



Loreto College Swords Newsletter Summer 2016



Change of Enrolment Policy

Please be reminded that the closing date for the receipt of applications for **2019** is **29th September 2017 at 2pm**

Welcome to Loreto Swords

'Our school recognises that each student is unique and has different gifts as well as differing needs; therefore our aim is to release the positive potential within each student by offering a relevant curriculum'. This is taken from our mission statement and I hope as you look through this newsletter you will read about the many interesting school events that have taken place in our attempts to make this statement a reality.

The primary barometer of school success remains the State Examinations. Excellent results were produced in both the Leaving and Junior Certificate, making us all extremely proud of the individual and collective achievements. This success has been helped, in no small measure, by the afterschool study facility which continues to prosper this year with almost 150 students participating at present. Great numbers of students also availed of 'Saturday Study' during January and May, as well as during the Easter vacation. This dedication is reaping rich dividends indeed.

The vibrant spiritual life of the school is reflected in the variety of services and liturgies which took place during the year: the Opening Mass, the Catholic Schools Week Gathering, Retreats, Reflections, Carol Singing, Morning Prayer, Mary Ward Week, Harvest Fest, Faith Fest, all supported by the choir. Faith is also expressed in action with the many charitable events that took place to raise awareness this year, with donations to the Shoe Box Appeal, Trocaire, SVP, Crosscare, DSPCA and Refugee Solidarity and in particular for World Youth Day. We hope that our students not only recognise and become aware of the plight of others, but that they become compassionate young women who will endeavour to assist others where possible.

We aim to promote the holistic development of all our students by offering a large selection of extracurricular activities from Basketball to Show Choir and from Club na Gaeilge to Chess. Students competed enthusiastically in numerous competitions from Poetry Recital and Rotary Leadership to Bake-off and Formula1. To further enhance student development, various trips were organised:- bonding days, outdoor pursuits trips, sports events and class trips to many different locations.

The Parents' Association, which fosters co-operation between school and home, has become a vital school vehicle. It continuously promotes the educational interests of the school including some very necessary fundraising events. During this year alone, the Association contributed substantially to the upgrading of student lockers and to the funding of transport to sporting activities. Thank you to the parents for supporting their initiatives and a reminder that they always welcome new members!

We encourage student involvement in decision making too, and in projects directed towards student welfare. To that end, the 5th and 6th Year Leadership Committee and Sports Captains were elected as well as the continuation of the Big Sister Programme. The Student Council remained active in addressing student issues and concerns. Emma O'Neill, as our Head Girl and Kathryn Anderson, our Deputy Head Girl, were excellent this year and we commend them for their efforts.

So much more happened this year, this being just a sample of a wider programme of events. Policies were reviewed and updated in light of new guidelines. Literacy, Numeracy and Attendance strategies were further developed within the school; a second Green Flag was secured for energy awareness and efficiency. Proclamation Day was a memorable day for the entire school community. A specific Week was dedicated to so many events such as: Modern Languages, Power of Positive Thinking, Reading and many more. All proved to be extremely rewarding, and were very well received by the general student body. The school has also started to draw up a legal agreement with St Finians GAA Club around the development and use of the school hockey pitch.

All of this was made possible primarily due to the commitment of our dedicated staff who strive tirelessly each day to support every student in the school. The parent body and Board of Management have also greatly contributed to the administration of the school. I hereby offer my sincere appreciation to all.

From a personal perspective, it is a great pleasure and privilege to work with such talented and enthusiastic students. Go n-éirí an t-ádh libh uile!

Much thanks and appreciation to all!

