

Newpark Newsletter

Issue 65 May 2024



The Principal Word

When we stop to reflect, we have had a very good year, illustrating all that Newpark is and all that is positive about a comprehensive school and a comprehensive education.

There has been an enormous amount of curricular and co-curricular successes over this past school year. It would be impossible to list them all, but in small and big ways we have together acknowledged and celebrated them throughout the year.

This is important. Our school mission statement commits us to the task of encouraging students to fulfil their potential in all areas of school life. We offer different educational experiences to empower students to develop their individual skills and abilities. As I said at our assembly in term one, 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.



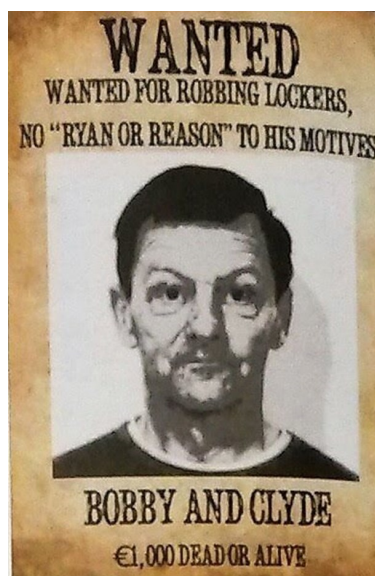
Of course, we are not just committed to our students' individual and personal development. While supporting and encouraging independence, Newpark advocates for and empowers students to be active citizens, mindful of others and of humankind's interdependence. So many school activities this year have spoken to our students' cognisance of others and of the wider world, both locally, nationally and internationally; ParkMUN, World Wise Global Schools, Junior Plays, the Munich & Nuremburg History trip, Neat Streets, the Gold Week Festival and our various fundraisers. This is but a snapshot. I have no doubt our students will achieve success both in school and when they leave school, but their greatest success will be in becoming women and men for others.

We have three members of staff retiring this year. Three people who have given long, loyal and exceptional service to the school.



Ms Deirdre Mackey joined Newpark in 1986 as a teacher of German and Music. While more recently we know Ms Mackey best as a teacher of German and CSPE, she has been teaching in this school for 38 years. For each one of those years, Ms Mackey has been committed, passionate and professional to her fingertips. She has also held an Assistant Principal post of responsibility, working quietly, reliably and effectively. Thank you, Ms Mackey.

Ms Janet Doherty is a past pupil of Avoca & Kingstown School, a past pupil of Newpark Comprehensive School and began her teaching career in Newpark in 1979 as a student teacher from Trinity College. While also an Italian scholar, Ms Doherty's teaching career in Newpark has focused on French, English and RE. Ms Doherty also served as Chaplain of the school. Throughout her career, her students have appreciated Ms Doherty not just because of her expertise, but because of her commitment, her sincerity and her student centredness. Thank you, Ms Doherty.



Mr Bobby Ryan was also pupil of Avoca & Kingstown School and indeed, head boy of Avoca & Kingstown in the 1971/1972 academic year. Bobby came to work as a caretaker in this school first in 1999. Over the years, it would be hard to identify anyone even vaguely connected with this school who doesn't know and

appreciate Bobby. A harder-working and more committed caretaker, you will not find. Bobby's love of this school has always been clear to all of us. And

we have all been the better for it.

On behalf of the whole school community, may I thank Ms Mackey, Ms Doherty and Mr Ryan from the bottom of our hearts for your incredible contribution to this school. And may I wish you all a very successful retirement, which I sense will only be a semi-retirement for each of you!

I wish our Sixth Year and Third Year students well in their upcoming state examinations. I hope that all students will be deservedly rewarded for their hard work and preparation. I also wish all First Year, Second Year and Fifth Year students well in their summer examinations.

I will be in touch with all students and parents/guardians in August about arrangements for the start of the new school year. Term dates for the 2024/2025 academic year are available on the school website. We plan to welcome our new first year students to the school on Friday 23 August 2024, with all the other year groups starting back on Monday 26 August 2024.

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

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

By Mr Eoin Norton

Technoteachers Awards



Congratulations to Fia Scally and Kate Glanville who received awards from the Technoteachers Association for their outstanding performance in Junior Cycle.

Fia came tenth nationally in Wood Technology and Kate came first nationally in Graphics. Well done to both students and their teachers!

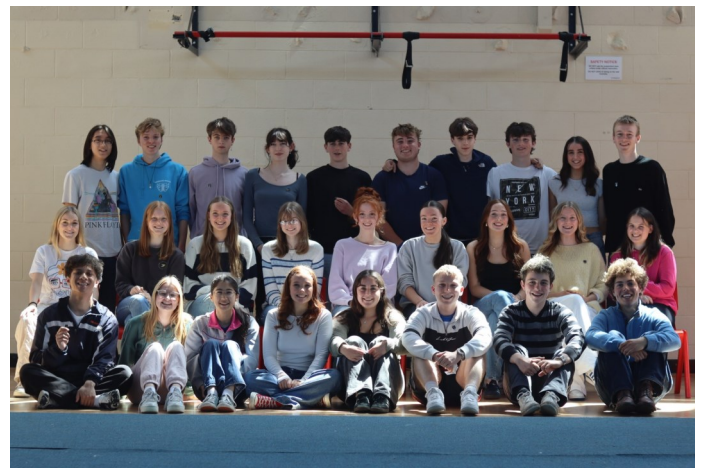
Class of 2023 Awards



Congratulations to the following members of the class of 2023 who were awarded UCD Entrance Scholars Awards. Keziah Langrell, Edith Kelly, Emmet Hodgkinson, Gavin MacAonghusa, Conor Murphy, Anoush Turner, Andrew Paul, Matthew Sherlock-Robertson and Ciara Behan (not pictured above).

There was more success in TCD as Lelio McManus, Isobel McManus, Adam Merabet and Elliot Burns were all recognized with Trinity Entrance Exhibition Awards.

Incoming prefects 2024-25



Congratulations to the newly elected prefects: Molly Sweeney, Oscar Schmidt, Ruby Faulkner, Silvia Ciullin-Cummins, Lisa Maxwell, Nónín Cooling, Seán Behan, Sadhbh Ní Dhrisceoil, Safiya de Barra, Coco Evans, Jago Hurley, Rui Considine Esquível Faria, Alex Bennett, Sarah McGee, Ollie Fine, Martino Pelizzeni, Hannah Oak, Críosa Killarney, Sophie Shepherd, Eric Schütte, Henry Carmody, Sarah Glanville, Mimi Reuland, Lewis Thornton, Jairo Manaog, Sibéal Keaney, Hannah Clabby, Patrick McCormack, Indiana Gallanagh, Leon Maughan, Emmet Brennan, Dylan Keegan, Lily Crowley-Ollier and Jessica Roe.

1st Year Girls Hockey

Hockey has been a huge highlight in everyone's 1st year experience. Between fun training sessions and Wednesday matches we have made so many memories and became so much closer and better as a team together. With amazing coaches there to help us all the way we have improved so much this year and it is so clear to see. We may not have won all of our matches, but we always put 100% into them and try our best to win.

In the end we did not win very many of our matches, but we always managed to have a great attitude win, lose or draw. We are very lucky this year to have two amazing teams who are both very competitive and work very hard to improve in every training session we attend. There have been a huge amount of 1st years that joined hockey, which is absolutely amazing to see, many people have made new friends along the way too.

Training sessions are always super fun and beneficial, we always learn and improve so much, yet we still have such a great time together. We have been so lucky to have the pitch for another 4 weeks that we are using to help us get better as we missed the first few weeks as the new pitch was being built. We are so incredibly grateful for it and to have extra training sessions before the year comes to an end. We are all looking really looking forward for hockey next year as we will have improved so much and go out and do our best again.

By Matilda Gallanagh, 1st Year

1st Year Boys Hockey



This year the first year boys had a rough start to the season due to the delay of our new hockey pitch. Despite this we got to training as soon as we could on Tuesdays and Fridays with our coaches Mark, Andrew and Daragh who taught us how to be better players.

We kicked off the season with a friendly against St Andrew's B team which we won followed by another

win against Sutton Park. We drew with Temple Carrig and High School though lost to St Andrew's A, Kilkenny and Wesley.

Considering some of our players had never played hockey before, we finished the season on a high by winning the Sandford blitz trophy. A good end to our season as a team.

Next year we hope to come together as a team and work hard on our basics as well as improving our skills and techniques. Finally on behalf of all the team, I would like to thank our coaches and all those behind the scenes for making everything happen.

Cal Doran, 1st Year

First year boys got off to a frustrating start at the beginning of this school year due to delays in the resurfacing of the pitch. However, we improvised with uni-hockey style games in the hall, when available, and physical training on the outdoor basketball courts. Numbers were high with over 25 players remaining engaged for the full year.

The school supported a four week (twice a week) extension to hockey in the summer term. We focused on hockey basics that we felt were missed out on due to late start on the pitch. Player participation was excellent and made the exercise worthwhile. So much so that we put five players through to the Leinster Development Programme.

The assistance from Andrew Paul throughout the year, and Ryan Adams for TY experience was excellent. 3rd year David Rankin assisted with the extended hockey which was greatly appreciated.

By Mark Cullen

Minor Boys Hockey

Despite the late start to training at the beginning of the year with the pitch being resurfaced, we started off positively with a draw against Wesley's A team (who went on to win the cup) and a win against St Andrew's B team in friendly matches. Unfortunately, we couldn't keep up last year's momentum, losing to Wesley in the grading match, leaving us in the B league this year in which we got third place, with a 4-0 win to Sutton Park among the score lines. In the cup we beat Sutton Park 1-0 in a closely fought game in the first round. Sadly, we lost to our old rivals St Andrew's A team in the semi-final, missing our chance to get into the final unlike last year.

This year has not been our year, but we didn't let that

stop us from having a lot of fun as a team, at trainings, on the journeys to matches and during the matches themselves. We've enjoyed this year, and next year we look forward to joining the current third years in the junior team. If anyone is thinking about joining the team, it's never too late! Come along to training next year. It's great fun and there's a good team spirit.

Finally, I want to say thank you to the coaches and staff who have made this year possible. We appreciate all the work you put in.

By Jacob Vaughan, 2nd Year

Minor Girls Hockey

We made it to the semi-finals of the cup plate where we played Mount Sackville. We unfortunately lost 2-1 and that finished our matches for the season. But our hockey didn't stop there: as we had missed six weeks at the start of the year (while waiting the completion of the new astro pitch) the school told us we could do four extra weeks to round off the year. In these training sessions we worked on our skills while still having fun.

By Alexa Yoakley and Téa Devonport, 2nd Year

Junior Girls Hockey



The junior girls have had a great hockey season this year. Sadly we were knocked out of the cup in 1v1's. On the other hand we had a great league season this year, winning nearly all of matches. We were top of our pool in the 1A league which meant we were through to the final. It was held in Three Rock Rovers. We played Our Lady's Terenure in a nail biting game where we narrowly lost 1-0. It was a wonderful experience and a great opportunity to represent the school, not to mention a lot of fun.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to our coach Laura for a fantastic year and to everyone behind the scenes. We have high hopes for next season!

By Yana Yoakley, 3rd Year

Senior Girls Hockey



Senior Girls hockey this year has not only been the most successful but also the most special year for a lot of us. The team has grown so close over the past year and achieved so much together. We went the entire season unbeaten in both the league and the cup to be narrowly beaten in the semifinals of the league and the finals of the cup. Even after this we are still so proud of everything we have achieved over the season and will hold the memories with us for a long time to come! It was an honour to captain such a talented group of girls.



As 6th years, hockey was a great escape from the books and gave us the fun and laughter we needed. After six years playing in the Newpark jersey it's hard to say goodbye but we could not be prouder of everything we have achieved as a team at our time in Newpark. There was never a dull day out on the pitch!

Our coach Ben Vincent went above and beyond for us all season and we wouldn't have made it as far as we did without him. We can't thank him enough.

We are so grateful for all the support we have had behind us throughout our years of hockey at Newpark. None of our success would have been possible without Al Robinson, Ms Carr, Mr Adams and Mr Doyle, so a huge thank you to them. They gave us the encouragement we needed.

I would like to wish the Senior Girls next year the best of luck, you will all smash it!

By Eve Kirby, 6th Year

Girls Rugby



We have been training every Friday together for the past few months and we have come on amazingly since the start. We have played three blitzes together against other schools and in those we have played our best.

One of the most recent matches was in Alfie Byrne Park. We got there by Dart. It was a great day, we learned new tricks and skills, we had amazing weather and we played so well, winning all of our matches.

We are really hoping to get more girls on our touch rugby team for the next school year. All of this wouldn't have happened without Mr. Adams, Mick Finlay and Eleanor Furlong.

By Florence Ferguson, 1st Year

1st Year Boys Rugby



On Friday 19th April Newpark 1st Year rugby squad made their way to Energia Park for the finals day of the South Dublin Schools' Rugby 7s. The majority of the squad had played in the four previous rounds. This was different, this was winner takes all. Due to our increased numbers, we were able to field two 7s squads. We ensured to have two equal teams and not go for an A and B team. One team would be coached and managed by an Irish International rugby 7s player and the other by a fast approaching 50-year-old PE teacher!

The teams played in two separate pools and both advanced to the cup and plate semi final. Along the way the boys played fast, flowing and furiously good 7s. Unfortunately one team lost by one try in the plate semi-final.

In the main competition the team in the cup won their semi-final and advanced to the final to be played on the main pitch of Energia Park. Our opponents in the final would be the same as the previous year's final, Templeogue. As we were the holders we knew they would be up for the final.

The final was a great occasion with both teams playing exciting 7s. The teams were level going into the last play of the game. It looked like the mighty Park were getting the better of the Logue, but unfortunately our opponents forced a turnover and scored in the last play of the game. You can't win them all.

After the presentation the squad made their way to an exclusive restaurant, which had been booked months in advance to ensure our reservation to celebrate our enjoyable season. All the boys thoroughly enjoyed the 7s season. Well done.

By Mr Shane Davey

Junior Boys Rugby



This year the junior squad was a very strong team. We year started off with a match against a very strong Tullow side, which unfortunately saw us knocked out of the cup in the first round.

We then entered the shield and were drawn against St Benildus, with the match doubling up as a league and shield double header. In an exciting game we were narrowly beaten by one score. This meant we were also eliminated from the shield for the year.

We didn't let our heads drop and straight away started putting our thoughts towards the league, which we still had a great chance of winning. Getting ourselves in position to make the league final.

We played against St Conleths in our last league game and were down by 22 points at half time. An incredible comeback saw the us come back to make it a one score game with fifteen minutes left, but unfortunately the match had to be forfeited due to a freak injury to one of our players.

Although we didn't win anything this season, we grew as rugby players individually and as a team. We hope that we can continue to improve and grow as rugby players next year.

This season was great fun, and you could see everyone enjoyed it. A big thank you to Mr. Smyth and Mr. Jemphrey for coaching us this season.

By Noah Jenkinson, 3rd Year

From High Tackles To Low Carries: An Insight Into The Joué Way

As we reflect on this season's journey, it has been a



rollercoaster of highs, challenges, and plenty of laughs on and off the field. Our rugby team has displayed resilience, dedication, and a powerful sense of camaraderie throughout.

Ivan has undoubtedly earned his status as a cult hero among the team, bringing his unique flair and charisma to every match. However, his absence from training sessions often left us scratching our heads with his colourful array of excuses. Yet, despite his occasional disappearances, Ivan's presence on game day always lifted spirits and inspired the team to push harder.

As our captain, Cathal's passion for the game is unmatched. However, his fiery demeanour sometimes got the better of him, as he was known for his vocal outbursts on the field. Despite missing a few crucial conversions, his leadership and determination never



wavered, driving the team forward in both victory and defeat.

Caleb Ring emerged as the shining star of our team, displaying unparalleled dedication and skill with every play. His commitment to excellence and unwavering support for his teammates made him a true asset on the field.

This season saw our 4th years stepping onto the field with determination and grit, displaying their skills and making a significant impact on the team's performance. Their lack of experience showed no effect on their ability: I am sure they will be great leaders in years to come.

Looking ahead to next season, we anticipate the rise of our fifth year as the new leaders of the team. With their experience, maturity, and a deep understanding of the game, they are poised to step into leadership roles and guide the team to new heights. As they transition from followers to mentors, we expect them to lead by example, inspiring younger teammates with their dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment to excellence. With the support of our seasoned veterans and the enthusiasm of our younger players, the future of our rugby team looks brighter than ever. We look forward to seeing the fifth years rise to the challenge and lead our team to even greater success in the seasons to come. Our crowning achievement this season was undoubtedly lifting the prestigious Ian McKinley Cup. This victory was a testament to the collective effort and determination of every player on the team. Special recognition goes to Oscar O'Neill, Lewis Thornton, Calum Howard, Sami Phelan and Henry Ferguson, whose invaluable contributions played a pivotal role in securing our place in South Dublin rugby history.

Shirley, Lewis's mother, was a passionate supporter on the sidelines, her booming voice and unwavering enthusiasm echoed across the field. Her fierce love and dedication to her son and the team were undeniable. Rain or shine, she was there, rallying the troops with her infectious energy and reminding us of the strong bonds within our rugby family. Her presence fueled our determination to succeed on the field.

As we bid adieu to another unforgettable season with this incredible team, I would like to take a moment to say thank you to all the people who were able to make it happen: Mr Smyth, Mr Lennon, Mr Doyle and of course, The Enforcer, Mr Adams. It has been my pleasure to play with this squad and I will forever cherish the memories we have created together.

By Caleb Ring, 6th Year

1st Year Girls Basketball



1st Year Girls Basketball got underway back in November with a great mix of girls from all five forms. Before Christmas we worked on basic skills such as dribbling, lay ups and shots. After Christmas we worked on court positioning, attack, defence and match play.

We didn't manage to get in any friendly matches before the league started in early February so we were delighted when we won our first match away against Firhouse. It was the first time some of the girls had ever played and they all demonstrated great team work to get the one point win in a very tense end game!

