



# St. Patrick's College

Together Inspiring  
Generations





*"The pupils in all key stages benefit from additional learning experiences and enrichment activities which develop well their wider skills and interests, and enable them to take on leadership roles and learn with and from others" ETI Report 2018*



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*"The child is both a hope  
and a promise for mankind".*

**Maria Montessori**

Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome to this introduction to our wonderful school. We are very proud of the Catholic ethos and tradition in St Patrick's College. We work hard to ensure that every child is looked after and motivated to achieve his or her personal best. Our aim is to provide a safe and caring environment where our pupils feel supported and enabled to do great things.

In school our greatest challenge is to listen, to hear all the voices and to respond to the needs. At the heart of all our work is the firm belief that we can give students from all denominations, cultures and backgrounds a happy and productive educational experience, based on Christian values.

Our school is a vibrant, motivated and productive place. We offer a wide range of academic, vocational and extra-curricular subjects and activities, to enable our students to access a broad and balanced curriculum. We are passionate about learning and developing skills. We want our young people to become critical thinkers, problem solvers, positive and productive students and workers of the future, capable of contributing fully to a 21st Century society. Our dedicated teaching and support staff are here to help and encourage our students on their educational journey with us.

This year we were delighted to be awarded the prestigious TES UK Entrepreneurial School of the Year 2020, in recognition of the breadth of experiences and partnerships with industry and business we offer to enhance transferable skills

and readiness for future study, apprenticeships and work.

We are a school at the heart of our local community. We welcome our partners in education, socialisation, support and personal development.

We fully appreciate that there is an array of learning in schools that happens both inside and outside the classroom. Students here will be offered a vast range of learning opportunities and we encourage pupils to stretch and challenge themselves so that they can mature and develop into the best they can be.

We are very proud of all that we have to offer in this school and we continue to innovate and develop in order to secure the best possible educational experiences for the young people in our care. We are a school committed to our students and we welcome you parents and carers as partners in their learning journey with us. This year we have also entered the Bar Mock Trial and the Formula1 Ireland Racing Car Challenge, following on from our success in the BT Young Scientist, Reel Life Science and Young Enterprise competitions last year.

Please take some time to experience something of the life and learning in St Patrick's College. You are welcome to explore our school website and social media outlets to gain a fuller picture of life in this great school and our commitment to; 'Inspiring future generations'.

Principal Catherine McHugh



Year 8

URAGE  
FIRE  
beat

WOW! Think of  
PLACES you can  
GO  
and  
READ!

# Together Inspiring Generations

**O**ur Mission is to work as a school community in partnership with parents and our local community to inspire future generations.

St Patrick's College is a co-educational school for ages 11 to 18. We are committed to fostering the inherent dignity of each child and providing a quality education for all our young people.

Our building was opened in 2008 and beforehand the boys and girls of Dungannon were educated in two separate St Patrick's school sites for over 50 years.

St Patrick's College continues to transform to meet the changing needs of a multi-cultural and diverse society. The education and needs of our students are at the core of our daily work. Our mission serves to inspire and inform us, signposting our direction and providing a springboard for creativity.

We are committed to offering a broad educational experience so that our young people can develop the necessary skills to contribute fully in a modern world. Our enrichment opportunities enable social, faith, technological and personal development so that our students can be confident in their capacity to lead and inspire as well as serve and offer.



## Our goal is:

- To enable every student to achieve their best
- To provide students with the skills necessary to participate fully in the life of the school and the wider community
- To promote responsible attitudes and values and to respect the contribution and views of others
- To support high standards of teaching and learning within the school
- To promote parental awareness of their responsibilities and commitment to the school ethos, aims and policies
- To build a community of respect and inclusion
- To encourage students to embrace the dignity of each other and celebrate each others success

# Curriculum

We continuously review our Curriculum offer to improve our provision and ensure it meets the needs of our students, who will be undertaking future study or work opportunities in a changing society. We are conscious that skill development in all Key Stages is important to ensure that our pupils are equipped to rise to the challenges of life beyond school.

Central to our Curriculum Planning is our mission to "inspire future generations". Our staff are committed to providing the best possible educational experience and to enabling students to achieve their potential and realise their hopes and goals.



## Assessment & reporting

Our pupils are continually assessed throughout the academic year across Key Stages. We encourage our students to set aspirational targets in all subjects, so that they can commit themselves to achieving their best.

There are four assessment cycles throughout the academic year and progress is reported to parents at each assessment point providing a platform for evaluation and review of performance with our students. All parents receive a full academic school report annually and three progress updates during the year.

Achievement, attendance, academic and progress concerns are all communicated directly to parents via the SIMs Parent App.

Pupils' achievement is closely monitored and the pastoral and academic teams work closely with pupils and parents, aiming to ensure that pupils reach their full potential and needs or issues are addressed in partnership and in the best interest of students.



