

## Chess Club

So far this year the chess club has played one of their league games against Greenhills beating them 8-0. Our next opponents in the league are Drogheda Grammar who our only other competition in the league. We narrowly beat them by 1-point last year to win the cup. We currently have approximately 30 members in the club with many more coming to watch and join.

Outside of school three of our members, Nikita Koush, Luke Munster and Bailey Holcroft as well as our coach Ben have joined the Drogheda chess club and are competing in the Division 5 of the Leinster League.



Mr. M. Trainor in conjunction with the Student Council is responsible for the production of the school newsletters. If any student, teacher or parent has any relevant news items they think may be suitable for future newsletters, please contact Mr. M. Trainor or e-mail [mtrainor@droghedacbs.ie](mailto:mtrainor@droghedacbs.ie).



## After School Study

Supervised study is available for all students for 2 hours after school, Monday to Thursday inclusive. Students interested in after school study should speak to Mr. M. Trainor. It is our experience that students who avail of the after school study perform well in their exams, both house exams and State exams. Two hours work in after school study will usually take more than two hours to complete at home. After school study costs €12 for four evenings or €4 for one evening.

## Contacting the School

Tel: 041-9837232 Fax: 041-9843891  
E-mail: [cbsoff2015@gmail.com](mailto:cbsoff2015@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.droghedacbs.ie](http://www.droghedacbs.ie)

If you wish to meet a member of staff, please phone and make an appointment.

# School Calendar

2019 — 2020

### December 2019

- ◆ 3rd Dec - 6th Year PTM. [4.15pm-6.30pm]. School finishes at 3:25
- ◆ 20th Dec - Christmas holidays begin

### January 2020

- ◆ 6th Jan - School closed for staff JCT training day
- ◆ 7th Jan - School re-opens
- ◆ 20th Jan - 5th, TY, LCA 1 PTM. [4.15pm-6.30pm]. School finishes at 3:25

### February 2020

- ◆ 4th Feb - Start of Pre Exams for 3rd and 6th Years
- ◆ 14th - 24th Feb - Mid term break
- ◆ 25th Feb - 1st Year PTM. [4.15pm-6.30pm]. School finishes at 3:25

### March 2020

- ◆ 9th March - 2nd Year PTM. [4.15pm-6.30pm]. School finishes at 3:25
- ◆ 16th March - School Closed
- ◆ 17th March - St. Patrick's Day (School Closed)

### April 2020

- ◆ 9th - First Year PTM[4.15pm-6.30pm]. School finishes at 3:25
- ◆ 3rd to 20th - April Easter Holidays

### May 2020

- ◆ 4th May - Bank holiday
- ◆ 12th May - Peadar McCann Awards Ceremony
- ◆ 21st May - 6th Year Graduation Mass
- ◆ 25th May - TY Graduation Ceremony
- ◆ 26th - 29th May - End of Year Exams
- ◆ 29th May - Last Day of Term

### June 2020

- ◆ 3rd June - Bank holiday
- ◆ 3rd June - Start of the State exams

Please note: on days where parent teacher meetings take place the school day will finish at 3.25pm.

December 2019 | Volume 22 | Issue 1



# Newsletter

St. Joseph's Secondary School

## A Message From Our Principal

Welcome to our first Newsletter of the school year. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Jennifer Kelly to the senior management team and wish her well in her new role. I am delighted to welcome our first ASD class to St. Joseph's. I would like to thank Mr. Crummey for all of his hard work and

dedication in supporting the introduction of the class. Thanks to Ms. Moore, Thomas, Audrey and the team of dedicated teachers for their ongoing support. We have a very active student council this year under the guidance of Mr. Sharkey. I would encourage all students to engage with their representatives on the council and avail of the opportunity to have their voice represented in school matters. I am delighted to announce the introduction of an academic support team for sixth year students. All sixth years have had a study skills presentation this month from year hear Mr. Ryan, Guidance Counsellor Ms. Daly and Deputy Principal Ms. Kelly. Students have



