

Sports Report

Already it has been a busy sporting year for St Michael's across a variety of sporting fields, mostly very wet ones.

In Gaelic Football the Rannafast team exited their competition in a tight quarter-final to eventual beaten finalists' Armagh, by a two point margin, having progressed to that stage courtesy of two wins in their three group games. At the time of writing the MacRory team face a winner takes all contest against Armagh for a place in the quarter-finals, defeat would mean an unusually early exit. Their only points in the group stages coming from draws against Maghera and Cavan, the latter being comprehensively dispatched in a much improved display in the initial play off game to earn the Armagh tilt, although there were very narrow defeats by Monaghan and Dungannon. The Corn na nÓg team have made in through their group successfully with good wins over Magherafelt and Armagh and they will look forward to the quarter final draw, with those games down for decision in late January.

A late start to the cross-country season has seen only two competitive outings so far, at the Ulster age-group championships, where all four teams who competed qualified for the All-Ireland finals in Coleraine on December 6th, and in Ballyclare, with the schools championships in late February the primary goal of a long season.

Our U18 soccer team put up a gallant display against Derry powerhouses St Columb's going out of the NI Cup 3-2 while in

swimming Mark McCaffrey and Rian McGovern both recorded personal bests at the Ulster Grammar Schools championships while a group of year nine hurlers enjoyed a trip to Monaghan in October for a development blitz.

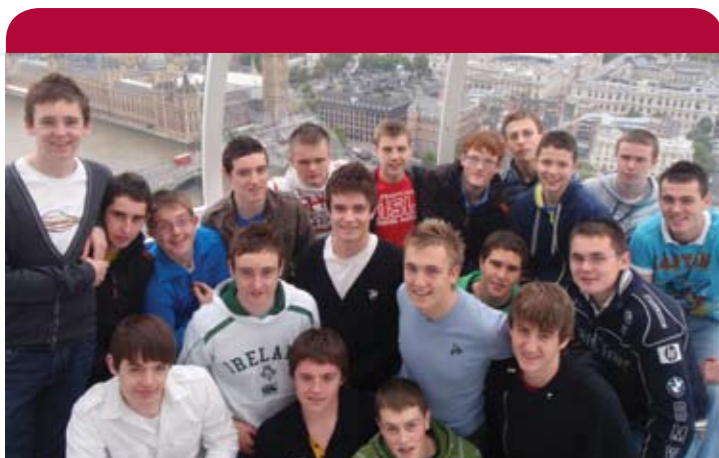
So far then a busy few months and things will only get more hectic in the spring with the cross-country boys looking to equal their All-Ireland winning season of last year and hopefully two of our GAA teams in Ulster Colleges knock-out action, as well as the start of the indoor athletics season which traditionally brings success to St Michael's as well.



St Michael's U13 cross-country squad Ulster U13 silver medallists

Peace Studies

20 pupils from St. Michael's and Portora Royal School have recently returned from a 4 day trip to London. The highlight of the trip was a visit to the Palace of Westminster where the pupils were given a tour and had the opportunity to question a number of local and national MPs and sit in on Prime Minister's Question Time.



Peace Studies Students on the London Eye

College Website

The College Website; www.saintmichaels.org.uk has gone from strength to strength over this past year. Recent statistic analysis has shown that in the month of October alone, there were over 3,500 visits to the website from places as far afield as New Zealand, India and South America. The website is updated on a daily basis with news and photographs which reflect the wealth of activities that the boys participate in at the College.

Music

The College choir, Traditional group and Brass band performed at the opening school Mass in St Michael's church on Friday September 25th.

On Tuesday November 17th, the brass band performed for the 'Trauma Recovery Network' in the Killyhevlin hotel. The boys enjoyed the experience thoroughly, performing to a packed audience.

As part of the festivities, the junior choir members were invited to participate in a carol service on Sunday November 29th. The boys had a great evening performing with other school choirs on the night.

The senior members of the College choir have also been invited to take part in a carol service along with the girls from the Collegiate senior choir in St. Macartan's Cathedral here in Enniskillen on December 11th at 7pm.

Finally, the annual Christmas Carol service will be taking place in St. Michael's Church on December 17th at 8pm. It promises to be an enjoyable occasion and everyone is most welcome.

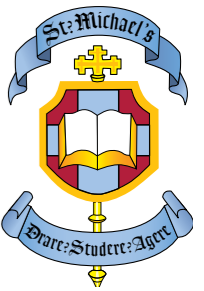
Key Dates

Jan	4th	First Day of New Term
Feb	12th	Exceptional Closure (Staff Only)
Feb	15th/16th	Mid-Term Break
Mar	17th - 19th	St Patrick's Day (School Closed)
Mar	31st	Last day of Term for Students
April	12th	First day of New Term
April	23rd	Exceptional Closure (Staff Only)
May	3rd	May Day (School Closed)
May	20th/21st	Exceptional Closure (Staff Only)
May	31st	Baker Day (Staff Only)
June	30th	Last day of School Year



St Michael's College

December 2009



Foreword

Welcome to this the latest issue of our Newsletter. All regular readers will see that the variety of experiences available to our students is growing every year.