Next up was Sion Hill who are always tough opposition and so it proved on this occasion. But with wins in our next two matches away to Killans and Adamstown we got to the league play off away to Luttrellstown. They were very strong opposition and had the benefit of home advantage and supporters but we gave it our best shot and finished very strongly in the last quarter.

A good year for girls basketball and great to see friendships and team spirit developing throughout the year. A shout out to Mr. Breaden who bravely drove us to our first play off match in Inchicore on Friday March 1st at 10 am through the snow and traffic!

By Ms Rhona Toal

1st Year Boys Basketball

Every Tuesday, the 1st year boys basketball team work on developing their skills and teamwork. Unfortunately we lost the league but we got entered into the East Boys Basketball Plate.

Our plate quarter-final was challenging but we won against De La Salle Churchtown. We played against Coláiste Cois Life in the semi-final and we won by 1 point. In the finals we played Tallaght Community College in Oblate Hall. The match showed everyone how much better we had become as a team. We started off strong but we were down 1 point until we scored the winning basket in the last few seconds of the game.



The season has been fun and we learned the value of teamwork and respecting others. The team improved greatly thanks to Ms. Browne.

By Roy Radulovic Ryan and Seb Drew, 1st Year

2nd Year Girls Basketball

2nd year girls basketball was a quiet but fun year. All the training was great craic, and the cooperation and team were amazing. The matches that were played, whether it was away or home, were fantastic. We had a brilliant time and cannot wait for 3rd year basketball.

By Elouise Carswell, 2nd Year

3rd Year Girls Basketball



We really enjoyed playing basketball as a team this year. We played five matches, and although we didn't win our league, we did amazingly and had fun while we played very well. Our first match was against Sion Hill, then St Killians, followed by Sancta Maria, Firhouse and QF. We put in the hours in training, and it showed as we won three of our matches. Unfortunately, we got knocked out of the league. We won some and we lost some, but it was a good season overall. But now we know how we train best, and our efforts will show in the next league!

I'm glad I got to get so close with everyone on my team and that we've grown as a team together these past 3 years! I made lots of friends through basketball, and I would definitely recommend the first years to take up a sport. It's such a fun way to release energy, it is very good for your health, and it is a great way to make new friends through a common hobby!

*By Josefina Cooper, Tuathla Cooling and Elise Nangle,
3rd Year*

Athletics Summer 2024



Pre-season Athletics

For the first time ever there was a schools pre-season athletics competition at the refurbished Morton Stadium, Santry. It was only for 1st and 2nd Year boys and girls. We travelled out to Santry on Tuesday 19th March with a large group of excited students. It was a great opportunity for our 1st Years to compete against other schools in a competitive environment. Our 2nd Year students had a good experience of athletics in their first year at Newpark, so this was an excellent opportunity for them to get some competitive practice in for the upcoming competitions.



We all had a great day and thankfully the weather was nice. Highlight of the day was our 1st Year boys relay team qualifying for the final of the 4 x 100m in style and then

going on to win the final in a very competitive final.

Well done to everyone involved.

By Mr Shane Davey

East Leinsters and the CCACs



Newpark had 60 students compete in the East Leinster Schools' Track and Field Championships at Santry last Monday and Tuesday. Our students did very well, highlights included our Minor boys (1st Year) relay placing third in a very competitive final, Reuben McDonald Keeley (2nd Year) coming third in the Junior boys shot putt, Daniel Makim (TY) placing third in the Inter boys High Jump and finally Brianna Dwyer Carty (TY) came second in the Inter girls 200m and won the 300m.

Reuben, Daniel and Brianna qualified for the Leinster Athletic Schools championships in Santry later in May.

Meanwhile 50 students went to the Community and Comprehensive Athletics Championships, winning 32 medals. Well done to all involved and a huge thank you to Mr Davey for coordinating Newpark's Athletics operation!



She's Got The Power!



Ally Murphy of 6th year had a stellar weekend at the Irish Powerlifting SBD Junior National Championships. Ally broke the National Record on Squat in the Sub junior and Junior category of her weight class (-47kg) and became the National Champion. Ally squatted 105.5kg @46.9kg, a whopping 2.24X her own bodyweight!



If that wasn't enough, Ally also hit the Sub Junior and Junior Standard for the National Team and has been selected

for the Irish National Powerlifting Team to compete at World Junior and Sub Junior Powerlifting Championships in Malta from the 28th of August to 8th of September.

Massive congratulations to Ally, she was a force on the platform. What a champion!

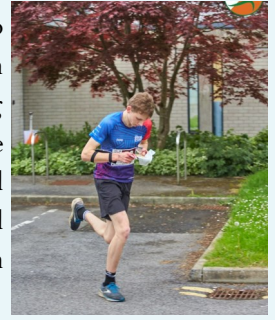
By Ms Mia Kovacs

Orienteering Championships



Siblings Fionnuala Rowe and Oscar Rowe both won their respective categories at the Irish Orienteering Championships over the May bank holiday weekend in Roscommon.

They have both been selected to run for Ireland at the European Youth Orienteering Championships in Poland in June and Oscar has also been selected to run in the Junior World Orienteering Championships in Czech Republic in July.



Their older sister, Emily, who left Newpark last year, has also been selected for the Junior World Orienteering Championships again.

Congratulations to all three and best of luck in the Championships ahead.

It's The Climb



On Thursday 14th of March myself and fifteen others got to participate in the Irish Schools Climbing Competition at Awesome Walls.



We arrived at around 10am and got ready. The competition works by having ten different parts of the climbing route, and each part of the route you complete you earn a point; with a total of ten points per climb. I was in a group with Alannah, Sara and Patrick. We did around four climbs in the day. I really had fun; it was interesting and different from the bouldering that I'm used to. Because of this I found it difficult at times, but I still absolutely loved it. The day was so

fun, I'm glad that I decided to participate in the competition!

One of the Newpark senior teams, *Bananas in Pyjamas*, came 5th overall out of 37 teams, and one of our junior teams, *The Ohio Rizzlers*, came 19th out of 45. Congratulations also to Mikiti Cleary and Ned Bolger who came 16th and 18th out of 125 senior cycle students competing. A great achievement!

By Eli Donaghy, TY

Cricket Down Under



This year I had the opportunity to travel to New Zealand for the whole of January by myself to visit my best friend's family and to play cricket at a new level. I was invited to coach the U13s Wellington Girls, to play for Wellington Collegians and to also play for a Wellington Provincial Team in the Hawke's Bay tournament.

I began my journey over on the 29th of December. I arrived in Wellington, New Zealand around 42 hours (about two days) later. It took ten more hours than it should have due to fog delays in Dubai, a missed connection flight in Melbourne and two very unnecessarily long layovers.

Despite being so jetlagged the whole first week, we went into Wellington City to explore and try new things. Later that week we drove to Martinborough to visit some family and friends. After spending three days in Martinborough, we took the ferry to the South Island to spend around five days in the Marlborough Sounds. It was so beautiful here and the views were jaw-dropping.

On the 9th of January, I spent the day coaching the Wellington U13 Girls in Sky Stadium in the Wellington Cricket Training Facilities. I met John Morrison who was a former New Zealand Men's Cricket Player whose granddaughter I was coaching. His daughter was also the manager of the U13s team.

Around a week later, I went on a trip with the Wellington U13 Girls as their assistant coach. We spent three days in Masterton, and they played five games. I stayed with the team in a hostel and learnt a lot about coaching and the New Zealand cricket community. At the end of the trip, they presented me with a Wellington Cricket cap as a thank you.

When I arrived back in Wellington, I was selected for a Wellington Collegians Division 1 game against a team from the North of Wellington. I ended up getting player of the Match with 45 runs off 25 balls. The team were very welcoming, and I loved the atmosphere.

From the 21st until the 24th of January, I represented a Wellington Provincial team in The Hawke's Bay cricket tournament. We stayed in Solway College



which had an Olympic-sized swimming pool and boarding houses. We were due to play six matches but two of them were called off due to torrential rain. We won three out of four matches and came 2nd in the tournament. Our team bonded so well to the point that three of the girls are coming to Ireland in two years to play for

my cricket club. I played with two girls who are in the New Zealand Cricket system, and I learnt a lot about their journeys through cricket and the difficulty of trying to make it onto teams.

I enjoyed my time in New Zealand so much and I loved experiencing another level of Cricket. I found it hard going there by myself and staying away from home for over four weeks. However, I cannot wait to have the opportunity to go back in a few years and meet all my teammates again.

By Zoë Bell, TY

Avoca's Player of The Year



I won the best player of the year award in Avoca HC in the wishing well in Blackrock and that was two weeks ago. I had a glass of seven up when I went to the Wishing Well, had a bottle of water and two little cartons of orange juice.

I won it because I am good at hockey, and I got a medal as well. I play striker for Avoca HC. I have been playing with Avoca hockey club since the 17th of November 2022, two years ago.

I was happy when I got an award, and the award is in the playroom in my house. Ross from last year's sixth years was there in the Wishing Well in Blackrock. Thank you for helping me play with you this year.

By Charlie Mills, 6th Year

The House Always Wins



In Newpark's Bernabreado Stadium the day had finally arrived. The long awaited staff vs 6th years series commenced with a game of football (or soccer/the King's football as Mr McCarthy calls it). With the staff aiming for three in a row since the series reignited post-covid, the pressure was on the 6th year students – and boy did they feel it!

The game took place in the blazing heat, though it seemed that only the 6th year students felt the effects of the conditions. James Macklin oversaw proceedings with the whistle and, inspired by Mark Clattenburg, is rumoured to be planning a tattoo to commemorate the occasion. It was mostly a clean game, though Macklin did have to brandish his yellow card more than once – decisions that the partisan crowd strangely found to be controversial. Many lessons were handed out (school doesn't end at 3:50PM kids!) and the staff, victorious, took home a 2-0 win. Goals came from captain Daniel Ludgate and a substitute, while a De Bruyne-like Lesley Ring chipped in with both assists. Captain Ludgate after game said *"The best thing about the staff vs 6th years football match is that Newpark always wins...And the staff. The staff also always win."*



With a score to settle the 6th years took to the field with the naïve optimism of the Irish rugby team facing into a World Cup Quarter Final. And much like the Irish rugby team, the 6th years, crushed by the weight of history, barely fired a shot.

The first goal came through a break up the left by playmaker Lesley Ring, with Alex Doyle providing a class finish in the D. Ferocious defending from Mark Cullen and Caroline O'Rourke meant that the only viable chance for the 6th years came through star player Charlie Mills who burst into the D with a marauding run, only to find his teammates were unable to finish off the opportunity. Indeed keeper Shane Davey remained untested for the majority of the match. An unfortunate tumble by Anna Murphy saw the staff once again pounce and (newly employed staff member and former student) Daragh Grogan found the back of the net to give the staff a 2-0 lead. With this cushion many of the staff no longer felt the burden of captain Mark Cullen's rigid game plan and began to engage with what can only be described as somewhere between *joué* and silly goose energy. Alex Doyle appeared to openly mock the students by deliberately missing clear chances in front of goal – the only logical explanation for his Darwin Nunez-like performance. Unfortunately, any hopes of a late comeback were dashed by an unexpectedly early end to the game, and all were sent to class with 1ten minutes to spare.



As the staff led the series 2-0, it was over to the basketball courts for the 6th years to restore some pride. They were in some luck as the staff collectively seemed to have left their shooting boots in the staffroom. The 6th years, wisely split up the big three of Murtagh, Browne, O'Keefe with what we can only assume was an

intentional injuring of star player Caoimhe Browne. A tight arm wrestle ensued, and while the 6th years raced out to an early lead, in true Newpark fashion, they snatched defeat from the jaws of victory. The full time score read 20-19 to the staff.

Captain Alex Doyle said in the aftermath *"To be fair to the 6th years, they left everything on the court, and for the staff, it was nice to never have to get out of second gear."*

Three humbling defeats, and perhaps the most important lesson the students will learn in life – the

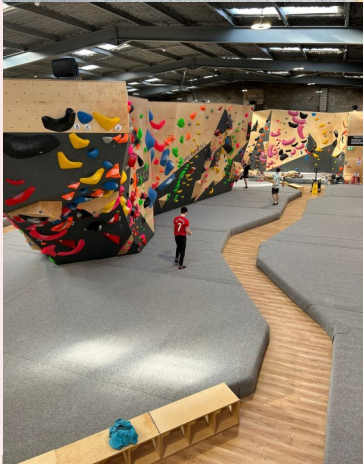
Image by Maeve Cooper,
6th Year



Climbing The Walls!



On the 1st of March, the TY PE class were given the privilege to be the first ever group of people to use the new climbing gym in Ballymount called the Bloc. This spectacular new facility was exciting for all the students in the class.



Once we got in to the fine establishment, we were given time to free climb around and get a feel for the new boulders. We then got into an intense competition, the rules being: complete as many climbs as you can as a team, the level of the climbing equating to how many points you get. Teams of four, and Adam, game on.



Chaos reverberated around the gym as the teams ran around attempting to complete every last climb in there. Some players infringing with others and some players keeping their heads down, the climbing continued until the last second. Then came the time to tally up the points for each team. With a confident victory of 122 points was the team of myself, Tom, Reuben and Andrew, winners!



All in all, a great experience for the class, and we're all very thankful for being some of the first to climb the walls!

Zipit



As part of Activity Weeks, 4LRD and 4AD had the opportunity to conquer their fear of heights at Zipit. Though the journey up to Tibbradden Wood only took 40 minutes, the winding roads had certain members of the group feeling less than peachy. This coupled with the great vomiting bug of Stratford-upon-Avon had members of 4LRG and Ms Ring herself feeling less

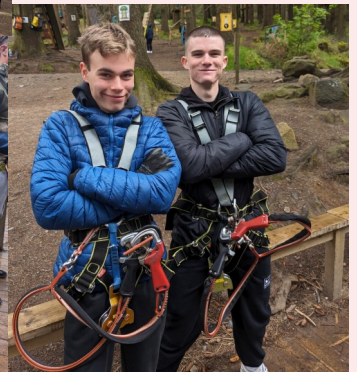


than enthusiastic about the drive to Donegal a week later.

The students were fearless taking on the high wires, the staff less so, and while Ms Carr may have returned with some grey hairs, it's fair to say that everyone had a brilliant day out.



Thanks to Jamesie for 'volunteering' to man the ground, Ms Carr for her willingness to give up a day's work and to Ms Ring's secretary, Mr Doyle, for organising.



Arts Week



Over the past two weeks, 4SFH and 4AFX put on their musical theatre hats and pushed themselves out of their comfort zone to put on some incredible performances. I had the pleasure of working with 4SFH as they prepared 'Summer Nights' from Grease and 'I'm Just Ken' from the Barbie movie.

I think it's fair for me to say that there were only a handful of students in this form who had any sort of musical experience, but everyone stepped up and put their all into showcasing their hidden talents. Shiloh and Noah made an excellent Sandy and Danny, while all the boys channeled their inner Ken, complete with furs, bowties and lots of pink.



These Arts weeks have been a highlight for the music, drama and art departments, and we look forward to continuing them next year. If any current 3rd years are reading this – get ready!

By Ms Jill Scott



The Great Newpark Bake Off



The week before mid-term my catering class had a baking competition. We were given a recipe and ingredients, and we had to make the recipe with no help.

We had to make langue de chat, which I had never heard of, nor had I done before, so it was tricky. We started by making our batter and we only used the egg whites, so we had to separate them which wasn't too hard. On the recipe, it said to pipe them a certain number of centimetres, so I got a ruler and measured each one. We were using piping bags to pipe long narrow eclair eclair-shaped biscuits.

I stuck mine in the oven and hoped that they would turn out well. When I checked on them, they had lost shape and kind of all merged into one. I left mine in for a bit longer than most of the others and mine didn't look the best... I thought they were overdone as my friend's ones had more of a spongy texture whilst mine did not.

Then, anonymously, we all put out our biscuits. I expected Ms Farlow to taste our biscuits but instead, she snapped each of them in half looking for the snap sound. Fortunately, mine had the sound and I ended up winning and getting a Terry's chocolate orange.

By Mia Gordon, TY



4LRG in Gartan



TY Summer Olympics



On Friday 3rd May, the Transition Years took part in the second TY Olympics (Summer Olympics anyone??) as organized by Mr. Lennon's TY P.E. class. This was the first time this event was run. 4LRG, winners of the Winter Edition, were the defending champs looking to secure an unprecedented double, while the other forms were trying to knock them off the throne. All forms displayed their pride with face paint and coloured clothes.



There were six games this time around. The event saw the usuals, like tug-of-war, rip-tag, dodgeball and uni-hoc, though there were some new additions such as Guess The Celebrity and a paper airplane contest. As usual, the tug-o-war finale generated the most excitement. 4LRG were edging it by this stage, though it was still all to play for. After a shortened tug-o-war, the winners were revealed. Once again, 4LRG came out on top. Controversy followed the scoring, as 4KD felt that they had been unfairly judged. I think it's fair to say that everyone had a good time, and it was an exciting finish to the academic year.

By Patrick Donaghy, TY

Lounge At Twilight



This year, on the 3rd of May, TY Bands, Drama and Film joined forces to create the show of a lifetime: *Lounge at Twilight*, a two hour spectacle celebrating the many creative talents of this TY year. This event had been in the works for months and was entirely TY organised, led by a certain Lorna Gillanders.



Organising *Lounge at Twilight* this year was both incredibly stressful and so much fun.



This was a showcase of all we've been working on this year. As a new twist in our TY Work Area performance, not only did we have three plays from drama and a multitude of songs from bands, but we also showed four of the films made by the TY film class. For two hours after school, audience members enjoyed comedic plays, impressive films and talented bands. The plays were all written and performed by the TY drama class and had everyone crying with laughter. There were many puzzles, big games and rocks to be enjoyed by all, set in the wild west, the stone age, as well as the future, and it was all a huge success.



There was some major anticipation (and fear) in the air surrounding the showing of the TY films as some of the films were finished mere hours before the show, but despite the adversities presented to them, the film class pulled through and we were all delighted by some comedic masterpieces and emotional rollercoasters. These included an art-



room heist, high school love story, the story of a schizophrenic man, and a mini documentary on life at Newpark.