Mr Peter Macnamara



Ms. Sharon Gunn (Deputy Principal), Kathryn Anderson (Deputy Head Girl), Emma O'Neill (Head Girl), Mr. Peter McNamara (Principal)

A FLAVOUR OF 2016



2S 'Adopt a Panda' Cake Sale for the WWF



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal



SVP Food Box Appeal



5th Year Geography Trip to The Burren



Iceland Trip



2G/2S Trip to Butlers' Chocolate Factory



Sinead Fitzpatrick, Pearl Agada & Lauren Barrett prepared posters and information re. the flooding in Ireland over Christmas to show solidarity with the victims



Students making St. Brigid's Crosses



'Spelling Bee' champion Chloe Abijay 1S



2S Cake Sale for UNICEF



Aoife Whelan, 'Loreto Girl Poetry Competition' Winner. Right: Ms. Doherty (English Teacher) Left: Mr. Mulvihill (Year Head)



Dance-off for POPT Week



3rd Yr. Physical Education Trip to Carlingford



Keeva Moran 2Q Qualifier 'Poetry Aloud' Competition'

St. VINCENT DE PAUL

The SVP School Conference had another busy and successful year raising awareness of the valuable work of SVP as well as raising much needed funds for our local conference. The annual 'Christmas Food Hamper Appeal' was a great success with over a hundred bags collected. Denis Barry, our Area President was presented with the collection at our Carol Service and was very grateful for the generous donations from our students. We are also very grateful to the parents of Grace Snow 5th year for their continuing support of our food appeal through their generous donation of bags of potatoes.



We held an afternoon of entertainment for our Senior Citizens Group with beautiful singing, performances and dancing from the students. The evening was greatly appreciated by all. Members of our conference made a presentation to other school conferences on the work we do and this day in Lusk Community College was a great success with a booklet being produced by SVP Head Office showcasing our work and the launch of a school conference facebook page for all schools in North County Dublin.

We look forward to another busy and productive year next year. Many thanks to Ms. Sheelan for co-ordinating this group.

STUDENT COUNCIL



The Student Council has been very active again this year. Our year began with the annual Student Council seminar in Croke Park where we shared ideas with other Loreto schools. This year our school did a presentation on our work.

The Council raised €1,000 at Christmas with a 'Christmas Outfit' day. This money was given to 'Crosscare' to aid in the homeless crisis and also contributed towards the cost of our students' trip to Poland in July for World Youth Day. The council is continuing to review a healthy eating policy in our school and played an active role in 'Friendship Week' and 'P.O.P.T. Week'.

Our senior members attended the annual 'Cycle Against Suicide' event in the RDS.

Finally, a presentation was made to the Board of Management and to the Parents' Association on the role and function of the Student Council. Well done to Aoife Kearns, Regina Idowu and Unuhie Agbaje on a fantastic presentation.

We are very grateful to the Parents Association for their continued support and funding for the improvement of our school environment. So far, they have funded the Student Council's requests for new lockers, benches outside and new headphones and speakers for the computer rooms. We look forward to more new initiatives in the new school term.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING



As the academic year 2015/16 comes to a close, we look back at all that has been achieved over the year. It has been a busy year in the Guidance and Counselling department. Activities ranged from presentations and information evenings for Parents/Guardians to study skills sessions, Higher Options, aptitude testing, entrance examinations for new first years, subject choice fairs, and mock interviews. This year we also undertook a campus tour of DCU in April with our 5th year students. It was an engaging and informative day, giving our students a sense of what it is like to go to college.

A very positive day was spent with 21 senior cycle students at the 'Cycle Against Suicide' Student Leader's Congress in the RDS in January. The message of the Congress – "It's OK not to feel OK, and it's absolutely OK to ask for help", was supported by the work of our Transition year students for the 'Power of Positive Thinking Week'.

They organised a variety of activities during the week including poster making, music, positive post-it notes on all student lockers, reflections on the '5 a Day for Positive Mental Health'. Great fun was had by our sixth year and first year students as they engaged in a Dance-Off. This was followed up by a lunch time concert which focused on the area of positive mental health through dance, song, poetry and music. 'Teenline' gave talks to the first and fifth years. Four of our TY students, Ailbhe Mulvanny, Amy Herbert, Megan Mc Dermott and Sanda Rusu backed up these positive messages with a peer education programme which they trained for with Jigsaw, North Fingal. The girls went on to present the programme to 400 of our students here in the college.

