

Newpark Newsletter



Issue 64, March 2024

The Principal Word



Newpark has been in existence now for fifty years. In term one, we had a *Whole School Assembly* and afterwards a whole school photograph, because we felt it was important for all of us in the school to stop, to gather and to mark this significant milestone.

What those of us past and present in the community share, is a passion for Newpark. A belief in Newpark. A pride in Newpark. A belief that this is a good place to come to school, whether you are a student or you are a staff member. And a desire that Newpark continues to be a good place to come to school for the next fifty years and beyond.

Of course, Newpark is only a good place to come to school because those of us who are privileged to be here, make it so. A good school doesn't happen to us. We don't passively receive a good school or a good education. We participate in it. We contribute to it. We make it so. We stopped and gathered to celebrate and mark our 50th milestone *on the one hand* to reflect on the fact that students and teachers in Newpark have been making it so for the last fifty years and *on the other hand* to reflect on the fact that what we all value – and, I believe, what we have all always valued since the school's inception – is that there is no expectation, no limit and moreover no judgement on how each of us chooses to participate, to contribute and to make Newpark what it is. And if it is this value that makes us a liberal school, then good. Let us enjoy being so.

Newpark Comprehensive School was established in the 1972/1973 academic year under the patronage of the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin. During the late 1960s there were calls for post-primary schools to serve the Protestant community which were non fee charging. The Department of Education announced that

it wished to develop one of the existing schools in South Dublin for this purpose and it explained that it would be a comprehensive school. One of the principle features which attracted Michael Classon, the then owner and principal of *Avoca and Kingstown*, to offer the school – and it was a very generous thing for him to do personally – was the opportunity that this would afford for curriculum development. Bear in mind, that at that time, there was a very limited curriculum offered in secondary schools. In fact, there was very limited schooling offered at secondary level. Prior to the introduction of free post primary education in 1967, fewer than 50% of 15-year-olds in this country were still in full time education. Secondary schools at the time were run by the religious orders and technical schools were run by the ETB, or VEC as it was then. You went to one, or the other, or neither, and you rarely encountered each other. So, the comprehensive model of schooling, increasingly popular in Britain at the time, offered not only the excitement of curriculum development but the potential for something quite radical at the time – the opportunity for young people with different interests, with different abilities and from different backgrounds to mix.

While we may refer to ourselves as Newpark for short, our proper title is *Newpark Comprehensive School*. Being a comprehensive school is central and critical to our identity.

We are a comprehensive school illustrated in three core value strands. And these three core value strands are:

- Comprehensive intake
- Comprehensive curriculum
- Comprehensive outcomes

What I mean by comprehensive intake is that we have a wide variety of students coming into our school. Our students bring with them a diversity of cultures, beliefs, ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identity and socio-economic backgrounds. This we see as being an integral part of the school. In Newpark, we don't see difference between us as something to just to be tolerated, rather we see it as a value to the benefit of all. To be educated together. Indeed, we have been 'educating together' in Newpark long before those two words became a movement or a brand. Because rather than separating people in society through schooling, we've always believed there is much greater value in bringing people together. It seems counterintuitive to me that a school wouldn't represent the breath of society that its students will graduate into. In Newpark, we don't believe there is any reason to be afraid of

anyone else, or to not want our students to be educated with people different from them.

The second core value strand, and as I've said, probably the one that was most central to the founding of the comprehensive school, is that we believe in offering a wide variety of curriculum, a wide variety of subjects. This is central to our school. This is not only about giving our students choice, (and we give a lot of choice) but also because we believe all young people achieve the best educational outcomes by pursuing these different strands, to greater and lesser extents, together. In other words, while it's important that you can have the opportunity to study a Modern Foreign Language and Construction Studies (and you couldn't in Ireland fifty years ago), it's also important that the students who excel in either or both of these types of subjects have the opportunity to learn together, bringing different learning styles with them and to both be and feel of equal value. No teacher in this school minds what a student is good at. We are only concerned with helping each student uncover *what* they are good at.

The third and final core value strand that illustrates our ethos is that we strongly value a comprehensive range of destinations for our students after they graduate from us. We believe that valuing comprehensive outcomes, comprehensive destinations, is what is right for our students individually, right for our community and right for our society at large. In Newpark we value our future tree surgeons as much as our future heart surgeons because we want to help each person fulfil his or her potential and further, we believe that they can do so more effectively by learning together. We also know that our community and society need both equally and that our community and society has more mutual shared understanding within it if both are educated together in school. We don't see any hierarchy of success for our graduates. No objective one anyway. Newpark is a school where our students, whatever they want to pursue after school – a high points CAO course, a mid or low points CAO course, a course in further education, an apprenticeship or a job – know not only that they are equally valued by their school, but that each one of our students knows to value themselves equally... not to overvalue nor to undervalue, but to value themselves equally with their peers. The single most important thing that must happen in post-primary schools in Ireland is that we stop valuing (all of us, either consciously or unconsciously) a narrow set of outcomes for our students. It is not good for our society, it's not good for our communities and most of all, it is not good for our young people.

So, what defines us is being a comprehensive school. And what defines being a comprehensive school for Newpark is these three core value strands: comprehensive intake, comprehensive curriculum, and comprehensive outcomes.

I think we have a lot to be proud of in our past and a lot to be proud of in our present. I am very confident in this community. I am confident in my colleagues, their professionalism, their expertise, their sincerity, their values and their passion. I am confident in our students. It is a powerful thing to come into school every day and bear witness to our students' engagement, creativeness, decency, laughter, learning and personal progress. And this, of course, across a comprehensive range of curricular and extracurricular activities.

Our school motto, which has survived since 1891 when A.A. McDonogh created it for Avoca School, is *Aide toi, je t'aiderai*. Literally translated from French as, *Help yourself, and I will help you*. Sometimes, I fear our motto may be misunderstood. What it means is that our teachers are confident in our students. We believe in you. We believe in your ability. And most importantly, we believe in your agency, in your ability to help yourself. But, if you stumble, metaphorically, (or literally), we will help you. *Je t'aiderai. Nous vous aiderons*. We will catch you. We will support you. This is how we teach you. And of course, it is also how we learn from you.

On behalf of everyone in the school community, congratulations to us on reaching fifty. For the weeks, months or years each of us is in this school, whether as a student, parent/guardian or staff member, I wish each of you well in playing your part in Newpark's success, as it evolves over the next fifty years.

By Mr Eoin Norton



Pictured above: past students Killian Sundermann and Katie Killarney, and Amelia Lloyd, and Jake Sweeney, head girl and head boy, who all addressed the whole school assembly.

The magnificent cover image for this newsletter is by photographer Dermot Byrne. In a major logistical undertaking, Dermot was commissioned to take a celebratory shot of the whole school community. After our assembly, students and staff were shepherded to the front of the redbrick building and Dermot coordinated the crowd from on high to take his photo.

The full size version can now be seen in Newpark for viewing from the central stairs.

dermotbyrnephoto.ie

1st Year Boys Rugby

We returned to school in late August and the rugby preparation started as soon as the 1st Year students walked through the famous doors of Newpark, the majority passing our unique changing rooms at the front of the school. As the Ireland rugby team competed at the Rugby World Cup in France, improving with every game, so did our students. The majority of the squad had never played the game before and quickly started to understand how enjoyable it is.



Our numbers started to increase every week and the students really enjoyed our training sessions at the famous field of dreams that is 'The Rockies'. Friendships started to flourish and the boys enjoyed the conversations on the journey to and from the pitch.

Our first competitive rugby competition was held at the world famous Aviva stadium (back pitch). We travelled by DART and ensured we had a 'Park' carriage! The boys warmed up as they prepared to put their bodies on line and compete for each other. We played two schools, Sandford and Conleth's, winning both games. We left the stadium with big smiles on our faces, safe in the knowledge that our season would be memorable. Our next fixture took us to Churchtown and De La Salle School: the only state school to ever win the prestigious Senior Cup (SCT). We played exciting running rugby and the boys put in a huge defensive effort. Another win.

On Friday 20th October the squad made their way to Energia Park in Donnybrook to compete in the South Dublin Schools' rugby 7's. As we are the current holders of the 1st year trophy from last season, we knew that other teams would be trying their best to get one over on 'Park'. A very enjoyable day was had at the 7's with all squad members experiencing rugby

7's for the first time. After the tournament the boys went on a further team bonding session to Stillorgan and ate at the top end restaurant Mackey D's!

After the midterm and the Rugby World Cup Final, we got organised to play our first XV a side fixture on a full size pitch. Our opponents St. David's from Greystones would prove to be a formidable team with an excellent attitude. We played at Greystones RFC and in a very high scoring game won by three points, 31-28.

We played another 7's tournament at Energia Park, winning all five of our games. Our next fixture would be our first home game of the season at the Rockies. Our opponents: St Benildus. We had to play 12 a side due to injuries and sickness. This led to a very high scoring game and a very tired referee! The final score: 52-22. Our final game before we finished for a well deserved Christmas break was against Mount Temple. Back to a full strength team and playing XV a side this was going to be a good fixture against a well organised Northside outfit. Another huge defensive effort from players 1-15, along with some great attacking rugby, gave us the victory. Final score: 34-19. What a game and what a way to finish the term.

A big thank you to Mr Jemphrey and Mr Hughes for assisting with training and match days.

Well done to all the players on a great start to their rugby journey at Newpark.

Mr Shane Davey

1st Year Rugby



This year in the first-year rugby we have a good team. We've got a some very good players and a good captain.

It's a great group of lads who work hard for each other and include all members of the team. We still are struggling for numbers so would take any more first years who would be even a little bit interested in joining the team.

We have played three 7s tournaments and have done well in them all so now all we need is numbers. Once you're past first year you can continue to play and even play for the junior team or even the senior team. Thanks to Mr Davey for all of his work with us this year!

By Max Lennon, 1st Year

Bienvenue en France—The Soustons Rugby Trip



This year was my second time going on the Newpark rugby trip to France and after last year I could not wait to go back.



On the first day we left Newpark to begin our journey. The flight to Bilbao was followed by a two hour bus journey to our destination. Some entertainment was provided by all the players taking it in turns to sing at the front of the bus for everyone. We then had dinner and returned to the campsite where we were staying for the night.

On the first day it rained non-stop. In this rain we did Stand-up paddleboarding and then played a match in the evening against a local French team. Although we didn't win the match it was a great experience to play

rugby in a different country. The match also resulted in Jamie Farrelly being given the nickname 'Samson' by Mr Davey.

On the second day we did high wires in the morning and kayaking in the afternoon. The second day had a lot less rain than the first day—only a shower during the high-wires course. After lunch we kayaked on the lake surrounding the town of Soustons. The water was extremely cold here and brought a quick end to our kayaking so everyone could try to get warm again.

On the final day we managed to fit in a trip to Biarritz. While in Biarritz the teachers gave us all challenges to do during our time there so we could try see as much of the town as possible, before heading to Bilbao for the flight home.

The trip was also a great opportunity to get to know lads in the other year. It brought the team together more and this is what will win us matches this year!

Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to the coaches, Mr Smyth, Mr Jemphrey and Mr Davey for making this trip possible. I only wish I could go back next year.

By Oisín Twohig, 3rd Year



Junior Rugby



This year's Junior Rugby Team has had a mixed year so far. With over 40 players in the squad it has been very competitive to get into the team and made training even more enjoyable as we are able to do different things all the time.

At the start of the season Mr Smyth decided it would be best for the Junior Rugby Team to have two captains Noah Jenkinson and myself. Our opening game was a friendly against Sandford Park. This match saw all the available players get game time and was good to get everyone back into rugby after the Summer holidays.



We then began our league campaign with a narrow loss to Templeogue College which resulted in a losing bonus point. We then followed this up with a good away win against St Columba's College. This win was made better as they had beaten us in the Shield quarter final last year. Then our final league game before writing was at home against Sandford Park for a narrow 7-5 win, which was a good development having been beaten by them in the friendly in September.

Our cup journey came to an end against Tullow Community School in the second round. However we still have the Shield and it is in our own hands to try to win the league as well.

Hopefully we can push on and continue to improve and do well in our remaining competitions. If anyone else is interested in trying rugby I would really encourage it and it is never too late to start. Just talk to Mr Smyth if you are interested.

By Finn Whelan, 3rd Year

Senior Rugby



Newpark Senior Rugby team have had a productive first term of Rugby. After having a pre-season in August consisting of conditioning and pitch skills the boys were eager to get playing. The first game of our league was home to De la Salle, Churchtown. Even though we lacked some execution in the breakdown the game finished with a 13 - 7 win.

The lads knew there were tougher games in store, no more than a strong St Columba's side followed by a physical battle against Templeogue College at home. We had a close but deserved win against a Columba's team who we struggled against the year before—a late set piece move took the win at the death. This was quickly followed by the visit of Templeogue. Templeogue brought ferocious physicality and enjoyed both the contact and mental element of the game. Newpark took the lead, but Templeogue came back to take the lead. However, the attack by Newpark brought our performance to another level. Our 'joue' style became a joy to watch and the physical opposition struggled to match both the speed at the breakdown and the support in our attack to win 41-19.



This brought us into Cup season. Two narrow wins (one against St Conleth's with a kick in the last play of the game to win, followed by a 12 point win against Pres. Carlow) have brought us to the Quarter final stage. In both games we have shown why our attack has been our strength with some great running lines and a much improved protection of the ball in the breakdown. That being said, our defence has allowed our opposition

the opportunities to stay in the game. The squad has recognised this as an area that must be addressed going forward with more skilled and physical opposition in store.



The team finished 2023 with a win in a huge game against Enniscorthy. As the winners, Newpark will take on either Tullow or Colaiste Chill Mhantain in the semi-final and also reached the first round of the Vinnie Murray Cup.

By Mr Micheal Doyle

International Touch Rugby



In July, Sami Phelan, Henry Ferguson and I went to Nottingham with the Ireland Touch Rugby teams to play in the Youth Atlantic Touch Cup.

Sami and I were on the mixed u18s. This was the biggest category in the tournament, and we completed against the likes of England, South Africa and Wales. We made it to the semifinals and narrowly lost to England 10-9 in a game we would've won if a few key decisions had gone our way. England went on to lose to Wales in the final, who we had drawn against in the group stages. After the semifinal defeat we were very disappointed and disheartened and went into the 3rd place playoff against France and were well beaten. It was great tournament on the pitch but off the pitch was where the real memories were made.



After that tournament myself and a few others from the mixed U18s were selected to go to the European Championships in Vichy France with the mixed open team. I was the 'grom' of the team. The grom is the youngest on the team and has to go everywhere with their special teddy while the other people on the team and all other teams try to steal it. My teddy was a little green caterpillar called Willy. As grom, I also had to try steal teddies from other teams which I was very successful at.



This tournament was much harder than the youth tournament due to the step up in skill and also the conditions. The week in Nottingham was mild and wet whereas in Vichy we were playing in 30°+ every day. We finished 4th in the tournament and beat England in the group stage for the first time in 13 years.

Overall both tournaments were an amazing experience and neither would have been possible without our brilliant coaches Billy and Tania.

By Cathal MacGearailt, 6th Year

A word from the coaches

Newpark hockey is thriving this year at all levels.

There are great numbers of first year players allowing for multiple teams. The players are enthusiastic, committed and are doing really well in their start up leagues. They show great promise as individual players and strong teams for the years ahead.

Our Minor Girls are proudly representing Newpark in the premier division after their successes last year. They finished third in this top league this year - a highly impressive achievement at this level. Their recent 9-0 win against St. Conleth's has swept them into the upcoming trophy final. The Minor Boys are strongly poised to secure a spot in the B League final and also have a big clash coming up in the Cup against old rivals St. Andrew's.

The Junior Girls won their big game ahead last week to get into the league final. The Junior Boys are doing very well in Division 2 and are in with a strong chance of winning this league. Tough draws saw them knocked out of the Cup after some fiercely fought games.

The Senior Girls had a big win against Mount Temple to get to the semi final of the Senior Trophy. They also have a division 1A playoff coming up - a win here would take them through to the final. The Senior Boys are a very young team who are coming together impressively and show very exciting potential for dynamic and competitive senior hockey in the next few years.

Best of luck to all of our Newpark teams for the rest of the season.

First Year Boys

First Years have had a great start to the hockey season. Even though we had to train indoors for the first few weeks, we have come together brilliantly as a team. Our trainings on Tuesdays and Fridays help each one of us to improve our play during our games, Our coaches Mark, Andrew and Daragh have been very helpful teaching new skills and tactics. We have had some good matches so far including wins against St. Andrew's B and Sutton Park and a draw against Temple Carraig. The team has come along really well since we started in September.

By Cal Doran, 1st Year

First Year Girls

This year there has been a massive amount of First Years who have joined hockey which is just amazing. We have been training really hard and making new friends. Everyone is getting better and training sessions are always fun and beneficial.