Aside from a couple of technical hiccups, the bands performances went fairly smoothly as well, with some of my personal favourites being 'The Chain' by Fleetwood Mac, 'Kiss Me' by Sixpence None the Richer and 'Sir Duke' by Stevie Wonder. Even though the tech did not want to cooperate, we all persevered and ended the show on a high.

We have had so much fun in our Work Areas all year and everybody worked really hard to make *Lounge at Twilight* happen. It was a great experience and a lovely end to an amazing TY. A big thank you to Lorna and to all of our teachers - Ms Devis, Ms Fox, and Mr Byrne in particular. Many thanks to the excellent audience too!

By Alice Gill & Muireann Breen, TY



Interview Day



If you're an early Junior Cycle student, you may have been confused about the fact that one hundred and twenty or so students were walking around the place dressed in suits on a seemingly random Thursday. The reason was that the long-awaited annual Interview Day was taking place, a tradition for each group of TYs that pass through the programme each year.



I'm sure it looked like chaos to an outsider, but that was far from the truth. In reality, we were all told to sit in the GPA and play cards (or whatever classy people do) and have a chat until each student's respective time arrived to go upstairs and get interviewed for a job application based on their CV and cover letter made a couple of months (or days, depending on who you were).



The event had been hinted at and mentioned by the teachers for the entire school year leading up to it, so we had plenty of time to prepare for our interviews. It was a great bit of experience, and we also got to miss any classes we may not have wanted to attend on a Wednesday.



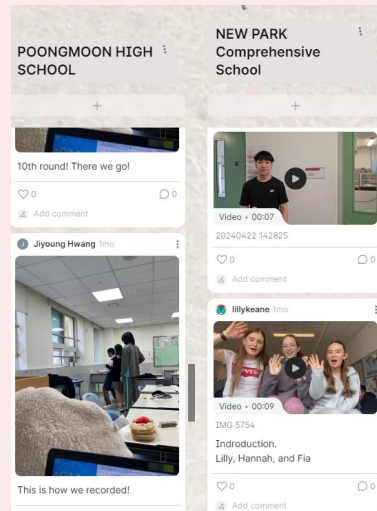
At the end, all the interviewers went up and talked about what they noticed with the students

they were interviewing. A topic that came up a lot was AI, so us humans obviously must get smarter with our CVs when we become working citizens. Other than that harrowing piece of information, Interview Day was extremely fun and it's not to be missed.

Finally, a tip for incoming TYs: Do your CV when you're supposed to or suffer the consequences!

By Finley Gleich, TY

Korean Exchange

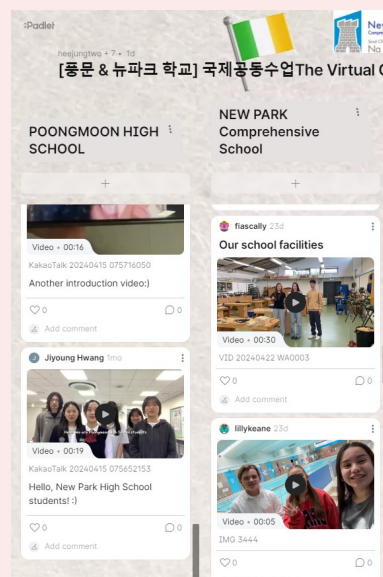


For this final term, my Korean class got to partake in a virtual exchange with students from Seoul, Korea. Our lovely teacher, Hee-Jung, set it up through contacts in Poong Moon High School.

My class, along with roughly ten Korean students, signed into this digital collaboration space called Padlet, where we could upload and view each other's posts.

Each week we got a new brief, starting with a basic introduction, but then moving onto things like a day in our life, and a school tour. We would usually make these videos in groups, and then upload them for everyone else to see. It was a language exchange, as we sent videos in Korean, and they sent them back in English. It was such a great opportunity to learn a new language and culture, and the biggest plus was doing it in a fun environment.

We were allowed to be as creative as we wanted with these posts. We could add music, act, make montages, etc. One group of Korean students even introduced themselves through a song!



What I found most enlightening of this whole experience was watching their videos every week. Their lives

are completely different to ours, and it's super interesting to see. One girl is attending beauty school and showed us her lessons there. Another student showed us what they bring to school, including "inside footwear". We also got daily insights into their lives, like the food they eat or the clothes they wear. It was so entertaining to see the drastic cultural differences from a like-minded teenager.

I'm really grateful to have had the opportunity to communicate globally with people my age, I just thought the whole experience was so unique. I would really recommend it to any incoming TYs!

By Fia Scally, TY

Enterprise Week



Our Enterprise and Innovation class were very busy during Enterprise Week 2024. Initially, we had only been told that we needed to start organising things one week prior to Enterprise Week. Throughout our entire two-hour lesson, we brainstormed ideas until we came up with the idea of a competition for first-year students akin to Dragon's Den or Shark Tank.

The plan was to use a Microsoft Form distributed to the first year form groups to assemble a group of students. After a few days, we had five groups (some individuals) that were keen to compete. We divided the seven of us among the five first year groups when we met with them on the Thursday of Enterprise Week. We helped them in creating their own business ideas and helped them get ready to pitch them to an audience. By the time the class ended, every group had completed their presentations and were prepared to go up in front of judges and an audience, which is quite frightening to do when you're only in first year.

The Friday of Enterprise Week was presentation day. We met the first years in the GPA during third period and helped them set up and finish some final preparations. It was then time for them to pitch their ideas to the judges. They all did really well, and our class was really impressed because we definitely would

not have been able to come up with those ideas and present them within two days when we were in first year. The judges chose a winner, and the awards were going to be given out on the Monday after Enterprise Week.



That Monday, we met in the GPA again during third period and gave out the prizes. Everyone did really well, and all the presentations were amazing. We loved working with the first years during Enterprise Week and we loved all the ideas they came up with!

The Friday of Enterprise Week was presentation day. During third period, we met the first years in the GPA and helped them with setting up and finishing some last-minute preparations. They then had to present their ideas to the judges. They all did really well, and our class was very impressed, since we were certain that in first year we would not have come up with any of those ideas and presented them in two days. Awards were scheduled for the Monday after Enterprise Week, because the judges found it hard to select a winner.

On Monday, we came back to the GPA and distributed the awards. All the presentations were outstanding, and everyone did really well. During Enterprise Week, we had a great time working with the first years and we loved all the ideas they came up with!

By Zoë Bell, TY

Climate Smart Workshop



This module the TY Geography class did our final climate adaptation workshop to complete the Climate Smart course. A woman came in to talk to us about ground permeability, and we experimented with different soil types. Afterwards we went outside and surveyed our school landscape to find out how suited Newpark is for flooding. Overall it was a short but informative experience, and I had fun interacting with my classmates and dirt.

By Fia Scally, TY

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Cúinne na Gaeilge



Mar is gnáth bhí seachtain na gaeilge iontach againn le go leor imeachtaí éagsúla. Bhí na múinteoirí gaeilge gníomhach agus gnóthach i mbun oibre ag eagrú na himeachtaí

Ceann de na buaicphointí ná an **Céilí Mór** a bhí ag an **gceathrú** bliain. Léirigh na daltaí agus ar ndóigh na múinteoirí a gcuid céimeanna sa GPA.

Chomh maith le sin bhí **ceardlanna bodhráin** ar siúl don chéad agus cheathrú bliain faoi stiúir Holly Trainor. Bhí craic, ceol agus scléip againn le na ranganna taitneamhacha seo.



Chun cabhrú le na béaltrialacha don Ardeist bhí babhtha **Caint agus caifé** ar siúl sa GPA i measc lucht an **seú bliain**. Chuir na daltaí ceisteanna ar a chéile chun snas a chur ar a gcuid gaeilge fad is a bhí siad ag ól neart caifé agus tae. Mar a deireann an tseanfocal “marbh é tae agus marbh gan é”.

Chomh maith le sin, bhí léiriú iontach ar an **dráma Daideo** ag rang Iníon Ní Bhroin agus Ms Browne. Is dráma é seo atá ar an gcúrsa don teastas sóisearach agus ba mhór an chabhair é gur ghlac na daltaí páirt sa dráma seo .Bhí **Tráth na gCeist** ar siúl ag na ranganna go léir sa GPA agus ghlac gach bliain páirt sa tráth na gceist seo. Is breá le na daltaí a gcuid eolais a léiriú trí mhéan na gaeilge agraíodh **comórtas**

amhránaíochta i measc lucht na hidirbliana. Chuaigh na ranganna amach go dtí an clós agus chan siad an t-amhrán “**Óró sé do bheatha bhaile**” ar bharr a gcinn is a ngutha agus bhí a lán spóirt againn mar bhí na ranganna difriúla in iomaíocht a chéile.

I measc lucht an chéad bliain bhí **comórtas postaeirí** faoi Seachtain na gaeilge agus is léir go bhfuil go leor ealaíontóirí cumasacha inár measc.

Ina theannta sin léiríodh an **Scannán Frank agus Róise**, scannán aláinn faoin gcaidreamh idir bean agus madra speisialta, i ndiaidh báis a fir Chéile.

Caithfidimid buíochas a ghabháil le na múinteoirí gaeilge a chuir seachtain na gaeilge chun cinn.

Le Seán Mac Cárthaigh

Banna Ceoil



Haigh a chairde!

Our Newpark Trad band is up and running! Our enthusiastic musicians played a lunchtime music session during Seachtain na Gaeilge for students & staff. A selection of tunes included jigs, reels, hornpipes and slipjigs, from the Rakes of Mallow to Drowsy Maggie.

We also visited the local Nursing Home and entertained the senior citizens, who gave us a fabulous warm welcome.

Band practice sessions take place in G4 on Mondays at lunchtime. New members are very welcome, so feel free to pop in and play along or learn a new instrument!

Ghlac an banna ceoil traidisiúnta páirt i seisiún ceoil don scoil i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Sheinneamar cnuasach poirt ag am lóin ar Lá Mór na Gaeilge.

Chomh maith le sin, chuamar ar thuras go dtí teach altránais áitiúil, áit ar chuir na seandaoine fáilte chroíúil

romhainn. Bhain gach duine sult as an gceol an tráthnóna sin.



Baill sa Bhanna Ceoil Traidisiúnta

David McGovern – an Fhídil

Eoghan Hopwood – Guitár & an Mairdílín

Holly Trainor – an Bodhrán & an Fheadóg Stáin

Oscar Rowe – an Guitár

Leah Fine – an Consairtín

Má tá suim ag aon duine páirt a ghlacadh sa ghrúpa seo, faigh do rogha uirlise agus buail isteach chuig G4 aon Luan don chleachtadh agus don chraic!

Beidh fáilte romhaibh!

Le Eleanor O'Hagan

Tae agus Plé

Seachtain na Gaeilge a bhí ann agus chuaigh ranganna gaeilge na hArdeiste go dtí an GPA le haghaidh teagmhas na haoise; an tae agus plé.

Chuala mé faoi 'tae agus plé' ó mo dheartháir a ghlac páirt ann anuraidh agus bhí sceitimíní orm le fada an lá. Nuair a dúirt Ms. Ní Laoghaire go ndéanfaimis 'tae agus plé', thosaigh mé ag screadáil in ard mo chinn is mo gutha. Bhí mé cinnte go mbeadh sé go hiontach agus bhí sé.

Thug an 'tae agus plé' deis dúinn Gaeilge a labhairt taobh amuigh den seomra ranga agus Gaeilge a dhéanamh beo i scoil chuimsitheach na páirc nua. Rinne Ms Brian brownies blasta saor ó ghlútáin. Thug sé sos beag dúinn ó strus na scrúdaithe cainte agus bhí chuile duine an-sásta a bheith ag ól tae, caifé nó seacláid the agus a bheith ag plé na rudaí fealsúnacha as Gaeilge.

Le Charlotte Wride, Gú Bhliain

Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine



Léirigh Oisín Twohig an-díograis agus suim sa Ghaeilge. Cuireann sé go mór leis an rang agus dá bharr sin, bhuaigh sé Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine le linn SnaG. Maith thú, Oisín!

Le Caoimhe Browne

Caife agus Caint



Tháinig Seachtain na Gaeilge i mbliana agus bhí caife agus cómhra againn le chéile. Bhí maidin álainn againn. Bhí cuairteoir speisialta – Aedín, bhí sé deas í a fheiceáil arís. Beatha teanga í a labhairt agus gan dabht ar bith tá Gaeilge beo anseo sa Pháirc Nua. Bhain gach duine sult as a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid arís.

Le Gráinne Ni Bhroin

Bhí maidin caifé Gaeilge ar siúl chun an teanga a chur chun cinn. Maidin álainn idir na múinteoirí éagsúla agus aionna speisialta ag caint agus ag comhrá as Ghaeilge. Tháinig go leor daoine go dtí an mhaidin caifé chun an cúpla a focail a labhairt and bhí atmaisféar iontach ann. Is deis iontach é do mhúinteoirí ag gach leibhéal teacht le chéile chun feabhas a chur ar a gcuid Gaeilge. Ar ndóigh bhí brioscaí agus bia blasta ann freisin! Míle buíochas Ms Ní Bhroin as do chabnahir go léir!

Le Meave Murtagh

Semaine de la Langue Française



La semaine du 19 mars, Newpark a célébré la Semaine de la Langue française en organisant concours de posters, concours vidéo sur le

thème des 10 mots de la francophonie, compétition du meilleur look français, quiz de langues, petits-déjeuners français et bien d'autres activités.

C'était l'occasion de célébrer la culture française au sein de l'école mais de aussi de façon plus générale, du monde francophone.



Cette année, l'OMF (Organisation Mondiale de la Francophonie) avait choisi les 10 mots suivants sur le thème du sport (en clin d'œil aux Jeux olympiques organisés à Paris): adrénaline, prouesse, échappée, faux départ, collectif, hors-jeu, champion, aller aux oranges, mental, s'encorder.



C'était l'occasion de travailler sur ces mots en classe et sur leur sens à la fois littéral et figuré. Les élèves de 3e année section européenne ont par exemple réalisé des vidéos et photos illustrant ces différents mots.

Mme Laetitia Tessier



An Olympic Visitor

Irish paralympic sprinter Orla Comerford visited Newpark on Tuesday 23rd April



Ce mardi, les élèves de Transition Year ont eu le privilège d'assister à une conférence d'Orla Comerford, une figure inspirante avec un message tout aussi précieux à partager avec l'année.

La conférence portait sur Orla et sa vie en tant que c o u r e u s e paralympique. Nous avons appris lors de la conférence qu'elle souffre de la maladie

de Stargardt, une maladie qui affecte sa vision et rend très difficile sa vie quotidienne.

Elle a commencé à perdre la vue à l'âge de onze ans, et depuis, sa vision s'est considérablement détériorée. À l'école, on lui disait de ne pas faire d'athlétisme et que ce n'était pas possible. Un grand message d'inspiration que tout le monde devrait retenir d'elle est sa persévérance, car même à cette époque, elle était persévérante et dévouée, et poursuivait ses rêves, peu importe combien cela pouvait sembler impossible, ou ce que les autres disaient. En suivant simplement son cœur, elle est devenue la femme la plus rapide d'Irlande et une représentante nationale du pays.

Orla a également dit qu'il était important de maintenir un équilibre sain entre travail et vie privée. Nous avons appris qu'Orla avait une grande passion pour l'art et qu'elle travaille sur ses œuvres pendant son temps libre. Cela nous montre combien il est utile de faire ce que l'on aime, et nous devrions toujours avoir un passe-temps sur lequel travailler pendant notre temps libre.

À la fin de la conférence, nous avons eu une séance de questions-réponses très engagée où Orla a reçu d'excellents retours et de nombreuses questions de personnes désireuses d'en savoir plus sur sa vie et ses conseils pour eux-mêmes.

Dans l'ensemble, Orla Comerford a prononcé un discours exceptionnel qui a influencé et inspiré tout le monde présent d'une manière ou d'une autre. Orla a reçu des retours exceptionnels de tous les étudiants et a clairement été un modèle clé qui restera certainement avec tout le monde pendant longtemps.

By Natan Gorzelanczyk, Seconde Section Européenne

Visite d'un Lycée Français

Le 22 avril, Newpark a reçu la visite d'une classe Seconde du Lycée polyvalent Victor Duruy de Bagnères-de-Bigorre dans le cadre d'un projet Erasmus+.

Il s'agit d'un établissement situé dans le sud de la France qui comporte aussi une Section européenne. Les élèves de Terminale section européenne ont pu partager un cours avec eux afin d'échanger sur l'actualité française et internationale et sur les différences entre les systèmes scolaires.

Les élèves français ont ensuite assisté à des cours l'après-midi avec nos élèves de Seconde et ont fait l'expérience des nombreuses options offertes à Newpark pendant l'année de Transition, une année bien différente de l'année de Seconde en France. Nous espérons continuer la collaboration avec cet établissement dans le futur et pourquoi pas organiser d'autres visites cette fois-ci de professeurs.

Un grand merci à l'Ambassade France de Dublin et à Laura Le Cleach pour avoir permis cet échange.

Mme Laetitia Tessier

Lundi le 22 avril, vingt-trois étudiants français sont venus à notre école pour participer à l'échange scolaire avec les étudiants irlandais en seconde. Ils sont allés à notre classe terminale de français, section européenne, pour parler ensemble, un peu en français et puis en anglais pour s'entraider.

Premièrement ils ont dit qu'ils étaient arrivés juste ce matin-là, en bateau! Ils avaient voyagé en voiture de Toulouse à Cherbourg et puis en bateau jusqu'à Dublin - c'est un long chemin!

Nous avons discuté en classe des actualités en France, et sur leurs avis et expériences personnelles. C'était assez intéressant d'entendre ce qui se passe là-bas. Comme on le sait, les jeux olympiques vont commencer bientôt à Paris. Mais il y a des célébrations et quelques événements à Toulouse aussi! Nous sommes passés à la question de la violence en France, et une fille a dit qu'ils ont dû apprendre des procédures pour s'aider eux-mêmes en cas d'attaque terroriste - quelque chose je n'ai jamais pensé que c'était un gros truc là-bas! C'est fou, les grandes différences entre nos deux pays!

