



Ballincollig
Community
School

Summer
Newsletter
2022

Celebrating Ms. Lowney's Retirement 2022

Kathleen hails from Castletownbere and in 1983 she Graduated from UCC with an honours degree in History and English. As many will know, the 80's are remembered as decade of recession, unemployment and emigration. Following her graduation, jobs were difficult to come by and Kathleen was fortunate to get subbing in Catletownbere, Bandon and Fermoy. However, like many young Irish she was forced to emigrate to England in 1985. She immediately secured a teaching position in a convent in Sittingbourne, Kent. After two years, she moved to St. Teresa's Boarding School in Effingham, Surrey. In her 11 years in St. Teresa's she made an outstanding contribution to student's education and formation. She was instrumental in many school tours but arguably she made her greatest impact as an English teacher teaching students to A level. While here she developed an interest in Guidance and in 1998 made the difficult decision to leave a permanent job & return home to complete a Masters in Career Guidance Counselling in UCC. The Community School Sector was the great beneficiary of that decision. Following her completion of the masters, her aptitudes as a Career Guidance Counsellor were immediately recognised by Ted Owens in Glanmire Community School from 1999-2002. In 2002 she was appointed as Deputy Principal of Maria Immaculata Community College, Dunmanway where she faced the many challenges which the amalgamation of schools brought with it. Two short years later, in 2004 she was appointed as Principal of our very own Ballincollig Community School.

Kathleen leaves behind her a wonderful legacy after her 18 years of service to Ballincollig Community school. In her time in BCS she has formed wonderful partnerships and friendships with the four deputy Principals who worked with her. The staff over the last 18 years have benefitted immensely from her experience, her expertise, her time, her generosity, her wisdom, advice and direction but above all her kind nature, listening ear, approachability, understanding and supportive nature. The many positive comments and fond memories of Kathleen which have been shared since the announcement of her retirement is testimony to the esteem and respect she has earned during her long and illustrious career.

The beauty of Kathleen's leadership was she always gave teachers the freedom pursue projects, initiatives and programmes which we were passionate about and which she knew would be beneficial to our students. While pursuing these passions she was always gave staff the opportunity to learn by giving us the space to use our own initiative, while always being available to offer advice, support and direction when required. The trust that she has in her staff's ability can be seen in the number of successful teams and programmes across all disciplines within the school.

A proud Munster supporter, her love for Rugby is reflected in her establishment of BCS's first Rugby team. Her commitment to charity is evident from the many charity initiatives that were pursued under her guidance. Her passion for student travel, which began in her early years of teaching was reignited again in 2018 when she accompanied 16 students to Kolkata on the Hope Immersion Programme. Her dedication to the Community is more than apparent from the strong links the school has forged with local business', groups and sporting organisations. While her devotion to student development, formation, happiness, academic achievement, sporting excellence and wellbeing is more then apparent from the sheer volume of happy and successful students who have excelled while attending BCS during her principal ship.

The pressures, burdens and responsibilities she has carried and faced in the last 18 years as principal have been immense and at times must have been overwhelming. The burden of responsibility must have at times kept her awake at night, and for carrying that burden, we the staff and students of BCS are extremely grateful. Kathleen has navigated Ballincollig Community School through intense educational change including curricular, assessment and technological reform. She has also guided the school, its staff, students and parents through social change, economic challenges, legal changes in education and the ever evolving issues affecting students and school life. We take this opportunity to congratulate and acknowledge the contribution Kathleen has made to Ballincollig Community School. Kathleen can take great pride in what she has achieved in her 38 years in the Education sector. Your tireless work, commitment and dedication to Ballincollig Community School is greatly appreciated and we wish you every happiness in the next chapter of your life.



Celebrating Mr. Buttimer's Retirement 2022

John attended UCC from 1980-1983 where he received an Honours Degree in Irish and English. His time in UCC laid the foundations for a very promising career as a teacher, seemingly it was not all study though as he also met the love of his life, Kay while attending University. He quickly followed in his parent's footsteps, both exceptional teachers in their own right and fondly remembered by their past pupils and entered the teaching profession by completing his higher diploma in Education in 1984. Little did he know, when he entered the doors of Ballincollig Community School in September 1985, that he would still be here 37 years later. Conscientious, hardworking, efficient and full of charisma there was no doubt that he would excel quickly and in 1990 he was appointed Director of Adult Education in BCS. In 1993, John was appointed House Exam secretary, a position he would hold for the next decade. It is hard to believe that while holding all these positions and juggling a very busy family life, John still found time to further his own education completing a Masters in Education and a higher diploma in Special Education in his early years in BCS.