It does not seem that long since our last Newsletter. Yet you will again see that our College is both dynamic and busy. The boys are spoiled for choice in the range of extra curricular activities available to them.

All of our new students have settled in very well and I wish them a happy and productive time in St Michael's.

The College Prize night was a tremendous celebration of student success and we salute all our prize winners.

This issue as always is only a snapshot of life in our College but I hope you enjoy reading it.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a happy and safe new year.

Best Wishes

Eugene McCullough
Principal

Fundraising

CONCERN

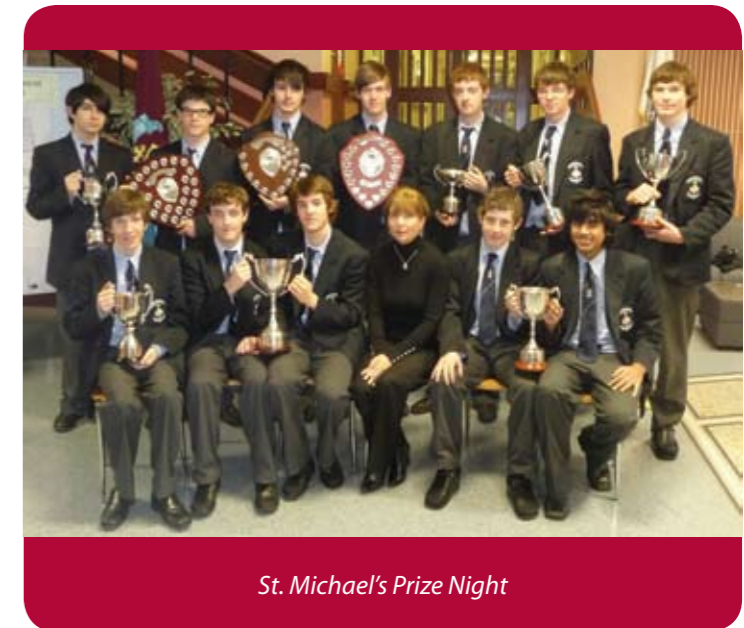
On Thursday 3rd December, almost 250 students and staff completed the Concern 24 hour fast. Concern's work this year focuses on Child Hunger. 30,000 children die every day because they don't have enough to eat. One area of serious concern is the Mathare Slum in Nairobi. This is one of the world's most dangerous slums and thousands of children walk these slums every day in search of food and shelter.

We hope our fundraising efforts this year will provide help and support for the many thousands of children living in these horrendous conditions.

TRÓCAIRE

Four Year 8 students attended the launch of the Global Gift Campaign in Enniskillen on Monday 9th November.

In December Year 8 students, along with other form classes bought the gift of school lunches, chicks, goats, houses, fishing boats, water and various other life changing gifts for poverty stricken people across the world.



St. Michael's Prize Night

OTHER EVENTS

Mr Rasdale organised and co-ordinated the Saint Vincent de Paul collection before Christmas with Year 11 students. Hampers were presented to the charity before Christmas.

Each month Year 9 students donate money to help with the education of students in India.



St. Michael's students involved in the Trócaire global gift launch

The English Department

It is often said that everyone has one good book in them. However, could you write a story with a gripping plot and character and wind it up with a conclusion...in just fifty words or less?

A selection of our young writers in years 9, 10 and 11 took on that challenge and succeeded. They have been chosen for publication in the Young Writers' Mini Sagas 2009 creative writing book series. Their work was selected for publication based on their imaginative, expressive and creative use of language. The collection is scheduled for publication on 30th November 2009. Well done to all of our budding authors!!



Young writers mini saga

Citizenship

Year 9

9P are involved in a Citizenship programme with Erne Integrated College. This 'See You See Me' programme is organised by the Verbal Arts Centre. We hosted the first day here in the College and will visit the Integrated College on Thursday 5th and Enniskillen Library on Friday 13th and Monday 30th November.

Years 10 & 11

St Michael's has become involved in an Education for Reconciliation programme. This is a Cross Border programme for Citizenship Education teachers. Miss Curran's 100 Drama class is working on the theme of conflict. The pupils have produced work which was used as exemplar material at the recent Education for Reconciliation conference in the Killyhevlin hotel. 11R and 11T are working on the 'Policing Matters' resource. This is a resource that the late Sergeant Gary King was involved in. It was officially launched at the Education for Reconciliation conference in October.

French Debating

Following their success against Antrim Grammar School in November, the A level French debating team is now facing a new challenger: Methodist College on the 16th December. In what is expected to be a difficult debate, the team will have to argue in French that our natural renewable energy supplies will not be sufficient to solve our future energy crisis.

St Michael's College A level French debating team is represented by: Liam Mohan (Team captain), Michael McClean, Jack Kirby and Gerard McCrory

College Library

This term saw the introduction of an exciting new range of resources. A new selection of Audio Books for children, where the reading is done by the author or a professional actor, can make that reading experience even more fun. Pupils are helped to learn the proper pronunciation of words and can learn to "see" a story by using imagination instead of illustrations.