## Key Stage 3

We want our Year 8 students to enjoy their new school experience and so they are supported in their learning and pastoral needs by their Form Teacher and Head of Year as well as Senior Prefects and Year 8 Mentors.

### Pupils study the following subjects:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Religion
- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish
- Home Economics
- P.E.
- Music
- Drama
- ICT
- Art and Design
- Employability
- Citizenship
- Personal Development
- Learning for Life and Work
- Technology & Design



# Key Stage 4

Preparation for external examinations and engagement in Programmes of Study that will offer qualifications, is central to the life and work of students in Year 11 & 12. It is important at this stage that students begin to develop a plan for their future. Aspirational thinking will enable them to focus on their goals and work steadily towards acquiring the skills and qualifications needed to access the next stage within or beyond St Patrick's College as a Post 16 student, or after school in Higher Education studies or as an Apprentice.

## Pupils study a range of the following subjects at GCSE level:

- English
- English Literature
- Maths
- Further Maths
- Single Award Science
- Double Award Science
- Religious Studies
- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish
- Motor Vehicle Road User Studies
- Construction
- Business Studies
- Child Development
- Home Economics
- Music
- Art and Design
- Digital Technology
- Learning for Life and Work
- Health and Social Care
- Sports Studies
- Engineering
- Prince's Trust
- Occupational Studies
- Learning Together
- ICT



# Post 16

The life of a Post 16 student is marked by their maturity to recognise their need to commit to a regular routine of study so that their plan for life after St. Patrick's College can be realised. We encourage our Post 16 students to achieve their goals through an Aspiration, Action & Achievement model. Many of our Post 16 students will follow courses within Universities or other third level facilities. Others will decide to pursue work, apprenticeships or travel opportunities. The wide range of experiences here will equip them well for each of these pathways. Enrichment and outreach opportunities will ensure that their thinking skills and personal capabilities are fully developed and that young, dynamic and capable problem solvers and communicators are ready to commence the next chapter of their lives.

Our Post 16 Students are offered enrichment opportunities as Faith Friends, Justice & Peace activists, helpers in The Men's Shed project or links to Sperrinview Special School, as well as pupil leadership and mentoring opportunities. We also co-ordinate Pope John Paul and Millenium Volunteer Awards. These engagements provide the platform for a love for neighbour, respect for the dignity of all, a desire for equality, practicing inclusion and a lived service to those in need.



## Pupils study from the following range of subjects at A Level:

- Business Studies
- Health and Social Care
- English Literature
- Maths
- Art and Design
- Performing Arts
- Moving Image Arts
- Engineering
- Travel and Tourism
- Digital Technology
- Sport Studies
- Religious Studies
- History
- Spanish
- Drama
- Geography
- Psychology
- Food & Nutrition
- ICT
- Software Systems

**The guidance below outlines procedures for parents/carers when raising a concern.**

I have a concern about my or another young person's safety .

I can talk to the **Form Teacher or Head of Year.**

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the **Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs B. Loughran)** or the **Principal (Mrs C McHugh).**

If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to the **Chairperson of the Board of Governors.**

At any time a parent can talk to a **Social Worker at the Gateway Team (Southern Trust) – 0800 3741 5285**

(Out of Hours referrals 5pm -9pm  
Friday evening until Monday morning)

**028 9504 9999**

or

**the PSNI at the Public Protection Unit  
999 (Emergency) or 101 (Non-Urgent)**

If I am still concerned I can contact the **NI Public Services Ombudsman  
0800 343 424**



# Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is at the centre of our school ethos. It gives us great pride to nurture and support our students, to ensure their personal, emotional and intellectual development and well-being.

The Head of Pastoral Care is Mrs B Loughran. Each Key Stage is led by a Head of School and each Year Group is led by a Head of Year while each Form Class is supported by a Form Teacher, as well as Head of Year and Head of Junior School. We recognise the importance of peer support and so

our Post 16 Student Leadership Team also support our students as Senior and Pastoral Prefects, and they are available to offer advice and support to any student in need.

Our vision is to establish a school community where each individual is nurtured and cared for, where the student voice is valued, where parents are embraced as partners and where the academic, emotional, cultural and social well-being of our youth is of paramount concern. Our aim is to care for the whole child. We are not just focused on academic outcomes, but on ensuring that our students are engaged, happy, celebrated, encouraged and inspired. We recognise that students have a right to feel safe and secure; therefore Safeguarding is at the heart of our work.



## SEN

Special Education provision requires an assurance that all children will be learning and achieving to their highest potential.

The SENCO is Mrs B Loughran and Assistant SENCO is Miss E McCarron. Their role is to help remove barriers to learning and ensure pupils with any additional needs are fully enabled and supported.

We offer a range of Learning Support Programmes in small group and one to one settings, including Literacy, Numeracy, English as an Additional Language and Social Skills Programmes.

