



Harold's Cross Educate Together Secondary School Winter Newsletter

[A few words from our Principal.](#)

It is with great pleasure, that I welcome you to the latest edition of our school magazine, a vibrant showcase of the diverse talents and accomplishments of our students. This publication is a testament to the remarkable achievements and the unwavering spirit of our school community.

Within these pages, you will find a captivating array of articles that delve into the rich tapestry of our school life. From the resounding success of our school musical to the disciplined artistry exhibited in the boxing ring, the exploration of archaeology, and the captivating world of Bookflix, this magazine encapsulates the kaleidoscope of interests and passions that define our student body.

In the realm of sports, our Boys and Girls basketball teams triumphs underscore the dedication and sportsmanship that are integral to our school ethos. The literary talents of our students are on full display with engaging creative writing pieces, and evocative poetry that showcase the depth of their imagination and linguistic prowess.

Additionally, our students have taken an active role in addressing global issues, as evidenced by their participation in Climate Action Week and thought-provoking debates through our Debate Club.

Our school magazine also provides a glimpse into the enriching overnight trips that foster camaraderie and create lasting memories. The celebration of our cultural heritage is reflected in our article as Gaeilge. Irish language and the exploration of sculpture exhibitions, further emphasizing the importance of a holistic education.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Emily and Rhianna, as well as all the students who have contributed their time, talent, and energy to make this magazine a reality. Your dedication to excellence and your commitment to showcasing the multifaceted nature of our school community are truly commendable.

As we peruse the pages of this magazine, let us reflect on how it exemplifies our core values of Kindness, Effort, and Creativity. It is through the embodiment of these pillars that our students continue to grow and flourish, both academically and personally.

I invite you to immerse yourself in the captivating narratives and vibrant visuals that grace these pages. May this magazine serve as a testament to the unique and remarkable journey of Harold's Cross ETSS. - Pádraig

School Musical 'Back to the 80's'



November 23rd 2023, our opening night. "Let's Hear it for the Eighties" is a musical that HCETSS worked on for the last 6 months, and when the curtains finally opened, everyone was jittering with

excitement. When the curtains closed on November 25th, the jittery excitement was replaced with a feeling of happiness that all the hard work had paid off, mixed with a shared feeling of disappointment that the musical loved by all was over and wasn't coming back.

Let's Hear It for the Eighties may have been a musical laced with emotion, but the plot also made it so enjoyable. It was the perfect combination of first love and that nostalgic feeling that everyone will have, even if they never lived through the eighties. The musical tells the tale of Corey Senior, a former student at "William Ocean High" who relives his youthful years. It focuses on his first love with his neighbour and school mate Tiffany, and his friendships with Alf and Kirk, but the musical holds many other stories. Corey's first love is not smooth sailing as popular kid Michael Feldman, already seems to have claimed Tiffany's heart. Micheal is not alone in pursuing love here, as his best friend Billy tries to catch the eye of Cyndi, Tiffany's best friend, who shows no interest in Billy (at the start of the show!). Feargal, the class nerd, is also creating his own empire with the help of technology. School romance is not strictly forbidden to students, as two teachers seem to be fond of one another, until a secret emerges that tests the relationship they have created. Of course, we cannot forget the memorable Eileen, who is a new student at William Ocean High, who also gets caught up in the whirlwind of the schools drama when she begins to receive letters from a secret admirer! But is he really as romantic as the letters say? This musical was one of the most exciting moments of this year so far for everyone involved at HCETSS. Everyone had so much fun, and everyone involved managed to create an unforgettable experience on stage.

Granted, all students did put in the effort, but there was a lot of help. Leonna and Amy, our resident Music and Home Economics teachers helped us to organise the whole thing, which ranged from rehearsals after to school, to working hard on saving the day when something unexpected happened. We also want to thank Grainne, who made the amazing props for the show, like the Rubik's cube, and the boombox. Emily, who gave us all her amazing advice to make the musical the best it could be. All the sound and lighting crew involved, who made the musical go from a good performance to a great one! Last, but not least, every staff member who showed up, who let us miss some classes, and who supported us through everything.

