



St. Dominic's College

May 2022 Newsletter



Le Chéile

A Catholic Schools Trust

Dear Students, Staff, Parents, Guardians,

As the academic year of 2021–2022 draws to a close we reflect on a year of mixed blessings.

The year started out with Covid restrictions being very much a feature of school life and we, like so many others, were disappointed that a school year would be affected like this and have school events restricted.

However, as the year evolved and restrictions were gradually lifted we saw the school, its students and staff flourish and bloom with the freedom that this brought. Schools were mask free and allowed us to see all the lovely smiling faces once again which we missed so much since March 2019.

This term 3 newsletter as you will see is jammed pack with school activities. We could have filled several newsletters over with so much good, positive news about our wonderful school community and how school life gradually returned to almost pre covid times.

On both my behalf and yours I thank the teaching and non-teaching staff for all they contribute to the school which goes way beyond what a job demands. This is why our school is a wonderful place to learn. All the 6th years as they graduated spoke about the relationships they had built over their time in the school with their teachers and other members of staff. This creates a positive and nourishing school environment where the teacher's support is well recognised and a powerful resource for their students, your daughters.

I would like to thank our students for all their cooperation over this school year. We are lucky to have such a lovely student body who contribute to, as well as receive from the school. Our Student Leadership is going from strength to strength with Class Captains and Deputy Class Captains having been introduced for the first time this year. We saw the introduction of the Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl positions and the students who were appointed this year helped define the role and build it to be a wonderful support for the students and school community. Other student leadership teams include 6th year Prefects, our Junior and Senior Eco teams, The Big Sister, Little Sister and the Wellbeing Committee.

This year we introduced a Student Voice Forum on teaching and learning. The idea behind this was to hear the student's opinions on how they learn best and what factors influence and encourage learning. We decided to take our School Self Evaluation targets as discussion points and these included the new one-hour timetable, wellbeing, the role of digital technology in their learning with one or two other topics included. The students were chosen on a random basis from 1st to 6th year. We had really good discussion on the topics and we had some really enlightening conversations. All the suggestions and opinions the students made to the forum were then brought to the next staff meeting to inform teacher practice. We look forward to heading into year 2 of this forum.

To the Parents' Association a huge thank you for keeping going on zoom through Covid and for our recent exciting Cash for Clobber fundraiser. Their next fundraising venture will be the return of our sponsored school walk in September 2022. This will give the Parents Association some much needed funding to make improvements to the school by supporting various projects.

I am very grateful to all the members of our Board of Management. We have a wonderful group of people acting in a voluntary basis and totally invested in the development of the school and in particular the teaching and learning.

They too met all through covid on Zoom. I thank them all most sincerely for their support.

I will be in touch with all year groups during the month of June with details of the return arrangements to school in August 2022. I wish our 6th years and 3rd years the very best of luck with their Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle Examinations and wish the 6th years all the very best as they leave the safety of St Dominic's College. To all our other year groups good luck with your summer assessments and have a lovely summer. Be safe and come back to us safe and sound in August please God.

Is mise, le meas, Ms Ann Cameron Principal



Wellfest 2022



This year in St. Dominics we celebrated our Wellfest on Thursday the 5th of May and we made the most of the good weather by having fun, sport, relaxation and treats outdoors. At 11.05, classes started off with either Yoga down at the PE centre with Sarah Mc Caffrey, a looped walk around the bogies with their class teachers including Ms. Hanrahan, Ms. Cluskey, Ms. Mc Manus and Ms. Shanley Blake, physical activities outside such as aerobics and footgolf with Ms. Mc Brearty and Ms. Duignan and indoor yoga with Ms. Dooohan as well as mindfulness colouring and food demos in Halla Lydia with Ms. Brazil, orienteering with Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Clarke and Ms. Sexton, Zumba with the Zumba instructor in the PE hall or circuit training in the Red court yard with their class teachers.

At the 12.05 bell, students then swapped their activity to a different one with their class teacher and 1st years were treated to a scavenger hunt organised by the student council and Ms. Lynch. After lunch the students then got to swap again to a different activity including crafts, Ice cream and chill out and a sing song get-together for 6th years in the red court yard with Ms. Whelan and Ms. Gleeson. All activities ran very smoothly and the day allowed students to get out from behind the desks and enjoy a little fitness, physical activity, wellness and positivity with a feel good attitude at the end of the hard challenging academic year that was 2022. Well done to everyone who got involved and challenged themselves. Thank you to all the teachers mentioned above who helped plan for such a successful day as well as all the transition year students and the student council who gladly helped out and facilitated the day for everyone. Thank you to Ms. Cameron, Ms. McGowan and Ms. Maher Smyth for giving the students the opportunity to have such a fun packed day. We hope you all had a great day and made enjoyable memories with your friends at St. Dominics for Wellfest 2022!

Ms. Mc Goldrick

Student Voice Forum

The Student Voice Forum was a new initiative in our school this year. It was made up of thirty-two students randomly selected from all year groups. We met once every term. The term “student voice” describes how students give their input into what happens within the school and classroom. It is a space for students to discuss and share ideas and opinions regarding their learning experiences. This feedback is then shared with teachers with a view to improving the learner experience.

This year we had interesting discussions around our new one hour timetable, Digital Learning, Well-being and Questioning in the classroom. Students also completed a brief survey on CBA’s and Senior Cycle Reform proposals. Thank you to Ms Cameron, Ms. Murtagh, Ms Dowling, Ms. Sinnott, Ms Egan, Ms Shanley Blake, Ms Mc Goldrick and Ms O’Sullivan for giving their time to attend and support the meetings. We met in Halla Lydia and students worked in small groups to discuss the given agenda. It was great to hear all contributions and feedback was taken on board and shared with staff.

