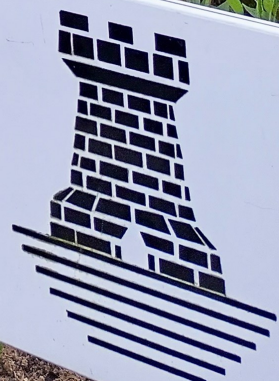


# Newpark Newsletter

Issue 63 May 2023

**NEWPARK SCHOOL**





## The Principal Word

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.

Some days in school, even if it's just at lunchtime, the level and range of activities is amazing. It is often hard to keep track! *Wellbeing Week* was a stand-out success in March, both in itself and in drawing everyone's attention to the range of wellbeing opportunities that exist in School every week. Although, special mention must go to the Student Council, because *Breakfast for the Soul* was special and I'm not sure it could happen every week!

There has also been incredible co-curricular participation and success this year across sport, arts and cultural activities. It has been particularly great to see such a high level of participation from first-year students. It has also been marvellous to see our students travel together again on school trips both home and abroad. There is so much learning to be achieved through trips together and experiencing the school curriculum – whether languages, science, drama, geography, history etc – first hand, beyond the classroom.

I've had some great meetings this year with student voice representatives from the various school councils. The Cultural Council and the Sports Council serve a very important function in the School. The Cultural Council has been really active and successful this year in bringing all the different cultural aspects of the School to the forefront. I want to particularly acknowledge the work of Alex and Emmet (Head Girl and Head Boy), and Flora and Jack (Chair and Deputy Chair, Student Council) for the leadership they have brought both to their constituent groups and to the School this year. Their insight and demeanour are invaluable to a well-running school, and I compliment them on the thoughtful and meaningful succession planning which they have recently been engaging in. It is of great service to the School, and they will no doubt leave an excellent legacy.

We look forward to welcoming our incoming first-year students in the forthcoming academic year. It is testament to everyone in the School community past and present that demand for places in the School is stronger than ever. A wide variety of people have been involved in preparing for and welcoming our new students and I wish to acknowledge and thank the guidance counsellors, the year leaders, the assistant principals and the wonderful 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students for both the formal and informal sessions they coordinated and assisted with this term.

In light of ongoing consideration and reflection, it has been decided to introduce one-to-one devices for students, starting with first-year students in September 2023. The introduction of one-to-one

devices is intended to further enhance the progress that has been made in digital learning in the School over the last decade. Most importantly, it is intended that the incorporation of one-to-one devices will amplify existing pedagogical practice and add to both the learning and the assessment experiences of our students. We will review and evaluate the initiative in due course, as we do with all school improvement initiatives which are put in place as we seek to continually improve the student experience.

Congratulations to Oran O'Sullivan (Class of 2022) on his award of an Entrance Exhibition by Trinity College Dublin and to Sorcha Collins-O'Regan, Alexander Fleming, Lauren Gillham, Fionn Jordan, Cristina Manning, Lauren Moore and Nada Tabaku (all Class of 2022) 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 2022.

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 Leader, Ms Ger Cloney, for her time, care and attention working with you over the last six years.

I will be in touch with all students and parents/guardians in August about arrangements for the start of the new school year. Over the summer break, both the School and the hockey club look forward to works being completed on the redevelopment of the hockey pitch. While there have been twists and turns in this project coming to fruition, the prospect of a world class facility being available to club and school in September is an exciting one! 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 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023, with all the other year groups starting back on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August.

Margaret O'Connor retires from the School this summer. Margaret is our longest serving Special Needs Assistant, having joined the School in September 2002. Margaret has always brought a gentle, kind and humble demeanour to her work and she will be missed greatly by everyone. On behalf of the School, may I take this opportunity to sincerely thank Margaret for her steadfast commitment to the students and to the School and to wish her well in retirement.

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.

By Mr Eoin Norton



## Thanks to the Prefects 2022/23



This year's prefects have been an absolute joy to work with. From their diligence in completing duties to the teamwork that they have displayed by interacting with 1<sup>st</sup> years and organising end of year activities, they have always completed anything asked of them with positivity and a willingness to get stuck in. Thank you for everything.

*Lord Ludgate*

### Incoming Prefect Team

#### **Congratulations and welcome to next year's team**

Amelia Lloyd, Andrew Bagrin, Anna Murphy,  
Cadence Turner, Calum Howard, Cathal MacGearailt,  
Celina Van der Salm, Charlotte Wride,  
Demetrios Hannan, Eva O'Donnell,  
Eve Kirby, Hannah McNally, Iman Edris, Jack Younge,  
Jake Sweeney, James O'Brien, Jodie O'Hara,  
Megan Geoghegan, Nakai Mudiwa, Ned Bolger,  
Oliver Gordon, Oz Klug, Rachel Kendrick,  
Rachel O'Sullivan, Reese Farrell, Sami Phelan,  
Sarah Windle, Seirian Nalty, Seth Vella-Murphy,  
Solana Bowie-Espinoza, Thanh O'Donoghue,  
Zoe Gilmore

### Time for Goodbye

As Newpark's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year comes to a close, we should reflect on the time we have spent here together as part of a loving school community. The exams are fast approaching yet it is important we also focus on the time we will spend and enjoy in school for the few days we have left. For sixth years these two days will be full of final classes, final lunchtimes and final school experiences, while others are just waiting for the summer holidays to begin. I still remember my first day of first year, being greeted by my prefect Josh before heading to my form room in G10... Little did I know that Josh would go on to perform all over the world in

the band Inhaler! Looking back it is hard to believe that was six years ago.

Newpark has always been a place of acceptance, a place that celebrates difference between its students. Throughout my time in Newpark, I have appreciated the school's ability to accommodate my own interests as well as those of my peers. Newpark compliments the strengths of all its pupils, through practical and academic subjects as well as its variety of clubs from sports to drama and even to anime club. For me, I have found friends with similar interests through the school's rugby club as well as a brief stint in drama. In my time in these clubs, I have always felt accepted and comfortable, despite wearing a red dress and blonde wig for my short plays' performance! I hope that most students have had similar experiences, as they have certainly been my favourite part of my time in school. This feeling of comfortability and inclusion that I have experienced in Newpark is due to its friendly nature and atmosphere, enforced by students and teachers and alike. I believe that this is what is special about Newpark, the fact that a group of 800 students and 80 teachers, all of whom are wildly different, can come together and be unified by a common experience.

Throughout our time in Newpark we have formed lasting friendships, gained valuable knowledge and grown into the individuals we are here today. Newpark has a unique and compassionate environment that cherishes us all. It is important to recognise the valuable role that school management, the BOM, and teaching staff play, that goes beyond the call of duty to facilitate the numerous sporting, theatrical, musical and other events that occur every year. I have particularly enjoyed acting in Junior plays, taking part in Model United Nations as well as being a dedicated member of the illustrious C hockey team.

As we come to the end of another school year it is important to remember that time is a precious commodity. So as you walk the corridors of Newpark remember to lookout for the little pockets of sunshine, the positives of the day and the moments that make us smile. For some it might be the excellent Lounge at Lunchtime performances, for others it may be Mr O Connell saying good morning, but for me it is the friendship between my fellow classmates and the memories we make every day.

*By Emmet Hodkinson and Alex Stewart-Milller,*

*Head Boy and Head Girl*



## 1st Year Girls' Hockey



This hockey season has been a good one for 1st Year girls' hockey. We started off the season playing 8-a-side where we all became a team. After a few matches we were put in to As and Bs. We played in the 8-a-side league where we made it to the blitz with the other semi-finalists.



We then started our 11-a-side matches by playing a cup match against Wesley, where we narrowly lost by 2-1. The league then started and halfway through it, our coach Denver had to return to Australia. We played many matches, and we made it to the semi-finals against St. Andrew's where we won in 1 v 1s. We then went on to the finals against Muckcross which also went to 1 v 1s, and we won!



Thank you to all our coaches this year.

*By Alexa Yoakley, 1st Year*

## 1st Year Boys' Hockey



Hockey started up with two half pitch matches against Mount Temple and St Andrew's before moving our way into full pitch grading games.



Wins against Sandford, Columba's and King's Hospital were enough to get us into the second division. A quick win away to Wesley Bs promoted us to Division 1. We tied for bottom of the league with Columba's, with Wesley in second and Andrew's in first place.



The cup was our biggest feat of the season with a run to the final. Games against King's Hospital with a big win over Wesley (the first since Mr Breaden took to the field in 1996!) and a win over Temple Carraig brought us to a final. We faced a strong Andrew's side,





who controlled the final and didn't let us get a foothold in the game. They went on to win 5-0.



A big thank you to Mark Cullen for all of his work with us this year.

*By Alan Marnell, 1st Year*

## Minor Girls' Hockey

Minor girls have done quite well in hockey this year. Even though the A or B team didn't win our leagues this year, I definitely think we have all improved our hockey skills a lot since the beginning of the year. The A and B team won a few and lost a few matches this season. The A team's best match was probably against Sion Hill, when we won 8-0! That match was an example of great teamwork and it was a lot of fun.



Training has also been really enjoyable even with the cold! Both hockey teams are improving each day and I definitely think we can win the league next year. A massive thank you to the coaches and coordinators who make it all happen.

*By Polly Moore, 2nd Year*

## Minor Boys' Hockey



After winning the league last year - which gave us a lot of confidence as a team - we were excited to start a new season as 2nd years with our coach Rian Jolly.

We had a reasonable season and finished third in the A league. We beat King's Hospital 1-0 and Sandford Park 3-1. In the cup, we beat Temple Carraig 6-2 but lost to St Andrew's.

We're a team with massive potential, and we're looking forward to next year when we'll put in the hard work to win both the league and the cup. We're all proud of David Rankin, who made the Irish U16 team, and three of us (Josh Carroll, Leo Pearlman Spencer and Piran McSweeney) are on the Leinster development squad. We welcomed Imran Prentice to our team in September and hope new players will consider joining our squad.

If we want to win next year, we must all put 110% into our training and matches. Thanks to Rian for all his dedication and belief in us.

*By Piran McSweeney, 2nd Year*



## Junior Boys' Hockey



Following a defeat in the first round of the cup to High School, our team was determined to get a result in the league in the second half of the season. We had got ourselves into a positive position in our league by the last game, having beaten High School emphatically in the first match, losing to St Colomba's in the second and grinding out a result against Temple Carraig. If we managed to win our last match against Sutton, we could draw at the top of the league with Colomba's. However, we couldn't afford to lose or draw this match as this would result in a third-place finish either way. In the end, following a weakened Sutton team and an excellent Newpark performance, we succeeded in securing the first-place finish.



As is perpetually so with every season, it finished in a blur and too early for anyone's liking although expectations have been already turned to next season for which we have high hopes of performing well in.

Anyone interested in joining any of the hockey teams in Newpark should know that they will always be welcomed warmly into training by us all. Finally, thank you to all volunteers and coaches, in particular Rian Jolly and Mark Cullen who both coached us in matches this season, and thank you to all the team members who show such steadfast enthusiasm and hunger in matches which is reflected in our good results.

*By Mark Maybury, TY*

## Junior Girls' Hockey



This year the junior girls have had an amazing season full of victories, hard work but also a lot of fun!

Both our A and B teams fought hard in all of our matches, with the As getting to the semi-final of our league and the quarter finals of the cup. The semi-final was an amazing match for us to end on and it was great to have the school out supporting us. We fought hard and despite the result we still enjoyed it as our last game together.

This year we have all had the opportunity to learn and improve our skills on the pitch whilst also getting to know and bond with our teams. This has been the first year in Newpark for all of us with a full and normal hockey season and it was worth the wait. As one of the few TY's that was playing on the junior this year I loved getting to know all of the third years and it is safe to say we have all made so many friendships. Every Monday and Thursday we trained and worked hard throughout the entire year, doing tactics, working on new skills, short corners and much more.



None of this would have been possible without the commitment of our amazing coaches Tyron and Ben who magically managed to put up with us all year. Without them we would never have come as far as we did.

This season was one we all loved and we all just can't wait to come back next year for another year full of hockey! Thank you to everyone who helped us out this year too, not only our coaches but Linda, Simon, Ms Carr, Mr Doyle and Mr Adams, we really appreciate it!

*By Hannah Clabby, TY*



## Senior Girls' Hockey



Senior girls' hockey this year was successful for all the right reasons. From the very beginning of the year, it was clear to all of us that we gelled perfectly together as a team. We were blessed with a brand-new coach, Denver, who certainly contributed to the success of the team. We unfortunately got knocked out of the first round of the cup but that didn't deter us as we went on to getting all the way to the semi-final of the league. Even after losing, we were all still so proud of what we had accomplished as a team.



As sixth year students, hockey played a very vital role in our lives. Although some days it felt like hockey was the last thing we wanted to do, we always loved it once we got out onto the pitch. The encouragement from Mr Adams, Ms Carr and Simon Moore gave us the boost we needed.

We are so grateful that we had the support of the school behind us throughout all our years playing hockey in Newpark.

None of this would have been possible if we weren't also helped throughout the year by Linda Yoakley, Denver Farmer, Ben Vincent, Tyron Kritzingier and Carol Loughman.

Best of luck to the senior girls' hockey team next year!

*By Laragh Tierney and Sophie Hamilton, 6th Year*

## Senior Boys' Hockey



Unfortunately the senior boys hockey team experienced a very different season following last years success. We began our league campaign against The Kings Hospital with an away loss. We followed up with 2 wins beating Sandford and Wesley away from home finishing second in our group, despite our efforts we found ourselves being relegated to a lower division.

After a long time waiting, we were finally drawn a home match against Sutton Park. The team was excited to play at Newpark again but we were unlucky to start 2023 off with a close loss. We set out to play a strong Temple Carraig team in Greystones but fell short in the second half and came home empty handed. We finished our league season out with a match against St Andrews but again, couldn't pick up a win. Our hopes of a successful cup run ended earlier than planned with a 2-1 loss to St. Andrews.

While we don't have much to show for our 22/23 season, the team put in a great effort for every match and did the school proud. Thanks so all the coaches who helped us along the way.

*By Oisin Funge, 6th Year*





## Girls' Hockey Season 2022/2023



7 months of training, 9 teams, 136 players, 4 coaches, 4 additional coaches, numerous umpires, many busses and 60 matches later, the girls' hockey season for 2022/2023 officially came to a close at Easter.

Spearheaded by Vice Principal, Mr Adams, during what proved to be a challenging year, the hockey season kicked off at the start of September. Several past pupils became part of the coaching process, and we were joined later by our Australian coach.

We had our setbacks and challenges regarding the planned pitch resurfacing, not to mention the Big Freeze before Christmas and again in January, when countless matches were postponed and rescheduled numerous times. But in the end, the games were played, and the results were in. The Captains will give a more detailed account of the season for each age group in this newsletter.



This season gave rise to a wonderful group of players who brought laughter and fun to the pitch each week. We were also very lucky to have a few dedicated coaches who are past pupils themselves, and who instilled their own passion and pride for the school into the team, which in turn spilt over on to the pitch. Thank you for a great season.

A big thanks to Mr Adams, Ms Loughman, Mr Breaden, Mr Doyle, Denver Farmer, Ben Vincent, Tyron Kritzinger, Ben Marnell, Lucy Geoghegan, Zoe Watterson, Lauren Moore, Erika Gallagher, Maude O'Connor.

*By Linda Yoakley, Girls' Hockey Coordinator*

## Interprovincial Hockey



I was selected to play with the U18 Leinster hockey team as a Goalkeeper for the Interpro competition 2022-2023 following a series of trials. In August 2022, I went to Cork to play a three-day series against Munster with the Leinster team. We drew the first two games with a score of 2-2, and the last game, which was on my birthday, we won 3-1. I think the weekend away helped the team bond with each other and with the coaches. We came back to Dublin having beaten Munster, feeling proud and knowing each other better after the weekend.

