The Prosperous Post
The Summer Edition

A Message from Your Principal Mr Purcell



As we come to the end of another very successful school year here at St Farnan's, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our entire school community for their hard work, commitment, and support throughout the year. Well done to our excellent student body - you are the nicest bunch of young people that any school could wish for!

Our students have once again shown outstanding dedication in the classroom, on the sports pitches and trips, in the arts, and through their involvement in all school activities and initiatives. I am incredibly proud of all that has been achieved this year and of the positive spirit that continues to make our school such a welcoming and vibrant place to learn and the school of choice in the locality. My highlights this year were
our 5th year trip to Italy, the TY Musical, Graduations and hiring amazing staff who add such value in so many areas to our incredible team to support our students in every way. My biggest frustrations this year, however, was that we still didn't get the extra Science and Construction room open this year and the freezing cold building in November!

A big shout out to all the staff, you are the most fantastic bunch of adults that anyone could collaborate with and I would like to sincerely thank our excellent staff for their continued professionalism, care, and encouragement. Our staff's dedication to supporting every student is at the heart of everything we do here in St Farnan's. I also wish to acknowledge the ongoing support of parents and guardians and the local community and KWETB, whose partnerships with the school are greatly valued and appreciated.

To our students sitting Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate examinations, we wish you the very best of luck in June. Your hard work and preparation will stand to you, and we encourage you to approach the exams with confidence and positivity.

We are also looking forward to another enjoyable and engaging Summer Programme, which provides students with wonderful opportunities to learn new skills, make memories, and stay connected with friends and staff over the holidays.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for Ms Bracken and Mr Wilkinson. I want to congratulate them on their impending retirements and wish them luck, health and happiness in the next chapter in their lives.

As the summer break begins, I hope everyone takes the opportunity to rest, recharge, and enjoy time with family and friends. Please stay safe over the holidays, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for
another exciting school year in September.

Wishing you all a happy, safe, and enjoyable summer.

Andrew Purcell Principal

Important Calendar Dates

- May 29th- Final Day of School and Cothrom na Feinne Annual Awards Ceremony
- 3rd June State Examinations begin

Term Highlights

- 1st & 2nd Year Group Day Trips to Emerald Park
- European Trip to Italy
- First Year Leinster Final
- Seomra Suaimhneas Grand Opening
- DEAR Drop Everything and Read Initiative
- Welcoming 6th Class students from Scoil an Linbh Iosa
- JCSP Graduation
- TY and 6th Year Graduation
- End of Year Summer Assessments
- Ms Pamela Bracken and Mr Michael Wilkinson Retirements

A Final Farewell to our Leaving Cert Graduates 2026



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A Message From Your Deputy Principal Ms Sinead Cassidy



Dear Students, Parents, Guardians and Staff,

As we come to the end of another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a very successful and positive year for our school community. Throughout the year, our students have shown commitment, resilience, kindness and enthusiasm in so many aspects of school life. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, through music and the arts, or in the everyday support shown to one another, there has been much to celebrate and be proud of.

A special word of congratulations goes to our Leaving Certificate students, whose graduation last week was a lovely celebration of their time in our school. It was a fitting occasion to recognise not only their academic journey but also the contribution they have made to our school community over the years.

To both our Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle students, I would like to wish you the very best of luck in your upcoming examinations. Mind yourself for the few weeks of the exams. Of course you will be studying but also take breaks, eat well and get good sleep.

To our First Year students, I hope you have settled well into secondary school life and enjoyed your first year with us. Starting a new school brings many new experiences, friendships and challenges and you have approached these with great positivity and enthusiasm. We hope you now feel part of our school community and look forward to seeing you continue to grow in confidence and achievement in the years ahead.

To all our students, I ask that you continue to do your best, believe in your abilities, and take pride in the effort you have made. There is always time to improve, to grow and to learn, so that when graduation day comes, you can feel content; content with your personal achievement, your personal contribution, and your personal development.

To all members of our school community, thank you for your support, encouragement and dedication throughout the year. Our school thrives because of the collective efforts of students, staff, parents and guardians working together and we are very grateful for that continued partnership.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer filled with fun, rest and good times with family and friends. I hope the months ahead provide an opportunity to recharge and create many happy memories.

Thank you all once again for a wonderful year, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new school year. Regards, Ms Cassidy

A Message From Your Deputy Principal Ms Niamh Doyle



As we approach the summer holidays in St Farnan's, I would like to sincerely thank all of our parents and guardians for your continued support, encouragement and partnership throughout the school year.

