

Beannachtaí na Nollag

ACCS wishes all our schools a Happy Christmas. In keeping with the spirit of Christmas, ACCS will make a donation to Focus Ireland instead of sending Christmas Cards.

Being Well, Staying Well

ACCS In-School Management Conference 2019

The annual ACCS In-School Management Conference took place in Farnham Estate in Co. Cavan on the 28th and 29th November 2019. The theme and central focus of this year's conference was "Being Well, Staying Well" with a strong emphasis on how important it is for the school leader to manage their own wellbeing, taking advantage of all the supports which the system offers.

The conference was very well attended with 85 schools and more than 174 delegates attending the two-day event. ACCS President, Paul Fiorentini, welcomed all delegates and formally opened the Conference before calling on the Chairperson of the ACCS In-School Management Sub-Committee, Denis Ring, to introduce the theme of the conference and to outline the plans for the two-day event.

The plenary session "Coaching for Effective School Leadership that is Rewarding and Sustainable" was a panel discussion facilitated by Rachel Doogue, Executive Coach and Assessment Specialist. Panelists on the day included Clare Catterson, Principal, Synge Street, CBS, Tara Nolan, Coach, Elizabeth Garry Brosnan, Coach and Valerie Maher, Principal Holy Child Community School. Coaching is a confidential, one to one personal service which is available through the Centre for School Leadership (CSL) for all DES registered school principals. Coaching is a particularly powerful tool and one that has proven to be a highly effective way of developing individual and organisational performance by unlocking potential and capability. Coaching is well established as a leadership development service in large organisations and in industry to date.

By engaging in coaching school leaders will gain the following benefits:

- Enhance your capacity to work in a changing environment
- Increase your ability to prioritise and manage demands
- Renew your enthusiasm for the job
- Enable you to manage change more successfully
- Assist you in creating a coaching culture in your school
- Provide time and space for you to reflect

Clare and Valerie shared their own experiences of the coaching service during the panel discussion and spoke about how the service has enabled them as professional leaders in their schools. Clare has accessed team coaching and presented to the conference on the benefits of this service and how this has assisted her in enhancing the distributed leadership model in her school.



Rachel Doogue, Executive Coach and Assessment Specialist, Clare Catterson, Principal, Synge Street, CBS, Tara Nolan, Coach, Elizabeth Garry Brosnan, Coach and Valerie Maher, Principal Holy Child Community School.

The plenary session was followed by three concurrent workshops:

1. "Enhancing Wellbeing - Promoting Student Voice in the School Community" facilitated by Pól Ó Siodhcháin, Principal, Millstreet C.S
2. "Child Protection in Schools Inspection Model (CPSI) - Lessons Learned" facilitated by Bernie Heffernan and Annelee Casey, Deputy Principals, Pobalscoil na Tríonóide
3. "In-School Management - Building Relationships - A Team Approach" facilitated by John McKennedy, Principal, Aileen Ryan and Karen Philben, Deputy Principals, St. Colmcille's C.S.

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This newsletter is a private and confidential document for circulation only to Boards of Management and Principals. **Please circulate to Board Members.**



John McKennedy, Principal, St. Colmcille's C.S, Áine O'Sullivan, Assistant General Secretary, ACCS, Aileen Ryan and Karen Philben, Deputy Principals, St. Colmcille's C.S, John Irwin, General Secretary, ACCS, Paul Fiorentini, ACCS President and James Duignan, ACCS Vice President.



Chairperson of the ACCS In-School Management Sub-Committee, Denis Ring, Bernie Heffernan and Annelee Casey, Deputy Principals, Pobalscoil na Tríonóide and John Irwin, General Secretary, ACCS



John Irwin, General Secretary, ACCS, Denis Ring, Chairperson of the ACCS In-School Management Sub-Committee, Áine O'Sullivan, Assistant General Secretary, ACCS, Brid Ní Annracháin, ACCS In-School Management Sub-Committee, and Pól Ó Siodhcháin, Principal, Millstreet C.S.

School Governance

On Friday morning the School Governance session chaired by Anne Smyth, ACCS In-School Management Sub-Committee introduced the current legislation underpinning admissions to schools and the main provisions of the Education (Admissions to Schools Act) 2018 including key changes. While it is not envisaged that

there is significant work for schools in amending their Admissions Policies, ACCS does recommend that Boards should review their Admissions Policy consistent with the provisions of the Education (Admissions to Schools Act) 2018.

The second part of the Governance session focussed on the Leadership and Management (Circular 0003/2018)

annual reports and review meetings which will be carried out over next term and will inform the Principal's Annual Report on Leadership and Management to the Board in June 2020. Advice regarding the timeframe of this process and guidelines on completing reports and review meetings were explored with the delegates. The presentations were received very positively by delegates and has been circulated to all members of the Board of Management and senior management in schools to assist in their preparation for their work in this area.

"The Resilient Leader"

Shane Martin, Psychologist, (Moodwatchers) concluded the conference with an uplifting, insightful and practical presentation on the theme of "The Resilient Leader-Harnessing Strengths during Challenging Times." Shane is a psychologist dedicated to teaching the very best evidence-based psychology to help people protect their mental health and enhance the quality of their lives.

Shane highlighted that it is never too late to embrace a better quality of life and that the first step for all of us is to practise being present. He underlined the importance of health, happiness and resilience in our personal and professional lives. What's guaranteed about this precious life of ours is that challenges will arise, and he offered six tips for greater resilience:

1. Emotional Awareness/Avoiding Panic – the ability to identify your feelings and to express your emotions is important. There is enough annoyance in life without adding unnecessary annoyance
2. Empathy. Seeing beyond yourself, supporting others – no one has exclusive rights on stress.
3. Minding yourself – 'when I am under pressure, I always take to the road'. Doing what is good for us whether we like it or not. What are you doing for yourself?
4. Optimism – when under pressure, it is important to keep company with optimistic people. To stumble is to learn!
5. Social Connectivity – people need people. Harness a sense of team. The powerful resource of the family.
6. Prayer/Faith – if you believe you are being looked after, it is harder to be frightened. Spirituality/Religiousness. Life is a journey. Mindfulness.
7. Extra tip – Keep laughing! – Humour is a therapy in itself!

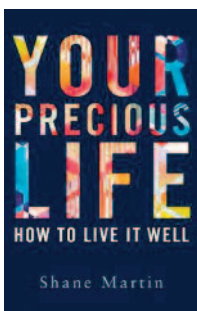
"Laughing one hundred times amounts to the same exercise as riding a stationary bike for fifteen minutes. Five minutes of intense laughter can double the heart rate. Three minutes of laughter



Brid Ní Annracháin, ACCS ISM Sub-Committee, Denis Ring, Chairperson, ACCS ISM Sub-Committee, Shane Martin, Moodwatchers, Anne Smyth, ACCS ISM Sub-Committee and John Irwin, General Secretary, ACCS.

is equivalent to three minutes on a rowing machine. Laughter stimulates circulation, tones muscles, energises lungs and stimulates endorphins in the immune system.” Dr William Fry (Stanford University)

Slides of this presentation are available at www.moodwatchers.com along with other useful resources and reading



materials. Shane is also author of 'Your Precious Life - How to Live it Well' published by Orpen Press which is now available in all good bookstores nationwide.

