



Sancta Maria College

Summer 2018



Thank you for taking the time to read our Newsletter. It is wonderful to see the variety of talent and experiences that our students are involved in. Well done to all of you and to the staff who give of their time to encourage and support all the extra-curricular and co-curricular activities which are so important to the holistic development of young people.

Our SNAs Maureen, Anna Loretta and Trish go above and beyond their job descriptions to ensure all who need extra care get it. Jim and Noel our secretary and caretaker also play a huge role in all our lives. From once you stand at the gate there is a welcome for you. Both men are just wonderfully supportive of all we do.

Our new extension is progressing very well and we look forward to its completion. Thank you all for your patience during this transition period.

Sincere thanks to the Parents' Association, Student Council and Board of Management for all your support and dedication to the school.

We all wish our Leaving and Junior Certs the very best of luck in their exams. It's a stressful time but in the end education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.

Thanks to you all for your genuine interest and support for our school. Finally thanks to Ms Foy and Ms McDermott for all their work in putting this newsletter together.

Have a lovely summer


Pauline Moran

What makes you proud of Sancta Maria College?"

Findings from Parents, Students and Teachers 2018



Contact us

 098 66342

Fax 098 66570

Email info@sanctamaria.ie

Web sanctamaria.ie



The Rainbows Programme is a nine week programme which supports children and young people affected by loss because of bereavement, separation or divorce.

This service will be available in Sancta Maria College in autumn 2018. For more information on Rainbows Ireland please visit www.rainbowsireland.ie or contact Sancta Maria College at 098 66342

Student Leadership Conference 2018

St. Patrick's College Drumcondra, Dublin 9



Congratulations to Sancta Maria College fifth year and leaving certificate students, Dylan, Eimear and Croia who attended the Student Leadership Conference 2018 in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra. The day started with a welcome address from Professor Daire Keogh, Deputy President of DCU and was followed by the lighting of a Catholic Education An Irish Schools Trust (CEIST) candle and opening prayer followed by a presentation of images from participating CEIST schools. Dr Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, gave his address and

blessing. David Kennedy followed with a talk on World Family Events. Keynote speaker Fr. Philip Mulryne, Newbridge College, spoke about his life as a soccer player and now as a priest. He inspired all students and teachers present to realise that they all are born for a special purpose in life and one that will make them happy and fulfilled. Finally the Mercy Navan Choir performed "A Joy For All The Earth," composed by Ephrem Feeley. This song is the official hymn for the World Meeting of Families 2018.



Student Enterprise

Congratulations to Keelan Foy, a second year student and winner in the Young Entrepreneurs regional competition. We wish him every success in his future endeavours.

Well done to transition year students on achieving Distinction in their enterprise project. The project involved designing and creating a craft product, packaging and a logo along with a business plan and analysis of the process.

Ava-Lynne Kane, Marie Dutrieux, Blanca Sanglas Carranza, Alfreda Courtney (Teacher), Leonie Hildenbrand, Moritz Heinke



AWARDS DAY 2018



Senior Male Student of the year -
Luke Power



Craft award — Ella Staunton.



Transition Year Student of the year awards - Conor
Clarke and Laura O'Malley



Community spirit award — Shauna Scanlon
Spirit of Sancta Maria award — Myles O'Malley



Attendance records — Boyao Lin, Leon
Hague and John McNicholas



The wild Atlantic Words literary festival
award - Amy Clifford and Mandy Haak



Senior Sports Awards - Dylan Prendergast and Sarah O Malley



Student Leader awards



Student Council members



Junior students of the year -
Emma Finnegan and Rory Browne Tobia.



Drama Award -
Croia Mc Dermott



Student Mentors



Art Awards - Sarah Caulfield and
Neva Herrschaft

Another busy sports year at Sancta Maria College

First year boys and girls competed in the regional futsal competition. Both teams were competitive in all their games and notably the girls, under the tutelage of Irish international coach Mr Berkeley, drew with the team that went on to win the final.



The boys under 17 soccer team, coached by Mr McCarthy, had a fantastic run in this year's Connacht FAI competition. They reached the final having performed really well in the group and knock out stages. The 2-1 win away to Sligo Grammar in the quarter final in Sligo IT was the standout performance in the series of games. The lads lost 3-1 to Glenamaddy in the final in front of a great group of supporters. The winners went on to lift the cup in the all Ireland final. John O'Grady was top scorer with 5 goals winning him the golden boot.



