

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

October 2015

Transition Year News

Newsletter

Each month this year the School Newsletter will be brought to you by a different team of Transition Year students, as part of their D1 English module. They will work on each aspect of the process from initial research and drafting of articles, through to the final edit and publication.



D3 Visit to Central Criminal Courts

Ms. E. Gibson

On Wednesday 7th October, D3 visited the Central Criminal Courts. We were met by a guide and a barrister (Kate) and brought to an empty courtroom where the students took part in a mock trial. Prior to the trip, the students had been given their roles: the accused, the judge, the barristers, the registrar, the jury, the witnesses and even the sketch-artist! The barrister invited them to take their positions in the appropriate seats.

As the mock trial, involving the prosecution of a man for public order offences at a football match, got underway, Kate gave the boys advice on questions they should ask or evidence they should give. The experience was most interesting for all involved and gave the students plenty of food for thought and an insight into potential careers in the justice system.

After the mock trial, Kate kindly provided us with a list of courtrooms where there were real cases in progress. We visited different courtrooms in small groups. Again, this was an eye-opener for the boys. We were just in time to see a jury being sworn in for a case that involved a scientific company being accused of the illegal dumping of hazardous waste. We also saw the Superintendent of Terenure Garda Station presenting 22 books of evidence to the judge. The students took note of how the various court officials operated in their various roles and the dress code within the courtroom. Afterwards, all agreed that it had been a most worthwhile and interesting experience. Thanks to Ms. Gibson and Mags who accompanied the students on the day.

AXA Roadsafe Roadshow

All our Transition Year students visited the AXA Roadsafe Roadshow in Dun Laoghaire on 12th October. Members of An Garda Síochána, Firefighters, Paramedics and an A&E Consultant were among those who spoke to the students about their work, giving insight into the consequences of road accidents. The aim of the programme is to educate young drivers or young future drivers with the hope that they will be mindful road users in the years to come. A very informative afternoon was had by all.



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TY Tour to Berlin

Mr. S. Faherty

Transition Year students returned from a fantastic trip to Berlin on Monday 2nd November. The students spent five days in the city, taking in some of the culture that this incredible city has to offer. On Day 1, we started our trip at 4:30 a.m., meeting in Dublin Airport for our flight to Berlin. Arriving in Berlin later that morning we checked into our hostel before setting out for Hackesher Market for a three hour walking tour of the city.



Berlin truly is a kaleidoscope of modern and historical architecture, old buildings standing proud among, what can only be described as a large building site. We were reminded that much of the city remained in the communist East Germany until the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and so the rebuilding of some areas devastated during the Second World War has only been undertaken in recent years. The boys got to see the sights of Berlin including Reichstag, the Holocaust Memorial, part of the Berlin Wall and the Brandenburg Gate to name just a few. It was an experience of note for the students to see the history of the city still etched on the buildings, in the bullet holes from World War II.

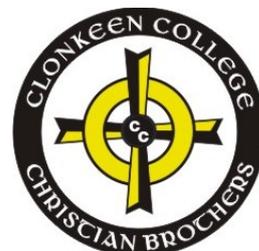
The following day we went to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Memorial. This was one of the highlights of the trip. The two guides we had were excellent. Both teachers and students were enthralled by this unique tour. We were told that this was not a history lesson, it was a memorial of emotion, of anguish and hurt but, most importantly, a memorial to hope and determination. The visit certainly bore this out.

Our third day in Berlin started with two and a half hours of exhilarating fun. Mount Mitte is a climbing centre that both terrifies and excites in equal measure. The bravery of some of our students and staff (Mr Bennett) was called into question but most dared to test themselves on even the highest levels. That evening we got to go to the Olympic Stadium, surely one of the finest in Europe, to watch Hertha Berlin play Borussia Mönchengladbach. Although the hosts ended up losing 4-1 the atmosphere was nothing short of electric for the entire 90 minutes.



Sunday was a day of leisure activities at Tropical Island. Tropical Island is a tropical waterpark located in the former CargoLifter hangar, the biggest freestanding hall in the world. We spent seven hours swimming, shooting down water slides, playing mini-golf, enjoying the Mediterranean climate that this indoor paradise provides.

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It was with heavy hearts that we awoke on Monday knowing it was our last day in this wonderful city. It was not wasted though. We started with a visit to Checkpoint Charlie before making our way to The Mall of Berlin where the students did some last minute shopping. It was here that we stumbled across a German TV station recording some material for its Christmas schedule. It took very little coaxing to get the group to participate, humming and singing along to one of the year's hits. While it was not a performance worthy of the X Factor, all agreed that the boys did us proud.



As we returned a group of weary boys to their parents that night we reflected on what an enjoyable experience the tour had been for all. The students were, as Clonkeen students always are, a credit to both the school and their community. We were told on more than one occasion, and at the Sachsenhausen Memorial in particular, that the students' behaviour was second to none, and we feel we must echo this praise. A special thanks to all teachers involved (Mr. Faherty, Mr. O' Shaughnessy, Mr. Bennett, Ms. Ní Chatháin and Ms. Fulton) for giving up their midterm break to accompany the group.