Training with Leinster continued once a week for several months and we continued to improve both mentally and physically.

We had our first Interpro game in November 2022 against the Ulster U18 team. Ulster tend to be the stronger side year after year, but this year, this was not the case. We were ready for them! The game ended with a 6-3 win to Leinster. This win gave us 2 points on the score board, however, hockey rules at the Interpro matches allow for penalty shootouts and Ulster also won a point after winning the penalty shootout. Nevertheless, we were still at the top of the table.

We played Munster and Ulster twice since that match. I was unwell both times for the Munster games, but the team still won.

We had one more game to play and this was the winning decider between Leinster and Ulster. I was subbed on for the second half of the game. The first half was fairly quiet for the Goalkeeper with a 0-0 score. The second half was much more exciting, as it usually is in cup games in my experience, ending with a 3-2 win to Leinster. The first goal was after a penalty stroke, followed by a short corner. To make a long story short, the scores in the second half were 1:0 to us,



then equalling to 1:1, quickly followed by 2:1 to Ulster. We managed to score a goal and then it was 2-all and finally in the last five minutes our team showed resilience and determination and we scored another goal, with a final score of 3: 2 to Leinster. It was a very fast and exciting final match.

*By Robbie Duffy, 5th Year*

## International Hockey



This Easter I represented the Irish U16s boys' hockey team and competed in the tri nations tournament in Aachen, Germany. The three nations tournament consisted of Germany, Belgium and Ireland. Each country played each other once over the course of the Easter weekend.

In the first match we lost 3-0 to Germany which was not a terrible result considering they are number one in the world but disappointing none the less. In the second game we lost 5-2 to Belgium. This game was much tighter going down to the wire with it being 2-1 to Belgium with only ten minutes to go.

It was an amazing honour to represent my country and sing Ireland's Call on the pitch. It's an experience I will never forget and I have made great friends with my new teammates and some players from the opposing teams as well.

*By David Rankin, 2nd Year*

## Staff v 6th Years Summer Series





## 1st Year Rugby



The rugby season started off with small 7s blitzes to help us progress quickly.

The league started up soon after the blitzes with a strong first win over Columba's. The wins continued with matches against St Benildus and Sandford. We took our only loss of the league against St Conleth's soon after, before continuing our winning streak against De la Salle, Mount Temple and in the final game against Templeogue to win the league.

We have one more 7s blitz to go until our rugby season comes to an end. Thanks to Mr Davey for all of his work this year!

*By Alan Marnell, 1st Year*

## Junior Rugby

This year the junior rugby team had a very strong team, despite being mainly second years. At the start of the year, our grading games put us in a league (that I have no idea what division it was.)

The cup this year didn't go as we had hoped. We were in the Duff Cup but unfortunately we had to forfeit a match because of many (twelve or something!) injuries. So, once we were out of that we were put into a lower cup division. We ended up playing St Columba's in the semi-finals and lost in a very close game.

But in the league we did very well and ended up winning—we only found out we had won a few weeks after winning it!

I think the highlight of rugby this year was the France trip and the match we played there was one of our best performances.

Rugby this year was great fun. I think everyone enjoyed it and thank you very much to Mr Smyth and Mr Forsythe for coaching us all season.

*By Jack Marnell, 3rd Year*

## Senior Rugby



Another newsletter, another mediocre review of 2023 rugby, a season which held promise and fortune reduced to a pile of rubble. Like most years, ours began with a high from back-to-back wins and an undeniable sense of confidence. Our spirits were inevitably crushed by a 20-0 loss to a formidable opponent, and sadly this was a foreshadowing event in the tale still to come.



None the wiser, we pushed on, got a draw here and a win there, rumors speculated that the *Joué* Newpark had adapted was a steroid, enhancing our capabilities. These rumours were proved wrong when we lost our two most critical games, sending our season down in a spiral and with it, our dreams of senior cup.



However, by some luck, skill and many rainy training sessions, we found ourselves in a final against Columba's college. One that brought us fierce physicality that unfortunately not even our captain could survive against, nor could star prop Ivan both of whom left the pitch in tears. The game was lost and so was Matthew's hope of scoring a Newpark try, a frankly sobering but accurate reflection of his performance as a player in his six years at Newpark.





Although we did not bring home the coveted Iain McKinley cup, the season was progressive and took leaps in the right direction. After a tough spell for Newpark rugby we managed to have one of the largest squads for a senior team in several years, thanks to the relentless commitment from our coaches Mr Doyle and Mr O'Shea. As we hang up the boots for one last time and retire into Newpark's Hall of Fame, we look on with great interest as Newpark Rugby goes further than ever before.

The season can be immortalized by the words of Jacob Llewellyn a season of *"Blood, Sweat and Tears"*.

It was a true honour to represent the school alongside the rest of the team.

*By Newly Inducted Hall of Famers; Conor Murphy, Joey Walsh and Matthew Sherlock Robertson*

## A Word From The Coaching Ticket

Newpark senior rugby team had a fruitful year regardless of bringing home any silverware. The journey began in August as the team began pre-season training in Neil Bowman's boxing gym. The commitment to train prior to the start of school was testament to the character the lads had shown all year.



The season began with a solid start to the league campaign with wins over Templogue College. This had set the team up for a positive run in the McMullen Cup

progressing through the first round against a tough Bagnelstown team. Momentum continued as Newpark made their way to New Ross to escape with a hard fought draw against a bruising and resilient Wexford team. This led to Newpark qualifying for the first round of the McMullen Cup against King's Hospital. This game took place at Energia Park in early January. The boys showed incredibly heart and determination to fight back against the West Dublin boarding school and despite scoring two tries in the final minutes of the game, it was enough to pip King's Hospital at the end.

With the end of the Vinnie Murry, attention turned back to the McMullen Cup where Newpark faced Good Counsel from Wexford again. However, it was not to be Newpark's day this time round with Good Counsel progressing to the McMullen Final. With cup season over, attention turned back to our league campaign and with some dominating performances over neighbouring schools, Newpark progressed to the league final against St Columbus. A ten-minute lapse in defence was the only difference between these teams as Newpark dominated the contest for the majority of the game, outscoring their opposition in the second half.



All credit is well deserved by the boys for the hard work they put in this year and special mention needs to be given to Conor Murphy for his bravery, brilliance and winning attitude not only as a player but as captain: he will be missed next year as will the leadership and skill-set shown by Jacob Llewellyn, Scott Doran, Emmet Hodkinson, Matthew Sherlock Robertson, Joey Walsh, Alex Drumm, and Mateo Parker. Well done to all involved - we will be ready to progress again next year.

*By Mr Simon O'Shea*



## 1st Year Boys' Basketball



Basketball this term was great. We had a lot of people come to training every day, and even more coming to matches. We played a lot of games this year against other teams such as Nord Anglia, St. Mary's, Gonzaga and others. We played in the Shield against Temple Carraig, Woodbrook, Hartstown and some other teams.

Surprisingly we made it to the final of the Shield and after a close match we came out victorious. Afterwards we celebrated by going back to school to finish our classes!

This basketball year was great fun and I think that everybody, myself included enjoyed it. Thanks Ms Toal for all of your hard work!

*By Gordon Kelley, 1st Year*

## 1st Year Girls' Basketball



So far 1st Year Girls' basketball is going great. We won three out of five matches and we have our training on Friday after school. It has been AMAZING to see everyone playing together as a team and we have all improved so much at our basketball skills!

Thanks Ms O'Keeffe for all of your coaching!

*By Bella Kenneally, 1st Year*

## Minor Boys' Basketball



The 2nd year Newpark boys' basketball team had a very successful season. We won the league our second consecutive trophy! The team played the finals game in Oblates Basketball Arena, and won by a small margin! This led also to the All Irelands, where we were unfortunately eliminated, in spite of winning two out of three elimination games. Next year we are entering division two and hope to bring home another trophy.

*By Conor McGee, 2nd Year*

## Minor Girls' Basketball



The 2022/23 season was lots of fun for everyone involved. Our first match was against Sion Hill where we won by twenty-three points, a great start to the season. We went on to play Teresians, Alexandra College, Firhouse and Rockford Manor, winning two more of those matches. Although we all put in a great effort in each game played, we had an unfortunate turn-out and did not qualify for the quarter-finals, which was a disappointment. However, I believe that this year's loss will push us to do better in next year's season.

We have training every Monday after school in the hall. We play many different games to practice our skills and teamwork. We always end training sessions by playing a match against each other. This is my favourite part as it allows you to get stuck in and really enjoy the game.

Finally, a big thanks to our amazing coach Ms Browne and to the team for another greatly enjoyable season!

*By Ava Slattery, 2nd Year*



## U16 Boys' Basketball



This year, the U16 boys' basketball team have done a great job by winning the shield. Our matches began at the start of the year with our first match away against Nord Anglia. We battled hard but unfortunately lost by five points. Our season wasn't off to the best start, so we trained hard for our upcoming match away against Terenure college, who we lost to last year. Thankfully we beat them which gave us hope for the cup. Due to problems with the bus, we got a lucky free win against St Mary's. Things were looking good for securing the cup, we just had to beat one more team who we knew were also our biggest challenge yet. Unfortunately, we lost to Gonzaga 39-35. They were a great team and we put up a great fight. Thankfully it wasn't all over as we were now in the shield. We all believed we could win it and put our all into it. In the semis and quarterfinals against St Mary's and Argillan, we got the win. It was quite close as we had to make a comeback against Argillan and we won 31-26.

It was now down to the finals against King's Hospital in the Oblates arena. For many members of our team, it was the first time playing in a hall with a big crowd, so the pressure was on. After settling into the game in a tight first half, we began playing better as a team and getting points left, right and centre. We ended up getting a comfortable lead of 47-26 and had won the Shield! We all enjoyed this season very much as everyone enjoys winning. It's disappointing that we didn't win the Cup, but the Shield is still a great achievement for our team.

Since just before Easter, our team has been training with the seniors to prepare us for next year when we begin to play matches with them. The seniors were very welcoming to the incoming squad members and quickly made us feel like part of their team. I can't wait for the next season to play with them!

*By Alfie Ryan, 3rd Year*

## U16 Girls' Basketball



The U16s girls were unlucky this season to not progress past their group stages. In the final term, training switched back to a Wednesday and the girls have stayed committed, with numbers being consistent. For the last few sessions, they merged with the Transition Year players with a view to them all playing together on the Senior Team next year. We are hoping to have one final friendly before the girls make the big step up to Senior basketball. A big thanks to Ms. Browne for coaching the team this year.

*By Mr Alex Doyle*

## Just Keep Swimming—The Swim A Mile Challenge



The Swim a Mile Challenge is a longstanding Newpark tradition. We are back for our second year after a pause due to COVID-19 and it was hugely successful.

A number of students participated in morning swims from the February midterm to the Easter break, swimming a total of 39 miles.

The top swimmer was new to the event - Leo Money in 1NCR swam a whopping 11 miles! Sebastian McDonald -Keeley in 3KCN was the best improver.

Well done to all students who participated! Thank you to the TY Sports Committee for arranging funding for prizes and for their help in organising.

I am looking forward to seeing even more miles next year!

*By Ms Laura Farrell*



# Athletics

## Track & Field Report 2023



Junior Cycle students started athletics before Easter concentrating in lessons on the basics of throwing, jumping and sprinting. For a large number of students this was their first experience of athletics. With throwing, students concentrated on shot and discus, jumping was indoor long jump and high jump and

Brianna Dwyer-Carty winning the intermediate girls 200m in style and qualifying for the Leinster Championships in Tullamore. Our minor girls getting to the final of the 4 x 100m relay, intermediate boys getting to the final of the 4 x 100m and Daniel Makim getting a PB of 1.60m in the intermediate High Jump



sprinting was starts, running technique and relay. The advantage of having athletics on the curriculum for junior cycle students, it helped identify potential athletes for upcoming competition. Students really enjoyed the experience of new activities.

Our first competition of the season was the East Leinster Schools' Championships to be held at the new athletics track in UCD over two full days. 63 schools entered students in both track and field events. Newpark entered 55 students in minor, junior, U16, intermediate and senior age categories. The standard was extremely high. Highlights over the two days were

and just missing out on qualifying for the Lenister Championships. We had a large number of top six placing in throwing, jumping and running events. For the majority of our athletics squad this was their first experience of a competitive athletics competition. After two long days of competing we departed UCD delighted with how our students had represented our school.

Our next competition was the Community and Comprehensive Schools Athletic Championships in Tallaght. This event is normally held in Santry but due to the unavailability of the track it was held in Tallaght for the first time. Newpark had not competed in this





competition since 2019 and we were really looking forward to the day of competition. A total of 65 individuals met at 8:30am in the GPA on the morning of the event, this included 60 athletes from 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, four members of staff and our official photographer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Henry Simpson. We have Henry to thank for the excellent pictures.

We travelled by coach to the venue and arrived in good time to prepare for the days competition. A total of fifteen schools were represented with 1000 students taking part. Each Year group had twelve events, including girls' and boys' relays. Unfortunately it was not good weather for the day of the competition, the rain that fell throughout the day can be best described as monsoon!

In terrible conditions—not to mention nowhere to shelter from the atrocious weather—our students gave 100% in a very competitive and challenging environment.

We won eighteen medals in total, including silver in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year boys relay, gold in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year boys 100m, silver in the boys 2<sup>nd</sup> Year 200m, gold in the boys 2<sup>nd</sup> Year shot. Gold in both the girls 2<sup>nd</sup> Year 800m and shot. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Year boys got two silver medals in the shot, javelin and bronze in the discus. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Year girl won bronze in the triple jump. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Year boys got bronze in shot, bronze in triple jump, silver in 800m and gold in the High Jump. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> girl in the 800m got silver.

Well done to all the students who represented the school in athletics this season. Thank you to all members of staff who have contributed to the success of our athletes.

*Mr Shane Davey*



## At the East Leinsters

It was particularly cold ahead of the final in the 4x100m Minor Girls' relay, but fortunately Mr Davey and Mr Doyle had prepared for every eventuality!





## When In Rome...



In March, a group of us from TY and some 5th Year Geography students were lucky enough to have the opportunity to go on a four-day trip to Italy's Amalfi Coast.

On Saturday we all arrived way too early at the airport, ready to go on the trip that snuck up on us so quickly. It felt like yesterday that Ms O'Donnell told us we would be going to Naples and all of a sudden, all 33 of us were hustling through security at four in the morning. Our excitement completely outweighed our tiredness and as we boarded the plane it felt like a dream.

The plane flight was filled with loud card games, a lot of talking and only some sleep (mainly from the teachers). It flew by and as quickly as we took off, we were there. We piled onto a coach, and we started our trip to Rome. When we arrived our eyes were greeted by the towering Colosseum that stood in the middle of the road. We had a quick pit stop and of course we had to eat some pizza, which was so good, and then started our tour around Rome. Our tour guide was actually a past pupil of Newpark and she brought us into the Colosseum, which was truly spectacular! We learned all about its history and saw amazing views of all of Rome. Then we went to multiple viewing points to see the beautiful ruins of Rome. There was so much for our eyes to look at and it was so surreal that we were actually there. Also, to mention the weather was stunning, way better than Ireland which made it even better to be in Italy! Then we walked up to the Trevi Fountain which again was so amazing! The water was crystal blue, and the ice cream was amazing! It was such a great way to end the tour and I think it is safe to say





we really enjoyed it. Then we had a long drive to the hotel and had our dinner. If you know you know, I don't think I need to explain but let's just say it was VERY entertaining.

