



Newsletter

St. Joseph's Secondary School



To all of our school community....

My thanks to our students for their cooperation during what has been a very challenging time since we opened at the end of August. Enjoy the Christmas break and please stay safe as you get to spend time with family and friends.

As a result of Covid-19 we have had to adapt greatly and deal with a lot of change in recent months. My sincere thanks to our teaching staff, special needs assistants and ancillary staff for their commitment and patience during this difficult time of change. I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved break over the Christmas period.

The cooperation and support of the parents, guardians and whole school community for the systems that have been put in place has enabled us to remain open and stay safe since our return in September. I urge you to continue the good work in 2021 and I hope that we can return to some sense of normality as the roll out of vaccines begins in the New Year.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter which gives you an insight into the vast range of work that is ongoing here at the school. I encourage you to check out our website for a Christmas video reflection entitled "The Year that Was" which has been put together by Ms. O Doherty, Ms. Mc Adam, Mr. Connolly and some of our 5th year students. www.droghedacbs.ie.

I would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Le gach dea ghui,

Paul Savage, Principal.



St. Joseph's Christmas Cards Fundraiser

Congratulations to the students whose drawings were selected for the 2020 St. Joseph's Christmas Card Fundraiser: Luke Moran, Adam McEvoy, James Robinson, Stuart Kinch, Michal Mirga, Aaron Craven, Cillian Matthews, Ethan Martin, Ciarán O'Brien, Kai McPhee, Pádraig Smith, Conor Breen, Cian Garavaglia, Vito King, Julius Noer, Adam McConnon and Darragh Phelan. The money raised will go towards four excellent organisations and charities in Drogheda: Drogheda Women's & Children's Refuge Centre, Oncology Unit Lourdes Hospital, SVP Drogheda and Drogheda Homeless Aid.

THERE WILL BE TIME...
 March had a hundred Mondays
 April felt like a year
 So much time on our hands
 And now May is near.....

But.....
There will be time
 For Family and friends when this tough time ends
 For banter and fun
 For chats with everyone

For the ball to be kicked once again
 For all things sport Amen! Amen!
 For the parties we miss
 For a grandmother's kiss
 For hobbies and fun
 For laughter and sun
 For hugging grandparents tight
 For staying up all night

For the premier league
 For the Gaelic games
 For eating out and holidays
 For memories and tears
 For better years

For standing close
 Not far apart
 For an end to a time
 That broke the worlds heart

There will be time.....
See you soon

1S English class April 2020

Kyle, Cormac,
 Michael, Cameron,
 Basil, Gian,
 Donnacha, Eoin,
 Alex, Sean P.,
 David, Sean,
 Finn N, Andrew,
 Aaron, Darragh,
 Ryan, Conor,
 Alan, Philip,
 Darragh, Steven,
 Anton, Jack,
 Finn W
 (15/2019/20)

F1 in Schools



This year our TY1 Class are competing in the annual F1 in school's competition. This educational programme is run and delivered by Student Innovation Ireland which is formed of F1 in Schools alumni and STEM advocates from around Ireland. As an organisation, their motivation is to inspire students to dream big, to think creatively and to nurture their skills. Their motto, "Driving the Future", and Their logo reference the company's ambition to make large-scale changes in the technical skills and confidence of young people in Ireland.

At SII, they are working with committed industry partners to provide an exciting yet challenging educational experience through the magnetic appeal of Formula 1. F1 in Schools is the only truly global educational programme that raises awareness of STEM and Formula 1 among students and our boys at St. Joseph's CBS are very lucky to have the experience of competing in this programme.

What will the Boys be doing?

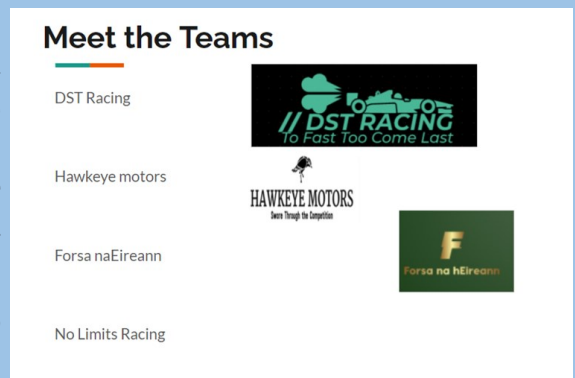
Our boys in TY1 have been put in to 4 different teams, each member of the team has their own roles and responsibilities to adhere to through this project. The boys will have opportunities to utilise CAD/CAM software to collaborate, design, analyse, manufacture, test, and then race miniature compressed air powered cars made from F1 model block.

