

Spring/Summer

NEWSLETTER



Principal's Message



Dear students/staff/parent(s) and guardian(s),

As I write this message, we are coming to the end of another extraordinary year for our school community. Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate students are busily preparing for assessments in many of the creative subjects, and with the sun shining, graduation and state assessments in June, are fast approaching. For other year groups, summer assessments are to the fore in many minds. Over the past five months, January – May 2025, our school has continued to grow and develop. We, as a school, live out each and every day our four pillars – Ethos, Academic Achievement & Attainment, Sport and the Arts. It is a pleasure to lead this magnificent school, blessed by great people working and studying here, staff and students; supportive and enthusiastic parents and guardians; and the wider community and beyond. Our students are the key to everything we do and your achievements are what drive us: our sports teams continue to prosper and improve every year and with a total of nineteen school teams, male and female in basketball, football, gaelic football and rugby. Our athletics and sailing teams continue to thrive and our choice of recreational sporting programmes is blossoming. We now run four strength and conditioning classes, four mornings a week. Demand continues to grow and as with December Newsletter 2024, we have 75% of Junior Cycle students engaging in the Arts and Sports programmes. The Arts in our school are thriving and with the entry of a new, nineteenth subject, in the senior cycle curriculum of Drama, Film and Theatre Studies next academic year.

2025 – 2026, our commitment is very apparent. Our Transition Year musical “Beauty and the Beast” was a triumph in mid – March 2025, and the arts (music, song and dance) will be to the fore again on the 7 May 2025 with our third, annual Live at the Seafrost in our sports arena. We will end the school year with another Arts showcase for staff, parents and students on Thursday night, 22 May 2025 showcasing our students work in all Art disciplines - painting, drawing, ceramics, sculpture, photography, textiles and film. Opportunities for our students abound in every week in this great school – Transition Year students ventured to France and Spain with exchanges; the Italy Trip in April and Iceland Trip for Fifth Years. Barretstown at the end of April and all year groups had a blast on Tuesday, 13 May with day trips all around the country. A total of 40 Transition Years worked their magic in Barretstown at the end of April and all year groups had a blast on Tuesday, 13 May with day trips all around the country. Our Sixth Years embraced the national language and culture with a weekend trip to Daingean Uí Chuis and the Kerry Gaeltacht in March. A team of twenty Transition year students and five staff members will go to Zambia on the school's first immersion trip during Halloween 2025. Our school ethos continues to grow and develop in its prominence within our school community – key celebrations linked with our Catholic heritage are celebrated termly: Ash Wednesday, Sixth Year Graduation, Transition Year Retreats and a total of eight student teams linked with this – Ember, SVP, YSI, Amber and Ethos teams to name just a few, over the past number of months.

The opening of the school's prayer room has acted as an important meeting point for students and staff to pray and celebrate the school's Christian and Catholic values and be a place of reflection for all.

Teaching and Learning is to the fore in everything we do. Each week, the school has a total of 1433 one hour lessons for 772 students in 48 classrooms. Our staff - teaching, SNA, administrative, finance, cleaning and care-taking - provide the very best in instruction, guidance and commitment within and outside of the classroom each day. Our commitment to teaching and learning, training and professional development is to the fore in all we do. Our students continue to thrive and work hard in a structured and safe environment for learning.

As we move towards the end of the school year, our prayers and thoughts are with Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate students all the very best in June 2025!

Thank you all for a tremendous year!

Simon Carey



Deputy Principals' Message

Greetings to all of our readers!

The school year is hurtling towards the finishing line. As we write, Greystones is being bathed in glorious sunshine and excellent weather making it akin to a very desirable Mediterranean location! As the year progresses, we are conscious of our wonderful students who have given their best to Academics, Ethos, Sports and the Arts - the four pillars, fundamental to our school - throughout this academic year. We are delighted when you can find a place where you can feel happy and at home, where your gifts and skills can be enhanced, where you can feel challenged to move beyond your boundaries and discover other talents.

What a year of achievements we have had this year: in all the various sports within our school, and beyond our school, regionally, nationally and internationally; in Arts through music competitions and performances; in STEM through the Sciences in BTYSE, and Maths, national finalists; YSI national finalists; Formula 1 national finalists and many more too numerous to list. What stellar achievements!

In addition, there are students going on trips to Iceland and to Italy over the Easter break, with all year groups going on day-trips in May. And with all of these activities, the normal run of school classes and work continues.

We are very grateful to our wonderful dedicated staff, our teachers, SNAs, coaches, administrative staff, cleaning and care-taking staff, for their help throughout the year. Thank you all for your commitment, dedication and for working with us; we are very proud of you all.

Wishing everyone a lovely Easter and we all look forward to the fast-approaching summer holidays.

With every good wish,
Louise O'Sullivan and Huw Davies,
Deputy Principals



Senior Student Liaison Team



Head Boy



Colm O'Neill

Head Girl



Aoife Ryan

Deputy Head Girl



Grace-Anne Hassett

Deputy Head Boy



Ryan Leahy

Deputy Head Boy



Paul McGloughlin

Deputy Head Girl



Freya Duffy



Student Council



First Year



Liam Waters, Dylan Goodwin,
Ciara Lehane

Second Year



Kate Walker, Connor Farrell,
Zoe Burke

Third Year



Cathal Quinn, Niamh O'Neill,
Alex Tracey

Transition Year



Matilda Gustafsson, Alannah Lynch,
Hannah O'Carroll

Fifth Year



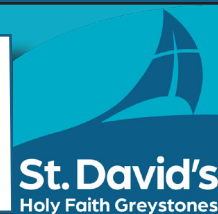
Lauren O'Leary, Shriya Mishra,
Holly Dunne

