



TULLAMORE COLLEGE

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NEWSLETTER

*wishing all our students,
parents and staff a very happy
Christmas & New Year.*

'My trip to Malawi 2016'

It all began on the 30th of October when a group of nine students, four teachers and one ambassador from Self Help Africa departed Dublin airport to begin our amazing adventure. I travelled with my Development Education teacher Ms. Graham and a fellow 5th year student, Lydia Coyne.

It was a long haul to Malawi with three connecting flights and twenty nine hours of travel overall. It is safe to say it was most definitely worth it in the end! When we got off the plane we were met with 32 degrees of stifling heat which was reflected in the surrounding landscape of withered plants and dusty, red roads.

Throughout our week long stay in Malawi we visited many projects Self Help Africa works with and also ones they had supported in the past. This included Phirilanjuzi primary school and two villages. It was through visiting these projects that we got a real sense of the culture in Malawi but also we experienced first-hand the extreme poverty and some very obvious global inequalities such as poor education systems, uneven distribution of food and aid and gender inequalities.

Also, throughout the week we got to visit a university in Malawi, the Irish ambassador's house, Lake Malawi and much more.

This trip was really an amazing experience and it is something I will never forget. On the other hand it was heart breaking to see how uneven our world is. There is a clear need for change. Voluntary work in a developing country is something I would love to do again and I am grateful of the opportunity I was given.

Caitlin Guinan TYA



Malawi trip

Pictured presenting our gifts to the students at a local school in Malawi. (Caitlin Guinan, Lydia Coyne and Ms. Graham)

Home School Liaison News

A number of **FREE** parents' classes have been running successfully for parents since September. Many parents attended our FREE talk for parents on mental health & social media given by Deirdre Dowling of HSE Parents First. There was a large turn out for our mindfulness classes which spanned over 6 weeks in October and November. There was also a great attendance for our "Cooking on a Budget - Christmas Sweet & Savoury" cookery demonstration class currently taking place every Thursday morning in November and December.

Many parents also availed of our "October Flowers" evening with Lisa Bracken of K flowers. A Christmas equivalent (Christmas Flowers) will take place on Dec 19th with two evening slots available; 6.30pm-7.30pm & 7.45pm-8.45pm so get your names in quickly as there are limited places available.

More FREE classes will be available for parents (notified through text) in the New Year so keep your eyes peeled.

If your son or daughter is having any difficulty with school, health or home related issues, please do not hesitate to make it known to our home school liaison officer **Keith Begley @ 0863537456**



Boston Scientific Award- National Winners

Boston Scientific Medical Device Grand award

Michele and Lucy won the Boston Scientific Medical Device award last May at Scifest in AIT with the experimental work testing the bacterial levels on contact lens. Since then they designed and tested a device that eliminates the need to use your finger to insert a contact lens into your eye hence reducing the bacteria entering your eye. As regional winners they submitted their project including their new work for the Boston Medical Device Grand award. Their project was chosen as one of the top five to attend the Scifest National final on 11th November. The girls presented their project to four judges and despite very stiff competition they won the Boston Medical Device Grand award. As the national winners they received an engraved trophy and €500. The Boston Scientific representative, Elaine Boyd was very interested in their device and would like them to present their project in Boston Scientific in the New Year.

Ms Howlin (Science Department)

Science Week 2016'

Science week took place from the 13th to 20th November. All activities were aimed to promote the study of science and encourage an appreciation of science in our everyday lives. A number of exciting events were held to explore this important field of study in Tullamore College. The busy week started with "Science for fun", a unique programme organised by Transition year students for local 6th class pupils. Experiments ranged from making bubbles to the loop troop! This annual event is of huge benefit to both the TY classes and the 6th class students. Well done to both TY classes.

The senior science quiz followed. 5th year science students competed with each other for a table quiz where pride was at stake! Well done to the winning table of Ciara Cahill, Sophie O Meara, Andrew Meehan and Jack Harvey.

The "mad labs" got underway during lunch time where TYs and 5th years set up some very loud and some hair raising experiments not to mention "Robertino", the unfortunate rat!

The "STEM challenge" took place on Thursday during lunch time where students were challenged to apply their science smarts and engineering intelligence to turn everyday objects into something much more exciting. Well done to Stephen Harte, 5th year who was the overall winner.

On Friday, Dr Craig Slattery from UCD gave a very interesting talk to both TYs and 5th year science students on toxicology.

The end of science week was marked with the "bottle flipping challenge" where Aaron Kane was declared Tullamore College's Bottle Flipping Expert 2016!

The Science Department would like to express their gratitude to both TY classes and also to those who helped from Ms Flynn's physics class and Ms Howlin's second year class.

Ms Flynn (Science Department)



BT Young Scientist Entries 2017

Alana Dillon and Ciannait Goulding (E.Howlin)

Senior Physical Science

Project Title: 'The Chemistry of Chlorophyll'

To investigate the effects of temperature and enzyme action on the chemical structure of chlorophyll and its stability in both terrestrial and aquatic plants by extracting the chlorophyll in alcohol and then analysing the chemical components using thin layer chromatography under both white and UV light.

Michele Mann and Lucy Leonard (E.Howlin)

Intermediate Biological Science

Project Title: 'Investigating the difference in bacterial contamination when handling and using a device to insert contact lens'

Following tests on the levels of bacterial contamination entering the eye from placing a contact lens in your eye using you finger, the students have designed and tested a device that significantly reduces the level of bacteria entering your eye as it allows you to put your contact lens into your eye with touching it with your hands.