In September we will have a brand new Forum! Again all students will be chosen randomly. I look forward to working with this new group next year. It is an opportunity for students to make new connections and to improve communication skills. The Forum aims to give students a sense of belonging – every voice matters.

Wishing you all a lovely summer!
Ms Mc Manus.



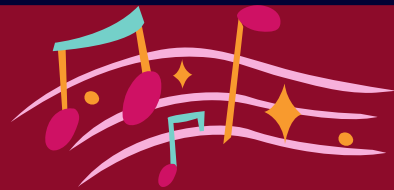
The Student Voice Forum started this year and was led by Ms Mc Manus. We met once every term to discuss our learning experiences. The objective of the Forum is to provide a space where students can come together and share their opinions. These opinions are then shared with the teachers with a view to improving our learning experiences here in school.

The forum is made up of 32 students from 1st to 6th year and we were all selected at random, one student from each base class. The teachers at the meetings really listened to what each student had to say and then the teachers gave feedback in staff meetings afterwards. We have had 5 meetings since September and in the meetings we discussed the following topics:

- One Hour Classes
- Digital Learning
- Wellbeing
- Questioning in the classroom
- At the last meeting we gave feedback regarding CBA’s and Senior Cycle reform proposals. Also we reviewed our work on the Forum this year and shared our opinions.

I think that the Student Voice Forum is a good idea and was very successful this year. We were all randomly selected and we liked this because sometimes we as students don’t put ourselves forward for things. Everyone on the Forum agreed that it was a worthwhile experience and we all made new connections. I got to know people from other year groups. I am glad that I was able to be a part of the Forum this year and I hope it continues into the future. If you are lucky enough to be selected next year do it! Wishing the Forum continued success next year!

Happy summer everyone!
Blátnaid Murray
5th Year.



Drama Club

1st year drama club has had a successful first year at St. Dominic's College. Drama club was held every Monday in St. Patrick's Hall. Students improved their acting skills each week through improv activities, script writing and putting a twist on well-known fairy tales. Ms. Goulding, Ms. Hughes and Ms. Doherty would like to thank the dedication, enthusiasm and creativity of its members



Creative Writing Club

This year the creative writing club has authored many amazing works from poems to novellas. Each of our students has contributed to the amazing compilation of prose, with their work ranging from haikus and speed written poetry to the tales of characters facing every genre of adventure. From first to sixth year this year's group has made an outstanding effort to further their skills as authors.

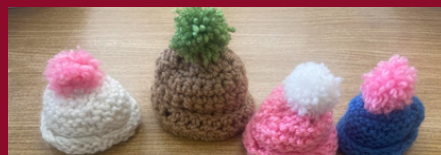
Dungeons and Dragons Club

The Dungeons and Dragons club has been a resounding success with the group of students working together to tell the story of their adventurers and their many quests. This year has been an opportunity for the students to explore new avenues in table top roleplaying and working together as a team to accomplish their goals. As this year draws to a close the dungeons and dragons club looks forward to the new adventures that await.

Craft Club

Students have been very busy with Ms Brazil in craft club recently.

1. They have been knitting hats for the innocent smoothie 'big knit' in aid of Age Action. These hats will be sold on Innocent Smoothie bottles in stores with proceeds going to charity.
2. They have been wool felting key rings and images.
3. They have also been Jewelry making, making stone bracelets, rings and ear rings.





Leaving Certificate Physical Education

The aim of Leaving Certificate Physical Education is to develop the learner's capacity to become an informed, skilled, self-directed and reflective performer in physical education and physical activity in senior cycle and in their future life.

LCPE is a new exam subject, which is comprised of 50% Exam and 50% Continuous Assessment. The theory aspect is broken down to two strands- STRAND 1 Towards optimum performance, STRAND 2 Contemporary issues in physical activity. The LCPE learning outcomes are taught through the six physical activity areas- Outdoor and Adventure Education, Aquatics, Athletics, Aesthetic Activities, Games and Health-related activities.

Here in St. Dominic's College we are delighted to offer this new and exciting subject. Below we have included some photographs of our 5th Year LCPE class on their field trip to the National Sports Campus of Ireland.



Basketball

2nd year division 1 basketball,
these girls put up a great match
in the semi final against
Maynooth Post Primary but it
was not our day



First year division 1 team who
put up a great match in the
basketball semi final against St.
Raphels Stillorgan



U16 Basketball Finalists

Pictured below:

Martina Rodriguez Gonzalez, Pearl Chioma Orji, Lily Farrell, Jennifer
Adedayo.

Sara Ouled Abdallah, Erin Yumul, Charlize Betamor, Anjelica Vinod

Thanks to coach Ms. Clarke for her hard work.



Athletics

Well done to our athletes who represented St. Dominic's in the North Leinster Schools Finals

We had a number of victories across various events.

Congratulations to Aimee Ryan (1st year), who won the Minor 500m race.

Well done to Chidinma Adikaibe (2nd year), who came third in the Junior 100m race.

Our U16 relay team came second in their final. This team consisted of Joclyn Hanks, Goda Buivydyte, Lily Farrell and Niamh O'Connor.

Our Minor relay team also came second. This team consisted of Aimee Ryan, Danielle Obioha and Aoibhinn and Erin Byrne.

The following students all represented our school to the highest standard. Well done to;



Timi tapere
Danielle Obioha
Aimee Ryan
Aoibhinn and Erin Byrne
Clíodhna and Aimee Ryan
Joclyn Hanks
Chidinma Adikaibe
Goda Buivydyte
Lily Farrell
Niamh o Connor
Eva Corcoran
Aisling Keenan



Our Junior relay team of Joclyn Hanks, Goda Buivydyte, Chidinma Adikaibe and Aimee Ryan won their event.

