

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS



2014 - 2015

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

Mrs Gay Durkan	Chairperson (WELB)
Mr Enda Rainey	Vice-Chairperson (Trustee Representative)
Ms Celine McKenna	Trustee Representative
Ms Maureen Scott	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.

END OF YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT

End of Year Financial Statement - 2014 - 2015

INCOME

Balance b/f from 2013-2014	£56,508
Budget Share	£3,965,784
Entitlement Framework	£11,729
Extended Schools	£34,620

TOTAL BUDGET

£4,068,641

EXPENDITURE

Teaching Staff	£2,944,557
Auxiliary Staff	£349,091
Ancillary Staff	£20,531
Training Expenses	£6,637
Contribution to Eye Exams	£159
Natural Gas	£26,293
Electricity	£52,005
Water	£7,336
Building Maintenance	£3,342
Furniture/Fittings	£2,777
Equipment, Books & Materials	£111,699
Computer Equipment	£35,156
Equipment under £3,000	£6,137
Exam Fees	£74,722
Food	£14,366
Hire of Equipment	£1,570
Licence Fees	£14,952
Hire of Facilities	£1,316
Professional Fees	£39,957
Maintenance of Equipment	£2,629
Protective Clothing	£99
Link Courses	£16,562
Contractual Cleaning	£134,761
Travel & Subsistence Expenses	£3,262
Hire of Transport	£39,901
Advertising	£4,594
Printing & Stationery	£15,326
Photocopying	£9,296
Publications	£1,345
Postage	£7,885
Telephones	£10,002
EOTAS	£11,453
Educational Visits	£307
Music Services	£8,980
Bank Charges	£12
HQ Admin Charges	£99
PPP Unitary Contribution	£71,669
Income	-£43,407

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

£4,007,378

BALANCE REMAINING (Includes Extended Schools Funds)

£61,263

BALANCE AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET

1.51%

No member of the Board of Governors receive any remuneration

ANNUAL REPORT

During the Academic Year 2014 – 15 a large investment of both time and money was provided for Whole School, Departmental and Posts of Responsibility training needs. Alongside this the school supported representation at a range of local, national and international courses / workshops presenting new educational initiatives.

A key focus area of training, reflecting the School Development Plan, was the continued development of the use of ICT in the classroom. Fronter Training was provided by our own ICT Teaching staff alongside Mr Paul Wade and Miss Aine King. This training took place on Monday and Tuesday after school during directed time. Continued training for all teaching staff on the use of Microsoft Surfaces. This training again supports the financial investment of purchasing Microsoft surfaces for all Year 8 & 9 pupils.

The school enrolled three members of staff on a Software Systems Development Postgraduate course at University of Ulster (Magee Campus). This high level intensive course enabled the teachers to develop their skills in C# Programming. As graduates of the course they are now qualified to teach this new course at A Level next year to our own students and to A Level students from other schools in the Foyle Learning Community.

Two members travelled to a Partner Microsoft Showcase School, Rodengymnasiet Norrtalje in Sweden 9th February -13th February 2015. During their visit our teachers had the unique opportunity to experience learning and teaching in another European Country. On return they then shared their experiences and ideas from the trip with our own staff colleagues.

Two teachers also travelled to the 'E2 Expert Educators Conference' in Seattle Washington at the end of April. This trip was a fantastic opportunity to network with other educators on a global arena, participate in Teach Meets / Conferences and visiting an American Showcase School. Two teachers from Clare Galway, also presenting at the conference have established links with St Mary's (see STEM Learning Conference below).

The new Head of KS3 and Head of KS4 received intensive Training on Tracking from Mr Russell Torrens at C2k. The training took place over a series of workshops throughout the year in St Mary's College. As a result of this training a new facility on Sims has been developed and is currently being used by all staff to record Tracking Data.

Staff with particular Posts of Responsibility e.g. SENCO / Designated Teacher / Pastoral and Curriculum Heads / attended a range of courses which in turn led whole staff training during INSET Days.

The Signature Project teachers continued to receive extensive training and support to develop this second year of the Numeracy and Literacy initiative.

Heads of Departments were provided with opportunities to attend GCSE and A Level subject Moderation / Agreement Trails Training throughout the year. The ensuing decimation of information is regarded as an integral part of Departmental and whole staff development.

The Annual STEM Learning Conference was held in June. Two 'Expert Educators' from Clare Galway showcased their work on 'Fronter' and 'One Note' at the conference. They then did a workshop with all staff on 'One Note'.

The sharing of Good Practice featured highly in Staff Training throughout the year. Our own highly skilled St Mary's staff also showcased their expertise to visiting professionals from across Northern Ireland.

A huge financial investment allowed for 15 staff (teaching and non-teaching) to be trained in the use of a Defibrillator and to administer First Aid.

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.

SCHOOL LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

During 2014-2015 the school continued to develop these already strong parental/community links;

- PFTA
- Saturday School
- Microsoft Academy computer course for parents, pupils 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
- Invitations to school celebrations including St Mary's Fashion Show.

COMMUNITY LINKS

- Nominated Charities including SVDP, Foyle Search & Rescue, Foyle Hospice
- 3 Patrons Parish
- Sisters of Mercy
- Involvement with NSPCC
- Savings Club using Derry Credit Union
- Contested Space Partnership
- Mentor School – International Links
- 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
- Chamber of Commerce
- Catechetical Centre
- 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.

The school hosted the primary school choir competitions for Feis Doire Cholmcille. Huge numbers of pupils and parents enjoyed the event.

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 study nights on Tuesday nights during the months of April, May and June. 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 meets regularly and during the course of the year this group raised substantial sums for charity. Increased numbers of pupils access the Credit Union Savings club on a Thursday.

Some of the Clubs and Societies entered pupils for competitions. The Science club was particularly successful.

A very popular club is the weekly Film Club. Pupils and teachers come together on a Wednesday after school to enjoy the movies.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SECURITY OF STAFF & 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).

EXTENDED SCHOOLS

Pupils, parents and members of the community have benefited from various activities organised from the Extended Schools 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 study club to "catch up" on any outstanding work. Pupils from all years benefited from attending the supervised Homework Clubs where 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. Lisneal College and primary school pupils also attended Saturday School.

18 parents/members of the community successfully completed a Beginner's IT computer course. They all received a certificate on completion of the course and are hoping to come back and do the next course! We also had ?? Year 13 pupils complete the Microsoft office specialist certification.

An extremely successful Easter Study week and twilight study sessions for year 12-14 pupils contributed to the best ever examination results achieved by our pupils.

100 pupils transferring into Year 8 attended a fun filled Summer School in July which helped ease their transition from primary to secondary school.

A wide range of courses in self-esteem and confidence building were provided by the extended school cluster group. The Fact worker Laura McGuinness continued to support pupils and parents. She also ran a lunchtime club to help develop and sustain friendship groups for junior pupils.

Religious and Spiritual Life in the College

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION / LITURGIES

In September Mass was celebrated for the School Community by Father McCaughey in the MPH. Our Year 10 students were enrolled as Ambassadors of St Paul.

In early October Year 10 Students visited the Fab Lab at the Nerve Centre. This was a joint project between Religious Studies and Technology to produce a Tree of Remembrance for the month of November and allowed for an opportunity to incorporate STEM in the RE department. The girls designed and produced the Tree which was used in our Holy Souls liturgy on Tuesday 18th November. The liturgy was led by Father McCaughey and Year 14 students. The Tree of Remembrance was blessed and each class placed a leaf on the tree in remembrance of their loved ones who have passed away.

