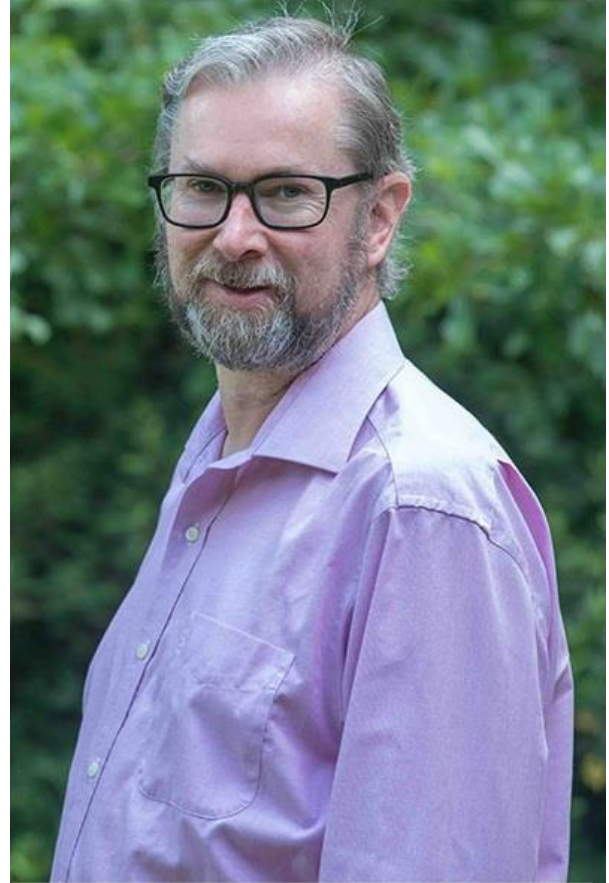




A Ground-Breaking Discovery

Following on from World Aids Day on 1st December this year, we hear from OA Dr Andrew MacLean (1989) how 2 inspirational teachers at St Aloysius' College set him on a career path that has culminated in him being part of a team, which has discovered a potential ground-breaking cure for a virus which has been a scourge on humanity for a number of decades. Dr MacLean shares how his foundation in Biology began "In The Green Blazer" under "Auntie" Sheila Geggan and continued under the inspiration of Frank Morris.

Dr MacLean, PhD, who is Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at Tulane National Primate Research Centre in New Orleans, is researching using gene editing technology in a promising step toward eliminating HIV.



He is encouraged by the findings and says "This is an important development in what we hope will be an end to HIV/AIDS. The next step is to evaluate this treatment over a longer period to determine if we can achieve complete elimination of the virus". [Read Dr MacLean's Q&A session here](#)

The Start of Something Great



Luca Alessandri and Adam Scott



Adam Scott and Dean Hunter

We would like to wish a huge congratulations to Old Aloysians Adam Scott, Luca Alessandri & Dean Hunter (Class of 2019) in their recent selection to the Scotland U20, 36 man squad ahead of an U20 Six Nations in 2021!

Our Virtual World

Virtual Events

2020 has robbed us of the many networking events, Year Group reunions and face-to-face meetings that physically bring us together as an Aloysian Community.

However, we have successfully moved our focus towards organising digital OA Talks to keep our Community connected.

The first of these OA Online Talks was held in September, when 36 guests from 5 countries joined Guest Speaker, Brian Hannan (1971) for “When Women Ruled Hollywood”. Catch up [here](#)

Our second talk took place in November, when Dr Lorna Gold (1990) shared her presentation “Faith in Business – The Call to Care for our Common Home”. Our OA Community joined in from Switzerland, England, Canada, USA, Scotland and Dr Gold was in County Kildare, Ireland, so it was quite a global representation! Catch up [here](#)

[Find out more about Brian and Lorna.](#)



In March 2021, our OA Online Talk series continues with Professor John Haldane, Emeritus Professor of Moral Philosophy at the University of St Andrew's, so do look out for details nearer the time.

Virtual Careers Guidance

Online events are the way ahead, and so making the best use of virtual technology, we invited OA Volunteers to provide “themed” careers advice sessions for senior pupils in S5 and S6. The response was extremely positive and for our inaugural Careers guidance session, we welcomed Solicitors and OAs Emma Stevenson and Lauren Fowler (both 2009). [Contact us](#) to find out more about how you can get involved.

Virtual College Tour



See how the College has changed in a City Centre Campus and take our [360 tour](#) to see some of your old classrooms and new buildings.

College News

Reflections on an Unusual Term from our Class of 2021 Head Girl, Scarlett Morris and Head Boy, Humzah Razzaq



Scarlett:

"The thing I enjoy most about my role is being able to reach out to younger pupils and make sure that everyone is heard and appreciated, especially during these times of challenge and uncertainty."

