

# *Newpark Newsletter*



Issue 61 May 2022

## The Principal Word

There is much to acknowledge, celebrate and remember from terms two and three. One memory that will stay with me is from 3rd March, the day the GPA returned to itself, cabinets gone, tables back and, most significantly, the many smiling faces of students and teachers alike. Later, on 29th April, I had the privilege, along with about 150 others, to be in the GPA for a 5th Year assembly and to hear Una-Luce McKenna (5DM) play the first section of the Concerto for Flute by Cécile Chaminade and then Thomas Wride (5DM) play the theme from *Interstellar* by Hans Zimmer on the grand piano. It was arresting for all present, not least because we got to witness true excellence that could only have been honed through application and practice.

There is an enormous amount of curricular and co-curricular successes shared and celebrated over the coming pages. It is evidence of our students expressing and developing their talents through their endeavours and being supported in doing so by their teachers and coaches. I acknowledge and congratulate all involved.

Two long serving members of staff are retiring this year. Before coming to work in Newpark, both Carol Edge and David Acres were students at Avoca School, and subsequently Newpark School, and therefore between them have over 100 years connection with us! Carol has been a teacher of French and latterly yoga and it would be hard to find a student of hers, past or present, who doesn't count themselves as lucky to have been taught by her. As talented as she is professional, Carol has also been an extraordinarily generous and supportive colleague to many over the years. David has been caretaker, and latterly senior caretaker, for over 40 years. Everyone will know David as a true gentleman. There is very little he doesn't know about Newpark, certainly its buildings and services and all the workings therein. It has always been evident that David takes quiet joy in solving problems, particularly ones of a mechanical or technical nature, and his insight, precision and creativity in doing so has been of great service to the School. Coincidentally, both Carol and David share a gentle, kind and humble demeanour and they will be missed greatly by everyone. We wish them both well in retirement.

Three former members of staff died recently. Chris Henderson taught geography and coached hockey in the School for many years. The Henderson family have a long association with Newpark. Stuart and Ian Henderson are past pupils and Chris's wife, Stella, worked in the front office. Lisa Marks worked between the School and the Sports Centre as a bookkeeper. Lisa

also worked as a swim coach in the Sports Centre for many years. Lisa brought an unmistakable radiance to the campus, and she is missed by many, especially in our Sports Centre. Mary Kennedy was a talented and committed teacher of history and geography for 25 years. She also contributed to the School in a variety of other ways over the years, including as a Board member, a trade union representative, a department coordinator, a TY team member, and as founding editor of the Newpark Newsletter. Since January 2016 Mary has been on secondment from Newpark to the European Schools in Brussels. Mary is sadly missed by her former pupils, her former colleagues and all her friends in Newpark and we are proud that the Senior Geography Award is being named in her honour from this year. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dílse.*

It is great to have our whole school assembly and prize giving back in the gymnasium this year. It is an important annual school event which while functionable online, serves us all better when in-person. We are also delighted to have our 4th year and 6th year graduation services back in the GPA this term. The chance to gather and share in such an experience is indeed a precious thing. That realisation is perhaps one positive outcome from our experience of the pandemic.

Congratulations to Lara Kiang (Class of 2021) on her award of an Entrance Exhibition by Trinity College Dublin and to Daragh Collins-O'Regan (Class of 2020), Tadhg Clifford-Brannock, Adam Pearlman-Spencer, Jennifer Sheeran, Marcus Tidey and Adam Walsh (all of Class of 2021) for their UCD Entrance Scholar Awards. We are proud that these students have been recognised by both universities for their academic achievement in the Leaving Certificate 2021.

I wish our sixth-year students well in their upcoming Leaving Certificate examinations. I wish you well in your career and educational choices in the future and hope that the experience you have gained, and the skills and values you have learnt, during your time in Newpark will serve you well. On your behalf, I would like to thank your year leaders, Ms Anna Johnston and Mr Hugh Gallagher, for their time, care and attention working with you over the last six years.

I will be in touch with all students and parents/guardians in late August about arrangements for the start of the new school year. Over the summer break, the winding down of measures introduced in the School to decrease interaction and increase segregation



as a result of the pandemic will be completed. Plans for the forthcoming academic year will be finalised in August, in light of public health advice at that time. Term dates for next year are available on the School website. We plan to welcome our new first year students to the School on Friday 26th August, with all the other year groups starting back on Monday 29th August.

Finally, I would like to extend sincere appreciation to all my colleagues for their commitment and dedication to their students and to the School over the past year.

Tá súil agam go mbeidh sos deas agaibh ar fad i rith saoire an tsamhraidh agus go mbainfidh sibh sásamh agus tairbhe as.

*Mr Eoin Norton*

## Newpark Assemble!

### Assembly 2022—Oran O'Sullivan—Head Boy



It's been a while. Almost three years in fact since our last in person full school assembly and it's hard to believe that over half of the people here today have never experienced one of these before. The third years are only for the first time discovering the discomfort of the floor and the

envy for the six years and their benches.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg of what we have all missed over the last few years. And rather than dwelling on what we have lost out on in those years, we should focus on what we have gotten back in these last few months, things we perhaps took for granted before. The simple things, like the buzz of the GPA at lunch or even a simple smile no longer hidden behind a mask. In particular, I hope that the younger years in these last few months, between Sports Days and Junior Plays, have had even a little taste of what Newpark is really like, because if you haven't realised yet – it's special. And as someone who is leaving the school this year, I am jealous of the time you all still have here, but I ask you humbly to value it.

And I say this because I have learned so much from my time here, and importantly the lessons I have learned outside the classroom have been more valuable than those learned within. This school has taught me more than just Maths or Irish, it has taught me respect and kindness, humility and community. And most importantly, my time spent with friends - with my year - has taught me that experiences are worthless unless

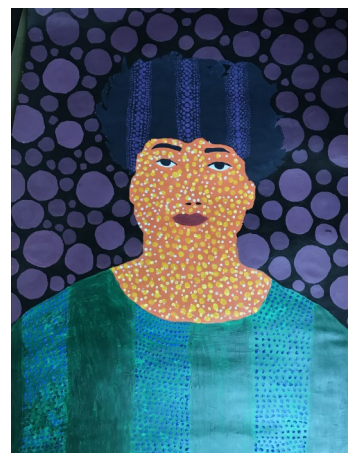
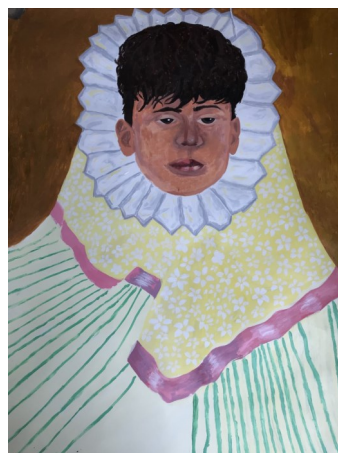
shared with others. And therefore I believe that this school understands more than any other that education is not limited to the just the curriculum. They understand that the true purpose of education is not to shepherd you into a set career path, but rather to develop each individual to their full potential.

And they have proven this understanding yet again. Over the last six years they have succeeded in developing another batch of 140 students - 140 individuals: some sporty, others musical, some creative, others more logical, some funny, some not, but above all each and every one unique. And although I know we certainly have some future superstars in our year - doctors, sportspeople, artists, leaders - for me what is more important is that every single one of them is a decent, kind, compassionate and well rounded human being. More important than successful people, this school produces good people. And I look at all of them now, and I know that to be true. But I look at all of you too, and know that it will be the same for you. Now that is a better education than one could hope for, and this school, Newpark, is a better school than one could ask for. Thank you.

*Oran O'Sullivan (Assembly Speech)*



**TY largescale portraits: can you identify the famous paintings they were modelled on?**



# The Basketball Diaries

## Senior Boys



Where did we leave off from the last newsletter? Oh, I remember...we were on a winning streak and headed straight to a final! Facing us in the Oblate Hall in Inchicore in the East Dublin Final was Nord Anglia. A team we knew very little about and had no experience playing them before. But that didn't phase us. The game was very close for the first two quarters, it was tit for tat and a tight defence was needed. But then in the third quarter, we did what we do best - we played OUR style of basketball and took a comfortable lead. The contest was still there, and battles were fought on the court, but the scoreboard showed the edge that we had over our rivals. Given we were coming out of Covid restrictions, we were lucky enough to bring some supporters with us so hearing that countdown and cheering on the sideline was a gamechanger for us. Sheer joy and elation as the final whistle went and we had finally won the silverware we so justly deserved!



Next up in our attempt to take Leinster was Ballybay, Monaghan. (Yes, you may now reach for a map!). We

set off on our long journey North with the words of Ms. Farlow echoing around us "*Never rule Monaghan out*". The tension was palpable as these evenly matched teams went head-to-head. The game went down to the wire. It actually pains me to pen this but in a cruel twist, Newpark lost by a single point in the dying seconds. With pathetic fallacy surrounding us for the journey home, it was a somber bus ride. Even a hot chicken roll en route couldn't lift the mood.

Unfortunately, it didn't pan out as we had wished this year trying to break Leinster, but I am so glad that we got our hands on a trophy as this squad has been so committed, so talented and unlucky up until now! On a side note—Nord Anglia asked to play us again in a practice match on their home turf and we down and beat them again! Little victories! Their win has bumped us up a league next year but that won't scare us. Class bunch of lads; have loved coaching them. They make it look easy!

By Ms Delaney

## 1st Year Boys



The 1st Year Boys basketball team had a very successful season this year. Coached by past pupil, Dillon Hennessy (Class of 2020), it was clear that this was a special group of players from the first training session. The team started the season strong, with a 47-7 win against Ballinteer in the group stages. They followed this with comfortable wins against Clonkeen College (2-15) and Stepside ETSS (54-31) to set up a quarter-final with Nord Anglia International School. Despite the intense rain on the journey up to Nord Anglia, the lads came out 21-43 winners. The semi-final against Terenure College gave the team their toughest test so far. The teams were level at the final whistle, but





Newpark managed to dig deep and secure the victory in overtime.

With a bus full of supporters, we set off for the National Basketball Arena to face Firhouse Community College in the final. It was a nervy first quarter with some very fast paced basketball, finishing with Newpark down 5-1. The introduction of Gareth Hopwood in the second quarter, who went on to score over 20 points, helped Newpark settle into the game. Newpark seized control from there and went on to be 40-21 winners, securing both the league cup and promotion for next year. This victory illustrated just how strong this team are as a group, with every player putting in a shift. Well done to all the team and their coach, Dillon.

*By Mr A. Doyle*

## U16 Boys

It was a great season for Newpark under 16s basketball this year. It was filled with highs and lows, but all in all it was a good season. We started the season strong with two convincing victories including a 38-12 win against Terenure College. Our third match in the group stage ended up a forfeit by the opposition team and with a win in our last game made us unbeaten in the group stage. The quarter-finals was our next challenge in our attempt to win the league cup. We faced a good Gael Cholaiste an Phiarsaigh side with some great players, however we stayed focused and defeated them, sending us to the semi-finals against Clonkeen College.

In the locker room ahead of the game we were all excited and nervous for the match. As we hit the floor for our layup line, Jairo Manoag fell injured and couldn't play the game. Our team had to play without him and fought hard, but couldn't overcome Clonkeen's tough defence, knocking us out of the tournament. Our final game of the season would be a friendly against Nord Anglia which would be a 30-23 victory for Newpark to end the basketball season. All in all, it was a great year for the under 16s basketball team and things look good for next season.

*By Sean Behan, 3rd Year*

## 1st Year and 2nd Year Girls

With our pre-season training done before Christmas, the girls were champing at the bit to get started! The season kicked off against Teresians, followed by Larkin College, Sion Hill, Rockford and Firhouse. It was such a great experience to have home and away games that really helped the teams bond on their travels and gave them a chance to play in a setting that was new to them. There were some victories and some losses but all in all, solid work was put in.

The 1st year girls narrowly missed out on a place in the quarter finals that brought their adventure to an end sadly. But never fear, as this group of girls have shown serious commitment, a willingness to learn and the best attitude! They have such a calm yet positive disposition and have gelled really well together. They will reach new heights next year no doubt...and they can't wait!

The 2nd year girls made it to the next knock-out round against Mount Anville, and although it didn't go their way on the day, they showed great heart as a group. Looking forward to next year already - the future is bright! Special mention to coach Zoe for doing a fantastic job with them.

*By Ms Delaney*

## 2nd Year Boys



The second-year basketball team had a good season this year. The team gelled well, considering we didn't get the chance to play as a team together until 2nd year. We started off the season with a comfortable 51-7 win against Ballinteer. This set us up with confidence and momentum for the rest of the season. We went on to beat three more teams, including local rivals Clonkeen (30-17) and CBC Monkstown (44-22). These victories took us to the semi-final where unfortunately, we were knocked out by a strong Terenure College side. While we didn't win this year, this will push us to win next year and I have confidence that, with the team we have, this is possible. A big thanks to Mr Doyle for coaching us this year.

*By Eoin Tierney, 2nd Year*



## Senior Rugby



Newpark Senior Rugby team had a season to remember, however that would not have been the mindset half-way through the season. The season started with some disruptions due to injuries to what was already a small squad of players. Wins over Mount Temple, Blackrock College, De La Salle were met with narrow defeats to King's Hospital and CBS Wexford which ended up with the team being knocked out of a McMullen Cup that had a very strong field.



The second half of the season was extremely positive. Most importantly, for the expansive rugby which was brought some fantastic results. Two huge wins against St. Columba's and Maynooth in the McMullen Shield final was the reward the team deserved for their bravery in attack and courage in defence.

*By Mr M. Doyle*





## Junior Rugby



The quality of captain Lewis Thornton and Andrew McAdams drove Newpark to victory in the Bank of Ireland Division 3A Development Junior Shield final versus Mercy Kilbeggan at Energia Park. Newpark started well with Lewis Thornton carrying the fight from the off. Andrew McAdams was a standout in the back division, the full-back contributing one try and centre Bobby Kennedy the other as they moved 10-0 ahead in the 19th minute.



through when a Mercy turnover led to a try, giving them a 12-10 lead in the 45th minute.



lead in the 53rd minute. They came again, McAdams taking the ball up the middle and Thornton carrying hard for McCullagh to cut back for the try to make it a two-score game. Mercy pulled one back but Newpark

It was a matter of eating into the deficit for Mercy. They scored a try to 10-7 at the break. Newpark were on the brink of breaking

Straight away, Newpark secured the restart inside the Mercy 22 and went forward, scrum-half Neil Óg Cleary shifting the ball right for McAdams to put Patrick Donaghy over, recovering the

held on to secure the win and the shield. FT Score Newpark Comprehensive 20 Mercy Kilbeggan 19.



