

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

November/December 2021



Merry Christmas

As the term draws to a close, we would like to wish all our staff, students and their families a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas break. We look forward to 2022 with positivity and hope.

Team Hope - Annual Shoebox Christmas Appeal

On 25 November 2021, students and staff members in Clonkeen College came together to support Team Hope's annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal, by generously donating gifts to children across Eastern Europe.

Team Hope's Christmas Shoebox Appeal is an

annual campaign that delivers gifts straight into the hands of children affected by poverty. Often, these shoebox gifts are the only gift that a child will receive at Christmas and the joy that they bring is incredible.

Thank you to all students and staff who kindly donated a shoebox to this worthwhile cause.



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Green Schools

The Green Schools have had a busy term. We have carried out various litter picks around the school and local neighbourhood. The committee has executed various leak tests to ensure there are no leaks in our bathrooms and sinks. We also successfully conducted our water audit.

Recently we completed a survey on water usage at home. We surveyed students from different year groups and reviewed the results. The committee was delighted to see that 85% of students opt to use a refillable water bottle every day for school and 65% of students always turn off the tap when brushing their teeth. All results can be seen on our Green Schools noticeboard.

We are currently researching Blue Flag beaches in our local area. We hope to visit Killiney Beach in the new year and carry out a beach clean-up.

Green Schools Members 2021 – 2022



Gaisce Awards

A huge congratulations to our Fifth Year students who received their bronze Gaisce medals. They were Conor Lowry, Zachary Kenny Ward, Jakub Kryszczak, Raphael Dela Cruz, Shane O'Sullivan, Robert Crilly, Cian Lowry, Manas Chedimala and Adam Savage.

Gaisce, The President's Award, is a self-development programme for young people aged 14 to 25 which has been proven to enhance confidence and wellbeing through participation in personal, physical and community challenges. It is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, to all young people to dream big and realise their potential.



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Sixth Year Physics Trip

Sixth Year physics students enjoyed a trip to the I-LOFAR telescope at Birr Castle. I-LOFAR is the Irish station in a European-wide network of state-of-the-art radio telescopes, used to observe the Universe at low frequencies (10-240 MHz).

With the award of €1.4 million from Science Foundation Ireland, the I-LOFAR consortium have built cutting-edge astrophysics observing facility in Birr Castle, Co. Offaly, in the midlands of Ireland.

This facility connects Ireland to the International LOFAR Telescope, which is one of the most sophisticated and advanced astrophysics research projects in the world. The integration of Irish astrophysics into such a large-scale international astrophysics research facility allows Irish researchers to make ground-breaking advances in numerous fields of physics and data science and inspire young scientists and engineers to pursue the advancement of Irish astrophysics for decades to come.

They also learned about the largest telescope in the world, the Leviathan and had the opportunity to talk to a PhD astrophysics researcher!



Sixth Year Art Trip

The Sixth Year art students visited The National Gallery of Ireland to engage in a guided tour of the permanent collection of art. Thanks to the generosity of George Bernard Shaw and his love of art and Ireland, Irish people and all visitors to Ireland have free access to incredible works of art. The facade and recently refurbished entrance at Merion Square add to the aesthetic of the overall viewing experience. The students were particularly in awe of the wooden sculpture by Joseph Walsh, it stands alone in a modernised light filled space. The historical painting of The Marriage of Aoife and Strongbow, by Daniel MaClise, is equally striking and takes pride of place in the Gallery Room.

The art students then spent the afternoon in our National Museum of Archaeology on Kildare St. The museum boasts the largest and most

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spectacular collection of golden artefacts from the Bronze Age in all of Europe. The perfectly preserved bog bodies were fascinating and displayed in sacred and respectful manner.

The tours of our museums and galleries left a lasting impression on our art students, and a sense of gratefulness for the altruistic nature of past patrons of the art.



Stand Up Week

Clonkeen College marked its second annual Stand Up Awareness Week from November 15th to 19th. This week highlights inclusion amongst the LGBTQ+ members in our society and of course, in our college. This year, we aimed to illustrate the artistic and celebratory side of this week. This meant we made a huge effort for the school to be decorated in a colourful manner.

The week included music competitions which involved songs which promoted not just love but loving yourself too. Furthermore, two Sixth Year pupils, Andrew O'Donovan and Oran McGrane, provided the school with a wide range of anthems by the likes of Ed Sheeran and WALK THE MOON.

