

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

November / December 2020

Class of 2020

Our Class of 2020 returned to the school over the course of three evenings to receive their medals and awards. It was wonderful to catch up with this group of students and to hear about the paths they have chosen after their time with us. Particular congratulations again to Student of the Year, Tom Wallace and Sportsman of the Year, Andrew Byrne. We wish both students and their classmates the best of luck in all their future endeavours.



Remembrance Tree

During the month of November, a remembrance tree was created in the school with the help of C1. The purpose of the remembrance tree was to allow students and staff to acknowledge their deceased loved ones in our school community. All year groups were encouraged to participate and take the opportunity to remember loved ones passed using our remembrance tree.

Remembering Naoise

One person we particularly remembered during the month of November this year, was Naoise O'Sullivan who sadly passed away in August of this year. Naoise joined Clonkeen College in September 2019 and was a student in last year's A4 class. We remembered Naoise with a memorial, attended by his parents Mark and Sabrina and younger brothers Rohan (A3) and Rossa, on 9th December. During the short ceremony, we unveiled a plaque positioned at the student entrance to the school at the foot of a tree planted by Naoise's classmates in his memory.

Mr Melly, Mr Faherty, Naoise's classmate Ben Skelly and Naoise's Dad Mark all spoke, reminding us all of the wonderful friend, son and student Naoise was and of how much he contributed during his short time in Clonkeen College. Naoise was loved

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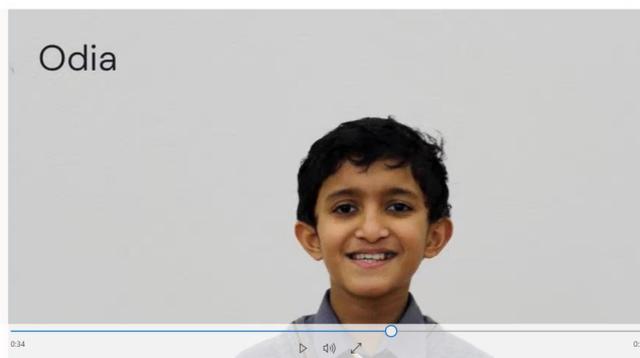
so much by his parents, siblings, friends and teachers and he will be missed by us all. We will remember Naoise every time we look at the tree and as we see its beauty in the changing seasons.

#ThinkLanguages

Our #ThinkLanguages event took place on December 7th. In previous years this event was hosted in the Convention Centre and attended by Transition Year students from across the country. This year, with restrictions surrounding Covid-19, the decision was made that each school would host its own event on the same day.



In Clonkeen College, we focused on the diversity of languages spoken by students in our school. Students in D2 and D3 prepared posters celebrating each of the languages and its culture. These posters were displayed along the languages corridor. We also produced a short video showcasing each of the languages that makes up our school community. In the video, one speaker of each language says "We are Clonkeen" in that language. Well done to Enrico Socci-Gibbs, Liam Dunne and Shane Domingo who recorded and edited the video.



Finally, on December 7th all Transition Year students took part in an Italian Language Workshop, generously provided by the Post-Primary Languages Initiative.

Well done to all our language teachers who supported our Transition Year students in creating an excellent celebration of the languages that make up the Clonkeen College community.

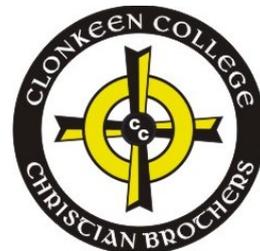


#ThinkLanguages

#ThinkLanguagesThinkClonkeen

#WeAreClonkeen

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Science Week: November 8th – 15th

This year's Science Week was packed full of creativity! We saw amazing solar system models from 1st Years. They were so good this year we had to display their hard work on the Science corridor. There were individual class winners but one stand-out overall winner, Lucas O'Donnell. He blew us away with his model as he had even gone to the bother of making mini models of the ISS, Hubble telescope, Sputnik and Voyager 1!



