





BASKETBALL

The basketball season got off to a great start for the U19s with the team winning its first two matches! The U19s won 53-51 against St. Mel's College Longford and beat St. Colman's College Claremorris 48-20. They sadly lost to St. Brendan's College Belmullet 59-52 despite their best efforts. Our basketball coach is Mr. Flores, who welcomes anyone who wishes to try basketball. The U16's and U19's train on Mondays and Fridays, while 1st and 2nd years train on Tuesdays. We wish all the teams the best of luck in all their upcoming matches and we know they will make us proud.

ROWING

The SGS Rowing Club got off to a start this year with a team competing in the inaugural Sligo Indoor Rowing Blitz in October. The new rowers acquitted themselves well, finishing second in one of the competitions. As well as training on the rowing machines the club members get out on the river courtesy of the Sligo Rowing Club.



HOCKEY

First year hockey players had their first outing during the term when they played in a local Sligo blitz hosted by the Ursuline College. It was a great way to get a flavour of competition before the League begins.



Lara Swann (3rd yr) was presented with her first Interprovincial hockey cap at U16 level.

She is the first SGS student to play at this level in many years. Well done Lara!



GOLF

Two 2nd year girls, Sophie Reynolds and Meabh McLoughlin took part in the Irish Schools Junior Golf Competition this year. The girls won the Connacht final which was a gross competition of 18 holes. They are now qualified for the All-Ireland final, which will be held in the new year.





RUGBY



This was an outstanding term for rugby at SGS. The highlight was the winning of the Connacht Schools A Senior League in December with a hard-fought victory over Garbally College. The score: 21 - 12. Hubert Gilvarry, Kacper Palamarczuk and William Whelan were all capped by Connacht and Kacper got an Irish cap in October, against Italy. The team are looking forward to their first Connacht Schools Cup match against Colaiste Iognaid (Jes), Galway in January. The Juniors won 3 of their 7 League matches with victories over the Bish and Jes from Galway and St. Muredachs College, Ballina, they had some narrow defeats but are confident of a good run in the Cup after Christmas. The U14 squad has played 5 matches, winning 3, drawing 1 and losing 1. They have several fixtures left in the U14 League to be played in the new year.



FOOTBALL

This year Sligo Grammar School fielded a girls soccer team. The girls took part in the Connacht B Cup, playing against St Clare's Comprehensive School, Manorhamilton and St Patrick's College, Lacken Cross. Unfortunately, they lost both matches but played very well, especially 1st years, Tara, Sophie, Saoirse and Mimi. Almost half this team was made up of two families – Lara and Sophie Swann and Saoirse, Meabh and Roisin Gillmor! Lara Swann also represented Connacht in the Irish Schools U15 Interprovincial soccer tournament. Well done Lara!



The boys team also had a good year so far in their Connacht A Cup. They competed against teams including Claregalway College, St Gerald's College, Castlebar and Summerhill College. They were very unlucky not to come away with three wins, especially in the Claregalway match when the rival team scored in the final seconds. Luke Mavrack was the youngest player on the team at 14 years old. Best of luck to both teams next term.





KAYAKING



Sligo Grammar School Kayaking Club is going strong this year, meeting every Tuesday and Thursday after school.



On 8th October SGS hosted a kayaking competition. Various schools and clubs were in attendance including The Ursuline College, CTC, Sligo Community Training Centre and Summerhill College. In the competition the Grammar School won the best overall school award. Our kayakers also took part in the Liffey Descent. This year there was a record number of 48 students taking part, with Alannah Walton winning the promising paddler award. Well done to all involved and thanks to Mr. Cradock for all the hard work.

RTE RECORDING



The Sligo Grammar School Choir, musicians, Head boy, Head Girl, staff, clergy and representatives of the Board and Incorporated Society travelled to Dublin to record this year's RTE Christmas Day Carol Service. Although the process was a long one, taking over three-and-a-half hours, the experience of being in RTE was second to none! Traditional and modern carols were featured and the Irish language figured strongly. Trad.musicians Kate Gavin, Eilish Needham and Christopher Curran played as as did flautist Saoirse Gillmor, and trumpeters, Johannes Kavanagh and Nicodemus Milsch, all enriching the service with both culture and variety. The service was introduced by the Headmaster and led by Canon Patrick Bamber along with a variety of students, teachers and board members contributing the readings.





