



COLÁISTE IOGNÁID

Nuachtlitir An Fhómhair 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A Chairde Scoile,

Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghabháil libh ar fad ar an athoscail rathúil i mbliana. Tá sé deacair creidiúint go bhfuil an briseadh méán téarma linn. Táim fíor-bhuíoch as bhur dtacaíocht leanúnach.



It is great to see all the students settling back in and bringing great energy and positivity to the school. It's especially exciting to welcome the new cohort of first-year students who have settled in extremely well. Our Leaving Certificate class of 2021 received their results in early September. The standard was exceptionally high this year and is a testament to the hard work put in by the students and their teachers. One statistic of note is that 84 grades increased by students doing the exams. Students were given the choice of accredited grades plus the option to sit the examinations. We encouraged all students to sit the actual exams. This advice was vindicated. We do not anticipate a return of accredited grades in 2022, but there are no guarantees and even with high vaccine rates we are still seeing the school system coming under pressure, most recently at primary level. A return of accredited grades cannot be ruled out at this point!

We are clearly seeing some normality returning after a very challenging time. School lockers are currently being reinstalled and will be available on a phased basis from the 1st of November. Our aim for this year is to hold all parent-teacher meetings in person, with the first meetings scheduled for 6th year parents on Tuesday, the 23rd of November at 4.15pm. Although the path ahead seems positive, we need to remain vigilant and follow Covid protocols at all times. We continue to ask for your support in this regard.

The new term has seen a welcome and busy return to the school's extra-curricular and co-curricular activities. It is a core value of Coláiste Iognáid, which brings a renewed sense of cohesiveness to what is already an inspirational school community. This newsletter will give you a sense of the range of activities that are ongoing.

Well done to the forty-two 5th year students who were awarded their Gaisce awards last week. It was a great achievement that they completed the programme in such challenging covid times. Thanks, too, to former student Pat Divilly who visited the school for the presentation and spoke with the award winners.

We would like to acknowledge the hard work and support of the outgoing Parents Council members and extend a warm welcome to the new incoming members. Particularly Orla Walsh (Chairperson) and Matt O Connell (Secretary).

Finally, thanks to all the families who have paid their voluntary contributions. We greatly appreciate the efforts families have made to meet this request. As a Voluntary Secondary School this support from parents enables us to maintain and develop our curricular and extra-curricular programme.

Bainaigí taitnemah as an mbriseadh,

Le gach dea ghuí,
David O'Sullivan.

A PERSON FOR OTHERS?

During my personal reading and research, I am constantly surprised by the depth of reflective pieces that have been produced by Jesuits over the years. I recently came across this parable which I thought I would share with you today.

The Diamond by Anthony de Mello SJ

When a sannyasi reached the outskirts of the village and settled under a tree for the night, a villager came running up to him and said, "The stone! The stone! Give me the precious stone!" "What stone?" asked the sannyasi.

"Last night Lord Shiva told me in a dream that if I went to the outskirts of the village at dusk a sannyasi would give me a stone that would make me rich forever."

The sannyasi rummaged in his sack and, pulling out a stone, he said, "He probably meant this one. I found it in the forest yesterday. Here, it's yours if you want it."

The man gazed at the stone in wonder. It was the largest diamond in the world – the size of a man's head.

All night he tossed about in bed. At break of day he woke the sannyasi and said, "Give me the wealth that makes it possible for you to give this stone away."



Kairos 2021
(Friday 24th – Monday 27th September)

During the long weekend in September, we ran our sixth year Kairos retreat in Clongowes Wood S.J.

It was great to give the pupils an opportunity to gain the fruits of the Kairos experience, which was originally planned for January 2021.

Over four days the retreatants were invited to spend time contemplating Gods' love in their lives. The retreatants were encouraged to contemplate different themes under the umbrella of Gods' friendship, gratitude, self-identity, leadership, piety and love in action. The pupils explored the idea of an ongoing relationship with God, which is centered on the concept of love and gratitude.

Given the challenges of the past eighteen months, it was great to see the participants being given the opportunity to come together and experience Christian community.

Our next Kairos retreat will take place on Friday 28th to Monday 31st January 2022 in Clongowes Wood S.J. This retreat will be open to all fifth-year students. Preparations have commenced.

