

Presentation Secondary School Listowel

Summer Newsletter 2017

Principal's Address

Welcome to the Summer 2017 edition of our Newsletter.

Presentation Secondary School Listowel is a renowned educational establishment that first opened its doors in 1942. This year we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the school.

Quality education is all important and our excellent academic programme, that recognises each student's unique individuality, offers the finest start in life. We nurture, challenge, support and encourage all our students and in return, they respond with a love of learning, a passion for life and the courage to serve others.

This Newsletter reflects the wonderfully diverse range of activities that have taken place this past term. Some activities this term have stood out, for example the Leaving Cert Graduation Mass with Bishop Ray Browne, the Friendship Awards to First Years at the Awards Day Ceremony, the Transition Year Show and the excellent research project on Mind Mapping with First Years completed by three of the staff to mention but a few.

I am delighted to inform you that the Department of Education has sanctioned a new building to replace the old prefabs. As we celebrate the past 75 years let us also build a vision for the future of the school and look to improving the facilities available to our school community.

The Annual Report, which is a very comprehensive document that includes information on every aspect of school life in 2016-2017, will be published in August. It will be available on the school website.

I want to thank the Board of Management, staff, parents and students for their contribution to our school this year. We strive to ensure that our school continues to be a happy, nurturing and stimulating environment for our students where the importance of good, respectful relationships between all members of the school community is valued.

I wish you a restful and enjoyable Summer.

Kind Wishes

Eileen Kennelly

75 Years of Pres

Presentation Secondary School is 75 years old this year. The school was established in 1942. A Steering Group has been established to oversee the publication of a commemorative book to celebrate the anniversary. A Facebook page has been set up, inviting past pupils, past teachers and anybody who has had a connection with the school to share photographs and stories. This is a wonderful initiative that aims to chart the work of the Presentation Order in Listowel and to also allow the significant number of past pupils and teachers to tell their stories. Please contact the school if you would like to get involved in the publication.



Evelyn O'Flynn—Student of the Year



Muireann Carmody—Overall School Spirit



Deputy Principal Margaret Walsh and Principal Eileen Kennelly with Bishop Ray on his recent visit to celebrate the Leaving Cert Graduation Mass



Transition Year

It's been an exciting and event filled academic year for this very talented and hardworking group. After their main trip to Dublin in January to take in the sights and sounds of the capital, the activities have been varied and numerous. These included a trip to UL Campus and Activity Centre, a hilarious comedy show with Ger Carey in Siamsa Tíre, involvement with the Tourism Insight module run by IT Tralee, YSI events, a Gaisce overnight trip to the beautiful Black Valley in South Kerry, attendance at the Model UN conference in Killarney, numerous modules such as Drama and Taekwondo, and countless bake sales, quizzes and charity work for the community. The Work Experience and Social Justice placement programmes have continued to be a success, fostering links between the school and the public in North Kerry. As the very successful year drew close to a end on Awards Day in May, the group performed their hit musical "Sister Act" to a packed hall not once, but twice. Special mention to Ms. Kelly for all the musical direction and assistance. The group went on a water sports activity course in the Maharees before completing their TY tenure with the presentation of their portfolios for assessment. Their graduation on 26th May acknowledged and commended their efforts as a group that enhanced the burgeoning reputation of the school.

TY Coordinator
Eoin Hilliard



Social Media

We introduced a social media platform in September.

This included a brand new website www.presentationsecondarylistowel.ie and Twitter account @pressec_pss. In the past month we have launched our very own Facebook page which can be found @PresSecListowel. We would appreciate a like, a follow or even a look at the website.

Many thanks for your support.

Orla McSweeney, Elaine O'Mahony



Transition Year Musical

On May 17th, our Transition Year students performed their production of "Sister Act". The girls took on every aspect of this production including acting, choreography, sound and costumes. The musical was very successful with not a dry eye in the house as the students brought to life the comical union of Deloris Van Cartier, her showgirls and gangster boyfriend with the nuns of Listowel. Congratulations to all the students on such a wonderful production.

