



# Sligo Grammar School



## Book of Summer





## News

### *Seachtain Na Gaeilge*

The week before the St Patricks Day long weekend, Sligo Grammar got into the Irish Spirit. This week is an annual tradition run by 5th years and our own Irish saint Ms O'Donnell. Students got easter eggs for winning competitions *as Gaeilge*. Table quizzes were a big event throughout the week within each class group. Lunchtime was even busier than usual, with trad music, an Irish singing concert, a *puc fada* contest *agus Biongo!* The Blind Date night was a classic evening of entertainment especially for boarders, who got off prep! Juniors had a *Teoraiocht Tasice* (treasure hunt) *agus ar an Aoine* everyone wore at least one piece of green for *La Glas*. All funds raised will be given to a charity selected by the 5th year committee.



### *History Talk*

In February, Simone Hickey, a local Historian who was heavily involved in the research for Armistice Day, came to the school to talk to 5th yr History students and TY students considering choosing history for Leaving Cert. She gave great advice to the students about their L.C. projects and she also suggested interesting topics that they might choose. Ms Hickey was very interesting to listen to and the students enjoyed talking to her.



### *International Students*

This year we had international students in TY from Spain and Germany who came to SGS in the hope of improving their English. However that's not all they gained from this year. A common theme that came up was that the students made great friends throughout the year, some of whom they plan on meeting again sometime in the future. Another running theme was an appreciation for boarding life where they felt they learned new skills through living with different people. They said that boarding gave them a sense of independence too. They enjoyed trips away with the school where they got to see other places in Ireland. Another highlight was playing new sports like hockey and rugby that previously the students did not have access to. School life here is very different from school in their own countries, so they are pleased that they got to encounter a different experience of school life - and improve their English, of course! Overall the students were very positive about their time in Ireland, and the tears shed on the TY Awards Night was proof of this.

### *Art Trip*

In April 5th and 6th yr Art students visited Dublin as part of their Leaving Cert Art studies.

They visited a Georgian Townhouse in Henrietta St and went to IMMA to see an exhibition of work by Lucien Freud. The trip finished with a little shopping in Liffey Valley.





### ***Valedictory Day 2019***

Friday 17th May saw the last day of formal classes for the class of 2019. On Friday morning all the 6th years had a special breakfast in the canteen, where Mr. Henry presented them with certificates making them officially SGS Alumni. Afterwards they all headed to Calry Church for the last whole school assembly of the year. Here Deputy Head Girl, Annie Spearman and Deputy Head Boy, Josh Conway spoke, reminding everyone of the comical highlights throughout their six years. They then got ready for the annual Sixth yrs Vs Teachers soccer match. The sixth years won the match 3-1, Darragh Gallagher, Dipo Odeajo and James McDonagh were the top scorers for the students. Damien McAndrew, a MOD, scored for the teachers. After the soccer match the 6th years had a few hours of fun together. In the evening the students, their parents, guardians and families attended the Valedictory Ceremony in Calry Church, with music from Kaitlin Cawley, Thomas Guckian, Grace Burke and James Gimena. Head Girl, Juno Ellison and Head Boy, Brian West delivered a nostalgic speech and looked forward to the future. A slide show of baby photos was one of the highlights of the ceremony! The Headmaster reminded the students of the school's ethos and that success in life is not measured in physical possessions but in personal contentment. We wish the 6th years all the best in the exams and in the future.

### ***Creative Writing Club***

This year Ms Stinson set up a creative writing club for our students and it has been a great first year. Joshua Gordon was shortlisted in the Wild Words competition and has been invited to attend a Writing Masterclass in June at the Wild Words Festival. Anushka Pathak and Siobra O'Callaghan were shortlisted in North West Words' Competition - Junior Fiction Category and Annushka won while Siobra was Highly Commended. Well done everyone, and thank you Ms Stinson.

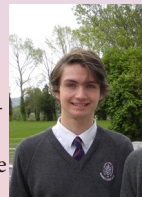


### ***Tyndall Lecture***

On the 4th of February, 5th and 6th yr students studying Physics attended a Tyndall Schools Lecture 'The Physics of Waves' in the IT in Sligo. At the lecture they learned how simple concepts in waves and music help us to understand the everyday world around us and peer into the distant corners of the universe. There were interactive demonstrations and audience participation on the day and all the students had a great time and learned a lot! Thank you to Ms. Shannon for bringing the students!

