



COLÁISTE IOGNÁID

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Guardians,

I think it will take us some time to fully understand the impact of the past school year on the school community. We have gone through enormous challenges that have tested our resolve at many times. It is my sense however, that we will emerge from this experience as a stronger more focused school. We need to continue to interrogate our values and encourage understanding of our ethos among all stakeholders. Many practices which would commonly be referred to as ethos, could better be described as custom and practice. As a school, we need to build on the solid foundations and continue to identify areas for improvement with a view to aligning our structures more closely with the Jesuit ethos.



The support we have received from the parent body has made all the difference to our school this year. Education is by its nature a community exercise and it is by working together and supporting each other progress can be made. We have recently received many messages of gratitude and support. In the absence of face-to-face contact these kind words make all the difference. Thank you, most sincerely.

Development Plans

As we face into the summer months, an exciting body of work is planned to improve the site. The schedule of works is as follows:

1. Replacement of approximately 100 windows in the Griffin building. After much lobbying, grant funding has been sourced from the Department of Education.
2. Painting of all the classrooms in the Andrews building and extension/improvements to 5 other classrooms.
3. A refurbishment of the main office
4. Upgrade of the IT infrastructure on site
5. Construction of covered walkways and a permanent, sheltered outdoor seating area.

The funding for the windows was only secured in late April, so we will not see works commencing until the autumn term, provision of the covered walkways is stage one in our improvement of the site. The development is subject to planning applications and we envisage work beginning at some point during the 2021 school year.

It is very important to point out that these works would not be possible without the support of the parent-body through our voluntary contribution and covenant schemes. Thank you, most sincerely for your support. Over 80% of families have paid their voluntary contribution for the 2020-21 school year, if you would still like to contribute, please follow the links on Compass. 80% is a huge increase on where we were in 2019 (54%) and without this increased support, changes like the ones outlined would not be possible. I would appeal to those who have not paid to contribute if you can. If you want to request a waiver, please email voluntarycontribution@colaisteiognaid.ie in the strictest confidence.

With regard to curricular changes, from September 2021, PE will now be compulsory for all 5th year students for the first time. We have continued to expand the number of subjects offered to senior cycle students with the addition of Religion and Applied Mathematics for the 2021 cohort. A new website has been developed and it will go live over the coming weeks.

Spring Surveys

Thank you to all parents who responded to our spring surveys. These surveys are very important in planning school improvement. All responses are read, considered and influence how we plan for the future. Two items which I would like to clarify from the surveys.

1. The Designated Liaison person (DLP) for child welfare concerns is David O'Sullivan. The Deputy DLP is Claire Lohan.
2. Arranging support for students in school, be it academic or pastoral is managed through the care team structure. The link person for each care team is the year head. If you are concerned for your son/daughter in any way please email admin@colaisteiognaid.ie and mark 'for the attention of the year head'. A full list of care team members is on the website.

Thank you to all the staff who are working through the summer to provide activities and outlets for our students. We have teachers and SNAs working on the department of education summer provision programme, the Kairos team are planning their retreat in August and the school show group are working towards a live performance in early autumn. The Erasmus+ project also has a group of TY students who are monitoring the growth of their plants throughout the summer months. Except for the summer provision programme, this work is being provided on a voluntary capacity by these teachers. Many thanks to you all.

This newsletter gives an overview of some of the work which has gone on this term. I hope you enjoy reading it. Finally, I would like to wish you all a restful and relaxing summer break, please God, we will return to a more normal school year in September.

Beir Bua agus Beannacht,

David OSullivan

CHAPLAINCY NOTES by Jerry Sheehan

6TH Year Retreats



Over two days sixth years gathered to reflect with gratitude on their "Jes" experience. The pupils were encouraged to reflect on many different aspects of their time in Coláiste Iognáid S.J. from the highs to the lows, the friendships they nurtured, the mistakes they made and Gods active presence throughout these times. In addition, they were encouraged to explore the future and what it means to live out an Ignatian vision of men and women for others in the wider world.

Thankfully over the two days we had wonderful weather which added to the retreat experience. Wishing God's blessing on all the sixth years over the coming weeks.

SCIENCE NEWS



Best of luck to Molly Dubber (TY) and Mary Flannery (TY) in this year's Scifest competition with their project "Me, Myself and I: A study of the Self- discrepancy theory" where they investigated into how external influences such as gender, age and lifestyle effect the application of the self-discrepancy theory and body image.



Mary Flannery and Molly Dubber presenting their project.

Best of luck also to Diarmuid Hayes (3G) with his project "Data investigation using Benford's Law" where he developed a Dashboard test for Benford's law and tested data on death rates before and during Covid 19 to see if it follows Benford's Law and hence prove if the data was indeed authentic or manipulated.



Congratulations to Emily Rooney (5th Year) who was accepted into this year's Global Talent Mentoring program. Emily is one of the highly motivated and outstanding students with exceptional achievements in STEMM who has been selected as a mentee into this highly prestigious global program. She will be working with Jane Dai, an expert in her selected field of interest in astrophysics.

