

*School Improvement Plan/DEIS
Winter Newsletter*



Winter Newsletter - January 2023

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



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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**



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Keeping You Informed

Keeping You Informed



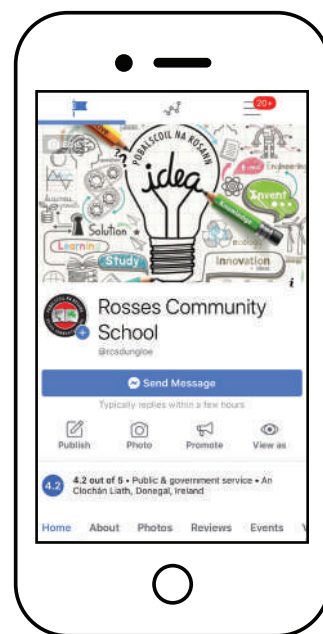
Website

www.rossescommunityschool.ie



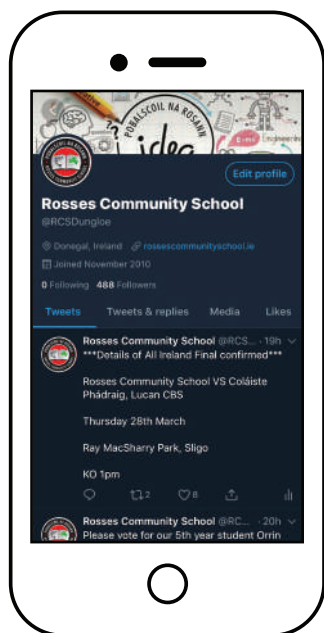
VSware

www.rossescs.vsware.ie



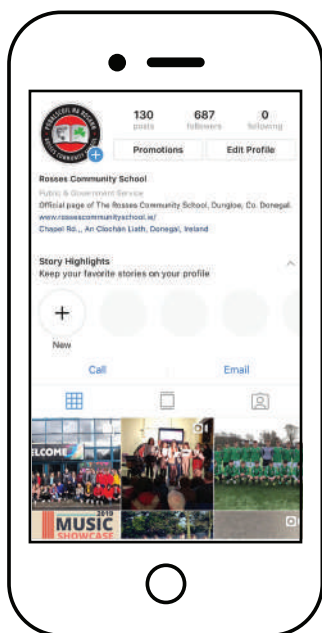
Facebook

www.facebook.com/rcsdungloe



Twitter

www.twitter.com/RCSDungloe



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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School Attendance



David Tennyson, Julia Gribben and Bridget Marry who are members of our ARA committee which focuses on devising and implementing measures for improving student attendance.

Please Remember

- Top up your students fob for the canteen each week
- Ensure your student is in full uniform at all times
- Let the office know if your student will be absent
- Contact the office if your student needs to sign out during the school day
- Check your student's diary for notes
- Ensure your student is prepared with equipment for practical classes
- Ensure your child is prepared for our daily walk (Jackets etc)



'Happening this week' is our new weekly email reminder to all parents about the events occurring in school that week and also includes measures to take if your child is absent.



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School Attendance



Late Overview



Our Attendance officer Tony Forrestal uses VSWare to gather data which highlights trends regarding attendance for all students. For example, student absences are lower overall than the same period in December last year.



Home-School Community Liaison Coordinator Gavin Ward is a member of the school's DEIS committee which analyses and implements actions around school attendance.



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School Participation



A group of 62 TY students who visited the Balor Theatre in September with the English Department to see Ger Carey's Comedy/Wellbeing show.



Some of our students on European Day of Languages in September. Over 200 students now study Spanish in the RCS with over 40 studying French.



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School Participation



A picture of some of our best-dressed students on Halloween Fun Day in October which was enjoyed by all 467 students.



25 girls attended the Celtic V Shakhtar Donetsk Champions League match in Glasgow at the end of October.



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School Participation



27 boys attended the Celtic V RB Leipzig Champions League match in early October.



During our Anti-Bullying week which ran in November, Patrick McGlynn spoke to all Junior and 5th Year students about the various types of bullying and the impact they have on young people.



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School Participation



Ms Joanne Doherty's Cultural Studies class in TY visiting Glenveagh Castle in November. 31 students attended this trip.



Over 50 TY students in London's West End on their trip to the city in November/December. Students also visited Madame Tussauds, the National History Museum and many other locations as well.



Makz getting an all-access visit in Donegal Airport in December. Having a huge interest in aviation, Makz had a brilliant and varied experience on the day.



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Retention



Aengus Kennedy giving all our 3rd Year students a talk on Climate Change during Geography Week in November.



