

Summer Newsletter 2021



Principal's Greeting

It has been a long year. The school year for the management started on the 27th of July last summer. Although we had not received any direction from the DES, plans were put in place to reconfigure the classrooms, order marquees and make the school as safe as possible. The end of August came and students returned to school. We all followed the covid guidelines of wearing masks, social distancing, washing hands and break times outside. This was our new norm for the school year 20/21. Everybody cooperated and we have had no cases in the school. This was a great achievement and a reflection on how everyone cooperated.

In January and February, we returned to remote learning. This happened seamlessly and engagement was very good. March and April saw the staggered return of our students. I think everybody was delighted to be back. Unfortunately, we had no extracurricular activities in school this year. We missed them, but hopefully they will be back next year. As I write teachers are working hard on the accredited grades for our Leaving Certificate students. Our 6th year students are facing into a unique Leaving Certificate. They have two chances, the accredited grades and the written exam. I wish them well in the exams and in the future. Thanks again to everyone for coping so well under difficult circumstances. Have a very enjoyable summer and I look forward to the reopening of the school in September. **Padraig Nolan, Principal**

Prefects 2021-2022

A huge thank you to our excellent 2021 prefects who have had an unusual and difficult year. We welcome and wish success to the newly elected prefects for 2021-22 : Head Prefect James Ball - Deputy Head & Fifth Year Aine Maguire, 3rd Year & Wellbeing Miriam McDermott 3rd Year & Environment Sophie O Dea, 2nd Year & Social Awareness Bronwyn Goulding & Sophie Byrne , 1st Year Anna Duffy, Holly Tyrell, Tiernan O Rourke, Alison Whelan, Art & Culture Leah Colton & Holly Scully Owens, Healthy Living & Sports Cathal McKennedy & Ally Morgan, Science & Technology (STEM) Niamh Little, Mentoring Coordinators Aoibheann Healy & Claire Lynch



We wish all staff and students a safe and relaxing Summer break.

We look forward to welcoming our new First Year students to Scoil Mhuire in late August.



Dates to Remember

June 09 Leaving Certificate Exams begin

July 1st CAO closes

Remembrance Mass

We are glad that we could gather for our Remembrance Mass on May 19th. Having been unable to hold the mass last year, it was great to have it back as it is a treasured event for all our bereaved families. Thank you to Mr. Breslin for organising the mass and to Fr. Paul for inviting us to Clane church where the musicians and choir excelled themselves.

Parent's Association

Thank you to the Parent's Association for their continued support during this difficult year.



First Year Mentors

The mentoring system was introduced to Scoil Mhuire twelve years ago to help the First Year students to settle in to life in secondary school. The tradition has grown over the intervening years and is now an established part of life at the school. At the end of their time at Scoil Mhuire many Sixth Years still recall the mentors who made the transition from primary to secondary school less daunting. Fifth year students apply for a position as mentor. Good luck to all of the following students who will fill the role in 2021-22 :

Alexei Potter, Tristan McKeon, Katie Daniels, Neasa Mooney, Breanna Lynch, Chloe Whitehead, Ciara Connolly, Hannah Raheem, Niamh Brady, Leah Deane, Katie Hawkins, Gemma Austin, Katie Connolly, Aoife Boyling, Melissa O Donohue, Ella Massey, Alex Cluskey, Ben Doyle, Caoimhe Hughes, Lauren Mulcahy, Adam Brennan, Amy Cronin, Daniel Blake and Daniel Dennehy



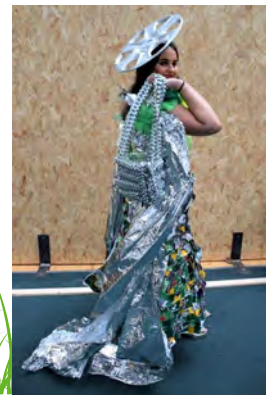
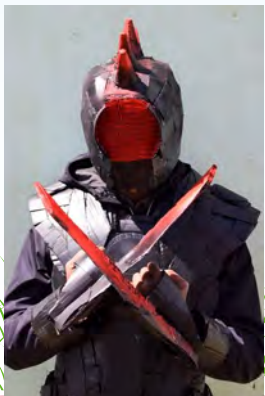
Godolphin Bursary

Laura Casey 6th year was presented with an Apple Macbook Air and a cheque for €1,500 euros to help her on her college journey by Ciara Devitt, representative of the Godolphin Group who sponsor a bursary for 6th yr students each year. Ciara was very impressed with the standard of entries this year and wished Laura every success in her future studies. Thank you to Godolphin for their sponsorship of the bursary.



