

Principal's Report for the Board of Management

November 26th 2019

Child Protection Oversight Report

For noting by the Board and signing by the Chair.

Summary of main events for Sept - Nov 2019

President Michael D. Higgins Visits KCS



Thursday 14th November marked a historic day in the in the story of Kinsale Community School as we welcomed President Michael D. Higgins. It was a momentous occasion both for the school and the local community as President Higgins was welcomed by Mr McCarthy (Principal), Sr Rita Twomey (Chairperson of the Board of Management), the

students of Kinsale Community School, staff, guests and pupils from local primary schools. Proceedings began with the unveiling of the 1916 Proclamation which is a beautiful feat of engineering commissioned by the school from Graepel Engineering in Kinsale.

The President was then welcomed by the KCS Leaving Certificate class in the newly designated Michael D. Higgins Hall; and unveiled a plaque for both himself and Sabina Coyne on the KCS Wall of Fame. He then paid a visit to students in the ASD unit and took some time to speak with them. Leaving Certificate students proudly formed a guard of honour to welcome the President to the new school sports hall.

The ceremony began with a welcome from the master of ceremonies Mr Ger Hogan, Deputy Principal and a blessing of Kinsale Community School by Rev. Fintan Gavin, Bishop of Cork and Ross and Rev. Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and



Ross. This was followed with an address by Chairperson of the Board of Management Sr Rita Twomey and Principal Fergal McCarthy.

President Higgins then addressed the school community and invited guests with a truly inspirational speech. He remarked that Irish people had a long history of emigration and sending money home. He recalled the tough times growing up in Ireland in the 1950s. President Higgins also spoke of the inclusive nature of KCS and its three rights – the right to learn, the right to be happy and the right to be different.

Head Boy Cathal Flynn and Head Girl Victoria Bollard also made a presentation of specially commissioned Kinsale silver to the President.

The ceremony was followed with light refreshments which were served by students and staff on the Michael D Higgins hall along with music prepared by Ms Brid Kearney, Ms Sinead Brennan and a number of music students. Sisters Eva Crowley and Ellen Crowley played Piano and Violin and Fearghus Walsh on Uilleann pipes.



Éacht na Scolaíró 2019



Kinsale Community School held its annual awards ceremony, Éacht na Scolaíró, on Friday 18th October 2019 to an audience of over 600 students, parents and staff to honour the achievements of the Kinsale students in a variety of areas. The evening commenced with a piece played by Eva Crowley on piano and was followed with a set of musical arrangements performed by the traditional Irish group and prepared by Ms Brid Kearney. Guest of Honour for the night was RTÉ Sports Presenter Marty Morrissey. Marty spoke about his own journey through school, his studies in college and his career and how the path in life can fork along the way - 'you never really know what life has in store for you'. Mr Morrissey captured the attention of the audience with his sense of wit and humour while also emphasising the importance of community both in and outside of school. He expressed his admiration of the evident bond between teaching staff and students and the 'phenomenal respect that exists' between them. In his closing words he congratulated the students on their successes which was a culmination of the 'dedication of staff, raw talents of students and support of parents'.



On the night, which was MCed by acting Deputy Principal Ms Jean Gaffney, students received awards for a multitude of achievements and activities, ranging from Year Awards to Sporting Awards to Academic Awards. Pupils from the Leaving Certificate class of 2019 were honoured for their exceptional results with the Senior Academic Award being presented jointly to Niamh Murphy and Lucy Kelleher and the top Leaving

Certificate Applied Award going to Nur Adlina Binti Mohamed. The Don O'Shea Memorial Award went to Cian Murphy and the Junior Certificate Academic Award was presented to Eva Crowley who was recognised for her outstanding Junior Certificate results.

Other notable awards on the night were the O'Brien Biotech Award which was presented to current fifth year student Jamie Cadogan and the Catherine O' Byrne Memorial Award for German which was presented to Paul Wills. The Civic Virtue Award was presented to Victoria Bollard and the Kilian Ryan Memorial Award for the Arts was presented to Adam O'Leary.

Achievements in sports were also celebrated on the night with the Joe McGrath Memorial Award being presented to Saoirse McCarthy. The Special Achievement in Sport Award was presented to Conor O'Callaghan (Table Tennis), Darragh Crowley (Soccer), Jenny Murphy (Ladies Football), Saoirse McCarthy (Camogie) and Seán Twomey (Hurling).

Success in Science was also celebrated. The Science and Technology Award was presented to Éanna McCarthy and the BT Young Scientist and Sci-Fest Winners Award was presented to Eve Corkery, Jennifer McCarthy, Katie Reynolds, Mary Clare Murphy, Niamh Crowley, Orla Madden and Ryan McCarthy.

Other Awards on the night included the Bank of Ireland Community Awards which went to Ceara Dhingra and Chloe Murphy and the Kinsale Historical Society Award which was presented to Seán Hayes. A new award for 2019, the Contribution to Music Award went to Brian Desmond, Ellen Nyhan and Selena McCarthy.