On a daily basis, pupils with SEN are supported in lessons by Classroom Assistants, who ensure that the curriculum is accessible. Identified pupils with SEN needs also have access to one to one support to ensure their engagement and success.

## Transition Programmes

The transition from primary to post primary and between the Key Stages are times when our pupils need to be supported effectively. All our pupils have an induction programme at the start of each academic year and induction evenings are organised for parents. We have a Primary School Links Co-ordinator who works with students in local primary schools to welcome them into St Patrick's College and share experiences of life here in advance of transition into Year 8.

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*'Every child has a different learning style and pace. Each child is unique, not only capable of learning but also capable of succeeding.'*

(Robert John Meehan)

# Learning Support & Mentoring

In St Patrick's College we have developed a unique Learning Support Programme which provides the basis for interviews and lessons with individual students to facilitate engagement and achievement, removing barriers to learning. Students benefit from one to one support and relationships with a member of staff who will champion and encourage them to be their best.

Our Lead Mentor is Mr Cathal Meegan and he is supported by the Assistant SENCO Miss E McCarron. They have developed a programme to support students in their academic development, wellbeing and self esteem. This Programme takes account of needs, interests, strengths and aspirations of all, so that an ethos of high expectation can result in high standards.



Pupils will be supported in their learning by participating in the following range of programmes:

- Paired Reading
- Literacy Support
- Numeracy Support
- Building Social Skills
- Mentoring
- English as a Foreign Language

Within a 'no child left behind' approach, identified students are met on a regular basis, where they work within a goal focused, positive, enabling and encouraging environment to secure success.

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*"A tight structure and framework is provided for students, enabling them to work with their mentor on clearly defined targets over short time periods, to sustain the momentum of learning and motivation."*

Professors Younger & Warrington's Cambridge University study into Assertive Mentoring 2005







EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III

The Lord be with you,  
And with your spirit.  
Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them up to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right and just.

The Priest, with hands extended, says:  
Blessed Holy Lord God of hosts,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Glories in the highest.  
Who comes in the name of the Lord,  
Glories in the highest.

The Priest, with hands extended, says:  
You have ordered Holy O Lord,  
and all you have created  
through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and working of the Holy Spirit,  
through your power and working of the Holy Spirit,  
to give life to all things and make them holy,  
and your never cease to gather a people to yourself  
from the rising of the sun to its setting,  
that your sacrifice may be offered to your Father  
in the Holy Spirit.

The Priest, with hands extended, holding the bread and wine, says:  
O Lord, we humbly implore you,  
that the same Spirit graciously  
and gloriously we have brought  
to this altar, may be offered to your Father  
in the Holy Spirit.

The Priest, with hands extended, says:  
The Body and Blood  
of Lord Jesus Christ,  
which we celebrate these mysteries.



# Faith

As a Catholic school, we nurture faith and provide opportunities to practice and experience faith development through outreach opportunities and sacramental services throughout the liturgical year. We cultivate this in our Masses, Reconciliation Services, Remembrance Service and Retreats.

As a faith based school, we embrace the dignity of every pupil and so we welcome students and families of all faiths and none.

Our Catholic ethos underpins our values, curriculum and actions. We believe in the unique dignity of each individual person and so a culture of respect permeates our environment. We provide a learning experience which nurtures moral development, strength of character and positive relationships. Our young people are enriched by the opportunities to gather in worship, think of others and work in

service. We encourage self reflection and development of the whole person. We recognise the immense capability of our youth, who enrich our school and local environment by their engagement and contributions. Our Post 16 Pope John Paul Award students, Key Stage 4 Muiredach Cross and our Key Stage 3 Faith Group enhance the liturgical events in the school calendar and they are instrumental in role modelling the life of a young person in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with a commitment to Christian values and lifestyle. Our students participate in a range of fundraising activities and have shown commitment to social justice issues and awareness campaigns. The Retreats offered to students in Key Stage 4 & Post 16 provide an opportunity to step back from life, to consider relationships and lifestyle and re-engage in a lived faith. We are concerned with the holistic development of our young people and we are committed to ensuring they receive an education which supports their development as a child of God.

*"Dear young people, let yourselves be taken over by the light of Christ, and spread that light wherever you are."*

Our work supports the desire of Pope John Paul II



## UNICEF Rights Respecting School Level 2

Our UNICEF Level 2 Award demonstrates that we are a school community where the children's rights are taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.



*'The future starts today, not tomorrow',* Pope John Paul II



## BT Young Scientist

Key Stage 3 pupils had a fantastic experience at the BTYS event in the RDS in January 2020. For a school team even to get selected to actually participate in the event is quite a feat. More than 1800 entries are narrowed down to 550 stands. Our Team of 3 pupils entered the Junior Chemical, Physical and Mathematical category and secured a 3 place outcome – an amazing achievement.