A Mass was celebrated by Father McCaughey for Staff on Monday 17th November in Remembrance of the Holy Souls.

St Mary's will be featured in this weekend's edition of the "Irish Catholic" as part of an article on the Ambassadors of St Paul Programme.

The department has been selected by CCEA to participate in STEM Incentivising Education programme. The programme aims to promote innovative uses of ICT that enhances learning in classrooms and to share examples of good practice. Some of the Objectives of the programme are to develop and implement innovative uses of ICT in subjects and explore the process of transforming learning through technology from different perspectives; The outcome of the project will be communicated to other schools in Northern Ireland in the form of a Case Study. A group of Year 9 created "Movie Trailers" of different stories from the Old Testament using different Movie Making and editing Packages including Microsoft Movie Maker. One of the Year 9 RE Projects "Moses and the King" has been selected by CCEA to be used as an exemplar task for Using ICT. This will be shared with other schools as an example of Good Practice in Using ICT.

On Thursday 11th December we held our first ever Carol Service in St Patrick's Pennyburn. The event was very well attended and was a wonderful celebration of the Christmas Season through scripture and song. Many thanks to Father McCaughey for leading the Liturgy. There was also an In-School Carol Service on Wednesday 10th December. The Music Department had developed a primary school link with Good Shepherd Primary School, the primary school children played in the orchestra with St Mary's orchestra, this was very successful. There was also special guest playing role of Baby Jesus; Baby Edith Doherty.

Year 8 and Year 9 students participated in the Live Crib in the shop window of VERITAS on Shipquay Street on Saturday 20th December. Students from St Mary's played various roles including the role of Mary.

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated from 25th January to 31st January. St Mary's was represented at the Diocesan Mass in St Eugene's Cathedral. As part of Catholic

Schools week a display created by Ms Callaghan and Pope JohnPaul11 candidates on the theme “Called to Serve” was presented at the Diocesan Mass. It was then taken to St Patrick’s Pennyburn for display during Catholic Schools Week.

St Mary’s was featured in December’s edition of the “Irish Catholic” as part of an article on the Ambassadors of St Paul Programme.

On 10th February our Year 14 Pope John Paul II Award candidates received their awards in a ceremony in the Millennium Forum. Cardinal Edwin O’Brien presented the awards.

On Sunday 15th February members of our school community participated in the liturgy of the First Sunday Night Mass in St Patrick’s Pennyburn. Our Year 13 Students took part in the liturgy of the word and the offertory procession.

Mrs G Doherty’s RE Class C31 represented St Mary’s at the “Prejudice Face On Event” in the City Hotel. They presented their project to other schools in attendance and to the Mayor.

During the Season of Lent St Mary’s hosted “Debate with the Bishop” organised by the Derry Youth Community, topics included, Justice, Morality and the Person of Jesus.

Our Trocaire Campaign for Lent was launched by Roisin O’Hara from Trocaire who spoke at both Junior and Senior Assembly.

A group of students accompanied by Mrs A Kelly & Miss C Clifford attended “YouthFest” in the Long Tower. The subject was “It is okay to not feel okay”, speakers were Angela Hayes and Giovanni Doran.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation was celebrated on Tuesday 10th March. Father McCaughey led a team of 10 priests to help us celebrate the sacrament. Form Teachers completed a Meditation on the Examination of Conscience with their Form Classes prior to this.

Our Post 16 Retreat took place for Year 13 on Thursday 19th March and for Year 14 on Friday 20th March. The Retreat was led by Derry Youth Community. Father McCaughey will celebrate Mass at the end of both days to complete the Retreat. The theme was “Let your Light Shine” and aimed to give students in the run up to the exams spiritual strength for the journey ahead of them, giving them confidence in their own ability to make the right choices and decisions.

In April we held a lovely celebration for Holy Week for the school community, commemorating how Jesus washed the feet of the disciples on Holy Thursday. Morning Prayer for Staff was led by Mrs Lindsay on Holy Thursday morning.

Also in April Mrs Rice travelled to the Microsoft Expert Educator Exchange in Seattle USA. Travelling with Mrs Rice was Mr McGill, also a Microsoft Expert Educator. During the trip Mrs Rice shared with other Educators from around the world how we are using ICT across the curriculum and in particular RE; showcasing the touch screen

games that Year 8 students had made on St Patrick using their Surface Devices and Microsoft PowerPoint.

Masses of Thanksgiving were held for Year 12 and Year 14 Students on 5th and 6th May respectively.

On 22nd May Mrs Rice and Mrs G Doherty presented and shared good practice on how they Flipped the RE Classroom at our 7th Annual Learning Conference.

Our GCSE, AS and A2 Examinations took place for Year 11, Year 12, Year 13 and Year 14 throughout the months of May and June. Revision classes were held for girls over the Easter break and throughout May and June by Mrs G Doherty and Mrs R Rice.

Mrs G Doherty attended a meeting in the Playhouse hosted by Rev Latimer regarding the next stage of the Peace Pledge initiative.

Mr G Molloy accompanied a group of students who were volunteering at Fan the Flam, the Diocesan Mass for Primary 7 students on 11th June this year.

A group of Year 10 students accompanied Mrs R Rice to an event in the Foyle Hospice celebrating 30th Years of palliative care in the North West.

Year 10 students co-ordinated by Mrs C Devlin fundraised for Age Concern as part of the Ambassadors of St Paul Programme thereby completing their programme.

Many thanks to Father McCaughey who celebrated Mass for us on Monday mornings at 8.20am in Disertain Mhuire.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

An action packed year for all in the PE department; here's a synopsis of the major events

October

- 20 students participated in the Derry Schools Aquathon. This initiative promotes participation and inclusion. St Mary's were strongly represented in this event.
- Our soccer team were in action. The year 10/11 team won the Derry/Tyrone Indoor Soccer Finals and progressed to the NI finals whilst our Year 8/9 team were semi-finalists Derry/Tyrone Regional Finals.

November

- The PE Department have been working hard to develop Camogie within our school. Our focus group, year 8, have been making great progress and finished Runners Up in the Derry Schools Camogie Blitz.
- The year 10/11 soccer team were outstanding in the NI soccer finals finishing 4th in Northern Ireland.
- PE hosted the NSPCC year 8 fundraised. Students participated in a benchball tournament.

December

- Primary School links was one of the main focus points for the month of December. Greenhaw PS, Chapel Rd PS, St Eithne's PS, St Patrick's PS and Good Shepherd PS participated in the first St Mary's College, Primary School Netball Tournament. In a closely contested affair Greenhaw PS were victorious on the day.

January

- The PE department hosted our very first Health Promotion Week. This is undoubtedly one of the most successful events ever to take place in St Mary's. A wide range of speakers and guests provided workshops and talks on the various aspects of Physical, Mental, Social and Emotional Health & Well Being. Feedback from Staff, Pupils and invited guests was most complimentary and many indicated the desire for this to be an annual event.

February

- PE took responsibility to manage the fundraising event for the Michaela Foundation. The chosen activity was a sponsored 'Bounceathon' which took place at Twisters Gymnastics, North West Centre of Excellence. Year 9 and 10 students each had to complete 300 bounces. This was a very popular fundraiser with approximately £350 raised for the Michaela Foundation.

