



## Summer Newsletter 2021

Tel: 068 21452

Email: [office@preslistowel.ie](mailto:office@preslistowel.ie)

[www.presentationsecondarylistowel.ie](http://www.presentationsecondarylistowel.ie)

Presentation Secondary School Listowel

### Principal's Address

Welcome to our Summer 2021 Newsletter.

In the last number of weeks we have seen a gradual reopening of society which gives all of us a sense of hope and optimism for the months ahead.

I would like to compliment our students, staff and indeed parents on the fantastic dedication and commitment that has been demonstrated every day for the past few months both in our school and online.

Our school community engaged in online learning in a very positive fashion. This final term has been busy with assignments, assessments, end of year activities, CBAs, Graduations, Awards, and Activity Days etc.

It has not been an easy few months but by working together in a resilient and collaborative manner we have managed to arrive at the end of this unusual year safely.

I ask you all, Parents/Guardians/students to work with us to encourage everyone to follow all guidelines set out by NPHET. We have a responsibility to follow all HSE advice, protocols and to exercise caution, calm and consistent messaging. We have a duty of care to all in our community. The smooth running of the Leaving Certificate exams and the safety of our Sixth Year students is our priority at present.

Our Wellbeing Team's involvement with Jigsaw in our 'One Good School' Initiative has been an excellent resource for all this past year. The resources shared with students/staff/parents/guardians have been excellent.

I wish to commend the resilience, hope and courage shown by students this past year especially our Leaving Cert girls. Students' experiences over the past year will serve as a foundation to learn about themselves however difficult it has been, but it is that sense of hope and courage that was clearly evident, will sustain everyone through this pandemic.

This Newsletter offers a comprehensive picture of some of the lovely activities/events that took place this past term. I offer my sincere thanks to Jessica Keane, who has responsibility for the Newsletter, and to both staff and students for their contributions.

I wish all members of our school community every blessing on the coming months.

Our aim in Presentation Secondary School Listowel is to provide a rich and holistic education for our students. I wish to thank the Board of Management, teaching staff, SNAs, parents/guardians, office staff and caretaker for their dedication and commitment to our girls.

May God bless you,

Eileen Kennelly



Orla Joy 6A– Recipient  
Nano Nagle Award 2021



Laura O'Connor 6B–  
Winner School Spirit Award  
2021



Yvonne White—Winner  
Transition Year School Spirit  
Award 2021



Aisling McAuliffe– Transition  
Year Student of the Year 2021



Congratulations and best of luck to our 6th Year student Aisling Kelly who signed for Cork City FC Under 19s recently for the 2021 National League Season.

Aisling won the All-Ireland Community Games Futsal with Listowel and played for Kerry in the Gaynor Cup in UL in 2015, 2017 and 2018. Aisling was nominated by her teacher Mr. Hilliard and Principal Ms. Kennelly for the Munster Schools and played in the Inter Pros in 2017.

Aisling was awarded Sports Person of the Year 2021 for her sporting achievements.

### Online Teaching and Learning

On the 7th January 2021 our school returned to remote learning. Although we would have preferred to have been in our classrooms both teachers and students adapted excellently to remote learning. Thanks to the Digital Learning Team who worked hard all year to ensure all staff were trained and upskilled in using online learning platforms such as Microsoft Teams and One Note. Both students and teachers transitioned to remote learning excellently in January. Well done to all students on their level of engagement and participation during that challenging time.

We were delighted to welcome all students back to school on a phased basis with all classes finally returning to the school building on the 12th of April after the Easter holidays.



## ART DEPARTMENT

This year during lockdown we held our Theme Week while students were working from home.

Students were asked to take photos capturing Spring. The Art Department also created a nice short clip to music and if you follow the link below you will see all the entries (the link is also available on the school app). This competition was open to all students. It was a lovely way to celebrate the beauty around us as flowers were coming into bloom and lots of new baby animals were being welcomed. The winning students received vouchers and the lovely images certainly showcased the fabulous landscape around our locality.

<https://filmfreeway.com/Spring246>

Password: school

Iron-on patches were posted home to Art students and below you will see some creative uses for these including patches placed on t-shirts/ pillowcases and pencil cases.