Finalement, on a parlé sur l'histoire irlandaise. Ils ont dit qu'ils n'ont pas encore appris sur notre histoire - sauf la Famine - donc nous avons fait de notre mieux pour leur expliquer. Mais pas longtemps après, malheureusement, la cloche a sonné et le cours était fini. Ils ont nous donné des petits mais délicieux cadeaux - des madeleines d'une marque française!

C'était une très belle expérience de parler plus vite en français avec les étudiants français pour toute une classe, et j'espère que tous les étudiants irlandais et français en seconde ont adoré cette expérience d'un échange scolaire!

By Hannah McNally, Terminale Section Européenn

The French Connection



and returned to our pen-pals in the evening.

On Wednesday, we had a treasure hunt around Cormeilles-en-Parisis, the village our pen-pals lived in. We went around different shops and talked with the shop owners. We spent the afternoon with our pen-pals.



The next day was our last full day in Paris. We went to Montmartre, a cathedral in Paris, and then visited Saint Lazare, a train station shopping centre, and the area around it.

On Friday, we left early and attended one class in the French students' school. We then left for the airport and returned to Ireland. It was a great experience for everyone who took part.



A few weeks ago, from the 20th to the 26th of April,

our French pen-pals came to visit us. Like we had done with them, they spent the first day with us, and visited places around Dublin and Wicklow.

The next day, the French students tried out many Irish Sports, like hurling and gaelic football. Following that, both classes went to Causey Farm. We baked bread, did Irish dancing, and went bog jumping. Then the French students attended classes in the school with us, and then we all went bowling.

On Thursday, our pen-pals toured Dublin City Centre, did a Viking Splash Tour, and went shopping in the City Centre. They left on Friday after going to Dublinia Viking Museum.

It was a fun and amazing experience for all of us who took part and we want to thank our school, Ms. Tessier, Ms. Kovacs, and the teachers at the French school.

By Elouise Carswell and Damian Colazurdo, 2nd Year

Bonjour!

Some 2nd year students did an exchange trip to France from the 13th to the 19th of January, with some French pen-pals we had communicated with towards the start of this year.

For most of us, this was our first exchange. We met the families we would stay with when we arrived at their school from the airport, and the next day, all of us spent time individually with our pen-pals around Paris.

The next day we travelled around Paris as a class. We visited the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe and the River Seine. Then we visited to Disneyland Paris. There were a lot of attractions. We ate in the park,



Label FrancEducation



La Section européenne renouvelle cette année pour la deuxième fois son Label FrancEducation après l'avoir acquis pour la première fois en 2018, faisant de Newpark la première et seule école pour

l'instant à avoir ce label en Irlande. Il s'agit d'un label attribué par l'AEFE (Agence pour l'enseignement français à l'étranger) aux sections européennes hors de France. C'est un gage de qualité qui augmente la visibilité internationale de l'école et contribue et au rayonnement de la langue et culture françaises à l'étranger. Nous sommes très fiers d'avoir cette reconnaissance et de faire partie du club des établissements labellisés étrangers. L'obtention du label a été rendu possible grâce au soutien de l'Ambassade France en Irlande.

This year, the European Section is renewing its FrancEducation Label (award) for the second time after acquiring it for the first time in 2018, making Newpark the first and only school so far to have this label in Ireland. This is a label awarded by the AEFE (The Agency for French Education Abroad) to European sections outside France. It is a guarantee of quality that raises the international profile of the school and contributes to the influence of the French language and culture abroad. We are very proud to have this recognition and to be part of the club of schools with the foreign label. Obtaining the label was made possible thanks to the support of the French Embassy in Ireland.

Mme Laetitia Tessier

All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad



On 23rd January 2024, a wonderful team of nine linguistic problem-solvers met in the school library to take part in the first round of the All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad competition. They worked diligently, unpicking some very challenging linguistics problems, and finding



patterns where none were evident. For some, this was their second year entering the competition, while for others, the whole experience was new. At the end of the exam, they submitted their answers, crossed their fingers, and waited to see if they made it to the National Final.

Approximately 1000 secondary school students from across Ireland took part in the preliminary round. The top 100 students qualified to compete at the National Final of AILEO, which was held in DCU in March. From that 100, the top four were chosen to represent Ireland at the International Linguistics Olympiad. This will be held in Brazil in July 2024.

Sarah Glanville qualified for the National Final and represented her school admirably. The Final began with introductions and an apology from Prof. Somers for having set too difficult a paper for the preliminary round. This was followed by the individual round, a gruelling 2 ½ hour paper with problems in a variety of languages and codes. After lunch, the students returned for photos and the group round, another two hours of code breaking in groups of four students. The atmosphere was wonderful, and the auditorium was filled with the sound of productive chatter. Connections were made and friendships were forged during this round.

Kim Achari and I were lucky enough to attend the National Final day in DCU. It was an absolute pleasure for us to witness the enthusiasm and sincerity with which the students approached the competition. Sarah did Newpark proud on the day.

I am beyond grateful to all the Newpark students who entered the AILEO competition. You are the epitome of integrity and sportsmanship, and it is an honour for me to share this experience with you. I'm looking forward to seeing faces old and new for AILEO 2025.

AILEO Team 2024: Aoibhinn Nic Phiarais, Viktoria Kychan, Conor McGarry, Sarah Glanville, Allegra Zipser, Rhea Flatley, Lily Hamilton, Holly Trainor & Kate Glanville.

The Aran Islands



Going to the Aran Islands was an amazing experience for everyone. It was incredible being part of an age-old tradition in Newpark. We all had the best time and bonded so much with people we never thought we'd be close with.

On the first day, we got the bus from Newpark to Rossaveal port in Connemara and took the boat to Inis Mór. After we settled into our rooms, we played games and Ms Carr and Ms O'Donnell cooked us a delicious dinner.

On the second day it was raining non-stop but we made the most out of our day. We got the boat to one of the

smaller islands - Inis Oirr. The boat was really bumpy and few people were sick! We walked the island to the Plassey shipwreck, and we examined the limestone pavement. We also stopped at the sunken church and had a look at the gravestones. Lunch in the rain wasn't overly pleasant but the promise of hot chocolate when we got back to the hostel and Mr Smyth's music kept us going! Later that evening, we had to complete our fieldwork and we got to show our culinary skills by taking it in turn to cook in groups. Mr Costigan's group was the best at cooking!

On day three, we hired bikes and cycled through Inis Mór to Dún Aonghusa cliffs, learning all about the fort





and seeing all the incredible views and the stone walls on the island. When we got back to the hostel, we all went to the pitch up the road and played football before dinner in the American Restaurant.

We had an early start on our final day to get the boat. The boat was rocky, but we were almost used to the seasickness by then! On our way back home, we stopped off to get some food. On the bus, the teachers gave out prizes for the best fieldwork. Fieldwork was a project done in groups, answering questions about everything we did while in the Aran Islands.

Overall, everyone had great fun and it was an experience everyone will remember throughout their time in Newpark.

By Aoibhinn Hannigan, 2nd Year

Anamorphic Self Portraits

Inspired by the anamorphic skull at the base of Hans Holbein's masterpiece *The Ambassadors*, the current 6th Year Art class made self portraits that spread across the page.



This technique was used for painting adverts on sports pitches until a few years ago.

Pictured to the right are self portraits by Nakai, Noah and Jake (and Holbein's skull!)



Anamorphia

It all depends on how you look at it!



TCD Physics Trip



Three centuries ago, the "Erasmus' Smith Professorship of Natural and Experimental Philosophy" in Trinity was established. It would later be known (thankfully) as just Physics. I was lucky enough to be one of the Newpark students from 1st to 5th year who went to Trinity to celebrate this momentous occasion, run by the Walton club.



As part of our celebration we were given a little lecture. It presented us with famous past pupils and, my personal favourite, a quiz! It was a quiz on the obscure. However, for some very talented enthusiasts, questions on obsolete scientific theories proved to be no problem. Personally I had never heard of the Caloric theory before. If you haven't either, check it up. It's quite a cool theory (excuse the pun).



We were given access to the library which contained textbooks (of course) and none other than the famous tar experiment (which has been running for 88 years)! To crown off the day, we split into groups of six to carry



out the worst nightmare and greatest joy in any physicist's life: an experiment. We had to create our own experiment to prove different formulas. Easier said than done. There was laughter and there was frustration. I somehow ended up with a minus number for friction coefficient. I checked it later—technically, it is possible, but more probably, I just got the wrong answer.

Overall the day was amusing and enjoyable, made possible by the teachers who chaperoned all thirty of us to Trinity on the Dart. Thank you very much.

By Sarah Glanville, 5th Year

It's Not Rocket Science



On the 14th of March, the third years went to the Armagh Observatory in Northern Ireland. We all came to school early to ensure that we could get on the bus at a good time. After a full two hours of driving up to Armagh filled with good times, banter and music being blasted from the back of the bus by a speaker, we finally arrived at the Armagh Observatory.

When we went into the Planetarium, we entered a big dome with very comfy seats that pointed up to the sky. There was an expert who was showing us many things such as how our universe was created and how small our earth and our solar system is, compared to other objects in space. In reality though, for lots of students it was the expert changing the color of the lights that interested the most.



The exhibits in the Observatory had a lot of interesting stuff about our solar system, such as how Uranus smelled, an asteroid that had fallen from space and a touch-screen game which had you create your own solar system. All of this was interesting and the whole thing was like one of those fun fact books full of different and interesting information.

The rocket science program was more like a challenge.



The aim of the game was, with a partner you had many different items like tape, paper, a plastic bottle, and a weight (the payload). The aim was to fill the bottle half up with water, and fire it out of a cannon, to see how far the rocket would go. Many rockets went flying but do I think that lots of us will be doing rocket science? Considering lots of the rockets began spinning and hurdling through the air: no, I don't think so.

Overall, we had a wonderful time and thank you to the teachers who set up this trip.

By Jakub "Kuba" Kadlubowski, 3rd Year

A Wild Time At The Zoo



All second years in Newpark went on a trip to the zoo. After the bus journey, two groups went to look around the zoo while the other three went to an ecology workshop.

For the ecology workshop we went to Phoenix Park and carried out a habitat study there. We learned about how to use a quadrant to carry out a study of the area. We also learned how to catch insects using different tools like a sweep net. We found out about varied species of plants and their features as well as different insects. We also learned about how to write up experiments.

We then had our lunch break in the Meerkat Cafe, before having a look around the zoo. There were lots of different animals to view from orangutangs to giraffes. It was nice to learn about these animals at your own pace and be able to see the things we talked about in class. It was good that we could see whatever animals we wanted to and that there was no specific order to go in. We then went back on the bus. I feel that we learned from the experience. A lot of people also came back



with some impressive photographs. I think we really enjoyed it and I hope we can go again.

By Sadhbh Ryan Griffin, 2nd Year

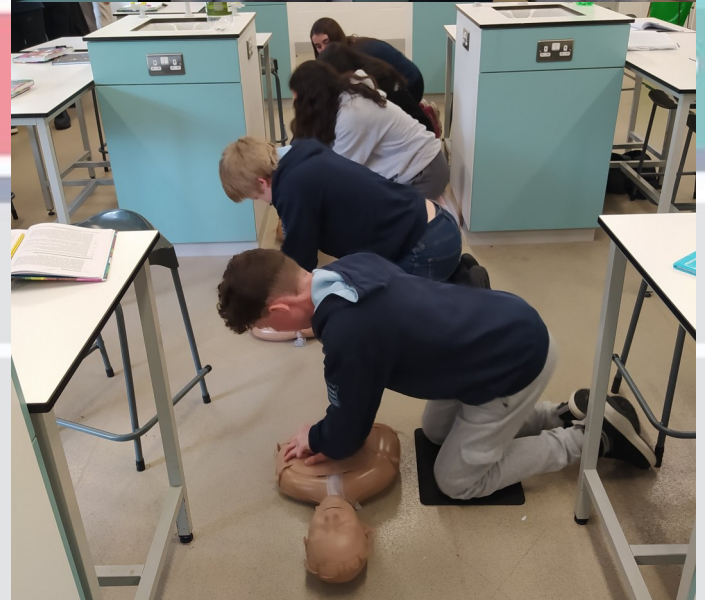
CPR4Schools



Congratulations to Newpark for winning a CPR 4 Schools award 2023 - 2024. CPR 4 Schools is a free programme available for all post primary schools in Ireland. All 1st year Newpark students received Irish Heart Foundation CPR training

during Science class this year.

By Ms Claire Grant



Newpark Worldwide Global Schools Committee



The Newpark WorldWide Global Schools (WWGS) team has been hard at work during the academic year 2023 -24 to build an awareness and understanding of how we, the Newpark community can change the interdependent and unequal world in which we live. As a committee we work to challenge stereotypes and explore the root causes of global justice issues and how they interlink with our everyday lives. We continue to aim to inspire solidarity in Newpark by taking meaningful action for a just and sustainable world. In Newpark, this has included a number of actions with many more to come...

Over the past year we have made several announcements such as letting the student community know about the purchase of a new clean plastic bottle recycling bin in the GPA, generously paid for by the PTA and installed by Bobby, the caretaker.

We have also focussed on highlighting issues such as recycling, food waste, a circular economy, saving energy and meat free Fridays which was mainly achieved through the promotion of the Eco-UNESCO 12-month challenge. Fia Scally (4LRG) one of the WWGS committee members designed an infographic every month which was displayed on the screen in the GPA.

At most parent teacher meeting and a few separate times in the GPA we've had a few of the WWGS



members selling sustainable Newpark brand bottles to the students, teachers and parents of students to discourage the use of single use plastic bottles and promote sustainability.

We continue to raise awareness of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the school community through the WWGS noticeboard, our Instagram account and the screen in the GPA. The posters of all the SDGs were hung up in September in all classrooms of the school continue to serve as a reminder.

To further consolidate awareness and action around the SDGs, we will be installing durable vinyl signs of the SDGs on the back stairs of the school. The idea behind this is to have a permanent fixture in the school for school community of the SDGs and to help us think about the contribution we can make towards achieving these Goals. Committee member Sebastian McKay (4KD) has worked incredibly hard over the course of the year to design a WWGS webpage with information on what we do and a description of what we have done in Newpark to work towards each of the 17 SDGs. This will be available on www.newparkschool.ie imminently.

An exciting future plan is the installation of solar panels for the school. We have already applied for the school photovoltaic programme, and we plan, at some point, being able to get as much power from solar panels as we possibly can. We are currently working out how many solar panels the school could realistically have and intend to get as many as we can from the school photovoltaic programme.



Finally, thanks to the hard work of the WWGS team and Ms Dempsey, we have been awarded the Diplomatic Silver Passport from WWGS as an acknowledgment for the progress we've made throughout the year. The Global Passport Award is an EU recognised quality mark, acknowledging and celebrating the great work happening in schools. It offers schools a framework to integrate Global Citizenship Education (GCE) into their whole-school community. It is a self-assessed and externally audited accreditation, and it is open to all post-primary schools in Ireland.

We will continue to build on the foundations and progress we have made this year and look forward working together with students and staff in the next academic year. For more information, please visit the Newpark school website or find us on Instagram. (@NewparkWWGS)

By Nick Goodman and Dan Makim, TY

Indonesia



Over the Easter break we went to Indonesia on an environmental trip with Flossie and the Beach Cleaners. We spent just over two weeks there travelling to three different places.



We flew into Bali where we spent a few days cleaning local rivers and beaches. We couldn't believe the amount of rubbish everywhere.

We spent the first week in Bandung working with a charity called the Bening Sanguling Foundation. We worked with many different schools, visited fast fashion factories and met with the military to help clean the Citarum river.



However, the most memorable day had to be our trip to the 'island of pollution' an 8km island of plastic. As we approached the island on our tiny boat that had nearly capsized, we were taken aback by the sight of the rubbish stretching from the ocean floor to the surface, forming a solid mass. The impact of the situation hit us deeply as we saw the conditions the locals were living in. To add to the adventure, on our 4-hour drive



home with our beloved driver Johnny who joined us on the boat, the car wheels gave out and we then had to get on a train and taxi making the journey home 8 hours long.

On the second week we took a boat over to Gilli Trawangan where we worked with an organization called Gilli Eco Trust. Gilli Trawangan is one of the most beautiful islands in the world but due to tourism it is getting destroyed. Prior to going we had all looked the island up online so when we realized how polluted it was, we were horrified.

We worked with Gilli Eco Trust to learn how to propagate coral. First, we collected live rocks which act as a foundation for the coral fragments which we also collected. Next, we used a glue specially designed to adhere coral fragments. We used a catalyst to set the glue and ensure a strong bond. After we finished attaching the coral fragments, professional scuba divers placed the rocks back into the ocean. Over time, the coral will continue growing, contributing to the health and diversity of the reef ecosystem. We got to see the scuba divers placing our rocks as we went snorkeling to observe them doing this. It was truly amazing to witness the positive impact we were making.

One of our favorite activities was our paddle board beach clean. We all got to go out on paddle boards with small bags attached to us picking up whatever rubbish we could find. Because the island is so full of marine life, we got to see dozens of turtles and hundreds of fish. We even spotted Dory!

The trip was a once in a lifetime experience, we will never forget. There were highs and lows, and we were exhausted by the end of it with a painful 8-hour layover in Amsterdam. But we had the best time and took away so many amazing memories.

By Lily Crowley-Ollier, Saibh Lawrence, Maia Jackson, Ella Balfe and Maleah Cahill, TY and 5th Year

A Word from the Chaplain



Morning times are often stressful in our house. With a husband who works shift work, I am often on my own, outnumbered by children and dogs. On the mornings that involve screaming (from the kids, not me, although sometimes I feel the desire to) I just try to remind myself to take a few deep breaths. But I lose it from time to time, overstimulated by noise and general sensory overload. Is it *that* difficult to get out of the house without shouting or whinging or puppies (and/or children) peeing on the floor? Last week, my five-year-old said that she hated me and “*your mom hates you too, to the moon and back.*” What do you even say to that? I tried to make it a teaching moment, explaining to her that when you say words, they are out there forever; that I will always forgive her (other people may not) but the words could be remembered for a long time. I’m pretty sure it fell on deaf ears.