The aim of this project was to investigate whether the level of oil in foundation led to an increase in acne cosmetica. Acne cosmetica is a term describing acne caused by the use of cosmetics and is common among adolescent and adult women. The students chose six foundations based on their ingredients to test. They also issued questionnaires to groups of peers and completed the surveys, on skin type and foundation use. After analysing the results from the practical experiment, the students concluded that Fenty beauty actually caused the lowest percentage increase in the mass.

Well done to Gaudvile, Goda and Kate who had a wonderful experience presenting their research and findings and convincing the judges of the merits of their project!

This year two teams will enter the Technology Junior Category. A Key Stage 3 Team has created an SEN Cube with different sided textures to identify the impact on focus and concentration. The Key Stage 4 Team have entered the Biological & Ecological Intermediate category with a Reaction Test.

We look forward to hearing about thier journey this year!



# Extra-curricular Provision

We recognise the need to ensure that our pupils are given an all-round education and so we offer a rich and varied Extra-curricular programme.

Participation in the Extra-curricular life of the school is encouraged because it enables pupils to develop strong friendships, a sense of belonging and bond more closely with each other. Our rich provision supports the many skills and talents of our young pupils.

Extra-Curricular Activities include:

- Breakfast Club
- Homework Club
- STEAM
- Digital Leaders
- Coding Club
- Art Club
- Sports
- Duke of Ed
- Princes Trust
- Choir
- Traditional Music
- Basketball
- Faith Friends
- Social Skills Club
- Drama Club
- Pope John Paul Awards
- Millenium Volunteers
- Camogie
- Soccer
- Prayer Group
- Muiredach Cross Award
- Peer Mentor
- Health & Wellbeing Committee
- Student Council
- Justice & Peace Team
- Menshed
- Sperrinview Group
- BT Young Scientist
- Cookery Club
- Public Speaking Team
- Student Council
- Mandarin Chinese
- School Magazine Committee
- CAD Club
- Formula1 Ireland Racing Car
- Muiredach Cross
- Couch to 5K
- Minecraft
- Eco Team
- Climate Change
- Bar Mock Trial



# Sport

The College recognises the importance of physical activity in promoting both the physical and mental well-being of our young people. We are constantly striving to enhance the sporting opportunities available to our pupils.

Our newly refurbished Gym enables PE Classes and College Teams to enhance their strength and fitness levels to enable participation at the highest level.

We offer a wide range of sports and activities. Pupils can engage in games such as: Gaelic, soccer, rugby, camogie and basketball as well as gymnastics, dance, athletics, swimming and health related fitness.

We have a very successful Extra-curricular programme running all year round which offers a multitude of sports and activities. These include:

- **Gaelic football**
- **Ladies Gaelic football**
- **Camogie**
- **Hurling**
- **Basketball**
- **Capital Soccer**
- **Boxing**
- **Health related activities**
- **Functional movement skills**
- **Cross country**
- **Outdoor pursuits**
- **Netball**
- **Use of fitness suite**



St Patrick's College has a strong tradition of producing future stars in sport. We are very proud of the achievements of past pupils such as Niall McGinn, who has forged a very successful soccer career for both Aberdeen and Northern Ireland, as well as Colm Cavanagh and Gerald Cavan, both of whom have All Ireland medals with Tyrone in Gaelic football. At present we have pupils who are playing representative sport at many levels within a wide range of disciplines.

Our Sports department is a hub of activity; we promote team building, respect, determination and commitment within all of our activities.



# Performing Arts

Performing Arts has a long-standing history of enriching the school experience for all. Students are afforded many opportunities to learn new skills and instruments and participate in a range of events, competitions, and appearances throughout the school calendar. We also boast a community choir with our Shared Education partners.

The Drama Theatre club meet weekly after school, with acting performance sessions, choir and traditional group at lunch time. Specialist workshops are delivered by professional theatre practitioners in order to enhance experiences and inform career opportunities.

St Patrick's is a Lyric Affiliate school and this provides access to a range of performance arts and drama opportunities.





# TES UK Entrepreneurial School 2020

St Patrick's College was nominated by Young Enterprise NI in recognition of the high level of entrepreneurial activity and business engagement on offer to pupils in this school each year.

We were delighted to be the first school in N Ireland to be recognised as a TES UK Entrepreneurial School.

Minister Weir visited the school to present the award and acknowledged the range of business links and partnerships we have established.

As a school community we are focused on ensuring students hear from leaders, innovators and creators so that they become self-reflective, motivated young people who are ready to take up their place as full contributors in the working world of the 21st Century. We are focused on offering events that build flexible and critical thinkers, so that students value the importance of collaboration, taking risks and realising the value in lifelong learning. This award was a recognition of the breadth of work that takes place across the school.

This year our Post 16 Young Enterprise Company 'People of Culture' secured best new company in the Big Market.

Year 8 company ideas were presented to a Dragons Den event for investment, including Carol Fitzsimons from YE NI.



# Student Leaders

## Digital Leaders

The Digital Leaders are the ambassadors for all things digital and technology related within the College.