In order to promote the idea of acceptance and inclusion, each class group were invited to dress in as many different colours as possible on their PE days. We are delighted to announce that C2, tutored by Bean Uí Thuama won the prize for the most colourful class. To put an end to the week, we felt it was a good idea to create a video which really highlights just how diverse our college is. Along with two fifth year, Callum Murphy and Manas Chedimala, we asked pupils with varying languages to call out quotes which promote inclusion, not only amongst our LGBTQ+ community, but amongst all members of our school community.



As the week came to a close, we felt it was very important to remind all members of our college

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that the principles of inclusion and respect we saw during this week continue as a part of our daily lives.

L1 News

L1 want to wish the entire Clonkeen College community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Maths Week and Science Week

There was a great atmosphere around the school for both Maths Week and Science Week with students getting involved in experiments, checking out Nobel Prize winners posters, exploring the history of maths, mathematicians, and scientists, and enjoying some jokes and facts.

Higher level maths students took part in the Junior Maths Olympiad and seniors took part in PRISM and Round One of the Maths Olympiad.

The highest scores in the Junior Olympiad were Chinmay Dhakappa and Mattia Minella from First Year and Sean Lambie in Second Year. Luke Bailey in Fifth Year and John Murray in Sixth Year scored the highest in PRISM. Ronan Kennedy in Fifth Year scored an impressive 100% in Round One of the Maths Olympiad and has been invited to UCD for enrichment classes and be in with a chance to try out for the Irish team to compete in Oslo, Norway from 6-16 July 2022. Best of luck to Ronan!

The winner of the science photography competition was Stephen Mc Dermott in Third Year with a stunning image of fog at the Ballycorus Leadmines. The winner of the fractals art competition went to Jack Kelly in first year. The talent from the art

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students blew us away for all work handed in for both Maths Week and Science Week. Well done to all who took part!



The creativity didn't stop there as Jake Keogh baked a delicious and extremely clever Venn diagram "maths Pi" cake. It looked far too good to eat!



The science dingbats were tough this year and required biology, chemistry and physics students sharing their knowledge to guess the science terms. Fionann Kelly in Sixth Year and Rian Kennedy in Third Year guessed them all correctly

and were the winners. See the dingbats below and check your answers at the end of the newsletter.

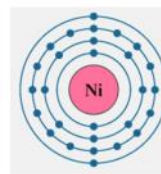
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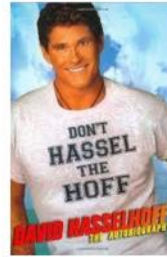
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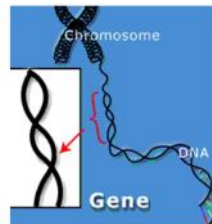
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Our annual maths puzzle of the day caused a lot of discussion amongst students. Answers are at the end of the newsletter. The daily winners were Christian Kenny Ward in Third Year, James Haskins in Fifth Year, Alex Brennan in First Year, Sam Kinsella in Sixth Year, and Aleksandr Ivanov in Transition Year.

The highlight for science week was definitely the murder mystery carried out by Third Year. They put all their science skills to use and had to test the evidence at the crime scene to figure out who did it! Great team work and lots of laughs.

We look forward to all the fun again next year!

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Student Council Activities

Election of the student committee (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Public Relations) voted by student council class representatives. Those elected were: Eimhin Boylan as the president; Ire Guidoriagao as the vice-president; Arham Memon as the treasurer; Shane Domingo and Gavin Doyle as the Public Relation representatives. We also updated the Student Council board with the 2021-22 council members.

On Wednesday December 8th, the student council were proud to announce the opening of two state-of-the-art contactless water fountains this term. A project in the making since pre covid times this project is a massive success in the eyes of the students. With funds being raised by the students themselves and a generous matched donation from the Parents' Association. These fountains are representative of everything Clonkeen epitomizes: unity and community. A massive thank you to all who donated and especially to Ms. O'Keeffe for her countless hours of effort spent on this project throughout the past with previous student council members.

As the population of the school increases, the need for new bike racks has risen. The Student Council brought up this issue and have increased

the number of bike racks. Massive thanks to Philip and Jim, the caretakers of the school who installed and maintained the bike racks current and new as well as helping install the new water fountains and maintain school property from vandalism.

The Student Council contacted Laura Lynn to find out if they would like to work with us to raise money for their charity. The Christmas jumper day was a huge success raising €1500 to be fully donated to Laura Lynn. A massive thank you to everyone who kindly brought in €2, the students, staff, teachers and especially the people who donated even more than that. Furthermore, we would like to thank Mr. Melly and the Parents' Association for giving the green light for the event and helping the Student Council in its endeavours.