A special thank you to Max Bourne and Vladimir Zakharov for the brilliant pictures of our successful day out in Energia Park. Congrats to the squad on the win and a big thank you to Mr O'Shea who guided them to glory.



## 1st Year Rugby

The 1st Year Rugby team have had a busy year playing loads of sevens tournaments. We split up into two random teams and played about six games each against other teams. We went to schools all over Dublin and it was a great experience overall. The games are ten minutes long and are very well refereed by the Leinster coaches who arrange the games. They usually happen on Fridays during school hours and we all get a bus to whichever school we're playing in, which is great fun.

In our most recent tournament, both teams did very well. Nearly everyone on Team 1 scored a try and Team 2 came up with a last-minute win against St. David's. We have improved immensely since we started playing in the sevens tournaments and have started to win a lot more games.

Playing rugby in first year has been a great introduction to the sport and everyone on the team has made good friends. We are very excited to play in the Junior Cup team next year. Mr Smyth and Mr Forsythe have done an amazing job of making sure that we play safely and have fun for our first year playing rugby with Newpark.

*By Turlough Rooney, 1st Year*



## Senior Boys Hockey



Despite a rocky start to the first post-Covid school hockey season with the loss of coach Johnny McCormack abroad and key player Daragh Grogan to injury, the season itself turned out to be quite successful in contrast. Due to the years missed to the pandemic, the traditional league format was restructured with an initial placement league before Christmas, followed by the actual league in the new year. We lost but a single league game before the break against a strong rival in St. Andrew's, which meant we unfortunately missed out on a spot in the top four and instead we were placed in the bracket just below.

We were undefeated there, winning every game in this so-called 'B League,' securing a strong 5th place overall finish in Leinster. Our exploits were not solely limited to the domestic league and having dramatically qualified for the All-Ireland Schoolboys Competition in a shootout at the start of the season, we faced multiple games throughout the year in this prestigious nationwide tournament. A highlight in this campaign was a commanding 4-2 win over a Cookstown side boasting underage Irish internationals on our home turf in Newpark.

However, in our group of four we ultimately finished joint 2nd on points, with 1st place and progression into the semis going to a dominant Bandon side that went on to win the entire national competition. Our Senior Cup run was also cut short by a Wesley side who completed the double in Leinster, winning both the League and Cup.

As such our season fell short with these losses to top teams, however our convincing conquering of the B League and a rare All-Ireland win showed our ability to compete at the highest level and delivered one of the best seasons for senior boys hockey in the recent past. This achievement could not have been reached without our coach, Rian Jolley, who stood-in late and stayed

with us all the way—as well as the support of Mark Cullen and of course all the hours of organising behind the scenes by Mr Breen – we appreciate you all.

And lastly, my final thank you goes to all the boys who have made these six years of hockey a special and memorable journey with every bus trip, training session and wearing of the castle and star – thank you. I hope we left the jersey in a better place than we found it.

*By Oran O'Sullivan, 6th Year*

## Senior Girls Hockey

The senior girls hockey team had a great season this year. After over a year of no hockey we were all eager to be back out on the pitch training and playing competitive matches against other schools. We had three league matches which unfortunately didn't go in our favour.



However we made it to the quarter finals of the Leinster Senior Girls' Cup. We got knocked out by Newbridge in the quarter final, but it was an exciting experience that we all really enjoyed. Some of the team are moving on now but the majority of the players will still be playing next year so hopefully next season will be a successful one.

We'd like to say a BIG thank you to our coach Herbie, our two fitness coaches—Ms Carr and Simon—and Ms Clarke and Ms Cameron for coordinating it all.

*By Lauren Moore, 6th Year*



Thanks for all the memories!





## Junior Girls Hockey



This year's third-year hockey girls had an amazing season. At the start of the year, we began full training every Monday and Tuesday. All of us have really enjoyed this year of training and although it has been hard work at times, our amazing sportsmanship from our teammates and support from our coaches has helped us push through. This year our team got the opportunity to be coached by Miss Henry, who sadly left us after our season finished. We are so thankful and would not have gotten so far without her! We are all so grateful to be back playing hockey, it helped us especially at the start of the year adding some normality into the Covid craziness.

Hockey has been an escape for us all from the books and study that come along with third year, and it's safe to say it was always the highlight of the week. We played countless matches, travelled all over Dublin and ate a lot of Jaffa cakes on the way! We had some triumphant victories and some tough losses, nevertheless we learned from our mistakes and with each match continued to grow stronger as individual players and as a team. We made it all the way to our first semi-final: it was our best match of the season and our teamwork shone through everyone's fabulous playing. It came down to the line with one v ones and sadly we were pipped at the post. It was hard for us all but nonetheless we were all so thrilled to have made it that far and to have had a full season of hockey.

This year we have not only created a talented team, but we have made many friendships along the way. Just because we do not say it enough, we would like to thank Ms Car and Simon Moore for their outstanding support with our fitness training, and lastly a huge thanks to Mr Breden and Ms Clarke because we would not have this team without you. We are all so grateful and cannot wait to get back on the field.

*By Jessica Roe and Hannah Clabby, 3rd Year*

## Junior Boys Hockey

This season has been a difficult one in terms of trophies for the junior boys. There is certainly not enough to show for all the effort that this team has put in. There have been a lot of learning experiences throughout this season which we hope to apply to our style of play next year. It would be easy to look at the results this year from the team and be pessimistic or unimpressed, however as a member of the team I can confidently say that there has been a lot of team development.

The hunger for wins is even stronger than before due to the lack of them this year and the spirit is there to achieve more than we did this year. When we combine the new bunch of second years coming through now with the existing strong core of third years, I am optimistic that we will see success in the coming season.

*By Mark Maybury, 3rd Year*

## Minor Boys Hockey

The minor boys have had a great season, with most of the joy coming in the second half. The lads were put into the B league along with High School, St Killian's and Sutton Park. They won 2-0 against High School and 2-0 against Sutton, and got a free win due to St Killian's not being able to field a team. This meant that they won their league—a great achievement, and a big confidence booster for next season.

Newpark also had a great run in the cup, beating Drogheda 7-1 and beating A league team King's Hospital 2-0. Unfortunately they suffered defeat in the semi final to a strong St. Andrew's team, but the lads held their heads high after a great performance.

It's Junior Hockey next year for the boys, so they're hoping that they can move on and win bigger things with their new team-mates.

## Minor Girls Hockey

This year in hockey, like in everything else, we've had our ups and downs, but overall it's been a great year. We won most of our matches, and really improved our skills. Hockey has been an anchor point when weather and COVID restrictions have been anything but.

It has been a great year for us, because, while we didn't win every match, or score every goal, we could show up to practice on a Tuesday evening and Thursday afternoon, and know that we had a whole team there with us, who would make each moment more fun.

We had a lot of laughs, a lot of really brilliant training, and a lot of excellent matches together. It was so much fun, and I can't wait for next year!

*By Allegra Zipser, 2nd Year*

## 1st Year Girls Hockey



We really enjoyed playing hockey this year in Newpark. We drew one of our home matches against Our Lady's. It was a friendly. We didn't win that many matches, but we definitely improved as a team as the year went by. Some of the best parts were spending time with friends and getting the team bus to away matches. At one we watched the opposition play camogie on the pitch while waiting for the match to start! We are looking forward to playing hockey again next year when the season starts.

*By Leila Frankish and Aashi Kurmul, 1st Year*

## 1st Year Boys Hockey

When we started the year many of us were new to hockey and didn't know each other but over the course of the season, new bonds have been made through all our training and matches.

I think my highlight of the year was when we came back from 3-0 down against our northside rivals Mount Temple in the last ten minutes! We scored three goals in quick succession and achieved a draw to bring us level in the table with them. The icing on the cake was in our last match of the season we went on to beat them 2-1 to win our league.

The team has improved so much over the course of one year thanks to the amazing coaching of Mark Cullen. We are looking forward to next year already and I believe this team could do some great things if we keep working hard and progressing. I would advise everyone to try out hockey - it's great fun and you will make lots of friends!

*By David Rankin, 1st Year*

## Newpark Swimming Returns!

Swimming is back in Newpark! In years past, Newpark competed in swimming meets all the way up to provincial level. We had many participants in the morning free swims, community galas, as well as club swimmers who aim to qualify for the Irish Division 1 Championships and International Competitions.

However due to the COVID restrictions, this area of Newpark Sport screeched to a halt and a part of Newpark Sport disappeared. But with swimming galas and the free swims back, Newpark Swimming is back with a vengeance!

## Community Gala Victory



In the first gala after a two-year break, Newpark emerged victorious in the CCSSCA swim meet. Five schools participated including Trinity CS, Hartstown CS, Portmarnock CS, Coolmine CS, but it was Newpark with several spectacular performances that brought home the win.

Students from across all years came together and scored over 100 points for Newpark! Many medals were won, and it was obvious there was a strong depth to the team. Everyone had a great time, and we were by far the best cheerers.

The event was hosted by the Newpark Sports Centre and organised by the Leaving Cert PE Students and the Newpark Sports Council. The students did a great job running the gala and everything went very smoothly. Thanks to Ms Ormond and Ms Hayes for making this success possible. Thanks also to the Newpark Sports Centre for hosting this amazing event.

We look forward to the next community gala where Newpark hopes to defend its title!

Students interested in swimming for Newpark can practice in the free swims and keep an eye on VSWare and the swimming noticeboard for more news.



## Leinster Schools Championships



In February, Newpark participated in the Leinster Schools Championships at the National Aquatic Centre. Our swimmers were entered into a range of events, scoring tons of points for Newpark across the board. Newpark came 12<sup>th</sup> out of over 60 schools from across Leinster with 113 points. Levi Clarke also took home a bronze in the 100m breaststroke (13-14). Overall, this was an amazing result considering it was a relatively young team! It was a great day with loads of laughs. Thanks to Ms Ormond for making this success possible!

This meet hints at a promising future for Newpark Swimming.

### **Newpark team:**

Kuba Kadlubowski, 1<sup>st</sup> Year

Lorna Gillanders, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

Maya Mulhern, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

Levi Clarke, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

Matt O'Sullivan, 4<sup>th</sup> Year

Jake Sweeney, 4<sup>th</sup> Year

## Swim A Mile Challenge



Congratulations to Daniel Gifford who swam the furthest distance (12 miles), and Reuben Llewellyn who won most improved swimmer in the Newpark Swim-A-Mile challenge 2022.

## Irish Interprovincial Championships



Congrats to Levi Clarke (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) who represented Leinster at the Interprovincial Championship in March.

In this gala, the four provinces go head-to-head, trying to score as many points per race as possible. It was tight between Leinster and Ulster for the entire meet and unfortunately Leinster had to accept 2<sup>nd</sup> place this year when Ulster stole the win in the final relays of the day.

Levi had a great gala and swam the 100m breaststroke. Well done Levi!

## Free Swims

In Newpark we are lucky enough to have access to the pool in the Newpark Sports Centre. Students are allowed to swim every morning from 8-8:30 and every Wednesday 1:45-2:30—for free!

Swimming is a great way to start your day and can make you super fit and strong. You can choose to take it at your own pace and have a relaxing swim, or you can test yourself and try to get faster! Swimming is a very individualised sport so you can make it whatever you want! Even just being in the water burns calories and makes you fitter and happier. You can also have a nice shower and use the hairdryers available to feel nice and fresh starting your day.

School Swimming Galas will also be run going forward so you can set goals and try to achieve personal best times in a race situation. Maybe even win a medal!

Over lockdown we saw a boom in sea swimming, with many people using it as an opportunity to get out of their houses, out of their heads and into the water. I think a lot of people realised just how much of an impact swimming can have on your wellbeing. Swimming is a great way to improve fitness and feel better.

We hope to see some new faces at the free swims!

### **Key Information**

- 8-8:30 every morning
- 1:45-2:30 every Wednesday
- Showers and hair dryers available

By Jake Sweeney, TY



## Luke Thornton: International Football



Over the Easter break, I played in a match for the Irish Cerebral Palsy junior football team in Manchester against CP United, the equivalent of the English Cerebral Palsy team. It was our first international game since the pandemic.

After an early start and many, many queues, we reached the location of our match, which was the training ground of Salford FC, a football club owned by some old Man United players. This fact was mentioned seventeen times by one person. Before we got on the first flight. Who's counting though, right?

After a hard-fought game, we managed to win 2-0, and I even scored the first goal. It was an incredible feeling when I scored, after having not played for two years after covid, and last year I had quite a bad injury to the point where I couldn't walk very well, so to go from that to scoring for Ireland, there's no real way to properly describe the emotion of it. It's made me believe that if somebody wants something badly enough, you can do it. I also learned the very important lesson that I need a good celebration for next time!

*By Luke Thornton, 5th Year*

## Eric Schutte: International Football



I play for Bray Wanderers U15 as a midfielder. I was recently got called up to Ireland's U15 squad for a tournament in Croatia to play in a group against Montenegro, Uzbekistan and Croatia. I made my debut against Uzbekistan in a 6-0 win it was a great experience and I hope to play for Ireland again

*By Eric Schutte, 3rd Year*

## International Hockey

Earlier on in the year I was selected for the U18 Boys Irish Hockey Team. We have been training most weekends in the National Sport Centre since Christmas. Over the Easter break I was picked in a squad of 21 to play a tour series in England against The



Netherlands, Belgium and England. We played Netherlands on our first day there, the fixture was seen as a bit of a baptism of fire for us as The Netherlands would be regarded as one of the pioneering countries in the world of Hockey. We played very well but unfortunately lost 1-0

conceding in the final quarter of the game. Next we had Belgium, we were once again on the wrong side of the draw losing 4-2 to a very well trained team. Finally we



had England on our last day, naturally we were very pumped for the game knowing there's no better feeling than beating the English especially in their back garden. The team played very well and beat them 1-0, we kept them scoreless which was also a big for us. It was definitely an ideal way to finish the series and made the trip home a good one.

All and all we took a lot away from the trip, positive and negative. We are currently training for the 8 nations tournament hosted by Germany taking place in July where we hope to pick up some silverware to bring home.