On day two we drove all the way up to Mount Vesuvius, and the views once again were literally out of this world! Seeing as this was a geography trip this was really informative, and we learnt so much! The crater was massive and although there was a plug in the vent there was still steam coming out of the rock around the crater and it was just mad to think we were standing on a real dormant volcano! The walk up and down was also really enjoyable as we all got a chance to talk to everyone and get to know some people on the trip maybe we didn't know, so that was another really nice thing about going up Vesuvius.

Then we drove down to Herculaneum, the city that was completely covered in volcanic ash during Roman times by Mount Vesuvius. It was so surreal to walk through an actual preserved Roman town and to see how advanced they were in their thinking, and it was actually a highlight of the trip. It was amazing to see all of these things we had learned about in history and to see how the volcanic ash kept the town as it was. Then we all had some time in the town we were staying in and we caught the most gorgeous Italian sunset before heading for dinner and then playing cards in the hotel before bed.

On day three we travelled down to the beautiful location of Sorrento to take a ferry to the Island of Capri. We were all ecstatic to finally be going to see this beautiful island we had caught glimpses of in the distance. After a very bumpy boat ride we arrived and began exploring. We took a very small bus up to the main town of Capri and even got friendly with some Alaskans along the way. Once we arrived in Capri we marvelled at the insane views and explored the unique shops. Oh, and also had some very nice food! Some of us even found a viewing point hidden in the cliffs that gave the most amazing view and it was definitely another highlight of the trip, as we weren't expecting to find a place like that. Then we headed back down to the bay for a much-anticipated swim in the sea, which ended our day in Capri. We returned to Sorrento, and we had some gorgeous Italian pizza and then ended the night with some very entertaining card games, including a very funny game of Uno Flip with Mr Lennon!

Our final day snuck up on us so quickly, it was hard to believe the trip was almost over. But we still had one more visit to the city of Pompeii, that had also been preserved by volcanic ash. This place was massive! We saw the bodies of Pompeii, the baths, the amphitheatre, the houses, the square and much more. It was massive and felt never-ending and it was an amazing experience to end our trip with. And although we were all so tired, we couldn't help but enjoy this last amazing memory from an unforgettable trip!

This Italy trip was incredible and created memories none of us will ever forget. On behalf of all of us senior geographers we would like to say another big thank you to our teachers, Mr Lennon, Ms O'Donnell and Ms Morrissey who magically managed to put up with us over the four days. It was a fantastic experience that will live long in the memory.

*By Hannah Clabby and Jamie Leslie, TY*



## Going Native, The Aran Islands Trip



Some lucky second years recently went on a trip to the Aran Islands with Ms O'Donnell, Ms Carr, Mr Costigan and Mr Forsythe.

We left school early on the last Wednesday before Easter break and set off on a long bus journey. After three hours on the bus, we arrived at the ferry. We wanted to play football, but somebody kicked the ball over the pier. After a long and bumpy boat ride we arrived at Inis Mór, where we were staying in Kilronan Hostel. Everyone settled in while the teachers made us a gourmet meal to die for. We all went to bed at a reasonable hour.

On the second morning we were woken up at around 8a.m. and were down to breakfast by 8:30a.m. Then we

hopped on to a ferry to Inis Oirr. After a much less bumpy boat ride we got to the island. Here we started our fieldwork and met Padraig, the wall builder. Padraig showed us how he made walls on the island. He himself had made them with no cement or any other kind of mortar. We then hiked down to the lighthouse and had lunch on the limestone pavement, where Ms O'Donnell taught us everything we needed to know about limestone. Everyone was tired at this stage, but we walked back to the ferry and got there just in time before it left. We were blessed with the gorgeous weather. Back at the hostel, Mr Costigan's group made chicken curry for dinner while the other groups went to the playground. After dinner we had free time until 10 o'clock and then went to our rooms for the night.





## Causey Farm 2nd Year Euro French Trip



The next morning, we got to sleep in an extra hour as there were no activities planned until the afternoon. To keep us busy, the teachers took us to the beach, where we had a fun game of tag but soon enough it was time for lunch in the American Bar. After a delicious lunch, we went to the

bike rental to hire bikes. These were to cycle to Dún Aonghasa. It was a tiring cycle, but we made it. While we were there, everyone got to stick their heads over the cliff and look at the sheer drop. The cycle back was easier because the wind was behind us. We got back to the hostel at around 5:30p.m., just in time for Ms O'Donnell's group to make their spaghetti bolognese. After dinner we had our free time and did more fieldwork. There was a lively dance party in the kitchen until 10pm and then it was time to go to our rooms. We had to get up early the next morning, so it was bed early (nobody fell asleep until after 3am!).

We were woken at the ungodly hour they call 6am by Ms O'Donnell. Breakfast was cereal in mugs. Everyone gathered their things outside the hostel, and we were given back our phones (after surviving two days without them). The ferry left Inis Mór at 8a.m. on a very rough journey. The bus was already waiting for us on the mainland. After the eventful last couple of days everyone was tired, and most people fell asleep. Prizes were given out for the best fieldwork projects on the bus. We arrived back in Newpark on Saturday afternoon. The trip was over.

Aran Islands truly was the best fun, and we all had an amazing time. We want to give a big thanks to Ms O'Donnell, Ms Carr, Mr Costigan and Mr Forsythe for a brilliant trip and for putting up with us all for four days.

*By Joss Brooks and Yana Yoakley, 2nd Year*



Le 14 mars, les élèves français et nous, les élèves irlandais avons visité une ferme dans le comté de Meath, avec les cinq profs.

Enfin le car est arrivé à l'école et on est parti pour Causey Farm.

Là nous avons peint/dessiné sur les murs et sur quelques visages aussi. On a fait des énormes bulles. C'était super! C'était génial!

Ensuite on a fait du pain complet irlandais. On a mélangé de la farine, du sel, des oeufs, du lait et du bicarbonate (la levure). On a travaillé à deux ou à trois.

Puis nous avons visité /vu les chiots. Ils étaient super-mignons! Nous les avons caressés. Nous avons caressé les chiots et le petit lapin / le bébé lapin.

Après ça nous sommes allés voir le chameau. Il était /est énorme / très très grand et poilu. Il s'appelle Ivan! Il a des très longs cils.

Il y a aussi des mines, des trous avec des longs couloirs et on a rampé pour trouver la sortie. C'était très amusant!

Plus tard on a dansé. La danse s'appelle 'The Siege of Ennis'. Les élèves français ont adoré ça.

La fin de la journée nous avons tous plongé dans la tourbière et on était complètement couverts de boue / tourbe.

*Par Mme Fiona Fullam*



## 2nd Year French Exchange



the beautiful town. We ate crêpes, shopped, and stopped to gaze at a lovely view of Paris right beside the Sacré-Cœur Basilica.

On Wednesday we did a scavenger hunt and a quiz and we visited a market.

Then on Thursday, we visited the school of our French pen pals and ate lunch in their cafeteria, and visited their classes and took part. We met lots of new people and made new friends!

Friday was the last day we were in France, and we went to the school to say goodbye to the students, and then headed to the airport.

I really enjoyed this trip and so did my class. Thank you to all of the teachers who made it possible. I would recommend this trip to anyone if they have the chance to go!

*By Tora Groarke, 2nd Year*

## Voyage À Paris

Cette année, nous avons mis en place un nouvel échange avec le prestigieux lycée Fénélon Sainte-Marie à Paris et 24 élèves de Seconde/Première section européenne et Mainstream de Newpark ont eu la chance de passer une semaine en France après avoir accueilli leurs correspondants pendant une semaine aussi en mars.

Nous avons eu un temps de Printemps là-bas. Les élèves ont pu visiter la Tour Eiffel, l'Opéra Garnier, le château de Versailles, Montmartre, l'Arc de Triomphe, les champs Elysées, le Printemps et les Galeries Lafayette et faire les bateaux mouches aussi. Beaucoup d'entre eux ont visité aussi Le Louvre et d'autres musées pendant le week-end.

L'échange et le voyage en lui-même ont été un vrai succès. Les élèves sont revenus émerveillés par Paris, plus confiants et pleins d'anecdotes, comme la danse et chorale improvisées à Montmartre avec un chanteur local ou encore le moment où M. O'Sullivan est resté coincé dans le RER ! Nous espérons que ce voyage marquera le début d'une longue coopération avec Fénélon et prévoyons d'emmener à partir de 2024 les Seconde section européenne et quelques chanceux de Mainstream à Paris chaque année. Un grand merci à l'équipe de Fénélon (Adeline et Virginie) pour leur accueil et coopération pendant l'échange.

*Par Mme Laetitia Tessier*



This year, the 2nd year European Section students went on a week long trip to Paris. We travelled to Corneilles en Paris and stayed with our pen pals in their houses, and were provided with food, means of travel and places to stay and sleep for the week.

Every day, we travelled to the school, and we then set out for different activities and outings each day, accompanied by two teachers. We spent the weekend with our host families, doing activities such as shopping, tours, visiting restaurants and cafés, doing leisure activities and visiting monuments, landmarks and museums, such as the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the Castle of Versailles and the Champs Elysées.

On Monday we went to Disneyland. We took a bus and spent a day there going on rides, looking at exhibitions, and eating food. There was even a parade!

On Tuesday we took the metro to Montmartre and we were given a sheet of sights or landmarks to cross out if we saw them while sightseeing as we walked through



## TY and 5th Year French Exchange



Ooh la la gay Paris, bonjour everyone!

Newpark's 4th and 5th year European Section was lucky enough to have an exchange with F  nelon de Saint Marie, a school in central Paris. They stayed with us in Ireland for six days in March, and two weeks later on the 15th of April, we joined them in their homes in France.

Our journey began in this amazing place called the airport: excitement filled the air and before you knew it, we were in France where we were greeted by our host families and some sunshine, a pleasant surprise as the weather forecast told us it would be raining for the majority of the week!

We started off our arrival in Paris with a bang! A French party or "soir  e" as the French would call it. It was so much fun even though I lost my phone on the train, not even a full day in. Even without a phone, I think I speak for the whole class when I say the party was definitely a highlight of the trip.

We spent the next day with our pen-pals discovering Paris. We walked beside the Seine, and we got to see the Eiffel Tower, Notre-Dame de Paris, the Louvre and so much more. We also did some shopping which was so much fun. (Even though we got yelled at by the French students for going into every tourist shop.)

Our first activity of the week, breakfast at school with our students! We helped ourselves to fresh croissants

and hot chocolates. The headmaster gave us a short tour of their school, and nearing the afternoon, the French students went to their classes. For us, we had a tour of the river Seine on the Bateaux Mouches, and got to see the city of Paris from above, on the Eiffel Tower. After a busy day of sightseeing, we headed back to the school.

Tuesday was the day of our visit to the palace of Versailles. The elegant and gold-plated building was a sight for sore eyes! Nothing in Ireland compares to this place, (the spire comes pretty close). Whilst here we were given a self-guided tour, where we learnt about the history of the palace, and the people in the paintings on the walls.

On Wednesday, our group arrived early to the school and got to see L'Arc De Triomphe, along with the Champs   lys  es. After a very tall flight of spiral stairs, we got to the top of the Arc, and we were met with another beautiful panoramic view of the city of Paris. This time, with the very busy street of Champs   lys  es running down the centre!

Thursday was a day for us to do some shopping. Mr O' Sullivan and Ms Tessier gave us plenty of time to explore shopping centers such as Printemps, Les Galeries Lafayette, and other various shops along St Lazare and Passage Du Havre. At noon, we got a train up to the beautiful town of Montmartre and Basilique

Continued on next page





Sacré Coeur. The town of Montmartre is an art-filled one, with paintings and artists at every corner.

Our final day in Paris began with an hour of class with different French students. My class was an English discussion comparing life as an adolescent in

Ireland to one in Paris. After, we made our way to visit L'Opera Garnier, and were given a tour of the history and the architecture of the detail-oriented beauty.

We arrived back in Dublin later that day at 6pm and were all instantly missing our time abroad.

Overall, I learnt that Parisian public transport is not for the claustrophobic, and that the fast-paced lifestyle of a local is definitely something I could get used to.

A big thank you to Mr O'Sullivan and Ms Tessier for this wonderful opportunity, we hope you enjoyed the trip as much as we did!

*By Mea Gigon and Lily Crowley-Ollier,*

*TY and 5th Year*

## Ostereier im Klassenzimmer!



Dieses Jahr hat der Deutsche erste Jahrgang Östereier gemacht, aber mit echten Eiern! Ich erkläre, was wir gemacht haben! Wir haben mit Nadeln oder Schraubenzieher kleine Löcher oben und unten ins Ei gemacht. Dann haben wir die Eier angemahlt. Die meisten Leute haben die Eier angemalt oder gefärbt. Die zwei Klassen sind zusammen gekommen und hatten ein Wettbewerb für die vier besten Eier gemacht. Alle waren toll aber es gab vier besten Eier. Die Gewinner waren Romy Burke, Isabella Neary, Sidney Cullivan und Bella Kenneally. Jetzt kann die schöne, gemahlte Eier in Frau Dempseys Klassenzimmer sehen. Wir haben viel Spaß gemacht! Danke an Frau Dempsey und Michelle die Deutsche Assistentin die jetzt wieder in Deutschland ist.

*By Isabella Neary, 1st Year*

This year the German first years made Traditional German Easter eggs. These eggs, however, were not chocolate, they were chicken eggs. We were given the task to hollow out the eggs, we did this by making a hole on the top and bottom of the egg using a screwdriver or a needle. Then we blew on one of the holes to get the egg yolk and white out. In the next class we began to design our hollow eggs using tape, paint, markers, dye and stickers. Most people used paint or dye.

They all turned out so good and made great decorations to hang around the classroom. Before we hung them up, we had a competition of the best egg judged by some of the Newpark teachers.



The winners were Bella Kenneally, Isabella Neary, Romy Burke, and Sidney Cullivan. It was so much fun,

and I am sure everyone would agree. A special thanks to Ms. Dempsey and our German assistant teacher Michelle.

*By Dalina Tzvetanova, 1st Year*



## Seachtain na Gaeilge



Arís i mbliana bhí seachtain na gaeilge den scoth againn i scoil na páirce nua.

D'éirigh le gach bliain breathnú ar an scannán “An Cailín Ciúin” sa GPA. Scannán álainn a bhí sa scannán seo atá go leor gradam buaite aige. Bhain na daltaí go léir taitneamh as an scannán iontach seo agus bhí siad an- tógtha leis an scannán.



Léirigh iníon de Brún conas damhsa scuaibe a dhéanamh agus bhí daltaí na páirce thar a bheith cumasach I mbun scuaibe I ndeireadh na feide.

Bhí seisiún cheol gaelach eagraithe sa GPA agus bhí daltaí le talann den scoth ag seinm ceoil ar an mbodhrán, an fheadóg stáin, agus an fhidil. B'aoibhinn leis na daltaí an ceol Ghaelach.



Ina theannta sin bhí tráth na gceist ar siúl sa GPA don séú bhliain, a bhí bunaithe ar chúrsa na hardteiste idir próis agus filíocht. Bhí an iomaíocht ghéar agus bhí an chraic againn

Tháinig an scríbhneoir clúiteach Áine Ní Ghlinn ar cuairt chuig an scoil. Thug sí léacht iontach faoi scríbhneoireacht don tríú bhliain agus bhí an léacht thar a bheith tairbheach do na daltaí mar tá an t-úrsceál daideo idir lámha acu.

