



# Presentation Secondary School Listowel



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## Principal's Address

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to our December 2019 Newsletter.

What a busy and engaging term it has been as you will see in this Newsletter. I am delighted to congratulate three of our 2019 Leaving Certificate students, Megan O' Sullivan, Ciara Hudson and Meave Gallagher who received Entrance Scholarships to NUIG, UL and Trinity College Dublin. We are very proud of their achievements.

This newsletter reflects a wonderfully diverse range of activities that have taken place this term. Thanks to all of our staff who facilitate such activities on a daily basis.

We have conducted a Review of the Behaviour Code this term, it involved significant consultation with parents, students and staff. The consultation process with students was central to this Review, as it should be Authentic Student Voice in the teaching and learning process and the structures put in place to support it are an important aspect of our school as we implement the New Junior Cycle and the Wellbeing Guidelines.

We have a wonderful school community, a Presentation Community. The Presentation Day Mass on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November and the Christmas Carol Service on 5<sup>th</sup> December were expressions of who we are, sincere thanks to all involved.

We strive to ensure that our school continues to be a happy, nurturing and stimulating environment for our students where the importance of positive, respectful relationships between all members of our school community is valued.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Christmas.

Eileen Kennelly

Principal

## Recognition of Academic Excellence



Ciara Hudson receiving an Entrance scholarship from UL



Megan O'Sullivan receiving an Entrance scholarship from NUIG



Megan O' Sullivan receiving The JP McManus scholarship in UL with her Dad John O'Sullivan and Ms Walsh



# Presentation Open Evening



Presentation hosted their Open Night on the 2nd October. Perspective students were invited to tour the school and its facilities. Students enjoyed a packed full agenda including science experiments, musical entertainment, quizzes, hair & beauty treatments, free baked goods and plenty more!



Ms Daly and the Green Schools Committee along with Ms Galvin's class on a recent Litter Pick

## Green Schools

This year we are in our second year of the Biodiversity Theme as we aim to be awarded our 5th Green Flag. We joined forces with the Science Department and actively supported the planting of trees on the school grounds as part of Science Week. Plans for some raised beds using recycled window frames will be in place next term and these will be supported by some rainwater harvesting. A number of our students attended a meeting of Junior Tidy Towns on Thursday 5th December and are looking forward to their active participation with this wonderful local organisation. A gentle reminder to all our school community to actively recycle this Christmas.

Ms Daly

## History News

History continues to flourish in Pres. Listowel as 2020 looms ever closer. Both the Junior Cert. and Leaving Cert. groups achieved excellent results in the state examinations this past year and the department would like to congratulate them on their achievements, especially when compared to the national statistics published. The new Junior Cycle continues to be rolled out for both 1st and 2nd year students. With its more source/ inquiry based approach, the department endeavours to bring history to life in as many ways as possible. 3rd Years recently took a trip to Spike Island to experience a heritage site steeped in stories and memories covering several eras of Irish history. The boat over and back accompanied by our knowledgeable guide made the experience memorable to say the least. Thank you to Ms. Galvin for her assistance on the day. More trips to Tralee and Cork for 1st and 2nd years are planned for the New Year along with Leaving Cert students. We are looking forward to our school tour to Rome in February (thanks to Ms. O'Loughlin and Ms. Breen). Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Eoin Hilliard



Mr Hilliard with 3rd year history students in Spike Island

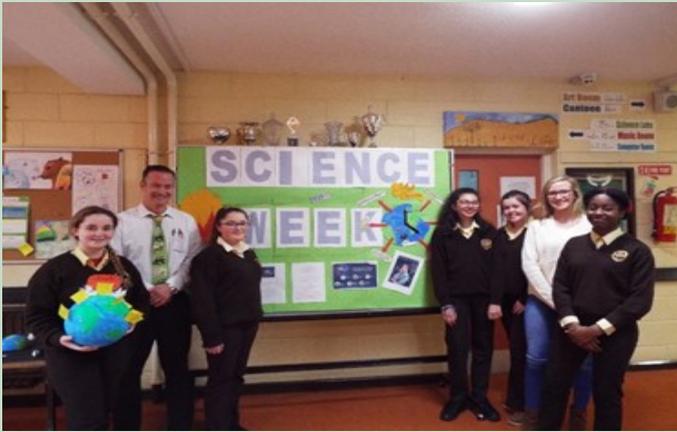


## Science News

The Science Department has had a busy start to the term. We had an exciting Science Week, full of activities during lunch times, including slime making, physics, beat the clock competitions and various experiments. As the theme for Science Week this year is 'Climate Change', we planted trees as part of an initiative to help combat climate change, working with our Green Schools members.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> year students are currently busy completing their second Classroom Based Assessment. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students the best of luck in their Classroom Based Assessments.