Cillian Fogarty (J.Browne)

Intermediate Physical Science

Project Title: 'The answer is blowing in the wind'.

Cillian's project is based on using sails on cargo ships (investigating angles and types of sails) to reduce fuel consumption to make them more environmentally friendly.

Stephen Harte (N.Flynn)

Individual Senior Biological and Ecological Sciences

Project Title: 'What range of frequencies affect microscopic water creatures on the grand canal?'

Stephen's project aims to investigate if microscopic water creatures e.g. daphnia in particular, were affected by noise pollution given off by boats and other water vehicles in the canal. He is counting their heart beats (viewing under a microscope) and exposing them to sound of certain frequencies to see what effect the different frequencies have on their heart rate.

'Science for Fun': Group picture below of TYA and TYB and their teachers Ms. Flynn and Ms. Browne.

Photo left: 'Hair Raising Experiment' during the 'mad lab' lunchtime experiments. Pictured Zara Thomas and Tony Moran (foreground) Kayla Malapit and Cian Fogarty (background).





Above: Hannah Davis and Sarah Rosney demonstrating circuits



Above: Ava Dunne blowing bubbles!



Above: Anna Szkdcsek and Ciara Glynn dissecting a human heart.



Above: Ciara Crombie and Sisi Markova reinventing the miracle of turning water into wine!!



Above: Jessica Bermingham, Dion Somers and Darragh Connolly getting their hands dirty preparing the gloopy troop experiment.

Home Economics News

Well done to all Transition Years and 5th Home Economics students who entered the Bord Bia Cookery competition. Students designed, cooked and presented dishes which contained Pork or Bacon with the Bord Bia Quality Mark. Some wonderful ideas and creativity was displayed.

This year is the inaugural year of Tullamore College Transition Years taking part in the Bank Of Ireland 'Junk Kouture' competition. Transition years are currently working with local designer Rita Daly to create innovative and unique outfits. Keep your eyes peeled for some interesting outfits around the school in the new year!

Well done to all the second year Laoch students who are learning cross stitch to make some Christmas Cross Stitch Cards. The cards are really coming along and the skills are shining through!

Some excellent cookery skills are being displayed in the Home Economics rooms at the minute with lots of Christmas cookery going on. Well done to everyone involved!!!

Ms Doolan (Home Economics Department)



Christmas culinary delights and craftsmanship

Welcome!

We are thrilled to welcome our German assistant, Pauline Heinemann to Tullamore College for the year.

Pauline is helping Ms Stack in class and is running the German club on Wednesdays and Fridays.

'Humans of Tullamore College'

Transition year students were privileged to welcome photographer Veronica Nicholson to our school. Veronica recently launched her new book 'Observing Offaly', a collection of 150 unique and inspiring photographs capturing the landscape, culture and people of Offaly and its surrounding hinterlands. Veronica kindly shared her wisdom, knowledge and expertise in this area. Our transition year group are about to embark on producing their own book under the umbrella of 'Humans of Tullamore College'. This is a very exciting venture and it aims to capture the spirit of our school community at large. We would like to extend a warm thank you to Veronica for taking the time to come and talk to us.

J. McArdle and K. Sheerin

Roinn na Gaeilge

I mí na Samhna chuireamar fáilte roimh "Seó Bóthair" le Conradh na Gaeilge. Bhain na daltaí taitneamh agus tairbhe as an seó. Chuir sé le scileanna teanga agus suim na ndaltaí sa Ghaeilge.

Chomh maith le sin, chuireamar fáilte croíúil roimh daltaí na mbunscoilenna áitiúla ar Lá Oscailte na scoile. Táimid fíor bhuíoch do na daltaí go léir a chabhraigh linn ar an lá.

Ms. Martyn (Irish Department)



JCSP News

Well done to Alana MC Cann and Nicole Farrell 3PM on promoting our JCSP programme so well on open day. Good luck to Ms. Forde who is working on our new Maths initiative where students work with the latest software to build on their mathematical ability. Students continue to work on their statements and we look forward to our Christmas Celebration and Mr. Morans road safety initiative.

Ms. O'Connor (JCSP Co-ordinator)



Pictured above 1MOC class group winners of the first year merit token race

College Awareness Week

This year saw the traditional CAO talk take place in late November, followed by a talk by Ms. Kay Mitchell from NUI Maynooth on 'How to cope with the transition to 3rd Level'. We also had a number of past pupils in to speak about their careers including finance, social care, computers and business as well as guest speakers from a number of Universities and I.T.s. Speakers continue to come in throughout the year but College Awareness Week was a particularly apt and busy time for career related activities. In an effort to get younger students thinking about future careers and the subjects they might need, we held a Quiz Night on Wednesday 23rd November. With the aid of some very kind past pupils/parents/guests we invited all 2nd and 3rd Year students to the Quiz. Each student had the opportunity to visit at least 5 career areas, ask up to five questions from a given list and then try to guess the career. Those with the correct answers were entered into a raffle and there were close to a dozen prize winners on the evening, adding to the fun, excitement and noise levels! Sincere thanks to all who helped out to make the evening a great success.

Ms. McNamara (Guidance Counsellor)



Above: Greta Baskyte at the National semi final of Poetry Aloud at the National Library in Dublin. Greta recited Padraig Pearse's 'The Wayfarer' and Sylvia Plath's 'Poppies in July'.



Above: Senior students with Dublin All Star Jonny Cooper after his presentation on Dublin City University.