So, thank you all, and as always, let's hear it for the eighties! - Chloe Pepin



The Big Dig



The Big Dig occurred in October. It was run by The School of Irish Archaeology. The Big Dig was an enthralling, interesting experience. It took place, throughout the day in the old yard.

When it was my group's turn, we waited at a table filled with curiosities and artefacts. We were able to handle them gently, even with the pins and swords. We were soon to find out what they were, but first we were going to excavate soil on a trailer, which was our site.

The trailer had soil about a foot high and filled right to the edges. Peeking out from the soil was the remains of a wattle house, but even more tantalising, there was several handles of things, possibly swords or axes.

Next, we were shown the proper method for excavating, using a trowel, a bucket and a tray. We scooped small amounts of soil with the trowel, then transferred the excess soil into the bucket, and finally placed the artefacts that we found in the tray. We knelt on a kneeling mat, to protect our clothes.

Some of us found axes and swords, while others found bowls and shells, and some people found animal bones. After everything had been dug up, we discussed what these could tell us. We deciphered that the people who once lived there were Vikings. We learned that they were well off, as they had iron weapons. We found that they lived near the sea, as they had oyster shells that they had presumably eaten the creature out of and lastly, we found from the animal bones, that they kept animals, such as cows.

After that, we were straight back to the fascinating table filled with artefacts. There were bone combs, metal pins and the most exquisite handmade beautiful colourful beads, made by Viking women. There were also helmets, which some of us tried on, bones and antlers, and some sort of scissors. We delved into the stories of almost every single item on the table of curiosities. My group and I then had to

go back to class and let everyone else have a turn, so we thanked the kind archaeologists and said goodbye.

It was a very interesting, informative experience and my peers and I enjoyed it immensely. Thank you to the teachers for organising the Big Dig, and the School of Irish Archaeology for having such a wonderful resource, to really interest people to become more interested in archaeology and history itself. - Laura Grace Connolly

Boxing Club

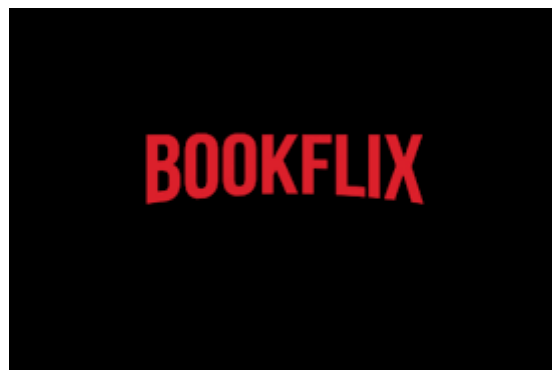


Second years, Lucas Cullen and Jamie Hickey are the founders of the Harold's Cross ETSS Boxing Club. It started last year when our Deputy Principal, Mick agreed to help us start the boxing club as an after-school activity for all year groups. Lucas and Jamie were coaching it at first, but we have more coaches now.

Boxing has always been popular in our school, and so we have continued to grow the club with Ella Colemans' Dad as the coach. This year the club moved into the White Collar Boxing Gym as there is more space for the students to box as well as a new range of equipment. We also decided to bring in a coach from Drogheda Boxing Club to gain some more experience.

A couple of weeks ago, Irish Olympic gold medalist Michael Carruth, came into the school to talk with all the students involved in the boxing club. Michael told us many stories about his life as an Olympian and his fantastic journey to winning his gold medal and the feelings that overwhelmed him when he won. The gold medal was passed around to everyone and it was exciting to see the pure gold and feel how heavy it was. We asked him questions about his life and his boxing career and about what we can do to achieve similar outcomes. He was very helpful, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the conversations we had. Michael encouraged us to train and never give up and to make a promise to ourselves to keep going. - Cillian Byrne

Bookflix Club





Bookflix is an amazing extra-curricular activity because it helps you with reading skills and comprehension skills. We get a new book to read every week which we choose together and which is on the Bookflix Menu. In the club we always have a sit down discussion about the book we have just read. We discuss the characters, their personalities, motives and relationships. We also discuss the author's style and whether we like it or not. The books often delve into themes and topics that we might not cover usually in English class, so it is really insightful for us to take part in this club. Some of the books have film adaptations and we even manage to watch them on Netflix afterwards!

