

# *Newpark Newsletter*



Issue number 52, December 2017

# *The Principal Word*

*Mr Derek Lowry*

The content of this newsletter is testament to the involvement of students, staff and parents in so many different areas of school life. That sense of community is vital in delivering opportunities for students to learn both inside and outside the classroom. There are 863 students on the roll this year—probably the largest number ever. Students come into First Year from a very wide range of different backgrounds which have shaped their life experience. From the start all these students must learn to manage and cope in their day to day activities in a very new environment and culture. The adjustment is a slower process for some than others. It is important that students and parents are aware of the support that is available if there are any issues or difficulties. There are many opportunities for students to engage as fully as possible in school life. By making connections with those with common interests students broaden their circle of friends beyond those who from the same primary school or the same form. We are fortunate to have a wide range of extra-curricular activities thanks to the work of staff and the contribution of the parents/guardians and the PTA. First Year students are sometimes shy to get involved but in many areas it is not too late to start: check noticeboards and talk to those running activities to see what is available.

Each school year also brings its own challenges often because of factors outside the school's control. Last year ASTI industrial action had a significant impact on the roll-out of new Junior Cycle programmes. It also reduced the amount of time available for staff and parent teacher meetings. Thankfully these issues have been resolved for now so the implementation of the new Junior Cycle programme continues to be rolled out. This year First year students are following the new specifications in the following subjects: Art, Business, English, Irish, French, German and Science. The remaining subjects will be introduced over the next couple of years. We have also introduced new short courses in Digital Media and Literacy, RE, Philosophy and Artistic Performance. Another significant part of the new Junior Cycle is the focus on Wellbeing. This is a new area of learning which will be taught over the three years of Junior Cycle and will build on the work already being done in schools to support the wellbeing of students. While open to a broad interpretation, the main delivery of wellbeing will be through the areas of PE, SPHE and CSPE. Schools will be required to provide 300 hours over the three years from 2017 and from 2019 that requirement will increase to 400 hours. The provision of time for these subjects at present in the Junior Cycle is 374 hours so meeting the 400 hours requirement is well within the resources of the school to provide by 2019. But Wellbeing is about more than the hours devoted to certain subjects. It is about creating a culture where students have a sense of belonging to the school community, where there are opportunities to build good relationships and

realise their abilities, look after their physical well-being and cope with the normal stresses of life. As a school community this is something which we continue to value and strive to achieve.

This year the most difficult challenge to be faced at a school level has been in recruitment. It was possible to fill all full year contracts in all subjects at the start of the year, but much more difficult to fill temporary vacancies for maternity, parental and paternity leaves. The number of applicants for temporary vacancies has fallen hugely and in certain subjects it is impossible to find qualified teachers. The reasons for this include the move to a two-year post-graduate Masters in Education, the high cost of housing in the Dublin area, more attractive salaries in the IT industry and the strong marketing of jobs in the Middle East. All of these have contributed to the present crisis. It was not possible to fill the maternity leave position in Home Economics despite the position being advertised on five occasions. The last two advertisements yielded no applicants. By dividing up the position it has been possible to minimise the impact on students and we are very thankful to all those who helped to make this possible. This issue will have to be addressed seriously by the Department of Education level so that schools can provide continuity of teaching.

Due to the government moratorium imposed in 2009, the school has not been able to appoint a clerical officer when the previous incumbent retired. Therefore, for the past eight years the school has had to manage the office with a significant reduction in the manpower in the office. It is therefore important that staff, students and parent/guardians ensure that all interactions with the office are essential and could not be managed in alternative ways. It assists the school office greatly if all notes for appointments are written into the appropriate slip in the school journal and signed by the relevant form teacher. Many thanks to all the office and administration staff for their continued hard work in pressurised conditions.

Finally, I want to thank librarian Laura Martin for her dedicated and devoted service to the school over the past 29 years as she takes a well-earned rest following her decision to retire. In that time, she has ensured the library has been well stocked with large numbers of fiction and non fiction books. Since the *Book in the Bag* project started, Laura has (in consultation with the English Department) ensured a wide variety of age appropriate material has been available. The benefit of reading to the learning outcomes for students is well documented and Laura's work has added immeasurably to that. Laura has also run the school bookshop very efficiently providing a important service to parents/guardians over many years. Finally, for all major school events Laura has organised the sale and distribution of tickets in an extremely professional manner. We wish Laura all the best in her retirement.

After a busy term, I wish a very happy and restful Christmas and new year to all our Newpark community.

# Basketball

This year all teams are entered in two leagues: the Post Primary School Section run by Basketball Ireland and the South Dublin Basketball League. The calendar of matches is broken up into the following:

## September – January/February

Under 16 & 19 Boys and Girls competitions.

## January – April/May

First & Second Year Boys and Girls competitions.

Training schedule		
Monday	1st Year	Ms Steele
Tuesday	Under 16 and Second Year Girls	Ms Costello
Wednesday	Second Year Boys	Ms Delaney
Thursday	Under 16 and Senior Boys	Ms Delaney
Friday	Senior Girls	Ms O' Sullivan

Due to match deadlines some training sessions have had to be cancelled to accommodate match fixtures. The pool stages in U16 and 19 leagues are coming to an end. All teams have played with great determination and skill. All teams have portrayed excellent teamwork and leadership skills. The positivity and encouragement shown by all players is very heartening to see. Best of luck to all the teams as they hopefully progress to play-off stages.

## Under 19 Girls



This year in Basketball the u19 girls' team got off to a great start, with four wins and three losses. We came across tough competition and played our best in every match so far. We have played against Sion Hill, Columbus, Rathdown, Loreto Beaufort and Rockford Manor.

We also had a very tough match against old rivals Loreto Dalkey and beat them by a basket, scored by Angel Glynn, with a few seconds left on the clock. It was a very tense game and we were delighted to come away with the win.

We are all really enjoying this season and it's great for the 4th, 5th and 6th years to play together and build close friendships. Training is always great fun and there is great support within the team.

This year our coach is Ruth O'Sullivan who is honestly amazing and teaches us great drills. Overall the season so far has been fun, and I can't wait to play the rest of our matches and see how far we get in our leagues!

*Maia Flynn Barnes, 5th Year*

## Under 16 Girls

The girls are coached by Ms Costello alongside two fantastic community action helpers, Angel Glynn and Zara Drumm. Training happens on a Tuesday afternoon. The team always trains with passion and all players are very encouraging towards each other. There is a great level of fun at training. New players are always welcome.

The girls have played many games so far, this year. They have been captained by the talented and passionate player Eva De Freine. The girls have played with great skill, positivity and passion. With continued practice and commitment these players will reach new levels of success.

In the PPSC league the team has faced tough competition from the following schools: Rathdown, Rockford Manor, Loreto Dalkey, and Sion Hill. In the SDBL the girls have played: Columbus, Dalkey, Beaufort and Teresians.

Best of luck to all involved in the play-off stages.

## Second Year Girls



The Second-year girls are training away now on Tuesday afternoons. At present they haven't played any games as their league doesn't start until January. The

players have shown great commitment, enthusiasm and skill at training. They are always eager to learn new things. Best of luck to all the players involved.

*Ms Costello*

## Under 16 & 19 Boys

U16 and U19 Newpark Boys basketball have had a busy and energising season so far, this year. Being entered into the East Schools League alongside the South Dublin Basketball League has made for a flurry of games right off the bat.

In the East Schools League they first met Ballinteer in an away game. The U16s held their own for the most part, before succumbing to a strong Ballinteer side. They took this as a learning curve, it being their first competitive match as a team. The U19s narrowly lost out by one basket after holding the lead throughout. Both were well matched sides, and if they got another shot at each other, the outcome could be different. Even though timekeeping was an issue on the day, the boys took their defeat and learned from it.

Meeting Stratford College was an entirely different story. Winning out in both grades with high scores, the match didn't give Newpark enough of a contest. It did however, give them time to work on their defence and set up offence. This game showed a masterclass in how cohesive and talented the Newpark boys really are.

On a nervous bus journey out of South Dublin (Reminder—look at a map of Dublin), Newpark U19s met Greenhills College in a very physical game. The court was small, and an abundance of fouls made it quite difficult for Newpark to play their open, fluid style of basketball. It did give them a sense of grit and strength, most notably shown in Max's rugby tackle to the floor. The ref barely let him play on!

U16s weathered Storm Ophelia to make it back to school to enjoy a victory over CBC Monkstown. Their exhibition of skill and style in the game only solidified their work rate as a team and the benefit of training with the seniors.

Newpark U19s faced a playoff game against Colaiste Dhulaigh which they confidently won which puts them through to a quarter final to be confirmed against Hartstown. U16s playoff didn't go quite as well as they narrowly lost out to St. Tiernans in a high intensity game.

The SDBL campaign is currently running with both teams on one defeat to a very strong St. Andrews side. Senior players were in short numbers for this game and need to be commended for their sheer willpower and stamina as they fought a hard battle. Both teams are due to meet the rest of the pool groups in the next two weeks.

Within the senior set up, the four experienced Sixth Years, Steven, Bharath, Aido and Charles, exhibit great dedication, determination and huge maturity in their discipline and behaviour on and off the court. Dillon, Liam, Max and Kyle, our Transition Year contingent, and Tadhg, our only Third Year, have made massive strides in reaching senior standards, building on personal confidence and holding their own against students far closer to the U19 age cap than them.

The U16s have great leadership in the most senior members and duel players Liam, Kyle and Tadhg. There are a strong cohort of Third Year students who are getting used to playing with one another and with every game have become more vocal and positive on the court. Michael, Denis and Alex are under the basket, passing and receiving from Joel, Moh', and Aiden outside. Second Years Cyron and Ethan have been a huge addition to this side and have embraced and mastered playing up a grade. With every game, they get stronger, more confident in their abilities, and more skilled at the game. *Ms Delaney*

### **Second Year Boys**

The Second Year Boys are lurking in the shadows, waiting for their moment to shine. Although games don't start till after Christmas, they are already proficient in the game context and will prove a hard side to beat. Best of luck.

### **First Year Boys & Girls**

The First Years are training well and are eager to start the league which begins after Christmas. The girls especially need some more players as currently we can't enter a team into the league unless we get a few more. Please join!! Training is on Mondays: Girls 4 - 5pm and Boys 5 - 6pm. They're having lots of fun and are

4 getting stronger and fitter each week! *Ms Steele*

## **East Schools League Final**

**11th December**

On a frosty December morning, the u19 squad braved the elements to journey to the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght. The mood in the camp was calm and the opportunity to grace the court in the Arena was wholly embraced. The Newpark v Ballinteer game was the first of many finals that day and the early start was the first obstacle.

The two sides had met early in the season with Ballinteer edging out on top. It was a well matched game that could have gone either way. Unfortunately, Newpark were not to be the victors. It was a gut wrenching game for the Newpark team, as frustratingly, countless baskets fell short. Work rate was at a premium and the senior members of the squad really stepped up. They were doing everything right bar sealing the scores.

What really made this a momentous occasion for the school was having a crowd of supporters with us—supporters that journeyed early to school to make the teams experience a significant one. It was brilliant to look around the arena and see crowds of students cheering on our team. The squad were ever gracious in defeat and their characters were duly highlighted as great sportspeople and fine young men.

They sported a great season and are still contenders in the South Dublin Basketball League in the New Year.

*Ms. Delaney*



## Coolmine Swim Gala



The day had a rocky start—literally... We were on the way to Coolmine when the bus started to shake violently until it shuddered to a halt. The bus driver whipped out a sweeping brush and with all his efforts and prodding and poking at engine parts, he couldn't bring the bus back to life.

After a short walk to the nearest hotel, we waited in a room off the reception until the next bus arrived and we were on the road towards Coolmine Swimming pool. We arrived in good time and the swim races began.

Newpark won eighteen gold medals, six silver medals and three bronze medals out of a total of thirty two events. It was a really enjoyable day despite the bus mishap. Everyone had fun and did their best. The competitors will continue to train using the morning and Wednesday afternoon swims and even the participation in the mile challenge. We are looking forward to our next gala in February.

*Una Luce McKenna, Erin Adams and Laura Fahy, 1st year*

## First Year Swimming Gala



school. We were delighted with the numbers who signed up.

On the day of the swimming gala we set up the tables and chairs and the speakers on the pool deck.. All the first years who were not swimming came in and sat up on the spectating area.. Along came the teachers and the place was packed .

The atmosphere was electric. The first years were cheering on their favourite swimmers and everyone was bopping along to the music.

