

*School Improvement Plan/DEIS  
Summer Newsletter*

May 2024



Issue 16



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Welcome Note

**Our aim is**  
**“To cultivate what is native to the soul”**

**Our approach**  
**“Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí”**

A Chairde,

We wish to celebrate the achievements of our school community and congratulate our students and staff on grasping all opportunities made available to them this term. It has been so refreshing witnessing school life return to its vibrant normalcy. We are, as always, so proud of how our students navigated through the last two years.

Our newsletter illustrates the lengths our students and staff go to improve our day to day experiences at the RCS. We are continually looking for ways to progress and grow as a school community.

We could not be more proud of our students and staff for their resilience and perseverance over the last few years. This term has been particularly busy with fantastic achievements by our students. We would like to pay particular gratitude to our teams, groups and individuals who excelled in competitions, tournaments etc. and who excelled in promoting our school and our values.

Our newsletter this year outlines our DEIS targets for the coming years and our progress so far. We would like to thank our committees for continuously working towards these targets.

We, as a team and a community, look forward to brighter days ahead in a spirit of partnership and respect.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

**John Gorman**  
**Principal**

**Dáire Gillen**  
**Deputy Principal**



*John Gorman*  
PRINCIPAL



*Dáire Gillen*  
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Core Values



### *Our Core Values*

**RESPECT**

**TEAM**

**KINDNESS**

**RESPONSIBILITY**

**CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENT**

**STUDENT CENTERED**

**BEST PRACTICE**

**SELF ACCEPTANCE**

## *The Rosses Community School*

**Operates  
reflective  
practice**

**Solutions  
based  
approach**

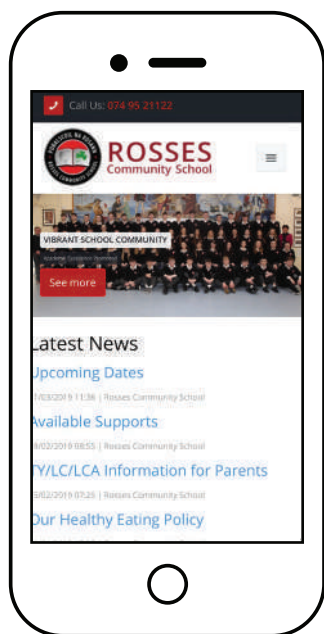
**Strives  
for best  
practice**



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Keeping You Informed

### *Keeping You Informed*



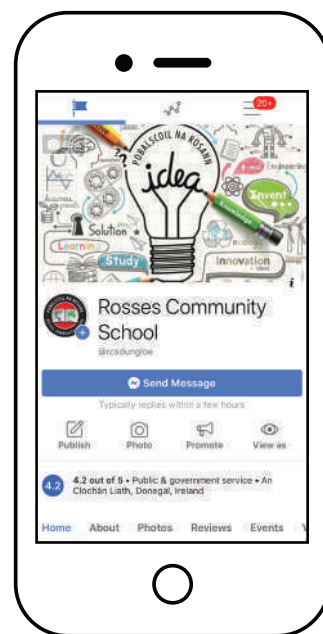
Website

[www.rossescommunityschool.ie](http://www.rossescommunityschool.ie)



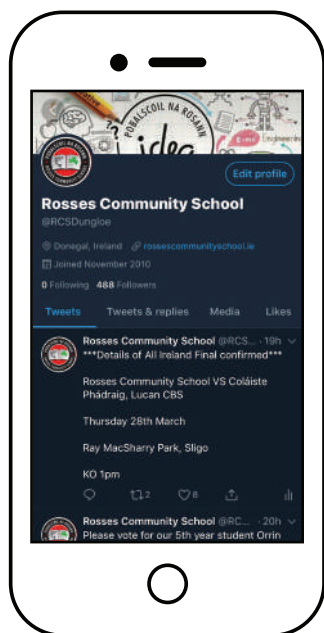
VShare

[www.rossescs.vshare.ie](http://www.rossescs.vshare.ie)



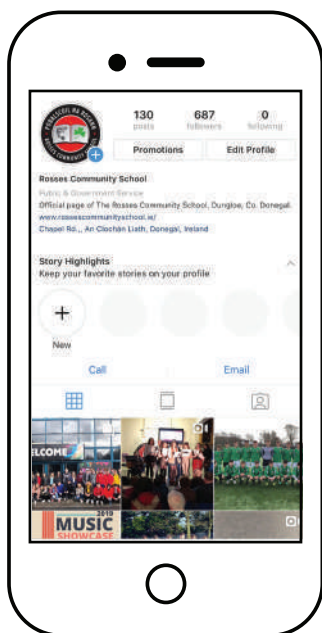
Facebook

[www.facebook.com/rcsdungloe](http://www.facebook.com/rcsdungloe)



