Together they have admired and tried on various costumes, sampled food and in some cases danced to the music of the country. It was a fantastic learning experience on many fronts.

Year 9 pupils prepared and took part in a Holocaust Memorial Service to coincide with Holocaust Remembrance Day. This followed on from their study of The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas and Power point presentations on Auschwitz and The Holocaust. Pupils created their own prayers and wrote the service. It is hoped to expand the event for next year.

Year 11, 12 and 13 pupils participated in a Virtual Book Club where they linked up with two American schools, Penn Hill and Quaker Valley. This is an innovative and exciting project aimed at both promoting reading and developing cultural links.

Y12 student, Nicole McDowell, represented St. Mary's in the Derry Heat of The Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition.

Technology & Design/Engineering

As a lead subject in the delivering of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) the Technology & Design/ Engineering Department has had a very successful year with many excellent results the most notable being 100% A*-C at GCSE and Stephanie Greens A grade in A2 Engineering. In GCSE Technology and Engineering fourteen pupils were awarded A*/A grades in one or more modules and at AS/A2 fifteen pupils achieves similar grades in their module coursework portfolios or exams. These results are a testament to the hard work and time spent by the individual pupils involved and they are all to be congratulated.

With the move to Northland Road the Technology Department were excited with the new facilities especially the new computer based manufacturing machinery available in the workshops. The laser cutter in particular has proven very popular and many pupils were able to use it in the manufacture of elements of their practical project. By using more CNC machines the practical aspect of pupils work is less time consuming and the quality of the final work is often increased.

Again the Technology and Design department made a number of visits to local engineering businesses to enhance pupils understanding of our subject in a real context. Allpipe Engineering and Invista both continue to assist our A Level students with real world information on the everyday role of the engineer. E & I Engineering hosted two of our AS Engineering pupils Emer Smith and Megan McDermott on work placement as part of Sentinus girls into engineering week in January. We also had two excellent visits from Grainne Kelly a local successful entrepreneur who invented the Bubblebum inflatable booster seat. As an award winning business women Grainne was able to act as a role model to our girls bring Obama's 'Yes you can' attitude to the Technology department. These visits were of great benefit and

interest to the pupils. We would like to thank all those companies named above but also the many others who have assisted the department throughout the year not least those who have hosted pupils on work experience.

Year 11 pupils Lauren Doherty, Shauneen Hegarty, Jacinta McGahey and Kate Gallagher entered the Step-Up 'Blazing Ballista Competition' this years challenge again was to design and make a catapult which would fire a bean bag as close to 20 meters as possible with a new element of accuracy being of utmost importance. The catapult is on display in the Technology Department. Year 10 pupils were involved in a Step-Up Challenge to design and make a hover craft.

In order to promote STEM careers our pupils have been able to avail of a number of career events including the whole of Year 10 going to Oakgrove to watch a presentation on STEM careers. We were also hosted by Lisneal College at their annual careers fair. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed both events.

Finally staffing the department saw two temporary additions this year. Miss Heather McGee (past pupil) has joined the department as Mrs Mairead Flanagan is currently on maternity leave. Mr Paul Melaugh is assisting in the role of technician while Mr Gerry McLaughlin undergoes medical treatment from which we wish him a speedy recovery. We also hosted two students Gary McDevitt from St Mary's College in Belfast and PGCE student of the year Emma Barrett who was completing her PGCE at the Ulster University in Jordanstown. We would like to wish both students every success in their future career.

History

The history department have enjoyed a great deal of success in the past year both in terms of examination success, departmental growth and positive pupil learning experiences.

The staff of the history department extend our congratulations to our students who achieved great success at GCSE, at A's and A2 level. 100% of our A2 students received grades A-C, whilst 93% of A's students achieved grades A-C with over 50% achieving grades A-B. 82% of GCSE students also achieved grades A*-C with over 50% achieving A-B grades. As these results indicate the history department continues to go from strength to strength. We are delighted that some of our students are now furthering their study of history at university. In particular we congratulate Eiméar Brady who was awarded the Katherine McCauley Award for GCSE History, Siobhan McCafferty who received the A's award and Megan Meenan who received the A2 award for excellence in History. The history department are very pleased with the continued growth and popularity of our subject at GCSE and A'level proving a testament to positive pupil learning experiences.

