

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

October 2019

Junior Certificate Results

Congratulations to all our Transition Year Students who received their Junior Certificate results on Friday, October 4th. We hope that all our students are pleased with their results. We are very proud of their wonderful achievements, and would like to commend both the boys and their teachers on their hard work, over the course of the last three years.



This year's group was the first year to sit the new Common Level exams in Science and Business. In the majority of their subjects students were awarded traditional grades (A, B, C etc.) but in Science, Business and English the grades are in the new format. The highest grade is Distinction (90 – 100%), followed by Higher Merit (75 – 89%), then Merit (55 – 74%), Achieved (40 – 54%) and Partially Achieved (20 – 39%). This group is also the last to sit the traditional Junior Cert. exams in Irish, French and Art, as we see new Junior Cycle exams in these subjects for the first time at the end of this academic year.

School Closure Reminder

A reminder to all families that the school will close on Monday, November 4th and Tuesday, November 5th to facilitate staff CPD for the new Junior Cycle.

LCVP Donation

Our 6th Year LCVP class presented the Irish Youth Foundation with a donation on October 7th. The boys raised funds for the charity by baking cakes and selling them at last year's Sports Day. They undertook this exercise for their Enterprise Plan which is a core element of their LCVP programme.



Traditional Music Group

All musicians or those interested in learning are invited to join our Traditional Music Group. The group meets on Tuesdays at 13:25 in the Music Room. All abilities are welcome!

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Debating Success

We would like to congratulate 5th Year student Ayman Memon on his recent success in the Senior Schools Mace Debate held by UCD's Literary and Historical Society. The competition, which took place on Saturday 12th October, attracted debaters from schools all over the country.



Each student was paired with an unknown teammate in the event. Ayman and his teammate fought off stiff competition from over 100 students, as they progressed through the first three rounds and on to the final, debating motions such as “This house believes that Religion belongs in modern society” and “This house would ban all further research into genetic modification.” In each of the initial rounds, each debater delivered a 5 minute speech. During their speech the first minute and the last minute were both protected from interruptions from members of the opposing team. Ayman

performed extremely well in each of these rounds, finishing in top place. In the final, they then had to prepare a 7 minute speech on the motion “This house would sacrifice privacy for national security.” Again the duo performed formidably and were delighted to be declared overall winners.

Gaisce

Congratulations to our 5th Year students who were awarded their Bronze Gaisce awards recently. They started their preparation for the award during Transition Year and have now completed work in four key challenge areas: Community Involvement, Personal Skill, Physical Recreation and Adventure Journey. The students who received their award were: Daniel Drohan, Cillian Dunne, Richard Heneghan, Liam Downes, Robert Rawson, Eoghan O'Carroll and Ayman Memon.



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Open Night

Our annual Open Night took place on Tuesday, October 1st. Many parents and prospective students from the local area visited the school. Mr Melly spoke with all our visitors before they toured the school, speaking with teachers and students and getting a taste of all Clonkeen College has to offer.

They took part in fun Science experiments, solved puzzling problems and even tasted some delicious cake. We would like to thank all the staff and students who prepared and represented the school for the evening. Thank you also to our Student Council who assisted in the organisation of this event.



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3rd Year Mosque Visits

All our 3rd Year groups recently visited the Islamic Cultural Centre in Clonskeagh, where they deepened their understanding of Muslim culture and faith. They were brought on a guided tour of the centre and mosque by Dr Ali Selim. Students learned about sacred Islamic texts, places of pilgrimage and Muslim practices. Following the tour students were allowed the opportunity to speak with Dr Selim and ask him some questions they had prepared in class. The group received bags from Dr Selim to remind them of their visit to the mosque.

Our 3rd Years participated in this visit as part of their Junior Certificate Religion studies. The visit will form part of their Religion Journal which counts for 20% of their result in Religion.

Well done to all students on their excellent behaviour throughout and a big thank-you to the Religion teachers, Ms Mooney, Ms Dunlop and Mr McGauley, who organised the visits and accompanied the students.

Zeminar

Our 5th Year LCVP Class attended Zeminar at the National Sports Campus on Thursday, 10th October. This event allowed our students to meet with over 100 organisations, to discover career opportunities and to take part in workshops to equip them with

tools to maintain their mental health and wellbeing.



They were also able to attend talks delivered by a number of speakers coming from a variety of backgrounds. It was a fantastic experience for our students, who found the day hugely beneficial and inspiring. Thank-you to our LCVP teachers Ms Dunlop and Mr O'Brien who organised the visit and accompanied the students on the day.