Sixth Year



Abigail Doyle, Alexandra Ryan Milligan,
Alana Murray

Student Council



Student Council Representatives 2024 – 2025

First Year
Liam Waters
Ciara Lehane
Dylan Goodwin

Second Year
Connor Farrell
Zoe Burke
Kate Walker

Third Year
Niamh O'Neill
Cathal Quinn
Alex Tracey

Student Council Representatives 2024-2025

Transition Year
Matilda Gustafsson
Alannah Lynch
Hannah O'Carroll

Fifth Year
Lauren O'Leary
Shriya Mishra
Holly Dunne

Sixth Year
Abigail Doyle
Alexandra Ryan Milligan
Alana Murray

Fifth Year Prefects



Caitlin Hanrahan
Deaglán O'Neill
Ellie Hall
Eoin O'Neill
Finn Morris
George Tattan
Grace McDermott
Holly Dunne
Holly Sheehy
Kate Macadam
Lauren O'Leary
Liam Simpson
Miguel Ramírez McMahon
Niamh Kelly
Nicole Maxwell
Paddy Marrinan
Poppy Mullally
Rían O'Gorman
Sofia McDarby
Stella Doyle
Travis O'Farrell





Official School Events



Whole School Assembly



The fourth Whole School Assembly of this school year 2024/2025, was hosted on Friday, 31 January in our wonderful sports arena.

There were many awards and certificates handed out today to recognise the contributions and successes of many students, including the PPU (Past Pupils Union) Awards for TY Students Lucy Barrett, Ewan Macadam, Luke Larkin, Noah Morgan, Jack Clery, Evelyn Kirwan, and Ben Gulyás.

There were many reasons to celebrate the sporting achievements of a host of our pupils beyond our school teams. Sports certificates were presented to Kian Quigley for his appearances for St. Patrick's under 20s team, Shauna Seifried for becoming Junior Ladies



Captain at Greystones Golf Club, Lauren O' Leary and Holly Sheehy, who were selected for Wicklow Minor Football Team, Lucy O' Leary who was selected for Wicklow under 16s football team, Paddy Marrinan who was selected for Wicklow under 20s hurling Team, Callum Clarke Twomey, Cillian Brady and Dean Barry who were selected for Wicklow Minor Hurling and Fionn Crean, who was selected for Wicklow under 15s Hurling. Congratulations to Teagan Mullally for the Reader of the Year Award, to Lucy Finnegan for winning the Excellence in Creative Writing and to Aoife Smyth for winning the Excellence in Creative Club Award. Finally, a special mention goes to Anna O' Driscoll and Rachel John for their excellent work in the Library Committee and Fostering Community Connections.

Think Languages Day

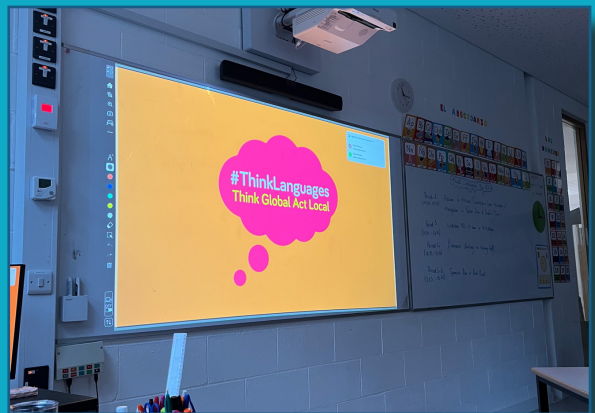
On Thursday, 5 December 2024, our TY students took part in the nationwide Think Languages Week. This week seeks to celebrate different countries and cultures from all around the world.

From face paint to bingo, each and every person enjoyed a range of activities linked with learning new languages taught by students from the year.

Special mentions to Lisa Phelan and Lisa Landwehr who both taught German to the year,

Aoife Smyth helped to teach the students some words of Portuguese, Tymek Kempa and Sean Costello, who taught the TY's Polish, Michael Simontsev and Ewan Macadam, who played Russian bingo with the TYs as well as some of the language; and Rachel John and Sophie Chen taught the students Illakkiyathangam Ramalingam Muthu taught Tamil to her year.

All students also took part in Flamenco dancing which was a very enjoyable way to experience the art of dance in Spain, and some laughs were had by all.



Three Schools Concert



On Tuesday, 17 December, 2024, St. David's Holy Faith hosted the Three Schools Christmas Carol Service. The concert consisted of the three local school choirs: St David's Holy Faith Secondary School, Temple Carrig School and Greystones Community College.

Head Boy, Colm O'Neill, and Head Girl, Aoife Ryan, welcomed everyone into the sports arena, where the concert was held. This was the second time St. David's hosted this spectacular event. Once Mr. Carey gave his opening address, a prayer was said by James O'Farrell and Lisa Phelan with the accompaniment of authentic Irish music played by the wonderful Trad Musicians. Then it was time for Temple Carrig School to take the stage.

To begin, the Temple Carrig TYs that were part of the choir sang 'Joyful Joyful' from "Sister Act 2" which was enjoyed by all as people began to clap along. They were then joined by the rest of the choir to sing 'Christmas Lights' by Coldplay and walked off stage with a huge round of applause.

The second school to perform were Greystones Community College who gave an almighty performance. Before they began, their principal gave a reflection and then sang the traditional 'Carol of the Bells' followed by 'Jingle Bells'.

Before the night ended, Mr. Carey gave the final prayer of the night and then our very own school choir took to the stage. The first song was of a large importance as it was written by Mr. Noonan to encapsulate our school. With the name 'Markings on the Sand', it helps to represent us as a school and everything that we are about. It was its debut and was a big success with the audience.

The second song was the traditional 'Silent Night' and then ended with 'Lully, Lulla, Lullay' which had previously been entered into the RTÉ Lyric FM Choirs for Christmas competition. As the final song came to a close, all three choirs knew that all of their hard work had paid off.

To end the night, a final speech was made by Mr. Carey and a big thank you was given from the Student Liaison Team for all hard work from every person involved. All three choirs then joined together to sing three classic Christmas songs of which everyone was encouraged to join in. Everyone was then invited to refreshments in the foyer of the school, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On Friday, 10 January 2025 our First Years headed into the RDS to support our eight students from Junior and Senior Cycle representing St. David's in this year's BT Young Scientist Competition.

The First Years had the opportunity to experience all exhibits on the show floor and explore all the activities and stalls available at BT Young Scientist.