Up and coming events

1. 1st and 2nd year retreats
2. Ethos classes with Junior cycle students

TRANSITION YEAR NOTES by Cathal Ó Conchúir

Bíonn dris chosáin le sarú againn ag tús gach scoil bhliain ach is dóigh liom go bhfuil siad sáraithe go maith againn faoi seo. Tá sé deacair orainn uilig, ach le himeacht ama agus le cúnamh Dé tíocheaídh muid as seo uilig go slán sábhailte D.V. Some Transition Year Activities have got off the ground in the past few weeks. 4G have been doing some work in the Fr. Bob McGoran unit and 4R will follow on after mid-term.

The Art group with Claddagh N.S is up and running over the last 4 weeks and more interaction with the Claddagh school will take place after mid-term. We are hoping to have a full Social Outreach programme up and running by the second week after mid-term, depending on Government guidelines. We have met with our various partners and the students are really looking forward to engaging with the programme. Siobhan Butler, from St. Joseph's school has had a talk with the swimming group on how to

engage with children with special needs. They will meet their swimming partners soon after mid-term. The Vinnie O Sullivan film module has started and 4R will have their module completed before mid-term. 4G will start their module after mid-term.

It is important that all students prefill their Garda Vetting forms and bring them into school on their 16th birthday. They will then have to withdraw from Social Outreach until the vetting process is completed.

St. Joseph's and Claddagh N. S. are our solid partners over the years, and I am grateful to the Management and teachers in both schools for their co-operation and commitment to our Social Outreach Programme. The Fr. Bob McGoran Unit is a vital component also. Ruth, Maria, Ríona, Finn, and Mercedes provide an exceptionally rich learning space for the students involved.

We welcome Pam Dolan to the project also and Art class in the Bob Unit will be a creative and lively place every week. Pam also has the TY students working on a major Van Gough mural outside the Art Room. I would encourage teachers to drop by to see the great work being done there.

Swimming at Leisure Land with the students from St. Joseph's and Claddagh will be a very positive and sometimes challenging activity for our TY pupils. Without the physical assistance they provide Special Needs students would not be able to get their weekly swimming session. Our students quickly realise how important it is not to miss

this part of their Social Outreach and make every effort to find a substitute should they be unable to attend themselves. I am aware that this can cause some disruption to the original lists and to Compass, but it is vital that no Special Needs student be deprived of the swimming session.



We have a Wednesday afternoon programme from 2.00pm until 4.00pm. All students will experience the various activities as the year progresses. We have Horticulture, First-Aid, Strength and Conditioning, Yoga, Life Saving in Kingfisher, (a big thank you to Mr. Joe Cosgrove re same), Coding and recolouring old black and white photographs, (a big thank you to Mr. Brendan Smith and his NUIG team who do this with our students.) These offer fantastic opportunities to the students.

Some parents were enquiring about work experience with the Army, Navy and An Garda Síochána, at the time of writing (pre 22nd of October), we will await Government guidelines re same and will update you with any relevant information when we receive it.

I want to thank my colleagues for co-operating with me by going on trips and accommodating me during the initial setting up of the various activities. Their patience and understanding makes it possible for us to provide a wealth of experiences and opportunity to our TY students.

Go néirí an tádú libh agus don fhoireann uilig amach anseo.

Beir bua
Cathal Ó Conchúir

SCIFEST COMPETITION 2021



Congratulations to Diarmuid Hayes who came First Place in the "Intermediate Physical Sciences Category", won the "Accenture Maths in Science Award" and the "Best Project Award" at the SciFest@College 2021 regional STEM Fair with his project "Real of Fake?" which studies the use of Benford's Law. This is a huge achievement with almost 600 project entries. Diarmuid has now qualified to participate in the SciFest National Final in November.

Also, congratulations to Molly Dubber and Mary Flannery who received a "Certificate of Outstanding Achievement" for their project "Me, Myself and I: A study of The Self Discrepancy Theory and Body Image" in this year's SciFest@College 2021 regional STEM Fair.

CABBAGE DISHES



After the great crop of cabbages from the school garden the Transition Year students were tasked with designing and creating a range of main course dishes incorporating cabbage as a key ingredient.

Welcoming our new students!

The first half term in the first year of secondary school is one of the milestones on a young person's journey through education. It can be challenging at times. Our new class of 2021 has survived! In fact, they have done much better than that. I have read the reports, wandered the corridors, sidled into classrooms and I am relieved to find such enthusiastic and hard-working new Jes students. Covid masks do not seem to have stifled them, but neither are we deafened around the school. I have not received a negative report from a single member of staff, and noting the fantastic attendance and punctuality, it is my impression that First Years are happy and fitting in.

Well done, boys, for the great result of the U14 rugby team, (entirely First Years and one Second Year), who defeated Garbally: a result that shocked the entire school and their bemused coach and manager, Dr. Miles Kennedy... Particular mention to Alban Hart (1X) who so impressed the Garbally manager, he gave Alban their match ball...