TY Musical Coordinator Emma Kelly

TY School bank



Once again our Transition Year students did a fantastic job setting up and running a school branch of Bank of Ireland.

There was a lot of interest in the positions advertised so interviews were held to select the most suitable candidates. Staff from the Listowel branch conducted the interviews and were impressed by the high standard of applicants. The bank was a great success and the TY group was well rewarded for its efforts.

The students also took part in a Learn-to-Earn programme over a 6 week period and were presented with certificates on its completion.

On May 3rd, the students, accompanied by Ms McSweeney, completed the course with a visit to the bank which was a great experience for all.

TY School Bank Coordinator Marguerite McSweeney

Book Club and Literacy



Throughout this academic year, a Book Club met every Thursday to encourage discussion on literature. This club has enabled teachers and students to discuss books. It has been a pleasure reading numerous books that I loved and loathed throughout the academic year and I can't wait to continue discussing books in the future.

Moreover, we are always striving to encourage reading and we aim to continue to do so. As part of our literacy initiative for this academic year, all Junior Cycle students are actively encouraged to read and publish a review of their reading experience on padlet.com. We hope to continue this into the next academic year.

Gemma O'Loughlin



Debating



This academic year saw the continuation of debating in Presentation. The girls competed in the Concern Debates and did the school proud, winning both of their debates since Christmas; defeating St.Brendan's Killarney and Limerick's Laurel Hill. We are delighted and extremely proud of the team.

Debating Coordinators Eoin Hilliard, Gemma O Loughlin & Michael Daly.



History



This academic year has been a busy and eventful one for History in Presentation Listowel. At Christmas, our 5th and 6th years along with Senior visiting students travelled to Belfast for their annual trip. We took in a black taxi tour of Belfast lead by ex political activists during the Troubles, visiting murals, peace walls and former trouble spots along the way. This was followed by a "spot" of shopping in the city centre and the Christmas markets! On the Saturday, we experienced the City Centre's unique past with the help of a noted historian before visiting the Ulster Museum. All in all, a great trip to help with our students' understanding of a Leaving Cert topic that can be experienced first hand. Our Second Years visited Cork City this term with students taking in Blarney Castle and the City Gaol as part of their study of the Junior Cert syllabus. As the centenary of the War of Independence approaches, experiencing first hand what prisoners went through in the Gaol at the time was eye opening and insightful. All non exam groups have been powering through the syllabus with the 5th year groups in particular coming up with some fantastic ideas (such as Bonnie and Clyde, H.H. Holmes and the Hamilton political scandal to name but a few) for next year's Leaving Cert project. In what has been a busy and stressful year for our Junior and Leaving Cert students, the department would like to wish all of them the best of luck in the upcoming exams.

*History Department
Eoin Hilliard*



Green Schools

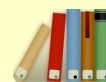


This year we were very fortunate to have Angela Wall from An Taisce visit the school on numerous occasions to help the TY Green Schools' Committee to work on the Travel Theme. Traffic Audits were carried out and these were submitted to Kerry Co Council. We are delighted to see two new Pedestrian Crossings put in place which will enhance the safety of our students who walk to school. We work closely with the Listowel Tidy Towns Committee. The TY students actively took part in the National April Spring Clean Event and we wish Listowel Tidy Towns every success in their quest to secure the overall Tidiest Small Town Award. I wish to thank the entire school community for their commitment to greatly reducing waste in the school and we received a certificate from our waste collection company commending us on our commitment to recycling. We look forward to 2017/18 when we will be awarded our 4th Green Flag.

"If I could not walk far and fast, I think I should just explode and perish" Charles Dickens.