*By Conor Murphy, 5th Year*



## Leinster Hockey



The Leinster u21's Interprovincial tournament took place from August 2021 to January 2022. It was the first time it ran through the school term instead of being a summer tournament. Erika Gallagher and myself trained on a Sunday and travelled around Ireland playing a series of matches against Connacht and Munster over the four month period (Ulster pulled out unfortunately).



We won all these matches which meant we played Connacht in the final on January 16th in Three Rock Rovers. There was a great buzz at the match as it was the first time the majority of us had played in front of a crowd in about two years because of Covid. We

won comfortably 5-2 which meant we were crowned the winners of the 2021/22 inter-pros!

*By Lauren Moore, 6th Year*

## Ms Carr's Winning Matches!

Best of luck to Ms Carr and Donegal as they aim to make up for their League final disappointment by taking the Ulster and All Ireland Championships. Up Donegal!



## Andrew McAdams: Leinster Rugby

I was very fortunate to play on the Leinster Metro U16s squad this season. We played four matches this season against Southeast, Northeast, Midlands and North midlands. I have really enjoyed training and playing with this great group of lads. I've made plenty of new friends and I have loved every minute of it.



*By Andrew McAdams, 3rd Year*

## Cathal MacGearailt: Leinster Rugby



Back in September one of the coaches in Wanderers put my name down for a trial period with the Leinster Metro squad along with Jacob Llewelyn and Sami Phelan.

Unfortunately, Sami broke his ankle and couldn't go down but myself and Jacob did. We both were on the squad until January when they cut loads of players from the squad. Jacob was unlucky not to stay on the team. But the rest of us kept training together and they put all of us forward for the Leinster U18 Clubs trials. I've been asked to come back and train with squad for the next three weeks and fingers crossed I get picked and play in the inter-pros this summer.

*By Cathal MacGearailt, TY*



## East Leinster Cross Country Championships 2022



On the bright Wednesday morning of the 26th of January a small but determined group from Newpark headed to the East Leinster Cross Country Championships in the Phoenix Park. Emily Rowe competed in the senior girls race and battled some tough competitors to cross the finish line in 12th place. Emily qualified to represent Newpark in the Leinster Championship in February.

Fionnuala Rowe and Isabelle Power competed in the minor girls race. They both seized the opportunity to represent Newpark for the very first time in cross country running and I have no doubt that they have many successful years of running ahead of them in the future.

*By Ms Colin*



## Athletics Santry

After two years of a hiatus, athletics in Santry was finally back! A quick surge from pupils and we had our dream team ready to go!

Thursday saw the first trip Northside in a bid to take home some medals! A chilly day but a full bus and an enthusiastic Newpark cohort were ready to attack.

Hearing the crowds and the buzz of a full stadium saw 80+ pupils partake in track and field events against tens of schools around the country.

Loving life in the long jump lane, Brianna Carty Dwyer caught some air before landing a **GOLD MEDAL!**

Elation for Alex Holmes and Jake Scully as they took silver and bronze in the high jump and shot putt!

There were several bronze medals collected by Sami Phelan, Jack Morton and Dan Makim for their respective events. Brianna managed to pinch another medal for her 200m efforts!

Impressively, Newpark managed to place quite highly in the rest of the events of the two day extravaganza. Narrowly missing out on podium position, students should be very proud of their valiant and impressive efforts.

Considering it is such a busy time of year, we would like to thank Mr. Doyle, Ms. Cashman and Ms. Colin for making it all happen. Amelia Bolger and Charlie Ballance were great helpers with organisation on the day.

Santry has proven itself to be the wholesome summer sports day out that it has always been. Well done to all involved and we look forward to building a bigger Newpark team to represent next year!

*By Ms Delaney*



## International Orienteering



Myself, my brother (Oscar) and sister (Emily) all did well at the Irish Orienteering Championships in Kerry recently, winning the titles in our age classes.

As soon as we were allowed to leave the country last July 2021, my brother Oscar and I headed to a 10-day orienteering camp in Czech Republic with 150 other kids. Oscar and my sister Emily then headed to Lithuania for the European Youth Orienteering Championships in August 2021 with kids from 26 other countries. In October, Emily and I went to the Junior Home Internationals in England.

This year we've been to Spain, England and Wales. Emily and Oscar have been to Hungary. We're planning to go to Sweden during the summer for three weeks for more orienteering and we are making plans for a trip to France later in the year.

We're all on the Irish junior team and we have great craic travelling and running around Europe.

Orienteering is such a small sport in Ireland that we would know most of the orienteering community from all different counties around Ireland.

This is a photo of us from the Irish Championships with the CEO of Sport Ireland, Una May.

*By Fionnuala Rowe, 1st Year*





## Transition Year 2021/22



Over the past two years Transition Year has been challenging to say the least, for the staff keeping it up and running but mostly for the students who have missed out on so much. While the beginning of this year presented quite a degree of uncertainty for everyone it was really exciting to pack up and send off our first groups to Gartan in November, although their bags were filled with masks and hand-sani they still got to enjoy all of the wonderful activities and the environment around Lough Gartan.

As the year continued and the pandemic started to subside post Christmas, we were able to plan for more in-person fun, elements of Transition Year that have been so integral to everyone's experience were closer in sight. As all school restrictions lifted in early February, mask-free trips became a reality, a Geography trip to Henrietta Street and The Docklands, In Dublin Week trips to The Zoo, Glasnevin Cemetery and The Little Museum.

Planning then began for Interview Day, which would bring the outside community back into the school for the first time. We also had our first in-person Guest Speaker in the theatre for more than two years when past pupil Sam Turner came in to speak about his experiences in The British Army in early April. Interview Day took place on May 4th and was a great success, sixteen interviewers took on the challenge of quizzing and interviewing 140 students on their future life plans!

While this has been a challenging time for everyone, it has demonstrated the importance of getting outside of the classroom, in meeting people outside the school community, in growing those relationships and most importantly in being able to go on Outdoor Education Week in Gartan, this undoubtedly is the greatest loss

to those in the past two years and the greatest gain to those who have now got it in front of them. It has been a pleasure watching the fun and excitement of 4LMY this last week in Gartan, their development as a group and individuals in such a short time simply serves to reinforce the importance of building everything in Transition Year around this key week

*By Mr Lennon, TY Coordinator*





## Interview Day



I was lucky enough to attend Interview Day on the 4th of May 2022, roughly 1565 years after the fall of the Roman Empire. This is debatably related. Now what is Interview Day? It's the day when you are interviewed for the position of your choice, I went for the Head of Finance. Of course, I am somewhat unqualified for the position, and so my teacher told me to take some *"creative liberties, within reason."* To cut down on time, I removed the second half of that statement. I made many lofty statements, including "improve morale, loyalty and respect for the management," and was unpleasantly surprised when I was asked how I could do so.

The infallible tactic of smile, nod and repeat what they said worked very well. The interviewer asked if I would improve morale by team exercises like forest walks and sitting to talk about the company. I tell her yes, there would be a weekly coffee break, outdoor activities and improvised and bluffed my way through it. Then when she asked me about my experience—my supposed sixteen years of experience in the Lehman Brothers bank until they caused the 2008 recession—this is where I remember my form teacher practically told me to lie by speaking of "creative liberties."

The moral of the story is that by omitting the truth, creating my own truth and blaming Mr Doyle, I got very good/excellent on my report and have been considered for the job.

*By Neal Dowling, Head of Finance*

## The Newspaper Fashion Show



2022 also saw the return of the Newspaper Fashion show, a traditional part of TY in Newpark. In true Newpark fashion, there were many creative and 'interesting' outfits. Even more interesting were some of the struts on display in the hall. The contest was judged by Newpark style icons Daki Zdravka Rezic and Molly Watterson.

Well done to all involved!

Newspaper Fashion Show Winners:

Best Overall: Celina Van Der Salm

Best Girl: Jodie O'Hara

Best Boy: Jake Sweeney

Most Creative Girl: Hannah Butt

Most Creative Boy: Calisto McManus





## Activity Weeks Fun!





## RCSI MiniMed and Trinity School of Medicine Courses

In early March I participated in the RCSI MiniMed course followed by Trinity College's School of Medicine TY Programme. Both courses were run online from 9-12 every day. I am particularly interested in a career in medicine or science and these courses gave me an opportunity to experience what I might expect if I chose to study medicine.



The RCSI MiniMed course had a few hundred online attendees and had a very structured timetable, the first three days covered many areas of medicine, with several professors and specialists discussing the enormous variety of what they do and outlining that a career in medicine is not only about being an academic student but also having certain qualities such as perseverance, intense drive, scientific approach and having the ability to adapt in a high risk, stressful situations.

There were lectures and presentations on many aspects of medicine, we also observed live surgeries such as Keyhole Surgery of the Oesophagus, a Caesarean Section, and Laparoscopic surgery. We discussed and covered the lifestyle of doctors from various disciplines such as Cardio Thoracic, Obstetrics, Neurology and Forensic Medicine.

On Thursday the focus moved to pharmacy, again the timetable covered all aspects of a potential career in this area. On Friday, we finished the week off by concentrating on physiotherapy where lectures included 'The Complexity of Pain', 'Physiotherapy as a Career' and 'Sports-related Injuries.'

Contrastingly, Trinity College's School of Medicine TY Programme, which was done with doctors from St James's Hospital, was far smaller. Students wishing to enrol in the course had to submit a letter of application, as the programme only had a capacity for eighty students. This allowed for breakout groups and in-depth discussions on the topics brought up, due to this I found the programme extremely engaging. The

course was more focused on the life of a doctor and the practical aspects of a life in medicine. The speakers discussed what it was like working through the Covid-19 pandemic, since St. James's Hospital is the primary centre for respiratory problems. We also talked about other high stress situations, for example one professor discussed a recent outbreak of TB in a prison. The Trinity lectures reinforced that medicine is not just about high grades but about lifelong learning.

We also had lectures with doctors from Emergency Rooms, Intensive Care Units as well as respiratory doctors, endocrinologists, cardiac specialists and those working with infectious disease to name but a few.

Overall, the two programmes allowed me to inform myself on medicine as a career and the stressful, challenging and fast paced life that goes with it. These programmes highlighted the highs, lows, limitations and rewards that come with a life in medicine which is something I am incredibly grateful for.

*By Seireian Nalty, TY*

## TY Sports Council

From running competitions and swimming galas, to pumping balls, keeping inventory, serving as umpires and keeping the PE storage in order, at the Newpark Sports Committee, run by 4th years for Community Action, we've been very successful in keeping PE in the school to its high standards. The committee does all sorts of jobs that need doing for Ms Farrell and it's great fun.



The committee held competitions for junior cycle classes, like a design your own jersey competition, wall sit and shot-put

competitions (the winners are pictured here!)

Towards the end of the year, the committee helped the 5th year Leaving Cert. PE class to run a swim gala with other schools. The committee performed time trials and made posters for the gala and spent the day of the gala judging the swimmers.

We have really enjoyed the sports committee and it's been a great experience. We want to also give our thanks to Ms Farrell and Ms Ormond for enabling us to have this opportunity.

*By Patrick McManus-Garnes, TY*

## Student Voice Overview

As usual, it's been a very busy year for the Student Voice Teacher Team and Students. The Student and Cultural Council have been very active with various fundraisers for Ukraine amongst other things like discussing important issues in the school.

The Student Voice Student Survey has been very informative and will help shape the focus for next year which will be on Student Voice in the classroom. This work has been supported by the ACCS Student Voice group which Ms Cameron and I attend regularly.

Congratulations to the many TY student who took part in the Foróige programme this year, a number of them have passed two modules and just need to complete Module Three in 5th year to attain their qualification. Congratulations to Bruno Ciulli and Maya Garcia (class of 2021) who graduated this April at NUIG with their level 6 certificate.

Many thanks to the student leaders and teachers who help facilitate the various councils and clubs in the school and the prefects. Many thanks also to the outgoing prefects who have led so well by example, assisted staff in supervision and run the buddy system with the First Years. Best of luck to the incoming prefects for the new academic year.

*By Ms Devis*

## Prefects



Being a prefect has definitely been one of the **b i g g e s t** highlights of my time in Newpark. It was really amazing seeing all our first years

come out of their shells and settle into their friend groups and the school itself. I was put into a small group that organised all of the buddy meet ups which was quite useful for organisational skills but it was also a good way of connecting with teachers as well as the First Years.

A couple of weeks ago we did a scavenger hunt with our First Years and it was so much fun seeing how much they all got into it and how much they enjoyed themselves. One of the benefits of being a prefect is 100% the prefect room. Unfortunately due to Covid we weren't able to have the room for the entire year but



hopefully next year's prefects can decorate and enjoy the room for the year. Good luck to the future prefects—I hope you enjoy yourselves as much as we have. Many

thanks to Mr Ludgate for his support his year.

*By Mia Holmes, 6th Year*

## Student Council

**Maeve Farragher:**

Another fantastic year was had from everyone involved in the Student Council and beyond! With school and general day to day that goes with it returning to an altered sense of normality after these difficult two years we've had, the Student Council and student voice in general are more important than ever. Being split into two groups and then thankfully merging together for the later half of the year, we've been constantly working towards improving the school for everyone by listening to the problems put forward by the student body, and then creating solutions to alleviate them.

As I look back on everything we've achieved this year, with an extremely successful fundraiser for Ukraine being a particular highlight, I am proud of everyone who got involved and made the student voice heard. I couldn't have asked for a better group to lead, alongside my wonderful co-chair Adam. I have no doubt next year's Student Council will continue to work effortlessly to make the student voice properly represented within Newpark!

**Adam Merabet:**

Keeping the momentum from another great term, we've already begun working on fundraisers for Ukraine and tackling other problems raised by the student body for the weeks we have left. As the year comes to a close, I strongly advise anyone who has an interest in improving our school to get involved with the council next year. There can never be enough voices and representation and one passionate member can change so much. It has been my absolute pleasure being one of two chairs for this year and I couldn't have had a better partner than Maeve on the other half of the council. Whether or not you are on the Student Council, I hope everyone is doing their best to make Newpark an even better school. So if you have anything you think needs attention, don't hesitate to bring it up with your form representative or another relevant authority.

*By Maeve Farragher and Adam Merabet, Co-Chairs*



## Fun Day Photos!





## Creative Engagement Mural

This mural project initially started as part of the Creative Schools initiative and for a need to rejuvenate the neglected area behind the theatre and hockey pitches. We already have a thriving biodiversity garden and we felt that this area would be a great place to celebrate the extra curricular life of the school. As we looked at the external theatre walls, we saw how dilapidated they were and so we thought they were a great place to start a Drama piece.