It has been a very busy and successful year for our students, both inside and outside the classroom. We are extremely proud of the hard work, commitment and achievements shown across the classrooms, sport fields, the stage and the many extracurricular activities that make our school community so vibrant. Our students have represented the school with great enthusiasm, teamwork and pride throughout the year.

As the summer break begins, I hope it provides everyone with a well-deserved opportunity to rest, relax and recharge after a demanding and rewarding year. A huge thank you to all of our teachers, SNA's, caretaking and cleaning staff and the office staff for their support and hard work over the year.

Our Sixth Year Graduation was held on Thursday May 21st. It was a beautiful evening filled with song, laughter and memories. I would like to wish our Leaving Certificate students all the best in the coming weeks and in the future. The corridors of St.Farnan's will certainly be quieter without you.

I would also like to wish all students preparing for exams the very best of luck in the weeks ahead. Your hard work and dedication have brought you this far, and we wish you every success. Have a safe, enjoyable and restful summer.

Ms.Doyle - Deputy Principal

Wellbeing in Action

Last Wednesday, we were delighted to accept an invitation from Scoil An Linbh Iosa to join them in a 'WellBeing Initiative' this year. Some of our First Years became pen pals with the 6th class students earlier in the year. Thank you to Ms Delaney and Ms Lynch for facilitating this writing exchange.

They came together for a morning of fun and laughter. The students could choose from a range of activities; baking, board games and a soccer blitz. Our TY 'future leaders' helped run this event. All of the students were rewarded with a pizza party for their participation and enjoyment throughout the day.

It was a successful day for the students. Thank you to Ms Cassidy, Mr Delaney, Ms Kirby, Mr Berg and Ms Gallagher for organising the special day and to Ms Mc Loughlin, Ms Bergin, ,Ms Finlay, Mr Kelly, Mr Harnett and Mr Thompson for facilitating & taking part in the day. Well done.













Wellbeing - Amber Flag

The Amber Flag Committee were delighted to raise our flag as part of our Wellbeing Week this term. Pieta's Amber Flag Initiative celebrates communities that create healthy, supportive and inclusive environments by promoting mental wellbeing. The Amber Flag was awarded to St. Farnan's by Pieta to acknowledge our efforts to promote positive mental health and wellbeing within our school community everyday.

A huge thanks to all involved in this important initiative. (Thank you to Ms Gannon for your contribution)





pieta AMBER FLAG

BLAST Creativity and Arts in Education Residency Initiative 2026-2027

We are delighted to announce that Ms Cassidy and Ms Delaney were successful in our application to the BLAST Creativity and Arts Residency Initiative 2026-2027. We plan to promote confidence and resilience among our First Year students through drama and the creative arts. We look forward to working with Helen Keenan, our assignment creative practitioner, who will help us develop, plan and run this Wellbeing Initiative. We will keep you updated on this really important project! (Thank you to Ms Cassidy and Ms Delaney for your contribution)

BRINGING LIVE ARTS TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

CREATIVE CLUSTERS

First Years 'Make a Book'

The First Year students worked collaboratively to compile and write articles for a special book documenting the transition from primary to post-primary school. Through their creativity and teamwork, the students shared their experiences, advice and reflections to support future incoming students.

The completed book was proudly exhibited at the Junior Certificate Schools Programme Exhibition in Dublin in March. Selected students represented the First Year group with great confidence, presenting the book and speaking to students and teachers from other schools about its contents and the process involved in creating it.

Thank you to Ms Dowling, our First Year Year Head, the tutor team and teachers for making the book, Ms Keane and Ms E Finlay for attending the exhibition.



Art Room Highlights

Our 1st Year artists completed their ‘clay monster heads’ made using a pinch pot, hand building technique. They were hand painted using acrylic paints. The pieces demonstrated tone, texture and pattern.
Our 6th Years recreated Leonardo Da Vinci’s ‘ The Last Supper’ to mark the end of their school journey in the Art Department.
A special shout out to Isabella Byrne (designer), Ailbhe Cullen and Erin Nolan Brophy for painting such a wonderful mural representing the Chinese year of the ‘Fire Horse’ and the Phoenix rising from the ashes. The image symbolises confidence, energy and freedom. Well done again to Ms Richardson and all of her artists.