We talk a lot about stress management in society - mindfulness, being in the present moment, keeping our cool in times of pressure. And sometimes we lose it. Sometimes, we are triggered by something in a situation that we don’t even cognitively understand but “*the body keeps the score*” - the connection between our minds and bodies should not be underestimated. Our nervous systems remember what we might consciously forget.

Most of us have heard the term “Nervous Breakdown”. It is not a medical term but has become part of our language to describe someone who has suffered with intense mental or physical distress for a long period of time and which in turn, causes psychological and physical symptoms. The Nervous System is your body’s HQ, the command centre. It consists of your brain, spinal cord, and nerves. It sends electrical signals between the brain and other body parts and keeps track of internal and external changes, deciding

how the body should respond (it even controls involuntary actions like blushing, sweating, and blinking). It also plays a crucial role in complex processes such as thoughts, memory, and learning. So, it’s a pretty important system!

The effect that stress has on the Nervous System and in turn, the interpretation of those physical sensations caused by stress and overwhelm by our minds, can be profound. Our body’s natural physiological reaction to stressful or frightening situations is “*The Fight/Flight/Freeze/Fawn Response*” and this is activated when we feel threatened in some way. This ignites the sympathetic nervous system, releasing hormones to prepare the body to fight or run or freeze. It is not natural for our bodies to be in this state all the time and that is what can cause this “breakdown”. This can be a real threat (big bear chasing you) or a perceived threat (giving a presentation to the class and *knowing* that it will all go terribly wrong). Our brains are amazing, but they have not evolved enough to know the difference between a physical threat and an emotional one. Our bodies’ reactions are the same. The Cave Man was able to have a lovely rest after being chased by the bear but after your presentation, you might have to go and complete a Maths test or deal with friendship issues at break time.

As we grow up, we forget the ways in which we regulated our nervous systems as children. Dancing, jumping, singing, moving and shaking our bodies, taking off our shoes and walking on the grass, hugging and feeling physically connected to those we love - these are all ways in which kids naturally manage their nervous systems. We need to do more of these. We need to give our bodies time to rest and move and calm down and in the modern world, this doesn’t always seem possible. You need to make your own cave (meditation, a nice walk, listening to music, having a bath, dance party in the kitchen) to take your rest.

So it’s ok if we lose our cool sometimes, as long as we make amends with those who might be caught in the crossfire. We must also make amends with ourselves; that internal voice we all have can be cruel. We need to acknowledge that we might be going through a particularly stressful time (and this time of year is particularly stressful for the whole school community, with exams, corrections, prep. for end of year celebrations) and give our minds and bodies rest and respect when needed.

And dance in your kitchen!

By Ms Amy Keating

Sacred Spaces, Sacred Places



On Tuesday 27th of February, all of 1st Year were so lucky to have been taken around Dublin to visit 3 places of worship, organised by our World Beliefs teachers. We were split into two groups; the first group was taken to a cathedral, and the second group was taken to a mosque. Afterwards, we came together to visit a Hindu temple in the afternoon.



We visited St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin City Centre. We were guided around the gorgeous cathedral; you couldn't help but feel in awe of the incredible architecture. We looked at The Boyle Family Monument, the choir stalls, a cannonball in honour of a Butler family son, the Door of Reconciliation and the Bust of Jonathon Swift. Afterwards, we stopped for our break in Saint Patrick's Park and then we headed on to our next stop.

We were taken to the Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland in Clonskeagh. First, we placed our shoes on the shoe rack and headed into the prayer hall. The stunning mosque had so many beautiful features inside and was so comfortable and peaceful. We were told a little bit about the mosque, the roots of the Muslim religion and some of the traditions. We also witnessed a mid-day prayer. Everyone was also gifted an Islamic Cultural Centre hat. After lunch, we left to meet the other group in the Hindu temple. Well, after the teachers managed to drag everyone out of the café!

The Vedic Hindu Cultural Centre was our last place of worship and is the only Hindu Temple in Ireland! It is in Ballymount. After taking off our shoes, we stepped in and were immediately greeted with all new smells and colours and detailed designs. We were told a little bit about the origin of the Hindu religion and some of the

work involved in organising the temple. We were told a bit about some of the Hindu statues and gods. They answered a lot of our questions and gave us a few tips for schoolwork and study. Then unfortunately, our trip was over, and we hopped onto the bus to go back to school. Thankfully, no one forgot their shoes.

We had such a lovely trip, and a big thank you to our amazing teachers for organising it and taking us!

By Alexandra Leow, 1st Year

The Amber Flag



This year, we decided, as a school, to apply for the Amber Flag. The Amber Flag is a bit like the Green Schools Flag, and it works a similar way, except that it is awarded by Pieta and is given to organisations that support positive mental wellbeing. We set a number of goals: improving on Wellbeing Week, running a fundraiser for Pieta House, and making a poster to make the student body aware of the role of the student support team. We sent in a submission this April and hope to get news about it next month.

Wellbeing Week this year was filled with activities - Breakfast for the Soul, a bake sale in aid of Pieta House (which raised €615), table tennis tournaments, and so much more. It was amazing to see the whole school come together for this event. No doubt, next year's Wellbeing Week will be even better.

By Allegra Zipser, TY

Ms Crampton

Nola Lambert

Mr Adams

Ms Keating



Meet Some of The Student Support Team!

The Student Support Team is made up of the chaplain, eg. Ms Keating, senior school staff, eg. Mr Adams, the nurses, eg. Nola, and guidance counsellors, eg. Ms Crampton. They are here for you during the school day.

Janet Doherty, A Newpark Life



I am leaving the Newpark family life having been involved with it for so long. Yes, I have been part of the Newpark family for more years than I care to divulge. I attended Newpark, taught in Newpark, left for other pastures, sent my children to Newpark and finally came back to teach in Newpark. And coming back felt a bit like coming home.

I have sat in boring classes, thoroughly enjoyed interesting ones, hid in the loos (as a pupil, not a teacher!) so as not to be sent outside at lunch (you lucky students today, having such a choice of places to stay inside!), participated in many adventures (remember when the actor playing Othello in the school play accidentally stabbed himself for real in the final scene on stage?), got involved in a pantomime, taught French, Italian, RE and English at different stages, made friends and had fun!

And now it's time to move on and do all those things I haven't had time to do before! I have SUCH a list!

But I do want to say thank you. Thank you to all those people who have been and are part of my Newpark family: fellow pupils (from a long time ago) some of whom I see regularly, others who pop up from time to time; former students who surprise me on a frequent basis; current students who entertain me, who challenge me, who keep me on my toes and those who are a pleasure to know; my colleagues - former and current - whose conversation and company I enjoy and who sustain me, encourage me and support me. I have loved being with you all and will miss the informal chats beside the kettle and the photocopier and in the classroom.

I also want to encourage you all. I think Newpark is a great institution. Sure, it has its flaws, but all schools do and Newpark has fewer in my opinion. (Way back



we checked out four different schools for our eldest child and chose Newpark. Over the course of years with five children attending, I re-examined our decision and always came back to the same conclusion. There is a place for everyone in Newpark). So be grateful you are part of the Newpark family, enjoy all

the family life it has to offer, and make the most of it because your time will pass really quickly.

Unless, of course, you return as a teacher!

Bless you all,

Janet Doherty

DreamSpace Ambassadors



Myself, Ethan Duncan and Abigail Burns have had the privilege over the past year to be part of a programme run by Microsoft called the Microsoft DreamSpace Ambassadors. We are representatives for the school as student leaders of IT in the school. As part of

this programme, we've been invited by Microsoft to attend different seminars on coding and different technological pieces.

As part of our role as DreamSpace Ambassadors, we have taught the first years all the interesting things we've learned on these courses. These include learning how to use a Microbit, and also learning how to make their own chaser game. This allows the students to expand their technological knowledge, and also helps us to improve our understanding of it all by teaching .

The three of us have really enjoyed taking part in this program. This all came through our community action as Digital Leaders for the school This wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for Ms French, so we thank her very much, and fully recommend Digital Leaders and the DreamSpace Ambassador Programme for incoming TYs.

By James Sweeney, TY

Lounge at Lunchtime



While Lounge at Lunchtimes have been less frequent this year for various reasons, the level of talent has remained as high as ever. I can speak for myself and Ms Fox when I say it's an exceptional privilege as a music teacher to watch students share their talent and passion for music with the rest of the school community, and to hear the cheers and encouragements from the crowds.

I feel a huge sense of pride when I watch students stand up and do something that I never would have had the courage to do. Having now done it myself once (and never again!), I fully understand how terrifying it is to be up there. Music is a very vulnerable art form with a huge margin for error, and it's important that students' peers understand what an accomplishment it is for these young people to be putting themselves out there.

A few highlights this year have been Lorcan and his Fantasia Impromptu, the staff with an unforgettable Greatest Love of All, Zeb having a few choice words (which won't be repeated) about how many people were in the crowd when he stood up with his saxophone, a touch-and-go performance of Sweet Caroline from the TYs and of course, the LCVP talent show's Promiscuous Girl.

Setting up these performances is a stressful endeavour, as unfortunately most Lounges this year fall in between classes for myself and Ms. Fox. We're so lucky to have a fantastic and trustworthy group of students who always step up to help with assembly and the tidy up after, although we'll not dwell too long on the time it gets them out of class!

I want to end with two reminders. The first is that Lounge at Lunchtime is for all Newpark students, whether they study music or not and whether they're in 1st or 6th year (just please let Ms Fox and I know in writing on Teams as we famously have heads like sieves!), and the second is to the students who are in the audience. Keep being as enthusiastic and involved as you have been this year, and cheer as loudly as you would want others to cheer for you!

By Ms Jill Scott



The story goes that Lounge at Lunchtime was a staple of pre-2020 Newpark, but it soon withered away with COVID's arrival and didn't really come back when the students did. Not until the arrival of our wonderful music teachers, Ms. Scott and Ms. Fox, who brought back Lounge at Lunchtime due to high demand. We can't thank them enough for that!

Since then, I have personally witnessed a wide array of styles of music, whether it be teacher-led balladry, skilful solo piano work or grungy rock covers. You never really know what you're going to get.

The arts tend to unite Newpark students more than anything else (other than sports or exam anxiety), and it really is great to see over a hundred students excitedly scurry into the GPA to watch other students (and sometimes teachers) perform a piece of music. You could see two opposite people sitting down to see the same thing. If you're somehow oblivious to the buzz related to Lounge at Lunchtime, make yourself aware! When it happens, it's really a beautiful sight.

By Finley Gleich, TY

LCVP Talent Show

All 5th Year LCVP groups must create an action plan. Our group decided we wanted to not only show off our talents as a year but also show off what teachers can do.

Our event was spread over two days during lunch breaks, students showing their skills on Tuesday and teachers on Thursday. Preparation began weeks in advance. We spent weeks planning, making posters and annoying every teacher with various announcements.

After a lot of work Tuesday came around and we prepared for the first day of our show. We had seven acts to get through in half an hour, with each act performing in the GPA for all to enjoy. We had all ranges of music from an original song to Elvis dancing and doing air-guitars on stage!

On Thursday we were more relaxed as the first day had gone so well. We had everything from piano pieces and duets to a hidden band in the crowd and comedy skits. The rest of the school were so supportive during each act, filling the GPA with laughter, applause and cheers. As the last few acts wrapped up on Thursday, we were delighted we had provided an activity where we could let everyone show off their talents and enjoy themselves. We really enjoyed making this show and thank everyone who watched, took part and helped out.

By Jessica Roe, 5th Year

Music Mania



It's been a very musical year for both of us... some might say it's even struck a *chord* with some people? We apologise for the bad joke but on a serious *note* there has been a lot of success in the music department this year!

My name is Evelyn, and I am new to Newpark this year! When I first arrived I was welcomed into music

by my teacher Ms. Fox and the awesome music team. I am a classical singer and a member of the Dublin Youth Choir (DYC ages 14-18). 3 months into my time in Newpark I was invited to join the Dublin Youth Chamber Choir and the Dublin Youth Singers as one of their only under 18 members. I was so excited, and while it certainly added a couple more *strings* to my schedule, it was all worth it when we went to the Feis Ceoil music competition.



In preparation for Feis I went to the Wesley Interschools Music Festival on the 1st of March. You may remember, that was the day of the snow. While that was a bit of a difficulty (trying not to slip and slide before singing) it was certainly a day to remember. I came out of Wesley with a silver medal (and pizza afterwards) so the day was a great success in the end.

I then went to Feis as a soloist, duet partner and member of 3 different DYC choirs. I was delighted to win the silver medal in the Girls U16 Vocal Solo competition. My partner Ken and I came Highly Commended in Duets and TYs Holly Trainor and Shiloh Barrio came second!

Then...the motherload (dun dun dun). DYC had four (yes FOUR) choral competitions in one day. While there were certainly some low points, eating pizza on the floor and scrambling to find a friend who went to the bathroom seconds before we took the stage, there were a lot of high points. DYC won all our initial competitions, and we were then invited to sing in the gala performance at the end of the day.



We will soon be heading to the Cork International Choral Festival where we anticipate just as much fun and chaos.

I will now pass you over to Ruby - student by day, legendary violinist by night (and also by day).

Hi, my name is Ruby and I met Evelyn when she first came to Newpark this year and we quickly became close friends while bonding over music. I have also had quite a musical year, starting with successful auditions for the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland (NYOI) and the Ulster Youth Orchestra (UYO) and then playing violin in the Musical Extravaganza in December. The Musical was a key part of drama this year and it was a great experience learning how to play in a band rather than an orchestra. Speaking of orchestra, a few weeks later I went to the wonderful but intense winter course for NYOI where we played an incredible repertoire of Sibelius' Violin Concerto, Debussy's La Mer, Mel Bonis' Le Songe de Cleopatre and Under the Sea. We finished our course with a fabulous concert in the Helix.



Less than a month later, the UYO season started with a play-in day to introduce all the new people and work on some great music by Tchaikovsky and Wagner. We had a fun day of rehearsing that ended with a short but sweet concert.



In summer, NYOI and UYO will both have 10 day courses where we'll prepare two stellar pieces for our tours around Ireland. The *bar* is definitely high, but

I'm ready for the challenge!

A couple weeks after my introduction to UYO, I attended a masterclass in the National Concert Hall led by the world famous violinist Maxim Vengarov! In the masterclass, I observed how Vengarov went through the Sibelius Violin Concerto in great detail with three young talented violinists for nearly four hours. I took many useful notes that will help me learn the concerto in the future and it was such an amazing experience to see Vengarov play.

Music has allowed our friendship to blossom in *harmony!* Now our final question for you is can you spot all the music words in this article?

By Evelyn Roche and Ruby Creighton-Kowalsky, 3rd Year

Newpark Gala



This year me and a few other girls had the pleasure of singing with the Newpark Youth Choir in the Newpark Gala 2024. We had been practicing our two songs for a few weeks with the choir – ‘Edelweiss’ and ‘Shenandoah’, with Mary

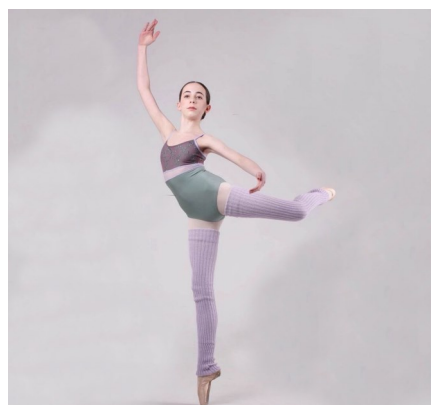
Walsh being a fantastic teacher and helping us all so much. The Gala was on May 8th in the National Concert Hall and was divided up into two halves, we sang one song at the beginning of each. It was amazing to see all the talented musicians and singers perform, and we had a lot of fun being part of the show.

By Muireann Breen, TY

Ms Fox and I would like to add that all of the singers, Muireann, Shiloh, Holly, Lisa, Amy, Alex and Sadhbh, were a credit to the school and they all sounded incredible. They both performed brilliantly and were an excellent audience for the rest of the talent that was on show. Everyone involved should be really proud of themselves!

By Ms Jill Scott

Passing The Barre



I have been dancing since I was 3 years old and have trained at the Goode School of Dance. This past year I have been lucky enough to be a part of the Irish National Youth Ballet Company. It

is semi-professional and the premier youth ballet company in Ireland. INYB's aim is to provide an opportunity for young Irish ballet dancers to train and experience life in a company. Many of its former members have gone on to dance in professional companies worldwide. There are three sections of the company: the juniors, intermediates, and seniors. I am a part of the junior company.

To gain a place in INYB, you must audition. If you successfully gain a place after auditioning, you are only given a 1-year contract. The company makes its dancers re-audition each year to give other dancers a fair chance. Every Saturday we have rehearsals from 9:30 in the morning for the full day and more during holidays for the upcoming productions. Right now, we are preparing for our spring show, Coppelía at the end of May.



I dance 10 – 12 hours a week after school and at weekends and it takes a lot of commitment. Although training is very hard work, I love performing and being on stage which is one of the many reasons why I love being part of INYB. In February of this year, the company was a part of Perform Festival where many dance schools, companies and dancers come to attend workshops with famous dancers and perform on the main stage. Earlier in April, I was selected by INYB to do a photoshoot with Danceworld to model their clothing and brands. It was an amazing experience.

By Pai-Lily Farrelly, 2nd Year

Public Sculpture Trip

The 1st year Artist Performance Visual class recently went on a trip with artist Ruth E. Lyons.



After learning about public sculpture for the past few months, the class went on an art trail to three public sculpture sites Honey Park in Dun Laoghaire, Quantum Logistics Park in Newtown North County Dublin and Coláiste Ráithín in Bray and heard directly from the artist Ruth E. Lyons about how she made her site-specific sculptures and the meaning behind them.