March

PE was heavily involved in hosting many of the events for Seachtain na Gaeilge. As a department we:

- Prepared students for the annual Ceili
- Hosted the Reel Aerobics
- Organised the Year 8 inter class Camogie tournament and the Year 9 inter class Gaelic tournament.
- U19 Soccer team reached the ¼ finals of the NI Cup.

April

- PE external moderation

June

- Success in the pool at North West Swimming Gala.
- Very successful Sports Day culminating in an afternoon of fun at the inflatables.
- PE Students were rewarded for their commitment to extra-curricular activities as they were invited to attend a morning of Zorbing and Laser Tag. This proved a very popular reward with students for their dedication and attendance at PE extra-curricular sport.
- Following the introduction of Basketball into our year 9 PE programme we entered our first ever Basketball tournament. Other schools involved were St Cecilia's and Oakgrove. St Mary's were resounding winners at the event. Thanks to North Star Basketball Club for hosting the event.

Other News

Miadach McSwine A12 is the:

- Ulster Boxing Champion u50 kg

- Donegal boxing Champion u50 kg

Erika Lysenko A12 is the:

- NI Judo Champion u48kg

Rachel Barnaby D24 continues to represent:

- Northern Ireland U16 Girls Soccer Team

Shannon Henderson C53

- Selected on to the Derry Regional Netball Squad

MATHEMATICS

St Mary's Maths department began the year on a high, having achieved their best ever GCSE results.

We entered the UKMT Junior and Intermediate challenge. This is a national mathematics competition in which over 4000 schools participate. One pupil received a Silver certificate which, as anyone who has seen these tests can verify, was very credible achievement.

The online resource's Mangahigh, Mymaths and Kerboodle were once again made available to KS3 and KS4 classes but, for the first time these were accessible through the schools Fronter platform. These online resources can be accessed at home, supporting and reinforcing pupils work.

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

A large number of Yr 11 and 12 girls availed of the after school and Saturday school Maths classes which were on offer throughout the year.

Yr 8 and 9 pupils also had the opportunity to participate in the Children in Crossfire Maths challenge while raising much needed funds for this charity. Hopefully we also highlighted the challenges facing street children in South America.

The Maths department have been involved in a 2 year Promoting improvement in English and Maths (PIEM) programme and will be contributing to a report which will be circulated to all schools in N. Ireland by ETI in the next academic year.

GEOGRAPHY

The Geography department had a very busy and successful year. Examination results were excellent both at GCSE level and at AS and A2 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 excellent exam results.

We wish them all luck in their modules in June.

This year the geography department 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.

To promote ICT skills within the geography department this year, all year 9 pupils researched the factors which affect population distribution in the world. Some of 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.

In order to develop pupil's creative skills all year 10 pupils were asked to make a model of a volcano, the structure of the earth, a tsunami or an earthquake proof kit. The results of this work are displayed in the geography rooms.

They were amazing. !!! For the first time ever this year in geography we are using twitter and this is great as we can now show a wider audience the great work of the students of St Mary's College. As part of the geography specification, the pupils learn about ecosystems and especially Tropical Rainforests. The pupils love to learn how the animals adapt to the equatorial climate so we invited in Zoolab to the school whereby all year 10 students had the opportunity to hold a range of animals ranging from snakes to giant centipedes.

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. Some of the year 9 students also had the experience of kayaking from Prehen Boat House to Culmore point going under the 3 bridges. This gave the pupils the opportunity to see the city from a different position.

As part of the Environment topic, a year 9 class visited Carrickatane Windfarm, as part of National Wind Day. This again was a really enjoyable visit. When the year 9 students were studying economic activity, one class had the opportunity of visiting Coolkeeragh Power Station. This was an amazing opportunity, whereby the students got a guided tour of the industry, instead of reading about it in a book.

All year 11 geography students attended Magilligan field centre and completed a river study. They used this data to complete their controlled assessment which is worth 25% of their GCSE. They worked very hard in the last week of June for 2 days in the ICT rooms completing their geography controlled. It was definitely worth it as it reduced their work load in year 12 leading to greater success levels.

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. The pupils completed a quiz during the Environmental day and Lea Bell won vouchers for Foyleside. The pupils returned to class and shared this information with their class.

This year for the first time, the year 13 and year 14 geography students attended a geography lecture presented by representatives from Queen's University at Thornhill College. This was a great opportunity for the students as it deepened their knowledge and understanding about several geography topics which were going to be examined in their modules this year.

Five students from the year 14 class were also selected to attend the Dawn to Dusk event organised by the Queen's University and CCEA the examination board. The day started at 7.59am and ended at 6.18pm. The visit involved the students visiting Queen's University as well as seeing many of the highlights in Belfast such as the Titanic building and the Peace Wall. This educational visit was very worthwhile as they study settlement change at A2 level and their case study is Belfast.

This year also on the 28th March as part of the Earth Hour, the school switched off all electrical devices for an hour. The pupils also produced posters and made bunting for the geography classrooms in relation to Climate Change. Also during the month of March, all the pupils in the school were made aware of the devastating effect of the earthquake in Nepal both in assemblies and in all geography classes. There was a fund raising event for this very worthy cause also.

I have left the best highlight of the geography department to the end. Thirty eight students along with five members of staff went to Rome, Sorrento and Capri in October 2014.

The idea of going to Italy was first thought about in March 2014, when The Head of History and I thought about taking a group of students on an educational visit. We were initially planning the visit for October 2015 but the response was so overwhelming we brought the visit forward a year. The trip was absolutely fabulous. The pupils really enjoyed it. There were so many highlights seeing the Vatican and the Colosseum, going out to Capri and seeing Pompeii and Vesuvius.

We have another visit planned for October 2015 and the pupils have this trip full paid for already. So next year no doubt you will hear all about the Geography/ History visit to Italy. We hope that there may even be an Italy trip three.

This has no doubt been another great year in the geography department.

ENGLISH

It has been another busy and interesting year in St. Mary's English Department with students involved in a range of activities and projects.

In partnership with The Nerve Centre, Year 10 English students created an online game based on Homer's Odyssey. Students developed their digital literacy skills using Photoshop, GarageBand and Hype animation. This was a fun and innovative project facilitated by Mr McGill.

Continuing the digital literacy theme, St. Mary's Film Club, under the guidance of Mr McGill, participated in the "See it, Make it" film project, run in conjunction with IntoFilm and delivered by The Nerve Centre. John Deery visited the film club over a period of six weeks and took the group through every stage of the film-making process. Students wrote, filmed, acted in and edited their own movie, "Computer Malfunction". The film received its world premiere during the Prize giving ceremony for "Project 500" when St. Mary's English Department hosted 38 students from St. Pius X, Magherafelt as a celebration of their participation in a Literacy in Science Project.

In November, St. Mary's hosted a Poetry Workshop with P7 students from St. Patrick's Primary School, Pennyburn. Primary 7 students then entered our Christmas Poetry Competition. The workshop was facilitated by Ms Ciara Haran.

Also in November, Year 12 student Megan Doherty participated in the Derry Heat of the Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition. Megan delivered a very thought-provoking and engaging speech. Megan was prepared for the event by Mrs S O'Connor and Mrs R Murray.

Throughout the year, Year 9 students participated in The Accelerated Reading Programme where they had the opportunity to read a range of books. Books were read during Form class and at home. This programme was facilitated by Ms Ciara Haran. Also on the theme of reading and books, World Book Day was celebrated with a Roald Dahl Quiz for Year 8 and a fun Poetry Trail Competition.

