

*School Improvement Plan/DEIS
Summer Newsletter*



Summer Newsletter - June 2022

Welcome Note

Our aim is
“To cultivate that which 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



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Core Values

Core Values

Respect



Team



Kindness



Accountability



Celebrate Achievement



Student Centered



Best Practice



Self Acceptance

The Rosses Community School:

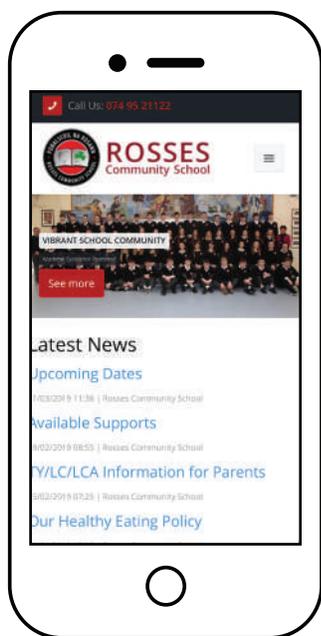
- Operates through reflective practice and reflective approach.
- Operates a solutions based approach.
 - Strives for best practice.



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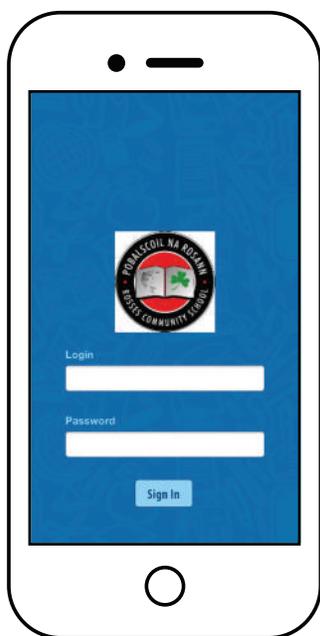
Keeping You Informed

Keeping You Informed



Website

www.rossescommunityschool.ie



VSware

www.rossescs.vsware.ie



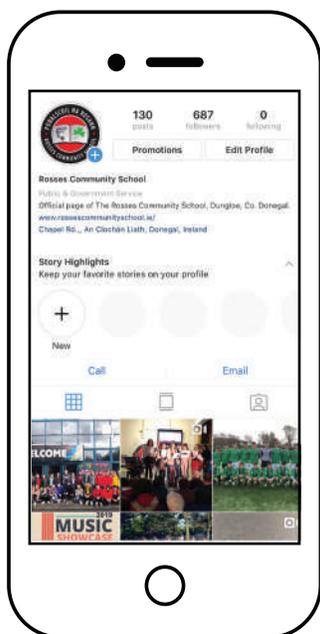
Facebook

www.facebook.com/rcsdungloe



Twitter

www.twitter.com/RCS_Dungloe



Instagram

www.instagram.com/rossescs



PDF Newsletter

Committees

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
-



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The Pastoral Care Team

Spotlight on...

The Pastoral Care Team

Who we are...



Helena
Cunningham



Fiona
Timoney



Patricia
Graham



Dearbhla
Fox



Laura
McKinley



Mary
McLoughlin



Dáire
Gillen

What we do...

- The Pastoral Care Team works together to help students who are experiencing difficulty in their lives.
- The PC Team liaises with parents, guardians and outside agencies in assisting students to overcome the challenges they face in their daily lives.
- Students are met on a one to one basis by a PC member to support them in their wellbeing while in school.
- The PC system encompasses a range of supports that cater for the academic, social, emotional and behavioural needs of all students.
- The PC Team brings all of the school support services together to support the student in all areas of their school life in a caring and empathetic manner.

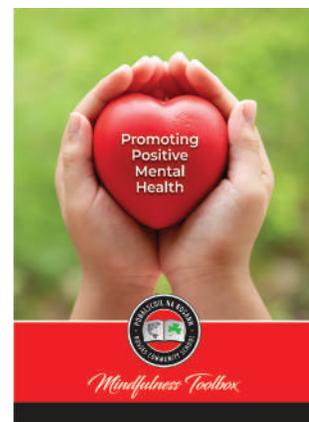
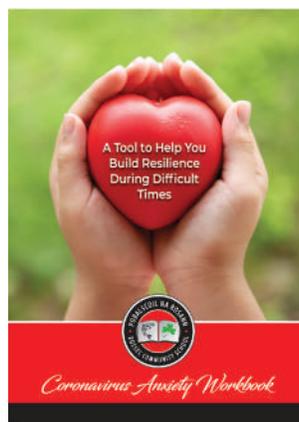


Denise O'Boyle
Psychotherapist

Additional Supports...