L-R: Ms. Jennifer Kelly, Mr. Paul Savage, Mr. Patrick Traynor

be assigned an academic support mentor who will meet with them several times over the course of the coming months to offer guidance and support in the area of study and exam preparation. As you can see from our Newsletter, we continue to have a huge range of extra-curricular activities in operation in the school. These would not take place without the commitment and dedication of our coaches, mentors and tutors. My sincere thanks to all who give of their time to organise these activities and events for our students. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas. If at any stage I can be of assistance or support to you or your son please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Le gach dea ghuí.*

*Paul Savage*



First year students are settling in well to life in St. Joseph's. Class 1R working hard in English class. First years attended a sports day in September, allowing them to participate in many activities and bond as a year group. Thanks to Mr. Stephenson and all other teachers involved. A great day was had by all!

Check out the latest news on our School's Website  
[www.droghedacbs.ie](http://www.droghedacbs.ie)



### Leaving Cert History & Politics Trip to Belfast

On the 23rd of September the 6th year history and politics class went on a trip to Stormont in Belfast. When we arrived, we got off the bus and had to go through security, we had to place our electronics on a table and go through a metal detector. Then we met our tour guide who was a member of staff in Stormont. We were given a brief history of the building and of politics in Northern Ireland including the Troubles. Our guide brought us around the different chamber rooms and we got a talk from Colm Gildernew who is a Sinn Fein politician. - Jack King



### Maths Week in the Joey's

Well done to all students and staff who recently participated in Maths Week in St Joseph's. This All-Ireland initiative aims to create awareness, appreciation and understanding of mathematics for all. Students experienced a week filled with fun and interesting Maths activities, along with prizes too! Some examples of the activities that took place included the first year students' investigative projects, daily maths riddles, drop everything and Sudoku as well as the completion of many maths puzzles. A great week was had by all!

### Erasmus+ European Science Project

From the 28th September to the 5th October 2019 St. Joseph's hosted students from France and Germany, as part of the schools participation in an Erasmus + European Science Project called "European Science Camps: Changing Climate, Changing Habitat". Transition Year and 5th year students from St. Joseph's, with the French and German students, visited Clogherhead Beach and



Beaulieu Woods, taking samples and recording data on the flora and fauna present in these habitats. The students also visited the Celtic Adventure Centre, the RNLI Lifeboat Station in Clogherhead and took part in a night of Irish dancing in the D hotel. The Transition Year students who took part in this work will travel to Germany in March 2020, to study the Waden sea habitat and also a moor habitat.



### Junior Cert Results

Congratulations to our Junior Cert classes of 2018/2019 on their achievements. Pictured below are some of the students who received the top Junior Cert results in the school.

**Back Row L-R:** Daniel Butterly, Conor O'Dwyer, Johan Varghese.

**Front Row L-R:** Steven Kinch, Alex Smyth, Powel Sabu.



### Mellon Educate - Conor Dunne TY 2

Every year, Mellon Educate organises their now renowned "building blitz" trip to Africa for volunteers from all over the world to travel and lend a helping hand building better infrastructure in poor African communities.

In conjunction with the South African government, the charity has housed 125,000 local people in high grade permanent homes, replacing dilapidated shack living conditions. Since 2013, Mellon Educate has set about improving access to better standards of education in African townships.

To date, the charity has built 16 new schools and renovated many more, providing over 10,000 young children with a better chance at life. The charity are building towards educational programmes throughout Africa that will benefit over 100,000 primary school kids.



Students in Halloween Fancy Dress

Thank you to all my fellow students at St. Josephs Drogheda for supporting my free dress fundraiser day on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October and for putting your hand in your pocket and giving me the opportunity to roll up my sleeves and help lift children out of a life of hopelessness to a higher level of education, a level where they can contribute and shape their society. Nelson Mandela once said; "Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world".

