



Presentation Secondary School

Merry Christmas.



2019 Christmas Journal

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## MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that we have reached Christmas time already this year.

As usual this term has been extremely busy with our girls actively engaged with class work and extra curricular activities. I hope you will enjoy reading the newsletter and the details of another eventful and memorable first term for our school community. I would like to congratulate all the girls who have represented the school so well in so many areas of extra curricular activities and were engaged in areas of fundraising for different local charities. There has been tremendous success for our school already this year in such areas as Enterprise, Cross Country Athletics and Art. In addition, staff and the girls have been extremely busy with numerous learning opportunities and exciting enrichment activities since September. We have engaged in new exciting initiatives such as our Engineering Project work with Abbott Clonmel and 5<sup>th</sup> class primary schools. Also, we have an exciting project lined up with the Clonmel Credit Union next term as well.



I must acknowledge the excellent results of our Junior and Leaving Cert classes of 2019 (78% of the Leaving Cert Class of 2019 are in now in Third-Level education). I have no doubt these results would not been achieved but for the dedication of our teachers to your daughter's education and your support to the girls as well.

I wish you and all your families the joy and peace of Christmas. I hope that the New Year will be filled with good health and happiness for all associated with Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel.

Beannachtai na Feile oraibh go leir. Nollaig faoi shean is faoi mhaise daoibh go leir.

Yours Sincerely,  
Michael O'Loughlin,  
Principal.

## MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

I would like to wish all our Pres parents, students and friends a safe and joyful Christmas, and every good wish for a wonderful year in 2020.



As the first term comes to a close, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our staff, without whom our students would not receive such a positive and holistic experience in our school. The energy, passion and enthusiasm of the staff is reflected in students who have achieved academically and in extra-curricular activities. Every week we have had reason to celebrate the success of our students; success in the classroom, the sporting field and the many competitions that they have won.

In October we came together as a school community to celebrate these achievements in our Annual Awards for Excellence. This is always a highlight in our school calendar, and this year was no exception.

As we look forward to a new year and a new decade, it is my hope that we will continue our excellent work, with the help of our students, staff and parents. Collaboration is the key to success, and as Saint Mother Teresa said '*None of us, including me, ever do great things, but we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful*'.

Yours Sincerely,

Róisín Hennessy

Deputy Principal

# AWARDS

## **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony (October)**

Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel celebrated the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Presentation Awards for Excellence in St. Mary's Church Irishtown on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October. The awards acknowledge the tremendous achievements of the students across the whole spectrum in education in the school. The awards recognize that the pursuit of excellence is not confined to academic achievement but encompasses the whole range of activities that makes for a rounded and balanced education. The evening was a celebration of the achievements of the students over the past school year. The evening began a beautiful rendition of "One Step Beyond" by the school Choir under the guidance of music teachers, Ms. Siobhan Alley and Ms. Jennifer Williams. Huge thanks to Mrs. Máiread Fennell, Awards Coordinator, who organised such a fantastic ceremony and to Fr. Billy Meehan who opened the ceremony.

We were delighted to have the Mayor of Clonmel, Mr. Garrett Ahearn, as our guest speaker. Mr. Ahearn gave the students a fantastic speech about following their dreams and pursuing careers that they love.

Mrs. Michael O' Loughlin (Principal) welcomed the large audience which included special guests, Presentation Sisters from the local community and the trustee's representatives, members of the Board of Management, teachers, parents, sponsors and most importantly, the students themselves.

## **Certificates of Recognition of Outside Achievement in Extra Curricular Activity**

The evening started with a presentation by Mr. Martin O'Loughlin to over 90 students for their involvement in extra-curricular activity. In presenting these certificates, the school recognized the outstanding achievements of the students in their chosen field of activity and is acknowledging the ambassadorial of the students on behalf of the school.

## **Student of the Year Awards**

The Student of the Year Award from the 1st to 6th year groups were presented by the respective Year Head in association with the sponsor of each year group. Nominations from each year were invited on stage and with mounting tension, the Year Head read out the winner. These awards were followed by the Academic Awards.

## **Academic Awards**

### **Junior Cert Academic Award**

Mrs. Roisin Hennessy (Deputy Principal) presented the Junior Cert Academic Award to Aurora Moore.

### **Leaving Cert Academic Awards**

Mr. O'Loughlin (Principal) presented Leaving Cert Academic Award to Catherine and John Corcoran, representing Ali Corcoran.

### **Special Category Awards**

Special Category Awards were presented in areas such as CEIST award, Creativity, Enterprise & Initiative, Sports Awards, Student Peer Awards, Scientific Endeavour and Master Chef. These awards recognized the tremendous work by students outside the academic area and their participation in extra-curricular areas in the school community.

After the presentation of the special category awards, the members of the Student Council were presented with the badges by the Student President – Caitlyn McVicker and Vice Presidents – Caitriona Rice and Anabel Ryan.

Mr. O'Loughlin concluded the ceremony by congratulating all the award recipients for their individual achievements and paid tribute to teachers & students for organizing the smooth running of the event.

**The award winners** were as follows:

**Academic Awards: Junior Cert:** Auroroa Moore

**Leaving Certificate:** Ali Corcoran

**Student of the Year:** Ciara Hadley (First Year) Emily Meskell (Second Year) Caoimhe Nolan (Third Year) Wicktoria Maryniak (Fifth year)

Special Category Awards: Nene Lonergan (Senior Creativity Art), Tyler Hadley (Junior Creativity Award), Molly O' Brien, Anniemae Walsh, Ada Hennessy, Hazel Brennan (Enterprise and Initiative) Hazel Brennan (Sports Junior) Caitriona Rice (Sports Senior), Caoimhe Woods and Hannah De Longue (Scientific Endeavour) Katie Glynn (Junior Master Chef) Wicktoria Maryniak (CEIST Award)

**Student Peer Awards:** First Year: Molly O' Brien - Second Year: Laura Cooney  
Third Year: Roisin Hickey - Fifth Year: Hazel McFadden - Sixth Year: Rachel Cahill.



# 3RD YEAR - TRIP TO BURREN

The Third year trip was a great success this year. We visited St John's Castle in Limerick and the girls really enjoyed the interactive elements of the castle. We had two hours shopping in the Crescent Shopping Centre and the bus was filled to the brim with shopping bags. When we reached the Cliffs of Moher, there was a very strong wind blowing. The girls had great fun trying to keep their feet against the wind. They were also very impressed with how the structure of the visitors centre blended into the landscape. Our stay in the Imperial Hotel in Lisdoonvarna was extremely enjoyable. The hotel had organized a disco for the girls and they danced solidly for two and a half hours. All kinds of dancing was on display, there was no shortage of talent on display. Three rousing cheers for the brilliant DJ were given with gusto. Thursday morning was wet and windy but every time we stepped out of the bus, the rain stopped for us. The tour of the Aillwee caves was very informative and the girls were impressed with the stalagmites and stalactites. We then saw a magnificent display of Birds of Prey in flight. There were opportunities to hold some of the birds too. Following a lovely lunch in the visitor centre, we boarded the bus and headed for home. As always our girls behaved themselves beautifully. They were complimented on their behaviour wherever they went and I was proud to say that I am their Year Head. Many thanks go to Ms Aisling Slattery and Ms Helen Hawkins for their great support on the trip. Elaine O'Carroll - 3rd Yr Year Head.





# TRANSITION YEAR

## St. Declan's Walk 2019 (October)

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, our Transition Year students embarked on a 75-mile hike following the St. Declan's Way Walk. The hike was completed over 3 days, with 2 nights spend in Ballymacarbery. Once again, TY coordinator, Mr. Noel Buckley, organised a fantastic experience for these students, and was kindly assisted by many of the Presentation staff who walked with the students, supervised the overnights and provided cars in case of emergencies. TY Year Head, Mrs. Fennell said that the students should be proud of themselves for completing the hike.



# ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

Creativity & success in all areas of the art department so far this year.

**Print for Schools Exhibition** arrived in the school and is displayed in the front hallway. All thirty-two prints contemporary prints by Irish artists on loan from Tipperary Arts Office for cultural and educational purposes. The prints represent different subject matter and eight different methods of print making. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> year Art students were given the opportunity to work with printmaker Suzannah O'Reilly. Each group had an informative workshop to develop and explore the medium of DRY POINT, using a drawing they had prepared. Great work was done, and the results are on display in the front hallway. The exhibition will be on display here in the school until Christmas.

Our two **Junior Creativity winner's** artwork is currently on display outside the Art room congratulations to Mya Cashman and Tyler Hadley. **Senior creativity winner** Ne Ne Lonergan, is currently studying for her BA in animation from the limerick school of Art & Design. We wish her every success; she is such a gifted talented creative student. Her 6<sup>th</sup> year canvas design has taken pride of place in the front hallway, she also received H1 in the new leaving certificate Visual Art.

**Halloween Death Plague workshop** in the county museum for 17 Transition years.

Led by Cork community arts the students worked in the areas of performance, make up, movement. Following the workshop half, the group dressed in black became Hugh skeleton puppeteers towering above them the rest became zombies, they ten took to the streets to entertain invited guests to the opening of the refurbished museum and the public. Really well done to them all a successful day.

## **Credit Union Art Competition 2019**

Always a popular competition in our school calendar, the students are given a theme and asked to create a painting. We were delighted with our great success at local level:

### **11 to 14 years**

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Justina Afloarei 1<sup>st</sup> year

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Abi King 1<sup>st</sup> year

### **14 to 17 years**

1<sup>st</sup> place: Bebhinn Nolan 6<sup>th</sup> year

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Maebh Crotty 5<sup>th</sup> year

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Mya Cashman 5<sup>th</sup> year

## **18 years & over**

1<sup>st</sup> place: Aimee Shine 6<sup>th</sup> year

Prize giving took place in Raheen house hotel. The 1<sup>st</sup> place winners then go onto the Regional level of the competition and we were delighted for our two firsts took 1<sup>st</sup> place again at the regional level and now are onto the All Ireland final of the competition. Wishing Bebhinn Nolan and Aimee Shine the very best of luck.

**CBA 2: 3<sup>rd</sup> year Art classes** : As part of the visual art CBA 2, we took our 3<sup>rd</sup> year art Classes and visited the National Design & Craft Gallery in Kilkenny, to see an exhibition entitled Crowded Thresholds, where we saw two inspirational galleries consisting of ceramics, jewellery design, fabric designs, wood, furniture turned into set designs. Really enjoyable inspirational and fun.

**Christmas Windows:** Our 5<sup>th</sup> year Art students' annual trip to ABBOTT to design and paint their Christmas windows is one of our most enjoyable events. Themes include Frozen 2 Paws among many other Disney characters.

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> year Art Students Dublin Gallery trip:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students travel to Dublin to visit the National Museum of Ireland with a guided tour of the Bronze and Iron Age Artefacts, seeing the magnificent Gold collection in person, along with the Brighter Hoard, Petrie Crown, Loghnashade Trumpet. Two important parts of their leaving certificate Irish Art course, in the afternoon we travel to IMMA Irish Museum of modern Art, Kilmainham. To see the works of Lucian Freud and Jack B Yeats, again a guided tour covering another part of the Irish Art and European Art sections along with the Appreciation of Art Gallery visit. A very educational and informative day.

**County Museum Clonmel:** On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> year Art students visit the county museum for a talk and workshop by the talented Clonmel Artist **John Keating** was born in Clonmel Co. Tipperary. He studied at Crawford College of Art Cork, Trinity College Dublin, Loughborough University and the Arts Students League of New York, which he attended as a Fulbright scholar.

**1st year taster in art:** 1st years did their taster in visual Art, Craft & Design. Pottery was a popular choice student designed and made ice creams, pumpkins, snowmen, pots. They did experimental drawing and paintings and papier Mache. It's been a wonderfully busy & productive few weeks.



*Credit Union Art Competition 2019*



*Art - Abbott Windows*

# BIOLOGY

## Senior Biology Trip

Senior Biology teacher, Ms. Sharon Kennedy, organised a wonderful Ecology trip for her 5th and 6th year students. The students and Ms. Kennedy travelled to Tramore Beach, where they studied ecological systems on the strand. The day was topped off with some surfing lessons and great fun was had by all.



# COMPUTER SCIENCE

It has been an eventful two terms for the Computer Science Department since September. They started off with a visit from a camera crew from the NCCA and this was followed up in October with a trip to Microsoft DreamSpace in Leopardstown in Dublin. This was an amazing experience for the current 5th and 6th year computer science students. They got to take a tour of 1 Microsoft Place where they gained a valuable insight into careers within the company such as software development, testing, finance, HR and sales & marketing. We also had a visitor from LERO (The Irish Software Research Center), who came to visit us for a day and got to see what goes on inside a Leaving Cert Computer Science classroom.



Currently the 5th years are working on their Applied Task 4 which included some interesting projects such as a door alarm system, a sensory lighting system, a traffic light system and a voice activated alarm. The 6th years sat the first nationwide trial exam for the Computer Science Leaving Cert just before the midterm. All Computer Science students had the opportunity to partake in the Nationwide Bebras challenge during Science week which was both challenging and fun. It has been an exciting year so far and we have a few more visitors planned for the next term which they are looking forward to.



# LONDON SCIENCE



# ENTERPRISE



# LCVP: LINK MODULES

The 5th years had a very busy term with both groups organising their enterprise activities. Ms. Hayes' group raised €180 for Aoibheann's Pink Tie by holding a table quiz for the 2nd years and Tys while Ms. O'Dwyer's group raised €235 for C-Saw by having a Movie Day for 1st years. Well done to all involved in helping to raise vital funds for our local charities. Next term the 5th years will be getting ready to go on work experience and will start planning their visits out to Clonmel Park Hotel and Abbot. 6th years are busy putting the final details to their portfolio which is worth 60% of their overall exam. They are currently organising a visit in from Patsy Butler from the Day Care Centre in Irishtown.

## CAREER GUIDANCE

The guidance department have had a busy term so far. 6th years students went to a careers fair in Kilkenny, where most Irish Colleges, the gardaí and the defence forces had stands. Students had the opportunity to ask questions about courses they may be interested in. 6th year students attended Limerick colleges open days, they had the opportunity to attend UL, LIT and Mary Immaculate College. They also attended WIT and WCFE open days. We have had guest speakers in from UL and WIT and more to come in the New Year.

## ENVIRONMENT

### **Reusable Water Bottles from Boston Scientific**

We want to extend a huge thanks to Boston Scientific Clonmel for donating over 200 reusable water bottles to our students. We are proud to be doing our part for the environment by making the Pres “single-use-plastic” free.



## CREATIVITY

### **Creative Schools Celebration** **4th to 8th November 2019**

Creative Schools Celebration Week gave us chance to showcase our creative initiatives from last year. These projects were kindly supported by the Arts Council. Many thanks to Ms. Alley who is the Creative School's Coordinator.



## STUDENT VOICE - LGBTI

### **LGBTI+ Awareness** **Week 11th to 15th November**

Celebrating LGBTI+ Awareness Week here in the Pres! Every student and staff member will have the opportunity to wear a pride colour ribbon this week to show their support for members of the LGBTI+ Community.





# IRISH/MUSIC

## Oireachtas na tSamhain - Comórtas Beo 2019

5th year students, Desiree Haran-McCarthy, Aoife McNamara and Caoimhe Woods travelled with their teachers Ms. Jennifer Williams, Ms. Siobhán Alley and Ms. Aisling Slattery to compete in City West Dublin live on TG4 on the 31st October. The girls, known on stage as “Rhapsodaí” performed their own composition “Bua”. The girls performed beautifully and were excellent ambassadors for the Pres Music and Irish departments.



# LCMP

## LCMP: Leaving Certificate Modified Programme

The Leaving Certificate Modified Programme is an optional programme that runs alongside the traditional Leaving Certificate. The course was designed by and is being taught by Ms. Jennifer Williams, Ms. Mary O'Dwyer and Ms. Linda O'Donnell. The aim of the programme is to build on students' key skills, with particular focus on the wellbeing indicators. At the end of this two-year programme students will not only leave school with their traditional Leaving Certificate/CAO Points but they will also leave with a portfolio of certificates in areas including Basic First Aid, CPR training, Wellbeing and Community Empathy, Touch Typing, Interview Skills, Social Media Safety to name but a few. Most recently, as part of the LCMP Community Empathy Project, some of our 5th year students spent the afternoon of Tuesday 12th baking delicious treats for the service users of the Day Care Centre in Irishtown! The girls have also had visits from John Leahy (Drink and Drugs Awareness) and Sarah Jane from 3D AESTHIC Clinic showing the group how to apply the perfect make up look for job interviews.



# RELIGION

## November Remembrance

Students created a Remembrance Garden in their RE classroom to remember those nearest to them whom they have lost. There was a Prayer Service today in our Sacred Space at lunch time where all members of our school community, including our Presentation Sisters, came together to pray for those who we love that have died.



## Religion Round Up 2019

It's been a busy 1<sup>st</sup> term beginning with the 6<sup>th</sup> year religion classes planning and delivering the annual peer retreat for the first years.

Next came an opportunity for the 6<sup>th</sup> yrs to take some time put for themselves as they took part in their own retreat in Raheen House.

This was closely followed by Mrs. O'Leary's 3<sup>rd</sup> yr religion class organising a celebration in the convent for Presentation Day. This service was enhanced by beautiful music by some of our 5<sup>th</sup> yrs and attended by our 1<sup>st</sup> yrs and the Presentation Sisters.



# RETIREMENT

## Celebrating Mrs. Ethel Reynolds' Retirement

A very special occasion was held at Hotel Minella in November to celebrate the retirement of Ethel Reynolds, retired Principal from the Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel. Tributes were paid to the retiree by Michael O'Loughlin, Principal. The function was attended by the Presentation Sisters, Board of Management representatives and former and present teaching colleagues. A presentation was also made to Mrs. Reynolds by members of the Student Council. Ethel Reynolds was appointed Principal in September in 1991. She retired from her position this summer. Mrs. Reynolds replied to the speeches. She thanked the Board of Management and her fellow colleagues for their warm tributes. Mrs. Reynolds is wished well in her retirement and may she enjoy many years of happiness as she starts a new journey in her life.



# SCHOOL SHOW

## “We Will Rock You”

“We Will Rock You” was the 43rd Annual School Musical between the Presentation and the CBS High School. The students performed 7 live shows under the direction of Jennifer Williams and musical direction of Siobhan Alley & Olga Gannon. The show was a huge hit with audiences, and students from both schools really did themselves proud!



# SPORT

## Spikeball News

The first years are busy training at the moment for their upcoming round of the All Ireland series. They have already participated in an in-house blitz and a participative round in Dungarvan where all teams acquitted themselves well. This year sees a change to the rules, so they are adapting well and making good progress. Their next round will be in Grennan College, Kilkenny with the top 2 teams going through to Round 2. Five teams will be representing Pres Clonmel. Best of luck girls!

## Volleyball News

The second years have been busy practising their volleyball skills. Spikeball is no more for second year, it is 4 v 4 volleyball. Four teams participated in Dungarvan in Round one of the participation competition with one team making it to the final day in the Watershed Kilkenny. They were Caoimhe Keeley, Aedin McCormack, Amy McMahon, Eve Dyc, Aoife Adkins and Isabelle Browne. All four teams will participate in our annual Festive Blitz which is a collaboration between Pres Kilkenny and Pres Clonmel. This is a very enjoyable day with the focus on forging new friendships and of course ... a sprinkle of festive fun!!



## Cadet Basketball

The Pres girls played their pool games of the South East League in September and October, defeating St Anne's, St Ailbe's, Scoil Ruain, CTI Clonmel and Ursuline Thurles. Pres Clonmel topped the group to progress to the regional quarter final at a home venue. Comeragh College were our opponents and with great determination and teamwork Clonmel emerged victorious on a score line of 27-15. The semifinal clash was with Presentation Wexford, a strong, experienced team who were no strangers to winning regional finals. It was a tough, competitive game and with only a basket separating the teams for most of the game. Unfortunately, the Clonmel girls were defeated narrowly. They had still qualified for the all-Ireland playoffs in January at a venue still to be decided. Congratulations to all the girls and best of luck in the playoffs. Panel, Caitriona Rice, Kayleigh Flannery, Anna Tobin, Sarah Ni Cheallaigh, Caelainn McGrath, Hazel McFadden, Louise Norris, Aoife Barron, Orla Barron, Maria Aranda Camado and Leah Murphy.

## **1st Year Basketball**

All the first years have begun training in preparation for their competition which starts in January. Two teams will travel to the Watershed in Kilkenny in December, to participate in Pres Kilkenny's blitz. Always a great day for the girls, it will be their first time playing in competitive games. st of luck to all the girls.



*Under 19 Basketball Team*

## **Junior Gaelic Football**

Our junior football team began their games in September, playing St Anne's Tipp town and Ursuline Thurles. The Pres girls showed great potential and worked hard in every match with the first years and second years really shining, and with the experience of the 3<sup>rd</sup> years and tys, they did the school proud. Despite being a very young side this year, they showed great promise for the next few years of Pres football.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Year Gaelic Football**

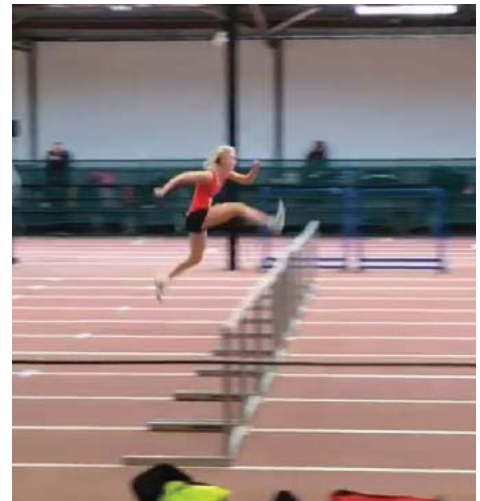
The first year football team had their first taste of playing for their school on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October, when they participated in the Rockwell 1<sup>st</sup> year blitz. Well done to the first years on a great display of football and team play. The first and second year team continue with training every Tuesday and their next game is against STN Doon, with a match against St Anne's in January, another 1<sup>st</sup> year Rockwell blitz in February and the annual U14, and U15 Rockwell blitz in April/May. There's plenty of games to look forward to.

## Senior Gaelic Football

The senior team began their competition in September, and their first opponents were Patrician Presentation Fethard. It was a tough, fast and physical game, the Pres girls played really well, and they were defeated narrowly. The second game saw the girls travel to Templemore to take on Our Lady's Templemore. Again, it was an evenly contested and skillful game and unfortunately Pres were pipped at the post by a slightly fitter side. Their final game in the group saw them take on St Anne's Tipp town in Clonmel. This was in fact the display of the year with the Pres Clonmel showing true grit, determination and pride in their jersey, to produce an amazing display of football. Well done to all, and the newly formed Tipperary senior championship will commence in January with our first opponents being Rockwell College. Best of luck to all the girls.

## Munster Schools Combined Events Championships

Cailín Napier made a successful debut at the Munster Schools Combined Events Championship in Nenagh on Tuesday October 22nd 2019. Second place finishes in the 60m Hurdles, Long Jump and High Jump, combined with third spot in Shot Put and a convincing win in the 800m saw Cailín amass a total of 2,088 points, to secure a silver medal at her first attempt. She has now qualified for the All Ireland series. Congratulations Cailin.



*Athletics Team*