



Sligo Grammar School



Book of Winter





NEWS

Prize Day

On Friday the 26th of October, Sligo Grammar School celebrated the annual prize day in Calry Church. The school awards prizes for sporting and academic achievements. The guest speaker this year was Katie Mullan, who is an international hockey player and was Irish hockey captain for the world cup 2018, when the Irish team won silver. In her speech Katie spoke about the importance of friendship and said we should never underestimate the role our friends play in our lives. She went on to say "in life there's no such thing as losing, only learning". All the students found this inspiring. Students were awarded prizes for first second and best effort in each class, as well as for a wide variety of extra curricular achievements and involvement in activities both within and outside school. TY students were awarded their Bronze Gaisce medals. The Leaving Cert class of 2018 was also awarded prizes to celebrate high achievements across all subject areas. Oisín Moffatt and Aoife O'Donnell were awarded silver and gold medals for their excellence in the junior cert exam.



Public Speaking

On Sunday the 25th of November two Transition Year students took part in the Soroptimist Girls' Public Speaking Competition. Genevieve Cox and Tara McLaughlin spoke at the Sligo Park Hotel. There were two parts to the competition, a prepared speech that focussed on matters of social importance, and an impromptu 2-minute speech which was more light-hearted! This was the first time in recent years the school entered the competition, and both girls found the experience very beneficial. Earlier in the year a group of students from across the school competed in the Soapbox Public Speaking competition and Alfie Barran from 1st Yr was placed second. The debating society continues to meet and debate on Monday afternoons, 4 - 5pm.

all are welcome to attend.



Accounting

A group of senior business students accompanied by Mr. Henry attended an accounting talk in the I.T. Sligo. There was an i-pad up for grabs for the person who showed outstanding effort throughout the talk. Despite there being a total of 10 schools in attendance a 5th year SGS student, Grace O'Sullivan, managed to win the i-pad. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day out, especially Grace!





NEWS

Business Trip-

On the 5th of December 49 first year students who study Business went to Dublin with Mr Staunton, Mrs O'Donnell and Mr Henry. They began their trip with a tour of Butlers Chocolate Factory, learning about how all the chocolate is made and packaged. They then got to try different types of chocolate and everyone decorated their own chocolate santa and got to bring it home... yummm! They then went to Dundrum Shopping Centre, for a bit of a shopping spree! All the first years



had a great time and, hopefully, will continue working hard in business!

Spanish Exchange

In late September 25 Spanish students came for a mini-stay of 3 weeks from IES do Castro de Vigo, Galicia. The students stayed with host families outside of the school but got a 'buddy' to stay with during the school day. The Spaniards loved the classes they took part in and even kept an online diary of their stay on a blog called "Vigo En Ingles". The group visited the Town Hall and met Sligo's mayor! They did orienteering around the town, and even saw the site of the Spanish Armada in Streedagh. The second years made sure to teach them some Irish over the 3 weeks!



Rotary Winner

On Tuesday 20 November, 6th yr. Juno Ellison was one of three students from Rotary Zone 8, which stretches from Antrim to Castlebar, to win the Youth Leadership Development Competition. The fantastic prize is an all expenses paid trip to the European Parliament in Strasbourg in February. With the other winners from around the country, Juno will visit Stormont and the Dáil where she will meet with politicians and business leaders. From there she will travel to Strasbourg in France where the prizewinners will debate a variety of motions in the European Parliament. It was a well deserved win for Juno and will be a wonderful addition to her CV. Thank you to Ms Hynes for helping and encouraging Juno.

Chrome Books

This year we have a new addition to our school - 32 chrome books!

Many teachers use them for teaching and all the students love them and they are very beneficial to classes!



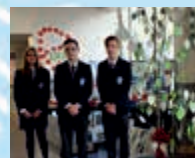


NEWS

Remembrance Day

On Wednesday 14th November Sligo Grammar School held a special Service of Remembrance and Reconciliation in Calry Church to remember the fallen of both World Wars, in particular World War 1. The school laid wreaths in remembrance of the past pupils of Sligo Grammar School who fell. There were many special guests at the service, including Sinn Fein leader, Mary Lou Mc Donald, the German Ambassador, Frau Deike Potzel and Lord Lt. for Fermanagh Viscount Brookeborough KG. The school choir sang and one of the highlights was a fantastic rendition of The Green Fields of France. A laurel tree was planted at the front of the school

as a permanent reminder of all the lives lost. SGS students had also been involved in the whole community silent march on Sunday 11th.



