

# CLONKEEN COLLEGE



## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*Prepared by Transition Year Students*

September / October 2018

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### *Welcome*

As we come to our first Midterm Break of the 2018/2019 school year, we reflect on our first few weeks back at school. We hope that all our students, staff and their families enjoyed the summer break and that everyone has come back to school ready for all the year ahead holds for us. At this point, we would like to say farewell to a number of staff who have not returned to Clonkeen this year. We send our best wishes to Ms Ní Chatháin who has taken up a position in Wexford, Ms Fulton who is now teaching in Galway, Mr Howley who is pursuing further studies in America and Ms Lemass who is completing her M.Ed. in Scotland. We welcome some new faces on staff too. Joining us this year are Ms Duignan (Music), Ms Marley (Home Economics), Mr Hayes (Maths), Mr McMenamain (P.E.) and Mr Monaghan (Irish). We hope that they will all enjoy their time with us, here, at Clonkeen College.

### *Agreement Reached*

We are pleased that agreement has been reached between the Board of Management of the school and the Christian Brothers regarding the lands at Clonkeen College. The agreement will see the donation of almost four acres of land to ERST, which will ensure first class sports facilities at Clonkeen.

Everyone at Clonkeen College would like to express its thanks to all who supported the college in the last year.

### *Exam Results*

Huge congratulations to our Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate classes of 2018 who received their exam results in August and September. We hope that all our exam students are pleased with the outcome and are all enjoying the new challenges that this year is bringing for them. We would like, especially, to congratulate Killian Farrelly who achieved a maximum 625 points in the 2018 Leaving Certificate Examinations. Best of luck to Killian in his future studies.

### *Open Night*

Our annual Open Night was held on Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was, again, a fantastic opportunity to show our wonderful school to prospective families. Following a presentation in the school hall, our visitors toured the school, where they were able to speak with teachers and pupils and see examples of student work and sports on offer. We were delighted to have a great turn out on the night. A big thank-you to all the staff and students who prepared the school and were present on the night to speak with our visitors.

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### *Droichead*

This is Clonkeen College's first year as a Droichead school. Droichead is an integrated induction framework which is based on a whole school approach in supporting newly qualified teachers' professional learning. A Professional Support Team (PST) is a team of experienced, fully-registered teachers, that work collaboratively to support and guide a newly qualified teacher (NQT) through his/her induction phase. Following the Droichead process, a declaration is made by the NQT that he or she is ready to move to the next phase on the continuum of teacher education. The Professional Support Team (PST) in Clonkeen, made up of Mr Brennan, Ms Dunlop and Ms Healy, is looking forward to assisting all newly qualified teachers through this national framework over the coming academic year.

### *L1 News*

L1 welcomes new student Louis Mitchell to the school. Louis has come to us from Johnstown Primary School. During the summer, Louis won a gold medal in javelin at the Special Olympics Ireland Games. Well done Louis! Congratulations also to Mark Sullivan who won a gold medal in swimming at the Special Olympics Ireland Games. Great work Mark!

### *Junior Cycle News / School Closure*

Please note that Clonkeen College will be closed on November 22<sup>nd</sup> to facilitate whole staff CPD for the new Junior Cycle.

With the new academic year, new Junior Cycle subject specifications are being rolled out in Maths, Music, History, Geography and Home Economics. These join those already underway in English, Science and Business Studies, Irish, French and Art, while the Wellbeing aspects of the Junior Cycle, introduced last year will be maintained in the areas of Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), Physical Education (PE) and Civic Social and Political Education (CSPE). Information on the Junior Cycle Framework was presented to parents at an evening organised by the Parents' Association. As with last year's presentation, we had good attendance. Thank you to all who attended.

### *Higher Options*

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Year students attended Higher Options 2018 at the RDS on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup>. It was a great opportunity for students to explore the various paths available to them as they think beyond their Leaving Certificate Exams. Thank you to Mr O'Hora and Ms O'Rourke who organised the visit and accompanied the students.

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### *Student Council*

Our Student Council have been meeting weekly since the beginning of the year to discuss student concerns in the school and to identify actions they can take on behalf of the student body.