We are lucky to have two teams this year, who are both very competitive and work very hard. we have played games against lots of other schools, which have been really fun and beneficial whether we win, lose or draw. We all have learned a lot and the massive improvements across the team are clear to see. Every time there is a match everyone is keen to play because the matches are going well. We are very lucky to have amazing coaches there with us who have helped us massively. We always are up for a game and put 100% into all our matches. School hockey is a great way to make new friends and we are improving every time that we go to the pitches.

By Matilda Gallanagh and Florence Ferguson 1st Year

Minor Girls

Our hockey team has been great this year. We have lost some matches and won some and had a lot of fun along the way.



Our biggest challenges so far were the cup match against Rathdown (unfortunately 2-1) and a League match against Loreto Beaufort which we drew 1-1. Last week we had a very exciting Cup Plate match against Loreto Dalkey. This very tight match ended with a 1-1 draw that went to 1v1s which we won. Everyone was thrilled with the win and we have great hopes for the upcoming matches.

By Alexa Yoakley and Téa Devonport, 2nd Year

Minor Boys

2nd Year hockey started later than usual this year as Newpark was getting a new pitch. We started off with a 1-0 friendly win against St. Andrew's to get us going. This was followed by multiple friendlies and grading matches to see what division we would be put in this year.

Our cup season started with a win over Sutton Park to put us into a semi-final against St. Andrew's—the finalists against us last year. That match is being played in a couple of weeks—to put us into our second cup final.

By Alan Marnell, 2nd Year



Junior Boys

This year the Junior Boys have had a rough start to the year particularly having to face Wesley in the league and cup. In my view these two games were the most important games of the season as there is no better test of the strength of our new junior team than Wesley who are usually one of the best teams in Leinster.

In the end we had two very tight competitive games but we lost both nonetheless. Many of us may see this as a disappointment but really I think this is exciting. Newpark hockey is progressing and getting stronger by the week. When was the last time Newpark could lead for almost the entire game 2-1 against a top team like Wesley? Everything about Newpark hockey is improving and it's very exciting to see this as a player. We may not have had the best start to our season but in the long term this means nothing. We are determined to work hard for the remainder of the season and end this year on a high note. There's something special about this team, many of whom have learned what it's like to win at club level and I know Newpark Hockey can learn that winning feeling.

If you're still unsure about coming down to a training, don't be! Ask a coach or a team member and they'd be

happy to get you sorted out. There's no pressure and it's good craic. Finally I'd just like to thank all our coaches and staff for the support and effort you guys have put in throughout the year.

By David Rankin, 3rd Year

Junior Girls

So far this season has been a fun one! Before Christmas we played our first round of our Cup. Unfortunately we lost in 1v1's sudden death against Our Lady's Terenure. Our first plate match is against St. Andrew's. We have won all of our league games and hope to continue this way. Thanks to our coach Laura Fahy, the team is excited to close out the season with wins.

By Yana Yoakley, 3rd Year

Senior Girls



This season both teams have been training hard and constantly improving, and as a result of this, the senior 1s have finished top of the league and so far haven't lost a game (touch wood!). We are still competing in the senior girls trophy and are waiting to play our quarter finals.

The Senior 2s have also been strong contenders in the Division 2 league, always putting in an effort. As a team we work really well together and there is always a great atmosphere at training sessions. We all find that training is a great way to get a break from the stress of school, especially coming up to exams! Over the season we have become so much closer as a team and have massively improved. This is a huge credit to all our coaches and everyone else who helps out. Special shout out to Ben Vincent and Mr Doyle for their commitment!

We hope to see you all out supporting us in our upcoming games and we are hopeful we can bring home a trophy or two!

*By Mia Chadwick, Hannah Oak and Indiana Gallanagh,
5th Year*

Senior Boys



The Senior Boys' Hockey Team has had a tough year so far. Our year started on a high with the All Ireland Qualifiers, we were placed in a group with three other schools. We had to play two of these teams at random and to qualify we had to beat both. The first match against Sutton Park was hard going, but we pulled through in the end with a 3-1 win. After a 1-hour break, we played the winners of the other match, King's Hospital. Their game against Mount Temple ended in a 3-0 victory. We knew the game would not be easy and unfortunately, they got the better of us.

After those hard losses, we lost confidence in ourselves. Unfortunately, since then we have only beaten Mount Temple, but I honestly believe next year is our year to shine. With no 6th years on our team, playing against teams who are mainly comprised of 6th years has been a huge disadvantage. This is our year to work out issues and hone our skills, returning next year with a full team of motivated players, who have the drive to win the league and go far in both the Cup and All Irelands.

By Ben Devonport, 5th Year

Leinster Hockey



After many trials and even more cuts, I was selected to represent Leinster U16 girls this season. This meant we had to play Leinster South, Connacht, Munster, and

Ulster in the InterPro Tournament. We had training every Sunday and some Fridays.

The tournament started late September and finished in mid-November. We played four games, which we won, to secure a spot in the final. The final was against Ulster in UCD on the 12th of November. Sadly, we lost. It was a good game, but Ulster were too strong on the day. My hockey has improved so much, I loved every minute of it and was a wonderful opportunity.

By Yana Yoakley, 3rd Year

Leinster Hockey



Back in First Year I was selected to take part in Leinster trials. There are several stages and selections you need to get through until you can get onto the Leinster team. These selections are spread out over months, and they require you to train with Leinster twice a week. The training can be intense and difficult, especially because you are training with the best players in Leinster. At the start of the Leinster process there are about 200 players that are selected for trials and eventually that gets selected to only 18.



I could lie and say that I really enjoyed the whole process but to be honest it is incredibly difficult. Not just the intensity and the level, but also the amount of

dedication you have to have to be able to turn up to training every week and keep your fitness levels up, especially over the holidays.

After all the selections, there are about 25 players selected to go to Cork and play Munster in some pre-Interprovincial matches. After these matches the final Leinster squad is announced. After this selection, there are training sessions leading up to the first interprovincial match against Munster.

There are a total of four interprovincial matches which consist of two matches against Munster and two against Ulster. This year Leinster won the Interprovincials.

Overall, the whole Leinster hockey process is very long and tiring and can get slightly boring at times, but you do improve over the process, and you also learn how to be part of a competitive team.

By Ryan Adams, TY

Hockey Pitch Resurfacing



Earlier last year, it was decided that the hockey grounds of the school would be

resurfaced. The decision was made by both the school and Avoca Hockey Club in order to improve the quality of the pitch and overall playing experience for the players. Resurfacing the pitches and surrounding fencing area is extremely expensive, easily costing the school in the realm of hundreds of thousands of euros. Involved in the process of the resurfacing of the pitch is first digging out and removing the old astroturf, relaying the entire area and then resurfacing the pitch with new astroturf, as well as many other factors.

Organisation between the school and Avoca Hockey was a necessity, as a way of communicating and dealing with the inevitable—and many—delays. Some of the delays were caused by the weather, as resurfacing astroturf is incredibly reliant on the conditions. Also, the building and resurfacing contractors were delayed with other projects they were busy with. At the start the pitch construction was predicted to finish during October 2022, but it was finally opened in October 2023—a whole year in the difference!

Although the process may have taken longer than have many hoped for, the pitch is finished and in constant use by Newpark PE, our school teams and Avoca hockey club—something everyone is glad about!

By Eli Donaghy, TY

Gael Force



On Saturday the 9th of September I woke up at 6:30 am to do the second longest open water swim I've ever done: the Killary Gael Force swim. I wasn't expecting it to go very well because honestly I hadn't trained for it at all. On the day I wasn't very happy with my time as I thought it was a bit slow but with only a few entrants under 18 I was able to win the junior female category of the race in 1h 17mins for 3.9km. I'd like to do this swim again next year without a wetsuit to challenge myself more.

Finding out I had won was a really weird experience. A lady came up to me while I was waiting for my mum to finish and told me that she thought I had won but she wasn't sure so she had to go and check. Then she walked off and I didn't see her again until the moment I got the medal—was all very confusing! I'm glad we decided to wait around just in case.

By Lorna Gillanders, TY

Powerlifting



Sixth Year student Ally Murphy competed at the Irish Powerlifting Federation January Open in Galway and took home first place. Ally totaled 257.5kg, 100kg on Squat, 47.5kg on Bench and 110kg on Deadlift.

Good luck to Ally in the Junior Nationals in Cork in April!

Basketball

First Year Boys

The first year boys basketball team have been working hard at training this term. Although we may not be the best in the league, we're putting our all into it.

We're doing plenty of drills and techniques in basketball training and are getting better every week. We're great at working as a team and have great team spirit.

We have some great potential if we work hard enough and there are great leaders in the team. We have had two matches so far and are eager for more. We're getting better and having a good time while doing so.

By Iarla O'Mahony, 1st Year

2nd Year Boys

In Newpark, 2nd year basketball was fun, and the students were eager to learn more about it. This year, we were set to try get into the finals of the cup as last year we won the plate. We started by practicing our fitness, layups, and some shooting as well. We wanted to train as hard as we could to become better for our first game in 2024. We had a long time to train so we got straight to it. We trained every week that we could and trained for an hour every time.

As we trained more, we were getting closer and closer to our first game and finally we got to match day. We were playing Terenure College away. It didn't start well—we were losing by a few points—but in the second half we changed our tactics and started pulling back. Unfortunately, we lost by a few points in the end.

We weren't out of the cup yet, so we changed our tactics. With one or two more training days until our next game, we learnt more plays and kept training hard. Once again, we were playing away, this time against North Anglia International School. We really wanted to win this game as it would decide if we were in the plate or the cup.

It started off like our other game, losing by a few points but we came back and started winning in the second half. It was a very close game but unfortunately, we lost in overtime by only a few points from winning and now we are in the plate. Now we have a new goal: we need to win the plate.

By Serban Soporan, 2nd Year

U16 Girls



We have been really enjoying basketball so far, with our league starting early in the year. We played four matches against Sion Hill, St Killian's DS, Sancta Maria College and Firhouse CC. Our best match was a 40-4 win against Firhouse!

We then managed to get through to the quarter finals, which we were all super excited about. We played a great game but unfortunately lost to HFC.

We will continue to train every Tuesday, which is always loads of fun. Hopefully we will play a few friendly matches later in the year and continue to improve as a team. A massive thank you to our coach Ms Browne and the team for another enjoyable basketball season.

By Aifric McEnroe, 3rd Year



Senior Girls Basketball

Senior Girls' basketball kicked off with a pre-season training session in August. It was a good chance for the team to get together and warm up after a long summer!

Our first game was an all-Ireland cup match against Kanturk, Cork. They were a strong team and really put us through our paces and they came away with the win. It was a good experience playing against such tough opposition for our first game. It showed us what we needed to work on and improve as a team.

The basketball season can be short and intense, and we had to play all our league matches over a few weeks. We came away with two wins and progressed to the quarterfinals to play an away game against Hartstown. This was a close match and as a team we came together and played our best yet. They were strong opponents and unfortunately, we did not progress to the next round.

We have had great numbers participating this year. Since the league finished, we have been working hard during our training sessions and focusing on gameplay and tactics. We are confident we will have a solid team next year and look forward to a strong start in September 2024.

By Mabel Sommerville Jennings, 5th Year



Senior Boys Basketball



This season was a big success reaching the final of our league and qualifying for the All Ireland. With previous 6th years gone, the start of our year was focused on keeping Newpark basketball at a high standard. Our 6th years were the core of our team, and our two leaders Johnny White and Art Flatley kept us motivated throughout the season taking us through various drills and stepping up in big moments. We started our campaign with two wins out the gate. Our first loss was in an extremely tight game with Coláiste Rathín in the group stage. This loss put pressure on us to make it out the group with our final game. However, we kept our composure and persevered sending us through to the knockout stages.

In the knockout stages we continued our good form and were faced with a very close game that could've ended up either way if it weren't for Max Jordan's important free throws that gave us the lead with ten seconds remaining. We made it to the final and faced the only team to have beaten us in the league so far, Coláiste Rathín. It was again a very close game and with two minutes to go and down by four points with the powerful Newpark crowd behind us we believed we could go on and win it. Unfortunately, it was not to be, however it was an incredible achievement to have made it to the final and to have qualified for the All-Irelands. I hope we can do it again next year.

By Sean Behan, 5th Year



Swim Team



Newpark Swim Team was delighted to be invited to the Naas CBS Swim Gala on Monday the 22nd of January.

The Gala was held in the K-Leisure Swimming Pool in Athy Co. Kildare. Twelve of us swimmers from Newport swim team were loaded onto the coach at 10am on Monday morning for a day of racing, team bonding and lots of fun!

It was a very successful day with three gold, three silver and four bronze medals for Newport and many personal best times achieved by our Newport Swimmers.

I had a great time, being surrounded by people who share a love for swimming and getting to race. It was a great opportunity for Newport Swim Team to bond, get to know each other better, and encourage each other.

We are grateful for Naas Christian Brothers School for hosting this gala. I can't wait for our next one!

Congratulations to all the students that were involved.

Results

Gold Medals:

Lisa Maxwell 50m Back Stroke

Patrick McCormack 50m Breast Stroke,

Liv Quirke 50m Breast Stroke

Silver Medals:

Levi Clarke 50m Front Crawl, 50m Breaststroke, 50m Back Stroke

Bronze Medals:

Lorna Gillanders Bronze 100m Back Stroke

Libby Houston Bronze 50m Breast Stroke

Lisa Maxwell Bronze 50m Front Crawl

Patrick McCormack 100m Front Crawl

By Lisa Maxwell, 5th Year

1st Year Swimming Gala



On the 4th of October, the LCA 5th year group hosted a swimming gala for all the first years. Before the actual day we went around telling the first years about the gala and what would happen in terms of races and all the fun we had doing it in our own first year. We then went around to collect the names of those interested in swimming in the gala and also asked them which music they would like to listen to during the gala. When we had everything sorted, we counted out how many people we had doing it. We were delighted to have 68 first years was a massive amount.

On the actual day we went over to the pool and started setting up by getting the lanes in and making sure we had all the necessary equipment for the races. As the first years started arriving, one of us went to the door to let the swimmers in and I let all the non-swimmers in and told them where to sit. There was a big cheer when the swimmers started coming out, which was good to see as they were supporting their friends. We had boys front crawl up first. This was an extremely popular choice, and all the boys were against their friends so it was an incredibly competitive event for them. It was great to see so many girls competing too as it was the highest number of girls in the gala in years. There were a lot of winners, but more importantly, everyone swam well and hopefully enjoyed themselves.

At the end all the first years were given certificates. There was also a form relay race which everyone enjoyed and loads of first years participated even though they were tired. Hopefully, we will do something like this again next year with even more swimmers and events. Well done to the first years.

By Lewis Thornton, 5th Year

'Tribal' by Kate Glanville



W5 Belfast



The current 1st years enjoyed a foreign trip to Belfast on a cold December, the journey went by in a flash as an MTV Jams of 2003 CD was produced by the driver and we grooved to The Backstreet Boys all the way to the Odyssey Arena.

When we arrived the students ventured to all floors of the W5 exhibition enjoying many aspects of Science and immersed themselves in the engaging exhibits including: the law of the lever, what keeps planes in the sky, as well as numerous interactive video exhibits and optical illusions. Each group then did a workshop on either game coding or electronics in the music world, and these were equal parts interesting and entertaining. It was a great trip, my thanks to all involved.

By Mr Daniel Ludgate

Science Engineering Talk



On Wednesday November 15th the 5th years attended an talk on Careers in Engineering delivered by Seamus MacGearailt of Roughan and O'Donovan Consulting Engineers. ROD (as they are known in the business) have been delivering Engineering projects across all aspects of Civil, Environmental and Structural Engineering for the past fifty years both in Ireland and across the globe from their base in Sandyford.

Students were given a flavour of the type of projects with which they could be involved from designing bridges to route finding for cycle paths, designing schools, urban planning schemes, bus connect routes, Dublin Mountain visitor centre among many others. Seamus explored some of the skillsets that a modern engineer requires including maths, technical drawing, creative, writing skills, IT skills etc. but emphasised that one of the main characteristics to be a successful Engineer is to be a problem solver.

Students enjoyed identifying local projects which ROD have been involved with over the years including the Luas Bridge at Dundrum, the Boyne Bridge and various iconic bridges over the Liffey in Dublin City. ROD have had links with some Dublin schools for apprenticeships and TY placements over the years and the plan is to forge a link with Newpark in the future.

By Ms Rhona Toal



NIBRT Trip



A handful of students from 6th and 5th Year visited the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training lab in UCD.



This was such an immersive experience that fully walked us through the main processes in the teaching lab where we also did some fun, informative and interactive experiments. I think for a lot of us the absolute best part of the experience was putting on all the protective gear that must be worn while

walking around the laboratory.