Goda Buivydyte (2nd year) won the U16 800 m final.

Clare O'Connor (5th year) came second in the Senior 800m.

Max O'Leary (2nd year) came second in the junior High Jump event.

Chidinma Adikaibe (2nd year) came second in the Long jump and Joclyn Hanks came fifth.

Michelle Osheridero (3rd year) came third in the Shot Put event.

Lily Farrell came 5th in the 800 m and Shona Gogarty came 8th.

Niamh O'Connor came 5th in the U16 200m final and Eva Corcoran came 7th.

Our total list of athletes that attended Day 2 were:

Aimee Ryan 1st year
Goda Buivydyte 2nd year
Joclyn Hanks 2nd year
Lily Farrell 3rd year
Shona Gogarty 3rd year
Clare o Connor 6th year
Niamh o Connor 3rd year
Max o Leary, 2 Kestral
Mordyat Owoyomi 3 Allium
Michelle Oshidero 3rd year
Eva Corcoran 3 Allium
Chidinma Adikaibe 2 Kestral





European Cross Country Championships

The Senior European cross country championships were held in Abbottstown last month. Congratulations to Cliodhna Ryan (4th Year) and Goda Buivydyte (2nd Year) who were selected to represent our school community at the event.

Cliodhna was a member of the flag crew who carried the flags from the various countries in the opening parade. Goda was a member of the medal presentation crew, who presented medals to the winning athletes.

Well done to the girls and Mary McKenna our athletics coach for organising this memorable experience for both students.



Well done to some of our 5th year and TY students who took part in the DCU 7's Blitz recently. The girls reached the shield final and put in a number of impressive displays on the day. Thanks to DCU GAA for hosting a fantastic event.

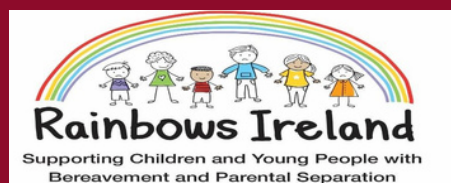


We would like to congratulate our TY student Aine Bresnan, who is representing Dublin U16's in both camogie and ladies football this year.

Aine played centre back for the Dublin U16 camogie team who lost out in the Leinster A final to Kilkenny.

Aine will also line out for the Dublin U16 footballers as they take on Meath in the Leinster A final.





Rainbows Ireland provides peer group support to children and young people who have been impacted following a bereavement or parental separation or a divorce.

When significant change and loss happens in a family, the entire family can be affected, including children and young people. Children and young people can generally find it difficult to understand their feelings and often do not have the words to express how they feel.

Rainbows provides group support for children of a similar age and loss experience. Meeting others in a similar situation can be very supportive for children and young people.

Rainbows is not a counselling group or professional therapy.
It is a free service.

If you would like your daughter to attend Rainbows or you would like to know more,

Please contact rainbows@stdominics.ie

STUDENT COUNCIL



The student council have been very busy this year. We have been involved in reviewing the Anti-bullying, Child Protection and Acceptable Usage policy. We have also been involved in the consultative process for the new PE uniform. We were delighted and satisfied with the material, vivid and bright colours of this three-piece uniform.

A major part of our student council agenda this year was participating in the Webwise Internet Safety Day. This was part of our Kindness and Awareness Campaign: "Think before you type, think before you like". This campaign outlined ways in which we as young people could spread kindness to others through social media instead of the usual negativity we sometimes experience in the media. We also gave student the opportunity to be involved, ask questions and learn about ways to remain safe online through our Internet Safety Awareness Day. Each class participated in different activities which focused around internet safety in regards to being kind online and increasing awareness. We, the student council were also involved in presenting the topics to certain classes. Through walking debates, class discussions and PowerPoints we were able to promote internet safety. The day was a huge success.

In May of this year, the Student Council played an important part in St Dominic's Wellfest day. We organised a scavenger hunt for the First Year students. The scavenger hunt took place on the school grounds, this gave the First Year students a chance to learn more about St Dominic's history and facilities and was also a great form of activity for their body and mind. Each clue had a corresponding letter, which then spelt out a sentence, reminding our students that they are "More Than Enough". The hunt was a great success, with every student showing great participation and teamwork within their groups. There were prizes for the winning team as well as a participant who exemplified hard work and enthusiasm.

We would like to thank our 6th year student council representatives for all their hard work and wish them all the best in their Leaving Cert and in the future. The student council would like to thank Ms Cameron for the support given to us for the entire year for all our projects, and to all the teachers for their contribution.

We look forward to continuing to represent our student body in 2022-2023. Have a great Summer.

Big Sister Party



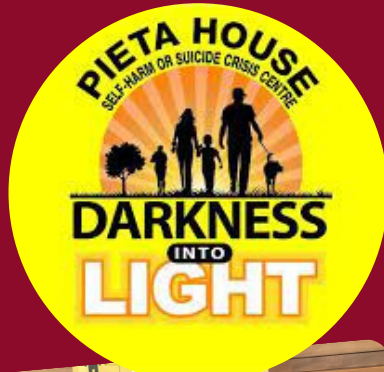
TYs Telling Tales

Ms. Winter's English class 4T recently had the pleasure of hosting St. Catherine's 1st class. The sun shone as our students read short stories to our little visitors. Transition year students worked really hard writing and illustrating their own children's short stories. Tales of 'Lonely Lollipops', 'Henry the Spider', 'The Magic Mango Tree', 'Lucy and the Royal Dog', 'Patchwork Rabbit' and 'The Adventures of Lucy and Milo', delivered meaningful lessons and entertained the entranced and excited young students.



