



2018 has been another remarkable year in St. Peter's College. Nature has played its own role with Storm Ophelia and "The Beast from the East" seriously impacting the teaching and learning schedule. Notwithstanding those interruptions I want to thank all members of the school community for their continued dedication, hard work and commitment. I would like to thank our Patron, Bishop Denis Brennan for his support and encouragement throughout the year and Mgr. Joe McGrath, for his outstanding work as Chairperson of the Board of Management. I extend a very special thank you to the members of the Board of Management, the Students' Council, Parents' Council, and Past Pupils' Union.

I congratulate the students for their efforts in so many academic, sporting and cultural events. Our students continue to bring great honour to the College through their many outstanding achievements. In particular, I thank our 'Senior of the House' Eoin O' Leary and our 'Sub-Senior' Aaron Breen, who were outstanding ambassadors of the College and represented us with distinction. I congratulate Dean O'Brien on his selection as Student of the Year. Every student can aspire to feature at our award ceremony at the End of Year Mass. The first steps are taken 'behind the lines', unnoticed, unheralded. It starts with presenting for school on time, in uniform with your homework done. It continues with engagement.

Thanks to all the parents / guardians for your support and encouragement over the year. St Peter's College has maintained a strong tradition of parental and community links over the years and I am confident this partnership will continue to grow and flourish.

In St Peter's we are blessed with a very talented and dedicated teaching staff whose influence and commitment extends far beyond the classroom. I thank them for their on-going commitment and dedication.

To our Chaplain Fr Aodhan, a special thanks. I am glad to say that the Catholic ethos, friendships and camaraderie that are synonymous with the College continue to flourish under his care.

To the administrative staff, secretaries, caretaker and security staff, I thank you for your extraordinary contribution to the College, its staff, students and parents. Thanks also to the cleaning staff and the staff of "Oven Door Catering" whose contribution is a valued and vital part of College life.

Education is about much more than the transfer of knowledge. Our boys are encouraged to be aware and curious, humble and honest, to think morally, open mindedly and accurately, care about one another and be willing to stand up and be counted. Excellence is not an act but a habit and we are what we repeatedly do.

I wish all our students well with their Leaving and Junior Certificate exams and in their future careers. I wish you all the very best for the summer months and look forward to your safe return to us in late August. I wish the community that is St Peter's College, God's Graces and Blessings with continued success into the future.

R O'Callaghan,  
Principal

**Parents are asked to note that the Board of Management cannot accept any responsibility for students who are on school grounds before 8.45am or 15 minutes after the end of formal classes.**

#### **Absences**

Parents are reminded that all students must swipe in each day. There is an 'Absences Report' on VSware; this is the official school record of your son's attendance. Please check it to make sure that your son has been swiping in. If there appears to be any discrepancies, please contact one of the Deputy Principals as soon as possible. Please ensure that your son has a swipe card. If your son has lost or damaged his card, he may order a new one in the first week back in September. Cost €10.

#### **School Uniform**

Please ensure that your son has the full uniform i.e., white shirt and College tie, grey slacks, wine jumper and black or brown shoes for the start of the next school year. Canvas or runner type shoes are not acceptable. Please note that sports jerseys or coloured t-shirts may not be worn underneath shirts.

#### **School Diary**

In September, your son will receive the School Diary. This should be checked and signed by parents/guardians every week. Please ensure that your son keeps it neat, tidy and graffiti-free and uses it to record his homework each school day. Notes from teachers regarding your son's progress are often recorded in the diary. The School's Code of Conduct is also printed in the Diary and this should be read by all parents/guardians and signed. Other important information on school calendar and Parent/Teacher meetings etc. is also printed in the Diary.

#### **Lost Property**

In order to facilitate the reuniting of lost property within the school with their rightful owners, it would be appreciated if parents/guardians would ensure that their son's name is on all coats, jumpers and books.