We got to witness how they grow, refine, transport and package certain products and we were given loads of information along the way. At the end we had a lovely tea-and-biscuits time while talking about college courses in pharmacology and other areas. It was an amazing experience and certainly a good insight into what many biology or chemistry students could do in the future.

Thanks to NIBRT and to the teachers who organized the trip.

By Alannah Wilkinson, 6th Year

Senior Science Quiz



Winners of the Senior Science Quiz: Georgia O'Rourke, Eva O'Donnell, Cadence Turner and Beth Fletcher

Maths Week



The annual Newpark Maths Week was held during Monday 16th and Friday 20th of October 2023. It was fantastic to see so many students and

teachers take part in the various activities held in Newpark.

Some of the activities held during the week were:

- Daily Maths Problem
- Junior Cycle Poster Competition – 'Maths at Work'
- BIMDAS Bingo for First Years
- Group Senior Cycle Maths Problem Competition
- Activities, games, and problem solving in class.

As always Bimdas Bingo was a major success with lots of first year students taking part in the activity. 'Bingo' was heard a lot during the activity. It was lovely to see students engaging in maths activities in a positive and meaningful way.

The daily problem got teachers and students involved in the week's activities. Healthy competition was evident between all involved. Well done to everyone who got involved and thank you to all the teachers for organising the activities during the week.

By Ms Siobhan Costello

Sci Fest

All first years took part in SciFest before Christmas. We all came up with our own projects we wanted to investigate.

My group won first prize with our project called 'Where are the most germs in Newpark?'

We put a lot of effort into the project. Firstly, we swabbed the places we thought would have the most germs, using cotton buds. Then we swabbed petri dishes containing agar gel with the cotton buds. They we observed the dishes over the course of eleven days, we also took pictures.

We swabbed our lockers, handrails, the lift, toilets and the GPA. The result really surprised us, as in the end the lockers and handrails had the most germs—we thought it was going to be the toilets.

Overall, we all really enjoyed the project, and it was a great experience for all of us.

By Navya Kumar, Libby Houston and Anna McDonagh, 1st Year

World Wise Global Schools

THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



Irish Aid's WorldWise Global Schools is Ireland's national Global Citizenship Education (GCE) programme for post-primary schools. The Newpark WorldWise Global Schools committee is made up of TY students and teachers. Together, we aim to promote and improve sustainability in Newpark and the wider community. The TY students have done a phenomenal amount of work thus far in creating awareness among the student body and the school community, which was our main objective this term. Posters of the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) hang in every classroom and we had a very successful SDG week in November which included a student led Kahoot Quiz about the SDGs, the selling of hydro plastic water bottles and the SDGs displayed on the screen in the GPA.

For example, our goal for October was Sustainable Consumption and Production. This is a very pertinent issue within our school, as I'm sure you know, from the amount of printing done by teachers, or the lack of enforcement around plastic bottles in the school. We worked to tackle many of these problems, such as promoting "Plastic out of the Park" by selling Newpark water bottles, or reducing the printing limits of teachers.

We will continue to work towards making our school more sustainable throughout the year, and I hope we can encourage you to work towards it as well.

By Sebastian McKay, TY



Newpark WorldWise Global Schools committee meet every Tuesday to discuss how we can collaboratively make Newpark a more sustainable school and in doing so, simultaneously educate our students on the significance of the

SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and how they can help build a better future for everyone.

At every meeting, the committee discusses and suggests various initiatives and ideas that can be applied throughout the school. The objective is always to implement systemic and lasting change amongst our schools' practices and policies. Newpark has had a great success with Plastic out of the Park, an initiative brought about by Green Schools to discontinue the use of plastic bottles in the school, and with an enthusiastic response from staff and students alike, we strongly believe we can make Newpark a more sustainable school for the better. The committee has begun selling Newpark exclusive hydro flask water bottles in a variety of colours and sizes, to help impress the significance of the zero one use plastic movement in Newpark. These bottles will be on sale throughout the year, and we urge you to consider investing in one, for yourself and for the planet.

Just this year, the WWGS committee has made significant headway in solving many of the problems in our school associated with SDG no.12 - Responsible Consumption and Production. Inquiries have been made to set printing limits for teachers, purchase reusable

Teachers also played their part during the week and a significant majority participated in the Department of Education initiative, Teach one lesson about one SDG to one class over one week. It was fantastic to see the awareness and growing understanding of how important the SDGs are to building



a more sustainable future for all. There are a number of projects under discussion which we aim to implement over time as long-term sustainable change. Included in this is the growth of our committee to include students from first to sixth year and more staff both teaching and otherwise. If you are interested, please don't hesitate to contact Ms. Dempsey or Ms. O'Donnell.

By Ms Margaret Dempsey

The WWGS committee works to promote and develop awareness about the world around us, and encouraging global citizenship in Newpark. We are doing this through events, workshops, and working within the school to make it more sustainable.





whiteboard erasers. Not to be forgotten, is our Kahoot Quiz on the sustainable development goals that created a lively ambiance throughout the GPA at lunchtime, and which highlighted some staggering figures and facts, which we hope has both students and teachers more aware of the importance of the SDGs. Our first-place winners took home the limited-edition orange water bottle and earned considerable applause.



The WWGS committee is now present on social media, (#newparkwgs) where we keep our students updated regularly on progress made throughout the year regarding the SDGs and sharing inspiration within our community and surrounding areas where you yourself can act and join the movement for a better world. Additionally, our noticeboard is located on the middle floor opposing the lift, where all written suggestions are welcome and a webpage for the Newpark website is currently under construction.

As is the case every month, the first term swept by like a blur and our aim to complete a Goal a month requires more work than we had initially anticipated. That said, our committee could not be more dedicated to the cause at hand, which is greatly aided and facilitated by the staff here at Newpark, including Ms Dempsey, Ms O'Donnell, Mr Norton, Bobby, Mr Adams and all the staff and pupils who have been implementing slight changes behind the scenes around the school and at home. It is these small improvements that are conducive to systematic change and growth. We cannot thank you enough!

By Ava North, TY

Green Flag Ceremony



On May 25th, 2023, myself, Sarah Glanville and Eve Cullen, along with Mr Power, went to collect our 5th Green Flag for biodiversity. We had been working on this flag for two years at this point and we were excited to finally get the flag.



There were fifteen ceremonies around the country but the ceremony we were invited to took place in The Helix which is in DCU. For the past three years, these ceremonies have been held online so it felt really special to be able to go to the first one in person since 2019, especially since this year,

Green Schools is celebrating its 25th anniversary and An Taisce is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

When we got there we looked at a few workshops and then went upstairs where we were treated to some coffee, tea and mini pastries. We were then given dinner before going into the auditorium for the ceremony. Each school was called up to get their certificates and flags and we also got to see a rendition of 'Outnumbered' by Dermot Kennedy from Francis Street National School. The head of An Taisce's Environmental Education Unit, Cathy Baxter also made a speech.

The next flag that we are working on at the moment is Global Citizenship: Litter and Waste.

By Isobel Smiley, 5th Year

Neat Streets



Students from the 5th year Senior cycle PE took part in the Neat Streets campaign on Thursday 19th October 2023. Sponsored by An Taisce, the school received several litter grabbers, waste bags, gloves and bright green vests.

In the space of fifteen minutes, numerous bags filled up with litter from the school campus and the street in front of the school.

Thank you to all the students who willingly participated in making our school environment a better place to be.

By Ms Gormlaith Ormond

ParkMUN



Hi, I'm Nakai Mudiwa, the (now former) Secretary General of PARKMUN. This probably means nothing to you right now, so keep reading!

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 academic year the Newpark MUN team has taken part in three conferences so far, in Terenure College, Rathdown School and our own conference – PARKMUN! We picked up several awards – five distinguished delegate awards, one best junior delegate award and one commended delegation award for Japan. We also had four resolutions go to General Assembly – a difficult achievement, and one of them was passed! With MUN conferences in Blackrock College, The High School, Wesley College and Wicklow Educate Together still coming up this school year, it's certainly looking promising. A few of us also got the opportunity to chair at conferences, which allowed us to play our part in

making younger delegates more comfortable. This was also preparation for the most exciting new fixture in the MUN calendar – PARKMUN!

When the idea for PARKMUN was born, with the guidance of Ms Odongo who is no longer in the school, our entire MUN team was eager to get involved, but I don't think anyone quite realised the sheer volume of work that goes into organising and running a conference. We firstly had to convince Mr Norton that it was feasible for the school to act as hosts and for us as students to take on the workload. Once we secured his approval the hard work started.

I myself have been attending almost every conference possible since the beginning of 2nd year, briefly interrupted by the Covid pandemic, and it has helped me to develop my confidence, public speaking skills, networking abilities, collaboration skills and my understanding of the structures followed by some of the most influential people in the world making decisions that affect us every day. Not only that, but I have made lifelong friendships from striking up casual conversations in committee rooms. Model United Nations is unique in that it allows anyone who is interested to explore current affairs, debate and the UN in their own way, whether it be debating as a delegate, chairing a committee, passing notes in general assembly or publishing a magazine within a matter of hours during the conference (a word from our Head of Media soon!).



When it came to PARKMUN we luckily had an already very committed MUN team ready to take the reins. Our seven head chairs produced excellent briefing papers to make delegates more comfortable with their topics and of course have an integral role leading committees and ensuring everything runs smoothly.



The admin and security teams keep everyone safe and keep the supply of resolutions to debate going, as well as causing some mayhem (where necessary of course). Our talented media team produce the articles in PARKMAG and create a gallery for us to look back on years from now. Ms Rider was our advisor, and made sure other conferences were attended while we were busy obsessing over the details of PARKMUN. Hannah McNally, PGA was my partner in organising this conference, and between us the workload seemed a lot lighter. Her tireless work, input and support in these hectic few months, definitely ensured the success of this conference. Last but definitely not least, Ms Devis was our Conference Director. Despite almost no experience with MUN, she hit the ground running and offered us invaluable support with every single aspect of organising the conference. From endless meetings and reams of printing orders to emotional support, we are eternally grateful to her. Thank you too to our principal, Mr Norton, for facilitating what seemed at the time like a slightly terrifying idea, and to our vice principals Ms Anderson and Mr Adams for supporting us in these endeavours.

Guest Speakers

We were extremely lucky to have not one but two guest speakers at our first conference, who spoke at our Opening and Closing ceremonies and took a great interest in our younger demographic of delegates.

Barry Andrews serves as Member of the European Parliament representing the Dublin constituency and is a member of the Renew Europe group in the Parliament. He served as Minister of State for Children from 2008 to 2011 before taking a hiatus from formal political life and taking up the position of CEO of the International Development NGO GOAL in 2012. Barry became the Director-General of the Institute of International and European Affairs in 2017 until his election to the European Parliament in 2019.

Richard Boyd Barrett is an Irish People Before Profit–

Solidarity politician who has been a Teachta Dála in Dail Eireann for Dun Laoghaire since 2011 and was a former member of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. A native of Dun Laoghaire, Richard has a long record of campaigning for improved local services, social housing, youth and community amenities, workers rights and jobs.

President of the General Assembly—Hannah McNally



After presenting the idea of PARKMUN to Mr Norton and getting the go ahead, Nakai and I had yet to realise the endless extent of work that goes into organising a Model United Nations conference. Trying to stay on top of it alone was difficult enough, but by some force of will, months of preparations, and of course help from other students and teachers, we just about managed it, and I have to say I think it was a wonderful success!

One of the key aspects I contributed in preparations was the media side of things. I ran our Instagram account (@newparkmun), compiled information for our website (a rarity for first time conferences), and designed several things such as posters, award certificates and lanyards.



As well as that I was very involved with the schools and individuals who would be in attendance, both as delegates and chairs, and overall helped Nakai in keeping on top of everything.

As for my role during the actual conference, my official title was President of the General Assembly, PGA for short. This meant that I was essentially in charge of keeping the proper, respectful, and formal atmosphere during General Assembly that lasted much of the second day. I got to choose who could speak and when, and ran voting procedures for each resolution. I have to say it was infinitely refreshing to partake in such a one-of-a-kind role at an MUN conference, as opposed to the usual delegate stance. It's definitely helped me appreciate the sheer effort and work that goes into running a conference, as well as trying to keep a room of endlessly chatty delegates to listen to each other.

Fundraiser led by Hannah McNally

Upon realising what a great platform this could be, I decided to use the conference as a means to speak on and fundraise for an ongoing and brutal humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia. This would be for my Politics Citizenship Project, and so I chose an area I was already relatively

familiar with - after representing Ethiopia at a previous conference in London I was considerably familiar with their situation. I decided to fundraise for Concern Worldwide, a renowned Irish NGO who effectively tackle such crises head on. To firstly educate all PARKMUN participants on the relatively unknown situation, I made a five minute speech. At that same time, I had strategically placed fundraising buckets and raffle tickets for sale next to our tuck shop, and was able to sell over 500 tickets. Altogether I raised a couple of hundred euros for the cause, and have made my donation to Concern Worldwide.

Coming to the end of this reflection I would like to say a particular thank you to Ms Devis, whose tireless work immensely aided the running of the conference. As well as that Mr Norton, Ms Anderson, Bobby, the PTA, all teachers on duty, all of our Head Chairs, Co-Chairs, Media Team, Admin Team, Security Team and, last but certainly not least, our tuck shop workers. Each contributed a great deal to the conference and we're endlessly grateful.

Looking forward to PARKMUN '24!



Head of Media – Luke Conaghan

Given that Parkmun 2023 was going to be Newpark's first ever MUN conference we knew that we needed to have a memorable media campaign to mark the occasion. It was a lot of pressure, but we had an unbeatable team of talented photographers, videographers, writers, editors and presenters, which is especially impressive when you remember that everyone on the team was taking on multiple roles. Before we go any further, I have to thank my incredible team of Coco Evans, Hannah Phelan, Joss Brooks, Henry Simpson and Lara García-Verdugo Merin. Without their dedication and hard work none of the articles, photos or reels would've been possible.

The first order of business we had to address was creating both editions of the Parkmag written by Coco



TerMUN

Evans, Hannah Phelan and myself. We had initially planned on having a list ranking all of the schools in attendance according to their “Rizz”, but we later realized it was derivative, trite and wholly lacking in originality. We replaced it with a ranking of the attending school’s ability to survive the zombie apocalypse. From there the zombie apocalypse theme spread throughout the magazine much like a zombie virus spreading through the population.

Once Parkmag was written and printed it was time to start reporting on the actual event itself. In order to cover the whole conference we split into teams. Our photographers Henry Simpson and Joss Brooks went about the event taking outstanding photos which were sent to me so that I could pick which ones to put on the Newparkmun Instagram account. From there our social media manager Lara García-Verdugo Merin decided their captions and how they’d be arranged. While all of this was going on, Coco Evans and Hannah Phelan were gathering video content. This video content was then edited into Instagram reels which gathered hundreds of views. At the time of writing this, three of the six reels have over 1,500 views.

Our final undertaking was creating a video to wrap up the whole conference using all the photos and videos we gathered over the two days. I have to give a special thank you to Hannah Phelan who managed under incredible time pressure to edit the gargantuan amount of footage into a 3-minute video. Despite a brief hostage taking we were able to get the video done in time for the closing ceremony at which it received a warm reception.

The media campaign for the Parkmun was a phenomenal success, from the positive feedback on Parkmag to the views and engagements on Instagram. Over the course of the conference, we more than doubled the reach of the Instagram. Words can’t express how grateful I am to the magnificent media team we had, each and every one of them put in a mind-blowing amount of work and did a great job. Here’s looking forward to Parkmun 2024.

Head of Media, Luke Conaghan, 5th Year

If you or your friends want to learn more about how MUN works, sign up for a conference, practice your debate skills or get involved in PARKMUN 24’, meetings take place every Monday lunchtime in T13. There is no obligation to take part in conferences, no age limit and any questions you have can be answered.

By Nakai Mudiwa, 6th Year



‘MUN starts this way...’ Terenure Model United Nation’s (Termun) slogan each year, the first conference of the year and where all the MUN begins. This year so far we have had an amazing interest in MUN and were able to send three fabulous delegations to represent Newpark at Termun. We arrived at the school in the evening of Friday, it was great to see some familiar faces from past conferences and to meet some new ones too. The conference was filled with lots of constructive debate, learning and fun too.



I really loved was being able to see some of the first time Newpark delegates speak so much and really push themselves out of their comfort zones. MUN as a first timer is scary but they didn’t fail to get stuck in. As for some of the older delegates it was so much fun to get back into MUN with some of us chairing committees and others representing delegations.

Over the two days of the conference everyone worked to such a high standard of debate and Newpark managed to pass seven resolutions through committee and two were debated in General Assembly. This alone was a great success but we also managed to take home three distinguished delegate awards, one junior delegate award and a highly commended delegation award—a huge achievement for us as it has been a few years since Newpark has won a delegation award. It was such a good boost to start the year. But regardless of the prizes we won, Termun was the perfect way to start off what is proving to be a very, very exciting year of MUN!