They are responsible for running the popular Computing Club, assisting the ICT technicians, delivering presentations, workshops and advice on internet safety and being on hand to help other pupils and teachers with ICT problems.

Their plans include everything from entering cyber security competitions, creating promos for the College and establishing a weekly blog and ICT clinic.

This year the Digital Leaders entered a FirstTech Competition to build a Robot. This was an opportunity for pupils to work alongside a mentor from Terex and the Robot was successful in securing 3rd place for the Team in N Ireland and are due to go forward to the UK competition.



## Student Council

St Patrick's College prides itself on being a Rights Respecting School where every person is valued. Our Student Council is made up of representatives from every year group who attend monthly council meetings. Our Student Voice is important to us and they discuss a wide range of issues that impact the daily lives of our students. The issues are brought forward to our Senior Management Team and Board of Governors who work with the students to ensure they are listened to.

We seek feedback from students throughout the school year on learning, teaching and pastoral support in an ongoing focus to raise standards and the student experience.





## Eco Team

The Eco Team at St Patrick's College works hard to ensure all pupils are aware of their responsibility to keep St Patrick's College tidy and establish a welcoming environment for all. Pupils have taken part in litter picks and competitions such as 'The Young Reporters for the Environment'. Previously, pupils produced a winning entry for this competition, gaining £250 for the school. Our Eco Team also work in partnership with our STEAM Team, recycling waste and organically growing fruit and vegetables. Their hard work and commitment enabled us to achieve the Green Flag! The Eco Team meet weekly to keep the front of the school and the Garden of Hope full of colour and vibrancy.



## Steam Team

The STEAM Team was set up in St Patrick's College at the beginning of the academic year 2015 - 2016. The team was set up as part of an extended schools project involving our pupils and staff working with pupils from local primary schools. The team has grown from strength to strength and due to its popularity, the team now meet after school for two days every week.

A polytunnel was erected at St Patrick's College at the beginning of the project and since then, pupils have continually grown and harvested a range of fruit and vegetables with the help of expertise from staff from Willowbank Resource Centre. Pupils have been able to develop their understanding of growing their produce as well as enhancing their knowledge of how best to make a profit on their produce. Last year, pupils sold their produce at school events and at Dungannon Enterprise Centre. Funds from this financed two school trips for the pupils to CAFRE and a Women in Engineering Event at W5. Additionally, pupils have used some of their produce to create healthy dishes in the Home Economics department and have made Pumpkin Soup with members from the Rotary Club. Overall, the STEAM Team activities have provided wonderful opportunities to develop enterprise, teamwork, leadership and communication skills.

As part of the projects delivered, pupils have been able to display their creativity by creating a large clay piece for the Big Bear Woods at Windmill Integrated Primary School, frog sculptures from used tyres, raised beds for Edendork and Newmills Primary Schools and picnic benches for our school. Much of this work has been completed with help from representatives from Dungannon Men's Shed. Pupils have also produced Christmas crafts and sold these at local craft fayres. Once again, this has allowed pupils opportunities to develop numeracy and communication skills.

In order to encourage pupils to further their digital technology skills, an area which expects great growth in the near future, iCovers have delivered workshops which allowed pupils to understand the work carried out by iCovers staff on a daily basis. Pupils have also taken part in Sentinus 'flight' and coding workshops. The afterschool STEAM Team has been invaluable in allowing our pupils to develop key transferable employability skills such as problem solving, creativity and teamwork. For this reason, we have now introduced STEAM activities onto our timetable for some Year 8-10 classes. This has involved these pupils taking part in the Shipping Container Upcycle project, Engineering projects and our Year 10 group are working with Dungannon Men's Shed and a mosaic artist to manufacture park benches which will be placed in the new Community Garden in Dungannon.



# Trips & Competitions

The opportunity to participate in excursions contributes in a special way to our pupils' education by broadening their horizons, helping to develop friendships and strengthening pupil-teacher relationships. Our pupils' learning experiences are enriched significantly through the variety of school trips which are organised including:

- **Reward Trips**
- **Ski Trips**
- **Retreats**
- **Art exhibitions**
- **Pilgrimage**
- **Outdoor Pursuits**
- **Geography field trips**
- **History field trips**
- **Attendance at university open days**
- **Theatre visits**
- **Hill of the O'Neill**
- **Ice Skating**
- **W5**
- **ZOOLAB**



We are a very competitive school and enjoy participating and competing across a range of disciplines. College students and Teams have been very successful across the following activities within the last Academic year:

- **BT Young Scientist** - 3rd Place Junior Category
- **Reel Life Science Video** - 2nd Place
- **Young Enterprise** - The Big Market Overall Winners
- **Area Learning Community Public Speaking** - winners in a range of age categories
- **BBC Young Reporter** - pupil publication
- **First Tech Robotics** - NI Representatives
- **Cinemagic Good News Broad Casting Competition** - 2nd place
- **Eco Schools: Young Reporters for the Environment** - 1st place

# Careers

Our focus is on empowering students with the knowledge to make the best choices at the most important time in their career.

