



Dear School community,

As I sit down to write my wishes to you this Christmas, once again immersed in the restrictions, worries and challenges that COVID presents, I have moved from wondering at all of the changes imposed in 2020 to considering instead the resilience we have all shown to overcome every adversity in 2021. I think now of the successes and the determination that our school community have shown in finding new and innovative ways to make our school proud, interactive and a true community of learning.

Slowly, we have reopened our school, restarted our learning, relearned how to 'do' Leaving Certificate exams, resumed some sports and reimagined how to engage with outside agencies like Amazon and Trinity College to benefit our students. We have commenced the very first Leaving Certificate Applied class group, are now into third third cycle of TY students and the school continues to flourish. We are nearing full capacity in our school, and may even have to contemplate extending our growing school to cater for future demands from our local community in the not too distant future. We have despite all the challenges continued to grow and develop Coláiste Clavin and are justifiably proud of all of that.

We could not have done all of that without the work and support that each one of our teachers, SNAs, Ancillary staff, Admin staff, Canteen ladies, Board of Management, Ms McBride;DP, School Completion, parents and students give to the school. I want to thank each one of you for the part you have played in the growth and development of the school.

We cannot celebrate this Christmas without pausing to think of staff and students who are not with us now. We know that many of our community have lost loved ones in this past year, and that Christmas will be hard for you. We particularly think of our past student Liviu and his family at this time, as I know many of you will. We think of our friends, family or colleagues who are unwell and wish them health and recovery in the year ahead.

As we move into 2022 we will continue to work hard to ensure our school provides quality education, support, safety, laughter and caring for each one of our students. We look forward to a bright new year, where things will improve, where we will continue to find new ways to overcome the inevitable challenges that will be put before us, and where together we will be brilliant.

Happy Christmas to you all, enjoy the small things, enjoy each other and stay safe. We will look forward to welcoming you back in a new year full of hope.

Margaret Deegan

Principal



Welcome to the Coláiste Clavin Christmas newsletter 2021 where we round up just a snapshot of some of the fantastic teaching and learning that has taken place in our school community this term.

School Mentors



35 of our 5th year students have received extensive training as mentors at the end of August by School Completion Officer, Catrín McGrath. The 5th year mentors have been very busy this term helping 1st years to settle into life in Coláiste Clavin. Each of the four 1st year classes were given a team of mentors, and on the 1st day of school for 1st years they helped 1st year students with their timetables, showed them around the school, helped them with their transition workbooks, facilitated a range of ice breakers

and team building games and answered any questions that 1st years had. Mentors have linked in with 1st years on a weekly basis since, continuing to organise team building games, football matches at lunchtime and a basketball tournament every Thursday. They also arranged Halloween and Christmas Kahoot quizzes with prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. 5th year mentors will continue to support 1st years until the end of this academic year. Sincere thanks to Ms McGrath who runs the mentor programme in our school. Pictured are some of our mentors in action playing basketball with our first years. This initiative is so important in the development of both 5th years and 1st years and cements friendship that last over the entire years that students are in the school.

LCA



Leaving Cert Applied was introduced to our school this year and is co-ordinated by Mr Connolly. The LCA class have taken part in a number of school activities from running a Christmas Cafe for our teachers to running a quiz with second years in music. Well done to all involved. The café morning proved to be a resounding success, great credit to the Leaving Certificate Applied class and Ms McCoy.



Transition Year

Transition year student Yanin offers us an insight into some of the highlights for our transition year students of their learning and development this term:



The TYs have certainly been kept busy this term! We've done a plethora of activities all differing from each other greatly! Within the first few weeks of Ty, we completed a course on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy thanks to AWARE. Soon after, we had a talk from Opera Island to help teach us the history and persuade us into pursuing it as a career. In the first week of November, we took a trip to Causey Farm in Fordstown for a mystery trip.