We all had our own jobs to do. Courtney and I sat at the tables on the pool deck and took down the names and times of the swimmers in each heat. We had the front-stroke, the breast-stroke, back-stroke, front crawl, and the relays. Everyone did so well in the races and we were delighted the event was so successful. We would like to thank Ms Brennan and all who helped us organise the event

Thank you to everyone for participating in the Swimming Gala. We really enjoyed the day and hope the First Years did too.

*LCA Class*

The LCA Class were delighted to organise the first year swimming gala again this year. Firstly we went around to all the first year classes to get the names of those interested in participating in the swimming gala.

We then made posters about the swimming gala. and put them up on the notice boards around the

## Athletics

### Community and Comprehensive Cross-Country



#### Phoenix Park – Thursday 26th October 2017

On the morning of Thursday 26th October, twenty-five Newpark students from 1st-4th year travelled to the Papal Cross in the Phoenix Park to participate in our first cross-country event of the year. It was a dull day but the rain stayed away just long enough to keep us dry.

Newpark was represented in eight races during the day. First we had the 1st year boys (A and B) and girls. There were very large numbers competing in each race and all our 1st years did extremely well. Big congratulations to Hugh Kelly who came third out of over a hundred competitors in his 1st year boys A race and to Hannah Foot who came sixth in her 1st year girls A race.

The 2nd years were next, closely followed by the 3rd year boys. Well done to Hugh Larsen in 3rd year who came second in his 3rd year boys race.

The final races of the day were the senior boys and girls. Well done to Oisin Kelly who came 3rd in the senior boys race.

A fantastic day was had by all. Well done to all the students that participated!

*Ryan Brady 1RS, Emmet Hodkinson 1LA, and Daragh Grogan 1RS*



On the 26th of October twenty four representatives from Newpark Comprehensive School competed in a cross country event in the Phoenix Park (Micheal D Higgins' back garden!).

There were races ranging in length between 1.1 -3.3km. Some high finishers for Newpark were Hugh Kelly, Hugh Larsen, Oisin Kelly and Hannah Foot. Multiple schools submitted their representatives to compete against each other. In each race there were roughly one hundred runners.



Gianni Giovani, Maxim Mullet, Jarvis Hodkinson, and Fionn Jordan, 2AL

In the Newpark first year teams nobody finished under the fiftieth position. Throughout the races people fell, tripped and dropped out but no participant from Newpark did.

Overall it was a great day and we would love to go again.

### Blackrock College Cross Country Invitational

**Wednesday 3rd November, 2017**

On the bright morning of the 8th of November, fifteen students accompanied by Ms Anderson and Ms Colin participated in The Blackrock College Cross Country Invitational. The event commenced with the

## Hockey



minor races in which fourteen first and second years took part. The boys ran first with Fionn Jordan and Hugh Kelly finishing with a competitive time. Jake Brennan and Jacob Llewellyn quickly followed. Jack Duffy, Daragh Grogan, and Emmet Hodgkinson showed great team spirit completing the race close together. Jarvis Hodgkinson, Joey Walsh, Ryan Brady and Maxim Mullet finished strongly by sprinting up the hill to the finish line

Soon it was time for the whistle to blow again and the minor girls were off. Sophie McEvoy and Maeve Farragher used their experience to their advantage and paced themselves well. Cerys Hanlon showed great determination in finishing her first cross country race.

The group then gathered to cheer on Alex Ainsworth in the junior race. Alex had a great start and maintained his position throughout the race to finish in 8th place. It was a very successful event as the students had the chance to participate in competitive cross country running, keep active and make new friends.

Cross-country training takes place every Wednesday morning 7:45-8:15 – meet outside the Sports Centre.

*Ms Anderson & Ms Colin*

On the 8th of November we went to a cross country event in Blackrock College. We walked from Newpark to the event. Our minor boys' race started at 10:10. We ran 1.8 km which was one and a half laps of the rugby pitches. The first to finish from Newpark was Hugh Kelly who came 29th out of 160 people. Everyone else finished in the top half.

There were also three girls who entered in the minor girls' race. Alex Ainsworth came eighth in the junior boys.

We had a great time although we were very tired walking back to Newpark. We got back at 12:30. We were glad we did it and we would encourage as many people as possible to do cross country.



### Junior Girls

The Newpark junior team had a great season last year winning the Southside league and the Leinster league. We are off to another good start this year, and two of our players, Milly Lynch and Zoe Watterson, have made the

Leinster squad. Congratulations to them!

We have two teams this year as new girls have joined. The A team have been promoted into the premier league so we are facing more challenging opposition. We have a new coach this year, Simon Lowry, who coaches alongside Anna Richardson. In our tactics sessions with Anna we have been talking a lot about team culture and how we want to improve as a team.

We hope to improve even more and win the premier league final and the junior cup!

*Lily Bennett & Muireann Ní Dhrisceoil*

### Minor Girls

The minor second year girls have started this year with a good core team from first year and some new team mates. This year we are playing in the premier league because last year's minors won the Leinster league.

With the team also playing eleven-a-side full pitch hockey, it has been a challenge to adapt to the intensity of the hockey in this league.

However our team is fortunate to be coached by Simon Lowry who has already achieved a lot within hockey—he coached the Leinster U18s that won the Interpros this year. We have already learned a lot since the start of the season, particularly when it comes to formation and tactics.

The start of the season has been tough for both the A and B teams, with some unlucky losses, but we are still very excited and committed and hope to start our winning streak soon!

*Dara Rankin & Abby Whelan*

## Newparkers Shine in Leinster Blue



*Newpark has been represented this year in Leinster hockey and rugby this year with seven students playing for the province.*

*Congratulations to*

*Oisín O'Sullivan, Luis Faria, David Murphy, Zoe Watterson, Matthew Jungmann, Luke Adams, Millie Lynch and Ewan Ramsay.*

### Leinster Rugby

Two years ago, Luis Faria, David Murphy and Matthew Jungmann were selected for Leinster Metros (one of the five Leinster district U16 teams). At the beginning of summer 2017 they were chosen when the five teams combined to form the Leinster Clubs U18 squad preparing for the Interprovincial matches at the end of the summer. They began a lengthy trial period where they were matched up against some of the best club players from around the province.

The spring/summer training programme was intensive with three lengthy sessions every week including pitch, gym and video sessions. They also had to take part in anti-doping and nutrition workshops. After a gruelling summer, the squad of 28 for the interpros was chosen and all three players made the cut.

In the run-up, the squad played Sale Sharks, Blackrock College SCT, Belvedere SCT and Irish Exiles in preliminary matches. All three boys started against Ulster but unluckily David Murphy got injured in the first half. Both Matthew and Luis played Connaught in The Sportsground, Galway, but the Newpark curse continued with Matthew dislocating his collarbone in the second half. The championship came down to the final match in Donnybrook Stadium against Munster. Although

Luis played a blinder, Leinster lost the game and the championship to Munster by only a few points.

David Murphy will take part in the U17 squad again this year, with Luis Faria and Matthew Jungmann now in the gruelling training and selection phase as the Leinster Clubs team and the Leinster Schools team amalgamate to form a single Leinster squad. Congratulations to all three on their success and best of luck for the upcoming year.

### Leinster U16 Girls' Hockey

On the 19th October 2017, myself and Zoë Watterson travelled to Belfast with the Leinster U16s to participate in the Interprovincials. This is a hockey tournament with Ulster, South-East Leinster, Munster, Connacht and Leinster all competing against each other. It consists of four games in three days.

On Friday 20th we played Connacht beating them 3-0, then on the Saturday we had two games, playing South-East Leinster who we beat 4-0 and then onto Ulster who we beat 3-0. Regardless of the score these games were very tight and pushed all teams to the limits. Sunday was the deciding game, we needed to draw or win to take the title. The final score was 2-1 to Leinster which meant Leinster won the title for the fourth time in five years. I enjoyed my experience with the U16'S greatly.



A few days later after, Zoë and I got an email from Hockey Ireland inviting us to trial for the U16s Irish team. We have three more trials from now till Christmas. We greatly appreciate the work the hockey committee puts in at Newpark; we wouldn't be where we are now if it wasn't for them.

*Millie Lynch & Zoë Watterson*

## Leinster U18 Boys' Hockey 22nd –24th September

Over three days in September (22nd-24th) the Under 16 and Under 18 boys hockey interprovincials took place. The trials began in May and those of us in Newpark who were selected got a wonderful surprise, when we learnt the Leinster head coach would be our school coach and past pupil Simon Lowry.

Five Newparkers were doing the trials and the process took the whole summer, a team of eighteen were chosen in late August. I was euphoric when I heard I made the Leinster squad as I hadn't made the U16s. Ewan Ramsay, Luke Adams and myself got on the team, unfortunately Evan Rankin and Ben Schutte missed out.

We then trained for the month of September which is an awfully short time to get a team oiled, smooth and ready to play the other teams. The interpros were held in Leinster this year so a win at home was on the cards for us.

We played twice on the Friday, beating Munster and drawing to Ulster later on in the day. Ulster then beat Munster on the Saturday, which meant the deciding match would be our second encounter with the northerners. And... we lost. We were devastated but had to hope Munster would beat Ulster the following day.

On the Sunday, while we were having lunch in the hotel we got word that Munster had beaten Ulster and we went crazy; we only had to win by three goals or more to win the interpros.

We arrived completely focused, had the most rousing team talk I've ever experienced and we went out there raring to go. We fired three goals past them but with ten minutes to go they got a penalty stroke, and scored it—meaning we had to score another goal.

Four minutes to go and we win a short corner. WE SCORE and go wild, only to calm ourselves back down and to keep our cool for the last couple of minutes. Those minutes agonisingly pass until the hooter was finally blown. Some players on our team had tried for four years to win an interpro title: we were all ecstatic.

It was three days where some superb hockey was played. A huge thank you goes to Simon and Ben Melvin (another past pupil) our incredible physio, as well as the rest of the coaching staff. The future of Newpark hockey is in bright hands.

*Oisín O'Sullivan, Ewan Ramsay and Luke Adams*

## Senior Rugby Final



On the 5th of December the Newpark Senior Rugby team beat St Patricks Classical School, Navan, 43-31 in an extremely exciting and entertaining final. As a player it was an absolutely amazing experience to share with the boys and we will remember it for a very long time.

We started off this season with a lot to prove to ourselves, our school and other schools in the competition. I remember very early on in the year after training for the last month of summer, Mr Lennon called in the whole squad to talk about what we wanted to represent within our school and for ourselves, what were our goals for the season and what we wanted to achieve. We all believed, in full confidence, that if we worked hard and dedicated ourselves to the team, we would win the league. When the day finally came after beating The High School in a tense semi-final, the boys were ready.

There was a real excitement in the school in the early hours of the day and it's safe to say the nerves were starting to fester on what seemed to be a very long bus journey to Donnybrook. That all changed once we stepped off the bus at Donnybrook stadium, which was thanks to Mr Lennon getting us to train on the Donnybrook pitch the day before, making it familiar place. In the changing rooms before the warm-up we were all getting ready and strapped up when the big man had another trick up his sleeve. In walks Ireland and Leinster prop forward Cian Healy to give

us a few words before the big game (thanks to Josh's dad for organizing this). It was pretty surreal and I even think a couple of the boys (Linnane) were close to tears. After the warm up we came back into the changing rooms where Len and our captain Luis Faria gave a few words before we headed out for the start of the game.

We knew that this game was going to be physical and we had to hit hard in the first ten minutes. Then, to set an example as our captain, Luis Faria



made a huge tackle on their Inside centre, which resulted in their player going off injured within the first five minutes of the game. This really boosted everyone's confidence and made for a cracking first half.

We started the scoring with tries from Luis Faria(2), Leon Gallagher, Olly Flitcroft. Tano broke from inside his own 22m line and passed to Luis who ran from 50m under the posts. Navan were hitting back with plenty of penalties due to our lack of discipline.

Navan were quite a force once they got into our 22 and replied with two good scores. However at half time we felt comfortable with a 26-17 lead, with



our tries being converted by the younger (and better looking!) of the Faria brothers, Caetano Faria. But we all knew not to lose our heads and treated the second half as if the scores were tied. With an early try from



David Murphy, and then another from Ben McCarthy we dragged the score out to 38-17. However with fifteen minutes to go Navan came back with some quick scores and with David Murphy in the sin bin for some poor discipline Navan got the score back to 38-31. In a tense finale Josh Whelan crashed over the line creating a final score of 42-31.