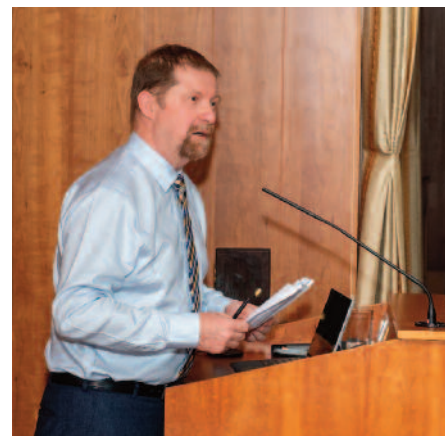
“Sometimes we want exclusive rights

to stress. We can convince ourselves that we have the worst problems in the world. Helping others not only protects us from becoming self-obsessed but can also be a great help to ourselves in contextualising our own problems.”

We express our thanks to the In-School Management Sub-committee for organising such a relevant, enjoyable and energising conference and we also acknowledge the substantial work completed by Susan, Debbie and Eileen in ACCS Head Office in organising the event. All presentations will be emailed to schools and made available on the website www.accs.ie.

Retirements 2019

On Thursday evening the immense contribution of the retiring Principals and



Jimmy Keogh, retired Principal, Coláiste Cholmille addresses delegates and guests on behalf of the retirees.



Shane Martin, Psychologist, (Moodwatchers).

Deputy Principals was acknowledged at the Gala Dinner. The retirees were presented with the new ACCS lamp by Paul Fiorentini, President ACCS and James Duignan, Vice President ACCS.



Back L to R: James Duignan, ACCS Vice President, Mick Glynn, Jimmy Keogh, Margaret Nairn, Derek Lowry, John Farrell, Patrick Flynn, Raymond Tully, Gerry McCooey, Áine O Sullivan, Assistant General Secretary, ACCS, John Irwin, General Secretary, ACCS. Front L to R: Ursula Finnegan, Frances Scully, Eileen O'Connor, Paul Fiorentini, ACCS President, Teresa Hennessy, Claire Knight and Philomena Chery.

ACCS In-School Management Gala Dinner



Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools
Cumann na Scoileanna Pobail agus Cuimsitheacha

Congratulations to the winning team (above) of the Gala Dinner Table Quiz.

Flag Day 2020

The Thomas F. Meagher Foundation promotes pride in and respect for the Irish Flag and its meaning for peace. It seeks to foster active citizenship in our school children irrespective of ethnicity, creed or gender to work together under the Irish Tricolour and live its message of peace. It seeks to promote inclusivity of Flag Day especially among the new Irish. Schools can be involved by registering for the free fundraising pack at info@tfmfoundation.ie



Paul Fiorentini, ACCS President, Dermot Healy, Principal, Pobalscoil Inbhear Scéine, Áine O'Sullivan, Assistant General Secretary, ACCS, Senator Mark Daly, The Thomas F. Meagher Foundation and John Irwin, General Secretary, ACCS.



Senator Mark Daly, The Thomas F. Meagher Foundation with Dermot Healy, Principal, Clionadh Daly and Freddy Offereins, TY students from Pobalscoil Inbhear Scéine.

Raffles, Prizes and Winners In-School Management Conference 2019

ACCS expresses thanks to all Exhibitors and to Main Sponsors, Microsoft, PCI and VSware.



James Duignan, Vice President, ACCS, Lisa Murphy, eLight Solutions, Nigel Ó Fearraigh, Deputy Principal, Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair and John Irwin, General Secretary, ACCS.



Áine O'Sullivan, Assistant General Secretary, ACCS, Philip Rodgers, VSware and John Irwin, General Secretary, ACCS.



John Irwin, General Secretary, ACCS, David Quinn, PCI, William Culkeen, Principal, Ballinrobe Community School, Brendan Carroll, PCI and James Duignan, Vice President, ACCS.

Minister Zappone launches *Our Voices Our Schools* online resource to improve participation of young people in decision-making in the school system



Minister Zappone launches *Our Voices Our Schools* online resource at Collins Barracks.

Our Voices Our Schools is an online toolkit for schools to use to improve the participation of young people in decision-making in the school system. The toolkit is based on the Lundy Model which provides a way of conceptualising a child's right to participation, as laid down in Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Following two years of work, the Comhairle na nÓg National Executive launched their toolkit *Our Voices Our Schools* at Collins Barracks on Wednesday 4th December 2019. *Our Voices Our Schools* was created as a result of young people around the country expressing a feeling that there was inequality in their school. Responding to these concerns the National Executive worked with John and Ger Halbert (formerly NCCA) to develop this online resource for schools, furthering opportunities for all students to have their voices heard and included in decision-making in school.

The guidelines will create an effective partnership between the student body, teachers and school management by providing equal opportunity for individual, collective and representative student voices to be heard and recognised. The online resource is based on the Lundy Model of participation in line with the National Strategy for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision Making 2015 – 2020. The toolkit includes worksheets, reflective exercises, peer-assessment tools, resources to develop surveys and research articles to assist principals, teachers and young people themselves in improving the participation of young

people in schools.

Young people have a voice in decisions about their individual and collective everyday lives in schools and there is no single starting place for

schools on this journey. As we have discovered in working on the ACCS project over the past 18 months, schools are in different places when it comes to student/young people's voice and it doesn't matter where a school starts, so long as they do start. Dr Domnall Fleming, School of Education, UCC reminds us that every young person and every teacher in every school is in the classroom each day of each week. He poses two questions for all teachers to consider:

- What am I doing in my classroom that helps you to learn?
- What could I do differently that would make this even better?

Schools will find this resource invaluable in their work on planning for opportunities to develop authentic voice at whole school level, with staff, students and other stakeholders. The online resource can be found at www.ourvoicesourschools.ie



John Halbert (formerly NCCA) with staff and students from Kinsale Community School presenting their work in promoting inclusion and young people's voice in school at the launch of *Our Voices Our Schools*.



Ger Halbert (formerly NCCA) with staff and students from Old Bawn Community School attending the launch of *Our Voices Our Schools* in recognition of their work in promoting inclusion and young people's voice in school.

ARCPD Christmas Lunch

The Leinster branch of the Association of Retired Principals and Deputy Principals of the Community and Comprehensive Schools (ARCPD) welcomed some new members into its group at its annual Christmas lunch in the Davenport Hotel on Tuesday 3rd December 2019. They were also joined on the occasion by guests, Charles Payne from the Munster region, Paul Fiorentini ACCS President and Áine O Sullivan, Assistant General Secretary, ACCS.



Warmest wishes and congratulations, Catherine



Jack Bannon, Anne Ganly, Moate Business College, James J. Keane, Catherine O'Sullivan, ACCS/JMB Further Education Support Unit, Finola Butler - FESS, Frances Kelly, Retired Deputy Principal of Moate Business College.

Recent Relevant DES Circular Letters

Circular No.	Summary
CL 63/19	Scheme for Leave of Absence Following Assault
CL 61/19	Curriculum-related developments at Senior Cycle with particular reference to school years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22
CL 60/19	Sick Leave Scheme for Special Needs Assistants employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools
CL 58/19	Advice on the use of assessment instruments/tests for Guidance or for additional and special educational needs (SEN) in post-primary schools (Revising CL 35/17)
CL 56/19	Home Tuition Grant Scheme for children without a school place for reasons other than special educational needs and medical grounds
CL 55/19	Arrangements for the Implementation of the Framework for Junior Cycle with particular reference to school year 2019/20
CL 54/19	Leave Schemes for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools
CL 53/19	Exemption from the study of Irish - Revising Circular M10/94
CL 51/19	Recruitment and Appointment Procedures for Special Needs Assistants (SNAs)
CL 50/19	Revision of Salaries of all staff paid directly by a recognised school or ETB with effect from 1 September 2019
CL 48/19	Revision of Salaries of School Secretaries and School Maintenance staff in Community and Comprehensive Schools with effect from 1 September 2019
CL 47/19	Revision of Salaries with effect from 1 September 2019 for clerical officers and caretakers employed in national schools under the 1978/79 scheme, and clerical officers employed in post-primary schools under the 1978 scheme
CL 46/19	Revision of Salaries for Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) with effect from 1 September 2019

Exploring Models of Success: Professional Development of Higher Education, Further Education and Training, and English Language Education Staff

QQI will host a one-day conference on Thursday 13th February 2020 to explore the importance of Professional Development of staff in improving the quality of teaching and learning, educational management and other areas.