The work carried out by these students supports the day to day activities of the Guidance Department, the Chaplaincy Department and the overall Pastoral Care philosophy of the school. We look forward to the next academic year ahead and all that it will bring.



CHAPLAINCY

The Chaplain supports all faith development initiatives, activities and fundraising that are part of life here in Loreto Swords.

The leadership group of Morning Prayer begin our school day with a reflection in the Oratory. On Tuesday mornings Mass is celebrated by Fr Eugene or Fr Des and we are very grateful that in such a busy parish they make this commitment to Loreto College and we are grateful for the presence of our 6th Years Eucharistic Ministers.



Members of the Morning Prayer Group

Fan into a Flame the Faith that is in you

was the theme chosen for this year's Opening Mass in September and the theme has been reflected during the year in many ways. Members of the Morning Prayer group attended two sessions of 'Faithfest' in Clonliffe College - an initiative supported by the Dublin Diocese. We are grateful to Garda Twyford for giving his time on two Friday evenings. Links with parish were highlighted with the participation of our students in both the parish 'Harvest Festival' in October and 'Catholic Schools Week' in January. Together with Loreto Swords, St Finian's parish is sponsoring our two students, both parishioners, who will join three million young people to meet Pope Francis in Poland in July. Two teachers will accompany them and act as guides for bigger groups.



Big Sister Programme

TRANSITION YEAR COMPUTERS

Transition Year computer class have had two speakers organised by Verify Recruitment. The talks were aimed at encouraging more girls to consider technology careers. Both presentations were given by past pupils, Jennifer Daly and Neasa Walsh who in their careers are very good female technology role models. The students found the talks interesting and inspiring and we thank these girls for giving their time. The class also had a speaker from Facebook who gave them great insight into the culture of the company and the variety of career opportunities available there.

ART



In October the 5th and 6th yr. Art classes went with Ms. O'Loughlin and Ms. Lacey for a guided tour of the National Gallery, Dublin, followed by a tour of the Neoclassic Casino building in Marino where they saw all the unusual features of this architectural gem.

In February the 5th yr. Art class went with Ms. O'Loughlin and Ms. Costello to the RHA Gallery to see 'The Foggy Dew' exhibition by Mick O'Dea. This was a wonderful collection of paintings and sculptures commemorating 1916. This was followed by 'Drawing on Location' in the Natural History Museum.

In April the 4T class went on a guided tour of the

National Gallery with Ms. O'Loughlin, Ms. Cronin and Ms. McGrath. The students really enjoyed this introduction to the gallery and the guides explained clearly the developments in Art over the centuries and how to look at paintings.

Three TY students, Amy Herbert, Sarah McLoughlin and Leah Fagan, entered the 'Junk Kouture' competition with their design 'Alumaniac'. The fantastic design was made entirely from recycled aluminium cans manipulated in a variety of different

ways. The girls were one of 1124 entries submitted from all over the country and successfully made it into the final 80. They first competed in the Eastern Regional Finals in The Helix where Amy Herbert had to model the costume and perform a routine choreographed by the team. The standard was exceptionally high but the team placed in the top 20 and were chosen to compete at the National finals. On April 14th the team and their teacher, Ms. Costello, travelled to the 3 Arena. It was an excellent show and the team's hard work was evident on the night, with a stellar performance by Amy and flawless hair and make-up by her team mates Sarah and Leah. Well done to the girls on all of their hard work!



BUSINESS

Congratulations to our students who received certification from Maynooth University for outstanding results in the Higher Level Business Studies exam in Junior Certificate 2016. They are Tara Droomgoole, Jordan Gibney, Tara Gleeson, Emily Harford, Jane Kirwan, Emma Louise Steele and Vanilla Nwojo, Thanks to their teachers Ms Dalton and Ms O'Dowd.