Year 11 and Year 12 English Literature students attended a performance of *Blood Brothers* at The Millennium Forum. *Blood Brothers* is a set GCSE English Literature text and the students thoroughly enjoyed the production which enhanced their understanding of the play.

TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN / ENGINEERING

It has been an exceptionally busy and exciting year for the Technology Department at St. Mary's College, Derry. As an integral part of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) education we feel it is both a privilege and a responsibility to ensure our students avail of all opportunities to enhance their learning as well as informing them of the excellent career opportunities a STEM qualification opens to them.

Currently research has shown that female pupils do not currently have sufficient access to role models and information regarding the many opportunities and pathways engineering careers can offer. It is estimated that the UK alone need an extra 400,000 engineers trained by 2020. As only 1 in 25 engineers are currently female more needs to be done to encourage them into an area that is traditionally male dominated. With this in mind the Technology Department places an emphasis on careers education and events. In February we ran our biggest and best Engineering Week (Engineersweek.ie) to date which involved over 1000 pupils from the Foyle Learning Community. Twenty local employers were involved in workshops and role model events this year. Our students also had the opportunity to visit local industries and 3rd level education providers to see at first hand work undertaken by engineers as well courses available for those hoping to continue on Design, Technology and Engineering pathways upon completing their A level studies. The Technology Department along with Vivienne Kerr from School Employer Connections are shortlisted for an 'Irish News Career Inspiration Award'.

In a market where career opportunities are harder to come by an increasing number of people in Northern Ireland are using entrepreneurial initiative and creating opportunities for themselves. With this in mind in October as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) we invited local entrepreneurs to St. Mary's to share their journey with us. This has become a highlight of the school year and we were delighted to be designated a high impact event by GEW for the second year running.

In October Mr Molloy travelled to London to take part in the Pearson's Teacher of the Year Awards in which he was a Silver Award winner for his use of Digital Technology in Education. We are extremely proud of his achievements and would like to thank Mr Mark Durkan MP and his staff for their support.

In March, Claire McGonigle and Megan Gillespie represented the department at Generation Innovation in Belfast. This evening of celebration brought together the best STEM students in Northern Ireland to congratulate them on their achievements while also inspire them.

An increasing number of our pupils are applying for and being accepted onto STEM courses. We wish them every success with their future studies and hope that in the future they will return to the department to share their experiences. This year we were delighted when Rozhin Amir Azodi an upper sixth Technology student got two unconditional offers from universities. She has opted to accept the offer from the University of Ulster to study Product and Furniture Design.

With a view to sharing good practice our department hosted the first TeachMeetTD in Northern Ireland as well as a #toastandtechnology exhibition. Both events were very well supported by other schools with people traveling from Belfast to see the work of our students.

This year the Technology Department worked closely fostering links with pupils from local primary schools and the FabLab at the Nerve Centre coming into school to undertake work on four week projects. Mr Gavin Molloy and Mr Gerry McLaughlin also visited a number of local primary schools with a 3D printer, drone and buggies to show pupils and staff the new technology available. In total 340 pupils and 18 staff were involved. This program was a huge success with schools already contacting the department hoping to see it continue next year. Our links with Primary Schools also saw the department feature in a UK publication D&T Magazine. The feature was written by Nina McGlinchey, a St Mary's College Journalism pupil and it is the first time a Northern Ireland school has been included. We would like to thank Nina for her time and expertise.

Exam Success

Congratulations to the following pupils:

Key Stage Three Technology Award **Shania Lavery**

Technology & Design Year 11 **Erin McPhilem**

Technology & Design Year 12 **Clare McGonigle**

Technology & Design AS **Kirsten McClintock**

Technology & Design A2 **Lauren Doherty**

Engineering Year 11 **Jade McGowan**

Engineering Year 12 **Megan Gillespie**

Engineering AS **Eden King**

Engineering A2 **Colm Quigley**

Also to all the pupils who achieve A* and A grades in modules:

GCSE Technology & Engineering 21 A/A* grades and at AS/A2 26 A grades

GCSE Technology and Design: 100% A* - E 94% A* - C

GCSE Engineering: 92% A* - E 76% A* - C

GCE Technology and Engineering AS/A2 A2 97% of pupils achieved A*- E grades

A special mention must also go to Marie McCallion and Kirsten McClintock who scored 98% and 100% respectively in their Technology CCEA theory papers! This is an amazing achievement for both girls and also for Mrs Mairead Flanagan who taught the unit.

Thanks:

The department would like to pay a very special tribute and thanks to All Pipe Engineering and Invista for their continued support of GCE Engineering. Thanks to Vivienne Kerr from School Employer Connections for all of her help in the organisation of Engineering week, Entrepreneurs week and site visits. Also to all the entrepreneurs and engineers who have spoken to pupils – a number of which have been past pupils and others with close connections to the school. If you would like to become involved in these events or any other work of the Technology Department please contact us.

HISTORY

The History department have had another very successful year with examination performances, we extend warm congratulations to all students and wish them well in forthcoming exam results. At GCSE level 86 % of students achieved grades A* to C. Our A'level students continue to excel and we are exceptionally proud of their success. Some of our A level students have taken up places to study History at University and one student is studying to become a history teacher. We congratulate all our students and wish them the very best in their future careers.

We congratulate the following students who were award winners at this year's prize giving ceremony:

- Shannon Doherty obtained the award for best A2 results
- Eimear McCallion was awarded the trophy for best A'S results
- Melissa Rabbett awarded the Katherine McCauley Cup for best GCSE results

The standard of work completed by our history students has been very high and students had many opportunities to engage in active learning strategies and build a wide range of skills. Our Year 8 students set a very high standard in their Norman Castle Modelling Competition. Prize Winners were selected in each class and the finished products are proudly on display in the department and at a special assembly. Year 9 students completed exemplary ICT projects on the Plantation of Ulster. Year 10 students produced excellent projects on the life of Ann Frank and the Holocaust. At the end of June 2014 the History department bid a fond farewell to Mrs Marion McClintock who was a very valued member of the department. Mrs Caitriona Devlin joined the history department in August 2014 and she has fitted in perfectly. Mrs Devlin is an excellent, enthusiastic and inspirational teacher. Caitlin Cavanagh and Megan Doherty from class E51 completed excellent training as peer tour guides from the Ann Frank Trust. Megan and Caitlin spoke at the official launch of the prestigious Ann Frank Exhibition: "Ann Frank: a History for Today" at the Holywell Trust. The girls then gave their fellow GCSE history classmates and our year 11 history students, a wonderful tour of the exhibition. The girls lead their tours with great knowledge and empathy of Ann Frank and the story of the Holocaust. Caitlin and Megan were commended by fellow students and members of the public who took the tours. Susan Glass of the Holywell Trust presented Megan and Caitlin with copies of Ann Frank's Diary.



Megan and Caitlin demonstrated great respect and sensitivity in leading their very professional tours and we are so proud of this excellent achievement.

The History and Geography departments had an amazing experience during our trip to Italy in October. Students had many wonderful highlights included tours of Pompeii and Rome. Students visited the Vatican and the Roman Forum, we sampled Italian culture at its best. The students also loved their visit to Campri and our stay in Sorrento. This was truly a wonderful experience and we look forward to our next trip in 2015 with year 12 students.