CAROL SERVICE

This year's carol service took place on December 13th in Calry parish church. A variety of carols; traditional and modern



were sung by the choir along with a selection of readings and prayers. It was a great occasion and was a lovely way to close the term. The church door collection was in aid of Sligo Soicial Services and over €300 was collected. The week leading up to the Carol Service also saw the school collect non-perishable food-stuffs for Sligo Social Servic-es. A huge amount of items were gathered by students

from all year groups. Well done every-body!



ST PATRICKS CATHEDRAL

Students travelled to St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin on the 19th of September with Mr. Potter and Ms. O'Neill. The service was for Church of Ireland schools and it marked the kickoff of the school year. On the way up the bus stopped at Liffey Valley for some lunch and well-deserved shopping!



TRIP TO THE BOARD GAIS THEATRE

In October the TY's (with some 5th years who were in the school musical) and Mr. Lynch, Mr. O'Donnell, Ms. Tansey and Ms. Breslin headed up to Dublin to watch "Grease - the Musical" in the Bórd Gais Theatre. We set off at around 9am with our speakers fully charged for some great music and singing on the bus! The show was amazing and an inspiration for us as we went into rehearsal for our own school musical. The students found it both beneficial and great craic! Thanks to the teachers for taking us.



SPELLING BEE

On the 18th of October the first years competed in the SGS Spelling Bee competition. The competition was organized by Ms. Treacy and the SGS English department and took place over the course of 2 lessons in the old sports hall after mini heats during class. Sound equipment was provided by Mr. Lynch and Mr. O'Donnell so everyone could hear the spellers clearly. The results were as follows; 1st: Dawn Enabulele (1C); 2nd: Daniel Akude (1B); 3rd: Isis Cashmann-Legg (1B). The winner was given a beautiful trophy. Well done to all involved, it was a great success!



AOIFE AT THE NYO

Aoife Winters O'Donnell has been playing the flute since she was 4 years old with the Sligo Academy of Music. In October she auditioned for the National Youth Orchestra and was offered one of only four places in the flute section. She will be attending a residential course in Dublin over Christmas to prepare for three concerts in January. These concerts will be performed in Cork, Galway and Dublin. Congratulations Aoife!



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

In November SGS held its Annual Act of Remembrance and Reconciliation in Calry Church. Special guests included representatives from different Churches, the Gardaí Síochána, the Irish Defence Forces, The British Legion and Irish United Nations Veterans Association. Bishop Patrick Rooke, Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry, led the prayers while the school choir sang. The congregation was addressed by Bishop Kevin Doran, Bishop of Elphin, who spoke about the great sacrifices made by Irish soldiers and Gardaí in the pursuit of justice. The central part of the ceremony was the laying of wreaths to commemorate the fallen. Following two minutes of silence the Last Post and Rouse was played by German

International student Nicodemus Milsch.





PRIZE DAY

Sligo Grammar School's Annual Prize Day was held in Calry Church on 23rd October. The Church was filled to the brim as the whole school turned out to celebrate the accomplishments of their classmates. The guest speaker was Dr. Ken Byrne senior lecturer in UL and the Irish Representative on the International Panel for Climate Change. This year the Perry Cup for TY Student of the Year was presented to Emma Gallagher. Junior Cert 2019 student Conor Robinson achieved perfect grades in his exams, and was awarded the Gold Medal for Junior Cert presented by Damien Tansey Solicitors. The Silver Medal for the Junior Cert was presented to Robyn Scott who had the second best results in the school. The Farra Cup, presented to the student who contributed most to school life, went to Juno Ellison. The Headmaster's Prize for Outstanding Achievement in the Leaving Cert went to Conall O'Dwyer who achieved 625 points, the maximum possible, in the Leaving Cert 2019.



