

NEW SELECTION PLANS NOW IN PLACE

Due to the failure of legislators to agree to a new system to replace academic selection at eleven the College has reluctantly had to join with other schools in setting an alternative test. Arrangements have now been put into place for the new transfer procedure for the students transferring in 2010. The College do so in the context of a number of realities:

The setting of independent tests was certainly not the preferred option for the board of Governors, who would have preferred a procedure set by the statutory authorities but the board had little option in the light of present circumstances.

However the College remains committed to move beyond the current rigid system of selection at 11 and it is intended that this testing procedure will be in place only for a very limited number of years as it seeks to develop an alternative procedure for transfer of pupils from primary school. Indeed, the use of a transition period of three years is exactly what the Minister of Education had proposed up until February 2nd 2009.

As Dr Morrin says in his letter to parents involved "We recognise that many people have expressed concern about the existence and conduct of these tests. However, we assure all other partners in Catholic education and in the broader education community that we remain committed to finding a better way forward in the interest of excellence for all young people in our society."

Those interested in finding out more details should visit the admissions section on the new College web site at stmalachyscollege.com where policies and all relevant information and sample papers can be found.



The College broadens its appeal

The nature of the education the College provides is always changing, and there have been a number of innovative new schemes introduced over the past year which involve twilight courses outside normal school hours. This year students from the College and St Dominics have studied Additional Maths in classes mainly outside normal timetabling. This coming year the College will offer full twilight courses in Music Technology and in A.S. Physical Education. These courses are not just available to students from the College and its partner schools in the Music Specialism and Sporting Partnership but to all who are interested. The courses will soon be advertised. There will also be a special short twilight course run by Mrs Magorrian and the Home Economics Department for College Upper Sixth students preparing them for independent student life away from home.



NEW WEB SITE LIVE

The new College web site is now operational as visitors to stmalachyscollege.com will see there is much more functionality on the new site and it is hoped that the web site will continue to expand in its role in the next few months. Already pupils can now access their notes and emails from the site and the whole site is much faster and easier to navigate.



May Day Book Launch

'Glory from Within', our

175th commemorative book on essays and perspectives on St Malachy's, 1833 – 2009 was launched in the Great Hall at Queen's University on the 5th May 2009.

Cardinal Daly, Bishop Walsh, Bishop McKeown, Monsignor Macaulay and Canon Conway were in attendance along with many former students, staff, Governors and friends of the College. The audience was addressed by Dr Morrin, Mgr McCaughan and Mr Sean Corrigan the producer/editor.

'Glory from Within' can be purchased from the college office for £45 (hard backed copy) and £30 (soft backed copy). See stmalachyscollege.com

Summer Sensation

This year's Summer Sensation, the end of year Art & Design and moving Image arts Show was held in the College on Monday 15th June. The exhibition which was opened by Professor Paul Seawright Professor of Photography at the University of Ulster contained an exciting range of art and moving image work. This year marks the first applied Art and Design examination and there was a wide range of work, traditional art, Photography, IT using IN Design, and moving image from these students and all art students in the College.



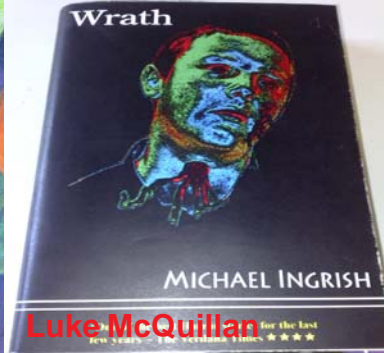
James Skelton



Jamie Holland



Daniel McLoughlin



Luke McQuillan



The new iMAC suite of 9 computers was installed in the music department in January. This includes a server and composing software Sibelius 5,



Garageband and Logic. Garageband had already had a major impact at Key Stage 3 as every boy in years 8 – 10 has been registered on the system and has completed two introductory tasks. Some boys in the Special Music classes in years 9 and 10 have carried this further and are using electric guitars directly inputted through Firewire. GCSE and A-level students can use Sibelius 5 to allow them to listen to their compositions – even the most complex orchestral scores can be heard this way. Scores can then be printed out to professional standard. Logic is an advanced programme which will stretch the most IT literate students as they prepare composing assignments for AS and A2 level.