Bhí ciorcal cainte sa Gpa don séú bliain agus labhair siad gaeilge líofa fad is a d'ith siad brioscaí agus d'ól siad tae. Déirigh go hiontach leis an ciorcal seo



Mile buíochas leis na daltaí:

David McGovern - Fidil

Owen Hopwood - Banjo & Guitar

Holly Trainor - Bodhran

Níl gaeilge labhartha teoranta do seachtain amháin ach don bhliain go léir.

Is leatsa í an ghaeilge, labhair í chomh minic agus is féidir libh!

*Leis an t-uasal Seán Mac Cárthaigh*



# Transition Year

## Interview Day



Transition Year students had the great privilege of experiencing interview day on Wednesday the 29th of March. The TY students were dressed in their very formal, business attire. The recommended dress code was a blazer, a button up shirt, trousers or a pencil skirt. The teachers said the TYs looked extremely professional, confirming that they didn't expect us to actually clean up that nicely!

Each student had to arrive 10-15 minutes before their interview started. Many students practiced interview questions in the GPA before they sat outside the interview room. The interviews were held in all of the offices in the school building. Each interviewer had an average of twelve interviews with different students. The interviewers who took part in interview day were, John Lysaght, Jaqueline Finnegan, Suzanne Johnson, Nicola Ring, Joyne Dobson, Mondy Kavanagh, Beryl Ryan, Chris Lennon, Tim Smyrk, Silvia Mambrian, Derek Lowry and Damien Nalty.

The interviewers marked us on the way we explained why we thought we were suited for this job, our strengths and weaknesses and times we've shown them and where we see ourselves in 10-20 years time. The interviews were held from 9am to 12:30pm. During this time the TYs were based in the GPA, some of them stressing and others relaxed as they had already done their interviews. After all the interviews, each interviewer explained to us as an overall group on things we should work on. The main issue was tailoring CV's to match the profession we were being interviewed for. After each interviewer had spoken and given their personal advice, the fourth years got to go home early. Interview Day was an great experience and definitely benefited everyone for their future interviews to come. Many thanks to all of the interviewers for giving up their time!

*By Michelle Gormley, TY*

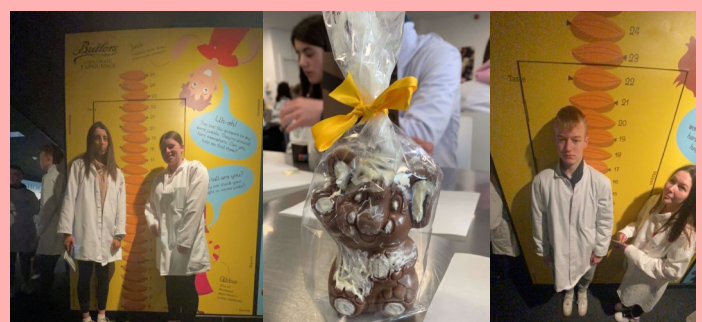
## Choc It Out: Butlers Chocolate Factory

This year our catering class got to go on a trip to Butlers Chocolate Factory. When we first got there, we were given lab coats to wear during the tour. We were then brought into the cinema room where we were given a bag of Butlers homemade chocolate buttons. We watched a short film about the history of Butlers chocolate. This was the most educational part of the trip. After the film ended, the group was split into two as there was another school there.



We were taken into the museum first where we learned more about Butlers, there were interactive screens we could use to play Butler-themed games. Then we got to go into the Chocolate factory where we got to watch the different processes of how the chocolate is made. It was interesting to see how much work goes into their products. Finally, we were taken into a kitchen with loads of tables and chairs. Firstly, we were shown how to make different types of chocolates. And then we all got to decorate our own chocolate elephants. The trip was so much fun.

*By Maleah Cahill, TY*





## Languages Olympiad



On Wednesday the 1st of March I took part in the National Round of the All-Ireland Linguistics Olympiad. A mixture of 5th and 4th years attended this competition in DCU. The competition is based on logical puzzles surrounding languages and is used to promote exposure to different languages around the world. The day began at 9:40 and consisted of an individual round and a team round. It was great fun, with a free lunch and some strange puzzles (one was a made-up Martian language). There are questions from previous years' national and preliminary rounds available on the AILO website, try out the one below!

By Sarah Glanville, TY

### Question E: The house can't eat you 30 points

This problem involves the Nung language of northeastern Vietnam, spoken by about a million people and related to the Thai, Lao, Isan, Shan, and Zhuang languages of Southeast Asia in the Tai-Kadai family. It is not related to Chinese, Vietnamese, Khmer, Hmong, Malay, or Burmese, so far as we know. In this problem, the Nung Phan Sinh variety of Nung will be used. Note that in this language, word order is fairly fixed.

Study the following sentences in Nung with their corresponding English translations.

For your information, the marks above vowels indicate tone and the length of the vowel. The hook on the u and o (ư and ơ) indicates a central vowel, while d is pronounced like a 'd' (ordinary d is pronounced 'z'). However, you do not need to know how to pronounce Nung in order to solve the problem, but you should reproduce the diacritic marks accurately in your answers.

Cáu ca vừn nahng kihn.	I was about to continue to eat it.
Cáu chảnh sòng pây mi?	Do I truly want to go?
Cáu mi sảy kihn.	I don't have to eat it.
Cáu ngăm hểt pehn tể.	I did it like that just now.
Cáu tan đơc hảnh mường.	I only saw you.
Cáu vừn nahng bô sảh mảhng hểt hơn.	I also continue to build the house alone.
Da kihn!	Don't eat it!
Da khải hơn!	Don't sell the house!
Muhn chớhng ca chảnh fải khải.	Then she truly was about to have to sell it.
Muhn mi chảnh đay non.	She truly can't sleep.
Muhn nảnh-thầy chớhng bô sảh kihn.	Then she also just previously ate it.
Mường nảnh-thầy sòng tảnh pây.	You wanted to go alone just previously.

- E1. Translate the following into English: (12 points)**
- Cáu chảnh đay non. (2)
  - Da pây non! (2)
  - Muhn bô sảh mi sòng hểt hơn mi? (4)
  - Muhn ngăm bô sảh pây hơn. (4)

- E2. Translate the following into Nung. (18 points)**
- I wasn't about to eat it just previously. (4)
  - She didn't have to eat it alone like that just now. (5)
  - The house truly can't eat you. (4)
  - Then were you also about to go just previously? (5)

## Rubbish Film Festival



The Rubbish Film Festival holds a competition every year for TY students across Leister. The competition is to create a 1-minute film about sustainable development.

A team of twelve students were chosen at random from the TY film studies class and we spent two days working on the film. The first day we spent brainstorming and planning, and the second day was spent filming and editing while also making a poster for our movie.

On the 27th of April, everyone who made films was invited to the lexicon for a showcase of the movies. There were six movies with titles like *Sharkira*, *Litterbug*, *Last Girl Standing*, and our movie called *Cosmocracy*. The judges were a lady from DLRCC and Ms Adams. Unfortunately we didn't win but hopefully next year's TY students will do better.

By Coco Evans, TY





## The Rest Is Still Unwritten...



At the beginning of Module 3 of Transition Year, the TY Bands class got the opportunity to participate in a song writing workshop. The workshop took place during our usual two hour class on a Wednesday morning.

The workshop was run by a very talented woman called Farah Elle. Farah is a singer- songwriter but she also has a background in different forms of trauma healing.

Farah led us at a comfortable pace that suited us. We started off by doing a grounding exercise. The exercise got us to focus on the different points of energy in our body, one at a time, with a different action and meaning for each one. It was like nothing I'd ever done before but it was really interesting. Everyone got involved and everyone seemed to enjoy it. I think it was a good, gentle way to get us all engaged.

Next, Farah went around the room and got everyone to tell her their name and then she would sing it back to them. I loved this. It showed us all how easy it is to create beautiful melodies.

Then we began to get creative ourselves. Farah had us think of words to describe how we were feeling and how the atmosphere in the room felt. She wrote the words we came up with on the board. Then we had ten minutes to write song lyrics or a poem using these words as inspiration. This was thoroughly enjoyable. I loved letting my creativity flow and feel the energy from the group. Everyone managed to write something. One of my classmates performed the lyrics he wrote, and others had Farah perform their lyrics for them. It was interesting to hear the different ideas people had, which words they used from the board and how they used them, everyone took a unique approach.

*(Natasha Bedingfield reference by Ms Ring)*

*By Lisa Maxwell, TY*

## Fighting Words



On April 20th Ms. Morrissey took 4KD on a trip to the Mermaid Arts Centre in Bray.

When we were there, we wrote plays in groups and performed them together. At the end of the class, we were asked to expand on our own on the plays we had

written in our groups. One student wrote a poem describing their play. Here is the poem.

### ***The Frightening Fall of Mr. Bowl***

*My wife my wife  
She was my life  
I can't believe Mr. Bowl took her away  
He made me want to hide away  
But when I made my friend on the DART  
He showed me how to not lose my heart  
He said I could still save the day  
He gave me a gun  
Which looked like lots of fun  
And we made our way down to the scene.  
  
When we arrived  
I kicked with my thigh  
And killed Mr Bowl straight & clean  
But through the crossfire  
I heard a screech like a car tyre  
I'd shot my wife Susan  
She's now a has-been.*

*By Rui Faria, TY*



## 4KD Arts Week



The Meeting Room in Newpark was completely obliterated with colourful spots this Wednesday—thanks to a group of TY students as part of their May Arts Week.



The daring installation attempted to raise awareness of mental health issues and was inspired by Japanese Artist Yayoi Kusama.

*By Ms Trudy Feighery*



## The Annual TY Concert Makes A Return





## 4KD In Gartan



## Injecting Art At St Columcille's Hospital



A courtyard in St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown has been transformed by artwork produced as part of TY Arts Week! The vibrant and cheerful work is now on display for staff and patients to enjoy. The work was inspired by Artist Yinka Ilori whose large scale work aims to bring a sense of inclusion and playfulness to public spaces. Special thanks must be given to Dr Suzanna Dooley and Deirdre Fitzgerald of St. Columcille's for providing the students with the opportunity to work on such a large-scale, real-life brief!

*By Ms Trudy Feighery*

Back In November 4AD and 4KD painted boards for St Collumcille's Hospital in Loughlinstown. We painted them during Arts Week and the idea was that the bright and colourful paintings would lighten up the





outdoor seating area in St. Collumcille's Hospital for the nurses and patients to see.

We finally got to go and see our paintings up in the hospital and they really stood out and caught everyone's eye as we walked around. We were thanked with tea and cakes from the nurses. It was really fulfilling to be able to see our hard work for a good cause and everyone enjoyed seeing them up outside.

*By Hannah Oak, TY*

## You Gotta Have Faith: 4LMY Arts Week



Newpark Meditation Room has had a revamp—thanks to TY students who worked on the room last February with Ms Feighery. The room, which is a space for all students and staff to enjoy, was transformed in just three short days. The students worked in small groups to develop a mood-board and colour scheme for the space—which needed to include an existing stained-glass window. The winning group were Ciarán Gill and Sarah Glanville whose tranquil, blue and turquoise design featured panels of abstract rain and forest paintings. Thank you to Ms Keating for putting her faith in the group to pull off the project!

*By Ms Trudy Feighery*



## 4LRG Arts Week



One of the Newpark Art rooms now has an eye-catching feature wall—thanks to TY, who worked on it as part of their Arts Week in February. The art installed on the wall was inspired by artist Kandinsky and also features a huge round painting donated by Mr. King. The wall is bursting with imagination which is sure to inspire students working in this classroom.

*By Ms Trudy Feighery*







## Lounge at Twilight

On Friday the 5th of May, the TY Bands and Drama put together an event called *Lounge at Twilight* where we showcased everything we had been working on throughout the year in Work Area. We were eager to organise an event to work towards and look forward to.

It snuck up on us so quickly and all of a sudden, we were backstage waiting to go on and perform. Three plays from Drama made the audience laugh, clap, and feel a range of emotions in the first half. Then in the second half, the bands took to the stage performing many favourites from the year. And finally, we all came together to perform a class rendition of Fix You by Coldplay—a perfect end to Lounge at Twilight and an amazing year of Work Area.

A big thank you to everyone who helped us along the way, especially Ms Fox, Ms Scott, Ms Devis, Ms Loughman and the Sports Centre.

By Hannah Clabby, TY





## On Being Dramatic

Throughout Transition Year, there are many activities to look forward to for all students. Some would look forward to Gartan or In Dublin week, but this year the thing I looked forward to most was the short plays.

I started doing the short plays in 3rd year when I really should have been studying for my mocks. Instead, I wrote a short play with my friend, and I am forever glad I did. I really love the short plays because it gives me the opportunity to write about and put on a performance of whatever strange ideas I produce. Through the short plays you also meet some amazing people. I have met some of the nicest people through acting and directing the short plays and I am so glad I met them.

Apart from the short plays, there is also TY drama class, which is a class that I really enjoyed. I got the opportunity in it to write yet another play, which is an opportunity I will never pass up on. I think in Transition Year it is the perfect class to try if you want to try and branch out and try something that is creative in a slightly unique way.

*By Emmet Brennan, TY*

Being part of Newpark Drama is always very full on, and taking part in the writing as well as acting and directing definitely demonstrates that, but it's worth it.



I've written a couple of plays for Newpark this year and being able to see each of them come to fruition is so fun every time. I was so happy to be able to do it during school time this year, honestly a dream come true. Although it's stressful hitting deadlines, it's always worth it. Plus you get loads of praise. Newpark Drama 10/10 :)

*By Nóinín Cooling, TY*



## 4DL Arts Week



For the final Arts Week of 2022/23, TY have produced outdoor installations. Coloured ribbon has been woven between the existing canopies outside the school building. The installation transforms the space and changes how people interact in their environment. The TY group are aiming to bring a festival feel to the school as the summer approaches.

*By Ms Trudy Feighery*





## The Newpark Variety Show



Returning from the February mid-term was a daunting time for many, as mock results began filtering into our nervous, little hands. Amid all the eager waiting, my focus was occupied on the incoming Variety Show. Plans had begun earlier in the month, although due to the big scary practice exams, the Show had been placed on the backburner.

The idea of a talent show had been discussed last year, to no avail. However, with joint efforts from the Student Council and the Cultural Council, the show was arranged for mid-March.

When we did come back, our escapade, now called the 'Variety Show', was looking bleak as only one act had signed up. Then began the process of begging, guiltig and chasing people down in hallways, doing everything in my power to persuade them to perform.

Thankfully, some were lured into agreeing.

On Wednesday, we attempted a dress rehearsal (/tech rehearsal/ first rehearsal). Up to that point it was still unclear if the show was even going to happen. Performers were dropping like flies, and I was beginning to worry that our Variety Show was going to be catastrophic.

On Thursday, March 9th, we all gathered in the theatre. Due to a meeting taking place in the GPA, the performers had to be seated in the back of the theatre, and throughout the show they were sent up down the



cold, rainy alley to the green room. I announced the acts in groups of three, which I had illegibly scribbled on a set of flashcards, originally bought for some long-forgotten attempt at studying.

At the entrance to the theatre, a table sold goods baked by some of the incredible members of the Student Council. Backstage, as we all anxiously waited to begin the show, I was informed that the stage lights had stopped working. Only a minor disaster, which was promptly resolved by the wonderful people in the lighting box.

The Show began with an exquisite violin performance, a stirring monologue and two middle-aged men singing Radiohead. Then, after 'Blackbird', dancing, the YMCA, a viola, Latin sex poetry and a lovely rendition of 'Somewhere Only We Know', the first half closed with 'A Medley on Love', performed by Newpark's most acclaimed Drag artists.