Cancer Awareness Talk

On Tuesday the 27th of November, a lady from the Marie Keating Foundation came to the school to give a talk about the importance of the prevention and early detection of cancer.

This is an Irish charity focusing on the awareness of cancer. She raised the issues of how leading an all-round healthy life dramatically decreases risk of cancer and warned about the dangers of using sunbeds and smoking, highlighting that cigarettes have 4000 chemicals in them, some compromising of lead and arsenic. There were medically accurate human body part displays, including the mouth and lungs of a smoker. The talk was very informative!

Study Skills

This year the school has already hosted a number of



talks aimed at teaching 3rd and 6th year students study skills. Student Enrichment Services sent a representative to give talks to exam years on separate days. Students found the tips on taking notes helpful! For seniors there was a career options talk with a special CAO information seminar for parents to explain the points system - hopefully everyone is less confused!





Trips and Tours

Rugby Trip

This past October, the senior rugby lads had the fantastic opportunity to go to Portugal on a team bonding trip. They travelled to Amazonia Jamor in Portugal. On the Saturday they arrived they played a “sevens” rugby match. Despite the boys tiredness, they won the match by an astounding 69 points! Afterwards they recovered and relaxed by the pool followed by an epic pool party! On Sunday morning the boys did tree climbing and team bonding. By the time Monday came the boys were prepared for their next match and had another great win, 54-14. Top scorer of the trip was Will Whelan. Daniel Ford was probably the largest child ever admitted to the paediatric wing of the hospital with a broken nose, as he currently stands at 6’5”! Mr. Gavin and Mr. Staundon accompanied



the 17 boys on the trip. The lads had a great time and the summer weather in October was a plus too!!



German Tour



From October 11th to 14th the German language students in 3rd and 4th year visited Cologne.

They saw many beautiful landmarks such as the Gothic Cathedral of Cologne, Drachenberg Castle and Cologne Zoo. When



evening time neared the microphones were whipped out for a bit of a sing along on the karaoke machine, where Sligo Grammar’s very own Backstreet Boys (Mr. Brandon and Mr. Henry) made their comeback and sang their hearts out!! Other activities included laser tag, swimming, tobogganing and ice skating! A true SGS German trip would not be complete without a trip to the theme parks “Movie Park” and “Phantasialand”. The tour was undoubtedly a huge success and the students “enjoyed every second of it!” A special mention to the teachers who gave up their time to take the students to Germany- Ms. Finnerty, Mr. Brandon, Mr. Henry and in particular Ms. Tansey who organised the trip. Danke Sin!!





SPORTS

Hockey

The hockey season was a very exciting one to say the least. The senior A's won their first match against Seamount 1-0 the goal being scored by Geneveive Cox. Unfortunately it was downhill after that with the girls drawing multiple times throughout the season, unfortunately not making it to the semi finals. Nevertheless the girls put in a great effort and were constantly motivated by their captain 6th year Sarah McCormack. However the senior B's had a cracking season winning the Ward Cup. Keely Lindsay scored two goals in the highly exciting final. The B's certainly deserved the Cup, having won all their games. Well done to the girls involved and especially to captian Grace Burke who scored her first ever 3 goals for this year in all six years of her hockey career! 1st years have had a good year starting off with a blitz in the Ursline College where they performed very well! Congrats girls and keep it up! Thanks to all the coaches Mr.Graham and Ms McDermott for the encouragement and dedication throughout the season. Well done to all our teams, 1st years, U15s, U16s and Seniors for their hard work and dedication to the sport.



Golf

In septemeber two first year girls, Sophie Reynolds and Meabh McLoughlin won the Junior Irish Schools Championship Connacht District. Winning with 32 gross points. Well done girls!



Calry Fun Run

Three TY German students flew the local Calry Fun Run and left the Irish in the dust! Well done to Maya, Nadja and Alicia.



Kick-Boxing

Kyle Kaney, a 3rd year student, represented Ireland in the World Kickboxing Championships. The competition was held in Jesolo, Italy in September this year. Kyle had 4 fights at the Worlds with two rounds in each fight. Big "well done" to Kyle for winning 2nd in the world in his division!



Capped for Connacht

Well done to Sarah McCormack who got capped for the Connacht Hockey team!