After a very tense and great game of rugby, we were the victors and celebrated with food given to us by Old Wesley RFC in their clubhouse which we all appreciated very much. The game came down to great work rate, strength, big hits and then great hands out wide where all our moves paid off—but the league win came down to hard hours in training, stormy days down in the Rockies on a Wednesday afternoon playing in the mud and rain and finally a very skilful team with great comradeship and brotherhood among the boys. Most importantly we couldn't have done it without the world-class coaching that we get from Morgan Lennon who dedicates a lot of time and effort to all of us, and who always made sure that at the end

of the day (after the hardcore fitness and contact drills) we all had fun and believed in ourselves from the start.

It was really great to be part of a winning Newpark team as a lot of the players have had heartbreaks at Donnybrook in the past. We set out to show everyone that we are a serious rugby team and have great potential and hopefully we can serve as a mark for the younger generations. The bond from the younger lads in 4th year to the senior players in 6th year has been great and has resulted in a great friendship and trust among all of the group. I think being in a such a tight unit is what got us over the line.

It was a great game and a really great experience to win this league and to earn the respect as a Senior Rugby Team in Newpark. We would like to thank the support given to us by Mr. Lowry, Mr. Cookman and especially Mr Adams. We would also like to thank everyone who made the effort to come to the final on Tuesday, parents, teachers, and students it makes a real difference. We hope to see all the supporters back again for the Vinnie Murray first round after Christmas.

*Jonah Rennicks*



# Irish Life Healthy Schools Fitness Challenge



## So what is it?

"Since 2013, the Schools' Fitness Challenge has helped Irish students become fitter, faster and more energetic. The Schools' Fitness Challenge invites secondary schools throughout the country to join us in highlighting the importance of fitness to our future health and to make increasing physical activity a national priority. At Irish Life Health, our aim is that young people will adopt a healthier and more active lifestyle, which will positively benefit their long term health."



## How was Newpark involved?

Newpark, for the second year running, has become the poster school for the Irish Life Healthy Schools Fitness Challenge. After the success of last years campaign, it was a great honour for the school to be chosen again. Newpark students' participation, performance and improvements in the Bleep Test are what caught the attention of the team. Ms. Ormonde's trojan work in registering, implementing and recording the data and indeed, the entire programme, needs to be commended here.

## What did this entail?

Six students ranging from first to fifth year were chosen to be the cover poster for the national campaign. They had to partake in a professional



photoshoot, including action shots, of several sports played in Newpark, from rugby to basketball to hockey. The students endured the elements out on the astro until the perfect shots were taken!

## Who else was there?

Students were joined by Irish athlete Thomas Barr (4th in 2016 Rio Olympics final for 400m hurdles), Professor Niall Moyna, Dr. Sarah Kelly (both DCU) and Professor Craig Williams (University of Exeter). Pupils and Ms. Delaney were also interviewed by Irish Times journalist Sheila Wayman about Physical Education in Schools, their thoughts on the curriculum, how it is implemented in schools and how they can lead a healthy and active life.

## Where can we see them?

Michael Hall, Ava Paul, Eva de Freine, Oran O'Sullivan, Dara Rankin and Ayo Adebisi are the homepage of Irish Life Health online and were seen in the Irish Independent, Thomas Barr's Facebook and Instagram account alongside a great spread in The Irish Times.

## What now?

Since 2013, over 120,000 secondary school children from all over Ireland have participated in the Schools Fitness Challenge. Each year, that number is increasing and levels of fitness for each school have been steadily improving. Keep up the physical activity!! Even if it is just something small! Get out, get active and get fit!

## Irish Life Health Combined Indoor Athletics

On Tuesday the 24th of October, Maeve Farragher and myself travelled to the indoor arena in Abbotstown, Dublin. We entered a number of events such as long jump, 60m hurdles, shot putt, 200m and 800m. We enjoyed competing against other students from schools in the Leinster region. While I found some of the events challenging, I really enjoyed running in the 200metres and came third in my heat.

This is the first competition for schools athletics.

*Oscar Comerford, 1SH*

## Science Week 2017



*Science Week was a great success again at Newpark this year with a great turnout for lectures by visiting speakers, the Junior and Senior Science quizzes and the fancy dress competition (the turtle was robbed...!). The First Years had a fantastic day in Belfast at W5 too.*

### Dr Simon Rowan: Physiologist



On Monday 13th November, Dr Simon Rowan from the Conway Institute in UCD came in to talk to the 5th years about his area of research and careers in Science. His talk was very engaging and there were lots of questions from the audience. Dr Rowan is a respiratory physiologist that specialises in prolonging the life of donor lungs for transplant to improve the success rate of the procedure. He also spoke about respiratory diseases such as COPD and asthma and highlighted the risks of smoking and vaping.

We are very grateful to Dr Rowan for giving up his time to come into Newpark - the talk was a great start to Science Week 2017!

### Dr Parvaneh Mokarian

As part of Science Week 2017, we were delighted to host Dr Parvaneh Mokarian from the Advanced Materials and Bio-Engineering Research Centre (AMBER) and CRANN Trinity College Dublin.

She gave a talk to 6th year students on her experience as a woman in science. Dr Mokarian is originally from Iran but has been living in Ireland for several years. Her team are currently working in

nanotechnology and practical applications of nanostructures. Nanotechnology is technology at a very tiny size.

Her team have received 8.3 million euro in funding. They have designed and produced a non-reflective nanostructure. There are several possible applications for this technology including non-reflective screens for mobile phones and computers. She hopes to launch her own start up business producing this technology next year.

Her final message to the group was: that to have a career in STEM, it doesn't matter if you are a woman or a man! Try to be the best of you in whatever you do, and you will become successful, whatever you are!



## Gaeilge 24



Beatha Teanga é a Labhairt.

Gaeilge a bhí le cloisteáil timpeall na scoile arís ag tus mí na Samhna.

Bhí Gaeilge 24 ar siúl fud fad

na tíre ar an Máirt, 14 Samhain 2017.

Anseo i Scoil Chuimsitheach na Páirce Nua, chaitheamar na t-léinte- an bhfaca sibh an t-Uasal Lowry?, labhraíomar Gaeilge le chéile, d'fhéachamar ar ghearrscannán i nGaeilge- “an bhfuil tusa ag labhairt liomsa?” Is brea liom Yu Ming!, chrochamar póistéir ar bhallaí na scoile, agus d'éisteamar le seisiúin ceoil den scoth , a bhuí leis na gceolteoirí Mr. O' Neill, Mr. Quigley, Pam Paus, agus Louis an fear fuaime.

Beidh Bliain na Gaeilge ar siúl i 2018, agus táimid go léir ag tnúth leis an tSeachtain na Gaeilge is fearr dá raibh againn riamh.

Céilí éinne?

*Ms. Ní Laoghaire*

## Colaiste na bhFiann

An bhliain seo caite, bhuaigh mé scoláireacht chun trí seachtaine i rith an tsamhradh a chaitheamh i gColaiste na bhFiann I Ros Muc i gcontae na Gaillimhe.

Bhí an cúrsa go dian mar bheadh ort dul abhaile dá ndéarfadh tú abairt as Béarla, agus bhí ort , mar shampla, ainmneacha scannáin a rá as Gaeilge freisin, mar sin bhí Toy Story "scéal bréagáin."

Chaitheamar na trí seachtaine go príomha ag foghlaim gramadaí, ag imirt cluiche spóirt agus ag rince, ach uaireanta chuamar go dtí an trá, agus uair amháin thugamar cuairt ar theach an Phiarsaigh (ach níl ach ar feadh noiméad amháin, mar ní raibh ach seachtar againn ábalta dul isteach ag an am céanna, agus bhí céad daichead is a cúig daoine ag déanamh an chúrsa).

Chuir an taithí feabhas ar mo scileanna Gaeilge agus chuir mé aithne ar roinnt daoine iontacha.

Tugaim a bhuí leis an mBord Bainistaíochta agus Ms. Ní Laoghaire as é a eagrú, mar bhí an taithí cosúil le brontannas ó Dia.

Last year I won a scholarship to spend three weeks

over the summer in Coláiste na bhFiann in Rosmuc in the west of county Galway.

The course was strict in that you had to go home if you said one sentence in English, and you had to, for example, say film names in Irish, so Toy Story was "scéal breagáin."

We spent the three weeks mostly learning grammar, playing sport and dancing, but sometimes we went to the beach, and once we visited Pearse's cottage (but only for one minute because only seven of us could fit in at the same time and one hundred and forty-five people were doing the course).

The experience improved my Irish skills, and I got to know some great people.

I thank the Bord of Management and Ms. Ní Laoghaire for organising the scholarship, because the experience was like a gift from God.

*Thomas Morelli. Bliain a 6*



## An Scoláireacht: Coláiste na bhFiann

Bhuaigh mé scoláireacht go dtí Coláiste na bhFiann- Chuaigh mé go dtí Gaoth Dobhair Óg.

Ar an gcéad lá, rinneamar cluichí agus bhíomar ag caint le chéile. Bhí ranganna gach maidin, go dtí a haon a chlog.

Um trathnóna, rinneamar cluichí, spóirt agus chuamar go dtí an trá. San oíche, tar éis dinnéir, bhí céilí againn le téama áirithe. Ghlacamar páirt i Seó Tallúin chomh maith. D'fhoghláomar amhráin as Gaeilge.

Ag deireadh an chúrsa, chuireamar seó deiridh ar an ardán do na thuismitheoirí. Bhí an Ghaeltacht anspraoiúil agus d'fhoghlaim mé a lán Gaeilge.

*Zoe Burgess, Bliain a 3*

## Buaiteoirí na Scoláireachtaí Ghaeilge 2017/18



*R. Ní Laoghaire, An t-Uasal Lowry, Theo Killen, Ciaran Kelly, Alexandra Stewart Miller, F. Ní Fhaoláin.*



### TY German Exchange

My German class were very privileged to be given the opportunity to host a German student

from Arndt Gymnasium in Berlin.

My German student arrived on a Saturday evening at 8.30. We greeted our German students at the airport as they arrived.

Mine was called Niels. He was a nice guy and we became good friends. Unfortunately, we were stuck inside for all of Monday because of Storm Ophelia so we played monopoly. On Tuesday evening we went bowling which was really fun and they came to school with us on Wednesday and enjoyed all of the fun activities TY had to offer, for example Neils and I played tennis. On Thursday and Friday, they went around Dublin and Howth, with their own German teachers who had accompanied them over, which I believe they enjoyed. They went home on Saturday morning.

Overall I really enjoyed hosting a German student and cannot wait too return to Germany in March 2018 to see them.

## How Many Languages are Spoken in Newpark?



This was the question that set us off on an interesting project recently. It was the European Day of Languages that got us wondering, so Ms French's language classes teamed up with Ms Whelan's TY Maths class and Mr Byrne's film students to find out. Ms French's class carried out a survey, handed it to Ms Whelan's Maths class who crunched the numbers, and then it was over to Mr Byrne's film crew.



Tadhg McDonogh-Cunningham of 5th year (who did film with Mr Byrne in TY) took the project on and brought it to a whole other level, filming all of our multi-lingual students saying 'Welcome to Newpark' in their various languages. He then edited the piece and made it into a really beautiful celebration of the rich diversity that we are lucky enough to live every day in Newpark.



If you haven't seen the film, check it out on the school website – you'll probably recognise a few familiar faces. And the answer to the question, by the way, is 35!

*Ms. French*

## Newpark, 20 ans après!

I first came to Newpark in 1995, appointed by the French Department of Education to take part in the setting up of what was called at the time the “Bilingual Section”. I spent two years in the school, discovering a different schooling system as well as my job as a teacher, as it was my first teaching experience.

When I left in 1997, twenty years ago (!), the people of Newpark (students and staff) had turned me into a different person.

I loved this experience at the time and I kept in touch with some of the staff. So, when the project came up for my school in France to find a partner school in an English speaking country, I thought Newpark would be the perfect place because, despite the big changes, the spirit, the values and the way of working of the school remain. So I asked to come back to try to organize different types of exchanges. I was warmly welcomed and I spent two weeks in the school before



Obviously the people have changed. Thousands of students have left Newpark since 1997, and year after year young people change. You can't teach and educate today as we did in the late nineties. The staff have also changed a lot and what struck me when I walked into the staffroom was the number of young teachers. It can't only be me getting old! Some of these are even past students that I met 20 years ago.