Pupils have access to a wide range of career events both inside and outside the school and are provided with comprehensive careers information, guidance and advice. Our pupils have opportunities to sample the world of work via our work placement schemes and we have a teacher appointed to visit pupils on such placements and establish meaningful links for their future employment prospects.

Each year students from Year 10 – Year 14 have an opportunity to visit a business or industry linked to their future career aspirations. Over 350 students visit up to 18 company's to gain an insight into the world of work.

Individual career guidance is a major part of the work of the careers department and is available to all pupils. All Year 14 students are given expert coaching and guidance on how to complete their university application to help ensure successful entry.

Our Head of Careers works closely with the Department of Education and Learning and a Careers Officer from the Department visits the school on a regular basis to offer guidance and support to our students.

Local employers have input into our careers programme and help develop skills required for working life.



# Past Students



## Sandro Sousa

From the very first day that I joined St Patrick's College I had no idea of what I wanted to do and was quite afraid since I had no friends from primary

school, and it felt rather intimidating to be in such a different environment. Although as I progressed through my first year, I came to meet wonderful people who came to become one of my bests of friends.

I must thank St Patricks College for a lot of things as I started my school life as a shy and timid boy, but, as I got more support from the teaching staff at St Patrick's and more encouragement I began to grow as a person. I became confident, responsible and reliable thanks to St Patricks' college. Thanks to all their support I was capable of leading various projects throughout my school life, I helped lead a team into the robotics competition and secured 3rd place, I helped create a business

for Young Enterprise and participated in a Drangon's Den event. I was involved in also developing a video for the Schools Rights Respecting School Gold award which made me very proud to have been picked for such an important task.

I thank St Patrick's College for all the opportunities that they offered for me and my growth, and I truly am glad I spent 7 years at such a wonderful School.

I am now completing my first year in Queen's University Belfast in a Computing and Technology degree with professionalism thanks to the guidance of the staff and as I keep gaining more knowledge and experience, I will always thank St Patricks College for the massive push to help me bring out my potential and I will forever be grateful for the wonderful fun time I spent there.

## Aoife O'Neill

I really enjoyed my time spent at St. Patricks college Dungannon. Coming from a small school with just over 70 people, I was very



nervous to move however from my very first day I found the teachers

and staff were very welcoming and always willing to help with any issues I had. The school provided me with constant guidance and multiple opportunities both academically and through extracurricular activities. It was with these opportunities and constant support from staff that allowed me to achieve grate success at a levels and enabled me to take part in the course I am currently enrolled in at the university of Liverpool. I struggled to decide what I was going to after secondary school. However, with constant guidance, multiple careers events and being made aware of all the different pathways I could take after school I was pointed in the direction of a health profession. I am extremely grateful for my time spent at St. Patricks college which allowed me to create great friendships and set me up for my future career.

## James Currie

When I started St. Patrick's College I had an idea I wanted to work with machinery. The teachers helped me find the subjects best suited to my career path and supported me to achieve the highest grades I could get. This has helped me gain an apprenticeship with Mercedes Benz Truck and Van. The teachers built my confidence so thar I can get the most

out of this opportunity and enjoy the whole experience.



Coming into St Patrick's College with little to no development of the English language had definitely caused a sense of anxiety and stress as an individual. I would not have imagined that I would be studying English at Queens University. Nonetheless, I know that with the school's staff as well as the school's experience itself it uplifted not only my skills but my own self-esteem and confidence. Having the amazing capability to become a literacy prefect for the school had allowed me to develop my self-confidence due to the fact that I had many opportunities such as taking part in the speaking competition.

I developed amazing relationships with friends that I have met in this school as well as the teachers. They have helped me through so much and always pushed me when I had the feeling of giving up. I will be forever grateful for this extraordinary school and staff with how they supported me and gave me the potential to develop my educational skills and the opportunities I was able to engage in.

# Year 8 Experiences

## Lukas Zazirskas

**St. Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon**

When I first heard about COVID19 in P.7 I was sad and worried about starting a new school in a pandemic. However, my new school, St. Patrick's College has helped me a lot. I have made some great new friends. I'm here four months now and I love it! I love my new subjects, especially Drama as I love playing comedy roles. I like English because it is fun and ICT as I enjoy doing work on the computer. Thank you St. Patrick's College!



## Cara Kennedy

**St. Malachy's Primary School, Edendork**

When I first came to St. Patrick's College I felt a little intimidated, I knew a couple of people but that was it. When I first entered my class I was scared as I didn't know anyone there. I sat down and that when my future best friends asked if they could sit beside me. We talked and I wasn't so scared anymore. By the end of the day I was settled in and everyone was so welcoming. It was still strange because of COVID19. We have to wear masks and stay in the same bubble classroom most of the time. It has been a couple of months now and I have settled in really well. I have made lots of new friends and I love my new school!