The books we have read so far include : 'Little Women' , 'Hitchhiker's guide to the Galaxy', 'Pride and Prejudice', 'Wuthering Heights' , ' The Life of Pi' and 'The Hunger Games' . It has also helped us to compete in the **Readathon** as well... and we naturally had a head start compared to everyone else! Thank you Rhianna and Emily for running such a fun book club. - Eve Hartung.

Creative Writing Club



Since starting back this year, the school has grown exponentially, welcoming new staff and students. One of the countless positives of a growing school community has been the clubs that have started due to the influx of new people bringing their ideas. I think most of us have noticed the trend, and how with each year our school-wide interests have broadened to include an extensive variation, with so many exciting activities to try.

One of this year's new clubs is Creative Writing Club, run by Laoise, one of our school's English teachers. The name doesn't disguise what it is; a group of students who gather every week to write whatever they want.

Every week we do what are called 'writing sprints', in which a timer is set for 5 minutes, and everyone writes as much as they can in that time. It isn't a competition, but a motivation, and I think everyone finds it really affective, especially given the little time we have.

You can work on the same piece every week, or something new each time. There is no pressure to share anything. Equally, sharing your work is appreciated, and you can get feedback from Laoise and other students.

Sometimes students are lost for what to write and need some inspiration. Often, Laoise will have prompts to spur your ideas, so no one has to worry about being stuck. The prompts can be opening sentences, images, premises, etc.

It's a calm club, so I find it helpful in alleviating stress. It is short and sweet too, only taking up the first half of lunch on Thursdays.

I think Creative Writing Club is a brilliant outlet for students to explore their creative side away from schoolwork. It also gives students a time to decompress and be inventive.

Dedicating time to writing independently can be so beneficial, and having a weekly club to attend is a great incentive.

This club isn't meant to be intimidating. Some have been writing for years. Some have never done creative writing before and want to try it for the first time. Regardless of experience, everyone is welcome!- Hayley Marquez

"Books are a uniquely portable magic." by Stephen King



'A WORLD WITHOUT EMOTIONS OR COLOURS' by Hayley Marquez

Did you ever wonder what life would be like if we didn't have any emotions? Or no colours? I lived that life, before.

In my school, I met Astrid, a girl who stood out from the other students. She was...different, I can't find the words to explain how. The others were emotionless, our goals were to survive, get an education, get a job, and eventually die; even the teacher said that's the only purpose of life. I was also like the others. She seemed to have a purpose.

She always made me feel warm. Suddenly, she stopped doing this. A week later, her hair turned grey. Then, her face. Soon, she became dull, and emotionless, like how everyone's supposed to be. I missed her greatly.

An envelope slipped out of my locker a month later as I was getting my books for my classes. It said, "For only your eyes."

I opened it, and written inside, was this message:

'Follow the blue butterfly taking flight,
To find the gem at night,
And to retrieve your burning "light"
If you dare,
Be aware,
Of the monster guardian's glare,
Don't stare too long at his eyes,

Or the world will have a deadly surprise!!!'

I couldn't help but think about it during every lesson. Gazing out the window, I thought to myself, "Follow the butterfly."

I was in my bed, in my bedroom. A thought suddenly occurred to me. *At night, follow the butterfly!* I grabbed a torch, opened my window and leaped out.

Outside, a blue light caught my eye. I turned around and saw a butterfly soaring over my head.

I ran after it until we came to a waterfall. I paused. It vanished after passing through the side of the waterfall. Determined to follow it, I jumped into the waterfall without thinking properly.

I tumbled through the thin curtain of the waterfall, and flicked on my torch. The butterfly was ahead of me, and I ran after it. It stopped, and I stopped, wondering why it stopped. I noticed a miniature sword and the moment I held it, it grew, so that the blade was 60cm long. "This could be used to defeat the monster guardian of the jewel," I said to the butterfly, and it flashed bright blue. Up ahead was the jewel standing proudly on its stone stand.

I walk towards the jewel, and reached out my hand to touch it...

CRASH!!!

