

## MODERN LANGUAGES: FRENCH

This term was a busy and productive term for all Modern Foreign Language students. Classroom Based Assessments took place in May for second years and were an opportunity for the girls to improve on oral and language skills.

Orals took place in March for Third Year students. This is always a beneficial experience for the girls. Leaving Cert students worked diligently at lunch time and after school to prepare for their oral exam before Easter. We wish them well in June.

Bonne chance et bonnes vacances à toutes nos étudiantes! *Ms. E Coughlan*

## SCIENCE

In January, the Chemistry Department from UCC provided a workshop in school for the sixth year Chemistry students, 'Spectroscopy in a suitcase', to help with their understanding of this area of Chemistry for their Leaving Certificate. Two of our Transition Year students, Laura McCarthy and Máire O' Neill, took part in Sci-Fest in Tralee I.T. Their project was titled 'Moo cow test', which investigated proteins linked to pregnancy in cows, in the hope of developing a cow pregnancy test kit.

On May 3rd, Fifth Year Biology students went to Killarney National Park to participate in an Ecology fieldtrip, as part of their Leaving Certificate practical work. Here they learned the various techniques to identify types of plants and animals, as well as techniques to capture and release small mammals, such as bank voles and field mice. On April 29th, Fifth Year Agricultural Science students went to Neilus O' Connor's farm in Moyvane, who is a potato farmer. Here they learned about planting potatoes and the stages involved in planting, growing and caring for crops. Students also planted their own Kerr Pinks potatoes in school and will harvest these when the students return after summer. On May 15th, Fifth Year Agricultural Science students visited Kissane's farm in Ballylongford. This farm visit is in association with Teagasc. There were seven schools present with 135 students. The students were given a combination of talks, hands-on activities and demonstrations from an excellent group of people from Munster Bovine, Kerry Agribusiness, Teagasc, Dairy Master and Pallaskenry Agricultural College. This is a new initiative to educate students and help develop their knowledge of how farms operate and possible agricultural careers. Congratulations to our Second Year Science students who completed their first Classroom Based Assessment, involving carrying out experiments independently and evaluating their results. Our Third Year students completed their second Classroom Based Assessment, which involved them researching a topic that has an impact on our society. These assessments are part of the new Junior Cycle Science curriculum. All students performed very well and should be proud of the effort they put in to achieve such good results.

All staff and students in the school are now trained and certified in CPR. This is an initiative sponsored by Bank of Ireland, in association with the Irish Heart Foundation – CPR 4 Schools. Presentation Secondary School Listowel are the first school in Kerry to train all members of the school community. We are very proud of this achievement and hope that one day some of our school community will help to save lives. Sixth year Physics students attended a lab day in University of Limerick, learning the techniques involved in Physics experiments for Leaving Certificate Physics.

Transition year and Third Year students attended a physics workshop – "Sophia Project", presented by students from the University of Limerick. This is aimed to encourage more girls to pursue STEM subjects in the future.—*Mr C Kiely, Ms J. Normile,*

*Ms C Kennedy Science Dept*



## ENTERPRISE

This group of enterprising Transition Year students proudly represented our school at the Student Enterprise Awards final in Tralee on March 22nd. Their innovative product which is a body wash made from organic, hypoallergenic materials was an instant success. The girls impressed the judges not only with their product and its business plan, but also with their use of the Irish language, for which they were awarded a prize. Well done girls, keep the creative juices flowing! *Marguerite McSweeney Enterprise*



## ART

As the academic year comes to a close we reflect on all the great and varied art works created over the year. This year we were fortunate to visit the Hunt museum with Fifth Year and TY students as part of their Art History studies. Sixth Year Art and Music students visited Dublin in December and got to see some great art exhibits as well as the amazing musical "Les Miserables". First year students created some fabulous original book covers to link in with the celebrated writer's week in Listowel. We look forward to creating lots more next year as the students refuel their creativity over the Summer Holidays. —*Claire O'Riordan Art*



# Presentation Secondary School Listowel Summer Newsletter 2019



## PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Welcome to our Summer 2019 Newsletter, yes another academic year has gone by. This last term was a very busy one, full of activities such as the Awards Day, the Wellbeing activities, The Leaving Cert and Transition Year Graduations, the Field Trips in Biology and Geography and of course the sporting activities.

This Newsletter reflects the diverse range of learning experiences we provide in the school. We wish our students in Third and Sixth Year well with their exams. John Doran is a very inspiring speaker and writer, he recently wrote reminding Sixth Year students that

*'More useful measures of your worth (than exam grades) are good deeds, kind acts and all forms of generosity. Consider your understanding of the relative importance of giving and sharing, both at every opportunity and at all costs, as opposed to taking.*

As you leave us it is our hope that in keeping with our Mission Statement we have *'awoken our girls to their true dignity and role as women in present day society'*, young women who are equipped with the values to negotiate difficult choices and the courage to make the right choice.

The Parents' Association and the Student Council met with the Board of Management in May. Both meetings were very engaging and informative for everyone involved. The Board has decided that going forward the Parents' Association will meet with the Board before Christmas each year as well. We will begin a review, as planned, of the Behaviour Code in September. Consultation with students and parents will be a very important aspect of that review.

I wish to acknowledge the excellent work done by the members of the current Board of Management who complete their three year term in September. I thank them for their commitment to our school. There will be an AGM of the Parents' Association in September to nominate two parents to the new Board which commences its term in October.

Our staff have worked very conscientiously this past year on the implementation of the New Junior Cycle amongst other things.. I wish to sincerely thank all our staff for their diligent work, careful planning and wonderful care for our girls. We congratulate our U16 Badminton team on winning the All Ireland Silver Medal in March. Thanks to one of our parents, Carmel Hudson and teacher Emma Kelly for their inspiring commitment to both the competitive and recreational badminton in the school this past year.

I hope you enjoy this Newsletter. I wish our school community a safe and enjoyable Summer,  
*Eileen Kennelly*  
Principal



**U16 BADMINTON TEAM**



**Ciara Hudson ~ Winner of School Spirit Award 2019**



**Olivia Stack ~ Student of the Year 2019**

## SCHOOL RE OPENING :

- ◇ TY—Monday Aug 26th
- ◇ 1st years—Tues Aug 27th
- ◇ 3rd/6th/LCA 2—Wed Aug 28th
- ◇ 2nd/5th/LCA 1—Thurs Aug 29th

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## LITERACY

Read Everything you can get your hands on. Read until words become your friends. Then when you need to find one, they will jump into your mind, waving their hands for you to pick them.” — Karen Witemeyer

A big thank you to all our students who participated in the MS Readathon, which took place from 12<sup>th</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Our students, together with other students from all over Ireland, embarked on a four week reading frenzy to raise much needed funds for people living with Multiple Sclerosis.

As part of our school 'Numeracy and Literacy' initiative, students, staff and visitors will have noted our board in the Social Area, which displays problems, puzzles and other resources which are regularly updated. We hope that this initiative will be an integral part of the drive to improve literacy and numeracy skills amongst all our students.

Our 'Literacy' theme week took place from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of April. It included a 'drop everything and read' section every day, and various competitions, the most popular being our 'Limericks' competition for First and Second Year students. All 'Limericks' were displayed on our 'literacy' board in the Social Area for all to see. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the winners of the 'Limericks' competition: Aoibhe Frizelle, Cayla Loughnane, Sarah Mahony, Ella McGlynn and Leah Slemon.

I would also like to thank students and their parents for donations of books during that week, and throughout the year. We really appreciate your generosity and hope that you will continue to support us. I'm sure that these books will continue to be a valuable resource for current and future students for years to come.

Books entertain and offer a great escape. They make us laugh and giggle. They make us cry. We have a wonderful school library, which contains a very wide range of books, dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference books for all year groups. I feel that this great asset in our school is under utilized, so I want to encourage all our students and staff to pay a visit and delve into the wonderful world of reading. Facilities include several tables and chairs and a desktop computer for the use of all our school community, whether availing of a quiet 'downtime' or working on a project. During this school year, I am happy to relate that the school library was open every day during lunch time. Our visiting students to the school, from around Europe, were frequent visitors to the school library and were delighted with the wide range of books from which to choose – from the classics to the new releases.

I recently met with small groups of students from different years to discuss whether students were happy with the school library and the numeracy / literacy initiatives that are being conducted in the school at present. We also discussed new initiatives they might like to see introduced. I hope to put some of the valuable feedback that I received into action during the upcoming school year. *As always, happy reading. Jacqueline. Normile.*



## MUSIC

Lunchtime recitals were held every day in the Social Area. Music students from all year groups took part. Groups and soloists played a variety of genres including Classical, Pop, Musical Theatre & Trad to name but a few. Junior and Leaving Cert students performed as preparation for their music practicals.

The Transition Year students performed their production of "Mamma Mia" on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April. There were two performances, one exclusively for students and an evening show for family and friends. This is truly one of the highlights of the Music Departments year as the variety of talents within the year group are showcased in a production that is entirely their own. Students from the year wrote the script, created the props, choreographed the dances, accompanied the singers as well as starred in this wonderful Mamma Mia show, set on the Island of Valentia. *Anne O'Neill & Emma Kelly*



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The RE Department has been very busy over the past school term. At the end of January we celebrated "Catholic Schools Week". Each morning students were welcomed to school with a prayer reflecting on the days theme. Mondays theme was "Living Tradition". This was celebrated by First Year students completing worksheets based on how a Catholic Education contributes to their own personal development. Tuesday's theme was "Welcoming Diversity". To celebrate this we set up a 'random act of kindness' board in the Social Area which gave all students the opportunity to post positive messages to their peers and staff. Wednesday was "Intergenerational day" and fifth year students wrote letters of appreciation to an older person in their lives. Thursdays focus was on the "Service in our Community" and this was celebrated by Transition Year students making Saint Bridget day crosses and distributing them to our local nursing home. And finally Fridays theme was "Supporting Faith" and this coincided with St. Blaise Feast day where Sr.Eilis blessed all the students throats.

In March we had the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. In the Social Area we had a visual display based on the occasion. Staff and students both marked this celebration by wearing ashes on their forehead. Students were reminded each week of the different celebrations in the liturgical year on the display board. The main focus of Lent was to spark different forms of almsgiving, fasting and praying that students could engage in.

During the month of May there was a display board reminding students of the importance of Mother Mary in our Religion. We also had a May altar in the social area for the month. Finally, once we returned from the Easter break, Sixth Year students were very busy planning their Graduation Mass for 23rd of May. Pupils participated in the Liturgy of the Word and the music. Thanks to Sr.Eilis and Ms. O'Neill for all their work in the organisation of this event.

*Chloe Dalton Religion*

## LCVP

As the school year comes to an end its time to highlight a few events in the L.C.V.P. calendar of 2018/2019 for both Fifth Year and Sixth Year students.

The Sixth Year students completed their Portfolio in March and their final exam on May 1st. They worked hard so I hope they get the result they want in August. Best of Luck to all the Leaving Cert. girls in their future careers.

The Fifth and Sixth Year students had very informative and inspiring visits from Siobhan Stack of 'Ulluv' and Aisling Carmody of 'Creative Practice'. Both businesses are based in HQ Tralee which is one of Ireland's leading regional co working spaces for productive, creative and collaborative people. They were both a joy to listen to and learn from. Aileen McCarthy of AIB, Listowel, was involved in the organising of the visits.

The Fifth Year girls had a visit from Con O'Connor from Pieta House in January to accept the profits from their mini company 'Pres Delights'. The girls learned about the work carried out by Pieta House and the importance of their donation to their work.

Since Christmas the Fifth Year students have been busy. They prepared for and went on work experience in late March for 3 days and are using it to write up one of their portfolio items.

They also went to UCC for their open day which will be helpful when completing their career investigation for their portfolio. Work is ongoing in completing their portfolio.

I wish to thank the following for all their help in making the school year successful.

All the local employers who provided our girls with work experience in March. Tony Carroll of SIPTU, Siobhan Stack of 'Ulluv', Aisling Carmody of 'Creative Practice', Aileen McCarthy of AIB, Listowel, Con O'Connor of 'Pieta House'. The staff of the 'Lartigue Monorail, Students and staff who supported our Mini Company event. *Teresa Cullhane LCVP*

## TRANSITION YEAR

It has been a busy few months during the second part of the year for the TY group. Starting with the 3 day Belfast trip, the students took in a variety of attractions such as a Black taxi tour of the Falls and Shankill Road, the Titanic museum and exhibition, a Belfast Giants Hockey game at the SSE arena and a wonderful visit to Belfast Zoo.

Since then, the group has been busy with various activities. These include modules such as Personal Safety Ireland, comprehensive workshops with renowned counsellor Seamus Whitty, talks with Rhona Tarrant (Media and Journalism) and James O'Donoghue (Sport and Finance), trips to Nano Nagle School and UCC for debating, First Aid, planting hundreds of trees in the Town Park for Environmental Science, the Gaisce trip to the Black Valley and gardening and painting with Ms. O'Loughlin and Johnny Ryan our brilliant caretaker to name but a few.

In the spirit of fostering good community links within the local area, the Work Experience and Social Justice Programmes have continued to prove a great success with places such as Nano Nagle, Ard Churam, Aras Mhuire and the Community Hospital providing the platform for students to become connected to the locality in a real and meaningful way.

The musical play "Mama Mia" was definitely a highlight for many as they prepared for months in advance and presented a great production for the school and for the community / families later again that evening. Special thanks to Ms. Kelly and and Johnny Ryan for the input and guidance. As the group graduate and move forward to Senior Cycle, the group must be commended for their excellence and maturity in what was a hectic year. *Eoin Hilliard T.Y Coordinator*



## HISTORY

The subject continues to thrive in the school with a large uptake for Leaving Cert in the forthcoming academic year. Students have shown a great desire to engage and excel with the prescribed topics, with current day events such as Brexit and climate change being used to understand the events in our past that shape our present. Our First Years have completed the first year of a new Junior Cycle that strives to create a more skills based and hands on approach to studying history.

Their Classroom Based Assessments next year encompassing "The Past in my Place" will hopefully bring to life the wonderful historical attractions that North Kerry has to offer.

Leaving Certs also went to Berlin for four days to take in the city's troubled but fascinating past. A guided tour of the city centre, a visit to the famous Wall, a solemn but enlightening walk around Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and an informative tour of the Reichstag at night were amongst the highlights. Special thanks to Ms. O'Loughlin and Ms. Dalton for their help and assistance.

## LCA

Our LCA students visited a recording studio in Limerick on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May. This was part of the students' key assignment where they got to experience what it is like to record a song in a professional studio. All students got a tour of the studio, were shown the equipment and recorded themselves singing Lady Gaga's and Bradley Cooper's "Shallow". —*Ms Emma Kelly, Music*

## GREEN SCHOOLS

2108/2019 was a busy year for our Green Schools. Our theme for our fifth flag was Biodiversity. We embraced this by creating raised beds which grew both vegetables and flowers. These were created so that they are accessible by Students who may be wheelchair users. Bird feeders were placed in strategic areas by our caretaker and are brightly coloured which adds to the aesthetics of our outdoor areas. All of our garden benches were beautifully painted by our TY students, each with a theme, one was devoted to biodiversity.

Four TY students entered the "One Good Idea" Project and were one of the finalists. They called themselves the "icebreakers" and ran an excellent social media campaign to highlight environmental issues.

Litter picking is an integral part of the TY Environmental Science Programme and complements the excellent work carried out by the Listowel Tidy Towns. Two students are now part of the Junior Tidy Towns. They attend meetings and very generously give up their time to litter pick one evening a week. Our TY Students actively took part in a tree



5th Year History Trip to Berlin

## Home ECONOMICS

The Home Economics Department has been busy over the last two terms as our Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied 2 students prepared well and completed their Practical Cookery exams. Well done to all.



Our First Year students have been studying the new specification for Junior Cycle Home Economics this year. Our TY students have completed the Healthy Food Made Easy Programme which is a national nutrition health promotion programme supported by the HSE. It is a six-week

programme designed to help people understand the principles of healthy eating and give them the skills to include healthier food every day.

Best of luck to all our Junior Cert and Leaving Cert students.

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

## ENGLISH

"Don't forget – no one else sees the world the way you do, so no one else can tell the stories that you have to tell" – Charles De Lint.

With this in mind the English Department helped with the running of this year's 'Literacy Week'. Students wrote poetry, engaged with the 'Drop Everything and Read' initiative and poet Annemarie Ni Churreanin facilitated poetry workshops with many year groups. In addition, all Second Year English students completed Classroom Based Assessments 1 which offered students the opportunity to express themselves orally. This proved extremely beneficial for students and was enjoyed by all.

We would like to wish all students and families a safe and enjoyable summer. *G O'Loughlin, E Keane, M. O'Sullivan, G Tarrant*

## GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

### KERRY ETB

There is increased awareness about the Apprenticeships and Traineeships available to students in recent times. Some students expressed an interest in attending the Kerry ETB Training Centre in Tralee. We visited the centre on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May. We were given a tour of the centre and detailed information on courses such as Beauty Therapy, Medical Secretary, Wind Turbine Maintenance Technician, TV, Radio and Broadcasting and Multimedia. The direct route to College is not for everyone and the 'earn and learn' approach demonstrated by apprenticeships provides a real alternative for students. Once associated only with trades such as Plumbing and Carpentry, this is now changing rapidly with areas now including Insurance, Bioscience, Auctioneering and Estate Agency to name but a few. They are providing a huge variety of options for students and an alternative to the College route and to attaining a Level 8 qualification.

Some apprenticeships such as Insurance Practitioner will allow students progress to Level 8 while being paid €23,000 per year. This compared to a student attending University who will have to pay €3000 on registration fees along with accommodation fees and living expenses. If anyone is interested in learning more about apprenticeships please visit [www.apprenticeships.ie](http://www.apprenticeships.ie).

### REACH +

As part of the Fifth and Sixth year weekly career class students work through a Reach + workbook and online portfolio. Here they will have the opportunity to store and log their results online to career interest tests and personality assessments. These are invaluable in deciding which career options to pursue after school. The current Fifth Years were recently evaluated on how effective they found this workbook in helping them with their career planning and the average response was found to be very positive.

While it involves an initial investment for parents it is an excellent guidance tool to be used throughout Fifth and Sixth Year and one which parents can read through also either online or in the workbook. More information on the REACH + Programme can be found at the following links:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0NQGpUG\\_vyo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0NQGpUG_vyo)

<https://careersportal.ie/guidance>

### UCC OPEN DAY VISIT WITH FIFTY YEARS

We travelled to UCC for our annual Fifth Year trip on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Students had the opportunity to see the campus, have a tour of the Castlewhite Apartments as well as a guided tour of the campus. It was a most enjoyable day and the feedback from students was very positive. Another Open Day will take place in October when students will have the opportunity to attend talks on each of the programmes available at UCC.



### MINDFULNESS COLOURING CLASS & READING ROOM

Thanks to the hard work and commitment of one Second Year student and her class mates the Mindfulness Colouring Class was set up for students who may be experiencing stress or anxiety or who may just enjoy Art and Colouring. They have an opportunity to meet on a Thursday from 1.30 - 2.00 in Ms. O'Dwyer's classroom and can chat, colour and relax while listening to peaceful music. All materials are supplied. Some students expressed an interest in reading quietly in school at lunchtime. This is now an option in Ms. Culhane's room from 1.30-2.00 on Thursdays. All you need is your book and all are welcome.



### SURVIVING THE LEAVING CERT & MAINTAINING MENTAL HEALTH

At such a stressful time of the year, it is always worth bearing in mind that the Leaving Certificate is one exam and does not determine if someone is a success or not. I would really like to remind students that there are several options available to students even if the exam does not go to plan.

As discussed earlier the Apprenticeships and Traineeships are available to students. For those wishing to progress to college they can study a Post Leaving Certificate Course first and then progress to University. The PLC course requires an interview for entry and a place on the course is not determined by the number of points attained in the Leaving Certificate. Over the years we have had many students complete a PLC before progressing to college. They also give students a year to decide if a certain route is definitely for them. These applications are open now and some will still be available after the Leaving Certificate results.

When the results come out on 13<sup>th</sup> August it can be a rollercoaster for students as they may be worried that they have not achieved the necessary points. Points can rise and fall from year to year depending on demand so until the First Round offers will be released on August 15<sup>th</sup> try to remain as positive as possible.

I will be available to meet with students in school on August 15<sup>th</sup> and should anyone have any queries relating to their offers they are more than welcome to come into the school and meet with me. I would like to wish all students the very best in the upcoming exams and hope that you all have a safe, happy and enjoyable summer *Aisling O'Dwyer Guidance Counsellor*