Two members, Eoin Manning and Shane Dennehy (both 3<sup>rd</sup> Year) raised the question of setting up a Table Tennis group in the school. Having established that there was interest among junior students in such a group, the boys then went about organising this activity. Due to the high level of interest, a raffle was held which resulted in twenty-three students being given places in the group. The group will meet on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes in the hall.

### *6<sup>th</sup> Year Ecology Trip*

Our annual, 6<sup>th</sup> Year, Ecology Trip took place on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September. This year our Leaving Certificate Biology Class visited Airfield in Dundrum, where they carried out their Ecology Habitat study. The weather was ideal for the group to successfully carry out their experiments. An enjoyable day was had by all. Thanks to our 6<sup>th</sup> Year Biology teachers who organised this essential field trip.

### *3<sup>rd</sup> Year Mosque Visit*

All our 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Religion students, recently, visited the Islamic Cultural Centre in Clonskeagh as part of their preparation for their Junior Certificate Religion Exam. As always, the group were met by Dr Ali Saleem who showed them around the centre and gave them an insight into the Islamic world. The group's visit to the Islamic Cultural Centre allows all students to see the layout of the mosque and to learn about Islamic practices, pilgrimage sites and sacred texts. Understanding and appreciating world religions is a key aspect of the study of Religion at Junior Certificate Level. Back at school, the students will prepare their Religion Journals which make up 20% of their Junior Certificate Religion grade.

### *Gaisce*

Well done to those 5<sup>th</sup> Year students who received their Gaisce Bronze Award recently. It is a great achievement!



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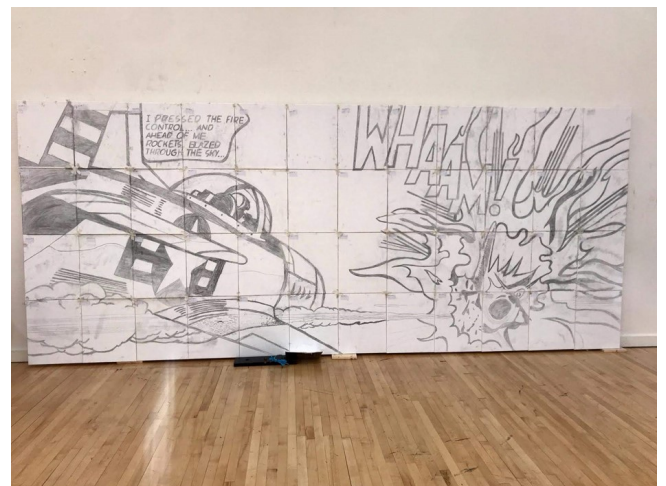
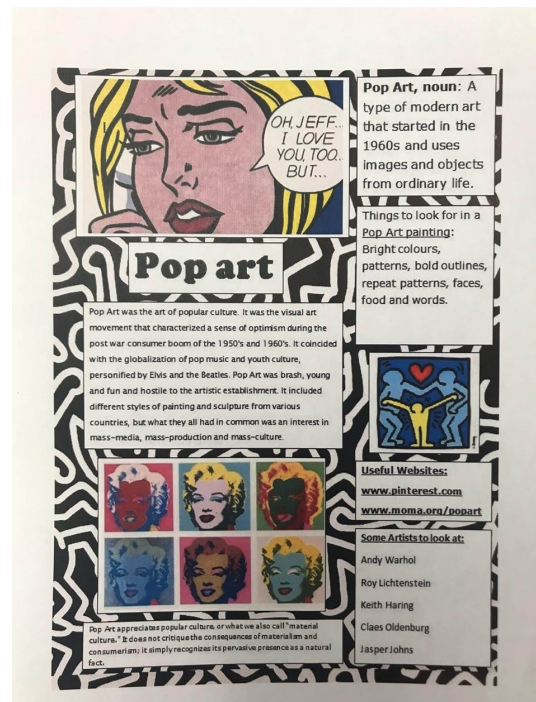
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### Creative Hour

Creative Hour takes place every Tuesday afternoon from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Room 12 (Art Room). All students are welcome to attend. During this time Ms. Healy is also running a Portfolio Preparation Course for Senior Cycle students.