JUNIOR SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

This term, as part of their SPHE course 3rd yrs carried out a beach cleanup and had a talk on ocean pollution in the school. The 2nd years also took part in The Wonderstruck Rocket Show as part of the IT Science Week. The first year Business classes went on a trip to Butlers Chocolate Factory in December. There they got a tour of the factory as well as some quality chocolate to sample!





IRISH ANGUS GIRLS



In mid-September the 5th year girls who are national finalists in the Irish Angus Beef Competition attended the National Ploughing Championships in County Carlow. The girls were on site from 7.30 am to 5pm each day. They were also interviewed three times a day and asked a myriad of questions. The girls have to get involved in the promotion of Irish Angus beef and they explained what their promotional ideas were for the next 18 months. One of their main aims involves the promotion of their book 'Embrace – Day on the Farm', illustrated by Sarah Cunningham and aimed at primary school children. The girls hope to publish another book soon. The girls were given 5 calves to rear over the next 2 years and after the Ploughing Championships the calves were taken to their new home on Rebecca Harte's farm. The girls want to thank Miss Higgins for her support and guidance and Jonathan Harte for looking after the calves. Well done cowgirls!

GAISCE

This year, just like previous years, the school was very involved in the Gaisce programme. Lots of TY's started the process of earning the bronze medal and usually some 5th years go on and work for the silver medal. This year we had 27 students completing their Bronze Gaisce Award.

During TY they took on a physical skill, a personal skill and a community involvement activity. The final part of their Gaisce Award was to complete an Adventure Journey. On the 29th of August, they travelled to Westport, where they cycled the Greenway from Achill to Westport, a distance of nearly 50 km. The students stayed overnight in a hostel in Westport. Our Bronze Gaisce Award students should be congratulated on their achievement and their enthusiasm and commitment to the award. Thank you to Ms. Tiernan and Mrs. Lipsett for making it all possible!





SENIOR SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

This year Field Trips continue to play a vital part of the education of all our students. Here is a flavour of what has been on offer...

Leaving Cert LCVP class went to visit Abbot Ireland as part of their studies. They also attended a Business Breakfast in aid of SVP with the Leaving Cert Business students. TY's and 5th years attended a talk by a Chartered Accountant in Sligo IT. 5th and 6th year Art students went on an Art History trip to Dublin. They visited Castletown House, the National Museum and the National Art Gallery. In September Ms. O'Neill and Ms. Moore brought the senior Geography classes to the Diffreen River. The students studied the meander at the foot of the Glencar Waterfall which they will write up for their Leaving Certificate project. The TY fashion group visited a fabric shop where they learnt about fabrics (so they could choose wisely when making their *Grease* costumes!) then went to the NW Hospice Charity Shop to look at clothes for up-cycling. In October all sixth years traveled to Dublin to see 'The Playboy of the Western World', which is the play on their Leaving Cert English course.

TALKS AND LECTURES

During the year many people come to the school to speak on a variety of topics. This term 2nd and 3rd years received an important and informative talk on cyber bullying. The Junior School also had a talk/workshop from Pieta House which discussed resilience, a very important topic as our students face a lot of pressures and need to learn about balance in their lives. In October, students heard a talk on the relationship between science and religion, organised by Canon Bamber. The term ended with a series of Careers talks organised by Ms McGuinness to help seniors choose University courses.





SCHOOL MUSICAL 2019

We returned refreshed after our summer break and excited to begin the journey of GREASE, the musical.

Auditions were held on the first day of school and after numerous callbacks the cast emerged. Then the backstage crew was put together - no production would be possible without their hard work behind the scenes. The enthusiasm and the hard work of the crew and teachers was infectious and all of us involved were excited and committed to the project. It's hard to believe all the work across so many strands that came together to result in a great show, following in the footsteps of all the past Sligo Grammar School musicals and plays!

