

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

November / December 2018

Merry Christmas

As the term draws to a close we would like to wish all our staff, students and their families a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas Break. We look forward to all that 2019 will bring us!

St Vincent de Paul Appeal

Mr C McGauley

The whole school community has made a wonderful effort to collect food and toys this festive season for the needy in our community. We managed to fill thirty-five large hampers. Many thanks for all the help given by our Transition Year students who dressed the hampers and filled them. This is the fifty-first year of this appeal and, as always, the college has shown how generous it is to others. A big thank-you to everyone who made a donation.



Christmas Concert

1st, 2nd and Transition Year Music students performed a Christmas Sing-a-Long in the school hall on Wednesday 19th December, to highlight homelessness and the work of Focus Ireland.



They were joined by all our L1, 1st and 2nd Year students. With a fantastic selection of festive favourites, everyone really got into the Christmas spirit. Thank-you to Ms Duignan who put in a huge amount of time, effort and planning to coordinate this wonderful musical event.



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Home Economics

Ms G Marley

Our 1st Years were very busy little elves in the Home Economics workshop over the last six weeks making their trendy textile Christmas Stockings, while demonstrating excellent sewing skills as they practise for next year's Classroom Based Assessment (CBA). Well done to all the boys and their teacher Ms Marley.

#textilesandcraft #upcycling #sewing #skillsforlife.



Gold Gaisce Ceremony

Ms E Gibson

On 10th December, past pupil Dylan Hempenstall (LC 2014) was awarded the prestigious Gold Gaisce Award. This is an incredible achievement which celebrates work and personal commitment in the areas of sport, voluntary community involvement, a skill, a charitable residential project and an

adventure expedition, all carried out over a two-year period. Dylan had previously achieved both the Bronze and Silver Awards while attending Clonkeen College.



Dylan and his President's Award Leader Ms Gibson were officially invited to attend the Gaisce Gold Award Ceremony held in Dublin Castle, where Dylan was presented with his award by the President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins. This year 77 Gold Awards were presented to candidates from all over Ireland, at this annual event. The President, as Patron of the Award, acknowledged the work of the leaders and offered the warmest congratulations to the various individual achievements of the awardees.

It was a fantastic event and very proud day for the school and Dylan's family. Dylan is the third Clonkeen student to receive the Gold Gaisce Award, joining Michael O'Connor (LC 2004) and Chris Corrigan (LC 2007). Congratulations Dylan!!!

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Junior Certificate 2018

Congratulations to our Transition Year students who were presented with their Junior Certificates on Thursday, 20th December.



Entrance Scholars

Congratulations to students from the Class of 2018 whose academic achievements have been acknowledged as they enter university.

University College Dublin recognised five of our students, who attained 560 points or above in Leaving Certificate 2018. Well done to Jonathan Bell, Patrick Craddock, Killian Farrelly, Eamonn Flannery and Oisín Murray.

A sixth student, Jack Manning, was recognised for his high academic performance in this year's Leaving Certificate by Trinity College, Dublin. We are immensely proud of our past pupils' achievements.

LCVP Enterprise Visit

On 6th November, our 5th Year LCVP students visited The Curragh Camp. The visit allowed them to study a Public Enterprise, supporting their LCVP studies in this area. During their time at The Curragh our students were shown rocket launchers and artillery and learned about the Curragh Camp Fire Brigade.

Thanks to Mr O'Brien who organised the visit and to Mr O'Brien and Mr Bennett who accompanied the group.

6th Year Visit to Smock Alley

Our 6th Year Higher Level English students visited Smock Alley Theatre, on 23rd November, to attend a performance of Shakespeare's Macbeth. The performance really brought the text to life for the group, who are studying it as part of their Leaving Certificate English programme. Following the show the students took part in a workshop that helped them to develop their understanding of the text.

A big thank-you to Mr Byrne, Ms Brougham and Mr Toomey who organised the visit and accompanied the students.

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Diversity Day

Well done to all our staff and students who took part in our first Diversity Day on November 15th, organised by the Antibullying Ambassadors and Ms Egan. We embraced being different by wearing odd socks and odd shoes and celebrated what makes us unique.



Green Schools

Ms L Nolan

This November the Green Schools Committee organised an energy slogan competition. Congratulations to Oliver O'Daly in 2nd year and Brian Bueno in 5th year who designed the winning piece. The Green Schools Energy Code will be displayed around the school.