Following a short intermission, another beautiful violin performance initiated the second half. Then a tremendous piano player, two bands of TYs and a short play titled 'Ein Abend Am Teich' took to the stage.

To conclude the show, me and my friend, the magnificent Eala Craven, decided to perform a rendition of Lou Reed's 'Goodnight Ladies'. We had only begun rehearsing that morning, and as we went out on stage there was a feeling of unshakable dread. Right before we were to begin, the piano (which had been giving us nothing but trouble for a week but had remained well behaved all night) cut out. After some scrambling the piano was revived, and, shakily and nervously, we began. At some point, towards the song's final verses, the piano rebelled and fell silent once more. As I plummeted into a state of panic, a disembodied voice from somewhere in the audience called out: "Keep singing!", and so I did. More scrambling, and the piano returned to finish the song with us. It would not surprise me in the slightest if the disembodied voice was heard in my head alone.





Either way we finished the song and backed by polite applause; we ran off stage as if the audience were throwing rocks at us.



Despite the somewhat pitiful ending, The Variety Show raised over €700 for the Irish Cancer Society, an achievement due entirely to the efforts of the incredible people who helped to bring the show together in basically two weeks. While the spotlight quite rightly falls on the performers, none of it would have been possible without the help of Her Royal Highness Ms Devis, our lord and savior Ms Fox, the unceasingly remarkable members of the Student and Cultural Councils, the phenomenal lighting and stage crew people, the marvelous bakers, the ever-patient Jack



Bradshaw and the eternally supportive audience.

What a variety! What a show! What a lonely Thursday night!

*By Flora Lyons, 6th Year*





## German Club

We didn't get much done this year in German Club but get ready Leute because the 23/24 school year is going to be an unforgettable year for German Club! There's going to be German events links, rechts und Mitte! From quizzes to food tastings, to live music, to theatre, to dance, it's going to be totally verrückt for German Club next year.

I would like to say a few 'vielen Danks,' firstly to Ms. Dempsey and our German assistant this year Michelle for their support, and secondly to all the incredibly loyal members this year, who came without fail every second Thursday lunchtime to T5.

*By German Club President and Co-Refounder;*

*Oscar Schmidt, TY*

## Lego Club

Lego club has a great amount of members during this school year. For everyone who doesn't know, Lego club is on in T15 every Tuesday lunchtime. It a nice quiet and imaginative place in between the chaotic classes. Because of its popularity we'll definitely be keeping lego club up next year.

We have had a lot of lego donations this year and are always happy to accept them, but please don't feel like you must donate. Hope to see you after the Summer!

*By Takitora BouAynaya and Jacob Vaughan, 1st Year*

## Newpark Jazz Appreciation Society

It was a good first year for us here at the NJAS. We got through a lot of the greats, Fitzgerald, Davis, Coltrane, and this list will only keep growing as we continue next year. We did not however get to watch Whiplash, which crushes me with complete and utter disappointment.

I'd firstly like to thank my co-founder, and Newpark's next up and coming jazz bassist, Rui Faria for all the time he's put into the Society this year. Secondly, I would like to thank Mr. Daly for letting us use beautiful M3 every second Thursday lunchtime and for being our teacher representative. In truth I'm not sure if Mr. Daly's actually the biggest jazz fan, but I'd like to think he's a big fan of our little Jazz Club. Lastly, I would like to extend a colossal thank you to all the jazz fans who came diligently, through thick and thin, every second Thursday lunchtime. Keeping it cooking over the summer jazz cats, it is jazz season after all.

*By Newpark Jazz Appreciation Society Co-Founder  
and Current Co-Organiser; Oscar Schmidt, TY*

## Book Club



The Newpark Book Club meet on Tuesday lunchtimes in the library. This term we have become eager detectives as we

read *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie. In line with our club motto 'loquimur de omnibus, sed liber – we talk about everything but the book' (Tom Farragher, 2023) there have been many fun discussions about Taylor Swift, the horror genre and school life. A big thank you to our student leader and founder Naiara King-Casanellas, best of luck in your exams this summer! Her passion for literature has encouraged and inspired the club this year and she will be missed.

All students are welcome to join in September – enjoy your summer reading!

*By Ms Lydia Colin*

## Badminton

Badminton. Some may call it 'the beautiful game', others 'the sport of the divine'. To me it's just badminton. That is not to diminish it in any way. In fact, nothing has ever been more beautiful. That sheen of the hardwood floor in the hall, the gentle swish of the nets, the thwack of racquet on shuttlecock. Even nectar isn't as sweet. It is truly a sport of the gods. All of mankind's combined efforts could not synthesize the feeling of euphoria one gets when taking that first step onto that court.

Nevertheless, at its core, it is a place that welcomes everyone (unless the courts are full). That's why I can simplify its many intricacies into one word. Badminton. A word that has carried the sport and will continue to carry it for centuries to come. Revitalised now, in Newpark, on a Monday lunchtime the school seems to glow with the light of a thousand suns. I'm sad to be leaving it behind, it's almost like losing an old friend. Alas, none of this could've been accomplished without the monumental efforts of Ms. Cameron and Rui Faria. Thank you for looking after the club in my absence. I am forever in your debt. Rui must take the torch now and I trust him wholly. I hope it continues to thrive in Newpark as it has for the last two years. Vivat Badmintum.

*By Jack Bradshaw, 6th Year*



## Visual

This has been an amazing year for the visual arts club.

Over the course of the last seven months, I've been constantly amazed by what our members are capable of. People willingly come in their spare time after school to come on trips, create personal projects, catch up on incredible school work and socialize with other creative-minded students in the school.

It's been a really fun space for people to branch out and talk to those that they might not normally have the chance to reach out to. I'm really proud to say that I've been a part of this club. Over the six years I've been in this school, some of my best memories of it have been made in T15 on a Wednesday afternoon.

Visual doesn't really have much need for specific leaders—I've found students of all years are happy working on the same level with one another, but still I owe a big thank you to Coco Evans, who has time to talk and help out literally anyone who came to the art room. I know the club will be left in great hands and the new first years will come to love the club as much as Coco and I do.

It's no secret that Newpark's culture is incredibly creative and we owe a massive thank-you to the art department that devote huge amounts and time and energy to nurturing that artistic spark that lies in every one of us Newparkians. So thank you to Mr Byrne, Mr Kirwan, Ms Feighery and Mr King for turning our Wednesday afternoons into something so much more colourful.

*By Abby-Rose Fiorilla, 6th Year*

## Model United Nations



Newpark will be hosting its first Model United Nations conference next November.

This will be a fantastic opportunity for the school community to come together, offer hospitality, work together with other schools and contribute to constructive discussions about the betterment of humanity. For our students, it will provide the opportunity to take on roles and responsibilities in running the conference. Model United Nations is run by students for students so being part of the central organising team is an excellent way of developing capacities for organisation and project management.

Anyone interested in being involved should contact Ms Odongo.

*By Ms Sheena Odongo*

## Christian Union



We have had another wonderful term of meeting together in T11 on Fridays at lunchtime. Each week, we eat lunch together, often supplemented by a few treats! We play a game, chat and a student will share a short thought about their faith. We are grateful to have had a few guest speakers this

term including Alan Breen and past pupil Jonathan Byford from Kill Church of Ireland.

Highlights from this term would have to include our event from Wellbeing Week. Two students shared their stories of how they came to faith and how their faith has impacted their life and helped them to cope with difficult times. It was a lovely time of sharing and getting to know each other better and, really, it sums up what we are all about.

Our other highlight would be our joint trip with the Christian Union from Temple Carrig School in Greystones. We met on neutral ground – Bray!! There we did a selfie treasure hunt along the prom in mixed groups followed by bowling and more treats. It was really nice to get to know some of the students from TCG and we hope to do our weekend away with them next year so it was great to forge some connections.

A huge thanks is due to our 6th year leaders this year: Naomi Breen and Keziah Langrell. Thank you for your leadership, friendship and fun. We wish you all the very best and we know that God has wonderful plans for your futures. Come back and visit us!

*By Ms Charis Rowan*



## Pride Club

This year, Pride club has continued to do what it has been doing since it started up again in 2021, being a safe meeting place where all students are welcome whether they're LGBTQ+ or an ally. While this year, we've continued to uphold our traditions of rainbow day and our Gayke sale for stand-up awareness week, having discussions about queer history and politics within our meetings and hosting fun activities such as games, mindfulness colouring and more. Our club itself goes through different seasons where we find ourselves very busy on some days with almost enough students to need another classroom and less on others. Students tend to get busy with exams, extra-curricular activities such as acting in short/junior plays and other reasons, yet our club will always be there for any students who wish to attend.

Pride Club will always be relevant in Newpark Comprehensive school and its legacy will continue for generations to come. We feel that it is essential that this school has a safe space for LGBTQ+ students to be their true authentic self and express themselves without judgement. This club represents issues and concerns relevant to these students, often talking about topics that are unfortunately not spoken about enough in the classroom. Our club is a symbol that LGBTQ+ students do have a voice and a place in this school, and no one can take that away from them.

I'd first like to say a massive thank you to both Ms Keating and Ms Ring. We would not be able to do nearly as much as we do without the support of these teachers. We are so grateful to them, and we look forward to working with them more in the new term.

Pride Club would not be possible without our group of senior cycle student leaders who have been dedicated to running this club and continue to do their best despite juggling their busy examination years. Our two leaders and representatives of Pride Club on the cultural council this year were myself and River Walton. I'd like to say a massive thank you to River who will be leaving us this year. It has been a pleasure to work with him over the last few years as me and River worked very hard to restart the club following covid. River has been amazing to work with, always full of ideas and their impact has been felt by all of our leaders and members. I'd also like to say a massive thank you to our other 6th year leaders who will be leaving us this year as well: Louis Connolly, Zofie Zaparkova-Weldon, Abbie Rose and Alice Nestor. They've all been great leaders for the past two years; they will be greatly missed, and we wish

them all the best with their future endeavours. A massive thank you also to Alannah Davis, Alice Wolsey and Eva O'Donnell who have all been very helpful and will continue to lead our club in the 2023-4 school year.

Next year, our club will continue to be a safe place for all students. We will continue with our timetable plans of a healthy balance of activities, discussions and fun events to accommodate all students. We plan to make a greater effort to have guest speakers next term as we've always planned such as past pupils, workshops involving other schools and more.

I really look forward to seeing familiar faces next year as well as new faces from the incoming first years. I also really look forward to welcoming new student leaders next year as well and seeing what they can bring to the table. Any senior cycle students interested in helping, please feel free to contact me directly on teams. We hope everyone also has a wonderful Pride Month this June and look forward to seeing everyone once again after the summer.

*By Seth Vella-Murphy, 5th Year*

## Stand Up Awareness Week 2023

Save the date! This year's Stand Up Awareness Week will be taking place from the 6th - 10th of November.





## Model United Nations



Model United Nations may seem confusing and intimidating to outsiders but experiencing and finding a love for it can have immense value, both academically and (more importantly) personally. For non-MUNers, it is essentially a simulation of the real-world United Nations for young people and aims to teach them debate, writing and collaboration skills, as well as knowledge of the structure and workings of the UN along the way. Schools from all over Dublin and further afield represent countries in the UN in the form of delegations, and students can choose which topics they would like to debate, ranging from humanitarian crises, honour killings (Social Cultural and Humanitarian) and transgender healthcare (Health and Youth) to drone

surveillance (Disarmament and Security). Students can then choose to write documents laying out how these problems would be solved in resolutions, which are debated and then voted on. Throughout all this seriousness, mock security roam the halls with nerf guns, joke resolutions are debated, and games are played.



This year the Newpark MUN team took part in seven conferences throughout the school year, in Terenure, Rathdown, Blackrock College, The High School, Wesley College and Wicklow Educate Together. The highlight of the year was Royal Russell, an international conference in London, where we had the chance to debate alongside delegates from California, France and Japan. A few of us also got the opportunity to chair at conferences. It was a particularly successful year awards wise, and between us we received three distinguished delegate awards, four commended delegate awards, one highly commended delegate award and one best delegate award.



In exciting developments, we also committed to hosting our own MUN conference in Newpark (PARKMUN), to be held in November this year. MUN is student led, which means organising the conference will be a huge amount of work to pull off, but we are looking forward to the invaluable experience of financing, organising and coordinating our own conference. After taking part in MUN from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> year, I will be taking the role of Secretary General as a 6<sup>th</sup> year, and my main goal will be to provide a comfortable and enjoyable environment for new participants to immerse themselves in the world of MUN.

If you or your friends want to learn more about how MUN works, sign up for a conference or practice your debate skills, meetings take place every Monday lunchtime in T13. There is no obligation to take part in conferences and no age limit and any questions you have can be answered.

*By Nakai Mudiwa, 5<sup>th</sup> Year*

## WCD MUN

This year I attended WCD MUN in Wesley College Dublin. It was my first ever MUN. I never really thought MUN was my type of thing but I had a few friends who told me great things about it. So I decided to try it out.

As I first walked into the hall I was so confused and wasn't entirely sure what I was doing but the other MUN students from Newpark really helped me out and as the meetings started I began to really find my place. I was able to meet new people from other schools and as I grew more confident I was even able to speak a few times. The food they gave was quite nice and that's coming from a very picky eater. WCDMUN was a great MUN for my first time and it was really well organised, I knew where I was going all the time and the head chairs were all really nice. Everyone was really kind and there and I truly felt like we could unite all the nations.

*By Eve Cullen, 5<sup>th</sup> Year*



## DLR Cycling Talk



The Enterprise and Innovation class in TY attended a talk by the DLR county council engineers in the to learn about the new infrastructure planned for our area. Here are a few interesting things that we learnt.

New bike lanes have been put in place across the entire Dun Laoghaire Rathdown area. Many see this as an inconvenience to their daily commute due to roadworks, one-way systems, and smaller roads etc. However, there is a valid reason for the council to do so. Traffic has been at an all-time high as there has been an increase of 179% of vehicles on the road from 1985 to 2017. Bikes may be the solution to this.

Plans to build wider roads in major cities are sold to the public as solutions to congestion. In reality, the facts show us otherwise. Induced demand is a term in economics that means “increasing road capacity (more roads or more road lanes) creates demand and encourages more people to drive their car. Put simply, when you provide more of something (e.g., more road space), or provide it for a cheaper price (e.g., cheaper fuel), people are more likely to use it”-

If you think about it, cars take up much more space on the road than is necessary. To provide transport for twenty people, you would need at least four standard cars—if they’re entirely full. Busses are a good alternative, but aren’t as reliable and only come at certain times. Bikes take up a substantial amount of space, but nothing compared to that of a car and don’t emit any carbon dioxide or any other greenhouse gases.

Dublin is the second most congested city in Europe. This is surprising because the population is so small. If you compare Dublin’s congestion rates to a city such as Amsterdam that is known for having a surplus use of bikes, you can see that the time to travel 10 km (about the cruising altitude of a commercial jet) is much smaller in Amsterdam—11 mins 15 seconds compared to Dublin’s 30 minutes.

There are many more reasons for these bike lanes to be put in. Many bike users choose to cycle on the roads as the quality of some bike lanes is incredibly poor.

Parents won’t want to let their young children cycle if they feel it is unsafe for them to do so. The #AndSheCycles campaign looks to fix this problem. The Green schools committee has been working on this campaign for a few years now, coordinating with other schools. The price of fuel is going up every year, especially due to the war in Ukraine. Using bikes, would be a lot cheaper. Especially in these times with inflation being so high.