We, in the History department, are delighted with the continued hard work, motivation and dedication shown by our history students. Year 10 students produced outstanding films on the life of Anne Frank. Year 9 students also produced exemplary ICT projects on the Plantation of Ulster. Year 8 students completed a wealth of work on a variety of topics. Excellent historical, literacy, ICT, thinking and research skills were evident. The department continues to implement and value the Revised Curriculum and are delighted with the progress made by students on developing their

thinking skills and connected learning. The History and Religious Studies department collaborated on the delivery of a unit of work on the Celts in Ireland which culminated in a visit to the IOSAS Centre, which was thoroughly enjoyed by our year 9 students.

Our pupils continued to enjoy a wide range of learning experiences both within the classroom and beyond. The History department has been working to develop online learning in the department and look forward to piloting online homework in the coming academic year. This follows on from the success of our GCSE revision course delivered through the school VLE. Year 12 students produced excellent podcasts and revision videos and shared these via our VLE.

Year 9 students enjoyed the visit of Living History Characters from the Museum Services. During this experience students had the opportunity to dress up as characters from the Ulster Plantation and enact their own play. Students also enjoyed the Plantation Loan Box from the Tower Museum which included props and sources which brought their study to life and made it all the more enjoyable for students. Year 13 students marked Holocaust Memorial Day by taking part in a workshop and lecture at the Tower Museum. Students found the experience very moving and enjoyed listening to the testimonies of Holocaust survivors as well as victims of persecution in our own time. A group of year 13 history students attended a lecture by the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, Sir Declan Morgan at Saint Columb's College. Year 10 students attended a lecture on the history of the recent conflict in the Balkans and found this a rewarding experience.

The History department is delighted to have further extended our global reach. Year 10 history club students investigated the Civil Rights Movement in our city and in the USA. This culminated with a very memorable video conferencing link up with a school from Mississippi, which was attended by John Hume. Students shared cultural and historical experiences of Civil Rights. B16 enjoyed the completion of a joint cultural exchange project with an all girl school, Abasan al-Kabera, from the Gaza Strip in Palestine. This project also culminated in a very moving video-conferencing session between the two schools. We look forward to further extending our global links in the coming year.

The History department are currently taking part in a pilot programme organised by the Foyle Area Learning Community on the new Peace Bridge. A group of year 9 students from Saint Mary's, Saint Columb's and Lisneal Colleges have been taking part in a course delivered via the FoyleCloud VLE which involves a study of the history of bridges in Derry and the process of peace building in our city. Pupils have found this a rewarding experience and it has given them the opportunity to participate in the making of history. A video was made of the experiences and displayed during the official opening of the Peace Bridge which was attended by the participating students of all three schools.

Modern Languages Department

'Comhghairdeas' to the following girls who achieved their Fáinne exam

Chloe Sweeney, Aiveen O Connell, Chelsea McCallion, Caoimhe Wade, Jodie Wilson, Fiona Corr, Ashleigh Crumlsh, Aimee Wray, Natasha Loughrey, Céilí McClafferty, Amy O Donnell, Áine Doherty, Bronagh O'Doherty .

We also had 2 girls going to Rannafast this year.

Music

A CD was made of the school choir in our own state of the art recording studio.

The school choir came top at the regional finals of the Cooperation Ireland All Island School Choir Competition in Armagh. Their triumph was broadcast on RTÉ 1 on Sun. 7th Nov. They received an engraved trophy, €1,000 and win a coveted place in the grand finale which was broadcast live on RTE from the Waterfront Hall in a one-hour live programme on November 14th where they gave an outstanding performance but were pipped by Ballyphehan Cork.

Our choirs were very successful at Feis Doire Colmcille winning a total of 5 cups. Miss Emma Jayne Kelly and Mrs Deane accompanied the choirs at the Feis.