Rehearsals grew more and more intense as the opening night grew nearer, with everyone spending hours in the old gym. Practice took place during school hours and into the evening. The cast tried to learn lines, dances and songs, and the backstage crew worked flat out on hair and makeup, props, costumes and sound effects.





All too soon it was showtime! The musical opened for the first night on November 26th and finished on November 29th to an uproarious standing ovation from an enthralled audience. The cast were delighted to learn that the show sold out 3 out of the 4 nights!

All those involved had a brilliant time and take away many happy memories from the experience. We would like to especially thank Ms. Tansey, Michelle Feeney, Ms. Breslin, Ms Stinson, Mrs Hall and Mr. Potter, and all the many others that made Grease a brilliant journey for us all.





DEBATING



The debating club, SGS Deb-Soc, is going strongly this term with over 20 consistent attendees from all class groups. Once again some of our debaters took part in the Sligo Soapbox Public Speaking Competition with 4 competing: Alfie Barron (2nd year), Ethan Johnston (4th year), Mia Brandon (3rd year) and Matthew Ryan (3rd year). This year's topic was 'Climate change is not my problem'. There were about 30 speakers competing in the County Library. The students put in lots of work and spoke brilliantly. No prizes this year, but a great achievement! The final week of classes saw a public Lunchtime Debate. the motion: This House Would Liberate Santa's Elves! The proposition won! Well done to all our debaters.



CREATIVE WRITING

LIFE AFTER THE TRENCHES...

*Hush, hush, hush. Listen to me
and you see. You will hear.
What happens beyond the sea.
There is life after the trenches.
That, is your fate.*

*For not all are as fortunate. I
have heard the cries of bombing.
I have seen the pain in gunfire.
Do not go. I urge you. For your
fate will be at fault. There is life
after the trenches. I will show
you.*

*They say go; go and fulfil your
duty. Do not listen to their seduc-
tive voices. Listen to me. they will
kill you. they will take everything
from you in the blink of an eye.*

*They will gather other warriors
and replace you when you fall on
abandoned ground.*

*you say goodbye to your belov-
ed. Embrace them. as for when
you step a foot on to that battle-
field you can also say goodbye to
your future.*

*There is no life after entering the
marshy land. There is life after the
trenches as for some; some live
the rest of their lives in the flam-
ing sky.*

Jean Van Aswegen





JERSEY by Aaron McCloat

David Lloyd George said anything can be achieved in small, deliberate steps. But there are times you need the courage to take a great leap; you can't cross a chasm in two small jumps.

Those low vibratory murmurs once again draw me from my temporary hibernation into the early rise of the channel sun. Charlie the cat peacefully rests at my feet hogging most of my bed for the last time. The old man of Plemont stands tall over the peaceful bay. Although he is not a person, the 56 metre tall protrusion of the cliff has been given a personality within my mind of a strong protective character. And today we part ways. My anxious mind seems to make even more figures out of the weirdly shaped ceiling paper that I stare at every morning than usual. One step in Jersey, one step in Sligo? No. The final decision was made by Mum and Dad that this wasn't the way to go. So here I am sitting in my room doing it, completely flipping our lives upside down. Into the complete unknown, no friends, no concept of what I was doing but we're going for it. The realisation hits me with great force, stealing my breath with every thought of it. Doubt, excitement, optimism, sadness all placed into a huge pot and churned up to put butterflies in my stomach. But still Charlie purrs quite contently. He hasn't a clue what's happening. I shuffle from my room through the maze of packed boxes to the bathroom then onwards to the almost empty cupboards. My bowl that I have relied on for the past 3 weeks once again serves me for my Weetabix and Frosties. The peculiar feeling of leaving my lifelong house to drive into the unknown. A calculated risk is all we go on as a family but once again 'there are times where you need to take a great leap.'

The house and the island is not what I was most scared of.