*By Evelyn Lysaght, TY*

## On Your Bike!

I have been cycling on and off throughout different periods of my life since I was five years old. During the times when I would refuse to ride a bike, there were a few obstacles standing in the way. Number one: insecurity. During parts of first and second year I grew anxious about what people would think. Would they laugh at me cycling? Do I look silly? And this worsened when someone made a comment about how they saw me cycling. I stopped cycling so I could “look cooler.” Now I know this is not the case. Most people actually have more respect for people who cycle, “wow they’re keeping in shape,” they definitely have their life together” and “that’s really good for the environment.” Once I got over this fear and didn’t care anymore, cycling was so freeing. It got me places fast, efficiently and gave me energy to get through the day.

Another obstacle I had was fear. While a little fear is valid, a lot of it is in our heads. If we cycle safely, research the traffic rules, use lights, wear hi-vis and a helmet there is no reason to be afraid. I was always worried something awful would happen, but it never has. It’s important to be careful but also just to live our lives.

Another thing that prevented me from cycling was low motivation/laziness. Once you get into the habit of it it’s second nature and will actually wake you up. I was going into school like a zombie every day when I got a lift. Now I feel fresh and motivated after my cycle.

The cycling industry as a whole is evolving and growing. The introduction of safety infrastructure such as segregated cycle lanes has reassured many people to cycle near busy roads. Different material and technology such as wicking fabric absorb perspiration as you cycle. There is more of a drive for cycling now than ever as the climate change issue arises and we try to reduce our carbon footprint. Often people are stuck in classrooms and offices all day so it’s a brilliant way to get fresh air and exercise in. And let’s not leave it all to



the men! I encourage ever single woman to start cycling. Let's close the gap between male and female cyclists!

Lastly, it's important to learn to take care of your own bike and take pride in it. Not only will it save cash, but it will also prevent waste. Learn the basics of fixing your bike, so if you get stuck, you'll know what to do.

*By Juno O'Flanagan, TY*

## Plastic Outta the Park



*Plastic Outta the Park* is a group that was set up in 2017 with the aim of making Newpark Ireland's first ever plastic-free school. The group of students were successful, and this year we were tasked with reinstating a plastic-free school campus after Covid.

Being a plastic-free school was pushed aside for a while during all the restrictions, so we had our work cut out for us while we were working on our project for the Young Environmentalist Awards!

Our project was entered in the Further Development category of the Young Environmentalist Awards, and we got to have lots of fun with it! We set up educational workshops with the first years, collaborated with another school, Rockbrook, and we taught them how we became a plastic-free school and did workshops with their Junior Cycle students, gave a presentation and played some games at an old folks home, made a funny music video to spread our message, talked to all the staff about setting a good example for the school and covered the school in very artistic posters reminding everyone about the ban on single-use plastic!

Our project made it through to the next round of the competition, called the Eco-Dens. We were tasked with creating a presentation that was around five minutes long to present to an environmental judging panel. It went very well, and we are so excited to attend the finals in May!

*By Molly Sweeney, TY*

## Sustainable Fashion Show



The Sustainable Fashion Show at lunch time on April 21st, experienced by many, was a great success. With a wonderfully supportive audience we rocked second-hand, homemade and borrowed from charity shops clothing on the 'green' carpet. The charity shops who provided clothes were Womens Aid, NCBI, St Vincent De Paul and we collected clothes from Flossie And The Beach Cleaners.

The enterprise project brought our two-5th year LCVP classes together and within eight hours in total and communicating teamwork, I as one of the managing directors (with Laura Morris and Seth Vella-Murphy) can say the event turned out just perfect.

We hope this event, besides free entertainment, also inspired our audience to think twice before buying new clothes and to realize re-used and up-cycled clothes are fashionable too! The aim was to raise awareness for sustainable fashion and raise some funds for the Climate and Environment section of the Concern charity. The group would like to thank everyone who came to the event and supported our models on the 'green carpet' and our bake sale on the day.

*By Celina Van Der Salm, 5th Year*



## IWish Conference



On the 28th of February this year all the girls in TY business and 5th year Business went on a trip to the RDS, Dublin. We went to a conference hosted by IWish. The conference was to highlight the importance of women working in STEM. It was hosted in hope to encourage women to consider furthering their education in one of the following areas: science, technology, engineering, and math.



The event consisted of interesting and informative talks from many successful women in STEM. We also got the opportunity to meet with employees who work in multinational companies from all around the world such as, Google, Microsoft, Johnston & Johnston, ARUP and many more. We learned about the working life in a career in STEM and what amazing opportunities there are out there for women in Business.

The RDS was pretty much full and there was an amazing turnout to the event. They had also decorated the conference room to look very futuristic with neon lights and interesting posters. The talks were extremely interactive and there were many amazing speakers in to talk to us. All the women who spoke had been successful in setting up their own business or in multinational companies and had jobs in STEM. As a group we were all inspired and loved all aspects of the event.

We thoroughly enjoyed the day, and we want to say thank you to Ms Carr for planning this day and getting us involved.

*By Indiana Gallanagh and Mia Chadwick, TY*

## The Young Economist of the Year Awards!



This year, Ms Carr's TY Business class attended the YEOTY Awards. We had three projects entering the competition: "Does Social Media Influence you to Buy Products and how does it affect Producers?" by Luka, Mia, Maleah, Tilly, and Ryanne, "Is Private School Worth it?" by Dylan, Ava, Lisa, Críosa and Safyia, and "What Would Happen if we Increased Tax by 1%?" by Cillian, Erin, Indiana, Isabella, Kyle, and Molly. The first two projects received bronze awards, and the third received a silver award. This meant that we had a stall at the Awards in UCD.

This year, the overall theme is 'Broken Supply Chains, Wage-Price Spirals, Fiscal Profligacy, De-Globalisation, War; Inflation strikes back!'. We took this into account when thinking of the ideas for our projects. The awards were held in O'Reilly Hall in UCD, and our whole class got to go! We set up our stall for the project "What Would Happen if we Increased Taxes by 1%?" and the judges came around and asked us some questions about our work. We then all sat down and listened to a few speakers from lots of different companies and universities present the awards. There were special interest awards and overall awards. It was a great ceremony, and afterwards we got to look around everyone's amazing projects. There were loads of fantastic ideas that were investigated by students from all over Ireland.

We all had a great time at the YEOTY Awards. We learned lots while doing our projects and from seeing everyone else's. I would definitely do it again next year and I would recommend everyone who has an interest in business to see about getting involved.

*By Molly Sweeney, TY*



## David McCullagh, De Valera and Collins

*"All of history is man's effort to realise ideals,"*  
Eamon de Valera



When our Politics and Society class was informed that we would become the audience of a presentation about political titan of Ireland, Eamon de Valera, I was overjoyed. I can say with certainty that I was not disappointed. The presentation by David McCullough, author of "De Valera: Rise" and "De Valera: Rule," was thorough and insightful. Throughout the presentation, Mr McCullough gave a gripping insight into not only the life but also the rise of Ireland's political giant, Eamon de Valera, Taoiseach thrice and President for fifteen years. However, as we learned from Mr. McCullough, the story of Eamon de Valera is not his alone, but the story of modern Ireland and particularly Michael Collins. Clear differences were pointed out, where Michael Collins was born to a rural Cork family, Eamon de Valera was born across the pond in the urban sprawl of New Jersey.

Despite their differences in how they grew up, the two would be on good terms and fought alongside each other during the doomed 1916 Easter Rising. I believe it necessary to recognise just how much time Mr McCullough dedicated to Michael Collins, and it was necessary to do so. Through de Valera's early political rise, he was fixed against the "Big Fellow," Michael Collins. However, I must commend Mr McCullough for his depiction of de Valera. In the 1996 film, Michael Collins, Eamon de Valera is portrayed as a bumbling schemer. In contrast, Mr McCullough presents a man who was good friends with Collins, fought for Ireland and upon his escape from Lincoln prison returned to Ireland. Needless to say, I view Eamon de Valera in a different light, and this is something he foresaw himself, stating:

"It is my considered that in the fullness time, history will record the greatness of Michael Collins and it will be recorded at my expense."

*By Neal Dowling, 5th Year*



### In Your Element

This is a selection of 1<sup>st</sup> Year art work from their clay head project based on the elements.

Each student chose one element – Earth, Air, Fire, Water. They researched their chosen element and then designed and constructed a clay bust to represent it.

*By Mr David King*





## Taking The Animals To The Zoo



On March 27th, the second-year science classes went on a school trip to Dublin Zoo.

In Dublin Zoo, we did a habitat study in the surrounding park to see what type of plants and animals are home to the park. We found out many interesting things during our study. For this study, we had to use many pieces of equipment including a sweeping net, a quadrant, and a beating tray which helped us in our investigation because they helped us capture animals and study plants. The animals we found in our investigation included many different species of spiders, flies, and bees. We also discovered and studied many plants that are native to the area. After our investigation we brought our results back to the zoo worker who was helping us with our investigation. He helped us find out the identifying features and adaptations of the animals and plants.



After the workshop, we were able to walk around the zoo and look at the animals for a couple of hours. During this time, we also ate our lunch at the meerkat café, which was good because we got to see meerkats while we were eating. We walked around the zoo and saw many exotic animals which included different types of species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and a few aquatic



creatures. Some of the animals that interested us the most were: The hippos, the sea lions, and the okapis. The okapis interested us because they looked like a mix of giraffe, a zebra, and a horse. After a while of looking around the zoo it was finally time to go back, but before we went back to school, we all got a chance to go to the gift shop. Then we took the bus back to school, and we all lived happily ever after.

*By Conor Grant and Hugh Davis, 2nd Year*

## SciFest College



*Congratulations to Newpark SciFest winners, 1st Years Sadhbh Ryan Griffin, Romy Burke, Louise Grier and Juliet Brady who went on to represent Newpark at SciFest College in TUD Tallaght.*



We had a great time in SciFest College. It was lots of fun. We did lots of planning, making our logbook and poster and testing everything again for our project *Stain Busters*.

We went to TU Dublin in Tallaght in the school bus. When we arrived, we registered and then went to the room where we would be displaying our project. Next, we got to present our project to two judges and a few other people who asked questions during our presentation.

There were loads of really interesting projects to see and it was great to show off what we had learned. After a lunch break, we had another half hour of presenting before a talk on astronomy that was very interesting. We got shown lots of pictures.

Finally, we had the awards ceremony where the awards were presented. All in all, SciFest was really fun and we would recommend it to anybody who gets the chance. Thanks to Ms Grant for all her help.

*By Sadhbh Ryan Griffin, 1st Year*



## Dwr-Uisce Conference



Last year in TY Science, Ms Grant arranged for a research group called Dwr-Uisce to come in and carry out a two-day workshop. The project was on energy use associated with water services. We explored different ways to improve energy efficiency with our water use and came up with practical ideas. Myself and Millie came up with an idea called Aqua-Track. The Aqua-Track idea promoted saving water by monitoring usage via a water meter. The meter was linked to digital devices such as a mobile phone. It would provide information about our water use and offer tips to reduce use. Each household would receive an allowance and water savings accumulated would then be converted to a financial donation to a water related charity. The idea encourages and rewards sustainable water use. Our idea was the winning one from the workshop.

Myself, Millie and Ms Grant were invited into Trinity Business College to present our idea to the rest of the research team at their final conference. When we arrived, we were met by the team we had worked with in Transition Year. We were then shown to our poster which was on a board in the lobby area, along with many other posters of researchers who had participated in the project over the past ten years. We were given time to chat the researchers and discuss our project.

The conference started off with a Welsh male voice choir singing both Irish and Welsh songs as the Welsh research team from Bangor University in Wales attended the event. We then were presented with information from engineers and other scientists about their work over the past ten years. The Dwr-Uisce Trinity team, asked me and Millie to present our project to the room. Once we completed are presentation, we were given a further opportunity to discuss our project in greater detail over lunch. It was a great insight into the work involved in researching a new initiative and the collaboration involved between research teams from around the world.

*By Robert Berkley, 5th Year*

## Chemistry Olympiad Ireland



Well done to Isobel McSweeney (6th year) for progressing to the final stage of the Chemistry Olympiad 2023.

After competing in the initial stages in DCU, Isobel has been selected to represent Ireland at the International Chemistry Olympiad in Switzerland this summer. We wish Isobel all the best in the competition and congratulate her on her outstanding achievements.

*By Ms Lynn Anderson*

This summer I will be representing Ireland in the International Chemistry Olympiad in Zurich, Switzerland.

It all started a few months ago when my chemistry teacher Ms Anderson suggested that I compete in the Irish Chemistry Olympiad. This is a competition for chemistry students in their final year of secondary school from all across the island of Ireland.

The first round was a multiple-choice quiz and then the top 25% qualified for the next round. This was very challenging because it was based on material beyond Leaving Cert level Chemistry, so I was delighted to learn that I was highly commended. This placed me in the top 16 chemistry students in the country. There was a very involved study programme over the Easter holidays, and I got to attend online lectures with chemistry professors from universities around Ireland and the UK. This was to prepare us for the national final which was held in DCU on April 12<sup>th</sup> and involved a very difficult 2-hour long chemistry exam.

Two weeks later, I got an email saying I had made it onto the Irish team for the International Chemistry Olympiad. I couldn't believe it because only four students are chosen from Northern Ireland and the Republic.

I'll be travelling to Zurich for ten days this summer to represent Ireland and I can't wait. ETH Zurich is hosting the competition and over 90 countries are sending their top four chemistry students. There's a highly challenging 5-hour theoretical exam which involves very complex topics. There's also a 5-hour practical exam where we'll have to complete three experiments. It will involve a lot of hard work but there's also a busy programme with various cultural events for the days without exams. I would like to thank Ms Anderson for putting me forward for this competition and helping me to prepare.

*By Isobel McSweeney, 6<sup>th</sup> Year*



## 5th Year Art Trip



5th year Art students visited Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane in Dublin as part of their Visual Arts studies. The students were all in agreement that visiting an art gallery in person greatly enhances your appreciation and understanding of art.

*By Ms Trudy Feighery*

## Texaco Children's Art Competition



Kate Glanville in 3rd Year won Special Merit Award in the 69th Texaco Children's Art Competition. Kate's piece which is titled 'Art Room' depicts her classmate Muireann Breen working away in a busy art class. With such attention to detail, it is no surprise that Kate's piece was admired by the judges. Well done, Kate! Artist and model are featured below.

*By Ms Trudy Feighery*



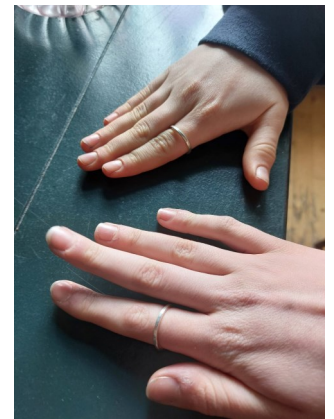
## Studio Visit To Jewellery Designer Maureen Lynch



A small group of students from the 'Visual' ECA were lucky enough to visit the studio of Newpark parent and Jewellery Designer Maureen Lynch. Maureen, explained all about her making process as well as some of the day-to-day duties involved in being a self-employed creative.

Students and teachers were also able to custom make their own silver rings to take home - what a treat!

*By Ms Trudy Feighery*



## You Can't Stop The Beat

A few weeks before Easter, Paul from Mobile Music School came to the school to do a drumming workshop with a big group of Transition Year students. He was laden with percussion instruments, djembes, tambourines, and skin drums.

At the start Paul talked about interesting instruments from around the globe and for our warm-up we were made to clap in different rhythms. From there we began with the instruments in a sort of call-and-response manner where Paul would clap a rhythm and we would percuss it back.

At the end we played along to multiple songs, such as 'Hey Ya' by Outkast. All in all, it was a very enjoyable time for all involved and I'd like to thank Paul and our music teachers for making it all happen.