Meanwhile, our Transition Year Art students are in the process of recreating a famous painting by Roy Lichtenstein, following their study of the Pop Art movement over the course of this module. Here are some images of their progress:



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### *Maths Week*

Maths Week took place from October 13<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. The whole school got involved in Maths week and were challenged to daily puzzles. It sparked great enthusiasm and caused the 6<sup>th</sup> Years to get very competitive! The winners from each day were: Adam O'Hara (B3), Peter Fitzsimons (B4), Elvis Cooney (5<sup>th</sup> Year), Sam Kinsella (C2) and Leon Lapraky (A2). Needless to say the 6<sup>th</sup> Years were gutted that they didn't win after being the best contributors! Try the puzzles below yourself and see the back page for the solutions.

Students from 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, TY, 5<sup>th</sup> Year and 6<sup>th</sup> Year took part in NUIG's national Maths Quiz PRISM. Highest scoring in 3<sup>rd</sup> Year were Maurice White, Fionnan Kelly and Aaron Maher. Best senior students were Brian Kenny (5<sup>th</sup> Year) and Sam Hayden (6<sup>th</sup> Year). Students will be able to take part in round one of the Irish Maths Olympiad and if they score highly they will be invited to Maths enrichment classes in UCD, with a chance to make the Irish Team. The International Maths Olympiad takes place in Bath, UK in July 2019.

Students also got involved in designing posters on Mathematicians and Maths Eyes. Well done to all involved! Maths club starts again every Thursday

in the Physics lab at lunch time. Come along and have fun problem solving!

### Maths Week Puzzles

#### 1. *How Many Siblings??*

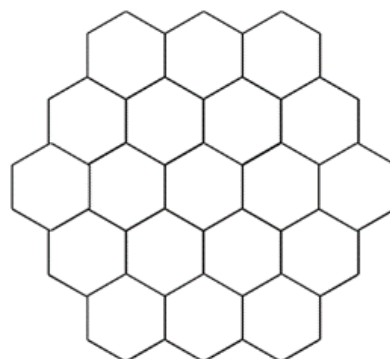
Mary has twice as many brother as sisters, while her brother John has twice as many siblings sisters as brothers. How many children are there in their family.

#### 2. *How old is Lucy???*

Sarah is three times as old as Peter. Max is twice as old as Peter. Lucy is two years older than Max. Altogether their ages sum to 26 years. How old is Lucy.

#### 3. *The Honeycomb Puzzle*

Arrange the numbers 1-19 in the honeycomb grid so that each row and column and diagonal adds to 38. You can only use each number once and every number must be used.



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### More Maths Week Puzzles

#### 4. The Handshake Puzzle

Amy, Liam, Samira and Luke meet up. Each person shakes hands with every other person once. How many handshakes are there in total?

#### 5. The World Cup Puzzle

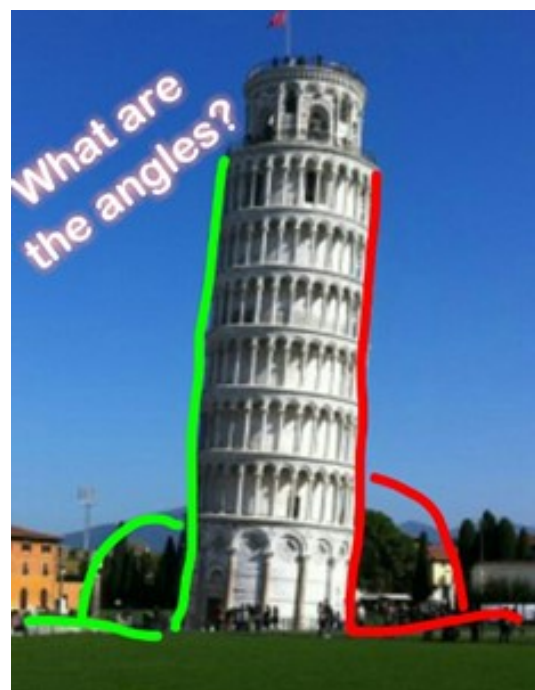
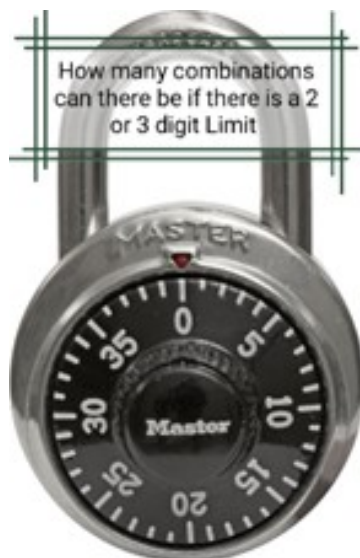
There are 6 teams in a group. Each team plays every other team twice. How many games are there in total?