The management has changed also. Back in 1995 Derek West was principal (he started the bilingual section), and Derek Langran deputy principal. Derek Lowry and Mark Cookman were teachers then but my best memories of them are from the sports fields.

Derek was a calm sweeper in the five-a-side we played every week in the gym. He wasn't the fastest on the ground but he was always organizing his team's game from the back, always looking for the good pass like an Irish Beckenbauer! He surely uses the same qualities to lead today.

Mark was the coach of the Senior Hockey team that won every title in Ireland and even reached the final of the European Schoolboys' Cup. He helped youngsters at the time to succeed and build their skills and self-confidence, the dream of all teachers. I found him during my recent stay to be like a “teacher whisperer”, organizing the school day after day.

And last but not least, the facilities have changed a lot. Twenty years ago the hockey pitch was a field of sad black grey sand, it's now a nice-looking and convenient astro-turf pitch. But obviously the biggest evolution is the main school building. The new one is amazing, very efficient for bringing so many people to work in a wide range of activities and also very pleasant for the everyday life of the school community. It immediately gives you a feel-good impression when you walk in.

...*Plus c'est la même chose* (...the more it remains the same.)

In fact the school hasn't changed much.

I'm glad the Red Brick building was kept; it gives a “vintage touch” to the school and reminds everybody, (along with the pictures in the new building) that the school has a strong history.

Moreover the school philosophy remains.

There is still an impressive amount of varied subjects taught and the number of projects and outside-classroom activities is always amazing. In Newpark everything is done in a very practical way; the students are active and I think they learn well and it builds their



mid-term in October with a French colleague.

My impression is that in spite of appearances Newpark isn't that different from twenty years ago. As the French expression goes: *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*.

*Plus ça change...* (The more things change...)

self-confidence. Above all, members of staff (teachers and others) and students seem to be committed to the school, surely something essential for success.

Of course the school could improve in various areas but the impression it gives from an external point of view is that it's a well-run school, with strong roots, where it's very nice to work and grow.

I was very happy to come back and I would like to say MERCI to everybody for the welcome. I hope this is only the first step to a good link with the Lycée Argouges in Grenoble where I work, as the project is to organize exchanges for senior students. I'm looking forward to it and want to make sure not to wait until the year 2037 to come back again!

*M. Olivier Motte*



## Newpark Links with Lycée Argouges in Grenoble

As a result of Olivier's return visit to Newpark we are setting up a proper link between our schools. We hope to offer 4th and 5th years the chance to organise individual exchanges with students from Olivier's school in Grenoble, a beautiful part of the world in the French Alps.

The idea is that we would match you up with a student from Grenoble, and then you would organise with them when you would go to stay with them, and when they would come to stay with you.

This would be an individual exchange, not in a group, so as to maximise the language learning benefit. It may be possible for you to go to school with them for a few days, and for them to come with you to Newpark, depending on the dates.

If any students in the current 3rd, 4th or 5th year would be interested, please contact Ms French ([susan.french@newparkschool.ie](mailto:susan.french@newparkschool.ie)) for more details.

*Ms Susi French*

## Techsperts



Techsperts is a programme run by the organisation, Age Action Ireland which helps elderly people become more technologically inclined. As students, we volunteer our time to teach elderly people how to use their smartphones, iPads, tablets and laptops.

The elderly people don't always come to just learn technology, they come for a bit of company and to get out of the house as some may be living alone. In module 1, I had the privilege of getting the opportunity to get involved in Techsperts. Myself and my friend Nathan got paired together and we were put with a lovely woman named Agnes. I loved working with Agnes and Wednesday's were the highlight of my week.

In the room where we did Techsperts, there was always such a pleasant and positive atmosphere. We taught Agnes things like setting up an email account, downloading apps and online shopping. In one of the classes we showed her Google Earth. This is a website where you can search anywhere in the world. Agnes said she always wanted to go to the Seychelles, so we searched it on Google Earth and she was just in such amazement at the capability of the internet! Techsperts was such a fulfilling experience! It taught me how to communicate with people of an older generation and it taught me how to be a more patient person.

It was such a wonderful opportunity and I think anyone who gets this opportunity should take it with open arms! I truly enjoyed every minute of it. I've made a new friend out of it and we're going to keep in touch!

**TY TEAM**



## Model United Nations Terenure



For those unaware, Model United Nations (MUN) is basically a simulation of the real thing, complete with working committees, a General Assembly, security and media personnel ... Everything! Essentially it is your average English class debating with five times the formality! It encourages young people to understand the important work the UN does around the world and allows them to come up with ideas and solutions (through resolutions) to solve world issues.

From the first Model United Nations conference Newpark attended in 2015, the Newpark MUN group has grown into a group discussing world issues and sharing interesting and relevant solutions. Terenure MUN on September 29 and 30 was the first in a series of conferences this year. Here's how it went!

This year, Newpark represented Egypt and France in different committees, ranging from discussing responses to global response to terrorism and human rights abuses to North Korean aggression and solving global warming effects. As a first timer in this type of conference, I didn't know what to expect (even though I had done my preparation). On Friday, Terenure College was rocking with an opening performance by Terenure's school band, *Glorified Noise*, and then before we knew it, we were in our committees!

The debate structure is formal, overseen by chair people who control the session. If your country is one of the Big Five and you're talking about responses to terrorism, the pressure is through the roof! The room is packed with all sorts of delegates, from students doing political studies all the way down to very good public speakers and new delegates excited to share their ideas with their committee. At the end, the individual committees submit a resolution to the big debate in the General Assembly (GA) on Saturday. In this format, delegates from each country come together in teams to add amendments and work to have their resolutions adopted by the MUN.

At the end of the conference, Newpark won two Distinguished Delegate awards for Lorcan Kelly

and Polly Paul, 6th Year for their work on Security Council. As for us new delegates, we experienced what such formal debating looks and feels like, and will build up confidence in future conferences. MUN brings young people to discuss world issues that will affect them in the near future, and I highly encourage other people with interests in debating from 3rd Year onwards to come along! You not only get to meet new friends from other age groups both in Newpark and elsewhere. You also get to send your very own 'minions' with any notes or messages to fellow delegates (as it is not permitted to shout across the room), making you, in a sense, powerful!

Thanks to our director Ms Odongo for organising this event. If you are interested, come along in one of the meetings and have a go! *Shawn Lorenzo, 3CBR*

## Model United Nation Croydon, London

We (the delegation of Democratic Republic of Congo) travelled over to Royal Russell School in Croydon outside London to take part in RRSIMUN (Royal Russell School International Model United Nations). We left on Dublin airport at 7am on Saturday 14th October, we arrived at Dublin airport at 7 am and arrived in Gatwick later that morning. We went straight to our hotel, Premier Inn, and we got ready straight away and walked up the massive hill and oh god yeah it was long!!!

We strolled into the school and got lost within the first five minutes of being there as the school was like Hogwarts. We then moved to our committee rooms which were all around the school grounds. We were in six committees: Sochum1 and Sochum2 (Social Cultural and Humanitarian Committees) - Sam Penny, Maya Reddy; Disec1 (Disarmament & International Security) - Emma Douglas; Environment - Rowan Wall; SpecSDG (Special Conference on the Sustainable Development Goals) - Nathan Moore; Specpol2 (Special Political and Decolonisation Committees) - Megan Wall.

We debated resolution on topics that we were given such as child soldiers, the management of food waste, respecting human rights for prisoners, and more. We debated these topics for two days in our committees, then they were taken to GA (General Assembly), where they were voted on again.

We talked to loads of people from different countries some of whom just happened to be staying in our hotel as well. Every night we had a disco, which was a good way to meet each other and to break the ice, which helped with our confidence. We had loads of fun on this trip and we wish that over the next few years more Newpark students would get involved in the upcoming events—I know we all will be. We would like to thank Ms Odongo for taking us on this trip and for looking after us—so a big thank you from all the delegates of DR Congo.

*Megan Wall*

# Model United Nations Rathdown



Rathdown Model United Nations conference was attended by Newpark's largest ever number of delegates at an MUN conference. Students from 3rd to 6th year, some with a lot of experience and some with none, participated representing the United States of America, Germany, Canada and Ethiopia. Megan Wall and Sam Penny both took on the role of chair and showed that they were well able to command a room full of students!

As the advisor working with this group of students, it was a privilege to see the development of skills in our delegates. Newpark students, who just one or two conferences previously had not said a word, were now standing up and leading the debate. Some of the first time delegates were thrown in at the deep end and showed incredible courage to give speeches.

Before the conference I had told the delegates that they should push themselves to meet their next challenge. For some that meant making a "point of information" (asking a question of one of the speakers), for others it meant making a speech, for others it meant writing their first resolution and for others it meant getting their resolution through to General Assembly. Whichever stage the delegates were at it is so exciting to see each one of them push themselves to take their next step.

At this conference, one of Newpark's delegations, representing the United States of America, won an outstanding delegation award. There were approximately fifty delegations at the conference and the top three are jointly awarded

outstanding delegation awards. This is a fantastic achievement and one which is based on the performance of every member of the delegation. Additionally Lorcan Kelly, Rowan Wall and Seamus Hurley each won individual "distinguished delegate" awards. Congratulations to all of you.

Model United Nations is a mixture of debate and drama. It is sometimes challenging to represent the political views of a country when they are very different from your own. However, in doing so, students learn how to see issues from a wide range of perspectives. This equips them to listen to diverse views, to find the points of commonality and to have the confidence to work for justice in the "real world".

If ever you doubt the capacity of young people you need only to watch them in action for a few minutes and realise that the future is safe in their hands. As an adult, you are irrelevant at MUN conferences. The entire thing is student led and student run. You can walk into a room where there has been no adult presence for several hours and find students working in perfect order, respecting the student chairs, observing the correct standards of debates and battling to find solutions to the pressing issues of our time.

Well done to all the students who have arisen to participate in MUN. It is a pleasure to work with you all.

*Ms Sheena Odongo*

*Interested in getting involved? Students from years 3-6 can contact Ms Odongo to be added to the email list for*



## Don Crowley Water Ambassador for Green Schools Ireland

*Congratulations to Fifth Year student Don Crowley who has been appointed by Green Schools Ireland as one of its national Water Ambassadors.*

On Wednesday the 29th of November I went to the Radisson Blu hotel in town for my training day for my water ambassadorship.

The day began with an introduction to the programme and what we will be doing over the next year. After that we got a communications lecture on social media and how to use it best from a journalism graduate who works as Communications officer for Green Schools.

Following a short break we got a talk about clean coasts and how many disposable hygiene products are flushed down the toilet and how detrimental it is to our oceans.

Then we had a speaker come in from Irish Water to tell us about the Irish water treatment and distribution systems. This talk was very informative and there were some shocking facts. For instance, there is 64,000km of pipeline under Ireland (that's enough to wrap around the world one and a half times!) and a huge amount of these pipelines were unmapped to begin with.

After this talk we had lunch and were given our hoodies, and then we got a bus to the water treatment plant in Leixlip.

Leixlip is the second biggest water treatment plant in the country. We got a grand tour from the massive explosion of water in the river when they clear out the reservoir filters to the coagulation process using Aluminium sulphate (I found this part very interesting

as it ties in with Chemistry) and then the filtration process.

The tour was my favourite part of the day. It was incredible to see the massive scale and all the different processes the water has to go through just to become drinkable.

*Don Crowley, SDM*

## Green Schools Water Forum

The new academic year is well underway and with it for us at Green Schools Newpark came a new flag campaign. Last year we completed our two year-long effort to acquire our second green flag: energy. Now that we have both the energy and waste flags under our belt it is time to move onto the third theme: water!

This year's Green Committee kicked off our campaign with a trip to Newbridge, Co. Kildare. An Taisce hosted an event in the Keadeen Hotel for second level Green Schools. The event was entitled "The Water Forum" and had the aim of giving committees ideas on how to proceed with the theme.

Two teachers (Ms Achari and Ms O' Donnell) and eight students attended the event. While most people chose to carpool, I went for a slightly more adventurous route. I took the new rail service from Grand Canal Dock to Newbridge through the Phoenix Park Tunnel. While a slightly longer trip it was far more interesting from a ferroequinological perspective!

When the event kicked off we were introduced to the topic and the other event attendees. Participants took part in a plethora of activities from experiments to brainstorming to games. One of the standout events was when another school who had acquired the flag the previous year gave a presentation on how they went about the project and what made it a success.

This event has helped give the committee ideas and direction on how we shall proceed into the future, from clean coasts projects to tours of water plants and addressing the use of disposable plastic bottles.

Watch this space!

