



HILL TOP NEWS



102nd Edition
December 2024

A Newsletter from St John's College

CHRISTMAS 2024 EDITION

Christmas Fair 2024

On Friday the 22nd of November St John's held their annual Christmas Fair. We would like to thank everybody who attended and who helped make the night such a big success. Each and every year we see the continued support of our many local communities and local businesses who helped contribute to such a successful event.



SCHOOL DETAILS

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CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

**Monday 23rd December
to Friday 3rd January**

Winter Coat Drive

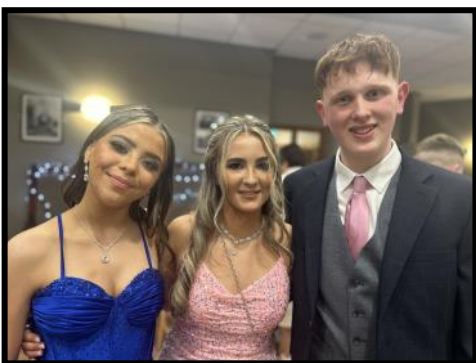
During November, St John's College organised a 'Winter Coat Drive' for ERANO and 'The Well Woman'. ERANO (Empowering Refugees and Newcomers Organisation), a local charity, offers support to all those refugees, asylum seekers and migrant newcomers seeking to build a new life in the Fermanagh and Omagh district area. 'The Well Woman' offers health and social care services to women of all ages.

St John's was overwhelmed with the response from staff, parents and the wider community. Year 10 and 11 students helped to sort the items into children's and adult's coats and packed them into bags for easy transport to the various charities.



Year 12 Formal 2024

The Annual Year 12 Formal took place in Mahon's Hotel on Thursday 26th September 2024. The boys looked handsome in their suits and the girls were beautiful all dressed up. A lively disco was provided by Shaun Quinn and a Photo Booth by Kool Kandy. Rory Partington was crowned King and Shanice Collins was crowned Queen on the night. Both the students as well as the staff enjoyed the night greatly.





Prizegiving



St John's College held their annual Prizegiving ceremony on the 17th of October. We were delighted to welcome back many of our pupils who left us in June 2024 and who made such a contribution to our school throughout their time here. It was lovely to see them and hear how they are progressing in the next chapter of their lives. Likewise we were also pleased to acknowledge our current pupils who excelled in their summer assessments.

Our guest speaker this year was one of our past pupils, Damien McQuaid. Damien is currently a graphics designer with Menarys with responsibility for 23 Menarys outlets. His inspirational words really resonated with our current and past pupils alike. A big thank you to Damien and we hope to see him again soon!



Sewing for Macmillan Cancer

Year 9 girls attended sewing workshops over 4 weeks in Trillick. The workshops were delivered expertly by Sheila Doyle and Mary Devenney. The students used sewing machines and hand stitching to create a patchwork cushion. They also embarked on sewing much-needed items for the charity Marie Curie. The girls sewed PICC line sleeves to facilitate delivery of cancer treatment and drainage bags used by patients who have temporary drains fitted which allow them to move more freely post-op.



Marie Donnelly, a Marie Curie Advance Nurse Practitioner who has been nursing for over 30 years and works in the southern sector of the WHSCT, visited the college to collect the items that the girls produced. She will deliver the items to Macmillan Cancer Support in Altnagelvin Area Hospital. Marie spoke to Year 9 about her day-to-day work, providing advanced nursing care to people and their families who live with a life-limiting illness to support them live as well as possible. 'It is these people who are receiving oncological or palliative care who will benefit from the kindness of the pupils at St John's in their sewing workshops'.

Odd Socks Day

Students and Staff enjoyed "Odd Socks Day" which marked the start of Anti- Bullying Week in November. This was an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique.



MANCHESTER TRIP

Staff and students had a great time over in Manchester for the United game. The atmosphere was brilliant in Old Trafford and the match was enjoyed by all!



Shared Education

The Year 8 pupils in St John's College and P5, 6 and 7 pupils in Tummery PS and Dromore PS got into the Christmas spirit during their Shared Education Programme by making Christmas paper crafts in Art and Design and singing carols in Drama.



STARS IN THEIR EYES

Where do we even begin? 'The Stars in Their Eyes' event on the 5th of December turned out to be incredible! First of all we would like to give a massive 'Thank You' to each and every person who helped make the night the immense success that it was.

To our judges, who graciously gave their time and informed opinions.

To the local performers, whose energy, commitment and passion shone so brightly.

To our past pupils who performed, it was such a joy to see the young people you have become - thank you for "coming home" and supporting St John's again.

To our current pupils, whose talent lit up the night - we are so proud of you, and you really are stars.

It really was a team effort from everybody in the St John's community.

A final thanks goes to our sponsors who kindly donated a wide variety of goods and prizes, and to all of you who came to watch the performance. We couldn't have done it without your help and support, so **THANK YOU!!**



Guess the name of the Dinosaur

Rohan, Coen and Leina McFadden from Dromore successfully guessed the name of the Dinosaur and became the proud owners of 'Gnasher' the T-Rex. Congratulations!



School Christmas Card Design Competition

The winners of the KS3 St John's Christmas Card Design are Tierna Gormley Year 8, Elle Farry Year 10 and Ella McGrenaghan Year 10. Well done to everyone who entered.



Year 11 Art and Design trip to Belfast

Year 11 GCSE Art and Design visited the RUA Exhibition at the Ulster Museum, Belfast on Friday 13th December, 2024. This exhibition shows the work of over 250 artists working in Ireland today. They also met an artist who spoke to the students about their work. The students then had some time to view the other displays throughout the museum. Later in the day there was an opportunity to go into the city centre for lunch and some last minute Christmas shopping



Pictured left to right
Tierna Gormley, Elle Farry and
Ella McGrenaghan

Credit Union Art Competition

This year's theme for the Credit Union Art Competition was 'The Joys of Life'. The winners were Ella Fisher who took first place, winning herself £20, Kyle Farry was in second place and received £15 and Patryk Czernicki was third and he won £10. Congratulations to our worthy winners and to all who took part. Thank you to Dromore Credit Union for the fantastic prizes.