In supporting me, you are equipping the next generation of Africa's children with the essential tool for life; Education.

## St Joseph's Welcome our First Year ASD class

Mr. Crummey (SEN co-ordinator)

This Year St Joseph's are delighted to announce the opening of our first ASD class. Six First Year students have enrolled and all come from the Louth/Meath catchment area. Thanks to the support of our Principal Mr. Savage and the school's Board of Management we successfully applied to the NCSE to open an ASD class this year.

ASD or Autism Classes specifically cater for pupils attending schools with a diagnosis on the autistic spectrum. One main advantage of these classes is that, unlike mainstream school classrooms, they have a much lower pupil-teacher ratio and may also receive a 'baseline' level of SNA support. This ensures that there's as much intensive support as possible for pupils to develop and fulfil their potential. Additionally, ASD classes provide the opportunity for students to follow the curriculum at pace and level appropriate to them and to participate in mainstream activities and classes where they are able.



Our ASD class attended this year's Ploughing Championship in Co. Carlow.

Resource teachers (known also as special education teachers) are responsible for designing and implementing instruction within special classes. SNAs help co-ordinate the day-to-day running of lessons and support pupils' in accessing the curriculum.

Our students in First Year belong to a mainstream class and attend subjects inclusively as much as possible. There are also learning opportunities timetabled for these students in subjects such as Home Economics, Horticulture, Art, Woodwork, Physical Therapy, Music, Social and Communication Education as well as Literacy, Numeracy and Computers to develop both academic and pragmatic skills. We are based in Ms Moore's room 28 and we are applying for a purpose build ASD facility from the Department of Education.



Some of Our ASD students during Horticulture class

we can empower autistic people to be able to participate. It is important focus on what the person can do – using a person's strengths and abilities to support them in areas they find more difficult.

We in St Joseph's are delighted to welcome our first Student intake this year and we look forward to its growth over the years to come.

Autism is a developmental condition which means that the way a person communicates, interacts and understands other people, and the world, is different to those who do not have the condition. It can be described as a "spectrum" which means it impacts different people, in different ways, to differing degrees at different times and in different situations.

Every person has abilities, this includes autistic people. Indeed, autistic thinking can bring its own strengths too! We should never presume an autistic person can't do something but rather talk about how



## St. Joseph's Open Night 2019

St. Joseph's annual open night for 6th class students took place on October 3rd. There was a great turn out where students and parents met with our teachers, viewed our facilities and tried out different subjects. Both teachers and students went above and beyond to showcase what our school has to offer. Members of the Student Council were on hand to give tours of the school and inform parents and students with their personal experiences of *The Joey's!*



## Student Council Update

The Student Council is a group of students who meet regularly to discuss issues that they consider are important. They bring forward issues that might go unnoticed by the school management. Students are welcome to suggest, ideas or issues that they have to a student council representative in their year. The council is made up of 20 members. The members are: Peter Savage, Rory Dunne, Luke Walsh, Oisín O'Brien, Stuart Kinch, Victor Olukokun, Abubakar Cisse, Peter Meegan, James Andrews, Emmet Murray, Evan Reade, Luke Mohan, Andrew Victory, Femi Laiyemo, Keane Kavanagh Smith, Emmet Hall, Jake Connor, Cormac Morgan, Josh Fitzpatrick and Kenneth Obifuna.

The Council is open to suggestions and ideas. So far this year, the council has: Attended the Louth Comhairle na nÓg conference where we talked about highlighting young people's issues in advance of local elections. Brought up issues in the school; Hand scanner lines too long, Fire alarms going off too often. Leo Hogan ERST workshop - participated in training. Planning a trip to the Dáil (in the future). Planning to assist with any Christmas Events (quiz, fundraiser etc). Planning to attend the ERST Conference.