30 Business students from 5th year went to Dublin city centre to visit the Google offices. The students were guided through the offices on Barrow Street where they were shown all the departments and how the 'googlers' work in teams in "one of the world's best places to work". They then attended a presentation on how Google works. The students had a lovely day. Special thanks to Amy Caul for organising the trip.

Eleven 3rd years attended the BSTAI/CIMA Quiz in IT Tallaght on Wednesday, 11th November 2015. Well done to all the girls involved. We were delighted that both our teams finished in the top 15.



At Google: Ella Mooney, Naoise Sweeney, Emma Roddy, Eimear Rainey, Kerrie Leech, Emma Kinsella

2ND YEAR SKI TRIP



57 very excited students and 6 teachers left Dublin Airport on the 15th of March 2016 for a trip of a life time to Folgaria, Italy. We stayed in Hotel Irma in the village of Folgaria, high up in the Dolomites. Ski lessons were from 9am until 11am every morning, followed by a typical Italian lunch of pasta/pizza/salad We returned to the slopes and finished for the day at 3 o'clock. Over the 5 days, we all progressed to bigger and steeper slopes. It was hard work but great fun!

Everyday after skiing we had different activities to participate in. We did things like ice-skating, swimming, tobogganing and we also had a disco on St. Patrick's Day. Everybody really enjoyed the trip and were very sad to leave. Many thanks to all the teachers who accompanied us and particularly to Ms. Thompson who organised the tour.

MATHS WEEK



Maths Week gave the students of Loreto Swords wonderful opportunities to put their maths skills to the test with a wide variety of activities taking place.

Each morning the students were greeted with a puzzle which enabled them to tease their brains for the day, with many puzzles even beyond Google's capacity to solve! Students challenged themselves to the



Countdown Challenge at lunchtime with large numbers of 1st Years attending and even giving the seniors some stiff competition! Second year students competed in 'Mental Maths Challenge' which saw 28 students being awarded prizes for their skills. A Maths-themed cake competition took place, with Holly Daly won first prize. Dr David Wraith from NUI Maynooth visited the school and worked with the 5th year students on some problem solving exercises and gave the students some helpful tips when approaching problem solving. 6th year students were treated to a challenging game where, working in groups, they had to solve maths problems against the clock. TYs were busy this week too, as they delivered Maths classes to the first year students. This was a very exciting experience as the TYs were given an opportunity to see the classroom from a different perspective. The week finished with the 1st Year Table Quiz, where 120 eager students went head to head to answer general numeracy questions mixed with general knowledge questions. The quiz was organised by Mr. Glynn's wonderful TY class. We haven't left the parents out - posted on the school website, you'll find an information sheet regarding Numeracy Initiatives in the school.

Congratulations go to Erica Rea and Sammy Somide on winning the 'Maths Eyes Competition'. The competition required students to take a photograph of maths in everyday life. Sammie took a photo of the ramps in the concourse to demonstrate positive and negative slopes. Erica photographed the trajectory of a basketball and linked it to quadratic equations using software called GeoGebra. Both these photographs won in their respective categories. Over 800 photographs entered the competition so it is a huge achievement that the girls won. Their photos now go on exhibition around Ireland in 2016. Well done ladies.



NICARAGUA



During the February mid-term break I was lucky enough to be part of an 8 teacher group to participate in a study visit to Nicaragua. Nicaragua is the second poorest country in Latin America, with a population of 6 million and although the country has experienced some economic growth in recent years, the number of people living in absolute poverty has increased to over 2.5 million and economic inequality remains high. In rural areas more than 60% of people live in poverty and 17% in extreme poverty. Nicaragua is also very vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters including earthquakes, hurricanes and landslides. This causes regular loss of crops and damage to homes and infrastructure. There are high levels of gender inequality in the country, reflected in alarming rates of violence against women coupled with the fact that only 23% of women own land.

