

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

January 2017

Welcome Back

As we return to school following the Christmas Holidays, we would like to wish all our students, staff and their families a happy, healthy and prosperous year ahead. We look forward to many exciting activities and challenges in the months to come.

Congratulations to all our students on their excellent Christmas results and best of luck to our 3rd and 6th Years as they prepare for their Mock Examinations.

Ba mhaith linn athbhliain faoi shéan agus faoi mhaise a thabhairt do na scoláirí agus múinteoirí ar fad, agus a muintir, agus muid ag tosnú amach ar téarma nua tar éis briseadh na Nollag. Táimid ag súil le go leor imeachtaí agus dúshláin sna míonna atá romhainn.

Comhghairdeas mór do na scoláirí ar fad ar na torthaí iontacha a bhain siad amach i scrúduithe na Nollag agus ádh mór do lucht na tríú bliana agus na séú bliana agus iad ag ullmhú do na Bréagscrúduithe.

ROC Protection



Congratulations to 5th Year students Ross Byrne, Carl Cullen and Cormac Spain and their teacher Mr Sheehy who were invited to participate in the Late Late Show Enterprise Show on Friday 3rd February. The boys showcased their company ROC Protection that they set up as part of their enterprise studies in Transition Year. The boys designed, and are now selling, a protective base layer aimed at the Hurling market. We wish them every success with their company as it grows.

Past Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to the members of the Class of 2016 whose academic excellence has been recognised by their chosen universities.



Mike Allen, Kieran Cosson and Conor Wallace were honoured with UCD Entrance Scholars Awards on 17th November, while their classmate Conor Dunne received a TCD Entrance Exhibition Award on November 21st. To receive these prestigious awards, all four students had to achieve in excess of 560 points in the 2016 Leaving Certificate Examination. We are immensely proud of their achievement and wish them every success in their university studies.

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BT Young Scientist

& Technology Exhibition 2017

The annual BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition took place in the RDS from 11th to 14th January. Clonkeen College was represented by a team comprising Transition Year students Lucas Carraher, Ruairí Greene and Seán Nolan. Ruairí has written the following account of their experience at the exhibition:



Project Overview

Our project involved studying negativity bias in Irish Secondary School students. Negativity bias is a psychological hypothesis that states that all humans and animals have a general bias towards negative news. This means that when given two pieces of news, one positive and one negative, of equal intensity or seriousness that your brain will focus on the negative or will give more weight to the negative news. We were looking to see if this was true in Irish Secondary School students. To date there has not been a study of negativity bias in teenagers. In order to collect the data we required we prepared a survey that we distributed in our boys' school, in a mixed school and in a girls' school. The results were very interesting.

Experience at the Exhibition



The Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition was a great experience. It is a fantastic way to engage more people in Science and it allowed us to see many amazing and inspiring ideas. It was great to meet link-minded students, and, through our discussions find ideas that might become potential projects for next year! The big thing about the exhibition is to inspire students and encourage them to be creative in the world of Science. I would strongly recommend taking part in the Young Scientist to all Clonkeen College students. I definitely intend to submit a project again next year!

On behalf of Lucas, Seán and myself, I would like to say a big 'thank-you' to Ms O'Rourke who guided and supported us throughout the whole Young Scientist process this year.

HTAI Quiz

Congratulations to our Senior History Quiz Team who finished in 4th place at the History Teachers of Ireland: Dublin Branch Senior Quiz which took place on 31st January at Tallaght C.S. The team made up of 6th Years Michael Culloty and Mark Walsh and 5th Years Killian Farrelly and Conor Stokes, faced stiff competition on the night. Well done to the team and their teacher Mr Byrne.

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Student Council Elections

Congratulations to the following 5th Year students who have been elected to form Clonkeen College Student Council for 2017:

Tadiwa Morowa (Chairperson)

Jack Manning (Secretary)

Nathan Costello (Treasurer)

Liam Bradley (PRO)

Jonathan Bell Thomas Livington

Joe Clarke Finn Mc Gowan

Patrick Craddock Conan Scanlon

Killian Farrelly Conor Spain

Ronan Gammell Conor Stokes

Kevin Kells Alex Vaughan

Conor Leon



The students attended a training day, conducted by Mr Pat Murphy, on Thursday, 12th January at Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel, Killiney. They were accompanied by Ms O'Keeffe (Student Council Liaison Officer).