It was so fast... I found myself on the ground, a black monster on top of me with crimson eyes. I threw my torch between its eyes and grabbed the jewel. The light reveals that in the handle of the sword was a space that the jewel would perfectly fit in. I shoved it in, and then, emotions, colours seemed to enter me. Meanwhile, the butterfly distracted the black monster, flashing madly. Now that the monster was thrashing around wildly, it was only timing to get right.

As I stared into its crimson eyes, the ground seemed to quake. Then, I remembered, 'don't stare too long at his eyes!' The ground began to turn to dust and lose colour, and I tried to keep my feet on the ground. The monster continued to advance toward me. I closed my eyes and stabbed the air. Hard.

When I opened my eyes again, I was outside the waterfall, still holding the sword and jewel. I don't know how I saw it, but the butterfly *winked at me*. 'Well done,' it whispered, "You saved your universe before it fell to dust. Into nothingness." And with a blinding light, I was *home*; it was 7:39am. "Is time faster behind the waterfall?" I pondered, astonished.

I went out the door and there was *Astrid*. “Hello,” I said, grinning, “I suppose we’re walking to school together.” She smiled. “You’re happy today,” she replied, “Everyone’s *so full* of emotion and colour. Whoever repaired this world, I’d be proud of them. Personally, for me, I don’t know how *I* got my colours and emotions. Maybe it came from the same source as everyone else.”

I laughed to myself; that secret is between me and you. *And* the butterfly.

Emotion, colour, music, taste and texture of everything we touch and eat. These aren’t necessary for survival, but we enjoy life because of this. Don’t take these for granted.

Winter
By S. Lavignotte

As you step out of your house, you begin to see your
breath
Then you feel the cold, and almost freeze to death.

The sky is dark and the moon is white
And the light from the lampposts are yellow and bright.

You almost slip from the frost on the ground
And skid across the ice making a scratching sound.

Your big coat is warm, with its fluffy hood
And you are thankful for it, for the warmth feels good.



Poetry by Simone Lavignotte

Morning Sky
By S. Lavignotte

The morning sky is a pale blue,
With delicate clouds and a cool breeze too.

You walk along the path looking up to the sky,
As people and cars pass you by.

Birds fly elegantly over your head,
And you can hear them as their wings flap and spread.

The sunrise begins and the horizon is pink,
And you watch it very carefully ,for it will be over in a
blink.



Girl's Basketball team



Nina and I have been on the school basketball team together for one year now. Although that might not sound like a long time, it feels like we have been playing forever. When I originally started to play on the school basketball team, I was really shy and had no confidence, but after a few practices I realised I really enjoyed playing and my confidence began to grow. We both started to improve as time went on and as matches started to approach. We had some great wins! For example, the time we beat Clogher Road Community School 1-37 making it to the quarter finals. The team had so much fun, and we learned a lot about teamwork as well as playing the sport and getting exercise. We started playing more and more when time was available, concentrating on shooting hoops at break and after school. Although I think the whole team could agree that missing school for matches was a bonus, we now realise playing on the team and feeling that adrenaline rush is the real gift. Overall for both myself and Nina the basketball team shaped our first year of secondary school and has allowed us to experience new things, meet new people and enjoy our new school. - Ryan Prosser and Nina Reilly

Mega Maths Quiz



Mega Maths
QUIZ

On the 17th October 2023, we participated in a Mega Maths Quiz. The Maths quiz was a challenge involving a lot of schools from around the country. It was held via a zoom meeting and each question appeared on the screen and we had to be ready to answer. The questions were varied and ranged from high difficulty to easier ability. To answer the questions, we had to submit our answers on an answer sheet. I had lots of fun doing the Mega Maths Quiz and I thought it was a great test of knowledge. It was something different to ordinary schoolwork and it was an exciting and interesting activity for all involved.- Ruairi Bethke

The Ploughing Championship

On 20th September, as part of Transition Year we went to the ploughing championship. The ploughing championship happens every year and it is a show that represents agriculture and farming. We took a bus from the school to Co. Laois at 9.00am in the morning. The weather was really awful that day – it rained and rained. We needed wellies but we didn't have any. We saw loads of interesting things like cows in pens, fancy tractors and bulls and we learned lots about farming. Miriam warned us not to go near the bulls because they might get angry. My favourite part was the food. My least favourite part was all the muck. I really enjoyed this trip and it was a nice bonding experience. I would go back there in a heartbeat, but on a sunny day! - Cathal Kelly & Alex McGowan



Garda Visit for First Years



On the 12th of October, all the students at Harold's Cross ETSS were greeted by two members of our local Gardai.

