

BCS Newsletter 2022-23

Achieving Excellence Together



Principal: Ms. Karen Forde

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**Ballincollig
Community
School**

Principal's Address

I wish to welcome our community to the summer issue of the BCS newsletter. As principal, I am delighted to see the many achievements of our students in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Having pupils participate in all the varied parts of school life is fantastic to see.

Throughout the academic year our students did us proud inside and outside the classroom. Our students have been involved in so many activities such as Debating, Charity Fundraising, the BT Young Scientist Competition, Microsoft Office Specialist Training, Innovate for Wellbeing, Green Schools, and the Young Social Innovators Programme to name a few. Our students represented us incredibly well in the various arenas of hurling, football, soccer, camogie, athletics and basketball to name a few. A real highlight was our Transition Year students outstanding production of the Musical 'Time of My Life'.

I would like to thank the students, parents and staff for their efforts in making this academic year such a success. Our success as a school continues to be built on the excellent relationships developed between students, their parents and staff which allows our students to reach their full potential. Our school motto 'Achieving Excellence Together' has certainly been reached throughout this past year.

On behalf of the staff and the board of management I wish all our students the best of luck in the Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle exams. I would like to wish all our school community a happy and relaxing summer break and I look forward to seeing everyone return in late August.

Karen Forde
Principal





Editorial Team

Alfred Larsson, Maitilde Jones, Audrey Kane, Kate MaGuire and Mariam Abdelmoeti

We are delighted to introduce the 2022/2023 Newsletter. We have learned a lot on this journalistic journey and have thoroughly enjoyed the process of producing this publication. It is our hope that the following pages provide you, the reader, with an insight into life here in Ballincollig Community School.

Sincere thank you to the many teachers and students who provided us with material for this edition of the BCS Newsletter. Special thanks to Mr. O'Brien and Ms. Owens for all their help and advice.

We would like to welcome our 1st year students to our school and wish the 6th years all the best in their future.



Here we have some of our TY students who are working with the Innovate for Well-being Programme They want to make our school the best version of itself. They have worked hard to create this chill our zone for everyone – enjoy!



Sport



Our Senior Ladies Football Team



3rd year Student Lucy Erett, who won the Gold Medal at the Junior Archery Competition in February!



Our U14 Boys Hurling Team with Mr. Casey



Our 2nd year Student Ethan Hyde plays as part of the U15 Cork Football Team



Our 5th year students Heather Mischke, Lucy McCarthy Morley and Abey Creedon won the U18 Bank of Ireland Plate Final with Ballincollig RFC



Our Transition Year Students enjoying the Wheelchair Basketball Tournament



Our Rugby Star, 5th year Student, Saskia Wycherley

Saskia Wycherley is making a name for herself in rugby and is presently the co-captain of the Munster U18 girl's squad. Even though Munster lost their opener to Connacht, Saskia was described as reliable in the out-line and the IRFU reported that she "seemed like a real leader in their pack". It's also worth noting that she has now been captain of the Munster two years back-to-back, so that's an insight into her leadership skills....at only 17 years old!

She's also able to play in a board range of positions but flanker is her favourite so far. Saskia is currently going to learn her trade in Bantry Bay RFC which is quickly building a reputation as a rugby talent. She has been involved in the Munster underaged set-up for 3 years, wants to keep trending upwards with hopes of opening a door to the Munster women's senior squad when she turns 18. All of us here in BCS are incredibly proud of Saskia.



Here we have our 5th year geography students exploring the Mitchelstown caves and Cahir Castle in county Tipperary.



My 1st year in BCS!

“My favourite part of BCS is that there is so much variety. There are so many different types of people, talents, sports, extra-curricular activities, options to study and teachers. I really liked doing all the option subjects as it has helped me to find out what I want to study for the Junior Cycle. My favourite subject is Irish. I love how we get to learn our native language, and my teacher helps me and makes Irish fun to learn.

I would say my favourite activity this year has been playing with the BCS camogie team. I made a lot of new friends there and it has helped me settle into BCS really, well.”

Caoimhe Bushell

“My favourite part of BCS has been learning, meeting new people, and always having so much to do. To be honest I do not really have a favourite subject, but if I had to pick one, I would say Art, because I really love and enjoy drawing, it also helps me express my feelings. My favourite activity in BCS so far has been the “lip sync battle” in December. Participating in the lip sync battle was an incredibly fun experience.”