*Dan Hatter SMD*

## Environmental Education Day

Rising to the occasion to become environmental stewards, two groups of Transition Year students decided to deliver a rapid environmental call to action throughout their school and community by spreading awareness about climate change, rising sea levels and the plastic crisis. The advocates were determined that climate education is a necessity in turning the tide on how we see and deal with climate change and they began to cultivate a plan to peer educate people of all ages within their school and community.

Thinking about both a local and global issue, the first group of students used the Dublin biosphere as a basis





for their research. They learned that if sea levels continue to rise, by the end of the century, there will be no Dart line and Dun Laoghaire Pier will also be under water.

Using a Peer Education approach to teaching and sharing information, values and behaviour, the students ran a Green Day initiative. As a back drop to their campaign, they borrowed a boat from the INSS in Dun Laoghaire and they put it outside the school reception to provoke students', parents' and teachers' curiosity. The idea was that if sea levels rise people living in coastal areas will be homeless, living in boats.

They ran five revolving workshops, using the sustainability games that they had participated in, over the previous seven weeks during their sustainability module. They used these games and methodologies, to peer educate 140 students from first year, over three hours. Five students took the role of Games Manager and each ran a team. The stations were moved every ten minutes and each team communicated, organised and influenced their fellow students with environmental messages about sustainability and rising sea levels.

The second group, focused on plastic pollution and the



Dublin Biosphere. Students created awareness about the harmful effects of using single use plastic bottles. They used the school app and posters to spotlight their project. They also performed a plastic flash mob in the GPA. They placed an empty plastic bottle beside a recycling bin and when a random student was passing by and put the bottle into the bin, the flash mob exploded in to celebration. The 'Rocky' theme

tune came on loud speaker and the group popped party poppers and surrounded the 'recycler' in celebration, putting a party hat on their head and crowning them the best recycler in school!

The group also purchased 250 reusable plastic bottles,



to launch their message about reusing and not buying single use plastic. The bottles had the school logo and a slogan saying, 'Refill not Landfill'. The group borrowed money from the school to purchase and produce the bottles and then they sold them at lunch time on Green Day. As part of their sales pitch, they included information and visuals about the damage plastic is doing to our environment, in particular the oceans. All the bottles sold within one lunchtime.

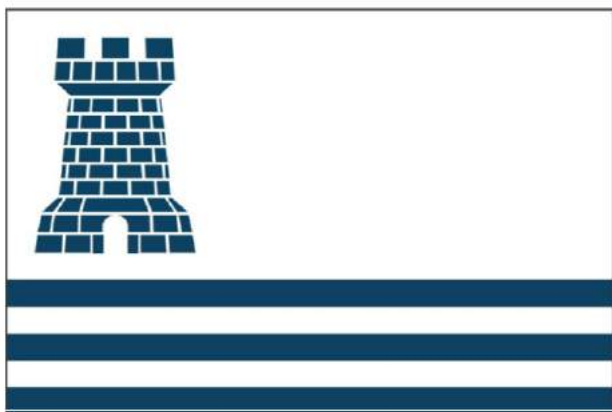
This sustainability module, is a new initiative to Newpark that sits in Social Studies on the TY curriculum. The classes focus on sustainable development related issues such as biodiversity, resource and energy use, as well as community development, sustainable enterprises and ECO health and wellbeing. Using participatory teaching and learning methods, students examine the complexities of, and synergies between, the issues threatening planetary sustainability. Students are encouraged to recognise the short-term nature of our current lifestyles and the problems it creates in the environment.

Each group decides on an environmental action project to promote awareness on. They choose a topic that is important to them and that they feel connected to, empowering them to make a difference and to convince their fellow students to make a positive environmental change.

Throughout the module, students take time to reflect and look back on their own life experience in real time and they make personal evaluations that connect them to their own actions. Using various methodologies, they examine different value systems and cultures, understanding why human rights are essential for sustainable development. Students learn that sustainable development involves critical thinking and that all issues are part of a system that is interconnected.

These action projects were an amazing opportunity for students to become a part of a system that takes responsibility for meeting the needs of all peoples today but without comprising the ability of future generations to come. The students encouraged others to become Global Citizens, founded on human solidarity but based on self-interest as they endeavoured to embrace sustainable development and climate education.

## A Vexillological Situation



Keen readers of this newsletter may get a slight twinge of Déjà vu from this article; that is because I already wrote about this topic two years ago. The matter of is the school's vexillological situation! Observers of the goings on of the school will have noticed something new flying above Newpark's forecourt: the school has acquired a new flag! This was the result of a project of mine that can trace its origins back to 2015, when I was in second year!

In Green Schools Newpark at that time, we had just succeeded in getting the school's first green flag, and, as all good flags need a pole to fly from, we went about

procuring some for the school. We managed to get three flag poles the following year and the question was what was to fly from them? The obvious two were an Irish Flag and the Green flag, but what was to be the third?

This is where I saw my opportunity! For years I have had an interest in flags and their design ie. vexillology. I decided to go about creating a flag for the school!

It was important to me that this be a properly designed flag, following the five key elements of vexillology. After many different ideas I settled upon my design and went about getting it used. People were keen on my design and everything looked in its favour. It would have been used if it weren't for some internal miscommunications.

A different design was ordered and used for the opening day of the school and was to be the design flying for the next two years. It was at the start of this year I saw another opportunity. The old flag had gotten very worn and damaged, and was in need of replacing. I sent off a few emails suggesting that my design be used in its place of the old one. I made a few edits and sent off a few emails not expecting much. That was until one day I came into the school and to my utter surprise and joy I saw my work hoisted above the school!

*Daniel Hatter, Fifth Year*

## Heritage Families

We have many students in Newpark who have parents or aunts and uncles who went to the school and we have some who have a longer connection.



Three generations of the Tormey family went to Newpark or its founding school. Tommie junior is in fifth year, his dad, Tommie was in Newpark from 1985 to 1991 and his grandfather, also Tommie, was in Kingstown school from 1958 to 1964. Kingstown school joined with Avoca school in in 1967 and became Newpark in 1972.

Are you one of the families with long standing connections to the school? If you're not, you might become one of our 'heritage families' in the future? Let's hope so!

*Mr Philip Hollwey*



## Newpark Wears All the Colours Of the Rainbow



On Friday 8th December 2017, the whole Newpark community came together to show their support for their LGBTI+ friends and equality in general! We had a colourful Non-Uniform day where all year groups dressed in the different colours of the Rainbow Flag.

1st years wore red, 2nd years wore orange, 3rd years, yellow, 4th years, green, 5th years, purple and 6th years wore blue. Teachers and staff had autonomy to wear whatever bright colour they wanted!

The Rainbow Flag is a symbol of LGBTI+ pride and symbolises the diversity of the LGBTI+ community. Gilbert Baker, an openly gay activist born in 1951, taught himself how to sew after being honourably discharged from the army in the 1970s. He met influential gay leader, Harvey Milk in 1974 and Milk challenged Baker to come up with a symbol of pride for the gay community. The result was the Rainbow Flag and Baker assigned specific meaning to each of the colours:

Red: Life  
Orange: Healing  
Yellow: Sunlight  
Green: Nature  
Indigo/Blue: Serenity  
Violet/Purple: Spirit

The day was a great success and it showed our true colours as a diverse school and raised awareness for the Newpark LGBTI+ community. Newpark is one of the most supportive Irish schools and is fully inclusive of everyone, so it was nice to see such support for the group. It is fundamental in a school community that tolerance and respect for people from all different background is at the fore.

*Luca Kevin Bishop 5th Year and Ms. Keating*

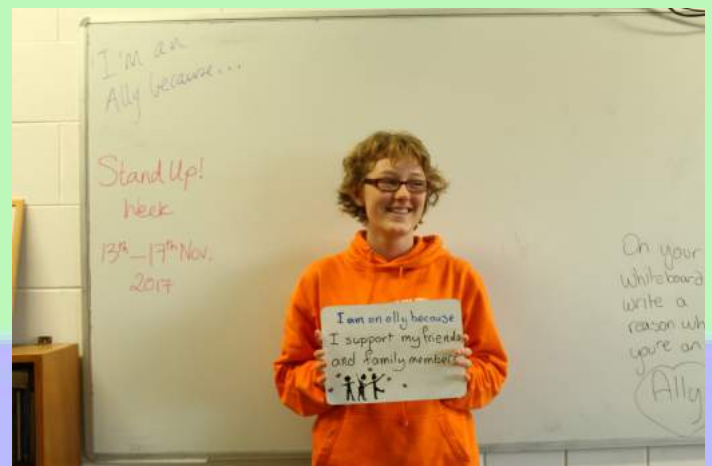
## Newpark Stands Up! During Stand Up! Week 2017



“Stand Up!” week is an event run by the organisation BeLonG To and happens each November. It aims to create awareness surrounding the importance of standing up for your LGBTI+ friends.

We set up an event where allies were invited to come to M4 at lunchtime and write why they were an ally on a mini-whiteboard and get their picture taken.

An ally is anyone who supports equal rights for all. What was really interesting is that a lot of people struggled when thinking of a reason and this just goes to show how far we have come in campaigning for equal rights and respect for all. It was extremely successful and lots of



staff and students came to show their support. Thank you to Clara Sheridan-Bryson for taking the photos on the day.

The LGBT+ Group meets every Thursday at lunchtime in M4 and discusses lots of different issues. The four co-leaders are 5th year students who are very supportive and fun.

So don't be afraid to come along on a Thursday that suits you! We welcome EVERYONE; those who identify as LGBTI+ and allies alike! We are also looking for more senior members to share their input.

*Luca Kevin Bishop 5th Year and A.Keating*

## Newpark in Venice 2017



On the 30th of October the 5th and 6th year art classes were given the opportunity to travel to Venice in order to see the Biennale. This is an art exhibition that takes place in Venice every two years. This year it showcases the work of 120 international artists from 51 different countries. The exhibition itself is split into two different locations: the Giardini and the Arsenale. This year marked the 57th international art exhibition that they have held and was titled 'viva arte viva'. The curator, Christine Macel's vision for the exhibition was to stray away from the political agenda of recently passed Biennales and to instead focus on the route of what it is to be an artist. The president of La Biennale Di Venezia, Paulo Baratta explains:

"This year's Biennale is dedicated to celebrating, and almost giving thanks for, the very existence of art and artists, whose worlds expand our perspective and the space of our existence."

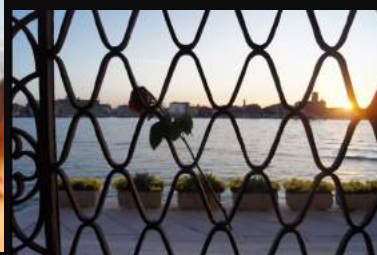
We arrived at our hotel (directly beside one of the canals) at around 10am and were split into four different groups. We were lugged away from the hotel fairly quickly with two groups going to the island of Murano and the other two going to see the Doge's palace. As you would expect (seeing as Venice was built on stilts) they have boats to replace buses which for us was a thrilling experience. They charged us seven euro a trip which didn't sound too shabby until

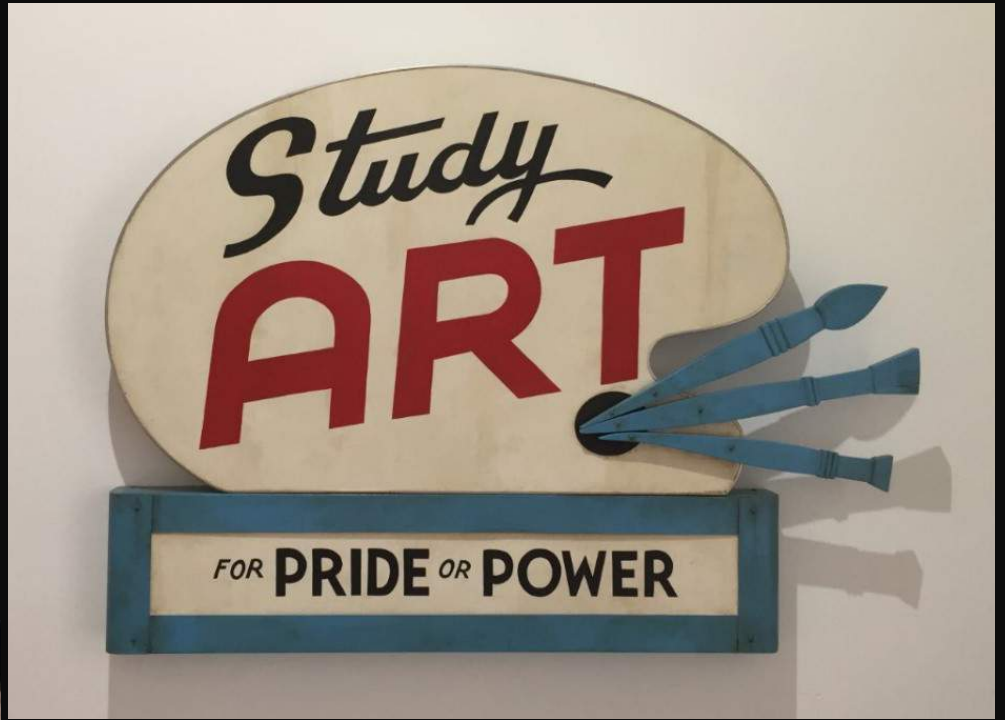
we found out the Italian citizens got the same trip for 1.70 due to their special citizen privileges.