### ***MENSA***

With only 150,000 members world-wide, MENSA is the largest and oldest high-IQ society in the world, open to those who score at the 98th percentile or higher on a standardised, supervised IQ test. Joshua Gordon, 5th yr, sat the MENSA IQ assessment, and, two weeks later, received a letter congratulating him on having made the MENSA grade! Well done, Joshua!







## News

### *Wellbeing Week*

In Spring the school held a special week to promote positive mental health and wellbeing. SGS Wellbeing Week was jam packed with a very busy schedule. On Monday, each class watched an inspirational short video featuring our very own TY students! It was a great kick-off to the week. At a lunchtime there was a fab karaoke, and two fearless first year students, Maggie Joubert and Aaron Platt took to the stage and got 1st place with their amazing song. On Monday the skipathon began and continued throughout the week, with 2C setting the record for the school. Tuesday began with an energetic whole-school walk to Doorly Park to highlight the importance of fresh air and being outside. One HE group had a "Tea and Talk" class where they baked cookies and then ate them together over a cup of tea and a chat! The Debating Society had an open discussion on the effects of social media on health and wellbeing. 1st and 2nd years were treated to a Valentines Day disco, organised by the Leaving Cert LCVP students. Board games, a school flash-mob, a whole-school coffee afternoon in aid of NW Hospice and other fun activities rounded off the week. The week had a lovely relaxing atmosphere and was well needed after the stressful few weeks of exams. Ms McGuinness played a big part in organising all the events throughout the week and hopefully it will become another Grammar tradition!

### *Aaron Gordon*

The 2019 CLRG World Irish Dancing Championships took place in Greenboro, North Carolina. The competition saw thousands of talented young people take part including Sligo Grammar School's very own, Aaron Gordon! Aaron competed in the 16-17 age category and was placed 5th in the world! Congratulations to Aaron on this outstanding achievement.



### *Mock Interviews*

In March, 5th Year Mock Interviews took place in the School. These Mock Interviews have become a regular part of the school calendar. The interviews present an opportunity for 5th year students to be interviewed by a professional in a career area of their choice. They write a cover letter and a CV in Career Guidance class, which they present to the interview panel, and are then formally interviewed. Afterwards they receive feedback about their interview and are given the opportunity to ask their interviewers for some career advice or any questions they may have. The experience is invaluable and gives the students an idea of what is in front of them as they prepare for life after school. We are grateful to our SGS Parent Association for organising so many interviewers to come to our school and give up their evening to interview our students. Thank you to all who helped to organise the interviews!





## Global Ireland

The whole school body of SGS was elated when we were selected as one of the first schools to be introduced to the new 'Global Schools Programme'. It is a programme which strives to double Ireland's impact in the world by 2025. With this particular initiative the government seeks to enlighten its young citizens about Global Ireland and also our Nation's role within the United Nations. On the 10th of January a special whole school assembly was held. Addressing the school were Mr. Eoin Egan, Ms. Ann Derwin, Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Capt. Barry Dolan with Sgt. Shane Murrin representing the Irish Defense Forces. Ann Derwin spoke about the importance of Ireland's role on the world stage. She illustrated how our recent history and our place as one of the safest and most democratic nations in the world, allow Ireland act as an impartial mediator and advisor in conflict resolution across the world. Ms Derwin also touched on the ever changing role of women in government and the civil service and encouraged students to get involved in the Governmental and Diplomatic sector. Capt. Dolan and Sgt. Murrin also spoke about the Irish Defense forces and their role as peacekeepers.



## Ag. Science

In March 5th yr. Agricultural Science students visited two working farms in Sligo, Wood-Martin's farm, Woodville, a local sheep farm and a local dairy farm owned by TJ and Chris Tuffy. They saw new-born lambs and calves on the farms and learnt a lot from the farmers. Next year the students will do a project about farming and this walkabout will be a great help in putting their project together. Thanks to their teachers and the farmers for the trip.



## Ciara Lindsay

Ciara Lindsay is a Transition Year student who has excelled in Karate over the past year. During the summer Ciara's Karate Club, here in Sligo, received a phone call seeking Ciara for Irish trials in Dundalk. Ciara began to attend these trials once a month, where they focused more on competition style Karate. In September Ciara received the fantastic news that she had been chosen to represent Ireland at the Wodu Kai Europeans in Portugal. Ciara's team won the silver medal in the team Kata. Ciara said "the competition was of such a high standard and I learnt the importance of respecting my opponent". In May Ciara competed at the Championships in Birmingham. People from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland attended the competitions. Ciara's hard work all paid off as she got the bronze medal for both the team and individual Kata. Well done Ciara!