Our year 13 students participated in the finale of the Teaching Divided History Project. They went a screening of the film “1971” and then took part in a question and answer session with the director Johanna Hamilton. The students thoroughly enjoyed this unique experience. Year 13 and 14 students also participated in a series of lectures organised by the Irish Historical Society on the Partition of Ireland and Nationalism and Unionism (1800-1900).



Students enjoyed participating the “Teaching Divided Histories Project”, using ICT and digital technologies to learn more about contentious issues from our local, national and global history. Students used a variety of software packages for example creating comics on the Civil Rights Movement in Derry and the USA. Students participated in exhibition entitled: “ Civil Rights - *We have it in our power to begin the world over again*” Curated by Lynette Yiadom Boakye and Maolíosa Boyle in October. The exhibition was curated by Lynette Yiadom Boakye and Maolíosa Boyle launched at Void / City Factory Gallery, Derry. The exhibition looked at the Black Civil Rights movement through historical photographs, documents and contemporary art and explores how it impacted on Civil Rights in Derry and N. Ireland, featuring an incredible body of work with artists Kara Walker, Lorna Simpson, Ellen Gallagher, Glenn Ligon, Finally, the History department wishes a fond farewell to our valued colleague Mrs Lena McMorrow who has taught history at our school for the past 34 years. Lena is an excellent teacher, who has brought history to life in the classroom and inspired so many of her students to careers involving history. We wish Lens every health and happiness in her retirement.

MODERN LANGUAGES

European Day of Languages was celebrated on Friday 26th September 2014 and was a huge success. A ‘pop-up’ Boulangerie appeared in the assembly hall was greeted enthusiastically by pupils and staff. Year 8 Spanish pupils decorated fans and some girls participated in a Salsa class. There was also a French breakfast, a quiz and songs.

Gearalt O’Mianáin, our Irish Assistant continued to play a crucial role in assisting Mrs Devlin in preparing former Gaelscoil and Bunscoil pupils for their Irish GCSE exams. Junior Irish pupils also spent a lovely day in the Whitehorse Hotel with students from across the county at the annual Gael Linn Quiz and ceili – indeed, St. Mary’s pupils took 2nd place!

We also welcomed Irene de Lago and Karen Prigent to the languages department as our new Spanish and French Assistants and they both provided an invaluable service for our KS3/ KS4 pupils and subject teachers.

We welcome the Onatti theatre company to the school who performed a French play 'Erreur d'identité' – which included pupil participation and this was a super experience for pupils.

As part of the Foyle film festival in November, we took a group of pupils to see 'Jack et la mécanique du coeur' which was enjoyed thoroughly.

The highlight of the school year was undoubtedly the School Trip to Paris at the end of March. 32 Pupils and 4 staff members spent 4 fun-filled days experiencing life in Paris and visiting famous landmarks and of course Disneyland!

St. Mary's hosted its' 6th 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' which was another huge success with pupils. Events included a visit to Caifé Failte and a ceili. We hosted Cinemobile from Galway who showed pupils a series of short Irish films. We also had football and camogie competitions as well as 'reelrobics' for year 8 and year 9 pupils. We also hosted a comic book workshop for year 10 Irish pupils which was a great experience. Continued partnership with the Geography department allows for further inter-departmental collaboration regarding the 'map of Ireland' labelling competition for the new year 8 pupils.

MUSIC

Another busy and successful year in the Music Department! Here are some of the highlights of the past year.

- Our School Choir and Orchestra performed at Prize giving (23rd Sept) and at our School Mass (25th Sept.)
- The choir performed in Armagh Cathedral as part of the All Island Choir competition.
- Another successful year for our choir in Derry's International Choral Festival. (24th Oct.)
- In December our school orchestra collaborated with the Good Shepherd Primary school orchestra resulting in a memorable In-School Carol Service. (10th Dec)
- The choir and orchestra performed in our Annual Carol Service in St. Patrick's Church, Pennyburn. (11th Dec)
- Irish Traditional Group played at Christmas Craft Fair.
- The choir and traditional group performed for 'Save the Children' charity in Foyle side.
- The Orchestra, Choir and Traditional group all performed on Open Day. (Jan)
- Both the Junior and Senior choirs were successful at the Derry Feis as were the Traditional group.
- As part of the St. Patrick's Day Celebrations our Traditional group and choir performed in the Foyle Hospice.
- Three of our senior pupils- Nicole King, Aiveen O' Connell and Edel Bowen will be taking part in a production of 'La Traviata' which will be staged in the Forum (7th/8th Aug)
- One of our year 11 music students- Aine Fleming, recently joined the WELB Senior orchestra.

- On 1st May, Our Senior music students along with some KS3 classes took part in an enjoyable jazz workshop funded by the OuterWest Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and the Nerve Centre. (A master class with Neil Cowley)
- On 4th May our choir performed with renowned jazz musician Jamie Cullum in the Forum as part of the City's Jazz Festival.
- Our choir performed on the 2nd June with a visiting American school choir 'The Riddlers', in St. Mary's College.
- The choir performed at a Charity Fashion event held in St. Mary's College.
- On the 27th June our choir will be taking part in several choral workshops in London.
- A large number of our instrumentalists were successful in the various Board exams; The Associate Board, Trinity London and the Royal Irish Academy.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

ICT Provision

School Estate

- 6 bookable ICT suites
- 4 bookable ICT clusters
- Dedicated Technology ICT suite
- Dedicated Music ICT cluster
- Video Conferencing suite
- Learning Plaza with Mac hub
- Moving Image Arts Mac suite

Environment

- Circa 400+ C2k managed desktops/ laptops
- 37 iMacs, 4 MacBook Pros, 34 iPads
- 150 Eolas2 Notebooks (Year 10)
- 170 Microsoft Surface RT (Year 9)
- 140 Microsoft Surface RT (current Year 8)
- 150 HP Stream 11 Pro (incoming Year 8)
- Standalone laptops
- Bring Your Own Device

Break the Bully App Launch

As part of DCAL's Creative Marketplace programme, young people from post-primary schools across the North-West were invited to develop their very best ideas for new mobile apps. Out of over 100 groups only five groups were selected by a dragons den style panel to take their ideas forward. Grace McDermott and Mollie Massie year 9 with their idea for a "Break the Bully App" were among the five groups selected. Mollie and Grace were lucky enough to be partnered with "Outsider Games" a Northern Ireland games studio to create a working prototype of the App. Incredibly the App has now been launched thanks to "Outsider Games" and is available for free download.

Links for Break the Bully Download

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/break-the-bully/id922965715?mt=8>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.outsidergames.BreakTheBully>

ICT Departmental Primary Links

Pupils from St Patrick's Primary School visited the ICT department in December to take part in a Coding workshop. Pupils had a great time and were mentored by current St Mary's pupils who were past pupils of St Patrick's Primary School. A great day was had by teachers and students alike.

Widening Access by Introducing Programming – University of Ulster

Year 14 IT students took part in the WAPIBS course this year again. This is a course which introduces pupils to the Java programming language and on successful completion of the course the pupils receive 5 University Credits. Pupils gave up their free time on a Wednesday afternoon to be tutored by a PhD student from the University of Ulster. The following pupils successfully completed the course this year.

