



CASTLEREA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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Easter 2024



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Dear Students, Staff and Parents/Guardians,

We would like to wish you a very happy Easter as you enjoy a well-earned break. Good luck to our Leaving Cert students as they sit their oral exams over the Easter holidays - may your hard work and preparation lead you to success.

Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh go léir.

Ms. Ryan

The Knights of St. Columbanus Public Speaking Competition

Congratulations to our senior public speaking team on their great achievement as runner-up in the All-Ireland Finals of the Knights of St. Columbanus Public Speaking Competition held in The Carlton Hotel, Dublin. The team members were: Summer Rose, Michaela O'Flanagan, Alena Healy Lloyd and Orna Fahy. All speakers excelled in an extremely competitive final. Eight teams from all four provinces of Ireland competed in the final. Thanks to Ms. M. Larkin (mentor) and Principal, Ms. E. Ryan. A special word of thanks to Seamus McDonald of the Order of Knights, for organising this national competition and for the very generous prizes presented to us by the Order.



Ms. E Ryan (Principal), Michaela O'Flanagan, Summer Rose, Orna Fahy, Alena Healy Lloyd and Ms. M. Larkin (Mentor) at the All-Ireland Finals of the Knights of St. Columbanus Public Speaking Competition in The Carlton Hotel, Dublin.

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Feargal Quinn Award for LCA Students

Congratulations to our LCA graduates of 2023 - Shae Gaffney and Ciaran Cahill - who were presented with the prestigious Feargal Quinn Award at the Leaving Cert Applied National Association Conference, recently. The award was presented to Shae and Ciaran who achieved top grades of 100% in the LCA programme. This is a wonderful achievement for CCS and the students. The boys were presented with their awards at a ceremony in Athlone. We are very proud of their achievements and wish them every success in the future.



Ms. Yvonne Ryan (LCA Co-ordinator), Ciaran Cahill, Jerome Chambers (LCANA President), Shae Gaffney and Ms. E Ryan (Principal), pictured at The Feargal Quinn Award Ceremony for LCA Students



Roscommon Student Enterprise Final

CCS was well represented at the Roscommon Student Enterprise Final in Athlone recently. Students attended the event with their Business and Enterprise teachers Ms. Y. Ryan and Ms. E. Robson. The TY teams who qualified for the final were: Handy Holders (Eva Satchwell, Aoife Silke), Nourish and Glow (Michaela Flanagan, Shannon Drury, Lisa Kelly), Blooming Balls (Abbie Raftery, Kiera Malon, Grace Kelly, Sinéad Freeman, Elisha Joyce) and MK Mirror Guards (Michael Keaveney). We would like to congratulate Michael Keaveney - MK Mirror Guards - who was awarded the "One to Watch" prize. Well done to Michael and his teachers.



Michael Keaveney - MK Mirror Guards - who was awarded the 'One to Watch' prize, pictured with his Business and Enterprise teachers Ms. Y. Ryan and Ms. E. Robson at the Student Enterprise Final in the Athlone Springs Hotel.



YSI Speak Out

Well done to our TY students who attended the YSI Speak Out in Sligo recently. One of the projects was called "Blood, Sweat and Tears" led by Ms. A. Daly. Another project was entitled "Make a U-turn" led by Ms. B. Gormally. The purpose of the speak out is to present the students' ideas for a better world to their peers, invited guests and the Speak Out Panel.



TY Students who presented their project called "Make a U-turn" at the YSI Speak Out, pictured with their teacher, Ms. B. Gormally.



TY Students who presented their project called "Blood, Sweat and tears" at the YSI Speak Out, pictured with their teacher, Ms. A. Daly.

CanSat

A team of four students from CCS took part in the CanSat challenge in TUS Athlone recently. The team members were: Dino Valentic, Miah Casey Hayes, Aaron Connolly and Stan Wojcik. The European CanSat Competition is an ESA (European Space Agency) educational project aimed at promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) literacy amongst young European students through project-based learning. The CCS team's challenge was to fit all the subsystems of a satellite inside a can the size of soft drinks can! The team had to accomplish two missions: a mandatory primary mission – to collect and transmit air temperature and pressure data at least once a second by means of radio waves, land the satellite and a secondary mission completely open to the team's imagination! The secondary mission was to measure humidity in the atmosphere or on another planet.