## Sports

### Kayaking

The SGS Kayak Club has been going strong all year, meeting on the river every week. Mr Craddock and John Barrett ran a level 2 course down the Garavogue from SGS in preparation for the Liffey Descent on the 18th of May. Eight paddlers went to Dublin with Mr Craddock for the Junior Descent. The course is 12km long and passes by 4 weirs. Finn Grennan placed 3rd in his age group with a time of one hour and 17 minutes. Well done to Matthew White, Tara McLaughlin, Ben Cunningham-O'Driscoll, Michael Bezborodov, Cameron Kilcoyne, Donncah Quinn-Conway and Cormac Shannon for participating. The year was finished with a club paddle to Beezies Island on beautiful Lough Gill. The trip was used as a fundraiser for RNLI with our kayakers raising €270 for this very worthy charity. A Big thank you to Mr Craddock!



### Golf



On the first day back after Easter, Maebh McLoughlin and Sophie Reynolds, both first year students, competed in a Junior Girls All-Ireland

Golf Competition. At the event there was one team representing each province. The girls competed together at Milltown Golf Club in Dublin. The girls played outstandingly and were placed 2nd. The girls said they were delighted with their placing because of the tough competition. Congratulations, girls!

### Girls Active

Girls Active is a National project to encourage teenage girls in Ireland to get active and involved with sporting activities. The Grammar School has its own Girls Active club. On the 12th of April, Mr. Craddock and Ms. Stinson brought the Girls Active group to "Jump Street", Carrick on Shannon, as a way of marking the year's activities. The girls had loads of fun! They did team building activities, archery, Zumba and gymnastics. We look forward to hearing what fun activities will be taking place next year.



### Rock Climbing

On 3rd April 22 students from all year groups competed in the National Schools Climbing Competition at Awesome Walls in Dublin. The students and their teachers Mr Craddock and Ms McDermott left the school at 9 in the morning and spent the full day climbing 5 routes, ranging from easy to "almost impossible". They were judged on the distance they reached on each wall. The next round was about speed, each student was timed on how fast they climbed a wall. Afterwards they

climbed for fun. International student - and experienced climber, Alicia Dusek, said "the highlight of my day was nearly reaching the top of the hardest wall".







## Hockey

This year the first years played very competitively improving in every game. They had an unfortunate loss of 1-0 against Salerno Secondary School, Galway, who were the outright Cup winners.

The under 15s league started after Christmas. It was very successful compared to last year. The girls beat the Ursuline College, 1-0, Dominican College, Taylors Hill, 2-0 and drew with Calasanctius College, Oranmore, before narrowly losing out to Salerno, the ultimate winners.

Well done to the seniors for working hard and doing their best. Sadly no wins this season.

During SGS Well-being Week the hockey

girls shared their love of the game in a hockey workshop with the students from Carbury National School. A great experience for all!

## Hockey Trip

In April 27 lucky Junior hockey players headed off to Italy for an end-of-season hockey tour. For four nights and five days the team enjoyed playing hockey in Italy. The students also enjoyed the cultural experience of the country, and the visit was judged an enormous success by everyone. The Potenza Picena Hockey Club could have not been more accommodating.

Overall the girls had a great time and looked fab in their new gear.



## Rugby

On Wednesday 3rd April the Sligo Grammar School U18s won the Plate in the IRFU School National Sevens Rugby Competition. In the quarter final they defeated Bandon Grammar School, Munster Senior Cup Semi-Finalists, by 6 tries to 2. In the semi-final they played Castletroy College, Limerick, and, after going 14-0 down, SGS came back to win 19-14. It was a great end to the year for the rugby seniors. The U14s had a fantastic season, losing only one of their 10 games in the U14 Connacht A League. They are a promising team and are looking forward to next year - especially their European tour in February!

In the Connacht Schools Cup, our Juniors had a good cup win over Summerhill College and lost narrowly to Marist College, Athlone, at which point they exited the Schools Cup Competition. In Senior Cup Rugby, we lost the semi-final to Garbally College, the eventual Cup winners.



## Rowing

Under coach Ronan Ivers our rowers competed in the Irish Indoor Rowing Championships. The school entered 4 students in the individual events and also entered a crew competition. Philip Ofodile finished 22nd out of an entry of 90 boys. The highlight of the day was the 2,000m team event where SGS battled throughout to finish 4th in their heat and 7th overall out of an entry of 18 schools. In the Summer term the rowers got out on the river, thanks to Sligo Rowing Club.