The choir performed at the PSNI Christmas Carol Service in St Columb's Cathedral. It was excellent event with a great turn out despite the freezing weather conditions. The choir also performed at a charity Gala Performance in the Millennium Forum in May along with various other acts including a number of local adult choirs.

A number of our pupils performed in the WELB Springfest Concert in the Millennium Forum in April. They were Rachael E Doherty, Roisin Mulhern, Jordan Wright, Aoidheann McIvor, Annette Coyle, Aiveen O'Connell and Mairead O'Connell.

We hosted a workshop by NI Opera on March 25th who were in Derry with their inaugural production of Puccini's Tosca. There were a number of our own pupils and pupils from other schools in attendance. Mr Donal Doherty also attended.

Choir/Orchestra provided music for Prize giving, Official Opening of the school, Opening mass and Open Day ceremonies.

A concert to celebrate Derry as the City of Culture took place in St Mary's College.

Choir performed at the Foyle Civic Trust, The Musical Pathways conference and also at the Foyle Hospice as part of their 25th anniversary celebrations.

Highest number of entries for Royal Irish Academy, Trinity Guildhall and Associated Board exams.

School Productions

Lower sixth year pupils organised a St. Mary's Got Talent competition in the school. Over 50 pupils auditioned for a part in the show and 14 acts made it through to the grand final which was held on 29th March in the school hall. The acts consisted of an

array of very talented singers and dancers. There was also a staff act – although there was no talent to be found there at all! A very enjoyable night was had by all and over £2000 was raised for Trocaire and the PTA.

Learning Support

The Learning Support Department has had a very busy and successful year and we were very proud of our pupils' achievements throughout the year. Our Year 12 special needs pupils all achieved external qualifications in June and are all currently in further education.

Our in-house reading centre is reporting excellent improvements in reading ages and a number of pupils will be able to be discharged from the centre. This year saw us moving to our beautiful new premises and our bright and comfortable Learning Support Centre.

We continued our links with a number of outside agencies such as WELB careers service and Transition Service and our link with the psychology service has been developed to include counselling and study skills courses for pupils with specific learning difficulties.

Information and Communications Technology

St Mary's College ICT department have had an exciting year as we settled into our new state of the art school. Not only did we achieve our best results ever, but in October we were informed that St Mary's had won the Microsoft Pathfinder Award. This means we are now recognised as a world leader in developing ICT to enhance learning and that we are committed to implementing innovative technologies and sharing what works both locally and globally.

Our ICT provision is now as follows:

Accommodation

7 nr. ICT suites & 2 nr. ICT clusters

Infrastructure/ Equipment

4 nr. Domain Controllers, 2 nr. Multimedia servers, 1 nr. Member server (MIS), 2 nr. Network Attached Storage (NAS) servers, 1 nr. Content Delivery Appliance, 1 nr.

WAN Optimisation device, 1 nr. Cashless Catering server

Circa 425 nr. C2k workstations/ laptops (administrative and curriculum)

Circa 47 nr. networked printers

6 nr. networked photocopiers

11 nr. Access Points (ceiling and trunking)

8 nr. plasma screens

1123 nr. provisioned user accounts

58 nr. Interactive Whiteboards

Digital Cameras and Digital Camcorders

1 nr. Tandberg Video Conferencing unit

Internet & Email Services

School website, Moodle VLE, C2k email service

IT Support Help Desk

Online IT Support Help Desk monitored Monday – Friday 8:45am – 3:10pm

Involvement in pilots

C2k/ Northgate: EasyLink, EDUCAT catalogue, Office Communicator, Local Support Tools, eConsultation, Your school of the future, SNAC - connection only, Guest Wireless Access

Ilex/ Foyle Learning Community – Moodle VLE & central hub

Our Partners

C2k, Northgate, Hewlett Packard, Microsoft, Prodigy

Projects in development

Dedicated Video Conferencing suite, ‘Digital Hub’ in Library space

ICT Courses

Our ICT courses at both GCSE and A level continue to be very popular, challenging and useful to those pupils who choose to progress to work and to those who choose 3rd level education. In September of this year we introduced the new BTEC Extended Certificate in ICT. This course has proven to be very popular; pupils have an opportunity to look at Communicating in the IT Industry, Web Development and Gaming, all current and relevant areas in today’s continuously evolving IT Industry.