The senior boys Gaelic team were entered in a higher division to previous years and progressed to the knockout stages where they got narrowly beaten by Belmullet. Coached by Mr Gibbons, who organized excellent training sessions, the lads put in a huge effort in training and matches. Well done to all.

Triathlon 2018

Well done to our first year students who took part in our annual triathlon in May.



PARK RUN

Well done to staff and students who took part in the park-run last May.

Congratulations to Ella Staunton on celebrating her 50th parkrun.



Congratulations to

Ashley Davies

6th in all Ireland shot putt 2018



Congratulations to **Dylan Prendergast** from 5th year, who played for Ireland on the U-18 Schools Rugby team in the Six Nations Festival Tournament in Wales at Easter. Dylan plays his Club rugby in Westport, and also with the Connacht Development squad.

To be chosen to play for your country is a great honour, but to be picked on the U-18 Schools side, shows Dylan's ability, skill and determination, as the competition for places at this level is intense. It's great to see Dylan's picture, and Sancta Maria College featuring for the first time, on the programme of a prestigious International Rugby event. Well done Dylan. We wish you continued success and good luck in your rugby career. We look forward to seeing you in the green jersey of Connacht and Ireland in the future.

Sancta Maria College's Dylan Prendergast, who made his first start in the number 10 jersey, opened the scoring for the visitors with a penalty from 25 metres out.



Westport under 14 Rugby team, with Sancta Maria College players, and coaches Colin Cooper, John Ryan and Robert Coady, with club President Sean Corcoran on return from international duty.

Westport under 14's Rugby Club took part in the Rugby Rocks international tournament in Devon, UK in April, competing against English, Welsh and Dutch sides. Westport won the Rugby Rocks Challenge Cup. A great achievement. Well done to the team. Eight first year students from Sancta Maria College were part of the team. Ben Ruane-Cooper, Adam Kilcoyne, Daragh Heneghan, Cian O'Malley, Finlay Gibbons, William McAlonan, Jack Munnely and Cormac Lyons



Eleven Sancta Maria students are currently involved with inter county teams in both Gaelic football and soccer. Caoimhin OToole and Killian White are involved with mayo under 15 soccer. Basil McLeod is on the Mayo under 20 squad. Martin Ball and Alfie Morrison are on the Mayo u17 minor team. John OGrady is part of the Ted Webb under 16 squad. Saoirse Lally is on the Mayo under 16 Gaelic and soccer team. Brianna Bruton plays on the Mayo under 18 camogie team Ciara and Tara Needham are joint captains of the Mayo under 16 team. Ruth Gibbons is part of the Mayo under 14 team. Well done to all of them. Go n-eiri an t-adh leo.

Transition Year



Barcelona

2018

Once again, our students headed off to sunny Salou and Barcelona for a whirlwind few days. Our students soaked up the atmosphere of the vibrant city of Barcelona, guided by the able Alberto our bus driver for the week, and headed to Salou for some R&R! They enjoyed the sights of Camp Nou and Montserrat to name but a few and thoroughly enjoyed the rollercoasters at Portaventura. While exhausting at times, well done to the group for their good humour and patience. Memories were most certainly made along the way! A big thank you to all the staff who helped out on the tour.

Students of Sancta Maria College Script Stellar Show

Sancta Maria College has stepped in a new, more daring direction with the inspired decision to stage an original show; one scripted, created and performed by their talented Transition Year students. The students spent five weeks, under the supervision of Director Catherine Conway, scripting and devising this performance. It is a great example of the rapid progress students can make when both supported and challenged.

In March, Ms Conway recruited a group of Transition Year students with one aim: to create an original play. How this was to come to fruition was a mystery, one that both teacher and students would have to discover together, by working collaboratively. This innovative way of working, put the onus on the students, to take charge of their own input and outcomes. As well as creating what by all accounts is set to be a hilariously funny show, the students have developed problem solving skills, the ability to work as part of a team, and a new confidence in their own capabilities. Director Catherine Conway said, "I count myself lucky to have had the opportunity to work with such talented and committed people. It has been an amazing experience, seeing these students come into their own. As well as that, we've had tremendous fun."

The students staged "Twisted" to a most appreciative audience and all proceeds went to our "Jump for Jess" fundraising efforts. Sincere thanks to Ms Catherine Conway for all her help.