Mr Malone's 1ST Year Wood Technology 'Pencil Box Making'

Mr Malone's First Year Wood Technology classes have been busy designing and making their own wooden pencil boxes. They carefully measured, cut and assembled the wood to create strong and practical boxes, where they can safely store their pens and pencils. The class focused on working safely and neatly, making sure that there were no splinters on their finished product or in their fingers! Everyone enjoyed being creative while also learning valuable wood-working skills! Well done to you all!











‘Sweet Success’ JCSP Trip to Butlers’ Chocolate Factory

This term, as part of our Business Week celebrations, a group of JCSP students volunteered to take on the role of *Business Ambassadors*, showing fantastic enthusiasm, initiative and school spirit. These students played a crucial role throughout the week, working behind the scenes to ensure everything ran smoothly.

Their responsibilities included organising and setting up events, supporting guest speakers, making announcements to class groups, escorting students to activities, liaising with teachers and helping to co-ordinate key events such as: the Golf Ireland workshop and our Pop-Up Market. Their contribution was central to the success of Business Week and demonstrated real leadership, teamwork and responsibility.

To recognise their hard work and commitment, the students were rewarded with a visit to the Butlers’ Chocolate Factory — a well-deserved treat in every sense!

During the visit, students experienced first-hand how a successful Irish business operates. They observed the chocolate-making process, from production through to packaging, gaining insight into the importance of quality, branding and presentation. The visit also highlighted the value of teamwork, organisation and attention to detail in a real working environment. A highlight of the day, was the opportunity for students to decorate their own chocolate creations, adding a fun and creative element to the experience.

This trip brought learning to life in a very real way. The skills developed throughout Business Week — communication, teamwork, organisation, problem-solving and leadership — were clearly visible in action. Students were able to see the direct connection between what they learn in school and how these skills are applied in the world of work.

We are extremely proud of our JCSP Business Ambassadors. Their positive attitude, willingness to get involved and ability to take on responsibility ensured the success of Business Week. This experience not only celebrated their efforts but also highlighted the importance of active, real-world learning that will stay with them long beyond the classroom.







Seomra Suaimhneas- 6th LCA Community Project

This term, our 6th Year LCA students undertook their Community Work Project with the aim of transforming the Room 25 garden area into a calm, welcoming and purposeful space within our school. The result is *Seomra Suaimhneas* — meaning “Room of Peace and Tranquility” — a dedicated wellbeing space where students can relax, recharge and take a moment when needed.

From the outset, the students showed exceptional commitment, teamwork and pride in their work. They took full ownership of the project, planning and carrying out every stage of the transformation. Their efforts included clearing and preparing the area, painting benches and features, laying artificial grass, installing decorative trellis panels and creating a beautiful mosaic-tiled table as a central feature of the space.

A particularly creative addition was a vibrant window mural, designed and painted by TY students, which added colour and a sense of calm to the environment. The final touches, including planting and decorative elements, brought the entire space together beautifully.

A key element of the project was the strong connection with the local community. We were incredibly fortunate to receive the generous support of TJ O’Mahony’s, Prosperous. From the very first conversation, Branch Manager Jonny Duffy showed a genuine interest in the project and a real willingness to help. Through their sponsorship, the vision for *Seomra Suaimhneas* became a reality. This partnership is a wonderful example of community in action and highlights the positive impact of local businesses supporting schools.

The project culminated in the official opening of *Seomra Suaimhneas*, where Jonny Duffy joined us to cut the ribbon, assisted by students. The event marked a very special moment for the LCA class, as it also coincided with their final ‘Community Work’ class together. A heartfelt speech from Mr. Purcell acknowledged the students’ work ethic, teamwork and the lasting legacy they have created.

To mark their achievement, a plaque was placed in the space, signed by both the LCA class and students involved, serving as a lasting reminder of their contribution to the school.

Thank you to Ms Sinnott and her LCA students for creating such a tranquil and beautiful space for all of us especially our room 25 students.











St Farnan's Lights Up the Stage with 'Back to the 80's' Musical

St Farnan's Post Primary School, Prosperous, was alive with music, energy and extraordinary talent as Transition Year students took to the stage for their highly anticipated musical 'Back to the 80s', performed on April 15th, 16th and 17th.

From the opening scene to the final curtain, audiences were treated to a truly unforgettable production, showcasing the remarkable dedication, creativity and confidence of the students. The show, filled with iconic 80s hits and vibrant storytelling, had the audience captivated throughout.