If referred by Pastoral Care or School Management, our Psychotherapist, Denise will meet students on a one to one basis, providing therapy to assist students cope with personal difficulties. Denise is actively working to help us develop a more integrated approach between Mental Health and education.

Our New Publications...





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School Attendance



Some students working in the gym with Zara Holmes in public-speaking and expression. Zara currently assists 80 students with CBA preparation for the English oral presentation component.



Derek Reddin alongside Danny O'Carroll of Mrs Brown's Boys fame. Derek currently works in storytelling, drama and confidence building with 45 of our students weekly in small and large group settings.



Members of our DEIS committee Tony Forrestal, Maureen Conlon, Mary McLoughlin and Helena Cunningham who meet weekly to analyse attendance and discuss strategies for improvement.



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School Attendance



Our whole-school awards ceremony took place in May which highlighted and celebrated a range of student achievements including attendance.



Jamie McGlynn was among a group of 18 students who visited Joe Rodger's studio in Burtonport during April. Joe assists many students with music performance and technology.



Absence notes are located in the student homework-diary and help both the school in monitoring attendance and allow students to explain any absences to maintain accurate records.



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School Participation



6th Year Computer Science students speaking in January with Roisin Faherty from CSinc/TU Dublin about the use of micro bits, python, HTML and Javascript in displaying Formula 1 telemetry data. 12 students across 5th and 6th Year now sit Computer Science and this June will see our first cohort of 6th Years sit state exams in the subject.



Denise O'Boyle who meets with a number of our students weekly providing wellbeing supports.



Aaron Kyles delivering a workshop assisting students in Leaving Certificate PE with preparations for their 'Performance Assessment' component. Currently, 20 students take PE in 5th Year and 17 students will sit exams from 6th Year this June.



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School Participation



A group of 20 boys in 2nd and 3rd Year travelled to Glasgow to watch Celtic lift the SPL trophy in May.



Our TY students enjoying their end of year trip to Liverpool during May. 37 students participated in this trip.



A selection of our canteen's freshly-made sandwiches. After a 'healthy-food review' menus have changed. Currently, 300 students use school meals at first break and 250 students use the facility at lunchtime.



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School Participation



During April, 28 of our TY students attended Oakfield Adventures in Derry.



37 of our TY students visited the Giants Causeway during Spring.



In March, 36 girls involved in our successful ladies' GAA and Soccer teams attended the midweek game between Celtic and St Mirren at Celtic Park.



Our 6th Years marked their final day in school with a meal in celebration with staff during May. 70 students will be graduating from the class of 2022.



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Retention



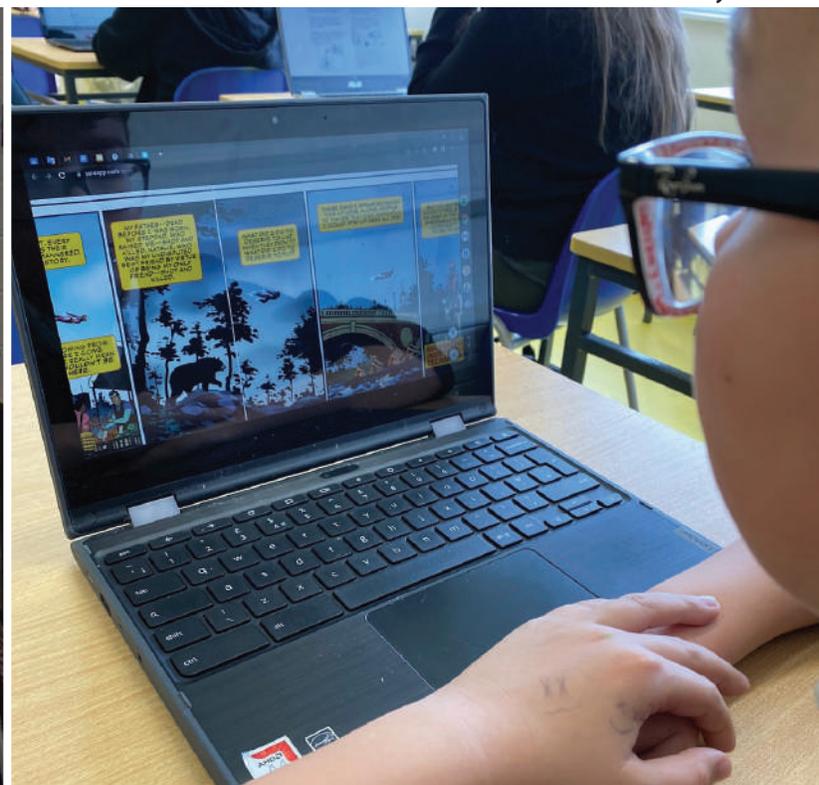
16 students attended an Agricultural Science trip to Ballyhaise College in Cavan at the end of March.