Kevin Mellon

Jason Hegarty

Aimee McLaughlin

Fiona Corr

Tyler McCallion

Jennifer McDaid

Kevina McDonald

ICT teachers go back to University

Mrs Melaugh, Miss Connolly and Mrs Rice went back to University this year. All 3 teachers attended the University of Ulster from 2pm-5pm every Wednesday to complete a post graduate module using the C# programming language in Software Systems Development. All three teachers successfully completed the course.

Minecraft Code as you Play

The pupils and Swedish visitors at St Mary's College participated in an excellent Minecraft workshop in September. The ICT Department hosted *Minecraft Code as You Play* which involved teachers and pupils learning to code using Minecraft.

Hour of Code

Our entire Junior school joined in on the largest learning event in history: The Hour of Code took place during Computer Science Education Week from Monday 8th December to 14th December. Our pupils were joined in the classroom by parents, grandparents and members of the community. The PSNI and staff from the University of Ulster also joined in the fun.

Microsoft IT Academy (How to use your tablet)

The Microsoft IT Academy continued this year and was aimed at helping parents and adults with little or no ICT skills to use their tablets or Ipads. Those who enrolled were taught how to access the internet, send e-mail and use apps on their tablet.

Stem Aware Day

The IT department welcomed pupils from Thornhill College on Thursday 22nd January. The girls took part in a coding workshop using Microsoft KODU and were given lots of help and support by our own year 9 and year 12 students.

Digi-Tech Hub Launch

The IT department launched their new Digi-Tech Hub on Wednesday 18 March 2015. The aim of the Digi-Tech Hub is to provide an open unrestrictive space for students to innovate and create digital media and explore a range of industry leading software outside the curriculum. Students will also have the opportunity to explore new innovative hardware and software such as the Raspberry Pi, Ozobots, Lego

Mindstorm and Xbox. The Digi-Hub will develop pupil's skills in gaming and coding in an inspiring and challenging environment.

Culture Tech Digital Careers day - Guildhall

In December 2014, year 13 IT students attended Culture Tech's Digital Careers day, a number of digital industry employers shared their experiences with students. Speakers included Dale Wightman, DogEars, GetInvited, Learning Pool, Allstate, Stem Aware, Type 40 Creative, Startacus and the Fab Lab.

Allstate Teachers Technology Training

Mrs Melaugh, Mrs Rogan and Miss Connolly successfully completed Allstate's Teachers' Technology Training. This was a 5 day intense C# course customised for the new A Level in Software Systems Development.

Seagate Summer School in Computing and Engineering (July 2014)

A group of year 12 students gave up one week of their summer holidays to complete the Seagate Summer School in Computing and Engineering. The pupils built their own websites, programmed a Robot and created an app for a mobile phone. All pupils who participated successfully completed the course and were awarded with a 5-credit point module (university credits). We also have a number of students who have secured places in the programme this summer also; we wish them luck.

WICADET (Mobile App Camp)

Year 11 students won first prize for the most commercially viable App at the WiCadet App Competition in UU Coleraine on Friday 21st January. Shelby McElwee, Rebecca Doherty, Aisling Hegarty and Megan Kelly and Megan all won beautiful Samsung Galaxy Notebooks. Our pupils were outstanding ambassadors for St Mary's throughout the duration of this project and received amazing feedback from the Judges.

Bring IT On Road Show

A group of our Year 11 and Year 12 pupils visited Magee on Friday 27th February to take part in an ICT Careers Awareness Event which was delivered by Momentum the ICT Federation. Pupils and teachers were given information on the local digital sector and the career opportunities available through presentations, fun team challenges and activities. People who work for local IT companies attended the event as ICT Ambassadors providing an insight into their organisations and job roles. Both staff and pupils found the day fun and informative.

Minecraft/Temple Workshops

On Thursday 19th March David Best delivered a workshop with some of our year 10 students and pupils from Ardnashee School and College, he explained how he developed the designs for Temple and the thinking behind this. Students worked with David to create their own designs on paper. Minecraft artist Adam Clarke then showed the students how to translate those designs and ideas into a pre-built version of the Temple in Minecraft

Saturday School

Miss Yvonne Connolly ran a series of very successful coursework clinics on a Saturday morning throughout April and May. Pupils welcomed the extra help with their coursework and attendance was very impressive.

Allstate Teacher Training

Mrs Melaugh, Mrs Rogan and Miss Connolly attended Allstate Teachers' Technology Training in C# from the 15th-19th June. This was a five day C# course customised for the new A Level in Software Systems Development.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Work experience: This year saw the continuation of strong links made with Health, Social Care and Early years organisations through the BTEC Diploma in Health and Social Care. We have also made strong links with Destined, where our girls also attended on a weekly basis to assist adults with learning disabilities. Additionally Primary schools such as Carnhill PS, Longtower PS, Nazareth House PS offered work placements for our pupils. As well as Brooklands Residential Home and Deanfield Residential home. Furthermore AS pupils visited Magilligan Prison and met with NIACRO, Prison Officers and The Governor of the Prison. They had a tour of parts of the prison including solitary and Foyleview.

Disability Awareness training: The Year 13 BTEC pupils completed Disability Awareness training through the Cedar Foundation. They will receive an OCN level 2 certificate for this training. 17 pupils took part. The training involved organising a group activity for SEN pupils who use CEDAR. The girls participated in face painting, t shirt design and playing the parachute game in the playtrail.

SCIENCE

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 Forensic science, Psychology, Health Science, Health Physiology, Bio-medical Science, Pathology, Diagnostic Radiography, Renewable Energy Engineering, Podiatry and Nursing. These students gained places at a variety of Universities all over N. Ireland, England and Scotland. There was a 100% pass rate in St. Mary's in this subject yet again this year.

In addition our Level 3 BTEC A-level students who applied to University all gained places to study courses as diverse as Applied Psychology, Forensic Science, Environmental Science, Creative Music technology, Health Science, Health Physiology, Education Studies and Special and Inclusive Needs studies.

At Key Stage 4 pupils also achieved considerable success with almost **90%** of pupils gaining at least one pass grade in GCSE science. Indeed all pupils did Double Award Science courses meaning that over **80%** had 2 Science GCSEs to show for their efforts.

This year many pupils took advantage of the wide range of in-school and after school science clubs 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), The Big Bang Finals in England and, of course, our own North-West 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 September 9 pupils from Year 10 attended the STEMMIES at Brunswick Super-bowl for the red-carpet screening of the N. Ireland Big Video Challenge finalist videos and the award ceremony. Our pupils swept the boards winning all their categories and finishing as runners-up and overall winners. For this they won an all-expenses paid trip to Google's European headquarters in Dublin and a four day all expenses paid trip to CERN in Switzerland to see the Large Hadron Collider. On the 9th September a civic reception was held for Mrs. A. Blanking from the science department in recognition of her receiving her MBE. On the 16th September Year 10 pupils attended the Ministry of Science shows in the Millennium Forum.

Also in September 2014 St. Mary's pupils attended events in various locations for Culture Tech where STEM exhibitors from across Ireland and England gave presentations and workshops on Science related activities. Several events were hosted by St. Mary's College including the Zombie Science shows and Coder Dojo which had large turnouts during the weekend.

In October Upper Sixth Science students presented the findings of their Summer School projects to an invited audience of their own parents and representatives from the University of Ulster. All pupils spoke extremely well and almost all students subsequently gained the full extra 60 UCAS points towards their University places at the University of Ulster.

Also in October St. Mary's once again 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 and continues to grow. We thank Seagate for their continued support for events within our department and our school.

