



## St. Louis Grammar School

### Inside this Edition;

A2/AS Level and GCSE Successes/ St. Louis Centenary/ New York Trip/ New Prefects Elected/Team Sports back at St. Louis...and much more!

### A2 Results Success



A2 Level Success at St. Louis



AS Level Success at St. Louis



GCSE Success at St. Louis

### St. Louis Celebrating Excellence

As school life at St. Louis slowly got back to a sense of normality, St Louis students have once again performed exceptionally well despite the disruption to their education in recent times. The classes of 2022 demonstrated great resolve and have emerged with excellent results in their GCSE, AS and A2 examinations which were published recently.

St. Louis Principal, Mr Kevin Martin, had many words of praise for the accomplishments of the students and the staff of the Kilkeel Grammar School. "I am so proud of all of our students particularly our GCSE, AS and A2 students who demonstrated such resilience and perseverance this year. I am particularly impressed with how well our exam students remained focussed on their studies and engaged so positively with their teachers to achieve such fantastic results." Referencing the challenges posed as we emerged from the recent Pandemic, Mr Martin stated, "Our students adapted very quickly to the use of remote learning and engaged enthusiastically with teachers both in class and at home when necessary." He continued, "The marvellous results of our GCSE, AS and A2 students in such times is testament to the work ethos fostered in St. Louis, the dedication of our staff and the excellent support of parents."

This year's grades were based on our students returning to the Examination Hall and once again, sitting real examinations in May. Mr Martin was now looking towards an exciting future for St. Louis students. "We are delighted that the majority of our Year 14 students have been accepted for their university courses and we wish them well as they move on with confidence to the next level in their educational journey." He concluded, "We also look forward to welcoming back our Y13 students along with new students from other establishments who wish to join the school and choose from our wide range of AS/A2 and BTEC subjects on offer, I wish everyone continued success."



Mr Martin congratulates AS students on their GCSE Results



Bobby-Jo, Noel and Kerri sharing the joy of opening their GCSE Results

# St Louis Go Global



**“New York, New York”  
St. Louis in the ‘Big Apple’**

With life slowly returning to a level of normality, school life is also getting back to the fundamentals of teaching and learning, offering great experiences along the way. Geography field trips, Business studies industrial visits, Gaelic football and Camogie are all back in full swing. Furthermore, St. Louis have gone one step further...it's gone global.

It is fitting that in our Centenary year St. Louis have crossed the Atlantic and touched down in New York. Led by Ms Hill, Mr Rafferty and Mrs Grant, St. Louis students embarked on the trip of a lifetime, over four days at Halloween. From their base in Mid-town Manhattan, the St. Louis group were able to sample the buzz and colours of Times Square, Grand Central Terminal, The Rockefeller Centre, The Museum of Modern Art, The Empire State Building, Guggenheim Museum, Central Park and, of course The Statue of Liberty.

Dining at famous eateries such as Hard Rock Café, Five Guys Burgers, Famous John's Pizzeria and Ellen Stardust ensured the St. Louis party were well nourished as they experienced American culture first hand. Travelling on the Subway and getting the ferry from Battery Park to Ellis Island are experiences never to be forgotten.

One of the many highlights of their wonderful trip was the Broadway show 'Wicked'. The St. Louis party were also delighted to meet up with a familiar face, past pupil Sophie Colgan. Sophie lives and works in New York as an officer for Irish Affairs at the Irish Art Centre. She spoke to the students about her fond memories of her days at St. Louis, with her advice, *'Leaning into what your strengths are and making the most of opportunities'* settling well on the young St. Louis students.

Time was set aside for the New York shopping adventure before it was time to set their sights on home with memories and stories to tell of their wonderful four days in the Big Apple.



St. Louis students took a short detour through Central Park and are pictured beside the 'Friends fountain' and the Woman Pioneer statue. Inspirational!

## St. Louis Centenary– ‘100 years young’



The academic year at St. Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel, may have commenced as usual in September, but this year is somewhat special for all associated with the school. St. Louis is celebrating its centenary having first opened its doors to students in September 1922. St. Louis is planning a number of events throughout 2022-2023 to mark the occasion, but last weekend past students travelled from both near and far to Massforth church, opposite the school, to attend a celebratory Centenary Mass. Past students converged from around Ireland along with Sisters of the St. Louis order. Also in attendance were many past teachers who were delighted to meet up with the former students once again.