Many memories were made that day, from playing egg toss to jumping waist deep in bogs! Then, not long after, we had a whole day dedicated to learning how to drive! We not only learned how to change a tyre, but also played rounders with drunk goggles on in the middle of a field! On November 22nd, we had Languages Connect day. It's an entire day made for Ty's especially to celebrate Languages and Cultures from across the world. We first partook in an opening ceremony, then there was a nationwide quiz, (In which our school won) and afterwards we learned some basic phrases in Chinese, Polish and Irish Sign Language. To finish the day off, the class took some brilliant Flamenco dancing lessons courtesy of our classmates and Ms. Shine.

We have recently just finished up our scriptwriting of one act plays for the RTE scriptwriting competition on the theme of 'equality'. It's been a busy but brilliant school year so far and we hope it will continue like this for the rest of it! Thank you for reading and have a very happy Christmas!

Pictured are some of our transition year students during their Language Connect Day.

School Choir

Well done to the music department as Miss O Byrne, Miss Furey and Miss Doherty worked under testing conditions to adhere to socially distancing rules to guide our students and record our Christmas Concert this year which was streamed live on Wednesday the 15th December. Well done to all our talented students involved for generating school and festive spirit! Pictured below are some of our student and staff involved in the concert.





Science Week

The students in Longwood could be forgiven for thinking they were in an episode of 'I'm a celebrity , get me out of here' with all the wonderful animals they could see when Miss Evans organised a visiting zoo for senior students. As part of Science week the National Reptile Zoo in Kilkenny paid a visit to the senior Biology, TY & Le Cheile students with some friendly critters to educate them around topics of animal care, adaptations, habitats and evolution.

The animals showcased included; A scorpion, a snake, two lizards, a tortoise and a snapping turtle. The students were lucky enough to be allowed handle some of the animals and it was a very interesting and beneficial talk for all concerned.



Student Council

Our student Council is presided over by Miss McDonagh. Recently new representatives have joined the council and elected officers. They are off to a great start with and have held meetings recently to discuss holding a fundraising campaign after Christmas for unwanted Christmas presents which will be donated these to Saint Vincent De Paul. Good luck to all involved. Sincere thanks to Miss McDonagh for her work with the Student Council

Green Schools

The Green schools committee have recently started working on the theme of biodiversity and hope to carry out a habitat map of the school in the new year. The green schools committee would like to encourage the school community to download the free app 'Seek' which can be downloaded on a phone. When you take a picture of a bird or a plant the app will identify for you what biodiversity surrounds us. The committee are guided by Miss Shine.

The theme of biodiversity was in action from curricular work in science this year when Mr Farrell and Ms Dixon guided our transition year students in *the Bulbs for Bees initiative through Gaisce. Bees play a significant role in the pollination of vital food crops. It is estimated that one third of the food we consume each day relies on pollination by bees. The bee population has become under threat in recent years, and we all have a part to play ensuring they don't die off. TY students planted a total of 50 pollinator friendly bulbs which will blossom and provide much needed carbohydrate rich nectar for these bees. Great work by all involved. #BulbsForBees*

Home Economics Department showcasing the crafting skills of our students

The Home Ec teachers Ms McCoy and Miss Burke have worked on generating school spirit and enhancing the students by designing and Christmas this year wreaths made from keeping with the sustainably. Well done are our Transition year their many craft



crafting skills of our décor for Halloween including beautiful recycled materials in LMETB's pledge to act to all involved. Pictured students and some of projects.

Maths Week

Well done to our maths department who hosted maths week this term. Transition years worked with first years to hone their maths skills and use maths in creative, fun and challenging ways. Lovely to see this year the addition throughout our corridors of these giant rulers...encouraging students to measure, compare and differentiate and incorporate numeracy into every aspect of life throughout the school.



Colaiste Clavin displaying true colours of diversity



A mask wearing campaign to showcase our respect and support for lgbtqi+ community was held earlier this term and led by Ms Farrell for stand up day. Well done to all involved for showcasing their true colours in our school community. Showing that our school is inclusive and caring for all.