*By Oscar Schmidt, TY*



## Drama Round Up

After *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Short Plays*, I thought the Hunter Theatre would have a bit of peace and quiet, but I was wrong! Along came *The Variety Show* organised by the Student Council and *The Junior Plays 2023* which were written and directed by the 5th years. Both were phenomenal, a lovely mix of fun and creativity which showcased the many talents of our wonderful Newpark Students. Incredible writing, directing and performing were on display everywhere.

In the classroom, 2nd and 3rd years have been working away on their dramatic performances. The 3rd Years performed an ambitious piece incorporating all the different aspects of theatre that they have learned over the last two years. They are a very enthusiastic and creative group and have given Artistic Performance their all.

The TY Drama class have written three original plays this year and joined forces with Bands to create *Lounge at Twilight*.

Well done to everyone involved in Drama this year. It has been jam-packed. Have a restful summer—lots of plans are afoot for next year!

*By Ms Cathy Devis*

## A Haunting Experience!

*Waiting for ... The Haunting of the Hunter Theatre* was the 3rd Year drama students' CBA. The play took a total of three months to create. The whole group came together to create something that they were truly passionate about which was broadcast through everyone's amazing performance on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May.

Our ideas came from a collection of theatre styles which we had learnt over our two years of drama with Ms Devis such as Brecht, Shakespeare, musicals, and theatre of the absurd. We thought of our favourite plays in these styles: Shakespeare's *'Romeo and Juliet'*, *'Macbeth'*, Samuel Beckett's *'Waiting for Godot'* and Bertolt Brecht's *'Fear and Misery of the Third Reich'*. We had to figure out what type of play would allow us to involve all these plays, so we brainstormed for many classes until finally we had the idea of a haunted theatre.

The play was a massive success with the audience who adored it (despite it being confusing!). Everyone's talents really shone on stage—it was our best performance to date. My whole class came together as an ensemble which had a very positive affect on all of us. We have enjoyed every moment of this process thanks to Ms Devis and Helen.

*By Saibh Lawrence, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year*





## Junior Plays



The Junior Plays were one of the best and most rewarding experiences I ever had in Newpark. When I started writing the script in December with my other director, Maeve, I could only imagine what it could become. Then when the auditions started and we had to start casting, I started to feel the nerves creeping in.

That nervousness only got worse as the rehearsals started, I was scared the actors wouldn't get the jokes or that the audience wouldn't get the jokes and I got scared there wasn't enough time but as we got into the routine of rehearsals and we started putting costumes together, it just became the most fun ever. Just over halfway through the rehearsal process our cast really started to bond. People started laughing at each other's jokes and we were having some good chats. One of my favourite memories was from about two or three weeks before the shows. We had just finished rehearsals in the theatre and the teacher looking after us that day had seen the second half of the play. I asked her what she thought about it, she said it was good but she also said she liked the way Maeve and I directed them, that we were very 'gentle' with them. It made me realise my real goal for the play, It didn't have to be amazing or show stopping but I had to leave that stage on Thursday night knowing I was nice and that my cast had fun.

When Wednesday came I was so nervous you could have seen my shaking but the cast went up there and they gave it their all. They were incredible. I was so proud I nearly cried and on Thursday afternoon I did, when they gave me a thank you card, I was so touched. It let me leave that stage on Thursday night knowing that I did it, I was nice and that my cast did have fun. I would recommend the junior plays to anyone going into 5th year next year, it's really been one of the best experiences I've had at Newpark.

*Eve Cullen, 5th Year*

As it had been in first year, The Junior Plays was my highlight of my year for second year. It is just a magical experience getting to act and perform with all of the other wonderful first and second years, as well as the talented directors. Going on to the stage made my stomach turn and I was terrified. But it was also the experience of a lifetime. On the stage I felt a sense of freedom and self-expression I had not ever felt before. I urge anyone and everyone who can and is interested to get involved.

*William Kehoe, 2nd Year*

The Junior Plays were so much fun. The cast were so nice and the directors were amazing. It was super exciting going on stage. I thought we would have to stay backstage during the other plays, so it was such a relief when we went to the GPA. It was easy learning my lines as I only had a couple of lines. I'm sure it was hard for people who had more. The dress rehearsal was really fun because we got to see everyone else's plays. My favourite was Love Thy Neighbour. It was really funny. I also loved The Terminal. Everyone was so good and I loved the experience. I would definitely do it again next year.

*Martha Macken-Hall, 1st Year*

The Junior Plays are a fantastic experience. They bring so many people together in such a celebratory way. The teachers and older students were supportive and... extremely determined. I would like to thank everyone who made this possible and hope to join next year again.

*Liv Quirke, 1st Year*



The best part of the Junior Plays is that there is a place for everyone. From their first months in the school, 1st years can audition for the Junior plays and immerse themselves in the school community. They find a place for themselves among their peers and come out of their shells as they become comfortable giving their all on the stage. 2nd years can return as actors for a second year, possibly with the friends they made last year. 3rd





and 4th years can help with stage crew, sound, lighting or manning the tuck shop. In 5th year, we finally get a chance to direct a play of our own and impart our extensive wisdom to the 1st and 2nd years, who helplessly look to us for guidance and life-changing pep talks.

When Alice Wolsey came to Olivia Dockrell and me wanting to direct a play with us, we were immediately on board, and spent the Christmas holidays on 3-hour long facetime calls, developing the characters, storyline and plot, inspired by real life events (and Olivia's granny). Slowly but surely the script took shape, in the form of a relatable and lovable group of grannies (with each of ours making appearances) meeting every week in Kimmage community centre. They are entertained by bible bingo, crosswords, knitting, weekly drama and their collective exasperation at the only male participant.

Next were auditions and seeing the talent of the 1st and 2nd years, some for the first time, which was exciting, and there was heated discussion over the cast for each play. Then the actual work began, weeks and weeks of rehearsals at lunchtimes and after school, perfecting the lines, staging and costumes of each play as the dates for the performances swiftly approached. Our cast brought some brilliant ideas and changes to our play, and the characters took on a life of their own on the stage. As tickets were bought and final changes were made the excitement was rising.



Finally, after all our efforts and hours of writing, rehearsing and preparation came to fruition. The plays were performed for two nights and were a massive success. The audience was packed with students, parents, siblings, grandparents and teachers. It was some of our cast's first time performing in front of an audience, and they pulled out all the stops to deliver drama and laughs.



I would recommend directing a play to any 5th years interested in drama, whether it be from more of a writing perspective or if they have previous experience acting or directing. Directing with your peers is a wonderful experience in teamwork and organisation, and seeing a play that you have carried from concept to performance is incredibly rewarding.



Lastly, I would like to thank Ms. Devis for the many hours she sacrificed to facilitate us and the enormous effort she puts into keeping us on track, giving us feedback and ensuring that the best version possible of our plays are performed.

*Nakai Mudiwa, 5th Year*

The Junior Plays are a great opportunity for first and second years to get to know other years, gain confidence, and is an outlet for self-expression in a fun atmosphere. I remember being in the junior plays in first and second year and being excited to direct the plays in fifth year. I have really enjoyed being a director this year and would encourage anyone going into the fifth year who is considering being a director to go for it. There is nothing quite like the feeling of seeing your hard work pay off in the form of belly-laughs and applause from a captivated audience. None of this could have been done without Ms. Devis, who gave up her weekends and evenings to facilitate us practicing, and Bobby, who made sure we had access to the school when we needed. A huge thank you to all other staff members who helped make it possible.

*Alice Wolsey, 5th Year*



## Stratford, A Mid Easter Week's Trip



It was fantastic to go back to Stratford-upon-Avon with the Transition Years this Easter. It was an action packed three days with plenty of Shakespeare, fun and excitement. We began at crack of dawn on the 3rd of April all bleary eyed getting on the coach, followed by a ferry across to Wales, lunch in Chester and a walking tour around Stratford-Upon-Avon. The next day was pure Shakespeare, visiting his birthplace, his school, his grave and watching Julius Caesar. On the last day it was Alton Towers, bowling and burgers and returning on the ferry and bleary eyed once again to Newpark at the crack of dawn on the 6th of April. Many thanks to all the teachers namely: Mr King, Mr Connell, Ms Bailey and Ms Fox for giving up their Easter holidays for this trip. And many thanks to the 45 TY students who were an absolute pleasure to take away.

*Ms Cathy Devis*

### Day 1

Upon arriving in Stratford after a long coach ride, we were greeted by our two tour guides. We started off the tour at Shakespeare's birth home, from there we walked to the site where the market would have been held in Shakespeare's day, we also went to the town hall, Shakespeare's school, and the site of where he once lived, where the house no longer stands.



The next day, we went into Shakespeare's birth home. There was a small exhibit in one of the adjacent buildings as the house is quite small. We saw his father's glove making workshop, the section of the house where his sister had



lived and where Shakespeare had slept. On the way out, through the gift shop, quite a few members of our jolly party purchased Shakespearean swag.

Some students also went to Shakespeare's grave in the Holy Trinity Church. The building's architecture and stained glass were impressive.

*Oscar Schmidt*

### Day 2

A part of learning about William Shakespeare, is to see where he learnt the fundamental steps to becoming the genius he was. So, a group of four including Ms Devis, went to his Schoolhouse during the trip.

The school's name is King Edward the sixth school. It was named after the King as the students were taught in such a way that would prove useful to the crown. The teaching was considered liberal and took after the



ideals and philosophies of Plato and Socrates. They used relative learning and the learning wasn't based on trying to be the best but to enrich the problem-solving skills through debate. Despite what you might think, schoolmasters were not violent and petulant. Rather they used a system of reward and punishment for balance. If they were ill tempered, they were not fit for the job.

The architecture of the building was fit of the time. It followed the Tudor style of the other houses. The ground floor was a guild house and the top floor was the school. The school is one of the most photographed buildings in the UK. Inside, there were ancient paintings that were covered by plaster. When they discovered there were paintings underneath, they carefully tried to remove it. This was what was left of the painting. It is centuries upon centuries old and is an amazing discovery.

After the tour of the building, we were given clothes of school children and the masters. The tour guide was very attentive to taking our







pictures with the right angles so we were blessed with these fantastic images.

*Evelyn Lysaght*

On the second day of the Stratford Trip we had the opportunity to see Julius Caesar performed in Royal Shakespeare Theatre. This

was certainly a unique portrayal of Shakespeare's historical drama. The elements that differentiated from other incarnation included the use of black oil as blood, the spinning cube and the diverse cast. Seeing this play was a great chance to see professional stage craft. Julius Caesar utilized a rotating cube that gradually fell apart throughout the play as a metaphor for the world falling to ruin. After roughly three hours of engaging theatre it was time for the Q&A. The actors and directors provided an incredibly valuable peek behind the curtain, they even answered some of our students' questions. All in all-seeing Julius Caesar was both entertaining and enriching.

*Luke Conaghan*

### Day 3



On Wednesday we woke up in our hostel in Stratford with an exciting day ahead! We had our rooms packed up and had devoured breakfast before scurrying down

to the bus to begin our trip to Alton Towers! It was a dull rainy morning in Stratford, but we did not let that discourage us. As we sat on the bus singing along to music and chatting to our friends the bus filled with excitement as we saw the theme park out the foggy windows. We arrived at Alton towers at around 10:30am and left at 5pm!

After a small chat with Ms Devis (and all the other teachers that were kind enough to give up their Easter holidays and travel with us) they set us free! The first ride I went on was The Smiler, the scariest ride in Alton towers and I can 100% confirm that. It is a popular rollercoaster which features a unique, twisted layout with fourteen inversions, making it one of the most intense roller coasters in the world. Waiting an hour and a half was worth it!

That day I only got the chance to go on three rides (I've no idea how because we were there for seven hours!), my second ride was Oblivion, a thrilling roller coaster that really is truly terrifying. The ride starts with climbing a small hill, we were then brought to the edge of a near-vertical drop, where we pause for a moment before plummeting into the darkness below. The screams of my classmates kept me crying with laughter as we climbed out of our seats. I went on each of those rides twice waiting about an hour for each of them in the pouring rain, singing and doing karaoke in the lines, and making an absolute fool of ourselves but this made it all 10 times the fun.

With an hour and a half left of the theme park my friends and I decided to join an hour and a half line to go on The Rita. Rita is a rollercoaster known for its speed and acceleration. The ride is a Formula 1-inspired design and reaches speeds of up to 62 mph. The ride begins with a powerful launch that goes from 0 to 62 mph in just 2.5 seconds. The launch is accompanied by a burst of flames and a cloud of smoke, adding to the thrill and excitement of the ride. After all the waiting the ride only lasted for around 40 seconds, but the intense acceleration and high speeds made it a thrilling and unforgettable experience.

After our final ride we all ran back to our teachers excited to tell everyone our experiences, change our soaking shoes and relax on the bus as we headed to our next destination!

*Jessica Roe*





## Student Voice Conference



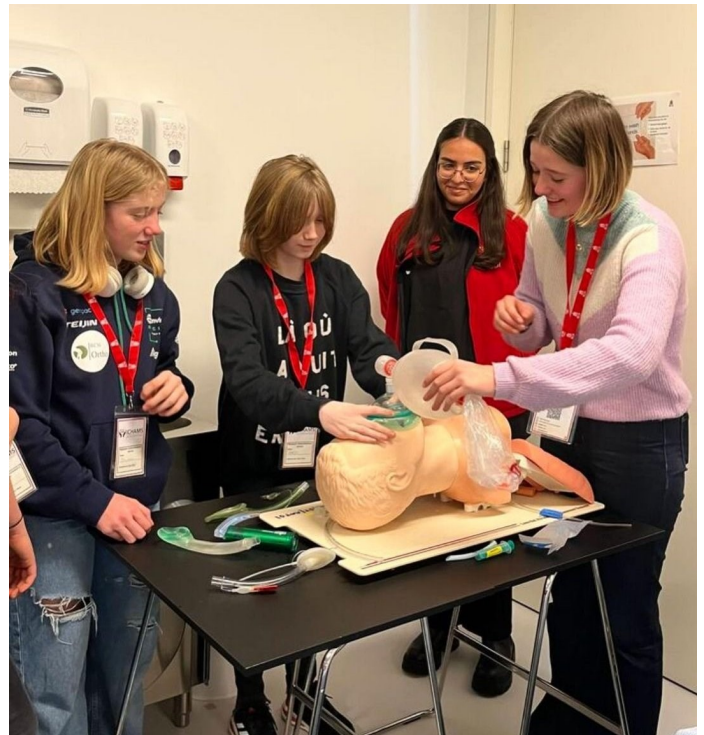
This February, I was chosen along with Silvia Ciulli and Lily Hamilton to attend a Student Voice conference in Laois. The goal of the conference was to get young people and their teachers to strengthen their understanding and commitment to the voice of students in shaping education. Participants were encouraged to reflect on and share their perspectives about the future of education in Ireland. The conference brought together students and educators from all over the country, with schools from many different counties in attendance.

The day began at Heuston station at 9am, where we all got the inter-county train to Portlaoise with Ms. Devis. The early start was forgiven when we were greeted with a gorgeous buffet of pastries and hot drinks at the hotel! The conference was formatted into a number of linked workshops, where we worked with fellow students and teachers on different exercises, designed to get us thinking about the education system in Ireland and our role in it. We were broken into mixed discussion groups where we shared ideas and perspectives. It was a fascinating experience, and I had some very interesting discussions and debates. The mix of students and teachers from different schools meant that we all gained new insights on the topic and a variety of opinions and ideas were brought to the table. Whether or not the suggestions we developed will ever be implemented is a different story, but the experience was very worthwhile nonetheless!