The morning workshop focused on the workings of a Student Council and prepared the students for their year as Student Council Members, while the afternoon focused on leadership training. At the end of the day each Student Council Member was presented with his badge by Mr Melly. We wish the new student council a successful year to come.

We would also like to take this opportunity to reflect on the fantastic work carried out by our outgoing Student Council and to thank them for all their hard work over the past year. We wish them the very best as they enter into their final months here at Clonkeen College and every success in their exams and in the years ahead.

The outgoing student council have achieved many improvements to student life in Clonkeen College. Their many positive contributions include:

- Setting up a temporary common room for 6th Year students and campaigning for the inclusion of one in the new school building.
- Addressing the issue of poor water pressure in the drinking fountains.
- Helped with preparations and represented the student body at all Parent-Teacher Meetings and two Open Nights.
- Represented students at the ISSU AGM.
- Helping with a temporary solution while the school awaited new blinds for the classrooms.
- Removing graffiti from the student toilets.
- Organising the production and distribution of Clonkeen College Half-Zip tops.
- Organising the annual Teacher-Student football match in aid of Clonkeen College Third World Support Group.

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Starting the Day in a Positive Way

2nd Year students, with their SPHE teachers, Ms Brougham, Mr McBride and Mr O'Brien, are currently taking part in a positive wellbeing initiative. The aim of the initiative, put in place by Ms Healy, is to foster an environment of positivity at the beginning of each day.

Students and their teachers will take part in activities that promote mindfulness, self-appreciation, finding inner calm, understanding emotion and managing our response to negative stimuli. Throughout the initiative students are encouraged to look outwards and consider how they can make a positive impact on the environment around them. It is hoped at least one aspect of the programme will resonate with each student and have a lasting positive impact.

Harmony Program Visit

On January 31st and February 1st, Mr Roger Mehta, from The Harmony Program, visited the school to speak with Transition Year students about drug and alcohol misuse and addiction. During the workshop Mr Mehta, engaged the students through the use of music, facilitating discussion and appreciation of the subject. In particular, students focused on the connection between mental health and substance misuse, the impact of these substances and the developing teenage brain and understanding the underlying causes that lead to the misuse of alcohol and drugs. In the latter part of the workshop Mr Mehta taught techniques to combat peer pressure in the area of drug and alcohol use. Students also considered the actions they can take in their own lives to promote positive wellbeing. It was an extremely worthwhile experience for all students involved. Thank you to Mr Mehta and to Ms Dunlop who organised the visit.

Tall Ships Race 2017

Congratulations to Transition Year student, Oisín Cullen, who will participate in the Tall Ships Race 2017. Having achieved the Armory Award and Royal Yachting Association Competent Crew Certificate in October of last year, alongside fellow Clonkeen TY student, Thomas Claffey, Oisín applied for a berth on the Rendezvous Tall Ships Voyage 2017. Before Christmas, Oisín received the thrilling news that he had been selected to participate in Leg 1: Greenwich, London to Sines, Portugal.

Oisín will travel to Southampton, England in February and March for crew training, before setting off from London on April 8th for the eight day voyage to Sines. On the ships' arrival in Sines there will be a three day festival during which the crew changeover will take place before the ship continues on to Leg 2 which will see it cross the Atlantic to Bermuda. Other stages see the ship travel to Boston, a number of ports in Canada and France. The race will finish in France in September.

This is a great opportunity for Oisín to learn and practice life skills, co-operation, and team building. He is required to undertake substantial fundraising in preparation for his voyage. Oisín got straight to work on this before Christmas but still has some distance to go.

We are proud of both Oisín and Thomas's achievements to date, and we wish the best of luck to Oisín on his adventure of a life-time.

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Debating News

The weekend of January 21st was a memorable weekend for Clonkeen College Debating Society. Two senior teams made up of Killian Farrelly (5th), Finn McGrath (TY), Mark Brophy (TY) and Seán Nolan (TY) took part in the PhilSpeaks competition, hosted by Trinity College's Philosophical Society. Both teams debated impressively, reaching the semi-finals of the competition, while Killian Farrelly was awarded second place in the individual speaker competition.

On the same day, the CCC Junior Mace was taking place. Our Junior Debaters performed very well with Ayman Memon and David Farrelly qualifying for the Leinster Final. This is a tremendous achievement for both students who needed a top 80 finish in a field of 500 competitors to make it through. The Leinster Final will take place in March. We wish both students the best of luck!