Chief Sports Writer with the Irish Daily Star, Kieran Cunningham, spoke via Zoom with all 49 of our TY students about careers in Journalism in February.



Serina Fogarty talking via Zoom with 5th Year students about careers in languages in February. 222 students currently study Spanish while 41 students study French.



Students using the Sora online library in English as part of our JCSP initiatives. Currently we have 95 students participating in the JCSP programme in school.



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Retention



Our Student Council had their end of year meeting in May. Council members range from 1st to 6th Year and meet regularly to discuss ways to improve the school experience.



John Conaghan from the Department of Computing in ATU (formerly LYIT) speaking with our 12 Leaving Certificate students about courses relating to Computer Science studies.



A group of 23 students recently received JCSP awards presented by Mr Gorman. Most of the students are pictured.



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Educational Transitions



JAMES BOYLE

Dungloe



Donegal Sports Star
OF THE YEAR 2021

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Comhairle Contae
Dhùn na nGall
Donegal County Council

Former student and colleague this school year, James Boyle, was the recipient of the Donegal Sports Star of the Year award for 2021 in January. A fantastic accomplishment.



Former student Jasmine Gallagher speaking to students about careers in Medicine at the Career's Fair.



Another former student, Ben McGonagle of Irish Pressings spoke passionately about his career journey during the Career's Fair.



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Educational Transitions



Another former student Christina Ward, who was recently awarded the George Moore Scholarship, spoke to current students about the best career advice she has received.



Saskia Boyle, former student, a recent recipient of the ATU (formerly LYIT) Sports Scholarship programme.

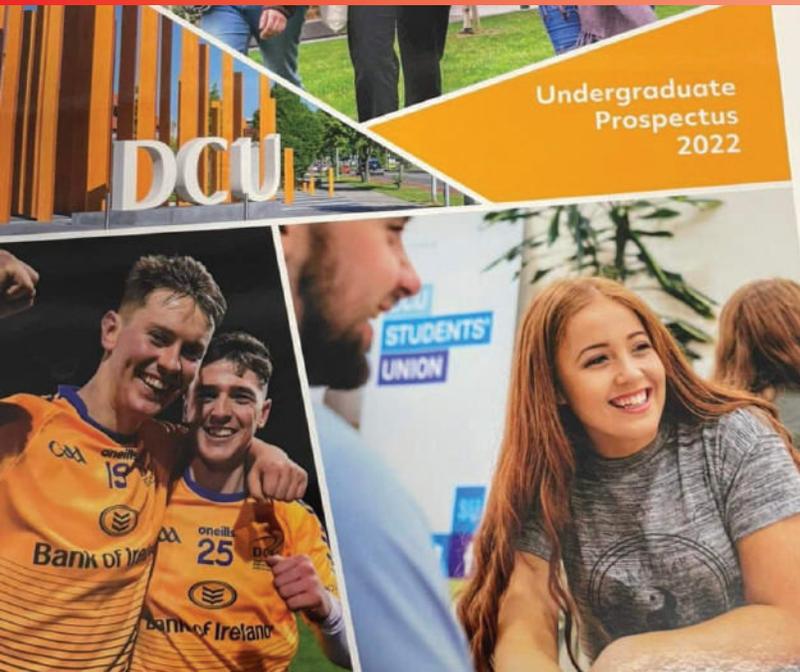


Another former student, Matthew McCole was named Irish Athletic Third-Level Boxing Association National Champion in March, representing ATU.