There was a photograph competition encouraging students to photograph science in the real world. We had fantastic entries from lots of different years. The stand-out photographs were: 3rd place: Jai Prakash Panda (light travels in straight lines), 2nd

place: Sarleya Barnaud (Papilio Memnon butterfly) and 1st place: Aidan Drohan (Glow stick in a test tube).



Light Travels in a straight line

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We had a very exciting cross-curricular challenge with the music students. They were challenged to make a working musical instrument and explain the physics of how it works. Matthew Poletti won most creative musical shakers and Tanmai Hanumanthu won overall with his very imaginative coconut drums!

Senior physics students were unable to do the annual physics busking, for the year that's in it, so instead made physics demonstration videos. Daniel Hughes was the overall winner using centripetal acceleration to lift a 5kg weight!!



Matthe Poletti's Shakers



Tanmai Hathumanthu's Coconut Drums

Senior Biology, Chemistry and Physics students created brilliant posters on Nobel Prize winners past and present. We had a joke wall and facts brought in by lots of students, which gave everyone a good giggle! Students and teachers took part in the science dingbats and wracked their brains trying to figure out what they said. Why not have a go too and check your answers at the end of the newsletter!

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A special well done to last year's 6th Years Elvis Cooney and David Farrelly who received their Institute of Physics Certificates from Ms. Duffy for being 2020 Physics Students of the Year. They always went out of their way to help others and had a great passion for Physics.

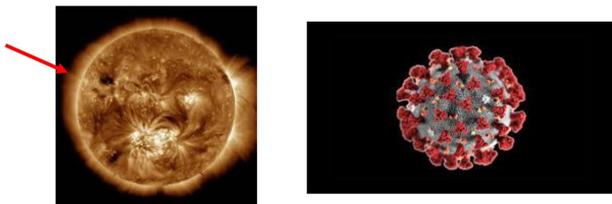


Elvis Cooney (L) and David Farrelly (R)

Science Dingbats 2020

Check out the answers on the last page of this newsletter!

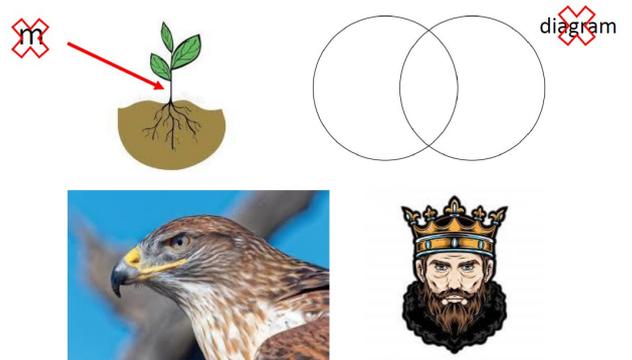
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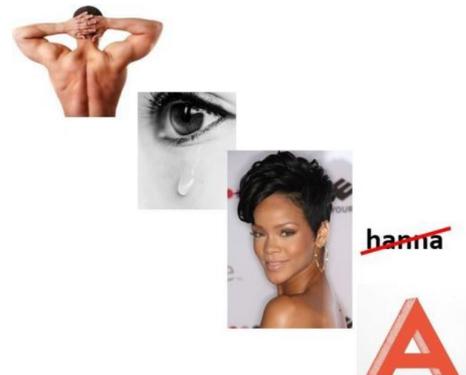
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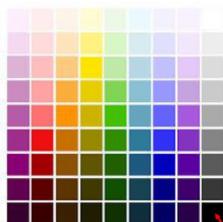


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MOONCEON

Student Council

Our Student Council has been working hard to raise funds for improvements to the water fountains. They have taken orders for Clonkeen College face-masks which they hope to deliver early in the New

Year.

The Student Council also held a Christmas Jumper day on Friday 18th December with each student contributing €2 to participate. It was wonderful to see everyone getting into the Christmas spirit and adding so much festive cheer to the school.

Art News

The Art Department was delighted to collaborate with the History Department in its recent celebrations of the centenary of the Irish Revolutionary Period and delighted to see two of its students being awarded prizes for their exceptional artwork.