SPORTS

Kayaking

The Sligo All Schools Kayaking Competition was held in the Grammar School earlier this term. The new clubhouse and gear came in handy as over 40 students participated between ourselves, Summerhill College, the Ursuline College and Ballinode Community College. A student even travelled all the way from Athlone! The competition was sponsored by Call Of The Wild, and all competitors went home with a t-shirt. The overall best school received the late Alex McGourty's boat donated kindly by his family. Matthew White, Tara McLaughlin, Finn Grennan, Hadley Scott, Cameron Kilcoyne and Nicole Kennedy all won medals for the school and Dillon Hogan was our Most Promising Paddler!



Girls Active

This year Mr. Cradock organised a TY Girls Active group. This is a national drive to get more teenage girls involved with activity. The girls showed great interest and around 20 of the girls meet every Wednesday to take part in various activities. The girls started off with team bonding followed by 4 weeks of Zumba! Big thanks to Ms. Stinson for taking part in the activities with all the girls!

Rowing

The school rowing club is up and running with new rowing machines purchased over the Summer. Mr. Ronan Ivers comes to the school to train the rowers and has been working them hard this year so far. The SGS rowers competed in the Indoor Rowing Championships in October and were placed joint 5th.



Soccer

The U17 boys soccer team have played a few games this year so far. Unfortunately the boys haven't won any of their matches but they have had a few scores on the scoreboard scored by Aaron O'Toole (TY) and David Barlow (TY). The boys will continue training and playing matches for the rest of the year. Thanks to Mr. Mooney for his continued support and belief!





SPORTS

Basketball-

This year all the basketball teams have performed very well in all their matches. The U19 team got all the way to the quarter final in the Cup competition but were unfortunately knocked out when they lost against Claregalway. The Junior team also had a good season. All the basketball teams will continue training with Mr Flores every week. Sligo Grammar also now have a U16 girls basketball team! They train every Thursday with senior basketball players Mark Mc Glynn, Dipo Odeajo and Divine Akude. Well done to TY students Christian Lally and Divine Akude who were chosen for the U17 North West team!



Sailing

In September the school sailing team of Holly white, Jack Draper, Ross Clarke, Isaac Marsden, Ben millar and Gus Bamber, competed in the All-Ireland Inter-Schools Sailing Competition. The team came 5th in their category out of a total of 47 entries. Well done!



Capped for Connacht

Well done to Kacper Palamarczuk, Matthew Early and Hubert Gilvarry who represented Connacht U18 rugby at the Inter-Provincial tournament in Limerick just before school re-commenced after the Summer holidays.



Rugby

The senior rugby team has had a good year so far. They reached the semi-final of the league beating local rivals Sumerhill College to secure their place in the final. As usual there was great interest in the event, especially since the match was played on home turf. After a slow first half the SGS team came back from half time on fire! The scales tipped in the Grammar's favour for the 3rd year in a row. Final score 24 - 7. The team led a moment of silence at the pitch for our beloved late staff member Patricia Burke. The juniors have had it tough this term but in their last League match they defeated St Muredachs, Ballina and are looking forward to their Connacht Cup campaign next term. The U14 team has had a great start to their rugby careers this term! They are unbeaten in the Connacht League, having beaten Summerhill College, Marist College, Garbally College and Roscommon CBS. They have 3 matches left in the League and we wish them the best after Christmas.





TRANSITION YEAR

Sponsored Swim

The TYs ran into the cold waters of Rosses Point on October 10th to raise funds for a selection of local Sligo charities. The swim was organised by Ms O'Donnell and is an infamous annual TY SGS event. Over €1800 was collected from friends and family. There was a wide range of hilarious costumes, from Donald and Melania Trump, to priests and nuns, animals, rappers, Young Offenders, and even a student's dad was imitated! After the 5-minute dip there was a race to the hot showers and everyone's body temperatures were soon back to normal. Funnily enough, the boys took longer heating up than the girls, and even held the bus up... Everybody was treated to ice pops, eclairs and Capri-Suns from the back of Mr Henry's car! Thank you to anyone who sponsored a swimmer!



Mindfulness and Wellbeing

On September 28th TY students travelled to Sligo Tennis Club where they participated in a mindfulness and wellbeing day. They part took in activities including art, team bonding, meditation and several tennis drills. All the activities were designed to help students be more mindful of their own and others' mental health and wellbeing. It was a great day out and everyone enjoyed themselves.



Surfing and Climbing

For the first four weeks of school the Transition Year students had a phenomenal 2 hour surfing session with Strandhill Surf School. All students improved their skills immensely as well as having a great experience and a fabulous time. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a yummy treat at Mammy Johnston's. While some TY students were surfing the others participated in a challenging climb

up and around Knocknarea. There were many laughs and sweets shared along the arduous - but rewarding - climb.