Transition Year Poetry

The Transition year students rounded off their action packed year with a slam poetry day on May 9th. The facilitator from Dublin had heard rumours of Sancta Maria's creative nature and was not disappointed! Check out some of the poems that the TY's made on the blog: <https://inspireland.ie/2018/05/10/sancta-maria-college-clooncarrabaun-louisburgh-co-mayo/>

TY Musical 2018

Louisburgh came alive to the sound of music earlier this year with the transition year production once again a sell out success. Well done to all students for their contributions both on and off stage in making this a production to remember. Special thanks to Marion Gill and all staff for their help and support

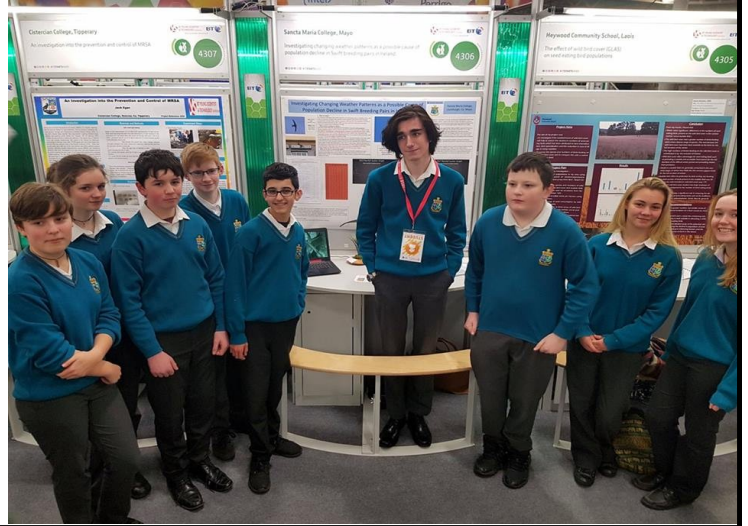
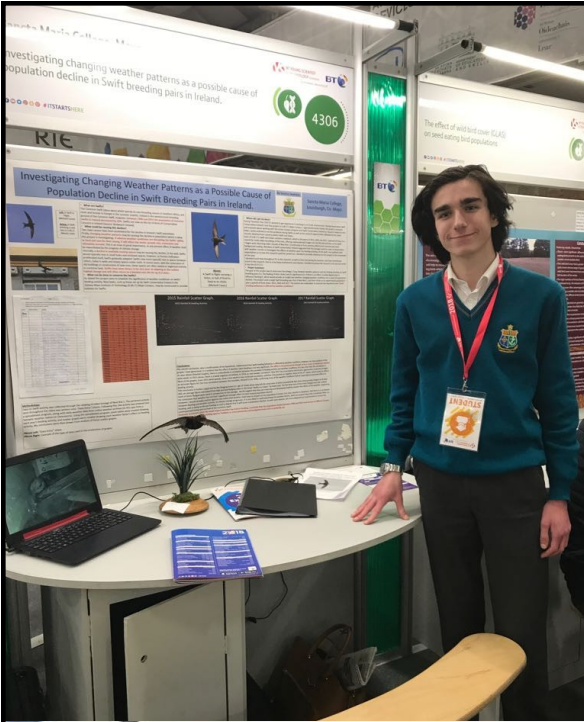


BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition

Congratulations to Seirse Swanton on representing Sancta Maria at the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition. His investigation into how changing weather patterns could be leading to population decline in swift breeding pairs was excellent, raising awareness on the declining Swift population.

Swift numbers have declined by over 40% in the past twenty years. The main cause of this decline is loss of breeding sites. They nest in buildings in towns. In order to secure the future of Swifts we need to ensure that their traditional nest sites are secured where possible and to provide new nest sites so that the population can recover.

Following on from Seirse's project swift nest boxes, incorporating the swift call broadcast, will be installed in the new school building to hopefully serve to attract swifts to the Louisburgh area.



Well done to Mr Murphy and his TY team for producing beautiful bird boxes for the grounds of Sancta Maria College. Bird feeders made by third years Jack Bennett and

Nathan Walsh are stocked regularly by the students and all can enjoy the sight and sound of our feathered friends.



First year students' pictured with their solar system models.

CSPE

Well done to second year students Kanvar Murray, John Gill and Nora Holmes, who presented to the Westport Eco Congregation group as part of their CSPE project.

The students outlined what they have been doing in the school to encourage environmental awareness amongst the student body and they congratulated the Westport Eco Congregation group on all the hard work that they have been involved with.

Recently the students have enjoyed class visits from Sharon Cameron from Mayo County Council and from Kathleen Friel, a member of the WEC. Our students have organised a Clean Coast Litter pick in Carrowmore as part of their project. Encouraging recycling is a huge part of their initiative and something we would remind everyone to do to the best of their ability.