The purpose of the study visit was to engage with the work of Trócaire and their partners in Nicaragua and to bring back to the classroom and a wider audience the importance of Trócaire's work around climate change, gender based violence and education. We had the opportunity to meet the most amazing people who were kind and optimistic even in the face of poverty and hardship. The visit was led by Martin Larrecochea, Trócaire's country director and it was a great honour for the students of Loreto College

when Martin made a return visit to Ireland and visited the school. The girls asked many thought-provoking questions and Martin was very impressed by their knowledge and interest in Trócaire's work. It was a wonderful experience with many new and lasting friendships being formed. (Theresa Sheelan)

IRISH

Dúshlán Gaeilge 24

Ghlac daltaí ón Dara Bliain páirt i nGaeilge 24 i mí na Samhna seo caite. Spreagadh na daltaí chun labhairt as Gaeilge amháin ar feadh 24 uair a' chloig – ar scoil agus sa bhaile. Bailíodh an t-airgead ar son Chonradh na Gaeilge chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn sa tír seo. D'éirigh thar barr leis na daltaí agus tá súil againn páirt a ghlacadh ann an bhliain seo chugainn arís. Comhghairdeas do na daltaí agus na múinteoirí ar fad - Ms. Mc Namee, Ms. Egan, Ms. O'Toole, Mr. Kindlon, Ms. Furlong, Ms. McGlade, Ms. Costello, Ms. Owens



'ATHENA RACING' RACE TO THE FINISH

After a hard-fought competition at the 'FI In Schools' challenge, our very own 'Athena Racing' progressed to the Regional Finals in Citywest in February. They were thrilled to win the 'Best Portfolio' and 'Best Pit Display awards. They then revved up for the National Finals in the RDS in April. The girls and their teacher Ms. Whelan, had a fantastic performance. Their car raced along a 30 metre track in 1.17 seconds. The international competition challenges secondary school students to design, build and race model Formula cars, powered by compressed air canisters. Athena Racing went head-to-head with teams throughout Ireland, testing the speed and engineering quality of the FI model car, which they have been working on since September. Using CAD software to model the car design specification, the team then collaborated with Blanchardstown IT technician Bernard Gaffney on its construction. They also travelled to UCD to test their car in a wind tunnel and 3D print elements of the car. Unfortunately, Athena Racing didn't progress to the World Finals, which will be held in Texas this September. It would not have been possible to compete in the competition if it wasn't for our sponsors and all who supported the team. A special thanks to their teacher Ms. Aoife Whelan who encouraged and motivated them all the way, thank you!



SCIENCE

Science Week took place nationwide from the 8th to the 15th of November and we celebrated it in our school with numerous events. A poster competition was open to all students to highlight 'Key Words in Science'; TY students volunteered to 'Bake a Cake for Science Week'; a 'Periodic Pressure' game took place during lunchtimes; 1st years had a demonstration of Science Experiments class; 3rd years completed a Science Quiz based on 1st and 2nd year material.

The Science department would like to thank the following 5th years for organising & running the quiz - Ciara Maguire, Jordan Gibney, Naoise Sweeney, Eleanor Dunne, Marixa McKittrick and Alex McGrath. Well done to all the students who participated & celebrated Science Week and to the Science Department - Ms. Kilcawley, Ms. Pawley, Ms. Gore and Ms. Thompson.



HOME ECONOMICS

First year Home Economics classes went to Collins' Barracks with their Home Economics teachers in October. At the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History - they saw Irish haute couture garments, furniture, silver, jewellery, ceramics, and exhibitions exploring Irish military history, including the 1916 Easter Rising. The annual event was a great success and the girls enjoyed themselves. Our 5th Year students had a visit to an ice-cream factory. Ice-cream making is a part of the Senior syllabus for Home Economics so the trip was both enjoyable and informative for the students. Meanwhile, the 6th years made pizzas at Domino's Pizza and the smiles on their faces below tell it all!