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Educational Transitions



Congratulations to former students Mark Curran and Sarah O'Gara who made the cover of DCU's 2022 Undergraduate Prospectus.



Members of the Defence Forces speaking to students during the Careers in Fair which was attended by nearly 200 students of 3rd to 6th Year.



Rosces Community School Careers Fair

12th May @ 09:30am
3rd, 5th & 6th Years

Speakers from the following disciplines:

- Business & Commerce
- Engineering & Apprenticeships
- Humanities
- Health Sciences
- General Sciences
- Creative Arts



Your future starts here!

Our 2022 Careers Fair had guest speakers from Businesses, Trades, Universities and Colleges across a wide range of disciplines such as Commerce, Engineering, Humanities, Science, Health Science and Creative Arts. Students from 3rd-6th Year interacted positively with all our visitors and many conversations around future careers were sparked.



Students using the Sora online library in English as part of our JCSP initiatives. Currently we have 95 students participating in the JCSP programme in school.



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Educational Attainment



Congratulations to TY Economics students Aidan McGee and Tristan Boyle who were winners of the Euronext Blue Economy Challenge National Final with their Donegal SeaBaths, Seaweed Soaks project. The students represented Ireland in the Euronext Blue Economy Innovation Award European Final in May.



Here are some of the 8 YSI students in TY who won the Enterprise Companies competition in the Green Company non-profit section earlier this year. They were also 'highly commended' in their climate action section and energy award in the National YSI competition.



Well done to our Junior Cert students in the final of 'Bake Off' and particularly Nicole Comiskey who qualified for the regional final in Gweedore earlier this year. 108 students currently study Home Economics in school.



Congratulations to the 5th Year Business class who recently won an essay competition run by the Department of Foreign Affairs. They wrote about how EU membership affects their daily lives, winning 300 Euro for school equipment in the process.



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Educational Attainment



Students Caitlin Kennedy, Neil Kennedy, Maebh Cannon and Susan Doherty were involved in March with the premiere of 'Colmcille, Dove of Peace' in An Grianan Theatre. They are pictured with Music teacher Ms Laughlin. Currently, 69 students study Music across school.



Cindy Chen, Meabh Cannon and Ultan Sweeney in 1st Year who won their category at Scifest in ATU Letterkenny during May with the project 'Effects of Music on Studying.' 209 students currently study Science across school.



Our 1st Year Ladies Soccer team won the Schools B Ulster Final against Royal and Prior, Raphoe in May. We are very proud of you girls!



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Educational Attainment



Just some of our winners from the 1st-5th Year Student Award Ceremony held in May of this year in the gym. In total, 60 students won awards for a range of achievements. Well done to all.

Erne Cup final glory for the unstoppable Rosses Community School

Tara Geoghegan hit 4-4 as the Dungloe-based side dominated the contest to take the silverware to the Rosses



The Rosses Community School panel celebrate their victory at O'Donnell Park

Our U16 Ladies Gaelic Football, Ulster Erne Cup winning team grabbed the headlines in January, an outstanding achievement. Over 100 girls are currently playing with school teams.



5th Year student Cian McGee who represented the Donegal Minor Gaelic Football team in this year's championship. Well done Cian.



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Educational Attainment



The 1st Year Boys soccer team who reached the Ulster Final this April against Loreto Milford, unfortunately coming up just short. An excellent achievement nonetheless, well done boys.



Leighton Green who competed at the All Ireland Schools Cross Country championships in Mallusk, Belfast in March. Currently, over 50 students participate in the school's Athletics programme.



Our 5th Year student Emily Colangelo who became World Champion in Irish Dancing during April, a superb achievement. At present, over 20 students in school are involved in Irish Dancing.



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Literacy and Numeracy



5th Year student Tori McIntyre who was shortlisted and awarded in the 'Flash Fiction' section of the Allingham Arts Festival for her writing earlier this year.



Keywords across subjects and classrooms are an essential part of our school literacy strategy which is aimed at all 419 students in our school.

Numeracy in other subjects

(Student & Teacher Feedback)

Home Economics

- Measuring / weighing ingredients
- Cooking times
- Temperature
- Measuring and cutting fabric.