Anti-Bullying Ambassador Training

Students representing all years from 1st to 5th attended an Anti-Bullying Ambassador Training day at Rathdown School on 13th October. The Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme encourages students to engage in social action to make a difference in the lives of others.



We would like to congratulate all our new ambassadors: Eoin Cooney, Stephen Hogan, Ryan O'Connor, Daniel Carson, Neil Priestly, Harry Mullen, Daniel Culloty, Ferdia Moore, Patrick Craddock and Klent Nervez. A big thanks to Ms. Dunlop and Ms. Egan who accompanied the students on the day and are supporting them with their work in our school community.



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Science News

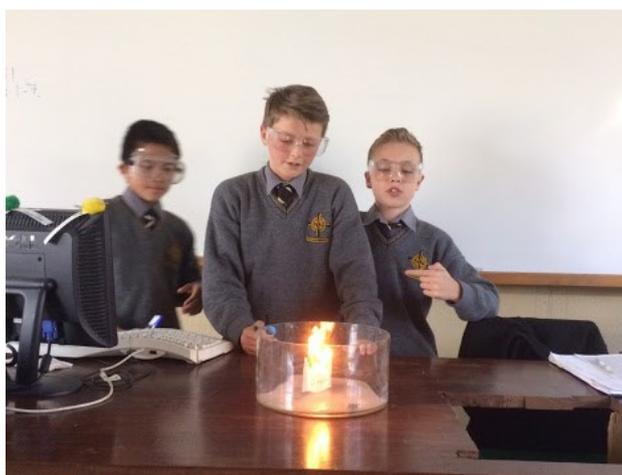
3rd Year Ecology Field Trip

All 3rd Year students carried out their Ecology field study at the Phoenix Park on 8th October. They carried out various investigations of the habitat in the Phoenix Park. The field study forms an important part of their preparation for their Junior Certificate Exam.



Ghostbusters

In the lead up to the October midterm break, 1st Year Science students took part in a number of Hallowe'en inspired experiments in the lab.



Young Scientist Exhibition

Congratulations to the three groups from Clonkeen College who have had their projects accepted to the BT Young Scientist Exhibition which will take place in the RDS in January. The best of luck to all involved!

Autism + AsiAm.ie

Adam Harris from AsiAm visited us a number of times during the month of October to deliver the AsiAm Secondary School workshop to students from 2nd and 3rd Year.

AsiAm.ie was set up in hoping of making secondary school a lot easier for teenagers with autism, who will often be misunderstood and help bring awareness of autism among young people generally. Autism is a broad heading and no two people with the condition are affected in exactly the same way. AsiAm recognises this and works to challenge common stereotypes and preconceptions.

Adam Harris delivered an excellent and informative workshop, which was of huge benefit to all who attended.

1st Year Study Skills

Mr. McGauley delivered his study skills seminar to all 1st Year students on 19th October. The two hour seminar covered a variety of topics including classroom skills, note taking, revision skills, exam technique and health & study. It is hoped that the students will carry the skills learnt with them during their years at Clonkeen College.

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Maths Week

Maths Week took place from October 10th to 18th. Congratulations to Kevin Gannon (5th Year) who achieved the highest score in the Prism Competition and to Sol Larkin-Fegan (3rd Year) who ranked highest amongst the juniors in the same competition. Well done also to all those who took part in the Daily Maths Challenges over the course of the week and to those who prepared projects and Fantastic Facts which were displayed along the corridors of the school during the week. #welovemaths

Sports News

Colm Cooper Visit

AIB Youth Ambassador and Kerry legend, Colm Cooper, visited the school on October 14th.

A number of keen footballers had the opportunity to take part in a training session with him. A fantastic experience was had by all.



Soccer

The U15 Soccer Team had an excellent start to the season, with a convincing away win over Tallaght Community School on 15th October. Finding the goal for Clonkeen were Jamie Crilly, Jason Knight and Cal Doran with Tallaght providing the fourth in the form of an own goal. Man of the Match goes to Jason Knight, on this occasion, although there were some standout performances from Jamie Crilly, Cian O Dea, Adam Matthews and Andy Byrne. Well done to all the players and their coaches Mr. Faherty and Mr. Cassidy.



The U17s also got their season off to an excellent start with back-to-back wins against Tallaght Community School (6-0) and St. MacDara's Community School (3-2). While the match in Tallaght saw Clonkeen dominate, the match at St. MacDara's was much more closely contested with the sides well-matched. Our boys were delighted to walk away with the win. Notable on the day for Clonkeen were Brendan Stapleton (TY), Seán McDonald (5th Year), Kieran Butler (TY) and Finn McGowan (TY) in goal. Congratulations to the boys and their coach Mr. Cassidy.

