

# The News Room

ST PAUL'S COLLEGE | RAHENY | NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 1/JANUARY 2019

## Our New Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of our school Newsletter detailing some of the events which have taken place during our first term.

**Michael Behan, Principal.**

School is an extremely busy place and the number of events that occur in any given week are varied and involve many people who experience these events in many different ways. This Newsletter has come about with support from the Parents' Association and our new PR person, Mr Sean Moran. Our aim is to inform you of some of our achievements over the latter end of 2018.



and indeed all of our students who performed so well in Leaving Certificate 2018.

Congratulations to Jack O'Reilly and to David Byrd (6th year) who came 1st and 2nd respectively in Ireland on the basis of their results in DCG (higher level) in the Leaving Certificate Examination 2018. They will be presented with special awards at a National Ceremony in March.

As Principal I attended Scholarships Award presentations in 3 of our main Universities – UCD, Trinity and DCU – where 6 of our students (Carl O'Connor, David Byrd, Jack O'Reilly, Michael Haskins, Philip Gaffney and Daniel Kavanagh) received scholarships (two in each college) based on their results from the Leaving Certificate 2018. This is a tremendous achievement and I want to congratulate these students

I am very proud of the high standard achieved by our students in the Junior Cycle examination. I want to especially congratulate Harry Whelehan, Michael Joyce and Mark Byrd who were chosen to attend the Irish Junior Olympiad tests in DCU based on their outstanding results in Maths and Science (> 95% in both subjects).

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## Junior Cycle Reform

The reform of the Junior Cycle is well underway and has been both challenging and exciting for the staff and students.

Teachers have engaged with subject specific training days, whole school student wellbeing training and online formative assessment training.

3rd years have completed their second Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) in English, Science and Business and 2nd years are looking forward to CBAs in English, Business, Science, Visual Art and Languages early in 2019.



1st years are the first year to be completing short courses in PE and Digital Media Literacy and are enjoying the many active learning methodologies teachers are using in order to embrace the new learning outcomes in each subject.

Transition year students will be receiving their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) shortly which recognises their academic achievements in subjects as well as CBA's and very importantly recognises the broad range of extra and co-curricular achievements and skills students have developed in Junior Cycle.

## Senior Hurling Team

Moving up a grade this year, our Senior hurlers bowed out of this year's Dublin Championship at the quarter final stage. This was no mean feat especially after losing joint team captain Ciaran Walsh to injury for the year. However with huge displays from men like Luke Hempenstall, Liam Fahy, Liam Synnott, Darragh Jackson, Nathan Morgan and Adam Kelly-Gill the team managed to get through their tricky group stage. A great win



over St Kevin's on a bitterly cold November day saw the lads through to the quarters where they lost out to a well drilled Malahide CS on a scoreline of 6-11 to 5-7.

The players can hold their head high having pushed St Paul's hurling to a higher grade and raising the bar for younger teams. Thanks to our 6th year players who have shown great commitment over the past number of years.

## First Year Rugby 2018/2019

The 1st Year Rugby season is well and truly under way. Gone are the warm September training sessions but there is still great commitment being shown by the squad and this is evident in their recent games. After a few mixed results in several "friendly" 10-a-side matches against local schools, we recently had our very first 15-a-side match. It was a

fantastic victory over Marian College, especially after we went 10-0 down early on. Following an inspiring team talk from the coaches, St Paul's fought their way back to come out 31-19 victors. We hope to build on this win and we look forward to our upcoming fixtures in the New Year



## Chaplaincy News December 2018



Hi Everyone, Just a quick few lines from Chaplaincy office. We have had a busy couple of months, it all started for me with the Leaving Certificate results, it was great to see so many lads leave the school with a smile on their face, we offered a cuppa to everyone who passed through.

During the first term I introduced the Youth Alpha Programme to our Transition Year. The programme ran for seven weeks on Fridays and was concluded with a Retreat in St. Brigid's Resource Centre. The evaluations from this programme were very positive so that gives me good confidence going forward.

For the month of November Fr. Ioan of the Vincentian Fathers celebrated a mass of remembrance with each class group. We also had a tree of remembrance placed at the North Door for anyone to add names of deceased relatives/friends they wanted remembered at our mass.

Finally, I would like to mention the School Young SVP group which the TY class have led over the past few months with the support of Ms. Hickey and Mr. Moran. There is some great work happening in particular I would like to mention the lads (Aaron, Thomas and Thomas) who have been helping out with the Friday Bingo session at the Sacred Heart Home across the road from our school.

**Paddy**



## Parents' Association

During the past year the Parents' Association Committee organised four fundraising events: Grove flooring memorabilia, Annual Bag Pack, Annual Table Quiz and Annual Plant Sale. Proceeds from the events are used to sponsor a variety of school activities/materials.

The Committee also supports some of the key events in the school, organising refreshments for parents/students and acting as a point of contact for parents, including the School Open Night, First Year Mass, 6th Year Graduation, School

Musical and Carol Service. The Committee also acts as a representative for the parent body and point of contact for parents to raise issues/concerns/ideas.

We always welcome new members and this is a great opportunity to become actively involved in the school.

Meetings are held at 8pm on the 1st Wednesday of each month in the Staff Room (except during school holidays when we meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month).



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At Christmas TY students were involved in our annual collection of food donations from students and parents which enabled us to make up more than 70 hampers which were delivered locally. Transition Year students were very involved in this project and I want to thank them especially for their work. We also had an outstanding Christmas Carol evening, which brought the spirit of Christmas into our hearts and minds.

As part of our Leadership programme, 6th year prefects received Leadership training from Mr Gerard O'Connor (Director of Coaching, Leinster GAA) and these students helped to mentor our incoming First Years as part of our newly formulated Induction Programme.

The new changes in the Junior Cycle programme are continuing to make a positive impact on our students and staff alike. Two days of in-service training has been completed by all staff members and a programme of Continuous Professional Development for all staff has been funded by the Board of Management to help in this regard. The style of reporting and assessment is changing

considerably and this is being reflected in the new Classroom Based Assessment (CBA) which now happen in second and third year as well as the Profile of Achievement (POA) which gives credit for extra-curricular activities done in school.

At time of going to press we have received the exciting news that we have been included in the Department's summer works programme for 2019 which will allow us to upgrade our single-glaze windows to become more energy efficient, keeping the school warmer and more secure.

We have recently launched our school Twitter account which will keep everyone updated on a more regular basis with events as they happen.

I hope that you enjoy our Newsletter and that 2019 brings all of us its own rewards and blessings.

**Michael Behan,**  
School Principal

## Sunset Walk To The Bull Island

On the 25th of September the school day started earlier than usual for our new first year students. To promote positive relationships and team building within the group, the students met in the school carpark at 7.45am to participate in our first ever sunset walk to the Bull Island, accompanied by Mr Behan, Mr Daly and Mr. Pender. It was a great event which allowed the year group to bond and make new friends while at the same time being able to reflect on the first month in secondary school and look forward to the many sunrises ahead.

When the group returned to the school, a hugely popular breakfast was organised by Ms. Rigley before they lads went back to classes refreshed and ready for action.

This is the start of a journey which will be completed with a graduation breakfast in sixth year. The members of the First Year Induction programme wish them all the best on that journey.