French / Spanish

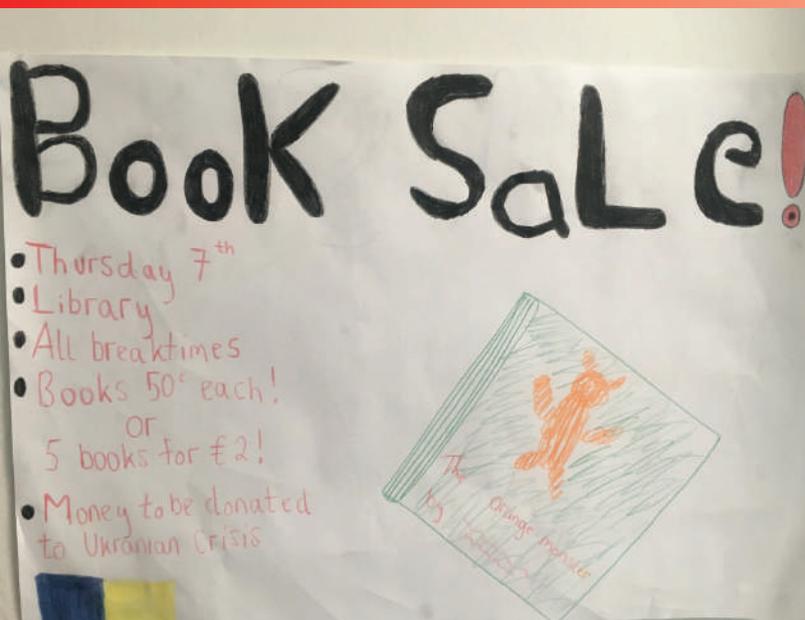
- Counting in Spanish & French
- My family
- Date, time, temperature, birthday, stating prices in French & Spanish.

Earlier this year, a Numeracy Survey was conducted by the Maths department where strategies across all subjects were highlighted relating to Numeracy.



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Literacy and Numeracy



A book sale took place recently in the library in early May to raise funds for the Ukraine Fund.



Sign-posts across school emphasise distances between classrooms and meeting areas.

