



PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL, LISTOWEL

Christmas Newsletter 2018

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS



Welcome to the Christmas 2018 edition of the Presentation Secondary School Newsletter.

It has been a very busy and engaging term of achievements and activities. We presented the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement Certificates to the students who sat their Junior Cycle in June 2018 on Monday 17th December. This new certificate not only acknowledges the results achieved in the actual exams in June 2018 but also Classroom Based Assessments and Assessment Tasks that took place in the school during the course of 2nd and 3rd Year. The 'Other Areas of Learning' section of the certificate identifies activities in which students were involved outside of the classroom over the three years, for example, musical activities, Student Council, sports, volunteering, involvement with Theme Weeks etc.

We have information for parents available on the school website in relation to the New Junior Cycle, particular to each Year Group, to assist parents in understanding their daughters' learning in Junior Cycle.

As part of our School Improvement plan for this year, we wish to look at how we report to parents and students on students' learning in our school. We give reports on our Eportal system at Parent Teacher meetings, we give feedback to students in the classroom and in other conversations with parents. We will ask the question of parents, is our school open to two way communication about your daughter's learning? We will be surveying staff, parents and students in the New Year.

As you look through this newsletter you will see the variety of activities that have taken place this term. My sincere thanks to staff and students involved in such invigorating activities.

As we look forward to 2019 we are mindful of our Presentation tradition and the legacy of Nano Nagle. We strive to be an inclusive school welcoming and open to families in our community. We want our girls to experience laughter and good humour along with a positive work ethic in our school. The range of workshops offered to students on bullying, sexual health, cyber safety, study skills and team building add to a comprehensive programme of Wellbeing in the school.

I wish to express my gratitude to the members of the Board of Management, staff, parents and students for their commitment to the school

Wishing you all a rest and enjoyable Christmas

Eileen Kennelly
Principal



Laura Mai Leahy & Serena O'Sullivan competed in the Interschools Show-Jumping Competition



Student Council 2018-19



Gabrielle Kiely, Aoibhe Frizelle, Johanna Kiely & Katie Murphy competed in the Munster Schools' Championship



We were delighted to welcome representatives from the successful Listowel Tidy Towns Committee when they visited our school with their trophies. How thrilled we were to be able to share in their success as our TY students litter pick in the town throughout the year. Two of our students are representing the school in the newly formed Junior Tidy Towns.

This year we are working towards our fifth flag: BIODIVERSITY. To date we have planted apple, plum and pear trees. Using recycled materials, our caretaker has built raised beds for the planting of lettuces, onions etc. This area is wheelchair accessible. In the event of cold winter temperatures, a number of bird feeders have been constructed, painted and placed in strategic positions throughout the school grounds.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and reminding everyone to recycle!

Margaret Daly



“Language is the blood of the soul into which thoughts run and out of which they grow”. Students of English are forever creating. 3rd Years, in particular, completed their portfolio pieces and sat their assessment task while Second Years are considering a topic of interest for the oral-based CBA. Exciting times! Great excitement was felt by TYs and 5th Years at the recent Young Adult Bookfest, kindly hosted by the good people in Writers’ Week. This day - long event was enjoyed by all. Happy Christmas and bounteous blessings for 2019

**Département de Langues Modernes:
Modern Foreign Languages**

It has been a busy first term. 1st Years sampled ‘taster modules’ in both French and German and, prior to midterm, opted to pursue the language of their choice. Teachers in the MFL department meet once a week to plan for the changes that are now taking place as part of Junior Cycle. An initiative, begun by the Council of Europe in 2001 – European Day of Languages – is celebrated on the 26th September each year. Our 1st Years watched the highly acclaimed Les Choristes to celebrate. TYs and 5th Years had a fun afternoon with Caroline Moreau and Alain (French Singing in Schools). They sang and clapped their way to the final bell of the school day. Tous Les Garçons et Les Filles, by Coeur de Pirate was the winning favourite. Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année à tout le monde.