Green-Schools

Ms L Nolan

This term the Green-Schools Committee will be carrying out an Environmental Review for the school. This review is made up of three elements: (1) Carrying out water meter readings/reading water bills, (2) A whole school water audit and (3) Monthly leak tests. We will also be conducting staff and student surveys around water usage and conservation.

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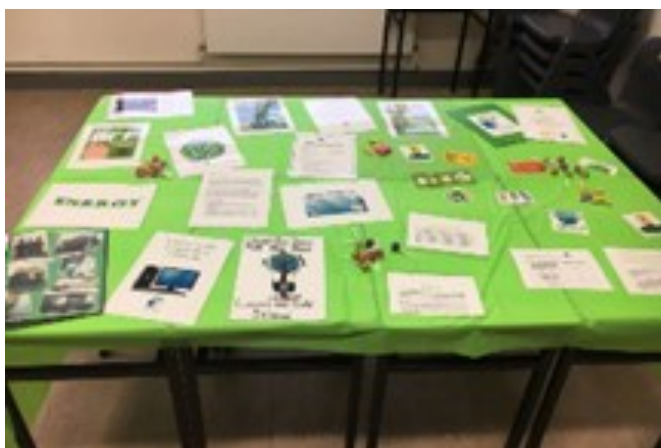
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There was lots of interest in our group from future Clonkeen students at the school's Open Night on October 1st. We quizzed our visitors asking them to

guess how long it takes for a plastic bag, a plastic bottle, an aluminium can, a cigarette butt and an apple core to break down. Both parents and students were stunned at the figures. We also hope to take part in beach clean ups after the mid-term break.



Clonkeen College Press

Mr J Toomey

CLONKEEN COLLEGE PRESS website

The design of a stand-alone Clonkeen College Press website has been the undertaking of Salmaan Bari, Jordan Leane and Aaron Maher. We hope to launch

this site in the next fortnight. We envisage this being a home for student writing and the site includes a blog-space, entitled THE STUDENT VOICE, where we will look to encourage students to express their views on a range of subjects. There is also a NEW WRITING section where we will promote new writing of any genre that students would like to submit for publication. The opening three pieces of new writing are to be taken from last year's ANTHOLOGY 2019. In addition to this, visitors to our site will be able to access PDFs of all our previous ANTHOLOGY publications, submit pieces for this year's ANTHOLOGY 2020, find links to Clonkeen College Press social media and read general information on the Clonkeen College Press project that first began in 2011-12.

THE ANTHOLOGY 2020

ANTHOLOGY 2020 will be published in April 2020. You can expect to see posters around the school, and other promotional activity on our social media, over the coming weeks, inviting submissions from all students. As always, we are open to accepting submissions from students in other schools too. Students who wish to submit stories, poetry, essays or whatever kind writing for this year's ANTHOLOGY can do so by sending them to us via e-mail at: ccp@clonkeencollege.ie

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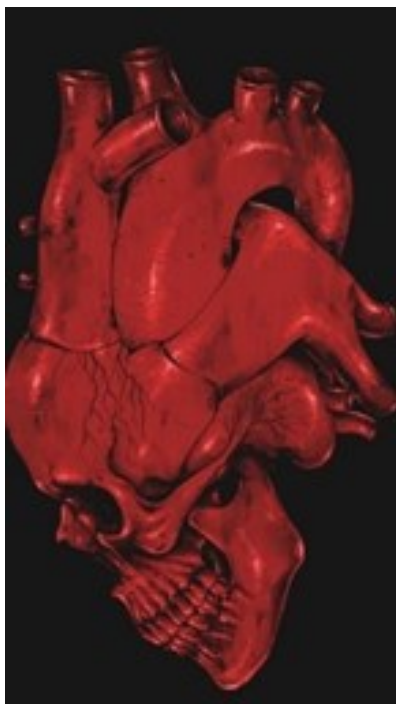


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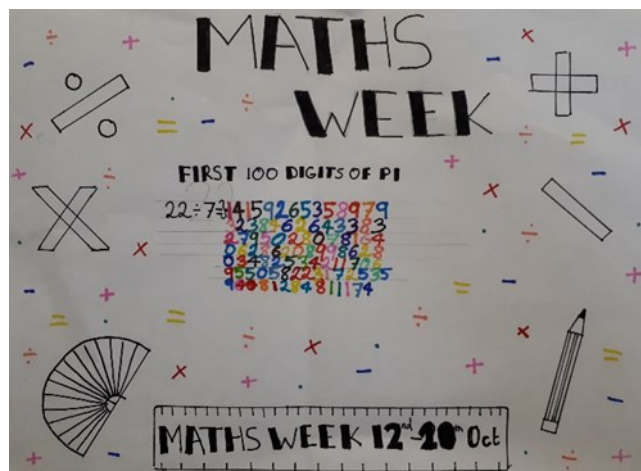
October 2019

Lastly, the proposed cover for this year's ANTHOLOGY is being worked on by Transition Year student, Eoghan Echivarre. Eoghan will explain his somewhat controversial choice of image (pictured below) for the cover in the inaugural blog of THE STUDENT VOICE when the website goes live.