In his opening address Mr McCarthy welcomed guest of honour Marty Morrissey, former and present students, parents, staff and guests to the annual awards evening. Mr McCarthy expressed his delighted in welcoming the leaving certificate class of 2019 whom he described as having 'a kind heart and good citizenship'. He also acknowledged and thanked the parents who assisted and collaborated with the school

in shaping their children. Mr McCarthy commended students and staff on raising €18,000 on the annual school walk last year for charities including Arc House, Marymount and the Mercy Hospital. Thanks were expressed to Sr Rita Twomey (Chairperson of the Board) and all the Board members; Deputy Principals Jean Gaffney, Claire Sheehan and Gerard Hogan and all of the teaching staff. The principal also thanked the co-ordinator of the Awards evening Ms Máire Fleming and her assistants. Mr McCarthy concluded his address stating ‘the future of our country and globe will be shaped by the type of individuals that are here tonight’.

Sr Rita Twomey (Chairperson Board of Management) congratulated the students and applauded them for their hard work and dedication to their studies, perseverance in the development of their skills, spirit of generosity and friendship and sharing of their gifts and talents. Sr Rita highlighted how collaboration and involvement of parents, staff, the community, local clubs and industries have enriched the learning environment for students. She concluded by asking students to ‘appreciate your roots because from them comes the courage and strength that will help you to grow and flourish’.

The Awards Ceremony concluded with a musical finale directed by Ms Brid Kearney which included Lucy Plant on piano, Cathal Flynn on guitar and Georgina McCarthy on vocals.

KCS FÉILTE SCOILE 2019

KCS held its annual Féilte Scoile on Wednesday 9th October. This years theme celebrated our school motto ‘All together in learning’ and showcased the excellent collaboration that exists in our school between all stakeholders and the pivotal role of the learner voice. Féilte Scoile 2019 featured four workshops on a variety of topics.

Workshop 1: Student Voice / Learner Voice



This was prepared by Ms Aisling O’Callaghan and Mr James Wilson. It was mainly delivered by students who described how the Student Council operates in the school, the learner voice experience in the school and how this voice provides agency to the student in respect of their learning. The impact of effective feedback from teachers was also discussed along with the impact of empowerment derived from opportunities

to formally respond to feedback provided to them by their teachers.

Workshop 2: The Integration of Learner Voice into Formative Assessment & Target Setting

This workshop was delivered by Ms Jean Gaffney, Ms Maeve McNamara and Ms Laura Ann Dunne. The workshop focused on the new language of learning and pedagogical practices that are required for the effective delivery of the Junior Cycle. It discussed practical approaches to integrate learner voice into formative assessment practices. It also examined strategies for student target setting and collaborative practice with regards to assessments, CBA's and SLAR meetings.



Workshop 3: A Case Study in Collaborating with External Stakeholders to Enrich the Learner Experience



This workshop was delivered by Ms Aoife O'Mahony and Ms Aine Cotter along with a number of students and a parent. The session described the collaborative journey involving parents, pupils and colleagues in primary schools. It also focused on a variety of approaches designed to enrich the student experience with Maths so as to maximise the opportunity that students have to access higher level Maths.

Workshop 4: How Office 365 Can Support Formative Assessment while enhancing collaborative practice

This workshop was delivered by Mr Brian O'Reilly, Ms Eimear Murphy and Ms Mairead Dullea which focused on the digital champions' initiative and how it can be used to enhance learner voice through Microsoft Office 365. Practical examples of this practice was shared along with examples of formative feedback delivered through Office365.



It was a fantastic day and the involvement of the students added tremendously to the event. Many thanks to all the teachers who hosted the workshops and Mr Corcoran for organising Féilte Scoile 2019.

Head Boy & Head Girl Elected



Congratulations to sixth year students Cathal Flynn and Victoria Bollard who were elected as Head Boy and Head Girl this term. Student Council elections are currently under way at KCS and we are looking forward to welcoming and working with the new Student Council Team 2019/2020.



Also pictured are the School Prefect Team who took part in welcoming and guiding visitors at our recent Open Evening.

Learner Voice

Currently Kinsale Community School is engaged in three national projects relating to student voice / learner voice. The first of these is a project with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs where we have engaged with the project leaders Ger and John Halbert in respect of a toolkit which they are devising to enable students to have a greater agency in relation to their own learning. A video has been made by the DCYA which Jean Gaffney will demonstrate to the Board of Management today. This video will be used in Collins Barracks in Dublin on December 4th 2019 to launch this initiative. This launch will be held in the company of both the Minister for Education and the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. Presentations will be made at this forum by Jean Gaffney, Aoife O'Mahony and four students.