VLE

Since the launch of the VLE “Moodle” departments across the school have been realising its potential as a leaning tool, with some course modules now completely online. The majority of our departments have now offered our pupils the chance to complete and submit homework’s online and take part in various subject discussions.

Microsoft Pathfinder Award

St Mary's College has become one of only three schools on the island of Ireland to be selected by Microsoft to join its small, exclusive international group of innovative Microsoft Pathfinder Schools this year.

The fact that St Mary's College has been chosen for this role recognises that St Mary's is a world leader in developing ICT to enhance learning and that they are committed to implementing innovative technologies and sharing what works both locally and globally. Pathfinder Schools are part of the Microsoft Partners in Learning Innovative Schools Program, a ten-year, \$500 million commitment by the company to help schools and teachers use technology to advance teaching and learning more effectively. Established in 2007 as a pilot program, the initiative connects educators from around the world and enables them to share ideas and best practices. The goal is to create new learning models that inspire students to engage more deeply and direct their own education, as well as to prepare them for a rapidly changing, connected world.

Microsoft IT Academy

The Microsoft IT Academy continues to grow from strength to strength, members of the community, pupils from Foyle View Special School and our own classroom

assistants have also achieved great success. To find out more about the IT Academy and enrolment information please feel free to contact the school.

The image below shows this year's successful graduates.



St Mary's College and Miss Y Connolly (Microsoft IT Instructor) would like to congratulate the following parents and members of the local community on their success in achieving the Beginners ICT Certificate at the Microsoft IT Academy, St Mary's College:

Mary Anne Wells
Jane McGilloway
Yvonne Harkin
Philomena Meenan
Bridget Curran
Michelle Coyle
Kay McCafferty
Paul Duddy
Brian Clarke
Eunan O Boyle
Deirdre O Boyle
Teresa Hegarty
Margaret Robinson
Ann Marie Gillespie
Linda Gallagher

The Beginners ICT course offers parents and members of the local community the opportunity to develop and enhance their ICT skills in the use of the Internet and e-mail.

Northern Ireland Innovative Teacher Award

This year also saw two of our own staff members chosen as runners up in the Northern Ireland Innovative teacher's award. Miss Yvonne Connolly and Mrs Tara McVey were both selected for their impressive and forward thinking contributions to teaching and learning.

Microsoft Conference in South Africa

St Mary's Principal Marie Lindsay and Senior Teacher Katrina Kealey attended the Microsoft's Innovative Education Forum in Cape Town, South Africa in October of last year. There, the school will worked together with five other Pathfinder schools, two mentor schools and a third party coach, in implementing the Pathfinder program. As a result of this visit St Mary's have had access to leading educators in fields relating to innovation and school transformation via Microsoft's Virtual University training sessions. Additionally, St Mary's teachers and ICT support staff have participated in on-going professional conversations through on-line forums, wikis, and blogs as well as in face-to-face meetings.

Schools Video Conferencing Awards 2010

The Schools Videoconference Awards are a new initiative to celebrate and highlight the use of video conferencing in teaching and learning. St Mary's College were one of only two schools to be highly commended in the Secondary Schools or Colleges Category.

This year the ICT department had a video link up with one of our Foyle Learning Community students. The pupil, from St Josephs College, would normally have travelled to St Mary's 3 times per week to take his class, this time he stayed in St Joseph's whilst Miss Connolly taught the class in St Mary's. Ciaran was able to ask questions, upload his work onto Moodle and see and communicate with Miss Connolly and his St Mary's class mates. He could then submit his work via Moodle to be marked and assessed. It was an enjoyable and innovative exercise for both the pupils and the teachers involved.