There is a third phase to the competition which involves communicating with the local community and schools in the area, having a social media presence and also getting media coverage for the project.

The team had a very successful mission as their satellite launched successfully and they achieved suitable readings, which they were able to analyse and present successfully to the team of judges as part of their presentation. They were presented with certificates for their achievement. A most educational, enjoyable and rewarding experience was had by all.

The Team would like to thank Ms. Hanbury for helping them with their project and Mr. Kevin McDermott, TUS, for taking time out of his busy schedule to mentor the students.

Well done to all involved.



The CCS CanSat team: Stan Wojcik, Aaron Connolly, Miah Casey Hayes and Dino Valentic pictured with their teacher Ms Y Hanbury, receiving their Certificates at the Regional Final of the CanSat Competition in TUS Athlone recently.

Future Leaders Silver Award at the Morgan Stanley Residential Experience

My name is Julia Dzwonkowska and during my year in TY (2022-23), I became involved with Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg (Youth Council) as a PRO. As a result of this, I received the opportunity to participate in a Youth Activism Course as part of the Cooperation Ireland Future Leaders' Programme. This involved a residential experience in Dublin where we worked with Deloitte and I-Res. At the annual Cooperation Ireland Showcase I was awarded the Future Leaders Silver Award for my participation.

I remain involved with the programme now in fifth year and I have taken on the Gold Award, which involves a residential experience and a module in which all participants receive mentoring in a certain field.

Last November, I was invited to travel to London with five other young people from the South of Ireland and six young people from the North to meet with ten young people from London. Together we took part in a 2-day programme with Morgan Stanley, a multinational investment bank and financial services company. Over the course of the 2 days, we took part in numerous workshops and activities to develop our skills and build connections with new people.



Julia Dzwonkowska (right of centre) pictured outside the Morgan Stanley Investment Bank and Financial Services Company



Julia Dzwonkowska (centre) pictured at the Morgan Stanley Residential Experience

Overall, I am so grateful to have received this opportunity. I have thoroughly enjoyed every piece of work that I've taken part in with Cooperation Ireland and would highly recommend anyone interested in peace building, business, and the corporate world, to become involved in one of their programmes. Doing so is an excellent way to build on your skills, develop new ones, meet new people, build connections, gain valuable experience and it all started in TY in CCS.

Young St. Vincent de Paul Committee

Recently, our Young St. Vincent de Paul TY Committee and representatives from the Second Year CSPE Class presented a cheque to Sheridan Quinn from St. Vincent de Paul. Well done and thank you to everyone who donated and fundraised for this worthy local charity.



The Young St Vincent de Paul TY Committee along with representatives from the Second Year CSPE Class, presenting a cheque to Sheridan Quinn from St. Vincent de Paul. Also in the photo are Mr. O'Hara, Ms. Robson, Ms. Kenny (CSPE Teacher) and Ms. Ryan (Principal)

John Paul 11 Committee

Ten student from our John Paul 11 committee have been very busy completing activities and tasks for their John Paul 11 Award. This award was created to commemorate the late Pope John Paul 11 who was committed to and had confidence in young people. Our students are enabled to take an active part in the life of their church, community and society. Assisted by school Chaplain Mr. O'Hara, a number of students are actively involved in parish life e.g. reading at Mass, taking part in Church Decoration, assisting with preparation of the Parish Newsletter and helping with a special Holy Hour for the youth of the Parish. They have already completed a number of school based activities towards their award such as a climb of Ireland's Holy Mountain, Croagh Patrick. A special thanks to Fr. Chris, Fr. John and all in the parish office for their continued support in the faith development of our students.



**Some of the committee members involved with the John Paul 11 Awards:
L-R front row: Elaine Foley, Orna Fahy, Mr. S. O'Hara, School Chaplain
L-R back row: Megan McDermott, Arturas Gedvilas, Aaron Connolly.**

Leaving Cert Biology Experiments Day in the University of Limerick

Sixth Year Biology students, accompanied by their teachers Ms. C Goonan and Ms. Y Hanbury, recently completed some of their Leaving Certificate Biology experiments in the labs in UL. The trip involved students carrying out experiments at the Department of Biological Sciences at University of Limerick from the Leaving Cert Biology Course. Students spent the day working through their experiments under the guidance of the knowledgeable presenters in UL, along with a number of lab technicians. The day was filled with fantastic learning opportunities for our students just before their mock examinations! It was a very educational and worthwhile experience and students also gained an insight into the workings of a university lab. Students found the experience both beneficial and enjoyable. Thanks to the team at UL.