The second project began with the **ACCS School Leaders' Workshop** entitled **'Enhancing Learning and Teaching in the Classroom: Promoting Learner Voice'**

Date: 23 October 2019 The Mullingar Park Hotel

In Attendance from KCS: Jean Gaffney, Aisling Hogan and James Wilson

Session 1: Negotiating the challenges in taking forward Student Voice

Session 2: Student Voice and our Values: Gauging the temperature in school

Session 3: School Experiences and Next Steps, Showcasing work in schools

Facilitators: Norman Emerson, Gerard O'Sullivan and Aine O'Sullivan

Presenting schools:

- Holy Family Community School, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin (Wellbeing- Tutor Time)

- Old Bawn Community School, Tallaght, Dublin 24. (Students formed part of this presentation – they held a student Focus Group discussion)
- John the Baptist Community School, Barrysfarm, Hospital, Co. Limerick (Shared their experience of their review of current practices and some strategies they use for student voice)

In attending this Conference, we got an opportunity to reflect on where Kinsale Community School is in relation to Student Voice, while also sharing experiences with other schools. The Presentations from the three school were very informative.

The third Project started as recently as the 12 November 2019 with the **Instructional Leadership ‘Activating Learner Voice in the Classroom Workshop’** in Mount Wolseley Hotel, Carlow

In Attendance from KCS: Jean Gaffney and James Wilson

Session 1: Creating Collaborative Solutions

Session 2: Professional Reflection as an Instructional Leader

Session 3: Understanding Learner Voice and Mapping Learner Voice in Junior Cycle

Session 4: Planning for Change

Facilitators: Joan Russell, Gerard O’Sullivan NCCA, and Gráinne Macken JCT

Kinsale Community School were one of thirty-five schools that attended this conference. Over the next eighteen months we will work with the Instructional Leadership team to design and implement a Learner Voice Project in Kinsale Community School that will encompass the Instructional Leadership concepts. The project will involve attending cluster meetings in February 2020 along with school visits from the Instructional Leadership team. The closing conference will allow for showcasing all 35 projects.

Kinsale Community School launches Digital Technology Hub as Munster’s First Microsoft Showcase School



Kinsale Community school embarked on a collaborative project with Microsoft in September 2018. This story started from a recommendation in our Whole School Evaluation report in March 2017.

'The school has undertaken numerous actions to develop its use of ICT to support teaching and learning. ICT has been harnessed to support communication within the school community through the development of a very good school website which includes a staff area. Impressive moves towards the development of its next e-learning plan, including the identification of priorities with regard to infrastructure and pedagogy, have been made. Beyond this, initial explorations of the use of students' own electronic devices and various virtual learning environments (VLE) have begun. In this context, it is suggested that the school should move towards identifying a single VLE to support collaborative pedagogy across the school community.' (Department of Education and Skills, WSE Report, 2017).

During the 2017/18 academic year, Kinsale Community School was **one of just 20 post primary schools who piloted the Digital Learning Framework**. The project gave several teachers in KCS the opportunity to use **various online learning platforms** with their classes. The purpose of this pilot was to **identify one VLE which would best support teaching, learning and assessment** practices in our school. Office 365 was our chosen platform and accounts for students and teachers were set up. Appropriate **CPD training for staff** was identified and a team of **15 Digital Leaders** among our staff was set up. To date our digital leaders have had 4 training sessions with the next one taking place in January 2020. Each leader has a team of **7/8 of their colleagues who they continue to mentor** on the use of Microsoft applications.

A visit to the 'Dreamspace' at Microsoft headquarters in Dublin inspired us to create our own '**KCS Dreamspace**' in our McAuley Suite, following the completion of our building works. Conversations with Microsoft helped us to create what is now a very exciting facility. As Munster's first Microsoft Showcase School, this space will not only be available to students and staff in KCS but will serve as a regional Dreamspace for our feeder primary schools and other schools throughout Munster, to give students the opportunity to experience the latest cutting-edge digital technology.

On 14th November 2019, President Higgins visit coincided with the official launch of Kinsale Community School as a **Microsoft Showcase School by Ms Caithriona Halahan, Managing Director of Microsoft Ireland**. Kinsale Community School is now part of an elite group of schools that exemplify the best of teaching and learning in the world today. Only a few institutions earn this designation, and we can all take pride in knowing that Microsoft recognises the impact KCS is having on the future of education. Ms Hallahan also unveiled a plaque on the KCS Wall of Fame.

Our ambitious educational culture and innovation in teaching, learning and assessment, critical thinking, creativity and collaboration, as well as a willingness to promote a growth mindset among our teachers and students, ensures that we are constantly advancing our practices so the community of Kinsale continue to be served with a modern, accessible, inclusive and quality educational service.

Hairdressing Salon and Nail Bar



We have converted one of the wet-rooms in the ASD units at Kinsale Community School into a hairdressing salon and nail bar. This is to facilitate students in LCA accessing the health and beauty module within the LCA programme. Up until now students were not able to access this module owing to lack of facilities. The introduction of this facility will be of particular benefit to female LCA students as up until now they were involved in woodwork and metalwork. While some female students enjoyed these subjects others did not. The additional benefit of siting the salon in the ASD unit is the inclusion which will be felt across the student community.

KCS Charity Fundraising Walk

Our annual charity walk took place on Friday 25th October, with this years event creating awareness of 'Youth Mental Health Services-Supporting those that Support Us' and supported three charities - Jigsaw, Pieta House and KYSS (Kinsale Youth Support Services).