It was an excellent opportunity and a good taster of what conferences are like in a professional sphere for going forwards. And it is just one of the many extra-curricular experiences on offer at Newpark. I would highly encourage everyone to take as many of the excellent opportunities available as a Newpark student as you can, as for me they have always been very valuable experiences and really contribute to a well-rounded education. Being involved in things like the Student Voice conference have allowed me to travel, meet new people, and learn so much that I wouldn't necessarily pick up in a classroom.

*By Eva O'Donnell, 5th Year*

## ICHAMS Conference



ICHAMS is a medical workshop that was held in the Royal College of Surgeons (RCSI), which my friends and I attended. It was a three day workshop and it was *r e a l l y f u n* experience.

On the first day we used ultrasounds, put in IV lines and watched a robot give birth (which I would NOT recommend).

On the second day we intubated dummies, used breathing masks, learned about tools used in orthopaedic surgery, took CV photos and learned about Lámh—a key word communication system often used with non-verbal kids. It was fascinating to learn.

On the final day we got to bandage each other's arms, we did a stitching workshop and even sat in on a lecture (which I didn't understand)! Overall it was a great experience filled with people thinking we were medical students, losing games of pool and learning first hand about medicine!

*By Beatrice Stewart Miller, 2nd Year*



## Wellbeing Week



Our Wellbeing Week took place in March, and it was a great success. The wellbeing team decided the week would be about raising awareness around the activities that already take place in the school. The week kicked off with 'Breakfast for the Soul', organized by the student Cultural Council. They had lots of fabulous baked goodies that the students were offered on arrival to school ... a nice start to the day while music was playing over the loudspeakers.



Each lunchtime there were organized activities. It began on Monday with badminton where Ms Ring and Mr Doyle took on the students ... we are not sure if their egos have recovered from the loss. On Tuesday it was Zumba in the gym which is always popular. Mindful colouring and a lego build took place on Thursday. There were a few meditation sessions during the week and a yoga class for those who wanted something a little more Zen. A table tennis tournament took place each lunchtime on the outdoor table tennis table, not always easy with the wind blowing. There were plenty of students and staff willing to challenge each other to a game. Lounge at Lunch was a lovely end to the week. The music department organized this, and students performed to a packed GPA. There was a lovely buzz.



On Wednesday and Thursday evening the Junior Plays took place in the theatre and during the week Dr Claire Hayes facilitated student sessions with junior cycle year groups helping them to manage their feelings of anxiety and build resilience. There was also a bake sale in aid of Pieta House.

It was a great week. Staff and students had the opportunity to get connected and feel a sense of community.

A big thank you to the wellbeing team, the Cultural Council and to the students and staff who helped organize the activities and to those who participated in them.

*By Ms Jenny Crampton*





## On The March: A Trip To Collins Barracks



On the 21st of March 2023 the Red Brick Class visited the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts and History. It is situated in Collins Barracks, Dublin 7. We travelled there by DART and LUAS.

My favourite section was the military section. I really enjoyed the soldiers and chiefs!

*By Jonathan Manning, 2nd Year*

## Trip to the Citizens Information Centre



On the 28th of February as part of our *Living in a community* class we rode the bus to Dun Laoghaire to visit Marina House which houses the Citizens Information Centre and MABS. These services are very important to our local community. The great people working in the Citizens Information Centre gave us a tour, handed out informational brochures and gave us a speech on our rights. We left that building more informed and legally independent people.

*By Evan Swift, 2nd Year*

## This Trip Is On Fire!



On the 17th of April the Red Brick Class visited Dublin Airport.



We saw 27 aeroplanes including some cargo planes and saw the last of Biden's military planes with his limos in it. We also learnt that they throw frozen chickens into the aeroplane's engines to test the blades. Seagulls are particularly hazardous for aeroplanes because of their hard chest bones. We watched the training aeroplane go on fire and saw how the fire engines put it out. You need to train for fourteen weeks to work as a fireman there, you are assessed all the time and do fitness tests every year, you also have to pass your



driving test every three years.

While we were there an alarm went off to say an ambulance was needed in the long term carpark so we saw that them all get ready to leave. It was so much fun and the firemen were so nice to us and afterwards we went to McDonalds.

*By Charlie Mills, 5th Year*



## The Malahamptons, Home of the Butterfly



On the 25th of April 2023 we went to the butterfly house in Malahide Castle, the trip was planned and researched by the students by themselves, thereby teaching important planning and life skills. We got the Dart to and from Malahide and did plenty of walking!

We made sure to take in all the sights on the way to the butterfly house and learn all about the history of the castle and grounds. When we got into the butterfly house there was elation shared by all at the sight of the butterflies soaring and swooping between the large, beautiful flowers. It truly felt like we were a part of an eco-system and gave us a larger understanding of the environment and our place in it. We learned all about the life cycles of butterflies

and had a great time before splitting for a lovely lunch at Avoca and a look at the ecology of the gardens. Overall, we had an amazing and informative experience.

*By Evan Swift, 2nd Year*

## Newpark Flea



On the 12th of May, Friday the LCA presented Newpark Flea Market. It was a lot of fun seeing everyone come together, and it was a great sense of community and seeing

everybody getting involved in sustainability, and finding something they love.

We would like to thank everyone for their kind donations and the help at the Flea.

Already looking forward to next year!

*By Grace Patterson, 5th Year*

## Syria Appeal



“Wear Red” Earthquake Appeal

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023, the earthquake that shook Turkey and Syria was devastating to thousands of people. We acted fast and publicized a “Wear Red” non-uniform day, which took place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February. We chose to raise funds for Unicef’s

appeal. The charity’s focus was on ensuring affected children and families had access to safe drinking water and sanitation services, medical supplies and trauma kits, and on ensuring children could get back to school as soon as it was safe to do so.

With each €250, Unicef Ireland were able to supply food, water and hygiene kits to provide immediate life-saving healthcare on the ground. With €100, they were able to provide 200 bars of emergency food to feed hungry children. With €75, Unicef were able to buy 9,400 water purification tablets to provide children with safe clean water. We raised €2391.16 in under a week.

Thank you so much to those who donated online or in person.

*By Ms Amy Keating*

## Childhood Cancer Fundraising



Following the amazing fundraising efforts of the amazing 3rd years with Gold week in September, Mary-Claire Rennick from the Childhood Cancer Foundation visited

Newpark to collect a cheque for €2127.90.

Mary-Claire was so impressed with our students and their courage and bravery to do something so positive in the light of the sadness of losing their friend Mia Seligman. Well done 3rd years! Here’s to many more Gold weeks in the future.

*By Ms Cathy Devis*



## A Year with Newpark PTA



We kicked off the year with the Debs Reception which was held in the school on September 8<sup>th</sup>. This was all the more special as it was the first time we had been able to run it over the past few years! Everyone looked stunning and the students and their parents were sent off in good style. Many thanks particularly to the sixth year parents and other helpers who brought the evening together, and to Thomas Wride who entertained everyone with his beautiful piano playing.

The PTA AGM was held in the GPA on Oct 12<sup>th</sup> and while there was not a huge crowd in attendance, it was a very informative meeting where we highlighted the role of the PTA within the school community and the support it provides to different areas of school life. Additionally, we welcomed our new members to the PTA committee.

At our following meeting, we discussed one of our most important fundraising-events, the Christmas Market. This was the first one in three years and we were excited! The other significant item which was agreed was the whole school initiative of having Dr Claire Hayes work with the staff, students and parents. We all agreed that Dr Hayes' expertise in managing anxiety would be valuable for parents, while also supporting the training that the staff had been engaged in. This initiative has continued throughout the year.

November brought with it the 1<sup>st</sup> Year Parent social evening where parents shared a glass of wine and chatted with other parents of children in their child's form groups in a relaxed social setting. We also ran the Study Skills webinar which had previously proven to be a very positive session.

After much planning and a flurry of activity, the Christmas Market took place on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. 22 stallholders participated, selling a diverse range of

items including hand-made decorations, pottery, knitted items, artwork, hand-made cards and calendars, jewellery, candles, vintage clothing and framed photographs. We were also delighted to host two student stalls who participated with initiative and aplomb! Additionally, there were the PTA stalls of 2<sup>nd</sup> hand books, the Tombola (which proved extremely popular), the raffle, the waffle stand, the wraps, and teas, coffees and non-alcoholic mulled wine. Thanks to the music students who serenaded us for the afternoon. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. We look forward to hosting a bigger and better Christmas Market in 2023!

Mid-December, we organised the refreshments for the school Christmas Carol Service. This is a wonderful service, with the most beautiful music.

In January and February, Dr Claire Hayes was busy working within the school, which culminated with her talk for parents on February 28<sup>th</sup>. This was a near-capacity event, and if we can take anything from the number of parents who were willing to come out on a dark February evening, it is that we are all concerned for our children's mental health and are not alone in our struggles or worries.

The PTA also help the school to sort out the lost property – which can be vast and varied. The PTA purchased clothes racks to help in the organisation of the mounds of clothes that remained. Thanks to the members of the committee and helpers, the Lost Property 'office' is open at least two mornings a week so that students can reclaim their items. It should also be mentioned that named clothing never stays long in lost property and is usually reunited with its owner very quickly. We will be running a second-hand uniform sale in the school on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May this year. We would ask that students in 3<sup>rd</sup> year, who no longer need their uniforms, would generously donate their clean uniforms.

As well as the events covered over the course of the academic year, the PTA also supports the school community financially. Every year the PTA cover the cost of the school mini-bus insurance, maintenance and repair and this year we have also committed to financially supporting mini-bus driving lessons to the relevant staff members who can then share that responsibility. The PTA also support the school community by resourcing the first-aid supplies in the Nurses station, in the various first-aid kits required across the campus and supporting first aid training as and when it is needed.



We have also been delighted to support many other ventures including the Trinity Walton Club participants, the purchasing of prizes at staff requests for various events during the year, and more specific purchases including specialised tables and benches for some of the more practical classrooms. Additionally, we facilitated a request from the school to purchase digital photography equipment for the Film Studies group. Most recently the purchase of a digital display board for the GPA has been approved and should be in place after the Summer.

The financial support that the PTA provides can be in very small amounts, but at other times it can be in the thousands. It is through your generosity and your participation at events, buying tickets for raffles, offering prizes, and giving your time that the Newpark PTA are in a position to fund these requests. Thank you all for your support and we look forward to seeing you all at our events next year!

*The Newpark PTA*

## Chat with the Chaplain

Another academic year has ended and another summer, about to begin. Another group of students face the end of their journey in Newpark and another fresh-faced group of 6<sup>th</sup> Classers look forward to beginning their adventure in August. When summer ends, another school year will begin.

“Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end.”

Seneca the Younger, Stoic Philosopher

I’m a person who doesn’t like change. I like knowing what to expect and I like to be in control. Routines are important to me (especially with two young children!) and when those routines get disrupted or something out of the blue occurs, it shakes me up a little. To add to an already hectic life at the moment, we welcomed another dog into the house (added to the mix of a nearly 5 year old, a 2 year old, a 14 year old dog, a husband and me.)

A puppy.

Puppies have to *learn* about routines and rules, and they are difficult to control. They also pee everywhere. With this change, has come stress, a bit of shouting (“Sadie, get OFF the table!”) but also a lot of happiness. Change can bring all different types of emotions with it, a lot of the times, conflicting.

We’ve all been through a lot of changes over the last few years, and we live in an ever-changing, sometimes



scary world. Change is inevitable in life. And with change, comes fear. But transition in life is the only way in which we grow as people; the only way we can try to work towards realizing our own full potential and talents. It’s the way we perceive the change that will determine our reaction to it. I’m still working on this!

There has been a lot of change for me personally, this year. My Nanny, Elsie, passed away in January (she would have been 97 in March!). Elsie looked after me since I was six months old when my mother went back to work and was a huge part of my life; we were extremely close. Many of us have suffered loss or grief or pain this year; we have worried about friends and family who have been going through illness or their own loss or grief or pain. The ups and downs of life are expected, they are part of our journey, but the amazing thing is, we don’t have to do it alone. As human beings, we are there to support each other and come together at times of need and that shows the strength of community and the compassion that we are capable of.

This stage of the year is always a time for reflection; a time to think about what has gone well and what has gone not so well and how we can make the best choices and decisions for ourselves and our communities going forward. Newpark is one of those special communities, where we are there for each other in this reflection, at the beginnings and at the endings. That is why rituals like prize-givings and assemblies, TY and 6<sup>th</sup> Year graduations, end of year dress up days, staff lunches, are so important. We come together in our commonality, and we mark the endings with joy because after an ending, there is always a new beginning.

Best of luck to those facing exams and big decisions in the coming weeks. Change is coming but you are all ready for it!

*Ms Amy Keating, Chaplain*



## Student Council

Despite a slow start and the occasional rocky period, the Student Council really came into its own this year. Of course, that may sound a little biased coming from the Student Council and you know what, maybe it is. We had a good group, a great group even. We think, at least we hope, we had some impact, no matter how small, on every student in the school. Whether it was Student Cards, the Variety Show or Breakfast for the Soul, we tried to have a little something for everyone.

Any achievement made this year is something we hope will be added to, something to build upon for the Councils of years to come. Unfortunately, we are leaving but, in our place, we aim to have left a little more structure and direction for the students who will take over the roles as Chairs of the Student Council.

We cannot speak of the Student Council without thanking Mr Twamley for overseeing our meetings: your advice was invaluable, and we hope we didn't bore you too much.

While we can't speak for all the student reps, we personally have thoroughly enjoyed working with the council this year, despite the occasional stresses that come with the role of Chair.

This year was my (Jack's) first year ever on the Council and I was pleasantly surprised by what can be done with a little cooperation and creativity between the Reps. I encourage those of you reading this to do the same as I did: join the Student Council whether it's your first time or not and make a difference in the school before you leave.

This was my (Flora's) fourth year on the Council and speaking as someone who has seen many ups and downs, I am confident in the student body that we are handing the Student Council to; I know what people are capable of when they set their minds to something and I am confident in the future of Newpark's student voice. Engage with this school; trust us, you'll look back on it and smile.

Once more, a massive thank you to Mr. Twamley. Thank you to Flora, who despite being involved in about a billion other activities still managed to be an exemplary Chair (from Jack). Thank you to Jack, who despite every hole we dug ourselves into this year has

remained controlled, confident and organized in managing to pull the Council out to the other side (from Flora).

And of course, thank you to our many reps across the year-groups. It has been an honour, and we hope next year the momentum we've gained will be carried forward, to accomplish even more with an even greater (if that is even possible) amount of style and finesse.

*By Jack Bradshaw and Flora Lyons, 6th Year*

## Cultural Council

This past school year has been really exciting for all of the various extracurricular organisations, from the Cultural Council to the Student Council to individual clubs running within the school.



There have been some really fun events in the last few months from the Cultural Council side of things, from the amazing Halloween dress up day back at the beginning of the year to the Valentine's

non-uniform day and the Springtime fundraiser for the DSPCA.

The support and engagement from the whole school body - teachers, students, parents and staff - has been incredible. Newpark has such a unique ability to create an environment for everyone and allow every single person to get involved and engage with our community both in school and outside of it.

The Cultural Council in particular is an invaluable facet of this school's community, and seeing as many of us on it are graduating soon I can only hope that even bigger and better things are achieved by the people who come next. Senior students - get involved! The incoming 1st Years have a lot to look forward to with the fantastic people who will be doing these events and fun activities next year and in the years to come.

I hope that things like the Halloween dress up competition, Christmas jumper day and similar festivities are held annually and that new ideas are brought into the school the way they have been throughout this fantastic year.

*By River Walton, 6th Year*

*Newpark Newsletter Issue 63*

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