

# CLONKEEN COLLEGE



## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*Prepared by Transition Year Students*

September/October 2021

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### *Principal's Foreword*

A very warm welcome back to our staff, students, and their families to the new academic year. I, and all of us here at Clonkeen College, would like to extend a special welcome to those who are joining us for the first time, both new staff and new students. Fáilte!

We bid a fond farewell to the Class of 2021 and to the members of staff who are not joining us for this academic year. We wish r recently retired, Deputy Principal, Michael Brennan a very

happy retirement and we welcome Stephen Donovan as our new Deputy Principal. We congratulate the Class of 2021, and their teachers, on their outstanding results in the Leaving Certificate and wish them the very best in the future.

This year and last year have been uniquely difficult for all of us both inside and outside our school community. This time last year, we returned to school and entered a different and curious world. A world anathema to normal school life. Over the past 18 months, I have been and continue to be immensely proud of the way

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the school community has adapted and even thrived in such arduous and restrictive circumstances. I believe that, despite obvious obstacles, we pulled together and succeeded in making Clonkeen College a safe and positive environment in which students could learn and reach their potential. I wish to thank you all for the honest and profound effort that you freely gave to ensure Clonkeen College could continue to provide the best education possible for our students.

This year we return to school with renewed hope for the future. For the first time since March 2020, there seems to be some semblance of light at the end of the tunnel. It is truly heartening to see our sports teams out training again and playing competitive matches. Many of our traditional extra-curricular activities are back up and running. Alongside that, plans are in place to officially open our library for the first time since we moved into the new school building. There are also tentative plans in place regarding school trips and exciting school tours abroad.

However, while these developments should be celebrated, we must not become complacent regarding COVID-19. It remains an ever-present threat to our school and wider community. We

must continue to make sure that we are following the public health guidelines to prevent the spread of the infection. We must continue to social distance, wear masks properly, and sanitise our hands. We must not jeopardise our tremendous progress. If we can maintain our efforts and last the course, then we will continue to be able to celebrate the return of the "old normal". I, for one, am more than confident that we can continue to pull together, continue to look after each other and continue to provide an excellent education for all our boys in Clonkeen College.

Edward Melly

### *Welcome Back*

Welcome back to all our students, staff and their families! We hope you all have enjoyed a relaxing summer and that you are looking forward to the year ahead. We hope that our new 1st Years are settling in well, enjoying their learning and that they will have many wonderful and productive years here at Clonkeen College.

We would like to welcome all our new teachers: Mr Michael Allen (Maths and Science), Mr Feargal Clifford (Religious Education), Ms Julia Dolan (Maths and Science), Ms Michelle Richie (SNA) Ms Danielle Fox (Music), Ms Esther Woods

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(English, Geography and Drama), Ms Aoife Hyland (Physical Education and Irish), Ms Erin Finucane (Geography, CSPE and Nutrition), Mr Jack Donnelly (Biology, Maths and Science), Mr Conor Ryan (Design Communication Graphics), and Mr Stephen Donovan (Deputy Principal).

We would also like to welcome back Ms Niamh Mulville (English and History) who returns to us after a career break. We say goodbye and extend our best wishes to Ms Gemma Connaughton, Mr Lorcan Quinn, Mr Oisín McMenamin, Ms Katie Duignan, Mr Sean Gilmore and Mr Hugh Dorman who are not returning to Clonkeen College this year. We thank them for all their hard work and hope that they will enjoy every success in their new positions.

### *A Message from the Parents' Association*

The new school year is already well underway and we hope that everyone has settled in and that all the new students have found their way around the school.

A few new teachers and a new Deputy Principal, Mr Donovan have joined Clonkeen College and we wish them a warm welcome and hope that they enjoy their time in the school.

Well done to all the students who celebrated

the Leaving Cert with excellent results. We wish them well in their next adventures.

Normality is beginning to return to school life which is great to see. Transition Year students are enjoying many activities and sports have returned along with the various clubs and after school study.

We look forward to a great school year and a positive school environment for everyone. Look out for each other, work hard and get involved in the activities that are on offer. Remember to talk to a teacher if you have any concerns.

