

Presentation

Press

Presentation Secondary school, Ballyphehane, Cork tel: 021 4961765

December 2019

Exciting times for Pres!



Mayar's Trip to China

Our Young Scientists!



A Word from the Principal



A Message from the Principal, Ms. Nicola Barrett

I feel very proud and humbled, as I reflect upon the first term at Presentation Secondary School, Ballyphehane. As we approach Christmas, we endeavour to give you a small insight into some of the happenings in the school over the last term, which would not have been possible without the support of the students, staff, parents / guardians, board of management and the wider community.

It has been a very busy but very successful term. Excellent work has again been done in the academic field, firstly seen through the outstanding Leaving Cert and Junior Cert results. It is great to see our students Emma Daly and Ciara Elliot qualify for the Young Scientists competition in January, something only a select few get to achieve. And Mayar Khalawi to be selected for a once in a lifetime trip to China in April by UCC. Our very own Quercus scholarship in the memory of Mrs Katrina O'Flynn, RIP and donated by her family were awarded again this year. These awards were one of the highlights of a very successful College Awareness week which also included an 'on the couch chat' with Marty Morrissey, Rob Heffernan and past pupils.

Presentation Secondary School has always been, and continues to be, a school that leads the way in innovation, ensuring that the best possible opportunities are provided for our students and that they learn to give to others. We saw that in our TY group who took on the mammoth task of organising a wheelchair basketball event for no less than 30 schools around Cork. It was previously an event organised by UCC students who could not put it on this year. With the leadership of our girls over €2000 was raised for the Irish Wheelchair Association and many eyes were open to the challenges that are faced every day by wheelchair users.

But in my fourth year as Principal of Presentation Secondary School, what humbles me most is the positive friendly, caring environment created by both our staff and students. The rapport between staff and students is a special one. Positive initiatives, with staff involvement complement this - the Colour Fun Run, Halloween Dress Up day, the Simon Christmas Jumper day, just to name a few events that bring fun and laughter to the corridors of Presentation, Ballyphehane.

It has been a fantastic term and Presentation Secondary School is a very special place to be. I want to thank all our students, parents and guardians for their continued support of our school. It is my privilege to be Principal of such a dynamic and progressive school. It is an honour to work hand in hand with Ms. Gillian Murphy, Deputy Principal and the dedicated, professional teachers, special needs assistants, administration staff and ancillary staff of Presentation Secondary School, Ballyphehane.

To all our students, staff, past and present, parents / guardians and the wider community, 'Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir.'

Nicola Barrett

Principal

September

Lord Mayor Of Cork Visits Our School by Leigh-Ann and Courtney.

On the 4th September, the Lord Mayor came to visit our school. John Sheehan, who is the current Lord Mayor, gave a wonderful speech and had lovely things to say about our school. He very kindly gave the students homework off for the night and we were delighted.



Non-Uniform Day In Aid Of Suicide Prevention Week by Leah



On September 13th 2019, a non-uniform day was held in our school. It was organised by Leah O'Neill in TY in aid of Suicide Prevention Week. The theme of the day was to wear brightly coloured clothing. A raffle was also held for everyone who donated money. All funds raised were donated to "A Lust For Life" - an award winning Irish wellbeing movement created to transform how we talk about and treat mental health in Ireland. It was a really uplifting day seeing everyone come together for such a worthy cause.

"It was a very enjoyable day, and the fact that it was for a good cause made it even better" -

Open Night by Leah and Raquel.

On the 18th of September, our school held our annual Open Night. Students from all year groups were involved in this evening. Every student who took part had a special role to play. Many families came to our wonderful Open Night and they were given a full tour of our school by our amazing volunteers. It was a very successful night and we are excited to meet our incoming first years next year!