We had two entries from Transition Year: Dylan Rice, Chester Medidas and Eoghan Waters presented their BT Young Scientist project on the build up of lactic acid in the muscles while Alannah Lynch presented her project on the distillation of ethanol from expired hand sanitiser for perfume production.

Kate Macadam of fifth Year presented her project on attitudes and awareness towards youth mental health services in her local area. Kate also had the exciting opportunity to discuss her project with President Micheal D. Higgins on Wednesday.

Ashley Cahatol presented her project on whether Vitamin D can impact adolescents sleep quality and mood, presenting her findings to former Taoiseach Simon Harris during the week.

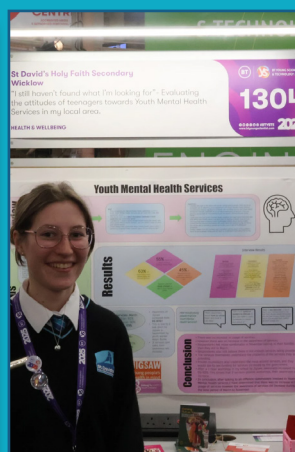
Poppy Mullally presented her project with a comparative study of the diversity and frequency of fungi species between native and planted forests in Wicklow. Congratulations to Poppy who won the national ISTA Senior Photography competition in the process.

Isabel Deane-Jermiin of Second Year presented her project on the differential impact of climate change on different regions of Ireland and yesterday she spoke to the former Tanaiste of Ireland Micheal Martin. Isabel also had the opportunity to present her findings to Met Eireann and was interviewed by the Irish Independent.

Finally, Fifth Year Shriya Mishra presented her cutting-edge project as she created a safer and more efficient verification and authentication system that aims to retrieve less user data. Shriya also had the chance to speak with former Tanaiste Martin, who was fascinated by her work.

All our BT Young Scientists did us proud but special congratulations go to Kate Macadam, who achieved Highly Commended in her category and Isabel Deane-Jermiin, who was awarded Second Place in the Junior category.

A big thank you to Mr. Lynch who has helped all the students prepare their projects in advance to the competition. And thank you to Mr Hassett and the Science teachers for organising this fantastic day out for the First Years.



BT Young Scientist

Christmas Jumper Day



On Thursday, 19 December, 2024, St. David's held our annual Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Barretstown. Students were encouraged to wear fun festive Christmas jumpers or Christmas colours. In order to take part each student had to bring in €2 which was then counted by a couple of TY students who are a part of this year's Barretstown team.

The charity the TYs were raising money for is called Barretstown, a non-profit organisation based in Kildare. It runs free residential camps for children and their families affected by serious childhood illness. They offer a range of adventurous, fun and challenging activities which are supported behind the scenes by 24 hour on site medical and nursing care. This year a team of forty Transition Year students are taking on their TY programme next April.

Teachers, students and staff members all got dressed up in their Christmas jumpers and created a great festive environment across the school. The transition year students had a blast at their Christmas party which included a fun quiz organised by four students, and watching a Christmas movie all together.

All together it was a wonderful day full of festive cheer. Thank you to all who supported this fundraising event!





19Twelve Art Exhibition

First Year

"Share our School" Day

On Wednesday, 29 January 2025, our First Year students and their grandparents took part in 'Share our School Day'. This day is dedicated to allowing our First Years the opportunity to share time with their grandparents or a special family member and see our lovely school. The guests arrived at 10:00 am sharp and were brought into the dining hall. Tea, coffee, refreshments and sweet treats were offered to the grandparents with the help of TY students.

There were many activities in which students and their loved ones could take part. They put their creativity to the test making Brideóg dolls. Brideóg dolls are often created as a physical representation of St. Brigid. They are made with wooden sticks and decorated with colourful paper and feathers.

Another activity that the children made were St. Brigid's crosses. These crosses can be made from many different materials like grass, straw and reeds and are woven together to create the symbol of the St. Brigid's cross. These are traditionally displayed on the front door of someone's house to mark the beginning of Spring! These amazing pieces of artwork are displayed on the St. Bridget's table in the main foyer.



Family members and students were enthusiastic about the day. One such guest, Tina, spoke fondly about her time:

'We just wanted to say a huge thank you for inviting us to St. David's this morning. Wow! The school looks absolutely amazing. On arrival, we were welcomed by some very friendly students who directed us down to where all the action was taking place. There was great energy in the room, with the students all set up with their reeds making the St. Brigid crosses. There was plenty of intergenerational chat, with copious amounts of tea and delicious treats on offer. It was great to witness such a bevy of industriousness!!'

I think it's safe to say that everyone had a wonderful time with their friends and family! This special event will be remembered for many years to come. We would like to thank Ms. Foynes for all her hard work in organising this event!

Transition Year

TY Musical

On Thursday, 12 March 2025, the tale as old as time, “Beauty and the Beast”, took to the stage in our Sports Arena for three evenings filled with remarkable talent! After months of endless rehearsals and tireless work, our Transition Years absolutely outdid themselves, from their meticulous dances and harmonious voices to their array of decadent costumes, they truly embodied Belle’s story.

Following the story of young protagonist, Belle, as she finds love in the form of a Beast in a desperate attempt to save her father, we saw our TYs take on the role of actors, actresses, singers, and dancers as though they had been preparing for this their whole lives. Whether they were directly on stage performing, moving the sets on and off in a frenzy, or working backstage behind the scenes on make-up, costumes, microphones, set design and advertising, we truly saw our students completely and totally immerse themselves in this experience.



The lively opening scene featuring the village market quickly transitioned into a harrowing chase experienced by Belle’s father as he navigated his way through the crowd in order to escape the wolves close on his tail, much to the audience’s surprise. The story’s numerous twists and turns, twinned with each TYs’ individuality thrown in, only made it all the more memorable! Their interactive performance was displayed throughout as Gaston and Lefou danced in the middle of the crowd, while Lumière, Cogsworth, Mrs Potts & Co. greeted our attendees during many dance numbers. The ultimate transformation of the Beast back into a Prince as Belle proclaims her love for him could not have been more perfectly captured by our young talents, and the shows were certainly lifelong memories for so many of us as a result! A special mention must go to the half-time shows put on by the boys in their skirts, ready to impress the ladies, not to mention their surprise dance number for closing night which went down a treat!