It's a busy time of year for our Leaving Certificate class. They have received their Coursework Brief for their Art Practical. Each student has selected a theme from those prescribed and has started work on their Initial Research and Investigation.

Finally, our TY students are continuing work on their National History Museum Exhibition, creating both 2D and 3D pieces. Currently, they are mapping the template for the 3D construction of a whale.



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Stand Up Week

Clonkeen College hosted its first ever Stand Up Week from 16th – 20th November. Stand Up Week encourages all members of the school community to take a



stand against homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. During Stand Up Week, students in different years engaged in a variety of activities during their SPHE classes to develop an awareness of the terminology around LGBT+ issues. Students also took part in a LGBT+ Famous Faces competition. Each day, students were encouraged to wear colours from the rainbow to demonstrate their support for our LGBT+ students.



Well done to everyone who participated in Stand

Up Week and to the Well Being Team who organised events in Clonkeen College.

College Awareness Week



College Awareness Week ran from the 22nd to the 28th November 2020. College Awareness Week is a national campaign which aims to promote the benefits of going to college, to help students of all ages to become college-ready and to showcase local role models. To raise awareness of the benefits of college, the qualifications and the colleges that each teacher attended were posted on each of their doors. Students were encouraged to discuss any of the information they saw with the relevant teacher. All 1st Year English students participated in an Essay Competition where they wrote about a career of their choice. 1st Year Art students drew and coloured the crests of the colleges a family member attended. 2nd Year SPHE classes completed a lesson based on their interests and potential future careers, while 2nd Year Careers classes

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learned about the different qualification's celebrities had completed through Kahoot! TY YSI researched the different career paths that can result from studying Biology. They made posters which have been displayed outside the Biology Lab. Career paths in the world of Physics have also been posted outside the Physics Lab.

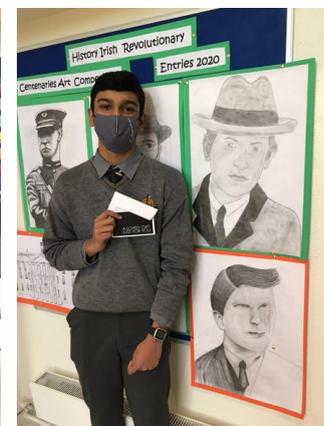
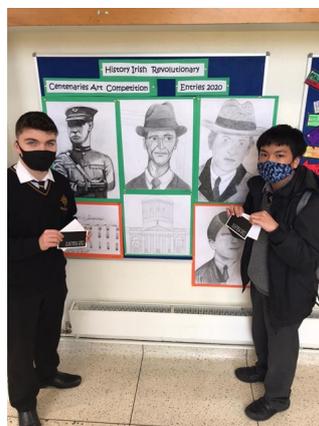
History Week

To commemorate the centenaries of the 'Irish Revolutionary Period 1919-1921' and particularly of Bloody Sunday November 1920, the History Department organised the school's very first History Week. All History classes watched the powerful commemoration of Bloody Sunday that was originally broadcast on the 21st November before the Leinster Senior Football Final. The department also ran a number of competitions. Firstly, there was an "Identify and Explain" competition in which students had to identify people and places in photographs and explain their relevance to the Irish War of Independence. Secondly, there was an Art competition which yielded huge interest and many inspired entries from the school's talented students. Thank you to the History Department for organising the event and to the students for getting enthusiastically involved.

Congratulations to the winners of the 'Explain & Identify Competition' of History Week! 1st: Ruairi Dunne (B2), 2nd: Finn Hudner (A1), 3rd: Conor Lowry (D2).



Winners of the 'Written Reflection or Art Competition based on the Irish Revolutions 1919-21 Centenaries'. 1st place: Micah Nireesh (C4) – Michael Collins portrait, 2nd place: Aldrin Omana (C3) – poem, 3rd place: Sam Kinsella (5.3) – Eamonn de Valera portrait.



Well done to all our prize-winners and to all those who took part in both competitions.