But don't worry, no one did anything wrong. Well...not yet 😊

We learned about our own safety, safety for our friends and safety for our family. One thing that stood out was how you shouldn't take photos of people without full and proper consent.

Since it was only nineteen days until Halloween night, we were warned about the dangers of meeting up at night with friends or family members at gatherings using illegal fireworks or bonfires or anything of the type.

The two guards also explained the dangers of bullying and why it always is important to be as nice as possible to fellow classmates and adults.

It was very kind that the Gardai came in and gave us that talk. Thank you to the school for organising it and helping us to feel more safe and knowledgeable.

- Luke Leonard

Climate Action Week



This year the Sustainability Club held many activities to raise awareness for Climate Action week. During assemblies, different members of the Sustainability Club spoke to their year group and school staff on the topic explaining what climate action week is and what the school is doing to help out. At lunch-time, we showed students how to regrow their foods such as spring onions and celery, we also distributed leaflets on food waste and had a demonstration on how to make your own yogurt from just leftovers. The Climate Action class hid 18 'sustainable life tips' around the school in different areas according to the tip and they also put labels on the new bins. On the last day, it was a 'no single use plastic' day, meaning anything you can't use in the long term wasn't allowed and could be brought in to be collected by the Sustainability Club. We collected the single use plastic and used it for flower beds as fillers when we were planting bulbs for the spring. - Eimear Dowling

Debate Club



Debating Club inside the walls of Harold's Cross ETSS is complete with interesting topics and competitions that always, in my opinion, find a way to excite the students which in turn makes the school extremely inclusive. So it's not just fun for some people, but for all who join!

For instance we recently entered a debating competition, I was one of the speakers during it and the motion of the debate was '***All schools should be Educate Together schools***'. We were on the opposition and it was difficult but we had fun and one of our teachers, Emily, bought us croissants and sandwiches to eat before the competition! We won!! We remembered that being inclusive also means being inclusive in society and so there should be a choice of schools for our dynamic society also.

It was our first ever debate and we were against a team of mainly second years (we are first years)! We were extremely proud of ourselves, and even the people who were not speaking were proud and felt included.

The team of debaters must consist of four speakers, and there are around ten people in the club, Eva-Rose O'Reilly, myself, Emilia Balant, Laura Grace Connelly, Etain Birdy, Marshall Kennedy, Chloe Pepin and Erin Crotty. Myself, Erin, Laura, Marshall, and Etain spoke. And then of course we have our dedicated teachers, Emily O'Dwyer and Caoimhe McHugh. Christopher Blake Campbell is also training us up and they are so talented at debating. Thank you Christopher for your training!

Debating isn't just for fun. It teaches you how to become a good speaker, and to gain confidence. It teaches discipline and listening but above all it teaches you how to work in a team. I struggled with that until I met this group of people and worked inside a group and won! I knew then that not everything has to be individual work".

We have another debate coming up soon and overall I believe that debating is an amazing experience, a fun place to meet new people and overall a place that teaches students the type of skills they might need in the future. I would repeat it all in a heart beat.- Lucia Leahy Sweeney

On the 20th December, we competed again against Bremore ETSS. The motion was '***AI will eliminate creativity***'. We were preposing this motion and we won, again! We won best out of three in our first round which means we are through to the quarter finals.

HOORAH!

'AI will eliminate creativity' proposed speech by Chloe Pepin



Good afternoon, Chairperson, Adjudicator, Timekeepers, Members of the audience and opposition, I hope you are all well, my name is Chloe.

Today, I will be debating how AI does not have the ability to create original art, and due to its rapid rise in popularity, how it will destroy art, from right under our noses. Now if you would be so kind, I will begin.