One of the standout performances of the night came from Archie Early Moran as the unforgettable Fergal McFerreim. His comic timing and stage presence brought constant laughter and energy, marking him as a star in the making. Narrating the story with ease and charisma was Fionn O'Brien as Corey Senior, whose performance kept audiences enthralled, culminating in a stunning electric guitar solo that left the crowd in awe.

The leading roles of Corey Junior and Michael Feldman, played by Rian Kelly and Jacob Smal, formed a dynamic duo, delivering powerful vocals and heartfelt performances as they competed for the attention of Tiffany Houston. Lucy Cross shone in this role, captivating audiences with her talent, confidence and stage presence—undoubtedly a future leading lady.

Adding depth and humour to the storyline was the blossoming romance between teachers Ms. Sheena Brannigan and Mr. Stevie Cocker, played brilliantly by Ruby Haide and Dylan Reihill. Their performances balanced comedy and emotion perfectly, with memorable moments that kept audiences engaged and rooting for their happy ending!
(Thank you to Ms Sinnott)



We did it! We reached our fundraising target for our TY Musical this year, with huge thanks to Ms. Flanagan and Ms. Cassidy for organising the following sponsors who gave so generously. We could not have done it without you!
Platinum Sponsors: O'Reilly's Prosperous & Clane, Gimme Pizza & Judges Haulage.
Gold Sponsors: McKenna Haulage, St. Kevin's GAA & Macari's.
Silver Sponsors: Jacobus, TJ O'Mahony's, EISHT - Caroline O'Connor, Rafters Catering, Reada Cronin TD, Monread CRM, Gallen's Haulage, Amerigo's, Anchor Construction, Cllr. Brendan Wyse, Crystal Air & Prosperous Utd. Bronze sponsor: Dash@Dags.
Stay tuned to find out what next year's musical will be!

LCA Hotel and Catering Practicals

Our 6th Year LCA students completed a 2.5 hour practical cooking exam. Students had to make a range of dishes from Mexican to Italian ranging from low calorie to what some would say as 'calorific!

They had to choose their dish, price their ingredients, lay the 'poshest table', create a menu and begin cooking!!

Ms Kirby said that they were the best 'cooks' she has ever seen! Well done again to our excellent LCA class.

Thanks to Ms Kirby for guiding the students throughout their practicals!



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Room 25

Our room 25 students were kept busy this term. From 18th birthdays to graduations, there was a lot to celebrate! Room 25 along with r26, hosted another successful plant sale led by Ms Moloney. We regretfully said goodbye to two remarkable students: Tony Tuite and Olivier Milosz. Our students attended the 'Cuan Games' along with their peers from r26.

We would like to give a special shout out to Ben Byrne Symes for winning the 'Kildare Garda Award' recently!(Ms Brady would like to thank all of the students and staff involved in r25 for their continuous dedication and hard work throughout the year. Ms Moloney would like to extend her gratitude to all those who supported the plant sale).



















Room 26
Trips and Events

We started off the term with a wonderful trip on the Athy Barge and also visited the Shackleton Museum- thanks the 2025 Plant Sale. Plans are already in place for another Barge trip thanks to our 2026 Plant Sale proceeds in the Autumn term. So watch this space!
Thank you to Ms Moloney for the annual plant sale. It is wonderful to share with R25 and to have the TY students on board this year was an excellent addition!
Students won fantastic medals at the 'An Cuan Games' in Maynooth and showed off so many athletic skills, from football, rugby, hockey and many more. Thanks to Ms O'Shea for organising this.
We had sessions at FitzZone Gym, thanks to the Kildare Sports Partnership. We celebrated Layla's Graduation and both Ruarí and Layla's LCA Results.
We wish to thank Mr Wilkinson for all of his artistry and creativity that our students have joined in with in their fantastic Art classes and suffice to say, you will be missed. We wish you well on your forthcoming retirement.
We had our last breakfast at the wonderful St. Anne's Community House. I look forward to meeting up with you soon and planning for next year !
Thanks to Mr Little for inviting us to all join in the Emerald Park trip recently, Alex and Alison loved spotting the animals and well done to all who braved the rides.
There has been so much going on, so much to celebrate, but, last but not least, James won 'best smile' from his North Kildare Basketball Club. We agree James, that your smile is really hard to beat.

We wish your summer to be full of smiles.