Darkness into Light

On the 8th April 5th year students organised Sunshine Day for Pieta House. Students in all years participated brightening up their uniforms with accessories and donating €1. A raffle was held at the end of the day where 5 lucky students won vouchers and Easter eggs. €745 was raised for Pieta House. Saturday 7th May 5th year students and a group of teachers joined with thousands of others in the Phoenix Park on the Darkness into Light walk. An early start meeting outside the park at 3.30 am but all good spirited and walking to raise funds for Pieta House. Well done to all involved. Ms O'Byrne



CPR 4 Schools

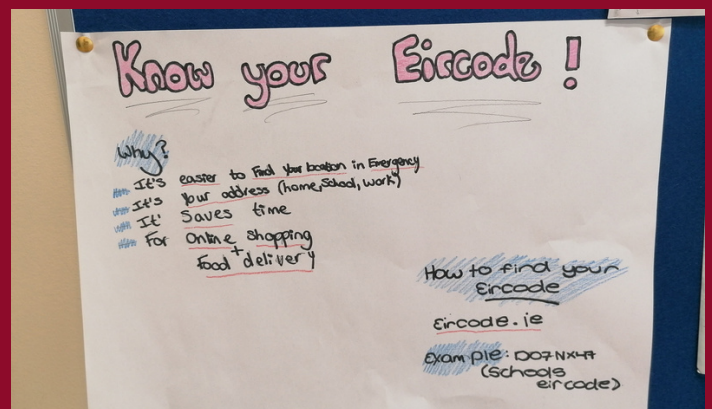
This year all of First Year, TY and some 6th year students have taken part in the CPR4Schools programme. We wanted to train as many students in CPR as possible before they leave school. In our school we follow the CPR4Schools programme as set up by the Irish Heart Foundation. By the end of the course all students will know:

- How to recognise cardiac arrest and perform CPR
- How to use an AED
- How to assist someone who is choking
- How to perform CPR on a child
- The difference between cardiac arrest and heart attack
- How to recognise a stroke

If you have been taught CPR, you are 10 times more likely to respond appropriately in an emergency.

TY students also made posters and placed them around the school to raise awareness of the importance of how to check your eircode of your location in the case of an emergency, see eircode.ie

Congratulations to all our students who have taken part in this programme



DAFFODIL DAY 2022

Daffodil Day, the annual fundraising event for the Irish Cancer Society took place on Friday 25th March. The Transition Year students organised a collection

which was made at Assembly and they had various merchandise on sale at the school entrance.

Students from First Year, along with their teachers, marked the occasion by walking the school grounds and were blessed with glorious sunshine. A special guest appearance was made by Ellie the Elephant on the day!

Throughout the month a number of staff had also taken part in a 9,000 step per day challenge, some succeeded in going way beyond the 9,000 steps! A total of €2,462.25 was raised by the school community for this most worthy cause.

Thank you all for your support!

M. Woods



Safer Internet Day

We held Safer Internet Day on the 4th of March.

Our 2 webwise Ambassadors were Rinnu Skariah and Sarah Lernihan

These girls started their training in November. They were then able to lead a team of students to produce our Safer Internet Day. Rinnu and Sarah designed tasks that teachers could do in their SPHE, and IT classes. These girls got great support from our Student Council in designing these activities.

Students in SPHE class had to write kind things about their fellow class mates and put their work onto an Iphone drawing, students watched videos on internet safety given by influencers

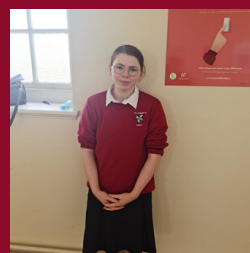
Students in IT class had to fill in google forms. Some questions were about cookies and knowing about the padlock on a website to recognise a safe website.

There was videos about image sharing and senior students learned about Coco's Law.

The primary purpose of "Coco's Law" is to amend the law and to create new offences in relation to harassment and harmful communication, both online and offline.

Both students were awarded highly commended for their leadership by Webwise, well done!

This day was a huge success and we hope to do it again next year.



Leaving Cert Applied Update

The Leaving Cert Applied students have been very busy over the last few weeks.

Both 5LCA and 6 LCA have been reflecting on their journey this year in LCA while doing their Personal Reflection Task.

5LCA also had their task interview for the Vocational Preparation and Guidance. For this task the students organised a talent show for first year students for this task – it was a great success. They also completed their task in Hotel, Catering and Tourism. the students had to make a product – there were lots of products produced such as jam and brown bread.

Both 5LCA and 6LCA applied were busy doing their orals exams. 5LCA had their oral in Irish and 6LCA had their Spanish and English Communications orals.

On Fridays, both 5LCA and 6LCA completed their work experience. Students gain insight into the world of work which is of great benefit to them.

On Friday 13th of May the Leaving Cert Applied students visited Tayto Park and took part in the educational tour where they learned all about Tayto Park. They had a very enjoyable day



6 LCA – Modern Foreign Languages – Spanish –
Mia McGuinness, Megan Mullin,
Sarah Safadi and Chloe Keogh.

This year we also learned beginner's level Spanish. It was a two hour course every week with written exercises, listening and oral work and mini-research projects and worksheets also. We learned the basic communication skills of the language that we can hopefully put into practice if we go to Spain, the Canary Islands or even Columbia! We have learned how to introduce ourselves, talk about our family members, fill out a form with our personal details, numbers and colours, vocabulary for food and drink, how to order a meal in Spanish, recognise Spanish signs, school subjects, and how to give our opinion on these and so on. It can be hard learning a new language but it is useful to be able to get by once you have the basics.

Sarah: I found the duolingo app handy for pronunciation practice and new vocab as well as a little games – I think it's handy to help you revise too. I probably will use Spanish in the future as I find the pronunciation easy enough because I speak Arabic too. I enjoyed learning the numbers – they were fun to learn.