By Hannah Clabby, 5th Year

Munich and Nuremburg History Trip



After months of excited anticipation from the students, and massive amounts of planning and preparation by Mr Daly, Ms Dempsey, and the other teachers and staff who made it happen, Newpark's 6th year history class set off for Germany on the first Thursday of December. Despite the 4am start in Dublin airport, and some logistical difficulties regarding an overbooked plane which left Ms. Dempsey and three students with a twelve hour wait in the airport for the next flight, spirits were high as we arrived at our first destination, a youth hostel just outside Munich city centre.

Before even reaching any of our planned sites of historical intrigue however, our fascination was piqued by the thick blanket of snow covering the city, so unlike the watery, slushy snow we're used to back home, and a certain amount of snowball fighting and snowman building may have occurred. But our first historical highlight of the trip was our walking tour of Munich on the first day, where we got a well-rounded history of the town, from the remnants of the 15th century Residenz Palace to the site of Hitler's failed Munich Putsch rebellion in 1932. The town itself was an intriguing blend of old and new, and we discovered many of the buildings were reconstructions of their historical counterparts after the originals were destroyed by bombings during World War Two.



After some time to explore the beautiful Christmas markets and a meal at the Hard Rock café, we returned to the hostel for some well-earned rest. The next day, we had an early start as we got a coach to Dachau concentration camp. We did a guided tour of the camp, and walking through the snow with our warm coats and boots really brought home how horrendous the conditions would have been as a prisoner, with nothing but a thin cotton uniform to protect against the biting cold. Learning about what happened at the camp while actually being there and seeing the locations with your own eyes was certainly a powerful and harrowing experience, and not one to be taken lightly. We learned that it is mandatory in Germany for all students to visit a camp at least once during their time in school, and while it is not an easy or pleasant visit by any means, the impact and importance of seeing the consequences of such a regime for yourself is undeniable.



After Dachau, we visited the Nazi Documentation Museum back in Munich, which had exhibits and art installations dealing with the roots and consequences of Nazism and anti-semitism. A particularly compelling exhibit focused on the residents of the Warsaw Jewish Ghetto, created by Nazi forces in Poland during WW2. Residents working in a secret underground organisation collected records, letters and testimonies of life in the ghettos, hiding their work underground for future generations, preserving their histories as it happened and ensuring their stories would be told. The personal stories and resilience of these people was powerful, and it really brought history to life.

The following day, we travelled to Nuremburg via coach, and disembarked at the site of the Nuremburg rallies held by Hitler and the Nazi party. We learned about the sheer scale and impact of these events, and the work that went into preparing these outrageous displays of power and propaganda. We had the rest of the day to

explore Nuremberg's beautiful Christmas markets and sample the local delicacies. (We definitely didn't end up going to McDonalds...)

Finally, after an amazing, action-packed few days, the final day of our adventure had arrived. We had the opportunity to visit the Nuremberg Trials Museum, which housed the original courtroom in which the Nazi officials were tried for their crimes in the years after 1945. It was fascinating to learn about the legal process that ensued, where entire new systems of humanitarian international law had to be drawn up in order to deal with the scale of crimes committed. What was even more interesting, and shocking, was learning that the majority of Nazi officials only served a few years jail time at most for what they had done during the war. Especially after hearing what we had at Dachau, this certainly didn't seem like justice.

All in all, the trip was a fantastic experience. As well as spending time with our friends and exploring new places together in our final year of school, we all gained a new level of appreciation and comprehension of world history. Our whole group is so grateful for all the hard work and dedication of our teachers that ensured we had what was undoubtedly one of the best experiences of our whole time in Newpark.

By Eva O'Donnell, 6th Year

RIA Trip



On the 5th of October, both fifth year history classes went on a trip to the RIA. The RIA is the Royal Irish Academy, and it is Ireland's 'leading body of experts in the sciences and humanities.' Prior to the trip, I didn't know much about the RIA so it was a really interesting opportunity to find out more about it, especially considering it's actually the highest academic honour in Ireland to become a member.

The purpose of the trip was to learn about the different sources of information we can use for research projects, particularly the RSR (research study report) we complete as part of the Leaving Certificate history course. Over the course of the talk, a few different speakers spoke to us about the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI), the Dictionary of Irish Biography (DIB) and the Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA).

I thought it was very informative and definitely helpful for the RSR so all in all it was a great trip!

By Mimi Reuland, 5th Year

Oireachtas Essay Competition



A few Newpark students had the privilege of attending the launch for the Oireachtas Essay Competition 2023. It was held in the Dáil with previous winners and various news reporters. The group met in town and got escorted in through security. We were led through Leinster house to the designated meeting room. We got free tea and coffee and chatted to the others there. Most of it was in Irish, but everyone was very considerate, and you were encouraged speak the national language. It was a great atmosphere, everyone treasured the language, and it felt inspiring to be around such people.

We listened to the reasoning and importance behind the essay competition—to unite the island through peaceful politics. Essays can be written in Irish or English, and it's open to fifth and sixth years. It really is a great programme—I'm looking forward to doing it next year.

Among the people presenting the competition was the Ceann Comhairle. It was a pleasure to meet him. He was a very friendly, honest guy, and chatted openly with us Newpark students.

After the launch, we went into the Dáil restaurant and got a heavenly lunch. The whole atmosphere was very prestigious, and you couldn't help but feel important. It was an amazing experience. While sitting down enjoying our food, Cormac Devlin, the local TD came over to chat with us.

After the meal, we ended the day with a private tour of Leinster House. Our guide was lovely, he went through various parts of the house's history, it was incredibly insightful and interesting. We went around the special rooms and corridors, even going into the main chamber, where we saw our taoiseach.

The whole experience was a great opportunity to learn more about the politics of our nation. We learnt valuable lessons and had such a great time. Agus ba bhreá liom buíochas a ghabháil le Ms. Ni Bhrion!

By Fia Scally, TY

Conférence Franco-Irlandaise L'année des Français



As part of the celebration of the 225th anniversary of the "Year of the French" in Ireland, a conference took place in Iveagh House on November 13th 2023 under the title "1798-2023: 225 years of aspiration to the Republic".

At the invitation of Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne attended the conference. The Prime Minister's speech at the conference took place as part of her visit to Dublin that day. Both the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister made opening statements. The conference was organised alongside the Embassy of France in Ireland in partnership with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and the Royal Irish Academy.



In 1798, a detachment of 1,000 men from the French army, led by General Humbert, landed on the shores of County Mayo to support the rebellion of the United Irishmen, in response to Theobald Wolfe Tone's appeal to the Directory. After a number of military successes, an emblematic but short-lived "Republic of Connaught" was proclaimed. This episode is remembered in Ireland as "The Year of the French".

This year's commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the "Year of the French" aims to recall the historic



nature of a unique friendship, our shared political heritage and the aspiration of our two peoples to freedom.

The aim of this conference was to examine the concept of the Republic as it prevailed at the end of the 18th century, to understand its evolution over the following two centuries, and to reflect on the extent to which our French and Irish institutions still meets the aspirations of our fellow citizens at the beginning of the 21st century. These topics formed the three main themes of the conference, which took the form of both presentations and round tables.

Historians, lawyers, intellectuals and political figures from both France and Ireland, as well as students and the general public, were invited to take part in these exchanges. The conference was broadcast online and recorded, and can be watched back in full. Speeches were in English and French.

Les élèves de Terminale de la Section européenne ont eu la chance d'assister à la conférence le 13 novembre. C'était une fantastique opportunité pour eux de prendre part à une table ronde entre intellectuels français et irlandais et de réfléchir au concept de « République » et de « Démocratie ». Un grand merci à l'Ambassade de France pour cette invitation ! Les élèves étaient impressionnés par le bâtiment Iveagh House mais aussi par la présence à la fois du premier ministre irlandais et de la première ministre française. Ils ont aussi pu échanger avec des élèves du LFI (Lycée français d'Irlande).

Par Mme Laetitia Tessier

European Day Of Languages



Pour marquer la Journée européenne des Langues célébrée chaque année le 26 septembre, Newpark organisait cette année encore une compétition de posters.

Félicitations aux deux gagnants qui ont réalisé des œuvres créatives et personnelles : Eva Gonta (1KCN) en 1ère année et Drew Taylor (2TF) en 2e année.

Par Mme Laetitia Tessier

French Ambassador's Visit



Jeudi 12 octobre, l'ambassadeur de France en Irlande est arrivé pile à l'heure pour visiter notre école. Après toutes les salutations formelles, tous les étudiants de la Sectionne Européenne ont pris place. Après l'introduction de M. Norton et Mme. Tessier, l'Ambassadeur, Monsieur Vincent Guérend, a fait un discours. Il a parlé de l'importance de l'apprentissage du français à l'étranger, et c'était très engageant.



Ensuite, il a commencé à présenter aux étudiants leurs certificats de DELF A1, A2, et finalement B1 et B2. On a pris une photo avec nos certificats et l'Ambassadeur, et puis reçu un chouette badge. Notre récompense était un délicieux petit déjeuner, et puis des élèves de terminale ont aidé Mr. Norton pour donner M. l'Ambassadeur et son équipe un tour guidé de notre école. C'était clair pour moi que l'Ambassadeur avait la tête sur les épaules, car il m'a demandé comment l'école avait marché pendant la pandémie Covid, et son équipe était intéressée aussi. Sa visite a duré seulement 2 heures, mais son impression durera beaucoup plus longtemps. Je crois que nous allons le voir encore à la conférence pour la commémoration de « Year of the French », et je suis sûre que ça sera une expérience magnifique.

Par Hannah McNally, 6th Year

Merci à M. l'Ambassadeur ainsi que le service culturel de l'Ambassade et l'Alliance française de Dublin de nous avoir fait l'honneur de leur visite en octobre. Nous sommes reconnaissants de votre soutien. Bravo à tous les élèves de la section européenne qui ont réussi leur DELF avec brio lors de la session de mai 2023 ! Nous sommes très fiers d'être centre d'examens pour les diplômes du DELF et aussi d'être la première école labellisée FrancEducation en Irlande.

Par Mme Laetitia Tessier

Visite de Campus France



Le mardi 24 octobre, nous avons eu une présentation de l'Ambassade française, à la fois sur étudier en France ainsi que travailler là-bas en tant qu'assistant(e) anglaise(e).

Je l'ai trouvé informatif parce que c'est quelque chose que j'envisage pour mon avenir. Les présentations m'ont donné plus

d'information et options.

Les deux impliquent d'avoir un niveau B1 à C2 en français, ce qui n'est pas mal, les options pour travailler et étudier en France étaient nombreuses et très impressionnantes. Je considérerais de faire l'un ou l'autre mais je n'ai pas décidé.

J'ai trouvé intéressant que lorsqu'on travaille comme assistant d'anglais, on puisse être placé n'importe où dans un pays francophone, et il faut avoir 20 ans donc je devrais attendre un peu.

Si tu veux étudier en France, il y a beaucoup d'opportunités et je suis reconnaissante d'avoir cette option.

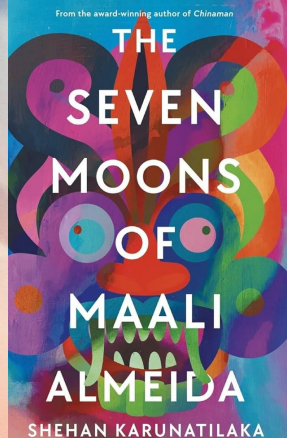
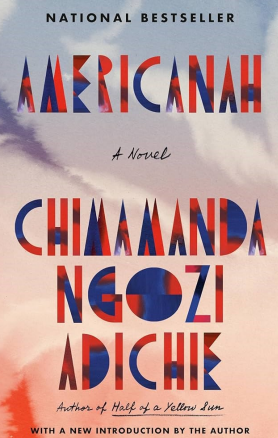
Par Maeve Cooper, 6th Year



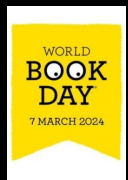
Merci à Laura Le Cleach, Attachée de Coopération pour le français, Claire Godard, Responsable Campus France ainsi qu'à Théo Chouvinc, Chargé de Mission Coopération é d u c a t i v e e t

Francophonie pour leur visite. Les élèves de Terminales étaient ravis d'avoir plus d'informations sur les études en France et le programme d'assistanat. Quand on pense qu'une année à l'université en France est aux alentours de 200 euros ça vaut vraiment le coût d'étudier là-bas !

Par Mme Laetitia Tessier

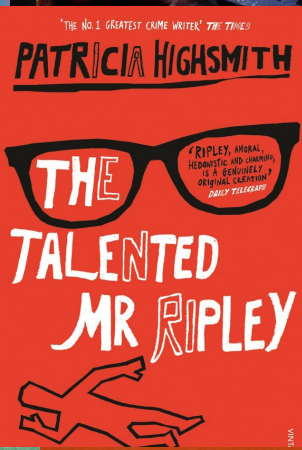
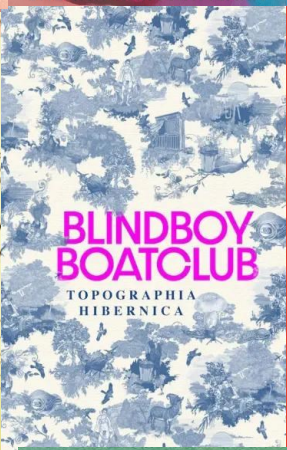
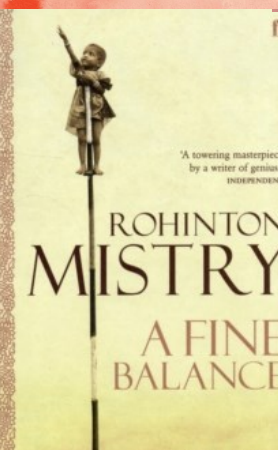


World Book Day



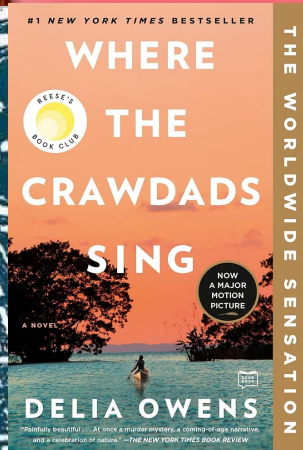
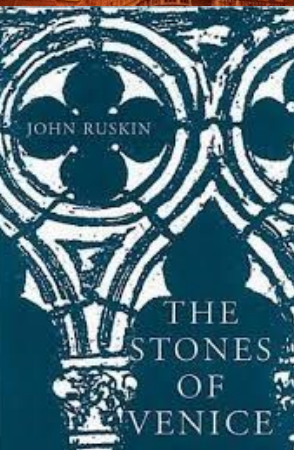
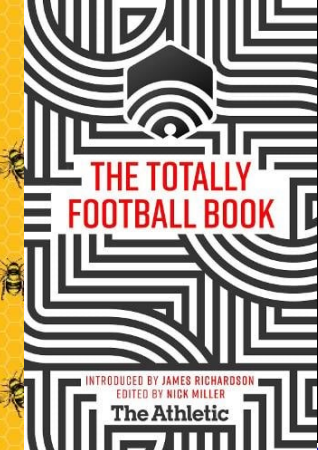
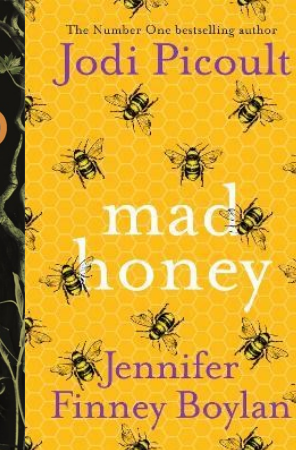
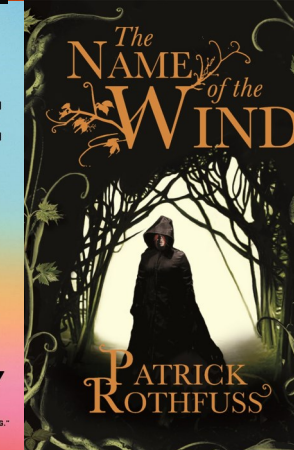
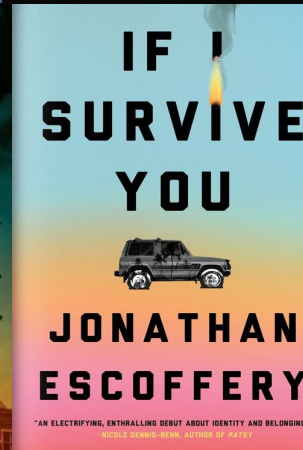
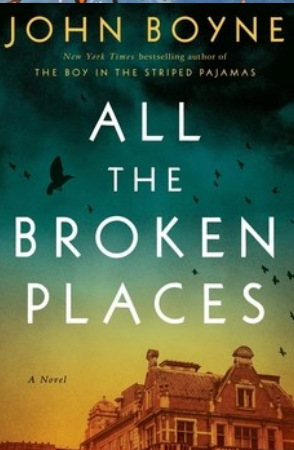
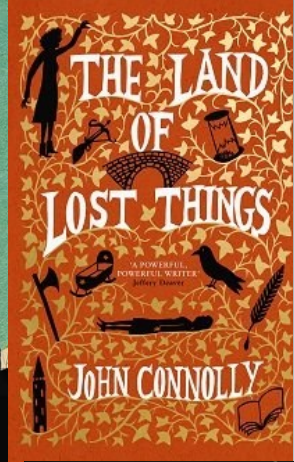
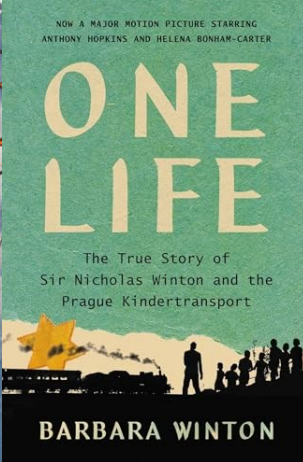
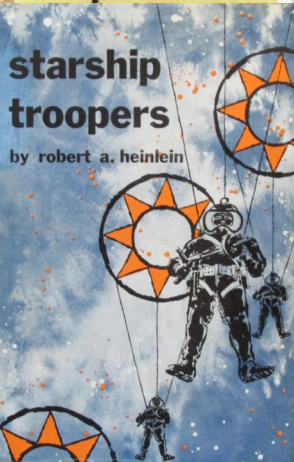
World Book Day is on the 7th of March so we asked Newparkers to let us know what they are currently enjoying reading.