His hard work, skills and dedication to student achievement were recognised when in 2003 he was selected as co-ordinator of Special Education in BCS. His sensitivity for those who needed help, his pleasant and helpful manner, his excellent teaching capabilities and his commitment to passing on the highest standards to his pupils are among his finest qualities as a teacher, qualities which made him perfect for a career in Special Educational needs.

Mr. Buttimer was appointed Year head in 2008 a position of great trust and sensitivity. He was charged with the responsibility to lead young minds, to ensure their academic and extracurricular success, to help them navigate their way through challenging times, to create lifelong memories, to draw the students together with the ultimate aim of them forging close bonds and long lasting friendships. He has undoubtedly achieved those aims as a year head. His accomplishments with his year groups are evident from the fantastic young adults under his guidance who have graduated from BCS.

In recognising your contribution to BCS it would be remiss of us not to recognise and express sincere gratitude for the epic ski trips which you have spent months organising for your year groups. The time, effort, stress and hard work involved in these trips are immense, however it is hard work which reaped incredible reward when you see the fantastic effect these trips had on students and groups attending.

It would also be neglectful not to mention your superb soccer skills (skills which apparently you acquired thanks to childhood games on the green in Glasheen with Ms. Arslan). Your love and passion for Soccer, you shared freely with your students, training many teams throughout your years in BCS. Skills which you often utilised to annihilate 6th year teams in the end of year match. Students have gained incredible skills, passion and fantastic memories from your contribution to soccer in BCS, with many of them going on to acquire Soccer Scholarships in Universities, because of the time and energy you invested in extra-curricular.

Our students have all expressed their sadness at your retirement but also gratitude to you Mr. Buttimer, for all you have done for them. Your enthusiasm, energy, sense of humour, big heart, compassion and empathy has had made a lasting impact on the students & staff of Ballincollig Community School over the last 37 years. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your vast contribution to Ballincollig Community School over the last 37 years, not only to the academic life of all the students who were in your care, but for every other aspect of school-life where you were generous with your time, your energy and your gifts. You shared so much with management, staff, pupils and their parents alike and for that we are eternally grateful.



Latest Developments in BCS

New Principal appointed in BCS

BCS is delighted to announce the appointment of past pupil Karen Forde as new principal of Ballincollig Community School. Staff and students would like to congratulate Ms. Forde on her appointment. We know that her dedication to academic achievement, her commitment to student success and her constant support to all students, families and staff will continue to have a positive impact in BCS for many years to come. We wish Ms. Forde every success in her future as Principal and look forward to supporting her in her new role.



One Good School Programme



We are delighted to be a member of Jigsaw's One Good School initiative. The One Good School programme supports the mental health and well-being of young people, and those around them, by developing a shared responsibility across the whole school community. Our One Good School Team comprises of Students, Parents, Teachers and School Management, as we feel it is important that mental health and wellbeing is supported and promoted by all members of our school community. The One Good Schools Programme provides excellent interactive workshops, webinars, online resources and specific initiatives for our students, teachers and parents/guardians. Next year will see an increased availability of such initiatives for all members of our school community.

Newly Developed Facilities

Our newly renovated Library, a project which was spearheaded by our student council and funded by Tomar Trust has been completed. This vibrant, modern space which facilitates students to read, research, explore, collaborate and learn is now fully operational and run by our student council. The school has also invested in new equipment for the gym, to make it fully functional. The newly renovated and modernised gym with updated equipment is now accessible to senior cycle PE classes so they can gain the skills necessary for using gym equipment safely. Numerous outdoor eating areas have been created for students to socialise outdoors during break times. A covered walkway was built connecting Corridor A to Corridor C, which facilitates the free and quick movement between corridors. Many of these projects have been funded by the Tomar Trust, funding for which we are extremely grateful.



Amber Flag

Transition year students formed a committee and completed an audit of practices and services which the school provides to support student mental health. Following, the audit students identified areas which required further attention to improve student wellbeing and mental health in the school. Students recognised the need to make information about mental health services more readily available and accessible for the student body. In response to this, students created a noticeboard for students with all contact details & locations of mental health services locally and in the Cork area. Students were also instrumental in organising the very successful Ballincollig Darkness into Light walk. The committee also organised a yellow day to fundraise for Pieta. Students also ran a Positive Poster competition in the school to raise awareness about positive mental health. Students have also set objectives and goals for next year to maintain awareness about mental health service and promote positive mental health among our student body.