TRANSITION YEAR

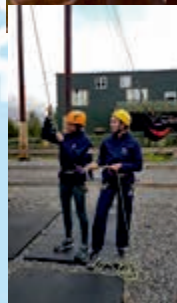
Bonding Trip

We started off our Transition Year with an overnight bonding trip to Killary Adventure Centre. After a long bus journey with lots of Katy Perry (!) we arrived at our destination. Firstly we made our way down to our accommodation and refuelled with lunch to prepare for the busy day ahead. As there were 84 students, we all couldn't be doing the same thing at the same time, so teams 1-4 went orienteering through wet and marshy bogland. Meanwhile teams 5-8 jumped into the freezing fjord, walked up a gorge and finally slid into a slippery mud pool. Last but not least team 9 climbed up a 30 metre high climbing wall and swung 10 metres in the air on the giant swing. Soon after we were fed again, we went to the dome for a competitive game of dodgeball.....aka the Rugby Lads vs the Basketball Boys!!! We ended the night in the dome with a bit of "limbo limbo limbo"! We then returned to our cozy accommodation where the night was spent chatting and getting to know each other. The following morning we reluctantly packed our bags before another day of activities. Later that afternoon we got back on the bus and returned to Sligo.

We will remember Killary as one of the highlights of this year. Thanks to everybody who organised the trip especially to Mr. Lynch and our form teachers for giving up their time to come with us !!

Hawkswell Trips

In September TY students went to the Hawkswell Theatre to support a local musical 'The Apprentice' and Northern comedian J.K. They had a great laugh and fun times on these two days out!



Art Gallery Visits

As part of their Art and Craft module, all TY students get the opportunity to take a trip to the Model Arts Centre in Sligo. There they see both traditional and contemporary art works. It is hoped that the visits might whet their appetites for more visits to the gallery in the future!





TRANSITION YEAR

Paintballing

On the 8th and 9th of November groups of TY students went paintballing outside Carrick-on-Shannon. TY students Mark, Luke and Isaac organised the day. All equipment was supplied and the students got paint-balling! The boys were barred from going against the girls due to worries we'd be sending people across the road to Sligo University Hospital! As it was, everyone walked away with a few bruises! Mr Brandon fearlessly crawled the terrain and only got hit by the pellets a handful of times. Unfortunately on the way back the bus broke down, but after a short wait for a second bus in Collooney, all students arrived safe and sound at school for the end of the day.



College Visits

TY students got the opportunity this term to visit Universities in Dublin in order to help them think about what they would like to do after school. They visited UCD, DCU and Trinity College. In UCD they were shown around by past pupil Cian Burns.

Next term the TY students will have to choose subjects for the Leaving Cert.



NEWS

Field Trips Galore!

Field trips of all descriptions form an important part of life in SGS. These trips can be in Sligo or farther afield. Here's a flavour of where the students went this term...

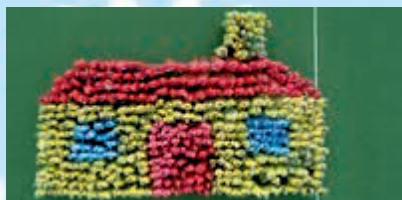
English teachers took their senior students to Dublin to see Macbeth on stage at the Mill Theatre in Dundrum and to Castlebar to see the National Theatre's production of Hamlet on the big screen. LCVP students were taken to see the factory at Abbot, Ireland in Sligo as part of their Leaving Cert course. Leaving Certs also visited a farm as part of their Agricultural Science studies, where they were taken around and by the owner and representatives of the farming bodies. They also had their annual Geography Field trip where they spent the day studying the river Dfreen.

The Business department was very busy this term with trips to local and national businesses. The Irish Department also got the students out to use their Irish down town in real situations - ordering food as gaeilge in Lyons' Cafe!





SGS IN THE COMMUNITY. Concern



Focus Ireland

The year started off with a bang when Sligo Grammar School received confirmation, that we had officially set a world record and became a world record holder. In May 2018 the whole school body of SGS came together to form the largest image of a human house. The aim was to fundraise and raise awareness for Focus Ireland which deals with helping the homeless. Over 402 students and staff, wearing red, blue and yellow hairnets and ponchos gathered on the astroturf pitch to create a human house. It was mandatory that we all kept our position for 5 minutes and fortunately we succeeded in doing so. Over €2000 was raised for Focus Ireland to help combat the housing and homelessness crisis in Ireland. We now feature on the Guinness World Record site. The money we raised was formally handed over to focus Ireland at a special Assembly in Calry Church. A massive thanks to everyone involved and in particular to Ms.Lipsett and Mr.Henry who were the brains behind this hugely successful project.