Many thanks to students Jesse McCarthy 5EL, Matthew Shaw-Torkzadeh 3SCN, Hannah Clabby 5AC, Luke Harper 3SCN, Eva Lily Jamison 2AL, Amelie McDaid 1KCN, Nakai Mudiwa 6CL, Seb Drew 1KCN and teachers Aoife Fox, David Smyth, Jill Scott, Cathy Devis, Dermot O'Neill, Ellen O'Mahony, Ciaran Byrne, Lydia Colin, Amy Keating, Hugh Holmes, Susi French, Karl Daly and Natasha Rider.



Huge congratulations to 6th Year Nakai Mudiwa who was one of two young judges on the twelve person selection panel for Children's Books Ireland books of the year. All of the judges read 158 books before meeting to thrash out their final decisions (top secret till the awards ceremony in May).

More from Nakai on this in the next newsletter.



Transition Year

TY Olympics



On Friday 24th November, the TY Olympics were held. Ms French was looking to defend her title, having won last year. There was great excitement, and each of the form groups showed their pride with face paint and even bandanas. In store for the classes was a blindfolded obstacle course, 'balloon tag' (where players had to burst their opponents' balloons attached to their ankles), and the famous egg drop. Here, teams had to make a protective shell of sticky tape, paper and straws for their eggs, which were dropped out of the M floor balcony.



The energy rose to a climax at the tug-of-war, which also saw some of the biggest upsets. After the forms

battled it out, the judges crunched the numbers so that the winners could be announced. 4LRG came out on top, followed by 4DL and 4AFX. The Olympics were great fun, and I feel like the form groups came closer together.

By Patrick Donaghy, TY



Gartan



In November 2023, 4SFH headed to the famous 4th-year trip spot, Gartan, and let me tell you, it was a week to remember! Day one hit us like a slap of mud to the face. We quickly learned that embracing the muck was the name of the game. And oh boy, did we embrace it! By day three, we were practically walking mud sculptures. Who needs a spa day when you've got Gartan?

Then came kayaking day on Tuesday and we paddled our way through the freezing waters, and of course, couldn't resist taking a dip. Who needs a hot tub when you've got a lake in Donegal, right?

Wednesday was hike day, and let me tell you, it was quite a journey. No phones, just us and the great outdoors. The hike was long, the blisters were real, but at least we got to complain about it together! I really believe that the hike was when the whole class bonded the most as we were all in the same boat of being soaked and sore.



Thursday, we tackled the treacherous waters in groups of three, armed with nothing but a canoe and sheer determination. Let me tell you, it's a miracle we didn't end up in the same category as the Titanic. But hey, we eventually got the hang of it, even if it meant a few heated debates on steering techniques. And let's not forget

the intense games of Spit which also kickstarted an absurd amount of debates. Who knew a simple card game could turn into a battlefield of screaming matches and flying cards? Not me!

And just like that, Friday snuck up on us, and it was time to bid farewell to our muddy haven. We were a mix of exhaustion and sadness on the bus ride home, but at least we left with enough mud memories to last a lifetime.

By Saibh Lawrence, TY



4SFH in Gartan



TY Geography Trip



On the 20th of October, our TY Geography class got to go to Kingswood to take part in a Climate Smart workshop. We left the school in the morning, and got to take the school minibus with Mr Lennon.

Once we reached Kingswood, we took part in our first activity, an online game where you try to protect Dublin from different types of flooding. You have to balance different types of flood defences, while also ensuring you remain popular with your citizens, or you might be forced to leave office early. I really enjoyed this game, as I got to explore different solutions to future floods in Dublin, and how effective these methods would be.



After this, we went outside to explore the local environment, which involved looking at how temperature and precipitation levels differed across the area, such as the concrete courtyard of the school, and the grass field around it. However, this activity was not as enjoyable, mostly due to the heavy rainfall that accompanied it. We then returned inside and got Climate Smart donuts, which were very



welcome after our wet experience outside. Our last activity involved a discussion about how we could make our local area more sustainable. We came up with ideas for improving our area, and then presented them to the other students.

Even with the rain, we really enjoyed this trip, and it was very interesting learning how we can work to combat climate change in Dublin. It turned what would otherwise be a dreary Friday morning into a great experience which gave us many ideas for the upcoming geography Olympiad.

By Sebastian McKay, TY

TY PE Trip

On Thursday the 14th of September, our PE class went on a trip to the National Sports Centre in Blanchardstown. This trip was to test our physical ability and record the scores.

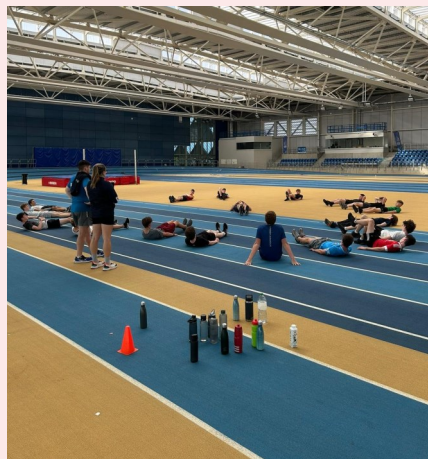


We started off in the gym where we measured our 3 rep max on bench press and deadlift. Once we finished, we told the instructor our score and they recorded them.

Next we took our talents in the gymnasium. We

started off with some basic stretches and movements then we moved onto balance. We tested this by our ability to move in mid air and walked on balance beams. After a short break we moved to the indoor track where we tested our speed, agility and power. We did a standing vertical jump for power, the T test for agility and a 40m sprint to test speed.

After the runs we had lunch for twenty minutes before we made our way into a lecture room where we got a



talk from our instructor. He talked about why we did the tests we did and how often we should test ourselves if we wanted to keep track ourselves. We also looked at average scores from athletes our age and other schools.

Our final test was the Yo-Yo test. Similar to the beep test where you had to make it across a distance in a certain amount of time but we got a five second break between each run. Safe to say all the boys were knackered by the end of it. Will Lloyd scored the best— so fair play to that guy!

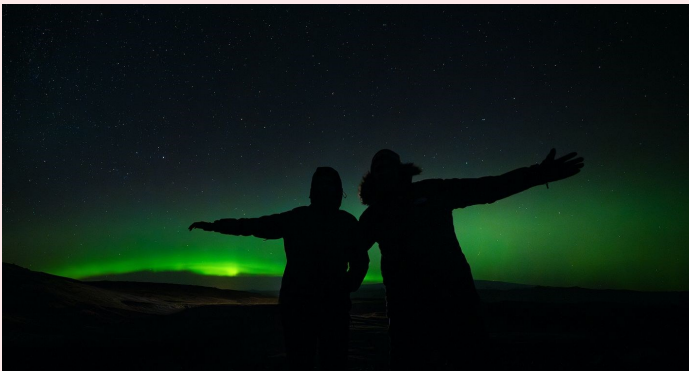
Overall the trip was good craic and a good indicator on our physical abilities. Big thanks to Mr Lennon of course for organising the trip for us.

By Eoin Tierney, TY

An Icelandic Adventure



For my work experience, I did something that is probably a bit different from what most people did for theirs. I got the opportunity to go to an amazing photography workshop in Iceland with my dad. My dad is a photographer and shares his knowledge and skills with other people in these workshops all around the world.



It was cool going around Iceland going from destination to destination always finding beautiful landscapes. We got to go in helicopters over massive glaciers and go into ice caves, which was probably my favorite bit. I really enjoyed the trip and would love to go back again.

By Mia Gordon, TY

Shark Tank

On Friday the 24th of November the TY Business and Innovation classes along with the 3rd year business classes went to Ballyfermot Further Education College. The college was hosting a real life 'Shark Tank' event based in the US television show. The classes got to watch the event where students and aspiring entrepreneurs from two different colleges took part. The students from Ballyfermot engaged in an Erasmus program with students from Finland and collaborated together to come up with a business idea. They spent a



total of two weeks working on each project. The students had to pitch their business models and ideas to a panel of potential investors and persuade them to invest money into their idea.

As a class we got to watch them pitch their ideas to the sharks. It was very interesting to see the process of a business start up from the beginning to the end product. It was a really enjoyable and educational day out!

By Romy Jordan, TY

Microsoft Dream Space Ambassador Program



On Wednesday the 11th of October, 3 of the TY digital leaders took part in the Microsoft Dream Space Ambassador Program on Micro-bit which is a coding software. The Dream Space Ambassador Program is a flagship student leadership training program supported by the Dream Space team in Dublin and Belfast. The program is designed for us to learn how to code, and the goal is to include and teach others about it.

The program includes a graduation which is achieved by earning a platinum medal. By completing the first lesson we earned ourselves the bronze medal. To achieve different levels of medals you must attend several lessons and do things such as teach Micro-bit or host their live events for the school. We later hosted a live event in our school and delivered a coding workshop to 1st years as part of the program.

By Ethan Duncan, TY

Let them eat cake!



For Halloween the TY Catering classes had a little Halloween competition. We were asked to make six cupcakes and decorate them Halloween-themed. We had to find six different unique ways to decorate our cupcakes by researching different designs and techniques.



The cupcakes themselves were just fairy cakes and we decorated them using icing, fondant and other toppings. We were given one day to make the cupcakes and another day to decorate them.

Our lovely judge, for my catering class, was Ms Farlow who chose the top three winners. Everyone's cupcakes were perfect for the spooky season.

The Halloween cup cake winners were Nadia Kennedy, Mia Gordon and Molly Balance Maguire.

By Linus Carlsson, TY

Christmas Cakes



As Christmas approached, the TY Catering class also worked on making and decorating Christmas Cakes for the annual competition.

Ms Anderson and Bobby came to judge. Nadia Kennedy won first place, Molly Balance Maguire and Simone Evans (that's me!) were the winners.

It was good fun and nice to see so many different designs.

By Simone Evans, TY

Domino's



On the 24th of October, Ms Farlow's Transition Year catering group headed off to

Domino's Sallynoggin bright and early. When we arrived we were greeted by Mirnes Sultanovic (area manager) and Store Manager Kesav. They showed us how to use the till to take people's orders, they showed us how to make modifications for allergies, dietary requirements and any preferences.

After that we got a demonstration of how to knead the dough and form it into a circle; we all agreed that this was difficult as we kept putting holes in the dough but it was all ok after that. We then started on our toppings which was a lot of fun. We saw a long row of meats and veggies with different sauces and seasonings which was really interesting.

The next step was to put our pizza in this really big oven that cooks a pizza in six minutes. Before we knew it our pizzas were out of the oven and ready to go! We then got a really nice surprise from the guys, they had made us some cookies as well as our pizzas. Overall it was a really fun experience and we were all so grateful.

By Hannah Younge TY

TY Languages Quiz

For TY students, we have our language class (either French or German) first thing on a Thursday, so the day started as per usual: everybody stumbled into their classrooms still trying to wake themselves up. You can imagine our simultaneous delight and confusion when we were told of a big language quiz in the GPA.

As the remaining French and German classes swarmed into the GPA, teams were formed just as quickly. They were of wildly varying sizes, ranging from five to ten people.

There were three rounds of questions on subjects like European culture and foreign vocabulary. It got rowdy towards the end, and the winning team (which happened to be the one I was on) ended up banging their fists against the table rapidly like animals. We got some jellies as a reward... not bad. It ended up being a great and relatively easy-going start to a similarly fun day, especially considering the 50th anniversary school photo that was taken a few hours later.

By Finley Gleich, TY

In Dublin Week



On the second week back from Mid-Term Break, my form was on “In Dublin Week”, where we got to visit some of the most well-known places in Dublin city!

On the first day we were supposed to do the Bray Head walk but was cancelled due to Storm Debi. (Though 4LRG

managed to summit Bray Head the week before!)

On Tuesday we all went to the Criminal Courts of Justice. After we all met up we got to see one of the barristers, who went through the history and layout of the courts, as well as how a trial actually works. That was really interesting, but the chunk of the day was spent being able to spectate any of the trials we wanted. I think it's really interesting and also surprising to be allowed to just walk into nearly any trial without being part of the legal case! We found that the cases are a lot harder to follow and more convoluted than expected, and were also a lot more disorganised and straightforward than what you'll see on tv! I personally loved going to the criminal courts, I found it really interesting learning about the courts and being able to look at the trials.

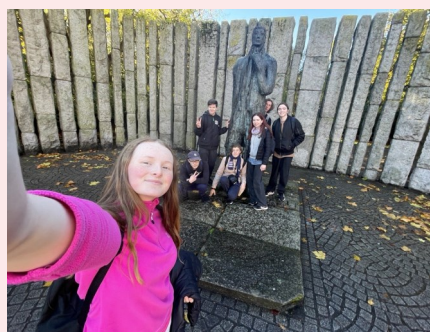
On Wednesday we went on an “Insta-tour”. On the tour you get to see the main landmarks in Dublin city while also being taught specific techniques to photograph them. First our tour guide, Diego, showed us a place called the Love Lane, which I hadn't seen before. The alley is decorated with artwork, murals, and quotes about love, and is really incredible! Then we went to the main pub area of Temple Bar and Diego showed us more photographic techniques for capturing the area. My favourite one was probably using the panorama



option on portrait mode to take photos of tall buildings, which is ingenious! We continued through Temple Bar, and Diego taught us more really cool photography techniques, eventually ending the tour in St. Stevens Green. The tour was great, and you get to learn so many cool photography techniques that I never knew of before!



On Thursday we all got to go to Dublin Zoo! We had around an hour to walk around the zoo by ourselves before our tour began. We got to see most of the zoo, but we were mostly in the reptile area which I had never been to before. One of the best parts was seeing the crocodile, but we were also in time for the Python's feeding time which was incredible! The tour was great, and we had a really good guide who knew tons! We got to learn so much more about the animals and how they behave, which I found interesting. My favourite animal during the tour was probably the snow leopard. I really enjoyed the zoo even though we've been there quite a lot.



On our last day we had the Dublin selfie hunt! I was looking forward to the selfie hunt particularly, it sounded really fun. In the selfie hunt,

you and your group have to go into Dublin city, take around eleven selfies at famous landmarks and then return back to school before any of the other groups. From the start we got going, literally running out the school gates! At first we started very strong, but we lost lots of time when we were looking for a Starbucks when it turned out we needed to go to Café Nero! After that we were basically running non-stop from there to the school! Sadly we didn't arrive at the school first, but we won the overall prize for the best photos which was great! We all had tons of fun, and everyone really enjoyed it and got on board. I thought the selfie hunt was brilliant, and was probably my favourite out of all the days.

By Eli Donaghy, TY

Arts Week



For our Arts Week we prepared an artistic performance to be performed on the Friday. We did a scene from Mamma Mia including singing and dancing to Mamma Mia. We also did a scene from West Side Story with singing and dancing to The Jets song. It was really nice coming in at half ten every day - school should always start at this time.

We gradually brought all the elements of the musicals together: Monday was acting and dancing, Tuesday: singing and costume making, Wednesday costume making, and Thursday we were rehearsing scenes and had more singing practice.



