



TULLAMORE COLLEGE

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NEWSLETTER



Ski Trip 2012

A three o'clock start from Tullamore brought us to Dublin in plenty of time for the two and a half hour flight to Italy. When we arrived we got on another bus, which took us to Pinzolo. This is the town where our hotel and ski resort were situated. When we arrived at the hotel, our Topflight guide got onto the bus and invited us all inside. The hotel was old fashioned but lovely and all the staff were very friendly, despite their lack of English (or Irish)!. We then got fitted for our skis, a new experience for all of us, except the teachers and senior students. When we went for our first day of skiing, a gondola brought us up the mountain to the ski resort, where we met our ski instructors Fabio and Valentino for the first time. The instructors were excellent and everyone came on quickly. We all started on the 'baby' slopes and moved through the 'blues' all the way to the 'reds' quickly. To get onto these slopes, we had to use chair lifts. These were exhilarating and the scenery while we were on them was breathtaking. On the last day, a five o'clock start awaited us before the long haul home. All in all a great experience and one I think we would all definitely go on again. We would like to sincerely thank our teachers – Ms. Gallagher, Ms. Geoghegan, Mr. Meehan and Mr. Doolan and all the senior students who came with us to help – Chris, Amber and Fiona. Finian Carton, 2JPM



Dail Call!

On Tuesday, 6th March, the 2MOF and 2MJB class went to the Dail as part of their C.S.P.E. project. They were greeted on the steps of Leinster House by Marcella Corcoran Kennedy, the T.D. who helped organise the visit. Ms. Corcoran Kennedy was very pleasant and helpful. She introduced us to one of the ushers who brought us around on a tour of the Dail and Senate. It was really enjoyable and fascinating. We learned so much information from the usher. It was amazing to see a place in real life that we have so often seen on television. At the end of the tour we were treated to juice and chocolate. All in all it was a great learning experience. Thanks to Mr. Moran and Ms. Lawrence. Annie Egan, 1PM

The Mighty Bully Brady

A Review by Tavi Nolan 2JPM

On Wednesday 7th March Humourfit Theatre Company visited our school. Michael O Sullivan was the actor who presented The Mighty Bully Brady. It was a very good play and I really enjoyed it. We saw how bullying can start out as something small but can end up being a very big problem. Overall I think this play is addressing a very important issue in schools today, an issue that doesn't get as much attention as it should. I learned that there is a bully inside of everyone but it is our choice whether or not we want to embrace it.

Macbeth in the Helix

A group of fifth year students attended the Second Age Theatre Company's production of Macbeth in the Helix in D.C.U. The students who are studying Shakespeare's tragedy for their Leaving Certificate found the production hugely entertaining and engaging.

Ms. Gallagher

Human Body Exhibition

Senior and T.Y. students visited this amazing exhibition in Dublin. Nine galleries displayed the dissected and preserved partial and full body specimens. Thanks to Ms. Howlin and Ms. Flynn for organising it. Roma Lal, LC2

The Pavilion!

T.Y. students along with their DCG teacher Mr. Elliffe have been busy designing their Pavilion as part of the Offaly County Council 'Engage With Architecture' competition. Jamie Nolan, Touloupe Makanjuola and Rebecca Lane's entry was the winner. 'The Vessel' can be seen in Llyods Town Park, Tullamore. Sincere thanks to Glenwood for their support in the manufacture. Mr. Elliffe

'Newly Enrolled Daisy'

The fifth year Home Economics group 'Calci-Yumm' took part in the Milk It Awards this year and made it to the second stage of the competition. As part of the competition, they had to promote calcium in school-goers diets. To do this, the group decided to hold a milkshake day where they made and sold milkshakes in the Canteen at break time for two days. On display at the 'Milkshake Day' was 'Daisy' our cow made of milk cartons. Everyone welcomed Daisy and she is now like a new student. The fifth year group would like to thank everyone who helped them with the competition especially those who brought in milk cartons and bought milkshakes and also all the teachers for their support especially Ms. Dunstan. Thank you again.

By Calci-Yumm



HOME ECONOMICS

Third Years

Junior Certificate Cookery Practicals will be on the first two weeks after Easter, dates Monday 16th to Friday 27th April. We would encourage every student to practice their dish as much as possible over the Easter holidays. It is really important that students have all the necessary ingredients ready for those dates.