Miss Kennedy & Mr. Kiely Science Department



Leah Slemon, Mr Kiely, Leona O Donoghue, Symone Bowes, Eimear Shine, Miss Kennedy and Iyanu Alausa



Miss Heffernan, Miss Kennedy, Mr. Kiely & Johnny with junior science students planting trees

## CPR



We are extremely proud to be the first school in Kerry to have all members of staff and students trained in CPR. The current first year students practiced basic CPR with the help of their 5<sup>th</sup> year Mentors.

This initiative is in association with The Irish Heart Foundation and the Bank of Ireland.

The School is due to receive a special recognition award for his achievement.

## Maths News



1st years enjoying the maths quiz

October 12th – 20th was national Maths Week! Throughout the week there were various fun Maths activities including daily sudoku and puzzle challenges. Congratulations to our puzzle winners Natalie Gorczyk, Fiona O'Connor and Shakira Dooley.

On Friday 18th, the first years took part in a fun Maths Quiz! They were given some tricky questions but all teams were very impressive and the results were close! Congratulations to the winners Taylor Lynch, Alannah Lavery, Katie Trant, Saoirse Whyte and Eimear Buckley.

Miss Breen

## Student Council

Our student council has had an action packed term so far. They have been part of the process of reviewing the Code of Behaviour and are currently designing a half zip top for all staff and students. The students really enjoy discussing the design of the half zips.

The students have greatly benefitted from the meetings as we have shared opinions and have had open and informative discussions.

Ms Kennedy



## LCVP DEPARTMENT

The students had a visit from Ashley Fitzgerald (Marketing Manager Listowel Credit Union) in October 2019. They learned about the important role the Credit Union plays in the community of Listowel and were informed about the student loan services provided by the Credit Union. Ashley kindly answered all the questions the students had. They were delighted to have a visit from Ildiko Bajzat of 'Wellness Baking Listowel' in November. Ms. Bajzat gave a very interesting presentation on her business and gave the students some of her award winning gluten free brown bread from her product range.



Photo includes Leaving Cert. LCVP and Home Economics Students with Ms. Ildiko Bajzat of 'Wellness Baking Listowel'

Wishing all the LCVP students the best of luck in 2020. I would like to wish all parents, students and staff a very Happy Christmas on behalf of the LCVP department. Ms Culhane

Presentation Secondary School Listowel  
Fundraiser for Purchase of Defibrillator & Computers

### Split the Bucket

Place €2 in the envelopes with Name & Address and Place in the Bucket

Buckets from all participating businesses will be combined into one draw which will take place in the school on 19th December and the winner drawn will be guaranteed half the Jackpot money collected

### Split the Bucket!!

The jackpot is currently over **€1600** as we aim to fundraise for a defibrillator for the school and community along with new computers.

We ask that you kindly support this cause by filling in the envelopes supplied with your name and number at selected retail outlets.

## BUSINESS WEEK 2019 (December 2nd – 4th)

The TY girls worked hard along with their mentor Shane Enright of 'Bank of Ireland' to set up and run the School Bank at lunchtime during Business Week. Many students opened accounts. A competition with a daily question was run over the 4 days and the winner will receive a 20 euro gift voucher. On Thursday, Shane kindly gave the first years a talk on 'Online safety'. Some TY students used the opportunity to promote their enterprise ideas during lunchtime. Many thanks to Shane and the 'Bank of Ireland' for their valuable involvement during Business Week.



'Online safety' talk for first years with presenter Shane Enright from 'Bank of Ireland'.



Ciara Fitzgerald and Aideen Quinlan, TY students, dealing with customers at the school bank



## Home Economics

At the end of August Leaving Certificate Applied had a very enjoyable visit to Kerry Writers Museum as part of their Hotel, Catering and Tourism course which looks at local tourist attractions.(photo on right)

Some of our Transition Year students represented our school by attending “The Food Academy” at Listowel Food Fair this year. Our sincere thanks to the Listowel Food Fair committee for organising such a wonderful event. Warm congratulations to Aisling Scully, Ciara Fitzgerald and Sinead Relihan, Transition Year, who won first prize in the senior category of the Bord Bia Schools Competition.

Home Economics week ran from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Sid Sheehan of “Nourish by Nature” delivered a talk on Health and Wellbeing. As part of Home Economics Week, 6<sup>th</sup> Year Home Economics and LCVP students had a guest speaker – Ms Ildiko Bajzat from Wellness Baking Listowel as part of their investigation of a local food business. Thanks to Ms Bajzat for taking time out to share her experience of setting up and running her own food business.



Declan Coppinger from Bord Bia , Sinead Relihan, Ciara Fitzgerald and Ashling Scully with Jimmy Deenihan



Leaving Cert Applied students at Kerry Writer's Museum

### **Congratulations to the following students who won the “Bake Off” as part of Home Economics Week:**

#### **Junior Bake Off Winners:**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Siobhán Leahy – 1B

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Noelle Dillon – 1B

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Eimear Buckley – 1B

Runners up: Laura O’Leary & Ella O Carroll – 2B

#### **Senior Bake Off winners:**

Shauna Barry & Saoirse Cahill – Transition Year

### **Congratulations to the following students who won the poster competition as part of Home Economics week:**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Year winners:**

Marie Keane (1A) and Eimear Buckley (1B)

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Years winners:**

Kirsty Hartigan and McKenzie Mulvilill – 2A

### **Congratulations to the following Primary School students who won our Home Economics competition on Open Night:**

Amy Lynch, Presentation Primary School, Listowel

Sinéad O’Neill, Lisselton National School

We would like to thank all those who have helped us in any way throughout the term in the Home Economics Department. We would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



## Transition Year News



On a glorious September day as the sun shone brightly in the sky the Transition Year students ventured up to **The National Ploughing Championships** and experienced many of the agricultural, sporting, food, business and cultural opportunities that rural Ireland has to offer - a day to be remembered for a long time.

**Punchestown** was the next destination on the calendar - a town that shares the same love for horse racing as our own lovely Listowel. However, it wasn't the delights of the sport that lured us there that day but rather a National Transition Year Show where the students experienced the RSA car roll-over accident simulator, drumming workshops, various exhibitions, charitable organisations and guest speakers.

As part of their studies on careers the students participated in **Mary Immaculate College and University of Limerick open days together with a private tour of University College Cork**. While in Cork the students had the privilege of hearing one of the last remaining survivors of the holocaust, Mr. Tomi Reichental, relate the harrowing story of his life. This inspired **some of the students to interview Mr. Reichental as part of their work experience with Radio Kerry**. The podcast of this interview is available on the Radio Kerry website.

At school the students organised a very successful **Halloween Quiz** and supported school management when Sixth class students visited the school on an **Orientation Day and on Open Night**. The students are continuing with their work in their academic subjects and have participated in " **subject - sampling**" opportunities.

In addition, they are making **Christmas cakes** in Home Economics class and are doing modules such as **The Manuela Programme** which is a sexual violence prevention programme. The group have been **volunteering in the community and are helping numerous charities to fundraise**.

The term ended with a **Portfolio Presentation Assessment** of their work.

Overall, this group of Transition Years are embracing the programme with enthusiasm and determination. On behalf of the Transition Year team I wish to take this opportunity to wish all the students and their families a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

Thank you for your support during the term.

Norma Dowling

TY Co-ordinator



A visit to Listowel Garden Centre



Laura O' Leary checking Freddy's heartbeat with Getta Fitzgerald, Ms Galvin and Paul Treacy, vet, as part of a short course on Caring for Animals



## Music News

**Open Night**—Our music classes entertained and informed prospective students and their families during the open night in October. Live performances took place all night in both the music room and the social area of the school.