We worked with muralist, Decoy (Darragh Coyle from the class of 2008!). His collaborative and interactive approach was inclusive and the result is absolutely stunning. We hope he'll back to continue building on the beautiful work produced. Many thanks to all students and teachers involved and to Creative Engagement for funding this amazing project.

*By Ms Devis*

A while ago, a mural was organized to be painted in the back of theatre. I volunteered along with some other drama students and a plan was set into motion.

First off, we worked with a professional artist to create a design, we wanted to represent elements of the drama in Newpark and create something to make the area at the back look livelier.

A small group (including me) then had to rip the ivy off the two walls where the mural was to be painted, it was tedious but fun, apart from all the spiders we





found. After all the ivy had been cleaned away, we then began painting only one of the walls with a base coat because the other was old, peeling and needed to be replaced.



While the artist (Darragh) was doing the design on the first wall we got to go crazy and spray paint whatever we wanted on the old one. It was so entertaining, and it was very sad to see our stunning masterpieces be covered up later.

For the rest of the process, occasionally we just got to leave class and go spray paint the wall. It took a while to get used to the feel of spray paints but once you do it's so satisfying. Once the main shapes were put in place, Darragh finished it up and now it's done!

Painting the mural was so much fun and I'm thankful for such a cool opportunity.

*By Maeve Cooper, TY*



## Cultro Installation

**by 1st Year Artistic Performance Visual**

1st Year APV wrapped up a year of research and exploration with an installation inside one of the quadrangles at the front of the school. The students created an audio piece using only organic sounds from around the school. They then played the songs into the space where they had installed casting of their hands and faces, creating a unique audio visual experience.





## Art as a 'Vehicle for Social Change'



As a class we were given the theme of 'Limitations' to perform a group art performance. Together we explored into the theme and looked at social problems concerning society today. We decided to focus in on women's violence as it's a very current topic that majority of our class could relate to. After brainstorming a couple of ideas, we met with some problems of how we were going to carry our performance out. There were many initial ideas surrounding egg and sand timers going off but we weren't sure on how to include it into our message.



Originally our performance wasn't going to be interactive but rather a presentation you would see in the school, we were going to have timers on a map

locating where numerous women have sadly died from violence with the timers representing our patience running out. As hundreds of these cases went without recognition which we wanted to bring into light. We decided against this idea as we thought a more interactive performance would be more impactful.

Over the course of the four weeks we were taught about four performing artists: Mona Hatoum, Joseph Beuys, Marina Abramovic and Felix Gonzalez-Torres. We felt that Mona Hatoum and Marina Abramovic influenced our performance the most. Hatoum's final piece was a black and white video and a photo which influenced our final piece of a black and white video. We felt that our performance should be more interactive—similar to Abramovic's performances where she is present for the performance.

After researching, together we drew up a list of things we needed to do and get; we texted teachers asking for volunteers, collected egg timers and drew up a map of the Rockies. On the day, we ran into a couple of complications but were able to smoothly solve them. I collected the fourteen volunteers from 1st and 2nd year and everyone prepped the route and timers. We led them down to the Rockies and split them into four groups where they took different paths around the park to end up at the same place. Each student got a timer with varied times on them, once the timer went off you had to stand still and wait in that place. In the end, the participants were scattered along the route with a few



making it to the end. We asked the students to write down the message they think we were trying to get across and they came up with some brilliant ideas.

Our message was to highlight violence against women in Ireland today which has been an issue and unfortunately still is. The timers each participant held, represented fourteen women who have sadly lost their life while doing day to day activities. The different routes represented how women sometimes have to take a longer route to get to their destination to feel more secure, whether it be to avoid poorly lit areas or a place where you've previously felt uncomfortable. We had the participants stop at different points along the way



to show that you could get there in the amount of time given but the detour takes longer.

We hope that our message leaves people thinking and creates an impact as this is a topic that we feel strongly about and want to bring awareness around it. We want to break the stigma of keeping quiet and hope it sparks conversation between people on how as a society we can improve to make everyone feel safe at home, school and in public area.

*By Freya Dolling, 5th Year*



## Denim Day For Dementia



Thank you so much to all staff and students who participated in "Denim Day for Dementia" on Friday 4th March; we raised €503.59 for The Alzheimer's Society!

Well done to students from 2MT, with the help of Margaret O'Connor, who organised the day. Also, huge congratulations to staff member Mary O' Sullivan, who won a special prize for her QUADRUPLE DENIM outfit!!

*By Ms Keating*



## Pyjama Day For Ukraine



As part of a week raising money for Red Cross work in the Ukraine, the Culture Council organised a pyjama day for the whole school. Students across all years were encouraged to come into school in pyjamas, dressing gowns or with blankets, and to bring in €2 for the Red Cross.

There was a very high level of

participation, particularly from the younger and older years. It was bizarre to see dressing gowns in maths class and slippers in PE, and seemed to be a bit of fun for everyone involved. Though it was enjoyable for us, it more importantly raised money for victims of the war in Ukraine, with over €500 raised by the end of the day. This money will be going directly to the Red Cross to be used in the Ukraine, where it will hopefully make a difference in at least a few people's lives.

*By Nakai Mudiwa, TY*

## Anything-But-A-Schoolbag

On Friday the 13th of May, Daniel Fortune and I organised a fundraiser in aid of Mental Health Ireland.

The idea we came up with was an 'Anything But-A-Bag' Day which meant the students of the school were encouraged to bring in any alternative to a standard school bag. Many people participated and we gave out prizes for the most entertaining and most creative bag.

Ella O'Connor from 2MOD won the prize for most creative make-shift bag with a Harry Potter themed trolley. Luke Conaghan from 3AL won the prize for the most entertaining make-shift bag, with a weed killer backpack canister that was modified to carry his books in.

At the end of the day, we had raised over €200 for Mental Health Ireland which we were very happy about.

*By Luca Bradshaw, 5th Year*



## Remembering Mia

Some of you reading this knew Mia Seligman. She was such a light to everyone around her, and I had, and still have, the great privilege to call her one of my closest friends.



She was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer in late August, and died in early December at fourteen years old, but this isn't Mia's legacy. Her life shouldn't be defined by its length, but by its content. She loved to dance, and poured her heart into every performance and every song. She loved being a part of things and contributing to everything. In 1st year she joined the Student Council, helped found the Wellbeing Council, and acted in the Junior Plays.

Her passion for life and hope were, and still are, so inspiring. One time the two of us just looked up at the clouds and admired the beauty of that crisp, autumn day, taking in everything together.

She was a huge advocate of showing and telling the people she loved that she loved them, so I'm glad the last thing I ever told her, and the last thing I heard her say, was "I love you".

Mia's legacy is the memories of her laughter in theses halls, her optimism in everything, even a hospital bed, and the lives she touched-the people who get to remember her.

*By Allegra Zipser, 2nd Year*

No one could say a word against Mia. She was kind, charismatic, gentle, funny and above all a great friend. She loved to dance, read, sing and cook and during her time in Newpark was part of the student council, helped found the wellbeing council and acted in the junior plays. She was an amazing person and will truly be missed by all of us in 2nd year.

*By Muireann Breen, 2nd Year*

Mia was a respectful, considerate, positive and helpful person, who never hesitates to go out to help others and make them smile. Even during her worst days, she still manages to smile and stay hopeful and positive. Her optimism will always inspire me and many others. I will never forget all the amazing and fun memories that we have made together. Rest in peace, Mia. I will always miss you.

*By Shiloh Barrio, 2nd Year*

## Sea Swimming For Charity

As an avid sea swimmer who tells everyone that she's a sea swimmer, I decided to do something with this crazy hobby of mine that would benefit others. It was devastating when Mia Seligman passed away last year and having heard all about her and her family's experiences, I decided that The Childhood Cancer Foundation was the right place to fundraise for as they had done so much for the Seligmans and other families.

At first it was fun and freezing but as the days and nights went by, it became progressively harder especially when I was back at work. However I'm delighted I did it and that two groups of brave second years joined me for two of the swims. They were incredible.

*By Ms Devis*

In January this year, Ms Devis swam every day for a month to raise money for the Childhood Cancer Foundation in memory of Mia Seligman. She invited any second years interested to come along to swim at Seapoint with her across two Wednesdays. I went both days and I thoroughly enjoyed it, obviously the sea was very cold, which made it extra fun to laugh at each other screaming in pain. I think it'd be so much fun if Ms Devis were to organise this again and I would definitely take part.

Ms Devis's fundraising was a huge success and she ended up raising €1390 in total which is extremely impressive and I'm sure went a long way.

*By Alice Gill, 2nd Year*



# Thanks to Mary Kennedy

8<sup>th</sup> April 1971 - 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Back in the spring of 2007, Newpark teacher Mary Kennedy recognised a need and a niche for a regular newsletter to celebrate the wealth and breadth of activities and achievements taking place in the school community. Mary was a dynamo and ensured that we leapt straight to work to produce Issue 1 (the current issue is #61) in April 2007.

For that first year we produced a newsletter every single month during term-time. It was a grueling challenge on top of a full teaching load with many other projects always on the go. We spent many long nights learning the ropes of desk-top publishing and battling with glitchy files and dodgy deadlines in between cooking dinners and wrangling my small children.

Mary's mantra was "Nothing is impossible" and her diverse interests and skills (journalistic, artistic, technical, editorial—she even had a great knack for pun-ny headlines) made her a fantastic newsletter partner.

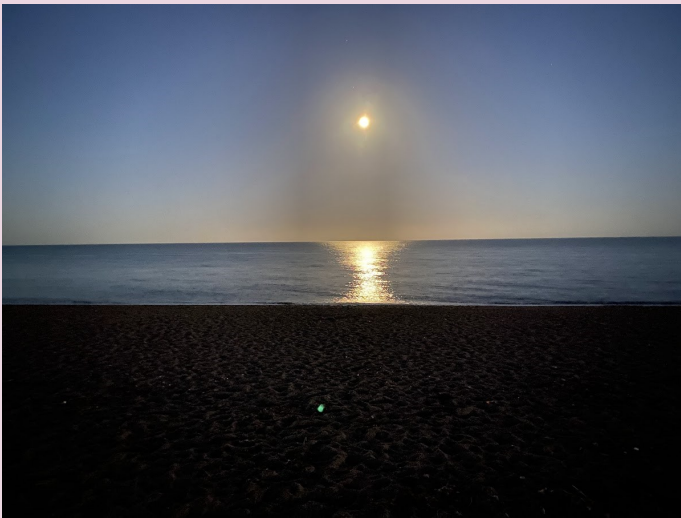
Mary was passionate about teaching and learning—and learning from teaching. She was in constant motion reflecting and looking for ways to make things even better. She had an incredible breadth and depth of knowledge and an absolute delight in the interesting diversion in History, Geography, Media or any other subject she taught. She could travel with students down any promising pathway and knew that the dynamic diversion often provided the most memorable learning. She valued and demanded hard work and commitment from her students and from herself and delighted in the progress and achievements of all.

Mary believed that she—and anyone—could master *anything* with enough interest and determination. She and I worked and played as developing teachers on so many Newpark projects—drama, arts, Transition Year, history, geography, CSPE, film, school planning—as well as developing the newsletter over the years.

After Mary moved on from editing the newsletter she was always a keen supporter and regular contributor. Even after her secondment to the European School in Brussels in 2016 we often chatted and consulted on matters Newpark. Sadly I never quite managed to extract an article from her on her work in Brussels. She was a brilliant educator with an incisive and tirelessly active mind. She was also a much loved friend and colleague. We miss her dreadfully.

Mary Kennedy: Newpark and the Newsletter salute and thank you. Rest in peace.

By Ms Anna Johnston





## The Chaplain's Reflection

*"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."* - Eleanor Roosevelt

Sometimes I feel like my brain is a computer with too many tabs open at once, ready to crash at any minute. I've started a new role within the school, I'm learning new procedures and skills, I have different kinds of tasks to complete. I suspect that this year's Junior and Leaving Cert. students have felt similar at times; there is too much to do and not enough time to do it. The pressures of exams and assessments at this time of year is tangible; for the Leaving Cert. class of 2022, the start of a new chapter in their lives is so close and yet, there is the marathon of the Leaving Certificate to run first.

Some advice to those sitting exams, or even just to those feeling overwhelmed at the moment (maybe I'll heed some of my own at some stage!) – take time out for yourself! That means putting your phone away, getting out into nature, being truly present with your friends, meditating, exercising, watching some terrible reality TV, reading for pleasure. Whatever takes your mind off the stresses and worries of everyday life needs to be taken seriously, even if you still have "loads to do". If you're running on empty, it won't do your concentration, focus, or retention levels any good! Fill up your cup! Even if it's difficult at first to take that time.

At this stage of the year, we reflect on what is past and look to what is in our future. Being part of a school community means that we have very defined beginnings and endings. May means – End of Year Assembly and Prize-Giving, the TY and 6th Year Graduation Ceremonies, looking towards exams. All of these things help to reinforce the wonderful sense of community that we have here in Newpark; it is a time of celebration, appreciation, reflection where the supportive relationships we have formed in the school with staff and students alike, are reinforced, strengthened and most needed. It is a time of optimism and hope. This part of the journey has ended and we rejoice in the good that has come from it but look forward to starting afresh once again next year, wherever next year takes us.

We have all been through a lot over the past few years and now, the images, sound-bites and news reports coming from Ukraine, are devastating. We think of those caught up in war and who don't have the opportunity to partake in the "mundane" and "normal" everyday things that we so easily take for granted. How lucky are we to be able to sit in a room and

complete an exam? We also can't just "think" about these things – we need to "do". In whatever way you can, support those displaced by war. Get involved in initiatives that help the cause. Show the world how you can make a difference.

Good luck to all of those who are sitting exams and end of year assessments, but especially to the Class of 2022.

You are all capable of amazing things and Shakespeare says it better than I ever could:

*"Our doubts are traitors and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt."*

When you doubt yourself, you lose out on what you could gain by attempting. So be fearless! You are all fabulous!

By Ms Keating

## Wellbeing Mask Making



The Wellbeing Team organized a mask making session for all 1st years during SPHE and that the art department very kindly facilitated it. The students covered their faces in clingfilm and then a student in their group molded the plaster around their faces. The following week each student decorated their own mask. As well as it being a fun and messy class it was also an exercise in trust and team building!