Some of the LC Students who attended the Biology Experiments Day at the University of Limerick



LC Students engrossed in their Biology Experiments at the University of Limerick

Elphin Diocesan Lenten Youth Ambassadors day 2024

On Thursday 18th January a group of CCS TY students took part in the Elphin Diocesan Lenten Youth Ambassadors day for 2024, held in Kilbride Community Centre. The event was an opportunity for students to meet young people from other schools and parishes, adult parish volunteers and Trócaire personnel. They spent the day learning about Global Justice and the work of Trócaire.

Transition Year students were commissioned in a special ceremony, presided over by Bishop Kevin Doran representing Trócaire, during the day. Trócaire and their partners do a lot of work to support people facing huge challenges and injustices in their lives. With appropriate support from their Chaplain, Mr. O'Hara and Fr. Chris Garrett of Castlerea Parish, they will now highlight Trócaire's Lenten Campaign in their school and parish. Students fulfilled some of the requirements for their John Paul 11 Award by attending this training and the work they will undertake in their schools and parishes over the coming weeks of Lent, will also contribute towards accreditation of their award. A very enjoyable day was had by all.



Elphin Diocesan Lenten Youth Ambassadors: (L-R) Aaron Connolly, Arturas Gedvilas, Orna Fahy, Bishop of Elphin, Kevin Doran, Miah Casey Hayes, Ash Perrie, Alena Healy Lloyd, Sinéad Freeman, Ava Croghan, School Chaplain, Mr. S. O'Hara.

Trip to National Concert Hall

Second, Third and Fifth Year Music Students, together with their teachers, Ms. McNulty and Ms. O'Toole, attended a concert entitled "Julie, Julie" at the National Concert Hall, Dublin, recently. This concert explored the songs, musicals and life of Julie Andrews. It was a very worthwhile and educational experience. A great day was had by all!



Music Students pictured with their teachers, Ms. McNulty and Ms. O'Toole, on their trip to the National Concert Hall, Dublin.

Share an Old Irish Blessing this Easter

May LOVE and LAUGHTER light your days
and warm your HEARTS and HOME.
May HAPPY and faithful FRIENDS be yours
wherever you may ROAM.
May PEACE and PLENTY bless your WORLD
with a JOY that long endures and
May all life's passing seasons bring
THE BEST TO YOU AND YOURS



First Year Boys' Football

The first year boys were beaten by a strong Lacken Cross team in the Connacht Championship last Wednesday. The game was played at Kilfina GAA pitch in Co. Mayo. The boys will be playing Roscommon Community College in the Roscommon Championship after Easter and will also be preparing for the Liam Campbell Memorial Cup in May.

CCS: Oliver Jurczak, Bobby Harpur, James Bruen, Declan Sullivan, Callum Walsh, Eoin Quinn, John Garvey, Kevin Chiforiuc, Daniel Higgins, Martin Sharkey, Tuari Curran, Allan Malone, Ross Murray, Lorcan Walsh, Patrick Munteanu, Conor McDermott, Mark Fleming.



First Year Boys' Football Team who played in the Connacht Football Championship.

Senior Boys' Connaught Football Champions

Our senior boys' football team are Connacht Champions after a great win over Lough Allen College, in the Connacht GAA Dome last week. Lough Allen started the game strongly and it took a while for CCS to settle and start playing good football. When they did, they scored some lovely points and began to dominate the game. However, a goal conceded shortly before half time left the minimum between the two sides, CCS 0-8 Lough Allen 1-4.

CCS were by far the better team in the second half and steadily added to the scoreboard. Goals by Dara Curran and Cormac Beatty, and points from Kaylum Curran, John Curran, Dara Curran, Jamie Dowd and Cormac Beatty saw CCS build up a comprehensive lead and run out winners by 2-15 to 2-8. Lough Allen were tough opponents and battled all the way to the final whistle.