Congratulations to the winners of our 'Loreto Bake-Off', Lucy Daly and Elaine O'Neill on their extremely attractive and delicious concoctions and thanks to our judges Ms. Thompson, Ms. McNamee, Ms. O'Malley, Ms. McGrath, Ms. Gunn for their culinary expertise. Many thanks to the Home Economics Department - Ms. Martin, Ms. Byrne and Ms. O'Leary - for all the work that goes into organising these events.



MUSIC



At the start of the school year our wonderful predecessor Sr. Roisin moved to Wexford. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication to music in the school over the years and we look forward to seeing her in the near future.

In October the Show Choir competed in the 'National Show Choir all Ireland' and achieved 3rd place. Fantastic work was put in by the girls under the direction of Mr. Robbie Glynn.

December was a busy month for music with 'Loreto Swords Has Talent'. There was an abundance of talent on display on the night with Peace Martin taking the overall trophy and 'Girl Squad' taking 2nd place. Thanks to Ms. Martin, Ms. King, Mr. Glennon and Ms Byrne for comparing the very enjoyable night and to Ms.

Scully, Ms. Gunn, Ms. Heaney and Mr. Emmett Daly for judging.

In late December the annual Carol service helped us all get in the festive mood. After Christmas the 1R class sang at the local Vigil Mass as part of Catholic School's Week.

In March over 60 of our students took part in the Emmanuel Concert in the Helix. April was another busy month with Junior and Leaving Certificate Music Practicals plus the excitement of being involved in the 1916 Centenary celebrations in school. Thank you to Ms. Heaney and Mr. Glennon for their continued work in the musical life of the school.



SPORTS NEWS & UPDATES

ATHLETICS

Well done to our dedicated group of athletes who continued to train throughout this harsh winter. We competed in the North Leinster Championships last month and were delighted when Aoife Squires of 1Q and Rebecca Power of 4T qualified for the Leinster Championships. We wish them every success. We would like to thank Joe and Delores Evans for their continued support and expertise in training us every Friday and to a past pupil Anne-Marie Torsney who has returned to volunteer her international experience to us. Keep up the training girls!

BADMINTON

With over thirty students now training every Tuesday we have had lots of fun this year. The picture below is of a 1st year tournament we hosted in February. Loreto Balbriggan, Malahide Community School and Loreto Bray joined us in playing a mixture of doubles and singles matches. Linda Mercy Rogil was awarded 'Player of the Tournament' – well done Linda! Thanks to Ms. Martin for all her hard work with us during the year.



BASKETBALL

Another fantastic year for our basketball teams. Special thanks to Ken Black for coaching the Cadette and Senior teams. Our Junior and Minor teams also had another successful year, progressing to the 'Loreto League' quarter-finals. It was a close match but they unfortunately missed out to Loreto Beaufort. The future is indeed looking bright for the school basketball teams with players such as Danielle Buggle, Olivia Sasse and Agata Ryzak coming up the line. Thanks to Ms. Whelan for coaching the teams throughout the year!

GAELIC FOOTBALL

Our gaelic footballers had a great year with four teams representing the school. In November, the first year team won



the Loreto Blitz, playing ten other Loreto schools from across the country in Foxrock. In the Senior Championship, the school progressed to the quarter finals against Malahide C.S and emerged unbeaten. The Semi Final saw the school defeated by St. Peter's S.S. Dunboyne who later won the championship. In the Junior Championship, the school also reached the Semi Final, after defeating St. Mac Dara's S.S. Templeogue, Our Lady of Mercy S.S. Beaumont and St. Finians S.S. Swords. However the school was defeated by Sancta Sabina S.S. Sutton in the Semi Finals. Huge congratulations go to the U14 team who represented the school in the Leinster Finals on May 12th. 50 teams competed and we are very proud of the girls to have beaten such tough competition. Great credit goes to Ms. Goucher and Ms. Byrne for all their hard work. Thanks also to our supporters who were such a motivating force on the day!