Pictured are some of our students and staff who participated in the charity walk. It was a fantastic event and thoroughly enjoyed by all, despite the rain!! Thank you to everyone for your generous support on behalf of these fantastic organisations. KCS raised €18,200 and we look forward to making a presentation to the charities on the final day of term. On this day we will host our charity Christmas jumper day and all proceeds will go towards charities close to some members of our staff, namely Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association and Irish Guide Dogs.

Mercy Stars



On Friday September 27th 2019, the Mercy Hospital recognised individuals and organisations who had gone far and above in respect of fundraising and supporting the Mercy Hospital with their great work in the fight against cancer.

Last October Kinsale Community School organised a walk which raised 18,000 euros for this purpose. The school donated 6000 to Arc House, 6000 to Marymount and 6000 to the Mercy Hospital. This fundraising project was organised in the main by Deputy Principal Kathleen O'Brien. The inspiration behind targeting fundraising for cancer research and patient care, in particular the Mercy hospital was in recognition of the outstanding care that was provided to our late colleague Don O'Shea RIP.

Kinsale Community School won the prize for the best fundraising school at the awards ceremony. Pictured are Deputy Principal Ms Kathleen O'Brien accepting the award on behalf

of the school. Also included are her colleagues Kevin Madigan, Shaun Holly, Fergal McCarthy (principal) and Thomas Clancy.

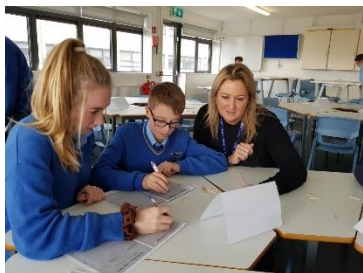
Maths Workshop

On the evening of Tuesday October 22nd, 57 first year parents attended a Maths Workshop in KCS. The aim of this workshop, hosted by two first year Maths teachers, was to support and inform parents when helping their child with their Maths homework. Maths teaching has evolved in a very positive way in such a short time, with students now taking part in active and student centred Maths lessons, in the place of rote learning. First Year parents were made aware of strategies and questions that they may find useful when supporting their child when doing his/her homework. It is so important to teachers in KCS that a positive culture is created around homework. Parents were given the opportunity to experience classroom life in KCS, when they took on the role of student and enthusiastically engaged in a Maths lesson. The topics of Sets, Natural Numbers and Integers were revised using the methods and best practice the first year students are implementing in class. These KCS Parents were star pupils and Aced this workshop. After receiving such positive feedback, another Maths workshop for First Year Parents will be held in the coming term.

Maths Week – October 2019

The corridors of K.C.S were a hive of activity during Maths week in October, from the Transition Year Maths Table Quiz to the Maths Task Wall and ever popular Treasure Hunt, students put their Maths knowledge to the test.

The G-corridor was the problem solving centre of the school that week. Students were weaving their way from clue to clue, armed with calculators, pens and paper, to complete the Maths Treasure Hunt. A variety of maths skills were put to the test and challenged students of all levels and abilities.



A new addition to Maths week in KCS was the ‘Riddle Room’ which took place in the McCauley Suite on Thursday and Friday. From rearranging matchsticks to getting a paperclip to balance on water, students, teachers and even Brendan our very popular caretaker was too set to task. The puzzles and challenges were endless as our brilliant enquiring minds manipulated theorems with hopes of solving the various tasks in front of them. Our budding geniuses worked in teams to solve the mental challenges. This intensive brain training tested even our most brilliant minds, asking them to think outside the box.

Maths and Science Success

Ellen Doyle, Sarah Fitzgerald and David Nolan were identified by the State Examination Commission as high achievers in Maths and Science in the 2019 Junior Cycle Examination. These three students are now invited to participate in the National Junior Olympiad competition to select six students to represent Ireland at the Junior Science Olympiad in Doha, Qatar from 3rd to 12th of December 2019. The National Junior Olympiad will be held in Dublin City University on Saturday November 2nd, 2019.

All participants will receive a certificate. The top three students will receive gold medals, the next three silver and the next three bronze. The gold and silver medal winners will be invited to represent Ireland at the Olympiad in Doha. The bronze medal winners will be on a reserve list. To have one student selected for this competition would be excellent. To have three is extraordinary and reflects so well on the teaching and learning in Maths and Science in our school.

Past Students Outstanding Achievement

Due to their outstanding Leaving Certificate Results a UCC Quercus Entrance Scholarship will be awarded to Eve Casey and a BT Young Scientist and Technology First Year Scholarship will be awarded to Jennifer McCarthy for the 2019/20 academic year. Lucy Kelleher has been awarded an Entrance Scholarship in Mary Immaculate College and Cathy Hynes is in receipt of The Trinity College Entrance Exhibition Award.