Second Years

Second Years are currently beginning their Junior Certificate Textile projects. It is very important that all students bring the necessary equipment and materials to each of their practical classes. An accompanying folder outlining how the textile item was made is essential to the exam.

Ms. Graham



Ms. Graham and the cookery class



1PM students with Ms. Finlay display their 'Make a Book' work.

J.C.S.P. NEWS

J.C.S.P. Make a Book

Well done to all of the students who were involved in this year's Make A Book. Once again we had a wide variety of books including fashion, hunting, soccer, fishing and the 1916 Rising, Teenagers, Danny and Under the Hawthorn Tree. Students will attend the Make A Book exhibition in Dublin where books from all over Ireland are put on show. Well done to our creative writers.

Nicole Rattigan, 1PM

Second Year Numeracy Initiative

Second year students are currently participating in a numeracy moments initiative. Students are carrying around a notebook where they record numeracy moments outside of mathematics class. For each numeracy moment they record, they accumulate points where they win prizes and are brought on a tour. This initiative is to show how much numeracy is actually involved in our lives and other subjects outside of mathematics. Well done to all involved.

Chelsea Kilroe, 1PM

L.C.A. NEWS

LCA Hotel, Catering and Tourism

On January 11th, the LC2A class went to the Tullamore Court Hotel to complete a hotel profile as part of the Hotel Catering and Tourism class. The class saw many aspects to the running of the hotel from banqueting halls, business meeting rooms, international meeting rooms, leisure centre, childcare facilities to meeting the chef in the kitchen to even checking out the presidential suite!

Congratulations to all the LC2A Hotel, Catering and Tourism class who produced a wonderful display of skills and talents by hosting a three course meal event for 5 teachers. It was a great achievement!

LC1A and LC2A Hotel, Catering and Tourism classes are organising and going to the Guinness Factory and the Chocolate Factory in Dublin for our tourism trip. We will be learning how chocolate is made, making and decorating our own chocolate, seeing how Guinness is produced and the history of the Guinness factory.

Daniel Collins, LC1A

LC1A Vintage Sale

On Friday, February 24th, LC1A held a vintage sale in aid of the Irish Cancer Society. The event was a huge success and we made €500 which was far more than we expected. Thanks to Ms. Stack, the staff and students for their support.

**LC2A Hotel, Catering and Tourism
Practical Exams are on from the
14th to the 18th May.**

Ms. K. Doolan



Home School Community Liaison News

This has been a busy term for Home School Liaison. A 'Home-School' Reading programme started in mid-January and is ongoing with the 1PM and MJB classes. The 'In School Paired Maths' initiative with the same classes and the T.Y.'s is running every Wednesday morning under the guidance of the J.C.S.P. department and Mr. Moran. A 'Maths Class for Parents' is held in the school Library on Tuesday mornings with Mr. P. Hennessy as Tutor. This is funded by the Adult Literacy in Co. Offaly V.E.C. Lunch time activities organised and funded by H.S.C.L. in conjunction with the School Completion Programme have been well attended this term. There is Hip Hop Dance on Tuesdays, Karati on Wednesdays and Big Brother Big Sister group on Fridays in the school gym. A very enjoyable and well attended 'Healthy Cooking' module was given by Ms. Graham after school on Mondays. The students – a mix of boys and girls from first and second year learned to make pizza, pancakes, smoothies, milk shakes etc. and received their certificates from Ms. Quirke on March 5th. The second year students and their parents attended the annual talk on 'Substance Abuse' given by Sgt. Kavanagh and Detective Garda Geraghty on Wednesday, 22nd February. The 'story teller' and 'humour fit' workshops were enjoyed by first years, second years, T.Y.'s and L.C.I. students.

Ms. Finlay, H.S.C.L.

Tullamore College Student...a beacon for Positive Outlook and Plain Speaking.

Tullamore College Student Anne Berry was awarded recognition for Special Merit recently at N.U.I. Maynooth Law: Prize-giving ceremony. On the 15th of February, Mr Justice John MacMenamin, Honorary Professor at the Department of Law at NUI Maynooth, announced the winners of the 2012 NUIM Schools Essay Competition. The competition, which concluded in a ceremony held in Renehan Hall on NUIM's graceful South Campus, asked second level students to write an essay on the theme, 'Mandate for a Better Ireland'.