Maths Week

Clonkeen College Maths Week took place from 14th to 18th October. As always, the Maths Department set daily puzzles to challenge all our budding mathematicians. Well done to our daily winners: Alexei Biarozkin (5th Year), Jade Kendrick-Doyle (C3), Seán Bongenaar (A2), Seán O'Connell (5th Year) and Matthew D'Arcy (5th Year). Try the puzzles on the next page yourself and see the last page for solutions!



In class, our student were busy exploring the world of Maths, with our 1st Years designing posters and completing projects on mathematicians, some of our 2nd Years making a video about Algebra and our Senior Students working on Maths Eyes. Well done to all the students and their teachers for a fantastic week of Maths!

JOHN NAPIER

Who is John Napier?

- John Napier is a mathematician and is best known as the discoverer of logarithms.
- He also invented the so-called "Napier's Bones".
- He made common use of decimal points in arithmetic and mathematics.



Birth and Death

Where and when was he born? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Napier was born in February 1st, 1550, Edinburgh, United Kingdom.• Napier's birthplace, Merchiston Tower in Edinburgh, is now part of the facilities of Edinburgh Napier University.	Where and when did he die? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Napier died at April 4th, 1617.• Napier died from the effects of gout, at his home at Merchiston Castle and his remains were buried in the kirkyard of St. Giles.
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Facts

- There is a crater on the Moon named after him called "Napier".
- His dad was only 16 years old when John was born and was Sir Archibald of the Merchiston Castle.
- He began school at the age of 13, then left shortly after, where he was said to have studied in Europe until the age of 21.

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Maths Week Puzzles:

Snail Maths

A snail crawls slowly up a garden wall 48 cm high. If it crawls forward 8 cm a day and slips back 3 cm each night, how long will it take to reach the top of the wall?

How many messages???

Peter, Sara, Matt, Amy and Luke are all friends.

Each of them sends one text message to each other person.

How many messages are sent in total?

Space Mission

A rocket blasts off from Earth heading for Mars, is getting faster as it travels. In fact, the rocket's speed doubles every week that it's in space. If the rocket lands on Mars in 12 weeks, in which week was it halfway there?

Balancing Problem

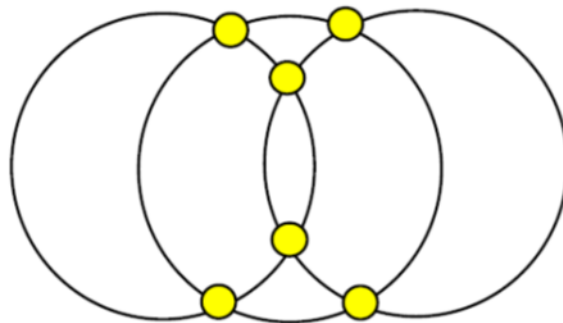
Imagine you have eight snooker balls in front of you. Seven of them have identical weights, and the other one weighs slightly more than the other seven.

Using a balance scale (and only a balance scale!) How can you identify the heavier ball using the scale only three times?



Circles

Fill in each small circle with a number so that the four circles on any one of the larger circles will add up to 30. (No repeats)



See the back page for solutions!

Hell and Back

On Wednesday, 2nd October our Transition Year students travelled to Kilruddery House in Bray, Co. Wicklow, where they took part in Hell and Back. Once everyone had received their wristbands and headbands, the horn sounded and they were off! Running, climbing, crawling and wading through deep water, our students tested their physical and mental strength as they faced one obstacle after another. The boys enjoyed every test put before them and finished the course tired but happy with their efforts. A big thank you to the teachers who organised and accompanied the students: Ms Mooney, Mr O'Shaughnessy, Mr Faherty and Mr McMEnamin.

Turn to the next page for our Hell and Back photos!