The trip to Murano was fairly underwhelming seeing as every place we had planned on seeing was closed by the time we got there but seeing the island so famous for their glass blowing was pretty sweet anyway. Shops were lighting up the edges of the canals, each of their windows displaying the unique different creations from these artists, from the smallest penguins to a large abstract wall displays all made of brightly coloured glass.

After a boat trip back to Venice all the groups met up to get some dinner, then went to meet a group of Italian students. These students have been learning English (like we would Irish) so meeting up with them benefitted both us and them, giving both the groups an insight into the culture and language of each country.

They took us on a half an hour walk around Venice and afterwards we were given about an hour of free time just to bop around with the Italians so they could show us some of the spots where they hang out day to day. It was really interesting to talk to people that where the same age as us but had such different pastimes and school lives. When asked what they do with friends out of school one of the Italian girls told us that she'd go to the cinema or go to see shows so I suspect that they



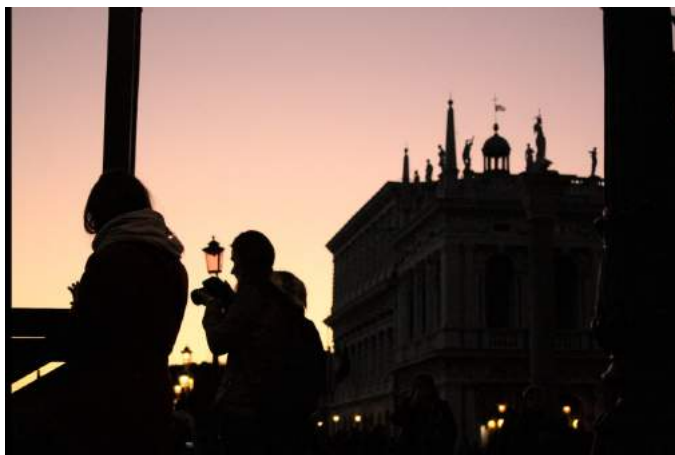


were just telling us your typical oral exam answers but that's cool.

On the second day the four groups split up to go to the two different locations of the Biennale. My group went to the Arsenale first which was the part of the exhibition that displayed separate artists work from the different countries. The pieces of art ranged from video to performance with each room that you entered projecting a different feeling and experience. Their were pieces of art that completely flipped your way of thinking about certain things and others that were very questionable, but that's the whole point isn't it?

In the true spirit of Halloween, we had to participate in some festivities that evening. After dinner we were given a list of instructions. They all involved taking some pictures with/of things that were spooky around the city. These included taking a picture of a ghost and taking the most awkward picture we could achieve. So that we did with each group of five coming back an hour later with a phone full of embarrassing photos. The winners won a gondola ride and I can't remember who won but I do know that they never ended up getting their gondola trip due to unfortunate circumstances.

The third day my group went to the second part of the Biennale, the Giardini. This location consisted of 29 separate pavilions—one for each country that participated. Every building was different in its own way and was filled with the different art of the chosen artists to represent the country. They were sometimes interactive, making you the focus of the art and others were pavilions full of photography. The art was not limited to any confines and really broadened your perspectives on what art is and how it's received.



As this was our last night we were given an hour or two in the evening to wander around and see the city. Venice itself is a beautiful city with so much distinctive character. The streets are cobbled and often narrow to get through. Even trying to find a restaurant you pass these extravagant churches peaked with stone sculptures in the middle of an empty square. It is undeniably a captivating city



On the last day my group went to visit the Doge's palace while the other two groups went to see a photography exhibition. The Doge's palace was in St. Mark's Square. It was a palace built for the Doge who was the ruler of Venice. It has been renovated multiple times since its first construction and in 1923 it opened as a public museum.

The floor to the ceiling of some of the rooms were covered in paintings including some of the doge himself presented in a godlike fashion. The ceilings of each room tower over you and there are whole rooms dedicated to showcasing spoons made of sterling silver and diamonds the size of a baby's hand.

After a bus ride to the plane and then a plane ride to Dublin we were back home after a fantastic few days away. I had a great time in Venice and it was definitely one of the best trips I've gone on. However as this article is all coming from me I took the liberty of asking a few very helpful and insightful people about their favourite moments and how they felt about the trip

*Tori Clynes*

'I loved the buildings and the view at night of the water'

*Amy Kelly*

'I actually just can't think of something funny to say'

*Sam O'Neill*

'A beautiful busy few days, filled with boats, art and good company'

*Ines Szulc*

'Best school trip ever, such a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere, super fun, unbelievable'

*Ciara CH*

'Venice was full of nice people, cool art and a really cool talking egg'

*Alex Dolan*

## The Props

Macbeth is a really juicy play, with plenty for everyone to get their teeth into. The actors have wonderful language and compelling action to work with, the musicians have a wide range of moods to evoke, and the props department have the strangest list of oddments to produce. We have made a tiger's chaudron (twice), eyes of newts, lizard's leg, a nose, some lips, a dog's tongue, and a liver, among other strange items.

I had the privilege of working with a team of enthusiastic, committed and skilled students on this, all of whom were volunteering their own time. Particular mention is due to Marti Jones, our armourer, who put huge time and expertise into making the beautiful and brutal swords and daggers.

*Ciaran Byrne*



## Macbeth Ten Years on!

It's that time of year again. Newpark Drama present Shakespeare's "Macbeth". It's been ten years since the last time Newpark put on Macbeth and it promises to be an amazing show.

The hard work and dedication from the staff and teachers (Ms Devis and Ms. Johnston especially) is really shown in this production and the entire cast is looking forward to showing off the hard work everyone has done from the 13th-16th of December.

We received input from outside school and one such person Stav. Stav is a fight co-ordinator and has worked on many various projects including *Vikings*. Stav gave up some of his time to teach members of the cast certain stage combat skills so that the murder scenes and fight scenes are especially intense. With a few changes made to the script including an increased

number of witches the production promises to be unique.

Bringing the character of Macbeth to life is Olly Flitcroft (6th year) and playing his wife: Katie Killarney (5th year). The cast it made up of an amazing group of talented performers from every year group. As well as an amazing cast we have an amazing set of backstage crew led by Hanna Novak (4th year) and an amazing team of props and costume designers who are working hard to make the show look absolutely amazing. A special thanks to Avril who has been working incredibly hard on the costumes with her team of amazing students from many different year groups. We look forward to showing off our amazing talent to you all. Tickets are now officially sold out

*Eoin Funge*

## Staging Macbeth

Newpark has been feverishly busy this term preparing for Macbeth - due to open as we go to press. This play is one of our favourites and is a fantastic example of Shakespeare's absolute brilliance as a theatre practitioner. It is exciting, horrific, poignant and pacey and demonstrates how corruption, ambition and the quest for power can be so destructive. It is particularly relevant now with dictators, xenophobia and right-wing politics still rife in the world.

Our school community has really pulled together in creating this production: over a hundred students, parents, past pupils, teachers and staff have been working tirelessly over the last few months.

The costumes (under the incredible leadership of Avril Crampton) are superb and have been carefully considered and expertly made by Avril and her student team. The beautiful and sometimes disturbing music by Eleanor Dawson, Hayley O'Keefe, Toby Hudson Fowler and the orchestra creates the supernatural world of the play. Our stalwart lighting designer, Dave O'Leary brought his trademark atmospheric lighting. Ciaran Byrne and the props team designed weird and wonderful props (who knew what a tiger's chaudron might look like? not to mention the ingredients for perfecting different types of stage blood!) Marty Jones created magnificent swords and John O'Neill made futuristic metal goblets for the strange and stark world of our play. Parents Tom Tormey and Simon Maxwell enabled the multi-level stage construction. Stav Dvorkin choreographed fights and Molly McAllister popped in to work the witches' moves.

All of these diverse elements, alongside our committed and multi-talented acting ensemble make for a wonderful night of theatre. We are so lucky to have worked with 39 amazing actors who have made rehearsals exhilarating and hilarious at the same time. Break a leg guys, you are brilliant.

*Cathy Devis and Anna Johnston*

## Musical notes



What a privilege to work with the hugely talented team of musicians for this production! Their impressive array of instruments ranges from violins and cello to electric guitar, harp, clarinet and electric string bass, and plenty of percussion.

Our four composers each worked out musical material for a theme or important scene in the play. The music they came up with independently was remarkably coherent, so we have four distinct musical voices with a shared mood: a bleak, Scottish feel which sets off the tone of the play beautifully. Toby Fowler Hudson's theme - a mournful, lyrical intertwining of six linked melodies, is used as a backdrop or framework - to set the mood at the beginning, after the interval and at the end. Alannah O'Leary Murray's supernatural theme highlights the presence of the witches, suggesting the stirring of the cauldron. Norah Corcoran Chan's banquet music suggests innocence and light-heartedness, shot through with suggestions of something darker. Pam Paus's theme for Lady Macbeth is versatile, enabling us to reshape it as she steels herself to murder, and then disintegrates into madness. Macbeth himself is first introduced by a drum, and this rhythm mutates as the play develops.

Our role as musical directors has been to identify where to use music, and to adapt the students' ideas where necessary, for dramatic effect. We have helped them to shape their ideas, given suggestions for instrumentation and helped the instrumentalists with a framework for improvising the atmospheric mood-music. We also worked with the witches' chanting - although the chant melody is Ms Devis's own composition!

The instrumentalists have risen to the occasion and come up with great ideas themselves - improvising and finding special effects to create atmosphere. They are a talented and versatile group who have shown real commitment, maturity and enthusiasm. This production has also provided an opportunity for Toby to conduct for the first time. Working with music for a

play requires constant focus as timing is crucial - a challenge for conductor and instrumentalists alike. It has been a rich and rewarding experience for all of us to put this music together - what a wonderful team to work with! Thanks, everybody!

*Eleanor Dawson and Hayley O'Keefe*

## Creating Costumes

Our task was to make forty costumes before the dress rehearsal on the 10th of December. Our brief was that the setting was in a time suspended between past and present. We decided it was a time where our planet was overheating and torn by war. Our witches were going to take the form of animals mentioned in the play: a serpent, a raven and a toad.



T9 was a hive of activity: lots of linen was torn, dyed and frayed, armour was made from foam, leather from tinfoil and craft foam. Not alone each costume but the fabric it was made from was individually handmade. To achieve this, each member of the team and a host of volunteers worked through lunchtimes and well into the night. None of it would have been achieved if it wasn't for an incredibly talented and dedicated core group of students.

Thank you for a great eight weeks.

*Avril Crampton*

## Annual CU Weekend Away in Avoca Manor 11-13th November



This was my first weekend away with Christian Union and I absolutely loved it! We did so much fun, awesome things. There was the leap of faith, Jacobs's ladder, a huge climbing wall, archery, assault courses and awesome crafts.

Every day we had one or two talks about god. The speaker this year was a man called Chris Kennedy. He was so lovely and he was great in all his sessions. There were also times of worship, which personally was one of my favourite things we did. On the last day we sang my lighthouse and waves of mercy and one of my friends and I both got up and did the actions, it was great craic.

We also had a talent show where there was the famous annual Newpark vs St. Andrews rap battle! It was hilarious. Ms. Harris, Ms. Rowan and Mr. Lamprecht also danced in it to "Colours of the wind" from Pocahontas (that was one of my favourite acts). There was also a bonfire and that definitely was one of my highlights of the weekend. We all sang songs and some of the 6th years from both schools shared their experience of being in Christian Union. All in all it was a great weekend. Although it was my first Christian Union Weekend away it definitely won't be my last!