The conference is aimed at policy-makers, academic management, front-line educators, support staff and quality assurance teams from across the higher education, further education and training and English Language Education sectors who wish to better understand the importance of personal Continuous Professional Development (CPD) in a high-quality teaching and learning environment.

This event is part of QQI's series of quality enhancement engagements with its stakeholders and brings together



respected experts from each of the above sectors for a day of networking, mutual learning and opportunities to showcase best practice in all sectors.

Further information and registration

details are available at:
<https://www.qqi.ie/Articles/Pages/Conferences-and-events.aspx>

State Indemnity Guidance (SIG) 12: Work Placement and Work Experience Programmes hosted by Delegated State Authorities (DSAs)


Dear Network Member,

The State Claims Agency (SCA) is pleased to launch **State Indemnity Guidance (SIG) 12: Work Placement and Work Experience Programmes hosted by Delegated State Authorities (DSAs)**.

This guidance will cater for day-to-day queries pertaining to indemnity, insurance and risk management matters when DSAs facilitate work placement and work experience programmes.

Should you have any queries in relation to this guidance, please do not hesitate to contact stateclaims@ntma.ie

We trust this is of assistance.

 Kind Regards,
Enterprise Risk Management Section

State Claims Agency  

Treasury Dock, North Wall Quay, Dublin 1, D01 A9T8, DX:21, Ireland

+353 (0) 1 2384900

www.stateclaims.ie

stateclaims@ntma.ie

GIS STATE INDEMNITY GUIDANCE 12: WORK PLACEMENT AND WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMMES HOSTED BY DELEGATED STATE AUTHORITIES

a) Introduction
The purpose of this State Indemnity Guidance (SIG) is to set out the role and indemnity advice for Delegated State Authorities (DSAs) in their role as host employer providing work placement and/or work experience programmes.

b) What is the difference between a work placement programme and a work experience programme?
For the purpose of this guidance and the associated risk and indemnity advice provided, the State Claims Agency (SCA) has defined these programmes as follows:
Work placement programme – a programme in the furtherance of educational/learning (typically third level) where students and/or apprentices are required to undertake a work placement in an occupational setting. These participants should have a level of educational knowledge and experience in the relevant area and be able to perform appropriate and approved duties in accordance with their educational programme requirements (e.g. nursing, physiotherapist, veterinary, accountancy, law etc.)
Work experience programme – a programme to gain experience and insight into the world of work and as part of their curriculum, second level students (e.g. transition year), are often required to participate in a short term placement in an occupational setting. These participants are covered not to have the required knowledge and formal training to undertake any activities that require specific training (irrespective of personal experiences outside of those programmes).

c) Does State Indemnity apply to work placement and work experience programmes hosted by DSAs?
State Indemnity applies to all work placement and work experience programmes hosted by a DSA. DSAs that provide work placement and/or work experience programmes will be indemnified by the State in respect of personal injury and third party property damage claims arising from the negligence of the DSA, its servants and/or agents.

d) Can a student/apprentice studying outside of the Republic of Ireland participate in a work placement or work experience programme hosted by a Delegated State Authority (DSA)?
In general a DSA can accept students from outside of the Republic of Ireland on work placement and/or work experience programmes. There are however some exceptions to this, therefore, DSAs should contact the SCA for further clarification in the first instance.

e) Are there any age related restrictions, which should be considered?
There are no specific age related restrictions under State Indemnity. However, DSAs should only engage individuals aged 14 years and upwards. As a host employer, you should ensure that you are aware of your responsibilities under all applicable legislation such as The Protection of Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1995, Schedule 7 of the Safety, Health and Welfare (General Application) Regulations 2007 and Child Protection legislation, etc.

f) Can a DSA host individuals seeking work experience who are not associated/sponsored by an educational facility?
State Indemnity extends to cover DSAs who host individuals seeking work experience, who are not associated/sponsored by an educational facility where DSA management provide the appropriate approvals. DSAs will be accepting a higher level of risk when hosting these individuals. In these cases the risks associated with the placement should be managed by the DSA.

g) When should you contact the SCA?
The SCA does not require notifications or updates on work placement or work experience programmes being hosted by a DSA. If you are uncertain as to whether State Indemnity applies, or if you require risk management guidance, please contact your local insurance/risk manager where designated, or alternatively, the SCA's Enterprise Risk Management Section directly via stateclaims@ntma.ie

1. Delegated State Authority (DSA) refers to a body, when an agreement of cover is signed by the body, delegated to the SCA. This includes State authorities, State agencies, Northern Ireland, DSD, voluntary and other.
2. State Indemnity applies to all work placement and work experience programmes hosted by a DSA. DSAs that provide work placement and/or work experience programmes will be indemnified by the State in respect of personal injury and third party property damage claims arising from the negligence of the DSA, its servants and/or agents.
3. State Claims Agency, Treasury Dock, North Wall Quay, Dublin 1, D01 A9T8, DX:21, Ireland. Tel: +353 (0) 1 2384900 | www.stateclaims.ie | stateclaims@ntma.ie
SCA 545 17 001

Data Protection – Recording the Christmas Concert

As ever, when dealing with any Personal Data, security, integrity and confidentiality are some of the key principles to bear in mind.

Back in our April newsletter we provided some guidance for schools in relation to staff and families taking photos of students at end of school year events.

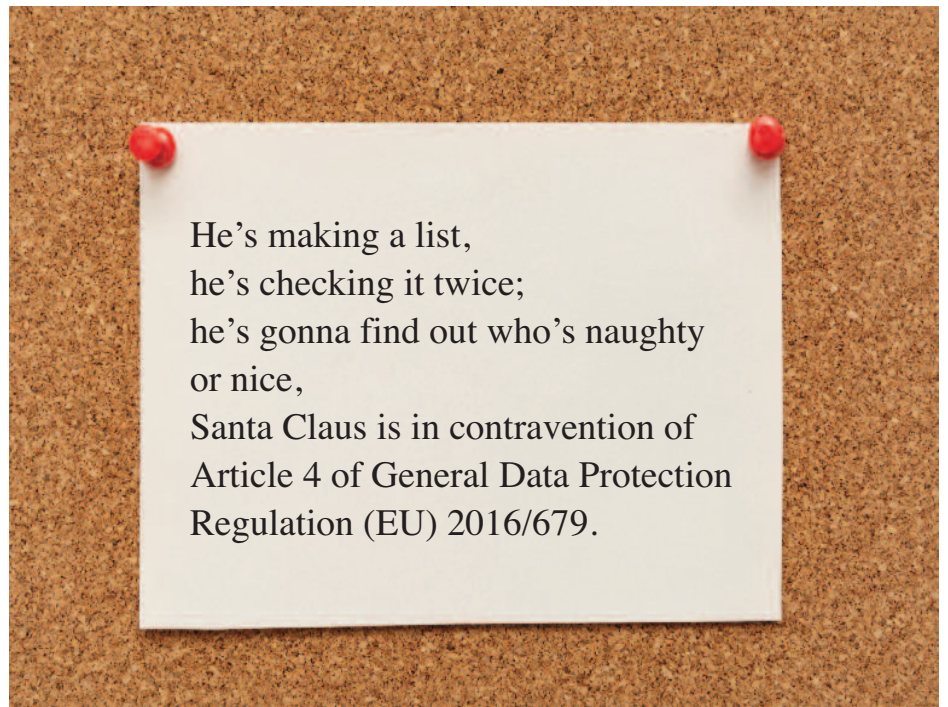
It is timely to refresh this guidance in the current climate of Christmas concerts and religious events taking place in many schools.