Debating



This academic year saw the continuation of debating in Pres. The girls are currently competing in the Irish Times Schools Debate. Twelve students from TY attended the first round of debating in UCC, with four students qualifying for the quarter finals which will take place on the 23rd of January. We are delighted and extremely proud of the entire team. Once again they proved that they’re opinionated, admirable and inspiring young women.

Eoin Hilliard & Gemma O Loughlin



ART Department



We were delighted to have four winners in the Credit Union Competition this year who were all awarded generous sums of money by our local Credit Union . One student, in particular, Kelsie Barrett received certification for progressing to the County Competition.



On November 8th, 5th & TY Art students visited the Hunt Museum in Limerick City centre where they viewed the current exhibition and availed of a fun workshop.

Claire O'Riordan
Art Teacher

Student Council:



- ◆ Junior & Senior Student Council meet separately every three weeks
- ◆ Went on a bowling trip as a group - team building activity
- ◆ Met with Ms. Keane regarding Well Being Theme Week
- ◆ Met with Ms. O'Neill regarding review of Awards
- ◆ Will organise an LGBT Theme week in January

Thanks to Head Girl, Olivia Stack and Deputy Head Girl , Eimear Shine



L.C.V.P Department

The girls in both 5th and 6th Year have been busy since they returned to school after the summer holidays. The 5th Year group began the year with a visit to the Lartigue Monorail. The reason we visit is to make the students aware of its history and its importance, as a local enterprise, to the economy of Listowel.



As part of the enterprise module the girls have been working on producing hot chocolate sticks to sell to students and staff from December 11. All profits will go to Pieta House.

The 6th Year girls visited "O'Brien's Artisan Farmhouse Cheese" in Ballyhahill, Co. Limerick in conjunction with the Home Economics Department in November 2018. It was a very educational visit for the girls as they listened to the informative presentation from Mr Jim O'Brien (Entrepreneur) and learned about the process of cheese making. They also tasted a number of the different cheeses produced there.



The 5th Year girls received a visit in from Mr Tony Carroll of SIPTU on December 14th. The 6th Year girls are working hard to prepare for their mock exams and are completing their portfolio for their deadline of the first Wednesday in March.

On behalf of the LCVP Department, I would like to thank our employers who give our girls work experience each year. Their assistance to the Programme is invaluable. I would also like to wish all our students, parents and staff a very Happy Christmas. Best of luck to all the LCVP students in 2019.

Teresa Culhane
Lisa Whelan



Transition Year

MERRY CHRISTMAS

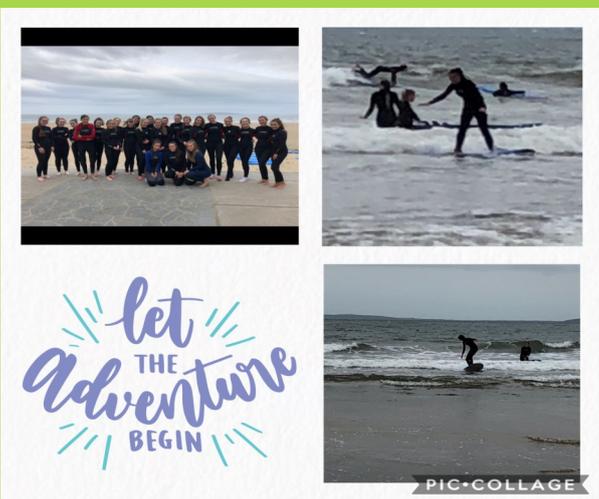
It has been a tremendously busy term for the TY group of thirty in Pres Listowel. The Social Justice and Work Experience programmes on Tuesdays continue to place our students in worthwhile roles within the community. These experiences place the girls outside their comfort zone, which is an important aspect of the TY experience.

Numerous events, activities, fundraising, training and life experiences have helped the group to fulfil their potential, as the first term draws to a close. These include: surfing in Ballybunion, the Manuela Programme on Health and Relationships, workshops on Internet Safety with renowned experts such as Dr. Maureen Griffin, and South West Counselling Centre Psychotherapists. There have been numerous fundraising events in aid of worthy causes, and a trip to Cork for the Irish Times debating and a two day trip to Galway for Team building. On December 17th, Aoibhinn Killeen, Solicitor with Pierson & Fitzgibbon, delivered a "Law Module" to the group.

In the New Year, the group can look forward to activities such as self-defence, photography, the production of their play "Mama Mia" and of course our big trip to Belfast to experience the wonders, history and attractions of our Northern neighbour's capital city. Social Justice and Work Experience will continue with students switching groups after Christmas. The TY team would like to thank everyone in the community for all their help and support during the year as we sign off on 2018.

Merry Christmas to all and here's to a great '19!

Eoin Hilliard & Norma Dowling



Home Economics



In September, Leaving Certificate Applied Year 1 and 2, had a very enjoyable visit to Listowel Castle as part of their Hotel, Catering and Tourism course which looks at local tourist attractions.

Home Economics Theme Week ran from the 5th to 9th November. As part of Home Economics Theme Week 6th Year Home Economics students and LCVF Students visited O'Brien's Artisan Farmhouse Cheese as part of their investigation of a local food business. Thanks for the wonderful hospitality that we received there. Margaret Crean of, That's Life Education Programme delivered a presentation on Healthy Living and Well Woman Issues to 1st Years and 3rd Years. Sincere thanks to The School Food Company who kindly sponsored fresh fruit for students for a day.

2nd Year, Transition Year and 5th Year Home Economics students were delighted to attend The Food Academy at Listowel Food Fair this year as part of Home Economics week. Supervalu chef, Gary O'Brien and Apprentice Chef winner, Stephanie Kearney gave cookery demonstrations. Nutritionists Sid Sheehan, Nourish by Nature and Sarah Neilan, Horan's Health-Store, gave very informative talks on healthy eating. Students had the opportunity to try Zumba. They were treated to lots of healthy food tastings, generously sponsored by local businesses. Our sincere thanks to the Listowel Food Fair Committee for organising such a wonderful event for our students.

Warm congratulations to Anna Maltas, Caoimhe Nolan and Megan O'Brien Transition Year, who won first prize in the senior category of the Bord Bia Schools' Competition.

Congratulations to the following students who won the "Cake Bake Off":

1st Prize: Laura O'Leary, 2B

2nd Prize: Katie Reidy, 2C

The Home Economics Department was very pleased to welcome lots of budding chefs from the local Primary Schools who had fun decorating cupcakes for Halloween at our Orientation Day.



Music Department



Beginning of Year Prayer Service:

Our 3rd and 6th Year Music students performed at the start of year prayer service. This is a lovely way to start the academic year and allows our exam students to prepare for their practical examinations that will take place in the New Year.

Open Night:

Our Music classes entertained prospective students and their families during the school's open night on Tuesday the 2nd of October. Live music and singing were performed all night in both the Social area and Music room.

First Year Trip:

The 1st Year choir went on their annual trip to see the Cork Pops Orchestra play in UL. They listened to many pieces from different composers and eras. The girls had a wonderful time and really enjoyed the entire experience.

Presentation Day Mass:

All Music students sang and performed as part of the choir at 11.00am mass on Sunday the 18th of November, in St Mary's Church, in honour of Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters. To celebrate Nano Nagle in our school, a service also took place on Wednesday the 21st of November where our students performed a select number of songs from the Mass like "Who will Light the Lantern" which is a song that highlights Nano Nagle as a mentor for all of our students.

Christmas Carol Service:

The Christmas Carol Service took place on the 6th of December. This event is one of the highlights in the Music Department's year. All music students perform and showcase their wonderful talents in the tranquil setting of St Mary's Church.

Art & Music Trip:

6th year Music and Art students went to Dublin from the 13th-14th of December to visit a variety of locations as part of a cross curricular trip. The students visited the National Art Gallery, The Science Gallery and the musical "Les Miserables" in the Bord Gáis Theatre.