*Naomi Breen 1ED*



## CU visit to the Oratory in Dun Laoghaire



The Christian Union group went on an outing to The Oratory in Dun Laoghaire. There used to be a Convent where Bloomfield Shopping Centre is now and the Oratory was built for the nuns to use for prayer.

The Oratory is very small and only holds about 15 - 20 people. All the walls and the ceiling were hand painted by a nun called Sister Concepta in her free time after teaching and caring for people. It took her sixteen years to paint all the Celtic designs and colourful stencils. It really is worth seeing and very inspiring.

The Oratory is now perfectly preserved inside another purpose built building which is great as the painting is nearly 100 years old. We would like to thank James O'Sullivan who is a Newpark parent for opening the Oratory especially for our CU outing. We had great fun and even enjoyed the walk to Dun Laoghaire and back!

## Carol Singing in Stillorgan for Christian Aid Fri 15th Dec



The annual Carol singing in Stillorgan was a blast this year. 25 Newpark students sang their hearts out to raise money for Christian Aid. We all got into the Christmas spirit and the singing was absolutely brilliant. Well done to all involved.

*Mr Lamprecht*

## Homelessness Awareness Campaign



Homelessness is a real issue in our society today and as a community we wanted to raise awareness. All second year RE classes got involved in a campaign to raise awareness of the issues surrounding homelessness. The pupils had to build “cardboard castles” that resembled a hut or shelter for a homeless person. They were built in front of the school and raised great awareness of the difficulties facing homeless people.



Well done to all the pupils on their terrific engagement in the campaign.

## Sponsored Silence

First Year RE classes 1SH, 1ED and 1DMCC were all involved in a sponsored silence to raise funds for work with homeless people. They agreed to not make a sound from early morning one Wednesday till school ended at 1.30pm. They were brilliant and raised over 800 euro for the homeless. Well done to all involved.

*Ms Harris, Chaplin*

## 5th Year RE Trip to the Mosque and the Synagogue 20th November



On the 20th November the 5th year RE class went to the Mosque in Clonskeagh and the Synagogue in Terenure. Ms. Rowan organised the trip and Mr. Breaden drove the school bus. It was a fantastic visit and we enjoyed it very much and learned loads. Here are some of the interesting things we found out during our visit.

“The food is lovely”, “We found gin in the seat”, “It was very cool that the Torah scrolls cost €50,000 each and if you drop one, you must fast during daylight for 40 days!!”

These are some of the comments from our class on our return from our trip to the Mosque and Synagogue. As part of our studies for Leaving Cert Religion, we have been studying Islam and Judaism. Last Monday, we went to visit their holy places. We were surprised at how good the food in the Mosque was – especially the Schwarda! We learned that Jews will not carry anything on a Sabbath (their holy day) so keep supplies in their Synagogue seats (they have boxes that hold things in them) – one seat contained a bottle of gin!!

When the Imam in the Mosque came out, he performed the call to prayer. It was a great experience to have seen this and sense the spirituality during those moments. We are so used to Irish Christianity that it was interesting to witness another side to Irish religious practice. One student commented that the Talmud seemed like an interesting read, although another felt that 18 books of rules on every aspect of life sounded “excruciatingly boring”! Overall, we felt it was great to see religion alive as opposed to just learning about it and we recommend a visit to anyone who has an opportunity to do so.

*5RE class*



*Fighting Words* is a creative writing centre established by Roddy Doyle and Sean Love. Inspired by 826 *National* in the United States, *Fighting Words* is located on Behan Square, Russell Street, Dublin 1 - very close to Croke Park.

Fighting Words helps students of all ages to develop their writing skills and to explore their love of writing. We provide story-telling workshops for primary school groups, creative writing workshops for secondary students, summer camps for kids and teens and workshops for groups of adults with special needs. All tutoring is free.

Fighting Words workshops are created and run by volunteer writing tutors, who are trained in child protection and Garda vetted. The volunteers include professional writers - novelists, screen-writers, journalists, poets - aspiring writers, student teachers from DCU and all the Dublin colleges of education, retired teachers and many more people who are just keen to be involved in creative work.

Write Club is a time and space for 13-18 year olds to come and work on their own pieces of writing.

As a Write Club member, you will have the opportunity to talk to our volunteer writing tutors and other writers about your work. You can use this space to work on different types of writing; short stories, film scripts, comedy, poetry etc - whatever interests you.

**DUBLIN - Fighting Words Centre, Behan Sq , 12-16 Russell Street, Dublin 1**

Wednesdays from 2pm to 5pm, September to June;  
3pm to 5pm, July and August  
Saturdays from 1.30pm to 4pm

**DÚN LAOGHAIRE- Upstairs in the The Little Bookshop, Eduventure (The National Museum of Childhood's fundraising premises), 94 Lower George's Street, Dún Laoghaire**

Wednesday evenings, 6.30pm to 8.30pm

For further information, or to register for Write Club, contact:

Dublin - Jean Hanney - [email](#) or phone 01 894 4576

Dún Laoghaire/Enniskerry - Mark Davidson - [email](#) or phone 086 0461891

The supplement **Children's Rights, Children's Writing** was published in *The Irish Time* on 20 November 2017. Produced in conjunction with the Office of the Ombudsman for Children, young writers from around Ireland wrote creative responses to each of the articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was ratified by Ireland in 1992.

## Fighting Words

*Congratulations to Fifth Year Clara Sheridan Bryson whose story was selected for publication in the **Children's Rights—Children's Writing** supplement of *The Irish Times* 20/11/17*

I think going to *Fighting Words* can give you that little extra confidence, a little nudge to tell you that it's totally valid to write in whatever style you like writing in, or whatever style you want to try out. (There's even some people who focus on making graphic novels, it doesn't just have to be words based!)

It's really good because the supervisors will just sit back and let you write the way you want to - they won't tell you the 'right' or 'wrong' way to do things- they just accommodate for you to write in your own style.

It's also great for disconnecting from the outside world for a little while, as trying to write on a packed Dart on the way home, or in your room with a looming pile of homework waiting for you, is just too distracting, and I personally find I get nothing done without that designated space to pour words onto paper. That's why I enjoy it so much, it's two hours a week dedicated purely to writing (although honestly we're mainly motivated by the tea), and it's also just lovely to sit down and talk to all the other members (too much talk, not enough writing, the coordinator told us. Pfft. *Clara Sheridan Bryson 5th Year*

### I study the hordes of people as they skim through the airport scanners

Beep, beep, beep

"Go ahead, go ahead, go ahead," Bored looking, drab uniformed employees drone, chewing gum dying a slow, horrible death in their mouths.

They're checking numbers, codes. But behind those numbers, there are names.

Real, human names.

The sea, has a name.

The promenade. A name.

All this is burrowing like a maggot into your head, rooting out and baring raw, that single feature You. Don't. Have. A name.

There's these people they ship in from who knows where; far away. They've been uprooted, had to run

from things that are destroying them, ripping their lives apart like a swarm of angry ants. (the swathes of people milling through the airport greatly resemble a similar thing, I observe)

So these people come over, land on deserted beaches, shake sand from their eyes. Behind those same eyes, treacherous waves still loom, crashing out in the tears that will inevitably sting their eyes when the power-riddled get here, and look them in the face, cold-dead-fish orbs unseeing of these people's humanity, their pain as they say softly:  
"You have no codes. Get out."

And those same people, they have names, they do.

Of course they do.

But it's as if their names get whisked away on a gust of wind, pulled away from them in the swelling oceans. As if they get here and we no longer see their names. As if we look straight through them.

No space, no space, no space.

So, I ask the leaders, the lawmakers, the fate-deciders of our country, just where is it that they think there's enough space for these people?

Out among the breaking waves?

In the small gaps between mountains of crashing water?

A constant shape-shifting death chamber, that sea is. (in the time I've been sitting in the departure lounge, countless children have wandered away from their luggage, toddlers unaware of their own sneaking away to stare glassy eyed at distant planes. And you know what brings them scuttling back, away from the towering tree-trunk legs and unsuspecting hands that aren't-the-right-ones-to-grab? Their names. Parents hollering across buzzing crowds, clicking wheels, and the insistent drone of "please hold the handrail". Then picture this. No one to call their name. No name, to call, even. Where would we be if we didn't have a name for people to distinguish us with? Names to ground us, to bring us scuttling back. Names to recognise us as individuals).- That is why we have to see the names, not the numbers, statistics, codes, or lack thereof.

See the people.

The people.

Their names, their identities may get lost in the waters on their way here, but please, please don't let their lives be taken too.

*Clara Sheridan Bryson 5th Year*

## Lounge at Lunchtime



For the past couple of months, there has been 'Lounge at Lunchtime' in the GPA where we had sixth years, fifth years, transition years and third years perform their musical talents for the school. Each year got to perform 5-7 songs in the front of the school to those who enjoyed listening while eating their lunch.



It was a wonderful experience to perform for our fellow students. Teachers and students noted the remarkable talent Newpark music students have to offer and this 'Jam' gave them ample opportunity to showcase their musical abilities whilst also gaining the recognition they duly deserved. Make sure to come to the next 'Jam' on the Friday after Christmas to see the seniors perform!



*Pam Paus and Alannah O'Leary Murray , Fifth Year*

# TY TIMES

## To Gartan and Back



From the 13th to the 17th of November I was in Donegal with my form in a wonderful outdoor facility on Lake Gartan. Being November, the lake was desperately cold and the sky was overcast for all but one day.

The first day was Monday, and I met everyone in town on North Parnell Square Rd. We had forty minutes to kill, so we wandered around to pass the time. We then took off for Letterkenny. From Letterkenny, we took a smaller bus to Gartan Outdoor Education Center.

After we had settled in and made ourselves at home, we did orienteering and then that night we were blindfolded and we 'played' night line, a blindfolded tour of a mud track/ obstacle course.

Tuesday began with Kayaking on the lake for half of us, and indoor rock climbing for the other half. I did rock climbing and it was very enjoyable. After lunch, the halves swapped activities and I did kayaking, which was incredibly relaxing. The lake is 4.3km long and in the middle there is hardly any noise. That night we had



to drop an egg from a height and have it remain intact using only a page, some tape, a plastic bag, and four straws. No-one succeeded in keeping their egg intact, but my team won the backing story.

Wednesday was the big hike through Glenveigh National Park. It took about four or five hours, and supposedly that's a fast time. That evening we played snakes and ladders with a twist; you could only progress if you answered the question with the same number as the space you landed on, only the questions were hidden upstairs and some didn't exist, you were given the answer instead. If you couldn't answer the question you went back a space.

Thursday was the last day, and it was mostly based around working on teamwork and co-operation. We had to solve team puzzles in silence and lift massive tractor tires over 6ft poles several times. The challenges varied from more mind and problem solving in the morning to physical exertion in the evening, with a freezing mud-run, and hand built raft-race.

On Friday at 9:30 AM we left Gartan, sad that it was over, glad we had done it.

EdoardoNestor 4AK

## Arts Week

### Monday:

The theme for our Arts Week is *Change*. Each group was given a different aspect of this theme to explore. We sorted ourselves into groups at the start of the day and quickly got a task of showing our theme in some way. My group showed *Inside to Outside* by having Eric walk out a door and his hand turn to wood.

It's not a very serious group while doing the work but they are taking the concept very seriously and enthusiastically. Eric had the idea of the change from human to robot which we all liked and are going with now.

We had a class in notebook making and it was so much fun. We were shown really nice examples of different types of notebooks, some very usual and everyday, some more creative and interesting. After that we were given the freedom of using any material out of a huge tray and some tools to help make them. I made two notebooks, one with a basic stitch the other that folds. I really loved the process of making both.

Next we had Drama where we acted out a change that happens in life with our groups. We weren't really

settled on our idea so for some reason we did the realisation that Santa isn't real.

### **Tuesday:**

I was never confident in my writing so I was really not looking forward to three hours of creative writing. Surprisingly it was really calm and nice, we got to listen to music and were given prompts every ten or so minutes. For the first half of the class we worked on our own which was quite relaxing, after that we got into our groups and discussed change and tried to put our idea into written form. It took a while to get our ideas into order but we made some very important decisions in that class. We decided to make a stop motion film without any dialogue or voiceover only light music. I really like the idea but executing it will be difficult.

Our next class was costume making. We organised to stay after school on Wednesday to try make a papier mache mask using a persons face.

I like the idea for the film we have but I certainly think it's not very realistic. I'm taking on most of the costume work so I feel very frustrated because I know they want something cool and artsy looking but I also know that will be extremely difficult to do in the time we have left.