#### **Reminder**

- Students are not allowed to leave the College grounds during the school day unless they have a Lunch Pass
- Only LC 2 students, with the permission of the Principal, are allowed to bring a car into school Under no circumstances are students allowed to take cars out of the College grounds during the school day or to carry other students in their cars
- If for any reason you are unable to access your son's exam results on VSware, please contact the office for assistance
- **Parents of second years will notice an extra comment on your son's exam results for Business, English and Science. This comment refers to their CBA, information on this was sent home last month**

#### **St. Peter's College Past Pupils' Union**

We in St. Peter's would like to take this opportunity to thank the Past Pupils' Union for their contribution to the life of the college over the years. Their annual sponsorship of various activities in the college is greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with them long into the future. The highlights of the year were the Choral Concert at Christmas time in Rowe Street Church in conjunction with "Friends of It's good to talk" and the Re-union of the class of 1992.

The PPU are always welcoming of new members and application forms may be obtained by emailing [stpeterscollegeppucommunity@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterscollegeppucommunity@gmail.com).

### **Spectrum**

The school magazine Spectrum is currently on sale from the office for €5. The magazine gives an excellent insight into life on Summerhill and consists of articles from teachers, students and past pupils.

### **End of Year Mass and Prize Giving**

Bishop Denis Brennan was Principal Celebrant of the End of Year Mass in Bride St Church on Thursday May 24th. He was assisted by the school chaplain Fr. Aodhan Marken and Mgr. Joe McGrath. In his homily, Bishop Brennan reminded us that our job as believers is to cultivate the gifts God has given us and to be open to the new things that come our way in life, often when least expected.

### **Student of the Year**

The six nominees for the Student of the Year Award were: Aaron Breen, Eoin O'Leary, Dean O'Brien, Eoin Pinaqui, Shane Doyle and Ben Maddock. The winner was Dean O'Brien and he was presented with the award by Michael Breen, President of the PPU.

### **Colm McLoughlin Award**

The award commemorates Colm McLoughlin who died in 1996. It is presented to the St Peter's College student who achieves the highest marks in Junior Cert Science. This year, the award went to Robert Rowe.

### **Junior Cert Gold Medals**

Gold medals for outstanding results in the Junior Cert were awarded to: Conor Kelly, Cian Kinlough and Bill Cullen.

### **Past Pupils' Union Achievement Awards**

This year presentations were made to four students. The first went to Conal Clancy, a multiple All-Ireland Winner at two different activities. He holds five All-Irelands from Fleadh Ceoil na hÉireann in whistling plus another two for grúpa ceoil and has won thirteen All-Ireland medals from Athletics in the relay and hurdles. The second PPU award went to Louis Pinaqui for the sport of trampolining. Louis came first in the NDP2 qualifiers and first in the National Series Finals. He was also first in the NDP4 qualifiers and was then selected for the Irish National development squad. The third award was presented to Jakub Czok who started martial arts at five years old. In 2012 he won the gold medal in All-Ireland Brazilian Jujutsu and he repeated that feat two months ago in the fourteen years old 60 – 64 Kg. The final award went to Brian Deeny. Brian has been playing rugby with Leinster since he was sixteen years of age representing them at inter-provincial level. However, earlier this month he was selected to represent his country at U18 - 7's rugby in the European Olympic qualifiers. He got a total of six caps and was named Irish player of the tournament.

### **Garda Youth Award**

Eoin Allen was the recipient of a Wexford Garda Youth award earlier this year on the nomination of Deputy Principal Sean Foley. Eoin was diagnosed with leukaemia in second year and was nominated because of his courage, bravery and humility in the face of such a serious illness and his determination to return to full time education.

### **St. Vincent de Paul**

Our TY Young SVP Committee has been very busy in the last few months. The team of James Dixon, Mark Doyle, Amjad Ibrahim, Alex O'Donnell, Zac Firman, Tomás Murphy and Ciarán Hearne visited the residents in Wygram Nursing Home every Friday for the last few months. They attended the South Leinster Youth Day where they presented all their hard work to other schools.