The Teams must raise sponsorship and manage budgets to fund research, travel and accommodation.

The challenge inspires students to use IT to learn about physics, aerodynamics, design, manufacture, branding, graphics, sponsorship, marketing, leadership/teamwork, media skills and financial strategy, and apply them in a practical, imaginative, competitive and exciting way.



So far, the boys have all completed their five-page plan proposal and submitted it to the judges. Let's hope the boys can go far in this competition and we can all get behind each team and support them on their way to the national finals in Dublin and hopefully represent Ireland in Singapore for the world finals in 2021. Up the Joey's!



Academic Mentoring 2020/21

This term saw the start of the academic mentoring for our sixth-year students. We are delighted to have twenty-five mentors involved in the process this year, which is a brilliant support for the lads. We had our first session of formal meetings during the week of the 15th November. Mentors spent some time with their students, reflecting on their results in the October assessments and establishing a baseline from which the boys can work from. Some advice and guidance were given around study plans and routines, which would help the lads get into better routines and habits in balancing homework and study. We currently have one room each open for 3rd and 6th year students in evening study and we plan to open a second room in January, in advance of the Mock exams. If you have yet to put your name down, please contact Mr. Trainor to secure your spot.

Remember to get a good rest over the Christmas break, while keeping up a manageable routine with your study. This will really help you to hit the ground running in January. If you have any concerns or queries regarding study in advance of the Christmas break, please link in with your Academic Mentor.

Remembrance Mass

The annual St. Joseph's Secondary School Remembrance Mass was held on Monday the 16th of November 2020. Due to restrictions only the 6th year music group (Ryan Corrigan, James Ford, Femi Laiyemo, Enda McEnteggart, and James Mulhall) Mr. Connolly, Ms. Flood (school chaplain), Ms. Mc Adam (school chaplain), Mr. Savage and Fr. Barry Matthews were present in the church. The service was live streamed to all the classrooms.



The Remembrance Mass gave our school community an opportunity to pause, to reflect and to remember our loved ones who have died and to pray for all in our community who have been bereaved or affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic. The readings, music, prayers and words of Fr. Barry made it a very poignant occasion.



Thank you everyone for your participation and to all involved in the preparation and organisation of the Mass.

Christmas Together

This has been a very different school year for all of us. At this time of year, we like to gather and celebrate Christmas as a school community but this year that has not been possible. We wanted to mark the year gone by and acknowledge the tough times faced by so many. We also want to look forward to a better 2021. So, we came together in a different way. Students put together a virtual presentation – a collection of music, images and reflections – a way of looking back and looking forward.

The link to view this presentation will be on our school website from December 16th and we invite you to take a look and reflect on the year gone by with us.

Thank you to all staff and students who participated in the presentation.



Chess Club News

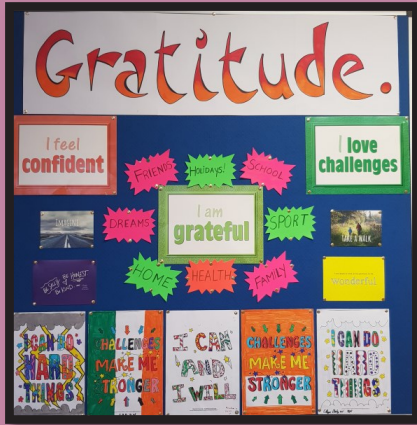


Chess remains as popular as ever in St. Joseph's with 36 students across all years playing weekly at lunchtime. However, this is no ordinary year for the chess club as major adaptations have taken place. First and foremost, physical chess sets have been rendered obsolete as gameplay has been digitised. Although students are confined to their pods in the computer rooms, an online tournament is currently underway in which students from all years are playing games against each other. If you would like to join the chess club, there are two sessions weekly; one for 1st, 2nd years & TYs in Computer Room 5 at 1pm on Thursdays and one for 3rd, 5th & 6th years in Computer Room 2 at 12:20pm on Tuesdays. There is currently a waiting list in place for the junior club as it is oversubscribed, however there are still places available for any

3rd, 5th & 6th years who may be interested in playing chess. All are welcome. If you are interested in joining, please email Ms. Farrelly.