Darkness into Light Ballincollig 2022

Well done to the DIL Ballincollig Team who brought together the entire Ballincollig community on Saturday May 7th to support Pieta. Congratulations to all staff and students who put in a work to make it such a huge success. A special thanks has to be made to Mr. David O' Brien and Ms. Ann Marie Whelan and their Transition year team for the phenomenal amount of preparation, planning and hard work they have done for the Darkness into Light walk 2022.

Junk Kouture 2022

Our TY Junk Kouture Team were successful in reaching the Regional Finals. Junk Kouture challenges students to create high-end wearable couture fashion from everyday junk to highlight that we all must waste less and reuse more. "The Burden of desire" is a dress created by four extremely talented, creative and hard-working BCS transition year students. The team included, project manager Kate Barry, Designer Caitlin Hanafin, Dress maker Molly Lenehan and Model Rebecca Wallace. A huge thanks also to Mr. Kelly who guided and supported students during the project..



Delphi School Tour

Transition Years travelled to Delphi Adventure Centre, Co. Galway in March as their Transition Year School Tour. Accompanied by their Year head Ms. Whelan and subject teachers the group had a fantastic time away participating in activities from zip-wiring to kayaking.



Paintballing 2022



Archery 2022



Debating

Two Transition year students Aisha and Ciara represented BCS in the first round of the UCC Philosophical Society Munster Schools Debate. Both performed exceptionally well, opposing the motion that "Ireland's great famine was a genocide" and successfully qualified for the second round.

Ardú Street Art Project

In January TY History and Art students took part in a street art workshop with Ardú artists Peter Martin and Shane O'Driscoll. Facilitated by History teacher Ms. Geaney, the artists are engaged with our Transition Year students to mark the centenary year of The Irish War of Independence. Students learned how to use spray paint, design murals and apply historical context to modern Art.



Transition Year

Transition Year Activities



Last Hurrah for TY students with Footgolf in Kinsale.



TY Students Alex and Alicia representing BCS at the MOS Ireland Competition in Dublin



Spikeball Leaders 2022



JAI Accounting Award Recipients 2022



Fundraising for Cork Cities Children's Hospital Club



JAI Young Entrepreneur Award Recipients



TY's receiving their MOS award



Bernard Casey Drama Workshop



Karting 2022



National Spring Clean in April—Students were busy cleaning up the local area.

Outside the Classroom



Mr. Buttimer brought his 3rd year group to Farran Zip Lining in May.



Sophie and James winning the LCA student of the term award.



2nd Year Junior Achievement Award recipients.



Sports Day 2022 was a huge success. Students took part in a variety of events including high jump, shot put, avelin, sprints & relays to name a few. A huge thanks to our PE Department for all the organisation.



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2022



Our Meitheal team organised a Skipathon in aid of Cheshire Ireland.

Women in Construction Studies making Concrete benches



Students Celebrated International Women's Day by attending a "Time to Level Up" webinar.



Old & New Meitheal Teams on Induction Day



Students responding to the crises in Ukraine.



5th Year Students took part in a six week Gym Module facilitated by Eoin Galvin.

Extra-Curricular



BCS Senior Soccer Team 2022



Golf Ireland Senior Boys Munster competition in Cobh Golf Club in March. The team shot plenty of birdies (and lost a few as well) and represented the school very well.



Best of Luck to our Eurofoot Team travelling to France in June



Junoir Basketball Team



1st Year Athletics Competition in MTU



Senior Ladies Football Team



Munster Cross Country Athletics Completion



U14 Hurling Team



Leaving Cert Student Brendan Douala with his Irish Basketball Cap



5th Year Student Tadhg O'Connell plays for Cork Minor Team.



U15 Rugby Team



Ballincollig Community School Student Council 2022

**Recognising Student
Commitment &
Achievement in BCS**



Gaisce award recipients 2022



**Darkness in-
to Light Team
2022**



**Students receiving their certificates for perfect
attendance for the year.**



Meitheal Team 2022



CPR4SCHOOLS award Recipients



Amber Flag Team 2022





1st Year Debating



1st Year Debating



1st Year Opening Ceremony

1st Year 21/22



1st Year Camogie Team



1st Year Ladies Football Team



1st Year Graduation Celebrations



1st Year Soccer Team



1st Year Hurling Team



Class of 2022

We hope you have enjoyed your 6 years in BCS. We wish you luck in all your future endeavours and studies. A huge thanks to Ms. Donovan for all the care and hard work over the last 6 years.