Remember you can find the solutions on the last page!!



### Maths Week Maths Eyes

These posters were made by students to show maths in the everyday world.



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### *Transition Year Activities*

Our Transition Year students have been very busy since the beginning of the year, taking part in a wide variety of activities on Thursday afternoons. Outside school, they have enjoyed physical pursuits such as Sailing, Bouldering and Mountain Biking, while inside school they have learned survival and practical skills such as outdoor cookery and bench building. Additionally, our first group of Transition Year students have completed their First Aid Training with the Red Cross. All students, will have the opportunity to carry out this invaluable training over the course of the year. As always none of these activities would be possible without the hard work of Transition Year Co-ordinator Ms Mooney who organised them nor without the other teachers who accompany and/or lead the students in the various pursuits, in particular Mr O'Shaughnessy, Mr Faherty and Mr Brennan.

### *The Anthology 2019*

Clonkeen College Press 2018-19 has been established and we are looking for submissions for ANTHOLOGY 2019. If any students, from 1<sup>st</sup> Year to 6<sup>th</sup> Year, have pieces they would like to submit and see published in this year's ANTHOLOGY, please send them to [ccp@clonkeencollege.ie](mailto:ccp@clonkeencollege.ie)

Writing can be of any kind – fiction, non-fiction, biography, poetry, drama or whatever. We'll find a home for it.

This year we are also hoping to include writing from students in St Joseph's of Cluny too.

The cover is to be designed by Seán Nolan, in 6<sup>th</sup> Year.

You can also follow us on:

Twitter: @CLONKCOLLPRESS

Instagram: @clonkeencollegepress

Facebook: Clonkeen College Press

E-mail: [ccp@clonkeencollege.ie](mailto:ccp@clonkeencollege.ie)

### *TWSG*

On July 26<sup>th</sup> three members of Clonkeen College Third World Support Group travelled to Malawi to open two blocks of classrooms at Thondolo Primary School. The community gave us a warm welcome and celebrated the occasion with local music, dancing and poetry. The new facilities now mean that children in this impoverished region can be educated up to 14 years of age. A big thank you for all your support.

The group also travelled down to Cape Maclear to

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see the wonderful work being done by the Irish-woman Mags O' Riordan. She has built a fantastic clinic to cater for the needs of the poor in the area and in doing so has transformed their lives.

We also visited Uboya Primary school just over the border in Zambia. This impoverished school has become a major success story. Through introducing an accelerated English language programme and a school feeding scheme they have doubled enrolment and have achieved great exam success. It is hoped that we can introduce similar initiatives at Thondolo Primary School.

In Zambia we also visited Linda Community School, located in Livingstone, on the border with Zimbabwe. There is a huge problem with AIDS-HIV in this region and consequently there are a lot of orphans. Linda Community School, set up to cater for these children, is operating out of temporary premises. Along with the Zambezi Sunrise Trust, Clonkeen College TWSG hopes to build a new school for them. Our contribution will be a two-classroom block.

This year will be a challenging one for the group, but as we face it we remember the school motto "nothing without effort".

### *Green Schools*

The Green Schools Committee would like to welcome all its new members for the new school year. We would also like to commend all the hard work carries out by last year's members and the teachers involved.

We have been very busy since the start of the year and we have a lot of work to carry out before our Energy Inspection next year. Our focus this year is to continue to create energy awareness, both at home and at school and to carry out various energy readings and surveys.