Well-Being in School

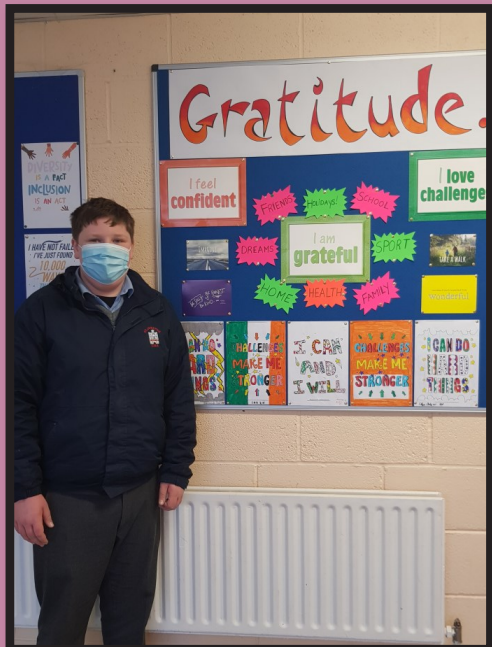
Students in Ms. Murray's and Ms. O' Doherty's well-being classes have put together a well-being space in our school. The space features positive messages and ideas. We have a gratitude space as part of the display – here students have added all the things we are grateful for especially during this difficult year –



family, friends, health, dreams, sport, home. This has been a very challenging year for all of us and through our well-being space we are reminding

each other of all the good things that happen every day and that we have the strength to get through tough times together.

The photos show the display that is in our school General Purpose Area and second year student Aaron Maher Knowles who was involved in putting the display together.



ASD Hallowe'en Pumpkin Party



Athena Tracker & VS Ware

We have adopted the statistical analysis model of the Athena tracker as a method of academic tracking analysis of our students in St. Joseph's. This will enable us to follow a students exam results over a period of time and alert the school as to whether a student requires additional support in certain subject areas and if any additional intervention is required. Thus ensuring that no student gets missed in a very busy school system.

Transition Year Activities

My Orienteering Experience:

During the month of November, my TY classmates and I took part in an Orienteering Experience around the school campus. It was great fun and good experience to take part in and hope to do something like it again.

At first, we went outside to prepare for our Orienteering. We got into groups and were given a page with a puzzle. We had to decode the message, which gave us a question. The question was "what is the capital city of Austria?". When you



answered correctly (which was Vienna), you were given a map of the area. The objective now was to run up to a page that was away from our table and memorise where the points on the map, which would be the locations of stamps that we had to find on our map. When you had all locations down, you were ready to start searching for the stamps.

Now, we had to search around our local area for the stamps that were marked out on our map. Some were obvious, but others were very well hidden. It was great fun to partake in

this especially when they were well hidden because you would have good fun looking for them with your friends.

Once you had found all of them, or if the timer had run out, you would return to the school and hand up your sheet with your map and stamps on them. There were



around 13 stamps to get. Our team got 11. We also didn't have to wear our uniform, which was nice cause it made getting around everywhere easier.



Overall, this Orienteering Experience was really fun, and I hope that we do something like it again in the future.

Oldbridge Visitors Centre & the Battle of the Boyne



ASD Class News



For this term, the ASD students in Mr. McDonagh's Horticulture class turned their attention to the glasshouse. The term began with the students removing excess pots from the glasshouse, disinfecting the remaining pots and cleaning the glass and shelves. This reduced the risk of attack by pests or diseases on the student's plants in the glasshouse. Throughout the term, the students have carried out a number of experiments using winter oats. They have investigated the effect of temperature and pH on germination rate on oat seeds and investigated the germination rate of certified v uncertified oat seed. The students have sowed pots of Sweet Pea, which they will bring home in January and started to create posters for their base classes, which will include photographs of the work they have carried out. Well done to all the students for their hard work in this term.



Winter Workout with Louth GAA

In the weeks leading up to Christmas break, the members of the Louth under-16 panel who attend our school were put through their paces by their mentors. The boys who represent a multitude of clubs around the area, Glen Emmets, Naomh Fionnbarra, O' Raghallaighs and St. Fechins to name a few, worked primarily on their skills and coordination.

These short and snappy when their season gets into focus on other aspects of their their skillset. It's vital for the so they can build on all the this point.

Also, with all the disruptions Covid-19, these sessions were team spirit. Given the way that I'm sure the lads were glad to

Our thanks from St. Joseph's for their assistance and coaching expertise during these sessions which the students thoroughly enjoyed and earned valuable coaching experience that will no doubt contribute to the development of their footballing skills set into the future!



sessions should stand to the lads full swing as they will be able to game, rather than rebuilding lads to keep on top of their game hard work they have done up to

they have had this year due to a great way in building a good the GAA season ended for most, get back at it again.

the coaching staff of Louth GAA which the students thoroughly enjoyed and earned valuable coaching experience that will no doubt contribute to the development of their footballing skills set into the future!