Green Schools' Co-Ordinator Margaret Daly

Library



A READER LIVES A THOUSAND LIVES BEFORE HE DIES. THAN A MAN WHO NEVER READS LIVES ONLY ONE. - George R.R Martin, 'Game of Thrones'

During the past school year, we carried out a survey of 1st year students, to canvass their opinions on which titles they would like to see in the school library. The results will be collated and a selection of titles, reflecting the broad choices revealed in our survey, will be purchased. I would like to remind students and teachers that the library is open every day during lunch and all are welcome. I would like to give a special mention to one student in particular, Karolina Kowalczyk, for her help and support in helping to facilitate these opening times. Literacy Week took place from the 27th February to the 3rd of March, featuring World Book Day on the Thursday of that week. I would like to take this opportunity to thank students and their parents for donations of books during that week and throughout the year. I'm sure that these books will foster the joy of reading for years to come. We hope very much that you will continue to support us in this regard. A large project undertaken last year saw a wonderful expansion to our school library. This much larger, brighter space continues to be used by the book club for their weekly meetings. Our library is very much a work in progress and we will continue in our endeavours to create a warm, vibrant space where students can relax, unwind and escape into the world of a good book.

As always, happy reading. J. Normile.

Le Département de Français



The past five months have been very productive and busy for students and teachers. Junior Cert orals took place before Easter for the first time in our school. The students felt they benefited hugely from the experience and have made a good start to developing their oral skills. The Leaving Cert students worked diligently after school and at lunchtime in preparation for their orals. We wish them well in June. **Bonne chance à toutes.**

The First and Second Years attended a production by **French Theatre for Schools** who visited our school in March. The students were given an opportunity to take part in the play and listen to native speakers. The girls engaged well and the show was hugely enjoyed by all.

On vous souhaite de très bonnes vacances! Eileen Counihan et Muireann O'Sullivan

Learning School Project

This year, Michael Daly, Emma Kelly and Úna Scully carried out a Learning School Project whereby they introduced mind mapping to First Year students. First Years were taught how to do a mind map in their English, Maths and Music lessons. The methodology proved really popular with the students, and students found it useful for revision and to help them understand topics. We will continue using mind mapping with this group of students when they move into Second Year, and given its success, we will introduce it to our incoming First Year students in September.

We would like to thank all First Year students for their enthusiasm and cooperation throughout our project. We would also like to thank all staff members who contributed to our project in any way.

Michael Daly, Emma Kelly, Úna Scully



Athletics



Girls had a fantastic trip to Castleisland for the Kerry Colleges track and field championships 2017 on Thursday 6th April. 13 girls in total participated. They competed in varying events namely: 100m, high jump, long jump, 800m and 4x100m relays. The junior long jump produced a bronze medal for Eilish Harteveld while Hannah Healy and Ava Grimes made it to the 100m Junior girls final. Both junior and minor relay teams finished 4th in their races and were extremely unlucky and could have gotten a medal on another day. It was a fantastic day for the girls who represented themselves and the school very well.

Michael Daly



Sports Day

The annual sports day took place on Wednesday 24th May 2017 in the school. This was a day for both students and staff alike to unwind, relax and enjoy themselves after their long year of hard work and time they have put in. On the day students enjoyed fun, games and activities competing against classmates as well as students from other year groups. There was also some teacher versus student games. We encouraged all students to participate on the day and to enjoy it.

Michael Daly



English

Pres Listowel celebrated World Book Day's 20th Anniversary on the 2nd March with many activities organised throughout the day. We also organised the March Reading Challenge, where students were invited to complete one reading task a day during the month of March. This was a resounding success with many students engaging in the challenge.

The English Department would also like to take the time to congratulate Fifth Year student Erin Halpin who won an RTE 60 Second Short Film Award at Ireland's Young Film Maker Awards. This was in recognition for her work on 'Sound of Silence' with Fís na hÓige Productions Kerry. It is fantastic to see Erin enjoying such great success.

Listowel Writers' Week's 'Operation Education' did sadly not go ahead at its usual time year. However it will return in the Autumn and will include a live interview with none other than a native son, Brendan Kennelly. This can certainly be looked forward to with anticipation for our Fifth Year students in 2017-2018.