Of course, while our students undoubtedly deserve all of the praise in the world, we can’t forget who made this musical possible. Without the wonderful Ms. Murphy, Ms. Cronly, Ms. Aylmer, Ms. Carey, Ms. Matthews, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Coleman, Mr. Short, ably assisted by Grace Callan, and of course our facilitator and Principal, Mr. Carey, “Beauty and the Beast” would not have been the show that it was!

Spanish Exchange



On 16 March 2025, fifteen TY students travelled to Seville to meet with their students who previously stayed with them back in September.

The Irish students were greeted warmly by their host families and the students at the airport before saying their goodbyes for the night and going home with their host families.

The next two weeks were packed with fun activities everyday such as kayaking on the river Guadalquivir, walking through the streets of Seville and climbing the Catedral de Sevilla bell tower also known as La Giralda. In the second week, the students got to visit Cadiz for the day which was an exciting trip for everyone. The students got an opportunity to spend some time on the beach and swim in the warm water. The Irish students also had the chance to immerse themselves in the Seville culture and dress up in traditional flamenco dresses and learn the flamenco dance.

Overall, the Irish and Spanish students had a blast being together for the two weeks and taking part in fun activities together. The students were very sad to say goodbye to each other but on the 29 March 2025 the Irish students boarded their plane to come back home.





Clubs and Societies

Music Club

Music Club is run by Ms. Wilson, Mr. Lynch and Mr. Noonan. It takes place in the Music Room every Wednesday after school for an hour. Students bring their own instruments or borrow instruments from the Music Department and play in groups or altogether, depending on the day. Its format is fairly relaxed, we try to get everyone involved, sometimes picking a song and jamming along. The main events that take place for Music Club are the annual Christmas Concert and our summer concert in May - Live At The Seafront. Song bands in Music Club also compete in the Wesley Interschools Music Festival. Everyone in the school is welcome to join the Music Club.



Chess Club

Chess club meets at lunchtimes on Thursday in the Library. There is a team of four TY students who oversee activities, alongside Mr. Ó Donnchadha and Mr. Doyle. Throughout the year, there is an ongoing ladder competition, with students climbing or dropping down the ladder as they win games. In addition, at the end of March, we will be running our Annual student teacher competition, a championship format competition we have been running for five years, and which has yet to see a teacher reach the finals. The school took part in the meet at Glenart College at the end of October, with teams performing very strongly but missing out on the top spots. We did, however, win best dressed four our four chess pieces, pictured below.



Club Gaeilge



The Irish Committee, made up of five TY students and supported by our dedicated Irish teachers, works to promote the use of Gaeilge at school. In early September, three students represented the committee at Gael Linn's headquarters on Dame Street. Surrounded by passionate students from other schools, they debated the lack of government funding for the Irish language and culture. After the debate, they enjoyed Domino's Pizza for lunch. The day continued with brainstorming sessions on ways to encourage more Gaeilge use in school, including social media, quizzes, and céilís. The students left with fresh ideas and a renewed commitment to promoting the language.

The school choir is in full swing this year, filling the halls with harmony and enthusiasm! From uplifting morning rehearsals to exciting performances and competitions, our talented singers are always working hard. Most recently, we are competing in the Wesley College Interschools Musical Festival- stayed tuned to find out how we do! Interested in joining? New voices are always welcome!

Choir



Debating club



This term, our junior debating team—Clark Kelly, Anna Cooke, Leila Mellet and James Carroll—secured an impressive victory against G.C.C. in the first round of the Rise at the Cove - Junior Debate League. Guided by the dedicated mentorship of Transition Year student Farrah Gallagher, the team successfully argued in favour of the motion “This house believes that public figures should be held to higher ethical standards.”

Next, they will face Temple Carrig as the opposition to the motion “This house believes that artificial intelligence is a threat to humanity.”

The Debating Club continues to meet every Monday after school. No experience is necessary—everyone is welcome, and we would love to see new faces join!

Trad Group

Another one of our Clubs and Societies is our Trad Group. This group is spearheaded by our Gaeilge teacher, Ms. Woods. The Trad Group meets every Thursday at lunchtime in the music room and are soon starting lunchtime sessions in our fabulous library in the new term. The Trad Group performs wonderful traditional Irish music, playing traditional instruments such as the Bodhran and the Flute. The Trad Group has had numerous wonderful performances, for example, they performed at the official school opening, and performed excellently during the TY meet and greet with the wonderful Gaeilgóir and author, Tristan Rosenstock. However, the Trad Group stole the show, with a wonderful performance of traditional Irish music, with Tristan himself joining in! The Trad Group hopes to perform a lot more in the New Year, and we have no doubt that they will steal the show every time with their wonderful music. If any student wishes to join the Trad Group, they can pop into F.11 or speak to Ms. Woods or Ms. Cronly.



Sports

Senior Boys Soccer



On the 7 January our Senior boys soccer team, led by their coach Mr. Doyle, faced Gorey Community School in the Wicklow-Wexford Cup quarter-final.

St. David's held their own in the first half of the game with defensive brilliance and attacking determination. The harsh conditions in Arklow made it a tough game to play. The game was back to back and ended 0-0 at half time, thanks to great defence from the lads and some great saves from Oisín Waters.

Early in the second half, Gorey opened up the scoring to make it 1-0. St. David's worked hard and were determined to equalise, succeeding soon after with a great goal from Max Synnott and assist from Mika Peterson. St. David's were unlucky to concede 2 goals after, but they came very close to scoring on multiple occasions. The game finished 3-1 to Gorey community school in an enthralling game of soccer.

With an unlucky loss, the lads will be disappointed but they had outstanding performances and won't hesitate to bounce back from this loss in the future. Thanks to Mr. Doyle for coming and coaching the lads!