Ui The Lower Sixth Drama Class performed their seven man version of *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* at the end of May with the help of Mary McGurk from Fortwilliam. The students performed the whole play despite the fact that the original cast list featured more than 40. One of the many interesting features of their performance was the fact that the characters did not leave the stage but lay down or moved out of the way to use the costume racks on either side of the stage. Aidan Davidson gave an outstanding performance as Ui/Hitler and Rhys Dunlop playing a range of roles also shone, however the whole ensemble cast performed exceptionally well and their marks reflected this. This class is also the first in the College to move on to A2 Drama but the trail blazing doesn't end there, as these students will be the first in a new association with St Dominics, which is a Drama specialist school, and the boys will be doing their A2 work in St. Dominic's classes.



Music Highlights

Ballet in the Park

For an hour, the Chamber Orchestra, Senior Traditional group and Jazz Ensemble played on stage to a most appreciative audience of revellers and picnickers during the relay of *Ondine* from the Royal Opera House in London to screens in Botanic Gardens.

Annual Concert

Which among many highlights featured the College's new Junior Brass group, the traditional music band and a stunning performance by the A level music class who each played a movement from a different concerto.

Junior Concert

This year also saw the first Junior concert held on 11th of June which showcased the College's younger musicians.

Tasmin Little workshop

On 22nd May at the City of Belfast School of Music 10 of our violin students attended a work shop given by one of Britain's outstanding professional violinists, Tasmin Little.

Spanish Trip

The Spanish Department spent the first week of March on the Costa Brava, focussing their visit mainly on the city of Barcelona. While there they visited the following places:

☉ La Sagrada Familia – Gaudi’s famous cathedral ☉ El barrio gótico – ☉ the gothic quarter of Barcelona ☉ Parc Guell – world heritage centre, another of Gaudi’s famous landmarks ☉ Nou Camp – the famous stadium of Barça ☉ Barcelona Zoo & Aquarium ☉ El Poble Espanol – ‘Spanish Village’ ☉ A harbour cruise in one of the ‘Golondrina’ boats. On return to Belfast, the staff involved in the trip - Mrs Rayot, Mrs Devlin, Mr Molloy, Mr Finnegan and Mr Crummey, praised and thanked the group of 46 pupils for their faultless behaviour and exceptional conduct during the trip. They had been polite, courteous and attentive throughout the 5 days as well as being incredibly patient while queuing at airports etc. Everyone had a very enjoyable time, experienced the Spanish culture and language and are looking forward to the next trip!!



External Links

The College continues to foster its links with Colleges in the United States. Two students this year spent three weeks at Georgetown Prep in Philadelphia, one of America’s most exclusive schools. The College in association with Georgetown and other charitable donations is setting up a bursary to allow for a student to study at this premier establishment. As the normal annual fees for Georgetown are \$50,000 this is no minor award but will be the opportunity of a lifetime for a very fortunate student.

The College has also just acquired new video conferencing equipment that will enable it to communicate with other similarly equipped C2K schools and also with schools and individuals much further away. The camera in the new system can record the positions of the various contributors to the conference and change angle accordingly. It is hoped that this system will help encourage links with our American partner schools and with other linked schools. It will be possible to mix classes over the connection and in the future it might be possible to use the system to help teach students who are unable to attend class because of illness.

Special Focus on Water Polo



This has been an outstanding year for the College Water Polo teams, In the Ulster Schools competition with Belfast Royal Academy now participating we have been runners up at both senior (Canada Trophy) and U16 levels to the old rivals St Mary’s.

However in May the U14’s, in a hard fought competition, (finally decided on goal difference) became Ulster Champions over St Mary’s, who were closely followed by BRA. We have forged good links with the staff at BRA and have played a number of friendly games at various age groups and hope to finish off the season with a friendly game on Mon 22 June. Our training regime was disrupted earlier in the school year with the closure of the New Grove Wellbeing Centre which was flooded towards the end of 2008. Luckily we managed to secure alternative training facilities at RBAI and now have a 2 hour session on a Thursday night starting at 18.00. This has been well supported throughout the year. We have also managed to get several senior players trained as referees. Mr Michael McKendry is the driving force behind our Water polo club and the link between the College and the Grads Water Polo club has been mutually beneficial.