## St. Joseph's Senior Prefects 2019 - 2020



**Back row (L-R):** Theo Ugwuja (5.4), Richard Akinbola (5.2), Femi Laiyemo (5.1), Keane Kavanagh-Smith (5.3), Scott Daly (5.4), Kamil Suchomski (5.3)

**Front row (L-R):** Dáire Collier (5.2), Timothy Ivare (5.4), Soga Agunloye (5.1), Samuel Sim-eon (5.2)

**Missing from picture:** Mark Oduberu (5.3), Seán Rice (TY4), Kenenna Okwara (5.1)

## The TY View

### Achill Trip - 16th-18th October, Achill Island Co. Mayo

We departed the school at 7 o'clock in the morning. When we arrived at Achill we were brought the hall and split into our different house groups. These were the groups that we would do our activities in over the next 3 days. We did a plethora of activities which included a bog obstacle course, surfing, hiking and gorge walking.

During the bog course you had to swim through the bog and climb through tunnels. The weather was perfect for surfing, the hike went along the cliffs, with fantastic views of the Atlantic Coastline and the gorge walk where we were baptised in the holy spring.

These activities were spread out over three days. We had a fantastic trip and it was a great start to our transition year. - *David Moroney (TY3)*

In Achill we did many different activities from sporting to indoor activities for example here is a list of the things that we done: Surfing, Bog jumping, Gorge walk, Island walk.

We woke up very early every morning to pack and prepare for the activity set for us. For most of our activities a wet suit was necessary. These were supplied by the course coordinators. Showers were also available for us in the changing rooms and in the houses.

After every morning activity we would go back to the house in which we were staying in and got some free time and our evening meal. The heads of the houses were very welcoming and caring toward us. Each night at 7:30 we travelled back to the Irish school where we did Irish dancing and we were then given our phones to use for half an hour.

The journey consisted of a 5-hour drive with multiple stops with one of them lasting an hour to purchase items from the shop. Overall the Achill trip was very enjoyable and was an amazing experience. - *James Younger Hobbs (TY4) and Conor McGinnity (TY3)*

## Back to the 80s!!!! The TY Totally Awesome Musical

Preparation for the school musical is underway. Transition Year students are hard at work practicing the music, building and designing the set and doing backstage work. The theme of this year's musical is **Back to the 80's** and eight boys have been chosen for the main roles as well as a group of Greenhills girls to help with the female roles in the musical. The Chorus group is putting all their effort into learning the songs and dances with Ms. McAdam and Ms. McMahon. Ms. Murray is working with a group of students on the set's design and for the first time this year the set construction will be done with Mr. Corrigan and a group of students.

It's looking like this year's musical is going to be greatest yet!!!



## Leaving Cert Politics and Society Dublin Trip

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, the 5<sup>th</sup> Year Politics & Society class under the guidance of Ms. Hackett and Mr. Trainor had the pleasure of a travelling to Dublin for the day on a fieldtrip to visit the European Parliament Offices and Dáil Éireann. The function of the day was structured to give the students a better insight and knowledge into the functions and duties of the European Parliament and the Dáil and to what degree do these establishments effect the daily lives of us individually, our school, our community and our country. Upon arriving at the European Parliament Offices, we were greeted by the director of communications Margaret Francois who delivered a presentation to us explaining what the European Union was about, the role it plays in different countries and the functions of the European Parliament and Commission. When we were finished the presentation we completed a



Students in the European Parliament Offices

quiz testing us on what we had learned during the previous hour's activities.



5th Year Students on the Dáil Plinth

In the afternoon, we headed for the Dáil where we were greeted by some of the members of the Parliament; Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD and Imelda Munster TD from Sinn Féin and Senator Ged Nash from the Labour Party. This was followed by a Q&A session in the Dáil AV Room, where member of the class questioned Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin on his role as a TD, the everyday duties of a TD and what made him want to enter into politics. This was followed by questions relating to current affairs including Brexit, homelessness, the housing crisis and the health service.