The Office of the Data Protection Commission recently released a useful blog post in relation to the confusing issue of taking photographs at school events, in the context of the GDPR.

You can read the entire blog post here: <https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/news-media/blogs/taking-photos-school-events-where-common-sense-comes-play>

The key points are:

- There is nothing under the GDPR preventing the **taking** of photographs in a public place. It is what you do with that photograph that can potentially become a data protection issue.
- Family and friends taking photos at school events to have a record of their own child or loved one, can rely on the so-called “household exemption”. This is where the photo is for their own use only. This **could** even extend to where



the photo is shared and posted on social media, although if another child is included in the image, and the parent of that child requests it to be removed, then common sense and common decency should prevail.

Where a school, or staff member acting on behalf of the school, takes

photographs at school events for use on its website, newsletter, for publication in local media etc., the school must be able to rely on one of the six legal bases for processing this personal data. Consent may be an option but can pose its own difficulties. The blog post provides an explanation of the different legal bases which may be relied upon.



ACCS Convention 2020

The 38th ACCS Convention will take place on the 4th, 5th & 6th March 2020 in the Great Southern Killarney, East Avenue Road, Town Centre, Killarney, Co. Kerry. The Convention will commence on Wednesday afternoon and conclude on Friday afternoon.

Dates to remember

6th January, 2020

Draft agenda of business and nominations for Presidency and motions to be issued to Member Boards and Executive Members. Member Boards will be invited to submit amendments to the motions.

4th February, 2020

Latest date for receipt of amendments to the motions.

19th February, 2020

A final agenda will be issued to Member Boards.

The newly introduced Parent's Leave

The Parent's Leave & Benefit Act 2019 came into force on 1st November 2019. This new family leave type provides each relevant parent of a child under 12 months with the right to 2 weeks Parent's Leave and for a corresponding social insurance benefit, called Parent's Benefit (€245 per week for 2 weeks subject to PRSI contributions).

Timing of Leave:

- The new law applies to parents of a child born or adopted from 1st November 2019 and must be taken within one year of the child's birth/placement.
- The leave may be taken in a 2-week period or in separate periods of no less than one week.

Notice & postponement:

- An employee is required to give six weeks' notice to their employer.
- An employer may postpone the commencement of Parent's Leave for up to 12 weeks where it would have a substantial adverse effect on the organisation.

Here is a quick summary of other statutory family leave types:

LEGISLATION	WHO IS ENTITLED TO IT?	STATUTORY ENTITLEMENT
Maternity Protection Acts 1994 & 2004	Female employees	26 weeks paid leave (Maternity Benefit) plus an additional 16 weeks unpaid leave. No minimum service required.
Adoptive Leave Acts 1995 & 2005	Adoptive mothers, men adopting alone	26 weeks paid leave (Adoptive Benefit) plus an additional 16 weeks unpaid leave. No minimum service required.
Paternity Leave & Benefit Act 2016	New parents of children under 6 months (but not the mother of the child)	2 consecutive weeks paid leave (Paternity Benefit). The leave must be taken within 26 weeks of the child's birth/placement. No minimum service required.
Parental Leave Acts 1998 to 2019	Parents and guardians of children under 12	22 weeks unpaid leave per child under the age of 12 (16 if the child has a disability or long-term illness). One year's continuous service required.
Force Majeure (section 13 of Parental Leave Acts)	Employees for urgent unforeseen family reasons	Leave with pay for urgent unforeseen family reasons owing to the injury or illness of a relevant person. Entitlement shall not exceed 3 days in any consecutive 12-month period or 5 days in any consecutive 36-month period. No minimum service required.
Carer's Leave Act 2001	Employees in order to provide full time care to a relevant person	104 weeks leave. The leave can be broken into shorter periods not exceeding 104 weeks. Leave is subject to the approval of the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection. Carer's Benefit subject to PRSI contributions. 12 months continuous service required.

Note: The Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection has indicated that Parent's Leave will increase incrementally up to seven weeks' leave by 2021.

News and Events in our Schools

Ballinamore Community School Raise their 6th green flag for global citizenship

Ballinamore Community School raise their 6th green flag for global citizenship: litter and waste and celebrate their national award as the best secondary school in Ireland in the global citizenship: litter and waste category.

On Friday 30th August 2019 Ballinamore CS raised their 6th Green Flag in a ceremony that included representatives from the Board of Management, the Parent's Association and Ballinamore Tidy Towns, teachers and students. This represented a two-year programme from September 2017 to May 2019 and we were notified about our achievement in April 2019.

To start the ceremony Mr. Mc Caffrey, Principal welcomed everyone to the gathering and congratulated all concerned on their fabulous achievement on obtaining our Green Flag. As well as receiving our Green Flag he informed the gathering that Ballinamore CS were also Regional Winners in the North West for Global Citizenship: Litter and Waste. Our success didn't end there either and in a National Green school's on 10th May, 2019 in the Helix, DCU our school was given the prestigious title of Best Overall Secondary School in Ireland in the Global Citizenship: Litter and Waste category.

Mr. Mullen then spoke on behalf of the Green School's Committee. This committee included Mr. Mullen, Ms. Cooney, Ms. Colum, Ms. Griffin and their class groups. He outlined a brief history of the Green School's programme in Ballinamore and gave a summary of the initiatives undertaken.

History of Green School's in Ballinamore

The Green School's programme was first started in 2006 when we were then called Ballinamore PPS. Mr. Mullen, Ms. Colum and Ms. Cooney started the Litter and Waste programme with their various classes in each of the 3 schools that made up Ballinamore PPS, namely Meanscoil Fatima, St Felim's and the Vocational School and received a Green Flag for each building in 2007.

Between 2007 and 2013 we received two further green Flags for Energy Conservation and Water Conservation. In 2013 Ballinamore Post Primary Schools became Ballinamore Community School when the three schools amalgamated. Since 2013 we have added three new flags for Sustainable Travel, Biodiversity and our most recent one for Global Citizenship.

Mr. Mullen, on behalf of the Green School's Committee thanked all past pupils and Management for their cooperation and assistance in our past successes.

Global Citizenship Award

In September 2018 we started several initiatives in our quest for our 6th flag. This included Surveys on Litter and Waste, Developing an Action Plan, Buying Compost Bins for food waste, Buying a Shredder for the staff room, Labelling Bins, A Recycling Roadshow to all classes to show what bin students should use, Social Justice Club, Climate Action Week, Design a Reusable Water Bottle Competition, Growing our own vegetables in the polytunnel, Food Portion Awareness and Sizes, Installing Bird Boxes, Obtaining a Global Passport for Development Education, Planting Crocus Flowers for the Crocus Project and an Action Day called "LA GLAS GO GLAS".



Fionnan McGovern, Amelia Woolterton, Oran Flanagan and Oisín O'Brien.

We developed a green code called:
*Tap into your future,
refills not landfills.*

National winners

To our delight all our efforts were successful and at the national awards ceremony we received a winner's trophy and a €500 cash prize.