School Website

To keep up to date with all that is happening in St Mary's College remember our website. You can visit it at:
<http://www.stmarysderry.com/>

Health & Social Care

Work experience: This year we have made strong links with SureStart through the BTEC National Certificate in Health and Social Care. SureStart has set up a volunteer's programme, where our pupils attended one afternoon per week to gain work experience. Surestart held a ceremony in May where the pupils were awarded volunteer certificates. One of our pupils, Ashleigh Wray was awarded the overall volunteer award, for her continued commitment. We have also made strong links with Destined, where our girls also attended on a weekly basis to assist adults with learning disabilities. Two of our girls even attended a weekend residential with the group.

First Aid: As part of the BTEC programme the Lower sixth class have completed their Basic First Aid Certificate through the Red Cross, who kindly visited the school for the full day course.

Disability Awareness training: The Year 14 A2 pupils completed Disability Awareness training through the Cedar Foundation. They received an OCN level 1 certificate for this training.

Results: 100% of our year 12 pupils have achieved their BTEC Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care, which is broadly equivalent to 2 GCSE's. 87 % of our Year 12 pupils achieved a grade C or above in their January exam. 90% of our A/S pupils achieved a grade in their January exam. 100% of our Year 14 pupils have passed their BTEC National Certificate. 99% of our Year 14 pupils achieved a double award grade in their A2 Health and Social Care and so have went on to study a variety of courses at various Universities throughout the UK.

Home Economics

The Department have continued with their great success rate in CCEA GCSE Child Development with 85% of all entrants receiving grade C or above in August 2010. GCSE Hospitality is also now being offered to our pupils. The majority of our year 10 pupils benefited from demonstrations by the Livestock and Meat commission. A number of Year 10 pupils also recently took part in the Step UP Science – 'What's Cooking Competition'. One group did extremely well with their 'Caribbean' themed entry in the finals at University of Ulster, Coleraine. We have benefited greatly this year with the appointment to the department of our technician Mrs Terri O'Connell. It is with sadness we say farewell to Mrs Mary Rose Ward, who has made a valued contribution to the Home Economics Department over the last 36 years. We wish her well in her retirement.

The Dept hopes to continue to provide pupils with quality teaching in our new 'state of the art' accommodation. We look forward to your continued support in the next school year.

Science

Again this year the science department enjoyed more pupil success in examinations and in lots of extra-curricular activities.

All of our sixth year students studying Applied GCE science in conjunction with the University of Ulster's 'Step Up' programme gained places in university to study a variety of science related courses including Physiotherapy, Forensic science, Psychology, Bio-medical Science and Nursing. There was a 100% pass rate in St. Mary's in this subject again this year.

At Key Stage 4 pupils also achieved considerable success with over **90%** of pupils gaining at least one pass grade in GCSE science. Indeed all pupils did Double Award Science courses meaning that over **85%** had 2 GCSEs to show for their efforts. In 2010/11 many pupils took advantage of the wide range of in-school and after school science club and activities and many could be found working very hard on a variety of projects or competition entries throughout the year including students from the Chemistry club who represented St. Mary's at the N. Ireland Young Scientist Competition, BT Young Scientist (All-Ireland) and the Letterkenny Sci-Fest. Many Year 11, Year 12, Year 13 and Year 14 pupils also attended GCSE and GCE A-Level revision clubs throughout the year.

In late November Year 9 pupils attended the Step-Up engagement lecture 'Alien Lights in the Sky' and enjoyed it hugely.

In January '10 pupils from the Chemistry club achieved yet more success in the Young Scientists and Engineer's Fair in Dublin earning commendations in their categories. 5 projects from St. Mary's College made it through to the final in Dublin this year.

In March and April '10 Year 9, 10 and 11 science students participated in the various Step-Up science engagement competitions. These included the 'Cookery Challenge', the 'Blazing Ballistae challenge' and the 'Challenge Quiz' and 'The great Chemistry Conundrum'

Pupils from St. Mary's thoroughly enjoyed these experiences and finished in second place in both of the categories of the 'Great Chemistry Conundrum' competition. Also in March Year 8 pupils attended the Step-Up engagement lecture 'Science Myths and Magic' and again enjoyed the lecture immensely.