The 2019-2020 Award for Irish Teachers of Mathematics

Ms Sinead O Donovan has been nominated for the 2019/2020 Award for Irish Teachers of Mathematics. This is the second time Ms O' Donovan has been nominated for this prestigious award in the last three years. This award has been developed to recognise the outstanding achievements and significant contributions to the Mathematical Education of Secondary School Teachers throughout the Republic of Ireland. Professional expertise in the subject of Mathematics, effective teaching practices, care for students' development and contributions to the community were the criteria taken into consideration when this nomination was being made. What makes this nomination even more special is that a student in our school took the time to share with The Irish Mathematical Trust their genuine appreciation of Ms O' Donovan's hard work and dedication.

Congratulations to Ms O' Donovan on such a fantastic achievement and we wish her every success in the future.

BT YOUNG SCIENTIST EXHIBITION

KCS qualified 14 projects for the BT Young Scientist Exhibition which will be held on Jan 8-11, 2020. This represents the largest number of qualified projects from any school. The students are putting in huge work and are eagerly looking forward to taking part in the exhibition in the RDS which KCS has such a great tradition in.

Qualified Projects

Aengus Price: Are Bio-plastic Commercial Degradation Times Accurate?

Eva Crowley: Do-Re-Mi Or ABC, A Statistical Investigation On Whether Using As A Mnemonic Device Is Effective For Learning.

Ben Loughnane: A Statistical Investigation Into The Power of 0.

Saoirse Hayes and Kiely Lehane: Can Yawning Help Improve Our Learning?

Fin Browne and Ruaridh Cunningham: An Investigation of the Personality Traits of Irish Participants In Extreme Sports.

Rachel Henderson, Meadhbh Hurley and Aoife Walsh: Climate Change Education Gone Too Far? A Statistical Study of The Links Between Climate Change Education, Locus of Control, Eco-Anxiety and Effects On Youth's Actions.

Mia Casey, Sylvie Plant and Emer Heery: Investigating The Feasibility of Converting Kinsale Into A Virtual Power Plant In Order To Reduce Our Carbon Footprint.

Ian Cullinane, Noah Dennehy Bailey and Jake Grace: The Energy Efficient Fridge.

Alice O Callaghan, Grace O Reilly and Kenzie Desmond: To Design and Create A Safe, Comfortable and Practical Head and Specifically Facial Protection To Encourage More Interest In Rugby.

Ellen Crowley: The Latte Levy- What is The Cost Tipping Point and Why Do we Not Always Choose Reusable Cups?

Joe Brennan, Niamh Brennan and William Walsh: An Investigation of Different Groups Towards The Use of Antibiotics, Probiotics and Bacteriophages In Treating Pathogenic Bacterial Infections.

Anna Peare and Sarah Fitzgerald: A Statistical and Experimental Analysis of The Link Between Reading for Pleasure and Problem-Solving Skills.

Caoimhe Lynch: A Statistical Study of The Publics' Attitude Towards Testing Drugs for Contaminants At Music Festivals Before and After Being Informed About This Harm Reduction Methods.

Jenny Foley and Grace Monaghan: Do Irish People Know How To Prevent Dementia? A Questionnaire-Based Study.

Coiste Gaelbhatach

Bhí an-lá ag ionadaithe ón gCoiste Gaelbhatach ag an gceardlann traenála. Bíonn an coiste Gaelbhatach freagrach as imeachtaí a eagrú le linn na scoilbhliana chun Gaeilge labhartha a spreagadh i measc phobal na scoile. Cuirfear tuilleadh eolais suas ar bhalla na Gaeilge i nDorchla C go luath. Gach Máirt ag am lóin, bíonn Club Gaeilge ar siúl i C02 agus Pop Up Gaeltacht ar siúl i C01. Bíg linn!



Representatives from the Gaelbhatach committee had a great day at the training workshop. The Gaelbhatach committee is responsible for organizing activities during the school year to encourage spoken Irish among the school community. More information will be put up on Gaeilge noticeboard in C corridor soon. Every Tuesday lunchtime, there is a Club Gaeilge in C02 and Pop Up Gaeltacht for 6th years in C01. Be with us!

Gaeilge 24



Ghlac 115 dalta páirt sa dúshlán Gaeilge24 ar an 2 Samhain 2019. Taispeánann an uimhir seo go bhfuil an teanga beo beathach sa scoil seo! Lá iontach taitneamhach a bhí ann agus bhí atmaisféar áthasach timpeall na scoile. Bhí an Coiste Gaelbhratach ar scoil go luath ar maidin chun na t-léinte a thabhairt amach. Bhí t-léinte dearga ar fud na scoile agus bhí na hallaí glórach le Gaeilge!

An chéad imeacht a rinneamar ná Gaeilge Ghasta leis an Idirbhliain ar fad. Bhí orainn labhairt le daoine inár mbliain ar feadh dhá nóiméad agus ansin bhogamar go dtí duine nua. Bhí a lán craic again ag caint le daoine nua. Chomh maith leis sin, bhí maidin chaife ar siúl agus d'itheamar cácaí agus brioscaí blasta! Níorbh fhéidir linn píosa eile a ithe mar bhíomar lán go béal! D'fhéachamar ar scannán Harry Potter as Gaeilge freisin. Bhí sé go hiontach agus bhain an Idirbhliain a lán taitnimh as!