By Ms Crampton



## Christian Union



While this year may not have been the easiest due to all the Covid restrictions, Christian Union has been a constant, always finding a way to happen, no matter how horrible the weather or how difficult the circumstances. After a year of meeting outside, we moved into RB1 this year on Wednesday mornings before

school. We talked about everything, from Disneyland, the weather and our faith while laughing and sipping on Ms Rowan's delicious hot chocolate! We went on a handful of outings this year and discovered after mid term that the people we meet every Wednesday have faces behind the masks!



We were sad to say goodbye to Anna Shepherd after a great year of her being part of the leadership team of CU. Anna, Keziah and Naomi are so devoted and put so much work into keeping CU going. We recognise what a blessing they have been and we wish Anna well in whatever is next for her. Another blessing has

been Ms Rowan's hot chocolate, constant chat, organisation and prayer for CU. We look forward to next year's fun and fellowship! Hope to see you there!

*By Allegra Zipser and Alessia Soporan, 2nd Year*



## Senior Religion trip to a Synagogue, Mosque and Church



As part of our Leaving Cert studies of Religion we study World Religions and we focus on the three big monotheistic religions: Christianity, Islam and Judaism. We had attempted to visit their places of worship for some time but covid kept getting in the way!

Eventually in March the 5th and 6th Year Religion classes boarded a bus with Ms Rowan and Mr Lamprecht. Our first stop was the Bretzel Bakery where we stocked up on coffee and kosher baked goods. The staff there told us about its history in Dublin's Jewish Quarter and how the Rabbi still comes by each morning to bless the bread. Full of tasty snacks, we walked around to the Irish Jewish Museum where we looked at their artefacts followed by a talk upstairs in the Synagogue. True to Jewish stereotypes, we got a history of Irish Jewish families and their traditions.

From there we went to the Irish Islamic Cultural Centre in Clonskeagh where Dr Ali Selim showed us around the centre and answered lots of questions about the Islamic faith, including how he arranged his daughter's marriages and wrangled a solo trip to Mecca for himself after his wife invited herself on his first Hajj! It was great to hear such personal stories of faith with some humour added in.

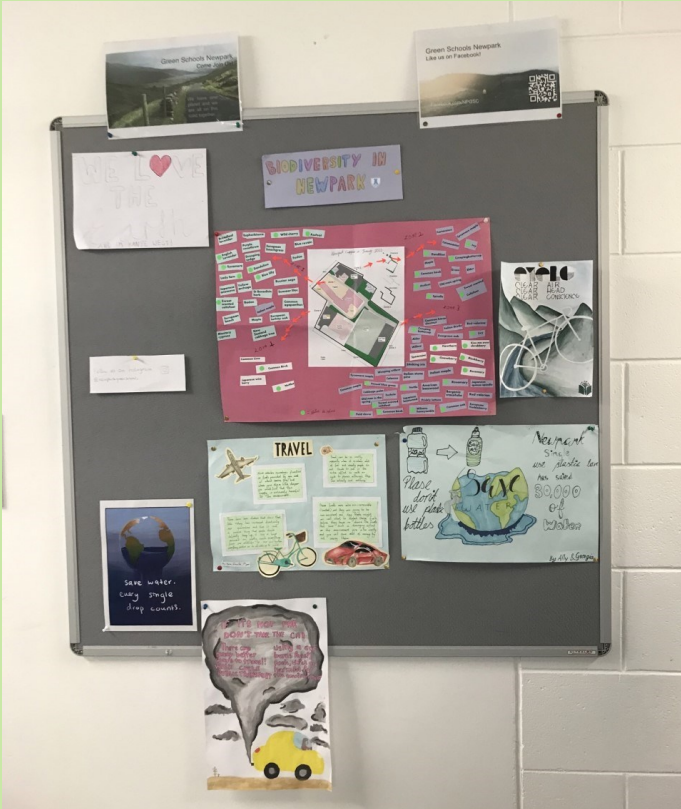
We stocked up on dates and hummus in the shop then headed on to our last stop which was Holy Trinity Church of Ireland in Rathmines. There, past pupil, Scott Evans, led us in an interactive discussion of the pros and cons of religion and Christianity in our society. All in all—a great day. We loved seeing different places of worship and meeting different people of faith. It brought the information we were learning in class to life and gave us a deeper understanding and appreciation of the religious diversity thriving in our city.

*By Ms Rowan's 5th Year Religion Class*



# The Green Pages

## Newpark Biodiversity Survey



This year Newpark's Green School Committee hope to achieve a Biodiversity Green Flag. Biodiversity is the variety of living things in an area. Biodiversity is very important because everything on this planet needs something else to survive, for example you can't have flowers without bees or trees without water. Without biodiversity many flora and fauna would die.

This year students from 2MT and 2SOS carried out a survey of the different species of plants (flora) present on the Newpark campus. With the help of a plant identification app on their phones they were able to find out the names of different species of trees and other plants. Students looked at bark, leaf structure and berry type to help with the identification process. The results were then collated in an excel file. Mr Connell created a map of the school and green school committee members used the data and the map to create a biodiversity infographic of the Newpark campus. This can be found on the G corridor.

We have a surprisingly high level of biodiversity for an urban environment. The trees, bushes and other plants support populations of pollinators, other insects, birds, and mammals. The survey will be carried out again later in the year to find out if biodiversity has increased since our first survey. We hope that we can do better as a school throughout the next year and earn this important flag.

By Eve Cullen, TY

## Dear Mr President

*Recognizing the importance of a new BBNJ Treaty for conserving marine biodiversity and the rapid decline of sharks in our global ocean due to inaction on behalf of world governments, Eva O'Donnell, has written a public letter to President Emmanuel Macron in advance of the One Ocean Summit, calling for EU and global leadership to conclude the negotiations for an ambitious BBNJ Treaty in 2022 in order to safeguard endangered shark populations and to secure a healthy ocean for future generations.*

*Eva received a strong, detailed and personalised response from Malcolm Noonan TD, the Irish minister responsible for ocean protection. She still hopes for a response from President Macron.*

Dear Mr President,

I am a secondary school student in Ireland. I am deeply passionate about our beautiful planet and all the wonderful ways that life exists. Seeing the incredibly detrimental effects that our current habits are having on nature is undoubtedly upsetting for all of us. I believe it is the responsibility of the people in power such as yourself to lead the change that is needed in order to secure the future of our planet. And in the coming weeks at your One Ocean Summit and again at the UN negotiations for a global ocean treaty, France and the EU have the responsibility to lead.

Sharks have been a vital part of Earth's oceans for over 450 million years. To put that in perspective, the first dinosaurs only appeared 230 million years ago. Sharks are diverse and amazing animals, a species with incredible abilities ranging from some of the fastest swimmers in the sea to glowing in the dark. But as a result of the lack of proper regulation and monitoring, shark populations worldwide are being decimated by the fishing industry.

In the past 50 years, there has been a 70% decline in the number of sharks in the ocean. Upwards of 100 million sharks are killed each year, both intentionally for their liver oil, gills, and fins, and as an unwanted bycatch of regular fishing. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature lists 143 species of shark as endangered, critically endangered, near threatened or vulnerable on its Red List.

These magnificent creatures that have been swimming in the ocean since before trees first evolved on land are



for the first time in history facing extinction. Throughout the last 439 million years, there have been 5 periods of mass extinction with an average of 83% of all marine species disappearing off the fossil record.

Sharks have adapted and survived through all five of these mass extinctions, but by all current scientific predictions, they will not survive humans, unless those in power stand up and instigate real and meaningful change. You have an opportunity to act at the upcoming negotiations for a High Seas Treaty in March in New York. In fact after hearing how much danger these creatures are in, I can't see how you could fail to act.

Sharks are a keystone species. This means that every part of the food web relies on the presence of sharks in the ecosystem. When there is a loss or decrease of sharks in an area, the whole system feels the effects.

Keeping ecosystems in balance is absolutely essential for the future of fishing industries. Imbalanced ecosystems cannot produce food for human consumption for long before being irreparably lost. Overfishing of certain species can result in an imbalanced ecosystem, along with pollution, and other factors that cause loss of marine life.

Sharks play a vital role as the apex predator in marine ecosystems. They have few natural predators other than humans and feed on animals below them in the food chain. By doing this they limit the abundance of their prey, keeping ecosystems in balance.

In some marine ecosystems the presence of sharks is essential for the preservation of seagrass meadows. Turtles, which are their prey, eat seagrass which grows in large areas underwater and provide habitats for many fish, shellfish and birds. The presence of the sharks causes the turtles to constantly be in motion, leading them to graze over a large area of seagrass. But when these apex predators are absent in an area, the turtles settle and graze heavily in the best parts of the meadows, destroying them. Seagrass meadows account for over 10% of the ocean's capacity to store carbon despite only covering 0.2% of the seafloor. It captures carbon at a rate 35 times faster than tropical rainforests. As such, it is a vital resource in the fight against global warming and it is vital we protect it.

Like humans, sharks are a K-selected species. They grow and mature over a long period of time. Females spend up to a year or more pregnant and typically only have a small number of pups. This slow cycle of birth and growth means that they are especially vulnerable to overfishing. The market for shark products has

ballooned in recent years, with technological improvements making them easier to catch and the demand increasing globally. This has damaged shark populations immensely and we are nearing the point from which there is no recovery. Sharks are not a rich food source and their catching is of no great benefit to humanity. Overfishing them to the point of extinction would be ultimately pointless for humanity and endlessly detrimental for the planet. We need to step in to protect these animals before it is too late.

The adoption of a Global Ocean Treaty is the necessary next step for protecting the future of our ocean. As has been proven by multiple efforts in the past, such as the ban on the capture of Mako sharks, small, piecemeal efforts require a lot of time and energy and ultimately have little impact. A global ocean treaty would ensure effective, efficient, and educated action at scale. Only by working together can we preserve our ocean for future generations.

A Global Ocean Treaty could designate the creation of fully protected marine areas, covering nursery, breeding and feeding grounds. Studies have shown that these protected areas have shark populations fourteen times larger than in unprotected areas. This allows species to recover and restore the natural balance of the ecosystem.

It would also ensure human activities around sharks and other sea life are monitored and effectively managed so as to avoid the harmful effects of overfishing, pollution, and other hazards caused by climate change. In addition to all this, it will allow for the better collection and sharing of data to inform and strengthen conservation of all marine life.

Considering that all the damage is being caused by humans, it is our responsibility to work together to find a way that we can coexist with nature instead of destroying it. You have the chance to enable this by pushing for a Global Ocean Treaty with sufficient protection for designated marine areas in March in New York and at your One Planet Summit for the Ocean on February 9th.

All the research and the studies and the papers have been done. Now is the time for real action. I entreat you to use your power as the President of France and chair of the EU Presidency to get this vital and groundbreaking step towards a better future agreed by the European Union and adopted by the UN. Not just for the sharks, but for the whole planet. Thank you.

Yours,

Eva O'Donnell



## European Section

### Lycée d'Europe



J'ai participé au programme "Lycée d'Europe", un projet qui s'inscrit dans la programmation de la Présidence Française du Conseil de l'Union Européenne. 82 lycéens, qui viennent de tous les pays de l'Union Européenne, y ont pris part et il y avait seulement 2 élèves irlandais. Nous avons travaillé sur le thème de l'identité et la citoyenneté européenne pour imaginer l'Europe de demain. Il y avait aussi des sessions de formation pour les enseignants et Madame Kelly était la seule professeure irlandaise à participer. Ils ont organisé un voyage à Strasbourg pendant la semaine du 11 au 19 février, mais il a été annulé au dernier moment à cause de la pandémie. Cependant, il y avait un programme à distance au lieu du séjour. J'étais très déçue par cette décision parce que j'avais envie d'aller en France donc j'ai trouvé une solution. J'ai une tante qui habite à Annecy, près des Alpes en France et j'ai décidé de lui rendre visite pendant cette semaine.

Il y avait cinq ateliers différents qui s'occupent des

lieux de mémoires, des mobilités, des frontières, de l'environnement et de la communication et j'ai choisi l'atelier d'histoire. Il y avait cinq personnes dans mon groupe, trois élèves françaises, une élève suédoise et moi, et nous avons parlé du 20ème siècle, le siècle des catastrophes. Des historiens ont pris la parole pour



nous expliquer l'existence d'une ou de plusieurs mémoires européennes et d'ailleurs, nous avons créé un musée virtuel. En outre, j'ai passé un bon moment avec ma tante en France et j'ai appris à faire du ski.

Afin de compenser pour le voyage à Strasbourg annulé, un voyage à Paris a été organisé pour les élèves du Lycée d'Europe du 8 au 10 avril. J'ai pris l'avion avec Madame Kelly et Sanjay, l'autre élève irlandais, pour y aller. Quand nous sommes arrivés à Paris, nous avons rencontré Madame Tessier pour le déjeuner. Ensuite, nous avons retrouvé les autres lycéens du programme et nous avons présenté nos projets en présence du ministre de l'Éducation Nationale, de la Jeunesse et des Sports, Jean-Michel Blanquer. Nous avons fait beaucoup d'activités culturelles pendant le week-end, notamment nous avons visité le Musée d'Orsay, l'Assemblée nationale et la Mémorial de la Shoah. De



plus, nous avons dîné sur un bateau-mouche sur la Seine et nous sommes allés à un concert qui s'appelle le Festival Chorus des Hauts de Seine. Je me suis bien amusée parce que j'ai rencontré beaucoup de lycéens européens et en plus, j'ai amélioré mon Français. Je suis très heureuse d'avoir eu la chance d'être sélectionnée pour ce programme et je remercie Madame Kelly de m'avoir accompagné à Paris.

*By Isobel McSweeney, 5th Year*



## Le Medecin Malgre Lui



Être en retard n'est pas généralement un signe encourageant.

C'est un jeudi absolument standard. Je me lève de la table au GPA et je me tourne dans la direction de G1 pour le cours de français. Je me suis vite rendu compte qu'il y avait seulement deux options. Soit tout le monde dans la classe était inexplicablement tout à coup devenu invisible, ou la salle de classe était vide.

La théorie d'invisibilité était rendue incorrecte par l'apparence d'un camarade de classe.

<<Tu sais où on est ?>>

<<Le théâtre->> je disais, dans un moment de prise de conscience soudaine.

