

Presentation Secondary School Listowel



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Principal's Address

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter 2020

I am sitting in a very quiet school as I write these words. This week, the last of the term and of the year, normally our school would be buzzing with the lovely sounds of the girls chatting and laughing as they enjoy the end of year activities.

In recent months we have been forced to change the way we work and learn. The sudden shift to online teaching and learning on 13th March posed challenges for all members of our school community.

I would like to congratulate and thank teachers, students and parents/guardians for doing their best to ensure that quality learning continued during the period of school closure.

I was very heartened to see that our students grappled with the new reality and continued to work with their teachers as they studied at home.

We look forward to better times when our doors will open again, and we will welcome students to the classrooms and corridors of our great school.

As we adapt our lives to deal with the changes the pandemic is having on our homes, schools and workplaces we remember that the priority is to stay safe and take care.

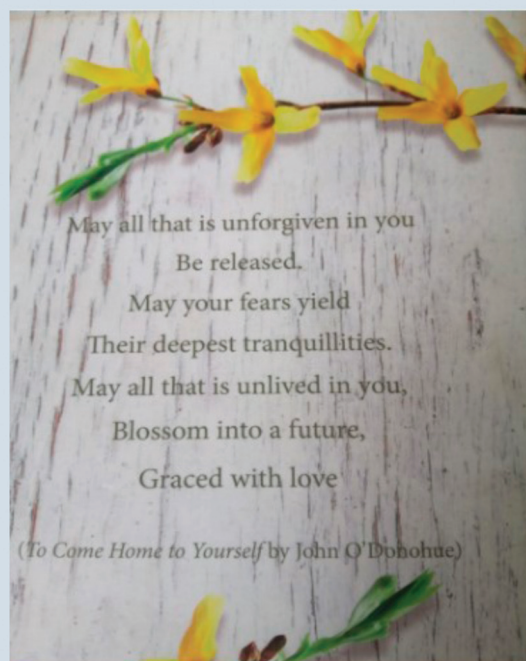
I wish all members of our school community good health in the face of Covid 19.

Mind yourself and your family members.

Together we can overcome the current crises. I leave you with a blessing

Eileen Kennelly

Principal



GIVING		Do things for others
RELATING		Connect with people
EXERCISING		Take care of your body
APPRECIATING		Notice the world around
TRYING OUT		Keep learning new things
DIRECTION		Have goals to look forward to
RESILIENCE		Find ways to bounce back
EMOTION		Take a positive approach
ACCEPTANCE		Be comfortable with who you are
MEANING		Be part of something bigger

Student Council

Our Student Council's spirits haven't been dampened by the current pandemic. Weekly meetings have been taking place online, ensuring all students' voices are heard so that we all remain connected. The school's half-zip jumpers will be ready for collection in September, which will be a very exciting start to the new academic year. The development of a Health and Safety committee within the Student Council is also underway in preparation for the coming year. We would like to thank our Head Girl, Eimear Shine, for her fantastic contribution to the school and her involvement in all activities in the Student Council. We wish her the best in her endeavours and have no doubt she will continue to make all of us at Presentation Secondary School immensely proud. We also welcome our official new Head Girl, Máire O'Neill, as she has been promoted from Deputy Head Girl. She has been an essential part of the Student Council in the past year and we look forward to what the future holds.

Miss Kennedy



Marie O'Neill, Eimear Shine and Miss Kennedy

Edward Hayden, Celebrity Chef, presenting a certificate to Saoirse Cahill (TY)



Home Economics

The Home Economics Department would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Saoirse Cahill (pictured above) who participated as a finalist in the Ceist All Ireland Bake Off which took place in Athy, Co. Kildare on March 6th. The theme of the Bake Off was 'Community' where participants were required to design, bake and decorate a cake to reflect this theme. Saoirse chose the farming community as the theme for her cake because farming impacts people around Ireland in many different ways. The farmer's markets also bring local communities together.

