



Holy Family Community School

Pobalscoil an Teaghlaigh Naofa

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OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

As the first half term of the year draws to a close, we would like to inform our school community about what has been a very busy and productive half term.

Leaving Cert 2021

The Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied students received their results in early September. Students achieved fantastic results and have gone on to pursue a variety of university and college courses. A number of students were invited back to the school for a presentation where we celebrated their superb achievement of securing between 500 and 625 points in Leaving Cert and Distinctions in LCA. We are so proud of all our #LC2021 students and wish them every success in the future.



Parents Council

The school is very grateful to the Parents Council for their donation through fundraising. We have installed benches for students to use outdoors and they are proving very popular.



The Poly-tunnel is also a big hit! Students are honing their gardening and horticulture skills on a regular basis and we all look forward to seeing the results of their hard work in the coming months.



The Parents Council AGM took place via Zoom on October 11th. New members are always welcome. Please send an email to info@hfcs.ie if you wish to get involved with the Parents Council and your email will be sent to them.

Transition Year

Transition Year has proven, once again, to be a very popular choice with students. They have been very busy during this half term, taking part in a variety of activities and events such as a trip to Liliput Adventure Centre and Zipit High Wire Experience. They will continue to be busy for the remainder of the school year with an array of trips, speakers and experiences planned.



Transition Year students have also benefitted from the Bridge to College Trinity Access talk, a Forensics workshop where students analysed ballistics, fingerprints and facial recognition, a talk from the Tenderfoot drama team who will choose students to engage with their drama programme. They will also be partaking in a barista course in November, so the coffee is on them!

Mentors

Our 6th Year mentors have proven to be an invaluable part of the school community. Being a Mentor is a very responsible role in the school and students who become Mentors feel very rewarded in their role. The mentors engaged in training with Mr. Ronan Barry of Spiritan Education Trust (one of our Trustees) in late August. Their role in supporting First Year students settle in to secondary school cannot be underestimated. They show kindness and empathy to younger students every day and are a great help to the staff and management of the school. They also organised and ran the Hallowe'en fun event for 1st years.



Sports

Students and staff alike have really missed school sporting events and competitions because of Covid-19 restrictions. Those restrictions are being lifted on a phased basis and all of us in the school look forward to being able to take part in and support each other in various sports when they return. Please encourage your children to listen out for announcements and to watch the noticeboards/screens around the school to keep informed about different teams being formed. We encourage students to get involved in sports so that the body and mind is kept fit and well.



Gaisce

Charlotte Moore and Sophie Madden were the proud recipients of the Silver Gaisce Award. Well done to both students. We are very proud of them.



40th Anniversary Celebrations

We celebrated our 40th Anniversary at the end of September. We are so thrilled and proud to be part of this wonderful community of Rathcoole for the past 40 years. A digital celebration video was created and shown to the students and staff, who thoroughly enjoyed watching it along with some sweets, cake and chocolate.



See if you can spot some of your old teachers! You can watch the videos here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqgyOVUIYy8>

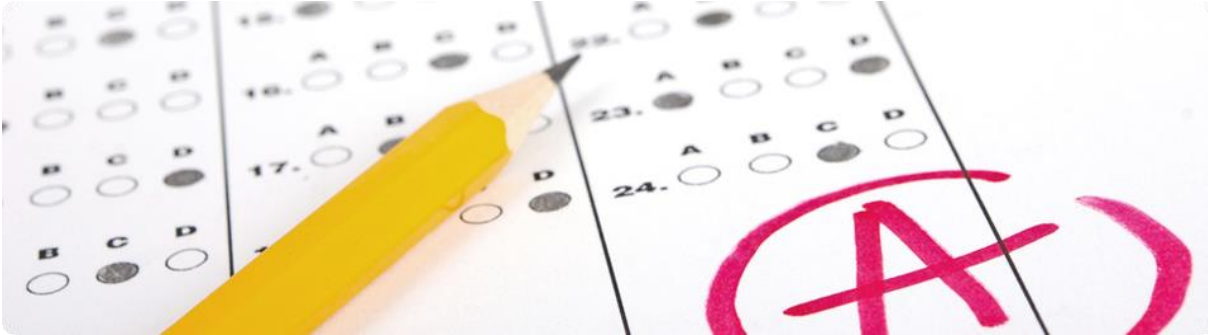
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3OvDO8Qlyg>

Staff CPD

Staff have been engaged in ongoing professional development in a variety of areas. Organisations such as PDST, ACCS, Education Centres and Universities provide this training. We are so thankful so have such a wonderful staff who are so committed to the students in the school.

Exams

Sixth year students have been engaged in exams from October 15th – 22nd. These exams are a good way for teachers and students to gauge where the student is at in terms of knowledge and where revision needs to be targeted. Christmas exams will take place for 1st, 2nd and 5th year students from November 24th to December 8th. Students should now begin to make a study plan in preparation for these exams and discuss the plan with their teachers.



Sustainability

Our Development Education Department have been working hard to create our first ever 'WellBEEing garden'. The garden contains a series of bee friendly plants and insect hotels. This sustainable garden also blends with the theme of wellbeing from Junior Cycle. The positive recycled signs were made by woodwork students and painted by art students. A lovely calm space for students and staff to enjoy.

Our Global Goals gallery is located in Student Reception. It contains all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals and their logos. The piece in purple in the photo is the 17 goals written in Braille for our visually impaired students.



Lively Lunchtimes

The Lively Lunchtime is a very popular experience for students. Students get an opportunity to meet up, chat, play board games and develop friendships. It takes place every Tuesday and students should contact Ms. Redmond if they wish to take part.

Art

The Art Department are continuing to excel. Students have been busy making their own identifiable hoodies which are now on display.



Art students have also been perfecting their drawing skills in art class.



Creative Writing

A lovely example of creative writing from Philip Carroll in First Year. A wonderfully suitable piece as we welcome the frosty winter mornings.

The Stream

Tuesday 19 October 2021 08:47

As I stroll through the forest,
I come across a stream
A frozen stream it is,
A result of the winter cold
Holding water that once flowed free, in captivity.

As I stroll through the forest,
The winter sun glares through the snow-tipped branches
And I admire the frost-covered forest,
And bask in its tranquility.

Philip Carroll
1st year Davitt
HFCS

Sporting Success

Congratulations to Deputy Principal Liam Ferguson on his recent win in the Leitrim Senior County football final. A first win in 31 years for Ballinamore Sean O'Heslin's GAA club which led to great celebrations!



We hope all students and staff have a restful and safe midterm break. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 1st November.