Despite the pandemic students have been incredibly creative. We are looking forward to gallery visits next year, so many are free to explore on apps/sites such as google arts and culture.

'Creativity is intelligence having fun'  
– Albert Einstein

Wishing everyone a happy and safe Summer holiday break

Ms. C O'Riordan



## P.E. DEPARTMENT

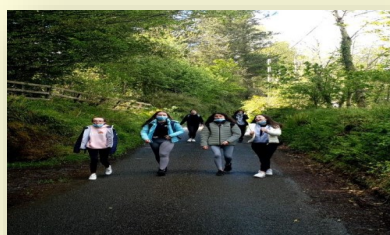
While Covid-19 has curtailed much extracurricular activity, we tried our best to remain active in Pres Listowel. During online teaching and learning there was great engagement with our weekly physical challenges. This engagement and enthusiasm continued upon the return to the classroom.

Similar to our First Year League before Christmas, Second Year students enjoyed a very competitive Lunchtime basketball League which began after the Easter holidays. Well done to all who took part and made the most of their lunchtime by staying active.

Our students were busy for Active Schools Week from 26th-30th April. First Year students enjoyed some fun activities and basketball, our Sixth Years were challenged to complete the 'Get Ireland Walking 21-day Walking Challenge' while the rest of the year groups attempted the mile challenge in PE.

At the end of this term our Junior Cycle students enjoyed some activity days. Students enjoyed a trip where they explored the beautiful Glanageenty Woods and this was followed up with some fun activities upon their return to school. A welcome day of fun and enjoyment was had as we finished a busy school year. First Years enjoyed a trip on Monday 24th May, Second Years on Friday 14th May and Third Years on Wednesday 26th May.

Mr. M Daly

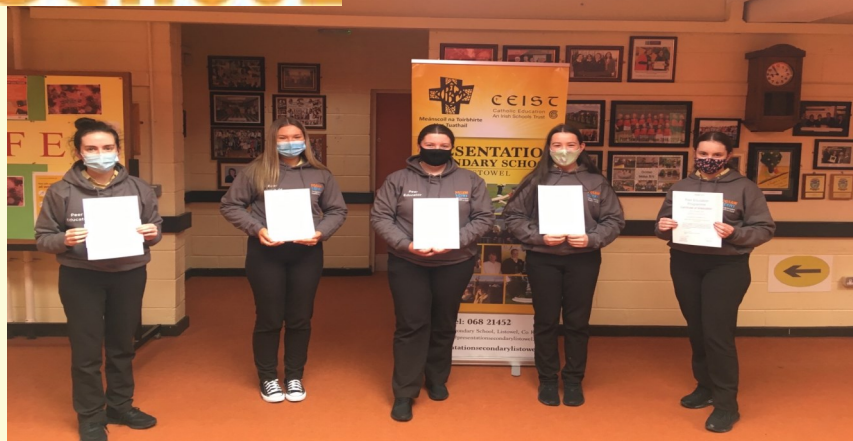




# ONE GOOD SCHOOL™

# JIGSAW

Young people's  
health in mind



Congratulations to our fifth year students; (From L-R) Ava Stack, Amy Lynch, Ashling Scully, Sinéad Relihan and Abbie Roche who received their 'One Good School' Peer Educator certificates and hoodies from Jigsaw. As peer educators they delivered Mental Health workshops to the Junior Cycle classes last year.

## GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT

All of our senior cycle girls have put in a great effort since coming back to school after the Christmas holidays, regardless of the uncertainties and challenges of Covid 19. The Sixth Year students have made personal progression plans regarding the transition from Secondary School to higher or further education institutions of their choice. Well done girls and best of luck on your chosen career paths.

Likewise, Fifth and Transition Year girls were encouraged to engage with all of the programmes offered via Career class. It is understandable that continued motivation and participation may be daunting, but these girls pulled it off to the best of their abilities.

Some highlights from this year included:

The Sixth Year girls attended Dublin City University Virtual Talk by Margaret Brierty in January via Zoom and they also had a University of Limerick Business School Presentation in May by Dr. John Heneghan.

Information regarding virtual Open Days and other college virtual events were sent to the girls on Microsoft Teams. All senior cycle students had access to register and log in to attend these events online. Students were encouraged to join in and attend particularly if the event was by a college they wished to attend. Other resources shared with the girls via Microsoft Teams included short YouTube videos by Brian Commerford, course updates and webinars on career events and so on.