Although the committee is working towards achieving the Energy Flag for Clonkeen College, efforts to ensure that both staff and students are

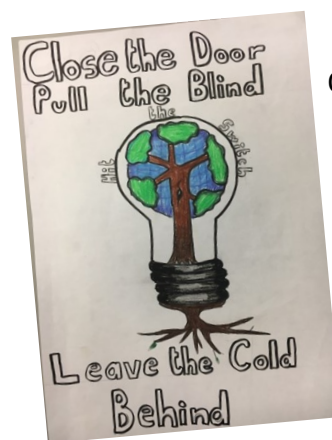
are separating waste continue. Every classroom has both a black "general waste" bin and a green "recycling" bin. We ask all staff and students to make sure that they separate their waste in the following ways:

Black Bin Items:

- * Tissue Paper
- * Tin Foil
- * Food
- * Cling Film
- * Crisp Packets

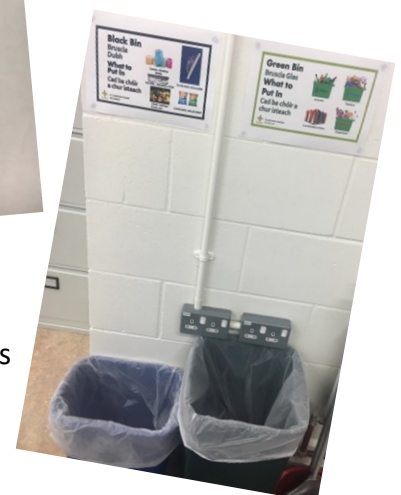
Green Bin Items:

- * Cans
- * Plastic
- * Paper
- * Glass



Our Energy Code

Our Classroom Signs



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Art – Newgrange Trip

Our Senior Cycle Art students visited Newgrange on 7th November.



The area boasts three significantly large passage graves – Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. Knowth is regarded as the largest and most decorated megalithic passage grave in all of Europe. These ancient burial chambers have been declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The visit allowed students to develop their knowledge and understanding of this period in their History of Art studies. Thanks to Ms Healy who planned the visit and accompanied the class on the day.



IADT Open Day

On Friday, November 23rd, our 5th Year students attended IADT Open Day. During their visit the students were able to find out about the broad range of courses on offer in the college. They had the opportunity to visit the wonderful campus and to talk to current students and lecturers. Thank-you to Mr O’Hora who planned the visit and accompanied the group on the day.

Classroom Based Assessment

Our 3rd Year students have been busy with their second Classroom Based Assessment (CBA) in Business and English. Well done to all the students and teachers involved.

Literacy News: Wellread National Award

Ms L Healy

The PDST ‘Wellread National Award’ is a national initiative designed and organised by the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST). It aims to create heightened awareness about the importance of creating a positive culture of reading in school communities for our young people as part of their personal and academic development. The PDST ‘Wellread National Award’ is an initiative

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that seeks to involve all relevant stakeholders who impact on student learning including students, teachers, ancillary staff, parents and wider community in a range of reading and associated activities. It is envisaged that a national award will explicitly foster and nurture a reading culture in schools.

From 2016-2017, Ms Healy established a library committee with the support of Mr Toomey at Clonkeen College, to initiate our school's application process for the PDST 'Wellread National Award'. Our entire school community has been invested in the process, our students, staff, parents and management along with our community links worked together to create activities and initiatives to promote and foster a love of reading. *"Reading for Pleasure"* was established in 2015 and *Drop Everything and Read* was embraced by staff. Ms O'Rourke supported and supervised during lunchtime *Reading Clubs*. A Wellread wall displayed our student reviews and student selected list of favourite authors. Many activities were organised in school – from attending the Poetry Day celebrations at the Lexicon, Junior and Senior Book Clubs, Creative Writing Clubs, Oral Literacy with our Debating Club, Parent-Teacher Reading Clubs – as well as linked initiatives to foster a love of reading

outside the classroom. All our efforts were compiled in an online portfolio and our journey was documented on camera by Tom Wallace, this was submitted to the PDST in May 2016.



It was with great pride and pleasure that our Principal Mr Melly and Ms Healy accompanied students: Sean Nolan, Finn McGrath, Shane O'Sullivan and Tom Wallace to the Wellread National Awards on October 12th in Citywest Hotel. Our school was one of thirty nationally to be awarded for our work in improving literacy and fostering a love of reading. Clonkeen College received a certificate and an engraved award in acknowledgement of our literacy efforts.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank our Parents' Association, The Board of Management, our Principal and Deputy Principal our caretakers and our students and staff for their ongoing support and tireless work towards the creation of our school library.



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Science Week

Ms M Duffy

Science Week 2018 took place from 11th to 18th November. Students became the teachers during science week, demonstrating fun experiments to their peers during class. Senior Physics students took to the yard, to carry out some Physics busking entertaining the crowds. Experiments ranged from using a sharpie pen to open a can of coke (pressure), to surface tension and centre of gravity. Students were challenged to try to pick up sweets with their teeth whilst holding a metre stick. This proved to be quite a difficult task thanks to the positioning of their centre of gravity! All students contributed hilarious science jokes, fascinating facts and fantastic posters. Our 2nd and 3rd Years took on the Rainbow Challenge. Well done to Nathan McGowan, Eoin Manning, Conor Dunne (3rd Year) and Jonah Lacy (2nd Year) who succeeded.



Well done to Elvis Cooney, Andrew Aylward and Oran Molony who succeeded in the Mr Squidgy challenge (Cartesian diver). Mark Brophy, 6th Year, won the Science dingbats challenge. See how many you get right on the next page. Say what you see! (Answers on the back page!)