We were slowly bringing in the singing and getting the acting right as well. It was looking good as it all came together and everyone was getting a bit more into it as well. On Friday, performance day, we had a dress rehearsal in the morning which went pretty well then a small break before the final performance. The performance went very well and it was good fun. I don't think it was the end of the world that it wasn't perfect—everyone enjoyed it. Then we got cake and stuff afterwards which was nice.

I really enjoyed this week, probably because I got very involved and into it. Some people didn't really get involved and I'd say they had nowhere near as much fun as the people who did. *"You get out what you put in"* - to be fair Lenny was not lying at the start of the year! I got involved and I had great fun.

By Jack Marnell, TY

4DL prepared 'West Side Story' and 'Mamma Mia' performances for their Arts week. Dance Teacher Molly McAllister who is also a past pupil of Newpark conducted choreography classes with the students. The students then put their sewing skills to the test and produced costumes using second hand clothes from charity shops.

By Ms Trudy Feighery

Arts Week Eile!



4KD went 'Under the Sea' for their Arts Week this November. The group transformed a glass courtyard space within the school building into a 'giant fishbowl'.

Sea Creatures of all kinds were painted onto the glass windows, and giant Mermaid costumes were made in the Art department. The students developed several 'sealife' dances in Drama which included mermaids, a seahorse, starfish, shark and a techno turtle. Students produced and recorded music to go with their dance in Music. The week culminated in a performance by the students. In the 'Giant Fishbowl', students performed their dances as their own music set the tone.

Thank you to TY Enterprise and Innovation students, Zoe Bell, Hannah O'Keeffe and Kaelyn Robinson for instigating and driving the idea of the installation in the Courtyard space, and to Mr Doyle for the 'giant fishbowl' idea!

By Ms Trudy Feighery

National Youth Orchestra



In July I went on my second trip across Ireland to Waterford as part of the National Youth Orchestra (NYO) of Ireland's Summer course. The NYO is an organisation which gathers players from all over the island of Ireland twice a year for two weeklong courses, ending with a series of concerts. This year, I was lucky enough to be a member of the orchestra's French horn section. There was a lot for us to do in the summer course, as we had a packed programme consisting of Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances, Strauss' four Last Songs, D'un Matin De Printemps by Lili Boulanger and Ballade in A Minor by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.



The NYO courses are always very busy. There are eight hours of rehearsals each day, punctuated by breaks and meals. At the end of the day there's a nightly evening activity such as icebreakers, films, quizzes or talent shows where music isn't considered a talent (for the majority of us it's a struggle to think of anything else!) Afterwards we have a few hours of free time to do extra practice or spend time with friends before lights out.

Though that may sound like a very intense practice schedule, the time spent in Waterford was just as much a social experience as a musical one. The college we were staying in had a swimming pool, football fields, a tennis court as well as a plethora of shops and takeaways within walking distance. It's safe to say that a lot of time was spent exploring the local town, getting takeaways and playing card games which got a little more intense than anticipated (I still have a mark from a particularly competitive game of Irish Snap).

The course lasted ten days including three concert days. Our first concert took place in Drogheda, the second in Waterford and the third in Cork. The final concert in Cork definitely had the biggest turnout, and a few of my friends from Dublin even travelled down to watch. I'd

definitely say it was the best out of the three.

Overall, my time in the National Youth Orchestra this Summer made some of my best memories of the year and I can't wait to go back for the winter course later this year.

By Rhea Flatley, TY

Chamber Choir Ireland



Over the summer, I was chosen to participate in a summer course for writing a four part choir piece. It took place over a month. I had online sessions with my mentor Norah Walsh. When we had finished our pieces, we went to the National Concert Hall and had our pieces professionally performed by Chamber Choir Ireland and professionally recorded.

My piece was called 'Die Erzählung', the German word for 'the narrative or the telling of a story'. I had recently come across a reference to the Irish Famine in a German book and particularly liked the phrase "*my tale is one of sorrow*". This was the inspiration for thinking about the idea and the power of a story.

Each voice part had a word that conveyed the typical emotions of a story: joy, sadness, peace, and love. A mix of fast, short quavers showed how quickly a story can change, and long, drawn-out semibreves demonstrated how it can be calm and peaceful at times.

I had never composed a piece before and did not have a broad knowledge of musical terms. But I learnt so much under the brilliant guidance of Norah Walsh. The biggest challenge for me was conveying my ideas on a score. My favourite part of the programme was our in-person workshop where I got to hear my piece come to life and listen to all the other fantastic compositions. It was an extraordinary experience, and I am very grateful to have been a participant.

By Holly Trainor, TY

Music Workshop



While I knew this was happening even before the 2022-23 school year ended, it was still surreal finding myself in the theatre one Wednesday morning, doing a PA/live sound workshop with Ms Fox's brother, Daniel Fox. I knew and enjoyed the band he plays bass in, the esteemed post-punk outfit Gilla Band.

I think I did alright in terms of not freaking out and asking for some kind of autograph to prove that I met this guy that I could show to my friends (other than me awkwardly talking about left-handedness and cables when it was obviously too early in the morning to commit to any kind of side conversation).



Other than that it was a very interesting workshop, and I got to miss the first two classes of the day, so I was happy. We learned about using the whole PA system, mic-ing up instruments, basically any kind of job to help make a sound

engineer or venue owner's life easier. We were taught how to properly wrap up cables, which is quite important for anyone who wants to work in live music. I still suck at it, though.

A highlight of the morning was when he gave advice about EQ-ing the PA to match the room's sound and speakers.

"It's a good idea to use a song that you're very familiar with", he said. Suddenly, we were listening to Danny Brown at ten in the morning, so it got pretty chaotic.

All in all, the workshop was important for me and the other musicians attending it. Many thanks to everybody involved!

By Finley Gleich TY

Korean Thanksgiving



Chuseok, the Korean Thanksgiving Day, fell on the 28th to 30th of September this year. To mark the occasion, Ms Lee's Korean class learned about the holiday and even tried on some traditional garments. Chuseok is one of the biggest celebrations in Korea, and people return to their ancestral hometowns to celebrate with family. This originated from farmers who gave thanks to their ancestors for a bountiful Autumn harvest.

Similar to Christmas in the West, there is a big emphasis on gift-giving. However, Koreans largely give each other food as presents. Songpeon is one such present, which is a traditional rice-cake. Curiously, SPAM is also one of the most popular foods. Families also take part in Charye, which is where people pray to their ancestors. Koreans also wear traditional clothing over the three days, known as Hanbok. This includes hats, robes, shirts and scarves. The class got to try these out for themselves, and were able to show them off in front of the school!

By Patrick Donaghy, TY

Portuguese



This module in Portuguese we made 'peteca', a toy from which badminton originated. We made them by cutting coloured foam in circles and stapling them together. We then put ripped up plastic bags and rice in the inside to make it squishy to hit. After that bit was done we decorated it with pom-poms and stickers to make them look pretty. They turned out really well and were really fun to play with.

Our teacher kindly made us a Portuguese chocolate biscuit cake for us which was so nice. I loved Portuguese, the teacher was so funny and nice. I'd highly recommend it for anyone thinking of taking it!

By Ruby Hogarty, TY

The Musical Extravaganza

While walking around Greystones in the Summer Ms Devis and I had a catch up and started talking musicals. It had been some time since Newpark had produced a musical, and I had so much fun soundtracking Romeo and Juliet last year, I thought we should give it a go. With Newpark turning 50 in 2023 we decided to celebrate with 50 years of musicals. The show included scenes from the 1970s to today. Musically it spanned so many genres: I knew it would be challenging, but in true Newpark style, so many talented students rose to the task.

A big thank you to the band who gave up countless lunchtimes, after school slots, and Friday mornings to bring everything together. A massive thank you to Mr Hughes for his piano support, Ms O'Mahony for her orchestration and general support, and Ms Scott for keeping a cool head — and agreeing to this crazy project! The show brought together so many aspects of the Newpark Community: music, drama, dance, stage craft, and art, and I hope the audience enjoyed it as much as we did putting it together.

By Ms Aoife Fox

It was a historic moment in many ways, celebrating Newpark turning 50 and also celebrating the wonderful collaboration of the Music and Drama department. This really was an EXTRAVAGANZA, full of lots of very memorable and entertaining songs and moments to encapsulate all that is fun about theatre but also all that can engage you emotionally. As always, the entire Newpark Community was involved, including students from all years and staff. Many thanks to everyone for their support and patience.

By Ms Cathy Devis

The Musical Extravaganza without a doubt lived up to its name. From the auditions to the week of the show it seriously was such an amazing experience I am so glad to have been a part of. When the actors auditioned, I don't think any of us knew exactly what we were getting into (in a good way). Once cast, we were given our songs. That was when we began to get a little glimpse at our show, each song so different to the next.

We started straight into musical rehearsals to make sure we could actually sing all these songs! We rehearsed during mid-term and that was the first time we all got together as a group and the first time we got to see the potential this show had. After mid-term it was go go go. Acting, dancing singing rehearsals week in





and week out. That was one thing I loved about this, we got to do so much, the show was so varied and we got to learn new skills as we rehearsed.

But suddenly we were two weeks out and the nerves started to kick in. All of us half doubting we could pull it off. But after a few shaky run throughs, the musical extravaganza started to really take shape. And then we added the band, the lights, the sound, the make-up and the costumes and magically we had a show. I loved watching all the other acts and seeing just how amazing they were and the talent that was on that stage. The week of the musical was such a fun filled blur and went by too quickly. It was so much fun to bond with others and different years and to just do what we all loved on the stage. An extravaganza is defined as an elaborate and spectacular production which I would like to hope is what we presented on that stage. And of course, none of this would have been remotely possibly without the dedication of Ms Devis, Ms Fox, Ms Scott, Ms Johnston, Ms O'Mahony and everyone else who helped us make it happen.

By Hannah Clabby, 5th Year

What a show! When asked to be in the band for the musical, reminiscing about my experience with last year's *Romeo & Juliet*, I said "absolutely!"

Soon enough, I was cursing myself for joining. The problem was simple: I hated musicals. Early practices on Friday and rehearsal upon rehearsal made me want to tear my hair out, but that was no excuse not to carry on, everybody was doing their part to make this extravaganza the best it could be.

My reluctant and critical shell, naturally, started to wear away as my free days were taken up by nothing but rehearsals upon rehearsals. As I forgot how to sleep in, I started to look around and appreciate the insane amount of work put into the show. Soon I was appreciating the music, too.

My favourite performances tended to be the ones where I wasn't playing guitar, such as the mind-numbingly complex, comedic and beautiful dissonance of *Sweeney Todd's 'A Little Priest'* and the effortless charm and beautiful choreography of *La La Land's 'A Lovely Night'*.

As I packed my guitar away for the last time on that frigid Saturday night, I realized that, yes, I had changed. Maybe, musicals were a little more bearable.

So go out and try something new, you may even end up liking it!

By Finley Gleich, TY

The Short Plays 2024



In an extraordinary burst of energy, creativity and productivity, the annual Short Plays came into being for one night only in front of a packed and enthusiastic audience on the 18th of January.

Each year these short plays are written, directed, produced and acted by members of the Newpark community: students past and present, staff and family members. Scripts are submitted and recruits gathered before Christmas to create the directing teams and cast each play. After Christmas they have ten days to rehearse and prepare. The dress and technical rehearsals are one off marathons where stage crew, sound and lighting work with directors to add all of the production elements.

This year there were twelve plays—more than ever before. With seventy actors, more than thirty writer/directors and a fantastic production and support crew, this was a great tribute to Newparkers' creativity and enthusiasm and an amazing logistical feat coordinated and produced by Cathy Devis with David Smith and their back-up team.

We were treated to an eclectic and dazzling array of plays with writers and directors from third year upwards showcasing their work. Past students Adam Boland (a regular writer for this event) and Kevin Maguire (a newbie this year) wrote scripts and parent Daniel Kowalsky co-wrote with Ruby Creighton Kowalsky.

From an escape room to the after-life reception, a host of memorable characters including Evil Elon, Can Man,

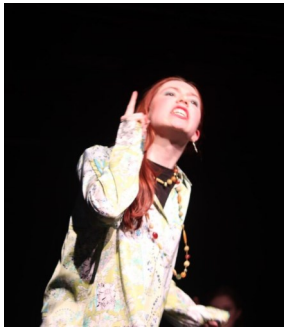
15 Minute Hamlet



Sid Knapper and the chilling Bully Chad brought us through a thoroughly enjoyable and utterly bizarre night at the Hunter Theatre.

Huge congratulations to all involved.

By Ms Anna Johnston



Despite the lack of the usual senior cycle drama production this year, the Hunter Theatre wasn't left empty. With the brilliant direction of Ms Devis, a group of Sixth Year students put on an exclusive performance of '15 minute Hamlet'; a comedic and concise summary of Shakespeare's 'Hamlet.'



Not only did this performance act as a last 'hoorah' for the drama students, (as it was one of our last opportunities to perform on the Newpark stage before the Leaving Certificate) but it also acted as an excellent revision aid for our upcoming exams. This was an extremely valuable experience and managed to add fun and laughter to a year full of stress, and was enjoyed by everyone involved.

By Seirian Nalty, 6th Year

An Chos Eile by Sean Mac Dhonnagain

I recently had a wonderful opportunity to go the Axis in Ballymun to see an Irish play directed by a past pupil Em Ball (2014). This play focused on the experience of a gay GAA player dealing with the fallout of being forced to come out to his GAA team. It was a poignant play brilliantly directed and starred another past pupil Oliver Flitcroft (2018 and recent Lir graduate) who spoke Irish eloquently and added a huge amount of humour to the play with his sensitive portrayal of a GAA player whose friends are gay.

Not only was this production directed by and starring past pupils but Olivia Drennan (2016) was the production manager and in the audience was Katie Killarney (2019). It was a lovely mini-reunion for Newpark Drama.

By Ms Cathy Devis



London Calling!



On Drama:

This September 5th and 6th years of Newpark had the privilege of visiting the home of Big Ben, Tower Bridge and serious guys with big hats, London Town!

The trip was jam packed with copious amounts of activities, from a Mamma Mia musical workshop to the Natural History museum.



This was deemed an Art/Music/Drama Trip, and the drama aspect of the trip certainly delivered. As soon as we landed on British soil, we rushed off to the centre of London to take part in a Mamma Mia! musical workshop. Despite time constraints, we still managed to learn a whole song and dance, thanks to the amazing choreographer and some very enthusiastic piano, everybody was belting about their ex who was engaged all along and attempting to shimmy. Later that day we all got to see Mamma Mia! live in the West End! Although we already knew all their secrets it still left many students speechless, with the actors' incredible displays of powerful singing and the Scottish accent.

The next day we got real insight into theatre in London as we visited the Globe theatre, the old haunt of our good friend William Shakespeare. We started off with a

very interesting tour of the grounds (Did you know it was originally built 200m from where it is now!?!?) from our very kind guides, who then gave us a workshop on acting in Shakespeare's plays, specifically with King Lear. We tried out lots of different fun exercises, such as imposing an imperial hierarchy using playing cards and one of our students bossing around our poor gentle guide. Everyone had loads of fun and really appreciated the insightful experience.



Finally, to top it off some students got to see a Shakespeare play live in The Globe! "As You Like It" was a whimsical love story involving a lot of cross dressing and singing, which we always like to see and was a great end to our a Shakespeare filled day.

Massive Thank you to Ms Devis for organising the trip and all the teachers who kept us alive on the trip!

By Noinin Cooling, 5th Year

On Music:

Nothing says 'Newpark School Trip' like meeting your teachers at 4am in the airport to catch a flight to London in a few hours. This trip seemed to sneak up on all of us in a matter of seconds and suddenly we were on a coach driving into London. Our first glimpse of the city was of Big Ben in the distance. That was when the trip started to feel real. We were in London!

The music students first went to a Mamma Mia workshop where we got a real taste for life on Broadway. We learned a dance to the iconic Mamma Mia song and sung along too. It was so much fun! After this we met up with the art students and had some time



In the evening a group went to watch a Korean Dance Performance. It was definitely unique... and I don't think we will ever see something like that again but we were all in awe of their talent. On the final day a group of us went to the V&A which was such a unique museum, with fashion, musical displays, musical instruments, stained glass, photography and much more.

To round up our time in London we spent the afternoon in the beautiful Bricklane Market filled with food and unique crafts.

to explore the streets of London. Later on after our dinner and a quick trip to Buckingham Palace we all got to go and see Mamma Mia the Musical. I think it's safe to say it was one of the highlights of the trip. We were mesmerized by the talent that graced the stage. It was such an amazing show that I don't think any of us will forget. The next day we travelled to The Globe where we had a tour of the amazing space and then a King Lear workshop. Our tour guide was amazing and made the whole experience so immersive. After that we rushed off to the Royal Albert Hall. And we were so so lucky. During our tour we got to sit in the VIP boxes and watch the BBC concert orchestra rehearse for a screening of Lord of the Rings. We were in awe of how amazing they sounded. As music students it was so inspiring to watch them and it was such a special experience. After this we paid a visit to the Royal College of Music where we got to see some very old instruments. There was also a room with some musical instruments and safe to say Ms Johnston and Ms Fox got some peace and quiet while we all escaped up there to play them.



