



Seirbhís Tacaíochta
Oideachais Tusla
Tusla Education Support Service

Boyne Community School October 2023 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Guardians,

This newsletter gives me the opportunity to connect with you all and to highlight some of the fantastic work that has happened so far this year. I hope you enjoy it. I recently invited all first year parents to a 'coffee morning'. It was a chance to see the school, meet our principal Ms. Ryan, chat to Mr. O'Reilly, first year Year Head and some of your child's new teachers. It was really lovely to connect with parents, Many thanks,
Róisín Lawless (HSCLO) rlawless@boynecs.ie

Open Night

Believe it or not, only a few weeks into starting here many first year students greatly assisted with our open night. Even though a few short weeks ago some may have had worries about getting to know the school they have settled in so well that they had the confidence to be tour guides and helped to display some of the many subjects offered in our school.

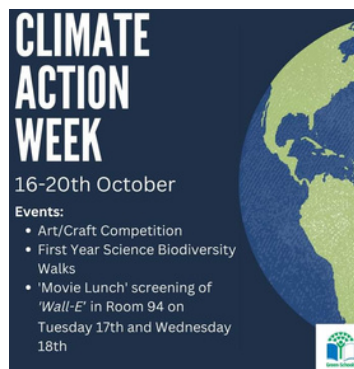
The first of many exciting activities here in the school for Mr. Quinn's PE class was to welcome the Tailteann cup here in the school on its way back to Dunganny.



Green Schools

On the 22nd September, the Green School committee members met with Tomas Novak of Trim Tidy Towns and 'Gardens for Wildlife' and helped to sow part of our brand new 1700 meter square wildflower garden area. We hope to reap what we sowed in Spring/Summer 2024!

We also look forward to planting a number of trees and hedgerows in partnership with Trim Tidy Towns in November with the aim of increasing biodiversity around our school.



The Green Schools Committee celebrated Climate Action Week last week by running a number of activities. Firstly, some 1st Year Science classes went out for a biodiversity walk and recording task. The student from each class that records the most amount of species will receive a prize. Secondly, we are running a competition whereby students are required to produce a piece of art/poetry/song that highlights the importance of climate action. Again there will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and they can be either emailed to Ms. Sweeney or submitted in the box at the front door by the end of the week.

Positive Behaviour Trip

164 Students from third year and 8 teachers enjoyed a fantastic Positive Behaviour day out in Emerald Park



Music:

Huge thanks to the amazing Eimear Crehan for the wonderful workshop she hosted with our school choir. Eimear showed the choir how to warm-up the voice correctly and how to sing in three part harmony. She had great tips for our students on vocal agility and gave them some invaluable performance skills when they are singing.

A fantastic afternoon of learning, singing (and fun!)



A huge thank you to our wonderful performers who provide our great entertainment during our lunchtime concerts. We have had two concerts to date. At the first concert Donal performed 'Sea Pink' by Gurlitt on piano, Luke sang 'I'll be Waiting' by Cian Ducrot and Aidan finished with 'Hungarian Rhapsody No. 4' by Liszt on piano. At our second concert Daniel performed an Aria on piano, Jim sang 'Empty Chairs and Empty Tables' from the musical Les Mis, Danielle & Evin performed Bohemian Rhapsody together and we finished the concert with Savva performing 'Hysteria' by Muse on the drums.

Amazing talent showcased by all our performers—thank you so much to all of them and as always a huge thanks to our wonderful audience for creating such a wonderful atmosphere.



Colouring Club

Our colouring club is a very popular lunchtime activity. Mindful Coloring is a healthy way to relieve stress. It calms the brain and helps your body relax.



First Year Activity Day

On Friday the 6th of October we were delighted to host our 1st Year Activities Day as an opportunity for all of our first years to work together and build that sense of community which is so important to us here in the school. Students took part in a wide range of activities from Gaelic and Soccer shot challenges, Bridge Building challenges, Colouring, quizzes, Pilates and the renowned Obstacle Course relay. It was a fantastic day and we were delighted to see so many smiles on their faces. I am sure the Ice cream van helped with that too though.



Motus Learning

Over the last two weeks all of our first year students attended a full day workshop with Motus Learning. Taught and created by psychologists, the programme teaches students how to understand and take care of their minds. The programme teaches psychological tools such as cognitive behavioural therapy and neuroscience in easy to understand language. The information is taught alongside games and activities to make it a fun experience for students.



Friendship Week

On Thursday 19th October we continued with our friendship week celebrations. We were very busy today . We had 2 workshops . Paula O'Connor from "Don't be mean behind your screen" spoke to our 3rd year students and again to some parents in the evening. It is great to have the link between the work we are doing in school and for parents to continue the conversation at home. The Workshops cover all aspects of safety and security surrounding the Internet, digital media, gaming, online interaction, password protection, and etiquette when using social media. 2nd year students had a workshop with 3 ladies from the Meath Traveller Workshop. They learned all about Traveller Culture and History.

It was a great day and the students and parents learned so much.



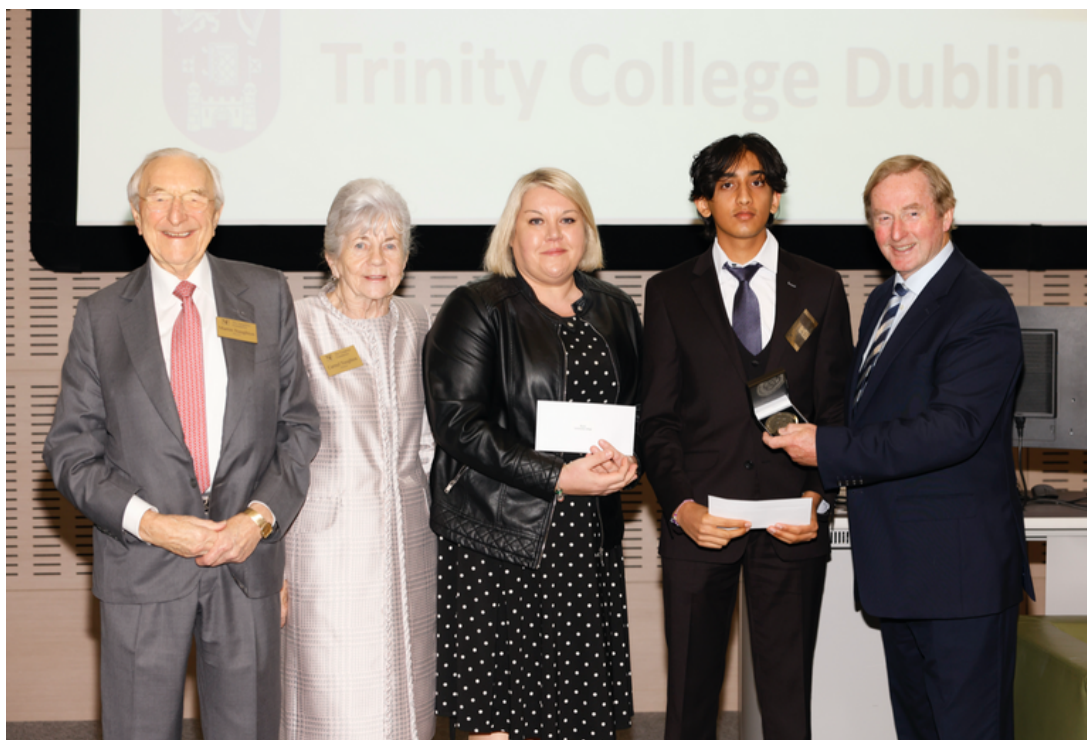
Congratulations

On October 14th Pratyush Shukla was awarded the Naughton scholarship for Meath. The scholarship programme was established in 2008 to promote the study of engineering, science and technology at third level in Ireland. Each year a number of exceptional students are awarded scholarships to study at undergraduate level at any publicly funded university or third-level institution in Ireland.

Pratyush received €24,000 for his third-level studies in the area of engineering. This is a great reward for the hard work that Pratyush had put into his studies during his time in Boyne Community School. Pratyush achieved 625 points in his leaving certificate and is a great example to all our students.

Ms Ryan attended the awards ceremony with Pratyush and the Shukla family on Saturday 14th October in Trinity Business School. The school was presented with an award of €1,000 towards its science facilities in recognition of the support and encouragement given to students in the various science subjects.

As a school community we are very proud of Pratyush and we wish him well in his future studies and beyond.



Engineering Trip

Our 6th year Engineering students enjoyed a day out at Combilifts Headquarters in County Monaghan. During the Factory Tour, students witnessed the different stages of manufacturing a Combilift Forklift, straight from their Design Team right through to aftersales, each of the different processes, such as: Design/AutoCAD, Welding, Painting, Assembling, Quality & Testing. This gave the students a great insight of the various stages of Engineering. Combilift also offers two courses free of charge at Level 5 and 6



Career Guidance

As part of our vocational guidance programme for senior cycle, 6th year students have the option of signing up for talks from different colleges. Méabh Nimmo from Duboyne College of Further Education spoke to a group of 6th year students about PLC courses and what the college has to offer



Computer Science Trip

5th year Computer Science students enjoyed an amazing two days at Microsoft Dreamspace.

Following their Cyber Security training in Dreamspace, they enjoyed an exciting day at the ZeroDays "Capture the Flag" event. The students solved many ciphers and enjoyed being ethical hackers for the day! In addition to this they will complete some online questions to obtain their Digital Badge from TU Dublin.



Home Economics

One of the main things many first year students tell us that they love about our school is the variety of subjects offered. Here are some photos of a first year Home Economics class getting into the Halloween spirit and decorating their queen cakes.

Excellent work!



School staff also put a huge effort into getting into the Halloween spirit for the last day of term!! Looking forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 6th November



Full Attendance Raffle

David Smyth Catering provides our hot school lunches here in the school every day. He very kindly gifted tickets to Farmaphobia as attendance rewards to students. All students with full attendance were entered into a raffle and the following students won two tickets each: Vanessa Novak, Eoin Farrell, Mark Dean, Kyle Hamett, Mateusz Kurkowski, Ciarán Finnegan, Lukas Dauginitis, Joseph James, Alex Cashman, Tara Coffey, Aaron O'Connor, Diarmuid Austin, Charlie Benson, Jack Masterson-Carroll and Maddy Doyle. Well done to all.



I'm sure you will agree that there has been a lot packed into our first term. It would be most beneficial to students if you can continue the conversations at home that have been started here in the school with the many speakers and events covered during Friendship week. A reminder that school starts at 8.50 Monday to Thursday and 8.40 on Fridays so students need to be arriving in plenty of time to get to lockers and class. We have a breakfast club here that is free for everyone to attend so get in early and make the most of the morning here in school. November assessments begin in the school on the 20th November. The students have been given study skills advice and hopefully they will be putting that advice into practice over the coming weeks

Finally, we would like to wish you all a very enjoyable mid-term break. We hope you stay safe over the break and encourage open conversations at home around fireworks and how they can frighten vulnerable people in our community and animals. This link has some more information that may be useful

<https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2021/0922/1248338-fireworks-halloween/>