Best of luck to Emily and we look forward to hearing about her experiences and all of the projects she will be working on over the coming years.

JES BRASSICA PROJECT. CULTURAL-EXCHANGE. TRANSITION YEAR 2021-2024.



by Liam Parkinson

'Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet' Gerard Manley Hopkins's 1844-1889. S.J.

Coláiste Iognáid is both proud and privileged to announce the official launch of the Jes Brassica Project, 2021-2024. This current Fourth-Year E.U. funded, student-cultural exchange-project is a very welcome extension of the previous Jes-Meis-Galicia project, 2017-2020, which ended in August 2020. It was curtailed early due to Corona-Virus travel restrictions. Nonetheless, students and families in both Galway-Galicia benefited enormously and our links with Senor Luis Camilo-Fernandez-Alvarez, Principal CPI Mosteiro-Meis Galicia and overall Coordinator of the Brassica Project, were well established by then.

Thus, this latest international exchange-project was started on March 30th 2021, when 400 + cabbage seeds were planted in Bearna, in the Jes-Transition-Year Co-Ordinator's (Cathal O'Conchur) green-house-garden, during Easter 2021. This new, exciting Transition Year 'Cabbage-Project' is endorsed by Doctor Zoe Popper / Professor Dagmar Stengel, Department of Botany NUIG and by Galician Academics; Margarita Lema Marquez / Maria Elena Cartea, Directors of La Mision Biologica de Galicia, in Vigo-North-West Spain, to whom we extend our heart-felt thanks. We extend our gracias to all Jes management and staff too. We also give thanks to our local Galway-based Gallego contact, Senor Miguel Losada, whose grandfather's Fundacion (Anton Losada-Dieguez) initiated the project, with Erasmus+ with whom Mr. Cathal O 'Conchuir established our original Jes-Meis school link, during his time on Galway City Council.

It's a three-year long Trans-National-Botanical Project, which involves 15 different 4th Year Jes students per year. Three secondary schools, in three Wild-Atlantic-Way coastal locations; the Jes in Galway, CPI Mosteiro in Meis, in Galicia and Armando-Cortes school on Sao Miguel-Azores-Portugal are participating in this Experimental-Natural-Science project, sponsored by Erasmus +. This Cross-Cultural, Comparative-Botanical-Study focuses its attention on various similar-contrasting aspects of cabbage cultivation in all three countries, simultaneously, despite our different soils-climates and growing-seasons. The findings will be correlated in August 2024, all collated-documented by Transition Year students, before being published by La Mision Biologica and distributed to Universities in all three locations. So all the relevant scientific statistics, plant-measurements, growth-rates, leaf-size-numbers, diseases-pests, the effects of different weather systems-soil types, will be documented by 15 students in each country for three years.

The best-performing plants will be harvested in Autumn 2021, their seeds collected-distributed to all three locations for 'second-plantings' in Spring 2022, in order to identify the best performing plants in the three different locations. Because our growing season starts much later here in Galway, by contrast to both the Azores and Galicia, our cabbages are still quite small-fragile enough to need protection too from recent frosts. Therefore, we expect a bumper harvest of fully-grown cabbages, for Jes-Family consumption, in early Autumn. A series of 27 Raised beds / Timber Veg-Troughs, housing 9 cabbages each, have been built by Joe O 'Toole - construction at the end of the Jes green-area. These have been filled with freshly-fertilised Antrim-soil, and the outdoor planting of young cabbages has begun. Some cabbages will also grow in the adjacent Jes Urban-Garden, located beside the outdoor entrance to the Andrew's building Sport's Hall. The artwork in the garden was all designed by Fourth Year Students, under the magic-Artistic direction of Pam Dolan and her team of highly-talented muralists. 'Pam's-Painters' by any other name.

'Cauliflower is nothing but a cabbage with a College Education.' Mark Twain. 1835-1910.



The TY Erasmus + Brassica Project and Urban Garden Team



Joe O'Toole and Cathal O'Conchuir and the Brassica Garden

FR. BOB MCGORAN CENTRE

Congratulations to Rory Barrett on his completion of the Junior Cycle Level 2 Learning Programme. Here is Rory receiving his certificate from Mr O Sullivan.



Transition Years participated in social outreach in the Fr Bob McGoran centre this year. The students in the centre really enjoyed and benefited from all the activities - gardening, social communication and social outings. Thanks to all the TYS for their incredible enthusiasm during these activities.

Gardening in Coláiste Iognáid - Transition year students and their friends from the Fr Bob McGoran centre were busy filling the flower boxes around the school during the school year.



Transition Years on a social outing with students from the Fr Bob McGoran centre.



PRESS PASS WINNER 2021

Congratulations to Transition Year Cian Carr whose photo took second place in the photojournalism category in this year's national Press Pass competition!



MUSIC

3RD YEAR MUSIC PODCAST by Rian Carney

You will find a link below for the first ever Jes music podcast. Click the link and you will be entertained by members of this year's Junior Cycle music class performing a variety of musical styles - from Bach to the Red Hot Chilli Peppers and almost everything in between. Sit back and enjoy!