Mme Bombon nous avait dit un million fois, mais j'avais encore oublié. On court aussi vite que possible au repaire secret de Mme Devis. On arrive à la porte du théâtre, on interrompt le reste de la classe avec un groupe d'adultes inconnus français. Mme Bombon



heureusement, ne nous donne pas d'expression qui transmettrait une intention meurtrière en vue de notre indiscretion.

Les inconnus font partie d'un groupe de théâtre en visite en Irlande pendant deux jours, avec l'alliance française. Ils sont là pour une représentation d'une partie d'une pièce de Molière. La pièce n'est pas la même que mon groupe avait fait en classe. C'est <<le médecin malgré lui>> une comédie écrite en mille-six-cent-soixante-six, qui raconte l'histoire d'un escroc qui est forcé à faire partie d'une arnaque par sa femme rancunière.

Les acteurs nous avaient dit qu'ils avaient pris leur inspiration pour jouer cette interprétation de Sganarelle et Martine, de Bonnie et Clyde. Je presume que c'est du film et pas des criminels eux-mêmes, dont ils ont pris inspiration, mais je n'ai pas pensé leur demander le jour même. Selon la page de Wikipédia que j'ai ouverte pour vérifier tous les faits de la pièce avant de commencer cet article, les personnages de Sganarelle et Martine sont comme chien et chat. Mais les acteurs les ont joués avec une dynamique plus <<love/hate>>. Leurs rapports étaient attirant.

C'était notre tour après les acteurs. Quelques étudiants, moi-même inclus, ont récité la pièce ensemble. On n'était super bons, mais c'était amusant. J'ai été très content d'avoir fait cette expérience.

*By Louis Connolly, 5th Year*

## Lea Griton

À Newpark, nous avons de la chance d'avoir une Section Européenne et c'est grâce à ça que nous pouvons avoir des visiteurs spéciaux qui viennent ici et ils parlent avec nos élèves. Le 3 mars, nous avons pu Lea Griton, une astrophysicienne, planétologue et maître de conférences à l'Université Sorbonne.

Elle nous a parlé de choses compliquées comme le vent solaire, les champs électromagnétiques et le plasma mais le Français est très comme anglais quand on parle des sciences donc c'était très intéressant et un peu utile pour les étudiants en physique dans la classe. Elle a parlé aussi de sexisme en STEM et dans le monde de la science. Je pense que c'est très similaire en Irlande et on ne peut pas nier qu'il doit changer.

C'était une expérience merveilleuse et merci à Lea Griton d'avoir parlé de son métier et son travail de professeur à Sorbonne.

*By Jack Bradshaw, 5th Year*



## The "L2BE: Languages 2 Boost Europeanness" Project



The "L2BE: Languages 2 Boost Europeanness" an Erasmus+ project funded by the EU provided the opportunity for Newpark 1st year students to exchange cultural views and attitudes through theatrical, musical and culture projects online and in person with the other countries involved in the project. All of these mobilities took place online due to Covid from November 2021 until May 2022. However, happily, the final mobility; culture, took place in person in Ireland with Newpark Comprehensive School hosting. We were joined by approximately twenty students and four teachers visiting from North



Macedonia and Poland whilst Italy participated remotely.

North Macedonia and Poland arrived in Ireland on the 25th of April and stayed until the 29th. The Polish students stayed with host families from Newpark. We had a really enjoyable week with our European counterparts. I want to thank all the students who

took part and hosted and also their parents who looked after our Polish partners so well. Throughout the Erasmus exchange both online and in person, Newpark students were fantastic, active participants and a credit to their school and their families. I hope you enjoy the accounts below from 1st year students and how they found the experience.

*By Ms Dempsey*

I really enjoyed taking part in the Erasmus Project earlier this year. I took part in the drama mobility, and I decided to do it because I thought it would be interesting to learn about different aspects of culture in other European countries. It was nice to learn about this from young people my own age. I enjoyed creating the presentation and doing the Zoom calls with the Polish, Italian, and North Macedonian students. I thought the Erasmus project was a lot of fun and if something like this came up in the future I would definitely do it again.

*By Oisín Twohig (1SCN)*

I joined the Music Erasmus hosted by Italy. I joined because I love music and I thought it would be a good experience to see how others are doing at their schools around the world. It was very interesting to see the different instruments of many countries, and some were ones I knew others I had never heard of. It was a

g r e a t  
experience and  
w o u l d  
r e c o m m e n d  
Erasmus to  
a n y o n e ,  
especially as it  
is in person  
now!!



*By Eden  
Braddock  
(1CCN)*

I had a different Erasmus experience then the other people because I didn't host anyone. I did get to go on all the trips though and I found out new stuff about Ireland as well as the other countries. I still got to hang out with a few of the polish Macedonian students and they were all so cool. I was really impressed with good they were at English because I personally find learning languages really hard. It was so much, and I loved the experience.

*By Tuathla Cooling (1MDE)*



I got involved in the Erasmus programme in the hope of making friends across Europe and learning about their country and their cultures. The students from Poland and Macedonia were so kind and told me all about their countries and they even taught me a couple of words like “Kanapka” which means sandwich in Polish! We did a really interesting walking tour of Dublin and we travelled out as far as Glendalough. Overall, the Erasmus project was everything I thought it would be and more. Unfortunately, Italy couldn't come but I hope maybe we can see them another time.

*By David Rankin (1LF)*



Erasmus has been a really great experience for me. I got to make friends for life that I will someday meet again in Poland and North Macedonia. I was educated on so many different cultures and traditions from around the world. I was lucky enough to go on really cool trips around Dublin and learn about interesting Irish history.

But one of the best parts was going to Glendalough and getting a pre-packed lunch.

*By Martha O'Flanagan (1CCN)*



This EURASMUS mobility was focused on culture. A few of the Irish pupils had Polish students staying with us and they were all extremely nice. On Tuesday we got to play some hurling we then went to Glendalough and learnt about the place. On Wednesday we had a virtual call with Italy

and did some fun dances and songs. On Thursday we went on a walking tour around Dublin where we learnt about Oscar Wilde and the spire. It was such a fun experience and I'm so glad I got to do it.

*By Joss Brooks (1CCN)*

I really enjoyed Erasmus because I was able to make more friends as none of them were in my class. I also loved hearing about everyone else in the world and learning about their music. One of my favourite parts was making my PowerPoint and I learnt a bit more about the Irish music. Overall, I really enjoyed Erasmus and would definitely do it again.

*By Eve Kelly (1SCN)*

I enjoyed the experience of doing the Erasmus project because I got to meet new people and show them the places I love. It was nice showing them Irish sports and monuments, as well as getting to know their culture. I even learnt new stuff about Dublin from the tour guides that I didn't know before. It was really fun and I'm extremely glad I did Erasmus.

*By Elise Nangle (1WFE)*



This year we did an Erasmus project with Poland, North Macedonia and Italy. At the beginning we did Zoom meetings speaking about each country's food, drama, music and culture but recently the Polish and North Macedonian students came to Dublin to visit us and the city itself. While the North Macedonians stayed in a B+B, the Polish students stayed with us Irish students. They stayed with us for four nights. The first day we showed the students our national sport, hurling. They seemed to really enjoy it. We then went to Glendalough and the tour guide explained the history of the area.

The following day, the students stayed in our school, and we did a Zoom meeting with Italy. After school we all went to Dun Laoghaire to show them around and hang out. Thursday was our last full day together and we did a walking tour of Dublin. By this time, we were all friends, so we had great fun. Sadly, on Friday we had to say goodbye and wish them a safe flight home. Overall, it was a great experience and I hope there is another Erasmus soon.

*By Camilla Bolton (1CCN)*

I really enjoyed doing the Erasmus+ projects even though doing it online can be difficult at times. I joined because I saw it as an opportunity to do something I wouldn't get the chance to do again. I personally enjoyed seeing other people's projects online and overall interacting with them. I loved the massive Kahoot quizzes we did with everyone. I would recommend doing it, for anyone who gets the chance to do an Erasmus+ projects. or similar projects.

*By Ethan Cannon Gonzalez (1CCN)*





Molly Malone and a whole lot more! Erasmus was an amazing experience and hopefully we get to do it again.

*By Faye Fitzgibbon (1WFE)*

Erasmus was so much fun. I met so many new people and got introduced to so many different cultures. I made some amazing friends along the way that will stay with me for life. One of my favourite parts of the trip was going into town and doing a big tour of the city. Erasmus is really great, and I would definitely recommend it.

*By Joshua Carroll (1CCN)*

I had a very good time working on the Erasmus project it was a great way to expand my knowledge of other countries and understand the culture of people my age.

*By Zain Bouktila (1WFE)*

Erasmus+ was a great experience that I am glad I was a part of. We got to meet so many new people and learn about the culture of their country. I really enjoyed presenting my video with Fionnuala, as we had the chance to show people the food and culture we have in Ireland. I am glad we had the opportunity to take part in it.

*By Sophia Bowles (1CCN)*

This year we did Erasmus project with Poland, Italy and North Macedonia. The previous three Erasmus were on line but the one we just finished was in person. Poland and North Macedonia came over to Ireland for five days and the Polish stayed with some of the Irish



students!! On the first day everyone just got to know each other but on the second day we brought everyone around Wicklow, we showed them places like Dalkey and Glendalough and we also played hurling. On the third day we did Zoom calls with Italy who unfortunately couldn't come over and then after that the Irish students brought the Polish students down to Dun Laoghaire for the day and it was a lot of fun. On the fourth day everyone went on a walking tour around Dublin city, and we showed them places like the spire,



## Erasmus+ Projects



The European Erasmus+ projects are yet another thing that have been severely affected by the pandemic. Newpark was involved in four projects, with one ending and one beginning, when the pandemic hit.

The final meeting in Portugal of "Kiss the Cook" was cancelled and only the prep meeting of Ms Dempsey's project, Languages to Boost Europeanness (L2BE) went ahead as planned.

In November 2021 the trips resumed with an 5th year Engineering project meeting in Trondheim, Norway. As a result of that meeting, one of the Norwegian students, Doris, and a Technical Assistant, Vegard, expressed an interest in coming to Dublin. We hosted them in Newpark before Easter and they proved to be a great asset to the Engineering Dept. for their technical abilities.

In November we travelled to Portugal for the 3M4EU project and had a week of sunshine as well as some hard





work. The follow-up meeting was in Ivrea, Italy but was combined with another Project involving four of the same schools.

Newpark then hosted the final meeting of L2BE with North Macedonia and Poland in attendance. The Italian school decided to be cautious and only take part online. The Polish students were hosted by Irish families while the North Macedonians opted for hostel accommodation.

Our latest involvement in Erasmus+ was a trip to Zagreb in Croatia and Celje in Slovenia, 01 – 08 May 2022. Once again this saw two projects being progressed in the same week under the umbrella of the European CNC Network. See [www.cnc-network.eu](http://www.cnc-network.eu)

The final meeting of the Magical Moving Machine for Europe (3M4EU) will be held in Dublin in the last week of September. We look forward to hosting our European partner schools for what is expected to be a successful and enjoyable week.

*By Mr O'Neill*



## Zagreb Trip



Our trip to Zagreb for the Train for Europe project was a good success and a lot of fun. We spent a lot of hours working with the other delegations from Germany, Italy, Croatia, Lithuania and Norway. We were divided up into different groups to work on different parts of the project, from the electronics to make it work to what the train will look like. At the beginning we were a little out of our depth as the other delegations were a lot more advanced than us but we learned quickly. In the evenings we got to head into the town and see more of what Zagreb was like and more of the culture and history which were all very interesting. Overall, the meeting was a success and we are looking forward to when we all meet again in September.

*By Jacob Llewellyn, 5th Year*





## Seachtain na Gaeilge



Seo an bhliain a tháinig an dreoilín ar cuairt chugainn. Bhí an Dreoilín mar réalt na seachtaine le atmasféar gaelach den scoth. Bhíodh gach duine idir múinteoirí agus daltaí ag damhsa agus ag canadh liricí an dreoilín ar fud na scoile. Rinneadh “dance off” idir na ranganna difriúla sa halla spóirt agus amharclann, tar

éis cleachtadh sna seomraí ranga.

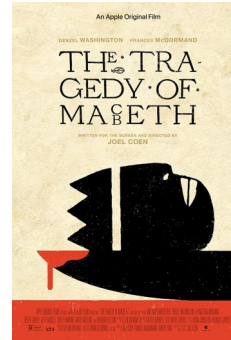
Ina theannta sin sa GPA bhí comórtas tráth na gceist idir na ranganna difriúla agus gan dabht baineadh an-taitneamh as, chomh maith le bheith oideachasúil.

D’imir lucht an dara bhliain cispheil go hiomlán as gaeilge ag cúl na scoile. Taispeánadh gearrscannáin as gaeilge sna ranganna uilig. Dhear lucht an chéad agus an dara bhliain postaeirí a bhí thar a bheith ealaíonta agus agus cruthaitheach. Gan dabht ba sheachtain thar a bheith rathúil í, seachtain a baineadh tairbhe agus taitneamh mór as, agus tá buíochas le dul le na múinteoirí gaeilge, a d’eagraigh an tseachtain spráitúil oseo. Más féidir libh bain úsáid a do chuid gaeilge mar is seachtain na gaeilge é gach seachtain.

*By Mr McCarthy*



## Macbeth Trip



A few months ago, our year voyaged to the IFI in temple bar to watch Joel Coen’s rendition of Shakespeare’s ‘Macbeth’. While we were all excited for half a day off school, it did, however, come with sitting through two hours of the dialogue we had been studying for the first half of the year.

The film was in black and white and starred Denzel Washington. The film was directed by Joel Coen without his brother Ethan (apparently that’s a big deal) and featured Ross in a much larger role than I seem to remember. Kathryn Hunter who played the witches was very impressive, she contorted her body to make crow-like shapes making the witches’ scenes extra creepy. Washington’s performance was also good (not good enough for the Oscar though) and worked well alongside Frances MacDormand who played Lady Macbeth.

To be honest I, like many of my peers, fell asleep briefly during some of the duller parts of the film, perhaps it was the warmth of the cinema or maybe



it’s those short attention spans I keep hearing we have. The cinematography (at least the bits I saw while awake) were interesting and gave the film a kind of play-like feel with many vast solid shapes and colours making up the set.

Overall, the DART ride there was probably my favourite part, and you know what they say: it’s about the journey, not the destination.