Shane Carthy, former Dublin Senior Football player, giving a Wellbeing talk to all 3rd, TY, 5th & 6th Year boys in September.



20 students attended the National Ploughing Championships in Co. Laois in September.



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Retention



34 TY, 5th and 6th Year students getting insights into Engineering at SETU with senior lecturer Hugh Breslin in early November. We currently have over 200 students studying Metalwork/Engineering in school.



Deputy Commander Colonel Dave Corcoran giving information to Joey Bonner and over 30 other senior students at the Casement Aerodrome in Baldonnel, Dublin in November.



Michael Dowdican from ATU Sligo gave a talk to 32 of our 6th Year students in November.



Ian Miller of Unique Ascent came to talk to the TY Tourism class about Adventure Tourism in West Donegal in December.

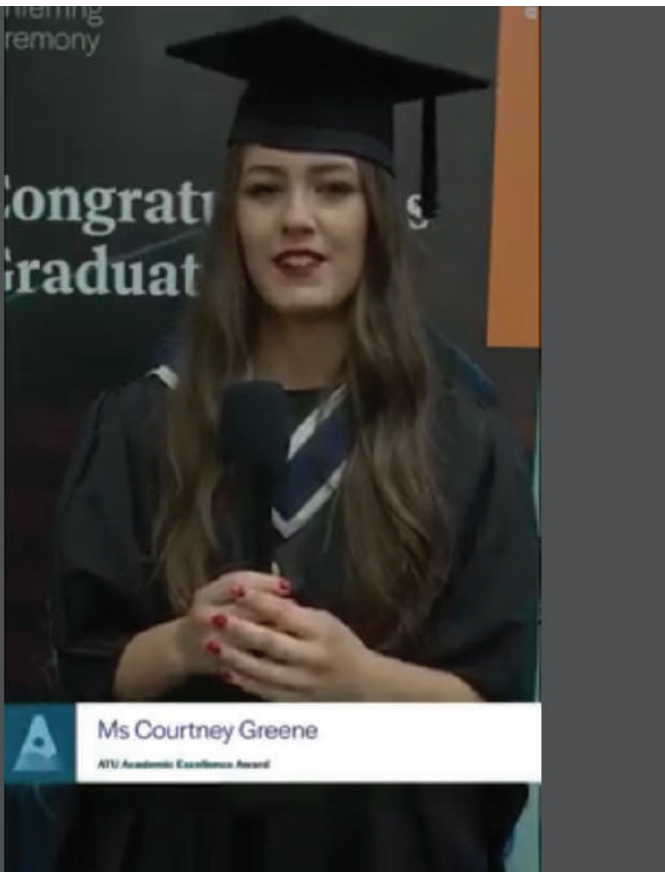


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Educational Transitions



22 of our 6th Year students on an open-day trip to DCU in Dublin in November. 4% of our class of 2022 have gone on to study in DCU.



Past student Courtney Greene receiving the 'Veterinary Student of the Year' award at the ATU Graduation ceremony in November. Great achievement and huge well done Courtney!



Congratulations to 5th Year student Ríagháin McKelvey, winner of the competition for College Awareness Week and recipient of a prize from ATU Donegal.



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Educational Transitions



Congratulations to past student Grainne McGlynn, recipient of the Ireland Healthcare Scholarship from Optum in November! Well done Grainne.



Senior students attended the ATU Sligo open-day in November. 10% of our 2022 class have gone to ATU Sligo to study.



When our TY, 5th and 6th Year students visited the National Maritime College, Cork in November, they met four of our past students Anthony O'Donnell, Noah Boyle, Luke McDermott and Dylan O'Donnell.



In November, our 6th Year students attended the ATU Donegal open-day in Letterkenny and met past students in the process. 49% of our students from the class of 2022 have gone to study in ATU Donegal.



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Educational Attainment



Our U-14 Girls, who became FAI All-Ireland Soccer Schools Champions in November in Longford in November beating Thomond College. Over 100 girls are currently playing with school teams. Wonderful achievement ladies!



Congratulations to 2nd Year Meabh Cannon and Grace Andrews along with Seosamh MacAoidh, Michael McCarry and Zach Macadangdang from TY who have qualified for the 2023 BT Young Scientist Exhibition in the RDS Dublin in January!



1st Year student Megan Forker who won 1st prize in the Credit Union Art competition in the 11 to 13 years old category recently. Well done Megan!

Dungloe school becomes first Irish winner of international IT challenge

Rosses Community School wins monthly challenge which involves schools from the UK and Ireland by designing an app designed to help reduce the exploitation of coffee farmers



Winners of the Tata Consultancy Services 'goIT' monthly challenge from schools across Ireland and the UK, our TY students Cianan, Eoghan, Darragh and Louie. Well done lads!