Finally, on Tuesday 24th January, Killian Farrelly and Finn McGrath debated their way into the semi-finals of the Leinster Senior Debating Competition. This is the best ever result in this competition for Clonkeen College. Best of luck to both students in the semi-finals!

Internet Safety Talk

Ms Ursula Frawley from Zeeko, visited the school on 30th January to deliver a workshop on Internet Safety to our 1st Year students. The workshop encouraged students to examine their online activities and to consider their personal safety with regard to this.

They explored the question of appropriate Internet usage and reflected on their legal and social responsibilities as users of the Internet.



As the session drew to a close the importance of maintaining a clean digital footprint was brought home to the students, before Ms Frawley spoke about the negative impact that blue light and excessive screen time can have on both mental and physical health. It was an excellent opportunity for our 1st Years to become prudent, informed users of digital media. A big thank you to Ms Ursula Frawley and to Ms Murray who organised the workshop.

Literacy

We are pleased to announce the reenergising of the 'Reading for Pleasure' initiative set up in 2015 by Ms Healy. This is a programme established to help foster a love and appreciation for literature. It is aimed primarily at all students in 1st Year. The aim is to increase the frequency with which students choose to read. Each student will receive a book pack and will complete a review when he has read the book. In addition to the time allocated during the school day, it is hoped that students will choose to read in their own personal time at home. When they have finished reading one text, students may choose another from the ninety-four titles available.

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Green Schools News

DLR Eco Conference

On Tuesday 10th January, students from both the Green Schools committee, and Ms. Evers-Nolan's Transition Year Science Class, attended the 8th Annual Eco Conference, in Dún Laoghaire Town Hall. We were welcomed by Dean Eaton (Acting Environmental Awareness Officer for DLR County Council), and Cllr. Cormac Devlin (An Cathaoirleach (Chairperson) of DLR County Council).



Our first workshop of the day involved planning a three course dinner using ingredients shown on cards. The key focus of this activity was to create healthy, balanced meals, while remaining conscious of the importance of keeping food miles to a minimum.

During the break which followed our first workshop, those who had brought lunch to the conference using only reusable packaging were rewarded with a pencil case full of stationery that was made using only recycled materials from sustainable sources.

Following the break, everyone met in the Council Chamber, and two groups of students from Ballin-teer Community School talked about environmental projects they are undertaking through micro-companies they have set up. Next, Ji Hyun Kim (ECO-Unesco), and Claire McDonald (An Taisce - Water) talked about the organizations which they represent and what those organisations are doing at the moment.

For the final activity each table was assigned a country and had to compete in trade against the other represented countries. The winner would be the table with the most Dún Laoghaire Dollars. Students earned these dollars by selling clean-cut and precise shapes they had cut out from paper. However, poorer countries started off with less resources, such as less money, blunt pencils and no scissors, while the wealthy countries had more money and better equipment. Through this activity we gained an understanding of how wealthy countries often stay wealthy, while the poor ones stay poor.



We had an enjoyable and informative day at the Eco Conference. Thank you to Ms Evers-Nolan who organised our attendance at the conference and accompanied us on the day.

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Green Schools Elections

On Thursday, 26th January, the Green Schools Committee held their annual elections, for the positions of Chairperson, Secretary, and Public Relations Officer. These are all vital positions in the group.

Ayman Memon was elected as Chairperson, Joe O'Driscoll was re-elected as Secretary, and Guy Keogh was elected as Public Relations Officer. These students are motivated to improve the environmental standing of the school and we wish them every success in their efforts.

C1 Dáil Visit

C1 visited Dáil Éireann on 17th January. As part of this was part of their CSPE Action Project the students in the class organised the entire visit themselves and were accompanied on the day by their teacher Ms Murray. On their arrival at the Dáil the group visited the Public Gallery where they observed Leader's Questions, before being brought on a guided tour of Leinster House.



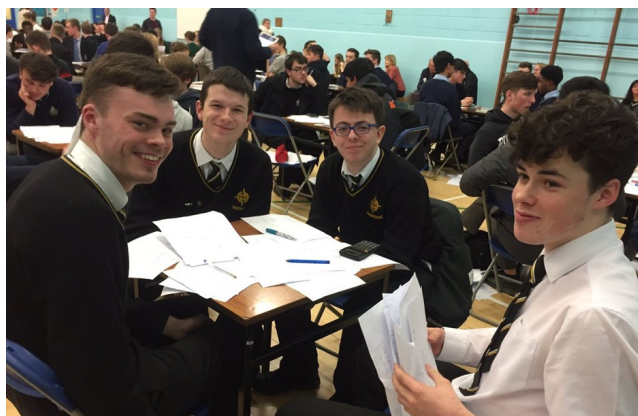
During their visit they learned about a number of previous Taoisigh and saw their portraits. They also visited the Senate and were shown an original copy of the Proclamation of Independence (worth €400,000). The class thoroughly enjoyed their visit and will now set about completing their report which will form part of their CSPE mark. Thank you to Ms Murray who facilitated the visit.