Ach ní raibh an lá don Idirbhliain amháin! Ghlac 40 dalta ón gcéad bhliain agus cúpla dalta ón gcúigiú bliain páirt sa dúshlán freisin. D'ullmhaíomar maidin chaife agus Ghaeilge Ghasta don chéad bhliain agus bhí sceitimíní áthais orthu. Thug an Coiste Gaelbhratach cabhair chun tráth na gceist a chur ar siúl don chéad bhliain agus ba léir go raibh a lán daoine an-láidir sa Ghaeilge sa chéad bhliain! Comghairdeas leo!

Bhí díolachán cácaí ar siúl ag am sosa agus chonaiceamar duine ag rith chugainn nuair a chonaic siad na cácaí blasta!! Fuaireamar €200 ón díolachán cácaí chun cabhrú leis an Turas Gaeltachta don séú bliain. Bhíomar an-sásta!

Is léir go raibh lá iontach taitneamhach ag gach duine agus b'fhéidir go labhróimid níos mó Gaeilge timpeall na scoile anois! Mar a deirtear: *"Beatha Teanga í a labhairt!"*

TY Enterprise Programme

Transition Year Enterprise (Mini-Company) students and Enterprise teachers Ms O'Donovan and Ms Brosnan were delighted to welcome Christine Duggan on Thursday last 19th September. Students learned about the Student Enterprise Programme and received information on the Student Enterprise Competition.



Christine gave students some fantastic advice about the steps involved in setting up a mini-company and spoke about the importance of the brainstorming and research process. All students received a Student Enterprise Workbook and left very excited to begin the student enterprise journey! We are very much looking forward to the innovative and creative ideas ahead this term!

Leaders on our level Student Enterprise Conference



On Friday 11th October two TY Enterprise class groups travelled to the Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery with their teachers Ms Maria Brosnan and Ms Sinead O'Donovan to attend the 'Leaders on our Level Student Enterprise Conference'.

The event was opened by Kevin Curran, Head of Enterprise, LEO Cork North and West and MC'd by Christine Heffernan. Over 400 TY students from all over West Cork were in attendance. It was an eye-opening and interesting experience for the enterprise students who listened to a variety of speakers from various business backgrounds. It also provided students with an opportunity to learn about various aspects of enterprise.

The first guest speaker was life coach and motivational speaker Dessie Fitzgerald whose story resonated with the entire audience and highlighted how students can overcome any obstacle in order to achieve their goals. This was followed by a diverse range of entrepreneurs including DC Cahalane, CEO Republic of Work, Bernie O'Sullivan of Forest and Flock and Neville O'Donoghue of Benchwarmers.

Overall it was an interesting, enjoyable and educational experience for all. We wish our enterprise students the very best of luck in their mini-company projects and in their preparation for the Student Enterprise competition next year.

Joseph Walsh Studio Visit



Before Oct midterm, 25 students along with their teacher Mr. C Ó Donnabháin from Kinsale Community School were kindly given a private guided tour of the Joseph Walsh studio which is halfway between the villages of Belgooly and Riverstick. This was a fantastically unique opportunity for students to get a complete view of the furniture that is created from its initial design concepts all the way through

to the finalised and finished project.

The students got to see how his unique pieces of furniture which are almost a mixture between art and woodwork are first sketched, prototyped and then lead to the final drawings being created on AutoCAD. The timber used to make the furniture is French Ash which is sourced from Southern France due to its straight grain and good quality timber.

Master craftsmen from all around the world work at the studio and collaborate in producing fabulous works of art. Joseph Walsh has clients from all over the world and his work has featured in many renowned galleries and art museums worldwide including the National Gallery in Ireland.

The students were really enthralled and enthused by the examples of design, craftsmanship, skill, creativity and artistic expression through the medium of wood.

Nevin Maguire Healthy Home Chef



Pictured are third year Home Economics students Rachel O'Brien and Rachel Luke who participated in the Nevin McGuire Healthy Home Chef and who were acknowledged for their impressive dishes that they submitted as part of the national competition. Well done girls and looking forward to submitting more dishes in this year's competition.

TY History Award



Congratulations to Meabh Aherne and Sean McGrath who were presented with the TY History Award for best research and engaging presentation. Pictured are Meabh and Sean receiving their prize of a hardback Oxford English Dictionary from Mr D. O'Donovan, Head of History. Well done to all who presented their historical research to their peers so excellently last year.

Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta

Big congrats to Lillian Gleave and Aoibhe Hurley who won Gaeltacht scholarships for next summer.

Positive Health Month

Positive Mental Health Month at KCS has included daily positive mental health messages and tips delivered by students on the school intercom, poster competitions, information stands, the launch of a sleep education campaign, no homework Friday and Mindfulness Meditation delivered by a trained Clinical Nurse Specialist to both teachers and students.