And well done, Eleanor Troy (1G) who led her SKGAA team to county glory a few weeks ago. Congratulations, too, Anna Fitzgerald (1G) and Coralie Hart (1L) who won the First Junior Debate of the year.

Well done all those who have impressed teachers with their excellent work and efforts. Please encourage your child to make full use of the activities that the school's staff provide voluntarily. It is a fantastic way into school life and the reduction of Covid restrictions is providing more and more opportunity for our First Years to bond and work together. You will shortly have access to your child's report. The change from primary level to secondary can provide a few blips and changes to expected, accustomed academic achievement so I would suggest that parents allow some time to allow their charges to settle in before getting too anxious. However, if there is anything that particularly concerns you, do contact the school on admin@colaisteiognaid.ie.

Happy Halloween, ... All Souls Day, ...Hallowmas,... milad ul nabi, ...Samhain!



EXTRA-CURRICULAR NOTES

U14s Rugby by Miles Kennedy, U14s Coach



Coláiste Iognáid Under 14s Rugby made a triumphant start to their league season with a 24-19 win over perennial rivals Garbally College. The team showed great bravery and tenacity against very strong opposition in difficult conditions. Every player got game time and contributed to the team. There were notable performances from Conor O'Reilly who led the line at out-half; Michael Walsh and Barry Gavin who tackled and carried relentlessly at 7 and 8; and Alban Hart who scored two intercept tries in a man of the match performance.

After a real struggle with Covid restrictions last year it was truly uplifting to see our youngest players enjoying competitive rugby once more. Many thanks go to volunteer coach Alan Quinn and Galwegians RFC development officer Morgan Codyre who continue to give generously of their time in order to help the boys improve as rugby players. Thanks also to all parents and guardians for supporting the boys in their rugby.

RUGBY NEWS by Stephen Parkinson, Director of Rugby

It has been wonderful to see the lads back on the field after the long year and a half break with no rugby. There was real enthusiasm among the players and the first few matches caused much excitement and the buzz around the school was tangible.

With all the difficulties of Covid regulations it has been difficult to get the season going

but the return of competitive games has reminded us all of why we do it.

Of the 5 matches played so far 4 have been won. The Seniors are unbeaten so far in their league campaign after 2 fine wins against serious opposition in CBS Roscommon and Marist Athlone. The squad is showing a lot of promise and hopes are high that they will be really competitive at the business end of the season.

Another highlight has been Hugh Gavin being named in the Irish club's team. Many thanks to Barry Gavin and James Heaslip for their time and effort and of course to Ms. Anthony who is the driving force behind the Senior Team.

The Juniors have had mixed fortunes with a resounding win over CBS Roscommon followed by a heavy defeat to a very strong Marist Athlone Team. Hopes are high that they will get back on the winning trail in Sligo Grammar next week where they travel with the Seniors.

The management team of Bernie Kelly, Luke Anthony and Mr. Parkinson are continuing to build for the future and are considering a trip to Narbonne in the Autumn of 2022.



Efforts are continuing to coax the 2nd years out to join the Junior squad after their

introduction to rugby was hugely curtailed due to Covid. Past pupil Morgan Codyre is taking sessions at lunchtime on Thursdays for 2nd years only if parents would like to persuade their son to give it a go.



Finally, our new first year squad has made a fantastic start with a win over old rivals Garbally in their first league game. The future looks promising with Mr Kennedys charges developing into a fine team with the assistance of Alan Quinn.

If your son would like to try rugby, they are welcome to take it up at any time, feel free to discuss it with any of the teachers involved.

JES HOCKEY by Clodagh Mitchell, Hockey Club Coordinator

Many players from the Jes Hockey Club have been selected to represent Connacht at U.16 and U.18 levels. In fact, this year 2021, nine players from Coláiste Iognáid S.J. were selected to represent their Province.

U.16 Connacht Team 2021: Siún Mc Govern, Emily Quinn and Aoife Nash.

U.18 Connacht team 2021: Caoimhe Cleary (captain), Grace Murray, Mary Rooney, Rachel Elwood, Roise Doorly and Siobhan Mc Manamon.

The Connacht U.18 team has had huge success this year, ably led by Jes captain Caoimhe Cleary, beating Leinster in the All Ireland InterPro's. This was a first time win in Connacht history for this age group. The six Jes players on the team did us proud. Well done girls on all your hard work.