On Friday, 17 January 2025, St David's Junior Boys Soccer Team lined up to face Wexford C.B.S. in the Quarter Final of Wicklow-Wexford Division 1 league. With a good warm-up under their belts, the boys of St. David's were ready for a big game.

They started off confidently, making skilful passes and tackles. Unfortunately the St. David's boys went 2-0 down into halftime, a score line that didn't reflect the game as the St. David's boys were in control of possession and had many good chances.

Going into the second half of the game, the St. David's boys were ready to go on and win the game, having many great chances to score, but were very unlucky. In the end, Wexford C.B.S. ended up winning, however we are very proud of our Junior Boys Football team and we have no doubt that they will bounce back from this defeat.

The boys should be immensely proud of their hard work in the Quarter Final. A big thanks to their amazing coach, Mr. Brady.



Junior Boys Soccer

Minor Boys Soccer



On the 21 November 2024, our Minor Boys Soccer Team headed down to Greystones United to play against East Glendalough. St. David's warmed up well and the game started despite the freezing cold weather.

In the opening minutes of the game Jack Corrigan scored a great goal for St. David's. As the first half continued St. David's retained a high level of possession in their half. Then Conor Shevlin had an unlucky goal attempt, just missing the net. Another great effort from Euan Darcy saw him head the ball and it hit the post. AJ Long had a volley outside the box. St. David's scored another goal by Jack Corrigan just before halftime. As half time hit St. David's were winning the match 2-0! At half time TY coaches Rowan Carr and Eoghan Waters gathered the minor team in to give the team a talk where they emphasised the importance of keeping up the good work.

Minutes into the second half St. David's gave away an unlucky penalty causing East Glendalough to score. Then Dylan Hatton-Donnegan scored a solo goal helping St. David's regain their possession. Instantly, Daniel Keaveny scored another great goal for St. David's. A vital save from Lucas Henrys helped St. David's maintain their lead. Then minutes before the match ended we had two more fantastic goals from Dylan Hatton-Donnegan and Conor Byrne.

St. David's had a great game winning 6-1. The boys should be so proud of their outstanding performance!

A special thanks to Mr. Cahill and the TY students for coaching the Minor Boys Team.





On Tuesday, 18 March 2025 our First Year Boys took on Wexford C.B.S. in the Division 1 Wicklow-Wexford League final. The lads have been eyeing this fixture all season and they were well-backed with all first years coming out to support the team. After some motivating words from their coach, Mr McDonnell, the lads were all pumped up for the final.

Right from the first whistle this was an exhilarating, competitive match with Wexford already having proven to be a tough side throughout the season with a series of impressive victories over opposing teams. However, St. David's always seemed one step ahead, controlling the game with their blistering workrate and steely determination. In the 27th minute of the game Jack Williams put a great ball into the box with the salmon-like John Bryne leaping up and heading it home to make it 1-0. The stands erupted in celebrations and for the rest of the half, David's controlled the game, creating a number of great chances. When the second half began, it was clear that a resurgent C.B.S. had emerged, determined to find a way back into the game. While the Greystones outfit's attacking line had a starring role in the first half, this time it was the turn of the defensive unit to deliver a clinic in how to shut out the opposition. The C.B.S pursuit of a goal was relentless, drawing a series of spectacular saves from star keeper Sam Large. In the end the team's hard work paid off when the final whistle blew with St. David's closing out the match with a 1-0 win, prompting joyous scenes both on the pitch and the sidelines.

First Year Boys Soccer



Senior Girls Soccer



On Friday, 31 January 2025, the Senior Girls Soccer team travelled the short journey into Bray to play Coláiste Ráithín on the opposition's home turf.

St. David's had a strong opening 20 minutes creating many chances. Unfortunately, Coláiste Ráithín scored from a free kick into the box in the 30th minute of the game. As the first half came to an end the girls were down by a goal despite the great effort invested.

The second half started and St. David's scored from a long ball in by Aaliyah Condron and a great finish from Laoise O' Gorman. Despite some great defence from St. David's, Coláiste Ráithín managed to break through in the last 10 mins finishing with a goal.

The girls put immense pressure on the opposition's defence in the last few minutes pushing for an equaliser. Unfortunately there was not enough time and the match ended 2-1, in favour of Coláiste Ráithín.

The girls should be very proud of themselves and their performance. and special shout out to goalkeeper Rebecca Howard who had some excellent saves!

A big thank you to Mr O'Donnchadha for coaching the girls.

Junior Girls Soccer

The Junior Girls' Soccer Team kicked off against Loreto Bray on 13 December, 2025.

The two teams were very even in the first 10 minutes of the match with both teams fighting for every ball. St. David's conceded an unfortunate penalty halfway through the first half which the Loreto Bray striker scored. However the St. David's team refused to give up and kept defending Loreto's relentless attacks until the halftime whistle blew. Hazel Prendergast played incredibly in nets claiming many balls in her box.

After Mr. Geoghegan's encouraging halftime talk the girls went out determined to pull the game back. David's created 2 early chances before Áine Ryan scored from great pressure in their box. Not long after Laoise O'Gorman scored an incredible goal from outside the box which flew in after an unfortunate fumble from the keeper. This brought the score to 2-1 which St. David's managed to hold until the final whistle thanks to some very determined defending and some amazing attacking play. Everyone played amazingly however two standout players were Laoise O'Gorman and Mae Browner. Well done everyone! And a massive thanks to Mr. Geoghegan for coaching the team.





On Tuesday, 25 March 2025 the Minor Girls' Soccer Team travelled to Raheny to play Manor House in what was a very exciting match. The girls had shown good form this season and were keen to see their hard work and training sessions pay off on the pitch.

The game was very level from the off, as both sides enjoyed relatively even spells of possession throughout the first half. However, despite the tense dynamic and finely-poised game that was unfolding, our girls engineered the first big chance of the game, allowing Emily O Driscoll to score the first goal.

However, Manor House didn't let that get to them, and continued fighting. A staunch St. David's defence did themselves proud, knowing that if they could just keep the opposition they could close out a vital win. Doggedly defending throughout the second half, the Greystones side managed to preserve their lead through to the final whistle.