### **Wednesday:**

As expected if you don't have much experience with music this day isn't really the best of times. I felt a bit of a bother almost, not due to anyone in my group, just that I couldn't offer any valuable help. I promised myself to try really hard with everything else to make up for the fact that I couldn't help with music.

It was nice to hear the other groups making music, although I have no ear for notes or any ability in music I really love listening to it. It's something I wish I could make myself and seeing these talented people create it was real motivating to pick up an instrument myself.

### **Thursday:**

Me and my group worked on figuring out the costume. I had gone home the previous day and made a mask off my own face using newspaper and a mix of flour and water. Surprisingly it both worked out and also fitted Evan who was going to be the person acting in our film. After that the mask was painted silver. We cut cardboard triangles and painted them the same colour so that it all fit together. After this we decided the rest would be body paint and pen. In retrospect I should've planned the pen part better during this class but it didn't occur to me at the time.



During drama we storyboarded our film, making messy drawings of all our shots. We made the mistake of letting one person take control of this rather than all participating and we paid for it by being really divided during the actual filming process. Definitely an experience we can learn from and improve.

### **Friday:**

Wrapping it all up in one final film was tough. First thing I had to do was paint Evan's arm fully in grey body paint and then draw on the go a design of a robot arm because I didn't have it planned. We stuck the cardboard triangles on and put the mask on him and noticing how much time that had taken we rushed into filming.

We had two people on our team with clearly different ideas on how the film was going to turn out. There was an argument over angles and in the end the angles we got weren't very good. We took way too long on the actual prep for the costume so the filming was rushed and we ended up having problems with the editing software. Now all our hope for completing the film lies on Discussion class the week after work experience.

During the editing problems I worked on a scrapbook of sorts collecting everything we did during the week. There wasn't much but I scraped up everything I could from sketches to bits of writing. It was in my opinion the one thing that went completely right for me during the week apart from the individual notebook making. It gave me some reassurance that I got it done and finished.

Arts week was really fun! I got to make lots of art and be as creative as I want so it accomplished the goal in my book. My favourite bit of it by far was notebook making; it's something I never gave too much thought but it was really amazing and creative.

# TECHNO Expo



## Taispeántas na hábhair Teicneolaíochta

A display of project and practical work from the Technical Subjects took place on Friday 29th September in the GPA between break and lunchtime. This included:



### Leaving Certificate:

- Engineering
- Technology
- Architectural Technology
- Design & Communication Graphics

### Junior Certificate:

- Metalwork
- Materials Technology
- Wood
- Technical Graphics

### Leaving Certificate Applied:

- Engineering



The main idea behind this was to expose the students to the nature of the work carried out in the technical subjects. First Year and Transition Year students were invited to view them as they are the ones who will be making their choices for Junior Cert and Leaving Cert respectively.

Another reason for the expo was that, unlike Art (you can see the work on the wall) and Home Economics (you can smell it on the corridor), the project and practical work go largely unnoticed since they have to be held securely by the school and are then claimed by the students at the earliest possible opportunity. The Expo was deemed to be a worthwhile exercise and one we are likely to repeat annually.

## Christopher Sealy



I must hum a little, in memory of my dear friend, Christopher, who passed away on 11 August. Christopher was always humming quietly, especially when he was absorbed in some creative task.

He was a science and physics teacher at Avoca & Kingstown (A&K), and subsequently Newpark, for over twenty years. He was delightfully eccentric and a total individual.

He had come back to Ireland from Canada, with a degree in Engineering that somehow had to be squeezed and manipulated to fit the mould of Department of Education qualification requirements. Having achieved that, he settled with his wife Jehane, her two children – Rachel and Angus – and, in due course, their own three children – Sabrina, Peter and Lucie – in Greystones, into a wonderful house called ‘The Firs’.

I say ‘wonderful’ because we became familiar with all the marvels of the Sealy household when my wife, Mary, and I lived nearby, with a toddler, Nicholas, and a baby, Rachel. We were frequent guests at their table. Jehane cooked exotic foods, talked high art and literature to Mary, while Christopher hummed away, and Nicholas, went exploring with Peter – Lego, chemistry experiments that ended in a BANG!, tree-climbing, out of sight ‘til going-home time.

Christopher had made a model cottage for his children – a brilliant, precise artefact; he had made a centrepiece for the Christmas table that was full of light and movement. He was a kind of Heath Robinson, nutty professor, inventor, who hummed his humming and smiled his wry, shy smile.

The house was full of original paintings – we remember in particular a beautiful Mary Swanzy. There were memorabilia from the Hyde family – Christopher was a grandson of Ireland’s first President. There were handsome, hard-back first editions, distinguished by etchings and elegant fonts, dripping off the shelves. There was a coffee table made by Christopher from the top of a grand piano, and there were his beautiful 8mm films of our children and his at play in the idyllic garden, as well a delightful footage of the to-ing and fro-ing of pupils and teachers at A&K.

His science lab in the school was, in some ways, an

extension of his home and he was probably most at ease when he ensconced there, demonstrating some invention or other to wrapt students. They weren’t all ‘wrapt’; discipline wasn’t his strong point with the disaffected, so he invented a device to measure the disruptions to the class, which were then translated into extra time after the pips had sounded. But those who heeded him found a serious, intellectual, enquiring mind from which they could learn a lot. When we embarked on an exciting curriculum in the new comprehensive school, Christopher took enormous delight in compiling a film that captured a thousand variations on the theme of ‘Movement’.

He was quite a recluse, even melancholy, in a buzzing school of 800. He took a packed lunch in his lab more often than not; he wasn’t much of a one for small talk, yet he thought profoundly about education, he had enormous integrity and his contributions to staff meetings were always philosophical, stimulating and questioning.

Christopher amazed all his colleagues at his retirement dinner, when he gave a wild and witty speech, as if he had rolled up all his drollery into one glittering ball.

We continued to see Christopher and Jehane after they had moved to Dalkey. Going to dinner in their house was always very special. Jehane still cooked superbly and Christopher, if anything, hummed even more. But after they retired to Tuosist, we saw them only rarely and after Jehane died, sadly Christopher withdrew quite firmly from the friendship.

Christopher and Jehane were part of the golden age in our lives. We had youth and energy on our side and beautiful children to enchant us. Christopher took pleasure in his skills to make marvellous things. He had a beautifully honed sense of irony. He wasn’t so sure of the world beyond his home, but he enhanced it a wonderfully individual, quirky way – for which we love him and will miss him.

*Derek West*

Chris Sealy is pictured below (right) on a Newpark caving trip with two colleagues still on the current staff. Can you recognise them?





*Ayesha Coyle*



*Leon McCullogh*

## Mayka and the Glanville Art Prize



On Wednesday 22nd November the Boards of Management of the 5 Protestant Comprehensives and Templecarrig School met in East Glendalough School for their annual meeting. This was a special occasion as it was the first Presentation of the Glanville Cup named after Jane Glanville past Board member of Newpark

and long-time supporter of all the schools especially through her role as executive member of the Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools. Jane worked tirelessly over many years to support the continuing improvement of facilities and resources in Irish schools. In particular, she looked to improve the provision for students with Special Educational Needs. She was very proud of the improvements which came in this area in the 2000s.

In her honour it was agreed to run an annual event in which a piece of Art completed by 5th Year students from each school was brought to the host school and from these a winner was chosen.

Paddy and Peter, Jane's husband and son respectively, attended the ceremony and presented the prize, a beautiful piece of sculpture with the centre section representing different aspects of Jane's life namely the scouts, sailing, a bicycle wheel, cowslips and hands. Past Principals from the schools and the President and General Secretary of the ACCS were also in attendance. Many thanks to all those involved in organizing a very moving and heartfelt occasion.

*Derek Lowry*

## A Word From Mayka

I did this piece for the Glanville Art competition, in memory of Jane Glanville. At the beginning I wasn't sure if I'd enter as I was super stressed about what to paint. The art teachers were very supportive though, and convinced me to submit something. I wanted to create something that had emotional value so I used watered down acrylics to give it a washed out feeling. I chose the theme 'Reflection' as I wanted to give the impression of someone looking in a mirror. It's done using acrylic paints, and it took about 6 or 7 hours.



MAYKA

## PTA NEWS

Colman Noctor – Wednesday 7th February - Adolescent Mental Health Issues  
Bobby Smith – Thursday 19th April - Preventing Drug and Alcohol Problems in Teenagers

It has been a busy start for the PTA this year with lots of events and activities, and plenty more planned for 2018!

Our first event on the 4th of September was the Debs reception for the outgoing 6th Year students. This is organized by the current 6th year parents and a special thanks is noted for Julian Carvill who coordinated the event and Tracey Rennie who prepared the wonderful nibbles. The GPA was transformed for the evening and it was lovely to see all the debutantes and their families arrive in style for a drinks reception before they went on to their Debs. On their last visit to Newpark as students they were given a great send off as they headed off to the next stage of their lives!

The AGM followed on September 27th and was well attended. It was great to see some first year parents putting their names forward for the PTA committee. We now have 38 committee members which indicates the great level of interest from the parent body in the work of the PTA. The officers of the PTA were elected from the new committee at the first monthly meeting in October.

Chairperson Sinead Hanna  
Joint Treasurer Jonathan Chawke & Louise Callaghan  
Joint Secretary Pheobe Crowe & Sheelagh Parker

Becky Johnston stood down as Chairperson and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work and commitment over the last three years. We are delighted that she is staying on as a committee member.

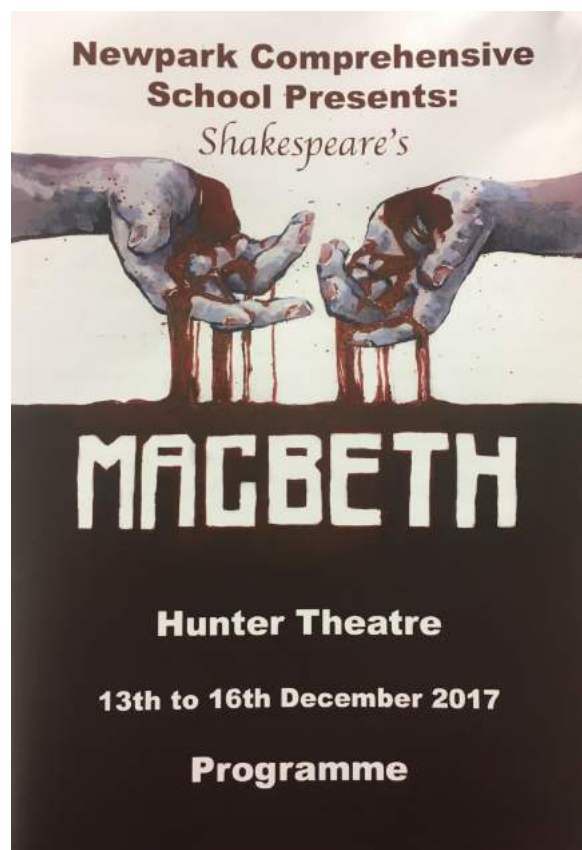
A key role of the PTA is to organize talks for parents on relevant issues and the first meeting this year was incredibly well attended with over 175 Parents/Guardians and students attending Aidan Moran's talk on study skills on the 24th of October. It was especially nice to see so many students interested in attending. Following on from the success of that talk we sent a survey to Parents/Guardians to see what future topics they might like covered and Adolescent Mental Health Issues, Preventing Drug and Alcohol Problems in Teenagers, Bullying Prevention and Internet Safety were all identified as of interest. We are delighted to have secured two prominent speakers to talk to us on the topics you are most interested in and the first dates for you 2018 diary are below!!

On November 8th we hosted our 1st year Parents social evening. It was a great evening giving parents a chance to meet other parents many of whom are new to the school and everyone was having such a good time that in the end the PTA had to ask did they have no homes to go to!! On November 16th we also held a 2nd & 3rd Parent social evening and a good night was reported by all.

The PTA's main fundraising event, The Christmas Market and Raffle took place on Saturday December 16th. There was a lovely Christmas atmosphere in the GPA and we had 26 wonderful stall holders giving us all a chance to snap up those last minute Christmas presents! It was a lovely opportunity to meet up, have lunch and listen to some lovely carols provided by our very talented students while supporting Newpark all at the same time!

On behalf of the PTA I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing you at events we have planned in 2018 (more information coming soon!)

*Sinead Hanna (Chairperson) and Ziene Mottiar  
(Committee Member)*



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