IMTA Senior Quiz

Well done to the two teams that represented Clonkeen College at the recent Irish Maths Teachers' Association: Senior Maths Quiz that took place on 28th January. The teams made up of 6th Year students, Ned Quirke, Maciej Nowak, Cian Rellis, Eoin Kennedy, Ronan Hayes, Rory Fitzpatrick, Kevin Nolan and Luke Gilroy, put in a great performance against stiff opposition.



Congratulations to the teams from Blackrock College and Oatlands College who finished first and second respectively, and will progress to the National Finals. We wish them the best of luck in the finals.



A big thank you to Ms Duffy who prepared the teams and accompanied them on the night.

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Public Speaking Workshop

Mr Alan Devine visited the school a number of times recently to deliver a workshop on public speaking to Transition Year students. Mr Devine has over 20 years' experience working as an actor in Ireland and has appeared in various productions including *The Tudors*, *Vikings* and *Fair City*. He runs Dramaclub where he provides a public speaking workshop for post primary students.



The workshop taught the students how to speak in public covering topics such as eye contact, body language, how to tell a story, how to connect with your audience and how to learn speeches. The interactive nature of the workshop allowed all students the opportunity to practice the techniques they were being taught.

Each group had a follow up session the next week where they read aloud a speech they had prepared at home. This really brought home the importance of preparation and gave the students a chance to speak in front of an audience. Mr Devine gave each student feedback following their speech. It was an invaluable experience. A big 'thank-you' to Mr Devine and to Ms Mooney who organised the workshops.

TWSG

Our Third World Support Group has been very busy over the Christmas period.

We had a fantastic response to our call for items for the annual collection for the Saint Vincent de Paul. We managed to fill 25 hampers which were subsequently distributed by the SVP to those most in need in the area. A big 'thank-you' to all who sent in items to the school and also to the Transition Year students who helped prepare the hampers.

In total we have managed to raise the impressive sum of almost €6000, as a result of our Christmas fundraising efforts. A non-uniform day on December 6th netted €774.50. On December 14th, we made €1,468.24 from a bag pack in SuperValu Deansgrange. Christmas Collections in Dun Laoghaire and Blackrock earned €976.46. We also had a successful bag pack in SuperValu Killiney on 24th January, which raised €1,302.53. To date our Christmas Fast has raised €1,200.

As always we have to extend a most sincere thank you to pupils, their families, the local community and local businesses, without whom none of this would be possible. Our efforts over the Christmas period bring us increasingly nearer to the €30,000 that we hope to raise in order to fund the construction of a new primary school in Malawi.

The return to school in January brought the annual election of our new TWSG Chairperson and Secretary. Congratulations to Killian Farrelly (Chairperson) and Ayman Memon (Secretary) on their election to these positions. We wish them the best of luck in the year ahead. During the meeting on 23rd January, Third World Support Group badges were also awarded to all those who had made significant contributions to the group.

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U18 Gaelic Football

Our U18 Gaelic Football Team played their semi-final match in the U18 Dublin B Championships on Tuesday, 31st January. On a cold, wet, January day the team and their coaches Mr Sheehy and Mr McBride, made the journey to face an experience side from Salesian College, Celbridge.



It was a tough start for Clonkeen with the Salesian team applying pressure and scoring some lovely points. We settled into the match and began to play some great football, pushing forward while solid in defence. The team was rewarded for their discipline as they went into the lead, the half-time score 1-5 to 0-3 in our favour.

As the second half got underway, the Clonkeen team knew that they needed to stay strong and capitalise on the advantage they had built in the first half. They played with real grit and determination. Greg Sheehan put in a man-of-the-match display in defence, in the face of some dirty moves on him by the opposition.



A goal from Seán McDonald proved to be the final straw for Salesians who were unable to retaliate. The final score, 3-8 to 0-5, indicates the calibre of the players that we have in the U18 Gaelic Football Team. This was a tremendous result for the boys and their coaches Mr Sheehy and Mr McBride. We wish them every success in their U18 Dublin B Championship final against Malahide. We expect it to be a fantastic match!