Megan: I was in Spain before and I didn't understand any of the language but now I feel I might if I was to go again – I might try to use it in restaurants when ordering a meal – or even in a hotel – to book a room or something. Because I have dyslexia I found it hard to write in Spanish but listening to it and using it in class was ok.

Mia: I found Spanish kind of hard but I like the sound of the language and maybe I might try to use it if I go to Spain.

Chloe: I really didn't like Spanish – it just wasn't for me – but I can still introduce myself in Spanish and I have a good accent when I do speak it! I used to like Dora the Explorer when I was younger! I liked the class worksheets when we didn't have to speak out loud in class – they were fun.

1st Year Talent Show Returns..

The 5LCA organised a talent show on April 4th for all first years. They do this as part of their work in the Enterprise 2 module. The talent was amazing. We had singers, dancers, a band, drama and musicians. We had also had 6th years perform the interval acts. Thank you to Maryam Owoyomi, and to Keeva Murphy for their beautiful songs. Thank you to Niamh K Remolacio and Ifunanya Ogochukwu for their violin and piano piece. Thank you to Ms Hughes and Ms Doherty and Ms Herscheke for their beautiful singing and guitar work.

The first prize went to the band pebble beech

The second prize went to Caitriona Corbett for her piano piece
The third prize went to Wiktorcia Cieniawa for her irish dancing
The 4th prize went to Ms Mc Goldrick's first year choir, they sang the song Do Re Mi

The day was very enjoyable and it is great to see the talents of all students and teachers being enjoyed by the whole audience. The proceeds will now go to charity.



Junior Maths Competition 2022

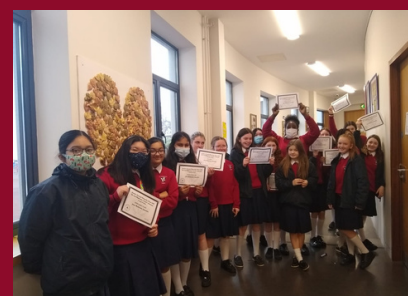
In March, all 1st year students had the opportunity to take part in a national maths competition, the Junior Maths Competition 2022, organized by the Irish Maths Teachers Association.

The competition is held annually in Ireland and this year the level of participation has reached a new high: 225 schools - 30% of all Irish secondary schools and 10,000 Irish students in the 1st year entered the 2022 Junior Maths Competition.

Also in March, the TY students took part in Peter's Problem, a mathematics competition held in Ireland since 2012, dedicated to the memory of the teacher Peter Tiernan. The students worked in teams of 2 or 3. In addition to the challenge and the fun of solving the 24 problems, our students from TY appreciated the important value of working in a team.

Participating in maths competitions is not only a the strategy to encourage girls to pursue a career in STEM, but also to approach advanced mathematics with more courage.

The competitions promotes STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).and encourage girls to pursue a STEM career.



1st years enjoying their history trip at the Irish National Heritage Park in Ferrycarrig in Co. Wexford.



GIRLS IN TECH

We want to congratulate Shona Gogarty seen here(pic to follow) on her outstanding work for the coding animation that introduced our talent show.

Shona coded a cartoon animation using scratch coding.

Shona also took an old audio file, she stripped out a piece and knitted it back together. She then merged her new audio file with her coding animation piece to make a wonderful introduction for our talent show. We are so grateful to you Shona for your wonderful work and the passion and enthusiasm you have shown. We hope to see you in TY next year. You are clearly a tech wizard and we hope you will lead other students into scratch coding and digital animation.



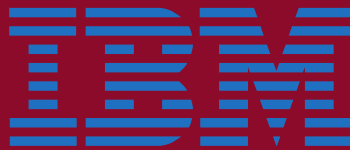
Microsoft

Congratulations to Aoife Dardis (TY) who qualified for the Microsoft Office Specialist Irish Finals which took place at Microsoft Ireland on the 11th of May.



11 TY students took part and successfully completed the IBM Skillsbuild Programme with IBM and their mentor Kashif Salahuddin. In this programme they had to

develop 4 key skill areas, transferable to college and future work experience and complete a project in the cyber security field. It was a very enjoyable experience plus they gained digital badges for their CV!



Cash for Clobber

This year the Parent's Association held Cash for Clobber on the 10 and 11th May

Students, teachers and parents could bring in old clothes, curtains, bed linen, paired shoes to this event. These bags were then collected by a company in Cookstown who will weigh them and the money received will be used to aid teaching and learning in our school. We collected 321 bags and the TY students collected the most of any year group.



TRANSITION YEAR 2022



What a busy, action-packed time Transition Year students have had since Christmas!

During the second two weeks of February 2022 the students went on their Work Experience. Pharmacy, hairdressing, law, childcare and teaching are just some of the careers the students sampled this year, gaining insight into the day-to-day life of their chosen work experience but also identifying first-hand what subject choices in Leaving Certificate might be relevant to their career choice.

In March all TY students headed to Phoenix Park to take part in the Cycling Treasure Hunt. It was lovely to get outside again into the open air, having fun with their friends and exploring the park on their bikes. The students were given a questionnaire and a map and they had to complete the questionnaire to earn points, while learning about Phoenix Park and its history at the same time.

Congratulations to all our TY participants who represented our school at the PE Xpo in DCU on April 6th. They had great success with two projects winning the overall senior category. Congratulations to Emma Forde and Sinead Kelly with their project 'Capture I.T.' who won the Senior 'I.C.T and Sport' category. Congratulations also to Sarah Fitzmaurice, Martina Rodriguez Gonzalez, Isobel MacNeill and Aoife Dardis for their project 'Attitudes towards PE Ireland vs Spain' which won the Senior 'Power of Sport' category. The students were invited to present their projects in UL and had a great day in Limerick.