Thank you to everyone who has supported R26 over this last term and this last academic year, it has been wonderful. (Thanks again Ms Considine for your contribution)

Room 26
Trips and Events Pics!















2026-2027 Prefects

We are proud to introduce our new School Prefect Team and Senior Leadership Team. These students have consistently demonstrated dedication, responsibility and a strong commitment to the values of St Farnan's. Through their positive attitude, leadership and involvement in school life, they make an important contribution to the St Farnan's community each day.

As role models for their peers, they will help to foster a welcoming, respectful, and supportive environment throughout the school year. We look forward to seeing the positive impact they will continue to make in St Farnan's and wish them every success in their new roles.

Well done to all of our Prefects on their recent achievement: Erin Mc Ardle, Finn Cunningham, Saoirse Mc Conn, Yeva Shyskina, Allie Fields, Aoife Loughrey, Maisie Quinn, Ruairi Fitzpatrick, Aimee Byrne, Aoife Coyne, Ryan Behan, Jake Gibbons, Grainne Stafford and Sadie Bohane.
Thank you to Ms Anna Bourke and Ms Dowling for organising the applications and interview process, and to all staff who aided in the selection process.
The best of luck to our 2026- 27 Prefects next year.



Numeracy

At St.Farnans' PP, numeracy is not confined to maths lessons—it is woven through every aspect of teaching and learning. We recognise that developing strong numeracy skills equips our students with the confidence and ability to solve problems, think critically, and engage fully with the world around them.

In the classroom, numeracy is integrated across a wide range of subjects. In science, students measure, estimate, and analyse data during experiments. In geography, they interpret graphs, scales, and maps. In physical education, they track scores, time activities, and explore patterns in movement. Even in literacy lessons, pupils engage with sequencing, patterns, and logical thinking. This cross-curricular approach ensures that numeracy is meaningful, relevant, and consistently reinforced.

We also place a strong emphasis on real-life applications. Pupils are encouraged to use numeracy in practical contexts such as budgeting, planning, and problem-solving tasks. By connecting learning to everyday experiences, we help students see the value and purpose of numeracy beyond the classroom.

Importantly, St.Farnans' staff strive to make numeracy enjoyable and engaging for our students through a variety of extracurricular activities across the school. Initiatives such as our games club, chess club, and maths club provide fun and interactive opportunities for pupils to develop their numerical and problem-solving skills in a relaxed and social setting. These activities help to foster a positive attitude towards numeracy and encourage participation from all students.

Our approach to numeracy is closely aligned with the DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) pillars. In particular, it supports:

- Attainment: By strengthening numeracy skills, we aim to improve overall academic outcomes and build a solid foundation for future learning.
- Retention: Engaging, practical numeracy activities—both in class and through extracurricular opportunities—help to maintain student interest and participation in school life.
- Progression: Developing confidence in numeracy supports students as they transition through different stages of education and into further learning or employment.

To further promote numeracy across our school community, we are inviting students and families to take part in our numeracy quiz. If you would like to be in with a chance to win a One4All voucher, simply scan the QR code provided and complete the quiz. It's a fun way to put your skills to the test! Closing date is the 5th June at 12PM. Thank you to Ms Mc Donald and Mr Sinnott for your contribution. Thank you to Ms Mc Donald & Mr Sinnott for your contribution.

Scan here for the Senior Quiz

Scan here for the Junior Quiz

Green Schools

St. Farnan's Green Schools is thrilled to announce that we are recent recipients of An Taisce's Green Flag for Litter & Waste. Thanks to the huge work and dedication of our extremely committed Green Schools team working in conjunction with our school's maintenance staff, Mags, Jim & PJ. Well done to all involved!

(Thank you to Ms Jardine and her dedicated Green School team)





Sports Day

On the 14th of May, students enjoyed a jam packed Sports Day. Throughout the day, everyone took part in badminton, table tennis, soccer, volleyball, rounders, athletics, basketball and obstacle courses. Despite a few showers of rain, the spirits remained high. The day ended on a high note with a visit from the ice cream van and an entertaining teachers vs students soccer match, where the teachers claimed a memorable 3–0 victory, still undefeated. Thanks to the PE department for organising such a fun day for all of the students! (*Thank you to Ms Mc Kenna for your contribution!)*

















Shuttle Showdown

The first ever St Farnan's Badminton ***'Shuttle Showdown'*** took place this term, with senior students and teachers battling it out in a doubles tournament filled with impressive rallies, friendly competition and plenty of entertainment. It was especially great to see so many staff members picking up a badminton racket again for the first time in years!
After a series of brilliant matches, the winners of the inaugural Shuttle Showdown were:

🥇 **1st Place:** Ms McLoughlin & Ms Cahill
🥈 **2nd Place:** Mr Purcell & Jim
🥉 **3rd Place:** Sakith Premaratne & Charlie Tierney

A huge thank you to everyone who took part, supported the event and helped create such a great atmosphere. Special thanks to Mr Delaney, TY Future Leaders, Ms. McLoughlin & Ms Cahill for organising the tournament.