The score was 1-0 at full time. Both teams put up a good fight but in the end our girls came out on top!



Minor Girls Soccer



First Year Girls Soccer

On 3 March 2025, our First Year Girls' Team faced off against Gorey Educate Together.

The match started very quickly with Gorey scoring a goal inside the first few minutes. It would have been easy for the Greystones outfit to be discouraged but they responded with an impressive attacking verve. St. David's quickly answered back with a goal, but it was unluckily called offside. However St. David's kept trying and eventually equalised after many chances with a goal from Bella Simpson to make it 1-1 at half time.

St. David's came in to the second half very strong having many chances but couldn't quite convert their opportunities in the final third. However, they put on a good defensive display, as Gorey saw their clear-cut chances limited. In the last five minutes of the game St. David's were very close to scoring a winner but it came off the crossbar.

Their persistence paid off, however, as just a minute later they finally managed to score with a goal from Saoirse Gallagher Brennan. The game ended 2-1, with St. David's running out deserved winners.



On Thursday, 7 November 2024, Mr Brady's Senior Boys Rugby Team took on St. Kevin's Dunlavin in a cup quarter-final. The match kicked off at 11:00am as both teams battled it out despite the terrible weather. Sean Griffin opened the game with a try and secured St David's lead early on. Unfortunately, a fierce run from St. Kevin's number 8 saw them stoop to score, allowing them to build a 5-12 score line. At half-time Sam Lyons gave an encouraging team talk, emphasising the importance of not giving up and encouraged players to continue working as a team. The lads fought hard in the second half with a new found confidence, dominating play for the second half but couldn't quite capitalise on their chances.

St. David's were unlucky with injuries as 2 players had to come off the field with a further player falling to a knee injury. The lads however played on and kept their heads up.

The standout performers were Cillian Brady and Levi Morgan. Levi made an impressive last ditch tackle to prevent a try. Cillian Brady produced a number of accurate kicks and great tackles.

The final score of 36-5 was not a reflection of their hard work.



Senior Boys Rugby

Junior Boys Rugby



On Wednesday, 15 January 2025, the Junior Boys Rugby team made their way down to Greystones Rugby club in order to play their first league match against Presentation College Carlow. Pres Carlow also happens to be our very own principal, Mr. Carey's, former school! As you can imagine the pressure was on for the first league match. This definitely did not get to the boys though as they put in a great performance against the side.

In the opening moments of the match both teams went out with their heads held high, ready to compete and hopefully win. The teams were quite equal at the start, with there being equal possession and opportunities for both sides. However, the boys found gaps in the Pres defense and secured three tries in the opening half. These were scored by James Ward, Leo Hannon and Euan Darcy. Jorge Duch Gomez also kicked a great conversion adding two more points to the scoreboard. The lads were full of confidence going into the second half. At this stage they were up 17-5 and were only looking to increase this lead. They successfully managed to do that, with second tries for both Leo Hannon and Euan Darcy. Leo Hannon's try was exceptional, he ran almost the entire length of the pitch and skilfully got past each defender that was in his way.

St. David's had a triumphant win, with a full-time score of 27-15. This reflects their great effort in training and outstanding performance on the day. And of course it wouldn't have been possible without their coach Mr. Cahill and assistant coach, TY student Joe Kavanagh. Well done to the entire team!



On Friday, 17 January 2025 our First Year Boys Rugby Team took on Oatlands College in a friendly. The lads made their way down to Greystones Rugby Club for a 10:45 warm-up. Special thanks to Noah Morgan and Eljah Pegman for assisting them during the warmup. With some motivating words from their coach, Mr. Davies, the lads were all set for the 11:30 kick off.

From the first whistle the boys came out roaring with Sam Large capitalising both a try and conversion to make it 7-0. With this momentum the lads were able to keep their dominance for the whole of the first half with the end tally being 38-0, with scores from Gethin Davies and Chris O'Brien before the half time whistle blowing at 11:55.

The second half began and St. David's kept their dominance, with players like Rhisper Barnard and Ryan Goth increasing David's tally of tries. The lads ended with a good victory against Oatlands with the final whistle blowing at 12:25. The final score was 60-7, with notable performances coming from Chris O'Brien, Gethin Davies, John Bryne and Sam Large.

Congratulations to the boys on their impressive victory!



First Year Boys Rugby



Senior Boys GAA



On Thursday, 6 March 2025, St. David's Senior Boys' Gaelic Football team took on East Glendalough in the quarter final of the Wicklow B Cup. The game started off with both sides battling to secure a lead. St. David's had a close opportunity at the beginning of the game with a shot which narrowly missed the post to open the scoring. However, St. David's hard work was soon rewarded with a point from Cillian Brady. St. David's were unlucky to concede a goal soon after, but managed to fight back to score two points in quick succession to equalise the game. However, after a couple of more unlucky concessions, the first half finished 0-6 : 4-1. The lads began the second half against the wind, but did well to bring the score back. After conceding a penalty, it looked like the game was gone for St. David's, but they never dropped their heads and managed to fight back. St. David's fought like tigers during the second half, winning most battles and keeping the ball in the opposition half. They managed to win and score a penalty, and kept chipping away at East Glendalough's lead. Only minutes to go however, with only three points between the teams, St. David's were unlucky to have concede an unfortunate score and when the ref blew the whistle to end the game. Despite losing the game 2-10 : 5-4, David's should be proud of their performance, with Cilian Brady and Darragh Shannon playing especially well.



Junior Boys GAA



Our Junior Boys' Gaelic Team gave us an outstanding performance earlier this week in Bray Emmets where they played Gaelcholáiste na Mara on Monday, 24 February 2025.

It was a thriller of a game with both sides being very close for the majority of the match. It was a tough first half for the lads but they battled hard. St. David's came in at half time 4 points down with the score being 2-4 to 3-5.