Determined not to be discouraged by the wave of negativity sweeping Ireland today, Anne Berry penned her essay under the title Power To The People. In her writing Anne urged Irish people everywhere to remember the power that we have in effecting change in our society.

'Now that the abundance of money is gone, people are starting to look at what matters. We are realising as long as we have our family and our health we're okay. Power is back in the hands of the people. That Celtic tiger was just a big old pussy cat, cuddly soft but not very loyal. He's gone to warmer climates.' wrote Anne.

At the prize-giving, praising participants for the high standards achieved, Justice MacMenamin commented that the quality of expression exhibited by the winning essays compared favourably with some of the legal submissions received in the High Court.

Anne is a Leaving Cert student at Tullamore College and hopes to pursue a career in business in a society where she believes, 'people have the power to be the making of the business or the end of it.'

We wish her every success and applaud her vision.
Ms. McArdle

Art

Congratulations to 6th year student Rhiagh Cleary whose painting Croghan Man has been included in Dr. John Feehan's book entitled 'Croghan'. Special thanks to Mrs. Mary Troy who donated the book to the Library. Best wishes to Mrs. Mona Cleary on her retirement and welcome to Ms. O'Sullivan who has joined the Art Department.
Ms. McDonald

Tullamore College Students Build Weather Station

As a task for their Leaving Certificate Applied examination the students decided they would do something that would benefit the school in the future. After much discussion they decided they would build a weather station on a part of the school garden which had not been used. This station would benefit maths, geography and science classes. This work took three months.

1. They drew up a time plan.
2. They did research on a weather station.
3. They priced the required equipment.
4. They cleared the site.
5. Drew up plan for the site.
6. Put in the foundations for equipment.
7. Puts paths around site.
8. Placed equipment and they had to do a written report on the whole process.

Mr. Magner



The storytellers - Michael Creagh and Helen Campion entertain the 1st year students.

T.Y.P.E. -

Transition Year Physics Experience

Colm Woodlock from T.Y. took part in a 'Nanoscience Day' at Trinity College recently. This is an opportunity for T.Y. students who might be interested in studying Physics.

Ms. Flynn

One Good Idea - Board games

With a joint effort between 3RG and 1AF the classes have reached the final 100, in a competition run by Sustainable Energy Ireland. Their entry is giving popular board games an energy efficiency twist. Turning monopoly into Eco-opoly and four other games Twister, Hungry Hippos, Guess who and Operation got some changes to make them truly sustainable board games. These students hope to make it to the final twenty in this competition. By April the students will know if they have made it to the national finals.

Ms. Coyne

LCA pupils visit Gareth Jenkins Exhibition

As part of the Visual Arts curriculum Ms. O'Sullivan's 5th Year LCA class visited an exhibition by Offaly artist, Gareth Jenkins. The exhibition titled 'Collective' contains some great examples of contemporary abstract art. The pupils found the pieces both interesting and different. The work is semi-relief and Jenkins paints directly onto blocks of wood rather than onto paper or canvas.

Colour and emotion were conveyed within each composition and the pupils had fun guessing the meaning behind each piece. It also gave the pupils an opportunity to analyse the layout and signage of an exhibition, which will help them in their Craft and Design modules.

Below: Mr. Carton and Ms. O'Sullivan with LCA pupils at exhibition



C.S.P.E trip to Limerick Prison

As part of our C.S.P.E project Ms Coyne brought 2GE and 3JC on a class trip to Limerick Prison. Having spent a number of weeks investigating and learning about the concept of law, we were interested in seeing the final destination for someone who breaks the law and has gone through the justice system in Ireland. Limerick was a great place to visit and our class agreed that at all teenagers around the age of fifteen should get a tour of the prison as it is very educational. A lot of people say it's great because you get a four course meal every day, you have a bed to sleep in, and you can work, go to school, do college courses and get a degree, or just walk around the recreation yard (enclosed by high grey walls topped with vicious looking barbed wire). However, when you see the reality of prison life we were informed that prisoners spend more than eighteen hours a day locked up in a cell with one phone call a day and a half-hour visit once a week from the outside world. In conclusion it is not a favorable situation one would like to find themselves in.