Sport

With all of the covid restrictions curtailing our students for so long, our school was delighted to safely allow sport to return to our school community this year. Well done to all students



involved in representing Coláiste Clavin events this year and to the staff that diligently give up their time and expertise to train them including Ms Harrison, Mr O' Rafferty, Mr Connolly, Mr Moore and Mr Rocliffe. Pictured below are our girls senior soccer team who recently hosted Scoil Mhuire Trim for a game on our beautiful school grounds. We wish every sporting success to all our sports teams in the school year.

Art

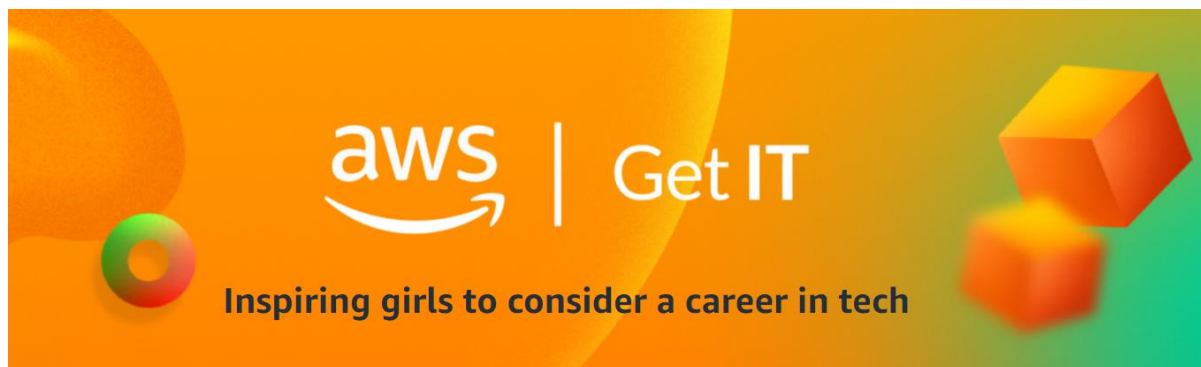
As ever Miss Hamilton continues to nurture our students with winning entries in the credit union art completion including from second year student Melany and the art department adorned our school with international flags and brightly coloured stars this year to mark some of our school events including Language Connect Day and our Celebration of the Trinity School of Distinction Award. Well done for all of the uplifting work that Miss Hamilton and our art students continue to produce. Pictured below is some of the beautiful artwork created for our college awareness week.



Technological Initiatives in Colaiste Clavin

Coláiste Clavin Post Primary School, Longwood, Co. Meath is delighted to announce that they have been selected as an AWS GetIT participant school.

AWS GetIT is a fully funded initiative designed by Amazon Web Services (AWS) to encourage young people and especially girls aged 12-13 to consider a career in tech – challenging long standing gender stereotypes. Miss O Rafferty and Miss Thomas are leading our students in computer science in the exciting initiative. Well done to all involved.



Trinity Access Award and College Awareness Week

Coláiste Clavin celebrated the launch of College Awareness Week in style, receiving an award from the Trinity Access programme for their dedication and success in developing 'college-going' practices and creating a student-centred, innovative learning environment.

The Community Award received by the school, recognises the achievement of those that have joined a Community of Practice and engaged in a process of evaluating and identifying the needs of their students and teachers. The school based event to recognise the achievement formed part of the national College Awareness Week. Well done to all involved and in particular to our guidance counsellor Miss Higgins for her co-ordination of the event . Pictured below are Ms Higgins and Ms Deegan proudly accepting the award on behalf of the entire school community.



Festive Wishes

Our school will close for Christmas holidays on Wednesday the 22nd and reopen for our entire school community on the 6th January. Wishing everyone a lovely Christmas and safe and peaceful break!