First Year Spikeball

Our 1st Year Spikeball team made it through to the All-Ireland Finals which took place in UCD on 18th January.

They comfortably won their first two games against Portmarnock Community School but unfortunately lost their next two to Coláiste Chathail Naofa, Dungarvan. This left them in third position and a must win tie with second-place CCN Dungarvan to progress. The boys upped their game and played a great game of Spikeball against their opponents but lost the match, narrowly defeated over two sets. CCN went on to lose to Coláiste an Eachréidh, Athenry.



Congratulations to the team and their coach, Mr Howley, on their fantastic third place finish.

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U16 Gaelic Football

On Wednesday 22nd January, Clonkeen College U16 Gaelic Football Team played Old Bawn Community School in the preliminary rounds of the U16 Dublin C Championships.

Although conditions were not great at the start of the match, it was Clonkeen who got the scoring underway with an early goal from Cal Doran. Clonkeen were very much on top throughout the game, and with players like Jamie Crilly and Kevin Quinn working hard, it was tough for Old Bawn to make any sort of impact on the game. Half-time came and the score was 3-5 to 5 points in Clonkeen's favour.

As the second half got underway Clonkeen continued to push forward, scoring three points in quick succession. Nevertheless, Old Bawn put up a fight, trying their hardest to make progress in Clonkeen's half. A fifteen-minute onslaught from Old Bawn ended with a spectacular save from our own Andrew Byrne. The game continued in our favour, but a blood injury for Kevin Quinn saw him out for the remainder of the game. Liam McCarthy came on in his place and made his mark on the game with a goal and a point, sealing the win for Clonkeen. The game finished 6-10 to 1-8 to Clonkeen.

The team will now play an away fixture against Moyle Park in the quarter final. Congratulations to the team and their coaches, Mr Brennan and Mr Benson.

1st Year Soccer

The 1st Year Soccer team continue their winning ways last Tuesday, 24th January, with an impressive 3-1 win against Drimnagh Castle Secondary School. The win means that Clonkeen remain unbeaten in the league and have topped their group.

It was a lovely day for football, and from the minute the game started the boys, confident on the back of a win against Oatlands the previous week, got straight into the action. It took only twenty minutes for the team to break the deadlock. A Clonkeen counter attack proved too much for Drimnagh as Christian Dunne ran down the line and picked out Darragh Lynch, who put the ball in the back of the net. Darragh was on form throughout the first half and netted a second goal just before the half-time whistle.

With the second half under way, Clonkeen were in search for their third goal of the game. They were not kept waiting as Nathan McGowan calmly slotted the ball past the keeper from just outside the box. Although 3-0 down, Drimnagh didn't stop asking questions of Clonkeen and with fifteen minutes to go they got their reward, helped by a momentary lapse in defence by Clonkeen.

When the final whistle blew, Clonkeen were delighted with their victory and their passage into the South Dublin semi-finals. Congratulations to the team, their coaches Mr Faherty and Mr O'Shaughnessy and their assistant coach, TY student, Dylan Davis.

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International Soccer

Congratulations to 6th Year student, Seán McDonald, on his recent selection to the Irish U18 Schools Team.

Seán has his first outing in a green jersey against Australia, in Whitehall, on January 21st. Although Seán played some excellent football on the day, the team were unfortunate to lose 2-0 to the visitors.



Next up for the team is the Centenary Shield. This annual tournament sees schools' teams from Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales face each other over a number of weeks in early spring. The last time Ireland took home the shield was in 2014, when Clonkeen alumnus and current Leicester City player, Dylan Watts was a member of the team. This year Ireland kick off their campaign in a home fixture against Wales on February 16th. Best of luck to Seán and his team mates in the competition!

Cross Country

53 athletes from Clonkeen College travelled to Avondale House in Co. Wicklow on Thursday, 26th January, to participate in the Leinster Cross Country Championships. Adverse weather conditions with gusty winds didn't put the boys off, with all performing well across the three categories: Minor, Junior and Intermediate.



Best for Clonkeen on the day were 1st Year Billy Browne who finished 7th in the Minor race and the Intermediate Team of Finn McGrath (TY), Luke O'Donnell (TY), Brendan Dunne (TY) and Jack Morohan (3rd Year).



Well done to all involved and their coaches Mr Howley and Mr Sheehy.