We would like to wish all of our students a safe and restful summer.

Ms L Whelan

&

Ms M O' Connor

Green Schools

I wish to express my gratitude to the entire school community who worked so hard on our fifth green flag which is Biodiversity. Visitors to our school will see the many trees planted e.g apple, pear, the beautiful window boxes and pots with an abundance of vibrant, colourful flowers to support our insect world. Our raised beds are wheelchair accessible and have grown an array of vegetables, herbs and flowers. We have at least four bird boxes made from recycled timber but some had to be replaced because of some innovative crows!

Some of our senior students volunteer with litter picking accompanying the excellent Listowel Tidy Towns members. I very much appreciate the enthusiastic Icebreakers (a group of 5th yr students) who are active on social media and celebrate all things relating to the environment e.g Earth Day. Keep up the good work! I wish all members of our school community and those living in the wider community a summer where they remain safe and enjoy the sounds of the birds which are so much more evident during these unusual times.

Green Schools Coordinator Margaret Daly



L-R Michelle Walsh, Eileen Kennelly, Principal and Eimear Shine (pictured above.) This photo was taken in June 2014 after Eileen Kennelly's appointment and the girls were beginning 1st year in September 2014.

Mentoring

Incoming fifth year students have had the opportunity to sign up to become a Mentor for the incoming first year students. This provides first year students with a support network in school, which has proved to be invaluable in previous years. Miss Kennedy

Science News

The Science Department had organised a Science Fair, in association with Sci-Fest, which was cancelled due to Covid-19. Students across various year groups were working hard with their science teachers on their research projects, including investigations such as 'How do caffeine levels affect sleep patterns', and 'The effect of plant hormones on fruit ripening'. Hopefully they can enter these projects next year.

Well done to all of our second and third year students who completed innovative projects for their CBAs. First year science students are staying connected through their weekly Science Club making lava lamps and salt crystals.

On Tuesday the 25th of February the fifth year agricultural science students got a tour of Dairymaster, a local and global industry in Causeway (see below). On Friday the 28th of February, postgraduates from the chemistry department in UCC held a workshop with the 6th year chemistry students called 'Spectroscopy in a Suitcase'. This gave the students hands on experience of working with laboratory instrumentation that is only available in universities and industries. The Science Department would like to wish all of our students a summer full of health and happy memories.

Miss Kennedy, Miss Keane, Ms. Normile and Mr. Kiely



Meabh Kennelly, 1st year experimenting with lava lamps



Zoom School

Zoom is being used for many things at the moment including hosting quizzes with friends and family, fitness classes, meetings and of course, for online teaching. The app has proved invaluable, allowing teachers to interact directly with their students. For me, it has been an essential tool in the teaching of my Maths classes as it allows me to explain the content while also giving students the opportunity to ask questions and engage with the lesson. Online learning has been an adjustment for everyone but I have to say I am so proud of my students who have been working hard throughout it all. We all look forward to the day when we are back in the classroom but for now zoom is providing a good alternative!

Ms. Breen with her 1A Maths class

These are the winners of the Forced Perspective Competition that students participated in during the Easter break.

1st prize—Symone Ashley Bowes (€25 voucher)

2nd prize- Kelsie Barrett (€20 voucher)

3rd prize- Meabh Kennelly (€15 voucher)

Runners up:

Eimear Buckley (€15)

Lucy O' Connor (€15)

Student Voice



I have been an active member of The Student Council since second year. This year I was honoured to have been picked as Deputy Head Girl. I have endeavoured to do my best working in the student council so that every students' voice can be heard. I believe strongly in the importance of Student Voice. Student Voice encourages students to take charge of their learning and voice their opinions for the enrichment of the school community. The Student Council is an essential part of our school society. We have an open Student Council admissions policy which means that anyone is able to join it. This eliminates pressure around elections. It is a place for open discussion and can help to build many skills e.g. confidence, problem-solving and team work which are all important life skills. The role of Deputy Head Girl has given me so many opportunities and has helped me to build my leadership skills in terms of communication, motivation and self awareness. I am grateful for everything that the role has brought me and look forward to becoming the Head Girl next year.