*By Gavin MacAonghusa, 5th Year*



## Debate. Arguing, but formal.

### How could anyone resist?

The restarting of Debate Club happened fairly late in the year, and it was chaos from the get-go. After roping in two teachers and a deputy, locating a room and choosing a time, Debate Club was back.

Our first meeting had a larger attendance, consisting mostly of our friends who came for moral support, people with nothing better to do, and the members of the now forgotten Physics Club, as they had chosen the same time to meet as us, but failed to check whether or not the room they wanted to use had a class on. Classic physics nerds. That day we had too many people and not enough tables, a problem which was soon solved by many of those original attendees, never coming again.

The rest of our meetings were made up mostly of fourthish fifth years, seven or eight second years and one fourth year, with the occasional drifter joining for a day or someone looking in out of curiosity [then running away screaming]. Numbers changed as people came and went, some without a word, just gone with the wind, some with formal resignations. Either way we got by.

The topics we discussed ranged from human-AI marriage to winter vs. summer. We spent our Friday lunchtimes going with ease from kicking horses to death, to whether "The Nightmare before Christmas" was a Christmas or Halloween movie. Various points were made, many with no footing in fact or proof. I did enjoy watching people shouting down strangers with all the might that comes with "it's my opinion, therefore it's right". Nothing better than live action politics.

In our most recent conference, M1 was more derelict than usual, as fourth years were off doing fourth year things, and second years had their sports day. I then got to spend my Friday lunch time being ridiculed and mocked for my seemingly dead club by four of my supposed peers. Someone even offered to write Debate Club a eulogy. This offer came from the leader of Badminton Club, and if there's one thing I hate more than the bigoted male-oppressors of Physics Club, it's the bigoted male-oppressors of Badminton Club. And just in case you couldn't tell, it's the same four people.

Politely I declined this offer.

If you happen to disagree, and think Debate Club belongs six feet under, then that's fine. It is your opinion after all. I would, however, like to formally challenge you to a debate to the death. If I had a glove

I'd slap you with it.

I will leave you with this: Debate Club will return in September, stronger than ever, and with our newfound power, we will wage a war on the physics nerds and badminton players of Newpark Comprehensive School.

Debate Club will not be eulogised.

VIVE LA DEBATE!!!!

*By Supreme Leader Flora Lyons, 5th Year*

### Library Trip

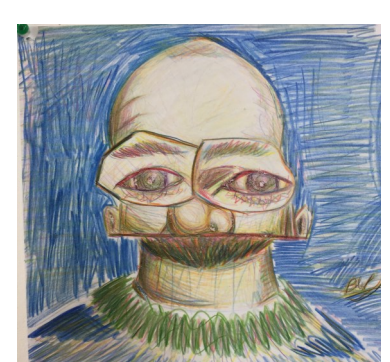


A small group of 1st year students with on a trip to Blackrock library on the 24th of March. We had a tour of the library and saw all of the resources they have including audio books, manga and DVDs. We then enjoyed the sun and had a picnic in the Rockies on the way home.

*By Ms Colin*



Artwork by Mr  
Byrne's 1st and  
2nd Years





## Model United Nations



After a necessary break during the pandemic, Model United Nations returned to Newpark last March. A team of 24 students representing Norway, Chile, Switzerland and Bolivia participated in the Wesley College Dublin Model United Nations (WCDMUN). 17 were first time delegates. They learned the language and skills of MUN very quickly and performed extremely well at the competition. In April we represented India, Hungary, Yemen, Germany and Cambodia at the St. Andrews International Model United Nations (SAIMUN). SAIMUN ran a scaled back conference in their school this year which was an excellent platform for learning. Participants built on the skills acquired at WCDMUN and the first time delegates learned quickly through experience.



Model United Nations is a simulation of the real United Nations. Students represent countries and sit on committees consulting on global issues. They formulate UN Resolutions and debate them in full. The current conditions in the world lend a particular context and relevance to this experience. Students participating get to see the strengths and weaknesses off the current International system of governance. As the opening speaker at WCDMUN said, while the UN is not perfect, without it the world would be in a deeper state of crisis and communication and collaboration between



countries would be even more challenging. Through MUN students learn the value of developing diplomatic relationships, of seeking global solutions to both global and local problems, and gain an understanding of the inherent interconnectedness of the world.

Next year MUN will make its full return. I anticipate sending delegations to competitions in Terenure College and in Rathdown School in the first term. In addition a group of 19 students will represent Ireland at the Royal Russel Model United Nations in the United Kingdom in October. Further competitions will take place in term two, including the full return of the large SAIMUN conference over the Easter holidays.

Well done to all our MUN delegates this year. You were fantastic and I am greatly looking forward to working with you next year.

Any student wishing to get involved in MUN next year should contact me

sheena.odongo@newparkschool.ie I will add you to the Team where you will receive news and notifications.

*By Ms Odongo*



## Unicef Conference



Around this time last year, I received an email inviting me to speak at a UNICEF video conference about young people's mental health and the impact that Covid 19 had on it. I had never really done this type of thing before so with a bit of persuasion from my mum (she basically forced me) I said yes.



There was a group of six students, two from Ireland, two from Spain and two from the Netherlands, and what was asked of us was to compose a speech and a question which we would present. It was a video conference in which the Queen of Belgium, the European commissioner and the European parliament were

attending. Our main purpose was to focus on a topic and outline the severity of the situation and what needed to be done. I chose to talk about the school closures and the impact that that had on our generation, and how we had missed out on our teenage years. The conference took place on the 15th of October, and it went swimmingly.

After it had taken place, I was contacted by RTE Drivetime Radio, as they had tuned in and asked me to come and speak on the radio. This time I did not need to be persuaded. They were very nice and organised a Zoom call which they recorded. They rang me that same day and mainly asked me about the UNICEF conference and my opinions on how the government was handling it. I had to keep in mind that I was on national radio so I had to be careful of what I was saying, which was hard. Overall, it was genuinely a fun experience, it was nice to actually be listened to and to be able to talk about what we had all been through. In the end I was glad my mum made me do it.

*By Erika Gallagher, 6th Year*

## What is Young Economist of the Year (YEOTY)?



The Young Economist of the Year is a business competition that schools from all over Ireland participate in. Newpark won two silver medals and one bronze medal and had the opportunity to display two stands at the event which was a great achievement for Newpark. The event took place at University College Dublin in O'Reilly Hall on the 28th of April.

Each year there is a theme which your project must fit into, this year the theme was 'Creating our Future: The Role of Economics in a Sustainable World'. On top of the theme, you also had to pick one of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals to reference throughout the project.

The entries that made it to the awards were 'How can a Water Shortage affect an Economy', by Olivia Dockrell, 'The Economics of War', by Calisto McManus and Neal Dowling and 'Unemployment and its effect on the Economy', by Lorcan Jambrina, Lennan Gleich and Darragh Brien.

Two of these projects won silver medals so they got the opportunity to set up a stand to display their work. The other group won a bronze medal, and they were invited to the awards to view all the other presentations.

At the event we got the opportunity to hear different economists speak, which was very inspiring. Economists and professors from colleges all over Ireland came to speak at the awards. As well as economists, previous winners spoke about how YEOTY benefited them and impacted their lives. We were accompanied by Ms Carr at the event, so she also got inspired by all the speakers.

At the event they awarded prizes to certain projects. Newpark did win a prize, a box of Maltesers because Calisto got the answers to the quiz. Much better than a trophy if you ask me!

*By Olivia Dockrell, TY*



## Dŵr Uisce Project

How can we take climate action by adopting efficient water use behaviours?



On the 9th of March and 27th of April, 4LRG took part in an environmental awareness project called 'Uisce'. The project focused on the Water- Energy Nexus (link), i.e. the amount of energy needed to collect, treat, provide and use water. The project explores ideas about reducing the amount of water we use to help shrink our carbon footprint. Dr Roberta Bellini from Trinity College Dublin came to Ms Grant's class on two occasions.

The first day she was joined by a Post-doctorate student Aisha Bello-Dambatta, they explained to the class the problem with water related energy use. On the second day students took part in a Dragon's Den style activity called a 'Hackathon' where each group came up with one idea - a product /process or service to help conserve water and to reduce water related energy use. Each group created a presentation and pitched their idea to the other groups. One group's idea was called 'RAWS' Reusable Automatic Water Scheme, where waste water in a home is collected, filtered and reused using energy from solar panels. Another group developed an idea called 'Aquatrack' where homeowners use a combination of a Smart meter, App and charity aspect to track water usage and encourage water conservation. This idea also included a charity partnership where money generated was given to water related charities in other countries. The winning idea will be featured on the Dŵr Uisce website in the future.

The activities carried out with the group will form part of Dr Bellini's presentation 'Dŵr Uisce Climate Action Hackathon - A cool connection' at the European Geological Union Conference EGU 2022 in Vienna on May 23. The feedback from 4LRG will be used to design a programme to be rolled out in schools around the country. Well done 4LRG

*By Ms Grant*



## Ecology Trip

On the 28th of April, Ms Clarke's 6th year biology class and Ms Odongo's 5th year biology class took a trip to the zoo as part of the ecology study on the course. We spent the morning in a grassland (our habitat) just outside the zoo, in Phoenix Park. With the help of our guide, we identified



everything from specific types of leaf shapes to types of birds to how much light intensity a certain spot has. Our guide was super helpful and even introduced us to a new system of measurement; by counting in leo's, how high a tree is!

During the module we aimed to understand how abiotic factors such as weather and pH influence the presence of flora and fauna in a given ecosystem. We started to orientate ourselves by making a habitat map





followed by identifying the traits of plants, animals, as well as equipment. Following a short break, we carried out a line transect teaching us when the soil and air temperature changes, it causes plants to adapt, favouring their needs. I most enjoyed putting our knowledge to the test with a quantitative and qualitative quadrant study of the area to record the frequency of plants, as this exercise allowed us to explore independently. After our successful and long morning of ecology, we were free to roam around the zoo.

All in all it was a fun day and we can safely say both Ms Clarke's biology class and Ms Odongo's biology class are now expert ecologists!!!

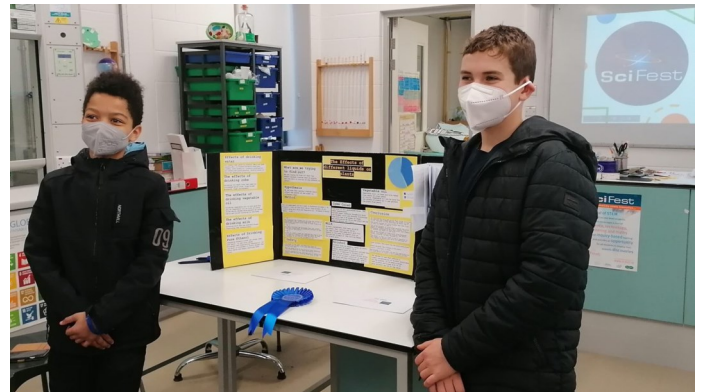
*By Anna Shepherd and Lucas Devonport, 5th & 6th Year*



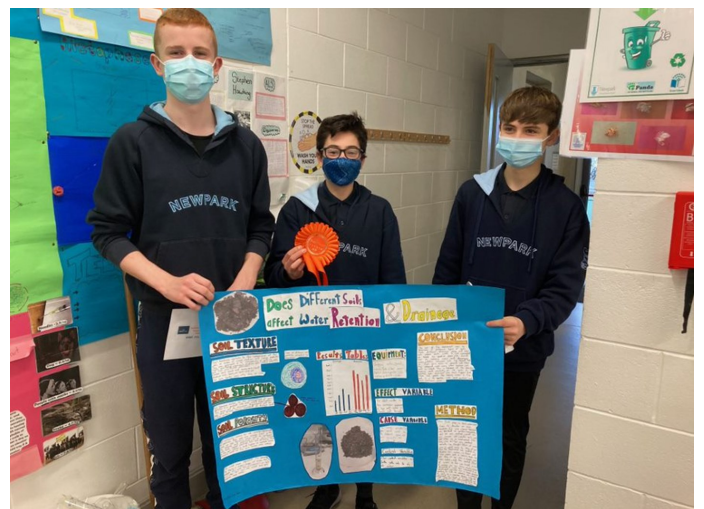
## Newpark SciFest 2022

In January this year Newpark's first years competed in the Scifest competition. Each science class spent weeks investigating interesting scientific questions, such as 'Which face mask collects the most bacteria' and 'The effect of energy drinks on heart rate'. The overall winning team of Munaki Mudiwa and David Rankin investigated whether adding different liquids to cut flower affected the flowers' health and longevity. They found out that water is the best liquid to put your flowers in. Well done Munaki and David.

*By Ms Grant*



**SciFest 2022—Winning Project**  
*The effects of different liquids on plants*  
**Munaki Mudiwa and David Rankin**



**SciFest 2022—Runner Up Project**  
**Ethan Cannon Gonzalez, Ryan Bell Mihaila, Jake Scully**



## Drama Overview

What a fantastic second half of the year we've had. So many exciting things have happened. Two major Drama festivals in the school, the Junior Plays and Short Plays produced hours of entertainment online and in the theatre. Ten 5th years also took part in the *Lingue in Scena* festival in Turin. This multilingual production of *Don Quixote* was a dynamic and new experience and Newpark once again left its mark in Italy.



We've also been on many theatre excursions to the Abbey and Bord Gais theatres which has been a wonderful experience for all attended. We even got to meet Marina Carr which was incredible.

Many thanks to the wonderful Newpark students who give their all to Drama. They embody everything that is great about the Arts in this school: they are creative, spontaneous and motivated. We are all so proud of you. Many thanks to Newpark staff who enable these things to happen. We couldn't do it without you especially Ms Johnston, David Acres and Carol Loughman.

*By Ms Devis*

## The Curious Incident of The Dog In the Night Time

On Wednesday the 27th of April, I and a few others involved in drama went to see 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time'. The performance took place after school in the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre. The set design was incredible, the actors were incredibly skilled, the plot was very entertaining, and the performance even featured a live dog and rat at points. Overall, it was a phenomenal theatre experience.