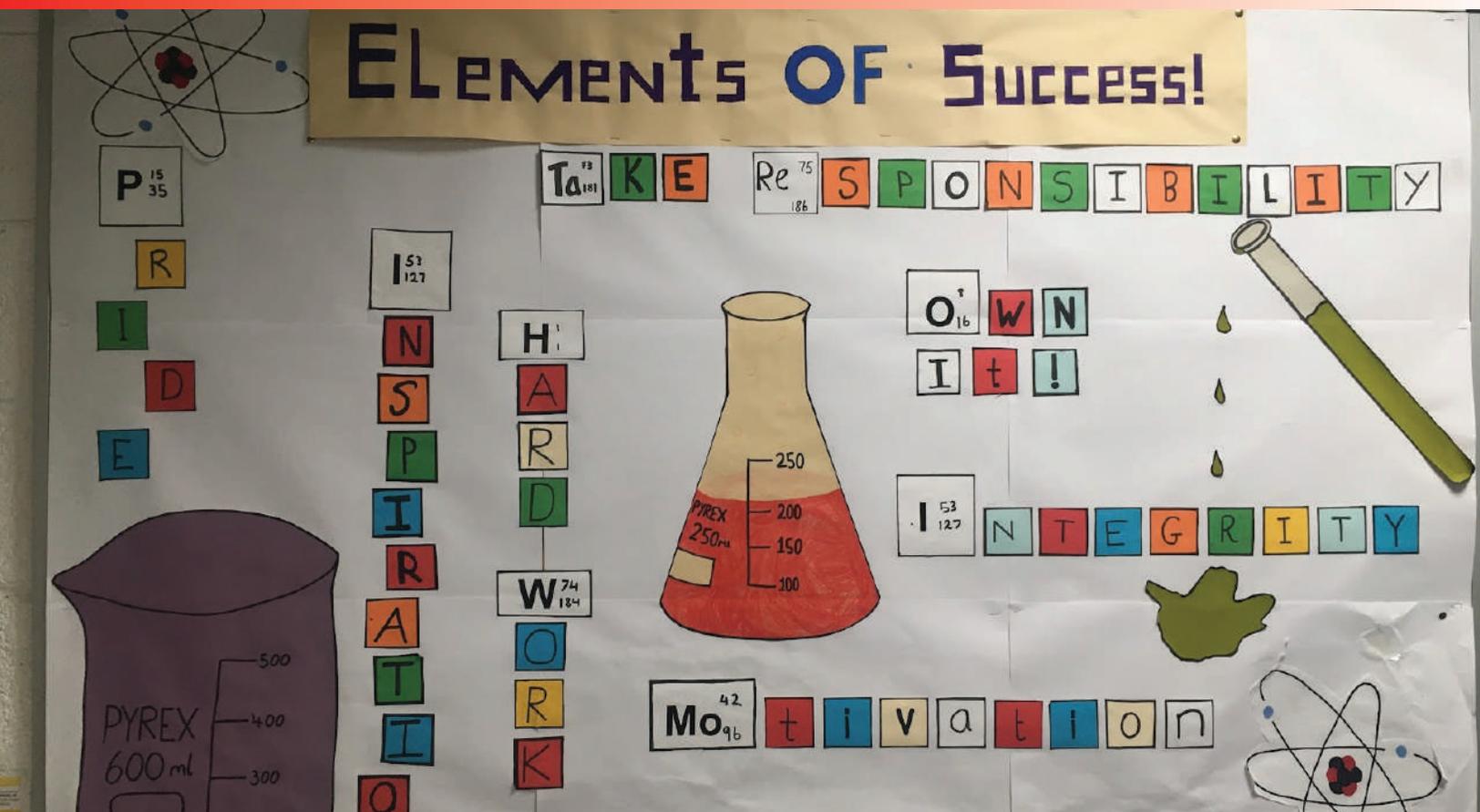


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Literacy and Numeracy



A print-rich environment is visible across the school building as you walk through the corridors and into classrooms. This Science department display highlights the Scientific elements.



TY students Sarah Walsh, Mark Curran, Neil Kennedy and Patrick Gallagher were among a group of 12 students who recently tidied and reorganised the library in school.



Over 100 students took part in the Jenga competition run by Mr Gallagher and the Maths department in March. Competition was tense as seen here!



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Partnership with Parents and Others



The school is part of the Erasmus programme. In March, a group of 7 students from 3rd Year visited Parma, Italy and had a wonderful time. Here, they are pictured at the Parmigiano Cheese Factory.



This positive mental health workshop was offered to all parents of the RCS in January and ran by Donegal Youth Services.



Rosses Community School Parents Activities

Cycling Group
Every Tuesday 4:15pm
Meeting outside the school
for parents & students of the RCS.
You need to have your own bike.



Walking Group
Every Friday 10am
Meeting at Lidl Carpark

Promoting physical wellbeing, these cycling and walking group activities were offered by school to both parents and students in early May.



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Partnership with Parents and Others



In association with Dungloe Boxing Club, a fundraising tournament for Jim McCole was held in the RCS gym on May 20th. Pictured are students Rian Diver, Jack Gallagher and Alesha Mullis Boyle who took part.

RCS PARENTS' ACTIVITIES

An bhfuil
Gaeilge agat?

Conversational Irish Workshop

2hrs once a week for 6 weeks

For parents who have learned some basic Irish in the education system but don't have the confidence to speak it, and would like to learn to speak the language. This workshop will take place during the school day once we have numbers finalised.

Indoor Golf Lessons

For parents interested.
Lessons will run during the school day

If you are interested in any of the above classes please contact Gavin Ward on 0867809205 with your details.



In April, 7 of our TY students travelled to Nijkerk, Holland as part of the Erasmus partnership, enjoying a rich cultural experience. In October 2022, the RCS will host 35 students from 7 countries as part of the exchange.

Irish language classes and indoor golf lessons were offered to all parents in February, organised by Gavin Ward, our Home School Community Liaison coordinator.



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Partnership with Parents and Others



In April, our 5th Year students Chloe Walker Boyle and Rebecca Shovlin presented Tony McNamee with the proceeds of their fundraiser for Donegal Down Syndrome. Well done girls.



Bam providing sponsorship for the new pitch development.



Mr Eamon Byrne's TY Construction Studies class raised 260.40 Euro through a craft sale for St Vincent De Paul in March. Patrick Gallagher is pictured presenting a cheque to Nuala Campbell and Joan Sharkey of SVP.



TY student Emma Hyland with the contents of an organised collection of essential products in response to the Ukraine appeal. Well done Emma.