We look forward to seeing you all at next year's '**Shuttle Showdown**'!















1st Year Boys Soccer Leinster Final

Hard luck to our First Year boys who lost out on penalties against a very strong St Oliver's (Oldcastle) side in their Leinster final in Kilcock. (Special thanks to Daragh Mc Ginley for taking care of the photography and also to Aidan Brereton who wrote the match report!The final score was 0-0 (5-3 on pens).

The first half saw two very attacking teams go at each other from the very first whistle. St Farnan's found themselves playing against a very strong wind in the first half but it didn't stop our lads from creating chances in the half, but none of which we could score

The second half saw our lads playing the better of the two sides with many chances being created and a strong wind assisted them. Mid way through the second half, St Farnan's Luke Maguire was very unlucky after his effort on goal rebounded off the post to keep the sides level.
St Oliver's displayed some excellent defending in the closing stages of the second half which forced the game to extra time.

Extra time was a continuation of normal time with chances for both sides being created, but unfortunately neither team could manage to hit the back of the net. After a 0-0 scoreline at the end of extra time, the game was heading to penalties. In the end, it was St Oliver's who came out winners after the penalty shootout, finishing 5-3 in their favour.

The star performances on the day were; Sean Tierney, David Otobore, Dexter Powell and Sam Sanchezo.













1st Year Boys Soccer Leinster Final- A Personal Report by Dexter Powell (1st Year)



My first year playing football for St Farnan's has been fun and exciting! Our first match started strong with a spectacular 7-2 win over Athy CC. I was happy with my performance as I got 3 goals and an assist. We faced Portlaoise in a wet, mucky game and had another nice win! We played against Portlaoise again in the Midlands final, it was a tough and tight game but went to penalties after a 5-5 draw with Alex Behan scoring the final penalty.

We had a good win over CBS New Ross in the Leinster Semi Final which ended 8-1. This was a great achievement- we had got into the Leinster Final! We played against St Oliver's Oldcastle. It was a very tough game but the lads kept positive heads. We had the most possession in the first half and their keeper made a few good saves. In the second half both teams were still struggling to get the ball into the net. We had the most possession and kept creating chances so the lads stayed relaxed and composed. After a long hour and twenty minutes of additional time, the match went to penalties! After 9 stressful penalties had been played, we were unlucky and lost 5-4.

It has been a great experience representing the schools First and Second Year football teams this year! I can't wait for next year, so we can try again with all the lads and our hardworking and committed coaches Mr Martin and Mr Curtin.

(Thanks to Dexter Powell for your lovely contribution!)



HSCL

This term has been another busy and positive one within our school community, with lots of opportunities for collaboration, learning and celebration. We were delighted to welcome Karen from Crafty Craic to St Farnan's to facilitate a Botanical Art workshop with our parents and guardians. It was wonderful to see such creativity, conversation and community spirit throughout the session.

As part of our continued work around wellbeing and online safety, Garda Dave Prendergast visited the school to speak with our 1st and 2nd Year students about digital footprint, online responsibility and cyberbullying. This formed part of a collaborative day of awareness and education, which concluded with Paula O'Connor delivering her parent workshop, "Don't Be Mean Behind Your Screen". Paula's talk gave valuable insight into the online world young people are navigating daily and highlighted the importance of communication, boundaries and support between home and school.

One of the real highlights of this term was celebrating the success of three Garda Youth Award winners connected to our school community. Congratulations to Ben Byrne Symes, who received the Special Achievement Award in recognition of the positivity, resilience and determination he brings to school life each day. Congratulations also to Yeva Shyskina, who was recognised for her commitment to volunteering and supporting both homeless and aid charities in Ukraine, while continuing her academic studies in both Ukraine and Ireland. Finally, congratulations to the St Kevin's GAA All Star Mentors for their continued promotion of inclusion and for the positive impact they have on the students of St Farnan's and the wider community. We are incredibly proud to see young people and community groups recognised for the kindness, leadership and quiet support they show to others.