Our lads went out with the wind behind their backs, giving them an extra boost to kick on for the second half. The lads were two points down with 10 minutes to go when Luke Murphy came off the bench. They worked the ball well up into the full forward line with the whole team from the fullback line to the full forward line getting involved. Luke Murphy got the ball and with an excellent pass over the top popped it off to Patrick O'Boyle who finished strongly with a shot straight into the bottom right top corner of the goal.

After this our lads were in front by 1 point but not for long as many more scores were to come from Cillian Brady, Conor O'Sullivan, Patrick O'Boyle and Sean Griffin to secure their win with the final score being St David's 7-7 : 5-7 Gaelcholáiste na Mara.

Well done lads and thank you to their coach Mr. Crowe!

On Tuesday, 1 April (April Fools Day) 2025 our first Year Boys Gaelic Team had an excellent win over Avondale Community College. The match kicked off just shortly after 11 am.

The lads started off strong with great defence. 10 minutes into the first half John Byrne scored a free kick, to put us ahead, the lads kept up a strong attack and finished the first half 1-2 : 0-4 to Avondale.

Although the second half was tight, our lads stood their ground in defence and powered through in attack with strong performances from John Byrne, Sean Levins, and Chris O'Brien, they came out on top with a final score of 2-6 : 1-11. To finish off the day our head coach Mr. Short gave a strong team talk.

Well done to the lads and their coach, Mr. Short!





On Friday, 17 January 2025, our Senior Girls' Gaelic Team made the long bus journey to Dunleer, County Louth, to play against Scoil Uí Mhuirí in the quarter final of their Leinster campaign. Both sides consisted of strong and talented players, it was bound to be a great game. Before the game began captain Lauren O'Leary shared some words of wisdom with her teammates. The match kicked off at 11am.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí won the first ball of the game and converted 2 points before St. David's retaliated with a point by Holly Sheehy. The girls had the tough challenge of playing into a blustery wind making it difficult to convert scores. Play was back and forth for most of the game, there was great defending from our backline and some excellent saves by Goalkeeper Aaliyah Condron. Unfortunately, things were just not coming together for the St. David's girls, when the whistle blew for halftime St. David's were down by 6 points.

During half time Ms. O'Gorman gave the girls an encouraging talk before heading back out on the pitch.

When the whistle went for the second half, the girls got in the game straight away with a brilliant new energy and determination. The girls got some great scores on the board including scores from Aisling Casey, Aoife Fox Charlotte Hudson and Holly Sheehy. St. David's managed to get back within 2 points of Scoil Uí Mhuirí. Things were looking hopeful but unfortunately Scoil Uí Mhuirí scored a lucky goal in the dying minutes of the match, this goal brought their lead back to 5 points. This match did not go in our favour, but an amazing effort was put in by all.



Senior Girls GAA



Junior Girls GAA

On Monday, 7 April 2025, St. David's Junior Girls GAA Team took on local rivals, Temple Carrig, in Éire Óg GAA club. Competition was high as they were playing against a neighbouring school in Greystones. As well as that, if the girls lost this match they would be eliminated from their league competition.

With a delayed start time of 1:30, the girls took to the field and began to play with fierce determination. Temple Carrig got in with a point in the opening seconds of the match. This did not bother our girls, as they bounced back immediately scoring multiple goals. At one stage a boot split in half, and St. David's were a player down, but with a bit of luck this led to an excellent goal being scored. Thanks to a bit of tape St. David's could now further increase their lead with all players on the pitch.

Going into the second half, the girls had even more ambition to increase their already strong lead. This was done thanks to all the girls and their incredible teamwork but a special mention to Poppy Smith, Isobel Keating, Naoise Morris and Siún Ní Dhálaigh for their outstanding performance.

The girls had an incredible victory over Temple Carrig with a final score of 7-19 to 2-7. Well done to the girls and their coach Mr. Geoghegan on the well deserved win. On to the semi-finals now!



First Year Girls GAA



St. David's started the first half strongly with the first point of the game. St. David's continued to dominate the first few minutes of the first half scoring another 2 points. St. Kevin's replied with a well-worked point to open their account. St. Kevin's went on to score 2 more points to level the game. St. Kevin's scored another two points to take the lead before St. David's scored a goal and another point to take back the lead by 2 points. St. David's continued to drive on and kept the scores coming. With a great first half the girls came in with a score of St. David's 11-6:0-5 St. Kevin's. St. Kevin's took the opening score in the second half and brought the score back to a 1 point lead with St. David's also scoring another point. St. Kevin's get another score to level the game for the second time. St. David's score was a great team goal to take back the score by 3 points. But St. Kevin's replied with a goal as well to level the game for the third time. St. Kevin's worked the ball around the St. David's 45 and converted a well worked point to put them back in the lead. St. Kevin's get another goal but St. David's immediately come back with another goal to keep it at a 1 point lead to St. Kevin's. St. David's got another point to level the game once again for the fourth time in the match! St. David's scored again to take back the lead. But St. Kevin's got another good point to level the game AGAIN for the 6th time. St. David's scored another goal to take the lead back by 3 going into the last few minutes of the game. But again St. Kevin's scored a goal to level the game for the 7th time this is a nail biting last few minutes to watch. St. Kevin's took the lead by 1, resulting in absolute heartbreak in Dunlavin as our girls lost to St. Kevin's by a single point but it's safe to say our girls put their all into it and we're very proud of them.





The St David's U19s Girls' Basketball team took on Woodbrook College on Tuesday, 3 December.

The match was a close and exciting game. David's took an early 4 point lead in the opening moments of the first quarter and kept this lead up by scoring another 4 points, by the end of the first quarter David's were in the lead, score was 8:6.

In the 2nd quarter the team played amazing and furthered their lead to ten points with 2 great baskets from Grace and Helena.

In the 3rd quarter Woodbrook had a relentless attack and scored 3 baskets, tightening the gap between the 2 sides.

In the 4th quarter David's played incredibly, scoring a further more 6 baskets while defending well and only allowing Woodbrook to score 2 baskets.