Our Transition Years have always done the Concern Fast and this year was no exception. The TYs fasted from 2pm on the 22nd to 2pm on the 23rd of November to fundraise for Concern which does a lot of work to provide food aid in some of the poorest parts of the world. Over €2000 was raised, between the students canvassing their neighbours for spare change and two days spent in town with collecting buckets. Having to stand collecting in the bad weather scored us some pity points thankfully, as the buckets totaled €600! When the 24 hours were up there was a feast in the old gym. All the pizza, garlic bread and cookies ordered by the TYs from Domino's backlogged their deliveries for 2 hours! The students all agree this was a good experience for them as it raised their awareness about what it must be like to live with hunger and not know where the next meal is coming from.



Jersey Day

A TY committee organised a jersey day on the 12th of October in aid of the charity GOAL. All the students in the school were encouraged to pay €2 and wear the jersey of their favourite team or county for the day. Everyone got involved and it was a huge success!





SGS IN THE COMMUNITY

November

Sligo Grammar School Senior Rugby Team decided to do Movember to raise funds and awareness for men's health. The charity focusses both on physical health and mental health and the team thought these issues were very relevant to their own lives. The lads did their best to grow 'taches and beards...some better than others! But they all put in a great effort for the month. It was a great success with donations coming in at over €1,100 Well done lads for the initiative!



Green Schools

This term has seen the start up of a new committee in the school. Seven TY students are now involved in the Secondary Green Schools Programme for an An Taisce. Hopefully in the next academic year all our efforts to reduce waste and recycle will be rewarded!

Comhairle na nOg

On the 26th of October a group of TY students went to the AGM of Comhairle na nOg. Comhairle na nOg is a youth council that is linked to the County Council. At the meeting the students discussed and debated social issues affecting young people today in Sligo. At the end of the day an election was held and Genevieve Cox, Rosie Wright and Ezekiel Cashman Legg were elected to the council. Well done guys!

St Cecelias

Every Friday, four TY students go horse-riding to Island View Riding Stables with students from St. Cecelias Special School. The SGS students spend time with the students from St. Cecelias, helping them with the horses. Every Tuesday a class from St Cecelias come to the Grammar School and a TY class play basketball with them. The TY students involved find the experience very rewarding.



Road Safety Authority

During the months of October and November, our Transition Year students attended a workshop day where they were informed about the many dangers and risks on Irish roads. They experienced a roll-over car simulator which imitated the real life experience of a car rolling over, and tried out many other bike, motorbikes and car simulators. Transition Years gained even more knowledge from a RSA talk organised by the Rotary Club Sligo. Gardai, firefighters, surgeons, RSA representatives, Motorsport Ireland representatives and even road accident survivors spoke at the event and touched and moved us all with their stories and experiences.



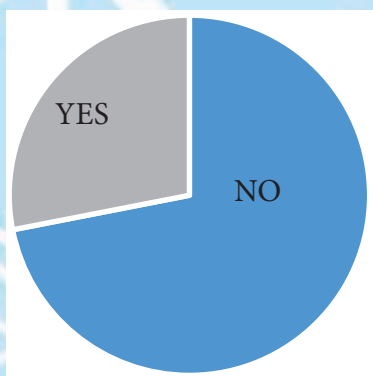


STUDENT VOICE

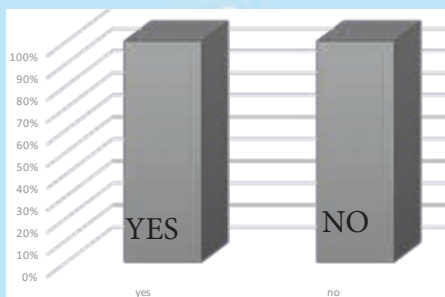
Following a survey questioning students about our school the magazine committee has become aware of these particular issues.

LUNCH

Q: Do you consider the food available in the sandwich bar to be healthy?