## Transition Year

### *Irish Angus Beef Schools Competition*

Over the past few months, two teams from Sligo Grammar School Transition Year have been working and researching for 'The Irish Angus Beef Schools Competition.' Group A consisted of Sarah Cunningham, Rosie Wright and Emma O'Gorman, who covered the topic of Brexit and how it will affect the Irish beef industry. Group B, consisting of Genevieve Cox, Rebecca Harte and Laura West, covered the topic of the progression of the breed through the use of Artificial Insemination. The competition is made up of 3 stages. In the first stage, teams must create a video stating who they are and their reasons for entering the competition. The two SGS teams swiftly progressed into the second stage where they were met by a panel of four representing Kepak, The Irish Angus Producers Group, ABP and an agricultural science teacher. The teams were questioned on topics mentioned in their videos and about their projects. The girls waited a gruelling week for the verdict and when they received confirmation that the two teams had made it through to the third and final stage of the competition they were all overjoyed. So, on the 14th of March they went to Croke Park. Both groups had to set up a stand presenting their chosen theme for the competition. Judges came to their stands and asked them various questions about the competition and their experience of the competition. In May the judges visited the school to tell the TY students and the school the results of the competition. As they sat anxiously in Mr. Hall's office, the girls received the outstanding news that they had won and the judges had decided to combine the two teams to create one team!!! The girls were delighted with the news. In September the group is to be presented with five Angus calves and they will have to rear the calves to slaughter. In May the girls took a trip down to Dovea Genetics in Tipperary to see their calves for the very first time. The girls received filming equipment and attended a talk about the project.

Over the next few months the girls hope to fundraise. They have already held a bake sale in the foyer of the school and they ran a raffle on TY Awards Night. In September the girls will be presented with the 5 calves at the National Ploughing Championships. The teams will display their work and be interviewed by Miriam O'Callaghan. The girls are excited for their future in the competition as well as the opportunities that will come along with it. The school community is very proud of them.



### *Youth Bank*

Rosie Wright and Rebecca Harte are members of the Sligo Youth Bank. They meet every Friday and give grants to youth led projects to support young people in our local community. It is funded by the EU to encourage young people to get involved in organising events that will have a positive impact on their community.

### *YSI*

One of the TY modules is YSI which stands for Young Social Innovators.

This year the topic the TYs decided to tackle was water safety. On the 24th of March the students took part in a "speak out" competition at the Clayton hotel. The students performed fantastically and their props were amazing!! Thank you to Mr. Henry for being the best!







## Camping Trip



On the 16th of May, the TYs headed to Lough Key Forest Park for the annual camping trip and to finish TY off with a bang. Despite the beautiful weather all through the week before departing, it managed to rain on us as we pitched our tents. There was a big rush to get the fires started and food cooked before everything got soaked! Mr Lynch, Mr Henry, Mr Giblin, Ms McGuinness and Ms Hall had their work cut out for them dealing with all the tent mishaps. There were a good few rips and broken poles before everyone had a decent layer of plastic above their heads. A big thank you to Reverend Bamber for supplying the family marquee for Gus and his gentlemen's club to rest in! Jamie Moore was very chuffed at getting his pop-up tent sorted within 10 seconds. Some day pupils looked like sherpas bringing extra gear for their beloved boarders. Everyone awoke to the dawn chorus.



Feeling very at one with nature, another rustic meal was cooked in the open air. Amazingly all tents were packed up by 8:30am! Activities for Friday started at 9am with a few hours in Boda Borg and Zipit. The claustrophobes and agoraphobes faced their fears, despite being mentally and physically exhausted. The bus load of zombies pulled into the Grammar at 4pm and everyone started their weekend with a nap in a proper bed! Thank you to all our teachers for taking us!

## Cansat

On the 26th of February a group of Transition Year students began working on their Cansat project. Cansat encourages students to make a miniature satellite that can measure pressure, temperature and from



the information collected create a formula to measure altitude. The team consisted of Jacob Casey, Angelina Heenes, India Sentis, Adam Henry, Ezekiel Cashmen Legg and Hannah Ryan. Everyone in the group has a great interest in physics or programming. Jacob was the team leader, Adam and India were in charge of the programming, Hannah handled sewing the parachutes, Ezekiel did the power point and presentation, India was the one who soldered the whole thing together. The students added fairy lights to make the satellite more visible. The team named their satellite Oppy after the Mars Land Rover. When we interviewed Indie she said "throughout the project I loved the teamwork aspect and the comradie. My programming and time management skills improved." Well done to everyone.