Maynooth University Academic Prizes

Congratulations to students Cian Nowlan Rooney, Sheenagh Rowland, Holly Gleeson and Finn Tierney for their success in winning the Maynooth University Academic Prizes in Arts, Science, Engineering and Business based on their results of 5th yr exams and recent assessments. Maynooth University award these academic prizes each year. Each student receives a voucher for €150 euros.



Irish National History Award

Congratulations to Sixth Year student Sheenagh Rowland who won the open entry section (Leaving Certificate) of the Irish National History Award 2021 and finished second overall.

Supported by the School of Education and the James Hardiman Library at the National University of Ireland Galway, and the History Teachers' Association of Ireland, Senior Cycle and TY History, the competition was open to history students throughout Ireland. Students had to submit an essay and support it with a recorded presentation which was judged by a panel of experts.

Sheenagh's entry "Edith Wilson in the Whitehouse

(First Lady 1919-21)", investigated the little-known story of Edith Wilson, wife of US President Woodrow Wilson.

Sheenagh is now eligible to represent Ireland at the next EUSTORY conference and will have her work published in the Handbook of Second Level Research.



CAO - Reminder to parents to assist your 6th year students with course choice lists in order of preference before Change of Mind closes on July 1st

Kildare Enterprise Awards

School Mhuire students won three awards at the virtual awards ceremony run by the Kildare Student Enterprise Programme this year, including three trophies, a laptop, airpods and one for all vouchers worth €250 euros. Emma Halpin, Chloe Curran and Alex Carpenter founded their company "FoodUcate" which is an innovative cookbook to instill healthy eating patterns among children.

"Covid Companion" – the brainchild of enterprising students Lochlann Perris, Kenneth McDermott and Ethan Farrell is a teddy bear kit which aims to alleviate children's fears and anxieties during Covid 19 Both ideas impressed the judges with their tenacity, innovation and entrepreneurial talent.

Mayor Mark Stafford addressed the students of "Covid Companion" saying "Covid 19 has added a complete extra layer of complexity and additional challenges to companies but it is great to see a company like Covid Companion adapting, changing, surviving and thriving in today's climate" Covid Companion was awarded First prize for Best Product Adaptability in the Covid



Era. Peter Carey CEO of Kildare County Council stated that "the future is bright for FoodUcate" and awarded the girls with an award for Innovation in addition to Runner Up across 14 secondary schools and over 1,000 students in Kildare. Peter Carey congratulated the girls saying " they can take an idea from the classroom and develop it into a real-life business. The skills the girls have developed such as business planning, market research, selling and team-work, will help them become more entrepreneurial throughout their future careers".

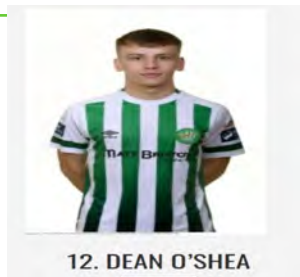
Huge congratulations to the students and thank you to Ms. Deschenes for her guidance.



Wellbeing and Mental Health

This year students in Scoil Mhuire entered the Mission Possible School Achievement Awards and took part in various initiatives to promote positive mental health and wellbeing in the school. Transition Year students produced a short film, 'I Want to be Me', to raise awareness about eating disorders and the negative effects of social media, to promote the importance of friendship and support, and to highlight the value of being able to accept yourself. Congratulations to Alys-sa Clare Welstead for writing the song for the film, and well done to Hannah Donoghue who composed the melody for the song. Senior students from TY, 5th and 6th year reached out to the community at Christmas

time. They sang and danced for the members of Hazel Hall Nursing Home. Students also created a virtual show for Christmas and St. Patricks Day to raise the spirits of the school community. We are delighted to receive this special certificate from Walk in My Shoes.