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Anthology 2020



Last year's creative writing class met with massive success, held back only by the COVID-19 pandemic. They worked to make the Clonkeen College library available to all students. They launched a new blog on the school website, and they compiled their work to create the Anthology 2020. The release was, of course, delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. To give you a taste of this incredible work we have an extract from Daniel Fishman (5.2).

The plane streaked away as a ball of fire and smoke in the dark night. It smashed into the ground a couple of miles away and no doubt started a forest fire somewhere. I came to a sudden and violent stop as my parachute got caught up in branches and treetops. My training kicked in and after a 3 second drop I was on the ground and checking the shrapnel in my leg. A breeze blew over the forest down

from the mountains. With it a chill went up my spine. Not from the cold but from the howl that split the nights serenity and shattered my mental shield. I hated wolves the vicious teeth and saliva dripping from the mouth. I spent many a night sweating in fear of them. I would prefer to be caught by the Nazis at this point.

I began running my training and knowledge of what to do was gone fear set in and I ran. Every part of my being was running in fear of being caught by the pack. Eventually I ran out of energy and collapsed to the ground. I lay there for what felt like an eternity listening to every twig crack every sway of the leaves. Any movement or noise immediately alerted me and left me holding my breath waiting. I fell into a fitful sleep and woke every other minute.

When the sun finally raised above the mountains and caught the early morning mist it nearly glowed. When it then hit the fur of the animal that was looking at me, I could physically feel my face drain of all the blood it had. The very nightmare of my dreams stood in front of me. All nine of them staring at me. They seemed to have waited for me to wake up before killing me. Just to torture me when I was conscious.

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TY Activities

Even with Level 5 restrictions in place our Transition Year students, still managed to engage in a broad variety of workshops and activities during their weekly activity slots. The majority of students also successfully completed the first block of Work Experience early in November. Many thanks to Ms Mooney and the TY Team for managing to keep so much going in such difficult circumstances.

A firm favourite with students was the trip out to Roundwood in Co. Wicklow for Airsoft. It was well-organised and great fun to have a chance to escape everyday life, transforming our typical surroundings into a battlefield. Everyone left happy, muddy, and tired after a full day of Airsoft.

The Samba Drumming workshop brought Rio De Janeiro to Clonkeen College. TY groups learned how to follow and understand music. There was a large array of instruments, providing all students with the opportunity to try something new and different.



Another fantastic afternoon was had at the Circus Workshop. Students were introduced to a variety of circus skills, with a few just about managing to master juggling. It was a great antidote to normal school life with everyone laughing from start to finish.



Past pupil Adam Weafer led D3 and D4 in a Film and Drama Programme. Over the course of the programme students made their own short films. The programme was brought to a close with the Clonkeen Oscars taking place on Friday 18th December. The winning film on the day was 'Test Gone Wrong'. Well done to all involved.



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Christmas Activities

With Christmas fast approaching we had a fantastic Classroom Decorating Competition in the school. From twinkling lights to intricately designed snowflakes, teachers and students vied to create rooms filled with festive cheer. Ultimately, when the student votes were counted and verified, Mr Kilroy and his tutor group (C4) were crowned champion decorators.



On Monday, 21st December we had the premiere of Clonkeen's Christmas Concert. The concert was performed, recorded and edited over the course of the last three weeks of term. The concert included music and drama performances from students across all year groups and really showcased the amazing talent we have here in Clonkeen College. A huge congratulations to Ms Duignan and her TY Music and Drama classes who brought the whole production together.

Merry Christmas

We would like to extend our very best wishes to all out students, staff and their families for a safe and peaceful Christmas and for 2021. Well done to all our students who have now completed their Christmas Tests. We hope that everyone will enjoy a much deserved rest over the holidays and will return to school refreshed and ready for the challenges that lie ahead.

Dingbats Solution

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Coronavirus | 6. Enzyme |
| 2. Hubbles Telescope | 7. Black Hole |
| 3. Stephen Hawking | 8. Neutralisation |
| 4. Growing Pains | 9. Niels Bohr |
| 5. Bacteria | 10. Once in a blue moon |