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Lastly the Student Council encourages the First Year classes to join the Student Council. We wish to welcome Steve Thomas, Sam Corcoran, Urvaksh Rattan and Ayyad Memon who will be joining us at the first meeting of the new year.

Debating Society

The Debating Society reopened its doors in September, and we were blessed to be able to welcome a plethora of new members from all year groups. We host our meetings every Thursday at lunchtime in Room 6 and every meeting we go over a sample motion, develop our debaters critical thinking and teach methods of debating.

Four of our members have recently represented the school and the Debating Society in the UCD Prepared Debate since the start of this academic year till present. Our teams were: Clonkeen A which consisted of Fionn Keane O'Hagan and Alex Coyne. Clonkeen B which consisted of Ayyad Memon and Ruhann Malik. Both of our teams have made us incredibly proud and have been doing excellently well.

We are hosting an in-house Speech Writing Competition for all our members currently and are hoping to get more teams out competing.


Halloween Art Competition

Congratulations to the winners of our Halloween art competition organised by Ms. Healy. The winners are as follows: Mattia Minella 1st place, Jack Kelly 2nd place, Urvaksh Rattan 3rd place. Also Highly Commended: Alex Brennan, Owen Kelly, Cristopher D'Souza, Owen Kelly, Momin Barry and Patrick O'Shea.



ANTHOLOGY2022!

ANTHOLOGY 2022!



Clonkeen College Press is now **inviting submissions** for ANTHOLOGY2022!

This is the 11th year of our publication of student writing and the book will be printed, bound and in your hands in April 2022.

We are open to any form of writing – short stories, poetry, drama, essays, etc – and submissions are welcome from any student, 1st Yr to 6th Yr.

If you would like to see your writing published and in print, please send your submissions to us at:
ccp@clonkeencollege.ie

Submission guidelines:

- Email your submission to ccp@clonkeencollege.ie
- Preferably as a Word document
- Deadline: Friday 14th January 2022

see clonkeencollege.ie
Twitter: @clonkeencollege
Instagram: @clonkeencollegepress

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Under 14 Gaelic Football

It was good to get the Second Years out in numbers for the first term. This was their first foray into representing Clonkeen after the year's imposed hiatus in 2020/21. Excellent training sessions - despite the shortage of space - were had both on our smaller school pitch and Geraldine Moran's beside us in Cornelscourt. Thanks to them! It was good to kick off the return to training in late September – we were away too long!

We were ably joined by our First Year contingent for our training sessions. Their dedicated First Year Blitzes will – hopefully – take place in the new year.

We lost our first match out against Benildus. A very strong final 20 minutes saw us close the gap on an excellent Benildus team. Well prepared after that challenge, we played Oatlands in Cornelscourt for a place in the Dublin Q/F. Captained by Eoin Gibbons on his home pitch, we were up by a point at half-time. But a third quarter when we conceded 3 goals left us with too much to do to get over the line. Hard luck lads, an excellent showing nonetheless.

The U-16s now beckon for the 2nd Years – Tada Gan Iarracht!

Senior Hurling and Football

Our Seniors have blazed a trail through to the Dublin Championships' play-offs in January. Playing home games in Shanganagh and Cornelscourt our Seniors have not let the lack of home facilities prevent us from 3 group wins to get us to the knock-out stages.

Our hurlers bounced back from an early defeat against Oatlands to seal a Shield S/F berth with a 5-11 to 2-11 win over Bray Schools. Our footballers followed up 2 challenges against Presentation Bray with wins over Old Bawn (5-8 to 2-8) and Oatlands (5-10 to 1-8) to seal a "home" Q/F in the New Year.

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Well done lads – looking forward to the journeys in the Spring! Tada gan Iarracht!!

Under 16 Hurling and Football

The under 16 hurling and football teams played a number of fixtures this term. In each game the boys acquitted themselves admirably, showing determination, skill and no short amount of resolve.

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In hurling the first fixture was against Oatlands College away. Despite good performances around the pitch, Clonkeen were ultimately defeated by a strong Oatlands team.

In the second hurling fixture Clonkeen welcomed Colaiste Cois Life to Shanganagh park. Unfortunately Colaiste Cois Life were the stronger on the day and came away with the win. Many thanks to Cuala GAA for the use of the pitches and nets.

