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Top of the Class for LC '20

The Leaving cert class of 2020 at Castlerea Community School were certainly smiling under their

masks on LC results day. There were outstanding results all round with more than **55% of students receiving more than 400 points and 20% of students receiving more than 500 points.**

Sinéad Gorham and Brendan Pacey both achieved over 600 points, with Sinéad receiving a maximum 625 points and Brendan at 613.



Brendan Pacey & Sinéad Gorham

There was a great sense of achievement across the board at CCS, with students going on to a broad array of third level courses in areas such as Medicine, Law, Speech & Language Therapy, Information Technology, Teaching, Biomedical Science, Arts, Engineering and a host of other courses.

A number of students have secured excellent apprenticeships in both practical and non-practical areas and have already begun work experience in those areas.

Well done to all at CCS and best of luck to the Class of 2020 in their future endeavours.

New Faces

Welcome and best wishes to our new members of teaching staff who have joined us in the last few weeks. Richard Britton, from Co. Sligo has joined our Modern Foreign Languages Department as a teacher of French. Also from Sligo is Beth Taylor, who has joined the Science Department. Orla Mc Daid from Co. Galway also joins our Science Department and Damien O' Connell hails from Co. Mayo joins us as a teacher of Maths, while Cathal Mc Eneaney from Co. Leitrim lines out with our English dept. Finally, Aoibhin Moylan from Sligo joins our Learning Support Department. Best of luck to all.

Retirements

Best wishes to Sheila O' Leary and Mary Colleary on their retirement from the teaching staff of Castlerea CS. Sheila, who was a teacher of French and Year Head retired during the summer and Mary, School Chaplain and teacher of Religious Education will be leaving us as she retires at the end of the week. Both Mary and Sheila have had a long and dedicated service to the students, staff and community of CCS and will be sadly missed by all. Of course as well known and active members of the Castlerea town and community, we're certain we'll still see plenty of our two former colleagues and we wish them the very best in their future endeavours.

Castlerea Community School Students Progress to National SciFest Finals

Well done to Molly Cunnane and Katie Hannelly on winning the Specsavers Making a Difference Award at SciFest at Athlone Institute of Technology and qualifying to compete for



the Specsavers Grand Award at the SciFest 2020 National Final which takes place on November 19th.

This was an outstanding achievement for Kate and Molly, who completed their project during their Transition Year. Their project was entitled "Our Farmers – Deaf as Doornails" and examined the impact of noise generated by farming practices on farmers' hearing. The project was commended for its practical application to the daily working lives of many and its evidence-based scientific approach to generating data.

The girls were mentored by their Science teacher, Ms Pauline Dervin and worked hard to produce their winning project. They will go on to represent Castlerea CS in the National Finals on November 19th.

As the only school in the county and surrounding area offering the full spectrum of STEM subjects, Castlerea Community School places an emphasis on areas such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) and aims to promote student engagement with these subjects.

Students of The Year

A number of our LC '20 students visited the school on Friday 25 Sep to be presented with their Student of the Year Awards. The nominees were Tara Keane, Aoibhe d'Arcy, Brendan Pacey, Kieran Gill, Ciara Mulheir, Sinéad Gorham, Jamie Earley. The overall winners were Sinéad Gorham and Brendan Pacey.

The recipient of the school's Mercy Award was Laura Fannon. This award recognises those who exemplify the qualities of Mother Catherin McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy and have modelled the values of the Mercy tradition



LC Prefects 2020/'21

Prefects

Congratulations to our Leaving Cert Prefects for 2020.'21: Emma D'arcy; Charlotte Gardner; Ronan Tumbek; Niamh Shriane; Isabelle Kelly Flanagan; Aisling Kelly; Erinn Kelly; Katie Mee; Maureen Quinn; Saba Sattar; Anna Soares; Dawid Szczezny

Our Head Girl Prefect is Katie Mee & Head Boy Prefect is Ronan Tumbek.



Head Prefects: Katie Mee & Ronan Tumbek

Covid-19 Updates

Well done to all. Four weeks in and our students and staff have done a wonderful job of maintaining our Covid-19 measures and protocols. It's not easy, but with a collective effort we can all do our

Thinking of deferring your college course this year? Unsure of what college life will be like? Looking for a change of career?

Castlerea Community School offers full-time in-house QQI Level 5 Community Health Services PLC course.

This course is designed to enable students to plan a career in social care. The course will appeal to those who seek to work in the community, work with people who are disadvantaged or homeless, youth work, and the care of people with special needs. The course will also assist students in pursuing studies at Higher Education.

We cater for all learners in a safe and friendly learning environment, with small class sizes. School leavers and mature students welcome.