### **Darkness into Light**

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, 71 students from LC1 and LC2 along with parents and some staff members took part in Darkness into Light in aid of Pieta House. Pieta House offers free counselling to those with feelings of suicidal ideation and those who have been bereaved by suicide. It opened its first centre in Wexford last October and all money raised by the school team goes directly to the Wexford centre.

### **LC1 Tour to Barcelona**

Early in the morning of the 4th April, 86 LC1 students and 8 teachers left the College for Dublin airport. They were headed for an action packed tour to Barcelona. On arrival they took in a guided tour of the city including La Sagrada Familia, Parc Guell and a boat tour of the harbour. The second day started with a tour of Camp Nou followed by paintballing in the afternoon and bowling that evening. Day three saw the group spend the day in Port Aventura theme park and they also attended a magic show that evening. A sightseeing trip to the spectacular Benedictine monastery high on Monserrat Mountain and a visit to the Cosmocaixa Science museum were the activities for the final day before the group headed for home. It was a very successful trip that was enjoyed immensely by students and staff alike.

### **Jump for Joy in aid of Crumlin Children Hospital**

First years raised €3,081 in this year's Jump for Joy in aid of Crumlin Children's Hospital. This is a fantastic contribution and is the highest amount raised by a first year group to date. This sum takes the schools contribution to the hospital to over €60,000 since 1994.

### **School Choir**

St Peter's School Choir was formed in September of this year. In the past 8 months, it has performed at many events including the end of year mass. With 18 members, they have sung in a variety of styles including classical, pop, gospel and musical theatre. Recently the choir has acquired two new accompanists with Declan Murphy on piano and David Corcoran on guitar. The choir have worked exceptionally hard all year, giving up two lunch time breaks a week to rehearse, and performing in front of their peers at every opportunity. Going forward, the choir hopes to take part in choral competitions across Leinster and to continue performing in the local community.

### **History Week**

From Monday 26th of March to Friday 2nd of April we had our first annual History Week. Students from 1st to 6th year brought in hundreds of artefacts ranging from medals to weapons, uniforms to letters and photographs. The week really captured the imagination of the school and dozens of projects were displayed in the social area. Each day a portrait of a famous person from history was hidden in the school and prizes (chocolate) were given to the students who located them first. The

various activities got everyone talking about history, both local and international. Next year's History week promises to be even bigger and better.

### **Art**

LC 1 student Daniel McCarthy was a winner in the Mental Health Ireland Art Competition.

### **Meitheal**

Another successful year has come to an end in St. Peter's for the Meitheal program. When the First Years entered St. Peter's last September, our LC2 Meitheal Leaders helped them to settle down, integrate, navigate and make new friends. Along with weekly activities and games, the Meitheal Leaders proved to be a constant support and help to the First Years, providing guidance and encouragement throughout the year. In March our Meitheal Leaders received their certificates at the Co. Wexford Meitheal Alliance Awards Day in the Wexford County Council Offices. St. Peter's are truly lucky to have such a dedicated, diligent, considerate and kind team of Meitheal Leaders.

### **Green Schools**

The Green schools had great success this year in achieving its fifth Green Flag for Biodiversity. Biodiversity looks at steps which can be taken to increase awareness of the importance of native plants, animals and habitats, and to increase species-richness in a locality. So to that end a new flower garden was created to promote bee pollination; 12 swift boxes, 3 bat boxes, a bird table and a bug hotel were made and then placed in our prayer garden. A log pile was created for different insects to use a habitat, and beech trees were planted near Power Park. We had a biodiversity action day on March 8<sup>th</sup> where Jim Hurley spoke to the students about biodiversity in Wexford. We held a photography competition, and also created a habitat map of our school grounds and will keep updating this in the future and we look forward to seeing how the habitats and plants progress in the future.