## Saoirse Tierney

**St. Patrick's Primary School, Donaghmore.**

When I first arrived at St. Patrick's College, I was very scared and nervous. It was a lot bigger than my Primary School so I thought I would get lost. I was afraid I wouldn't make any new friends or that I was be too frightened to ask for help in class. However, now that I am in St. Patrick's College I have made really good friends. I try my best in every subject and also, to help other in my class. I feel so happy at St. Patrick's College.



## Shannon Grogan

**Laghey Primary School, Killyman**

I always thought about starting my new school in September and how afraid I was going to be. Once I got to St. Patrick's College, I wasn't long making loads of new friends! I was so scared about getting lost but I shouldn't have been as there was loads of people to help me find my way around. It was very different moving from Primary to Secondary school. There were loads of new subjects that I wouldn't have learned in Primary school. I always thought; 'Don't worry, I will probably be with my friends from my old school', however, some of my good friends decided to go to a different schools from me. I was sad initially, but I have made new friends and I feel so safe and happy in St. Patrick's College.

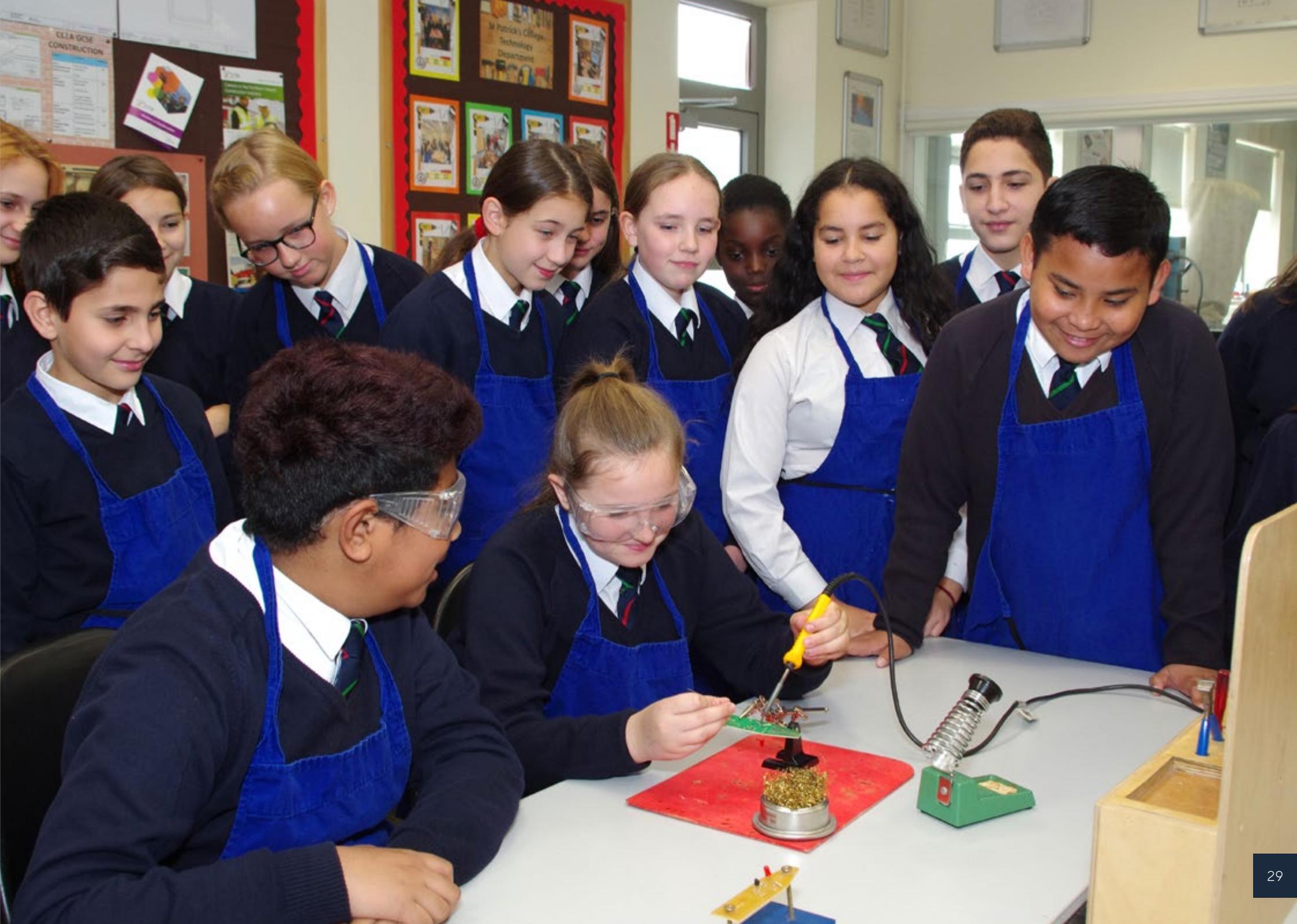


## Thomas Slater

**St. Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon**

My name is Thomas. I am a first year at St. Patrick's College. I love the College because there are so many fun subjects like, Drama, PE, French, Home Economics and lots more! There are lots of after school clubs and activities like Gaelic Football, Drama and even Minecraft Club. Due to COVID-19, we do not move from one class to the next. We have to stay in our bubble and wear face masks on the corridors. I came from St. Patrick's Primary School just down the road. It is also a massive school so I was used to being in a big school. My favourite part of the school is the canteen. The Paninis are delicious, so is everything else. That is just my fav! See you in September, you'll love it!