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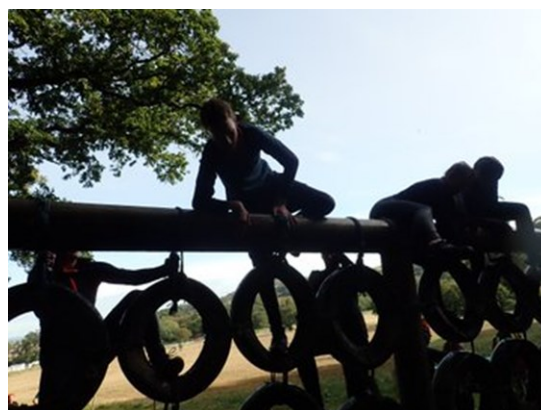


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TY: HELL AND BACK!



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Sports Round Up

Mr J Lynch

It's been a busy start to the year in sport ... and also been difficult without a home pitch for our field sports. Well done to our new 1st Years who have thrown themselves into training and teams for the school.

In **GAA**, we have had two 1st Year Blitzes in October in **Hurling** and **Football**. Excellent turnout for both of these – it augurs well for the 1st Year Gaelic Football and U14 Hurling Competitions in the Spring. The U14 Dublin Football Championship proceeded too with the new 1st Years being a strong addition to the 2nd Year players. Two losses so far, but we have one more match vs Drimnagh Castle to get a win under our belts. Training continues in November. We're expecting more 1st Years to join us after their successful start to the term.

Our **Senior Hurlers** are leading the way with wins in the Dublin Competition. One more victory in November will take us to the quarter finals. The U16s haven't fared as well in a tough group, but the importance of game experience cannot be overstated. Training with the Seniors has been very important and will be invaluable for the next two years.

In **Soccer** the 1st Year Futsal competitions are up and running. Again, great participation from the

year! In addition, we've had excellent success from our three older teams.

The U15 League has started well - their Leinster Cup campaign will get underway in November. A comfortable win over Luttrellstown has seen our passage into the U17 Cup First Round; while a dramatic comeback and last-minute win for the Seniors against Coláiste Cois Life booked our place in round 2 of the Senior Cup. Special mention to Darragh Lynch (TY) for getting to the Leinster Schools' Trials in September.

In **Rugby** our 1st, 2nd and 3rd Years have been training since the start of September. Again excellent participation in the JCT and 2nd Year Blitzes, with the Junior team winning 3 matches from 4. The half term ends with a 1st Year Blitz on Friday 25th. Training and JCT competition resumes in November. And well done to Seán Walsh (6th Year) for being part of the winning the Leinster Clubs' Interprovincial team in August. Great achievement!

Our U16 and U19 **Basketball** numbers have been excellent with great participation from our 6th Years, TYs and 3rd Years. No victories in our first three rounds but special mention to Mekael Ballili and the TYs, Salmaan Bari, Jack Springael, Andrew O'Donovan, Killian Lavelle, Daniel Fishman and Oran Keane-O'Hagan, for their commitment to basketball and training teams in Clonkeen College. Sessions resume

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after midterm.

Our **Senior Golfers** have got off to a winning start in the Leinster League. More matches before and after Hallowe'en. Well done lads. We'll have an update on the team's fortunes next time.

Cross-Country and the **Friday Mile** will resume after the break. As well as **Table Tennis** and Basketball Leagues for 1st and 2nd Years.

To finish: best of luck to the **Minor Chess Team** 2018/19 who finally get to play-off for the Leinster Title on Friday 25th. Amal Tom (1st Year), David Ekins (2nd Year), and Eoin Farrelly, Conor Lowry, Shane O'Sullivan and Seán Byrne (3rd Year) carry our hopes for victory. Well done on getting to the finals lads!

Maths Week Solutions

Snail Maths

The snail moves a total of 5 cm a day, hence on the 9th day it reaches the top of the wall.

How many messages???

Peter will send four text messages: One to Sara, one to Matt, one to Amy and one to Luke.

Sara who has received a text message from Peter will still need to send four messages – one to each person.

This is the same for Matt, Amy and Luke, meaning that a total of 20 text messages will be sent.

Space Mission

The rocket was halfway there in week 11.

Balancing Problem

The first time you place four balls on each side of the balance scale. One side will be heavier than the other. One of those four balls is the heavy one. You can discard the four balls in the other side of the scale.

The second time you place two of the four balls from the heavier side on each side of the balance scale. Again one side will be heavier. This means that you know the heavy ball is one of the two on the heavy side.

The third (and final) time you place one of each of the two balls from the heavier side in each side of the balance scale to find out which of the two weighs more.

Circles

One Possible Answer:

