

Principal's Report for the Board of Management

12th May 2020

Teaching Positions Advertised on Educationposts.ie for 20/21 Academic Year

1. Guidance Counselling and English 22 hours (RPT)
2. Woodwork, Technical Graphics and Computer Science 22 hours (RPT)
3. PE and Irish 22 hours (RPT)
4. English, History and PE 16 hours (RPT)
5. Computer Science, Science and Resource 16 hours (RPT)
6. Irish, Maths and Resource 12 hours (RPT)

Leaving Certificate 2020

While the Board of Management does not have a function in respect of the calculation of grades process, I am pleased to advise the Board that the school is in a very enviable position to cooperate with this requirement. Our Target Setting policy, which was introduced by the Board in 2013 is a most useful framework for teachers to reference in respect of the calculation of grades.

All results relating to 8 assessment episodes, over the student's journey from 5th year right through to 6th year, have been entered onto an excel sheet.

Please find below the letter which issued to Leaving Cert students

May 12th 2020

Dear Leaving Cert / Leaving Cert Applied Student,

On Friday May 8th 2020 the Minister for Education and Skills Joe McHugh T.D., took the decision to postpone the Leaving Certificate examinations and to offer students a system of calculated grades. It is important for you to note that you will have the opportunity to sit the examinations at a later stage when it is safer to do so and when public health advice allows.

The system of calculated grades is in place to ensure that this autumn, you are in a position, to secure your college place / further education place or access the workplace. The calculated grades process is a process that you, as the student, will have to opt in to. You will be guided on this opt in provision by the State Examination Commission and I understand that you will be accessing this through the self-service portal for students. This service is not yet developed and as soon as I have more information on this I will revert to you.

The purpose of my letter to you is to provide you with guidance in respect of the process. In doing so I ask that you acquaint yourself with the following document which is available on the Department of Education and Skills website:

A Guide to Calculated Grades for Leaving Certificate Students

It is very important that you continue to monitor this guide as it will be updated regularly.

It is very important for you to note that fairness and equity will be applied by Kinsale Community School in respect of the calculated grading process. In that regard you are very fortunate that your teachers have such rich sources of data to inform them in respect of the calculation of your grades.

At the beginning of fifth year you predicted a target grade that you aspired to receive in each subject. Your results in eight assessment episodes across fifth year and sixth year have been benchmarked against your own predicted target grade. You are very fortunate that it was your own teachers assessed your Pre-Leaving Certificate examination. This enabled a very comprehensive conversation to take place on Thursday March 12th 2020 in respect of your performance relative to your own new predicted target grade. When this data is taken into account, alongside various practical assessments, and coursework assessments, then teachers will be in a very strong position to calculate your grade for assessment purposes.

In respect of the LCA, you will have already completed a lot of your assessments and these results are held by you. Any outstanding assessments including vocational specialisms and tasks due to be completed in the current LCA session will be assessed by your teachers using the calculated grading system.

In order for the principles of fairness and equity to apply, you are asked not to make further contact with your teachers who are involved in the calculation of grades process.

Please note that tuition has now ceased.

I am advised by the Department of Education and Skills that you will have the opportunity to change subject level. I understand that this will be facilitated through the self-service portal for students. Teachers nationally are awaiting guidance from the Department of Education and Skills as to how this will progress. Your individual subject teachers are no longer in a position to reach out to provide guidance to you in respect of subject levels.

Please note that access to our Career Guidance Counsellor service remains available to you through:

ailishegan@kinsalecommunityschool.ie

lisadaunt@kinsalecommunityschool.ie

Yours sincerely,

Fergal McCarthy

Junior Cert 2020

3rd Year Summer Assessment and School Based Certification

Weight Awarded	Subjects where the Assessment Task has been submitted	Subjects without Assessment Task
	English/Science/Business/ Gaeilge/MFL/Visual Art	
10%	Can be awarded to each student for submission and quality of the Assessment Task	Can be awarded to each student for class tests completed throughout the year.
20%	Can be awarded for their engagement with online work since March 12 th and attendance online. (please take into consideration access to devices & WIFI)	Can be awarded for their engagement with online work since March 12 th and attendance online. (please take into consideration access to devices & WIFI)
30%	For grade awarded for the Pre-Examination	For grade awarded for the Pre-Examination
40%	One Assignment/Project/Test to be completed before May 22 nd This assignment should take approximately 1.5-2 hours to complete	One Assignment/Project/Test to be completed before May 22 nd This assignment should take approximately 1.5-2 hours to complete
	Or	Or
	Where a subject has a project aspect (Wood/Metal/Art/Music/HE c) the student must submit their portfolio (where applicable) along with a	Where a subject has a project aspect (Wood/Metal/Art/Music/HE c) the student must submit their portfolio (where applicable) along with a

Project Reflection Task.
20% will be allocated to this
Project Reflection Task
along with 20% practical
work completed during the
year.

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year.

- All assignments for your subject should be completed by the students before 22nd May.
- Each subject teacher will set the assignment/research project/test.
- Each subject department/teacher should define what is expected of students (success criteria) when giving the assignments/research project/test.
- All assignments to be corrected and inputted on CloudSchool by May 29th.
- All SEN teachers should check in with their students once assignments are set to provide assistance where necessary to differentiate the language of the assignments.
- **CBA's:** Where these have already been completed in 2nd and 3rd Year these will be included on the student's JCPA.
- **Assessment Task:** 10% awarded for the submission and the quality of the Assessment Task.

Please see the letter below which sets out our framework for the assessment of our Third Year students.

May 1st 2020

Dear Student and Parent,

On Wednesday April 29th 2020, the Minister for Education and Skills, Joe McHugh T.D., stood down his original proposal to conduct the Junior Cert assessment in September, thereby allowing schools to proceed with school based assessments before the end of the school year. This is a welcome development for all concerned.

Since Wednesday, my colleagues and I have worked on designing an assessment framework for you. This framework is designed to award you with marks for work completed by you in advance of the school closure including your pre results, as well as rewarding you with marks for your engagement with schoolwork since the school closure on March 12th 2020. The framework requires you to complete one assignment in each of your subject areas. The assignment should take between an hour and a half and two hours. All of the assignments have a submission date and time. All assignments will be complete by May 22nd 2020. Your individual subject teachers will be in communication with you regarding these assignments.

I understand that some of you will have processed an application with my colleague Ms Gail Mullaney in respect of reasonable accommodation. In such instances where reasonable accommodation has been granted in respect of a reader, scribe or additional time, parents should please provide these supports and concessions to their child in the context of the completion of the

assignments. Should you have any concerns with regards to this, please feel free to reach out to Ms Mullaney at: gaimullaney@kinsalecommunityschool.ie

If you have any concerns regarding anxiety or mental health please reach out to us at ailishegan@kinsalecommunityschool.ie lisadaunt@kinsalecommunityschool.ie aislingmurray@kinsalecommunityschool.ie or brianpentony@kinsalecommunityschool.ie

Please also note that the Year Head for Third Years, Mr John Corcoran will also be pleased to provide you with whatever supports that you need as you complete your third year at Kinsale Community School. Mr Corcoran can be reached out to at johncorcoran@kinsalecommunityschool.ie

I attach the assessment framework and the timetable of deadlines, in doing so I extend every good wish to you.

Yours sincerely,

Fergal McCarthy

In House Summer Assessments

A schedule for the assessment of First Yr, Second Yr, TY, Fifth Yr and LCA1 has issued to parents and students. All assessments will be completed by Friday May 22nd, with all results entered by Friday May 29th 2020.

Planning for Re-Opening in September 2020

I await guidance in respect of the resumption of school in September from the NPHET. However, I am at present discussing and considering how this can be done while protecting the health and welfare of our entire school community. I am considering have a visor ready for every member of our school community in advance of the school year. I am also considering doing this for all of our feeder primary schools.

Consideration will have to be given by the Board to the need to increase our capacity around on-line learning.

We are currently exploring various options in respect of students accessing devices in the next academic year to support their classroom-based learning and indeed the possibility of remote learning still being an integral part of schooling. Through our Microsoft Showcase School status, we reached out to Wriggle (an education partner of Microsoft) to explore the various options they offer.

We are also exploring how we can further support our teaching staff in respect of using Digital Technology in 20/21.

Collaboration with Beedle/Microsoft as a Showcase School

Beedle is an additional app that can be integrated into Microsoft Teams. It offers two significant benefits in that it replicates the traditional teacher diary in an electronic format

which means teachers can keep all data related to a class group within their class Team. It also offers a planning tool that subject departments can use to collaborate. As a Showcase School for Beedle through our collaboration with Microsoft, we will be one of the first schools to pilot new features as development of this versatile app continues.

Adrian O'Connor and Ger Hogan are leading the integration of Beedle in KCS and last week provided Microsoft with some feedback on the importance of Teams/Beedle during the current pandemic. Beedle have asked to use the testimonies below on their website. Our feedback will be presented to those in attendance at one of Microsoft's annual Flagship events '**Microsoft Build**' on 19th and 20th May, where developers showcase and grow cloud projects with Microsoft platforms, tools and technologies.

“At Kinsale Community School we have an ambitious educational culture, which is well supported by all our Stakeholders. Due to the Covid-19 school closures remote learning has been deployed quickly, so students can continue to learn with the support of their teachers. We have invested significantly in digital technology. Microsoft Teams has increased productivity and promoted collaboration in our school. It provides students and teachers with a platform for conversation, online meetings, shared files – and all in one single and user-friendly App. Integration of Beedle into Teams means that teachers can replace their traditional teacher diary into their Teams App. The Beedle Planning Tool is an innovative solution for Teams as it allows teachers create and share live documents and that helps streamline how all subject departments collaborate.”

Ger Hogan *Deputy Principal, Kinsale Community School (Microsoft Show Case School)*

“What makes Beedle a compelling solution for Teams is how Beedle Classlist allows teachers to track, manage and record student behaviour in the form of a digital diary. This gives teachers the option to share comments with students which creates a transparent approach to progress monitoring and record writing. Beedle Classlist also provides teachers with a platform to organise students into groups, based on the number of students per group and the desired number of groups. This is a highly beneficial tool for supporting group work and collaborative based learning in school. Beedle Planning allows teachers to create and share live documents which facilitates a comprehensive plan for special educational needs and establishes a dynamic learning environment to support all online and blended learning. Beedle is far more than just a digital repository of content for teaching and learning, this is an iterative space for critical thinking and reflection, that encourages the development of technological, pedagogical content knowledge during each stage of lesson planning.

Adrian O' Connor *Teacher / Practitioner Researcher, Kinsale Community School (Microsoft Show Case School)*

National Challenge in Bebras Finalists

9 students from Kinsale Community School, Meadhurley, Jack Weitzman, Cathal McCormick, Ciaran Moloney, James Gill, Ethan Quarry, Alex Connolly, Tessa Worth and Evan Wiesler have succeeded in gaining a place to the **Bebras National Final**, on Computational Thinking. The Bebras © Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students, by allowing them to solve interactive tasks online. It is run

in over 40 countries and takes place every November. The tasks can be answered without prior knowledge about computational thinking or information and communication technology. The aim of Bebras is to get students all over the world excited about computing.

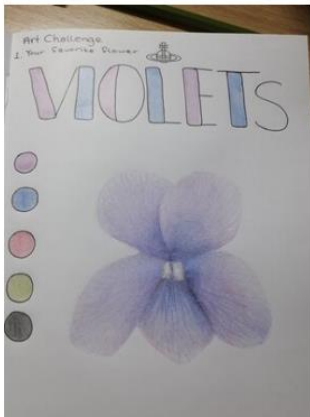
KCS Drawing Challenge

In order to practice their drawing skills and keep busy at home Art students from Kinsale Community School have been participating in a Drawing Challenge. Art students from 1st to 6th have been very busy, but you don't need to be an Art student to participate!

Follow the KCS Art Department Instagram page @artkinsalecs - the next upcoming challenge/theme (e.g draw your favourite musician) is always posted on the Instagram stories on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Drawings are due in every Monday and Thursday at 6pm and it's never too late to start! You can message them to the instagram page or students can email Ms Fitzpatrick or Ms Kelly.

Here is a taste of some of the fantastic drawings from the themes that have been submitted to date:



Cancellation of School Tour

Our school tour, which was destined to travel to Andalucia was cancelled owing to the pandemic. Mr Tony Cierans successfully negotiated a 78% refund of the monies paid. This represented excellent work on his behalf as I am unaware of any school that attained that level of refund in support of the parents and students.

KCS NEWS UPDATE

KCS: All Together In Lifesaving - March 2020

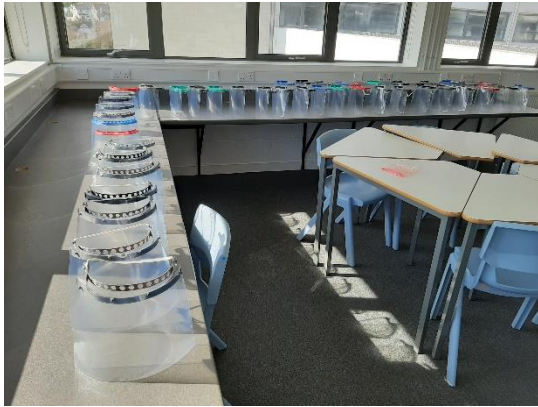


Two pupils of Kinsale Community School, Oisín Coyle of 5th year and Shane Collins of TY have collaborated with staff to produce vital visors for the medical profession at this critical time.

This unique and innovative project was launched in late March by Oisín who enlisted the technological expertise of Shane from transition year and his brother Dylan in second year. The students approached Mr McCarthy

about the possibility of making Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Oisín independently undertook research into the production of the visor and showed his design plan to Shane and they collaborated to make it a reality. The students also enlisted the expertise of the staff of KCS who actively supported this being Maria Brosnan, Aaron Bowen, Jamie Torpey, Adrian O'Connor and Thomas Clancy. Many thanks also to Brian Pentony for assisting during the week and all the staff for their support.



The production which involved strict social distancing consisted of five 3D printers being set up in the Microsoft Digital Hub. The printing process of headband pieces was overlooked by Oisin, Shane and Mr Clancy. Each individual piece of equipment takes approximately 1.5 to 2 hours to manufacture. Remaining staff formed segregated assembly lines to create the plastic visors/shields. Cutting equipment was used to attach the shields to headpieces before attaching elastic to complete the process. Local juvenile liaison officer Garda

James O'Mahony also arrived to offer his practical support.

School Principal Fergal McCarthy, who co-ordinated the initiative, stated that he was: "Proud of the ingenuity and selfless dedication of the two students and the staff involved". Mr McCarthy already donated PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) on behalf of Kinsale Community School to local hospitals and nursing homes. KCS actively supports and encourages everyone to adhere to government and HSE advice to safeguard lives at this time.

Everybody at Kinsale Community School is so proud of the ingenuity and inspiration which Oisin and Shane have demonstrated. Stay safe #KCS4Life #WeAreAllInThisTogether

Cork Students Upgrade Ill-Fitting Face Masks

– Jennie O'Sullivan RTÉ

Thousands of imported faces masks which did not meet the expectations for use by frontline hospital staff have been upgraded thanks to the ingenuity of staff and students at Kinsale Community School in Co Cork.



The 10,000 masks were part of a consignment ordered from China for use at Cork University Hospital but were found to cause nose and ear irritation. Since the end of March, a small team has been making and supplying some 6,000 visors designed by two students at the school using 27 3D printers.

These have been sent to medical staff in hospitals and care homes across the country, among them CUH. Recently they were approached to see if a device designed by the same students, Oisín Coyle and Shane Collins, could be used to improve face masks that had arrived in a consignment from China.

The 'Earsaver' sits on the head as opposed to behind the ears. But there was still a problem with venting at the bridge of the nose and this is when Principal Fergal McCarthy said the school caretaker Brendan Barry had a eureka moment. "He suggested replacing the wire at the nose with a stainless steel strap. Using stainless steel cable ties we cut them into 80mm lengths, removed the wire and fitted the strap," he said. "Infection control in CUH is ecstatic as we have been fixing these masks at a rate of 1,000 per day." Mr Barry says: "Its great to be doing something for the frontline workers, there's great satisfaction."

One of the two schoolboy designers, 16-year-old Transition Year student Shane Collins, says they have now amended all of the 10,000 masks. "There is multiple other designs of masks that we are now working on 'Earsaver' prototypes to help with them." His design partner, 17-year-old Oisín Coyle, a fifth year student in the school, says the best bit is when they get photographs from frontline staff wearing their visors or amended masks. "We don't get to see who gets to wear them so when pictures come in from hospitals or places like that with people wearing our visors or the face masks, it makes us feel great," he said.

The project has received support from the Lions Club, Eli Lilly and from a [GoFundMe](#) fundraiser.

Go Fund Me

A Go Fund Me was set up in response to the demand for visors and it has currently raised €12,770 [as of 10 May 2020]

'They Stepped Up To The Plate' - Secondary Students Making PPE Equipment For Medics Fighting Coronavirus

- Ralph Riegal Irish Independent



STUDENTS at an Irish secondary school which operates as a Microsoft digital hub have unveiled a remarkable production line for personal protection equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers battling the Covid-19 pandemic.

The two students at Kinsale Community School (KCS) in Cork have started making 3D printed face shields in order to protect front line staff in hospitals and nursing homes.

Fifth year student Oisín Coyle and Transition year pupil Shane Collins contacted their principal last week about the possibility of making vital protection gear for healthcare workers given their science knowledge and the 3D printer provided for the school.

An assembly line was set up and a trial production run worked as planned. Now, the shields will be distributed to doctors, nurses, pharmacists and healthcare workers in the coming days.

Principal of KCS, Fergal McCarthy, said he was "blown away" by the quality of the shields produced by just two pupils at their makeshift assembly line in the school. "What happened as you know is that we have a shortage of PPE in the country," he said. "Two of our students stepped up to the plate with a design they obtained online. It is approved from the medical perspective. We have had doctors locally examine it here and they feel it is absolutely perfect."

"It is to be used in conjunction with a face mask at front line level. But at administrative level or at pharmacist level it can be used independently. "We currently have about 63

or 64 produced. We are hoping to have 100 by tomorrow. We want to distribute them as needed within the medical community."

President Michael D Higgins visited Kinsale last year for the official launch of a collaborative relationship between the local community school and Microsoft. KCS boasts a proud record in the Young Scientist of the Year competition - and students have shown a tremendous aptitude for science and innovation over the years.

Mr McCarthy says they were very fortunate to be chosen as a Microsoft Digital Hub. "We are very lucky in that we are a Microsoft Showcase School. We have cutting edge technology in our school. We are in a great position to support others at a time when the need is greatest."

Mr McCarthy emphasises that social distancing was adhered to during the production of the shields. He has paid tribute to the two pupils involved in the venture for showing such concern about the needs of medical workers. However, he said their empathy wasn't a source of surprise to him with communities right across the country displaying enormous altruism since the outbreak of Covid 19. "Here are young people who are in a position to assist and are minded to do so. From a societal perspective in general people have been very good in responding to this virus. All of these efforts will help flatten the curve."

Cork Students Doing Ireland Proud As They Roll Out PPE Production In Kinsale Community School

- Gavin O'Callaghan (Cork Beo)

Two Cork youngsters are doing Ireland extremely proud as they've led the charge producing much-needed PPE equipment for those helping to fight the coronavirus pandemic. Full-scale production is underway in Kinsale Community School after the brilliant Oisin Coyle and Shane Collins did some research and started making up protective face-shields using their 3D printers.

The lads, who are in fifth and transition year, have teamed up with teachers Maria Brosnan, Thomas Clancy, and Aaron Bowen and expect to have 100 pieces available by Thursday evening.

The phenomenal work has been going on in the school's Microsoft Digital Hub and this morning a GP looked at the gear and agreed they were perfect for use in a medical setting.

Proud principal Fergal McCarthy told CorkBeo they'll be made available "wherever the need arises". He said: "Fifth year student Oisin Coyle came up with the profile from research in respect of what was necessary for medical practitioners and those on the frontline of healthcare.

"A colleague of his Shane Collins in Transition Year collaborated along with teachers in the school."We set up an assembly line in our Microsoft Digital Hub and we've gone into full scale production of them. "A local GP this morning looked at them and feels they're perfect to be used in a medical setting.

Principal McCarthy went on to say that they're making about seven units every two hours, and of course they're all observing social distance while working away in the lab. He said: "We will be making them available wherever the need arises. So nursing home settings, medical practitioners, the HSE are welcome to them, hospitals, and pharmacists. We hope to get them to anyone that needs them".

"Obviously our supply chain will be slow, we have five 3D printers in operation so we're working steadily". "We're hoping about 100 will be available by Thursday evening. We produce seven every two hours. "Them and three teachers have been in the lab, observing the social distance for it too of course."

The school's Twitter account uploaded images of the teams' work and received a great reaction from impressed users. Microsoft Specialist Niamh Ni Mhaille congratulated them all saying it's "incredible what we can achieve when we all pull together." UCC Lecturer Helen Hynes was also impressed while teacher Aaron Bowen, who is part of the project, said he's "so proud" of what they're achieving.

Donations of Personal Protective Equipment

Photographed are some of the recipients of PPE provided by Kinsale Community School



Bushmount Nursing Home



Care Choice Nursing Home



Cobh Community Hospital



Cork Autism



CUH Cardio Unit



Haven Bay Nursing Home



Hearbeat Trust



CUH ICU Ward



CUH



Cork Fire Brigade



Irish Wheelchair Association



Market Place Surgery Kinsale



Mater Private Cork



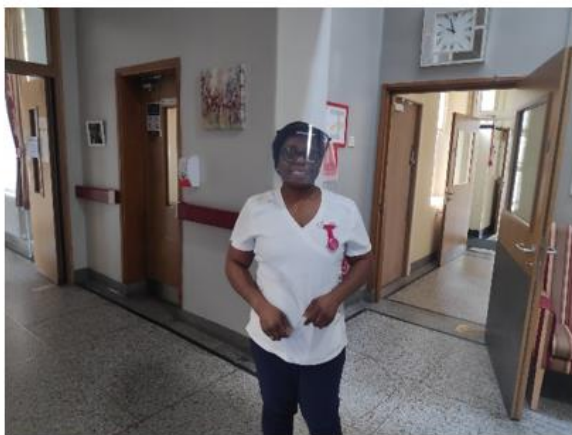
Penny Dinneres



Irish Wheelchair



Kinsale Hospital



Midleton Hospital



Mercy Hospital Cork



Phelans Pharmacy Glanmire



University Hospital Kerry



Skibbereen Hospital



South Infirmary



CUH Dialysis Unit



Marymount



Clonakilty Community Hospital



Crowleys Opticians



Kinsale Covid19 Volunteer Group



Tusla Residential Centres

Aerprize Scholarship



Congratulations to 6th year student Patrick Gowran who has been chosen as an Aerprize Scholarship recipient 2020. Patrick is invited to join Aero City for six weeks while earning his Private Pilot Certificate at Angel City Flyers in Long Beach, California.

Safer Internet Day Ambassador Leadership Award

Congratulations to TY student Sarah Fitzgerald who has been shortlisted for the best social media campaign and most-effective anti-cyberbullying campaign for the Webwise Safer Internet Day Awards [SID] 2020! Sarah also became a member of the Webwise Youth Panel following the SID Ambassador Programme.

All Award winners were due to be presented with their certificates at a very special event in Facebook HQ in April, however, due to the current situation, the awards have been postponed until a more suitable time. Well done Sarah!

National Scratch Competition Finalist

Congratulations to Conor O’Leary, 2nd Year, who we are delighted to announce has been selected as one of 30 finalists in the country to proceed to the National Scratch Competition for Coding. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the competition had to be postponed until the new school year and a date is yet to be confirmed. Every year the standard of Scratch projects is high, with the judges having a really difficult job selecting 30 projects out of 500 entrants to proceed to the national finals.

Scratch helps young people learn to think creatively, reason systematically, and work collaboratively – essential skills for life in the 21st century. Scratch teaches computational thinking and problem-solving using a powerful yet simple-to-use building block approach to app creation. Scratch is a fun and interesting way to introduce software development to students. Students experience Scratch as part of their Junior Cycle Coding course at Kinsale Community School.

School Digital Champions

Our 4 School Digital Champions, Tessa Worth, Dylan Collins, Morgan Caraher and Zach Allen travelled to Thomond Park and Microsoft Dreamspace in Dublin in February to take part in the Programme. The School Digital Champion Programme was launched as part of the National Digital Strategy to promote digital adoption and encourage the productive use of technology by students. The School Digital Champion Programme is a unique opportunity for second level students to take part in an exciting and innovative programme that has the potential to involve learning at many levels. This exciting programme enables students to develop their creativity, critical-thinking and communications skills.

KCS Athletics

On Tuesday March 3rd, a group of 28 students travelled to Nenagh to represent Kinsale Community School at the Munster Indoor Athletics Championships. All of our athletes performed really well throughout the day and were fantastic ambassadors for the school.

Congratulations to all of the Athletes who took part in a very competitive field. Also thank you to Jude Taylor who came to the event to assist all of the athletes and Sinead O Regan from Kinsale Riverstick AC for all of her guidance on the day.

Minors: Ethan Quarry 3rd in the 60m and 2nd in the Long Jump, Amy Buckley, Colum Morgan and Jordan Mahendran.

Juniors: Claire Crowley 1st in the 1200M, Sam Kiely 2nd in the 1200m and 3rd in the 600m, Grace Coyle, Lauren Green, Ryan McCarthy, Nicole Weitzman, Erhan Farley, Paul Madrazewski, Aaron Courtney, Kallum Good, Jamie O Sullivan.

Intermediates: Kate Redmond 3rd in the 1200m, Katie O Regan 2nd in the Long Jump, Nicole Buckley, Kate Farley, Max Lee, David McCarthy, Oisín Joyce, Evan Corkery and James O Sullivan.

Senior: Lia Farley 1st in the 60m, Eoin Redmond 2nd in the 600m, RoseMarie Buckley and Ava Coyle.

We also had fantastic success in the Relays taking both 1st and 2nd place in the girls Intermediate Relay.

1st Place Team: Kate Redmond, Kate Farley, Nicole Buckley, Katie O Regan

2nd Place Team: Grace Coyle, RoseMarie Buckley, Ava Coyle, Lia Farley

Our Junior Girls team performed really well also as well as both of our Junior Boys teams and Intermediate boys team.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER VOLUME 1



KINSALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

03 APRIL 2020



Dear Fellow Students,

Firstly, on behalf of myself and the student council, I hope you are all doing well and are in good health. It has been awhile since we have all seen each other, the corridors of our school have been quiet for some number of weeks now. Our school's closure has been an essential step in slowing the spread of covid-19 in our country, in flattening the curve. We urge you to follow the HSE guidelines at this time. Wash your hands properly and often, you can find information on how to do so on the HSE website. Carry out good coughing and sneezing regime, keep surfaces clean and practice social distancing. This means seeing only those within your household, and maintaining 2 metres (6 feet) of distance with those you may meet outside your household. Social distancing is an essential component in stopping the spread of this virus. We owe it to each other, to come together in keeping apart. We are one of the strongest links in our community, and it is important now more than ever for us to show this through our actions in the coming weeks. We are currently living in a historic moment in time, the entire world has come to a standstill. Now more than ever before we must stand tall together, be sensible and stay at home. It is crucial that everyone play their part, and through this we will come out the other side.

We would also like to update you on the development of student council, which has adapted to this new system of schooling we have all been attending for the past few weeks. We want to assure you during this time student voice will still be consistently

represented. We have introduced new strategies to connect with you through both office 365 and social media platforms. We have begun using our twitter account on a more consistent basis and set up both a TikTok account and an Instagram account. We encourage you to use these platforms to communicate directly with us, with any issues you may have or any suggestions that you would like the council to consider implementing. We will be using these accounts to directly interact with the student body, to update you on our work and to check in. We also have a Flipgrid account where you can view the minutes of our past meetings, you can see what we have been working on and will be continuing through our social media platforms. We are very excited for these new developments and have decided to open this new opportunity with a competition. We will be hosting a TikTok competition, in which students are challenged to make a Tikok promoting social distancing. You can enter using the hashtag **#SocialdistancingKCS**. We have set the deadline for Easter Sunday (Sunday 12th April) and the winner will receive a brilliant prize of €100. We hope many of you decide to participate and are excited to see the entries!



We are aware that many students may be feeling pressured or stressed at this time, particularly exam students regarding the uncertainty surrounding the state exams. We would like any student who is struggling to know that support is available. Please contact KYSS (085 8725 789) or Childline (Live message at www.childline.ie, free phone at 1800 66 66 66 or free text at 50101) if you are struggling. We recommend you to be mindful of your mental health at this time, make sure you are getting sufficient exercise, drinking enough water and avoid spending unhealthy amounts of time on social media. We recommend you participate in Ms. Egan's Healthy Mind Challenge. We will also be posting more challenges for you to join in on if you wish.

Our social media handles are listed below, and we will also be updating you through our weekly newsletter which you will receive on outlook. If you have any questions or ideas to bring forward to the council, please contact us through one of the media accounts below or email us at studentcouncil@kinsalecommunityschool.ie . Stay safe.

Kind regards,

Emma Meaney

Chairperson of the Student Council



Flipgrid: kcsstudentvoice



Instagram: kcs_studentcouncil



Twitter: KCSstudentvoice



TikTok: kcsstudentcouncil

Tik Tok