Best of luck from the Parents' Association.

*Michael Brennan*

It is with the heaviest of hearts that we say goodbye to Deputy Principal Michael Brennan on his retirement. Michael has become something of an institution here at Clonkeen College since joining the teaching staff in 1976. Words are not adequate to comprehensively encapsulate the profound and enduring impact he has had on thousands of students who have passed through the gates of Clonkeen College. He led by example instilling a solid work ethic in his students and pride in a job well done. To say that the school will not be the same without him is an understatement of

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of the highest order. We wish Mick a very long and happy retirement!



### *The Student Council*

The Student Council has been elected for the school year. The members are as follows:

B1 Paddy Mulholland

B2 Quinn Doyle

B3 James Menton

B4 Ruhaan Malik

C1 Nathan Ryan McKeever

C2 Sean Bonengaar

C3 Miguel Uriate

C4 Stephen McDermott

D1 David Ekins

D2 Arham Memon (Treasurer)

D3 Adam O'Sullivan

D4 Cuan Evers Nolan

5.1 Surya Sathyarajan

5.2 Ire Guidoriagao (Secretary)

5.3 Colin Ashe

5.4 Shane Domingo (P.R.O.)

6.1 Gavin Doyle

6.2 Conor McBride Hosey

6.3 Eimhin Boylan

L1 Kevin Moran

The Student Council meets every Monday at lunch time to discuss plans for the year. They are currently working on upgrading two of the student water fountains so that they will be contact-less. Eimhin Boylan and Ire Guidoriagao attended the Parents' Association AGM on Thursday 14th October. The Student Council has a number of other projects in the pipeline.

### *Mr. Egan*

Congratulations to our very own Mr. Darren Egan who competed at the recent Berlin Marathon on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September. He completed the race of 42.2km in 2:41:32 which is a personal best for Darren. Overall, he finished in 264<sup>th</sup> place and was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> amongst the Irish participants. If anyone would like to know more about athletics, please feel free to speak to Mr. Egan and don't forget the Clonkeen Mile every Friday!



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As it is Maths Week, can anyone calculate Mr. Egan's average pace per kilometre?

### *Alexandru Puiu*

Congratulations to Alexandru Puiu of Transition Year who was chosen to compete for Leinster in the All-Ireland Tailteann Games earlier this month. He earned fourth place with a clearance of 1.75m. Well done, Alex.



We also did Yoga with our instructor Eike in L1.



We have lots of student birthdays in October!

### *L1 Exploring Colour Theory*

Have a look at these pictures of the L1 students 'Exploring Colour Theory' as part of their LP2 Junior Cycle learning. The L1 students complete their Art classes in the art room. This is a creative opportunity for them to experience a different learning environment to the SNU. The students have produced some wonderful work to date. It's a pleasure to teach the boys in L1.

### *L1 News*

This term L1 have gone swimming with Mr. Sheehy as part of PE. In Horticulture, we dug up massive pumpkins! We picked tomatoes and potatoes and we made our own wedges and chips with the vegetables with Mr O'Brien, Del and Michelle.

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All new members are welcome to join the team in Room 6 at 1.15 every Thursday.

### *International Languages Week*

Scan the QR code below to watch the absolutely fantastic video the Languages Department created for International Languages Week.



### *Debate Club*

We delighted to see the return of the Debate Club. The club is being led by 4<sup>th</sup> Year student Arham Memon with assistance from Mr. Coughlan, Mr. Cobby, and Ms Harte. Hopefully, the club will be able to submit teams into the UCD and Trinity debating competitions which are scheduled for throughout the academic year.

### *Art*

#### *Senior Cycle*

Our 5th Year cohort of students will be the first academic year group to embrace the new Senior Cycle art specification. This is monumental, as it's the first complete curriculum reform implemented in over thirty years. Minor alterations have been made in the recent past, but this new specification is in keeping with Junior Cycle in its fundamental

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approach to teaching and learning, and therefore creates continuity between Junior and Senior Cycle. We wish our students the very best in this new cycle.