AI is everywhere. I bet that everyone here has at least seen an AI generated image. It's pretty fun, right? well, maybe for us it is, but for the artists that it is stealing from, it's marginally less fun. AI is a computer, meaning it does not have the ability to think or have emotions. It also cannot create new images, and many people are concerned about how AI is just taking others art and reshaping to claim it as it's own, new piece. Anoosha Syed, a visual artist from Canada told 'The Guardian' that "AI doesn't look at art and create its own. It samples everyone's then mashes it into something else." But she is not the only one who claims this. Even artists who are safe from the tyranny that AI is causing are speaking against it. Harry Woodgate, who won the Waterstones 2022 picture-book spoke out to the Guardian too, and said "These programs rely entirely on the pirated intellectual property of countless working artists, photographers, illustrators and other rights holders."

I mean, if two different artists who are already well incrustated in the art industry are concerned about AI, imagine how small artists must feel. They aren't laughing at the fun AI generated that are being shown everywhere. If you don't believe people, believe science. Scientific American, a popular magazine has not ignored this issue. They wrote an article called "Can AI Create True Art?", and in it they state, and I quote "Because the AI has been trained on billions of images, some of which are copyrighted works by living artists, it can generally create a pretty faithful approximation." This quote was in relation to AI's ability to recreate images in the style of famous artists. This quote proves without a shadow of a doubt that AI can only recreate what it sees, which causes two fundamental issues. The first is that AI is plagiarising art directly, which is not only morally wrong, but illegal if the original art was copyrighted. The other issue it causes is that it can only create uninteresting, and therefore uncreative images.

But that's not all. AI cannot feel emotion. It is a robot and follows the commands it has been given. AI cannot understand the depths of human emotion, as it has not and will not ever be able to. However, almost every great artist uses their emotions to create art. Van Gogh suffered greatly in life, and his pain is reflected in his paintings. When Tracy Emin recreated her bed after a depressive episode in a museum, it reached out to people, connecting them by art. When AI merges five different artists to give you a painting with obvious flaws, it's much harder to feel anything more than disappointment.

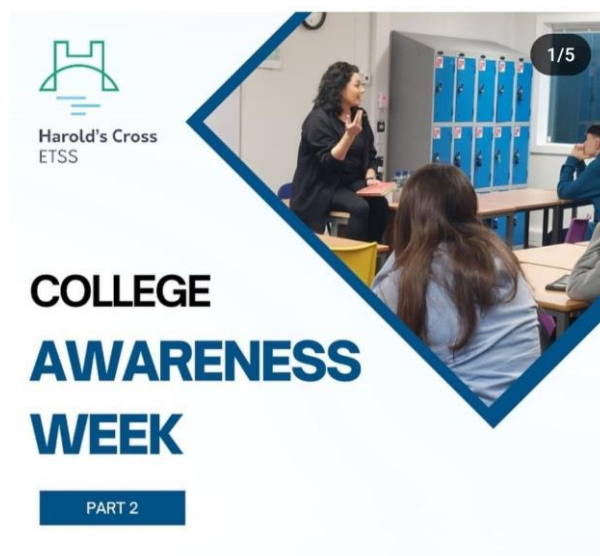
Thanks to the speaker before me, we now know how AI is threatening jobs within the real world. AI is taking over because it is cheaper and easier for big companies to use. And if we don't put a stop to this, all that will happen is that all the art we see around us will have been created by emotionless robots funded by greedy people who believe this is the easy way to make money, and scam hard working artists out of a job.

But the thing is, it's not just big companies who are using AI to their advantage. Recently an art competition was held, and the first prize was given to an artist who only used AI to win. This created an outrage, and everyone who heard about this was angered. It's more than just affecting the world as a whole, it is affecting day to day life, due to the power it holds. If AI can win a competition, it is most definitely not going to stop there. And if we do not acknowledge that AI is destroying creativity because of how it lacks it, we are just as much the problem as the people benefiting from AI.