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Hurling

On 14th October our U18 Hurling Team had an outing against St. MacDara's Community College. Following a close first half, we asserted our dominance in the second half and finished the match victorious with a scoreline of 1-15 to 2-6. Daniel Flatman (5th Year) was excellent in his debut for Clonkeen College while regular, Ronan Hayes (5th Year) also had an impressive match. Congratulations to the team and their coaches Mr. Bennett and Mr. O'Brien.

U14 Gaelic Football

Mr. J. Lynch

Our 1st Years have had a great start to their Clonkeen Gaelic Football careers with the excellent weather allowing for a consistent stream of training sessions from the first week of September. It culminated in the opening **Leinster 1st Year Blitz** in St. Olaf's GAA club on October 16th. Two teams competed successfully with fellow 1st Years from **Oatlands**, **Coláiste Eoin** and **St. Benildus**. 2 wins and a draw in our six matches represented a good return for our efforts.



The 1st Year Teams were drawn from the following Panel: **A1** Alex Bishop, Neil Broderick, Euan

Hall, Daniel Hughes, Alex Menton, Callum Newcombe, Andrew O'Donnell, Jude O'Neill, Mark Smith, Korey Sweeney O'Connor; **A2** Daniel Blake, Daniel Chechlowski, Eoin Cooney, Stephen Doran, Cillian Dunne, Eoin Dunne, Ciarán Keenan, Eoghan O'Carroll, Adam O'Donnell, Shane Russell; **A3** Caoilan Burns, Jack Clucas Bridgeman, Oscar Haughton, Mark Ivie, Jack Jenkins, Joshua Kelly, Jake Keogh, Stephen Manning, Daniel Murphy, Robert Roddy and Luke Thomas. Training and class league will continue in preparation for the 1st Year Dublin Championship in the Spring. Well done so far lads!



Many of the 1st Years were involved in our U14 campaign, in which we just failed to qualify for the Dublin Q/Fs. After two narrow losses against **Oatlands** and **Old Bawn CS**, we had a thrilling **8-5 to 5-10** victory over **St. Colmcille's CS** on October 22nd. Unfortunately, we lost out to **Knocklyon CS** on points' difference. Our captains **Conor Keane** and **Cal Doran** lead the following equally committed 2nd and 3rd Years: **B1** Seán Downing, Seán Finn, Alex Hogan, Brian Kenny, Oran Molony, David O'Dowd, Byron O'Gorman, Conor Ring, Evan Savage; **B2** Charlie Boyle, Elvis Cooney, Jamie Crilly, Max Cunneen, David Farrelly, Luke Lynch; **B3** Andrew Byrne, Harry Gunning, Eoin Harcourt, Conor Knight, Oisín O'Connor, Seán Walsh; **C3** Conor Hall. We look forward to the U14 Hurling campaign in the Spring – good luck lads!

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TWSG News

Our work continued in October with the holding of the annual Student-Teacher Football Match (see match report below) and some fundraising in the community.

Again we have had the much valued support of SuperValu Killiney who facilitated another bag pack in their store. We would like to again thank the management and staff of SuperValu for giving us this opportunity.

Our fundraising will continue in the coming months with plans for a Church Gate collection at the Church of Our Lady of Victories in Sallynoggin on November 14th & 15th and our usual Christmas activities in December. We would like to thank everyone in the school for their continued support of our group.

The support we receive allows us to carry out life-saving and life-changing work in the developing world. We are, currently, bringing our successful agricultural project in Uganda to a close and will now embark on a school building project in Assam, India in conjunction with Educo. Educo has been working specifically in India since 2006 with the aim of providing basic schooling for children in areas of the country where poverty poses a significant barrier to them obtaining an education. The school at which we will construct the four classrooms is under the care of the Jesuit Fathers. It is hoped that construction will start early in 2016.

Student-Teacher Football Match

On Friday October 2nd, Clonkeen College held its annual student teacher football match in aid of the Clonkeen College Third World Support Group. Following two consecutive victories for the teachers, the students were in search of a much desired win. The match was held during the last class of the day, during which students from all years made their way down to the pitches to support the Student Council team against the teachers.

The match started off as a very close affair until the students got on top a few minutes in with a goal from Shane Casey, following a bad back pass by Mr. Howley. The teachers recovered and Mr. Faherty scored to level the game. Conor Priestly scored an excellent header to put the students in the lead just before half-time. The student team began to assert their dominance after the break and found the net again with a second strike from Shane Casey to make the score 3-1, much to the delight of the spectators. Late in the half, Mr. O'Shaughnessy managed to grab a late goal for the teachers to give them some hope but in the end, the students were victorious 3-2.

All proceeds of the game go to vital projects being carried out in Africa and India by the Third World Support Group. We would like to thank them and the Student Council for organising the match. Thank must go also to school management and all the teachers who turned out both on and off the pitch to lend their support.