Well done to all involved and especially to the PE Department Ms O'Brien, Ms Sexton & Ms Clarke for all their hard work and commitment.



On May 13th all of TY participated in a Surfing trip on Curracloe beach. This was a great opportunity for students to try out their surfing skills and enjoy the beautiful scenery of Wexford's famous beach. Well done to all the students and teachers involved, especially Ms Duignan for organising this fun and memorable trip.

Among the many other activities that took place this term, the Driving instruction, the Irish workshop Scéal, the Soar Resilience and Self-confidence workshop, an Etiquette workshop and the Sixth Class Transfer programme proved highly popular.

Transition Year 2021/22 has certainly proven to be a very valuable and industrious year with so many opportunities and events taking place. The students have learnt many new skills to enhance their learning in the Leaving Certificate years ahead.

A sincere thank you to all the wonderful TY students and amazing teaching staff in St Dominic's!

TY Co-ordinator
Gemma Branigan

Surfing in TY 2022

Our Transition year went surfing on 13th May this year. It was such a fun and exciting day! When we arrived at Curracloe beach in Wexford we were divided into three groups; Green, Yellow and Black. The instructors were so nice! They were there to help us if we needed it but they also made it fun when they were showing us what to do. First, we practised on the sand called Dunes Surfing. It was hard at the start, but soon our stomachs and knees got used to it. Standing up on the surfboard was difficult because if you move even one tiny bit you fall off. You really need good balance and concentration! When we got into the water we all sat on the surfboards easily. However, when we tried to stand up on the boards it was 10 times harder! We would just fall sideways and before we knew it we were back in the water again! Some of us managed to keep standing for a few seconds before we fell which was so good for our first attempt surfing.

We then had fun activities on the beach: running and racing, collecting sand in a bucket. The final game was volleyball. Finally, we had chips and a slushy and ate them in the bus on our way back to Dublin, listening to music in the heat. We all loved the surfing trip. It was a lovely bonding moment for us all at the end of our TY year.

Aoife Britland 4P



FOURTH YEARS' TIKTOK QUALIFIES FOR FRAME OF MIND FINAL

“Don't suffer alone“, a short film produced by six of our 4th year students has been shortlisted in the Secondary School Short Film Category for the Walk in My Shoes, “Frame of Mind” short film competition.

Walk in My Shoes is an initiative of St. Patrick's mental health service. The Frame of Mind short film competition aims to improve mental health awareness and remove the stigma around mental health difficulties.

Congratulations Sinéad Kelly, Kate Fogarty, Sarah Fitzmaurice, Megan Griffiths, Chloe Fagan and Kate Conway.



Gaisce

Gaisce, also known as the President's Award, is an award for people aged from 15 – 25. It is a challenge made up of Personal Skill, Physical Recreation and Community Involvement. Examples include learning an instrument, cooking or baking, playing a sport, volunteering with youth clubs and visiting elderly neighbours. For the Bronze Award, each challenge must be done for 1 hour a week, for 13 weeks. We then chose our favourite challenge to do for an additional 13 weeks.

At the end of the year, the entire group went on an Adventure Journey together over two days and one night. The aim was to walk 25 kilometres. This was an amazing experience and we will always have happy memories from this trip. We highly recommend this challenge to all, as it is a fantastic experience and you can learn really useful skills from the program. You write up your experiences in a copy and these will always be a lovely to look back on. (Rachel & Lauren).

Gaisce Walk

On Thursday 12th May 2022 the Transition Year students walked to Broombridge Train station at 9:30 and took a train to Pearse station. We then got on a train at Pearse station and travelled to Bray Co. Wicklow. When we arrived everybody was really hungry so we were allowed to go off and get food by ourselves for about an hour. At 12:00 we meet back at

Bray beach and while we waited for everybody to get back we took pictures with our friends on the beach. We then set off on our walk to Greystones. We walked along the coast on a cliff and there was an amazing view of the train tracks and the sea below. Everybody took loads of pictures and there was a great atmosphere the whole way to Greystones. We then had to pass through a few fences before walking through a huge field with a view of Greystones ahead. When we arrived in Greystones we walked through it for a bit. It was a small, quiet town but had loads of cute little shops and cafés. We were then given about 45 minutes to go and get some lunch before meeting back at the train station in Greystones at 14.50. When we all arrived back at the train station most people were quite tired from the long walk but there was still a great mood as we all climbed onto the dart and headed back to Pearse station. On the dart home we passed by the cliff we had walked and we got to admire the lovely view of the sea on the way home. When we arrived at Pearse station we got on the last train home to whatever station was nearest to your house. We arrived home with lots of great memories from one of our last trips in Transition year 2022. Overall the day was a very enjoyable one and everybody had a nice, relaxed time away from school.



Car maintenance Day

On Thursday April 28th the Irish School of Excellence arrived in St Dominics to present a Driver Education Course with all the Transition Year students with emphasis on road safety and preparation for the driving theory test. We started off the morning by actually getting into the driving seat of a car and driving! The driver instructor showed us the basics – how to start and stop the car, how to reverse, how to use the clutch, brakes and gears.

Then another instructor showed us how to change a tyre using a jack and wrench. Importantly, we were shown how to be safe while doing this on a road or motorway by placing triangle reflectors on the road around the car. We were also shown how to fill the coolant and how to check the car's oil level using the dipstick. We tried using "beer goggles", special glasses which show you how your reaction times and perception are so affected by alcohol. We had great fun playing some games with them on such as football.