## I Wish

All girls in TY attended an all-womens STEM day in the RDS in Dublin. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The objective of the day was to introduce young females to these professions which are mainly male dominated. The girls received talks and presentations from successful women in STEM who encouraged the participants to consider STEM as a career. Afterwards the girls went to an exhibition where Google, Dell, Johnson & Johnson, Aer Lingus and Cartoon Salon all had stands. Here the girls were able to chat with the employees in the companies and gain knowledge about the industries. The girls would like to thank Ms Finnerty and Ms Higgins for organising the trip!





## ***Ski Trip (The Highlight Of The Year!!!)***

This year 56 TY students travelled to Italy to Santa Caterina Vallfurva in Italy for the skiing trip of a lifetime. The TYs left Sligo Grammar School at midnight on the 28th of January and started on their very long, tiring but certainly very exciting journey! All the students managed to get through security without any trouble! At 6am it was time for all students to board the plane in time for take-off to Milan airport. The flight arrived in just after 10am, everyone was fresh and awake after their long naps on the luxurious Ryanair plane! The students boarded the bus and greeted their ski trip co-ordinator Angelo Aviles before a quick stop at Ristop bar for some cheesy Italian pizza and delicious ice-cream. The 5 hour bus journey through the mountains with the gorgeous views flew by. Students arrived at their destination the Hotel Park at 4.30pm just in time for dinner! The TYs ended their first day in Italy with a huge snowball fight. Day two, and it was time for the first day of skiing. The students were split into different ski groups because not everyone could keep up with Felix! The ski instructors couldn't have been more helpful and fun (especially Chicco!). Everyone was wrecked after their first day of ski lessons but after some more Italian cuisine we were all ready for an evening activity of sledging, one of the students' best memories from the trip. It was day three and everyone was up bright and early for another day of skiing. Poor Genevieve had a bit of a stumble and ended up spending the day in a fancy Italian hospital in the company of Ms Stinson. At least she can say she went down a Red slope on her 2nd day of skiing! We finished off day 3 with an evening activity of ice skating on real ice where the German girls easily out-skated the Irish students!

All TYs were up early for their last full day of skiing on the slopes. After their last dinner together (which I am sure all TYs are missing a lot) Ms McGuinness started off the night with some karaoke! Have to say we have some very talented performers, with many different groups getting out of their comfort zone. Oisin Kehoe gave Mr Henry's rendition of Shotgun a run for its money! Everyone woke up on the last day to a huge snowstorm but that didn't stop any of us from skiing. Despite the weather the students had a ski race and everyone was sad saying goodbye to Chicco and all the lovely instructors. Poor Zoe ended her trip in crutches too! It was back to the hotel for showers and lunch. It was sadly time to leave Santa Caterina for the long journey back to Sligo Grammar School.

The TYs would like to thank Mr Lynch for organising the best trip ever and to Mr Giblin and Ms McGuinness for coming along too and looking after us all so well. The students were disappointed that Ms Reddy couldn't make the trip but Ms Stinson was the perfect replacement so thank you Ms Stinson also!. Same time next year lads? (We Wish!!)





### ***Junk Kouture***

This year groups of TY girls created a dress for the Junk Kouture competition. Ciara Lindsay, Hadley Scott and



Emma Gallagher made their dress out of ropes, shells and other materials and their creation was called 'All Tied Up.' The second group created their dress completely out of umbrellas and named it 'Got You Covered.' Clare Ison, Rachel Wang and Rachel Thorpe advanced on to the regional finals in TF Royal Theatre, Castlebar. Sadly the girls didn't make it to the National Final but a huge well done to the girls for their hard work and dedication. When the competition was over the class proceeded to make their own outfits from scratch. Ms Hynes taught them all the sewing and dress-making skills they needed and the resulting clothes were outstanding.



### ***Hawks Well Trip***

The TYs went to see "The Ballad of Burke and Hare" on May 15th, a play made under a Hawkswell project called the Takeover. The play was written, directed, produced, and performed by TY students from Sligo in approximately a month. We were especially proud of our own Ben Cunningham-O'Driscoll and Ishbel Clarence-Ray who were involved in the undertaking. The comedy tells of a story of 2 Irish thieves in Scotland who go on a grave robbing spree, eventually murdering people to sell cadavers to the black market. Cheery!

### ***Drumming Workshop***

On Thursday the 14th of February, all TY students attended a drumming workshop in our own Khansama. The workshop included reaction and co-ordination exercises, creating music without instruments, boom whackers, and clapping exercises. The students learnt about various instruments from all around the world as well as the importance of music. The workshop ended with all students playing different instruments and beats at the same time.



### ***SciFest***

SciFest is a programme which aims to promote the STEM subjects in secondary schools. Students are encouraged to develop projects exploring aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. For the last few years SGS TY students have presented projects for SciFest. This year Transition Year students Micheal Bezborodov and James Kilcoyne presented a project exploring the use of Parabolic Reflectors to increase Internet speed, range and consistency. The project won the Discover Space Award and for his efforts Michael won the Maths in Science Award. Michael presented their stand showcasing graphs and pictures explaining his research, alongside the other 250 students from throughout the region who entered the competition. Throughout the competition Micheal learnt research skills, maths skills and he said that the competition ignited his passion for STEM. Well done to Micheal and James for this great achievement.







### ***Build-A-Bank***



A group of TY students have been working away all year on the AIB Build-a-Bank project. They came up with strategies to encourage their fellow students to open bank accounts and develop the saving habit. Part of the project included fundraising for a cause of their own choice. As part of this the students had to organise a charity event. The students chose to raise funds for the Paediatric unit of Sligo University Hospital. On the 11th of February the team organised a concert to fundraise for beds in the pediatric ward. At the concert over 25 acts performed including students and teachers. Special shoutout to Mr Henry for singing 'Shotgun!' The audience was addressed by Anne McGowan, who is a pediatric nurse. She highlighted the importance of the beds as well as thanking the crowd for their support. As a result of the concert the students raised a total of 1175 euro, which means the ward will be able to buy one new bed!

On the 13th of March the Bank team travelled to the RDS to present their project. The group performed on stage, delivering a fantastic performance including a rhyming speech! Well done to the whole group and all their hard work during the year!!



### ***Croke Park Trip***

On Thursday the 2nd of May, Transition Years had an early start from Sligo to Dublin to visit Croke Park Stadium, absorb a bit of our National culture and experience one aspect of what it is to be Irish. It began with watching a video of the behind-the-scenes of the All-Ireland Final days and the work and preparation that goes into achieving an enjoyable day for sporting fans. After the video we split up into two separate groups both groups being led by two "modest" Dub fans! On the tour we got the opportunity of seeing the changing rooms and match day traditions were shared with us as well. We also went into the practice rooms where players would have a little kick around or stretch out before they make their way out onto the pitch. We also experienced what it would be like to hear the roaring fans at the highly anticipated All Ireland Finals. After we made our way out onto the pitch we arrived at where the Sam Maguire and Liam MacCarthy Cup would be awaiting the winning teams and had the opportunity to demonstrate what it would be like to lift up the trophies. We sat down in the VIP seating area and received a brief history lesson on Croke park and how the Hogan Stand received its name after a footballer Michael Hogan was shot dead whilst playing a game for Tipperary. We learned how Croke Park was developed over the past 20 years. After the tour was over it was back on the bus and straight to Liffey Valley to top off our fun filled day with a bit of retail therapy!!



Thanks to Mr.Lynch, Ms. Breslin, Mr.Gavin and Ms.Hall for bringing us.





## News

### Fundraising

Fundraising is a very important part of the year in Sligo Grammar School. This year we were particularly keen to raise much needed funds for North West Hospice as our late colleague and friend Patricia Burke was so well looked after by the staff in the Hospice. To thank them on behalf of the Grammar School we held a whole-school coffee afternoon just before the St Patrick's Weekend. Every student contributed to the fund and had a chance to sit and chat with their peers in the canteen for 40 minutes or so. The school raised over €1,160 for the Hospice. Later in the year a special presentation was made by 6th year student, Scarlett Moore, on behalf of the LCVP class in memory of her mother who was so well cared for in the Hospice. The LCVP class had run a disco for the 1st and 2nd year students and they collected €275 for the Hospice.



### Gala Concert

Once again, on 23rd March, Sligo Grammar School hosted a Gala Concert in the Knocknaree Arena, Sligo IT. The concert was in aid of two charities, SHOUT and the National Rehabilitation Centre in Dun Laoghaire. SHOUT is Sligo Hospital Oncology Trust and is dedicated to improving cancer care in the North West. A central aim is to support patients and their families as they deal with cancer. This includes financial help for families as well as supporting research and supplementing existing services. The National Rehabilitation Centre was chosen because a past pupil of Sligo Grammar School had reason to use the service in recent times. After a terrible accident abroad Jonathan Higgins was a patient of the Rehabilitation Centre and they did wonderful work in getting him back on his feet. The Gala Concert was a great success, showcasing the talent in SGS. The choirs - present and past - with some teachers thrown in for good measure - were joined by friends and guests to provide an evening of entertainment. In all over €6,500 was raised for the charities. Thanks to all who helped from the performers to the raffle ticket sellers! A special thanks to the organisers, Jonathan Carter, Alison Irwin, Lloyd Sweetnam and the SGS Alumni.





## News

### Bag Packing

A group of TYs went bag packing on the 14th of February to fundraise for the Irish Heart Foundation. Over 36 students participated from 9am to 3pm. With bright red buckets and t-shirts, they certainly looked on brand for Valentine's Day! It was quite fitting to campaign for a heart charity on the International day of love!

TYs also collected in Sligo town for the annual Special Olympics day, Daffodil Day and Lollipop (Oesophageal Cancer) Day.

### Goodbye TY 2019!

On Thursday 23rd May the Transition Year class of 2019 had their final Awards Night. They took time to present the achievements of the year to their families and friends. Genevieve Cox and Luke Glennon were MCs for the night and The Award for the TY Students of the Year went to Emma Gallagher and Mark Mulhearn. Many TY students took the podium to report on the year's activities. The International Students were represented by Martin Bourquin Escudero who gave a funny and heart-warming speech about his experience as a boarder. "I came here a boy" he said, "and I leave a man!" Music was provided by Andrew Norris, Eoin Murphy and Zoe Alexander backed by other singers from TY. Aaron Gordon, who came 5th in the World Irish Dancing Championships, danced for the audience. Fundraising was a major part of TY and on the evening cheques were presented to Sligo Cancer Support Services, The Alzheimers Association, The Paediatric Unit, Sligo University Hospital and St. Cecilia's Special School. We wish all the TYs well as they prepare for their Leaving Certificate examination in two years time.



### Beach Clean-up

One of the TYs modules this year is Sustainable Living. This is a very informative and essential module, especially since we are having such a negative effect on our planet. After students watched a heartbreaking documentary about the damage our waste has on sea life, they decided to organise a beach clean-up at Strandhill! Mr. Cassidy brought his students to meet up with the local coast guards to clean up the beach. The TYs even found a Fanta can dating back to 1994! Please stop littering and reduce plastic waste, especially during the coming summer.



### Cancer Awareness

On the 8th of March Ms O'Donnell organised for 8 TY students to hold a coffee morning at the Mayors office in Sligo town to raise awareness for cancer. The TYs served tea and coffee as well as some sweet treats to the public. The purpose of this was to show that there are always people to talk to and help is available for anyone suffering. The TYs found this so rewarding that they are organising another one in September.







## The Students' Voice

The following excerpts of poetry and prose were put forward by our own English teachers particularly proud of their students' work! More writing can be read on the English Page of the School website [www.sligogrammarschool.org](http://www.sligogrammarschool.org)

### *The Refugee Crisis*

by Kirstin Carter

Floating endlessly on a restless ocean,  
An ocean of pain and hate,  
Supplies are running desperately low,  
I can't remember the last time I ate.

I'm terrified of dying,  
Though mama says it'll be alright,  
Papa went off to fight the war,  
Now he's seeing an eternal night.

The sea here is unforgiving,  
There's a hopeless, despairing mood,  
Babies moaning, crying out,  
In pain from lack of food.

Many of us are close to death,  
We never know what the next day will bring,  
Mothers keening at their children wasting away,  
Not able to do a thing.

### *The Brave Explorer*

by Anushka Pathak

The brave explorer ventures, into the bowels of the treacherous jungle,  
As monkeys climb the coat-hanger trees,  
And toucans perch on the bannisters.

He tip-toes past the snoring, rotund father bear,  
Sprawled across the sofa,  
Leaping over squishy cushion lilly pads,  
In the corner of his eye he sees a gushing waterfall.

Our lion-hearted adventurer journeys,  
through the expanse of trees,  
Running past multi-colored birds,  
That squawk as he hurries ahead.

Suddenly he trips,  
On the edge of a ravine,  
And as he falls to his untimely death,  
He hears "Timmy! Time for your tea!"

### *Courage*

by Mia Clinch 2B

An invisible creature, an abstract noun,  
When knees begin to buckle,  
Voices begin to shake,  
Hands trembling,  
Eyes almost crying.

The abstract noun,  
The invisible creature  
Crawls into a body  
And stretches out its arms and legs  
As if to try you on for size  
Like an item of clothing.