CanSat Ireland is fast approaching and we have an eager group of 5th years ready to start planning their satellite in a can. We wish them the best of luck as they begin the competition. See the next newsletter for the full team and how they are progressing.



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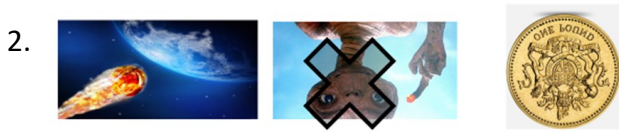


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Science Dingbats:



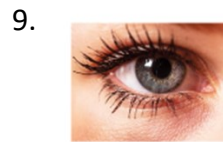
3. **KNEE LIGHTS**



5. **HIJKLMNO**



8. **(ICE)(ICE)(ICE)**



Have a go! And don't forget to check out the answers on the back page!

Transition Year Activities

Our Transition Year students returned to school on 19th November, having completed two weeks' Work Experience following the midterm break. Their work experience afforded the boys the opportunity to investigate careers that may be of interest to them. As always, there was a very broad range of placements chosen, reflecting the many different interests of our students.

Thursday afternoon activities and Tuesday afternoons Social Care placements continued through-

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-out the term. On Thursdays, students tackled a variety of activities from bouldering and mountain biking to First Aid, while Tuesdays allowed some students to engage with social projects in the local community.



Following their return from Belfast, the final week of term has been a busy one for our Transition Year students. They spent Monday and Tuesday bag packing in conjunction with the Parents' Association, while Thursday involved a trip to GoQuest and the final day of term, Friday will see them visit Croke Park and learn about its rich sporting heritage.

Again, a big thank-you to the teachers who have organised and supported the students in these various pursuits.

Transition Year Belfast Trip

Mr D Egan

On Wednesday, 12th December, our Transition Years left Clonkeen College to go on a Cultural Trip to Belfast. Departing on two buses, the students made their way up the M1 to Belfast. Arriving in time for lunch in Belfast City Centre, we could see the Christmas spirit in full flow in the city. After lunch we made our way to the W5 Science museum in The Titanic Quarter of Belfast. There was a range of activities to do there, from puzzle games and augmented reality to climbing.



Making our way back to Belfast City Centre, we browsed the Christmas Market and had dinner. We finished off our first day with a trip to Dundonald Ice Bowl for ice skating and bowling.

On our second day in the city, we went on a black taxi tour of Belfast. Our tour guides brought us through the Falls Road and Shankill Road areas.

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We got a close-up view of the peace walls and the murals of the city. Our tour guides showed us sights of some of the darkest days in Ireland's history. Following lunch, we continued our tour of Belfast with a visit to the Crumlin Road Gaol. Here we toured the famous gaol and saw the conditions the inmates lived in. We also learned about the one successful escapee from the prison. Following our visit to the gaol we boarded the bus for our return to Clonkeen.



A big thank-you to Ms Mooney who organised the trip and travelled with the group to Belfast with Mr O'Shaughnessy, Mr Faherty, Mr McMenamín and Mr Egan.

U18 Hurling

S Hussey

Following an emphatic win over Coláiste Cois Life (4-14 to 2-14), on November 15th, our U18 Hurling Team will now face Malahide Community

School in the semi-final of the Dublin 'C' Championship. The match, an away encounter, will take place immediately after the Christmas Holidays, on Tuesday, 8th January. In preparation for this clash, the team has been training hard, including toting out for some early morning sessions. We wish the team and their coaches, Mr O'Brien and Mr Bennett, the very best of luck.

1st Year Soccer

Our 1st Year Soccer Team has had a busy few weeks since the midterm break. They got their campaign under way on 21st November against Moyle Park. Recording a loss in the season-opener the boys knew they needed to up their game if they wanted to continue in the competition. Their second match, this time against Drimnagh took place on 4th December. All the boys' hard work in training paid off as they won the match on a score line of 2-0. With a bit of a gap to their last match, in the final week of term, the boys trained hard in December. This time they were up against old foes St MacDara's on Wednesday, 19th December.

The match got off to a poor start for Clonkeen, with St MacDara's netting two goals to lead 2-0 at half-time. It seemed that all was lost for our 1st

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Years and that they would be exiting the competition.

There must have been something special in the half-time team talk, because the boys returned to the pitch a different side. Playing with renewed vigour in an unbelievable second half, the team clawed back at the deficit and a Patrick McGrath hat-trick saw them take the lead and win the match 3-2. It was undoubtedly the performance of the year from any soccer team in Clonkeen College. The boys will now continue their campaign with a regional semi-final to be played in the New Year.

Of note for Clonkeen College, in the campaign to date, are Isaac Kelly, Eoin Glynn, Lewis Bishop, Callum Maher and, of course, our hat-trick legend Patrick McGrath.

Congratulations to the team and to their coaches Mr Faherty and Mr O'Shaughnessy.

Answers to the Science Dingbats:

1. Chromosome
2. Compound
3. Neon lights
4. Antibiotic
5. H₂O (water)
6. Carbon dioxide
7. Mitosis
8. Ice cube
9. Isaac Newton
10. Marie Curie