*By Sibeal Keaney, 3rd Year*



### Reviews by 1 WFE

The play was excellent!! I felt it accurately portrayed the experience of being in Christopher's head and the acting felt very genuine. The set design was very creative, and I felt that overall it was an incredible performance. – *Florence Chipperfield*



I thought the play was good and entertaining! I liked how they acted out the London Underground for Christopher, I also noticed they didn't include a few parts from the novel like the dad's friend. But overall it was very good! – *Imran Prentice*

I really liked the play because it was like the book but had a few differences and it was nice to spend time with our friends – *Ella Prevost Healy*

I liked the main actor and I had lots of fun watching and I really like all the cool lights on the stage – *Elliot Hobbs*

I really liked the play we went to— it was interesting and funny. I liked the music and the lights and how they made the play more exciting. Not only was the play good but I also just had lots of fun with my class and it was great to get a fun trip – *Lottie O'Mahony*

I really enjoyed the play because the choreography was really creative, and I love how the actor for Siobhán portrayed the role – *Miles Geraghty*

It felt like an amazing adaptation and a deep dive into the mind of Christopher Boone. 9/10 – *William Kehoe*



## Artistic Performance



I had originally just signed up for a Junior Cycle short course in Philosophy and thought I just wouldn't like Artistic Performance which was paired with it. I didn't consider myself a 'drama person' at all but my view has completely changed. I seriously enjoyed the whole course and I am so lucky to have had the opportunity to take part in it. I have gained all sorts of knowledge on different playwrights and theatre movements such as Arthur Miller plays, Greek plays, Theatre of the Absurd, Shakespeare plays, Brecht plays, etc. Artistic Performance was a truly unique experience, I have been taught many things I would never have been taught in any other option. Overall I thought it was a great experience and I would 100% recommend it.

By Sibeal Keaney, 3rd Year



Waiting in the green room to go on before our show was so nerve wracking, but the play ahead of us was over in a flash and soon we were getting ready to go on. Other than a few small mishaps though, I thought the performance went really really well. We had a great audience, they were very responsive and laughed at everything, which really added to the energy and

elevated our performance a huge amount. Everyone remembered all of their lines, and I was extremely happy leaving the stage.

I was part of the crew for *The Bald Prima Donna*. Trying to set up the stage for was quite difficult, because all of the props were blocking each other so it was hard to move anything around, and it was pitch black so no one could see what was going on. However, we got everything onstage. I caught the tail end of their performance and I thought they were absolutely brilliant, it was so funny.

After that it was time for *Terminus B*, and Tate and I were on lights for this play. I thought it went really well, we got all the lights in at the right times, and I didn't think any of the transitions were too noticeable. I really enjoyed doing it, and would love to do it again. It also meant we had a perfect vantage point to watch the play, and they were so incredible. Every character was hilarious and it was all so clever and well thought out—I know everyone in the audience was impressed. When their play ended we raced around and were backstage just in time for our bow.

By Martha Bray, 3rd Year





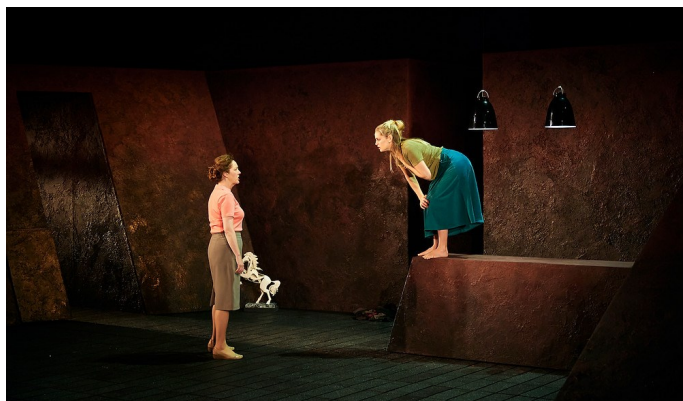
## Portia Coughlan

In March, the Drama Work Area group went to see *Portia Coughlan* (written by Marina Carr). The show was on in the Abbey Theatre from the 11th of February, directed by Caroline Byrne.



*Portia Coughlan* follows a woman of the same name, who is turning thirty and seems to have it all. She has three kids, a rich husband and an expensive house, but all she feels is loneliness. As the play goes on, her troubles are uncovered bit by bit. The death of her twin brother Gabriel fifteen years ago haunts her, and she feels trapped in her life, which is crumbling around her.

The drama class all enjoyed the play, especially the set changes, which included a river on stage and tables that moved by themselves. There was also very interesting use of projections, which amplified the melancholy and unsettling atmosphere. However, there were also lots of funny moments to lighten the mood, and it never got depressing for too long. The twist at the end topped it all off, leaving us all in shock at what had just happened.



After the play, we got to meet all the actors and actresses, and talked to them about the costumes, set, rehearsing and drama in school. They were all friendly and happy to chat to us. We even got to talk to Denise Gough, who played the main character Portia Coughlan, the favourite character of many of us. Overall, it was an amazing first show to watch after two years of no theatre.





## The Short Plays



The Short Plays were definitely a highlight for me this year and are definitely an experience I highly encourage everyone to do even if drama is something you don't really have an interest in. Basically, there is a selection of plays that are written by current and past pupils. They are then read over by Ms Devis and some of her drama students and then there is a calling for all those interested in directing them. These plays are done by in a week where they go for an audition, they are then cast, they rehearse for a week and then they do one performance.

I did a play with my friend Eva O'Donnell where she did the writing and then I did most of the directing due to multiple experiences with acting. She really wrote a wonderful play and I really enjoyed directing it as we also had multiple students from both younger and older years. I was really pleased with how our play turned out and with how all the plays turned out. I feel like the Short Plays are a fantastic opportunity for all as everyone can participate in them and it's only a week so it isn't a massive long-term commitment unlike the school plays and the Junior Plays for example. It is definitely worth it and an experience every Newpark Student who leaves school should be able to say they did.

*By Seth Vella Murphy, TY*



In just one week in January, I auditioned, was cast, learned my lines, rehearsed, and performed for the Short Plays. I really enjoyed rehearsals, spending time with other years, the excitement of it all and almost actually being in the theatre and being a part of a normal drama production. It was a very fun experience, and I am glad I took part in it.

*By Silvia Ciulli Cummins, 3rd Year*



I was one of the only first years who did the short plays. I found it really fun, I had a really great cast and amazing directors. The play I got was really funny and I really enjoyed being in it, even though my dog, Cookie, did get killed by my co-worker. It was super fun getting to work with other years as well. It was also my first time in the theatre so that was amazing!

*By Tuathla Cooling, 1st Year*





## The Junior Plays



What a joy it was to go back to some 'normality' in the Hunter Theatre again with the Junior Plays 2022. When I met with the potential directors way back in the Autumn of 2021, I told them to be prepared for anything. We did not know for months if or how we'd be able to perform the plays. They

had to write plays that were flexible for any venue and any size cast which they ably did. What resulted were six creative, fun and well written plays performed, directed and produced by 92 Newpark students. Many thanks to all involved and especially to all the teachers who helped supervise the rehearsals. Well done everyone!

### Director's Response

The Junior Plays were performed on the 5th and 6th of May and I was lucky enough to be directing one. My friend Felix and I have been involved in Newpark drama for a while now, starring in the Junior Plays when we were in junior cycle. This time however, we put our heads together to write one of the six plays. Our play took place in an office and followed one of the workers and their wacky colleagues who were portrayed by our talented cast. I must say that it's very different being on the other side of things, I typically don't have to think about anybody's acting but my own. But I was not worried for long because it didn't take much time to realise that my cast was comprised of theatre stars who brought what Felix and I had written to life. I couldn't have been prouder watching them up on that stage and I'm so glad I got to have this experience. I'm really thankful to my cast for devoting their time and my co-director, Felix for being so good at his job. I encourage the junior cycle students to get involved in the plays and I encourage the senior cycle students to write them.

*By Adam Merabet, 5th Year*

### 1st Year Response

I decided to join the junior plays to get involved and try some new stuff out with my friends but it is much more than that, I got to make new friends in both 1st and 2nd year that I wouldn't have known if I didn't join it. It helped me come out of my shell a lot more and made me

realise how much I liked being on stage. All of the directors were really patient and kind too so if you were scared or nervous about performing you would always be able to talk to them. In rehearsals everyone was able to have some fun but get some work done at the same time. It has been so great to do it and I can't wait to do it next year!

*By Lilly Doran-Barrett, 1st Year*

### 2nd Year Response

I've never had any experience with a proper play on stage, so when I was cast as a bigger role than I expected, it felt like a massive undertaking. The task initially seemed impossible until we really got into learning the lines with our directors. They helped ease the pressure, and they were very encouraging.

We all worked insanely hard to memorize everything, and while the two nights of the plays were intense, it was also a time to let loose. Everyone was so kind and proud of each other, no matter the slip up.

To everyone who worked behind the scenes to make this happen, THANK YOU! To my fellow actors, YOU ARE AWESOME! There were so many memorable moments during these past couple of months, and I'll remember them fondly, right up to the very end.

*By Finley Gleich, AKA "ROBOT MAN" guy, 2nd Year*

### Stage Crew Response



Doing stage crew was an amazing experience but at the start I wasn't sure I'd be able to do it as I had never done something like that and none of us have the experience of being on stage with stage crew, but with the help of Ms Devis and my amazing stage crew managers, (Noínín and Silvia) who were rushing around trying to help everyone and make sure everything was perfect, I was able to learn how to help with stage crew and I had so much fun and really enjoyed doing it.

*By Marina Jiminez King, 3rd Year*







## Lingue In Scena



*Over Easter, ten 5th Year students went to Turin to participate in the Lingue in Scena drama festival. They spent a week working as actors, dancers and musicians on a multi-lingual theatre production of Don Quixote with students from Italy, Poland, Spain, France and Germany.*

Our trip to Turin was unbelievable. We ate ginormous pizzas that filled us for days, walked the beautiful streets of Turin, met so many incredible people from seven different countries in Europe and all while acting and dancing our hearts out.

It was the opportunity of a life time. Our mornings began bright and early at 7:30am for breakfast in the canteen with the other nationalities and then straight on the number 10 bus to the Teatro dei Ragazzi where our rehearsals and final show took place. For us dancers, days were long, consisting of three hours in the morning and then a two-hour break in which we would walk down to the bar and have a quick focaccia and chips. Then there was another

three hours in the afternoon. Our brilliant dance teacher (whose sound effects and mimes transcended language barriers) and her assistant gradually guided us through our contemporary routines until finally we were ready for the show having prepared two dances; one in which we ran around a Spanish flamenco dancer in our four lines to represent the windmills which beat up the valiant Don Quixote and the other in which we were a fight club, "beating" each other up and throwing each other to the ground very elegantly.



For the actors, days consisted of intense acting workshops in which Marco, (our brilliant director) would jump around the place and yell spontaneously in Italian a million miles and hour while the poor (and might I add VERY talented) translators ran behind him, translating everything he said in rapid succession. As an Italian speaker myself, I did notice however that they left out all the swear words.

Our brave MMA fighters learned to throw



choreographed punches and kicks, which added beautifully to our biker gang costumes which were made up of black biker boots, leather jackets and an odd but effective skirt fashioned from old trousers which had been sliced up the legs many times to create a sort of fan skirt.

On the final night we sat on the wings during the dress rehearsal, awaiting our cues and watching the actors yell and fight and dance around to loud techno music and then to soft, melancholic Spanish songs sung by our resident flamenco dancer. We watched the epic



battle between Don Quixote and the Knight of the White Moon in which they fought with long LED lights for swords and gave long speeches in Polish. We watched our brilliant Irish actors, Felix, Ciara, Diarmuid (or Jeronimo as he was nicknamed), and Adam interact with the other

actors, before coming on stage ourselves and watching as our show came together. We loved every moment of it, from living in a hostel with all the other internationals, to the food, to the workshops and teachers and everything else. A huge thank you to Ms Johnston and Ms Devis for making this possible, we can't thank you enough!

*By Alice Nestor, Lily O'Flanagan, Clara Stanley and Lada Kuzemenko, 5th Year*







## PTA Update

As we hurtle towards the summer, we're grateful to be in the position of reinstating in-person activities, including a return to face-to-face PTA meetings at the end of April. Going forward we hope that this will enable new parents and guardians to get involved to a greater extent.

In late January we ran a most engaging 'Study skills and your child' webinar with Student Enrichment Services. The feedback after the event was excellent, indicating that it was a useful and informative session, offering practical examples and support on study skills. We recently ran a survey, asking parents and guardians to provide their opinions regarding future parent talks that we will run. We really appreciate feedback from the community to ensure that the talks are as relevant as possible.



Riding on the success of the previous year's bingo night, and given the ongoing uncertainty regarding COVID restrictions earlier in the year, we decided to embark on another online event in March. It was a fun, family event, enabling multiple generations to get involved and win some of the fantastic prizes which were kindly donated by parents and some local businesses. Thanks also to Sinead Hanna (parent of a former Newpark pupil and former PTA chairperson) who, as we discovered, is a most talented bingo caller!



**This issue of the Newpark Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of founding editor**

**Mary Kennedy**

**8<sup>th</sup> April 1971 - 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

*Newpark Newsletter Issue 61*

**Editor: Lesley Ring Newsletter Team: Lesley Ring, Anna Johnston, Cathy Devis, Kevin Kirwan**

**Many thanks to Nicolas Reuland and all our contributors**

**Cover image: mural by Decoy and Newpark students**

Thankfully we were finally able to organise an in-person fundraising event with the table quiz on the 12th of May.

We are delighted to finally be in the position to host first and second year (separate) parent and guardian social evenings in the GPA. These evenings give parents a chance to meet and chat in a relaxed atmosphere and we have really missed this opportunity over the last two years.

We will be running another second-hand uniform sale on the 27th of May. These events are essential for us to continue to support school activities. We would ask that parents and guardians who have children finishing in the junior cycle and no longer need the uniform, think of donating them to support fundraising in the school.

As another school year passes, we have some parents leaving us as their children move on to new challenges after 6th year. We would like to thank Jonathan Chawke (treasurer and parent representative on the Board of Management), our very efficient committee co-secretaries Phoebe Crowe and Trisha McKinney who have kept us on track with enviable minute taking, Sandra Richardson, Stuart McCudden, Marie McCullagh, Paula Cooke and Joe Ryan. We thank all our outgoing PTA members for their commitment, good humour and hard work over many years.

If you are interested in joining the PTA and getting involved please don't hesitate to mail us at [pta@newparkschool.ie](mailto:pta@newparkschool.ie). We're a most welcoming bunch and would be delighted to see you!

Wishing everyone in the school community a safe and happy summer, and looking forward to all of the exciting opportunities that the new school year will bring!

*By Heather Chawke and Debbie Duncan*