On a personal note, as I prepare to return to the classroom after five years in the HSCL role, I want to sincerely thank the parents and guardians who engaged with me throughout that journey. Whether it was through a phone call, a meeting in school, a home visit, a difficult conversation or simply checking in, I always appreciated the openness, honesty and trust shown to me. Working in HSCL has reminded me time and time again that the best outcomes for young people happen when schools and families work together, support each other and keep communication open.

Over the past number of years, I have had the privilege of meeting so many families, hearing your stories, celebrating successes with you and supporting through challenges when needed. Thank you for opening your doors, sharing your concerns, advocating for your young people and allowing me to play a small part in their journey through St Farnan's. It has been a role I have genuinely valued and one that has shaped me both personally and professionally. While I may be stepping away from the HSCL position, the relationships, conversations and memories built along the way will stay with me. Thank you for your support, kindness and cooperation over the years, and most importantly, thank you for trusting us with your amazing young people.

(Thank you to Ms Reilly for your contribution)

HSCL













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Transition Year Graduation

The TY Graduation was a wonderful celebration of a busy and successful year for our Transition Year students. During the ceremony, students reflected on the many workshops, trips, and modules they participated in throughout the year, highlighting the valuable experiences and skills they gained along the way. From educational outings to creative and practical learning opportunities, the year provided lasting memories for everyone involved.
Students were also presented with awards in recognition of their outstanding achievements, commitment, and contribution to school life. Congratulations to all of our TY students on completing a memorable year.









Farewell To Our Bright and Brilliant 6th Year Students

Congratulations to our Leaving Certificate students on your graduation and on reaching this important milestone. We are proud of all you have achieved and wish you every success, happiness and opportunity in the exciting times ahead. Tabhair aire daoibh fein- from Ms Sinead Noonan (Year Head) and all of your teachers.

















Farewell To Our Bright and Brilliant 6th Year Students



















Exam Tips for Junior Cycle and Leaving Cert Students

Time Management

- Start studying early – a little each day is best
- Make a study timetable and stick to it
- Practice with past exam papers using real time limits
- In the exam:
- Read all questions carefully first
- Don't get stuck—move on and come back
- Leave time at the end to check your answers



Exam Numbers and Organisation

- Learn your exam number – you'll use it on every paper
- Write it clearly at the start of each exam
- You must wear your FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM for each exam
- You will be assigned a seat on the first day, sit there each day
- Bring everything you need:
- Pens, pencils, ruler, calculator (if needed)
- Spare equipment just in case
- Paper will be provided
- Arrive early (at least 20 minutes before each exam) so you're calm and ready
- Arrive before 9am on the first day - Wednesday June 3rd
- If for any reason you are delayed/late, please contact the school office immediately on 045-868152
- Use the bathroom before the exam
- Stay in the exam hall for the duration of the paper, if you leave you will NOT be allowed back in
- Do not bring your mobile phone, smart watches, earphones or any books/copies/notes into the exam hall
- If you do not have an exam, you do not have to be in school





Eating and Taking Care of Yourself

- Eat a healthy breakfast before each exam
- Don't skip meals—it affects focus
- Drink plenty of water

- Choose good snacks: fruit, nuts, yogurt
- Get a good night's sleep
- There will be no canteen available during the exams, bring your lunch and snacks
- Students can go to the village to buy food if they have an afternoon exam
- Bring a bottle of water into the exam hall.

Final Reminders

- Stay calm—you are more prepared than you think
- Don't compare yourself to others
- When an exam is finished, move on and focus on the next one

You've got this, do your best!



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Retirement Reflections from our Wonderful Teachers, Colleagues and Friends, Ms Pamela Bracken, Mr Michael Wilkinson and Mr Owen Dockery

Ms Pamela Bracken



Retiring after 30 years in St. Farnan's

It is said that the 'days are long but the years are short', this is so true, as in the blink of an eye I have spent 30 wonderful years here in St. Farnan's and now it's time for me to move on to the next chapter of my life.

It's hard to put into words just how much this journey has meant to me. Teaching has never simply been a job for me; it has been a privilege and a constant source of challenge, laughter and learning.