Emma Kirwan 2GE

SPORTS DESK Operation Transformation

Tullamore College students recently undertook to participate in the schools version of operation transformation. This was designed and implemented to help tackle the ever increasing problem of childhood obesity in the country's youth as it has been portrayed regularly in the national media of obesity's impact on the future health of our nation and more specifically, the growth of type 11 diabetes, coronary heart disease and depression.

The programme was co-ordinated by PE teacher Mr Keith Begley and some of the TY students. It consisted firstly of a talk during PE classes of the growth rates of obesity in the last twenty years and the impact that lack of exercise and the fast food generation has had on annual rising obesity rates. Secondly, it consisted of students running the canal line (3.7 km) at lunchtime on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Initially the uptake was strong with over sixty students taking to the canal line for a run twice weekly. However, the numbers dwindled off after a few sessions to 26 students consistently as only the most determined were left standing while some who needed it most took the easier option and quit or didn't even join!!!

Week by week, one could see the fitness levels increasing. Students were divided into 3 groups depending on their level. They ran for one, two or three minutes depending on their level before taking a one minute rest to walk. All students who completed the journey are delighted that they succeeded in their pursuit of a healthier lifestyle and will hopefully have learned the value of exercise, fitness and healthy living as they go on in to adult life. Well done to all concerned.

First Year Gaelic football

The first year footballers acquitted themselves extremely well in the county blitz recently held in Ferbane. They had fantastic wins over Clara and Gallen C.S Ferbane before eventually ending up in a final against Colaiste na Sionna Banagher who had beaten Tullamore College well in the group stages. However, Tullamore College had improved a lot from their first game and had found their best team. There was nothing in it at half time and Tullamore had a lot of chances that were not converted early on. However, a fortuitous goal for Banagher with 8 minutes remaining won the day for Banagher by 5 points in a very close encounter. Best on the day for Tullamore were Conor Dunne, Mossie Kelly, Patrick McGuire, Cody Hensey Samson Abondunrin, Claudia Darcy, Chris O Connor, Michael Kavanagh and Joey Keenaghan. Training will continue on Fridays until the next blitz at the end of March.

Mr. Begley

Get Active, Get involved and Feel Alive

There are a host of activities for students that have been conducted this year in the school. Badminton has been going ahead every Wednesday since the start of the year. First and second year girls basketball has been going on Monday evenings and there are presently in competition. Soccer training for senior and junior boys has just commenced recently. The U 14 juvenile boys footballers trained all year until recently when they were beaten narrowly in the North Leinster final. The U 14 hurlers are presently in training for championship. The U 16 ladies footballers train every Wednesday and have been competing well in the U16 North Leinster competition. Athletics has also been going on and boys and girls have competed at South Leinster cross country championships. The Pauline Curley Girls relay marathon event took place recently with 26 girls competing against other schools to run a marathon in the shortest time possible. Athletics will recommence in April with the upcoming south Leinster and Leinster track events with some of our athletes hopeful of qualifying for the All Irelands at the Tullamore Harriers in June. The senior boys Rugby team have qualified for the semi final of the Leinster Development shield after a comprehensive win in Dundalk. The boys under 16 basketball team are also up and running and training regularly at lunchtime and after school.

Additionally, there are classes being held free of charge in dance and Karate at lunchtime in the school gym and this is open to all interested students courtesy of the school completion programme. These are opportunities of a lifetime offered free of charge and are not available in most schools. So get active, get involved and feel alive!!!

Mr K Begley

Tullamore College Badminton Team

Well done to the Tullamore College Badminton team who did very well in a blitz hosted by Tullamore College against Colaiste Naomh Cormac (Kilcormac) and Clonaslee V.S. Also congratulations and well done to the U16 boys' badminton team who participated in the first County Offaly Secondary Schools Competitions.

Ms. Doolan

Girls Football

Well done to the girl's football team that were unfortunate to get knocked out of the Leinster League competition, after defeating Kilbeggan and Clara. They were narrowly beaten by Banagher which is an excellent achievement for their first year in the competition.

Ms. Coyne & Ms. Dolan