Overall the London Trip was such an amazing experience. As a music student I was so grateful for all the opportunities handed to me and was so inspired by what I saw. I think it's safe to say we all fell in love with London and definitely didn't want to leave. Finally, this trip wouldn't have been possible without the teachers who managed to deal with all of us for three days, Ms Fox, Ms Johnston, Ms Feighery and Mr Kirwan. And a huge thank you to Ms Devis who made this entire trip possible!

By Hannah Clabby, 5th Year



On Art:

Art, Music and Drama Students from 5th and 6th year went on a trip of a lifetime to London in September 2023. Our three days were spent visiting the top attractions including galleries, theatre and sightseeing. Buckingham palace, National Portrait Gallery, a tour and drama workshop at The Globe Theatre, Korean dance at the truly bizarre Barbican Centre, Mama Mia, the V&A, Natural History Museum, Imperial War Museum, Tate Modern, Covent Garden and Brick Lane market. Thank you to Ms Devis who planned, organised and realised such a jam-packed and truly wonderful trip.

By Ms Trudy Feighery

Limerick Art Trip (EVA)



unusual. However, I believe that it was beneficial for us to see thought-provoking work that we would not have seen otherwise.

There was one exhibit that I am sure everybody who went on the trip would agree was the most memorable experience. There was a room filled with large, oddly shaped, white deflated balloons that surrounded a TV screen on the floor. There was a strange comedy sketch on the TV. Throughout the sketch the balloons would randomly inflate one by one. It is something that I think everybody should experience for themselves.

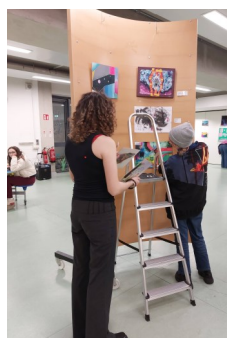
Overall, it was an enjoyable experience and a wonderful opportunity to both explore the city of Limerick and to see unique art that I would never have seen if it were not for this trip. I would highly recommend this trip to anyone who has an interest in visual art.

By Benjamin Clarke, 6th Year

6th Year Art Exhibition



On Monday the 4th of December, Transition Year and 6th year art students collaborated in an art exhibition consisting of a collection of pieces that have been worked on over the last three months. A range of styles were experimented with, with a wide variety of abstract painting techniques being used by both years, along with acrylic transfer, paint markers, watercolour and more.



Ms Feighery and Ms Jones helped the students compose the space in the GPA to display our art pieces, and tried to give our exhibition an authentic feel, one where it is encouraged to walk around and look into each piece. The students were also given the opportunity to name, describe and sell their piece, with the

money going towards Oxfam's Gaza Crisis Appeal. Teachers, students, parents and more who came to look around our exhibition were welcomed with hot

On Thursday, the 12th of October, art classes from both 5th and 6th year made the journey down to Limerick City Centre to view and experience the 40th EVA International exhibition that ran from the 31st of August to the 29th of October 2023.

EVA is Ireland's biennial international art exhibition. It takes place in Limerick every 2nd two years. It is a display of diverse types of art from many different artists from around the world. This year it showcased 57 artists across 17 different venues throughout Limerick.

On this day, we visited five venues. These included; The Coach House, Limerick City Gallery of Art, The Commercial, The Grove and Ormston House. I believe that by having the exhibitions spread across several venues, it helped to make the day feel more like a trip as we were



able to get a feel for the city as well as the art on display. It helped us get to know the city and get a glimpse into its culture.

Within each of the venues, there were wonderful tour guides that guided us through the different showcases and explained the backgrounds behind the different pieces of art.

We were also left to our own devices to view the art by ourselves so that we could develop our own opinions on it. I found that some of the exhibitions were quite

chocolate and various pastries, all taken care of by the students.



The unanimous effort put into this evening by the students and teachers was all worth it, with a sense of pride and independence left with the students as they displayed and sold their work. Thanks again to everyone who was involved with the exhibition!

By Mea Gigon, 6th Year

The Glanville Art Prize



The Glanville Art Prize was instituted in memory of Jane Glanville who was a tireless supporter of the comprehensive and community school sector and champion of the comprehensive schools under Church of Ireland patronage. Jane was also a member of the Newpark Comprehensive School Board of Management for many years.

This year Newpark 5th year Luke Conaghan won the Glanville Art Prize with his piece “Progress”.

Luke had this to say about his piece “When I was approaching the theme of “Living the Dream” I was fascinated by the idea of achieving the dream never truly being as fulfilling as chasing it. In order to explore this idea, I depicted the change in environment experienced by one road as it’s been developed over time. The road was originally a safe quiet area that was brought to life by nature and the people who inhabit it. That peaceful scenery was eradicated for the grand purpose of living the dream. The land has been moulded to accommodate human comfort and ideals but in return the once calm countryside was killed. Now that the sky is blotted out by uncaring concrete we’re left with the question “Is this really the dream we wanted to live in?”

By Mr Kevin Kirwan

Poetry Aloud

In September Ms Keating and Ms Fullam gathered a group of students from all years with an interest in poetry. Hannah Clabby reports below.



This year I have taken part in the Poetry Aloud competition. The first round was online, so in September I submitted a video of myself reciting a poem. I honestly didn’t think anything would come of it and was very shocked when I discovered I had made it through to the semifinals- which was an in-person round.

So, in November, I prepared the set poem for the senior category and went into the National Library where I recited it in front of three judges. Once again, I didn’t think much would come from this and was more than shocked when I was told I had made it to the final. Back in September, I had no clue I would get this far.

I am now preparing for the final where I have to recite two pieces of poetry. The first is In the memory of Eva Gore Booth and Con Marckieviez. The second is a poem I got to choose for myself: Rain - Birdswald by Frances Horovitz. I really love it and I’m really excited to say it!!

No matter what the result is, I am very happy and proud to have gotten this far and am looking forward to enjoying the day of the final and saying my poems!

By Hannah Clabby, 5th Year

Congratulations to Hannah on an amazing performance at the final on Friday 8th December. There were 360 entries from 65 schools across the entire island of Ireland and Hannah was one of only 23 finalists. She’ll go for it again next year!

The event was compered by Niall McMonagle and judged by Dr. Audrey Whitty (Director, NLI), Professor John Fitzgerald (Head Librarian in UCC) and Anne Tanner (Poet in Residence for Poetry Ireland).

Keep your ears open in September for next year’s Poetry Aloud competition.

Ms Amy Keating

The Gold Week Festival



This year Gold Week broadened its horizons by expanding the annual fundraiser to include two cake sales, a sea swim, Childhood Cancer Guest speaker, K-pop dance workshop, a dress up Gold day and a wonderful Gold Show. I'd like to congratulate the fantastic TYs who made this festival happen and raised over €3000 for Childhood Cancer Ireland. This charity is close their hearts as it helped their dear friend Mia Seligman and her family when she was sick. Mia sadly passed away two years ago and the TYs have kept her memory alive with this annual event. She'd be very proud of all that you have achieved so far.

By Ms Cathy Devis



The Gold Show

The Gold Show was a talent show that the Gold Week team decided to introduce to Newpark as part of Gold Week 2023.

Organising this show was a task that I decided to take charge of and the whole process was pretty stressful, especially since we didn't have very long until the day of the show. However, I was able to rely on the team and a



few of the teachers, who supported us greatly and a big weight was taken off our shoulders. It was amazing to see everyone working together and there were so many people who wanted to participate and showcase their talents.



On the day, I was quite nervous about how it would go but all our hard work paid off in the end and the Gold Show was a big success! The atmosphere was lovely, the audience was buzzing and our performers gave brilliant performances. There was a large variety, from dancing to singing and even some DJ-ing from one of the past pupils, and everyone enjoyed every bit of it.



Overall, organising a talent show was much harder than I thought but despite this, everyone did such an amazing job and people got to show off and appreciate each other's talents. I also couldn't have done this without the Gold Week team, Ms Devis, Ms Fox, Ms Scott and of course, our performers. I'm very proud of everyone and I hope we get to bring the Gold Show to next year, but make it even better.

By Shiloh Barrio, TY

Newpark Dress-Up Day for Unicef



On the last day of School before the Halloween Mid-term break, the Cultural Council upheld our annual tradition of hosting the Dress-up competition. This competition is a battle of creativity and teamwork, as contestants strut the runway in their costumes and compete for the Trophy.

This year, the competition consisted of three categories: Best Group, Most Original and Most Iconic. We had a very successful turnout for entries into the competition and everyone had a lot of fun which was what it was all about.

As this dress-up day is a non-uniform day, the Cultural Council do money collections from every student as well as donations from staff members for a charity of our choosing. This year, we decided to focus on the charity UNICEF, and specifically giving our funds to helping children in countries affected by war. We also hosted a bake sale earlier that week to raise funds which was very successful. We are very pleased that altogether, we raised €696.65 for UNICEF. Thank you for everyone in the school community who participated and made a donation.

By Seth Vella-Murphy, 6th Year



Seisiún Ceoil

Since the start of this year, myself and many other talented musicians have gotten together to play traditional Irish music. It takes place every Monday in G4.

We started this club because we wanted to learn about traditional Irish music. We play all types of pieces (reels, jigs, hornpipes etc.) and are always trying to learn something new. If you are at all interested you should come in to a Seisiún, even if you don't have any musical background—all are welcome.

Slán libh agus go raibh míle maith agaibh.

By David McGovern, 5th Year

Cumann Gaelach

This term marked the beginning of Irish Club in Newpark. When Rachel O' Sullivan and I first came up with the idea, we weren't sure if we could make it happen. The stakes were high. If we succeeded, we could go down in Newpark History. If we failed, we would be shunned by our friends and colleagues. We decided that if we were going to fill this gap in the extracurricular activities list, we would need the help of someone very experienced in the ways of the Irish language, famous for her seanfhocail; *"Don't be sorry, just ná déan é"*, the one and only, Ms Ní Laoghaire. The first week, we were terrified, we had no choice but to bring younger students into G3 with the promise of sweets and a lunchtime they would never forget. Afterwards, we knew that it was a success because as soon as we started speaking the Irish language, they did not run away. I believe the passion of my colleague, Rachel, was the reason for this. She spoke with such sincerity, passing down her wisdom gained from her old age to younger students through the medium of pictionary. She said some words I will always keep in mo chroí go deo; *"Tír gan Teanga, Tír gan anam"*. Truly, you will not have a more beautiful Thursday lunchtime experience than in Irish club. There were even tears of joy shed on that first Thursday. There is no greater joy than the joy spread trí mheán na Gaeilge.

Club Gaeilge: Thursday lunchtimes. Message Charlotte Wride or Rachel O'Sullivan to be added to the Team. Bígí linn!

Is mise, le meas.

By Charlotte Wride, 6th Year

Debate Club



This year in debate club we hit the ground running. We started the year by discussing interesting and topical subjects like, whether Irish should be mandatory, are apology videos are effective, whether the arts should be funded over science and so much more. We hope in the coming year to build up to having full-scale debates and improve our debating skills

with hopes of entering debate competitions soon. If you have an interest in debating, are very good at arguing, or have a pulse come on down to M4 on a Tuesday where you will receive a rapturous welcome.

By Joss Brooks, 3rd Year

Badminton

Badminton club is doing better then ever with a record high number of members! But still there is room for more! If you are available on a Monday big lunch why not pop over to the PE hall and play a game, no need to sign up. Badminton club is run by me, Rui Faria, and supervised by the fantastic Ms Cameron.

Thank you very much to all of the badminton club members for making it such an enjoyable club to run and thank you to Ms Cameron for keeping badminton safe (no-one has been injured... yet).

By Rui Faria, 5th Year

Lego Club



Lego Club is a fun yet relaxing society, and always aims to hold a safe atmosphere for its members—and newcomers!

In Lego Club we have boxes of Lego bricks for you to build whatever you want. We also hold a competition at the end of the school year, to win prizes! We welcome everyone from all years—hope to see you soon!

By TakiTora Sé BouAynaya and Jacob Vaughan, 2nd Year

Dance Club



This year, myself and Tuathla have inherited the Newpark dance club. We loved the club last year and decided that we would revive it this year and make it better than ever. We're on every Thursday lunchtime in the theatre and we do plenty of styles of dance, with everything from hip-hop, to pop, to country line dancing!

I'll be the first to admit that running a club is much harder than I thought it would be but Tuathla and I have big plans for the rest of this year and we can't wait to (hopefully) see you there!

By Allegra Zipser, TY

Newpark Jazz Appreciation Society

Nestled deep within the M corridor, one may stumble upon the magical M3. Usually, the site of Mr Daly teaching, each Tuesday lunchtime it's taken over by a ramshackle tribe of jazz appreciators. Huddled about a speaker, like our ancestors huddled about a fire, warming ourselves with saxophonic reverberations and the tinkling of ivory, heading out to the plains to hunt down jazz mammoths.

So, if you love jazz, or you really like being in M3, come on down Tuesday lunchtimes. And a big thank you to Mr Daly for letting us use his room.

By Oscar Schmidt, Co-Founder, 5th Year

Dungeons and Dragons Club

At D&D club we play "Dungeons and Dragons" which is a very popular role-playing game. We currently meet every Tuesday in the T16 art room. You don't need any skill or experience as we will teach you everything that you need to know. We also have all the equipment you need so don't worry about that either. We hope to see you soon.

By Oscar McGowan, 2nd Year



Crochet Club



Crochet and Knitting Club is for those who already love these crafts and want to swap ideas with others and also for any who would like to learn something new - all are welcome! You don't need to have any previous experience. I help to the best of my ability.

You don't need even do crochet if you just want to eat your lunch while crafting goes on around you. We have some hooks and wool to get started with if you don't have your own.

Contact Grace Patterson 6VC or come along to T9 on a Friday lunch time.

By Grace Patterson, 6th Year

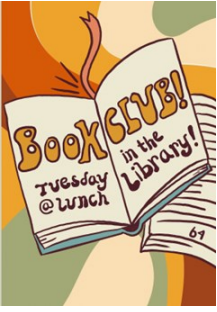


Chess Club

Friday Lunchtime

M6

Book Club



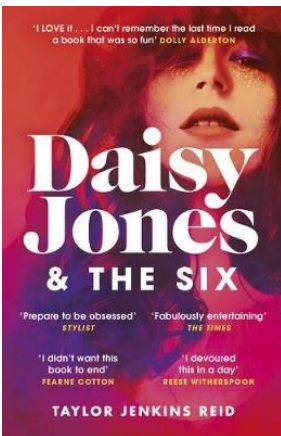
The Newpark Book Club meets in the library on Tuesday lunchtimes every week. During our meetings we discuss the book we, as a group, are reading and other works of literature or authors we're fond of. This year we've read Taylor Jenkins-Reid's *Daisy Jones & the Six* and made a start on Mary Shelley's chilling work of gothic fiction, claimed to be the "most famous piece of horror ever written to still be relevant in today's society," *Frankenstein*.

Our club is not limited to those who may not be the most avid readers or fanatics of literature, but open to anyone who wishes to join. If at any stage, you might think it's too late to join, just keep an eye on our notice board in the M corridor that has current updates on what we're reading so you can join when we start a new book. Our club is always open to new members and hopes to see new faces.

By Tom Farragher, 3rd Year

Newpark Bookclub Reviews

Daisy Jones and The Six



This book is a fictional story about a 70s rock band, a time when the main things people worried about were drugs, love and music. I think the story itself is realistic and gripping, which makes you feel like you are there with the band themselves.

The story is about a girl named Daisy Jones, a beautiful and mature young woman who has been involved with some shady people for most of her life. Her parents who ignore and forget about her, she herself, who's away from the home all the time, always high or drunk on something since she was young. About her life with her friend Simone, record labels, her rise to fame and her love of music.

It's also about the band The Six, who became completely world famous. It's about the members struggling with love and leaving drugs for family, or losing the ones they love. It's about loving someone who doesn't love you, people's passion for music, being yourself, and how limiting and difficult rock can be.

The author, Taylor Jenkins Reid (author of other acclaimed books such as *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, *One True Loves* and *Malibu Rising*), knew what she was doing when she wrote this book, which according to Google was liked by 93% of people, including myself. The characters she created were realistic and relatable, with stories that any person could relate to. The rawness of the characters Billy Dunne and Daisy Jones in particular is well written. The book is about their dynamic, and what it was like for the band and Daisy to work together.