Ann O'Neill & Emma Kelly



Gaeilge



Tá an cúrsa Gaeilge sa Teastas Sóisearach faoi lán seoil ag na scoláirí sa chéad bhliain agus sa dara bhliain. Tá béim nach mór ar chumas cu-marsáide ábaltacht an scoláire sna cúig scil seo a leanas: éisteacht, léamh, labhairt, idirghníomhnú cainte agus scríobh. Tá litríocht na Gaeilge mar ábhar sa rang Gaeilge freisin. Ta athrú ar an measúnú sa Ghaeilge. Cuimseoidh an measúnú ar an nGaeilge dhá mheasúnú rangbhunaithe, tasc measúnaithe agus scrúdú deiridh. Ní bheidh béal-tríail sa Ghaeilge ag an leibhéal seo sa chóras nua.

Comórtas Scoile

Beidh lá Gaeilge á eagrú ag daltaí na hidirbhliana tar éis na Nollag. Is dúshlán é seo chun daoine óga a spreagadh chun labhairt as Gaeilge amháin ar feadh an lae scoile. Beidh duaiseanna ar fáil do na scoláirí a dhéanann an iarracht is fearr ar an lá agus b'fhéidir rud beag do na múinteoirí a dhéanann iarracht!!!!!!

Norma Dowling

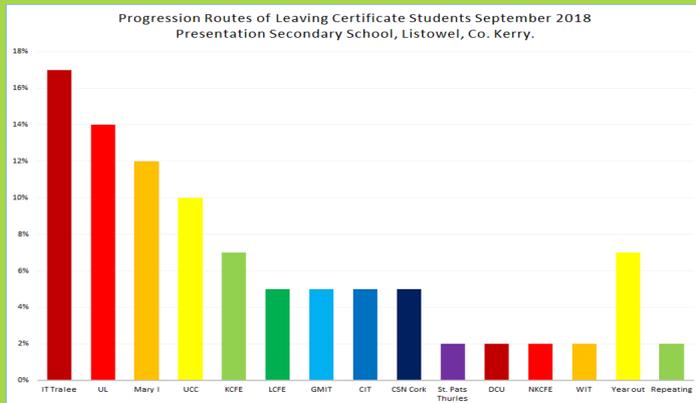
CAMOGIE 2018

Congratulations to our girls who had great success at the Secondary Schools Development Blitz when they won the "B" Final. Well done to Coach Niamh Leen.



Career Guidance

Well done to all the girls who did so well in their Leaving Cert exams and have progressed from Presentation Secondary School, Listowel. We wish them every success in their futures. The following is an outline of where our students from last year have progressed.



Some of the courses undertaken by this year's students include:

- Science teaching – UL
- Computer Science – NUIG
- Primary School Teaching – Mary Immaculate Limerick
- Engineering – UL
- Psychology and Sociology UL
- Nutritional Science – UCC
- Biological and Chemical Science – UL
- Journalism and New Media – UL
- Arts UL Social Care – Limerick College of Further Education
- Business Studies and Irish – Secondary Teaching – St. Pat's Thurles
- Accounting and Finance – DCU
- Veterinary Bioscience – ITT
- Pre-Nursing Studies – KCFE
- Social Science – UCC
- Business Studies – IT Tralee
- Art and Graphics – LCFE
- Business Studies – CIT
- Arts – UCC
- Event Management – GMIT
- Business Studies – North Kerry College of Further Education
- Agricultural Science – ITT
- Social Care – WIT
- Music – CIT
- Social Care – Colaiste Stiofan Naofa Cork

Aisling O'Dwyer
Guidance Counsellor

Tel: 068 21452

Email: aisling.odwyer@preslistowel.ie

Guest Speakers



Open Days

We attended the University of Limerick / Mary Immaculate / Limerick Institute of Technology Open Day on 18th October. The feedback from Students was very positive as they had the opportunity to attend lectures and take tours of the campus and begin to imagine what college life is all about. Thanks to Teresa Culhane and Bernadette O'Shaughnessy who accompanied us on our trip to UL.



CAO Applications

Students will have the opportunity in school in January 2019 to complete their CAO forms. Assistance will be offered to ensure that all students register correctly and should they require any assistance in relation to the application or any queries relating to HEAR and DARE, they will be able to avail of such help.

Where are they now?

It is always lovely to hear back from last year's group and to learn about what they are doing now and to heed any advice they may have for our current students. This year I received a very interesting reply from one student who really wanted to explain to 6th Years that the stress of Leaving Certificate can often be unnecessary, that there is always a solution and a way around everything.

Contd....

Wellbeing Week

What course are you studying and where?

I am doing a PLC in North Kerry College of Further Education. The course I am doing is Office Administration with Law as an add on.

What are you enjoying most about the course?

Everything about the course is great. My favourite modules are book keeping, payroll and law. Choosing a PLC was the best choice I ever made. I now have a fairly good idea what I finally want to do in life. PLCs are really under-rated, I would recommend them to everyone, It's a nice break from the Leaving Cert without the heavy stress of University. There are only 20 students in my lecture group so the relationships between lecturers and students is amazing.

What course are you studying and where?

I am doing a PLC in North Kerry College of Further Education. The course I am doing is Office Administration with Law as an add on.

What is the best thing about college life?

The independence is the best thing about college life. Getting to choose what you want to do with your life after the Leaving Cert is amazing. It is up to you to show up and do the work. Wearing your own clothes is a bonus!

If you have one piece of advice for a Leaving Certificate student what would it be?

I can't say this enough, but the stress students put themselves under is not worth it. I myself got stressed out when it came closer and closer to the Leaving studying whenever I got the chance and not sleeping enough, staying up every night cramming as much as I could into my head. When the results come out you will look back and see why you stressed so much. The Leaving Cert isn't as bad as it's made out to be. When you will see your results you will be shocked. You will have done better than you expected. If you don't get what you want, it's not the end of the world. A PLC will give you another opportunity to apply through the CAO to get the course you want, or it will put you on the right path to your career if you're not 100% sure what you want to do in college. Also have a PLC as a plan B. I already had a place on my course before the Leaving Cert even started. Knowing I had secured my place already took an enormous weight off my shoulder. Don't stress about the Mocks. You can't possibly know everything on the course before February, plus orals and projects usually aren't counted in. The results in the Leaving Cert are always better, trust me.

Jasmine Dalton

We hosted our "Wellbeing Week" from the 26th-30th November. It was an invigorating, fortifying way to inject some vitality into what is probably the most cheerless month of the year!

Each morning began with teachers reminding students to engage in a "random act of kindness" at some point during their school day. Simple, selfless acts of kindness were performed for no other reason than to make people happier!

Students were encouraged to go on "lunchtime walks" around the school grounds each day. There are pathways throughout all the green areas and stretching into the field beside the school which provide a wonderful opportunity for everybody to avail of much needed natural light, fresh air and exercise, particularly during those winter months. Among the visitors who came to the school during our "wellbeing week" was Trevor Horan, a fitness expert from Listowel's state of the art Community Centre gym. Trevor spoke to Transition Year students about the physical and mental benefits of exercise. He encouraged them to participate in physical activity each day, while reminding them of how advantageous this is to the human body and mind. The 1st Years enjoyed a captivating and engaging presentation given by Riobard Pierse of "Ireland's Fittest Family fame" He spoke to the students about the amount of commitment and dedication involved in order to do as well as the Pierse family did in Ireland's most extreme fitness competition. The photographs shown by Riobard during his presentation certainly captured the joy, effort and general breathlessness involved in becoming one of the fittest, fastest and strongest families in the country! A Yoga session, impressively given by Ms. Anne McGrath, was another feature of our Wellbeing Week. This acclaimed and enthusiastic Yoga instructor very kindly introduced an energetic class, to the many benefits of this ancient practice.

Our week would not have been complete without our Zumba Fitness Class! Jaromir Sedlacek provided students with a very agreeable form of aerobic exercise through his Latin inspired dancing. He provided everybody with a motivational and challenging workout while having fun at the same time. Hopefully, all of the aforementioned events of the last week of November will serve as a reminder of how health, happiness and mental wellbeing can largely be controlled through kindness, self-care and a little bit of physical effort.

Elaine Keane

Please note useful websites:

www.cao.ie

www.qualifax.ie

www.careersportal.ie



Science Department



We hope that all our 1st Year students have settled in and are enjoying their time with us. Since our return to school, we have had a busy and successful first term, the highlight of which was 'Science Department Theme Week'

Science Week Monday 12th to Friday 16th of November:

- A Science Quiz was sent out to primary schools in the area and our congratulations to Alannah Moroney, Drom-clough National School who was our overall winner.
- Students attended Science Club at lunch times, making slime, chromatography t-shirts, models on Earth & Space and posters.
- 1st Year students enjoyed a Science Table Quiz during the week. Our congratulations to our winners, Mary Kearney, Danielle Kennelly, Izabella Mikolajczyk and Mckenzie Mulvill.
- 1st Year students also made density models for display.
- 2nd Year students helped to create a hamper which was raffled. All proceeds were given to Temple Street Children's Hospital, Dublin.
- TY students made tie-dye T-shirts using chromatography. 6th year Biology students participated in a workshop on bacteria with Dr. Aimee Stapleton from UL who visited our school and made hand sanitiser.
- Our thanks to the following Leaving Cert students who represented the school at the I.S.T.A. Senior Science Quiz in Tralee during Science Week; Muireann Kennelly, Ciara Hudson, Deirdre Hunt, Louise Madden, Niamh Moloney and Megan O' Sullivan.
- Our LCA students interviewed a paramedic in relation to First Aid and what steps to take if an accident occurs.
- A big thank you to the TY students for their help and co-operation in the organising and running of events during the entire week.
- Dr. Trevor Carey from UCC will be visiting our school on Friday the 18th of January to perform a workshop with the 6th Year Chemistry students called 'Spectroscopy in a suitcase' as part of their Leaving Cert course.

More events are organised for the New Year so keep an eye on our Science noticeboard.



Important Dates for the Diary:

Thurs 10th Jan 2019 @ 7pm

Senior Options Information evening : (5th Yr Subject Choice, TY/LCA/LCVP)

Thurs. 14th Jan 2019 @ 7pm

Junior Cycle Information Evening For 1st & 2nd Year Parents

Thursday 17th Jan: Junior Cycle Staff In-service Day, School closed for Students.

Thursday 24th Jan: 1st Yr & TY Parent/Teacher Meeting

Week commencing 4th Feb: Mock & House Exams

Midterm: School closed Monday to Fri 18th-23rd Feb incl.

Classroom Based Assessment for 2nd Years

Art: 7th January – 12th April

Business CBA1: 4th March – 12th April

Science CBA1: 4th March – 12th April

MFL (French/German): 29th April – 17th May

English CBA1: 29th April – 20th May

Classroom Based Assessment for 3rd Years

Science CBA2: 7th Dec– 25th Jan

Assessment Task

Science Assessment Task: 28th Jan – 1st Feb

Dr. Maureen Griffin, Forensic Psychologist, who has spoken to all students and parents has helpful videos on cyber safety and young people at:

<https://www.layahealthcare.ie/thrive/family/2/>

Please contact any of the staff below if you have any queries about your daughter

Year Heads 2018/19:

1st Years: Ms. Margaret Walsh

2nd Years: Ms. Eileen Counihan

3rd Years: Ms. Muireann O'Sullivan

5th Years: Ms. Eileen Counihan

6th Years: Ms. Margaret Walsh

Programmes Co-ordinator, TY, LCA, LCVP: Ms. Norma Dowling

SEN Co-ordinator: Ms. Muireann O'Sullivan