By Mr Kevin Kirwan



Visual Art Trip



2nd Year Visual Art students travelled by both Dart and Luas to IMMA in March. IMMA is the Irish Museum of Modern Art and there was a wide variety of thought provoking works of art on show.



One of the main attractions of our visit was IMMA's courtyard which had been transformed by a site-specific colourful and geometric installation, created by artist Navine G. Dossos. The installation explored how we can use colour to express emotional states, and make images of these complex feelings that can be both

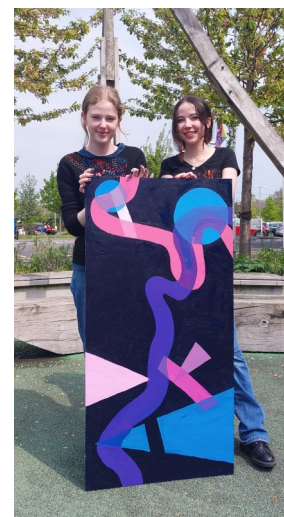
negative and positive. The bright and bold installation gave a vibrant energy to the space, which the students matched as they spent their lunch hour in the courtyard.



When the students stepped inside the museum, they came upon a room filled with half deflated gold letter balloons: straight away, it was clear that this was no 'traditional' art exhibition. As well as this, the student's saw short films, political embroidery, a pretend children's hospital, a lego castle and a real storm in a teacup

(by Dorothy Cross).

After soaking up the unique atmosphere at this iconic location, it was time to go home after what had been a very tiring day on foot.



TY Abstractions

TY Art class finished up the year with an ambitious project: Large scale abstract paintings that can now be found brightening up the GPA and other parts of the school.

The work was inspired by a Hungarian painter called László Moholy-Nagy, whose work was characterised by experimentation, abstraction, and a focus on the interplay of light and space.

The TY Art class have been particularly strong this year, and this project represents just a small portion of the high-quality and creative work that they have produced.

By Ms Trudy Feighery

The Cultural Council

This year has been one of the Cultural Council's most successful years in Newpark school. Over 20+ clubs have been successfully set up and continued on since this year under the leadership of students across the various years and the supervision of teachers. The Cultural Council itself consists of student representatives from each of the clubs and we meet on a monthly basis. In these meetings, we do standard check-ups on clubs, and offer advice and support to each other where possible. We also discuss events that are associated and organised by individual clubs such as ParkMUN and Stand-Up Awareness Week to name a few.

As well as overseeing the clubs, the council also must strive to maintain a fun cultural atmosphere within the school by organising events. This year, we've had successful events such as the Freshers Day, Halloween Week, countless bake sales for humanitarian crises, the rose giveaway for Valentines, Wellbeing Week and of course, the Variety Show. Our goal is usually to organise fundraisers from these event for charities such as Pieta House, UNICEF and other causes our students feel motivated to do something for. We often work collaboratively along with other groups such as the Student Council, the prefects and Sports Council to ensure these events are a success. The executive council was a recent establishment made this year as well which had the goal of strengthening these engagements between the student leadership groups. The executive council consists of the leaders of each of these councils.



This year I was Chairperson and Nakai Mudiwa as Deputy Chairperson of the Cultural Council. Nakai and I have been among the longest serving Cultural Council members over our years in Newpark. It has been particularly incredible for us to see the transformation of this council from it a small council that would meet outside on the benches, to a proper council that requires a full classroom to fit all our members inside. The council has had a major impact on Newpark over the last few years which was often previously unnoticed, but it is now more recognisable. The council's growth and the creativity of its members to

develop new ideas and events is a huge part of its success. I've had the honour of spending my last year as its chairperson and doing my very best to allow the council to reach its full potential.

I'd like to say a special thank you to Ms Johnston for her presence within the council. She has been most helpful to our members with their clubs and assisting us in any way that she can. I'd also like to say thank you to Ms Devis as well for all her help with supporting us with organising events throughout the year. So many of them would not be possible without her.

My message to future generations of the Cultural Council is to carry on our traditions as they are essential for the cultural of the school but do expand upon what we've built and develop your own ideas as well. I hope the council will continue to develop from the legacy we leave behind and that it will be carried on for generations to come. This council and what we do, result in core memories formed in this school of both students and staff and that is what makes us so important. I am happy knowing that I get to leave Newpark having fulfilled this position and that the future of this council is looking very bright.

By Seth Vella-Murphy, 6th Year



The Variety Show



The Variety Show was a massive success this year. For those who are not aware, this is Newpark's annual talent show where all members of the community are invited to perform their talents in front of a live audience. This event was organised by the Cultural Council this year with the assistance of the Student Council. We planned out and promoted the event, advertised for acts and organised a tech run for Wednesday the 27th of February.



The event itself was a great success. It took place on the eve of Thursday the 28th of February. Our diverse line-up of unique talents was engaging and spectacular. We were very pleased with the show and our audience's enthusiasm. With our ticket sales combined with the

extra money we made from the Tuck Shop, we made a total of €747. We were able to donate all this money to the NGO UNICEF in support of children in war-torn countries. In this school, we've excelled this year with the amount of fundraisers and money raised for charities that support good causes such as this and we hope Newpark pupils continue to carry on with this tradition.

My thanks to James O'Brien for helping plan and run this entire event, to Joss Brooks our stage crew manager and their stage crew, Conor McGarry our sound guy, and Rachel Kendrick, Aleya Said and



Andrew Bagrin for doing the lights. Without this team, none of this would be possible. I'd also like to thank the various members of student council, cultural council and members of the drama and music departments for assisting with the tuck shop, setting up the stage with musical instruments, etc. A massive thank you to Ms Devis for all of her support and guidance and allowing us students to take charge with this event. Ms Devis does so much for this school—we are all so grateful for her. I'd also like to thank Mr Smyth who has been so supportive with assisting me with extra drama for junior students and now with the Variety show. This is his first year teaching in Newpark and we are very grateful to have him here.

For the last two years the Variety Show has been a definite highlight of my time in Newpark. I hope the tradition is carried on for generations. It is such a fun event which brings the school community closer. I look forward to returning after I leave to watch it once again.

By Seth Vella Murphy, 6th Year



Oide Drama Day



When I think back to my school days, many, many, years ago, if offered the chance to do Drama all day long, it would have been a dream come true. Well, my lucky second year Artistic Performance class had this wonderful opportunity. Oide Creativity has begun a pilot scheme where six schools were given the chance to work with a professional theatre practitioner for a day. Once we were offered the place, I had a day of planning in Portlaoise (lovely train ride there) and a fabulous day with Theatre practitioners and teachers. I worked with Declan O’Gorman (our practitioner). He was so enthusiastic and excited as one of former Principals, Derek West, had been very influential on his teaching practice.



What followed was a series of fascinating classes where my second years discussed their ideal day of school. This involved nap time, eating, Drama, PE, Art and Music! And then they designed their ideal Drama day. They were very creative and instrumental in the planning of the special day and what followed was a very dramatic day in more ways than one. Thank you so much to this wonderful class for being so enthusiastic and imaginative and to Declan for

investing so much into this experience and lastly many thanks to Oide Creativity for enabling this to happen.

By Ms Cathy Devis

The 2nd year drama class had a whole day of drama this term. It was run by Oide who had set up a drama workshop for us.

Rather than going to classes on Thursday we instead went to the theatre and missed the entire day of school. Declan was there to run the workshop for us. We began by doing an actor’s warm up for about twenty minutes. We then created drawings while having our eyes closed before passing those drawings on to different people to create characters with them and then passing them along again so different people could add more character traits.



During the workshop, any ideas people had were written on the board and used later. Such as, near the start of the workshop we created sculptures while other people had to say what they thought the sculptures were. The ideas of what the sculptures were, were later used as themes for our plays. We were also asked to find different objects around the school and then, using these objects as props, the sculpture ideas for the theme and the characters we had created earlier, we had to create mini-plays in small groups.

After our plays were finished, we combined all our plays into one big play. We had to find connections between all our smaller plays, and we ran with the theme of anxiety. At the end, we performed our play.

I feel we had a brilliant experience and learned a lot about creating our own plays. Thank you to Oide, Declan, and Ms Devis for organising it.

By Sadhbh Ryan Griffin, 2nd Year

The Italian Job



Six lucky 5th years are treading the boards of the Teatro Ragazzi e Giovani in Turin in a multi-lingual performance of *Romeo and Juliet*. Over the space of five days, this “spettacolo plurilingue” has come together for two public performances at the end of an intense week of casting, training and rehearsals.

With his creative team of designers, choreographers and the indispensable chief translator Gabriel, Italian director Marco Alotto creates this international magic in Turin at the annual *Lingue in Scena* festival. This year, students from France, Greece, Ireland, Spain, Romania and Italy are working together as actors, singers, dancers, musicians and crew to produce an extraordinary ensemble piece. Each performer speaks in their native language and the story-telling is done as much through movement and music as it is through the words of the six languages.



Newpark has been lucky to be invited to join four productions in Turin over the years and it is always an intense and deeply rewarding experience. We are so proud of Mimi, Sean, Alex, Sarah, Martino and Nónín this year: they have been brilliant on and off the stage.



It has been a wonderful few days in Italy so far with hot sunshine and magnificent thunderstorms lighting up the sky. All six of our amazing students are making a lasting impression on everyone here with their wonderful acting, dancing and singing. It is fascinating watching *Romeo and Juliet* come alive in Italian, French, Greek, Romanian, Spanish and English. We did a brilliant mini performance on Sunday, alongside all the other countries which showcased everyone’s talents. Now they are rehearsing from 10 to 6 every day for their big performance on Thursday night. We are so grateful to Marco and Gabriele for including us in *Lingue in Scena 2024*. It is an incredible experience for everyone.

By Ms Anna Johnston and Ms Cathy Devis



Behind The Scenes at the Junior Plays



Lighting

It was a glum Wednesday afternoon in the Hunter Theatre. I was sitting in one of those beloved, well-known – slightly stained – plastic red chairs, watching the Junior Plays' first on stage rehearsals as a member of the stage crew. I had been involved in drama at Newpark before, so assumed this would be fun experience, as well. As I sat in this chair, engrossed in the performance on stage, I overheard Ms. Devis discuss with Ms. Johnston how they needed someone to do lighting for the upcoming plays. I swiveled my head and without a moment's thought, suggested that I do the lighting.

Please note: I have never operated a light system in my life. Heck, I do not think I have even changed a lightbulb before. But at that moment, I decided to try something new. Ms. Devis asked me a few questions before saying I would need a partner in crime. I had not gotten the job... yet.

I knew that I would need a suitable partner if I were to have a chance at getting this job. After twenty seconds, I quickly spun to my left, and asked my good friend and drama expert, Ruby Creighton-Kowalsky, to be my comrade on this job. Ruby agreed, and together we reported back to Ms. Devis. She gave us her blessing



but said that if we were going to do this right, we would need the proper training.

Fast forward to Saturday, 8:30 am. Instead of my usual lie-in, I returned to the Hunter Theatre once more, this time with a long day ahead of me.

In the days previous, Ruby and I had been briefly trained in how the lights worked, before being informed that our first true experience would be on Saturday, during the Junior Plays' tech run. This would be our time to apply the little knowledge we had gained and programme all the light settings we needed for the performances.

Over the next eight hours, Ruby and I worked tirelessly testing lights, planning with directors, and coordinating props with the stage crew.

Through it all, I had a brilliant time. I learned so much about how theatre is produced and new ways of approaching drama.

In the last hour or so of that long Saturday, Alannah Davis arrived and, due to her previous experience of lights, gave us helpful tips.

At the end of the day, Ms Devis approached Ruby and me and told us the news we worked all day to hear: we got the job.



However, it was not over yet.

Over the next week or so, Ruby, Alannah (who joined our crew to make sure everything worked smoothly) and I grinded away at rehearsals in the lighting box, making sure we had the lights, transitions, and everything else perfect for the two performance nights that were rapidly approaching.

Everyone who took part in the Junior Plays helped to create an awe-inspiring, miraculous, some might say bizarre, night at the Hunter Theatre that should be remembered by everyone involved. From the whacky chefs of Kitchen Nightmares to the criminally comedic pirates of Shipwrecked, every actor that went on stage



the amp in the middle of a play but I learned it all. Big thanks to Conor in 5th year who taught me all I know.

By Ruby Creighton-Kowalsky and Joss Brooks, 3rd Year

put on a stunning performance that highlighted their dedication to these plays. I commend Ms. Devis for the expert organisational abilities and passion that she threw into every aspect of this performance.

I would recommend for all students, no matter what year you are in or how much theatre experience you have, to join the drama community at Newpark. I can guarantee that you will get something positive out of it!

By James Carter, 3rd Year

Sound

This year we took on the job of lighting and sound for the Junior Plays. It was daunting at first because neither of us had done it before and it was a big responsibility but with the help of our mentors, Conor and Alannah, we learned the ways of the craft. We really enjoyed helping out with the Junior Plays this year and seeing all the wacky and wonderful actors and plays. From lighting box to sound booth, we learned it all and look forward to helping with more productions at Newpark in the future.

When I thought about doing the Junior Plays this year I wasn't sure if I wanted to do stage crew, manual labour isn't really my scene. I thought about all the roles I could do and decided to ask if I could help out with sound. It was a crazy experience, from having to listen to weird butter churning noises to having to fix



Acting

From the 12th of January to the 15th of March the first and second years did Junior plays directed by the fifth years. The first and second years were split up into six different plays. They were called Kitchen Nightmare, 2000 Turtles, God's Plan, Evil & Co, Shipwrecked and Baldspray. There were 49 actors and 21 directors in total. We were very lucky to have Ms. Devis, Mr. Smyth and Ms. Johnston to help us along the way.

We worked really hard rehearsing every day, learning lines at home, getting costumes together and making and getting props. I think we can take a lot of experience away from these Junior plays as it helped us get better at acting. We were very thankful with all the people that turned up to watch the plays.

Cate Steele, 1st Year

The Junior Plays was an amazing experience for me. I was debating not doing them at the start but then I decided that I would and I'm so glad that I did. During all the rehearsals and dress rehearsals there was such a great atmosphere. I was in the play *Kitchen Nightmare*.





In all seriousness, the plays were a very fun and quintessential part of the 5th year experience, and the 1st and 2nd year actors were a pleasure to work with, at times. Whether it be *Kitchen Nightmares* choking with cannibalism, *God's Plan* and its political comments on the 2nd year political climate, or *Bald Spray* full of follicle fun, the plays this year will never be forgotten and we look forward to next year's plays.

By Coco Evans and Hannah Phelan, 5th Year

Stage manager



Although nightmare is in the name, it was quite the opposite, the plays were definitely the highlight of my year. I'm so grateful to Sarah, Nora and Rui for being such great directors and making the rehearsals and everything else so so fun. Our cast was so great too! I wish I could do them again next year but I will definitely be doing the short plays and senior plays. I would 100% recommend doing them.

Alyssa Barry 1st Year

Directors

I found my experience of writing and directing a junior play to be so amazing. I thought it would be a lot harder than it was, but all our actors were so talented and hard working that it was no surprise that our play turned out to be absolutely amazing. It was so cool for me and my fellow directors to see our characters and story brought to life in such an amazing way and every actor brought something of their own to their character, making the production so much better than we ever could have imagined.

Every rehearsal was so much fun, we all worked together so well as a team and by the end it felt like we were all best friends. Sitting in the audience watching our cast perform was a surreal experience and I felt so proud and impressed by their stage presence, talent and overall fabulousness. It was such a rewarding experience and looking back at when I was in junior cycle and was acting in the plays as well I remember having so much fun, and I really enjoyed being a director this time around.

Overall such a wonderful experience.

By Sarah McGee, 5th Year

When we set out to write Junior Plays, we didn't expect anyone to take them seriously, because they weren't, but when we walked into our first rehearsals and met with a room of smiles and young thespians, we knew it was gonna be a wild ride.

This year us third years were ecstatic for the junior plays since we got to do stage crew! Ms. Devis selected a highly skilled team of the best and brightest to help make these plays happen.

This year there were six junior plays. We had a record number (don't fact check that) of stage crew this year so we had to divide into the two halves. Tuathla Cooling and I had the honour of being stage managers and even two of the third years got to do lights and one got to do sound. Our job as stage crew is to move all the boxes and chairs in between scenes and plays, we also have to keep track of all the props for each play and our hardest job, keeping everyone quiet backstage.

We spent many Wednesdays and Saturday at the theatre doing run-throughs, and I think a roll of masking tape is now permanently stuck to my hand but in the end it was all worth it. The biggest stress on the first night was the black sheet falling off a whiteboard but I was assured that not too many people noticed. The second night went well and nobody swore onstage (that would be strange). The plays were hilarious and hopefully well received.

A huge thank you to Ms. Devis and Ms. Johnston and all the 5th years especially Conor and Alanah. I'm so happy with how the plays went and I'm sure us third years are very excited to direct our own junior plays in two years.

By Josefina Cooper, 3rd Year

A 'Sick' Trip

Very early one morning in late March, a group of 44 lucky students (and five unlucky teachers) embarked on a 73-hour journey to Stratford-upon-Avon and back: the pilgrimage of a lifetime. Despite the short trip, we will all remember it for a very long time.



For starters, we were forced to wake at an ungodly hour and meet at Newpark at 5:30am. This marked the beginning of a twelve-hour travel day which included a three-hour ferry trip to Holyhead, a bus to Chester where we had an hour to get lunch, another three hours on the bus and finally a walking tour of Stratford in the pouring rain. We arrived at the hostel wet and hungry, but thankfully we had a well-deserved dinner before settling down for bed.

On the second day, we were woken up bright and early and set off for a tour of Shakespeare's birthplace, where we enjoyed a guided tour and a cool gift shop. Afterwards, we were let loose around the area for a couple hours and we got lunch. We went to The New Place directly afterwards which was a similar experience to the birthplace (minus a certain spew-related incident, but that's a story for another time).