In May 2011 2 pupils from St. Mary's College won the 6 categories at the Letterkenny Scifest winning ahead of over 150 other projects from schools across the North-West of Ireland.

Also in May the Dissolving Boundaries Programme Face to Face meeting took place with our Year 8 pupils meeting their counterparts from Carndonagh Community school with whom they had been working all Year on a science project through the Learning Platform –Moodle.

On 18th May the Lower Sixth Science pupils performed their presentations on their Unit 4 work in front of an audience at Magee. The girls performed admirably.

All Year 9 pupils this year took part in project work in conjunction with the Lough's Agency. Activities included river studies, fishing and fish dissections!

Finally on the 14th June over 40 St. Mary's College pupils from Year 8 right up to Year 12 travelled to Belfast to participate in the SENTINUS N. Ireland Young Scientist competition.

St. Mary's pupils won six awards overall including best project and runner up in the Intermediate age category. The highlight however was undoubtedly **Saoirse Nash** from year 11 who was announced as the **2011 Young Scientist of the year**. We are very proud of the achievements of the girls, many of whom will now represent N. Ireland at the Big Bang in Birmingham next year.

Congratulations to all the pupils who represented their school so well!

In June 2011 all Year 10 pupils showcased their science project work in St. Mary's College own Internal Science Fair.

In addition to these events, many other science events took place during the year in the school, involving our own pupils, pupils from Primary schools in the city and pupils from other secondary schools.

We look forward to more success in the year ahead.

Careers/Work Experience

Year 10 completed a Young Enterprise Day. Year 11 worked with PSNI to understand the dangers of underage drinking and used much of the information in their GCSE LLW Project. Year 12 had a wide range of visitors to explain the various routes open

to them. These included NWRC, John Moore's University (they also gave workshops to year 10.) and several training organisations. Queen's University was among the many that came to talk to both year 13 and 14. Many of the girls took part in voluntary work to boost their UCAS applications. Work Experience was successful but many employers indicated that they felt year 11 students were a little young and year 13 would benefit more.

Young Enterprise

The Young Enterprise Company from St Mary's was made up of 121 Lower 6th Engineering students. The company name was 'Bits and Bobs' and they designed and manufactured a range of products including:

- Head phone Cable Tidies
- Bits and Bobs Holders
- Business Card Holders

The company participated in:

- Foyleside Trade Fair
- Company of the Year Competition
- Graduation Ceremony in the Everglades Hotel
- Derry Credit Union Young People's Awards

Foyleside Trade Fair:

The 'Bits and Bobs' Team attended the Foyleside trade fair where they had to set up a display stand and sell their products to the public. This was a very successful event and they sold out of one of their range of products by the end of the trading day. At the Trade Fair they scooped two Major Awards:

- Runner Up Best Company
- Entrepreneurship Award for best product

Young Enterprise Company of the Year Competition 2011:

The 'Bits and Bobs' team had to submit a report summarising the company achievements throughout the year. They then had to give a presentation to members of the board of Young Enterprise Board.

Graduation Ceremony:

All of the members of the Company attended the graduation ceremony in the Millennium Forum and they all received a Certificate certifying that they participated in the Young Enterprise Company of the Year Competition. They had an opportunity to listen to young entrepreneurs detailing how they started up and developed their business.

Derry Credit Union Young People's awards:

The Young Enterprise Company was nominated by Jeff Gallagher of Young Enterprise for the category of 'Business and Entrepreneurship'. At an awards ceremony held in the 'City Hotel' the St Mary's company 'Bits and Bobs' was Runner Up in the 'Business and Entrepreneurship' category.

The Managing Director, Georgina Breslin, was also a finalist in the 'Leadership' Category at this prestigious event.

Art and Design

Great success in the Art Department for the academic year 2010/2011- GCSE and A level results were outstanding yet again. We had two pupils whose work reached the highest of standards. Una Quinn came second overall in Northern Ireland in Double Award Art and Design and Jane Casey received 100% marks in GCSE Art and Design. We look forward to another successful year in our new state of the Art Department!!!