The under 16 football championship opened with a game against local rivals, Oatlands College also. However, Clonkeen failed to produce scores at key times meant Oatlands came away with the win. The second football fixture, against Blackrock College, will be played in January.

Well done to all the boys who conducted themselves honourably in all fixtures for the school.

Friday Mile

Well done to the 1st Years who embraced our weekly lunch-time mile run. A2, A3 and L1 were our leading mile classes with a consistent representation over the 12 weeks. See you in January!

Our Top Milers:

A1 – Seán Hurley. **A2** – Sam Corcoran, Joe O'Shea, Patrick O'Shea. **A3** – Diarmuid Duffy, Sebastien

Gonzalez Manning, Joshua Good, Manuel Medori, Daryll Renni. **A4** – Tom Knight.

L1 - Robert Sheridan, Luke Simons, Kevin Moran, Daniel Woods, Louis Mitchell, Jonah Bates.



Under 15 Soccer Team

The Clonkeen College under 15 soccer team kicked off their league season with an action packed 5-4 victory against St. Benildus College. An even first half ended with Clonkeen 2-1 down with Jack Coone scoring. After half time, Clonkeen stormed back and flew into a 4-2 lead courtesy of two goals from Isaac Kendrick and one from James Menton. In fairness to St. Benildus, they battled back bravely to make it 4-4. However, in the dying moments, Rhys Knight struck the winning goal with a savage strike from outside the box. Well done to all!

Under 19 Soccer Team

Congratulations to our Under 19 soccer team who had two wins in the cup. They beat Adamstown 5-0 and Hartstown 5-2. That cup competition resumes after Christmas. Well done, lads!

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Under 16 Basketball

Clonkeen College's Junior Basketball team thrived this term as we advanced all the way to the finals of the Dublin School Boys League. Our first game played was against Cabinteely Community School at home, with an easy win, the game finished 47-23.

Our next game against CBC Monkstown we yet again came out victorious with a score of 40-14 with an amazing show from Dylan Bradley and JP Ga-an.

We faced Newpark Comprehensive School in the semi finals and although it was a tight game, we came out on top on a score line of 35 - 19.

On Tuesday 15th December we travelled to the Oblate Basketball Club with our spirits high. The game didn't get off to the best start as Edmund Rice College went ahead, but as the second and third quarter came in, Clonkeen's intensity improved.

When the fourth quarter came around there was a lot of tension on the court, but Edmund Rice College pulled ahead in the last few minutes and then the buzzer sounded. It was an excellent performance from everyone and the future of Clonkeen basketball is in safe hands!

Under 19 Basketball

This year our school's senior basketball team had great success by getting to the semi-final of the Dublin School Boys League.

Our first group stage run came in against Cabinteely Community School and we emerged triumphant on a score line of 47-18. In our second group stage game we travelled to Balinteer Community School where we won 32-12. In our final group stage game, we played CBC Monkstown at home where, once again, we came out victorious, 51-24.

In the quarter finals. we played against Stratford College in a very intense and extremely close game. Fortunately, we came out on top by two points with a score of 53 – 51.

Our winning streak unfortunately ended when we faced a very tough and talented Newpark Comprehensive team in the semi-final. This was the end of a very good league run and season for a

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strong Clonkeen side, consisting of mainly 5th year and TY students, who are ready to compete again next year.



Clonkeen College Senior Rugby Blitz – 21st October 2021

The day started with a brief meeting to inform the players what the morning had in store for them. There was going to be 3 matches in total, each 25 minutes long and against 3 different schools. Soon after, we boarded the team bus that would take us to Kirwan Park.

Clonkeen's first match was against Moyle Park College of Clondalkin in the first match. "The Clash of the Clons" did not disappoint. Clonkeen College started well with 2 tries in quick succession by winger Jack Devlin.

These early scores gave Clonkeen College something to defend for the rest of the game. Moyle Park put Clonkeen under a lot of pressure to get back into the match but thanks to some fantastic defence, the Clondalkin side were unable to score until the final play of the game when they scored a well-deserved consolation try. The result meant that Clonkeen College had recorded their first victory in a senior rugby match in the school's history. The game ended Clonkeen College 10-7 Moyle Park College.

After a short break, a more experienced Oatlands College team were next. The game started poorly from a Clonkeen College supporters' perspective. Several soft scores were conceded in the early stages. However, the players reacted well and showed a lot of character. Some great leadership was shown by several players whilst huddled together underneath the goal posts as the conversion was taking place. As the ball left the kicking tee and soared through the air so did the team's belief that could hold their own against their neighbours. After a 5-minute period of sustained pressure in the Oatlands half of the pitch, a well-deserved try was scored in the corner by Fionn Dalton.