After this the group was led to the viewing gallery of the Dáil Chamber to watch Leader's Questions. The Taoiseach Leo Varadkar was questioned by Michéal Martin about the homeless crisis on the streets of Dublin and Cork following an incident the previous weekend in Cork city. Mary Lou McDonald questioned the Taoiseach to clarify the legislation of the Good Friday Agreement in lieu of a court case ruling on citizenship in Belfast. Our day's events concluded with a tour of Leinster House including a visit to the Seanad where we were greeted by the leader of the house Jerry Buttimer and proceeded to watch Senators bring up and debate important topics relating to Ireland today. We left Leinster House and return to Drogheda on the school bus. All in all it was a fantastic day out for our class and perhaps we might see a few of our own there in years to come!!



Partaking in a Q&A session in the Dáil AV Room

## 5th Year Wellbeing

Since the beginning of the 19/20 school year our 1st, 2nd, 5th and transition year students have been taking part in a Wellbeing program. One of the strands included is First Aid & C.P.R. In this course the students are learning essential life saving skills and techniques to help themselves and others in the event of an accident. They're learning skills such as C.P.R, the recovery position, how to sling an arm and knowing the difference between a cardiac arrest and a heart attack. Every day in Ireland 13 people die from sudden cardiac arrest. With this program we aim to increase the awareness around cardiac arrest and ensure there are more and more potential life savers in our local community each year.



5th years practicing on mannequins from Irish Heart Foundation

## Remembering Our School Community

During November our school remember those people whom we twelve months have been difficult for the community in and friends. We felt it was important to take time out to remember made to our lives.

Students from first and fifth occasion – through words, memories and we supported by students and staff from and friends of Lynn Browne, also remembered our late remembered staff members parents, husbands, children, siblings during the past year. We also paused to remember those in our wider community who have died in accidents, from addiction, or who have died alone.

Our message of support was simple – We will not forget and we will always remember.

We gathered in the school library and our students led us in music and reflection. It was a privilege to remember together and to support each other. We then planted flowers in our school memorial garden as a reminder that those we have loved never go away. Their memory is with us always.



community gathered to remember lost in the past year. The past cult for our school community Drogheda. We have lost family important to show our support and the contribution these people

year created a remembrance music and symbols we shared each other. We were joined Ballymakenny College, by family Noel Moore and Oliver Tully. We colleague Kellie Leonard. We and students who have lost

## Our School Mass



We held our annual November Remembrance Mass in the gym on the 28th of November. Due to the numbers of students involved the student body were divided in two according to Junior and Senior Cycle and two separate masses were celebrated.

Our celebrant was Fr. Barry Matthews and we would like to thank our management (Mr. Savage, Mr. Traynor and Ms. Kelly), our wonderful musicians and readers, the RE Dept. and our caretakers Niall and Paul for setting up the gym at short notice.

*'Your life was a blessing,  
Your memory a treasury,  
You are loved beyond words,  
And missed beyond measure.'*

## GAA Future Leaders - Maths

*Ivan Mc Kenna (5.1) & Deane McWeeney (5.3)*

Congratulations to Ivan and Dean whose project was chosen to represent the TY students of St. Joseph's at the GAA Future Leaders Awards Ceremony in Croke Park. The project was focused around making students aware of the importance of statistics in sports and how this can improve a teams performance. They compiled their data through watching GAA matches and analysed material under various success criteria including, kick-outs, hand passing, kick passing, shooting and targeting. The information gathered was displayed on various charts and graphs and presented to their TY class. It was a great learning experience for them both and educated them in the area of sports statistics.



## First Year Thoughts .....

First year is a big change from primary school. It is good though because I like changing class every 40minutes and meeting new people and teachers. We have two breaks the first one is 15minutes long and the second one is 40minutes long. The food in the canteen is really nice and so are the people that serve you your food and make your food.

I am finding school good. I have made new friends and I like the teachers. I like the subjects and my option subjects as well. I like the canteen and going to the yard on big break.