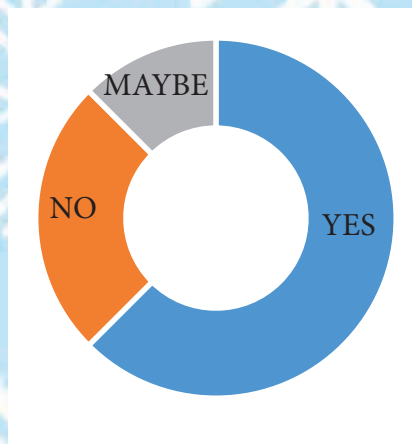
Q: Should cookies be restricted to Fridays only?



COMMENT:

“Bring back caramel squares and brownies!!!” (every) senior student

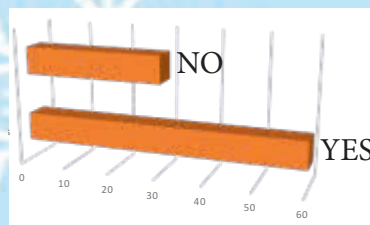
Q: Should there be a microwave in the sandwich bar?



COMMENT:

We propose that there is a communal microwave in the sandwich bar. This could be supervised by either the teacher or the prefect on duty. If this wasn't possible, the microwave could be kept behind the deli case and be available at lunchtime for a small fee. This would be beneficial for students that would love to bring in and safely reheat their home cooked dinners.

Q: Does the canteen queue scare you?

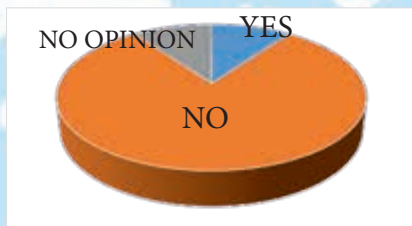




STUDENT VOICE

UNIFORM

Q: Do you like our P.E uniform?



COMMENT:

What the students said:

- Tracksuit bottoms are not wearable
- They are uncomfortable and don't function well
- They are both sweaty and cold at the same time, I think its the fabric.
- Too tight on the hips... and too lose on the legs

Overall the general feedback was that new ones are needed ASAP. We propose that Jako supply us with a more functional school tracksuit. They supply other sports clothing in the school which are better than the present PE uniform.

WIDER UNIFORM RANGE

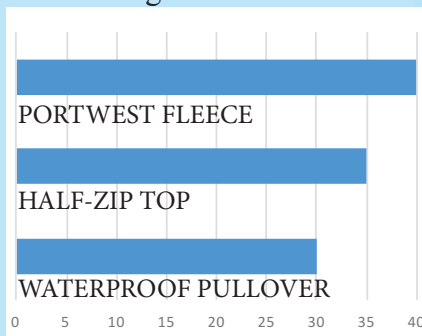
COMMENT:

Students in general suggested that they would like a few new pieces of uniform for extracurricular activities and P.E. class.

"The Portwest fleeces are great for the colder months as they are lined and zip-up to the chin. These were actually uniform a few years ago and we'd love to see that trend return!"

"The hockey and rugby team both have exclusive gear that we would love to make available for all students for P.E. and other activities - especially the hockey half-zip and the waterproof rugby pullover".

Q: How about adding these to our uniform range?



We canvassed a selection of students to hear their opinions on these issues. We hope the management, teachers and staff hear our voice!





NEWS

Corn Bedell

Well done to our present 6th year students who, as 5th years, organised and ran Seachtain na Gaeilge in the school and and this term were awarded the Corn Bedell for the promotion of Irish in Church of Ireland schools. The certificate was awarded at the begining of October and the Cup was presented to two of the team at Prize Day.



Well done all!

Business Excellence

Four TY students were awarded special certificates for Outstanding Achievement in the Junior Cert Business exam, 2018. The awards were presented by NUI Galway's College of Business, Public Policy and Law. The students were, Rachel Thorpe, Yeji Kim, Aoife Winters-O'Donnell and Ammar Khan. Congratulations to all.



Volunteers

This term SGS 5th year students continued the tradition of volunteering to help with the annual Primary School Athletics event in Sligo IT.



Scholar of UCD

Well done to Cian Burns who sat his Leaving Certificate in 2018. He was named a Scholar of UCD in a special ceremony in the University in November. This award was in recognition of the excellent points scored in his Leaving Certificate exam.



St. Patricks Cathedral

Students representing the school travelled to St. Patrick's Cathedral at the begining of the term to mark the commencement of the school year in a special service for Church of Ireland schools.



Art Prizewinner

Well done to Hadley Scott whose pen drawing of Lyons Shop, Sligo was selected to be used as the front cover of the Specialist Crafts catalogue.