Sancta Maria Writers

Congratulations to Luke Power, Jake Kilcoyne Kellegher, Rachel Reed, Seirse Swanton and David Carroll who were acknowledged for their outstanding creative writing talents by Dr. John Bradley, John Lyons and Geraldine O Malley on behalf of the Pantry Book Club. These students will have their work published by Books@One and will be invited to speak about their work during the local festival in August with Mike McCormack. It is a great honour for our students but also a wonderful recognition of their skill as writers. These students have all shown tremendous prowess with the written word and we wish our Leaving Certs the best in the future with their writing.

Irish Sign language ISL



Tara McNally, ISL tutor, speaking to our TY students on Deaf Culture in Ireland. Students participated in a sign language module as part of their TY programme.



Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairle na nÓg is a child and youth council split into 31 local authorities in Ireland. It gives young people between 12-18 years of age the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies. The slogan is “Young Voices Local Issues.”

This year 12 students from Sancta Maria College attended the Comhairle na nÓg Annual General Meeting.

At the AGM, they were greeted by existing members of Comhairle na nÓg and listened to a couple of speakers including the chairperson of Comhairle na nÓg and representatives of Mayo County Council. The students discussed young people’s voices and how and where they are heard. The groups were asked to find examples of where their voices may not be heard e.g. at school, on a sports team or perhaps their youth clubs and to think of ways these problems could be resolved.

Students then listened to guest speaker Jamie Harrington. Jamie, a nineteen year old from Ballymun, Dublin, saved a suicidal man’s life when he was sixteen by asking him “are you okay”.

At the end of the discussions, students can volunteer to talk about the topic and why they feel it is important and try and campaign their way on to the committee. The group then votes for who they believe deserves to get on to Comhairle.

All in all, Sancta Maria had a very successful day as we got two students elected onto Comhairle. Many congratulations to Emma Finnegan and Keelan Foy.

In March second year students attended the first ever ‘Comhairle Talks’. Speakers included Andy Moran, Ibrahim Halawa and others. The theme for the day was equality and the students had a great day listening to the inspirational speakers’ stories. *Dylan Neuhaus and Ms Keane*



A group of Junior cycle students Caitlín, Myles, AJ and Orla, who each week as part of the green schools committee carried out the school compost duties as well as doing a spring clean of the local area. Absent from photo is Patrick.



Active Retirement Group Tea Party

Ms Catherine Conway and the second year students hosted a tea party in May for the local active retirement group. As part of their wellbeing programme students organised the whole event, from setting up the venue, preparing the refreshments, running the event on the day and entertaining the group with their choir and singalong. A really enjoyable morning was had by all and we hope to hold similar events in our new school next year. Special thanks to Ms Conway for all her help.



Worldwise Global Schools Passport Award

Sancta Maria College was recently awarded 'Worldwise Global Schools Passport Award'. The plaque and banner recognises the school's work in raising issues related to the Developing World. The students were active in Concern Debates, Trocaire Poetry Competition, Presentations on NGOs, Collecting school bags for Ghana, Shoe Box appeal and John O'Shea (Founder of GOAL) came to the school. All these achievements were recognised under this award. Pictured are B3 who were active in learning and debating Development Issues inside and outside the class along with teachers, Mr. McGreal and Ms. Kennelly.



JUMPING 4 JESS

Please support Clodagh Campion who is doing a skydive this August. It is an event she always planned on doing, but as part of her skydive she hopes to raise money for someone who is very important to her. "Jessica Rose who is in 1st year in Sancta Maria College is one of



my closest friends. I have known Jess for as long as I can remember and growing up living next to her has been a blessing in many

ways, so as part of my skydive I am raising money for Sancta Maria College in Louisburgh and the money will be used to benefit students like Jess who have Autism". Clodagh and Sancta Maria College will be holding a number of fundraisers over the next few months, keep an eye on her Jumping 4 Jess facebook page. The staff and students of Sancta Maria College wish Clodagh every success.



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Pictures: Jess and Clodagh enjoying Clodagh's visit to SMC.

