

Holy Family Community School, Rathcoole

Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

Our students who completed their Junior Cycle in June 2022 received their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement! This certificate acknowledges students' achievements and contributions to school life, both inside and outside the classroom. Well done to all students on their achievements and we wish them the best of luck with the remainder of their Senior Cycle.



Students' Council

We recently had a change of office in our Students' Council. Chairperson and 6th Year student, Saoirse Morgan, finished her term in office. HFCS and the Students' Council wish to express their gratitude to Saoirse for her leadership, stewardship, and guidance. We wish her the very best of luck with her future!

Ewan Coffey has taken the position of Chairperson of the Students' Council, as of 23:59 on 24th May 2023. We wish him all the best in his role!



Fifth Year Politics:



Our Fifth Year students who study Politics and Society recently met the EU Commissioner, Mairéad McGuinness, and former MEP, Lucinda Creighton, at a talk in Maynooth University, marking 50 years of Ireland's membership in the European Union. It was of great interest and benefit to our students in their studies!



Sports Day:

We recently had an absolutely fantastic Sports Day! Students and teachers participated in a wide range of activities, from tug of war to 3-legged races, skipping to basketball, dancing to volleyball, and everything in between! There was a fantastic atmosphere around the school and it was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who took part! Check out our social media channels for videos of the day @hfcsrathcoole!

Sport:

There is a wide range of sports for students to participate in at HFCS. Most recently, our Athletics team had huge success in both the West Leinsters, and the Leinster Finals in Tullamore. Students won a large number of medals in various categories, including triple jump, long jump, relay, and running at various distances. The school also took home the awards for overall 1st Years, overall 2nd Years, overall seniors, and overall school. As always, the students represented our school so well, and we couldn't be more proud of them all!



A number of students also competed in the Leinster Schools final, with Cormac Dixon winning gold in the Boys Senior 1500m.

Our 1st Year U14 Boys' soccer team reached the FAI Schools' All Dublin Final where they narrowly lost out to Moyle Park College. This team has played so well all year long, and we are excited to see what the future holds for them!



We have a huge number of camogie, hurling, basketball, and Gaelic football teams as well. We have recently started a badminton tournament amongst teams in our school, and have formed a volleyball team, who have competed and been very successful in blitz competitions.

Sport is a huge part of life in HFCS, and the students who participate in all of our sports teams are wonderful representatives of our school. We are so proud of their achievements.



Restorative Practice:

We at HFCS are committed to the use of Restorative Practice. Our staff RP team led CPD sections with the entire staff, and gave them practical ways they could use Restorative Practice methods in their classrooms. All Second Year, Transition Year, and LCA students completed the student RP Programme, 'Relationship Keepers', giving them key skills, language, and tools to use Restorative Practice in their own lives and relationships. The staff RP team engaged in 'Beehive' Meetings at 8am one morning a week, where restorative practice in our school was discussed. Restorative Practice methodologies were shared at regular Teaching and Learning meetings. In appropriate situations, the RP team members facilitated RP circles. These circles are situations where relationships between students encountered challenges. The staff have engaged in ongoing training throughout the year. We very much look forward to our RP journey continuing next year.



Recently, Michelle Stowe ventured into our Fifth Year students who had a greatly beneficial and informative training day, ahead of starting their roles as mentors to incoming First Years in September. Michelle went through the RP Connect Mentor Programme, where the mentors will deliver powerful RP lessons to their first years, which will explore the core values of RP such as empathy, respect, and accountability. This will be key to their learning and will be a wonderful opportunity for connection.



Transition Year

Transition Year students have been extremely busy this academic year. They have undertaken a wide range of projects, workshops, and educational trips. These include programmes such as the Bridge To College programme, Tenderfoot, Localise Community Youth Project, work experience, and STEM Passport for Inclusion. They have also participated in



many workshops that will teach them skills for life, for example a barista workshop, a first aid course, a forensics workshop, visits to CCJ SFX workshop Gaisce Bronze Award, the works!

They engaged in programmes such as the Tower Credit Union 'Clued-In' Programme, where students learned about the role of the credit union in our local community, the GAA Future Leaders Programme, the Google 'Inspiring The Future Ireland' Programme, where five students engaged in a work experience programme, learning a myriad of new skills which they shared with their fellow students, and which will be of benefit to them in their futures!

Students also engaged with the local community in a number of different ways, most recently painting murals on the walls of local school Scoil Chrónáin. Students worked with primary school students, encouraging and helping them to show off their creative flair!



Transition Year students also took part in several fundraisers, including the Focus Ireland Sleep

Out, where they raised money for Focus Ireland's Youth Project, and Darkness Into Light in Corkagh Park, helping to raise vital funds for Pieta House and the wonderful work that they do. It was a fabulous experience for them, to come together to spread a message of hope, love, and support. As part of this fundraiser, they also painted jam jars, which were used to hold candles and light the way on the walk. These were featured on the 'Silent Mile' in Corkagh Park.



A group of Transition Year students also took part in the Bridge to College programme, run by Trinity Access, which is a course aimed to show students what college life is like. As part of this course they were tasked with the project of running an event/informing students all about sustainability. Our TY students won the national competition for their outstanding TAP Leadership Sustainability Project.



As part of this project, students organised a whole-school clothes swap. With the money raised from the clothes swap, they purchased trees and other plants, which were then planted at a local Day Care Centre. Students presented at the ACCS Education Conference, where they had the opportunity to educate other schools on how their fast fashion choices impact the world, and what they could do to change it.

As well as winning the national competition, two TY students received awards for their individual contributions. Kamile Aladinaite was praised for her efforts as a team member, for her Bridge to College team, 'The Chosen Ones'. Kamile's team won the 'Team of the Year' award!





TY student, Sophia Stafford won the award for the 'Spirit of Bridge to College' award for her outstanding contribution to the programme at the Access TCS Bridge to College Graduation. It was said that she encompassed the spirit of the programme, was a natural leader, ensured everyone got involved, and showed great kindness and empathy to others.

Our TY students finished off their year with three days in Coláiste Acla, where they engaged in activities such as surfing, cliff-jumping, bog snorkelling, and walking the Wild Atlantic Way. They had a fantastic trip, and it was a wonderful end to a jam-packed year.



They celebrated all of their wonderful achievements with a fabulous graduation ceremony on 22nd May. There were a number of awards given for exemplary actions throughout all of Transition Year. Congratulations to Ewan Coffey and Sophia Stafford who won the 'Year Head Students of the Year' Award, Rebecca O Loughlin, who won the 'TY Year Head Spirit of Transition Year Award', Brandon Byrne, who won the 'TY Year Head Global Citizenship Award', which was kindly gifted by Spiritan Education Trust, and to Keelyn McCarville, Kathlyn Manning, and Aoife Cronin, who each won 'Tutor Student of the Year' awards.



They have been a brilliant group, and we wish them the very best of luck with the rest of their Senior Cycle.

International Trips:

Our 5th Year students travelled to Italy on a school tour. They visited Sirmione, Milan, Verona, Venice and Lake Garda, over a 4-day period. They had an absolute ball, making memories for life!



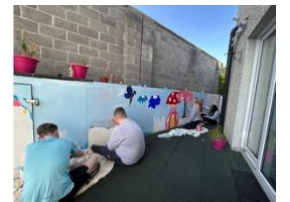
Leaving Cert Applied:

Our LCA students had a very productive year, engaging in a number of workshops, both in school and in our local community.

LCA1 presented at the ACCS Education Conference, which was hosted by Glenamaddy Community School. They presented their collaborative horticultural project, 'Sowing the Seeds of Community', which they completed in collaboration with Old Bawn Community School.

Students worked hard in their various modules, and particularly in their Hotel, Catering and Tourism task. They completed their practical exam this term, with some mouth-watering, delicious creations!

LCA1 students have also contributed towards the revamp of the playground in the local womens' refuge centre, Saoirse Domestic Violence. They designed and painted murals to brighten up the area. They were exceptional, and have made the the refuge centre's vision of an 'enchanted' theme become a reality.



Class of 2023:



In the lead-up to our Graduation Ceremony, we had a fun afternoon for our students. They had a special guest drop in, with former student Shane Cooke flying and landing the Garda helicopter on our football pitch. It was a cause of great excitement for our students, who were given the opportunity to have a look around the helicopter and learn more about it!



We then had our annual student-teacher soccer match, which was an intense game, that resulted in the staff winning by 2 goals.

Our 6th year and LCA2 Class of 2023 graduated on 24th May 2023. We had a wonderful ceremony in our Sports Hall, where we welcomed all graduands and their parents, and celebrated their time with us in HFCS. It has been



a pleasure to watch them learn, grow, and develop into the wonderful young adults they have become. We wish them the very best of luck with their futures!



Social Media:

Stay up to date with all of the wonderful things happening in HFCS, by following us on social media! We are on Instagram and Twitter @ hfcsrathcoole.



Have a great summer!

We'd like to wish a wonderful summer break to all in the Spiritan Education Trust, and all schools in the Spiritan Education Trust Network.