From my very first 1st year class to my final 6th years, I have had the opportunity to work with generations of students whose energy, creativity, humour and resilience have left a lasting impression on me.



Over the years, classrooms changed, curricula changed and technology has certainly changed, but the essence of the work remained the same, encouraging students to find their voice, to critique independently and to discover the power of literature and language. Whether studying Shakespeare, debating poetry, preparing for Junior and Leaving Certificate exams, or simply sharing stories and conversations in class, the relationships formed along the way are what I'll remember most fondly.

I have also been fortunate to work alongside dedicated colleagues and supportive school staff who created a community that cared deeply for its students. Schools are built on people, and I have been lucky to spend my career among people who gave generously of their time, talent and kindness.



To all the students and families, I have met over the years, thank you for the trust you placed in me. Watching young people grow in confidence and move on to the next stage of their lives has been one of the greatest rewards of teaching.

As I begin this next chapter, I leave with enormous gratitude, many happy memories, life-long friends and the knowledge that teaching has shaped my life in ways I could never have imagined when I first started in St. Farnan's thirty years ago.

I wish the entire school community and families every success and happiness for the future. Leaving and Junior Certificate students, I want to wish you the very best of luck in you upcoming exams.



May you all have an enjoyable and relaxing summer break and come back refreshed in August to start all over again!!



Sincerely
Ms Pamela Bracken

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Mr Michael Wilkinson



For the past 31 years St. Farnan's has been much more than a workplace to me, it has been a creative space and a second home.

As I retire, I am looking back very fondly on all the many experiences, great friendships and happy memories that have shaped my time here.

One of the greatest joys of being an art teacher was watching students discover confidence in their own creativity. Art has always been more than paint, clay or sketchbooks, it is about imagination and finding your own voice.

To the many students I have taught over the years, thank you for your energy and the individuality you all brought colour and life to my own life and also the art room.

I leave St Farnan's full of gratitude and very happy memories, I will miss you all and the unique atmosphere of the art room where I spent many years. Thanks to everyone who has been part of my journey here. It was 31 years well spent with you all.

It has been messy , creative, chaotic at times inspiring- but absolutely worth it all. By Michael Wilkinson.









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Mr Owen Dockery



As I walked through the well worn gates of St. Farnan's for the recent 6th Year Graduation ceremony, a flood of memories washed over me. I was a mix of emotions: delighted to return to a place I had grown so fond of, yet feeling slight apprehension about stepping inside as a visitor. Spending twenty-two years teaching in one school certainly leaves an indelible mark, and this was my first time back since closing the door to R12 for the very last time a year ago.

Any lingering unease vanished the moment I was greeted by the warm welcome of the new Prefects. From that point on, the entire evening passed swimmingly well as I caught up with old friends.



It was wonderful to see so many of my former students celebrating this "passing out" ceremony. A graduation is a landmark event in any young person's life, and it is an occasion in which St. Farnan's has always excelled. The evening was a perfect symphony of teamwork and talent, and I thoroughly enjoyed the familiar, vibrant blend of speeches, awards, and music that makes these nights so incredibly special.



Regarding retirement, I have few regrets. Having spent thirty-five years in the classroom since I first stepped into Collingwood School in Surrey back in 1990, I knew I was ready for the next chapter. Schools, by their very nature, are highly structured environments governed by rigid timetables. It takes time to adjust to a life lived outside the bells, though I do take comfort in knowing the students will still show up whether I am there or not! In fact, my very last school timetable is still pinned up in my kitchen—a daily reminder of my newfound freedom. No more rushing back to the classroom after lunch; now, I can kick back and immerse myself fully in the *New York Times* puzzles. Trying to crack the daily Wordle, Connections, and Spelling Bee is truly food for the soul of a retired English teacher.



I wish Mr. Purcell, Ms. Cassidy, and Ms. Doyle every success as they lead the dedicated staff and students of St. Farnan's into a bright future. The school has grown and flourished tremendously since I first stepped through its gates in September 2003. I will continue to watch its journey with interest and admiration, immensely proud to have played a part in the history of such a wonderful school.



Owen Dockery
21st May 2026.

The Road Not Taken
by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth.

Then took the other, as just as fair
And having perhaps the better claim
Because it was grassy and wanted wear
Though as for that, the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black
Oh, I kept the first for another day
Yet knowing how way leads on to way
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages, hence
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I
I took the one less travelled by
And that has made all the difference



School’s Out, Let The Good Times Roll!