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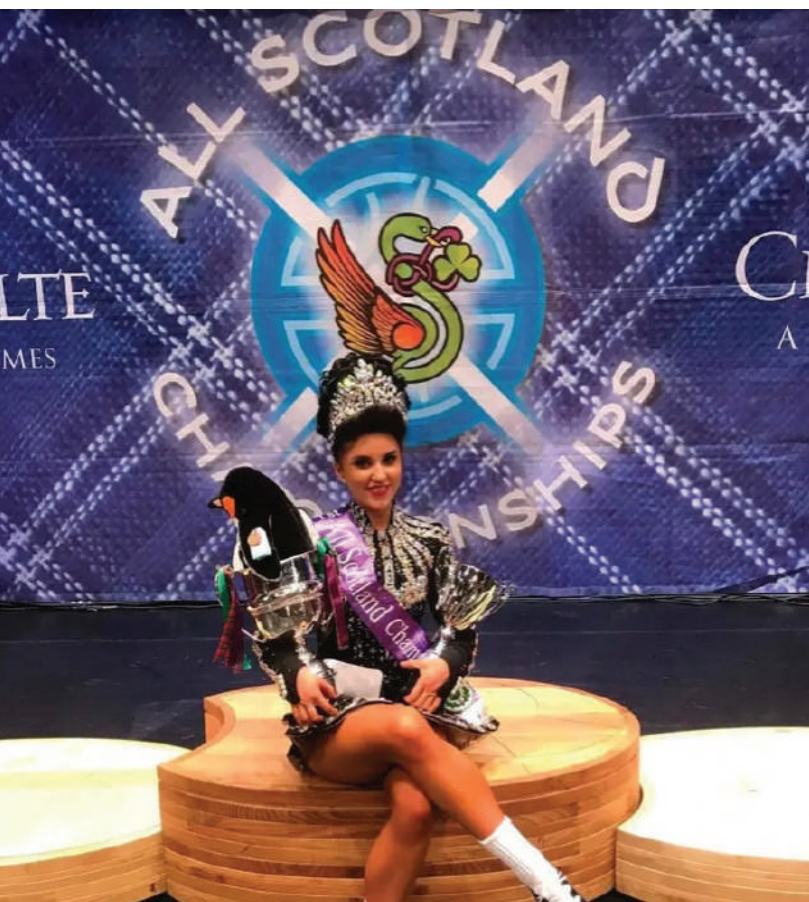
Educational Attainment



A group of our Junior Cert students who received their state exam results in November. Well done to all 70 students who sat exams.



Elisha Boyle, Mia O'Donnell and Emma Wallace who were selected for the FAI Ulster U15 soccer squad and played at the Inter-Provincial tournament in November. Well done!



Well done to Emily Colangelo from 6th Year who won her 3rd Scottish Championship in a row in dancing back in October. Fantastic achievement. Over 20 students in the RCS participate in Irish Dancing currently.



Congratulations to 5th Year student Ulitah Boyle who secured a place on this year's Ulster PPS All Star Panel, fending off competition among 171 girls from 9 counties!