Eva Sarli

My Experience in BCS so far: Yelyzaveta Hlyha

“My name is Yelyzaveta (people call me Elizabeth!) and I am in my first year in BCS. I came to Ireland from a town called Horlivka in the city of Donetsk, Ukraine in the summer of 2022. It was not only a huge change moving countries, but BCS is also a much bigger school than my school in Horlivka. I was quite nervous during my first few days as I did not speak much English, and it is difficult to make friends when everyone is speaking a different language. I have since made some really good friends and they have helped me to settle in. People have been so helpful and nice!

I use an iPad during class to translate things when I need to, and to help me understand what is happening in the lesson. I am learning more and more English every day. So far, it has been a challenge but I am learning all the time and I feel more at home here now. Thank you to everyone at BCS for this great year.”



Our 1st year students wearing red to
‘Show the Red Card to Racism’

1st Years



Callum carrying out an experiment to investigate the action of Amylase on starch!



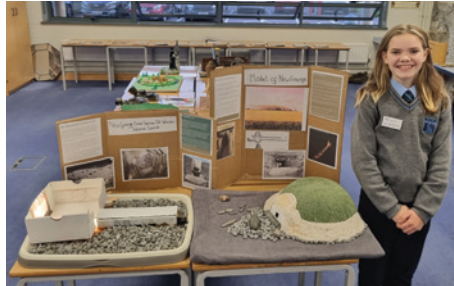
Robyn and Connor finding the melting point of Benzoic acid!



Congratulations to the winners of the 1st year Poster Competition organised by the Meitheal Team!



We are very proud of our first years who participated in the Public Speaking Competition!



Roisin's outstanding History project!



Ava and Gretta learning about the Density of irregular shaped objects



Our future historians!



Yasamin, John, Daniel and Colin presenting their comic book sketches in English Class!



Dylan, Aoife and Sophie learning about the structure of the Heart!



Our 1st years thoroughly enjoyed the table quiz organised by the Transition year students

'Time of My Life' - The Musical

School Show



The cast performing "We are the world" by Michael Jackson.



Filip, Kevin, Fionn and Denis as 'The Boys from the 80s'

In November, our Transition year students gave us an outstanding performance over three nights with their production of the musical "Time of my Life". Over 100 students used their talents in singing, dancing, acting, set design, stage management and music technology, and gave us an incredible experience.

Cast of Time of My Life

Corey senior: Jann De Asis

Corey junior: Charlie Summers

Alf: Senan Nakajima

Kirk: Colman Ahern

Tiffany: Mellissa McDonnell

Cyndi: Chloe Cotter

Mel: Emily Power

Kim: Boglarka Balazs

Michael: Kevin Beechinor

Billy: Fionn Donnellan

Lionel: Denis Gavrya

Huey: Filip Jozefowski

Feargal: David O'Callaghan

Eileen: Zoey Riordan

Laura: Sadhbh Cogan

Debbie: Ellen Curren

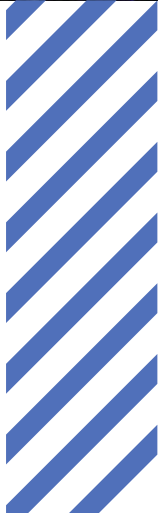
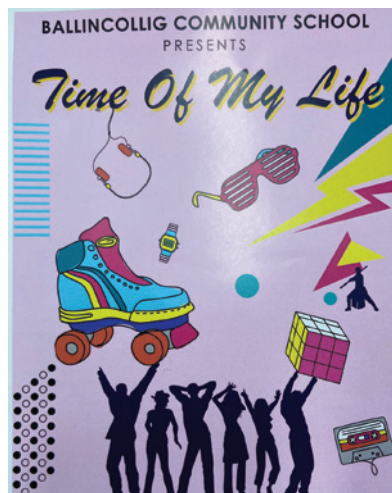
Ms. Brannigan: Emily Daly

Mr. Cocker: Max O'Leary

Voice ove: Alfred Larsson

Featured female singers: Abbie Creedon and Abigail wills

'Time of My Life' - The Musical



2nd years



Last January a team of four, including 2nd year student Caoimhe Corkery, flew out to Monaco and competed in the Monaco Optimist Team Race 2023. There were 16 teams and 64 sailors. Over the 4 days they competed in 120 races and finals on the last day. The way this worked was that the top 4 teams raced in a quarter final and then a semi-final with 3 teams and a final with the last two teams in the final. In the end, Caoimhe's team came 16th. It was Croatia against the USA in the end and Croatia won overall. Caoimhe commented that 'All round it was a great experience and one I wouldn't change for the world.'



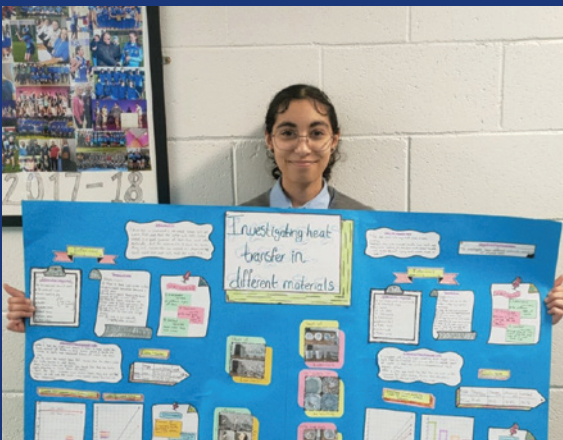
2nd year students enjoying their day out zip-lining in Farran woods on September 21st



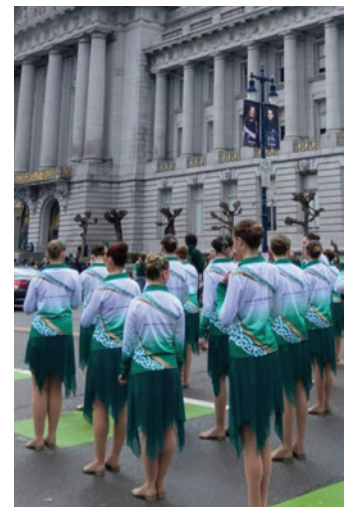
Our 2nd year students studying Women in History as part of International Women's Day



Ms. Philpott's Second Year CSPE Class with their completed life size poster of the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Our 2nd year student, Mariam showing her science CBA "investigating heat transfer in different material" the results were exceptional- good work Mariam!



Here we have one of our 2nd year students spending St. Patrick's Day in the big apple itself, New York.

2nd years



Spanish students

Always Happy to welcome visitors to BCS!

Bosco Maldonado Lopez de Carrizosa has spent the last year in BCS. He is fluent in 'Cork' now and he is an expert at chewing gum!!

Also, we have welcomed back Ignacious Mendez Soler (known as Nacho!) who has returned to 2nd year for this term.



Moon captions

Did you know? This picture was taken by our soon-to-be world-renowned photographer, second year student, Cian Hourihan! Cian is an astronomy expert!

Masks

Elena Twohig from BCS has recently been re-inspired to create masks and helmets again. When Elena was younger, she used to watch a YouTube channel called "Sean's Crafts". He made masks and other things out of cardboard, a simple and accessible material. She would always ask my mom if she could paint masks, as she loved superheroes, but had never made my own mask from scratch. A few months ago, his channel randomly popped into my head again, and she decided that she would make a mask of a Japanese demon called Oni. When Elena was making that one, she built off a mask base from a shop and added cardboard to it. She then coated it in fibreglass resin to make it solid and when that dried, she added clay and sculpted out the face. She then covered the rest of it with wood filler and sanded it. When she was finished sanding, she spraypainted it. She then added a few finishing touches with some gold paint by hand.

Elena's next mask was to look like Iron Man and Guy Manuel from Daft Punk, she made it for her English CBA, but didn't get it finished in time. The only difference from the process of the last mask was that she had to print a template on paper and then cut it out onto cardboard. Then she had to glue all the pieces together and repeat the process from the last mask, only she didn't use any clay. It was supposed to have had a visor that swung open when you pulled down the jaw but didn't get it finished.



Mariam interviewing Marianna

Editorial team member Mariam interviews new 2nd year student Marianna Pidlubna

Mariam: Hi Marianna, we are so happy to talk to you today and to find out more about you
Hello, my name is Marianna Pidlubna. I am 14 years old, and I am from Odesa in the south of Ukraine and now I am temporarily staying in Ireland.

Mariam: was it hard for you to leave your country?
It was quite hard for me to leave my country because of a couple of reasons. One is my family-my dad, and the rest of my family are still there, so it was quite hard to leave them. Also, the distance between Ireland and Ukraine, it was quite hard to get from Ukraine to Ireland, so we were going by car through all different countries, and it was quite stressful.

Mariam: Do you feel safe?
Yes, I feel safe in Ireland now. I am in a safe place because for now, in Ukraine it is extremely dangerous.

Mariam: Was it difficult to start education in a different system?
Yes, for me it was extremely hard in September to start a new school. I am from a different nationality and needed to escape the war situation that I have in my country. And at that time, I had no friends I did not know anyone, the different languages and different people have different systems, yes it was hard for me at first. Even though I had quite a good level of English and knew the basics, but I didn't understand half of what people were saying and I was very quiet.

Mariam: How different is Ukrainian school to our school?
To be honest it was hard for me. Because the schools are totally different. We have fewer lessons per day, we have more subjects and more and more tests and actually. We usually do not get exams at the end of the year, but we get more tests in the term. To be honest, I like the Irish education system more than the Ukrainian. In Ukraine we have so many subjects like all the branches of science and the same for history. We have history of the world and history of Ukraine. But I really like the way the Irish people study.

Mariam: What challenges did you face?
I think one of them was the English language, it was hard for me at first because my brain was mentally thinking in Ukrainian which was hard to switch on and switch off Ukrainian and start speaking English. I had a good level in English. But still not the best when you're in an area with native speakers. It is hard try to understand what they are saying.

Mariam: What do you like about BCS?
I liked how the school looks like in the inside and on the outside, it's also really modern. I like the teachers that I have-they're really good and I like that they are young compared to Ukrainian teachers. I like the way the teach the students it's really light and easy and not as stressful as in Ukrainian school. The system of education goes slow and is reliable so you can relax, and rest and you have lots of holidays!

Mariam: Do you think that BCS welcomed you well?
Yes, the school, the Principal, and the Year Head were doing everything for me to make me comfortable. And they always ask me how I am getting on etc. And I get lots of support. But it was still very hard at first. So, I had a stressful feeling because it was so different. But the school they did a lot to make me feel comfortable and help me all they could.

Mariam: Finally thank you Marianna for your time, we are so delighted to have you with us in BCS, best wishes to meet your family again, with sincere wishes that the war will end soon, and peace will return to your country.

BT Young Scientist 2023

Our TY science students did the whole school community proud by reaching the National Final of the BT Young Scientist Competition.

The experiment “Plants can change the way you sleep” was conducted by TY students Sarah McSweeney and Nik Adani. The girls discovered that having lavender plants in your room results in the best quality sleep, with the next best plant to have in your room was any green-leafed plant.

Evie Burke, Senan Nakamajja and Julia Oszczan conducted an investigation titled “The perception of beauty through the eyes of children”. This was a modern continuation of an experiment from the 1940s, previously conducted by scientists Kenneth and Mamie Clark. The students presented young children with dolls of different skin colours and different general appearance. They asked the children questions like, “Which doll do you want to play with the most?” and “Which doll is the prettiest?”. The results showed that the children were more likely to choose the dolls that looked like them.

Aoife Skinner carried out her project on ‘Prejudice against modern foreign languages in Music’ whereby she carried out research into the popularity of music in different world languages.

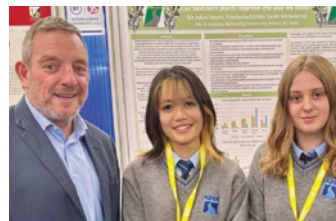
The effects of frequent reading on academic success were researched by Aoife de Baròid and Blàithin Browne. Interestingly their project concluded that the subject English was the only subject that profits from reading. Well done to all students



The unfinished book of poetry 2023

This past year the TY Students participated in poetry work shops assisted by writer Mr. Matthew Geden. They worked hard to assimilate poetic techniques and ideas, producing poems of talent and flair. They looked at the poetry of poets such as Seamus Heaney and Eavan Boland and talked about numerous topics including personification, love and concept of poetic voices. This was a thoroughly enjoyable series of poetry sessions enjoyed by all.