On the 4th December Year 8 pupils attended the University of Ulster Christmas Science Lecture at Magee Campus of UU and on the 18th December the STEM bus arrived for the first time this year for a Year 8 workshop on Forensic Science. Also in December all members of the Chemistry Club attended the Minister of Education's event in Stormont to promote the BT Young Scientists event in Dublin.

In January 8 projects involving 12 pupils from St. Mary's College were presented in the BT Young Scientist Competition in Dublin. The pupils did extremely well and we are very proud of their work.

Also in January the Lower Sixth science pupils made their first presentations in front of an invited audience. They all performed extremely well, especially since it was their first such presentation.

On the 20th January St. Mary's College Science Department invited pupils from Thornhill College to our CEIAG Women into STEM event in association with STEM Aware using funding secured from the SELB. The event proved to be hugely successful with pupils engaged in coding and video making on a Science based theme. We hope to continue the link in future years.

Also in February St. Mary's College hosted two teacher training days on 'Creating suspense and surprise in the science classroom' organised by 'Learn Differently' and the National Science Learning Centre.

In March the STEM bus visited the school once again and more Year 8 pupils could be found working to solve the crime of who killed Chris. P. Bacon. Using their new developed CSI skills, the girls had a really good day.

March also saw events to celebrate National Science Week. Events in St. Mary's included a year 8 STEM quiz, Year 9 Rocket launching workshops, Science Movies for Year 11 students, Robotics workshops for Year 9 students at Magee Campus of UU, a Sentinus workshop for Year 9 pupils and a STEM Aware workshop Year 8 pupils.

On the 12th March Aoife Nash, a Year 11 pupil won the prestigious Year of Light award at the Big Bang finals in England. This entitled her to a trip to the famous Rutherford labs at the Diamond Research centre in Oxford University in June. In April the pupils who won the Big Video Challenge went on their trip to CERN in Geneva and had an unforgettable experience. Also in April another group of Year 10 pupils attended the Go4SET day at the Braid centre in Ballymena and were highly commended for their work on a water conservation scheme for our school.

On the 13th May 2 Chemistry club pupils attended the UNESCO Final in Dublin with their project which had been shortlisted at the BT Young Scientist in January. Again their work was highly commended. On the 20th May Year 8 pupils attended the Salter's Chemistry Festival at the NWRC.

On the 12th June St. Mary's College hosted the North-West SciFest incorporating the Big Bang in which over 500 pupils from over 40 schools from across the North-West showcased their science project work or attended Science workshops in the school. Pupils from St. Mary's College won five awards including the award for overall best project, the Royal Society of Chemistry award, the Life Sciences award and the special award which entitles the winning pupils to represent N. Ireland at the Big Bang finals in England in March 2015. This year the event was bigger than ever and we hope to continue this growth.

On Monday 22nd June 5 pupils went to Belfast for a residential Bootcamp run by BT. These pupils were specially selected at the BT Young Scientist Finals in Dublin in January. On Tuesday 23rd June St. Mary's College Chemistry Club pupils from Year 8 right up to Year 12 travelled to Belfast to participate in the SENTINUS N. Ireland Young Scientist competition and picked up two major awards. Our group of 8 Year 8 pupils incredibly won the Royal Society of Chemistry Award for Best Overall Chemistry project in the entire competition and Justine Munoz from year 12 won the Grand Award to attend the Big bang Final in Birmingham in March 2016. On Wednesday 24th June a group of 8 pupils went to the Diamond Research Centre at Oxford University as part of a Year of Light prize won by Aoife Nash at the Big Bang in Birmingham in March. We have had a fantastic year this year and we are looking forward to more success – academic and otherwise – in the year ahead.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

The ultimate enterprise experience – mentored by Young Enterprise Business Advisers, students set up and run their own real company over a year. The Company Program materials are all available on-line, providing an innovative suite of business tools and guidance for students and link teachers.

The Young Enterprise Company from St Mary's was made up of 14 Lower 6th students. The company name was 'SMC' and they designed and manufactured a range of products depending on the Trade Fair they were attending.

The company participated in:

- **St Mary's College Christmas Trade Fair** where they manufactured a range of decorative Christmas decorations. These proved to be very successful and despite having a large stock they were sold out at the end of the day. The girls were highly motivated with confidence and selling skills quickly developing as the day progressed.
- **Trade Fair in Foyle Side Shopping Centre:** The young enterprise team took part in the Trade Fair at Foyleside Shopping centre where they sold 'iPad / Tablet Stands'. The team had a great days trading and were able to put selling tips they had picked up from the Christmas Craft Fair into practice.

The girls who participated in the company all received participation certificates which were presented by Young Enterprise NI.

The Young Enterprise NI Team also came into the school and delivered a number of very beneficial and interactive workshops to the pupils in a number of year groups in the school.

Your School Your Business **Year 8**
2nd September 2014

Supporting the Primary – Secondary transition. Your School Your Business is an exciting and engaging way to introduce students to their new school.

Learn to Earn **Year 11**
10th March 2015

An engaging and thought provoking day challenges students to make the connection between education, training and employment. Learn to Earn empowers students to start planning for tomorrow, today.

Looks at careers, salaries and soft interview skills.

YE 9 Program **Year 9**
12th May 2015

Real life entrepreneurs share their experiences first hand with students through a dynamic series of enterprise challenges. Entrepreneurship Masterclass inspires students to turn their ideas into action.

Success Skills **Year 12 / 13**
6th October 2014

Students are encouraged to develop the knowledge, skills and personal / entrepreneurial characteristics to help them excel at school and in their future ahead.

- Information on study skills
- Intensive guidance on application forms
- Finishing a form
- Intensive focus on interview skills

- Pupils interview one another
- Links in very well with SENTINUS INTERVIEWS

Personal Economics

Year 13

23rd Jan 2015

Through 'life map living' students are challenged and inspired to consider money management, employment and their own financial futures. Personal Economics brings financial capability to life.

- Bank account management
- Credit cards
- APR interest
- Life learning

ART AND DESIGN

Big Video Challenge Winners!!

The Moving Image and Science Department collaborated together last May to produce two Key Stage Three STEM related videos for Culture Tech's Big Video Challenge. A year 14 Moving Image Student Megan McClean also made an educational video based on an interview with the company 360 productions here in Derry. A lot of blood, sweat and tears were put in by all involved. All three entries were shortlisted for the STEMies Award ceremony which was held in mid-September at the Brunswick Superbowl in Derry.

St Mary's College, Derry swept the board at the recent Big Video Challenge STEMies awards. The event was hosted in Brunswick Moviebowl and welcomed almost 250 school pupils from across the north to showcase films they had made on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects and digital careers.

Scooping four awards, including Best Overall video, Best Digital Careers video, Best Educational video and Best Live video, St Mary's won a trip to Google in Dublin and the star prize of trip to CERN in Switzerland – the European organisation for nuclear research and home to the Hadron Collider.

The awards were organised as part of CultureTECH festival and asked pupils from Key Stages 2-5 to produce a five minute video. Almost 100 videos were submitted and judging was based on creativity, educational content and originality.



Sorrell Foundation Art Programme - October

3 Year 12 GCSE Art and Design students have been accepted onto the Sorrell Foundation art programme. The pupils will now attend 30 art workshops on Saturdays over the course of the year.