A group of first years hosting a fundraising bake sale for Jumping 4 Jess

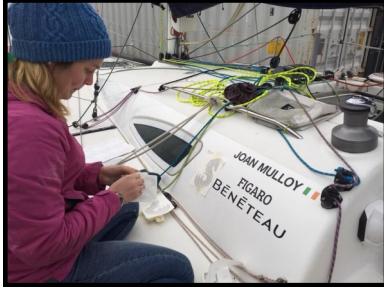
GIRLS ACTIVE LUNCHTIME CLUB



Past Students in the news

Westport's rising sailing star Joan Mulloy

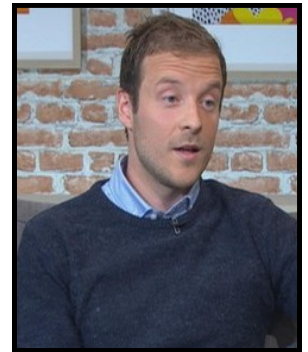
Combining her engineering background with her love of sailing, Joan has already achieved a string of successes in the highly competitive racing scene, and is one of Ireland's most promising offshore sailors. As part of Team Ireland, she is now planning to be the first Irish woman to participate in the Solitaire du Figaro, the gruellingly competitive 1600 nautical mile four-stage race, in which she will be competing against some of the world's best solo offshore sailors.



"Having worked at the top level of ocean racing for over 5 years, the time is right for me to take the helm" she said. "Being part of Team Ireland brings a level of professionalism, structure, and experience that will greatly enhance my campaign."

In recent years she has been using her engineering degree to her advantage as she worked as the technical support to a British Figaro team she has gone on to sail some of the most technically advanced race boats in the world We wish Joan every success as the first female to compete in Solitaire Du Figaro.

Past student Pádraic Rocliffe, a student of Physical Education in University of Limerick travelled to the United States in September 2016 to spend a semester studying Physical Education in Long Beach, California. While there he was involved in a terrifying car accident in Death Valley, California breaking his neck, back and foot.



Padraic felt his faith helped him during the road crash and he feels that someone was "watching over" him. He claims his near-death experience in a Death Valley car crash was the "best thing to ever happen" to him, as it has pushed him to help others. "Unfortunately I think you need something like that to happen to you for you to realise the importance of life and how quickly it can all be taken away from you".

While he was recovering he met and spoke to some homeless people and decided that when he was back in Ireland he would organise an event for homeless people which is when he set up 'Shine A Light' Homeless Heroes. a volunteer organisation which collects goods like sleeping bags, warm clothes, gloves, scarves and perishable foods and donates them to people who are homeless. Following the collection Pádraic and volunteers took to the streets of Dublin to 'Shine a Light' by distributing essential items to the capital's rough sleepers. Collections are now underway for the Christmas distribution 2018 (meeting at the spire at 1pm on Dec 15th if you are free to help)

We wish Pádraic every success with his campaign **For more information about Shine A Light Homeless Heroes, please email padraicrock@gmail.com or Shinealighthomelessheroes@gmail.com**

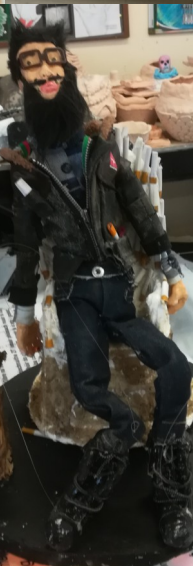
Mike McCormack (past student of Sancta Maria College) has just been announced as the winner of the 2018 International Dublin Literary Award - the world's most lucrative literary prize for a single novel published in English. The shortlist, which includes six men and four women, was drawn from the 150 titles nominated by public libraries in 111 cities around the world.

Mike's previous work includes *Getting it in the Head* (1995), *Crowe's Requiem* (1998), *Notes from a Coma* (2005), which was shortlisted for the Irish Book of the Year Award, and *Forensic Songs* (2012). In 1996 he was awarded the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature and in 2007 he was awarded a Civitella Ranieri Fellowship. In 2016 he won the Goldsmiths Prize and the Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Award for best novel for *Solar Bones*. It has also been shortlisted for the Republic of Consciousness Prize and the Kerry Group Novel of the Year Award in association with Listowel Writers' Week Congratulations Mike—all at Sancta Maria College wish you all the best.



Do keep in touch - We love to hear from our past students
contact us at paststudents@sanctamaria.ie

A SELECTION OF ART AND MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS



Seachtain na Gaeilge agus Bliain na Gaeilge 2018 i SMC

2018 ná Bliain na Gaeilge agus i SMC táimid ag iarraidh an bhliain seo a cheiliúradh chomh maith.