SWIM TEAM

Once again we participated in the Loreto All Ireland Swim Gala in the National Aquatic Centre in November. This year's team included Lauren Brady, Niamh Fulton, Rachel Whelan, Sinead McCrohan, Ellen O'Reilly and Caitriona Finley. It was the first time for Lauren and Niamh to compete in a swim competition and for Sinead, Ellen and Catriona it was poignantly their last Loreto Gala. The team had great success with Caitriona winning gold in the butterfly event and Rachel and Niamh both winning bronze in the backstroke and freestyle respectively. The over 16 freestyle relay team won bronze - well done girls!



VOLLEYBALL



We're very proud of our spikeball players who achieved great success this year with two teams taking part in the 'All Ireland Spikeball Championship' which was held in November. Congratulations to the 1st years who reached the All Ireland qualifiers and well done to the 2nd year team who reached the semi-finals at the competition. We also had Team 1 Winners and Runners-Up in the Cup Final. Well done girls. At Cadette level team 1 won the Loreto Balbriggan Blitz while team 2 finished 4th – well done to all involved and to their coaches Ms. Byrne and Ms. Furlong.



SEN. SPORTS CLASS '16 6Q



JUN. SPORTS CLASS '16 3R



SPORTS DAY 2016

The 5th of May dawned bright and warm for our annual Sports Day. Along with the traditional athletic and novelty events, we had face-painting led by Nicola McCann of 5th Year. This was part of our promotion as ambassador school for the 'Cycle Against Suicide' campaign. Ms. Jan McNamee and her band of capable helpers provided ice-cream which raised €360 for Down Syndrome Ireland, as well as much needed refreshment! There was a great atmosphere of team spirit evident from all classes on the day but particularly from class 3R and 2Q who won the awards for 'Junior Sports Class of the Year'. At Senior level it was Ms. McNamee's tutor class 6Q who were the final champions. Thanks to all the teachers and student officials who helped to make the day so special.



Bottom left: 6th yrs. prepare for the day
 Bottom right: 5th & 6th yrs. go head to head
 Top left: Ice cream sales are up!
 In pink the 3rd yrs. rest between events
 The 2nd yrs. in black strike an athletic pose
 Top right: 6th yrs. relax on their last sports day



ARTS & DRAMA

The Arts Committee ran some great lunch-hour concerts this year and fundraised for a number of organisations: €140 for DOGS AID at the Christmas concert; €103 for TEENLINE at the Power of Positive Thinking Concert ; €168 at the first concert at Halloween in aid of the 'Sound & Lighting Fund' for the Drama Dept. & €90 for the Syrian Refugee Crisis Appeal by Concern which was organised by the 1Q class.

It was a year of commemorative activities with our 1916 Commemorative Ceremony which included a mime on the poignant wedding of Grace Gifford & Joseph Plunkett on the night before the latter's execution in Kilmainham Gaol. We had the honour of having the great, great, great grandniece of Grace, Kerrie Gifford in 6th yr. appear as Grace Gifford in our re-enactment of that fateful night. 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th & 6th yr. students appeared in this piece of drama so it was truly representative of whole-school involvement & co-operation.

The 1st years were also very involved in the Junior Concert in April to celebrate 'Shakespeare 400' - the 400th anniversary of his death on 23rd April 1616.

The Arts Committee kept the concerts going with all the hard work done behind the scenes. A special 'Thank You' to all concerned and to the performers and to Ms. Scully without whom there would be no concerts at all!



HISTORY

March 15th, 2016 was Proclamation Day. Loreto Swords marked the occasion with song, drama and the raising of the Irish Flag. Invited guests came along to the school to share the occasion and it was a most memorable occasion for all the students and staff. Thanks to everyone who put so much work into preparing for the day including Ms Cronin, Ms O'Hara, Ms Dalton, Ms Scully and Ms Heeney and to all the students who directly took part.

The 5th Year History Trip took place in November. Ms Dalton took a group of students on the 1916 Freedom Tour and then to the National Library – the day was both very educational and fun.