Drama Department

GCSE results were very good this year with pupils performing well in this subject area. 'A' level Drama pupils are attending St. Cecilia's where I am sure they will benefit from their specialist school status in Drama.

Currently we have nine teachers delivering Drama to the KS3 pupils. Feedback from junior pupils suggests this is a popular and enjoyable element of the revised curriculum.

As usual we enjoyed drama trips attended by 4th and 5th Year GCSE pupils. Drama Trips included for GCSE *Can't Pay Won't Pay by Dario Fo*, performed by Bruiser Theatre Company, at the Playhouse, a dramatised walking tour of the city walls *Noose or Necklace*, which created scenes from the history of Derry. Pupils used this walk as a stimulus for their original playwriting and are busy rehearsing for a performance at the end of term.

Weather permitting we have made good use of our new outdoor amphitheatre; this encourages pupils to be creative in their staging of Drama and certainly improves voice projection. It is a wonderful resource which allows pupils to explore an alternative staging area.

President's Award

It has been a very busy year for the President's award (Gaisce) students. In total there are 30 girls involved in the Bronze and Silver Award Each Group meet once a week during their lunch time (Monday, Wednesday and Friday)
The groups have been involved in numerous activities during the year.

Bronze Award Group

The Bronze Award group attended Gortatole Outdoor Education Centre for a two day training course on Hillwalking, navigation and camp craft early in February 2011. They have completed all other necessary sections and are waiting to do their Final Expedition on the 17th -18th June 2011.

Pupils in Year 11 who Achieved the Bronze Award

Aimee Gorman, Shauneen Gallagher, Megan Noble, Lauria McKinney, Niamh O'Hare, Sophie McMonagle, Saoirse Nash, Dearbhla Morton, Megan Jenkins, Megan Curran.

Pupils in Year 12 who Achieved the Bronze Award

Niamh McLaughlin, Grace Patterson, Rachel McBay, Gemma McDermott, Shona Hegarty, Shannon Harkin, Naomi Long, Nicole McGowan

Year 13 Silver Award Participants

The Silver Award group had a busy year also attending training weekends in Gortatole and are waiting to do their Final Expedition in the Sperrin Mountains at the end of June.

Silver Award Participants Met the Duke Of Edinburgh on Thursday 19th May 2011

Mr Fryer along with Sarah Ward, Jane Casey, Megan Crawley and Jessica Kirk were recently met the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip at a special reception held at Farmleigh on the recent Royal visit to Ireland. St Mary's girls were one of seven schools specially chosen to meet Prince Philip as they are doing their Silver Gaisce Award which is Ireland's national award programme for young people aged between 15 and 25, and is the Irish equivalent of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Mr Fryer and the four Girls were featured on RTE news that evening meeting Prince Philip.

Pupils who Achieved the Silver Award

Jane Casey, Megan Beattie, Rachel M Doherty, Sarah Ward, Ciara Cooley, Megan Crawley, Stephanie Dobbins, Jessica Kirk

First Aid

Twenty Seven Award participants achieved their Basic First Aid which is a necessary part of the Expedition training and are waiting to be presented with their certificates

Pupils are taking advantage of clubs and societies offered in school to complete the Skill, Physical and Volunteering Sections (Netball, Tennis, Football, Fitness Suite, SVP, Knitting Club, Choir, Orchestra, Science Club etc)

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff members that have provided the Clubs and Societies for Award participants so that they can complete their Award. A special word of thanks must go to Mrs Concannon and Mrs McAllister for providing a Knitting Club for the girls on Friday lunchtime. We would also like to thank Mr Fryer for all his help during the year. Finally our thanks goes to the parents of Award participants for their continuous support and we have to mention their never ending attempts to add in those extra chocolate bars to their daughter rucksacks when going out on Expeditions!!!!

We commend the commitment of all participants and look forward to all achieving their Bronze and Silver Award and receiving their certificates, pins and Medals in September 2011.