# A word from our Head Girl & Head Boy



**M**y name is Maria McAllister, I am delighted to get this opportunity to welcome you to a glimpse of our school as the Head Girl for this academic year. I am currently studying 3 A Levels which are Religion, Psychology and Art which will hopefully lead me to studying Speech and Language Therapy.

I joined St Patricks College in September 2014, I remember all the staff and students welcoming me into my new school, helping me to quickly settle into the new environment. One of the main reasons why I love it here in St Patrick's College is because of the continuous opportunities and involvement we have with businesses to help us develop, grow and give us a chance to gain knowledge of working world, helping us choose the career path we would like to take in later life. During the RE Enrichment Programme I was given the opportunity to work with children in Sperrinview Special School and I even learned Makaton to communicate with them. This has been one of my highlights in school.

I was lucky that I was given the experience to take part in the Anti Bullying Forum in Stormont, enhancing my communication and presentation skills and

I have been involved with our after school STEAM projects with children from local primary schools. I really enjoyed this experience as I was able to meet new friends and welcome younger children to our school.

During my time in St Patrick's College, I have taken part in many events and workshops from business representatives and organisations, allowing me to connect learning with the world of work. I particularly enjoyed National Careers Week with representatives from various sectors visiting each day. This was an amazing experience for students as we were able to speak with professionals, hearing their inspiring career journeys and helping us make decisions about our own career path.

As I near the end of my journey as a student at St Patrick's College, I am grateful for the opportunities offered to me and how they have prepared me for the next stage of my learning journey. I have enjoyed giving back to the younger pupils here in school as I have used my experience of attending the PALS programme in Dungannon Youth Resource Centre to deliver this to younger pupils. I hope that one day I will be the past pupil profile that is shared with the pupils at St Patrick's College as I aspire to live out our school motto "Together Inspiring Generations".

**Maria McAllister**

**M**y name is Adam Holmes and I'm honoured to be able to represent St. Patrick's College as Head Boy this year. When I entered this school as a young boy of 12, I was nervous, awkward, and shy. I have grown so much through the wide variety of rich experiences I have been offered within this school. I have experienced lots of highlights and one of them was the opportunity to learn the guitar, which has become a passion of mine and a way which helps me to relax and unwind.

I have been proud to represent my school as a Digital Leader, helping to lead and assist the First Tech Challenge team to develop a robot, with the help of Paul, an electrical engineer from Terex. We all benefitted so much from his expertise and guidance. We were delighted to reach the semi-final of the competition.

Two years ago, I represented the school on a Historians trip to Auschwitz Concentration Camp. This trip impacted me deeply. In a school which celebrates such diversity and tolerance, it is hard to imagine how so many faced such brutal discrimination because they were different. This encouraged me to continue to promote our message of celebrating difference in our school and community. We have so much to learn from each other about the rich cultural diversity which helps to make up the world we live in.

I love that in our school we celebrate the milestones along the way. Not always the top achievers but also the hard-working students that show commitment and resilience. One of my personal favourite celebrations was the Drive Thru Cinema, sponsored by Radius Housing. 50 of our students and their families enjoyed an evening of popcorn and entertainment, to celebrate the students that had worked so diligently during lockdown.

St. Patrick's College has given me so many opportunities to help me develop my skills, achieve my goals and to help me step out of my comfort zone.

I love being part of different teams within the school. I am a member of the Mental Health and Well-Being Team, which gave me the opportunity to talk to other students about mental health issues young people may face. We organised a very popular 'Tea and Talk' event last year to encourage our students to get chatting.

I was also the Project Manager of my Young Enterprise company, Minds Matter, which aimed to spread awareness about mental health, as it's a topic that I think needs to be emphasised.

So, as I continue the final few months of my educational journey at St. Patrick's College, I am determined to make the most of every opportunity I can: to grow, to learn and to teach me to never be afraid to give things a go. To the new students thinking of coming to St Patrick's College I would say, 'You are lucky to be only starting your journey here. Don't be worried about anything, there are lots of people here who will help you to do and be your best. I hope you have as great an experience in secondary school as I have had!'

**Adam Holmes**



# St. Patrick's College

*Together Inspiring Generations*



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