In the future, Ballinamore CS will shortly begin their quest for their 7th green flag on global citizenship: energy conservation.

Mr. Mullen highlighted how important the green school's programme is, particularly with global issues like climate change and increased energy demands. He hoped that Ballinamore Community School and its students would continue to be at the fore in tackling these issues and ensure a sustainable future for all.

Raising the flag

Four students representing each of the 4 classes involved raised the flag to conclude a very successful and enjoyable event.

News and Events in our Schools

Ballincollig Community School Forging strong ties with Technology Leader VMware



Pat Gelsinger, CEO of VMware, Kathleen Lowney, Principal, Gary O Sullivan, Deputy Principal, Karen Forde, Deputy Principal, Ballincollig Community School and Mark Fitzgerald, Senior Director of Global Services at VMware.

On the 9th of July, VMware Cork, a global leader in cloud infrastructure and business mobility, hosted their CEO, Mr. Pat Gelsinger for the first time ever in Cork. Mr Gelsinger was welcomed by over 700 VMware employees for a company

meeting at Ballincollig Community School (BCS). Mr. Mark Fitzgerald, a past student of B.C.S and Senior Director of Global Services, hosted a panel discussion with Senior Management of VMware. A wide range of topics including Diversity and Inclusion, Innovation, Transformation and Synergies with Dell was covered.

Mr. Kieran Barry-Murphy, also a past student of B.C.S, and International Controller of VMware and Mr. Gelsinger presented an award to Principal, Kathleen Lowney and Deputy Principals, Karen Forde and Gary O'Sullivan. Mr. Barry-Murphy used this opportunity to announce VMware Cork's new Diversity and Inclusion initiative with B.C.S. This included a scholarship which will be awarded annually to female students pursuing STEM degree programmes in University and a new mentorship programme for female students intending to explore careers in STEM. VMware is celebrating 14 years in Ballincollig this year and employs close to 1000 employees at the campus in the town centre, at Barrack Square.

This mentoring programme between VMware and B.C.S involves VMware employees helping students develop their skills in Information Technology, Mathematics, Enterprise and Modern Foreign Languages.

On November 7th, past pupils of B.C.S, Eimear Cunningham and Niamh Lehane, along with their parents, and Deputy Principal, Karen Forde, attended the first annual VMware School Scholarship Awards Ceremony. Eimear was the first recipient of the VMware Scholarship worth €2000. Runner up, Niamh Lehane was awarded €500. The pupils were presented with their awards by Mr. Mark Fitzgerald and Mr. Sanjay Poonen, COO of VMware. Eimear and Niamh who both completed their Leaving Certificate last June, are currently studying Mathematical Science at University College Cork.



Mark Fitzgerald, Senior Director of Global Services at VMware, Sanjay Poonen, COO of VMware, Eimear Cunningham, Scholarship recipient and Karen Forde, Deputy Principal, Ballincollig Community School.



Mark Fitzgerald, Senior Director of Global Services at VMware, Sanjay Poonen, COO of VMware, Niamh Lehane, Scholarship recipient and Karen Forde, Deputy Principal, Ballincollig Community School.

News and Events in our Schools

Crescent College Comprehensive

Glencairn trip

Girls from Crescent spent two days in Glencairn in September with Ireland's only Contemplative Nuns.

Having attended Prayer seven times a day including Vigils at 4.10am, the girls also went to work in the three businesses operating from Glencairn. They made Eucharistic Breads, worked in the Card Factory and planted seeds in the Garden which is part of the Monastery Farm.

The experience was deeply prayerful at times and had fun moments such as, rounding up a group of nuns who were arguing about who might be in the front of the photo while shouting 'Up Limerick' led by Sr. Kathleen, from Newcastle West.

The girls were led by Sr. Mairead who worked in the Central Bank in Dublin before joining the nuns as a late Vocation.

Sr. Fiachra is the Resident Horticulturalist who also specialises in Eucharistic Bread making, disclosed that brown hosts are not made with brown flour but are cooked in a hotter oven!



Crescent Staff explore our Jesuit Ethos



Emma Chawke, Lee Nicholas and Imam Khalid Gafour in dialogue about Islam on Ethos day.

Characteristics of Jesuit education:

Finding God in all things

Caring for the individual - Cura Personalis

Growing towards Freedom and

Responsibility

Christ is the Model for Human life

A Faith that Does Justice

In Service Of The Church

Striving For Excellence

Working as a Community

Adaptable and Open to Growth

On Thursday October 10th Crescent College held its Ethos Day in the school to explore various aspects of the Jesuit Ethos teachers took part in a variety of workshops during the

day and enjoyed the interaction with people such as Fr Peter Mc Verry, Ciara Beuster, Khalid Gafour and Sr Helen Culhane.

Thanks to everybody who made this day a special occasion of dialogue and reflection. Thanks especially to Grainne Delaney Chaplin.



Peter Mc Verry S.J. and John Gavin in discourse about the challenge of homelessness at Crescent Ethos day.

Climate Change Iona Logan: 'I hate this time of year, when it's all about spending and consumerism'



"It's almost a year since I started striking - and it feels like forever. We shouldn't need to do this. At the start, I thought the Government would take action. It has but it's just not of the enormous size or radical kind that's needed. Leaders seriously need to look at the figures. We know from the reports this week that CO2 emitted has hit a record high, which is shameful. They need to agree to immediately reduce emissions by 7.6pc. If they reduce it by 7.6pc every year until 2030, we would then escape the worst of the climate chaos. At the rate we're going, I don't really think we'll get there but, hopefully, fingers crossed.

They also need to act on complete divestment - take the money out of fossil fuels and move away from the growth economy. It's all about growth and profit and it's endless and all our resources are eventually going to be used up. I hate this time of year when it's all about spending and consumerism. It makes me so annoyed. You don't need to buy all that stuff. We need to think about wealth in a different way, like a healthy environment is our wealth, not just money.

It's really frustrating, the amount of time we're wasting deciding whether we should take action or not and what to do. Four years have passed since the Paris

News and Events in our Schools

Crescent College Comprehensive *continued*

Climate Agreement and we have only 10 years before we come into climate chaos and I really don't want to find out what that is like because we, the youth, are going to be left to pick up the pieces.

I'm sure the Government's job right now is pretty difficult but it's going to have to figure out a way to fix this because we're not going to stop protesting. There is only so much people can do individually - the Government has all the power. But people need to vote, to speak to their politicians and insist on change. That's really a key thing.

I was a delegate at the Youth Assembly, which was pretty cool, but I have mixed emotions about it. I didn't like the fact they said this is a great place where the young people can use their voice and have a say. I felt, we already have a say, we already have a voice. What we don't have is action.

I have one or two days a week where I don't look at reports,

don't think about climate change, just take a breather from everything. If you don't, you would go mad, it would send you depressed. It would be good if people used their time together this Christmas to talk about this. I wouldn't want to ruin their entire Christmas - even we don't speak about it all the time at home. At the dinner table, instead of a swear jar we have a hypothetical climate change jar, because the amount of times I talk about climate change is ridiculous.

We emailed the 'Toy Show' about making a stand on plastic and trying to bring in more environmentally friendly toys, so we'll see if they paid any attention. It's all about educating people."

Iona Logan (17), from Limerick, has been climate striking for 49 weeks and today she leads a protest in the city

*Article first printed in the Irish Independent,
Tuesday 3 December 2019*

Ballymakenny College Texaco Art Competition

Academic year 2018/19 was the 65th Texaco art competition. This is a very prestigious art competition in Ireland, which is described as 'Impressions of Community life in Ireland over 60 years, as seen through the eyes of Children'. There are seven categories in total: Category A (16-18 years), Category B (14-15 years), Category C (12-13 years), Category D (9-11 years), Category E (7-8 years), Category F (6 and under) and Category G (Special Needs). Each category has a first, second and third place and an additional 15 special merit awards.



Lynn Browne and Sadhbh Mc Donough.



Ballymakenny College performed incredibly well in the competition, with three students being placed among the winning entries. *'This is Not My Dog'* received a special merit award, my piece, *'Hidden'*, also received a special merit award in category C and finally, *'Old Friends'* by James Moonan was awarded first overall in category G.

The winning entries were on display in the Highlanes Gallery in Drogheda from September 24th to October 30th.

It has been an incredible experience and I am so thankful to have been chosen. On a personal note, I would like to acknowledge Lynn Browne, (RIP) as she was the person who entered and named this piece for me.

By Sadhbh Mc Donough

News and Events in our Schools

Pobalscoil Neasáin

Gold Gaisce Award

A huge congratulations and well done to the four members of the class of 2019 who received their gold Gaisce Award today by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, in Dublin Castle.

Well done to Conor, Joe, Oisín and Jack. As always a huge thanks to Mr. Caulfield for his constant dedication to #gaisce.



St. Ciarán's Community School

Maynooth University Entrance Scholarship Awards



Brian Lynch, St. Ciarán's Community School pictured at the recent Entrance Scholarship Ceremony with Cara McLoughlin, Principal of St. Ciarán's Community School, Kells, and Prof Aidan Mulkeen, Vice President-Academic, Maynooth University. Brian is a former student of St. Ciarán's Community School, and is currently studying Primary Education through Froebel at Maynooth University.

The annual Entrance Scholarship Ceremony recognises the academic achievements of some of our first year students in their Leaving Certificate exams, as well as scholarships for the Bachelor of Music and Equine Business degrees. Almost 50 students beginning their studies at Maynooth in 2019 are awarded €1,000 for achieving 550 points or more in their Leaving Certificate examinations. From September 2020 Entrance Scholars will be able to obtain an apartment on campus for their first year (normal charges apply). Eight students studying the Froebel Bachelor in Education degree were recognised on the night for their Leaving Certificate achievements.

St. Aidan's Community School

ERASMUS+ Project - 'Leave Anger Behind'



The Erasmus+ Leave Anger Behind Project Management Team.

St. Aidan's Community School has been chosen to take part in a European Union funded project called Erasmus+. The Erasmus+ project links St. Aidan's CS with five other schools in Europe from Italy, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Turkey and Denmark. The title of our Erasmus+ project is 'Leave Anger Behind' and it will run over the next two years.

November 2019 will see the initial planning meeting take place in Rome, Italy. The meeting will be attended by Ms. Flynn, St. Aidan's Librarian and Ms. Ingram, St. Aidan's Child Psychotherapist who will link up with teachers from the other schools to plan how the project will proceed.

The next steps in the project are to complete a number of tasks and activities in partnership with students in the other schools for example, design a survey - 'How Good Are You at Anger Management', logo design, project website, twitter feed and the long term goal is to develop and implement a sustainable Trauma Informed School Programme. The project will be very educational and will give St. Aidan's students a chance to learn more about their European neighbours.

The next 'Leave Anger Behind' mobility with students will be to Ejerslykkeskolen, Odense, Denmark in May 2019 and we will be taking some lucky 1st year students with us!

News and Events in our Schools

East Glendalough School

ResearchEd conference

On 5th October, 7 staff from EGS travelled to St. Columba's College in Dublin to attend the ResearchEd conference, where speakers included Tom Bennett, David Didau, Daisy Christodoulou and Tom Sherrington. Tom Sherrington, author of *The Learning Rainforest* and the @teacherhead blogs had given a short video introduction to EGS' own in-school CPD day on 30th September, led by Niamh Minogue-Jones, the School's Head of Teaching and Learning, which focused on questioning and checking for learning, through the lens of Sherrington's book *Rosenshine's Principles in Action*.

The School's Teaching and Learning progress in the past year has focused on expanding teachers' repertoire of teaching and formative assessment methods: adopting one specific, resourced teaching strategy per month, subject departments have been feeding back about the activities which are best for them in their respective areas.

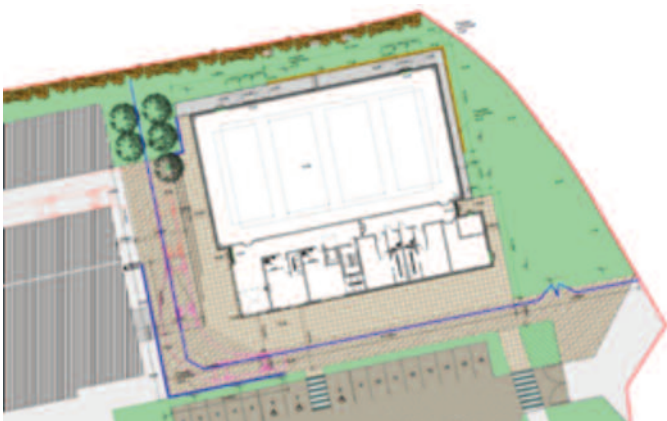


Tom Sherrington
@teacherhead

Thanks all. @GlendaloughSch



Tom Sherrington with members of staff from East Glendalough School.



Plans for the new East Glendalough School Sports Hall.

Sport



On 8th November, the School's Senior Rugby Team took on Colaiste Chill Mhantain in the inaugural Wicklow School's Senior Challenge Cup. Meanwhile, our boys and girls' hockey and soccer teams have been playing well, and our girls' U19 basketball team reached their league final, only to fall at the final hurdle.



Mr John McGettigan (PE) with Nathan O'Connor, Tri O'Gorman and Rhiannon Wynne-O'Sullivan at the launch of the buy-a-brick campaign.

Sports Hall

The term has been dominated by efforts to raise money for the School's new Sports Hall. This has been an enormous effort from parents, students and staff and has included a sponsored walk, a golf classic, student photographs,

News and Events in our Schools

Royal and Prior Comprehensive School Team Uganda 2019



The October midterm of 2019 is one which the 16 members of Team Uganda will treasure forever. After months of preparation and fundraising, we took to the skies and set out on our short-term mission to Uganda. After just over a day of travelling, the team of 12 students and 4 teachers, finally touched down in Entebbe Airport. We took in the atmosphere, as well as the heat! For some, it was the first encounter with temperatures and humidity this intense!

Each team that goes out on a short-term mission through Fields of Life is assigned a link worker. Our link worker for the duration of our mission was a man named Godfrey. Godfrey received his education through Fields of Life and he now works with the organisation and the various teams that come over on missions. Godfrey was an absolute gentleman during our stay in Uganda. He always kept us at ease, tended to any issues or queries we had and also gave us a flavour of Ugandan culture. We couldn't have asked for a better person to guide us!

Our trip to Uganda gave us the opportunity to see the world through new eyes; to see and experience things that we wouldn't see in Ireland.

We went to visit a drilling site, which Fields of Life had established in Kumi. The trip to Kumi took a few hours but it didn't feel long, however, with the wonderfully scenic views outside our windows, coupled with the excitement of the team on the bus. Our driver, Twaha, was fantastic as well. He calmly navigated his way through the busy traffic and dirt roads. As we moved closer to the site, we could see some of the locals had come out to welcome us. Some of the children even ran up

alongside our bus to wave at us and greet us! Twaha parked the bus and we made our way out. Let me tell you, the atmosphere was amazing! The joy and happiness in the air was tangible. The town committee welcomed us and talked to us about the impact that the drill has had on them and how it would help them down the line. We interviewed some of the drillers, who had started drilling for water at 8am on that very morning. It was a project that would take three more days to complete. One of the drillers, Daniel, said that this well would greatly help the local and wider community. It would provide them with a fresh and clean water supply. Prior to the building of the well, the locals collected water from unprotected water sources, which often leads to diseases and sickness. One of the water sources, which was about a kilometre and a half away from this new drilling site, was shared by over a thousand people. The new well would also allow for the production of bricks, which could be sold to bring money into the community.

Most of our work was done in Bethel Royal School in Nakasongola District. We made the trip to the school in adverse weather conditions. But as we came within a few kilometres of the school, the weather started clearing up nicely. As we entered the school grounds, we were greeted by a welcoming committee comprising of staff and students from the school. I will never forget the welcome we received; the singing, dancing and of course, the smiles. The students performed for us when we got off the bus and the energy that they had was exceptional!

During our stay in Bethel Royal, we liaised with the school director, Annet, and compiled a program for the students there. Our packed schedule included a wide array of classes and programmes for the students to try out and get involved in. We were kept extremely busy getting lesson plans and resources sorted for all of the classes and programmes.

Ms. Bonner and Rachel Brogan delivered the I Am Girl programme, where students were taught about personal hygiene, changes during adolescence and menstruation. Ms. O'Brien, Ellen Russell and Jessica Laird taught Irish. They also taught the students some traditional céilí dancing, which went down a treat! Mr. Doherty taught Geography to the students. He and the students discussed the similarities, as well as differences, between Ireland and Uganda. Mr. Shallow inspired the next generation of leaders in Uganda in his delivery of the



News and Events in our Schools

Royal and Prior Comprehensive School *continued*



Global Citizenship programme. Students delivered presidential speeches, where they talked about pressing issues in Ugandan society. Irene Kee, Andrew Mason and Kyle Doherty did arts and crafts with the students. They made pieces of art such as bracelets. They also talked to the students about life in Ireland and learned some Lugandan. Alan Goudie, Tori Stewart and I took on the Ugandan heat as we taught the students some of the sports played in Ireland. We taught them the likes of rugby, Gaelic football and rounders. We played a game of football in our final session and it was the students who taught us a thing or two there!

We had the opportunity to go to church with the students and some members of the local community. It was unlike any church service any of us had attended before. The service was filled with singing, dancing and lively music. Guitars, drums and the keyboard were all out in full force. The service was truly uplifting and inspiring. Love was the central message of the sermon and it gave the members of Team Uganda some food for thought. After the service, many children came up to talk to us and take photos. It was a truly heartwarming experience.

After the church service, we were given a tour of Bethel Royal by Annet and the A-Level students. They showed us around where the students stay during the school year. We had a chance to see the dorms of the students, from Senior 1 right up to Senior 6. We got to take a look at some of the facilities at the



Hanna Scott and Zara Lowry who taught the students songs from Ireland which they performed on the last day at the concert.

school, including the computer rooms, the library and the prayer room. Annet took us down to the farm to show us their crops and livestock. The school community grows its own cassava and sweet potato, which makes up a good portion of their diet. They keep the likes of chicken and cattle as well. This farm provides the school with food throughout the year.

We visited the nearby "Hope Village" and got an insight into life there. We were introduced to Sharon, a lady who attended school in Bethel and is now in charge of the village. She and some of the women from the village gave testimonies on the help they received from the school and Fields of Life. We met and interacted with members of the community before heading to see the local poultry farm and some of the houses and farms in the village.

Each evening at around 7pm, the students from the school would come up to the house in which we were staying for devotions. Now, when we heard about devotions, we expected a few prayers to be said with the students and some hymns to be sung. Instead, we were treated to a celebration of God, filled with singing, dancing and worship. We were also given the opportunity to perform for the students. Prayers were said, hymns were sung and of course, the bagpipes were played!

On our last day, our team, along with the School Community of Bethel Royal, were given the opportunity to showcase the teaching and learning which had taken place over the course of our stay at Bethel. The excitement was palpable in anticipation of the "Royal Talent Show". It was a rollercoaster of emotions but also a vivid reminder of what had been achieved during our "all too short" time at Bethel Royal.

Before departing Kampala, we had the privilege of meeting with Bernard from Fields Of Life Head Office. Each and every member of Team Uganda is grateful to this organisation for providing us with the opportunity to be part of an unforgettable and life-changing experience, which will stay with us forever.

On the 1st of November, our time in Uganda sadly came to a close. The time we spent over there is something we will never forget. We shared laughter and smiles, we made everlasting memories and we learned so much from the people of Uganda. They are such a kind and welcoming people who are grateful for everything. They showed us that we should appreciate what we have and that we should always be happy and live life to the fullest. This experience and the lessons we learned along the way will stick with us forever.

The students from Team Uganda would like to thank the teachers who went on the trip. Their hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated. We would like to say an extra word of thanks to Ms. Bonner for all of the work that she has put into our short-term mission. Without her endless effort and energy, even during the holidays, this trip would not have been possible. We are truly grateful to her for all that she has done.

Finally, on behalf of Team Uganda, I wish to thank our own school, and wider community, for all the support and kindness which we received in relation to our short-term mission. It is something that we hold dear in our hearts.

I would like to close this piece with a Lugandan phrase that we will never forget: "Webale Nyo".

*By Charles Rodriguez
(Head Boy)*

News and Events in our Schools

Mountmellick Community School

Campaign aims to make students and parents college aware



Mountmellick Community School Guidance Counsellor Catherine McCarthy with pupil Rónán Dunne.

Many schools are involving mums and dads in CAW activities, writes Katherine Donnelly.

Going to college has taken on a whole new meaning from the days when it defined a cohort who went straight from sixth year to a degree course in university or another higher-education institution.

Now it embraces an ever-increasing range of options for achieving a qualification leading to a fulfilling career.

It could be an apprenticeship as much as an arts degree, a post-Leaving Cert course in the further education sector that may lead straight to a job or act as a stepping stone to higher education, a mature student returning to education. In the most marginalised communities and families, where even finishing school has been a challenge for generations, going to college may be under consideration for the first time.

It is all being celebrated in College Awareness Week (CAW), which is running in schools, including some primary schools, and communities around the country this week.

Now in its sixth year, CAW is about encouraging students, and parents where necessary, to open their minds to the choices out there, and to support them in pursuing those opportunities. Participation has grown every year, including from schools in the Department of Education's DEIS scheme for disadvantaged communities, whose pupils tend to have the lowest college entry rates.

The campaign is sponsored by pharmaceutical company Perrigo and supported by a range of education-based organisations, including the further education and training authority, SOLAS, the Higher Education Authority (HEA), the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) and Trinity College Dublin.

Mountmellick Community School, Co Laois, has been involved in CAW for a number of years and guidance counsellor

Catherine McCarthy says from the time the pupils start in the school, they encourage them to reach their potential. "That will be something different for everyone," says McCarthy. "That's what I love about my job. What is success for one pupil might not be on the radar of another.

"It's not just university or an institute of technology, it could be an apprenticeship or a traineeship, be it at level 5, 6, 7 or 8 (on the National Framework of Qualifications), we are happy."

She is also in touch with the National Learning Network, which offers flexible training programmes for people who need specialist support, including students who may feel overwhelmed by college.

The guidance counsellor grew up in Cork City where, with UCC and Cork IT on the doorstep, higher education was a very visible option. But she is conscious that with no third-level college in Laois and a tradition of local industry offering employment to many school-leavers, the mindset in some households can be different.

But the industries of old have disappeared and McCarthy is inviting parents to a number of the school's CAW activities to show the huge variety of post-school educational routes and where they might lead.

A past pupil of the school is 17-year-old Syrian refugee Suaad Alshleh, recently awarded a €5,000-a-year Department of Education bursary to study medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI). Although living in Portlaoise, she opted to attend Mountmellick CS because it offered Chemistry. The award recognised achievement in two science subjects in the Leaving Cert for a DEIS school pupil.

Extract from *Irish Independent*
by Katherine Donnelly
20 November, 2019

News and Events in our Schools

St. Brendan's Community School, Birr, Co. Offaly



In October a group of 3rd Year Modern Languages students from St. Brendan's Community School, visited Paris. The tour included visits to Stad de France and Euro Disney.



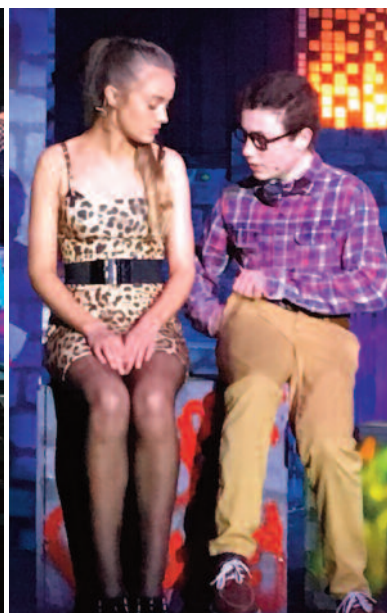
Junior and TY students in St. Brendan's Community School experienced an Open Day featuring An Garda Síochána and the Road Safety Authority. It was a most rewarding experience for all involved.



Recently this group of students from St. Brendan's Community School received the good news that they were accepted to compete in the 2020 BT Young Scientist Competition. Pictured are Mr. A Byrne, Ms. K.A. Milne, Jillian Crowley, Anna Morris, Edel Daly, Frances Bugler, Aibhe Kennedy, Clionadh Donoghue, Ms. A. Duane and Ms. A. O'Hara. Their project will address the effects of cancer treatments.



Inspirational health campaigner Vicki Phelan pictured with Chelsea Sharpe and Lara Finnerty when she recently spoke to LCA 1 and 2 classes on her campaign for justice.



St. Brendan's Community School staged a fantastic production of 'Little Shop of Horrors', to full houses, from 20th to 22nd of November. The cast was drawn from 2nd, TY, and 5th Year students.

News and Events in our Schools

St. Wolstan's Community School, Celbridge, Co. Kildare

St. Wolstan's Community School has a strong heritage and tradition in the education of girls in the community of Celbridge and its environs. Its continuing commitment to education is celebrated and endorsed in the many awards and achievements bestowed on past and present students, both on a personal and an academic level. We are proud of our success and congratulate students, teachers and parents who have worked hard for these honours.



PDST National Poetry Competition 2019

Congratulations to Aoife Byrne, Leaving Certificate Student 2019, who won first place in the PDST National Poetry Competition, Senior Category. Her winning entry was titled 'A Headline in Paris'.

Aoife was presented with her prize at an award ceremony on Thursday 21st November 2019 in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, where she read her poem to the gathering. Her English teacher, Ms Guilfoyle, photographed on the left, represented St. Wolstan's CS. This is a major achievement and St. Wolstan's are very proud. Aoife continues her English studies at UCD.

Senior Spanish Debating Success 2019

Congratulations to our Senior Debating Spanish team, who successfully opposed the motion 'La religión no tiene lugar en el sistema educativo irlandés' (Religion has no place in the Irish Education System). They were debating against Mount Anville. The team, captained by Amy Hanlon, also comprised Eimear Byrne, Rebecca Carroll and Ciana O'Sullivan, with support from Caoimhe Kelly, Eabha O'Meara, Kellie Devine and Niamh McInerney. The previous debate, which they lost to Belvedere College, was equally challenging, with the team proposing the motion 'La Marihuana debe ser legalizada' (Marihuana should be legalised). Mr. Kerin, Ms. Marinan and Mrs. Macken prepared the team for their success. Well done to all.



University Entrance Scholars 2019

Maynooth University Entrance Scholarship, 2019



Jade Sweeney, Leaving Certificate 2019, St. Wolstan's, presented with an Entrance Scholarship, by Prof. Aidan Mulkeen, Vice President, Academic, Maynooth University. Jade is currently studying Science at Maynooth University.

Trinity College Entrance Scholarship, 2019



Congratulations to Michelle O'Dwyer, Leaving Certificate 2019, who received an entrance scholarship to Trinity College, where Michelle is studying Medicine.

UCD Entrance Scholarship, 2019



Congratulations to five Leaving Certificate 2019 students, Ava Percy, (studying Engineering) Lucy McMahon, (studying Physiotherapy), Siobhán Boyle (studying Medicine) and Sarah Lucas (studying Science) who were presented with their certificates at the Entrance Scholars ceremony in UCD on 14th November 2019. Muireann Duggan (studying Food Science) was awarded in absentia. UCD recognises the calibre of its incoming high-achieving students with the award of UCD Entrance Scholar. Entrance Scholar awards are presented to first year students who achieve 560 points or more in their Leaving Certificate.

News and Events in our Schools

St. Wolstan's Community School, *continued*

High hopes: Pupils are encouraged to consider all options - for work and study



Principal Maria Barry (right) with (from left) Deputy Principal Agnes Holmes and Guidance Counsellors Brid Hughes and Kieran Corcoran. Photo: Mark Condren

HIGH progression rates to university are the norm at St. Wolstan's, but pupils are encouraged to consider all their options from third year, when career classes start.

Pupil horizons are so broad that some current sixth years are considering study in an EU university, increasingly popular among those keen on health science degrees. Such is the priority given to career guidance at the all-girls' Community School in Celbridge, Co Kildare, that, while official funding for guidance covers 1.1 full-time counsellors, Principal Maria Barry maintains two.

"By the time they get to sixth year, they have had a lot of information, a lot of experiences and a lot of reflection and they have a pretty good idea what they want," says guidance counsellor Kieran Corcoran.

With the growth in apprenticeships, Mr Corcoran is seeing more interest in this 'work and study' approach to a

qualification, while others take advantage of the jobs-a-plenty in the economy and take time to ponder options, while earning money.

His guidance counsellor colleague, Brid Hughes, cites examples of students who, while applying to CAO, might also be interested in fields such as beauty therapy "and might defer university for a year to a post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) course".

"It gives them an opportunity to make sure they are definite about it," she says.

Pupils are encouraged to track their results, which, according to Ms Hughes, helps them to "be realistic about what they are going to achieve, so they won't be disappointed come August".

Extract from *Irish Independent*
by Katherine Donnelly
3 December, 2019



Wellbeing at St. Wolstan's Community School 2019

Teachers, Margaret Bennett & Laura Geraghty with Student Council Members, Rosie Bryne, Beth Corry, Swati Joshi & Codi Long launching 'Wellbeing Week 2019' at St. Wolstan's Community School, where 'wellbeing is seen as the mortar to the bricks of academic learning and if you get that right, the academic learning will be better.'

News and Events in our Schools

St. Attracta's Community School



Staff and 3rd year students from St. Attracta's Community School present a cheque to May McConnell, North West Hospice following recent fundraising activities.



Cast photograph from this year's school production of GREASE.