Class 3R Engaging in Jewish Traditions



Class 3R and Ms. Flood have been working on their Religious Education Journal Work Project. The project is worth 20% of our Junior Cert grade. We have been investigating the meaning and purpose of two rituals in Judaism. The two rituals we have been



learning about are Passover - the Seder Meal and Hanukkah. We have done lots of research and each group had a task to undertake. To understand the two rituals, we decided to re-enact them. The first one we did was the Passover Seder Meal. This is similar to the Eucharist because the Last Supper was the Jewish feast of Passover. There are lots of elements involved and lots of blessings and songs in Hebrew. We used the English translations and everyone had a passage to read. The event took place in the GP area. We had to substitute the wine for sparkling grape juice but the other elements were all present. We used bitter herbs, the egg, the lamb bone, Matzos, salt water and Charoset. Each element represents a different aspect of the story of the Jewish people in slavery in Egypt. We learned a lot and also enjoyed taking part in the ceremony. It helped us to understand the ritual.



We also re-enacted part of the Hanukkah ceremony. Hanukkah takes place over 8 days and nights celebrating the restoration of the Temple, the miracle of the oil lamp and the story of Judah Maccabee. There are lots of rituals associated with Hanukkah; lighting the Hanukkah Menorah (Jewish candle stick), giving to the poor, saying the blessings and singing the Hanukkah songs. We also got to play the



Dreidel game (like a spinning top) and to eat doughnuts because it is traditional to eat a food cooked in oil (Getz) on Hanukkah symbolising the oil which was used to keep the lamp lit in the story. This was a very enjoyable learning experience. Mazel Tov.

Gideon Kabi Class 3R

Microsoft Office Specialist

As part of our TY programme, Transition Year students are offered the chance to avail of a recognised computer certification course. Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification is a world recognised computing qualification in Microsoft Office Applications. It provides online, personalised training where students can achieve professional certification from Microsoft in the individual Microsoft Applications - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook, SharePoint and One Note. This is an internationally accredited certificate and is recognised as the industry standard by employers globally.

The training and exams have been designed to test the candidate's ability to use Office applications in a way that's more closely aligned with how they would be used in everyday life or in business and not just in the classroom. This will assist students in differentiating themselves in today's competitive job market. It helps them broaden their employment opportunities and earning potential by proving they have advanced skills in Microsoft Office.

Students have 3 classes per week in school but the training modules can be accessed from home and students are encouraged to do additional training at home during the week and practice for tests. Exams in each section are held in class when a candidate feels he is ready and able to pass - a pass requires 70% accuracy over 50mins.

A big word of thanks to the Board of Management of St. Joseph's which heavily subsidised the purchase of the licences and exams for each Transition year student.

After School Study

There has been an excellent uptake amongst Leaving Cert and Junior Cert students over the past two terms for Evening Study in the school.



The LC centre in the Library is fully booked with 24 students consistently attending study on a nightly bases since September. The JC centre in Room 24 has had a steady increase in student interest since

September as students avail of the opportunity to complete two hours of supervised independent study.

In addition to the current centres, there will be a new Leaving Cert centre opening in the new term in Room 35 starting on January 11th, to meet the demand for LC students seeking supervised study.

As per usual, any student who has an interest in booking a spot in Evening Study, they can contact Mr. M. Trainor. Payment for next term's study can be made via the school office or on the Way to Pay system on the school website.

St. Joseph's Numeracy Website

The numeracy team within the school has created a website with a variety of resources to enhance the numeracy skills of our students. The activities include, a challenge of the week, a weekly count-down, and many more which will be continuously refreshed. The website can be accessed through our school website at home. There are activities suitable for all year groups and are a fun way for our students to improve their numeracy skills.



Contacting the School

Tel: 041-9837232 Fax: 041-9843891

E-mail: info@droghedacbs.ie

Website: www.droghedacbs.ie

If you wish to meet a member of staff, please phone and make an appointment.

School Calendar

2020 — 2021

December 2020

23rd: Christmas holidays begin

January 2021

6th: School reopens after Christmas break

February 2021

3rd - 13th: LC & JC Pre-Examinations take place

15th - 19th: Mid-Term Break

March 2021

16th: JCT Staff Training Day. No students in School

17th: St. Patrick's Day

26th: Last day of school term before Easter break

April 2021

12th: School reopens after Easter break

30th: School Closed

May 2021

3rd: May Bank Holiday

June 2021

4th: Last day of school term

7th: June Bank Holiday

9th: State Examinations Commence



Mr. M. Trainor in conjunction with the Student Council is responsible for the production of the school newsletters. If any student, teacher or parent has any

relevant news items they think may be suitable for future newsletters, please contact Mr. M. Trainor or e-mail mtrainor@droghedacbs.ie.