The first few months and weeks here in St Joseph's have be a great time. I've met new friends and have learned so much about things that I never knew existed. On my first day I was excited about getting to know where everything was and I knew from having brothers in the school that it was just going to be hard to live up to the standard they set last year and years ago. I have to say that it was a great first day and I could never get that experience ever again in any other place on the earth.

Before I started secondary school and on my first day of secondary I was nervous but then I realised that that there was nothing to worry about. I have settled really well into secondary and have made loads of new friends. I prefer secondary school much more than primary school and I am enjoying first year so far.

First Year has been easy to fit in with my new friends and the teachers. The older students are helpful when you get lost. My option subjects are different to my old primary school subjects and much more enjoyable. I enjoy being able to switch classes every 40 mins. I find learning new stuff exciting and fun.

The first few weeks were quite confusing and I felt it was hard at time to find my way around the school. I was worried about homework and making new friends.

First year is good. I'm enjoying myself in school. I like some of my teachers and my new subjects. I have met lots of new people and made new friends. I haven't got in much trouble so far and I hope it will stay like that for a while.

The first couple of weeks were a lot different to primary and it was quite scary at times. But after September everything began to settle down and I felt like I fitted in.

The first few weeks were interesting because of all the new subjects that I had. After the first week I finding it easier to make my way round to each class. I was worried about making friends because I had come from a small primary school and I was worried about homework and the tests that we had in November. I'm enjoying my new teachers and subjects especially Irish, Geography and Maths.

I think have settled in to this school very well. I have made lots of new friends. I have tried different subjects that I wouldn't normally have done. I enjoy the sports that the school offers.

My new school is very big in comparison to my primary school. I'm glad I can choose my subjects. Meeting new people was lots for fun. The exams are a lot harder. I am enjoying myself in secondary school.

### Student Council @ The ERST Conference

Members of the student council travelled to Croke Park on Thursday 5th of November to attend the ERST Student Conference. Once we arrived, we got a photograph at the Michael Cusack memorial with Mr Sharkey and Mr Connolly. We were directed to the 2nd floor where the conference would be held. We signed in at the front desk and were greeted with refreshments.

We sat down while the other schools arrived. Many ERST schools throughout Ireland attended and there were about 220 students present. The event was run fully by a group of students from three schools who collaborated to organise the event. The introduction started at 10:15 and we were introduced to the running of the event. From that point on the students took over and we bonded with an ice breaking exercise.

Later that day every school started with their presentation about inclusivity and diversity in their school. We took a break halfway through the presentations for a chance to give students a voice to talk about if their school does enough to represent the students. One student mentioned that their school put a lot of effort into making the student's voices heard but the suggestions were not always heard which is what most people in the room agreed with. The presentations continued and we had a chance to present, as well. Our speech talked about how our school is diverse in culture and nationalities. Our speech was accompanied by a song by "James" called "Sit down". The song has heavy themes about inclusivity and this went well with our speech. Everyone's speech was different, but they all held one similarity, that tells us that all ERST schools are culturally rich and accepting of people from all backgrounds. - Andrew Victory (TY4)

### 3rd Year RE Trip

Third year students attended a visit to the Irish Islamic Cultural Centre (Clonskeagh, Dublin) and the Islamic Foundation of Ireland (Dublin 8) in November as part of their Junior Cert Religious Education studies. It was a welcome pause from the text books for the students as they got to witness first hand some of the elements of the Islamic faith. They were given a presentation by the Leaders of the mosque, Dr. Ali and Imam Faris, and everyone seemed keen to learn about the different elements of the faith and Islamic culture, how the faith compared to their own and what it is like to live in Ireland as a person of a different faith. The students had prepared numerous questions for the speaker and no area was left unmentioned!

After visiting the Mosque, the students headed to Christ-church to visit the cathedral. This was a great cross-curricular experience as the students got a taste of both Religious Education and History. The stories surrounding the Tomb of Strongbow were very entertaining while the students also got an opportunity to entertain the entire city of Dublin by ringing the bells of the cathedral.