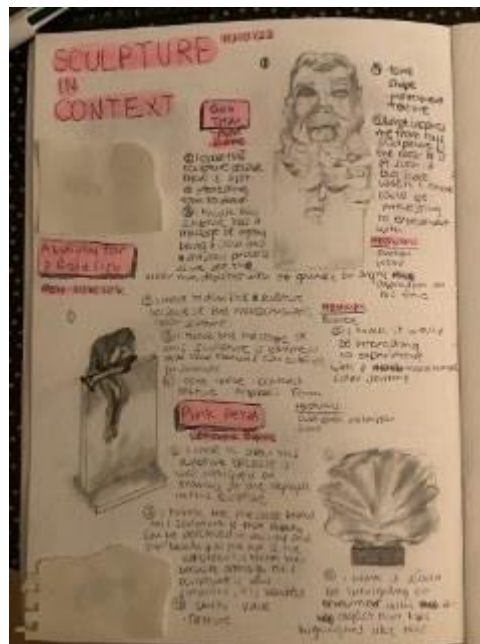
I hope this speech outlined one of the many reasons as to why AI will eliminate creativity. Thank you very much.- Chloe Pepin.

College Awareness Week

There were over thirty guest speakers in for our careers day on Friday, 15th December. All of our students got a lovely mix of talks from professionals (parents/guardians and local residents) involved in film, publishing, writing, law, being a pilot, a plant technician and working in a university. Thank you to our school and local community for providing these wonderful speakers. - Leonna Condon (Teacher)



Sculpture in context



In October, our teacher Gráinne took the Third Year art class on a trip to the Botanic Gardens, to visit the 'Sculpture in Context' exhibition. 'Sculpture in Context' is the largest sculpture exhibition in Ireland and features sculptures using a wide range of media, created by Irish artists.

We took photographs of our favourite sculptures, and had to sketch, describe and analyse our favourite three pieces. We were given a guided tour and told about the context and meanings of some of the sculptures. After the tour, we walked around the Botanic Gardens and began to sketch the sculptures.

We had recently been learning about, and working with clay in class. Since recently making our own clay pieces, it was really interesting to see ceramic sculptures on a larger scale.

Our whole class really enjoyed seeing the sculptures on display at the Botanic Gardens. The exhibition not only deepened our appreciation for sculpture as an art form, but it also inspired everyone to explore our creativity and experiment with different mediums in later work. Overall, the class experience to the Sculpture in Context exhibition was a truly amazing experience that everyone enjoyed and will continue to inspire us through our art classes. - Mara Birdy Henrick & Ruby Kennedy

Boys Basketball team



On our second-to-last game of the basketball season, we won, with an impressive 30-point lead, securing a final score of 66-36.

This excellent performance was a result of the determination of our team. Many of our players dedicated themselves to daily training, showing their commitment to the game. Additionally, some team members went above and beyond engaging in training with clubs outside of the school, such as the Templeogue Basketball Club and the Oblates Basketball Club. This collective effort and dedication played an important role in our success on the basketball court. - Joshua Ribon Eagers

Science Club



Science Club is a small club run by Lorraine and Amy. We meet every second Monday in the new science lab. In these meetings, we perform experiments and discuss what experiments we might do in the future.

One of the first experiments we did was Ublex, which is cornstarch mixed with water that turns into a hard surface when hit with force and has a liquid like consistency when hit gently. We then left the Ublex for a week and when we came back we found that a whole collection of bacteria had grown on the Ublex which was an interesting end result to the experiment. If you are interested in science, feel free to ask Lorraine or Amy when the next meeting is and come by to have a look!.- Clara Simoni & Milly McDonnell.

Comhairle Na nÓg



On the 21st November, three members of the student council attended the Dublin City Comhairle Na nÓg conference, where many topics that affect the youth were discussed. This event was held in the Mansion House, Round Room, and this made the environment more conducive to conversation. Different young people and students from schools and areas all around the county were split up among round tables with boxes containing snacks, pens, post its and activities. The whole event had a theme of the topic discussed at the Comhairle of the previous year, period stigma. All attendees received a bag with a period pack, pins and pens, all branded with the Comhairle Na Nóg logo. Every table had a sign that was period themed. The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Daithí De Róiste gave a speech.

The event began with two comhairle members addressing the room, and some music being played by a man on guitar. An introduction was given and the whole room played a game about what the tables had in common. The Comhairle Na nóg presented what they had done to attempt to resolve the issue of period stigma, which involved sending period packs to schools in their areas and making

videos that were released on social media. Then, the tables discussed any and all issues relating to the youth in Dublin, brainstorming as much as possible. After the brainstorming session, there was a lunch break where the issues were counted up, and the main three were disability friendly Dublin, substance abuse, and homelessness.