Midway through our day, we split into two groups and attended either the Butterfly Farm or Shakespeare's schoolhouse. We (the writers) went to the butterfly farm and got our first taste of a warm environment since September. There weren't only butterflies, there were also a selection of lizards, frogs, bugs and other odd animals. A fine dinner (our first morsels of freshly made food in 32 hours) followed at Wildwood Kitchen and we quickly hurried over to the RSC Theatre to see the production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In general, the play was very well received by the students, which is to be expected since this was

arguably the centrepiece of the trip. The theatre had a very open thrust stage with many different entrances and exits for the actors to take. The sheer amount of space called for extremely dynamic and energetic performances, accentuated by the more minimalistic set pieces. The terrific lighting and tight live band tied the rest of it together. Afterwards, a Q&A took place with a portion of the cast, including Mathew Baynton (a lot of us were purely transfixed on him due to him making many a childhood through his work on *Horrible*



Histories). His performance stood out in particular, with his incredible sense of physical comedy. Not to downplay the other actors, though. Each cast member brought out an amazing presence which created a hilarious play, just like Shakespeare intended.

At 11:30pm, we finally returned to the hostel. The night that followed could only be described as a sick joke (again, maybe for another time).

In a rush, we left the hostel the next morning to get to Alton Towers as early as possible. The following seven hours included a variety of thrilling rollercoasters, monorails and food items. If you ask anybody who went on the record-breaking coaster 'The Smiler' (fourteen inversions!), they will probably agree that it was absolutely worth the 80+ minute wait. The rest of our evening was spent at the bowling alley in Cheshire Oaks. By the time we actually started bowling, it was





9:30pm and everybody had become shells of their former selves. We had never been so delighted to get something to eat at a bowling alley. After a lost-luggage scare, we were back on the bus and off to Holyhead where we embarked on the final journey back to Dublin. Due to us being extremely

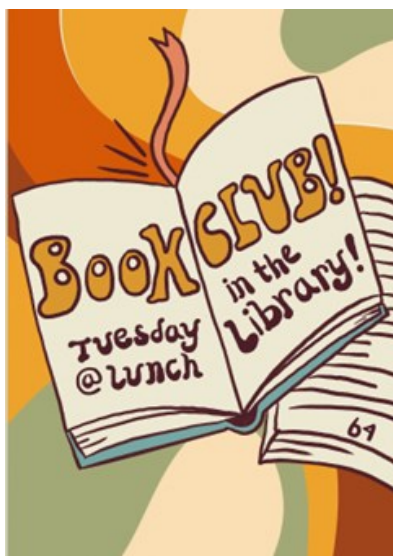
sleep-deprived and hungry, our boarding of the Ulysses could only be likened to a horde of zombies breaking onto the ferry. If we weren't sleeping, we were stumbling around a mass of other sleeping passengers for three hours until, finally we reached home. The bus dropped us back to Newpark as we took in the gorgeous sunrise which welcomed us back.

To sum it up, despite any minor mishaps that could have taken place on this trip, it was overwhelmingly enjoyable, and we wouldn't change a thing. It was a great opportunity to take learning about Shakespeare and drama to a whole new level, as well as creating a collection of wonderful memories with friends. To future TY students: do not hesitate to go on this wonderful trip. We cannot recommend it enough. You will not regret it!

Finally, a huge thank you to Ms Devis, Mr Byrne, Mr Smyth, Mr Hughes, Ms McNamara and Mr King for putting up with our mayhem and generally making it all happen. Because of you, we all had an unforgettable experience.

By Finley Gleich and Alice Gill, TY

The 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*.

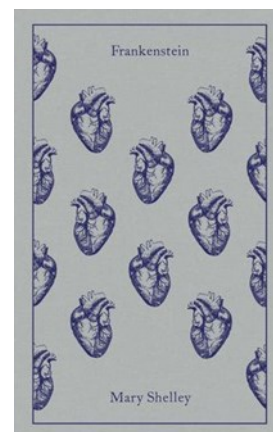
Our club is not limited to those who may not be the most avid readers or fanatics of literature, but open to anyone who wishes to join. If at any stage, you might think it's too late to join, just keep an eye on our notice board in the M corridor that has current updates on what we're reading so you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

By Tom Farragher, 3rd Year



In our book club meetings, we have passionate discussions about the book we are reading as a group, and, of course, other works of writing and storytelling we love. But mostly, we just love to talk!

This year we had an amazing variety of books to read together. Beginning in the 70s with *Daisy Jones and the Six* by Taylor Jenkins-Reid, a gripping book, now a TV show, following the rise and fall of a fictional rock band in the 70s, where love, music and drugs are all you could ever worry about. How relationships and music were never easy and simple on the heart, and how it changes us. The characters and their dynamics are well written, with everyone being their own person with their own opinions, never hesitating to show them, displaying a realistic dynamic. An easy to read book that we all enjoyed reading.



Going backwards to the 18th century, we then read about Dr Frankenstein and his creature in *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. A must-read in classic literature, telling the story of Victor Frankenstein's curiosity and

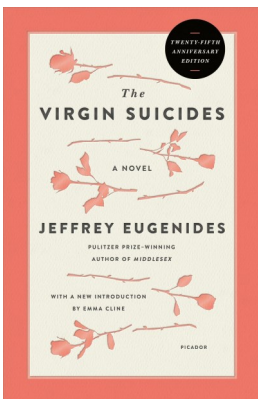
would-be obsession with life and science and the consequences of so. Written in the slow, descriptive style of classical, that was a pleasure to read.

Then we go back to the 70s and read about the ethereal, doomed Lisbon sisters in *The Virgin Suicides* by Jeffrey Eugenides. A beautifully written book on the subject of suicide and how it can affect us all. The author writes about what it's like trying to understand something we can't, something beyond understanding. How do we process life and death? An incredibly written contemporary novel that we all loved and would definitely recommend to you.

I absolutely think my first year in Book Club was really fun and enjoyable and would love to meet more of you that are into books. If you have interesting books you'd like to read with us, or just want to have lunch and chat with mates come by to the library on Tuesdays and we'll welcome you.

By Vaishnavi Dheepson, 3rd Year

Book Review: The Virgin Suicides



The five Lisbon sisters – beautiful, eccentric, mysterious and now, dead – had always been the obsession of the neighbourhood.

Although the boys who loved them from bedroom windows and across classrooms have grown up, the lingering question still persists, unanswered in each of their minds. – why did all five

Lisbon sisters take their own lives?

This lyrical and timeless tale of teenagers and suicide that transforms and mythologies suburban middle-American life announced one of the greatest American novelists of the 20th century.

Set in 1970s Americana – framed as the last dying empire of the world- the story surrounds the five teenage daughters of the Lisbon family, Cecelia, Lux, Bonnie, Mary and Therese. The book is told from the perspective of the boys who grew up with them and admired them from afar, who misguidedly take it as their responsibility to uncover the reason for the five tragic suicides that take place across the street.

Their investigation delves into the girl's journeys through grief and growth after the suicide of their

youngest sister and their eventual demises at their own hands.

The Virgin Suicides is a beautifully written book. The author, Jeffrey Eugenides, dives into the most trivial and intimate details of the lives of the Lisbon sisters to the point where the reader feels almost a part of the family themselves. You begin to understand the characters of Cecelia, Lux, Bonnie, Mary and Therese as the tragically beautiful and beautifully tragic girls they were in life and come to be just as painfully, hopelessly intoxicated with them as everyone who met them was.

As the book journeyed through the misadventures of four grieving teenage girls, I felt myself peeling back layer upon layer of deeper meaning within the text. This is why I believe it to be such a beautiful and personal book, the reader is able to throw themselves into the world Eugenides skillfully crafts around them. Whether it be a spontaneous attempt to save a beloved elm tree or a phone call consisting only of desperate cries for help masked under the tearful haze of the Lisbon sisters' record collection, you feel as if you too are there with the boys, watching the girls' lives haplessly unfurl before you, always two steps behind, always wondering if there was something you could have said or done and maybe it would have ended up differently.

My favourite part of the book was definitely the characters, each unique yet similar in their own way, the Lisbon sisters are a perfect representation of the outcome of romantics waking up to a world unromanticised and the blissful chaos that ensues in the wake. Each sister has modest goals, ambitions and specialties of their own, which cement them in my mind as some of the most hypnotisingly interesting women I have ever read – and, I believe, ever written. – Though it is the failure of the people around them to realise this and see them as their own people which leads to their isolated existence, being truly known only to each other.

The book discusses topics such as suicide, depression and other mental illnesses. If you find these topics distressing, I would suggest a different read, as these are the main focal points that drive the plot, but if you are okay with such topics then this book is a must read. If not for the characters, for the lyrical style in which Jeffrey Eugenides is able to spin a beautiful tale from the tragic story of five girls, desperate to be content in a flawed world.

By Tom Farragher, 3rd Year

Writer at Work



In March, I applied to be a finalist for what is known as the biggest young writers' competition in Ireland, the Edna O'Brien Young Writers' Award. I am delighted to say that out of 376 applicants, I became one of the ten finalists to win. The prize includes a ten-day creative writing course as well as a three-day overnight stay in UCD residences where I, and the nine other finalists, will meet with authors, publishers and UCD and Trinity lecturers. This is an absolutely huge achievement for me, and I couldn't be happier with the outcome. The application was a 300-word essay on why you thought you were deserving of the award and a 300-word sample of your work.

The Puzzler – By Tom Farragher

Elsbeth McGinty sat down on her frilly settee with a sigh.

'A new puzzle.' she said to herself giddily.

Ever since her husband had died four years ago and her granddaughter suggested she took up a hobby, her Friday night puzzles were her new thing to look forward to.

She had hundreds done and each one was different. Some of trains, traveling down scenic tracks along the French Riveira, some of puppies snuggling in a bassinet, and every one framed on her walls. However, she was particularly excited about this one. She had found it in a car boot sale off a man for only 50 cent, the box didn't even have a picture on the front. But she relished in the challenge.

However, as Elsbeth began to put the pieces into place, she saw before her own eyes an image of her very own dowdy, pink living room slowly begin to form. She cleared the newspaper out of her way to organize the rest of the pieces. The front page displayed a picture of an escaped lunatic who preyed on women living alone. She paid no mind; her puzzle was at the forefront of her thoughts.

Her hands trembled dreadfully as she placed the final pieces, only four left.

In front of her now, except for the four pieces to complete her window, lay an exact photograph of her living room. The decorative plates, the framed puzzles and at the very center of it, Elsbeth, on the couch in the same lilac cardigan and flowery dress doing a

puzzle.

As she placed the last four pieces, filling in the space for her window, to her horror, Elsbeth was met with the face of a demented man in the window of her puzzle. The very same face from the front page of the newspapers.

The last thing Elsbeth McGinty ever heard was the sound of breaking glass.

The Magical Mundane

'A Step on Stillorgan Road' began as a small homework assignment based on Patrick Kavanagh's poem 'Epic'. Make the mundane magical. This poem ended up being a lot of fun to write, and through the process, I found the joy of creating something out of nothing.

A Step on the Stillorgan Road

I stand here,
Awaiting trial
This fierce cliff does
Tender the summons;
If I step my footfall will
Spell my challenge.
Will I fall or
Fly?

And then I
Move; A walk becomes
A run. Twixt two trunks
I surge.
A tumble of
Motion; Past shining
Ruby, Amber, Emerald
The bars of a fence,
As harsh as bird's cage
Do halt the journey
Of Charon's boat.
I weave across wheels,
Those vestibules of
Silence.

I stand now
At the gates of Conclusion
This dark mount does whisper of success;
My footfall will
Claim this land
As mine own.

My Experience Judging for the Children's Books Ireland Awards



The Children's Books Ireland Awards were established in 1990, and their stated aim is to "identify, honour and promote excellence in books for young people by Irish authors and illustrators". Being an avid reader from a young age and having read many of their past Book of the Year award winners, when a callout for a young judge playing a part in selecting the winner of this award for 2024 was sent on the book club Teams, I took this as the perfect opportunity to challenge myself to widen my horizons and explore different genres and authors. In the summer of 2023 I had the luck of being selected through an application as one of two young judges on a panel of 12 including publishers, illustrators, librarians and academics.

I couldn't have predicted the sheer volume of reading awaiting me that summer, as 158 entrants for the Awards were sent to me 30-40 at a time. Among them were picture books, non-fiction volumes, and YA and teen novels, as well as some contemporary fiction. Generally enjoying the latter in addition to classics and literary fiction, some of the books (specifically rugby-themed ghost stories and 600 page fantasy novels) were



not what I was used to reading, but I also found many new favourites during my reading, which lasted from June to January. *Catfish Rolling*, by Irish-Japanese author Clara Kumagai was a magical realism novel fused with angsty YA that left me wanting more, and *My Life as*

a *Chameleon*, by Diana Anyakwo, which told the striking story of a young Nigerian girl out of her depth in Manchester were two that I will undoubtedly return to.

The seemingly endless reading stage spanned multiple holidays, devices and late night reading sessions. During this all judges recorded their thoughts on each book in a mega-spreadsheet and debated the standard of them in online meetings, where the list had to be narrowed down to a longlist of 20 and then a shortlist of 10. No mean feat, considering the number of entries was higher than any year previously, and it took 3 hours of back and forth to decide on the final 5 winners of the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year Award, the Honour Award for Fiction, the Honour Award for Illustration, the Eilís Dillon Award for a debut and the Judges' Special Award. Passionate arguments for and against books were made, and in some cases it came down to one vote to decide winners.

A unique and intimidating opportunity to be offered, I was surprised how quickly I adjusted and felt comfortable expressing my opinions on books in front of the panel, and though my fellow jurors had more expertise and experience in the area than I could hope to have, I felt that they respected and listened to my opinions. I was even interviewed for an article in Children's Books Ireland's *Inis* magazine, and got to see my face in the Irish Times as part of the announcement of the Awards shortlist. With the official announcement of the Award Winners taking place in Merrion Square as part of the International Literature Festival on May 22nd, this chapter of my life will be closed, and I can only recommend it to anyone who enjoys books and having their opinions on them heard!

By Nakai Mudiwa, 6th Year

(All photo credits to Julien Behal)

A Book Inspector Calls



On the 18th of April the Newpark Book Club had a special visitor from the Children's Books Ireland Awards. We discussed some of the nominated books and read from *Global* by Eoin Colfer and *Andrew Donkin*. Thank you Michael Clare for coming in to visit us!

By Ms Lydia Colin

MUN



Model United Nations may seem confusing and intimidating to outsiders but experiencing and finding a love for it can have immense value, both academically and (more importantly) personally. For non-MUNers, it is essentially a simulation of the real-world United Nations for young people and aims to teach them debate, writing and collaboration skills, as well as knowledge of the structure and workings of the UN along the way. Schools from all over Dublin and further afield represent countries in the UN in the form of delegations, and students can choose which topics they would like to debate, ranging from humanitarian crises, honour killings (Social Cultural and Humanitarian) and transgender healthcare (Health and Youth) to drone surveillance (Disarmament and Security). Students can then choose to write documents laying out how these problems would be solved in resolutions, which are debated and then voted on. Throughout all this seriousness mock security roam the halls with nerf guns, joke resolutions are debated, and games are played.

This year the Newpark MUN team successfully increased involvement from younger years in conferences and also expanded MUN involvement to the whole school community with PARKMUN – our first ever MUN conference held here in the school, attended by over 200 attendants and with guest speakers Barry Andrews MEP, and Richard Boyd Barrett TD. It was an intimidating undertaking that was overall extremely successful. This allowed more seasoned delegates to assume leadership roles and newer ones to get a taste for the environment.

The Newpark MUN team also sent delegates to four conferences throughout the school year, in Terenure, Rathdown, Wesley College and Wicklow Educate Together. It was a particularly successful year awards wise, starting off with a Commended Delegation win for the delegation of Japan, and continued with five Distinguished Delegate awards, two Best Junior Delegate awards, two Commended Delegates awards

and one Best Delegate award (by a junior delegate!).

If you or your friends want to learn more about how MUN works, sign up for a conference or practice your debate skills, meetings take place every Monday lunchtime in RB12. There is no obligation to take part in conferences to attend meetings and no age limit and any questions you have can be answered. A huge thanks to Ms Rider and the other teachers who facilitated our many conferences this year.

By Nakai Mudiwa, 6th Year

Debate Club

As the year draws to a close, we in Debate Club think about all we have done this year. We have had many fierce debates ranging from genetically modified food to the reinstating the Irish monarchy. We ran inter-debate club competitions, played many games and had lots of fun.

Starting next year we are hoping to enter competitions, have debating events in the school and work with other debate clubs in Dublin. We would really encourage anyone with an interest in debating to come down and try it out, you don't need any experience to have a go at debating. It is so much fun and good way to make friends with others in your year and other years.

By Joss Brooks, 3rd Year

Dance Club



Dance Club this term has been great. Our membership has grown hugely over the past month. We're still a small group, but everyone is committed, and our members are wonderful. I'm so proud of how enthusiastic they all are and the strides they've made in their skills recently.

The girls have been truly incredible, and I know that I speak for both Tuathla and myself when I say that we are so grateful to have them. If anyone has any interest, we meet in the theatre every Thursday at lunchtime, and you'd be more than welcome to come on over any time. See you all in the new term!

Pride Club



The Pride club meets every Thursday at lunch time in M5. We believe that this club is one of the most essential clubs in the school as it acts as a support system for students who are LGBTQ+ who often feel they don't fit in. This is a safe place to meet as the club is made up of individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ and allies, meaning this club is inclusive and is an inviting place for all members of the school community. In our modern world today, LGBTQ+ people may perhaps face more hate than ever before due to the usage of social media; it can often feel like there is no escape. We try and offer a safe space, covering topics such as LGBTQ+ history, discussion classes and simple games just so our members have fun.

It would be dishonest to not admit that the pride club has been not as successful terms of attendance as in previous years. Pride Club was the first club that was revived after the pandemic which saw the end of all clubs for its duration. Pride Club was easily the most popular club with so many members that we would often have to go outside to accommodate everyone. One might interpret the recent drop off in numbers as showing that the club has served its purpose—perhaps students no longer feel the need to attend as they have become confident in themselves and who they are. I'm also delighted to see former members of the club have gone off and set up and running their own successful clubs within the school.

