



# Presentation Secondary School Listowel, Co Kerry Christmas Newsletter 2016



## Principal's Address

Welcome to our Christmas 2016 Newsletter. Here we capture some aspects of our school activities since September. I hope you enjoy reading about the diverse range of events and activities on offer in the school. We have had a wonderful profile in the media this past term. The school was placed in 46<sup>th</sup> position out of 400 schools nationally ranked by the average proportion of students in 2013, 2014, 2015 to attend university. We are one of the top 10 schools in Munster. There is a very fine tradition of academic achievement and care in Presentation Listowel. Two past pupils, Iseult O'Callaghan Leahy and Elaine O'Connell, have both received UCC Quercus Scholarships recently.

We were delighted to have Bishop Ray Browne with us on November 20<sup>th</sup> for the Presentation Day Mass. Bishop Ray will be joining us again in May for the Leaving Cert Graduation Mass.

I wish to inform you about a number of recent developments. The new Board of Management is in place. The Board met in October. The most recent meeting was on 8<sup>th</sup> December. At that December meeting the Board amended the Behaviour Code to include the new policy on mobile phones. The Board has asked that the Chairperson and Principal meet with the Parents' Association Executive to discuss increasing the numbers of parents involved in the Association, fundraising matters, the financial pressures on the school and how the school can support parents generally. The Agreed Report from each meeting is posted to the members of the Parents' Association Executive after each meeting. The Annual Reports from 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 are available on the school website. The Agreed Reports from the last two years form part of those Annual Reports.

We are introducing a new system for sharing the school reports with parents. Parents will be given a unique individual log in for our eportal system, which when accessed will allow parents to view their daughter's timetable, attendance record and all school reports. We will be using this system for the February and Mocks Exam reports. We are also requesting all parents to share their email addresses with us. In future all letters will be emailed to parents and guardians.

Our Learning School Project for 2016-2017 will focus on student learning, in particular homework with First Years. We are reviewing the Homework Policy at present. Discussions with the Parents' Association will form part of this review.

I wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation.

Beannacht Dé oraibh um Nollaig.

Eileen Kennelly

## TY

There have been a wide range of activities this term for our excellent TY group. These include: Surfing in Ballybunion, a trip to the TY Expo in PuncHESTOWN, a trip to the Ploughing

Championships, a Photography module, gym sessions, badminton and spinning as part of P.E. Students contributed to the admirable Tidy Towns effort in the area through litter picking in Environmental Science. TYs organised a Maths trail for 1st years as part of Maths Week in the school. The girls went on an Irish/History TY trip to Dingle taking in the Blasket Centre, 'Play at Heights' Adventure Centre and Dingle Aquarium. The students organised a School quiz in aid of the Palliative Care Unit in Kerry. Ms. Hickey helped the group to organise the Cheerios Childline Breakfast event to raise money for a wonderful cause.

Halloween was celebrated in the school with the TYs organising a quiz and fancy dress competition for staff and students. A number of students volunteered and contributed to the success of the renowned annual Listowel Food Fair in November. As part of Science week, TYs organized a Science quiz for 1st and 2nd years. The group visited Listowel mart. The girls assisted with events including quizzes and mentoring the incoming First Years on their Orientation Day in December. They set up and attended a stand showcasing the school as part of the Bank of Ireland Enterprise Event in Listowel Community Centre. They are involved in Social Justice and Work Experience on a weekly basis throughout the community. Upcoming events next term include a 10 week swimming module in Ballybunion, students tackling the Three Peaks Challenge and the three day trip to Dublin in January.

Mr Eoin Hilliard  
TY Coordinator





## Art

All students are busy working on projects in the Art Room. They are getting ready for the February exams. Two students won prizes in the Listowel Credit Union Art competition, Croí Mc Auliffe received 1<sup>st</sup> prize in her category. She attended a prize giving ceremony in Tralee on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> November. Erin Halpin in 5<sup>th</sup> year also received 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in her category. Well done to all who entered.

We have students entering the photography competition for Mental Health Ireland.

Fifth and Sixth year Art and Music students are being offered the opportunity to attend an exciting two day trip to Dublin in the New Year. We will visit a number of galleries and attend the musical 'West Side Story' in the Bord Gais Energy Theatre in Dublin.

We have added some lovely artwork to our website. Please take a look at it.

*Ms Claire O'Riordan, Art Department*



## Student Council



This year has been quite a busy one so far for the Student Council. We attended a training workshop with Pat Murphy to become familiar with our roles in the Student Council. During the workshop, we appointed

key officers to the Executive. As a 'bonding exercise', all members of the Student Council went bowling in Tralee. We had great fun. We are currently in the process of getting the Health Promoting School initiative up and running. We are planning a Mental Health Week in January.

*Tara Behan, Deputy Head Girl*



## English Department

It has been a very busy but rewarding first term for English students and teachers in Presentation. Numerous students took part in the 'Poetry Aloud Competition', with two students qualifying for the Semi-Finals. Congratulations to all who took part.

In addition, 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 encourage recreational reading and an atmosphere of discussion surrounding literature.

*Ms Gemma O'Loughlin*

## Book Club



We have a book club every Thursday at lunch time to encourage discussion around literature.

We meet in the library which allows teachers and students to communicate and discuss books. It is always a pleasure to discuss the books that we love and loath, while trying not to spoil the ending for others.

I know that my Christmas shopping list is full of books as a result of our enthusiastic bookworms.

*Ms Gemma O'Loughlin*



## Retired teachers visit



## Debate Team



This academic year saw the continuation of debating in Presentation. The girls are currently competing successfully in the 'Concern Schools Debates'.

Pictured are Eimear Daly, Tara Behan, Mary Murphy and Megan O'Sullivan.

*Eoin Hilliard, Gemma O Loughlin & Michael Daly.*



Pictured: Ann Dillon (Retired Deputy Principal, Mary O'Connor (Current Home Economics Teacher) and Bridget McGuire (Retired Business Teacher)



Sr Consolata (Retired Principal) and Mary O'Flaherty (Retired Business Teacher)





## Football

Our First Year football team braved the elements in Killarney on Thursday October 20th for their first game. With limited experience of training together and with no substitutes available on the day, this determined group of young girls played very well against a large Killarney panel.

The final result didn't go our way on the day, but with plenty of more matches in the this 'Presentation League', I am sure that there are many more fun days ahead.

Well done to all involved.

*Ms Máire Lyons, Football Coach*



## French Department

The French Department is delighted to announce that the current Third Year French class will do the optional oral element of the Junior Certificate French examination before March 10th 2017.

There is a great buzz about at the moment as the girls are busy practising their general conversation questions and role-plays. Bonne chance à toutes nos étudiantes.

The launch of our

Modern Languages Theme Week coincided with the designated European Day of Languages. It culminated with our First and Second Year girls enjoying a Petit Déjeuner of croissants, pain au chocolat and chocolat chaud followed by a good helping of French themed gifts and Christophe Barratier's beautiful film, Les Choristes. Félicitations à tout le monde.

*Ms Muireann O'Sullivan, French Department*



## Geography Department



The Leaving Cert. Geography class completed their field investigation in Killarney National Park in October. This is a vital component for their Leaving Certificate exam. The day was a great success and all students participated brilliantly.

*Ms M Daly, Geography Department*



## Green Schools

This year as part of the Green Schools programme we are working towards our fourth flag which is based on transport. Angela Wall who works with an Taisc carried out a travel survey. The results are displayed on the Green School Notice board. We look forward to working with Angela who has great ideas on motivating our students on the merits of greener travel.

Congratulations to Listowel Tidy Towns Committee on their recent award for Ireland's cleanest small town. Many thanks to our students who helped with face painting when the town celebrated this wonderful achievement. I encourage all of our students to actively recycle during the Christmas season as we all can play an active role in reversing climate change.

*Ms Margaret Daly, Green Schools Coordinator*



## School Bank

**Bank of Ireland**

Our Transition Years have once again undertaken the task of setting up and operating a school bank. Many of our students have a great interest in the business world and so applied for various positions on the bank team. Following interviews by Norma Mason and Shane Enright, the successful candidates were chosen and are pictured here. The school bank is open to new and existing customers every Wednesday during lunch hour.

*Ms Marguerite McSweeney, TY Team*



## Religion

### Shoe Box Appeal

This year we organised the 'Team Hope Shoe Box' Appeal within our school. It was a huge success, thanks to the cooperation and generosity of all. We are delighted to be able to bring such joy to these children in developing countries.

### St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Food Appeal

The 3A and 3B students have launched a Christmas Food Appeal as part of the Religious Education Junior Certificate Journal. They are making comparisons between the SVP and the work of Jesus in the Bible, who was compassionate towards the less fortunate in society.

This appeal was launched by local representatives from SVP. It was a great success. It will bring some joy to the less fortunate in our region this Christmas.

*Ms Máire Lyons, RE teacher*



# Guidance and Counselling

## Careers:

The following guest speakers from the institutions listed below visited the school and spoke to Sixth Year students. They have spoken to Sixth Year students :

*Shannon College of Hotel Management*

*University of Limerick*

*Limerick IT*

*University College Cork*

*NUI Galway*

The Sixth Years also attended the UL/Mary Immaculate/LIT Open Day in October.

Fifth Years attended the Careers Fair at the Malton Hotel Killarney in November. They had the opportunity to meet with representatives from various colleges throughout Ireland.

## Whole School Guidance:

TY students are currently in the process of

promote mental health within schools.

As part of this project they are planning a Mental Health Awareness week from January 16th to January 20th. Activities taking place during this week will include "Walk in My Shoes" where students will wear shoes, other than their school shoes, on Friday 20th January. This aims to encourage all of us to be aware that we never know what life is like for anyone else, that we must be mindful of always trying to see things from each other's point of view.

Students will be asked to contribute €1.00 to take part. All the proceeds will go to Pieta House. As part of Mental Health Awareness Week, well known mental health advocate, Fergus Heffernan, ([www.chhservices.ie](http://www.chhservices.ie)) will speak to students on Friday afternoon, 20th

January. He will also speak to parents Friday night at 7pm in the school hall. This event will be open to parents and members of the public. Leah Fitzgerald, Laura Sheehy, Anne Marie Swaine and Aoife Moloney, who completed their Leaving Certificate in June, met with the Sixth Years in September to answer any questions relating to the Leaving Certificate and CAO. The girls are currently studying in UCC.

*Ms Aisling O'Dwyer*



## LCVP

The Fifth Year L.C.V.P. class started the year with a trip to the Lartigue Monorail on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The girls learned a lot about it. They took a trip of the train. They have since completed a Summary Report, based on the visit, for their portfolio.

Since September we had a visit from Cora O'Brien who visited the school to accept a cheque on behalf of 'Pieta House' on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. A Mini Company organised by the current Sixth Years during the last school year called 'Retrospect', designed and produced a yearbook. The girls donated their profits to 'Pieta House'. Cora gave a presentation to the girls on the work of 'Pieta House'. We also had a very special visit from 'Bumbleance' on September 27<sup>th</sup>.



A Mini Company, 'Bee Bakes', donated their profits to 'Bumbleance'. Two of the Bumbleance volunteers visited the school with an ambulance. The volunteers explained the work of the organisation which was an emotional experience for the girls. Our third Mini Company organised a table quiz for First Years in May 2016. They donated their profits to 'Make-a-Wish' Foundation.

In October we had an motivational visitor in Lizzy Lyons. She is an entrepreneur and owner of 'Lizzys Little Kitchen' in both Listowel and Ballybunion. Lizzy is a past pupil of the school. She was invited to talk to the Sixth Year L.C.V.P. students. She was



inspirational and impressive. Any young woman thinking of starting her own business in the future could certainly learn from Lizzy. We all wish her the best with her business ventures.

*Ms Teresa Culhane, LCVP Coordinator*







## German Department

The theme of the German Week was "Spa13 mit Deutsch" – fun with German. As part of German Week the "Goethe Institute" visited the school. All German students attended a workshop which consisted of games, songs and learning new vocabulary. It also provided the girls with an opportunity to learn more about Germany and German culture. Our visiting German students very kindly baked cakes and treats for the girls. We organised "Kaffee und Kuchen" in the canteen so that the students could experience the delights of the world famous German Christmas Markets. Our week concluded with a viewing of the film "Wunder Von Bern".

*Ms Eileen Counihan, German Department*



## Maths Department

Maths Week this year was a great success with many events taking place during the week. The First Year students took part in a Maths Trail around the school seeking various clues. We also held a quiz and puzzle competition on the monitor in the social area every day. The winner of the Maths puzzles were Faye Mulvihill and Lily Canty. Serena Quinlan, Aoife Griffin, Noreen Dillon and Aoiobheann Morrissey, all in 1C, won the First Year Maths Trail. Also Wiktoria Szczowka won the Numeracy Booklet prize for First Year students.

*Ms Una Scully,, Maths Department*



## History Department

It's been a productive year in Pres Listowel with a high number of exemplary grades achieved in the state exams. The reintroduction of the subject in Transition Year was very welcome. A large number of students in Fifth Year have opted for history for Leaving Certificate. History Week was a great success this month. Projects by the First Years and Transition Year group were displayed in the Social Area. First Years had an archaeology workshop provided by Kerry County Museum. The recent discovery of a Neolithic tomb during a dig in the county was of particular interest. Second Years visited the Famine Graveyard They will visit Cork in the Spring as part of their annual History trip.

The Fifth and Sixth Years History students visited Belfast. They went to the Ulster Museum. The did tours with historians and ex political activists to understand fully the history of Northern Ireland and the Troubles.

The History Department would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a brilliant New Year in 2017.

*Mr Eoin Hilliard, History Department*



## Home Economics

The Home Economics Department was delighted to welcome lots of enthusiastic chefs from the local Primary Schools who had fun decorating cupcakes for Christmas at our Orientation Day. Congratulations to Alice McMahon, Scoil Chorp Chríost, Primary School, Knocknanure and Mary Power, Coolard National School who won our Home Economics competition on Open Night.

Home Economics Week ran from the 11th to the 17th November. Sincere thanks to The School Food Company who kindly sponsored fresh fruit for students for a day. Congratulations to Ava Stack, 1A for designing and making a "Healthy Packed Lunch". Second Years worked throughout the term to research and design posters to create awareness around "Obesity" in young people. Congratulations to Ava Daly and Cliona Pierse who won this competition. Warm congratulations to the following students who won the "Cake Making" competition:

### Junior Cake making competition

1<sup>st</sup> Eve Hennelly 1A

2<sup>nd</sup> Caoimhe Nolan 2A

### Senior cake making competition

Caroline Fitzell – Transition Year

We were delighted to attend Listowel Food Fair in November. The Bord Bia Schools Competition Awards were presented by "The Happy Pear" and Sheila Kelly from Bord Bia. Sheila Kelly gave a cookery demonstration on "Healthy Eating" to 5<sup>th</sup> Years and Transition Year students as part of Listowel Food Fair. The Home Economics Department would like to take this opportunity to thank the Listowel Food Fair committee for organising an excellent programme of events again this year.

Congratulations to the following students who were prize winners in the senior category of "The Bord Bia" Schools competition:



**1<sup>st</sup> Prize:** Shantelle Blackburn, Laney Clancy and Laura Twomey

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:** Jayne Houlihan and Eliza Kennelly

Congratulations to all to last year's Transition Year students who were awarded certificates on completion of the Safe Food for Life



Programme and achieving distinctions. This is an industry recognised qualification in food hygiene which gives students lifelong skills in food safety and food hygiene.

We would like to thank all those who have helped us in any way throughout the term in the Home Economics Department.

We would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

*Mary O'Connor & Lisa Whelan  
Home Economics Department*

# Music



## Prayer Service for the new School year

The Prayer Service Musicians :



Maeve Trench, Cara O'Brien, Edel Quinn, Aisling Keane and Mairead Brosnan .

## Monday lunch time Music class

At 1.30 every Monday, the Trad group meets in the Music Room. There are some fine musicians in First Year and of course we have the old reliables musicians from Second Year up to Sixth Year.

We look forward to lunch time concerts during Music/Art week next year

## First Year Trip to Limerick

On Friday November 11th, the First Years went to Limerick University Concert Hall to see the Cork Pops Orchestra under the baton of Evelyn Grant. The students heard, some Pop, Classical, and Jazz. Keith Hanley sang. DJ NDashka gave the students a taste for music technology which is part of the Leaving Cert Music course.

## The Nano Nagle Mass

There was a special mass in honour of Nano Nagle and The Presentation

the Mass. Students from First Year to Sixth Year took part in the Mass.

## The Christmas Carol Concert

The Carol Concert took place on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> of December in the Parish Church. The Carols, old and new, by the choirs and instrumental groups, reflections and readings helped everyone experience the magic of Christmas.



## Music and Art Trip to Dublin

The Fifth and Sixth Year Music and Art students are going to Dublin in January. They will be visiting galleries and museums. They will attend Westside Story! It promises to be an action packed two days.

*Ms Anne Foley, Ms Emma Kelly, Music Department*



# Science Department

Following on from our last newsletter, our Sixth Year. Agriculture science and L.C.A. classes dug out the potatoes in early September as seen in our pictures. Due to the huge size of some of them, we think that Mr. Kiely must have added some secret ingredient!! Tune in to our next edition of the newsletter where we might find out when the next planting occurs with the TYs and Fifth Year Ag science groups in the Spring.

As part of Science Week, the TYs visited our own local mart in Listowel with a view to introducing them to Ag science as a viable option for Fifth Year. which they thoroughly enjoyed. Our First and Second Year students enjoyed a Science Table Quiz during the same week. Congratulations to our winners; 1<sup>st</sup> prize went to the table Niamh Mc Auliffe, Maire O' Neill, Ellie Shanahan and Tori O' Connor. 2<sup>nd</sup> prize went to table, Cliona Pierse, Sorchá Keane and Tia Griffin. 3<sup>rd</sup> prize went to table, Clodagh O' Sullivan, Megan O' Brien, Orla Joy, Caoimhe Nolan and Ruth Moore.

Our First Year students also made models of cells which were displayed in the Social Area for all to see. It was very difficult to pick winners as the standard was so high so we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone involved, especially the winners of the competition, Kate Murphy, Ava Stack, Saoirse Cahill and Aoife O' Sullivan.

So, as 2016 comes to a close, the Science Department, wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

*Ms Jacqueline Normile, Mr Chris Kiely*



**Listowel Mart**



# Socia Media

We have introduced new social media platforms at Presentation this year. We have seen the introduction of an updated website with regular news and events. The website can be found at [www.presentationsecondarylistowel.ie](http://www.presentationsecondarylistowel.ie). We also introduced a school Twitter account which has daily updates about school life. Our Twitter account is @pressec\_pss. Have a look at the day to day life of Presentation Listowel.

Have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.  
*Orla McSweeney, Elaine O'Mahony*

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