After 2 tough matches, 1 win and 1 loss, next were

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De La Salle Churchtown. Unfortunately, Clonkeen College were running on empty at this stage. The score could have and should have been much worse but thanks to some brilliant defence including a last ditch try saving tackle by Conor McBride in the corner, De La Salle Churchtown were kept out. Unfortunately, the defensive effort was not enough and after a brave performance by our players, De La Salle Churchtown were the winners.

The team photo (below) speaks for itself and by looking at it you can tell how the players were feeling after their mornings work. The singing did not stop on the bus all the way back to school.



Clonkeen College Senior Rugby Blitz – 18th November 2021

Despite having 29 players at training that week, only a 22-man squad was able to travel to West-

manstown sports complex in Clonsilla for the second Senior Rugby Blitz of the year.

After a good warm up, the team prepared to face local rivals Oatlands College in the first match. After a comprehensive defeat earlier on in the year, Clonkeen's players showed massive improvement and earned a hard-fought draw. Oatlands scored a try with 5 minutes to go to lead 7-0. However, Clonkeen responded in the last play of the game with a try of their own in the corner. The score was 7-5 before the conversion took place. Rory O'Kane stepped up and took his opportunity to add on the extra 2 points to level it up. The match ended Clonkeen College 7-7 Oatlands College.

The players followed up to put in a good performance to win out comfortable winners against Luttrellstown. Tries from Jamie Maguire and Jack Devlin set Clonkeen on the road with a brilliant run down the wing by Ben Brophy sealed a comfortable win for Clonkeen in the second match.

After a well-earned break, Clonkeen still need 2 wins to progress through to the next round. It was the return of the Clash of the Clons. Clonkeen versus Clondalkin side Moyle Park in Clonsilla. Having conceded an early try, Clonkeen showed great resilience to come back to lead 14-7 going into the

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final few minutes of the match. It was Moyle Parks turn to equalise with the last play of the game with a well worked try. The match ended Clonkeen College 14-14 Moyle Park.

In the fourth game of the day, Clonkeen faced Portmarnock Community College. The result was 7-0 to Clonkeen College in a hard-fought win. This secured the second win that was needed to progress to the next round.

Ardgillan was the final match of an action-packed morning. Clonkeen did well to stay on level terms with Ardgillan until the final few minutes of the match. Ardgillan scored two late tries which meant they ran out comfortable winners in the end.

Despite that disappointing result, spirits remained high on the bus all the way back to the school. Next up is the Leinster Metro Shield competition.

Well done to all involved on a great performance and representing the school so well.

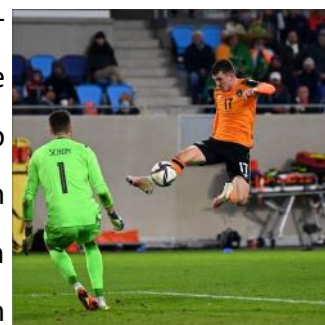


Clonkeen College Senior Rugby

The Clonkeen Senior Cup Team are through to the 1/4 finals of the Leinster Schools Division 3A Shield Competition after a 52-7 win over Wexford side Atha Colaiste Kilmuckridge.

Jason Knight

Congratulations to former Clonkeen College pupil Jason Knight who assisted two goals in Ireland's 3-0 win against Luxembourg in November. Well done, Jason!



Ronan Hayes

Well done to another former Clonkeen College student Ronan Hayes who helped Kilmacud Crokes to their sixth Dublin Senior Hurling Championship.

Transition Year Activities

Transition Year students have been getting up to all kinds of fascinating and fun activities this term. They took part in the Reptile Haven Workshop, First Aid training from the Irish Red Cross, a comedy workshop with Danny O'Brien and Karl Spain, the Crocus Project to commemorate the Holocaust

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and the Wilderness First Aid Workshop with past pupil Conor Lavelle. Ms. Sheehan also worked with TYs to make care packages for the elderly.



Science Dingbats 2021: Answers

1. James Webb Telescope
2. Big Bang
3. Nikola Tesla
4. European Space Agency (ESA)
5. Avogadro's constant
6. Ionic Bond
7. Synovial fluid
8. Mendel (Gregor)
9. Hoffmaan Voltameter
10. Genetic Cross