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Management and Leadership



Mr Gorman, Mr Gillen and Ms Bridin Gallagher 6th Year Head with the 6th Year class of 2022. We wish you all the very best in your Leaving Certificate exams and beyond.



Mr Gorman and Mr Gillen pictured recently with our world champion Irish dancer, 5th Year student Emily Colangelo.



A beautiful painting of Eunan O'Donnell, the first Secondary Level principal in the Rosses and founder of Dungloe High School. Many thanks to Kevin Bonner for this kind gift. The portrait was painted by talented local past student Kevin Gallagher.



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Management and Leadership



Mr Gorman speaking at the launch of the Careers Fair in May to a large audience of students, businesses and third-level representatives in May.



Mr Gorman and Mr Gillen are pictured with 6th Year 'Student of the Year' award winners Sean Hyland and Aoibheann Mcllroy. In total, 18 students in 6th Year received awards in recognition of their various achievements.



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Management and Leadership



The flag of the Ukraine has flown outside our school in recent months in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. We have welcomed 14 students from the country to our school in recent times, these young people have already



Mr Gorman alongside fellow staff as they prepared to take on the 6th Year students in the 'Teacher V Student' annual football match. Watched by all 419 students in the school in mid-May. The staff's long winning-streak continued!



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Teaching and Learning



9 students from 5th and 6th Year History students visited Derry in April to visit the Siege Museum as part of their Leaving Certificate Document-Based study.



2nd Year Wood Technology students honing their wood-turning skills in January. There are currently 164 students doing Woodwork between 1st and 6th Year.



Our students from 3rd, TY and 5th Year at the EmTech Europe Innovators event held in May in Gweedore. Students learned about problem solving and innovating in relation to Sustainable Development Goals.



Students in Spanish and French worked on Valentine's Day cards back in February.



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Teaching and Learning



A group of TY students visited The Milk Bar in February to learn about farming and the day-to-day routines required for the management of livestock.



Students in Science learning about astronomy, the solar system and building/launching rockets on a trip during April to Armagh Observatory and Planetarium.



Engineering and Technology students learning about the Civil Engineering business model of Podtrak from the UK. 93 students take Engineering currently in school.



6th Year students actively learning during an Ecology field trip to Gartan in March.



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Infrastructure



In the Design Hub in the Engineering room, there is a new 3D printer which helps develop student ideas to physical objects.



Some of the beautiful flower boxes which our LCA students have been working on, a lovely addition to the school grounds.



Students Olivia, Cora and Clara using their design skills to make unique parts on the laser cutter in the Engineering room.



TY students Finlay and Patrick using one of the new Colchester Lathes, testing their accuracy skills.

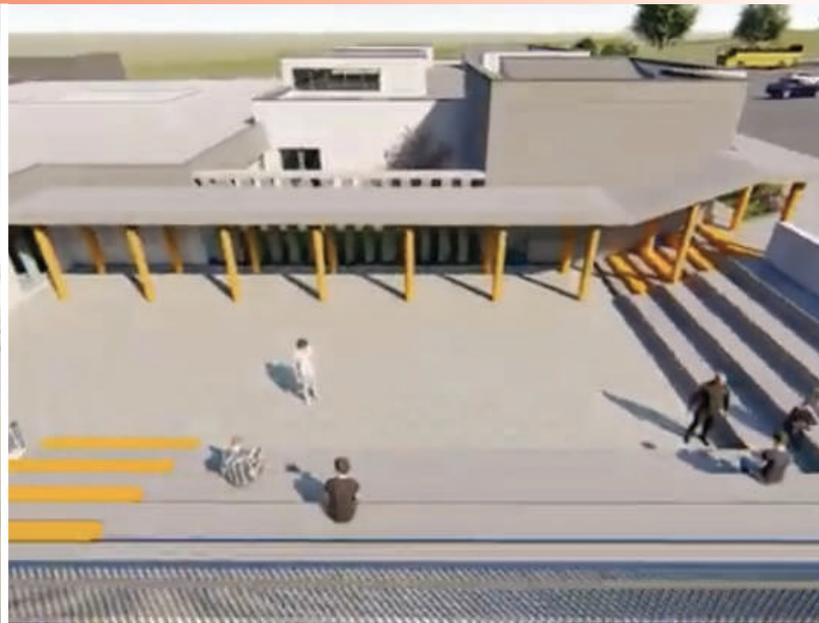


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Infrastructure



A picture of the proposed frontage to the new buildings development in the RCS which is now close to commencement.