Ty Trip To The Ploughing Championships by Courtney

In mid-September, the TYs went to the National Ploughing Championships in Co. Carlow. Although it was an early start, they were all full of excitement and enthusiasm. They had an action-packed day and they had a lot of fun. "It was An unreal experience and I would definitely like to go again," said Jade Murphy TY. Overall, the TY's really enjoyed their day out and they all went home with a smile on their faces.

TY Chinese Module By Mayar Khalawi.

In early September, TY students started their Chinese Module. TY students had a lot of fun learning about the Chinese language, culture and food. I was selected to attend the Easter Camp in Shanghai in April 2020. I am really excited to visit and learn about China.



September

First Year Trip To ZipIt by Leigh-Ann and Courtney.

On the 23rd of September, the First Years and the Fifth Year Cairdes went to Zipit in Farran Woods for the day. They left in the morning full of excitement. Throughout the day they went on many types of zip lines, both high and low. They had an action-packed day! “We had a lot of fun, zip-lining from tree to tree.” - Emmie Carroll 1B.



TY Trip To Dublin by Leah

In late September, TY students travelled to Dublin, accompanied by Ms. Drummond and Ms. O’Grady. They visited Croke Park where they took part in the skyline walk. The next day they attended the wellbeing convention “ZEMINAR”.



“I am really glad I decided to go to Dublin with my year. It was a brilliant bonding experience, and I would love to go on an overnight trip again before I finish TY.” - Abbie Dorgan Quirke TY.

First Year Trip To The Lough by Courtney and Leigh-Ann.

First Year students visited the Lough as part of their Art Course. They had a very enjoyable day and they found it very interesting to observe the many different aspects of nature that can be found at the Lough.



TY Trip To The Gaeltacht by Laoise and Leah.



On the 27th of September, the TY students travelled to Kerry to visit the Gaeltacht. On the way, they stopped at Inch beach, which they loved! They then went on to visit a museum about the Blasket Islands, which is a topic they had been learning about prior to this trip. They thoroughly enjoyed their Gaeltacht experience!

“What we learned about life on the Blasket Islands was very eye-opening.” - Courtney McHale TY.

October

Junior Cert. Results Day by Leah

On the 4th of October, TY students received their Junior Cert. results, after a very long and patient wait. Before they received their results, they were nervous and excited. The students were very pleased with their results and they were very glad that all of their hard work paid off.



TY and LCA2 Trip To Collins' Barracks by Leah



The LCAs and TY students visited Collins Barracks in October. The students were given an insight in to the life of a soldier. They read private letters on display from soldiers to their families; they saw tanks and artillery and old uniforms. They were able to see the contents of a soldier's gear bag; what they eat and how heavy their guns are.

'It was a very educational and interesting experience' - Rachel Molloy', LCA2.

6th Year Biology Trip to Fota by Angela

In October as part of the 6th Year Biology course, students went on a trip to Fota Wildlife Park. It was of benefit to them as it brought what they learn in class to life. They went there to carry out experiments and investigations. It really helped them to understand the theory that they have been studying.



1st Year Futsal Tournament by Leigh-Ann and Courtney.



On October 18th, the 1st years participated in a Futsal Tournament. Futsal is an indoor soccer sport. They prepared for the blitz by training every Monday after school. They took the training very seriously as they were new to the sport. At the tournament, they played 3 games at St. Vincent's Secondary School. Well done girls!

"It was very exciting and went at a fast pace. it was also fun to train a new sport." - Katie Cronin 1B.

October

Rotary Leadership Competition by Lily Boyle

I competed in the Rotary Leadership Competition for a chance to visit the European Union in Brussels. The Competition involved a series of interviews about how I showed leadership inside and outside of school. I made it to the second round and I've gained so many skills as a result!



Careers Option Day by Leah

LCAs, 5th and 6th year students attended this year's careers options conference at Rochestown Park Hotel. They were able to speak to representatives from colleges from all over Ireland and Europe. It was a really informative and useful event.