12. DEAN O'SHEA

Congratulations to Dean O' Shea 6th Year who is playing for Bray Wanderers Football Club.

Dean was an All Ireland under 16 winner with Leixlip United before moving to Athlone Town. He made four league appearances for Athlone Town in the 2019 season. He joined Bray Wanderers in February 2020 and made his first team debut in the EA Sports league cup game away to Wexford FC in March 2020. **Dean has also been offered a Sports Scholarship to Maynooth University for September.**

BT Young Scientist Success

A huge well done to our TY students, Lavinia Waldron and Priya Evans, both of whom won individual awards in their category : Chemical , Physical and Mathematical Sciences at the BT Young Scientist 2021. Lavinia was awarded 2nd place and Priya was awarded 3rd place in the intermediate age group. It's a brilliant achievement for both students who have put lots of work into their projects, at a particularly challenging time and their hard work has been rewarded. Lavinia' project title - An Investigation into The Differences In Contaminant Levels In Water From Old and New Pipe Work Systems In Comparison To The Levels At Its Original Source. Priya's project title - Sensor Data in a Time of Coronavirus: Using Environmental Factors to Generate a Warning

System for Indoor Spaces When Safe Capacity is Exceeded. Both students have videos uploaded on the website(below) explaining their projects.

[Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences - BT Young Scientist Exhibition Portal](#)

Little Way Presentation

Sixth year students presented the Little Way Cancer Support Group with a cheque for €1,000 euros last week. The Little Way offer counselling and supports to those undergoing and after cancer treatment. The money was raised as part of the 5th yr fundraiser last year and the directors of the Little Way who came to the school for the presentation were delighted and praised the efforts of the students in raising the money.



Farewell to the Class of 2021 from Mr. Gorry

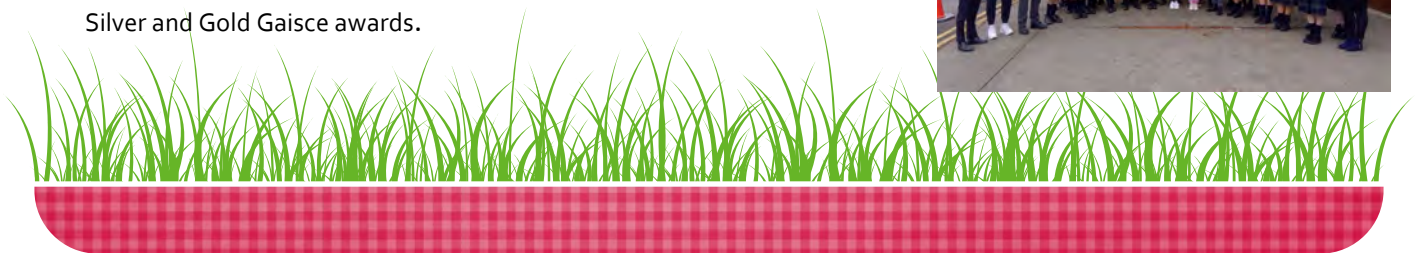
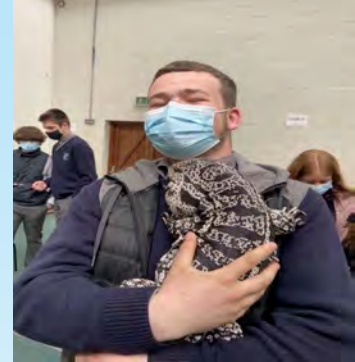
This June marks the end of an amazing journey for the class of 2021, one that began in 2015 or 2016 when they joined us as First Years. It has been a real privilege to see how much they have matured into young adults ready to take on the challenges and grab the opportunities that await. The final chapter of their time at Scoil Mhuire is one that nobody could have predicted. They missed out on many traditions that normally mark the end of Sixth year and have been presented with challenges and obstacles that it is safe to say no group in the history of the school has encountered. I have never been more proud of a group in the manner that they have come together with maturity, common sense, flexibility, resilience and constant good humour. It has been inspirational, and they have proven yourselves in a way that no group has had to prove themselves before. So, as I prepare to put the book of the class of 2021 on the shelf and take down a new book for a new group to begin their story, I do so with a heavy heart but with a bank full of memories that I will cherish. I wish the class of 2021 all the best as they move on to a new volume in the story of their life. I hope that they cherish every moment, fill the pages with memories, and look back with fondness at their time as students of Scoil Mhuire. I have no doubt that wherever they go will be a better place for them being there, whoever they meet will be a better person for knowing them, and any moment be all the more memorable from being shared with them.