Please follow the link below to enjoy their poems.
[*the unfinished book of poetry 2023 - Copy.docx*](#)



Senator Jerry Buttimer was very impressed with Nik and Sarah's project



Preparing for the National Final!



Tainiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Michéal Martin T.D speaking with Aoife De Baroid, Blaithean Browne and Mr. O'Brien at the Young Scientist National Final in Dublin.



Charlie Dolan, former CEO of Eliil Lily and President of the ISTA, getting our students involved in the brainstorming process for the BT Young Scientist competition.



We've been busy in BCS!

At BCS we have always had a culture of inclusion and providing a platform to promote student voice. Members are involved with the affairs of the school, in cooperation with the board, parents and teachers. From reviewing school policies, meeting with senior management, organizing charity events to representing BCS at regional and national level, members play an integral part of our school community.



3rd year - Maths



3rd year - Fota



6th year - Wellness retreat



Student council members volunteered to bake for Irish Cancer Society fundraising bake sale, they raised over €750 over the course of two days in early December 2022. 4 in 10 cancer cases are preventable but people are still unaware of the risk factors of cancer. Irish Cancer Society was created on the 10th of October 1963. It is estimated that in 2020 there were around 45,000 people diagnosed with cancer. The students wanted to do their part and help by starting this fundraiser.

New Meitheal team

We have a new Meitheal team in training for next year's first years! We're so glad to have TY students; Blaithin Browne, Abbey Creedon, Zoe Riordon, Ellen Curren, Senan Nakajima, Emily Power, Max O'Leary, Oliwer Stadnicki, Sadhbh Cogan, Caoimhe Murphy, Katie Bruen, Julia Oszczan. All these students having a promising future of working with our next year's first years, after their Meitheal training in late April. All of them have shown justice, compassion and humility, and we look forward to seeing more of it next year!



Officers of the student council who promote student voice and represent all students at meetings with management. At BCS, student voice is extremely important to us. The meeting was a huge success, and many student ideas were shared.



TY student council members attending the regional conference led by the ISSU at Cork City Hall, the ISSU is the "national representative body of school students in the Republic of Ireland" - ISSU. ISSU stands for Irish Second-Level Students Union, the ISSU helps with empowering and helping student voice in Ireland.

Meitheal Newsletter

This year's Meitheal team has been working hard to ensure all the 1st year students settled into the school.

On their first day in BCS, the Meitheal team was there with a warm smile and a helpful hand to give them a tour around the school and show them how to use their school journal. "The Meitheal Team really helped me settle into BCS" -1st year Siún. In September, they kicked off the year with icebreaker games for our first years to help them get to know each other. With 7 classes and over 170 students, this was very helpful! Lots of fun games such as Wink Murder, Taboo, Hangman, Pictionary and charades!

Next, the team organized a Halloween Poster competition. Everyone put in their best effort with some being cute and festive and others being downright scary! Ultimately, not everyone could win, so a winner was chosen from each class. The posters were displayed next to the Meitheal display board, and the winners were presented with cafeteria vouchers.

Get out your popcorn because, most recently the Meitheal Team organized a cinema trip for first years to go and see "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish". Everyone enjoyed the walk up to the cinema in the fresh air and then the movie itself was funny and heartwarming. A day out of school to watch a movie? What more could you want!

They plan on wrapping up the school year with a drama workshop hosted by Bernard Casey and maybe even, a little visit from the ice cream truck.



Meitheal Team members photographed with Halloween poster competition winners.



Meitheal Team

BCS art students in Paris

In BCS we are very fortunate to have teachers who gave up their free time to give our adventurous students a chance to see the artistic wonders of Paris. Mr. Kelly, Mr Desmond and Ms. Owens planned the four-day trip in Paris for senior cycle art students just as we were emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic, they departed on Friday the 21st of October. To quote art teacher, Mr Kelly "I just wanted to do it for the students". He believes that the musee D'Orsay was a priority for the students as this was what the curriculum was largely based on. The following day they visited the Musee D'Orsay they walked to the Eiffel Tower and spent time relaxing and taking photos.

The students (and teachers!) got to enjoy the Sacre-Coeur, after climbing 270 steps to experience the great view of Paris and other activities such as the Bateau Monde on the river Seine, L'Arc De Triomphe and the famous Musee du Louvre. It was a great school tour!