We also hope to continue our work monitoring litter in Clonkeen College. By the end of term, we expect that all classrooms will have both a recycling and a general waste bin with signage to guide students and teachers to use these effectively. We ask that all students and teachers take a moment to read these signs and to understand what rubbish they can put in each bin.

We look forward to a busy year ahead and, as always, we welcome all those who would like to join the group.





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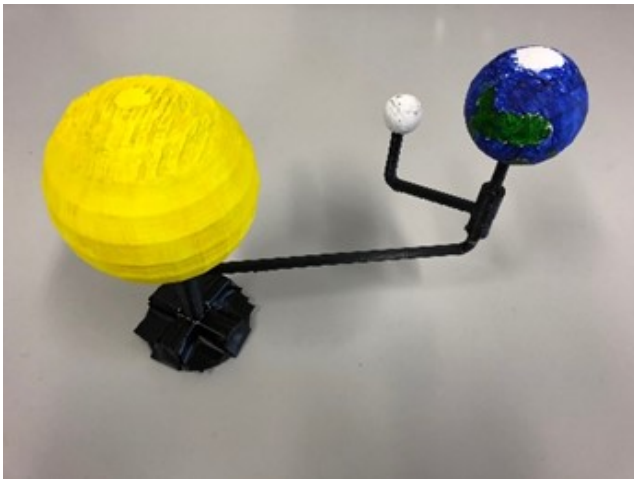
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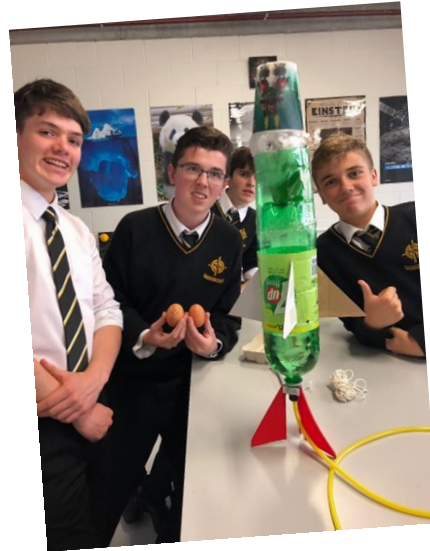
### Space Week

Space Week took place from 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Year students investigated satellites, while our 3<sup>rd</sup> Years made models showing how the Sun, Moon and Earth interact. Eoin Manning made a very impressive 3-D printed model (pictured).



Students had great fun recreating eclipses and figuring out why we have seasons.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Years designed some fantastic posters on the hazards of space exploration and launched their "eggnavts" into space. One egg survived thanks to its jelly pod!



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### *Adam Matthews*

Well done to boxer Adam Matthew (6<sup>th</sup> Year) who is the newly crowned National U18 Champion in the 75kg category. Adam won his title fight on July 27<sup>th</sup> at the National Stadium. Congratulations on a fantastic achievement, Adam!

### *Sports Round Up*

A busy term of sport since the beginning of September ... we saw the first **Basketball** matches in our new gym when the **Senior** and **U16** teams welcomed **St. Mary's College** to our fantastic new facility. While the older lads didn't come away with the ideal result they still put up a spirited show against experienced opponents. It was then left to the younger lads to post our first victory in what hopefully becomes a basketball fortress! **33-13** was the historic result. The U16s followed up this great performance with a second win, this time over **Monkstown CBC** on 24<sup>th</sup> October on a score line of **24-26** and leaves them chasing a quarter final place with just one match remaining. Well done to **Mekael Ballili**, **Roman Gyrim** and **Darragh Cunningham** for organising the two teams. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Basketball will get underway after the Hallowe'en break.

1<sup>st</sup> Years have a had a great representation so far in Gaelic Football, Hurling and Soccer. Again, they

got to experience the new gym with the **Futsal** competition organised by **Mr. Faherty** and **Mr. O'Shaughnessy**. It was a great success! We had a big turnout too for the **U14/1<sup>st</sup> Year** trials with competition beginning in November. Our older **Soccer teams** had mixed fortunes in their **Leinster Cups**: the **U15s** have progressed to the second round with a **4-3** win, after extra time, over **St MacDara's CC**; the **U17s** did likewise after a **2-0** win over **St. Tiernan's CS**. However, they unfortunately fell at the next hurdle. The **Senior Team** lost first time out to **Hartstown CS**, finally succumbing **3-2** after a battling performance. The **League** beckons for the **U15s** and **U17s** after Hallowe'en.