Even though the story was centred around Billy and Daisy for a large part of the book, the other characters were not forgotten and everyone had great dialogue. If any character didn't have many lines for a while, there would always be a reason for it later in the book. The characters' love of music also seems very real, and the book never strays too far from the fact that the story is about music, and the lives of people so involved in it. We can feel the same feelings as the characters, and I think that's really important.

What I liked most about the book were the characters, especially how the side characters were written. My favourite character interactions were between the characters you wouldn't expect. I loved that under the surface, everyone was portrayed so realistically, and it seemed like the characters really cared about each other. I liked the dedication to music production in the book, the parts about writing music the making it, how in sync everyone has to be to create music and how not everyone likes the same genres or styles.

There was even a section at the back of the book where the author wrote the lyrics to all the songs the characters wrote in the book!

One thing I didn't like was that sometimes the story would stick to the same problem for too long. It's understandable as to why, but can get reportative. I thought the format of the book was strange at first, because the book was written like a play script, with the names of the characters and a piece of dialogue following it. A lot of people liked it that way, but it took some time for me to get used to. If the lines were very lengthy, it was difficult to read an entire piece of dialogue from just one character, as they went on for way too long, making it hard to understand/read.

I think it was an absolutely fantastic book that I would recommend for anyone to read. Especially people interested in the genre of rock music! I would definitely read the book again.

By Tora Groarke, 3rd Year

Trip to Malahide Castle

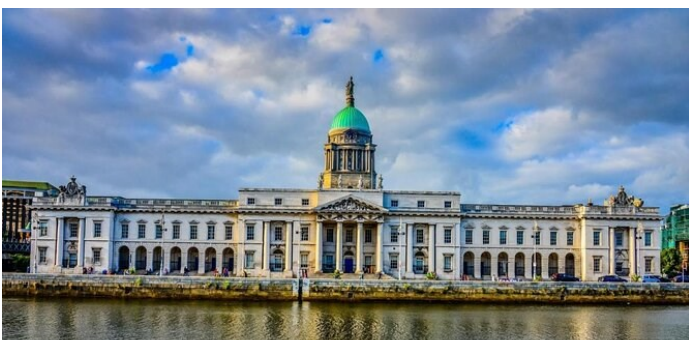


On Monday the second of October we went to Malahide castle. We went on the Dart. We started off by visiting the butterfly house. It was very hot in

there. We then went into the gardens for the tour of the castle at half past twelve. I liked the view of the castle. We then went to the Dart.

By Jonathan Manning, 3rd Year

The Custom House Trip



On the 23rd of October, we went to the Custom House and had a tour of the building. It was very informative: I liked the fact that as a protest against the building of the Customs House, a merchant paid a mob to riot with ginger ale and bread. The plan was to stop the building from going ahead, but the rioters drank the ale before rioting and started swimming in the foundations of the building!



We also learned about how it was set on fire during the civil war. All I can say is that the IRA members who set the custom house on fire

were very meticulous to burn all the documents.

After the quick tour of the building, we went to McDonald's and I ordered a milkshake. It was surprisingly filling, but I was unhappy because of how long it took to be prepared. After that, we went to the Lego shop, and I saw some very interesting sets and sculptures. I really liked the trip and I was able to learn a lot about the Customs House.

By Ben Carey-Smith, TY

A Marvelous Trip



On the 20th November we all went on a trip to see the Marvels movie in Dundrum cinema. We all met at the Red Brick at 8:50 and left to walk to Stillorgan at 9:20. Before we went on the bus to take us to Dundrum, we went to both Dealz and Tesco to buy treats for the cinema.

We made our way to the bus stop and got on the bus, then we got off the bus at Dundrum, and before seeing The Marvels movie we got to have time to look around Dundrum. We went to a café in Dundrum to have break. So, I decided to go to McDonalds and bring it back to the café there at ate my McDonalds meal there. Then we finally watched The Marvels movie. I'm not going to say what happened in it because I would just spoil it for everybody—but I enjoyed it!! Instead of getting the bus back we were collected by Mr Breden who drove us on the school bus back to Newpark. We loved the movie and I really loved the trip quite a lot.

By Andrew Russell, TY

Gifted!



We went to the Gifted Christmas Fair in the RDS on Wednesday 6th of December. We were given free tickets from the organizer Patrick O'Sullivan.

We got there on the number 4 bus. I bought Christmas cards. I would have liked to stay longer. We were given a link for free tickets for next year. I can't wait to go back.

By Ethan Webb, 1st Year

Christian Union



We have had a very busy start to this school year in Christian Union. We are delighted that Charlotte Wride has taken leadership of the CU this year, ably helped by a group of 4th and 5th years. We are also delighted to welcome some new 1st years to the group.



A typical meeting involves chatting while eating our lunch and chocolate biscuits followed by a game and a talk by one of our senior members. It is a great way to get know students from other

years in the school. But, most weeks aren't typical, and there always seems to be something going on!



Highlights from the first term have to be our trips. We had our annual weekend away in Ovoca Manor in Co. Wicklow with the CUs from Temple Carrig School and East Glendalough School. Activities ranged from group games, a nighttime bonfire, talent show and walking to the village for fish and chips on Saturday. We loved having our own Ms Harris who is now rector of the local church as our speaker for the weekend and to have



some past pupils back to help out. It was also great getting to know students from our two sister schools.

Our next trip was delivering our Team Hope Christmas shoeboxes to the sorting centre in Greystones. It was brilliant seeing all the toys, clothes, sweets etc going into the hundreds and hundreds of boxes and thinking of a child somewhere in the world

opening them on Christmas morning. In December we were also busy practising for the carol service and carol singing in Stillorgan aid of Christian Aid.

We have loads planned for this year and new members are always welcome.

By Ms Charis Rowan

Christian Union meets every Monday lunchtime in T11. It is a great place for students to find like-minded people and a safe space to talk about faith openly. We welcome everyone, whether Christian or just interested in learning more. Our weekly meetings consist of games, snacks, chats, prayer and talks from students and guest speakers. This term, we went carol singing at Stillorgan shopping centre for the charity Christian Aid and we helped out at the Team Hope shoebox sorting centre.

This year marked the revival of the CU weekend away at Ovoca Manor post COVID. We had a lovely weekend with the Christian Unions from Temple Carraig and East Glendalough. It was really nice to have Rev. Suzanne Harris, the former chaplain, speaking to us throughout the weekend about being part of God's Team. The talent show was a hit, with spectacular dancing from our own Christian Union and a special guest appearance from Elvis Presley. A highlight of mine was the small groups and the walk to Avoca town. Overall, everyone had a great time and it was a great opportunity for bonding as a group as well as making new friends. It was so great to return to Ovoca Manor in my last year, it was definitely an experience I will cherish in years to come. Thank you to Ms Rowan who made it happen, and for the Christian Union for making it such a memorable experience.

By Charlotte Wride, 6th Year

On Pilgrimage



On Thursday 26th of October, all of 2nd Year took the bus to Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly. We left the school a little after nine on two buses. The bus ride was around an hour and a half long but it was all worth it when we started the pilgrimage. In total, we walked nearly 6km and it took exactly 56 minutes for the students in the middle of the group, but it felt like less. On the way, we saw lots of cows and tractors and we were very lucky as the weather was perfect for the walk. When we reached the site, we were all hungry, so we sat down for some food.

Firstly, our group went inside to watch a short film on the history of Clonmacnoise. In the video, we learned it was founded as a monastery by St Ciaran on the banks of the River Shannon in the 6th Century. Then the other group watched the video while we took a guided tour around the site.

As we were eating our lunch, two dogs came up to us and were very friendly. Sadly, soon after, we had to take the bus back to school!

We had been learning about Pilgrimage in World Beliefs class for a few weeks and it really helped us to finally do some sort of pilgrimage in person. Throughout the journey, we were thinking about the pilgrims over the centuries and how they must have felt, especially when they finally arrived at their destination. Pilgrims associated with different world religions have been doing this for millennia in different locations worldwide and we are very happy we got the chance to do the pilgrim walk to Clonmacnoise ourselves!

Thank you to the bus driver for putting up with us and to the teachers for organising and taking the time to go on this journey and making it possible.

*By Róisín McDonnell-Scheer and Hazel O' Donohue,
2nd Year*

1st Years Silently Raise Sponsorship

Twenty 1st years participated in the annual sponsored silence, this year raising funds for Ndiini School Food Programme and Newpark Student Support Fund. Students had to remain silent for twelve hours on Wednesday 18th of October and had a pass to let teachers know that they couldn't speak that day. A grand total of € 1176.30 was raised; the highest amount raised by one student was a fabulous € 205, collected by Freya McDonagh-Cunningham, 1NRR so she won a prize. Well done to everyone who participated on the day.

By Ms Amy Keating

Christmas Jumper Day

In aid of Purple House .



LCA Coffee Morning



Congratulations to our LCA students on a very successful coffee morning in aid of Our Lady's Hospice Blackrock. An amazing €580 was raised. Thanks to all who donated and supported, great to see some familiar faces come to visit!

Foróige



In Newpark, the Foróige Leadership for Life Programme is optional in TY as part of community action. It is run by Ms Devis and Ms Achari who acted as our mentors for all of the modules. The programme consists of three modules which must be completed in order to get the full qualification.

Throughout all the modules, a journal documenting what you have done in each must be completed. You go into detail of the various activities, presentations and projects which are required. In the first module, a lot of team building games, testing out various leadership roles and brainstorming ideas of how you can benefit your community are done. Various topical issues, such as the environment, sports, politics and even clubs in school are looked at. At the end of the module, the students give a brief presentation stating their rough plan for what they can do to benefit the community. That can be setting up a new club in school, organising a sports activity with your football team and much more.

In module two, we looked beyond our community and researched an issue and gave a presentation on it in a group. In module two there is a lesser focus on the leadership games and activities, but they are still present. We could research anything of our choosing, be it homelessness, the healthcare system or even the environment.

Finally, for module three we had to conduct a community action project. Within this module we were challenged to think of something that we could do to make a difference in our community and then achieve it. The requirements for this were that we had to do twenty hours, and document the entire process, from planning to completion. This was the most tiring but the most enjoyable part of the entire course. We finally had an opportunity to go out into the world and use our leadership skills that you have spent the past two modules building up.

Alice Wolsey, Jake Sweeney and I completed all three modules with the wonderful guidance of Ms Devis and Ms Achari, who gave us advice and feedback every step of the way. Each of us decided on different projects for our module 3 community action project. I coached swimming for Junior Cycle students, Alice directed a junior play, and Jake raised the profile for swimming in

his community, he wrote for the newsletter, volunteered for behind the scenes work at the Newpark swim gala, was captain at a Newpark swim gala and made a website for Swim Leinster.

On the 25th of November 2023, the graduation ceremony took place in the University of Galway, where the Level 6 qualification was awarded. It was so satisfying to finally get an award for all the hard work and commitment that we put into this course, plus the free sandwiches were a bonus. I would highly recommend Foróige to any TY considering it as an option for their community action as it has been an amazing opportunity for personal growth, leadership skills growth, and the level 6 qualification is higher than a leaving cert qualification and can be used in many ways throughout your education.

By Olivia Dockrell, 6th Year

Student Voice Conference



I have been on the Student Council for three years and I love public speaking. Three of last year's members, me, Silvia Ciulli (5th year) and Eva O'Donnell (6th year) were chosen to represent Newpark with an association called Student Voice, where we talk about problems in the education system and how we can fix them.

Last year we went to a Student Voice conference in Portlaoise. It was a very interesting experience and we have been involved since then. At a recent event in Dublin Castle, Silvia and I were facilitators. Schools from all over Ireland came. Pairs of facilitators from about twenty different schools were in charge of different groups discussing topics that we were given beforehand in the Zoom meetings. Our topic was assessment and we heard lots of different perspectives.

It was a very enjoyable event which was very much student led. It was a great opportunity to practice public speaking and also teaching and educating people from all ages—nearly all of them were older than me. It was a great experience and a lot of fun.

By Lily Hamilton, TY

The Cultural Council

The Cultural Council is a student run organisation consisting of club leaders and extra curricular representatives who meet on a monthly basis. This council oversees the smooth running of each of these areas while also organising events and fundraisers throughout the year.

This year the Cultural Council started with Freshers' Day back in September. This new event gave an opportunity to clubs and extra curricular activities to advertise specifically to 1st years as well as the rest of the school. Reps from all clubs were on hand to chat to all of the first years and promote their clubs. This was really successful with a rush of new members joining the various Culture and Sports clubs.



We also organised Halloween Week which consisted of a bake sale and the Halloween Dress Up competition. Most recently, we organised the Valentine's rose giveaway which consisted of a rose and a note that students could send to other students within the school.

Coming up next, we are continuing our recent tradition

of hosting the Newpark Variety show, which is a demonstration and celebration of our school community's talent.

We will continue to organise other fundraisers and events before the final exam school term to maintain the positive cultural within the school. We will of course continue to oversee and support the ECA clubs, and keep building the foundations for Next Year's Cultural Council, to continue our legacy within this school.

By Seth Vella-Murphy, 6th Year

Newpark Stands Up!



Stand Up! Week 2023 took place the week after midterm, the 6th – 10th of November. It's an anti-bullying week and this year's theme was "allyship", encouraging friendship and support of LGBTQ+ students by other students.

There were lots of events planned for the week - on Monday, we gave out Rainbow Pride stickers as people came into the school and on Tuesday, we had our annual "Gayke" Sale to raise funds for BeLonG To, a charity which works with LGBTQ+ youth, aged 10-24, aiming to create and generate safe spaces for LGBTQ+ young people and be an advocate for them in society. We raised €175.901 so thank you to everyone who baked and bought!

On Thursday, we had Karaoke in the GPA and on Friday, there was facepainting to accompany our Rainbow Jumper Day, where every year group was given a specific colour to wear. It was a great success – thank you to everyone who organised the different events, teachers who took the theme of this week into their classrooms and everyone who participated.

By Ms Amy Keating

PTA News



The PTA year started swiftly with the Debs reception where we welcomed parents and students from the class of 2023 before the students headed off on the bus to their Debs. It was a wonderful evening and the GPA was beautifully decorated with sustainable, pretty flowers. The students seemed to enjoy the 'photo wall' which was setup as a frame for their pictures. Also in September, members of the PTA helped serving cupcakes following the whole school assembly celebrating 50 years of Newpark's existence.

The AGM was held on the 11th of October, involving the outline of what was achieved throughout the last school year and explaining the PTA financial records, as well as an insightful presentation from Mr Norton regarding the upcoming school year.

As always, we were delighted to support the various funding requests including the highly impressive, student-led Model United Nations (MUN) conference, entitled 'PARKMUN'. It was really wonderful to see the students creating and engaging in such an incredible event. It was wonderful to see the various delegates from other schools engage and enjoy the conference! The PTA happily served the hungry delegates on the Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. We also supported the creation of the re-usable PARKMUN banner which was proudly displayed on the front entrance wall, the delegate award plates, the PARKMUN brochures and conference lanyards.

After the excitement of the MUN conference, we were all hands-on-deck for the Newpark Christmas Market. This is one of our largest fundraising ventures and is

widely anticipated. It was widely supported and the atmosphere was fabulous! Many thanks to the stallholders and local businesses who supported us – it is very much appreciated. We are planning an even bigger and better Christmas market for 2024!

In early December the PTA ran a study skills webinar which was presented by Student Enrichment Services. Feedback after the event was very positive and hopefully some of the hints provided have been put into practice!

In mid-December, we organised the refreshments for the school Christmas Carol Service. It was a wonderful evening, with the most beautiful music.

In early February we hosted the first-year parents' and guardians' social event which was a great success and well attended.

During the first term the PTA funded the digital display that now sits in the GPA and promotes various key school events and achievements. Additionally, we supported the ongoing expenses of the maintenance of the school minibus and subsidies towards the STEM Trinity Walton Club, first-aid supplies as well as specific requests such as extra radio microphones for the musical.

The PTA is a vibrant and active group and we are always looking for new members so if you are interested in joining, feel free to mail us at pta@newparkschool.ie and we can provide you with further details. Finally, thank you for your support and participation at events; it is through this support that we can continue to run and fund initiatives that benefit the school community throughout the year!

The Newpark PTA

Newpark Newsletter Issue 64

Editors: Anna Johnston and Lesley Ring

Cover Image: Dermot Byrne

Newsletter Team: Anna Johnston, Lesley Ring, Trudy Feighery, Cathy Devis, Amy Keating, Hannah Clabby, Finley Gleich, Sebastian McKay, Patrick Donaghy, Isobel Smiley, Nóinín Cooling, Mimi Reuland, Eli Donaghy, Charlotte Wride, Hannah McNally, Seth Vella-Murphy and Henry Simpson (photography).

Many thanks to Nicolas Reuland (Musical Extravaganza) and Kevin Kirwan (Short Plays) for drama photos.