Fifth and Sixth Year Trip To The Glucksman by Ife

5th and 6th Year Art students attended the Glucksman Art Gallery in UCC. Not only was it a phenomenal experience, it was also very beneficial to our studies. We would definitely recommend a trip to the gallery.



12 Years Unbroken Attendance!

Well done to Amy O'Herlihy who received an award from the Lord Mayor Cllr John Sheehan for 12 years unbroken attendance. This is an amazing achievement Amy. Well done!

Colour Run for World Mental Health Day by Leah

In October, in honour of World Mental Health Day, the whole school went on a Colour Run in Tramore Valley Park. We were lucky with the sunny weather on the day! Everyone had loads of fun and fresh air. It was the perfect way to highlight such an important week in the global calendar.



Halloween Dress Up Day by Leighann

An amazing effort was made by all students (and staff) to dress up on October 25th. There was such a positive and upbeat atmosphere around the school. We were delighted to raise almost €400 for the Children's Unit in CUH.



November



TY Visit To Nano Nagle Place by Raquel

On the 19th of November the TY students visited Nano Nagle Place. The students were taken on a tour of the convent and they were invited to watch a performance depicting Nano Nagle's life. The students found the experience educational, enlightening and moving. They were amazed by her courage and by how much she devoted her life to providing education for Catholic girls, in a time when it was a crime to do so.

C.I.T Open Day Emma

The 5th and 6th Years enjoyed a very successful trip to the CIT Open Day. Students felt that the itinerary was very well structured and the content of the courses was outlined very effectively. Students feel more confident now in their course choices.

'Before I went to the Open Day I had thought that I wanted to study Social Care. However I am now thinking about a number of other careers that I had previously not considered.' Niamh Crowley 5A.



Cork Pops Orchestra by Leah

1st and 4th years were treated to a lively and entertaining Cork Pops Shows in the City Hall in November. Everyone had fun and enjoyed the great variety of music.

TY Wheelchair Basketball Event by Leah and Raquel.

On the 22nd of November, the TY students organised and held a Wheelchair Basketball Event on the Mardyke Arena in UCC. Prior to this event, TY students have been working very hard with their P.E teacher Ms. Waldron in order to make this event the best it could possibly be. We invited other schools from around Cork to attend our event, and we gave them the opportunity to



Climate Change Conference by Emily and Lily

On Wednesday the 13th of November, two Fifth Year students attended the 1st annual Climate Change conference in the City Hall. Throughout the morning, the students heard stories and opinions on Climate Change from a number of different panels. In the afternoon, they took part in workshops and received a special speech from the President, Michael D. Higgins.

November

6th Year Trip To 'Hamlet' by Amy O'Herlihy.

On the 12th of November, the 6th Year English classes attended a production of Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' in the Firkin Crane on the 12th of November. It was an amazing production of the play and it was a great way to revise it for our Leaving Cert.



LCAs Science Week Activity by Leah

Our LCAs ran some great lunchtime activities during Science Week. They tested to find out who had the warmest and coldest hands and they also decided to make elephant tooth paste. It was a great week showing us that science is so important and can be so much fun!

Science Quiz In UCC by Angela O'Flynn.

On the 14th of November, 6th Year Students Ife Salami, Amy O'Herlihy, Kate Higgins, Sophie O'Sullivan Jones and Angela O'Flynn took part in the ISTA Senior Science Quiz in UCC. The questions were based on Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Kate Higgins said "It was an amazing opportunity to learn more about Science." Ife Salami shared how she thought the quiz was "amazingly beneficial."



National Maritime Open Day by Emma

TYs and LCA students attend the National Maritime Open Day. It was a really interesting and educational day. The students were given the experience of being in the control room of a ship in Syney harbour via a simulator. They got to experience the sensation of being on a ship in a variety of weather conditions.

LCA Food Drive by Leah

Our fantastic LCAs work hard to collect non-perishable food donations for the Christmas Food Drive Appeal. These generous food donations were sent to families in need for Christmas. Well done girls for supporting such a great cause!