At KCS our students' mental health is our priority, as we continue to work to help them to become more connected, responsible and resilient.



This year at KCS we decided that instead of just celebrating mental health week we should dedicate a whole month to promoting positive mental health throughout our school community. The KCS Amber Flag

Team officially launched our mental health awareness month with a small ceremony underneath their well-deserved Amber Flag from Pieta House.

Thanks to Mr. Cierans, junior students were treated to a performance by Colette Forde on the topic of teen mental health. Following this a group of junior and senior students were lucky enough to be involved in a mindfulness session given by CUH nurse Teresa McDermott. Each student was taught how to use their breath to be in the moment which they can use during their busy lives. Staff also participated in the mindfulness session which was enjoyed by all involved.

To the students delight, Friday 11th of October was labelled as a no homework day. Teachers were encouraged not to give students homework for the weekend, the aim being that students instead focused on the things which positively affect their mental health.

A particular aspect which stood out to us all, both teachers and students, were the statistics on the amount of sleep we are getting each night versus the amount of sleep we need to function. In light of these statistics, TY4 launched their sleep campaign, aiming to raise awareness of the negative mental health impacts of sleep deprivation. Alarm clocks are now available to purchase in the school shop to encourage students to leave their mobile phones outside their rooms at night.

Throughout mental health month we were reminded of ways to keep our mental health on track and the importance of checking in with yourself and others through a variety of quotes which were shared over the intercom each day for everyone to hear. A poster competition also ran throughout the month and some fantastic entries were received.

To finish off KCS mental health month in style, the annual school walk took place on Friday 25th October to raise funds for our 3 chosen charities, KYSS, Pieta House and Jigsaw. Staff and students were encouraged to wear orange on the day in keeping with our theme of positive mental health.

German Exchange



Our German exchange 2019 began on Wednesday 18th September when 18 students from Karlsruhe in Germany arrived to KCS to meet their nervous partners.

The students had a week full of activities from visiting Cork City Gaol and UCC, to coming face to face with a tiger cub in Fota Wildlife park. The German students were also given a taster of some traditional Irish music by the fantastic trad band lead by Ms. Kearney and because they enjoyed the music so much they became the first German exchange group to partake in the performance and gave Irish students a performance of “der kleine grüne Kaktus.”

The German students even tried their hand at hurling with the help of Mr. Leahy and Mr. Madigan and although there were some near misses with the sliotars the Germans surprised us all with how quickly they picked the skills up.

On Wednesday morning there were hugs and tears as the Irish students waved the German students goodbye until March when they will meet again in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Greater Chernobyl Cause



We were delighted to welcome guest speaker Fiona Corcoran, founder of The Greater Chernobyl Cause who spoke to our transition year students earlier this month.

The Greater Chernobyl Cause was set up in 1999 as a response to the world's worst nuclear disaster but has now widened its mission to concentrate on the human casualties of the break-up of the former Soviet Union.

Students learned about the plight of the people of Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine and the suffering that exists there. As part of the educational programme, students were shown a documentary about the work of the organisation and a photographic presentation. The documentary provided a phenomenal insight into the work of young TY volunteers in Kazakhstan and truly resonated with the students. Pictured are some of the TY students with guest speaker Fiona Corcoran.

Concern Debate

The team, comprising of: Sarah Fitzgerald, Megan Fahy, William Walsh and Emma Hurley, defeated Gaelcholaiste Charraig Ui Leighin on Wednesday 9th October last.

The motions for the Concern Debates centre on the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The KCS team successfully proposed the motion that "Ending world hunger by 2030 is beyond humanity's reach." Each team member speaks for a maximum of four and a half minutes on the topic, prior to a captain's summation.



The Chief Adjudicator, Miriam Murphy-Wood, complimented the team on their research. The team is mentored by Ms Maria Kennedy, Ms Janet Forrest and Bertie Pearse.

KCS face Mount St Michael's, Rosscarberry in the next debate and will be proposing the motion: "Nuclear power is essential for a clean energy future."

KCS students attend Military Open Day



TY, LCA1 and some senior cycle students attended the Military open day at Collins Barracks on 26th September.



Great fun was had exploring the guns and weapons, participating in fitness classes and listening to the Army Orchestra perform. Students also got to explore the

other types of military in the main square and explore the army museum. A great day out to learn about possible future careers.

One students account includes:

Our trip to the Historic Collins barracks was quite an interesting adventure away from the four walls of our classrooms. We ventured to the Barracks on its Open day to learn a little more of the Career choices in the Military / Naval Forces. We got to see some extreme looking fire power, Guns, Snipers, Equipment, etc.

I felt sorry for the people who had to carry all that gear around all day long, it weighed a ton! We also got a tour of a building which was used to show off their advanced Radar systems and Drone technology. At the end we got to see the other services provided by the Army, including Medical, Ordinance, Fire Services and Bomb Detection.

It was a very interesting trip and It was great to see how our Army works. It was a great insight into the multiple different career options in our Defence Forces.