### *The Friday Mile*

Our Friday Mile has made a welcome return after a 2-year hiatus. Though on a much tighter course, we have still welcomed more than 30 runners on 2 occasions. We can fit more too!!!

Nearly 60 students and teachers have run the course – well done to the 1st Years who have come out in big numbers. L1 and A2 lead the way with 16 runners between them. Special mention to those who have run/supported each of the 5 weeks: Jonah Bates, Louis Mitchell, Kevin Moran, Robert Sheridan, Luke Simons and Daniel Woods (all L1); Sam Corcoran and Joe O'Shea (both A2); and Tom Knight (A4). Patryk O'Brien has been posting the fastest time.



Double miles on Friday – can any group catch A2 or L1 for the Hallowe'en prize?

The teachers maybe ...

Come out and join us for our November runs!

### *Chess Club*

We are delighted to announce the return of the Chess Club! Did you know that playing chess results in better brain function, improved memory and cognitive abilities, strategic thinking and attention improvement? The club meets every Thursday in the library. Everyone is welcome!

### *Green Schools*

The Green Schools committee held their first meeting back on Tuesday 21st September. The committee will continue to work on their Water Flag for the academic year 2021/2022. Some of our targets this year will be to carry out our meter readings, analyse water bills and general raising awareness through competitions and quizzes. We aim to carry out water usage surveys for both students and staff and in time analyse the results. We also hope to undertake some projects on some of our local Blue Flag beaches. At some point in the term to we hope to do a beach clean-up on Killiney



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beach. We are excited to get stuck in and look forward to the year ahead.



### *Brain Busters*

Good luck to Mr. Coughlan and A2 who have entered the Brain Busters competition. Brain Busters is a new and innovative gamification approach to literacy and numeracy for 1st and 2nd Years. Created by An Post, the competition takes inspiration from the methodologies and excitement of escape room challenges. A2 have completed a short, fun qualifying round to represent Clonkeen College in the National Final in April 2022. All finalists in April will receive certificates and the top team will win €1000 for their school.



### *Biology Leaving Certificate Field Trip*

On Friday 1st October, the two Leaving Certificate Biology classes completed their Ecology habitat study at Airfield Estate, Dundrum. The students studied the biodiversity of the local grassland and Hedgerow, even catching a frog! They used a variety of equipment and carried out many calculations. They also measured environmental factors on site. This is an important part of the Biology Leaving Certificate syllabus and the students immersed themselves in all aspects.

### *Nicolas Moreton Retrospective*

The sculpture at the entrance to Clonkeen College, 'The Pinnacle', was hand sculpted by Nicolas Moreton. He invited me to attend his retrospective show in Oxford University, on the 16th of October 2021.

It was an honour to be present at such an auspicious occasion. The chosen venue for the exhibition showcased each piece spectacularly. The cloisters created an intimate light filled space that added to the viewing experience. It gave me an even greater appreciation of how blessed our school community is to have a bespoke piece of sculpture created by such a gifted artist.



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The mayor of Oxford addressed those in attendance and the show ended with words of appreciation and recognition for all that Nicolas Moreton has created and achieved to date.

Laura Healy



### *5th Year Egnauts*

Ms. Duffy's 5th year physics class really rose to the annual Egnaut Challenge this year to end Space Week.

Scan the QR Code to view the launch!



### *Transition Year French*

Ms. Cullen's Transition Year French Classes have been exploring the work of humanist French photographer Robert Doisneau. As part of their study, students in D2 recreated some of Doisneau's most famous images with a current-day Clonkeen twist. Well done to all the students involved!



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### *Transition Year Activities*

There has been a lively start to Transition Year this year. Already the students have embarked on trips to Tayto Park, Alive Outside, an outdoor adventure and sports venue located in Kilruddery in Bray, and have been sailing in Dun Laoghaire.

### *Transition Year Work Experience*

Work experience dates for September-May 2021-2022:

Block 1:

Mon 1st Nov-Fri 5th Nov 2021

Mon 8th Nov-Fri 12th Nov 2021

Block 2:

Mon 28th Feb-Fri 4th March 2022

Mon 7th March-11th March 2022