Hugh Rudden from Connacht Schools GAA presented the cup to CCS Captain, David Higgins. Congratulations to the senior panel and their management team of Mr. D. McDermott, Mr. J. Reidy and Mr. D Burke.

Team Members: Abdul Sattar, James Hawkshaw, Daniel Diggins, Ross Flynn, Dylan Keane, Liam Finneran, Shane Larkin, David Higgins (Captain), Jamie Dowd (0-2), Dara Curran (1-4), Cormac Beatty (1-2), Kevin Hester, Kaylum Curran (0-4), Sean Vaughan, John Curran, Ciarán Kilkenny, Eoghan Soares, Daniel Woods, Jack Dolan.



The Victorious Senior Boys' Football Team pictured with their mentors, Mr. D McDermott and Mr. J Reidy.

Boxing News

Congratulations and well done to Cameron Oliva on winning the Girl 4 75+ category of the Connacht Boxing Championships held recently. Cameron now progresses to the All-Ireland stage of the competition. Congratulations also to Tyler Waldron who won the B4 48kg Connacht Boxing Championships. Tyler now goes on to represent Connacht in the All-Ireland Boxing Championships. Congratulations also to Cillian Godwin LCA 1, who is the new Connacht Boxing Champion in the 60kg Category. Cillian will now progress to the All-Ireland Final of the competition. All in CCS are very proud of your achievement and wish you all the best of luck in the All-Ireland Final.



Cameron Oliva pictured with her coaches after winning the Girl 4 75+ category of the Connacht Boxing Championship 2024



Tyler Waldron who won the B4 48kg Connacht Boxing Championships.



Cillian Godwin LCA 1, the new Connacht Boxing Champion in the 60kg Category

“The Shona Project.”

The Shona Project is a multi-award-winning non-profit organisation whose aim is to educate, empower and inspire today’s Irish girls to become tomorrow’s strong, confident and curious young women. It was created by girls, for girls, to ensure that every girl in Ireland feels seen, understood, supported and valued. Every girl has the potential to achieve her dreams, and live a happy and healthy life, once they are given the tools and the encouragement. The Junior Ambassador programme supports girls as leaders who promote kindness, positivity, inclusion and resilience within their schools. The aim is to have a Junior Ambassador in every school in Ireland by 2025. In CCS, Leaving Cert Student, Aimee Coyne, was awarded the Shona Junior Ambassador. Aimee is a very deserving winner of the award and we wish her the best of luck as she embarks on her new role. Well done Aimee.



Leaving Cert Student, Aimee Coyne, who was awarded the Shona Junior Ambassador in CCS.

“Brilliant Mondays”

We were delighted to welcome back Stephen Kiernan, motivational speaker and author of the book "Brilliant Mondays - how ordinary people achieve extraordinary things" to deliver a workshop to TY students. The workshop was delivered in a positive, fun and encouraging environment. Through the vehicle of storytelling, Stephen gave powerful examples that compelled the students to believe in themselves and their ability to grow and succeed if they just try. The workshop followed the same structure as the book, where Stephen highlighted four main principles: vision setting, planning and strategy, building resilience and continuous improvement. It was a most enjoyable, educational and worthwhile experience for TY students.



TY Students enjoying a workshop hosted by Stephen Kiernan, motivational speaker and author of the book "Brilliant Mondays - how ordinary people achieve extraordinary things".



Law Society Programme

Well done to TY student Michaela O’Flanagan who completed the Law Society three day programme during her Mid-term break. Michaela gained a valuable insight into the world of law.



Michaela O’Flanagan who completed the Law Society three day programme, pictured with Ms. Y Ryan (TY Co-ordinator)





Basketball News



U-16 Basketball Team

Congratulations to the U16 Boys Basketball team on winning the Community Games County Final. They now qualify for the Con-nacht Final.



The U16 Boys' Basketball Team pictured after receiving their Community Games County Final medals with Coach Mr. J Henry (Right) .

AWS GetIT Education Program

CCS was accepted into the AWS GetIT (Amazon Web Services) Education Program, which is designed to inspire 1st and 2nd year students to consider a future career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). The program introduces students to the cloud, different types of careers in tech, and how cloud-based tech is used to solve real-world problems.