Make A Wish Leaders Programme

This year was the first year TYs took part in the Wish Leaders Programme. This programme was facilitated by the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Students had virtual talks that focused on leadership, motivation, goal-setting, overcoming challenges, team work and collaboration. Virtual guest speakers included Tommy Bowe, Hazel Chu, Rory O' Connor (Rory's Stories), Pádraig Harrington, Joanne O' Riordan and many more. Transition year students were challenged to focus on their own leadership skills and organise a fundraiser. We are delighted to announce that €2340 was raised and we would like to say a big 'Thank You' to the school community for your generous donations. The school receives a certificate and trophy from Make-A-Wish for their successful completion of the Wish Leaders programme.

Gaisce Awards

We are delighted to announce that this year a record number of TY students took part in the president's award, Gaisce. 43 students completed various tasks linked to personal skills development, physical skills and community work to obtain the bronze medal. Congratulations to Ms. Bagnall for leading this project and helping so many students to achieve this excellent award. We hope the students continue with their activities and progress to their Silver and Gold Gaisce awards.



Barista Course

Students completed an introductory training course with the Dublin Barista School. This workshop introduced students to the coffee industry and focused on the background of coffee farming, coffee roasting, coffee brewing, the coffee industry in Ireland, and also coffee menus. Each student selected their favourite coffee beverage, observed a demonstration of how to make it, and had the opportunity to assist the barista in the making.



Magician Jack Wise

TY students took part in an online workshop with Magician Jack Wise. This energetic and entertaining workshop covered different techniques that students can use when speaking and performing in public. The workshop included an interactive magic and mind reading show, various ice-breaking activities, and presentational content to help with student confidence. Students also received a video link to a magic trick instructional video. We expect to see students taking to the stage for future performances in the school!

Urban Orienteering Activity

The transition years completed an urban orienteering activity as a team-building and bonding activity. Students took part in team-based activities which involved them navigating around the area near the school. Their mission was to find the location of 14 flags. Each team was equipped with a map of the area and received a briefing on navigation before departure. There were also some fun team-based games at the start of the event.

Dublin Youth Circus

Dublin Youth Circus arrived to the school to teach transition year students some tricks of the trade. The group took part in various activities to develop their hand-eye co-ordination, team skills and communication skills. Activities included juggling, skipping and hula hoop skills.

Reptile Visitors

The highlight for many TY students this year was the Dino Experience talk with Reptile Haven. Students took part in a wonderful workshop that taught them about various reptiles and included details about lifestyle, eating habits, pet care, defensive and protective abilities. Students got to interact with chameleons, lizards, a tegu, geckos and snakes.

Sustainability Project

Transition year students also completed a module on Food growing their own herbs to reduce food miles with Ms. Ward

Junk Kouture

Junk Kouture has been a different event this year as the online . Here are some of our students' excellent entries and their progress in the competition. Thank you to Ms. Moran for her guidance along the way.



Sustainability and

competition went we await news on

Online Courses

A huge thank you to Ms. Dunne for facilitating the participation of Transition Year students in numerous on-line courses throughout the year. Students in their end of year interviews acknowledged the variety of courses and great learning and skills acquisition from getting involved in the courses. As ever with Transition year, – you get out of it what you put in to it.

Sports Day For their final fun activity Transition years completed an 'Inflatable style' sports day. Students got involved in activities such as bubble football, inflatable boxing, gladiator and the wrecking ball.

Woodwork Projects Thank you to Mr. O'Connor for pictures of Junior Woodwork Projects.

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