The 'Look into Law' programme in previous years allowed just one student to participate in the programme. Our TY girls were the first set of students that had the opportunity to take part in the Law programme as a group. The girls completed five modules and obtained certificates at the end of the programme.

I am grateful to Denise O'Riordan, SNA, for her support and service to the TY girls this year. Denise was our in-house guest speaker on interview procedures and she conducted mock interviews with the TY students.

Ms. G Titus

## TIE DAY FRIDAY

Fundraiser - Kerry Mental Health Association - 23rd April

Many thanks to all for the great support for this event which raised €443.50. Great fun was had by all ! " Ms. M O Connor



## GREEN SCHOOLS

### LOCKDOWN PROJECT

Lockdown was a very stressful and strange time for us all. Despite the havoc, nature and life continues to flourish, oblivious to humans and their troubles. I spent a lot of time in the garden enjoying the silence and tranquillity. The garden is a very peaceful and healing place. I learned about the “Ark” programme from my Geography teacher Ms. Daly. Ark stands for Acts of Restorative Kindness. It is a new rewilding project that encourages us to avoid toxic sprays in our garden, to grow as much organic food as possible and to let a bit of our garden grow wild. The aims of Ark are to let nature take over and grow naturally wild without being controlled. We need an initiative like Ark to prevent the loss of biodiversity. I am encouraging us all to embrace the Ark programme and let part of your garden go wild and free. Let nature take its course.

Katie Trant—2nd Year



What a year! Despite the Covid pandemic the students in Presentation Listowel continued to be committed to the environment and their enthusiasm for the protection of biodiversity never fails. Many students forwarded photographs to me displaying the keen gardeners they have become. A range of window baskets, daffodils and tulips blossomed in North Kerry and this has allowed the pollinating bees to carry out their essential work. A range of bird feeders were also put on display and some painted vibrant pink! On returning to school environmental students along with our Le Chéile girls and Ag Science students have been busy planting an array of wild flowers. Many thanks to Johnny Ryan who has painstakingly upcycled school lockers that are now used as planting containers and

are wheelchair accessible. Thanks to TY students who displayed their active citizenship role by litter-picking in the Town Park. Some users of this splendid park complimented them on the day for their role in supporting Listowel Tidy Towns.

Wishing the entire school community and all readers of this newsletter a happy and safe Summer holidays.

Ms. M. Daly



## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

It has been a year like no other for our Music students but that has not curbed their enthusiasm and participation in the various activities that have been scheduled throughout the term both from home and in school.

Our Music students enjoyed Music Week as an activity during lockdown. Each class took part in a music quiz and recorded themselves playing a variety of pieces on their instruments. As everyone returned to school after lockdown, we continued to practice performance skills in class while adhering to the safety guidelines.

Our senior students were busy recording performances; four of our Fifth Year students took part in the Diocese of Kerry Youth Virtual Choir where they sang a beautiful arrangement of ‘True Colours’.

We were truly blessed to add resources to the Music department this year by purchasing a class set of ukuleles. As the year progressed many of our Music students played the instruments and improved their performance skills. All the First Year students have learnt how to play a variety of chords and strumming techniques. This proved to be an enjoyable addition to the Music department.

As we said farewell to our Leaving Cert students, we celebrated their time at Pres

Listowel with their Graduation Mass. We are so lucky to have such talented musicians who provided the music for the mass.

Ms. E Kelly





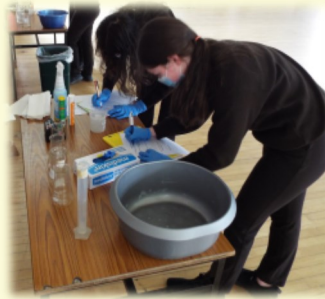
## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

On returning to school after lockdown, students of the Junior Cycle Science Department were eager to get “hands-on” after having their classes online for so long. We planned Scientific Skills classes for the students where they could complete experiments with their peers and also progress their scientific knowledge. First, Second and Third Years really enjoyed carrying out a variety of experiments. We viewed the chemical reaction of a Berocca Boost, the melting points of different chocolates, the production of hydrogen gas and many more. All the time, we found ourselves asking ‘why?’ specific things take place and using Science, we got the answers!