English Department

Michael Daly, Gemma O'Loughlin, Muireann O'Sullivan, Elaine Keane and Gerard Tarrant

Home Economics

The Home Economics Department has been busy over the last two terms as our Junior Cert and LCA 2 students prepared well and completed their practical cookery exams.

Our LCA 1 students prepared, cooked and served a three course meal for some of their teachers which was enjoyed by all. They also visited Listowel Castle as part of their Hotel Catering and Tourism module.

Our TYs completed the Safe Food For Life Programme in May where they sat an online exam. This is an industry recognised qualification in food hygiene which gives students lifelong skills in food safety and food hygiene.

Best of luck to all our Junior Cert and Leaving Cert students in the state exams.

Home Ec Department Ms L Whelan & Ms M O'Connor



Student Council

A special word of thanks to all the Student Council executive and the Head Girl, Tara Behan, who so actively engaged with the students on the Health School Promotion Initiative which identified mental wellbeing and awareness as key areas of focus going forward.

We look forward to continued liaison and engagement with Michelle Foley, Health Promotion Officer

Having started the year with an afternoon of bowling, we finished up with a lunch for all in the canteen.

Student Council Coordinator

Kay Kennedy



Soccer Team

The junior team had a shortened league campaign this season due to postponements and cancellations, with the highlight being our win against Pallaskenry where goals from Zara O'Doherty and Regan O'Connor in the first half saw the girls run out 2-1 winners in Tanavalla. Players of note included the aforementioned goalscorers, Ava Grimes in midfield and Aishling Kelly marshalling the backline in defence. With this win, Pres Listowel progressed to the Division Final of the Munster FAI Shannonside League where we were defeated 2-0 by a strong St. Caimin's side from Shannon. This year's squad are as follows: Ellie Shanahan, Tia Griffin, Hannah Healy, Aishling Kelly, Eilish Hartevelde, Ava Grimes, Emma Browne, Aimee Mason, Elise Harris, Kaoife Carey, Regan O'Connor, Cliona Pierse, Grace Scanlon, Kerrie Costello, Zara O'Doherty, Shannon Sheehy, Kelli McGrath, Labhaoise O'Sullivan Murphy.

Soccer Coach Eoin Hilliard



Badminton

Well done to all our students who represented the school in Killarney; Madison Carter, Eva Browne, Hannah Healy, Ciara Hudson, Niamh Canty, Rebecca Mason, and Marie Kennelly, Congratulations to Eva Browne, Hannah Healy, Ciara Hudson, Niamh Canty who won their division and progressed to UL to represent Co. Kerry. The girls played wonderfully making it to the final where they narrowly lost out to the Co. Tipperary team.

Emma Kelly

German



During this term the visiting German Students worked with 6th year and Transition Years to improve and practice their oral skills "Vielen Dank Mädels". They also made posters for classrooms illustrating "Ostern in Deutschland" und "Karneval". First Years researched Easter Traditions and presented their findings to the class. The girls sampled some German chocolate on the day of the holidays. We wish the very best to our 3rd yr and 6th year German Students. Alles Gute für die Zukunft. - Eileen Counihan



Science Dept



In early January our 6th year Chemistry students were visited by lecturers from the Chemistry Dept in UCC where they carried out a two hour long work shop called 'Spectroscopy in a suit case'. This gave the students a hands on approach to working and learning with chemical instrumentation as part of their Leaving Cert Chemistry course.



Our TY students visited Listowel mart as part of an introduction to Agricultural Science. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learned a lot.

The 5th year Agricultural Science students and the TY class planted two potato beds with Kerr's Pink potatoes in the school grounds. An investigative style experiment was done on both - horse manure fertiliser was used on one bed and no fertiliser was used on the other. The results of this won't be evident until early September when we will dig them out.

Our LCA 1 & 2 Science students had a visit from a guest speaker Jim O'Brien, Glin, Co. Limerick who makes his own cheese on his farm. He gave a very interesting and educational talk to the girls regarding the setting up of your own business and the making of cheese. We would like to thank Jim for coming to visit us.