Humzah

"Looking back on the past few months, I feel proud of what the College and its pupils have been able to achieve in these unprecedented times."

[Read More](#)

An Historic First!



Chairman of College Governors, Joseph Hughes, has decided to step down, due to his all-consuming duties as Sheriff of

Greenock. His successor is Dr Isabelle Cullen, the College's first female Chair of Governors. Dr Cullen joined the Board of Governors in 2016 and has served for the last year as Safeguarding Governor as well as sitting on the College Bursary Panel. She is also a parent to 3 Old Aloysians and runs a busy GP Practice in the west end of Glasgow.

Aloysian Association Au Revoir



We bid a fond farewell to Dr Paul Rogers who is stepping down as President of the Aloysian Association, a role he took up in 2015. The new President is Dr Martina Rodie (1998) who is a parent at the College. Dr Rodie is also a Consultant

Neonatologist at the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow.

We wish them both well in their new roles.

Brain teaser



What is unusual about the following words?

Revive Banana Voodoo Assess Potato Dresser Uneven

If it takes 5 elves 5 minutes to make 5 dolls, how long would it take 100 elves to make 100 dolls?

There will be a prize for the first correct answer to both questions. Answers as usual to alumni@staloyisus.org

On This Day ...

Happy birthday to any of our OAs who celebrate their birthday today, 21 December. Other eminent Sagittarius personalities who share the same birthday are Benjamin Disraeli and Jane Fonda. Did you know that, on this day, in the year:-

- 1898 French scientists Pierre and Marie Curie discovered radium
- 1911 American professional baseball catcher Josh Gibson—one of the game's most prodigious home-run hitters, known as “the black Babe Ruth”— was born
- 1913 The New York World published the first modern crossword puzzle
- 1937 The classic animated movie Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs premiered, establishing Walt Disney as one of the world's most innovative and creative moviemakers
- 1958 General Charles de Gaulle was elected President of France with a large majority
- 1968 Apollo 8 was launched from Cape Kennedy (Cape Canaveral) and eventually completed 10 lunar orbits

Joke of the Week

My parents were wonderful, always there with a ready compromise. My sister wanted a cat for a pet and I wanted a dog, so they bought a cat and taught it to bark.

Chic Murray

Reflections

Having recently celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, we are aware of the importance of this Feast, especially at this time of year and you may remember it as being a holy day of obligation. We give thanks for Mary, the Mother of God, in this hymn from the Divine Office from Morning Prayer.

Star of hope to fallen man,
Holy light on earth's horizon,
Light amid a world of shadows,
Dawn of God's redemptive plan.
Chosen from eternal ages,
Thou alone of all our race,
By thy Son's atoning merits
Wast conceived in perfect grace.
Mother of the world's redeemer,
Promised from dawn of time:
How could one so highly favoured
Share the guilt of Adam's crime?
Sun and moon and stars adorn thee,
Sinless Eve, triumphant sign;
Thou art she who crushed the serpent,
Mary, pledge of life divine.
Earth below and highest heaven
Praise the splendour of thy state,
Thou who now art crowned in glory
Wast conceived immaculate.
Hail, beloved of the Father,
Mother of his only Son,
Mystic bride of love eternal,
Hail, thou fair and spotless one!



Gone, But Not Forgotten ...

John (Jack) Middleton (1939)



We remember “almost centenarian” OA John (Jack) Middleton (1939) who was born on 4th June 1922, attended the College in the 1930s, and who died on 21st June this year, the Feast of St Aloysius Gonzaga.

[This tribute](#) to Mr Middleton was written by Bishop Peter Moran (1952), who was a pupil at the College from 1943 to 1952.

Frank O'Callaghan (1957)



We also remember OA Frank O'Callaghan (1957) who was born on 31st October 1939, attended the College in the 1950s, and who died on 15th July this year. During his time at the College, Mr O'Callaghan captained the 1st XV Rugby Team and was a “key player” in the founding of the Old Aloysian Rugby Club.

[Read the tribute](#) to Mr O'Callaghan, which talks of his strong association with the College

A Festive Last Word from Matthew Bartlett, Head Master, reflecting on a Year like no other



Magnificat A special surprise – [listen here](#) to a recording of the Ben Parry Magnificat, sung beautifully by Olivia Collins in S1, accompanied by our very own Hugh Reid.

Eia Deo We hope that our unique recording of the Eia Deo will uplift your spirits and bring you some comfort and joy for the year ahead. You are warmly invited to [listen](#) and join in.

St Al's Nativity

- All Socially-Distanced and Mask-Wearing!

As 2020 draws to a close, we would like to thank you for your company over this challenging year. May we wish you and yours a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas and a brighter 2021. Stay safe and well. AMDG

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