For more information email: plc@castlereacs.com or phone: (094) 9620177 / 9621013



best to promote good practices.

The school is fully up to speed with the protocols and guidelines that are in place in the event that a student were to receive a positive test result and will, at all times, be guided by the Public Health Dept of the HSE.

Our students have been magnificent and deserve a massive pat on the back for the manner in which they have adapted to our new circumstances.

- Our one- way system has worked very well so far.
- Great use is being made of our 80 sanitiser dispensers
- We've had two **Stop, Drop and Sanitise** events so far to promote good sanitizing practices and have been a great success
- We are promoting the message of **Ready4Covid** : 4 steps to tackle Covid-19 (1) Face masks (2) Social distancing (3) Hand sanitizing (4) Proper coughing etiquette
- A reminder that all students must bring their own personal hand sanitizer, wipes, face mask and tissues to school every day.
- We have been adding to our signage throughout the school to promote awareness
- The whole school community, students, staff and parents, are encouraged to download the Covid-Tracker app.
- Please remind your son/daughter of the importance of maintaining social distancing, not just during the school day, but also after school and during the weekend.
- The school will be in contact should there be any concerns around Covid-19
- Please familiarize yourself with the symptoms and ensure that your child does not attend school if he/she is presenting with symptoms. Please remain at home and seek the advice of your G.P.
- Please note that unscheduled or unnecessary visits are not allowed, as per DES & HSE guidelines. Please conduct business by email or over the phone where possible.

Layer up for Winter

With temperatures dropping in the last few days, we are advising all students to wear base layers. Students are permitted to wear the school jacket inside the school.



Transition Year Activities

Our TY students have hit the ground running, with a number of activities and initiatives already underway. Golf lessons have been in full swing for the past few weeks and a partnership with the Castlereagh Town's Trust has seen a number of TY students carrying out a project at the Demesne involving tidying, improvements and art work.

This week sees the launch of our TY Social Justice project which involves our students teaming up with the St Vincent de Paul. Helen Ralph (SVP) will launch the initiative during the week.

First Year Subject Taster

Our First Year students have completed the first cycle of their subject taster programme and began their new round of subjects on Monday, 28 Sep. Our taster programme gives students the opportunity to sample all of the options subjects before deciding what subjects they would like to pursue for their Junior Cert. The taster programme has been highly recommended by the Department of Education and Skills Inspectorate as a positive support to students in



enabling them to make informed choices around our broad array of subjects. With the broadest array of subjects on offer in the catchment area, it is very important that students are able to make such an informed choice.

European Day of Languages

Saturday 26 Sep was European Day of Languages and to mark the occasion our MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) Department and Irish Department held a number of events during the week. Well done to all students and teachers involved. A variety of activities took place, such as designing posters, practicing directions and fun quizzes. At CCS we offer French and German to Leaving Certificate level and have also offered taster programmes in Russian and Chinese to Transition Year.

Learning Tips

In each newsletter we will signpost parents to websites, resources, tips and supports that will support your sons and daughters in their learning.



This week we are recommending www.studyclix.ie. This is a particularly useful site for Junior cert and Leaving Cert students but can also support non-exam students, with past examination questions, solutions, notes, videos and other resources that can be searched by theme.



Khan Academy

With its huge array of resources www.khanacademy.org is a brilliant website that provides learning in areas such as maths, art, science, economics, world history and IT. It is a non-profit site and is used in schools throughout the country, including Castlerea CS.

Planet Youth

Castlerea Community School is proud to serve on the Steering Committee of the Planet Youth initiative. Planet Youth is an international evidence-based primary prevention model that has been developed in order to reduce substance use rates amongst adolescents.

It works by directly targeting the risk and protective factors in young people's lives that determine their substance use behaviours and enhancing the social environment they are growing up in. By reducing the known risk factors and strengthening the known protective factors the problems associated with adolescent substance use can be reduced or stopped before they arise. The Planet Youth model offers the opportunity to improve the long-term health and life outcomes for young people and goes far beyond simply reducing their substance use rates.



The model is underpinned by the data derived from the administration of the Planet Youth questionnaire. This comprehensive lifestyle questionnaire was administered to the 15-16 year olds in the target community and it examines a great many aspects of their lives. There were questions on their substance use, health, mental health, physical activity, family and school experience, internet use, bullying and so on. For more information visit www.planetyouth.ie

Harmac Medical Supports CCS

A big thank you to Shuana Ryan (HR Manager) & Edel McGuinness (EHS Officer) and the team at Harmac Medical for their support as we prepared for the reopening of our school. Shauna and Edel shared their experiences of adapting to Covid-19 measures and made a donation of sanitizing supplies and PPE to the school.