Congratulations to our Second Year Science students who completed their first Classroom Based Assessment. This involved carrying out experiments independently and evaluating their results. 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 .

First Year students were active members of lunchtime Science Club this term, pictured above Aoibh Lennon, Éabha Trant and Síun Twoomey with their strawberry plants.

We would like to wish our students and the readers of this newsletter an enjoyable Summer break.



## Scifest @ Pres Listowel

Well done to the Transition Year students who took part in Scifest on the 26th of May. TY students, with the help of their Science teacher Miss Keane, did tremendous work in completing their research task. Great fun was had by all ! Congratulations to winners Jennifer Kelly and Lauren Shine who researched ‘Paw Dominance’ in pets. Well done to runners up Mairéad Barry and Áibhín O’Neil with their ‘Tooth Decay’ investigation. Scifest is an organisation which promotes STEM education in Post Primary Schools.



## TRANSITION YEAR

It’s that time of year again when our TY journey has come full circle.

This year our TY theme was “The Butterfly ”. A butterfly is a symbol of endurance, change, hope, life and a free spirit which aptly describes the amazing TY class of 2021!!

We knew at the start of the year that we were in the midst of a global pandemic and we had to be prepared to work around that but the class showed endurance, a willingness to adapt to changes in plans, online learning and though it was not easy, they never lost hope.

Lots of opportunities, too numerous to mention here, were explored from climbing mountains to participating in college training initiatives, business internships, wellbeing modules, driving lessons, First Aid training, the Junk Kouture competition, the MTU Goalmine sustainable development planning competition and “Rory’s Stories” mental health workshop.

The TY students embraced it all and a wonderful transformation happened before our eyes here at school.

In the words of Eric Carle, author of ‘The Hungry Caterpillar’,

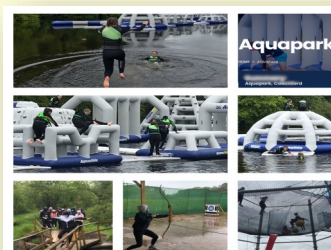
“You, caterpillar can grow up into a beautiful butterfly and fly into the world with your talent.”

All wonderful transformations!

On a personal note I wish to thank my colleagues, the students and parents for their constant support throughout the year.

Wishing each and every one of you a safe, happy and healthy Summer.

Ms. N Dowling



## STUDENT COUNCIL

### SNA TEAM

During lockdown, the SNA team continued to work with their students remotely, sending work home, phone calls and weekly Zoom calls. The girls did great work and participated with great success in the Easter competitions.

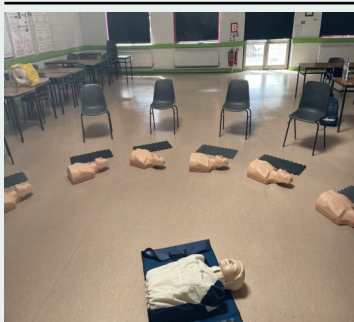
SNA team



Rebekah Keane - LCA



Students celebrating 'World Earth Day'



Staff First Aid Training

In September 2020, I was assigned the position of Deputy Head girl to represent the students in our school. The Student Council gives students the opportunity to voice their opinion on many issues and policies that arise in our school community. We worked alongside Ms Kennedy and Ms Molyneux.

The Student Council usually meets on a weekly basis and while in lockdown we were able to hold these meetings over Zoom. Many topics were discussed and debated.

We are currently in the process of rewriting the Student Council policy. The policy outlines the roles of all the different positions such as Chairperson, Deputy and Head girl along with others.

The Student Council helps organise different theme weeks such as: Mental Health Awareness week, LGBT+ Awareness, Charity fundraisers and many

school activities.

It is important for students to be aware of what's involved in the Student Council and they should never be shy to bring forward any suggestions and ideas that they may have.

Ava Stack—Deputy Head Girl



## Transition Year LIFT programme

The TY class completed the LIFT Programme this year. LIFT means Leading Ireland's Future Together and all students developed their leadership skills while completing the programme. The students spent a number of classes working together and supporting one another in their development of skills to prepare them for the world of work. They developed skills such as empathy, resilience, determination, respect and communication. They designed a LIFT notice board in the Social Area and received certificates for their completion of the module.



## SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2021

Céiliúradh seachtain na Gaeilge 2021 ar líne i mbliana. Ghlac na daltaí páirt i roinnt gníomhaíochtaí ar nós tráth na gceist, comórtas seanfhocail agus toraíocht taisce. Deis iontach é an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn. Beatha Teanga í a Labhairt.

Comórtas Oráide an Phiarsaigh

Comhghairdeachas leis na daltaí go léir a ghlac páirt sa chomórtas i mbliana, sár iarracht déanta ag gach duine agaibh.

Ms Á. Ní Chuain





## HISTORY DEPARTMENT

The Renaissance is a period of History known for its significant changes in Art. First Year History students drew pictures lying under their tables in an effort to experience how Michelangelo felt whilst painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

The Black Death was a plague that killed millions during the Middle Ages. Below are 'doctor masks' that students made, which were used to prevent the spread of disease.

Also pictured below is an interpretation of a Dingle work house that was set up as a relief system for poor people before the famine by Second Year students Eimear Buckley and Méabh Kennelly.

Ms. E Ryan



## HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

The Home Economics Department would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Second Year students on completing their Creative Textiles pictures (pictured below) as part of their Junior Cycle Home Economics.

Also, congratulations to our TYs who completed the Safe Food for Life online exam. This is an industry recognised qualification in food hygiene which gives students lifelong skills in food safety and food hygiene. The certificate is valid for five years. The Transition Years were very busy knitting Bravery Blankets for children in Ireland diagnosed with cancer.

Wishing our Leaving Cert students success and happiness as you leave us in Pres Listowel.

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

Ms L Whelan & Ms M O' Connor



## LCA NEWS

The Leaving Cert Applied class had a year of great work and great results. Their Term Credits were submitted and their Tasks are ready for their examiners who will be impressed no doubt!

Well done! Happy Holidays!

Ms N Dowling



## PRAYER TO END A SCHOOL YEAR

God of Wisdom, we thank you for all the gifts you have given us throughout this school year. We praise you for giving us life, for saving us in Christ, and for choosing us to be your people.

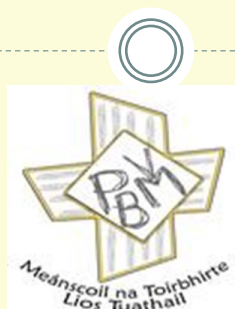
As we come to the end of this school year, we voice our gratitude for the good things you have done in us, and we praise you for all who have shared in the work of this school.

We ask you to bless them in your love and give them refreshment and peace. We praise you, God, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Amen.

## SCHOOL DEFIBRILLATOR

We are delighted to have a defibrillator on the outside wall of Presentation Secondary School. It is for the use of the school and the community. The "Split the Bucket" fundraiser helped pay for the defibrillator. Thank you to Dolly Stack and her team for all of their hard work.



## MATHS DEPARTMENT

### First Year Maths Quiz

Well done to our First Year students who took part in the Irish Maths Teachers Association's Junior Maths Challenge in February of this year. Thank you to Ms O'Leary for all her work in organising the challenge.

Students who participated: Éabha Trant, Siun Toomey, Emma Heaphy, Hayley Holly, Shauna Carey, Aoibh Lennon, Ella Costello, Isobel Stack, Aoibheann Buckley, Audrey Ryan, Leyra Moriarty.



## RELIGION DEPARTMENT EVENTS

The Religion Department had a busy term! The following events took place:

March - A Gratitude Tree was placed in Social Area for students to write what they are grateful for and place it on our tree.

St. Vincent de Paul Easter Egg Appeal-A total of 100+ Easter Eggs were collected by members of our school community and sent to our St. Vincent de Paul branch in Listowel.

April - Students transcribed and drew inspirational quotes and posters that got them through lockdown. These were placed on our Social Area board for all students to connect with and take their own inspiration from.

Our May altar was set up in the Social Area following a tradition of honouring the Blessed Virgin during the month of May.

Ms J. Molyneux



## 6th Year Graduation

Congratulations to the class of 2021 who graduated on Friday 21st May. Wishing you all every success and happiness in your future endeavours .