An image of the proposed new entrance to the new school buildings project.



The 'Genlab' oven which has recently been purchased for school life, in use for Agricultural Science classes.



TY students Aidan, Jack, Michael and Joey with the new pool table, a recent addition to the school's sports infrastructure.



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Bealach straitséiseach na Gaeilge



Grúpa damhsa Gaelach na scoile i gcuideachta a múinteora, an múinteoir agus an damhsóir Deirdre Ní Raghailigh a chaith seall le 'Riverdance' le feiceáil anseo linn taispeántas damhsa agus ceol i gCearnóg na Gaeilge.



Fógraíocht na scoile deartha ag na scoláirí i nGaeilge le linn na géarchéime Covid 19 fud fad na scoile. Tá seo mar pháirt de chur chun cinn na Gaeilge sa scoil.



Damhsa na Scaibe i rith 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' 2022.



Tugadh 'HighRock Productions' isteach i rith 'Seachtain na Gaeilge'. Níor stad na daltaí ag gaire ó thús go deireadh na ceardlainne.



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Bealach straitséiseach na Gaelige



'Coiste na nDaltai', i Leitir Ceanainn, chuaigh siad chuig Arena 7 agus chun na pictiúrlainne leis an 'Cailín ciúin' a fheiceáil. Bhí lá iontach acu uilig.



Dearbháin bronnta ar 'Gaeilgeoirí na Míosa' i gcomhpháirtíocht le Pleanáil Teanga na Rosann. Feabhra go Bealtaine.



Ceol, damhsa agus spraoi sa scoil. Cuireadh tús corraitheach le 'Seachtain na Gaelge' i mbliana, ba mhaith linn buíochas ó chroí a ghabháil leis na scoláirí agus múinteoirí a ghlac páirt sa taispeántas.



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Bealach straitséiseach na Gaelige



'Gaeilgeoirí na Míosa' - Márta



'Gaeilgeoirí na Míosa' - Aibreán



'Gaeilgeoirí na Míosa' - Bealtaine. Maith sibh uilig.



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Student Council / Student Voice



Members of our Student Council for the school year 2021/2022.



Some of the members of our TY Podcast Crew who released four fantastic podcasts this year, the epitome of our Student Voice. Available on school social media for all to hear.



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Student Council / Student Voice



John Paul Bonner, Emilly Croke and Eleanor Rose O'Donnell who reflected with humour and fondness on their six year journey in the RCS at their 6th Year Awards event.



Caolan Bonner and Aoife McGee who sang beautifully at the event of their 6th Year Awards on their Social Night.



Shauna McDonagh and Jamie McCready who were brilliant comperes for the 6th Year Awards on the 6th Year Social Night in May.



6th Year students Patrick McGarvey and Grainne McGlynn prepare to speak for the final time in their roles as Head Boy and Head Girl at the 6th Year Awards event. They have represented the voice of students brilliantly in their duties.



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Wellbeing



Students enjoying a Camogie blitz which was held in school during March.



Our U15 Basketball team who made it to a final in Donegal Town in March, well done lads.



A group of 9 students who played a golf match against St. Columba's Comprehensive School, Glenties at Naran and Portnoo Golf Club during May.



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Wellbeing



A group of students 'Gone Fishin' at Dungloe Lake in fine weather during March.



Our 2nd Year students enjoying some surfing fun in Magheraroarty during early May.



Michael McShane and Saoirse Doherty who took part in a first ever Spanish Work Experience Exchange for TY in Mallorca. Here they are teaching Gaelic Football to the Mallorcan students.



Dr Orlagh Farmer, Cork GAA footballer, held an excellent workshop with students about participation in sport and the benefits in early April.



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Wellbeing



Rory O'Connor from Rories Stories who gave an inspirational talk to staff on student mental health awareness.



Amy Timoney who recently won 3 Gold medals at the Ulster juvenile games and Amy Greene who won Gold at the All-Ireland schools meeting.



34 teams took part in our recent golf classic.



Pobalscoil na Rosann

An Clochan Liath, Co. Dhun na nGall

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