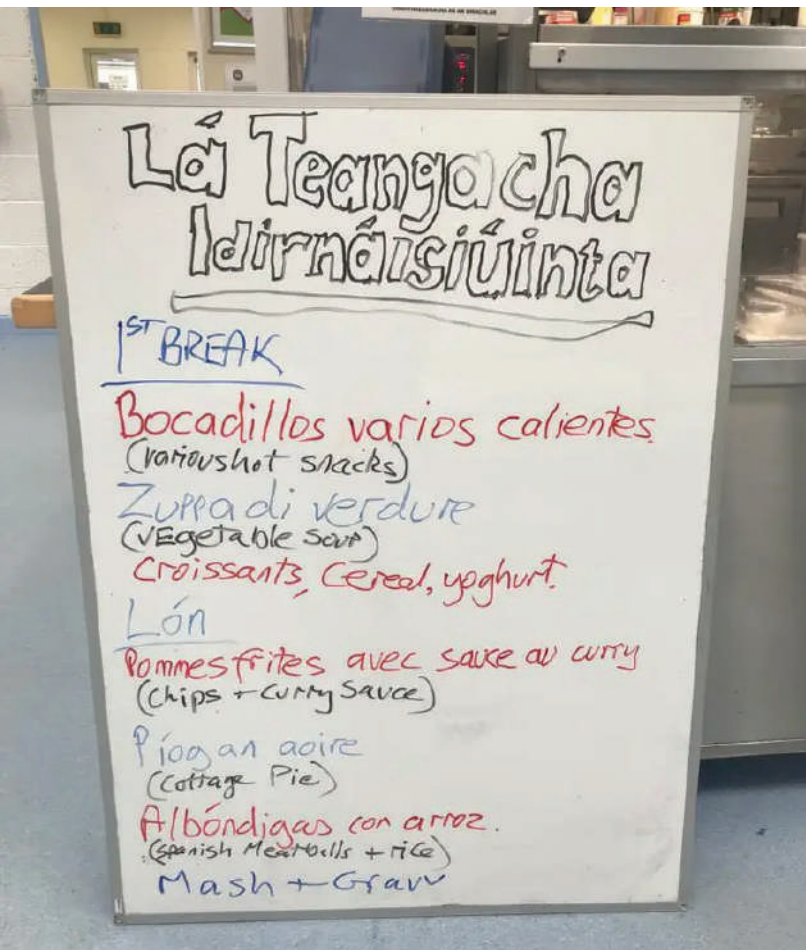


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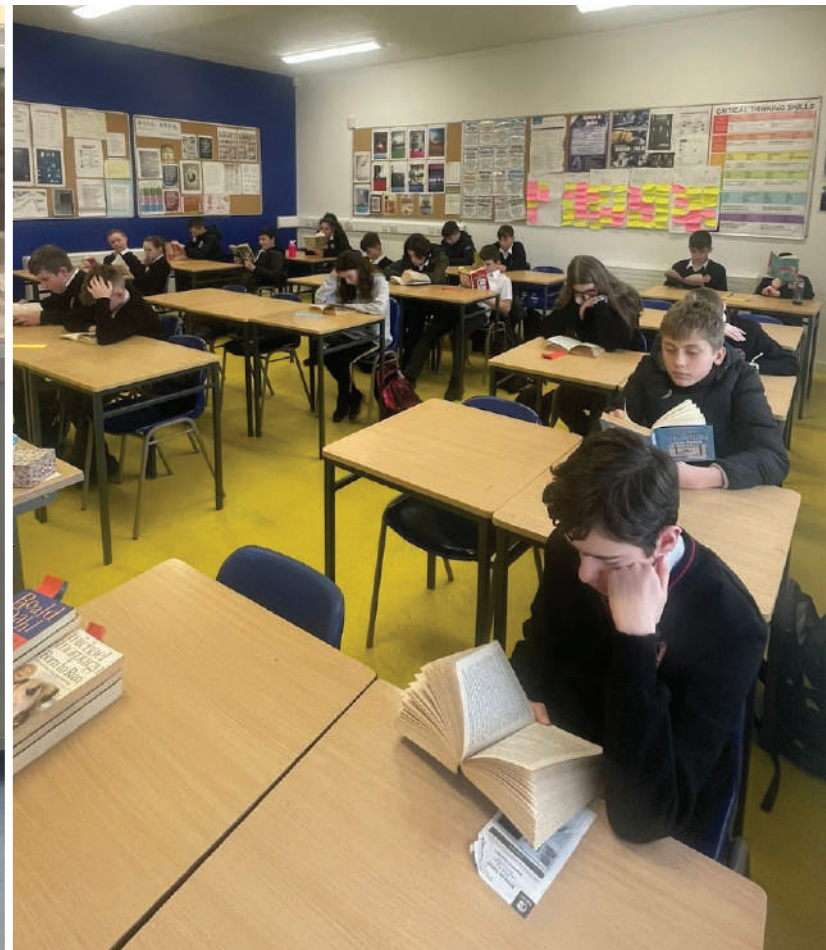
Literacy and Numeracy



1st Year Winners during Maths Week in the RCS in September after taking part in a group activity.



During European Day of Languages in September, multilingual advertising of canteen lunches took place.



1st Year Students in Ms McKinley's English class taking time from regular coursework to read for enjoyment.