In the afternoon, we completed the theory test online, looked at how to apply for car insurance and watched videos based on quick reactions in real life driving situations. Overall I found this really beneficial and I felt I learned so much from an interesting and useful day!

Gemma Cushen 4Y

PE Expo

Well done to our all our TY participants who represented our school at the PE Xpo in DCU on April 6th.

We had great success with two projects winning their overall senior category awards- Congratulations to Emma Forde and Sinead Kelly with their project 'Capture I.T.' who won the Senior 'I.C T and Sport' category.

Congratulations also to Sarah Fitzmaurice, Martina Rodriguez Gonzalez, Isobel MacNeill and Aoife Dardis. Their project 'Attitudes towards PE Ireland vs Spain' won the Senior 'Power of Sport' category.

The following students all showcased their projects to an excellent standard:

Emma Forde, Sinead Kelly

Sarah Fitzmaurice, Martina Rodriguez González, Isobel MacNeill, Aoife Dardis

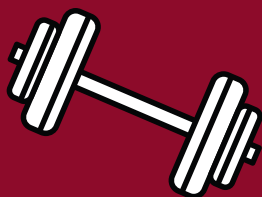
Niamh Casey, Louise Owens, Kate Fogarty

Brodie Harold, Sophie Quinn, Malak Al Shaari

Emma O'Reilly, Zara McFadden

Lauren Young, Lauren Birmingham

Ciara Alcock, Lauren McGarry



We also had four students who were selected to be peer judges on the day- Seren Gillard, Rachel Fitzmaurice, Cliodhna Ryan and Ciara Mullholland





Intercultural Day

The Social Justice Committee of St Dominic's College prides itself on its core values of inclusivity, diversity and equality. These values combined gave rise to the organisation of an Intercultural Day.

On Thursday the 24th of March, St Dominic's embraced and celebrated its cultural richness and ethnic diversity, allowing students to display their roots and take pride in who they are. Students wore traditional clothing into school, and a number of students set up stands in Halla Lydia, where facts, flags, food and culture were on display. Each year group was called down and students were able to truly immerse themselves in the cultures of their peers. In total, there were 29 countries on display!

The celebrations culminated in a cultural parade and fashion show at lunch time, where students from different countries performed traditional dances to music. Huge crowds of students attended to show their support and to bask in the ambiance of what was truly a magical day for all students of our school.

A huge amount of work was put into the organisation of Intercultural Day by The Social Justice Committee, Ms Whelan, Ms Cameron, Ms McGarry and the TY students and teachers. Great credit is also due to the students and their families who contributed to the day's events by creating displays and preparing delicious food for everyone to enjoy.



Dear Students, Staff, Parents/Guardians,

My name is Victoria Herschke and I was the German language assistant in St Dominic's for the school year 2021/2022. I had the wonderful opportunity to work with the German classes from 1st to 6th Year over the last eight months. As a language assistant, I added on to the wonderful work the German teachers already do daily. My job was mainly to help the girls improve their speaking skills, like intonation and pronunciation, as well as introduce them to aspects and facts of German culture that makes the purpose of language learning more approachable and real.

Over the year, Ms Murtagh, Ms McGoldrick, Ms Sinnott, Ms Lynch and I prepared the students for their exams, but also incorporated games, songs, and cultural awareness, like German holidays and customs, into the lessons. We introduced different Christmas traditions, like Christmas cookies and Christmas markets, before the Christmas holidays.



For the 2nd Years, term 2 started with the much-anticipated fashion show. The girls were supposed to think of an outfit (the weirder, the better), and had to write up their own commentary on the clothes they were wearing. During their walk on the "runway", one of their classmates read out that commentary. The fashion shows were full of laughter and fantastic outfits!

The 1st Year students had the opportunity to get as creative and colourful as they could in term 2, when we spoke about Fasching (the German carnival). The girls created their own carnival masks with coloured paper, feathers, glitter, and sequins. They had a lot of fun and the masks will be put up in the classroom for everyone else to see.

Before Easter, TYs and 1st Years got to paint their own easter eggs that were then put on an easter bouquet in the classrooms. In Germany, we usually decorate our trees in the garden with easter eggs, but also collect twigs and put them in a vase to have an easter bouquet in the house. The girls all had amazing ideas and the paintings ranged from flowers, to ninjas, and even the Grinch.



All through the year, the girls were incredibly enthusiastic about German lessons and always did their best. We had a lot of fun re-enacting animal noises when we introduced the vocabulary of animals - this is when we noticed that apparently animals make different noises in different languages! The 5th Year girls did amazingly well in writing their own verses of a German song on the topic of friendship and even felt comfortable enough in class to sing it in front of their classmates. There were so many incredible and delightful moments I got to spend with the students of St. Dominic's and I'm forever grateful to have had the chance!

Leaving Cert Vocational Programme



Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is a Leaving Certificate with a strong vocational aspect. It is part of the schedule of subject options available here at St. Dominic's College.

The programme consists of your Leaving Certificate subjects, together with three compulsory link modules on enterprise education, preparation for work and work experience as part of LCVP

LCVP is examined through the standard Leaving Certificate examination and is assessed in a written examination representing 40% of total marks and a portfolio of coursework representing 60% of total marks.

Students receive the same certificate as other Leaving Certificate students, but their Leaving Certificate includes an additional statement of the results of the link modules (pass, merit or distinction)

It is a fantastic way to develop transferable skills needed at school and later in life, it is practical with hands on and real world experiences with visits in from voluntary organisations and visits to local businesses.

If you would like more information please contact Mr Gormley

But don't take our word for it....