<https://anchor.fm/rian-carney/episodes/The-Jes--Junior-Cycle-music-podcast-2021-e12bi1o>

EXTRA-CURRICULAR NOTES

HOCKEY CLUB

It was great that the 1st year hockey girls got a few weeks of training in before the summer holidays. Many thanks to coach Ger McManamon for his time coaching the girls.



It was also fantastic to see the 2nd years back to hockey training. Thanks to coach Donal Dempsey for his time

COLÁISTE IOGNÁID DEBATING SOCIETY

Like a lot of extra-curricular life this year, it's been 'Debating-Lite' at the Jes. Few Dublin competitions, no staff debate, no First Year Championship, no end of term meal.... However, despite restrictions, debate training managed to continue for much of the first term, with regular after-school meetings. It gave much needed space for expression, argument, and verbal jousting. It also gave the opportunity for some younger debaters to raise their heads above the parapet with **Oisín O'Connair 1G** and **Niamh Drea 1G** dominating the First Year contingent with **Isaac McCoy**. **Sarah O'Sullivan** (highest scoring Second Year this season) and **Thomas Godfrey** fought the good fight on behalf of Second Years. Indeed, **Thomas Godfrey's** barn-storming attack on capitalism and family dysfunction in the annual 'Christmas Debate' defeated all speakers, from First to Sixth year.

We saw a hirsute **Setanta McCaffrey** give his maiden speech of six years accompanied by fellow Leaving Cert **Dara O'Dochartaigh-Barr** and of course, regulars **Ruby Lynch**, **Amy O'Gorman**, **Emily Rooney**, **Niall Martin**, and **Felix O'Neill** ensured high rhetorical standards each meeting.

Usually, the Jes debating teams expect to enter up to 10 competitions each year culminating in National finals but there was only one national debate competition this year: the 'CBC Monkstown Senior Mace'. The Dublin school made commendable efforts to run this as an online debate competition. Attendance to the competition was oversubscribed within the first week and extra places were made available with eventually 80 speakers from around Ireland taking part. It was with great satisfaction that Jes speakers **Emily Rooney** and **Clara O'Gorman** (Fifth Year) won the entire competition. For those interested in the intricacies of the debate scoring system ('The Tab'), it was the first time in nearly 20 years that Jes debaters won every round of the qualifiers ('Topping the Tab') as well as eventually winning the grand final at the end of this gruelling ten-hour competition. A rare clean sweep.

Under strict Covid restrictions, and a skeleton audience, the much loved '6th Year Maiden Competition' for those 6th Years who never debated before, took place at the end of term. Debating the motion 'This House Believes That the Irish Education System Has Failed its Secondary Level Students', maiden speakers **Isabelle MacGiolla Rí** and **Dylan Flaherty** became Champion and Reserve Champion.

Finally, Coláiste Iognáid would like to thank **Ruby Lynch** for her wonderful contributions to debating in the school over the last six years. She has represented Ireland in Oxford and debated at the highest level around Ireland with her talented debate partner **Amy O'Gorman** but, more importantly, she has brought her enthusiasm, hard work, determination, and considerable wit to over a hundred school meetings in her time here. She has been a much-valued auditor to the society, a mentor to younger speakers and a wonderful ambassador for Coláiste Iognáid. We know that she has a highly successful career ahead of her. We wish her, and her fellow graduates (with particular reference to debater **Amy O'Gorman**), a smooth journey on their next academic road.

ROWING CLUB

The rowing Club resumed rowing on the river on May 1st after the covid lockdown during which our rowers trained using Zoom messaging from their coaches. Almost all returned to training including over twenty first years.

The National Championships are scheduled for August 20th to 22nd and the club will be competing at the under 18 level.



Our First years on the Water in May 2021



JES RUGBY

We had no more than a few training sessions for each squad to wrap up the season, nonetheless, in the spirit of Jes rugby, the boys took part in a drive to raise funds and rugby equipment for a school in Nigeria. Both boys and club gathered together second-hand gear to send over and we also ran a raffle to win a rugby ball signed by James Ryan and a school rugby top to raise some money. Many thanks to all the families who contributed - the raffle winner was Alex Bogue in the Junior Squad!

On the subject of boys outgrowing gear, we are pleased to announce that The Coláiste Iognáid Official Rugby Store has just been launched. Students can now purchase Jes rugby jerseys, shorts, t-shirts, socks and hoodies direct from our new suppliers Teamwear Store/Canterbury. The link to the store is below. Returns are allowed unless the boys have opted to personalise their purchase with initials or numbers. We do have a sizing kit in the school for this purpose although until restrictions lift we can only use this for viewing sizes. Non-rugby players are also welcome to order if they would like some casual clothing from the range of bespoke and stock items.

<https://www.teamwearstore.ie/collections/colaiste-iognaid>

We say farewell to the 6th year members of our Senior Squad. This year was not the Cup challenge year they had hoped for however, we hope they take good memories of training, tours and Junior Cup finals away with them. We wish them the very best of luck in all their future endeavours!
