

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

March 2022



Mock Results

Well done to all the lads in 3rd and 6th Year on their impressive results in the mocks. Despite unprecedented adversity, these students have laid a solid foundation for their exams in June. One last push, lads!

Multicultural Week

Multicultural Week 2022 was the first of its kind here at Clonkeen College. The week was rolled out with the help of the Well-Being committee in the school and aimed to promote and celebrate the vast number of cultural backgrounds we host here in Clonkeen.

Preparations began weeks before the week officially began when, with the aid of my Transition Year pupils, a survey was undertaken where pupils flagged their nationalities. We then created a team of pupils from all years, where a representative from each nation created a visual project to be presented in the corridors. We adopted a cross-curricular approach, where other departments such as the P.E, Home Economics and Music teamed together to highlight the talent we have here in Clonkeen.

Miss Marley hosted a cooking competition, along with the preparation of local dishes in her Home

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Economics class. Mr. Stafford prepared a fantastic display of local sports such as Kabbadi, which is played in India and Miss Fox helped prepare a musical piece with 5th year pupil, Ire Guidoriagao at lunchtime.

Each morning, the winners of our international music competition were announced over the intercom by a range of pupils from each year. We concluded the week with a photograph of all our representatives along with a multinational table quiz with the 3rd Year pupils.



Seachtaine na Gaeilge 2022!

Bhí seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl an tseachtain roimh Lá Fhéile Pádraig. Bhí Coláiste Chluain Chaoin maisithe le gach rud Gaeilge. Bhí seamróga, brathacha agus dathanna na hÉireann le feiceál ar fud na scoile.

Ghlac na daltaí páirt in imeachataí éagsúla agus bhaineamar an-taitneamh as!

Gach maidin, bhí comórtas cheoil Ghaeilge ar an idirchum le go leor duaisanna do na buaiteoirí. I rith na seachtaine, bhí comórtas Tik Tok, biongó, agus Poc Fada ar siúl sa scoil. Cuireadh críoch leis an gcéiliúradh le tráth na gceist mór sa halla.

Míle buíochas do Roinn na Gaeilge agus an scoil ar fhad as ucht na himeachtaí a eagrú agus páirt a ghlacadh! Bhí an-spraoi againn!

Fionn Keane-O'Hagan, C2

Ambasadóir na Gaeilge.

Water Droplet Competition

The Green Schools committee displayed 70 blue water droplets and 3 golden water droplets around the school. They were stuck to the corridor walls, lockers, noticeboards, inside classrooms etc. Students had to collect the water droplets, sign their name and class on the droplet, and then put them inside the box outside the reception. All droplets were put into a raffle for Easter eggs.

Congratulations to the winners of the Water Droplet Competition.

L1

Daniel Woods and Louis Mitchell.

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1st Year

Luca Fattaccini A1 and Harry McGeown A2

2nd Year

Alex Whelan B3, Orin Noctor B3, Donal Moylan B3 and Ross Young B3.

3rd Year

Francis Tuazon C2, Michael Gnutek C2, Alex Coyne C3 and Peter Seagrave C3.

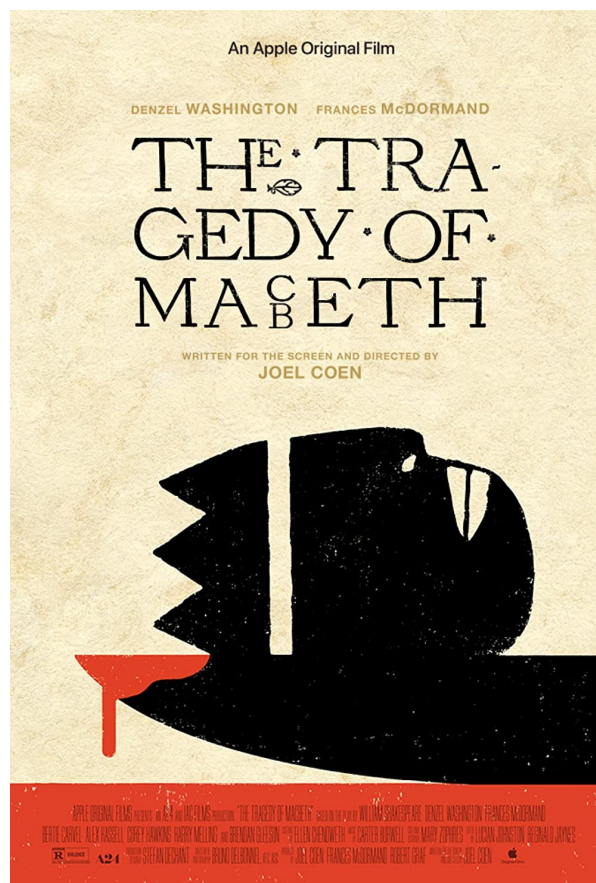
Pieta House Non-Uniform Day

On Friday the 8th of April, The Student Council organised a Non-Uniform Day to fundraise for Pieta House. Pieta House first opened its doors in Lucan, County Dublin in 2006. Since then they have seen and helped over 60,000 people in suicidal distress or engaging in self-harm.



