



Rockford News

Newsletter

December 2017

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"A Christian environment where teaching and learning nurture the personal development of every student"



Rhythm of Rockford

Rhythm of Rockford

On the 25th and 26th of October, students from 1st to 6th year performed in the annual Rhythm of Rockford production. This year's theme was 'A Night at the Movies', celebrating the music and drama of old classics and new blockbusters including *Beauty and the Beast*, *La La Land*, *Footloose*, *Hairspray* and *Slumdog Millionaire*. The show also paid tribute to numerous Irish films such as *Once* and *Sing Street*. Under the direction of Ms. Laura Whyte and Ms. Kate O'Toole, the Transition Year students did a fantastic job with the production of the musical. Each TY student was a member of various committees from publicity to stage management, front of house to costumes and many more. Rehearsals began in early September with our wonderful choreographer Rachel Sheahan. The hard work, energy and commitment, which all students showed in the run up to the musical, certainly shone through on both nights. The audience were blown away with the professionalism of the stage crew and all the talented actors, dancers and singers! Many staff members were also heavily involved in the preparation and running of the musical, so many thanks to all for their dedication and support.

Leaving Certificate Results 2017

Congratulations to Holly Naylor on receiving the best Leaving Certificate results in 2017. The Leaving Certificate Class of 2017 did very well in their exams with 78% of students progressing to 3rd Level.



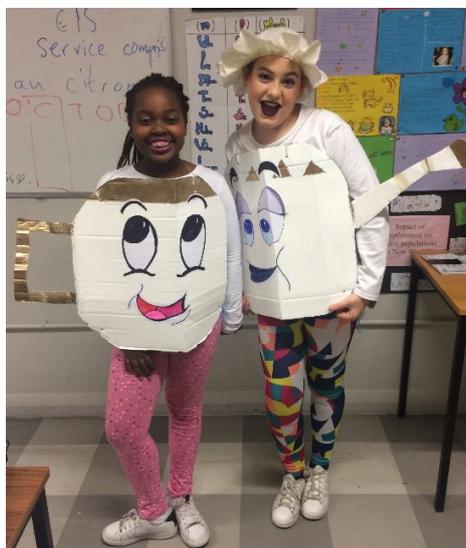
Holly Naylor- Best LC results 2017

Welcome to New Staff Members

- Danny Murphy - English & Learning Support
- Gary White - Religion
- Breda Smith - Irish
- Elisabeth Sinnott - German
- Lisa Brennan - Bursar

Student Leadership Team 2017/18

This year's Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl are Abby Doyle and Carol Lewis respectively. Our prefects are Chelsea Thompson, Chloe Breen, Caitlin Farrelly, Orlaith O'Sullivan, Aoibh Hall and Shelise O'Toole-Plunkett. Congratulations girls and thank you for all of the time and energy you have put in so far this semester!



Rhythm of Rockford

Winter Message

Welcome to the Christmas 2017 Newsletter. As you can see from the variety of photographs and articles, it has been a very busy first term in Rockford Manor. The students have participated in many activities- academic, sporting, artistic, musical and cultural. All of these activities help to provide our students with an excellent, all round, holistic education. We have also made some improvements to the school including a new heating system and we will be getting new floors and new computers in 2018. Special thanks are due to all of the staff who work so hard to make sure that the girls are given lots of opportunities.

Best wishes to all for a very Happy, Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Liz Caffrey
Principal

Tony Collison
Deputy Principal



Rhythm of Rockford



Rhythm of Rockford

Rockford Manor Choir

The school choir has had a very busy start to the year, performing at several events. Their first performance took place on Open Night, where they sang in the main hall for all visitors including TD Mary Mitchell O' Connor. In October, the Choir took part in the musical, with a beautiful performance of 'Vois Sur ton Chemin' from the movie 'Les Choristes'. To celebrate Presentation Day on 21st November, the choir also performed some songs from African culture to link in with mission Zambia as part of their repertoire for the liturgy. Most recently, the girls were invited to sing at the annual Christmas concert in Newtownpark Church on the 30th November with the Three Tenors and the Newtownpark Gospel choir. It was a fantastic night and the choir received lots of praise! Well done to the girls on all of their hard work this year. Many thanks to Ms. Coleman for helping with choir rehearsals this term. *Ms. Whyte*



Rockford Manor Choir

LGBT Awareness Week

Rockford Manor was delighted to be involved in the Stand Up LGBT Campaign 2017. The campaign is designed to allow students and teachers to support their LGBT friends and to reject homophobia, transphobia and exclusion. During the week the LGBT flag stood at our school door and students discussed issues around diversity in their SPHE classes. LGBT ribbons were distributed for students and staff to wear during the week and one of our school toilets was designated as gender neutral. On Friday, students were asked to wear a t-shirt in one of the colours of the LGBT flag. By undertaking the week's activities we are sending a message of inclusion, support and care to our LGBT students!



LGBT Awareness week

Sports

Senior Volleyball

The Senior Volleyball team are in the U19 All Ireland Final on Wednesday December 13th. This is a great achievement as this is their first year in this higher division after winning the All-Ireland last year. Well done girls!