### **TY Tour**

At the end of January, seventy three students from St. Peter's College went to Poland on the annual TY Tour. The trip to Krakow and Zakopane was hugely successful, the students had a very enjoyable week experiencing a new culture and forming lifelong memories with friends and classmates. Some of the highlights included a guided tour of the salt mines in Wieliczka; a guided walking tour of Krakow and possibly the most memorable experience was the visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp. The group spent the last two days skiing in the famous skiing district of Zakopane.

### **Transition Year**

With over 16 trips, over €10,000 raised for charity, three blocks of work experience and a school tour, we couldn't have asked for more from a school year. The success of the year is in no small part due to the time and dedication of TY teachers and our office staff without which the programme simply would not work. Thank you to our students who represented themselves and the school so well and to their parents for supporting and believing in the programme.

### **BT Young Scientist**

Congratulations to Jack Hayden, Daniel McCarthy and Adam Mullins who did the school proud when they presented their project "To Examine the Effect of Waterborne Environmental Contaminants on

Plant Physiology” at the BT Young Scientist this year. The boys were also invited to present their project to the Minister for State, Andrew Doyle at the Department of Agriculture.

### **Exploration Dome Visit**

To help with their understanding of Earth and Space in the new Junior Cycle science course, first and second year students got the opportunity to explore and experience space in an indoor planetarium dome. Here students got to explore 360 degree views of Earth, our solar system and life on a space craft. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience which helped build curiosity in our budding future engineers and astronauts.

### **Badminton**

Our badminton players enjoyed a successful Wexford championship. We won division one and three in senior and juvenile and got to the final in the juvenile division two competition. We also won division two and three at junior level. However there is a big jump in standards in the Leinster competitions in Dublin but each age group enjoyed their chance to play in Irelands national badminton centre in Baldoyle.

### **GAA**

**1st Year Football** – The first year football team have had an enjoyable and successful year. Over half of the students represented the College in competitive matches. We are currently competing in the Leinster championship. A feature of these games is that we have played two games each day out, ensuring all those who wish to play football for the school are getting that opportunity. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, we played Good Counsel in the Leinster final but unfortunately we lost.

**1st Year Hurling** – Overall it has been a very successful year for 1<sup>st</sup> Year hurling. On March 21<sup>th</sup> we played against Good Counsel in the final of the Top Oil Leinster Post Primary Schools’ competition. Unfortunately on the day the New Ross boys proved too strong for St. Peter’s getting crucial scores at crucial times in the game. The St. Peter’s team never threw in the towel and battled until the very end.

**The Marty Barrett 1st Year Hurling Skills Competition** - The annual 1<sup>st</sup> year hurling skills competition took place recently with over sixty young hurlers taking part. After being tested on many skills of the game including frees, sideline cuts, striking on the run, long puck and accuracy, the eventual winner this year was Luke Roche of the Shelmaliers Club. In second place was Eoin Ormonde of the St. Martin’s Club.

**Juvenile Hurling** - The juvenile hurlers had a mixed campaign. They had a good start to the league pushing Kilkenny CBS to the limit and came away with a draw. Dublin Colleges and Good Counsel got the better of us in the remainder of the league matches. The championship came to a premature end with a quarter final loss to Colaiste Mhuire from Johnstown. On 25<sup>th</sup> May we played the Marty Barrett Cup against Gorey Community School in Gorey but unfortunately after a very competitive game we lost by three points.

**Senior Hurling** - Changes to the structure of the championship this year gave the lads a chance at redemption against our keen rivals Good Counsel after Christmas where we ran out easy winners. The next game was the quarter final against a highly fancied Borris VC who put up strong resistance but the 14 men of St Peter’s pulled through a titanic struggle by 1point. This now put the lads into a semi-

final against St Kieran's but unfortunately the latter were stronger on the day. The year as a whole was very productive, we played 5 championship games, improved a lot over the course of the year and were very consistent in our level of performance.

**Senior Football** - St. Peters were beaten in the Leinster Quarter Final by Colaiste Eoin after beating Athlone CC and drawing with St. Benuildas along the way. St. Peters then won the south-east league beating Naas CBS 3-07 to 2-09.