5th Year Cinema Trip

On the 23rd of March, Mr. Cobley's and Mr. Coughlan's 5th Year English classes went on a trip to the IFI Cinema to see the latest adaptation of Shakespeare's iconic play 'Macbeth'. The film was directed by Joel Coen (The Big Lebowski, Fargo, No Country for Old Men) and stars Oscar winners Denzel Washington and Frances McDormand. The consensus amongst the lads was that this new version is an improvement on the 2015 'Macbeth' adaptation starring Michael Fassbender and Marion Cotillard.



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Chess Club

The Chess Club meets every Thursday at lunchtime in the library. But the big question is why should you play chess?

Top 7 Benefits of Chess

1. Chess exercises both sides of the brain.

The game of chess requires a lot of “if this, then -that” scenarios, requiring players to imagine all the potential moves, alternatives and outcomes of each possibility.

One study, conducted by Robert Ferguson, executive director of the American Chess School in Pennsylvania found that kids who had been playing chess versus computer games scored 13 percentage points higher in critical thinking and 35 percentage points higher in creative thinking.

2. Increases Concentration & Memory

Studies have shown that children who play chess regularly significantly improve their visual memory and concentration. A fantastic aspect of chess is that the game rewards you for concentration and penalizes you for losing it. Lose focus and you lose a piece, or worse, the game! Maintain focus and you're likely to win! This aspect of the game of chess gives a

child's brain a fun incentive to stay focused while playing!

3. Develops Problem Solving Skills

The game of chess is a game of problem-solving, planning, and foresight. Being able to think through changing variables and formulate a plan based on various possibilities are invaluable skills necessary for the game, and more importantly, for life!

4. Improves Reading Skills

Chess requires kids to use cognitive functions such as decoding, analysis, thinking, and comprehension which are all skills required for reading. Studies have shown that kids who play chess score an average of 10 percentage points higher on reading tests versus kids who don't play chess.

5. Teaches Planning and Foresight

In order to win in the game of chess you must have the ability to foresee multiple possibilities and outcomes in order to formulate a successful plan.

Forming a plan is similar to drawing a map. Learning to think ahead and plan where you need to position your pieces in order to trap, capture, or block your opponent's pieces is vital to the game of chess.

Ultimately, the goal is to capture your

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opponent's king, but patience and planning is key to getting there. A lot has to be done to set yourself up for success.

Bonus Benefits

6. Engages the mind OFF of screens

It's no surprise that the amount of screen time children are exposed to these days can diminish their ability to concentrate and focus. Chess is a powerful way of counteracting the negative effects of this digital era by engaging them in an activity that IMPROVES concentration while giving them a fun activity to enjoy off of screens.

7. Connects You with Others

Studies show that activities that connect children with others (especially their parents) can have a powerfully positive impact on overall brain health. Unlike video games or TV, chess builds human connection through healthy competitive play. Teaching a child to play chess not only builds a healthy brain, but it also reinforces positive relationships and builds lasting memories.

PE Xpo

Well done to Tom Scannell, Ayyad Memon, Owen Kelly and Sam Corcoran from 1st Year who took part in the PE Xpo in DCU on the 6th of

April.

Tom and Ayyad's project "Olympic Cricket: The Culture and Power of Sport" took home top prize in the Junior category: The Power of Sport. Owen and Sam's project "Educate & Exercise: The Benefits of Physical Activity to Physical and Mental Health" highlighted the importance of physical activity along with the many associated mental health benefits.

The day was hugely enjoyable, with auxiliary activities that included an Olympic Judo exhibition, soccer freestyle competitions, archery as well as Q&A session with key industry figures in Physical Education and the Sport for Business sphere.

Well done to the boys on all of their hard work on these projects. We hope this is only the beginning of a long and successful relationship with the PE Xpo going forward and that we can increase the number of participants from Clonkeen College in the coming years.