Our Year in LCVP has been very a enjoyable one. We have been able to help raise money for a non profit organisation like Focus Ireland by hosting a cake sake for the 1st and 2nd years. We have also gone on an educational trip to Tayto Park to see how the buisness is run and to also go on the rides. We got to research our local area and go on a trip to Phoneix Park to learn more of its history and about the landmarks there. We have all gained many skills from LCVP. Some of the most useful skills we have learned are our communication, interviewing and research skills which we have been able to use for all our other subjects and outside school.

- Emma Conaghan, Anh Nhat Dam, Amelia Murphy



Coming out of 3rd year straight into 5th year, picking subjects was really hard on all of us. Hearing about LCVP really changed our way of thinking and made us more mature. Its a really helpful subject, for it prepares us for the outside world of work. we have all learned so much and are glad we picked this subject as a leaving cert subject

Oprah, Juila, Aisling, Angel, Omoyeni

When we started LCVP we were mostly looking forward to the Link Modules helping us to focus on our careers. Researching, guidance from teachers and discussion with classmates and friends really helped us emphasize what we wanted to do in our future careers.

We also really enjoyed the outings we had with the class. We went to Phoenix Park to investigate different aspects about the park; history, wildlife etc. We did fun activities such as treasure hunts and eating lunch with friends at a cafe.

The event we truly appreciate was the trip to Tayto Park. We were also accompanied by our school year and it was really worth the experience. We investigated the business side of the amusement park and enjoyed the rides and facilities within the park.

Ebony and Shalenee

PODCASTS BY STUDENTS AT SAINT DOMINICS

This term three classes at Saint Dominic's created podcasts. A podcast is similar to a radio documentary in its style and presentation. There are many types of podcasts. In this instance, each class focused on a different topic to research and created a podcast with educational value.



Ukraine: The Country Behind The Headline

The TY English students chose to put their talents to work in learning about Ukraine. But 'not in the way we hear about it in the news.' Instead, the students researched the customs, history, art and sport of the country. What results is an interesting and compelling listen reminding us that 'Ukraine is not just a country at war, it is a home. It is a place that millions of people love, just like Ireland.'

Going Mental: A Podcast About Mental Health



Second Year C.S.P.E students care deeply about mental health issues. Together they created a helpful and compassionate resource for anyone who would like to learn more about minding their mental health.

School Life In The Past

Finally, First Year English students, working both as researchers and journalists, interviewed older members of society about school life in the past. Their podcast is a nostalgic look back at different times and places.

LINK TO PODCASTS on website : <https://stdominics.ie/news/elementor-9602/>

The podcast project was facilitated by Ms Mc Namara. All podcasts are available to listen to on the school website.



School Self Evaluation

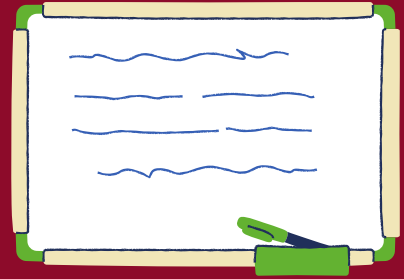
The school has a school improvement plan each year. As part of this plan the school has identified the following targets to work on as part of the school self-evaluation process.



These areas are

Literacy
Numeracy
Feedback
Assessment

Wellbeing including Anti-Bullying
1 hour class structure
Digital learning



We conducted Wellbeing surveys with students, staff and parents at the start of the year and we evaluated the results.

More trips were provided to students as this was a common theme from the surveys.

Students are also going out more at lunchtimes to get fresh air as this was also one of their recommendations.

A Wellfest day was provided this year which had food and nutritional demonstrations along with Zumba and yoga to help students relax and focus on their wellbeing for this day. We also did drop everything and relax at various stages throughout the year to help students take 10 mins time to do mediation during class time.

Extra Curricular activities such as sports clubs, drama club, craft clubs, creative writing clubs etc were also put on for students so they can pursue their interests in these extra areas of school life.

These are only a few of the many initiatives we have pursued.

1 hour class

Teachers were surveyed to see their response to the new 1 hour classes. All teachers felt it was working well and there was more student engagement as a result. We also heard that students liked the 1 hour classes in the Student

Voice forum and it allowed students to get more work done.

Teachers learnt at a staff meeting about the process of retrieval practice which helps students remember the learning from the last class and this also helps to split up the 1 hour class time period. We thank Ms Mc Manus and Ms Winter for leading this session.

Assessment

We learnt as teachers about the Frayer model and the slow writing model in a workshop provided by the company

Dragon Fly. These models help teachers know if they students have learnt what has been taught and it is a great assessment tool for the teacher. Teachers learnt about Adobe Spark which is a digital tool to help with assessment and we are grateful to Ms Duignan for explaining how this works.

Anti-Bullying

We reviewed our Anti Bullying Policy again this year.

Monica Rowe came in from the company Key Conversations and delivered an excellent workshop on bullying to all junior years. We have an excellent video from Jennifer Ryan who is a clinical psychologist and Anti-Bullying specialist on our website and this is available to any parent who wants to help their child. Students in 2nd year study the Fuse programme which is a dedicated programme for Anti-Bullying designed by DCU. Students were made aware at their assemblies of our Anti-Bullying policy and of the resources mentioned above.

Digital Strategy

At the moment we are conducting surveys with students about their opinion on technology. We asked them did they feel technology helps them to engage more in the class. According to the surveys students enjoy technology and feel they can engage more in the class if they use it. We will now look at the results of the surveys in more depth to advance our digital strategy. The school has invested in 60 new Google Chromebooks and has lots of computer hubs in certain rooms. This new infrastructure along with the new Wifi will definitely help the school to advance its digital plan.

Not all of the wonderful initiatives can be mentioned here and this is only a snapshot. We will continue to work on these targets next year also.

**Congratulations
to all our 6th
Years
and Sophie
McManus
Student of the
Year**