Each school is paired with a dedicated AWS GetIT Ambassador, who provides ongoing support before and during the program.

The benefits of the program to our students' are-

- Inspire students to consider STEM for their future careers .
- Empower students to develop new skills
- Opportunities for students after the program

CCS was assigned Olawale Olaley a Senior Cloud Support Engineer with Amazon Web Services as their AWS GetIT Ambassador. Olawale visited the school on two occasions and spoke to all 1st and 2nd year students on his first visit. On his 2nd visit he hosted a Design Workshop with 1st and 2nd year Applied Technology students. The students also have the opportunity to participate in a national competition in designing an app wireframe that solves problems in their communities The students enjoyed the program and learnt a lot from it.

1st and 2nd Year Applied Technology students with AWS GetIT Ambassador Olawale Olaley during a recent workshop in CCS.



Road Safety Authority Shuttle Bus

We had a very educational and thought provoking day with the Road Safety Authority recently. The road-show brought road safety education to life in an engaging, interactive and memorable way. Students were able to practice their driving and hazard perception skills on the car, motorbike and bicycle simulators. They experienced, first-hand, the dangers of driving and texting as well as driver fatigue. They were able to try the brake reaction timer to see how driving environments and speed affect braking distances. They also learned about tyre safety and realised that tyres are their only contact with the road. It was a hard hitting and realistic road safety presentation, highlighting the devastating effects that road traffic collisions have on people's lives.



Senior Students pictured on the Road Safety Authority Shuttle Bus with their teacher, Ms. Y Ryan.



Senior Students taking an active part on the RSA Shuttle Bus



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge i bPobalscoil an Chaisleáin Riabhaigh

Bhí seachtain lán le ceol, caint agus craic againn anseo i CCS chun ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar theanga agus ar chultúr na nGael.

We had a week full of music fun and events here in CCS to celebrate the Irish Language and Culture. On Monday, fifth years sang the Amhrán na bhFiann and raised the Irish Flag to launch Seachtain na Gaeilge

Ar an Luan, chan muintir na cúigiú bliana Amhrán na bhFiann lasmuigh den scoil agus d'ardaigh siad bratach na hÉireann chun Seachtain na Gaeilge a sheoladh.



Students raising the Irish Flag to launch Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Tráthnóna dé Máirt, rinne daltaí na chéad bhliana léiriú den HAKA Gaelach. Bhain siad go léir sult as gan dabht.

On Tuesday afternoon, there was a competition among first years doing the Haka as Gaeilge. They all made a great effort and really enjoyed it

Bhí aoi speisialta againn ar an gCéadaoin, nuair a thug Rónán Ó Cheallaigh cuairt ar an scoil. Labhair sé leis an gcoiste agus le na damhsoirí sa scoil faoina shaol ag damhsa go hiomaíoch agus ansin, go proifisiúnta le

Riverdance. Rinneadh taispeantas ar chúpla céim agus bhí tráthnóna den scoth againn

Bhí lá iontach gnóthach againn ar an Déardaoin, Lá Glas a bhí ann. Chaith gach duine éadaí glasa agus bhí comórtas don fheisteas is fearr. Bhí díolacháin ciste ar siúl ag am sosa chomh maith le ceol agus damhsa ó chóir na scoile. Bhí atmaisféar iontach ann.

We had a really busy day on Thursday, it was Lá Glás. Everyone wore green clothes and there was a competition for the best outfit. There was a cake sale at break time as well as music and dancing by the school choir. There was a wonderful atmosphere in the assembly.

Dé hAoine, chuireamar críoch le Seachtain na Gaeilge le comórtais agus cluichí sna ranganna. Bhain gach duine an taitneamh as an seachtain agus rinne pobal na scoile ar fad an-iarracht an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn.

We ended Seachtain na Gaeilge on Friday with competitions and games in class. Everyone really enjoyed the week, and the school community made a great effort to promote Irish.

Beatha teanga í a labhairt!



Ronan Kelly, professional dancer with Riverdance, pictured with CCS Irish Dept.



Wishing you a lovely Easter, with sunshine, and the beauty of spring all around you



We offer our deepest sympathies to all members of the wider school community who have been bereaved in the this year.

Go suaimhní slad i siocháin