Academic success

This year our BCS students once again achieved outstanding results in the State Examinations. All students not only achieved their personal best but often excelled.

3rd year students Hannah Lucey, Daragh O'Sullivan, Caoimhe Murphy, Hazel Maher, Oliwier Stadnicki, Colman Ahern, Eimear O'Flynn, Jann De Asis, Ellen Curren, and Lea Delauch, received multiple Distinctions in the Junior Cycle.

6th year students (2022) Ciara O'Brien, Wiktoria Jania, Orla Beechinor, Adam Healy, Sinead Lee, Gregor Stasko, David Delaney and Maciej Bednarczyk all received over 600 points in the Leaving Certificate, were presented with an Academic Awards by Minister for Finance Mr. Michael McGrath, TD at the BCS awards evening.



6th year Student Dark Jenkinson who received an Academic Scholarship to the University of Galway

Inside the classroom!

Class Neasa at Elizabeth Fort in Barrack St. After a great tour there it was off to Cork Museum in Fitzgerald Park where Dan Breen - former BCS student & curator of the museum - rolled out the red carpet with another great tour!



5th year History students touring Glasnevin Cemetery and Croke Park as part of their study of 20th Century Irish History



Garda Pat brought the Canine unit to visit our students



6th years students entered the ISTA National Senior Science Quiz in UCC



6th year student Ava Mulready was presented with a cheque from O'Connor-Pyne Chartered Accountants for achieving the highest 5th year result in Accounting. Pictured also are Mr. Forde and Ms. Branagan



Our 5th year students participating in a Student Voice Workshop organised by the ACCS



5th year students participated in a gym education module in PE



Transition Year Art Students outstanding work



5th year students standing high up in Croke park

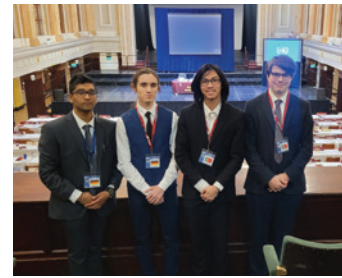


Emma, Kailah and Leona cooking up a storm in Home Economics!

Our fourth years girls participated in the Digital Fluency Programme, and after three months of hard work they produced some very impressive app designs! This work included collaborating with a school in Cairo!



Gaisce, the President's Award, was a real highlight for many of our students this year. Our students climbed to Peak Seefin, the highest point of the Ballyhoura Mountain range at 528m above sea level!



As part of the social integration programme, our students volunteered at Our Lady of Good Counsel School.

Oskar, Jann and Jeevan attended the Doha College Model United Nations in Cork City Hall. Our students participated in debating, research and collaboration with other student council members in Cork.



Our Students Hannah Lucey, Lea Delauche, Amelia Abrol, Melissa McDonnell, Senan Nakajima and Emily Spillane won the Audience Choice Award at the UCC Psychology Competition 'Psychslam'



Our TY business students completed the Gen E programme. Gen E is the biggest entrepreneurship event, it's a celebration of entrepreneurship across Europe whereby our students presented their ideas and business strategies to Gillian Hickey of Version 1 Technology Company.



VMWare Cork invited our students to participate in a Global Literacy Programme teaching the students the best practices for international communication.



TY students attended the 67th Annual National Ploughing Championships.

Ever heard of Dancing with the Stars? What about Salsa Dancing with BCS Students?



Our Senior Debating Team; Maitilde Jones, Aoife Skinner, Max O'Leary, Ethan Kleiser Cullinane and Adam Deasy, taking part in the 'Concern Debates' discussing the motion: "GMOs are necessary to end the fight with world hunger".



TY students fundraising for the Hope Foundation! For many years our students have travelled with the Hope Foundation to Kolkata.



Geography students carrying out fieldwork investigation in the Regional Park



Our Students wrapping Christmas presents in aid of Down Syndrome Ireland.



Our students participating in a Skin Care Module

Our French students watched "Remi, Nobody's boy" in the Gate Cinema for the French film festival.

German Exchange Programme

Our students were very fortunate to participate in a German Exchange programme in April. Our students spent one week in Germany with host families learning about the culture, history and people of Germany along with practicing their German!





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