College Awareness Week



As part of College Awareness Week KCS held lots of guest talks, school trips and classroom quizzes trying to raise awareness of third level education. Senior cycle students got presentations from the different colleges in Cork as well as Apprenticeships and University of

Limerick. Junior cycle students, especially first years, has classroom quizzes about third level.

There was also a tour to the Biopharmachem training facility in Cork Training Centre, Carrigaline where students were given a talk about jobs in science and engineering, heard from Pfizer engineers and given a detailed tour of their state of the art labs, fully gowned up. This was also linked in with Science Week.

CIT also have their open day on Friday 15th with lots of sixth year students attending, to learn more directly on campus and from staff and students. More talks will happen throughout the year, including next Tuesday with UCC coming to talk to fifth and sixth years about the range of courses they have to offer.

School Mass

The whole school community participated in the Celebration of the Eucharist at St. John the Baptist Parish church on Wed 18th last to mark the beginning of the school year. The celebrant was Fr. Robert Young. As well as staff and students, Carol Nyhan from the Parents' Association and Aine Ryan O'Brien and Gearoid Wycherley from the Parish Council also gave generously of their time to celebrate with us. Furthermore, we had the assistance of several Ministers of the Eucharist from the Parish, including the Sisters from the Mercy Convent.

We had beautiful singing and instrumental music provided by the choir and musicians, ably led by Ms Brid Kearney and Ms Sinead Brennan.



Inter-Generational Mass for Positive Ageing Week



On Tuesday October 1st we celebrated an Inter-generational Mass for Positive Ageing Week. We were made feel very welcome by Fr. Peter and the Carmelite Friary. Some of the residents from Haven Bay nursing home were also present. Their participation was organised by Deirdre Mullins.

After the Mass, we went up to the conference room for tea, treats and chat with all the regulars from the congregation who attend Mass daily at the Friary. Our choir and musicians treated us to some lovely traditional and contemporary music. Many thanks to Ms Kearney and Ms Brennan. A big thank you also to the parishioners who looked after us so kindly.

Sports Capital Grant

I am delighted to advise that the Board of Management have been successful with an application in respect of Sports Capital Grant funding. The allocation of grant payment is €57,000.

Munster Schools Champions – Swimming



Pictured are Michael O'Driscoll (2nd year), Roan Gilli (1st year), Emma Kemp (1st year), Gemma Whelan (1st year), Molly O'Donovan (1st year) who represented Kinsale Community School in the Munster Senior Schools Swimming Championships 2019 held on 13 October in UL in Limerick.

Each swimmer competed in 2 individual events – all did very well and many new PBs (Personal Bests) were recorded, a great start to the 2019 season!

1st Year Ladies GAA

On Thursday 3rd October the 1st year girls travelled to Bishopstown to take on Mount Mercy in their first game for Kinsale Community School. On a wet and windy day the girls gave it everything but came up short. Ms. Egan and Ms. Normoyle were well impressed by the effort shown and these girls have a very promising future in the KCS colours.

Senior Ladies Football

Our senior ladies football team travelled to Bantry to play Colaiste Pobail Bheantraí. It was a very strong performance from our girls and they emerged comfortable winners in what was a very sporting and skillful game. Well done to all and to Ms. Dullea and Ms. O'Brien who accompanied the team.

West Cork Road Bowling



Eleven students from KCS travelled to Shannonvale on Wednesday 23rd to represent the school in the Schools Road Bowling Competition. We had two senior and two junior teams and all students performed really well. Senior Teams: Declan Doyle O'Donovan, Eoin Donovan, Dean Cowhig, Darragh Kidney, Jordan Wright and Eddie Corkery. Junior Teams: Ronan Doyle O'Donovan, Conor Donovan, Lee Collins, Billy Bowen and Tyler McCarthy. Thank you to

everyone who organised the competition for giving their time and for the fabulous food afterwards.

Ulster Open Table Tennis

A fantastic weekend for KCS first year students Sean Loughnane and Rory O'Brien who competed in the Ulster Open Table Tennis Competitions. Sean contested the final of the u13 boys after winning a hard fought battle in the semi-finals. Brilliant table tennis.

South Coast Table Tennis club mate Rory O'Brien reached the quarter finals and finished a fantastic 6th overall with some big wins on the way.

The weekend also saw some good performances from our u18 players (Ben Loughnane and Jakob Lurch) who won some great matches at a high standard competition.

Table Tennis

Congratulations to the KCS students who took part in the Southcoast schools table tennis in Saile in November. Teams from KCS, Bandon Grammar, Colaiste Choilm & Christian brothers Cork all competed in the senior schools competitions. KCS entered a team in each of the 4 divisions and achieved a clean sweep, winning all four. A great achievement.



- Winners of division 4 - Alex, Tom, Conor, Luke & Colm
- Winners of division 3 - David, Nick, Ruairi & Shane
- Winners of division 2 - Brian, Shay, Tom & Ellie
- Winners of division 1 - Sean, Rory, Ben & Jakob

Many thanks to Ms Beverly Scanlon for organising the KCS teams.