The Centenary Mass was well attended and Bishop Treanor paid tribute to the work of the Sisters of the St. Louis Order. ‘For them, active faith in Christ and the living and implementation of the Good News of the gospel, was key to each person and humanity achieving their potential, as created in the image of God. Your founder’s vision, as concretised in the work of the congregation here and around the world, which espouses the universal care of Good News of Christ for all humanity – how central Jesus’ prayer, “May they all be one”, was to his thought and writings – certainly inspired the inclusivity of St Louis, Kilkeel, Mr Martin also paid tribute to the sisters of the St. Louis Order. ‘We are indebted to the Sisters of St Louis for all they have done for generations of young people here and indeed across Ireland, England, Ghana, Nigeria, the USA and Brazil. The Sisters brought with them to Kilkeel a depth of wisdom about education, especially Catholic education, that is as relevant today as it was 100 years ago. “Noblesse Oblige” was the French expression used by the first St Louis Principal, Sr. Mary Louis, meaning in simple terms, “Each for All”, as she encouraged her pupils to fulfil social responsibilities.

Mr Martin praised the school for its contribution to generations of young people who have in turn made a significant contribution to society and the greater good, locally, nationally and internationally. He continued, ‘We have a distinguished history of academic excellence and success in other areas of school life, including sport, music and drama. Former students are leaders not only in Ireland but around the world – in business, the arts, government, science and civic life’.



### New Oratory at St. Louis



Amid the current celebrations for their Centenary, St. Louis Grammar School also celebrated the opening of a new Oratory at the Kilkeel school.

The new Oratory will serve a multitude of functions for the school in the future. The Oratory will become the focal point for religious services throughout the liturgical year as students gather to pray together. It will also serve as a place of quiet reflection for both students and staff members.

The Most Reverend Noel Treanor, Bishop of Down and Connor on his recent visit to St. Louis, consecrated the altar in the new School Oratory. Joining him at the blessing were many Sisters of St Louis, who travelled from across Ireland to participate in the ceremony. Also present were members of the St. Louis Board of Governors, former members of staff and St. Louis Principal, Mr Kevin Martin.



## New Student Leadership Team at St. Louis

St. Louis Grammar School have recently announced the names of the students who have been elected to the posts of Head Boy and Girl and those who fill the roles of Deputy Head Boys and Girls for the Academic Year 2022-23. The posts of Head Girl and Head Boy for 2022-23 went to Cathleen Garland (formerly of St. Malachy's Primary School, Castlewellan) and David Girvan (Grange Primary School). To assist them in their duties Laura Barton (St. Mary's Primary School, Newcastle) and Tori Herron (St. Colman's Primary School, Kilkeel) were appointed to the roles of Deputy Head Girls. Peter Doran (St. Mary's Primary School, Glasdrumman) and Ethan Culpin (St. Bronagh's Primary School, Ros-trevor) were appointed to the roles of Deputy Head Boys. Head of Year 14, Mr Anthony Monaghan, congratulated the students on their election to the coveted positions, 'I have great confidence that these students will prove to be fine ambassadors for St. Louis Grammar School. Cathleen, David, Laura, Ethan, Tori and Peter will also play a prominent role in St. Louis School Council, which provides the students with a forum by which students can contribute constructively to enhancing their school environment.



St. Louis U-16 Girls Gaelic Football



## New Prefects Elected

Senior students have always played a central role in school life at St. Louis. The annual election of Sixth Form Prefects offers those students the opportunity to assume roles of responsibility, offering assistance to the daily running of the school in many ways. Organising charitable events, mentoring junior students in Maths and English, carrying out duties at lunch time, monitoring bus travel and representing the school at events are but a few roles of a Prefect.

Prefects act as role models for other students in the school, creating an image to which all students can aspire towards. We are confident that our new prefects will fulfil their role with distinction over the next two years.

## Team Sports

After the disruption brought about by the Pandemic, our school Gaelic Football (Boys and Girls) and Camogie are back playing in full Ulster Schools competitions. All teams, so far, have performed well in their competitions, qualifying from the group stages to the quarter-final stages. Well done to all players and coaches.



St. Louis U-16 Camogie Team



St. Louis U-16 Boys Gaelic Football



St. Louis U-14 Boys Gaelic Football