While there may be various reasons for the lack of attendance in the club, I strongly believe that Pride Club should always exist in Newpark and I hope students for generations will carry it on the club and expand on it. The club serves a necessary purpose in this school of providing a safe environment for students who feel alienated simply because of who they are. As I leave Newpark, I've decided to leave the foundations of a plan with my fellow students to set up a Pride committee which hopefully will address issues that LGBTQ+ students face which can be communicated directly to management. I believe this idea will empower LGBTQ+ students giving them a voice.

I want to give a special thank you to Ms Keating for being extremely supportive to the Pride Club and helping us organise several Stand-Up awareness weeks. I also want to thank Ms Ring for being one of our main teacher mentors, particularly over lockdown when the club would not have been possible without her. Becoming the leader of Pride Club and assisting it for these last few years with many individuals across Newpark school has been a healing experience from my own struggles in Junior Cycle. I hope the legacy of this club is carried on by future students and I hope it continues to empower other students.

By Seth Vella-Murphy, 6th Year

Crochet and Knitting Club



I first started this club because I wanted to share the joy I get from crocheting with whomever

was interested. I taught myself to knit as a new challenge and got some great help and tips from people in the club. I am going to be leaving school soon but that does not mean that is the end. If you think you could take on running the lunchtime club, the position is open to anyone.

As we near the end of the year, I have to say thank you to everyone who came along. This club has been so fun and even though crochet is a tricky skill to start with, once you get the basics you can easily build on this.

I loved teaching the beginners and learning from everyone. Spending time with others who get a kick out of the same hobbies as you is always great. I hope everyone continues to love the Crochet and Knitting Club in the future.

Many thanks to Josie Metcalfe for all her help and support.

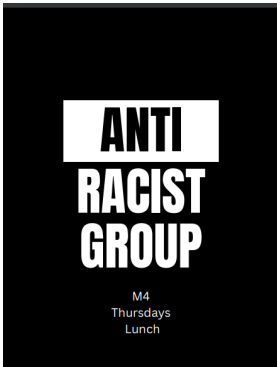
By Grace Patterson, 6th Year

Come up to crochet and knitting club!

This year has been so fun at the club. It is a relaxing craft, and it has been so much fun for us to learn. Everyone is welcome, whether you know the craft or not.

You can learn to make loads of things like hats, bookmarks, plushies, whatever you want! Or you can work on your own project and show it off.

Newpark Ant-Racist Group



The Newpark Anti-Racist Group was formed in February 2024. Joe Gill, 5th Year, worked with teachers to create a group focused on raising awareness of racism and building anti-racist skills in Newpark.

Lead by Joe Gill and Khadim Niang, the Anti-Racist Group meets every Thursday in M4, to

discuss, debate and develop ideas on how to spread anti-racist awareness in the community.

The group's first big success was Show Racism the Red Card Day, which was organised in conjunction with the Immigrant Council of Ireland. They have big plans for next year and cannot wait to get back to work in September.

By Mr David Smyth

Show Racism The Red Card Day



On Thursday the 21st of March, the newly formed Anti-Racist Group, led by Joe Gill and Khadim Niang took part in Show Racism the Red Card Day, inspired by the Wear Red Day initiative of the Immigrant Council of Ireland. All students and teachers were encouraged to show support against racial discrimination by wearing red clothing, and red stickers were given out for any forgetful people on the day.



Members of the Group visited different classrooms throughout the day collecting €2 donations. Posters around the school with QR codes allowed students and teachers to donate virtually during break and lunch times. Over €370 was raised in cash alone (and hopefully even more via QR code!).

All donations went to the Immigrant Council, supporting their work in education workshops, training sessions for teachers and school staff and providing resources to schools, clubs and youth services to help them tackle racism in Ireland.

If you would like to be a part of the Anti-Racist Group or simply see what we're all about, feel free to attend a meeting on Thursday lunchtimes in M4, or contact Mr Smyth on Teams.

By Nakai Mudiwa, 6th Year

Denim Day for Dementia



Denim Day for Dementia was held on the 1st of March 2024. Students and teachers wore denim to show their support for people with dementia. Ms Keating and the students of 3WFE organised the event, which included things like drawing posters, distributing stickers and recruiting people to take part in the fashion show at lunch. Everyone was happy to take part as it was our first time organising a fundraiser like this.

On the actual day of the fundraiser, stickers were handed out and money was collected from all the years taking part. At lunchtime, there was a fashion show. There were prizes for best-dressed students and teachers. Mr Davey won the prize for best-dressed teacher and the student's prize was split between Oisín Twohig, 3rd year, and Alice Gill, 4th year. In the end we raised €632.27 for The Alzheimer Society of Ireland! I am very proud of the work my class put in to make this fundraiser a possibility and it was very exciting to work on a project that involved the entire school.

By Elise Nangle, 3rd Year

LCA Corner

A Dream Trip



For one of our trips this year we got to go to Microsoft Dream Space in Leopardstown. It was a 5th and 6th year LCA trip which was good. When we arrived the first thing we noticed was the size of the building. It was massive and tall. When we went inside it, we noticed the cool design this building has where all the floors and offices are open so you can look up and around and see every floor and department. We learned about all the entryways and job opportunities that Microsoft has. We got a tour of most of the building, which was cool as we got to see all the different offices and the work they're doing in IT and AI.



For the last few activities, we did a design race in groups where you get given supplies, everyone gets the same and you must build the longest racetrack while the ball stays on the track. My group came second but we lost by a good bit. We learned about coding for the last half an hour and learned about the different techniques and ways you can change and add stuff to completely change codes. We all really enjoyed the Microsoft dream space trip and said we would all go again next year.

By Lewis Thornton, 5th Year

LCA Enterprise Week

Bake Sale

This week for Enterprise Week, we decided to have a bake sale. Kasey and I bought ingredients and baked various sweet treats each day. The bake sale was extremely popular amongst the students of Newpark. Enterprise week was a huge success and was an extremely fine experience.

The Clean Deal



The 5th year LCA boys decided to run a car wash for enterprise week. They booked in teachers' cars for time slots. The boys worked hard every day, washing, shining and even hoovering cars. It was an enjoyable experience as they developed their communication and teamwork skills.

Jewellery (Making and Selling)

Claire made earrings throughout the week and sold them on Friday. They're already proving a hit with many teachers placing orders early.

By Michelle Gormley 5th Year

Butler's Chocolate Factory



We went on a visit to Butler's Chocolate Factory and set off with Avril behind the wheel of the school bus. We were brought on a tour of the production side of the factory and then visited the museum where we learned about the founder of Butler's. Along the way we were given some samples and at the end we were all given a chocolate elephant to decorate which we brought home! It was a very sweet trip.

By Daki Rezig

The Redbrick Report



Hear from our team of Redbrick reporters as they fill you in on the many and varied activities they have gotten up to over the course of the year!

A huge thanks to the reporters, teachers and SNAs who make life in the Redbrick so much fun.



Kings of the Castle



19/2/24: Today we went on a Redbrick trip to Rathfarnham to look through charity shops. I enjoyed the trip, and we were able to find some interesting things like a tap and a number of DVDs. I couldn't find any pins for my scarf, though.

Still, it was a good trip and we had a laugh finding some of the weird objects we found. After the shops, we went for a walk in the Rathfarnham Castle grounds and found a small wooden playground. We all enjoyed the different equipment and the zipwire. On the whole, we enjoyed the trip a lot and I personally would like to come back at some time in the future.

By Ben Carey-Smith, TY

How-th You Doing?



The Redbrick took a trip to Howth on April the 8th 2024. We travelled by bus then onto Dart and arrived at around 11:30.

We walked along the pier for a while. Everyone was ecstatic to find some seals in the water. Everyone then gathered at the chipper, we got some chips then made our way back to the Dart and back to school. I can say that it seemed like everyone enjoyed themselves, despite being caught in a rainstorm.

By Hunter Prendergast-Spollen, TY

A Wuff Day Out



On the 8th of May we went to the DSPCA. Avril drove the school bus. We got a tour of the shelter from Brendan. We saw the dogs and cats looking for homes. We then went to the memorial garden. I would give the trip 6/10 as it was a bit smelly .

By Jonathan Manning



Everybody Was Kung Fu Fighting



On the 22nd of April we went to UCD Cinema to see KungFu Panda 4. We got the L25 to Stillorgan to buy treats. We then got the 145 to UCD.

The thing I liked about the movie was seeing one of Po's old enemies Tai Lung. We then got the S6 back to Blackrock and walked back to Newpark.

By Ethan Webb, 1st Year

Strike!

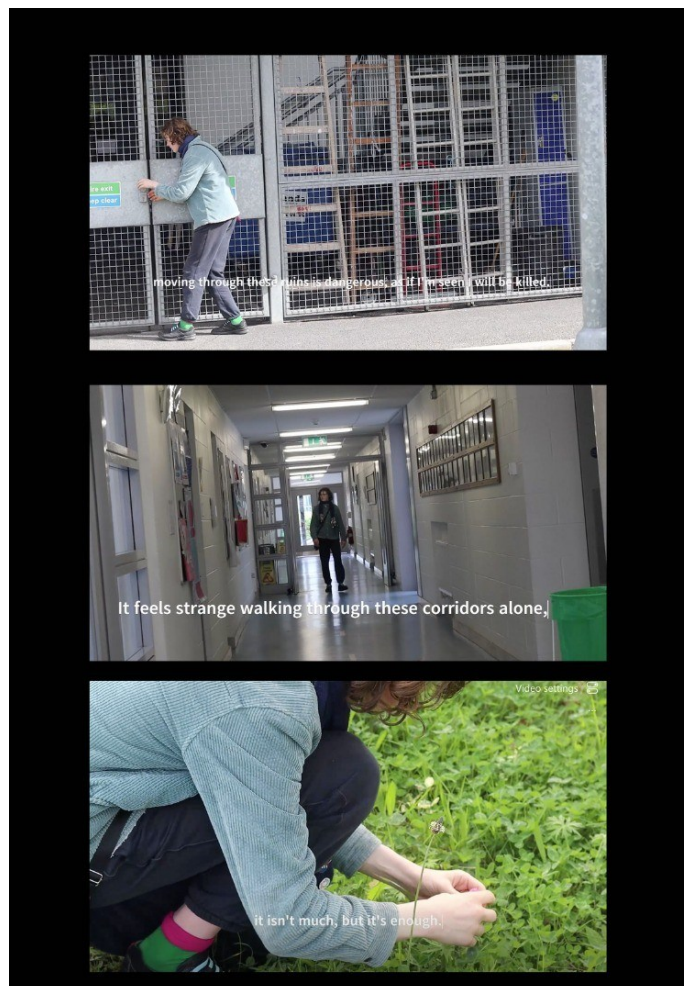


On the 22nd of January 2024 we went to Bray Bowling. We got the Dart from Seapoint to Bray. When we first got there, we had a break because it had been a long journey, and then we started at 11:30.

I felt very proud of myself, because not only did I manage to win with 91 points and two strikes, but I even managed to beat Hunter's team (with him getting 83 points). We got to go to McDonalds for lunch afterwards.

I had a blast today and I can't wait for the next trip to come.

By Andrew Russell, TY



Check out stills from Ben Carey-Smith's one man film about one man's fight for survival.

Bobby Ryan —A Newpark Institution

Fifth year Isobel Smiley sat down with Bobby Ryan to chat about his time in Newpark.



I: When did you start working in Newpark?

B: 1999 as far as I remember.

I: What did you do before that?

B: I worked as a parts manager in the Toyota Garage in Greystones. Good job, and it came with a free car every year!

I: So I heard you attended Newpark, and you were head boy?

B: I did, I was head boy. That's when the prefects in those days were nearly more respected than the teachers. Plus we had a uniform of course, we had the brown jacket and the tie to look presentable. It was more of an honour or a privilege at that time. It was more of a thing than it is now. It's way more modern now, the values are better now, the relationships between the students and staff are better, and better controlled as well. I think there are more modern views on how you treat people. When I was in school, the idea of a teacher lifting a student of a chair by their hair was normal. It was 'oh my god, call the cops, this is it, stop school'. Whereas now, the values are better and the respect and the relationships are better.



I: What's the craziest thing that's happened in Newpark?

B: I think the craziest thing, as far as mind was concerned, was the big change, the big move from the old school to the new school. Physically exhausting and mentally disturbing.

I: How has being caretaker of the old school compared

to being caretaker of the new school?

B: The old school was a hammer and nails fixing job, buckets for leaks and no massive, big, huge companies, contractors doing things. We had to do everything ourselves. A lot more running around with stuff like broken locks and windows. It's gotten more academic now I suppose, I spend a lot more time at a computer compared to the old school.

I: So which do you prefer?

B: This school. It's modern, it's computerised. Big contractors are going after the difficult things.

I: What will you miss the most about Newpark?

B: The people. The students. The community. That's the only reason I left my last job. I mean, it was a great job, parts manager, with a brand new car every year. But when Derek West rang me and he said "we want you back", because I had already covered for a short time, it was the community that made me say yes. I mean, in my last job I might have had everything I needed, but I didn't have a community, I didn't have people, just a couple of mechanics that would drop in every now and again. So after coming back here I just knew it was a good decision because of the people. The community, a bit of life. Good people, bad people. That's what I'll miss the most.



I: Any advice for whoever takes over?

B: Yeah, you've got to be a people person. You've got to be able to relate to people. I mean, anybody can do the little fiddly things that I do, you know, fix lockers, the small DIY stuff. But you need to be able to be everything to everyone, which is why I like this. You have to be a people person for sure. Have a moderate mood and temperament. Not prone to flying off the handle when teachers annoy you. Which I've done a few times.



with him in the school (probably still helping with our lockers). No one will be able to replace you. Thank you for everything Bobby and enjoy your retirement!

By Isobel Smiley,
Nóinín Cooling & Mimi
Reuland, 5th Year



I: Any advice for the students?

B: Yeah, just be wise. It's all about communication, you know, how does a student communicate with a teacher, how does a student communicate with the non-teaching staff, and vice versa. Respect is big. Kindness. Be gracious. Because the community here is so large, it's slightly easier to find people who are more agreeable in a sense. With a very, very, very, small group, the chance of you getting two people who are nice and pleasant and agreeable, you're not going to do so. What I found when I was just thinking last week, is that I've never had a student growl at me, or complain about me. And I've never had to complain to management about any student or staff. It's really been very good. And we like it. We all get tired and grumpy every now and again, that's fine, that's normal. I just can't abide people who are just mean to people.

(Mr. Adams walks in)

B: Oh and Mr. Adams of course is an awful person.



I: Any plans for retirement?

B: Just to slow down a bit.

I: Do you think that you will ever set your alarm clock again?

B: Oh no. Not early anyways.

I: Last but not least, what's your favourite place on campus?

B: My favourite place on campus? Oh, I can't tell you that. Highly confidential.

Mr Adams: I know!

B: Don't ask Mr Adams. Or Mr Norton.

Bobby is without a doubt the heart of Newpark and it won't be the same without him. We are so grateful to have had such an incredible caretaker to help us from day one with our lockers all the way to our last days



The PTA Update



It's hard to believe we're hurtling towards the end of the school year! The PTA have had another active and successful term, culminating in the May table quiz. The quiz was held in the Wishing Well and we're delighted to say that it was a roaring success. It was a key event for us, being the official launch of our fundraising initiative to purchase a new school bus. Given the expense involved, this initiative will run over two to three years. For our future table quizzes, we have noted that we will ensure to establish ourselves in a larger venue to meet demand. It is a good complaint and we were very grateful to everyone who turned out to support the event! Many thanks also to the sponsors who covered all costs involved including prizes and to our chairperson, Tim, who was compere par excellence for the night.

On the 29th of May from 3-5pm we will run our annual uniform sale. Please donate any uniform clothing from the 20th May. We welcome incoming parents of 1st years to also attend.

Throughout the term we continued to fund various initiatives including the Trinity Walton Club, the minibus insurance and tax, the Newpark nurses' first aid software system, Newpark crested swimming hats for the galas, a projector for Transition Year guest speakers and the end of year prize-giving. Additionally, we were delighted to support the Newpark WorldWide Global Schools Committee by purchasing a plastic bottle bin to help reduce waste.

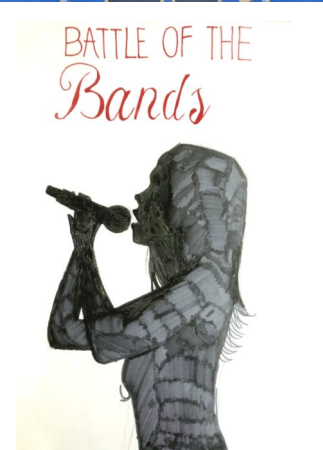
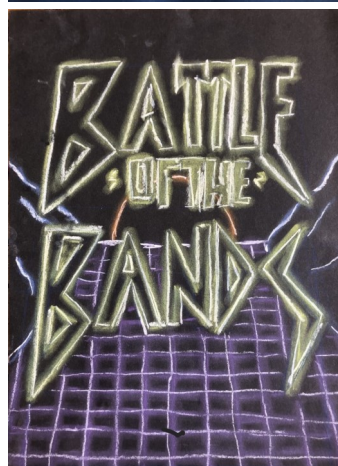
We wish to express our gratitude to the outgoing sixth

year parents who have given so much to the PTA throughout the years, including Beryl Alvey and Lizzy Pashley. Special thanks to Lizzy who was our chairperson for a number of years!

Finally, we wish to thank you for your ongoing support and participation at events. We're looking forward to another active and exciting year ahead. If you're interested in joining, feel free to mail us at pta@newparkschool.ie. Have a wonderful and safe summer ahead!

Coming Soon: Battle of The Bands

Next September the PTA will be organising a Battle of the Bands competition and Ms Feighery's 3rd Year Art Class have already started putting together posters.



Newpark Newsletter Issue 65

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