A walk around the impressive Chester-Beatty library, with it's vivid, colourful ancient manuscripts and information about the eastern religions proved to be both insightful and interesting.

By the time the students reached their final destination, a trip to see The Peanut Butter Falcon, in Cineworld, they were well ready for a rest! The theme of the movie was inclusion and respect for individuals and it was a fitting end to a varied trip. The lads were happy coming home after an enjoyable trip and they are looking forward to the next one!

### Scarecrow Competition - Conor Murphy (1N)

This year we had to design a scarecrow for the scarecrow design competition. It worked by everyone in first year in schools across Co. Louth and Co. Meath designing a scarecrow in anyway they liked for the Navan Education Centre. We had a school competition and the design that won in the school got put forward towards the competition with all the other schools who entered the competition. The winner of the competition had to make a real life sized version of their scarecrow.

I am delighted that I won the competition and put a lot of time and effort into my design. The way that I designed my scarecrow was by firstly doing a couple of rough sketches of different scarecrow designs. I then chose which one I liked the best and I redrew my design neater on better quality paper. When I was finished drawing my design I outlined my scarecrow with a black fine-liner and coloured it with markers. I also used different shades of colour to make it look better. When I was told that I had won I was very happy and felt that all the effort was worth it in the end.

On Wednesday the 5th December, Mr. Sharkey kindly brought four Transition Year Students (Josh Nulty, Alex Lipscomb, Luke Mohan, David Moroney) and myself to Navan Education Centre and we were greeted by very kind people and they gave us a table of food. They then talked about how we could make our school greener with flowers, plants and animals using recycled tyres and plant pots. After the food they took us out into their garden. The garden was very nice and inspired us. I was given my certificate for winning and was very thankful for the wonderful day out.



### Shane Lynch Sets out for Strasbourg!

In the school year 2018/19, I had the pleasure of winning a four day excursion to Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg through the Graduate.ie schools programme. On the 3rd December 2019, I embarked for Brussels with 25 students from all over Ireland. We toured the institutions of the European Commission led by three MEPs from Ireland as well as a guided tour of the city itself.



One day two, we set out for Luxembourg, taking in the spectacular views of the city on our way to Strasbourg, France. On the 5th of December, we arrived at European Parliament Buildings to take part in a Youth Parliament (Euroscola) with students from all over the EU to debate and share ideas about Sustainable Development and Renewable Energies, Human Rights and Security, The Future of Europe, Migration and Youth Employment.

We were placed in groups of 60 students and each group elected a Chairperson and a Spokesperson. I was elected as the Spokesperson for my group 'Sustainable Development and Renewable Energies'. I had to analysis and summarise the main thoughts of my group and make a presentation to the members of the Youth Parliament and the President of the European Parliament David Sassoli. There was a vote taken on our proposals which were passed by an overall majority.

This experience was very rewarding and interesting and I had an excellent time, something that I will never forget. I would like to thank Ms. Hackett, our Politics & Society teacher and all those who supported me in Europe.



### St. Joseph's Christmas Cards Fundraiser



Congratulations to the students whose drawings were selected for the 2019 St. Joseph's Christmas Card Fundraiser: Frank Mc Clean, Hugh McClean, Adam McEvoy, Lorand Peter, Tytus Walkowiak, Stuart Kinch, Ciaran O'Brien, Pete Savage, Cillian Matthews, Conor Breen, Cian Garavaglia, Vito King, Julius Noer and Darragh Phelan. The money raised will go towards four excellent organisations and charities in Drogheda: Drogheda Women's & Children's Refuge Centre, Oncology Unit Lourdes Hospital, SVP Drogheda and Drogheda Homeless Aid.

### INDIA IMMERSION PROJECT

St. Joseph's will participate once again in the Indian Immersion Project in October 2020. Expressions of Interest for Students is now available through the School Office