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Under 15 Soccer

The Under 15s started the term well with a confident victory over St. Mark's Community School in the league. Goals from Cian Cavanagh, Jack Coone and an own goal were enough to secure a 3-1 victory which eased the school's way into the semi-final against St. Mac Dara's Community College.

The match against Mac Dara's was a hard fought battle. With only five minutes remaining, Clonkeen were down 2-1. After piling significant pressure on the Mac Dara goal, Clonkeen finally equalised through Ross Young. Ross also scored Clonkeen's opener. Unfortunately, Mac Dara's immediately responded with a goal of their own to go 3-2 up. Clonkeen threw all they had at Mac Dara's but were unfortunately caught on the break and Mac Dara's made it 4-2.

Following the semi-final exit in the league, the lads were very unfortunate to lose in the shield to St. Joseph's CBS from Fairview. They conceded a very harsh penalty in the first few minutes that keeper Alex Traynor very nearly saved. Clonkeen then proceeded to batter the St. Joseph's goal for 60 minutes. However, they just could not find that finishing touch and were very unlucky to lose 1-0 in the end.

Overall, the team had an excellent season showing resilience, teamwork and good humour throughout. Well done, lads!



Under 17 Soccer

The Under 17s played their first league match of the season against St. Mark's Community College in Tallaght. The boys drew the match 3-3 after a hard-fought battle. The goals came from Stephen Mohan and Jake Murray.

The second game against Benildus saw the boys coming back from being 3-0 down to again drawing 3-3. It was a fantastic performance by the boys. Our man of the match that day Don O'Toole. The goals came from Michael Gnutek and Stephen Mohan. A special mention to our goalkeeper Cian Mulligan who was outstanding on the day. Due to the results of other games the boys topped the league.

On Monday 4th of April, we headed to play the

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South Dublin Region final in St Francis Astro in Clondalkin. The boys were underdogs and up against a strong Moyle Park team. Despite this, the lads were hyped up and ready for action. The game began with Moyle Park dominating. Our bus of supporters with a mix of 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th years arrived to support the boys. They created a fantastic atmosphere.

Moyle Park were pressing and putting our star keeper Cian Mulligan under pressure. After a nasty tackle, Cian suffered a shoulder injury and Conor Smith jumped in. Before we knew it, we were 1-0 down. The boys fought hard and a free kick from Stephen Mohan met Don



O'Toole's head to hit the back of the net. It was 1-1 and both teams were fighting hard.

Evan O'Connell and Alex Montgomery were outstanding in defence on the day. We began the second half with the introduction of Ben Keogh who had an immediate effect on the

pitch. Again, the boys were fighting hard but unfortunately Moyle Park made it 2-1. The supporters began driving on the boys and Jake Murray, who was outstanding on the day, made it 2-2. The pressure was rising, and the clock was running down. There were four minutes left when Evan O'Connell slipped a ball through to Stephen Mohan who finished it in left corner to make it 3-2. The supporters erupted and for the first time in the game Clonkeen were ahead. The boys defended a pressing Moyle Park and a fantastic tackle from Peter Fitz cleared the ball just before the final whistle.



It was a tremendous day for the Under 17 squad who have worked so hard all year. The scenes at the end of the match were fantastic and something we haven't seen for over two years. The boys now progress to the Leinster semi-finals which will be played after the Easter Break. This team is also in the semi-finals of the shield

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against Tullow CS. Let's hope the boys can do the treble!!

A big thank you to our supporters, family and friends who came out to support the boys. Thank you to Ben Monaghan, Callum Bennett and Cillian Daly who have been great assistants to Ms. Sheahan and Ms. Kennedy during the year.

Team: Cian Mulligan, Evan O Connell, Don O'Toole, Lee Dobin, Callum Hayden White, Luke O' Neil, Michael Gnutek, Alex Montgomery Brennan, Jake Murray (c), Stephen Mohan, Shane Gough, Matthew Bailey, Callum Maher, Lewis Bishop, Ben Keogh, Hayden Foley, Peter Fitz, Jack O' Donnell, Isaac Kelly, Conor Smith, Callum P Moloney, Damian Dolan, Zach Sheehy.

TY Ski Trip

Over February midterm, the Transition Years were lucky enough to embark on a ski trip to Italy. A massive thanks to Mr. Faherty and Mr. O'Shaughnessy for organising the trip.



Junior Cycle Certificates of Completion

Massive congratulations to our 4th Year TY students on receiving their 'Junior Cycle Certificate of Completion'. Wonderful achievement! Wishing you all a fulfilling and successful Senior Cycle.