### **Book Club**

Once a month students read a book, in conjunction with a teacher, then meet up in the school library to discuss their thoughts on it. So far this year, senior students have read JD Salinger's 'The Catcher in the Rye' and 'All Quiet on the Western Front' by Erich Maria Remarque. The intention of the book club is for students to be exposed to books that they will enjoy, but would be unlikely to read in their own time. The book club has recently expanded to include junior cycle students, with second years currently reading 'The Outsiders' by S.E. Hinton. The books are purchased using money that has been fund-raised in the school through cake sales.

### **Library**

It has been great to welcome so many new faces to our school library this year. Well done to all those boys who have joined the book club and for contributing so well to the group discussions. As always we gladly accept any donations of books, board games, Lego or furniture!

### **Table Tennis**

First years have played table tennis at lunchtime each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. In a competition recently completed, Harry Curtis was the overall winner and Luke Corrigan was the runner-up.

### **Athletics**

The Athletics team have once again had great success this year. Our school Minor, Junior and Senior teams all won medals at the Schools South Leinster Cross Country, and progressed to the Leinster where they all competed very well despite the tough competition. In the South Leinster Track and Field the following students won medals and again progressed to the Leinster Track and Field in Santry. Sky Moroney in Senior Steeplechase, Liam Turner in Senior 5000m, Jack Hayden Senior in 400m, Morgan Haydon and Corben Browne in Intermediate Steeplechase, Paul Gately in Intermediate High Jump and in U16 4 x 300 m Relays Corben Browne, Conan Phillips, Sean Cooling and Shane Codd.

### **Sports Day**

On 17<sup>th</sup> May we had our internal Junior Sports where hundreds of junior students competed in the usual track and field events plus some novelty events and skills competitions. At the end of all competition and on the basis of his track and field results, our Junior Sportsman of the Year award went to second year student Corben Brown.

### **Basketball**

The first and second year basketball teams had very successful seasons this year. The first year season ended with a narrow defeat to Carnew in the Wexford semi-finals, while the second year team had a remarkable run, remaining undefeated throughout and being crowned both Wexford and South East regional champions. Our U16 and U19 squads did exceptionally well too with both teams retaining their crown as Wexford League Champions. Our squads went on to win the regional semi-finals and were narrowly beaten in the regional finals against the CBS in U19 and St. Pauls of Waterford in the U16's.

### **Debating/Public Speaking**

This year was very successful for debating in St Peter's College. In the Leinster Schools Debating competition, Uilliam Kinsella reached the semi-final of the competition with Ben Bursnell and Cathal O'Gara reaching the quarter final. This year was the first year that St Peter's entered a team in the Concern Debating competition. St Peter's reached the last sixteen of the competition and won the 'Best New School' award. The junior debaters have been meeting every Thursday to compete in debates on a variety of motions, with some of the debates turning into quite heated discussions! New members are always welcome to attend

### **Visit from Collège Sainte Philomène**

On Thursday March 26th almost 70 students from Collège Sainte Philomène in Coüeron, France visited our school. Students from our school enjoyed a speed-dating session with their French friends with whom they had exchanged pen pal letters throughout the year. Clément helped prepare a General Knowledge Quiz with questions in both English and French. All of the French pupils got a chance to participate and mingle with our TY's and learn the art of hurling while the school Trad Group performed for our visitors. A highlight of the day was singing the National Anthem for both countries in the Prayer Garden. It was a wonderful and memorable occasion. Our students were delighted to get a formal invite to visit their school in France next year!

### **All-Ireland Linguistics Olympiad**

This February 30 clever problem solvers from St. Peter's College tested their minds against the world's toughest problems in language and logic during the qualifying round of the CNGL All-Ireland Linguistics Olympiad 2018. The contest challenges secondary school students to solve complex puzzles in unfamiliar languages. It aims to inspire students to pursue careers combining computing, linguistics and languages. The students from St. Peter's College were among 1,306 students from the 32 Counties who competed in the qualifying round of the competition.