In **Hurling** the **1<sup>st</sup> Years** got their **Leinster** competition underway this week. Despite losing to **Old Bawn** first time out there was a good turnout, it augurs well for the remaining games. The **U16s** were eliminated after two group games. But the **Senior Team** remains in contention for having reached the quarter finals following a **6-11** to **1-8** win over **Templeogue College** in the **Dublin Championship**.

The **U18** and **U16 Gaelic Football teams** will take to the fields after the mid-term looking to continue to progress to the knock-out stages as they have done over the last few years. The **U14s** completed their three matches in October. Good efforts all

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round in a tough group but, unfortunately, we weren't able to build on our semi-final spot in last year's 1<sup>st</sup> Year competition. However, we ended on a high against the group winners, **St. Colmcille's CS** – despite our loss we racked up **7-5** in what was an exciting match. As always, we battled right to the end.

In **Golf**, **James Kelly (B3)**, **Nathan McGowan (C3)**, **Ben Nolan (C3)** and **Luke O'Connor (TY)** flew the flag for us in both the **Leinster Senior** and **Junior Cups**, narrowly missing out on **Junior Qualification** by **1 point**, but the future is in good hands! We've won our first league game against **St. Benildus** by two holes. Well done!

And finally, to **Seán McGrane (5<sup>th</sup> Year)** who represented Clonkeen College in the **Leinster Athletics Multi-Event** in September placing **5<sup>th</sup>** overall. Great achievement – well done Seán!

### *Maths Week Solutions*

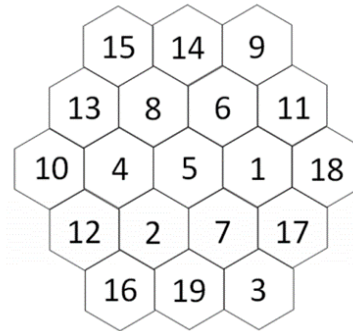
*Puzzle 1 solution: How Many Siblings?*

4 children altogether – Mary has 2 brothers and one sister, while John has 2 sisters and 1 brother.

*Puzzle 2 solution: How Old is Lucy?*

Lucy is 8 years old.

*Puzzle 3 Solution: The Honeycomb Puzzle*



*Puzzle 4 Solution: The Handshake Puzzle*

Amy, Liam, Samira and Luke meet up. Each person shakes hands with every other person once. How many handshakes are there in total?

We can see that Amy (in the red jumper) will have a total of three handshakes: one with Liam, one with Samira and one with Luke.

Liam has already shaken hands with Amy so he will have two more handshakes: one with Samira and one with Luke.

Samira will have already shaken hands with Amy and Liam so she will only have one more handshake with Luke.

Luke, at this stage, will have shaken hands with everyone in the group.

There will be a total of six handshakes for four people.

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### *Puzzle 5 Solution : The World Cup*

Let's take Group D with the six teams of Republic of Ireland, Wales, Austria, Serbia, Moldova and Georgia.

Republic of Ireland will play ten games: two against Wales, two against Austria, two against Serbia, two against Moldova and two against Georgia.

Wales will have already played the Republic of Ireland twice so they will have eight games left to play: two against Austria, two against Serbia, two against Moldova and two against Georgia.

Austria will have already played the Republic of Ireland and Wales so they will have six games left to play against Serbia, Moldova and Georgia.

Serbia will have played against the Republic of Ireland, Wales and Austria so they will have four games left to play against Moldova and Georgia.

Moldova will have played every team twice at this stage apart from Georgia.

Georgia will then have played every team in the group twice.

There will be a total of 30 games for a group of six teams.

### *Thank-you!*

A big thank-you to all our contributors, both staff members and student who have brought news from the last two months to you.

We hope that everyone enjoys the Hallowe'en break. We look forward to seeing everyone when the school re-opens on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November.

To end this issue we're leaving you with another sample of our students' fantastic Art work:

