

# BALLINCOLLIG COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER 2019/2020



*Achieving Excellence Together for 44 years*

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# PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

It is a great pleasure to present the 2020 edition of the Ballincollig Community School Newsletter. Ms Owens, Mr. O'Brien and their editorial team have assembled an eye-catching collection of our school's major events, both academic and extra-curricular.

I continue to be amazed at how students and staff pack so much into what is already a very full school programme.

I hope that you enjoy the following pages and I thank, once again, the staff and students for their constant efforts and achievements.

I wish you all a happy and safe Summer and I look forward to seeing you all back in our corridors when we return in the Autumn



Ms. Kathleen Lowney



Mr David O'Brien



Ms Avril Owens



Eabha Buttimer



Frances Corkery



Daniella Quinn



Kamil Labuda



Gabija Cizauskaite



Oisín De Baroid

EDITORIAL TEAM

It is with great pleasure that we introduce the 2020 edition of the Ballincollig Community School Newsletter. These pages, highlight the many academic and extra-curricular events that have taken place over the last school year. News regarding the Transition Year students, Sports Teams, and Junior Cycle initiatives will feature alongside many others such as the Hope Foundation Trip to Calcutta, LCA activities, Spikeball and many more.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the many students, teachers and parents who have contributed to this Newsletter. A very special thanks to our editors Mr. O'Brien and Ms. Owens for their guidance, advice and support throughout the year.

Lastly, we would like to extend a warm welcome to the 2019 first year students who have joined our corridors. We hope that you have enjoyed your first year in B.C.S.

The Editorial Team

Eabha Buttimer, Frances Corkery, Daniella Quinn, Kamil Labuda, Gabija Cizauskaite, and Oisín De Baroid.



## CHAPLAIN'S REFLECTION

As I write this, the Battle against coronavirus/covid 19 rages. These are unprecedented times. However a bright light illuminates these dark days, we see how a sense of duty, vocation, loyalty and patriotism has mobilised so many people to respond to the needs that are present in our country.

We have witnessed the generosity and kindness of so many people, particularly our students and staff, these past weeks such as, volunteering to get groceries, preparing meals to be delivered to healthcare workers, creating pictures of flowers and rainbows for the residents of nursing homes, and delivering hot dinners to the elderly in our area.

We begin to realise that material things do not hold the key to a good and happy life and, while technology can help us in many ways it can never replace the feeling of belonging and the real life company of others. Schooling online will never be a substitute for the normal daily human interactions between teachers, friends and colleagues.

As we lay low and take time to notice the new life of Spring time awakening after the long sleep of Winter-birdsong, budding trees, daffodils nodding their heads in the gentle breeze, it reminds us that this difficult time too will pass and we will immerge from these dark days. 'Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into water the actions of individuals can have far reaching effects.' (Dalai Lama)



# MY FIRST YEAR IN BCS!

## FIRST YEAR STUDENTS ENJOYING THEIR SUBJECTS AT BCS!



1<sup>st</sup> year students enjoying their lunchtime with friends!

## BCS PARENTS ASSOCIATION

BCS has an active Parents Association. Monthly meetings are held on the first Monday of each month. All parents of students are automatically members of the Parents Association and are very welcome to attend the monthly meetings. It is an excellent opportunity to keep up to date with all going on in the school as School and Board of Management are also represented there.

Contact details for BCS PA: [bcsparentsassociation@balcs.ie](mailto:bcsparentsassociation@balcs.ie). The following are some of the activities in which BCS parents are involved:

- Assisting at welcome events for new students and parents to the school.
- Arranging talks on topics of interest to parents and students.
- Providing support and organizational input to major School /social events.
- Organizing fund raising events for the school.
- Channeling Parents views on school policy issues to the Principal and board of Management.
- Preparing Information Booklet for First year Parents.
- The committee are affiliated with the Parents association of Community and Comprehensive schools (PACCS) and also to The National Parents Council Post Primary.

*"The staff and teachers are friendly and kind"* - Sarah Casey

*"I get to meet new friends and meet nice teachers"* - Oliver Stadnicki

*"I like BCS because it already feels like home to me"* - Bartosz Ekert

*"It's very easy to get around the school"* - Prescillia Isibor

*"I love how the meitheal team organizes activities for us"* - Ellen Curran



### THE MEITHEAL TEAM

The Meitheal Team consists of 5th year students Anna Sullivan, Amy Hogan, Obi Agwu, Megan Foley, Caoimhe Curran, Abbey Gorman, Kornelia Stadnicka, Sophie O'Connell and Oisín De Baroid.

Last May these students went through a week of training in leadership and teamwork in the Scala Youth Ministry in Blackrock. This special team plays a major role in all aspects of school life for the first-year students as they settle into secondary school in BCS. They are a friendly and helpful presence and provide support during lunchtime and around the corridors. Our Meitheal Team were excellent role models for the younger students and in doing so had a wonderful

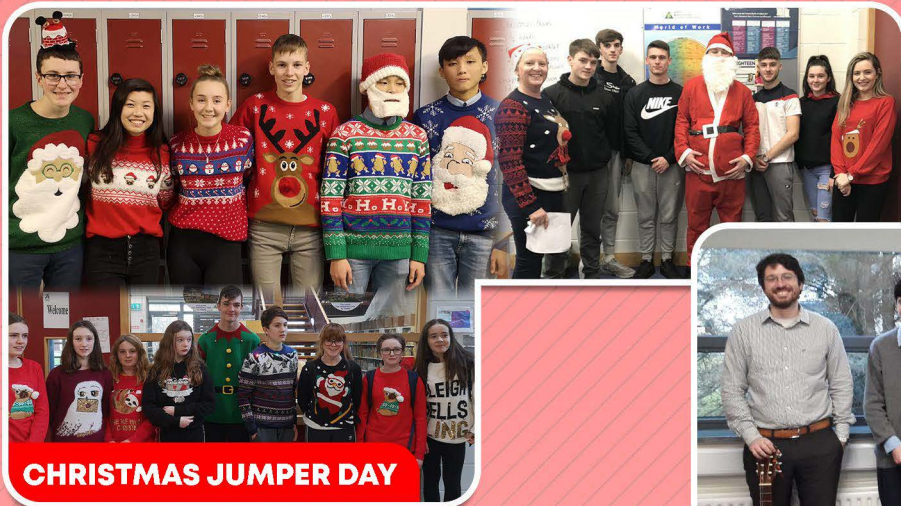
### THE PERSPECTIVE OF A FIRST YEAR STUDENT

*"Making the transition from primary school to secondary school was a daunting time for every student, however welcoming and supportive staff in BCS, along with the Meitheal Team, made this journey so much easier. My time in Ballincollig Community School has been really enjoyable. Having the opportunity to try each option subject allows you to figure out what options you really enjoy and find what ones you're good at. I surprised myself and ended up loving the option subject I initially thought I wouldn't like doing. I also love taking part in extra-curricular activities such as camogie as this is where I have made great friends. BCS has made transitioning into secondary school so easy and fun and I cannot wait for more to come."*

**- Sadhbh Cogan, 1Laioise**



# TRANSITION YEAR IN BCS!



Transition Year Students, with the help of Ms. Fleming and Ms. Kerrins, organised a Christmas Jumper Day to raise funds for the Simon Community. All students in BCS wore 'Christmas Jumpers' and as you can see from the pictures above, Santa Claus was sitting in 5th year student, Ryan O'Sullivan's seat all day!

**CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**



**TRANSITION YEAR STUDENTS ENJOYING THEIR GUITAR MODULE**



**NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

105 Transition Year Students attended the National Ploughing Championships in Co. Carlow. Students and teachers departed at 7am to visit the 1,700 stands and to view the ploughing competitions. The Transition Years were so fortunate with the weather and a great day was had by all.



**STEM SOUTH WEST**

TY Students Sinead Sommers and Nicola Batt attending the STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) Industry and Career Showcase in the Rochestown Park Hotel

## MODULES COMPLETED BY TY STUDENTS

- Spikeball
- Kickboxing
- Self defence
- Skincare
- Fitness and nutrition
- First aid
- Psychology
- Art
- Photography
- Yoga
- Pilates
- Archery
- Soccer
- Guitar
- Golf
- Swimming
- Baseball
- GAA Coaching
- Microsoft Office Specialism



**HOME EC MINICOMPANY**

As part of their studies of Food Preservation & the Food Industry, the 4th year Home Economics students organised a business venture. The students made over 100 jars of strawberry and blackberry jam in the Home Economics rooms. The students then successfully sold all of the Jam at the Ballincollig Farmers' Market.



**WOMEN'S MINI MARATHON**



**SPIKEBALL**

270 students from local feeder schools Scoil Barra, Gaelscoil Ui Riordan, St. Senan's Cloughroe and Scoil Eoin participated in successful tournaments held in BCS and organised by the Transition Year Spikeball Leaders. The primary school students loved competing in the tournaments and were guided by their Transition Year Leaders throughout the day. The transition year students were great role models who encouraged the participants to not only do their best but also to treat opposing teams with respect. Well done to all involved.



# TRANSITION YEAR!



## TY TRIP TO PARIS

Our Transition Year Students had an incredible time on their trip to Paris, they enjoyed an amazing cruise on the river Seine, as well as visiting the Louvre Museum, the Eiffel Tower, the Stade De France and of course Disneyland! Ils se sont vraiment amusés!



Junior, Transition Year and Senior Music Students enjoyed attending the Cork Pops Orchestra Concert in City Hall



*"Transition Year has given us even more of an opportunity to get to know each other and bring us together as a year group"* – Sean Mullan

*"There are so many activities to get involved in throughout the school. It is a great opportunity to do things that are outside your comfort zone"* – Shauna Harrington Collins

*"TY has given us more independence and the chance to get to know my year group even better"* – Nicole O'Connell

*"Work experience has definitely been one of many highlights of TY"* – Brian Lowney



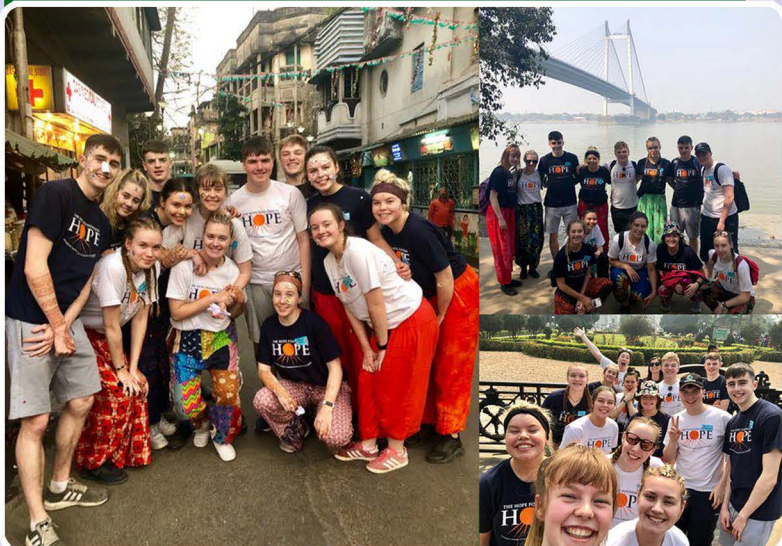
## TY ACCOUNTING TASTER DAY IN CIT

Transition Year Students, along with their teachers Ms. Branagan and Ms. Morrissey, attended an 'Accounting Taster Day' at the Cork Institute of Technology in November. The students learned about accounting-related careers and accounting courses in CIT.



Our Transition Year Students thoroughly enjoyed their day karting, paintballing and hillwalking in the Ballyhoura Mountains.

## 5TH YEARS TRIP TO CALCUTTA



In February, after many months of hard work and fundraising thirteen 5th year students, Anna Sullivan, Amy Hogan, Sally Punch, Sarah Donovan, Sarah O'Keefe, Alana O'Sullivan, Aine Finnan, Grainne O'Shea, Nicole Cronin, Adam Summers, Sean O'Flynn, Kevin O'Donoghue and Oisín de Baroid, travelled to Kolkata, India with the Hope Foundation. Along with teachers Ms. Coholan and Ms. Hooley the students visited many of the projects set up by Hope to help the underprivileged people of Kolkata. The trip was life changing for the students and they came home with a brand new outlook on life.



# SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS



## THE CLASS OF 2019 ARE GOING PLACES!

### UCC

Mathematical Science  
Commerce  
Law + French  
Arts  
Nursing  
Engineering  
Music + Arts  
Commerce + Language  
Early Childhood Studies

### CIT

Music  
Engineering  
Quantity Surveying  
Construction Management  
Health + Sport  
Business  
Early Childhood Studies

### Mary Immaculate College

Primary School Teaching

### College of Commerce

Sports Education  
Beauty Therapy  
Business

### AUDI Car Manufacturer

Apprenticeship



Congratulations to our Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied students who achieved outstanding results in the State Examinations in August 2019 maintaining the high standard of previous years and in the case of many subject areas, pushing the standards higher. We are incredibly proud of the class of 2019!



### TIDY TOWNS TROPHY WINNERS

For the second year in a row, BCS has won the Schools Category Perpetual Trophy at the annual Ballincollig Tidy Towns Celebration Night. The Ceremony was held at the Oriel House Hotel, Ballincollig where BCS was presented with the Trophy. Well done to the Transition Year students and T.Y Co-ordinator Ms Cronin who worked diligently to retain this award.



### VMWARE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

On November 7th, past pupils of BCS Eimear Cunningham and Niamh Lehane, along with their parents, and Deputy Principal Ms. Forde attended the first annual VMware School Scholarship Awards Ceremony. Eimear was the first recipient of the VMware Scholarship worth €2000. Runner up, Niamh Lehane was awarded €500. The pupils were presented with their awards by Mr. Mark Fitzgerald and Mr. Sanjay Poonen, CEO of VMware. Eimear and Niamh who both completed their Leaving Certificate last May, are currently studying Mathematical Science at U.C.C



### ACADEMIC AWARDS NIGHT

The academic achievement of our students were recognised at our annual Academic Awards Night in the Oriel House Hotel on January 10th. Leaving Certificate Students who achieved a H1 grade and Junior Certificate Students who achieved a Distinction in the State Examinations were presented with a trophy by Ms. Antoinette Nic Ghearrailt, former President of the Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools.



### INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

The Instructional Leadership programme trains teachers in areas of classroom management and innovative teaching and learning strategies. The programme is an invaluable opportunity to collaborate with other schools nationwide and showcase Teaching and Learning in B.C.S. on a national platform.

In October Ms. Forde, Ms. Bowen and Ms. Flynn graduated from the Instructional Leadership programme.





# SPORTING VENTURES!



## 1ST YEAR SOCCER

1st year Boys Soccer Team pictured with their coaches Mr. Prendergast and Ms. Kerrins.



## ULTIMATE FRISBEE TEAM

The BCS Ultimate Frisbee Team Pictured with their coach, 5th year student, Cian Hypolite



## JUNIOR LADIES' FOOTBALL

Congratulations to our Junior Ladies' football team who won the Munster Junior final, defeating Mitchelstown on a score line of 7-17 to 5-4, having been down by 3 points at half time. Well done to Ms. Holohan and captains Caitlyn Murphy and Lauren Buckley.



## MUNSTER JUNIOR RUGBY BLITZ

1st and 2nd year students representing BCS at the Munster Junior Rugby Blitz with Mr. Kelly and Ms. Buckley



## SENIOR HURLERS - CHAMPIONS!

Our Senior Hurlers won the Cork Colleges Final v Carrigaline. Final score was BCS 3-12. Carrigaline 1-12. We are very proud of our students who played so well in an incredible final! Well done to our students and to their coaches Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Prendergast and Mr. Coughlan.



## SENIOR FRISBEE TEAM

BCS Senior Frisbee Team – Winners of the Murray Cup in UCC



## INTERNATIONAL FISHING

We are incredibly proud of Transition Year student Joey Long who represented Ireland in the International fishing competition in July. Well done Joey!



## CORK MINOR CAMOGIE



Miriam Healy with Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr John Sheehan

Miriam Healy, 4th year, and Sarah O'Keeffe, 5th year, played for the Cork Minor Camogie team that won Munster and All-Ireland titles this season. This was never achieved before at this grade!

Sarah O'Keeffe with both trophies!



# RISEING SPORTS STARS IN BCS!



**Thuy Linh Cashman**  
Ireland International  
Table Tennis

**Thi Ly Cashman**  
Irish International Table  
Tennis, U'19 All Ireland  
Championship

**Silke Heinen**  
Irish International Table  
Tennis, U'19 All Ireland  
Championship

**Rachel Murphy**  
Irish International  
Karate



## EABHA O'MAHONY IRISH U17'S SOCCER CAPTAIN

5th year student, Eabha O'Mahony plays soccer for the Irish National Soccer Team with both the U17's and the Senior Team. She captains the under 17 team.

Eabha played with the senior team against the USA's Women's National Soccer Team in the Pasadena Rose Bowl in California. Eabha wants to get a scholarship to an American college and play soccer.

## EABHA'S SOCCER JOURNEY

- Lakewood Athletic FC
- Cork Gaynor Cup Teams U14 & U16
- Munster Inter-Provincial Team
- U15 Irish Schools Team (Captain)
- U16 Ireland UEFA Development Team
- U17 Ireland Team (Debut at age 14, captain)
- Captain of Republic of Ireland U17 team 2019,
- Nominated for FAI U17 International Player of the Year 2019
- Senior International Debut against USA in Rosebowl, Pasadena CA

**2017 - Present**  
- Women's National Team Squad (at age 15)

**2018 - Present**  
- Cork City FC Senior Team

**Future Plans**  
She plans to go to college in the US on a soccer scholarship.

## HIEU POWER - KARATE CHAMPION

5th year student, Hieu Power came 9th in his group of 52 countries at the World Karate Championships in October and is now ranked 36th in the world in his category. Hieu also won double Gold at the Karate Ireland National Championship in Tallaght earlier this year. He is aiming to compete in the Olympics.

## HIEU'S EXPERIENCE OF TRAINING IN LOCKDOWN

"Training for me has been very different at this time but it hasn't stopped. I've been very busy around my house trying to come up with make shift exercise equipment for example, I filled up shopping bags with dirt and use them as medicine balls. As I have lots of time now, I am able to train 2-4 times a day. Also, I can now focus on the fundamentals of my sports which I could not do before. I do a lot of my training through online zoom calls and can join seminars with coaches from around the world. Despite these challenging times training no doubt is very hard and difficult but my sport is continuing to evolve and get faster and I have to keep above my opponents."





# WELLBEING IN BCS



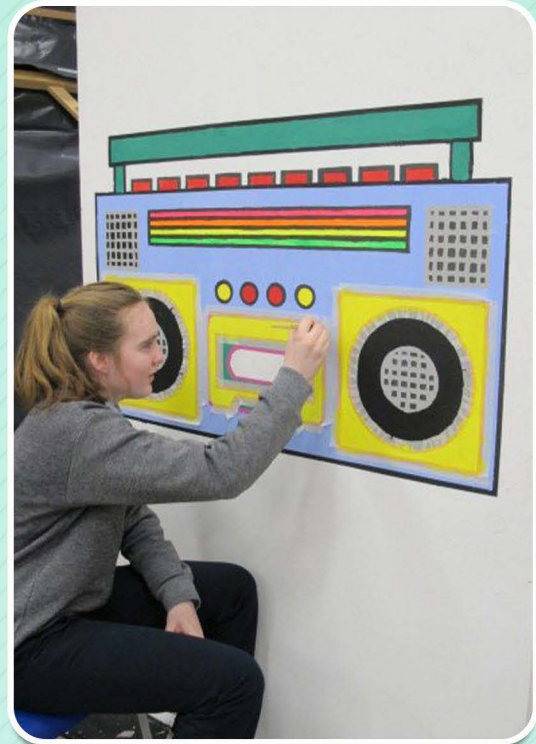
It is a well known fact that young people learn more effectively and have better academic outcomes if they are happy in their work, believe in themselves and feel acknowledged and supported in their schools. As a school community we recognize the vital role that we play in the promotion of our student's wellbeing.

This year, Ms O'Halloran, our Wellbeing Co-Ordinator, founded the Wellbeing Influencers group. This group consists of students Wiktorija Jania, Adrianna Stepien, Aleksandra Sliwa, Naomi Kaba, Lucy Daly, Ava Daly Marah, Lucja Klys, Adriana Maksimovica, Hillary Ajayi, Adam Healy, Joey Long and Zachary Friend. This group promotes all of the areas of Wellbeing to students and staff in our school.

In Ballincollig Community School our Junior Cycle students will have the opportunity to learn about Wellbeing in the following subject areas: Physical Education (PE); Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE); Civic, Social, Political and Education (CSPE) alongside one x 40 minute Wellbeing class per week.

Our dedicated Wellbeing classes offer students the opportunity to learn a variety of new topics and skills such as mind mapping, emotional intelligence, nutritional studies and digital awareness to name but a few. Each class is designed to reflect the six Wellbeing Indicators as created by the National Council of Curriculum and Assessment. Those indicators are as follows: Active, Aware, Connected, Respected, Responsible and Resilient. Students are asked to have one A4 display folder in class; which will be used to record a student's individual wellbeing journey.

## WELLBEING IN JUNIOR CYCLE



Our students painting the set for the TY Show - one of the many pastimes which can be great for our Wellbeing.



WELLBEING INFLUENCERS



WELLBEING MINDMAP

## A LETTER TO OUR STUDENTS

Dear students,

Like you, I sometimes think that the events of 12th of March last was all a dream. A bad dream.

I worry about you all. Believe it or not! I worry that you are putting too much pressure on yourself. I worry that you don't believe in your-self enough. I worry that you cannot maintain a daily routine and you are not sleeping well. In short, I worry that you are worrying! I could leave my worries over-take me and rule my days. However, this would not serve me or you well. Instead, I use some worry-busting strategies such as talking, walking, cleaning and I reserve a time ... 9am to be precise to spend worrying. I allow myself the time and space to 'worry', sometimes I find it useful to write my worries down. Then, I resolve to move-on with the day. I promise myself to make the most of the day and be as productive as I can be. It would make me worry less if you would try to actively manage your worries! Please do try.

I miss you all. I miss walking around during lunch-time supervision and seeing you laughing, chatting and studying. I miss my classroom and the familiar surroundings. I miss the interaction in my classes, where you often teach me as much as I teach you! I miss being called 'Ms!!' "Hi Ms", "Bye Ms", "Thanks Ms".... "Ahhhh Ms!!!"

You are right. This is hard; but the most important thing I want to say to you right now is "This too will pass". We will return to school. We will grumble on Monday mornings, again, we will eat chicken rolls from the cafe again, we will learn together again! Between now and then, stay safe and healthy. We can't wait to see you all return to our corridors in the Autumn. Keep active, keep learning and stay in touch!

Le meas mór,

- Ms Michelle O'Halloran



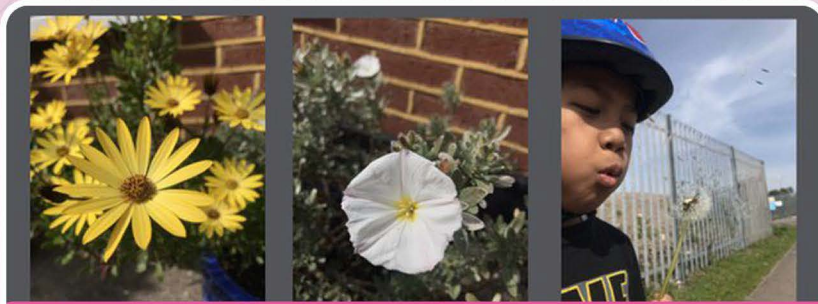
# ONLINE LEARNING



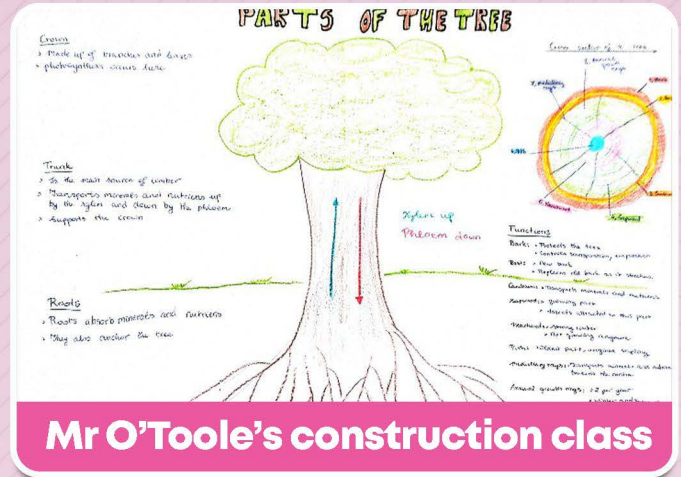
Despite the Nationwide Lockdown, our students have continued to do brilliant work under the guidance of their hardworking teachers. Below are just a few examples of the many pieces of work completed during the Online Learning period.



Ms Philpott's French class



Emer Coway's photography for Mr. Kelly's Art Class!



Mr O'Toole's construction class

# LOCKDOWN LETTERS



## Megan Foley

### What I miss the most about my 'old' life

I miss seeing my friends' faces every day, talking online just isn't the same.

### The daily challenges I face and how I cope with these

During lockdown, life get kind of repetitive. I set alarms and maintain a good sleep schedule to combat difficulty getting up, it's good to listen to some soothing music to feel sleepier. I always set goals and make to do lists for the day, I like to make them colourful and easy to read, reminders on my phone are also extremely helpful.

### The 'positives' about lock-down

A few positive things are having more time to rest and read, also watch some shows I needed to catch up on!

### The first things I would like to do when all this is over

The only thing I want to do is go back to school, that's literally it.

### A messages to teachers/friends

To my teachers, please stay safe and take some time to rest, thanks for all you do.

To my friends, let's have fun when this is all over, I can't wait to laugh together again.

## Eabha Buttimer

### What I miss the most about my 'old' life

I miss being able to see my friends everyday at school and having a normal routine. I miss seeing my grandparents and my family. I miss travelling further than 2km. I miss talking to actual people in person.

### The daily challenges I face and how I cope with these

I struggle from a lack of motivation and I cope with this by taking a break and going for a walk or cycle or talking to my sister.

### The 'positives' about lock-down

I don't have to wear uniform everyday! I've learned a lot about my family. I've spent a lot of time with my family.

### The first things I would like to do when all this is over

I can't wait to see my friends! I want to go back to training and see my friends there. I want a normal routine again

## Sean Ahern

### What I miss most about school

Engineering on Thursdays with Mr. Coughlan Missing out on the chance to do the double County Hurling and Football. We've won the Hurling but it looks like the double dream is over with covid-19. I miss the craic with the lads in the corridors or on the astro at break.

### The daily challenges I face

It is challenging to stay motivated during lockdown. To combat this, I structure my days - I wake at the same time every day, make sure I'm eating right, exercise daily and vary the activities I do. The guidance and support from my teachers helps me stay motivated and stay focused. Setting goals for myself has also helped Currently I'm trying to improve my time for 5k to under 20 minutes.

### The first things I'd do when this is over

Get a haircut.  
Go to KC's for food .  
Go out with the lads."



# BCS EMBRACING JUNIOR CYCLE INITIATIVES!

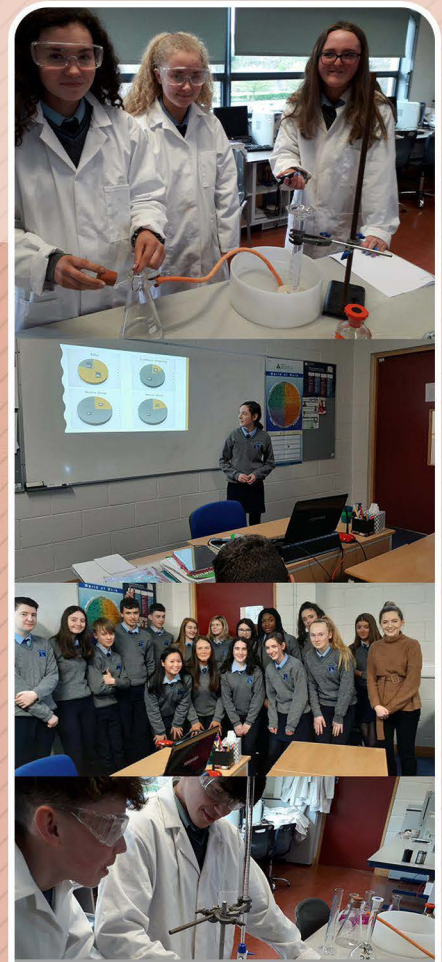


## HISTORIAN IN THE MAKING!

Well done to Bartosz Ekert (1 Rian) on his very detailed model of an Early Irish Christian monastery which he completed for Mr. Roy's History class

Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate their learning and skills in ways not possible in a pen and paper examination. Many of our students have shown their oral communication, creative, presentation and investigative skills through their CBAs. The CBAs facilitated by the teachers are undertaken during normal class time and according to a national timetable. Our 2nd and 3rd years have completed their CBAs in English, Gaeilge, Modern Foreign Languages, Geography, History, Science, Home Economics, Business Studies, Music, and Visual Art and have benefited greatly from the learning experiences provided by the CBAs.

Here are pictures of our 3rd year students undertaking their Science CBA, the 'Extended Experimental Investigation' and Nina Drummond presenting her Business CBA 'Businesses lacking an online presence'.



## CLASSROOM BASED ASSESSMENTS



## ILOVEMFL CONFERENCE

Our school was represented at the ILoveMFL (Modern Foreign Languages) conference in September by our MFL teachers, Ms Philpott and Ms Bowen who presented a workshop to other teachers on teacher collaboration & language learning at Junior Cycle



## MATHS WEEK

During Maths week, 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students enjoyed completing the puzzles that lined the corridors of the schools as well as taking part in a Maths Treasure Hunt! Transition Year students enjoyed the challenge of completing the problem-solving programme PRISM. Pictured below are the winners of the Maths logic puzzles.



## SCIENCE WEEK

Our 1st and 2nd year students loved attending the 'open-classroom' during science week where they completed science puzzles and challenges!



## PIETA HOUSE RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

2nd year students completed a six-week Resilience programme run by Pieta House. The aim of this programme is to equip second year students with emotional resilience tools. The students chose modules relevant to them, and so received practical solutions and resources that they can use on a daily basis. A big thank you to Pieta House facilitators Paul and Krystle!



# LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED STUDENTS CONTINUE TO IMPRESS!



## GRIFFINS GARDEN CENTRE

LCA Horticulture Students interviewed Margaret Griffin of Griffins Garden Centre Dripsey. She gave the class advice on caring for plants, growing media and ideas for their upcoming practical task.

## THE LCA PROGRAMME

The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) Programme in BCS prepares students for adult and working life. This two-year programme places its emphasis on the personal and social development of the students. During the programme, students study English & Communications, Maths, Communicative Irish, Communicative Italian and Science, as well as, Information Technology, Horticulture, Hotel Catering and Tourism, Active Leisure Studies, Social Education and Vocational Preparation & Guidance. As usual, our LCA students have had a very busy year!



## TEA & COFFEE MORNING

The students of LCA1 held a tea and coffee morning at the end of October for their parents and grandparents as part of their task in Hotel Catering and Tourism studies. Their special guests thoroughly enjoyed the freshly baked goods made by the students and were delighted to be invited to such a pleasant occasion!



## FUNDRAISER FOR CRUMLIN HOSPITAL

The LCA2 class received a certificate from Crumlin Hospital for their efforts as part of their Vocational Preparation and Guidance course. They held a bake sale and raised money for the hospital and the National Children's Research Centre.



## HEALTH & EXERCISE PRESENTATION

The LCA1 students received a 'Health & Exercise' presentation from Mr. John Mullins, physiotherapist to the Cork Minor Hurling and Football Teams, and past pupil of BCS as part of their science key assignment.



# OUR STUDENT COUNCIL



## STUDENT COUNCIL AND THE VOICE OF THE STUDENT

- Here in BCS we encourage the Student Voice to play an active role in many of the day to day issues that arise in the school. This voice provides teachers with an insight into how students are thinking and progressing and it also encourages active and engaging classrooms.

- Outside the classroom the Student Voice is encouraged 'to have a say' and an input into issues that affect them as integral members of the BCS Community. The Student Council plays an essential role in this.

- Council members are elected by their classmates to represent them and to put a voice to their opinions, issues and concerns to teachers and school management. This dialogue empowers the students and allows them to truly have a VOICE and a say in their educational development.



Student Council helped organise and manage the Lord Mayor's visit to the school on 13th Nov 2019



Members of the Student Council in discussion with Ms Healy and Facility Manager of BCS Brendan Gaughan

## WORK TO DATE



- Junior & Senior Councils were set up through an election process promoting student voice, student participation and student leadership. First week in September presentations were made to all year groups to raise awareness about the Student Council.
- In the first two meetings students signed contracts and took on board their role as Class Rep. - Officers were also elected.
- Student Council notice board erected in the main entrance of the school. It has pictures of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson & Council members, lists of Class Reps & Officers. And important notices for the school community.
- A Student Council Instagram page was set up to provide the student body with a platform to communicate and raise issues.
- Four council members attended the Irish Secondary Schools Union Regional Council meeting in City Hall. Topics discussed: Climate Action, Direct Provision, Education Reform & Effective Student Councils.
- Now that Ballincollig is part of the City Council, 6 Council members had the opportunity to attend Cork City Comhairle na nOg AGM in The City Hall to discuss topics that concern the youth today in Cork City.
- In the week leading up to mid-term The Student Council organised a Halloween Jukebox Event. Students had the opportunity to request a song which was played over the speakers in the school canteen. It was a great success.
- Student council members took part in a leadership training 2 hour workshop. Students also designed their new BCS Student Council badge.
- A Policy Review focus group was set up within the student council and students have contributed to many policies such as the CCTV Policy, School Tour and Code of Behaviour Policy.
- Student Council helped organise and manage the Lord Mayor's visit to the school
- A fundraising event (Bake Sale) was held for ICAN Irish Children Arthritis Network. The student Council raised €420.25
- Student Council members have organised a spring clean of lost & found items.
- Student Council members provide information points and refreshments for management, staff and parents at the Open night event and Parent Teacher meetings.
- Student council members meet with management and bring forward matters of concern from the student body.
- At present the Student Council are involved and working on the refurbishment of the school library and will continue with this project once schools reopen. (Researching new furniture that promotes collaborative work & study cubicles, recycling books & materials, designing a student voice themed Mural for the wall)
- At present the student council is still linking in with the student body and providing feedback on their Covid 19 experiences and Distance Learning.
- 6th year council members took part in an online survey through the ISSU (Irish Second - Level Student's Union) who is working with the Department of Education regarding Leaving Cert Projects & Practical Work and postponement of State Exams.
- 4 representatives of the Student Council will attend an online ISSU Annual Assembly. Two of our delegates will be afforded voting rights.



# BOY ARE WE BUSY!



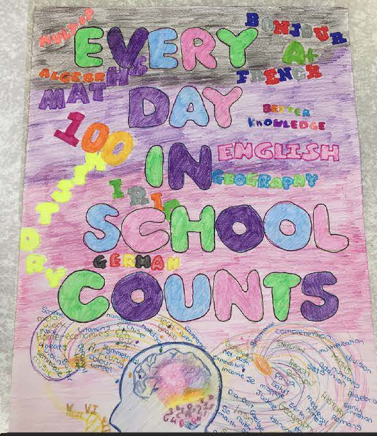
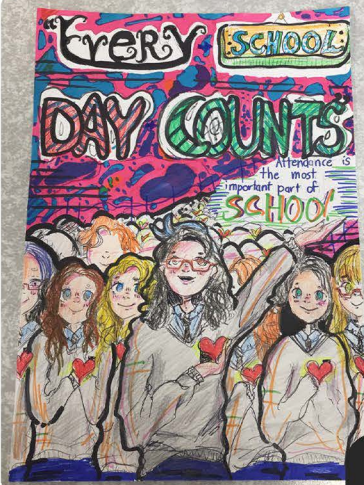
**EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY COMPETITION**

5th year students Eabha Buttimer, Kamil Labuda and Frances Corkery won the Cork Final of the European Space Agency's CanSat competition in CIT. They designed and built a satellite inside a Coca Cola can, launched it and collected data during the satellite's flight. Well done & congratulations to our students and their teacher Ms. Duggan their work is beyond impressive!



**PENNY DINNERS COLLECTION**

Pictured are Ms. Donovan and her Transition Year Students who organised the Christmas Package Collection in aid of Cork Penny Dinners



**POSTER COMPETITION**

2nd and 3rd year Students who won the 'School Attendance' Poster Competition. Through their posters, the students highlighted the importance of attending school to their peers which include; optimising life choices, a chance to socialise with friends and improved success in exams, self-discipline, punctuality and being organised.



**BT YOUNG SCIENTIST**

Forty-seven lucky 1st and 2nd year Students attended the BT Young Scientist Competition & Exhibition in Dublin in January. The Students found the event both enjoyable and interesting as they viewed the other projects displayed and mixed with like-minded young people interested in STEM careers. The students came home inspired with loads of ideas for their upcoming CBAs and for future competition entries.



**COMPETITION WINNERS**



**2 AODAN'S YSI PROJECT**

Class 2 Aodan's YSI Project focused on raising awareness of poverty in Ireland today. As part of their project, Cork City Youth Development Officer, John Warren, visited BCS and spoke to the class on the essential work of St. Vincent De Paul



**DEBATE CLUB**

The BCS Debate Club was founded in 2016 by Mr O'Herlihy. Since then the club has grown significantly and has had members join from all year groups. Students meet weekly to debate contemporary issues and improve their public speaking skills. BCS students have competed in the MACE Munster and national debating competitions, Feis Maitiu and have gone to other Cork schools to debate. A friendly competition between BCS and St Francis College, Rochestown has developed into an annual event.

In the 2019/2020 academic year, students took part in the 19th Model United Nations, run by UCC's International Relations Society. BCS students represented various countries and debated topics like the Yemen Civil War and Climate Change. This year, club members represented the school in public speaking classes at the Feis Maitiu, Corcaigh and for the first time at the Cambridge Schools Debating Competition. The club is run by Mr O'Herlihy and Ms Philpott, and meets after school on Tuesdays. All are welcome.

Mr. Tadhgh O'Herlihy





### CORK GEOGRAPHY TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION QUIZ

Well done to our 3rd year students Maeve, Ciara, Yasemin and Matthew who came 3rd in the Cork Geography Teacher's Association Quiz. Thanks to their teachers Ms Dinan and Ms Lynch.



A big congratulations to all the Leaving Cert Applied students who graduated on the 19th May 2020. In BCS you will always be remembered fondly as the LCA2 Class of 2020.

Amy Foley, Jemma Hogan, Ronan Lucey, David Mc Sweeney, Jordan Murphy, Christopher O'Leary, Zack O'Leary, Ryan O'Sullivan and Lukasz Zazula

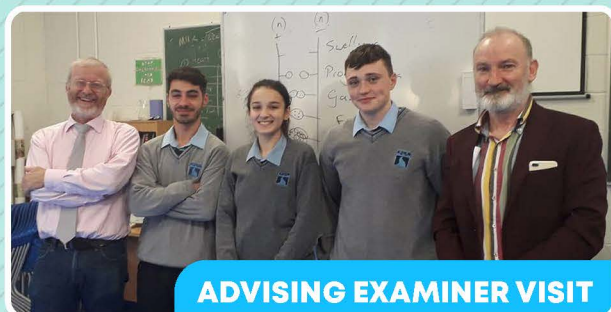
Most of you started in BCS in August 2015 and I remember your Year group as being lively, energetic and full of promise, as you looked forward to the new secondary school experience. In 2018 you decided that the traditional Leaving Cert was not for you and you made a very mature and conscious decision in 3rd year and chose to do the more practical and more hands on 2 year Leaving Certificate Applied Programme. This was a very good decision and I am so impressed to know that some of you already have plans organised for next year. You have worked hard with your teachers and things are already falling into place. Some of you have an apprenticeship and or have been offered a place to do the course of your choice. Once again- Well done to you! Impressive to say the least. You have experienced a lot during the last 2 years- The fund raiser for Crumlin hospital, your YSI Showcase in the City Hall, tree planting in horticulture class, the TY musical- to name but a few-but I will always remember you for the amazing travel brochure that you produced. It was an excellent example of your hard work with maps, pictures, B&B and hotel recommendations along with advice for anyone heading off on the Atlantic Way. I was so proud of you all as you went through the presentation. I see that 5 years on and you remain lively energetic and still full of promise for the next stage of your lives and that is exactly the way it should be! BCS wishes you every success in the future, may your dreams come true and congratulations once again.

- Ms. Avril Owens, LCA 2 Year Head



### MOTORSPORT IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Transition Year Student, Kayleigh Cole, finished 3rd in the Motorsport Ireland Karting Championship and 1st in the Munster Championship. She is pictured with Principal, Ms. Kathleen Lowmey and Year Head, Ms. Noelle Donovan.



### ADVISING EXAMINER VISIT

6th year Biology students were very fortunate to receive a visit from Advising Examiner with the State Examinations Commission, Mr. John F Doyle. Mr. Doyle regularly gives presentations to Biology teachers on the marking of the Leaving Cert exam paper but this was his first time giving the presentation to Leaving Cert students. The students found Mr. Doyle's talk invaluable. Pictured are Mr. John F Doyle, 6th year students Jorge Marques, Lara Halici and John O'Driscoll, along with Biology Teacher Mr. O'Connell.

# Goodbye and Best of Luck to the Class of 2020!

To the class of 2020,

The past 6 years as your Year Head have passed by so quickly but are filled with fond memories we all will cherish.

I can still remember the noise level in Corridor D every morning and at assembly, where I tried in vain to get you to line up in your classes in alphabetical order. Fast forward to 6th Year and I had another never ending struggle on my hands which was attempting to get you to line up in your classes! Class Daithi in the end had about 40 or more students... I'll miss seeing those hands up to your ears when I threatened to use the whistle and I'll miss seeing those, who every morning hid behind the table tennis tables hoping to have that last catch up with friends before classes began.

There have been many highlights in our 6 years together. The class of 2020 definitely broke the record in 1st years for losing locker keys, the standoffs which occurred on a few occasions over a rubbish bin, the 2nd Year trip which took place with only 6 students, the smashing ski trip (literally) to Pinzolo which stayed accident free until the last minute and then we had a casualty.

What a pity we couldn't share our last few weeks in BCS together. We missed our final assembly which would have been for me a very nostalgic occasion. I can't imagine coming up to the door of the Fitness Suite and not seeing those familiar faces who stood there every morning for 6 Years.

As a Year Head I have been lucky. You caused me very little hassle over 6 years. I always felt proud when other teachers remarked on how well behaved you were. We built up a mutual respect over 6 years and that is down to all of you.

I know these are uncertain times but whatever happens with regard to the Leaving Cert, I hope that each one of you will find happiness and contentment in whatever you do in the future. This is not the end, only the beginning.

Ms. Margaret O'Sullivan, 6th Yr Year Head 2014-2020