Senior Biology students visited Killarney National Park where they carried out an ecological study of the woodland. They were very lucky with the weather and a very enjoyable and educational day was had by all.

Science Department Chris Kiely, Jacqueline Normile, Katie Murphy, Eileen Keane

"Pres' Got Talent"

A talent show was held on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime where a variety of students showcased their talents. Many thanks to the judges; Brian Coffey, Eoin Hilliard, Kay Kennedy and Emma Kelly.

Congratulations to the winners:

Our visiting students; 1st place

Niamh McAuliffe; 2nd place

Traditional Irish Group: 3rd place



Pres Got Talent Coordinator Emma Kelly

Art



The Art room has been a busy spot over the last few months from Art and Music week where we showcased work from all Art students and held music events, to photography projects by the 5th years, Art competitions like the Credit Union competition, to our Art and Music trip to Dublin in January, organising props for the TY school show and getting all our exam students ready for practicals, it's been quite action packed.

In January we had a wonderful time in Dublin on our Art and Music trip where we visited numerous galleries including the Hugh Lane gallery and the National Gallery, attended a night showing of 'West Side Story' in the Bord Gais Theatre and completed a hands on workshop at the Science Gallery. This was an invaluable opportunity for students to experience Art and culture outside of the Artroom.. On May 5th we were visited by Declan O' Meara, an Artist and Art teacher from Cork who worked with 5th, 6th and 3rd year art students giving both demonstrations and a chance to experiment with oil pastels to our students. An enjoyable day was had and some of the work can be seen on the school website. The Art department looks forward to what the school year '17/'18 will bring. The Art department would like to wish everyone a happy and creative summer ahead.

Art Dept Ms. C O'Riordan



Music



5th & 6th Year students travelled to Dublin for a 2 day action packed trip. They visited Galleries and Museums while taking in historical sights such as The Garden of Remembrance, The Dail and Trinity College. The highlight of the trip was going to the Bord Gais Theatre to see "Westside Story", which was spectacular



Edal Quinn 6th Year. She has played for all musical events since 1st Year & played during Music/ Art Week.

Music Dept Ann Foley, Emma Kelly

Gaeilge



An Ghaeilge Bheo Bheathach anseo !

Ghlac na daltaí san Idirbhliain agus sa chúigiú bliain páirt i Seó Bóthair Chonradh na Gaeilge arís i mblíana nuair a thug an láithreoir ón gConradh, Niamh Ní Ghoill, cuairt ar an scoil le déanaí. 'An Ghaeilge sa Ré Dhigiteach' an teideal a bhí ar an gceardlann i mblíana. Chuir Niamh na daltaí ar an eolas faoi na suíomhanna idirlíne agus na haipeanna is fearr chun an Ghaeilge a úsáid taobh amuigh agus taobh istigh den rang Gaeilge. Thug sí eolas dóibh faoi theanga na Gaeilge. D'imir na daltaí cluichí agus bhuaigh siad duaiseanna. Ba cheardlann bheomhar, nua-aimseartha í. Mar sin, bhain na daltaí taitneamh agus tairbhe as an lá agus thug sé spreagadh dóibh chun an Ghaeilge a labhairt. Is rud maith é sin dár ndóigh mar a deireann an seanfhocal, 'Beatha teanga í a labhairt'

Norma Dowling, Margaret Walsh, Elaine Keane, Kay Kennedy, Bridget O'Connor



$$? a^2 + b^2 = c^2 ?$$

$$y = mx + b \quad ? d = rt$$

Maths

The Maths Department would like to thank and congratulate all First Year students who participated in the Irish Junior Maths Competition. This year two of our students qualified for the 23rd final of the competition. They represented our school at the event and received certificates for their participation. The two students were Kate Murphy 1A and Orla Shine 1B. Congratulations and well done girls!

Maths Department

Elaine Hickey, Úna Scully, Bridget O'Connor, Norma Dowling