Erica Turner (Captain), Kreziela Arandela (Vice C), April Bordonada, Kyla Salvatierra, Augustine Levita, Klaudia Krasowska, Ainah Balili, Graziana Cilla, Marta Garcia, Laura Righi, Maria Zuniga, Emma Hughes, Angelica Mognato.



Senior Volleyball team

First Year Volleyball

The first year volleyball 1st and 2nd teams represented Rockford in Mercy Coolock in the second round of the Dublin regional Volleyball tournament. The Rockford girls defeated Sutton and Athy Presentation school to secure a place in the next round of the all-Ireland volleyball championship. Well done girls! *Ms. Mclean*

Rockford Basketball

Both Senior and Cadet Basketball teams had fantastic matches this season. The cadet team blazed a trail, winning match after match. Along the way they beat Newpark, Sion Hill and Rathdown. Their season came to an end in a match against Loreto Dalkey; in which Rockford lost by just a basket. The senior team beat Newpark and then finished their competitive season in a high-scoring game with an excellent Firhouse side, losing by just two points; 38-40. Well done to all the players for digging deep and putting on some amazing performances! *Mr. Murphy*

Erica Turner- Football

Congratulations to our 6th Year Erica Turner who travelled to Austria last September to play for the Ireland U19 Ladies Football team. They drew with Austria and defeated Hungary 1 nil. A huge achievement Erica, well done!



Erica Turner U19 Ladies Football

Chess Club

A new addition to Rockford Manor is the Chess Club run by Mr. Blackmore and Mr. White. The club meets at break and lunchtime every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Huge thanks are due to Landsdowne Partnership who sponsored the chess boards and will also sponsor a chess prize in the school this year. Students from all year groups are invited to challenge each other to a game of chess!



Chess Club

Goethe Institut - Senior Debating Competition

On October 18th, a group of seven 5th and 6th year students participated in the annual senior German debating competition run by the Goethe Institut. Debating against Loreto Dalkey, the girls were against the motion that "Koedukative Schulen bereiten besser auf das Leben vor als reine Mädchen - oder Jungenschulen"(co-educative schools prepare students for life better than all-girls or all-boy schools). Assisted by Ms. Sinnott, the team prepared an excellent debate showing off their fantastic language skills, maturity and confidence. While the team were not successful in passing to the next round, they were proud of their efforts and are already looking forward to next year's debate!



German debating team



Minister of Education Visit

Maths Week Ireland Masterclass

On Wednesday 18th October, two fifth year higher level maths classes attended the Maths Week Ireland Master class lecture in the National Concert Hall. The first lecture was on crowd control, which was surprisingly very interesting as nobody really thinks about the maths behind safety exits during concerts and conventions. The second presentation was on probability and choices. Both talks helped us to realise that maths is prominent in so many areas of our lives, which we had never really thought about before. Each talk was very interactive, made all of us laugh and really caught our interest. We thoroughly enjoyed the day! *Olivija Kurpyte and Maija Soares*

Rockford's Debating Team

Transition Year is a year filled with opportunities for personal development. Well done to Sarah-Ellen, Michaela, Kate, Afiqah, Fatima and Enya for committing to the Concern Debating League. Thank you Anthea for your contribution too. They have put many extra hours into their research on topics such as: Gender Quotas, Teenage Activism and Chinese involvement in Africa. No doubt they will reap the rewards of this experience in terms of their own evolving personal attitudes and essay writing techniques for the Leaving Certificate. *Ms Knowles*



Minister of Education Visit

Minister of Education Visit- Coder Dojo Club

On the 1st of December, Microsoft officially launched their Hour of Code campaign with the support of the Minister for Education Richard Bruton. The campaign aims to ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn how to code and to encourage girls in pursuing careers in a STEM related field.

Rockford Manor was luckily selected to be one school which launched the campaign and an Hour of Code session was delivered to students from 1M. The girls were joined by special guests on the day including the Minister for Education and Skills Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor, Cathriona Hallahan the Managing Director of Microsoft Ireland, Stephen Howell the Academic Engagement Manager of Microsoft Ireland and Giustina Mizzoni the Executive Director of CoderDojo. It was a very special day for Rockford Manor and the girls thoroughly enjoyed the morning!

Home Economics News

A group of 5th year Home Economics and LCA students attended the National Tourism and Hospitality Careers Show in the Aviva Stadium on September 29th. Tourism Insight is a new initiative developed by the Irish Hospitality Institute. The programme provides valuable tourism insight to students and other learners, informing them of career options within the tourism industry. The roadshow featured representatives from some of the city's leading hotels and tourism businesses. A selected panel gave the students a first-hand view of careers in food and beverage, catering, accommodation services, leisure centre and spa facility management, sales and marketing, travel, IT, management and finance. *Ms. Brophy & Ms. Joyce.*

International Breakfasts

There are over twenty five different nationalities represented among the students of Rockford Manor. This year students have been celebrating this cultural diversity by taking part in monthly International Breakfast mornings. One morning each month, every year group has been bringing in a breakfast dish traditional to their culture. At the 1st Year breakfast in September we tasted delicious food from Ireland, Nigeria and Australia. In October, 2nd years sampled some Ethiopian, Polish and Spanish dishes. At the 3rd year breakfast we feasted on Hungarian, Filipino and Turkish food amongst many other delectable delicacies! The girls have put in a huge amount of effort and as a result the mornings have been really enjoyable,

interesting and most of all delicious. Senior students can look forward to showing off their dishes and trying new foods in the coming months. *Ms.Behan*



International Breakfasts

Leaving Cert Applied

The LCA group have had a very busy first term. On September 4th, the group went to Leisureplex in Stillorgan on a group bonding trip as the students have come from Third year, Transition year and other schools. Very high scores were achieved in the games of Bowling! On September 28th, the girls went to the Tourism Roadshow in the Aviva where they learned about the many Careers in the Tourism Industry (including working on a cruise ship!) and there was a fabulous food demonstration in the afternoon. As part of their General Education Task the girls ran an International Table Quiz and Bumper raffle in aid of the Rockford Trip to Zambia (they raised €490!).



LCA International Table Quiz

The Quiz also paid for their bus to Carlingford adventure centre on October 9th/10th. The trip was fantastic, with beautiful blue skies and many activities including Zip-lines, Laser combat, Archery, Aeroball, and the "Carlingford Challenge". The girls really enjoyed their overnight stay in the hostel and would have loved to have stayed for longer! The girls then went on 2 weeks of work experience from November 6th-16th to many businesses, shops and schools in the area including primary schools, creches, a pet store, hairdressers, florists, beauty shops and many more. All of the employers were delighted with the students and gave them excellent reports. On November 30th, LCAs also visited EPIC: The Irish Emigration Museum. The girls really enjoyed the day out and this trip will contribute to one of the key assignments in their English & Communication module. *Mrs Joyce & Mr. White*



LCA Trip to Carlingford



Mr. Burn's solution to soggy feet!



TYs at James Joyce Tower



TY Lough Dan Trip



LCA Trip to EPIC: The Irish Emigration Museum

Transition Year News

Our TY students have taken part this term in many workshops and trips and completed two weeks of work experience. The workshops to date have been - Brain Bootcamp, 1st Aid, Felt-Making, Self-Defence and Public Speaking. The students have successfully completed their 'adventure section' of the Gaisce Bronze Award with a bonding trip to Lough Dan and a 26km hike. Despite the inclement and unseasonal weather we all survived with Anna Coyne embracing the mud by sitting in it! Mr. Burns should also patent his new waterproof shoes! Trips to Croke Park, Trinity College, a Careers Day in Swords, Land Art in Malahide, the Lexicon Library and a Georgian walking tour of Monkstown, to name but a few, were also worthwhile. Many types of work experience were then completed from the Law library, St. Michael's Hospital, Windmill Lane Studios to various companies and primary schools. This will hopefully provide the students with valuable insights to their careers!

Junior Certificate Results Day

On September 15th, some 5th Year students, the TY's and LCA students received their Junior Certificate results. Congratulations to all students on their marvellous results- all of your hard work paid off!

TY Enterprise

Congratulations to the newly appointed TY AIB Build a Bank Team. The following students were successful in their interviews for the school bank; Melody McGuirk, Sarah Barnes, Anna Coyne, Kate MacMullan, Heather Byrne & Elena Tello Gadzo. Team 'Zambankers' have to work hard to improve the attitude towards saving amongst our students and they hope to organise events to raise money for Zambia.

James Joyce Tower Sandycove

TY students also visited the James Joyce Tower in Sandycove on December 1st. The tower today houses a museum which contains letters, photographs and personal possessions of Joyce. The Museum is best known for featuring at the beginning of James Joyce's Ulysses. The visit formed part of the students' tourism module and was a superb example of culture on our doorstep. *Ms Horkan & Ms De Patouil*

Career Guidance Update

6th Years

It's been a very busy term in the career guidance department. In September, our 6th years attended the annual Higher Options conference which offered the girls valuable information about the range of third level courses in Ireland. Speakers from DIT, UCD, Trinity College and UCC also made presentations to the girls in careers class outlining the range of courses on offer in their respective colleges. All 6th years also received study skills seminars from Super Generation during the term. The girls also undertook a consultation process in relation to their levels of stress and how best to manage this. Ms Howlin organised Yoga sessions during PE class and the girls are undertaking stress busting workshops with Cross Care. Teacher mentors have also been busy offering support to the girls. The girls are now in the midst of completing their CAO forms online, ready for the January deadline. *Mr. Kelly*

STEM Careers

In an effort to increase the girls' awareness of STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) careers a number of guest speakers were organised for Science Week. Big thanks to all at Mercury Engineering for speaking to our 3rd, 5th and 6th year students about the varied careers in the field of Engineering. Thanks also to Dr John O'Connor, Dean of Widening Participation in Science (UCD) for an inspiring talk about Science. Appreciation also to Ciaran O'Leary from DIT for outlining the excellent opportunities in STEM courses and careers available to students attending DIT. Rockford is currently offering Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Applied Maths at Leaving Certificate Level.



TY Lough Dan Trip



6th Years at Higher Options