‘On the Couch’ Chat with Rob and Marty

The highlight of College Awareness week was on Friday 22nd at Presentation Secondary School, Ballyphehane, where Marty Morrissey and Rob Heffernan were joined by four past pupils for an “on the couch chat” about their careers paths and college options.

‘I found listening to the past pupils college stories very beneficial’ – Leeanna O’Reilly



Parents’ Coffee Morning on HEAR and DARE Schemes

5th and 6th year parents enjoyed a very informative coffee morning with Maeve Minihane, the UCC+ Schools Outreach Co-ordinator. She answered all their questions about the HEAR



‘Katrina O’Flynn’ Scholarships 2019



Congratulations to Emma Higgins and Lily Boyle who won the ‘Katrina O’Flynn’ scholarships (Junior and Senior). These scholarships are modelled on the UCC Quercus scholarships. Emma won for her high performance in gymnastics and Lily for being an active citizen.



Thank You Ms Coughlan! by Leah and Leigh-Ann

We would like to say a huge thank you to Ms Coughlan for organising such an unforgettable College Awareness Week in our school.



December



TY Geography Trip to UCC by Emma

On December 2nd, several TY students travelled to UCC for a Geography workshop on sustainability. They discussed global and local issues on the subject. The workshop was organised by Dr Richard Scriven. It was a very informative and timely event.

Youth Forum Trip to City Hall By Emily

On December 3rd, several 4th and 5th year students visited City Hall with the Southside Youth Forum. We met with the Lord Mayor and local councillors to discuss our hopes for the upcoming year. Our plans include unveiling a mural at the Lough, and improving the local parks. It was a very enjoyable



Soccer Team's Superb Win! by Leah

Our soccer team gave an outstanding performance on December 3rd. They successfully defeated St Aloysius Carrigtwohill by 7 goals to 1! They worked brilliantly as part of a team and showed great skill!

Christmas Nativity Service By Emily Goulding.

On Wednesday December 11th, the school held our annual Nativity Service. First and Fourth Year students performed Christmas carols and student representatives from each year did readings. "It was a beautiful service and a great way to celebrate Christmas with the school community," said Katie Healy.

Christmas Jumper Day by Leah

On Friday December 13th, we held our annual Christmas Jumper Day in aid of The Simon Community. Our TY students worked very hard during the week leading up to this event, and we would like to say a big thank you to all students and staff that donated money. All funds will be donated to Simon Community.



December



TY Christmas Fair by Raquel

The TY students held a Christmas Fair on December 13th as part of our Christmas Jumper Day. They were selling their own products as part of their Enterprise Module. Students were able to purchase a variety of products from the fair.

Our Young Scientists - Highly Commended by Leigh-Ann

Emma Daly and Ciara Elliot have been working on an exciting new area of research. Their science project was shortlisted and ultimately Highly Commended at the prestigious Young Scientist Competition at the RDS in Dublin. Well done girls. What a fantastic achievement!



Laoise, Adah and The Rebel Brass Band by Emma

Congratulations to two of our students, Laoise Barry (TY) and Adah Duff (5thYear) who played as part of the Rebel Brass band in Thomond Park. They played for the Munster v Saracens European Cup game in front of 25,000 supporters! One of our former students Caoimhe Barry was also playing. Well done girls, what an achievement!



One Step Beyond Awards by Leah

Congratulations to all of our students who received a "One Step Beyond" award on December 12th. These awards recognise students who go out of their way to be polite, kind, helpful and positive. Excellent achievement girls!



S.H.A.R.E. Collections By Emma

On Wednesday December 18th, fTY students took part in the annual festive collection for S.H.A.R.E. in Cork City. S.H.A.R.E. is an organisation that helps the elderly. We would like to say 'thank you,' to all of the students who volunteered to collect for this very important organisation.





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