- In Term 1 they will also benefit from an all-expenses paid weekend trip to London to visit London museums and galleries.
- In Term 2 they will attend a masterclass led by a leading figure in art and design
- In Term 3 the pupils work will be exhibited at Somerset House, London
The 3 deserved pupils selected to join the programme are Rebecca, Jenny Bradley and Emma Doherty

Craft Fair – 22nd November

Thanks to the help from all involved, this year's Craft fair was again a huge success. Visitors to the school were left mightily impressed, not only with the beautiful offerings from the 70 stalls, but with the wonderful building and, most importantly, with the exceptional warm welcome extended to them from the Saint Mary's Community.

There was a superb response from our feeder primary schools to the Craft Competition. We had 60 entries in total from across the city's primary schools. As well as 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, 10 entries were highly commended! We thanked all those who contributed to the wonderful atmosphere.

BFI Residential Documentary Film Academy

Katie Duddy, a Moving Image Arts Student from St Mary's College is one of only two students from Northern Ireland to be selected to take part in the prestigious BFI Residential Documentary Film Academy for the UK which will be held in London at the end of January. This is a practical one week course for 16-19 year olds who are passionate about documentary film. She will be lucky enough to be tutored and mentored by a range of BAFTA and Oscar winners from the film industry.

Katie has also written a short film idea which has been shortlisted by the BBC for the True North Shorts which is a short documentary project for 17-25 year olds. If her idea is successfully selected her film will be made by the BBC. We wish Katie the best of luck.

Update!!! We had brilliant news. Katie Duddy, a Year 14 MIA pupil, had her documentary proposal for the 'True North Short's competition selected to be made by the BBC. She beat off stiff competition and numerous rounds of shortlisting (one of which she had to pitch her idea to BBC commissioners) to be one of the 5 chosen documentaries to be made by the BBC. True North Shorts is a short documentary project for 17-25 year olds, where they look for stories that they can make into short documentaries for broadcasting on BBC TV and online. Those selected who have ideas commissioned will get the help of a BBC producer to develop the story and will have access to a BBC camera crew to film it and they get paid!

True Colours Exhibition, Ulster Museum, Belfast Jan 2015 **Press worthy achievements:**

16 January – 22 February 2015

The Ulster Museum, in partnership with CCEA, hosted True Colours. This exhibition showcases a selection of the best of the GCSE, AS and A2 exam entries from summer 2014 and includes preparatory work alongside finished pieces.

Charlotte was unable to attend the Opening Night of the exhibition on Thurs 15th Jan. She travelled instead with the school to see her work on Thursday 29th Jan. Her little sister Jennifer was given special permission by her mother and the Principal to travel with the GCSE and A-Level exam pupils to see Charlotte's work. This is the third consecutive year that work from the school has been selected for inclusion.

This year, Charolette Bradberry Axten's work was selected for final inclusion in CCEA's prestigious 'True Colours' exhibition. The exhibition, held in the Ulster Museum in Belfast, showcases work which is considered to be the very, very best in the province.

Miss Treacy attended the opening on Thursday evening, January 9th. Year 11, 13 and 14 Art and Design pupils travelled to visit the exhibition on Friday 24th January. It was an inspirational trip for pupils and staff.

Temple Art Project – Fab Lab – March 5th & 19th

'Temple' is a peacemaking project by Californian artist David Best, conceived and produced by Artichoke and supported by Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Members of the local community in Derry and Nerve Centre staff will work with Best and his team to build an elaborate temporary artwork which will be visible across the city. On the 5th March the Temple team visited Saint Mary's College and worked with all Year 11 Art students. After a short presentation the workshop leader, Siobhan O Connor, asked the pupils to create a design within the space given, which reflects the meaning of the Temple project - Peace, Remembrance, Hope, Forgiveness, Loss, Renewal, Joy, Moving on but which also has personal or special meaning to them. Rachel Jennings and Chloe Wilkinson's designs were selected to become part of the finished Temple. All Year 11 pupils and available A Level pupils will visit the Temple on 19th March.

Andrew Scriven Photographer March 6th

Thanks to Fr Paul Farren we had the unique opportunity to welcome Andrew Scriven, renowned photographer, to the Department. Andrew has organised photography expeditions to Tanzania, Antarctica, Svalbard, Iceland and Nepal. He generously spent several hours with our MIA pupils and shared his view on photography, on life and on lessons learned. The pupils were truly gripped. A genuinely inspiring gentleman.

Banyan Theatre Company - March 10th

Karen Torley from Banyan Theatre company ran a specific Puppeteering workshop in Saint Mary's College on Tuesday 10th March. The purpose of the workshops was to provide an entertaining workshop for students who have an interest in Art or Drama. Two Year 10 classes participated in the workshops.

Credit Union Awards, 30th March

Katie Duddy, A2 Art and Design and MIA pupil, was nominated by the Department for her simply outstanding Contribution to the Arts.

In the summer of 2014 Katie was prize-winner in the inter-school city wide A-Level Art competition – an outstanding achievement having gone toe-to-toe with the finalists from all other grammar and secondary schools in the city. Her prizewinning work was exhibited in the Void gallery.

Katie's MIA achievements are also truly exceptional (see above).

All of these achievements are the more remarkable given Katie's personal circumstances. Over this period, Katie watched her mother battle cancer. Her mother lost her battle in the summer of 2014. Katie has dedicated her studies to her mother's memory.

Katie was joint winner in this category.

St Mary's College Room 13 pupils were also finalists and runners up in the Business and Enterprise Award.

Exam Success 2015

We have had pupils from all levels nominated for possible inclusion in the True Colours Exhibition 2016

- Justine Munoz and Chelsea Devine (GCSE)
- Collette Conway (AS)
- Katie Duddy (A2)

DRAMA

GCSE Drama results continue to improve with 94% of pupils gaining a C or above. The fourth and fifth year GCSE Drama pupils attended performances of *Westside Story* in the Opera House and *Blood Brothers* in the Millennium Forum and attended post performance discussions with the Cast and Directors. We also took a large group of third and English Literature GCSE students, demonstrating a great interest in the pupils to attend live theatre.

GCSE pupils also took part in a drama workshop to explore using digital technologies to explore, study, research Plays, in this case *Stone the Crows*, the workshop provided valuable insight into how digital technologies and apps can be used to learn or present work in Drama - great food for thought.

Key stage three Drama maintains its popularity with pupils and has got very favourable feedback from particularly first and second year pupils who were very keen to get involved in technically supporting GCSE practical examinations and rehearsals to develop their skills. Younger pupils feel it has raised their confidence and helped them to take part in discussions and decision making and developed their team work skills in other subjects. This year first year pupils provided valuable technical support for the GCSE Examination Performances, the pupils provided back stage support as well as operating lights and sound during the exam.

FIRST AID

The following staff were trained in June for the following:

Defibrillator Training (one year)	Emergency First Aid Training (one year)	Advanced First Aid (3 year)
Mairead Treacy	Mairead Mc Carron-Deane	Gerry McLaughlin
Franz Hoeritzauer	Martrice Hasson	Franz Hoeritzauer
Martrice Hasson	Michelle Griffin	Lynn Hasson
Helena McLaughlin	Deirdre Jamison	Madeline Mc Callion
Jenny Martin	Paula Taylor	Jenny Martin
Orla McIntyre		Heidi Curley
Clare Mc Garrity		Clare Mc Garrity
Colleen Gibbons		Orla McIntyre