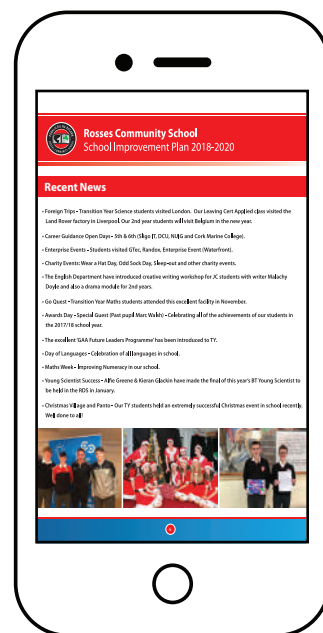
Twitter

[www.twitter.com/RCS Dungloe](http://www.twitter.com/RCS Dungloe)



Instagram

[www.instagram.com/rossescs](http://www.instagram.com/rossescs)



PDF Newsletter

# Committees

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1. School Attendance
  2. School Participation
  3. Retention
  4. Educational Transitions
  5. Educational Attainment
  6. Literacy and Numeracy
  7. Partnership with Parents and Others
  8. Management and Leadership
  9. Teaching and Learning
  10. Infrastructure
  11. Bealach straitséiseach na Gaelige
  12. Student Council / Student Voice
  13. Wellbeing
-



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## School Attendance



54 students from 1st and 2nd Year took part in non-curricular drama and confidence building classes with Derek Reddin during the final months of the 2023-24 school year.



RCS students taking part in a Chess inter-school challenge in April in Glenties. Over 100 students have taken part in lunchtime Chess matches throughout the year.



1st Year student Alex Carlin recording in Store Studios. Around 30 students across the school work with Joe Rodgers in Music performance and technology.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## School Attendance



12 students receiving certificates for Swimming. Students attend Finn Valley Leisure Centre weekly throughout the year to swim.



## Summer Newsletter - May 2024

### School Participation



27 students from TY attended a Geography trip to Lough Key Forest Park in Roscommon during April where they learned about the flora and fauna of the area.



38 students from 2nd Year visited the Armagh Planetarium on a Science trip to learn more about earth and space during May.





## Summer Newsletter - May 2024

### School Participation



In late March, 18 Leaving Cert History students from 5th and 6th Year visited the Siege Museum in Derry as part of their studies on the Northern Ireland section of the course.



21 students attended the Manchester United Foundation in Derry during April. Their participation and team-work was very impressive throughout.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## School Participation



Almost 70 students embarked on the annual TY End of Year trip. This year the students visited Spain; seeing Barcelona, Salou and Tarragona. An amazing experience for all students.



TY students visited the Assaranca Waterfall in Ardara in April as part of their TY Cultural Studies class.



## Summer Newsletter - May 2024

### School Participation



Over 30 students from 1st Year also visited the Armagh Planetarium on a Science trip to learn more about earth and space in May. This forms an integral part of the revised Science course for Junior Cycle.



A group of our students visited Alcorn's Garden Centre in Letterkenny during the last weeks of school in May.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Retention



Coaches Paddy Hegarty and John Ward facilitated the Foundation Level GAA coaching course in the gym during May for 22 students from 5th and 6th Year.



Thanks to Jimmy and Edward Gallagher for showcasing the oyster-farming culture of the area to 11 students from our TY Cultural Studies class.



A big thank you to Dr. Orlagh Farmer who visited the school in May and completed training workshops and discussions with 21 of our students.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Retention



18 students from 5th and 6th Year History class enjoyed a workshop on the 'Cold War' with Donegal-based Youtuber and Historian, 'Manny Man', aka John Ruddy.



Pól, Catherine and the staff of Croithlí Distillery giving a talk on the distilling of Whiskey during late March. Our TY students learned a lot in this informative talk.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Retention



The School of Irish Archaeology staff instructing 1st Year students during an archaeological dig, as part of History Week in the RCS in late March. Over 80 students took part in this workshop.



Guest speaker and past student Claudia Friel speaking to students about her experiences in both school and Trinity College, Dublin. Claudia achieved the Gold Medal, John Henry Bernard Prize and Madeleine Farrell Memorial Prize during her studies in Trinity College. We are proud of her achievements and thankful to her for speaking with our current students.



## Summer Newsletter - May 2024

### Educational Transitions



Past student, Mark Curran who alongside his team-mates, became an Ulster Championship winner after defeating Armagh in May. We are hugely proud of your achievements Mark and wish Donegal the best for the remainder of 2024!



DONEGALLIVE.IE

#### **All-Ireland Scholarship success for Dungloe student Caitlin Kennedy**

Past student Caitlin Kennedy who made the headlines in April for being selected for the JP McManus scholarship based on her fantastic Leaving Cert results in her time in the RCS. Well done Caitlin!



All of our 5th Year students had the opportunity to visit the Donegal Branch IGC Careers Fair in ATU Donegal during April.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Educational Transitions



The Leaving Certificate class of 2024. We wish you all the best in your upcoming state exams and beyond.



Past students Rebecca, Jessie and Chloe, who we caught up with at the Donegal Branch IGC Careers Fair in ATU Donegal in April. Great to see you all doing well.



Past student Sarah O'Boyle speaking at the Careers Fair in May. Sarah is now a practicing Vet in Derry. We thank her for her positive words of encouragement to current students.





## Summer Newsletter - May 2024

### Educational Transitions



Almost 400 students across 2nd-5th Year spoke with businesses, public sector and third-level sectors during a fantastic Careers Fair in May. Thank you so much to all our visitors for coming and leaving such a positive impression on our students.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Educational Attainment



Huge congratulations to the TYs who won the Rubbish Film Fest Regional Final in April for the best poster and best film 'No Cowboys in Keadue.' Great achievement!



All of our end of year Student Award winners for 2023/24. Congratulations to everyone who received an award, well done to you all.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Educational Attainment



Well done to Malthide Altgelt in TY who won the Junior Section of the inter-school Chess challenge held in Glenties in April!



Well done to 5th Year student Dylan Doherty as he represents Donegal in the Student Enterprise National Final in Mullingar. Great achievement Dylan!



Well done also to 1st Year student Hailey O'Neill as she represents Donegal in the Student Enterprise National Final in Mullingar. Great achievement Hailey!



TY Student Adam Boyle receiving an award for winning the individual competition at the Donegal Schools Golf Shield held in Portsalon in April. Congratulations Adam!



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Educational Attainment



Rebecca Reetsang in 1st Year winning a Man Utd shirt at the Manchester United Foundation event in Derry in April. Well done!



Congratulations to Saoirse O'Donnell and Aoibhinn Boyle who have been selected as part of the Donegal U14 Camogie panel. Well done girls!



Well done to Amy Timoney in 5th Year for her Silver Medal performance in the 100 Metres Final at the Ulster Schools event in May.



Congratulations to Annie Kerr for her involvement in the Donegal U15 Interleague Panel who played their All Ireland Shield Final in May. Great achievement.



## Summer Newsletter - May 2024

### Educational Attainment



Well done to our students who competed in the Athletics in Belfast in May. Congratulations to Caoimhe McGonagle for her Gold Medal in the Shotput and to Aileen Logue for her Bronze Medal in the Long Jump.



Well done to the Under 16 Girls for reaching the Ulster Final in early May. A brilliant year's work girls, huge well done.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Literacy and Numeracy



The Academic Enrichment group of 2023/24 who received additional tuition in English and Maths throughout the school year.



2nd Year students on a visit to Dungloe Library in May where they were given a tour in using the library's facilities.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Literacy and Numeracy



6th Year Higher Level English students who saw a production of Hamlet in the Hawkswell Theatre in Sligo recently.



1st Year students engaged in a reading class during English in early April with Ms McKinley.



## Summer Newsletter - May 2024

### Partnership with Parents and Others



6th Year students Leigha and Tara presenting a cheque for 800 Euro to Bried Greene for our RCS Daffodil Day fundraiser in aid of the Irish Cancer Society.



Our Mallorcan Erasmus exchange partners enjoyed the Maghery sunshine in April as part of a visit to the area.





# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Partnership with Parents and Others



Some of the winners of the RCS Golf Classic in May. Well done and thank you to everyone who participated in and contributed to this event, your support is much appreciated.

## Notice

### Club 200 Winners- April 2024

- €1000 John Anne O Donnell.
- €500 Fiona Timoney
- €100 Kevin Boyle
- €100 Packie & Shane Gallagher
- €100 Laura McKinley
- €50 Ciaran Sharkey
- €50 Neil McBride

*Congratulations to all*



Thank you to all who have participated in the RCS Club 200 during the year. Still more prizes to be won before we finish for the summer! Here were the April winners.



Mr Gillen with the organisers of this year's 'Darkness Into Light' event in Burtonport, the first in the village. A great success and a worthy initiative.



## Summer Newsletter - May 2024

### Management and Leadership



Mr Gorman and Mr Gillen with guest speaker Daniel O'Donnell at the end of year Student Awards event in the RCS. Thank you very much to Daniel for attending and for his inspiring words to our students.



Mr Gillen in the Chearnóg space with students in early May, enjoying the fine weather.



## Summer Newsletter - May 2024

### Management and Leadership



Mr Gorman and Mr Gillen with Head Boy and Head Girl for 2024/25, Alannah O'Donnell and Dylan Doherty.



Mr Gillen with 6th Year students as they bid farewell to life in the RCS on their final day. Best wishes to you all now in the State Exams and beyond.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Management and Leadership



Mr Gorman speaking at the commencement of the annual Careers Fair in May. A huge success once again.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Teaching & Learning



1st Year Geography students carried out a river analysis, as part of the GLOBE Ireland River Ecosystem Campaign on the Dungloe River in April.



1st Year student Isabelle Brennan Carey with her Catamaran boat which she completed in Woodwork. Great work Isabelle!



TY Science students creating colourful inference soap bubbles in class with Mr Boyle in April.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Teaching & Learning



TY students filming their 'No Cowboys in Keadue' movie which won the Rubbish Film Fest Regional Final in April for the best poster and best film. Active learning at its finest! Well done to all involved.



## Summer Newsletter - May 2024

### Infrastructure



The first phase of buildings is now approaching completion. They will be a fantastic addition to the learning experience of our students.



Our new astro-turf pitch has been hugely popular with our students as the summer months have approached. It is great to see this brilliant facility being regularly used by students at lunchtimes and by afterschool groups and clubs in the community.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Infrastructure



The new Basketball pitch at the RCS. This excellent new facility is already being put to use by our students!





## Summer Newsletter - May 2024

### Infrastructure



The front of our school building as the front entrance and additional classrooms at this end of the school gather pace now in recent months.



Our new entrance with the school name engraved into the building, a nice addition to the front of the school.



## Summer Newsletter - May 2024

### Bealach straitséiseach na Gaelige



Daltaí na Idirbhliana Fionn, Joe, Aidan, Leah agus Emma, bhí siad ag Cluiche Ceannais Náisiúnta Chlár na gComhlachtaí i nGallimh i mí Aibreáin.



Deirdre agus Grace ag freastal Craobh Náisiúnta 2024.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Bealach straitséiseach na Gaelige



Lá mór sa scoil le Barrscéalta, Raidió na Gaeltachta. Go raibh maith agaibh uilig.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Bealach straitséiseach na Gaelige



Scoláirí Pobalscoil na Rosann linn beo ar Raidió na Gaeltachta i mí Bealtaine.



Craic agus cuideachta sa Chearnóg i mí Bealtaine.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Student Council / Student Voice



Our Head Girl Alannah O'Donnell and Head Boy Dylan Doherty for the school year 2024/2025.  
Best of luck to you both and congratulations!



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Student Council / Student Voice



Our 6th Year Prefects for the school year 2024/2025. Congratulations to all students chosen.



A reward trip to Letterkenny in May for our 5th Year mentors for 2023/2024. Well done to you all for your hard work.



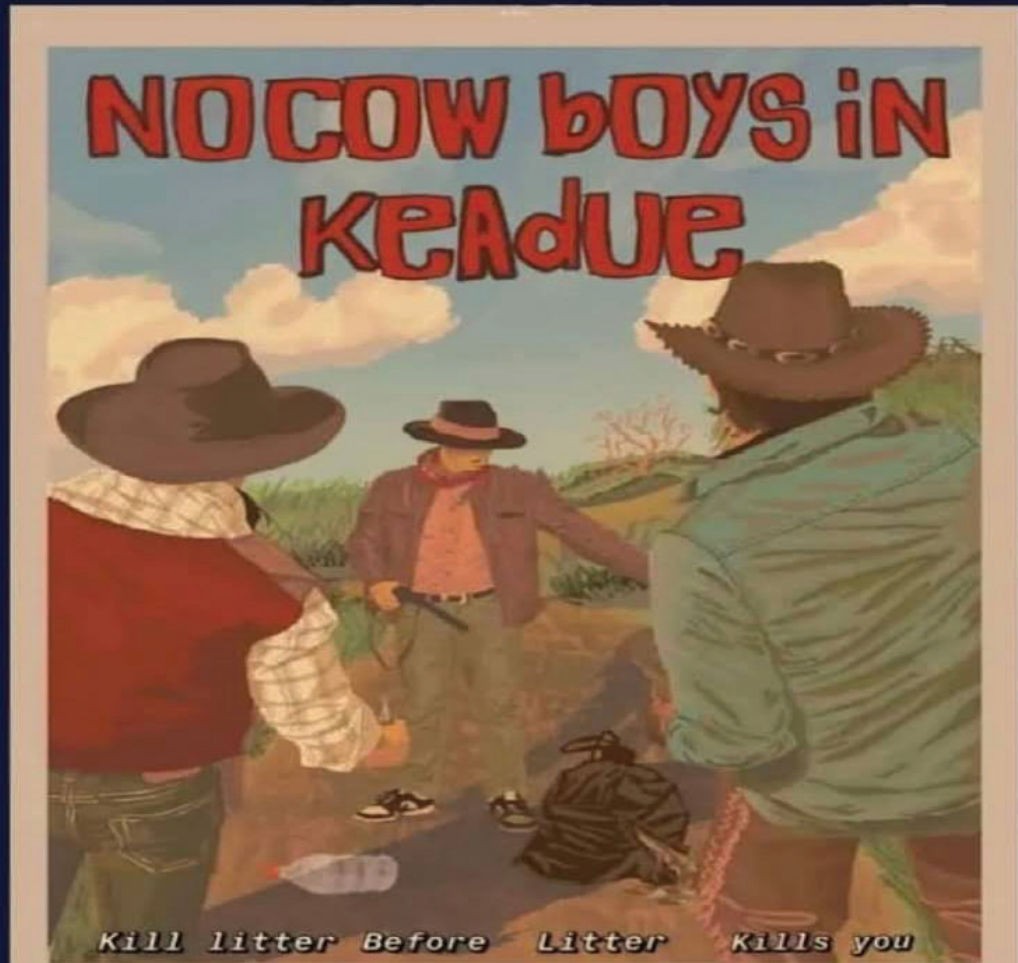
# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Student Council / Student Voice



Rosses  
Community  
School

Best  
Poster



The epitome of student voice; TY students produced their award winning film 'No Cowboys in Keadue', the spirit of innovation that is encompassed in TY. Well done to all involved.



1st Year students Angel and Cora using their voice to investigate the use of alcohol as a fuel source during Scifest in ATU Donegal in May.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Wellbeing



### PIETA AMBER FLAG AWARD

This certificate is presented to

**Rosces Community School**

for demonstrating excellence in  
promoting positive mental health during  
2023—2024

The RCS was awarded the Pieta Amber Flag in May for the promotion of positive mental health.  
Well done to all involved.



Michael Curran in 6th Year showing some class during the Student V Teacher annual soccer match.  
An exciting day for everyone involved!





# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Wellbeing



The 5th Year mentors organised a Sport and Fun Day for 1st Year students in early May. Activities included Basketball, Dodgeball, Just Dance and a penalty shootout. A lovely day for all involved.



# Summer Newsletter - May 2024

## Wellbeing



Our RCS golfers enjoyed a trip to Portsalon Golf Club during April.



Almost 30 of our Athletics students headed to Meadowbank Sports Arena in May to compete in Track and Field Championships.



**Pobalscoil na Rosann**

An Clochan Liath, Co. Dhun na nGall

Tel: 074 95 21122

Email: [dgillen@rossescommunityschool.ie](mailto:dgillen@rossescommunityschool.ie)

[jgorman@rossescommunityschool.ie](mailto:jgorman@rossescommunityschool.ie)

**Rosses Community School**

Dungloe, Co. Donegal

Tel: 074 95 21122

Email: [dgillen@rossescommunityschool.ie](mailto:dgillen@rossescommunityschool.ie)

[jgorman@rossescommunityschool.ie](mailto:jgorman@rossescommunityschool.ie)