Maire O' Neill



Well Being



As the school year comes to a close it is time to reflect on our wonderful experience of the Jigsaw 'One Good School Initiative' which supports the mental health and wellbeing of young people, and of those around them, by developing a shared responsibility across the whole school community.

We had a six-point action plan, all of which have been completed. Since the last newsletter, TY students Amy Lynch, Sinead Relihan, Abbie Roche, Aisling Scully and Ava Stack completed their training as Peer Educators and have delivered six workshops - 'It's Time to Start Talking' to our junior cycle students. The aim of this talk was to increase mental health literacy among students. Caoimhe Keoghan- Jigsaw Youth and Community Engagement Officer delivered six workshops 'My Mental Health – What Helps' to our senior cycle students.

We would like to thank the TY students for volunteering as Peer Educators and giving of their time to increase awareness about mental health in our school and also Caoimhe Keoghan for her ongoing support and mentoring in this programme during the year. This has been a valuable and rewarding experience for the Peer Educators and all of our students. We look forward to working with Jigsaw in the next school year.

Pictured below are First Years enjoying a morning of fun in Bowling Buddies as part of a Wellbeing Day



First Years enjoying a morning in Bowling



Transition Year News

The Transition Year programme provided an eventful time with many notable opportunities.

Such highlights included The Ploughing, subject sampling, visits to UL and UCC. They completed modules in Human Rights, The Manuela Sexual Consent Programme and The Alio Lingusitic Programme. They showcased their culinary talents in The Bord Bia Listowel Food Fair and in National cookery competitions. Musical talent was discovered during Lá Gaeilge.

They travelled to Punchestown for a TY show where they heard Nikki Bradley of 'Fighting Fit for Ewing's' speak. Here they also experienced the car accident simulator at the RSA's stand and met reps from 'The Saoirse Foundation-BUMBLance' which they later fundraised for.

They participated in 'Jigsaw's One Good School' initiative which supports the mental health and wellbeing of young people and members of the group were trained to deliver the programme to other students in the school. They attended a



talk given by Tomi Reichental, a holocaust survivor and later interviewed him during work experience in Radio Kerry. They enjoyed 'Bookfest', a local literary festival and Peterbury Outdoor Education Centre in Galway. The group's continued participation engaging with their teachers and each other after the school closure is a testament to the spirit of the group who embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and appreciation. TY focuses on education for maturity, promotion of skills and the experience of adult and working life which helps the students bridge the gap between junior cycle and the Leaving Certificate programme. The

students in the group have responded well to the aims of the programme and are now ready to take the next step in their education as more confident, independent women. Best wishes to you all,

Norma Dowling

History @ PresListowel

Despite the lockdown History in Pres Listowel has continued unabated with technology and online interaction in the modern age proving vital for learning and engagement within the topics. CBAs, assignments, assessments and completion of new material through innovative teaching methods has hopefully helped to ensure that this whole period was at least beneficial for students in their future historical endeavours. Unfortunately, events like History Week and planned trips to Cork and Rome had

to be cancelled but the History and Geography Departments did manage to get to the Kerry County Museum and Crag Caves earlier this spring to take in our county's unique history. In Geraldine Tralee, students undertook an archaeology workshop and a tour of the amazing cave system we have on our doorstep (pictured left). Many thanks to Ms. Daly for her assistance in organising the tour. On a final note, I would like to wish everyone and their families health over the summer and into the future. As I've said to

students already, it has been tough but we will prevail and it will be something to tell the next generation about, from our own unique perspectives. To quote Heaney: "If we winter this one out, we can summer anywhere." Thanks for everything!

E. Hilliard / Department of History