Rinne an chead bhliain tráth na gCeisteanna agus bhí a lán imeachtaí gaeilge eile ar siúl ar fud na scoile. Bhí comórtas againn sa chéad bhliain freisin i gcomhair sé scoláireacht don Colaiste Uisce agus beidh na daltaí ag dul go dtí an Gaeltacht i mí Lunasa – bainigí sult as!

Trath na gCeisteanna (ar chlé)



Caragh MacLeod, Sophie Fitzpatrick, Niamh Maloney, Niamh Fadden and Maedbh Feeney (missing from photo, Daniel Owens)



Buaiteoir Lizzie Ní Mhaille (A3) don a dán 'Dochas'. Bhronnadh an File Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh an duais di nuair a tháinig ar cuairt agus chun ceardlann a dheanamh leis na daltaí i mí na Bealtaine.



Risteard O Mainnain (A3) ag canadh 'Mo Ghile Mhear' sa rang.



Medaille d'Or pour Alex McCabe!

C'était avec beaucoup de fierté et d'honneur qu'Alex McCabe de Sancta Maria a remporté le premier prix d'AMOPA Irlande - l'association des Membres de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques en Irlande – pour son poème *Mal de Mer*. All poems had to be on the theme of the environment, of 14 lines length and the last word in each line had to rhyme. No mean feat for anyone involved and at this point *un grand merci* must go to our wonderful French Assistant this year, Mlle. Eloïse Rivery, who helped all the fifteen students in TY submit their poems to great acclaim.

Alex's emotive poem talks of how beautiful the sea is and how we need to look after it. Have a read of his award-winning poem on the Sancta Maria Facebook page, which aptly has the backdrop of the sea and Alex's own grandmother's house on Clare Island in the background.

Alex receiving his prize in the French Ambassador's residence in May. From left to right : His Excellency Stéphane Crouzat (Ambassador of France to Ireland), Mr. Michael McCabe (Alex's Dad), Alex McCabe (1st Prize in all Ireland), Ailbhe Hanks (TY2), Mme. K. Kennelly (Alex's French teacher) and M. Loïc Guyon (AMOPA, Irlande).

Creative Day

At the beginning of 2018, A1 took part in a creative day where they were allowed to showcase their interests, hobbies and skills in a classroom context. The results were varied – from animated videos to portraits, baking to story telling and poems, there was a genre for all tastes and showed that our current first years are ready to take on the new Junior Certificate tasks with vigour and creativity! Well done A1 !



Public Speaking

As part of our commitment to Wellbeing in SMC, our second years had the opportunity during February and March to partake in a public speaking competition organised by the Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force. There was an extremely successful and engaging in-house debate between each of the 2nd year classes, after which the WRDATF complimented SMC for being the most respectful and well prepared school they visited thus far in the competition.

The team that went on to represent us in the Mayo final in the Castlecourt Hotel in Westport were Sadhbh Moran (speaker) and her research team of Padraig Scahill, Sam Malone and Robyn Harris. They did our school extremely proud and a bright future surely awaits this second year group in debating and public speaking circles of academia.



Essay Competition

First year students from Sancta Maria College Louisburgh, Junior Category winners in the Westport PTAA regional essay competition at the prize presentation in Carrowbeg house Westport.

Sarah Mc Evilly (teacher) Margaret Gallagher Louisburgh branch PTAA, Anna Browne - Tobia 3rd, Daniel Owens 2nd, Joe Reidy 1st, and Assumpta Fergus secretary of the Louisburgh branch.

The students went on to secure second and third place at the Connacht level competitions.



Students V Teachers fundraising match 2018. Teachers remain the champions by fair or foul means!! Better luck next year! Well done to all involved in this fun charity fundraising event..



Sancta Maria College - Further Education

We are currently accepting enrolments for Post Leaving Cert Courses for the academic year beginning Sept 2018.

The benefits of lifelong learning go beyond the traditional view of keeping the mind sharp or improving memory. In today's global work force, continual learning is an important component of improving job skills. You may wish to learn a skill to enhance your possibilities in the job market, take professional training in a particular area, re-train in a new area for future employment or take a stepping stone to further education.

Our adult education programme offers courses for anyone interested in engaging in a new activity in an informal, social environment, availing of a second chance in education, or updating your skills in order to return to the workforce

All courses are awarded by QQI

The following courses are on offer at the college:

Administration Level 5 and 6, Early Childhood Care and Education Level 5 and 6
Healthcare support and Nursing Studies Level 5

There will be an information/enrolment morning at Sancta Maria College in September.

All are welcome.