A new Senior Fiction Series also commenced in September 2009 with a variety of scintillating titles on offer, including all novels in the CILIP Carnegie Medal Shortlist 2009.

This term also saw the return of the Scholastic Book Fair, offering an incredible choice of must-read books.

Careers Department

Year 14 visited Queen's & U.U.J as part of their UCAS application preparation. Many pupils have been involved in university interviews and aptitude tests as part of their UCAS applications.

Year 12 pupils participated in an Interview Skills Day. We really appreciated the assistance that many organisations in the local community gave in helping to provide this course. In particular a special word of thanks for Mr Gerry McDermott from BALCAS who provided the pupils with an excellent short course on applications and interviews.

We have organised a number of Careers Talks that have been well received by the pupils. There will be further guest speakers coming to the school in December to give talks on the airline industry, teaching and CAO applications.



Year 11 Student Council Representatives

Prize Night

BEST ACADEMIC BEST EXTRA-CURRICULAR CONTRIBUTION YEAR HEAD AWARD	YEAR 8	Matthew Murphy Cian McAlone Jeb Bago
BEST ACADEMIC BEST EXTRA-CURRICULAR CONTRIBUTION YEAR HEAD AWARD	YEAR 9	Daniel Goodwin Oisin Mahon Sean McAleer
BEST ACADEMIC (Michael Brewster Cup) BEST EXTRA-CURRICULAR CONTRIBUTION YEAR HEAD AWARD	YEAR 10	David Henshall Denis Greene Paul Foy
BEST ACADEMIC BEST EXTRA-CURRICULAR CONTRIBUTION YEAR HEAD AWARD	YEAR 11	Niall Carson Kevin McDonnell Sean Treacy
TOP GCSE STUDENTS		
ART / GEOGRAPHY / ADD MATHS		Michael Donnelly Rico Ledwith Ali Jamil Francis McCarron Justin McManus
BUSINESS STUDIES		Kevin May Sean Guabello Cormac Sheridan
ENGLISH LANGUAGE		David Farrelly Liam McGourty
ENGLISH LITERATURE		Rico Ledwith Ciaran Dolan
FRENCH		Conor Conneally Michael Donnelly
GERMAN		Darren Valentine
HISTORY		
IRISH		
DRAMA		
MUSIC		
RELIGION		
MATHS / TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN		
SPORTSMEN OF THE YEAR		
SWIMMING		Maurice Kwan
ATHLETICS		Stuart Connor
HURLING		Sean Corrigan
SOCCER		Liam McQuaid
RUGBY		Gary Donegan
CROSS-COUNTRY		Niall McKeever
GAELIC FOOTBALL		Matthew Donnelly (Joint Winners)
SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD		Ciaran Dolan, Matthew Donnelly
INDIVIDUAL OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT		
BEST JUNIOR GEOGRAPHY		Kevin Maguire
CHARITABLE WORK		Michael Morris
CONTRIBUTION TO MUSIC		Kieran Leonard
DARRAGH REILLY MEMORIAL TROPHY (CONTRIBUTION TO YEAR 13 THE PATRICK MCGUINNESS AWARD FOR HISTORY		Mark Hoy
TOP SCIENTIST AT GCSE		Oisin Mahon
GERALD DURNIN MEMORIAL AWARD (TOP SCIENCE STUDENT YEAR 14)		Michael Donnelly David Farrelly
THE BISHOP MULLIGAN CUP (IRISH LANGUAGE)		Ali Ghareeb
OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT GCSE		Liam Mohan
THE TOMMY SHERIDAN AWARD FOR LITERATURE		Michael Donnelly Darren Valentine
PRESIDENT'S CUP		Kieran Keenan Kieran Leonard

Quinn Direct Business Visit

A group of year 13 Applied Business students recently went to Quinn Direct on a fact finding visit on 22nd October 2009. The purpose was to gather information for portfolio work as part of their applied course. Business visits are a key part of vocational subjects and Applied Business lends itself to availing of the wealth of business opportunities that we have in Enniskillen and Fermanagh. The students on this visit had the opportunity to meet with the managing director of Quinn Direct and several other key personnel. The visit was a great success and provided a valuable insight into how large businesses operate.



St. Michael's students and Quinn Direct staff in the foyer of their offices

German Exchange Trip

The leg of the 2008/9 German Exchange was completed with eight St Michael's students returning on October 10th from an eight day stay with their German exchange partners who were over here last year. After spending the weekend of 3rd/4th October with their host families, our students arrived bright and breezy for first period on Monday morning at 7.55!! We attended class until 11.20 and then we travelled to Bielefeld Town Hall where we were granted a civic reception. The schools' exchange has grown out of the twinning arrangement which has existed between Enniskillen and Brackwede (a district in Bielefeld) since 1958.

The remainder of the exchange saw the group visiting numerous sites in and around Brackwede including; The Universum Science Center and the Johannisberg Team Build and KletterPark

As an educational, cultural and social experience, the Fermanagh - Brackwede exchange is unbeatable.



Students outside the Bremen Science Centre