Hockey is an important part of extra-curricular life here in the Jes. The Hockey Club has over 120 members, ranging from first year to sixth year. All students are very welcome to join at any stage. The Jes offer girls the chance to play hockey for the very first time or to enhance skills built up at club level. Hockey creates a positive environment and support network for our

students. So, if you want to make lots of friends, have fun, keep healthy, keep fit, compete and be part of a supportive community, come along and join. All are very welcome!

Training takes place on Monday after school, for first and second years. Third, fourth, fifth and sixth years (senior Teams) train on Wednesdays. Training on both days, takes place in Dangan hockey pitch from 4:20pm to 6pm. Fitness Training for seniors takes place in the school hall during lunch times. Matches are played throughout the year in Galway, Athlone, Sligo, Limerick and Dublin.

Our philosophy is that all girls should get the opportunity to train, play and have fun no matter what the ability. We are a highly successful Club both on and off the pitch, winning many major trophies including the much-coveted senior A All-Ireland competition, The Kate Russell Cup in 2009 - beating top competitive schools in Leinster, Munster, South East and Ulster. We were also Runners up in All Ireland senior A in 2010.



1st Year Hockey Squad

Studies show that team sports like Hockey, help to build self-confidence, self-esteem, wellbeing, as well as time management, responsibility, social and leadership skills in girls. Recent research also shows evidence that students involved in extracurricular sport, frequently attain better results in state exams than those who do not participate.

All very welcome to join Jes hockey club! See you there.



2nd Year Hockey Squad

Senior hockey team winning Connacht indoor Cup 2020.



JES GAELIC

FIRST YEAR BOYS GAELIC FOOTBALL

First year Gaelic Football for the boys has been going very well on Monday evenings from 4.15pm to 5.30pm - with very large numbers in attendance.

The average number attending training every Monday has been around thirty boys with a variety of clubs such as Salthill/Knocknacarra, St. Michaels, Barna and Moycullen all being represented.

The training has been of a very high standard and the squad were to play The Bish in a challenge in the days before Mid-Term.

1C has a particularly high number of male footballers in their ranks including Jack Barry, Daniel Clifford, Rory Cunnane, Daniel Duignan, Callum Kavanagh, Stephen Long, Luca MacGiolla Ri, Ryan Mannion, Conn MacSuibhne, Luke Thornton and Max Wall-Cooke all from that one first year class.

Mr. Silke and Mr. Sheehan have been very impressed with the enthusiasm, skill levels and especially the camaraderie from the entire squad and are hopeful of a very productive and enjoyable year with the group.

However, as a Kerry man, even Mr. Sheehan was prepared to acknowledge that perhaps even the great commentator Micheal O' Muircheartaigh would struggle in a match commentary with a combination of forwards called Bren O' Byrne and Brian O' Brien.



Mr. Silke is prepared to admit that he did, for the first few training sessions.

SENIOR BOYS GAELIC FOOTBALL



Good luck to the Senior boy's footballers who start their regional competition the week after midterm. Congratulations to Ryan Kavanagh, sixth year, who has been selected as captain for the coming year. The team will initially compete in a Galway championship, to limit travel, and then the Connacht championship will commence in the new year.

LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

It was a brilliant season for ladies Gaelic in the Jes last year. Undefeated, Jes teams were at the top of the table in every group. The u14s reaching the Connaught final but unfortunately it was cancelled due to the COVID 19 lock down. The same lady's team is well on its way to another Connaught final. For the first match of the season the opposition conceded securing us a place in the next round. The second match against St. Joseph's took place in Castlebar saw the girls winning 10-15 to 1-4. An excellent win for the team. Next match against Glenamaddy CS is due to take place on the 11th of November. Best wishes to the team and management (Ms Biggins and Mr Sherry).

The u16 girls, the current senior team, had an outstanding season in 2019 reaching the all-Ireland final. On the 12th of March the girls took a trip down to Rathkeale in Limerick. A tight and physical match against Templemore Secondary School saw with the score finishing 4-15 to 4-13, earning the Jes a place in the all-Ireland final. On this very same day the girls were rushed home to gather their belongings from school not knowing when they would return. Once again it was cancelled due to Covid and the final did not take place, leaving the girls extremely disappointed they weren't given the chance to bring a trophy home.



This year the senior team started their campaign of strong defeating St. Enda's on a score line of 8-19 to 1-6, great win for the girls. They then took on Ard Scoil Mhuire securing another win with a score of 5-14 to 1-7.

The 2nd of November the next game is against Salerno. Good luck to all players and management (Ms Burke and Mr O'Loinsigh).