And when it decides,  
You fit just fine,  
It stands up,  
Forcing you to do the same.  
It cannot stop your knees from trembling a little,  
Or your hands from shaking,  
Or the butterflies inside you.

But it forces you to stand,  
Take a stand,  
Or shout.  
Maybe it makes you do something,  
you have never dreamt of,  
Or maybe it makes your dreams come true.

Courage-  
I've always known it as

An invisible creature. An abstract noun.

### *Politics*

Corrupt Politicians sit in their chairs, with  
biased perspectives of current affairs-

Propaganda and wealth alleviate choice, leaving  
those without power, without a voice-

The pride of tycoons and uneducated folks,  
claim that problems like global warming are  
only a hoax-

The influential are lifeless, the smart in silence,  
duplicious leaders make retorts with violence-

The brave and bold live in reminiscence, ideals  
and morals fade from existence-





1943

by Hazel Hopkinson

It is snowing somewhere in Poland. Snowflakes drift listlessly through the icy night air, settling on top of each other to create a damp, glistening blanket. The bright, waning moon is somewhat shrouded by clouds, only its tip visible as it peers out across the barren land. Further on, across the cluster of rectangular buildings, the squat, wooden towers stare down on rows of cruel barbed wire fences. It is quiet, eerily so; but if a person were to linger long enough, they might become aware of the ominous hum of high voltage - the fence is a living thing, a hostile, murderous weapon. There is a smell of mildew, of disease and excrement, and beyond this, something else; something sickening and harder to distinguish.

Inside the perimeter of the fence, under the harsh glare of a bare bulb, the fresh snow has been disturbed, churned to a dark grey where it has been squashed into the ground by impatient feet. A young guard paces back and forth, sniffing every few moments and wiping his nose on the back of his gloved hand. He is enveloped in a damp, woollen greatcoat that reaches the middle of his shins, and he has turned up the collar in an attempt keep out the chill, to minimise the discomfort that is a night shift during the Polish winter. His right hand rests on the butt of a machine gun, the strap of which is slung loosely over his shoulder. It is heavy and awkward and he secretly hopes he won't have to use it. His face, or what can be seen of it beneath the shadow of his peaked cap, betrays a profound disillusionment that belies his obvious youth. He scowls into the darkness beyond the fence, and wishes he could go home.

Beyond the fence, across the frozen train tracks, a house stands silent on a low hill surrounded by trees. Inside, all is still; asleep in various areas of the front room are five uniformed officers, ties loosened, hair dishevelled, faces red from the effects of drink and frantic merriment. A pack of cards is spread across the coffee table in a disorderly fashion, several of them having spilled onto the cream coloured carpet alongside a fresh stain of expensive red wine. The air is smoky; cigarette butts are piled in an ashtray balanced precariously on the arm of a long white sofa.

Three empty wine bottles grace the floor, one upright and the other two on their side. Against one wall stands an upright piano, lid open; above it, a framed photograph, hanging slightly askew, depicts a straight-backed man in army uniform, his dark hair combed to one side, his expression severe. On the adjacent wall there is a large red flag with a white circle at the centre in which is placed an angular black symbol.

Upstairs, a sixth officer is sprawled across a double bed, breeches undone, shirt on the floor. He is middle-aged; his stomach is portly and his hair is greying. Beside him lies a girl, no older than twenty, slim, naked, her lower half tangled in the stark white sheets, her red lipstick smudged across one pale cheek. She does not know the man. Various items of clothing are spread across the room; dress, stockings, underwear, a pair of petite red high heeled shoes.

Back inside the fence perimeter and north a little are the clustered wooden buildings. Inside each are packed the emaciated bodies of up to a hundred unfortunate men, women and children - alive, existing, but barely, squashed shoulder to shoulder on the thin wooden bunks, numb from the biting cold. They have been segregated between buildings; the men and the women and children are kept separate at all times. There is little movement inside; the children do not fidget, nor do they cry - they simply don't have the energy. Few of them are asleep.

All is quiet, perhaps, to a human ear, but between the huddled buildings one may begin to feel the silent, virtual cries of the souls within, a harsh, cacophonous symphony with endless, delicate variation, a cry for help, perhaps, or for nothing at all but for the fact that it cannot be helped - the sound, beyond sound, comes out of its own accord.

And finally - thank you to our readers! We hope you have enjoyed our summary of the year! Signing off:  
Tara, Genevieve, Sarah, Rosie, Emma, Clare, and, of course, Ms. Hynes