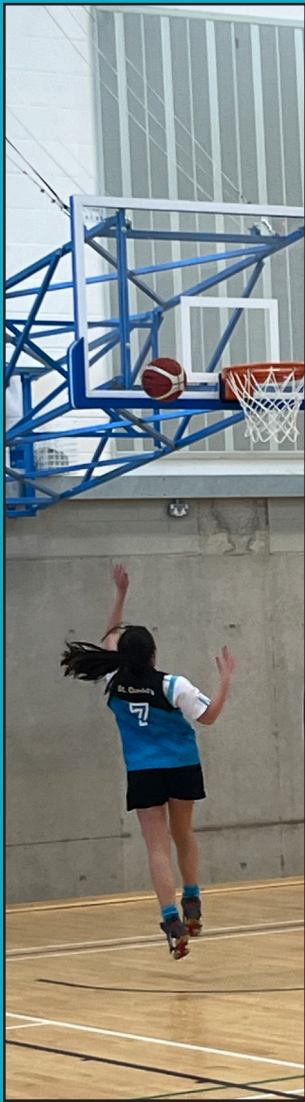
In the spirit of fun and basketball but certainly not Maths, a fifth quarter was played in which both teams showed determination until the end of the game. By the end of all 5 quarters the final score was 34 points to David's and 24 points to Woodbrook.

All players played brilliantly however a stand out player was Aoife with a total of 6 baskets.

Well done everyone! A massive thank you to Ms. Courtney for coaching the girls.

U19 Basketball

U16 Basketball



On 12 May 2025, Ms. Dempsey's U16 Basketball Team travelled out to National Basketball Arena to play in the final against a strong team from Tipperary. St. David's were backed by a large support group from various years. A huge shoutout to Ellie and Teagan from sixth year and Niamh Doherty and Niamh Holohan from second year.

St. David's began their warmup at 12:15 that was led by Ms. Dempsey. The girls practiced their shooting and defending skills.

St. David's had a strong start with quick baskets from Lilly and Helena. They were supported by great words of encouragement from basketball guru, Chester Medidas. The team played really well, with excellent defending skills. St. David's led throughout the match and went on to secure the plate final's win with a score of 30-15. The atmosphere was electric throughout the Sports Arena.

Well done to the U16 Girls team for their impressive performance and dedication throughout the game.





Extracurricular Recreational Sports

Golf

One of our most exciting new Extracurricular Activities is Golf. This activity has only been around for a few years, however has already achieved success. During this year, Golf in the school has grown massively, with Junior Boys and Girls playing in Bray Golf Club 10 October 2024 in a Leinster qualifier for the All Ireland Final. The Seniors also played in their respective qualifier in Old Conna Golf Course on 26 September. Out of these qualifying matches, two players from St. Davids, Shauna Seifried and Ultan Moran managed to qualify for the All Ireland Final in Milltown Golf Club on the Monday, 29 April. There have also been TYs competing for their respective clubs over the year, and fifth year student Shauna Seifried became the Junior Girls Captain in Greystones Golf Club. A big thank you to Mr. Doyle for organising this great extracurricular activity.



Sailing

Another one of our excellent extracurricular activities is our Sailing Team. The Sailing Team has already competed in multiple competitions this year, finishing in very strong and encouraging positions each time. The most recent competition our magnificent Sailing Team took part in was on 7 March 2025 in Dun Laoghaire. The Sailing Team takes part in both team racing events and regattas. Our magnificent Sailing Team is led by the wonderful Ms. Cavey and team captain Fionnain Gallagher Kilbane. If anyone wishes to join the Sailing team, feel free to contact Ms. Cavey.

Girls S&C



One of our newer Extra-curricular Activities is Girls Strength and Conditioning. This programme is run by the wonderful Ms. Dempsey and Joey Haliwax and takes place in the mornings at 7:45 am to 8:30 am before school starts. This programme is open to any Junior Girls who are a part of a competitive team in the school. A big thank you to Ms. Dempsey for organising this amazing activity.

Similar to Girls Strength and Conditioning, Boys Strength and Conditioning is another one of our brilliant Extracurricular Activities. Boys Strength and Conditioning is on every Thursday from 7:45 am to 8:30 am, before school starts. Boys Strength and Conditioning is available to all Junior Boys who are a part of a competitive sport team in the school. This programme is run by Wicklow GAA's Head of Athletic Development Gavin Weir and Mr. Short

Boys S&C





Athletics

On 22 January 2025, St. David's fielded several incredible teams for the Senior boys, Inter boys and girls, Junior boys and girls and Minor girls events in the 2025 East Leinster Cross Country Championship.

Rían O'Gorman represented the senior boys with a remarkable time of 19:56 in a 5km race. He was extremely determined and focused throughout the race. Moya Marrinan and Emily O'Driscoll ran in the Inter Girls category and showed extreme determination and running ability. The Inter boys was the biggest team put forward with four TY's and six third years to run 4km. Callum Clarke Twomey led the TYs with a time of 16:20 and Jack Corrigan finished with a time of 17:10 leading the third years. The Junior Boys and Girls both did incredibly well with a team of 3 representing the Junior Girls running 1.5km amazingly and Dylan K represented the Junior Boys finishing with a brilliant time of 9:25 over 2km. Last but certainly not least is Connie Lewis, who represented the minor girls: She had a stunning time of 3:59 over 1km earning herself a silver medal and 2nd place! It was an amazing day out and exhibition of the incredible athletes. Well done to everyone!



Run Club



Girls Rugby



Girls rugby is another sport that is thriving at the moment in our school. With both junior and senior teams going very far in respective competitions. The Junior Girls unfortunately were knocked out of the plate semi final recently, while the Senior Girls are in the plate final. For only the second year of Girls Rugby in our school, these achievements are phenomenal. A big thank you to Ms. Dempsey for coaching both teams.

Another one of our wonderful Extra Curricular activities is our Tennis Team. This brilliant team caters for both competitive and recreational players. There is professional coaching available for the competitive players, and the recreational players are coached by our very own Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Fernandez. Tennis training takes place every Wednesday after school from 1:45pm to 2:45pm. A massive thank you to Mr. Fernandez and Mr. Wiggins for giving up their time to run this fabulous club.

Tennis



Core Strength



Volleyball