Jason Creavy. My best friend, the short hard working bubbly spark that you need around you in such an insular place. I had never had a friend like this boy, I can talk to him and he would never speak a word of it again, a sponge for complaints and my best friend. I knew it was going to be hard leaving him but I felt a slight unnerving numbness about the situation, a severe carry forward realising that there is no going back. Jersey was good, as I've come into my teenage years, I have realised the gap between rich and poor, a tax haven, a hive for million and billionaires. So focused on the money drive it would make the working man sick. Making buying a house there for the new buyers almost impossible. I don't want that, I don't want a struggle like that at the beginning of my life. Moving to Ireland and studying in the Sligo Grammar School will open doors for all of the family, doors to better more open jobs rather than just a banker. Opening doors to the European Union. Both my brother and I have realised the importance of education and the focus and drive that a successful future demands. And we are here doing it, not one step here and one step there, we are here now and I see the reasons. The engine, starts with a confident sigh from my Mum, Dad, Dylan and I. A tear filled with memories of cowboys and Indians, BBQ's on the beach, running to the water's edge before last light for the bucket of water. Christmases spent with an amazing amount of good and weird party pieces. A place where I have grown physically, mentally and socially to face the big world. Standing on the starboard forward deck we look back at St Aubins twinkly lights blanketing the bay. Holding it close in our memories. Glancing back to look forward.





POETRY SLAM

In September all TY classes took part in the Poetry Slam workshop run by Stephen Murray. The workshop focussed on helping young people build confidence in their literary skills, as well as public speaking and more advanced rhetorical techniques. The workshop was effective as the lecturer was credible and witty. The whole experience was thoroughly enjoyable.

SURFING

As part of the Transition Year P.E. course we got the chance to go surfing for four weeks. Our surfing skills really improved over the course of the 4 weeks and we all had many chances to stand up on our surf boards and catch some waves. We really enjoyed surfing and it will be a very hard P.E. class to top! The final surfing session was completed with a trip to Mammy Johnston's for some well-earned crepes and ice cream.



COMEDY AT THE HAWKS WELL

In September the TYs went to the Hawks Well Theatre to see Ger Carey's stand-up comedy show. Not knowing what to expect we shuffled into the balcony seats. Two hours later we rose with a stitch in our side and spring in our step. The comedian found a way of deriving humor from everyday life situations in school as they relate to characters, in and out of the classroom. Well worth the visit!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS



In November 18 TY students headed down to Sligo

Sports Complex to volunteer at the Connaught Special Olympics swimming competition. They assisted with the competitors, the timing of the races and other similar jobs. The TYs would like to thank Mr. Craddock for giving them the opportunity.





ST. CECILIA'S

This year the TY's had a module involving students from St. Cecilia's Special School. We got to play some sports and other activities with the pupils. All the TYs thoroughly enjoyed this module and felt it was an amazing experience.

COLLEGES VISIT

In December all TY's travelled to Dublin to visit the Colleges. The choices were Trinity, UCD and DCU. The students got a chance to consider where they might like to study after the Leaving Cert. After the educational part of the trip the bus stopped at Swords Pavilion Shopping Centre. Everyone went ice-skating and shopping. An unforgettable and Christmassy day was had by all. To further help TYs, 5th and 6th yrs with choosing Colleges and courses, talks were organised from Colleges including NUIG, UL, Sligo IT, and NUIM as well as talks about apprenticeships.

GREEN SCHOOL

This year SGS is working towards earning the first Green Schools flag. Ms Caldwell and her team of TY students are encouraging us all to reduce waste in the school. Recycling and food waste bins have been introduced around the school so...do your bit for the world!

SUS LIVING



Ms McIntyre is leading a Sustainable Living module in TY. The aim is to develop the Herm garden as a centre of organic

and sustainable gardening practices and of biodiversity. The TYs also aim to increase biodiversity in the garden by planting bee and bird loving plants. This term TYs have assembled raised beds under the guidance of Mr Geraghty, our woodwork teacher. The students have installed the beds in the Herm Garden but are now on the lookout for good black soil so that spring planting can begin, both in the raised beds and elsewhere in the old walled garden. The soil in the garden is lacking in essential nutrients, so, if anyone reading this knows of good quality soil that might be available for use in this very worthy project, please contact the school!