We are also grateful for the contribution that Joe Connolly, an ex-pupil, and several of the players especially Daniel Fox, our current Senior Captain, have made with coaching the younger and less experienced players throughout the year. This bodes very well for the future.



St. Malachys Collapses

There have been a number of curriculum initiatives with the College Year 8 students this year. Before Christmas the timetable was very successfully "collapsed" to allow for multi teacher and subject teaching on the theme of Journeys. In June this was repeated for Learning for Life and Work on Your Business Our Business and training with the Share Centre on video work in a joint project with History and English.

This term's sports round-up

Looking at a selection of the sports on offer



The College U12 soccer team created a little bit of history in winning the Northern Ireland Minor Cup. Not only did they become the first team in the College to win this competition but victory also meant that the school has now in its possession the only cup that had eluded it in school football. The venue for the final was Donegal Celtic Park and victory was achieved against Corpus Christ College with a wonder goal worthy of winning any cup final, from midfielder Eoin Conlon.

The squad can be proud of its achievement this year. The road to success started back in October when they stunned Lismore Comprehensive, Lurgan with a 9-0 victory. This was followed with a 7-1 victory over Monkstown. Then came La Salle, Belfast who proved tough opponents in the last sixteen but the College triumphed 3-1 with keeper Shay Meighan excelling. The quarter-final brought a narrow but deserved 3-2 victory over Glengormley High. The boys then defeated Holy Cross Stabane by 3-0 to reach the final against Corpus Christi College. Corpus proved worthy opponents having defeated teams of the calibre of Ashfield and Boys' Model to reach the final.

Year 9 students experienced Rugby as part of their curriculum activities when Paul Shaw (Ulster Rugby) visited the College. All students were given the chance to develop their skills and play various small sided games during their classes. All those interested in playing Rugby may contact

the Physical Education Department to enquire as to how they can increase their participation.

Hurling

The National Hurling Development Officer 'Paudie Butler' from Tipperary visited the College to delivery a coaching session for the Junior Hurling Squad. G.C.S.E Physical Education students were also in attendance to pick up useful ideas on skill development coaching and how to lead a group. Paudie has worked continuously throughout the country with both clubs and schools and we hope to see him again in 2009/2010.



Basketball



College teams continue to play a dominant role in Irish Schools' Basketball. The Year 8 Basketball team lifted the Vince Halloran Ulster Schools Cup with a convincing display against Aquinas Grammar School in the final in late May. In the early rounds the College accounted for Rathmore, St Patrick's College Ballymena, St Patrick's College Armagh, Abbey Grammar and St Pat's Academy Dungannon. Jack Nelan from New York made the presentation to the winning College team. The Year 9 team lifted the Ulster League title and were bronze medallists in the All Ireland Finals in Limerick out of the top 24 Schools in Ireland. 8 players were selected from the College for the International development squads at U14 level.

In the Under 16 competition the College

won the Ulster title in convincing style and reached both All Ireland Cup and League finals in the National Basketball Arena in Dublin. This was a remarkable achievement as this team was not seeded at the start of the season.

The College dominated the senior competitions winning a remarkable League and Cup double. Setanta Ireland gave extensive coverage to the impressive display from the team in the Cup Final v Colaiste Choilm Ballincollig.

Athletics

This was another successful year for College Athletes. Among many triumphs the First year boys x-country team were crowned Ulster Schools Minor champions.

Danny Crangle Y12 became Ulster schools intermediate 1500m steeplechase champion.

Paddy Robb won the Ulster Schools' Minor Boys 800m title to add to his cross-country crown.

Chris Connolly and Danny McLaughlin won Bronze at the Ulster Schools Track Championships.

In the Irish Schools Athletic Championships Danny McLaughlin finished 5th in 1500m with a PB time. Daniel Crangle won the silver in a photo finish in the 1500m steeplechase.

Both are selected to represent Ulster in the Inter provincial Championships at the end of June and Daniel is also selected to represent N.I. for the UK Schools Games in September in Coventry.

Finally just to prove that there is athletic life after leaving school the St. Malachy's Old Boys teams finished first and second in the recent QUB 5km road race around the Lagan bridges.