**First Year Trip**—The first year choir went on their annual trip to see the orchestra in Cork City Hall on the 7<sup>th</sup> November. They listened to many pieces from different composers and heard the different sounds from the various instruments in the ensemble. The girls enjoyed the experience and had a wonderful time.

**Presentation Day Mass**—All music students sang as part of the choir at St Mary's Church in honour of Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters. This is a wonderful experience for the girls as they perform with the local choir and immerse themselves in the community.

**Carol Service**—Preparations are underway for the Annual Carol Service which will take place in St Mary's Church on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. This is one of the highlights of the Music Department's year when all year groups gather together and perform many of our favourite Christmas songs and carols.

**English Department News**—On Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> last, Fifth Year and Transition Year students enjoyed a most worthwhile day, hosted by our friends in Writers' Week. The Young Adult Bookfest was duly deemed open by none other than Catherine Moylan, Writers' Week Chairperson and, we are proud to say, a past pupil of Pres. Listowel. The inimitable Elaine Kinsella, of Radio Kerry fame, ran the day's events like clockwork. Elaine, too, we are delighted to share, is a former Pres. Listowel student. Our students truly enjoyed the line-up of Bernard Casey, Ciara Ní É, Emma Langford, Dave Rudden, Brian Conaghan, Declan Coyle, Shane Casey and Listowel's own, Riobard Pierce, of Ireland's Fittest Family Fame. The Young Adult Bookfest has been growing from strength to strength since its inception. The fact that 900 students attended is a tribute to the vision and hard work of the late Margaret Broderick RIP, Joanna Keane-O'Flynn and so many others, too numerous to mention, who ran with the idea and made it happen in 2013 with Operation Education. We look forward to #YoungAdultBookfest 2020. Miss O'Sullivan



Sr. Consolata, Miss Kelly and MsO'Neill



Members of the school choir



Sr. Eilish & Ms Buckley



Back Row L-R Canon Declan O' Connor, Ms Whelan, Sr. Eilish, and Ms O'Sullivan

Front Row L-R (retired teachers)Ms Hayes, Ms O'Flaherty, Ms McGuire, Ms Daly and Sr. Consolata



### Ailo Linguistics-November 22nd

Ailo Linguistics Olimpiad workshop with former past pupil Abigail Walsh. This is a key element of The Adapt Centre's Problem Solving Initiative. Students will go forward in the new year to complete more challenges with this programme.



### Holocaust Event – November 13<sup>th</sup>

TY students travelled to the Everyman theatre in Cork where they were enthralled to listen to the harrowing account of a Holocaust survivor Tomi Reichental as part of their module on Human Rights education with Ms. Buckley. At 9 years of age Tomi was sent to Bergan Belsen concentration camp along with other members of his family. Today his message is not to forget the horrors of the Holocaust. All students agreed that it was a very worthwhile, lifetime opportunity to hear and experience some of the events that Tomi spoke about.



Tomi Reichental on stage in The Everyman Theatre, Cork

### Miss Buckley

### Concern Debates – November 28<sup>th</sup>

Students were afforded the opportunity by Concern Development Education to have a 1.5 hour workshop with Lauren Wright. The workshop consisted of Debating techniques and also a discussion on Gender Inequality within developing countries.



### Dúshlán Gaeilge 24- Lá Gan Bhéarla

D'eagraigh rang na hidirbhliana "Lá Gan Bhéarla" sa scoil arís i mbliana. Cosúil le Dúshlán Gaeilge 24 ó Chonradh na Gaeilge ach chuir siad a stíl féin ar an Lá. Ba í aidhm an dúshláin ná daoine a spreagadh chun Gaeilge a labhairt thart timpeall na scoile ar feadh an lae. Soláthraigh Conradh na Gaeilge frásaí don lá agus mhúin daltaí na hidirbhliana na frásaí do na ranganna sóisearacha sa scoil. Bhain na frásaí le saol nua-aimseartha na ndaltaí agus bhain siad tairbhe agus taitneamh astu. Bhí duaiseanna ar fáil do na daltaí a rinne an iarracht is fearr chun Gaeilge a labhairt agus chun na frásaí nua a úsáid. Ag deireadh an lae bhronn Bríd Bean Uí Chonchúir, múinteoir Gaeilge, na duaiseanna ar na buaiteoirí.



Ms O'Connor with students who participated in Lá Gaeilge

Beatha Teanga í a labhairt.

Ms Dowling





# Student Voice

## My Week in Radio Kerry

In November I took part in the Radio Kerry TY Media Week. This gave me the opportunity to learn about what is involved in working in radio and media. We were asked to make and produce a whole programme that was broadcasted the following Saturday. Abbie Roche and I decided that we could link our segment of the show to the talk with Holocaust Survivor, Tomi Reichental, that our class was going to meet that Wednesday. We brought a recorder with us so we could interview him. Unfortunately, we were not allowed to conduct an interview in The Everyman, but we didn't stop there. We acted like resourceful journalists and eventually sourced his email where I left my number. Later that day, he rang us back and we got an amazing interview. The whole week was an unbelievable experience and I'm so grateful that I was given the chance to take part in it. To listen to our interview log onto Radio Kerry under the Saturday Supplement from the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

<https://www.radiokerry.ie/holocaust-survivor-says-owes-victims-preserve-memories/>

Ava Stack Transition Year



Ava Stack with Tim O'Keefe



Abbie Roche with Ava Stack

## My experience of competing in the Munster Schools Swimming Championships

My sister Gabrielle and I recently swam in University Limerick for the Munster School's Swimming Championships. There were roughly 500 other participants from schools all around Munster. I swam the 100m backstroke and 50m front crawl. Gabrielle swam 100m butterfly and 50m front crawl. We are both members of Ballyunion Swim Club for the past six years. We train weekday mornings from 5.45-7.00 am which takes a lot of commitment. It can be tiring but we really enjoy it!

Johanna Kiely 3rd Year



Gabrielle and Johanna Kiely at the Munster Schools Swimming Championships in UL

## Important Dates for the Diary:

Back to school: Monday 6th January

1st & 4th year Parent/teacher meeting: Thursday 23rd January

JCPA Presentation Evening 7pm & One Good School Parental Talk @7.45

Mock Exams: 7th-14th February

Midterm Break: 17th– 21st February

Easter Holidays: 6th-17th April



## News in Sport

### Swimming



Gabrielle & Johanna Kiely who competed at The Munster Schools Competition in UL

### Football



Our Senior team who are currently awaiting to play a semi-final. We wish our girls well in the match and are very proud of the commitment from both of our teams this year.

Miss Kennedy & Aileen O'Leary



Our Junior team who have played a number of games this year.

### Orienteering organised by Mr. Tarrant



A group of orienteers in Ballyseedy Wood

### Basketball coached by Mr. Tarrant



Pres Senior Basket-ball Team



Pres Cadettes U16s Basketball Team 2019/2020

### Soccer

We have entered both a first year and junior team in the Shannonside League. Games are ongoing against teams from Cork, Kerry, Clare and Limerick.

Mr. Hilliard

### Badminton

We are preparing for this years School's Badminton competition and hoping to build on our success of having reached The All Ireland Final with our U16s earlier this year. Special thanks to Carmel Hudson for coaching.

Miss Kelly



**6<sup>th</sup> year guest speakers scheduled for this term :**

Past pupils – Students from L Cert 2019	28 <sup>th</sup> August
Pat Cosgrove – Mary Immaculate College Limerick	11 <sup>th</sup> September
Sarah O’Mahony - Shannon College of Hotel Management	2 <sup>nd</sup> October
Carol Fitzgerald – IT Tralee	9 <sup>th</sup> October
Caroline Duggan – NUIG	23 <sup>rd</sup> October
Lisa Doody – UL	13 <sup>th</sup> November
Anne McBride – LIT	27 <sup>th</sup> November
Caroline Kearney – CIT	4 <sup>th</sup> December
WIT	11 <sup>th</sup> December

**In addition we have also welcomed past pupils from the areas of:**

Agricultural Science (Maria O’Halloran)

Engineering (Doireann Tarrant)

Psychology (Sophia McFarlane)

Medicine (Claudia Greaney)

These past pupils have kindly volunteered their time to come back into school to speak to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students about their experiences since leaving school. Their help and advice has been extremely beneficial.

4 **TY students** have applied for work experience placements in Kostal Abbeyfeale in March. They will be given first preference as the places were full for the November dates so hopefully they will be successful with this. This initiative has been developed by Noreen Keating to increase and promote women in Engineering. This is very important in terms of promoting STEM careers within the school.

6<sup>th</sup> years have completed their **CAO Forms online** in school on December 4<sup>th</sup>. This allows them to access any help necessary when completing the CAO, HEAR and DARE application forms.

We have a student in 5<sup>th</sup> year who has been successful in gaining a place on the **Look into Law Programme**. This will take place in Dublin from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. In the mornings, participating students will be assigned to groups where they will shadow a designated barrister. They will be introduced to the many different facets of a barrister's working life and will have the opportunity to experience the reality of life as a barrister. During the afternoons, the students will participate in a range of different activities and students are expected to attend all organised activities: Trial viewing, a tour of King's Inns, a tour of the Four Courts, a walk-through of the Criminal Courts of Justice, a talk from each of the following: a member of An Garda Siochana, a member of the DPP and a defence solicitor, a sitting Judge and a Legal Affairs correspondent.

We had 44 5th year students attend the Career’s Fair on Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. Students had the opportunity to meet with representatives from colleges from all over Ireland. It took place at IT Tralee this year.

We have 12 places reserved on the **NUIG taster days** for students from 5th and 6th year who will complete taster days in Engineering, Law, Business, Arts and Science. There were over 6000 applications for these taster days but we were lucky enough to secure the places we requested.





Approximately 30 Leaving Certificate and 30 TY students attended the Mary Immaculate / UL / LIT / LSAD Open Days in October. This was a great day and the feedback from students was very positive.

Pat Cosgrave visited on December 5th to meet with TY students for feedback on the Open Day in Mary Immaculate College.

### Every School Day Counts

TUSLA Educational Welfare Service (EWS) launched and supported an annual campaign 'Every School Day Counts' in November. This campaign aims to highlight the importance of school attendance with regard to achieving positive educational outcomes for children and young people.

Attendance, Retention and Participation are the cornerstones of TUSLA EWS. Attendance is the core to success in school and we were delighted that our school took the opportunity to engage by committing to an Attendance Awareness Campaign during the month of November. We are confident that this campaign will complement existing school endeavours to promote and support school attendance throughout the academic year.

We presented each student with a November calendar. At the end of the month class teachers and year heads met with their classes and presented students with a certificate of attendance.

Miss Walsh



A group of students receiving their TUSLA EWS attendance certificates



### The Guidance Department and the Wellbeing Team

worked together and are delighted to be involved with Jigsaw's One Good School initiative. One Good School is an initiative which supports the mental health and well-being of young people and those around them, by developing a shared responsibility across the whole school community. The One Good School initiative provides a comprehensive programme of education workshops and specific initiatives for students, teachers, parents and school leadership personnel.

Caoimhe Keoghan- Jigsaw Youth and Community Engagement Worker is currently working with a group of TY students training them as Peer Educators. Our TY students will deliver a series of workshops to junior cycle classes in the New Year.

There will be a talk for parents Supporting Young Peoples Mental Health on Thursday 30th January 2020 at 7.45pm in the school.

If you would like to learn more about the One Good School initiative you can visit the following website for more information - [www.jigsaw.ie/onegoodschool](http://www.jigsaw.ie/onegoodschool).

Miss O'Connor & Miss O' Dwyer

### Art News



This term the Art department have been lucky to go on two separate gallery visits.

The third year Art students visited the Hunt Museum in Limerick and viewed the fabulous Lavery & Osborne exhibit where they received a guided tour and viewed the art works. This helped students not only by seeing artworks first hand but it also aided their investigations for their CBA 2.

6th year students visited the Crawford Gallery as part of the Appreciation section of their Art History course. We received a very informative and engaging tour of the permanent collection and this is fundamental to their preparation for their upcoming mocks exams.

6th class students visited the Art room recently and in a very quick time created magnificent 3D paper snowflakes. We look forward to beginning 2020 with lots of fun, creative and engaging projects.

Miss O' Riordan