After lunch, which was a burger or vegetarian replacement and chips, there were big paper placemats with the topics on them placed over each of the tables. The groups went around writing their view on how the topic affects young people, what it means to them, and how to solve it. Each table got a chance to discuss the topics, and then voted on which one they thought was the most important for next year's comhairle. Substance abuse was chosen, and will be acted on by this year's comhairle, who submitted their interest to the comhairle. - Florence Howe

Russborough House, Wicklow TY Overnight Trip



In September, the Transition Years got the opportunity to go to Russborough House in Wicklow for an overnight trip. We got a coach from the school to Russborough house, where we had some activities such as zip-lining, climbing and archery. A few hours later, we began making our way to the campsite. We walked for a bit before canoeing across a lake to reach the campsite. When we got there, we were shown how to set up tents and then we ate dinner. We then had a campfire with marshmallows and even had a brief "talent show". The following day, we packed up our things, had breakfast and canoed back across the lake, before getting a coach back to the school. Overall, it was a great experience, and even though the weather wasn't amazing, we still had a good time. - Ofri Caspi

TY Irish project



'Béaloidas'

Cú Chulainn = The Hound of Culann

Achoimre agus Aistriúchán Déanta le Alfie O'Clery agus Shayla Crotty

I luathlitríocht na hÉireann is trodaí, laoch agus leath dhia é Cú Chulainn. Tá go leor scéalta aige le fada an lá, tá go leor acu faoina chuid troda agus a chrógachta. Bhí láidreacht agus crógacht aige mar ba é Lugh, dia Éireannach, a athair.

Sétanta ab ainm dó ach d'athraigh é go Chú Chulainn tar éis madra garda Chulainn a mharú. Mharaigh sé an madra lena chamán agus sliotar ag cóisir sa chaisleán. Tá cáil air freisin mar gheall ar a mhac a mharú. Tá clú air as Cúige Uladh a chosaint i dTáin Bo Cuailnge in aghaidh na Mheabha, banríon Chonnacht.

Bhain réabhlóidithe úsáid as a íomhá san athbheochan Ghaelach. Spreag sé náisiúnachas sa thír.

Eochairfhocail (Key Words):

Béaloideas = folklore

Luathlitríocht = early literature

Trodaí = fighter

Laoch = hero

Crógacht = bravery

Mharaigh sé = he killed

Cú = hound

Réabhlóidithe = rebels

Athbheochan = revolution

Stand Up week





The GSA is a club to support and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community in our school. Meetings are every second Wednesday at lunchtime. We organised Stand Up week, a talk about issues and topics surrounding the LGBT+ community, and just have fun.

Stand Up week was a week for secondary schools to counteract LGBT+ bullying, but in our school, it is more about celebrating our LGBT students. This year we had a LGBT activist called Eddie

McGuinness in to talk about the first pride. He brought the first pride flag ever used in Ireland with him and we used it in our parade.- Charley- Rose Aston & Eva Musiol



Our annual Pride march took place on 1st December as part of 'Stand Up week'. Thank you to everyone involved for making this week one of unwavering celebration and inclusion. We marched with our neighbours, HXETNS. Doors were decorated, we held poster competitions, had presentations from our GSA and student council just to name a few activities! A treasured tradition in HCETSS. Thank you to all. - Leonna Condron (Teacher)



Caroling and the gift giving campaign for Harold's Cross Hospice





On the 19th December, Harold's Cross Hospice welcomed our choir and musicians to entertain them for a festive carol service. It was pleasure to perform for all of the staff and residents of the Hospice in Harold's Cross. It was so touching for us and we look forward to returning again in 2024.

Aideen, Laura, the the Third Year tutors along with Third Year students also did something very special in last week of December. They delivered gifts to the Hospice that were especially wished for and needed. Some examples of this included arts and crafts supplies, body washes etc. May Flood

Lawless and Ellie McDonald coordinated the gift wish tags to be given to all of the third years. The third years were so kind to purchase these meaningful gifts which were then delivered on the 20th December. Thank you to all who bought, donated and delivered these gifts. - Leonna Condren

This magazine was organised by Rhianna and Emily. Thank you to the amazing students who helped us with their articles.