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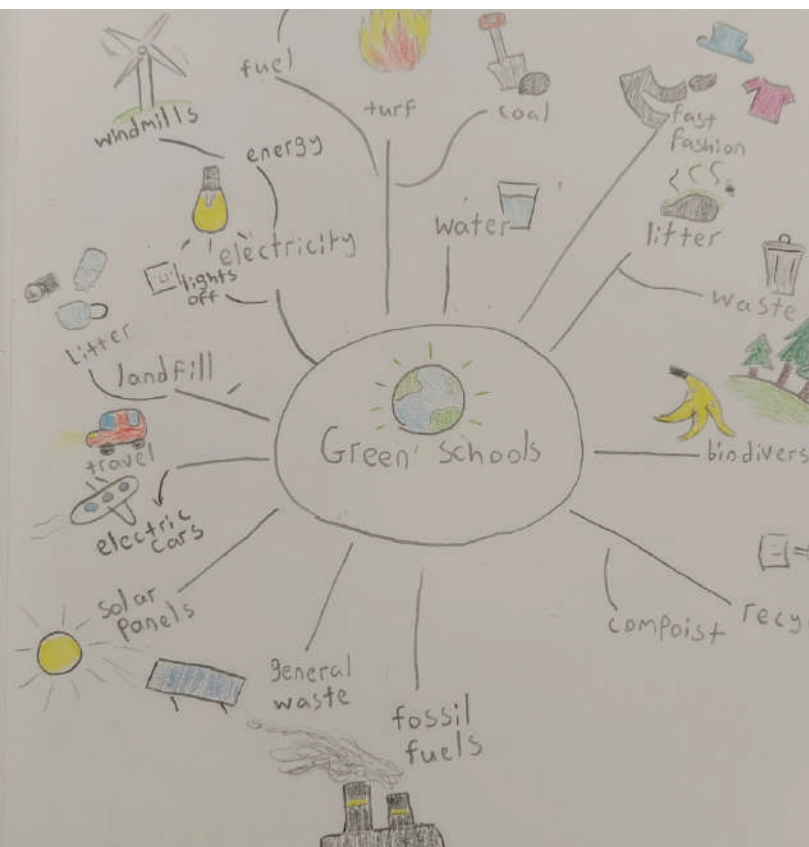
Literacy and Numeracy



52 TY students who visited 'Jailbreak' escape rooms in The Old Courthouse in Lifford during Maths Week in the RCS in September.



1st Year Anti-Bullying Week Poetry winners Aoife McGonagle, Joey Gillespie and Lucian Browne. Congratulations and well done to all 1st Year students who entered.



1st Year students displaying the language of sustainability with their excellent work for the Green Schools Programme. The RCS is currently working towards Green School status.



The winning students of the 'Guess How Many Sweets Are In The Jar' competition which over 200 students competed in during Maths Week.



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Partnership with Parents and Others

RCS Club 200

MONTHLY JACKPOT €1000

Supporting sports & the arts at the RCS

The RCS is running a monthly Club 200 draw this year to assist with the increased cost of buses and the new buildings. Ongoing community support is greatly appreciated.

INTRODUCING OUR 13 INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

AND OUR 2 TEAM LEADERS
FATHER AND DAUGHTER / HUSBAND AND WIFE

Our 13 'Operation Transformation' contestants and 2 team-leaders. The winners will be announced before Christmas, stay tuned!

SUBJECT OPEN DAY

For parents of incoming 1st Years.
This is a great opportunity to speak to staff one to one about their subject.
Special Needs & Pastoral Care Teams will also be available to meet with parents.

WEDNESDAY 30TH NOV
2PM - 4PM

A Subject Open-Day was held in November for the parents of incoming 1st Year students to the RCS next September. Thank you to all who attended.

Notice

1st Year
Parents Information Evening

Wednesday 21st September
5:15pm

ICT WORKSHOP

VSWare, Chromebooks, Google Suite

In September, an ICT workshop was held for parents to assist with the use of Chromebooks, VSWare and G-Suite as all our students now engage on these platforms.



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Partnership with Parents and Others



1st Year students who helped support and coordinate the Shoebox Appeal this year. Well done to all.



Our 7 RCS Erasmus students visiting Palma, Mallorca in November.



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Partnership with Parents and Others



Mr Gibson talking to incoming 1st Year students to the RCS next September as part of the Induction Programme in November. We currently estimate 93 students will be starting with us in September 2023.



In October, the RCS hosted 35 students and teachers from Denmark, Holland, Italy, Spain and France as part of the Erasmus programme. A great success and a wonderful experience for all.

Notice

CAO Information Evening

**6th Year Parents
With Mrs Helena Cunningham**

Wednesday 12th October
School Library
5pm

A CAO information evening was held for parents of all 6th Year students in October.



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Management and Leadership



An aerial view of the new astro-turf pitch and beginnings of the new buildings project which has commenced in recent weeks.



Mr Gorman and Mr Gillen saying farewell to our dear colleague Agnes Cannon on her retirement. We wish Agnes the very best and thank her for her brilliant service to the RCS.



Mr Gorman presenting a token of appreciation to SNA Helena Melly who became All-Ireland Pool champion earlier this year.



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Management and Leadership



Members of the Management and Leadership committee in the RCS; Dearbhla Fox, Mary McLoughlin, Maureen Conlon and Tony Forrester.



Mr Gorman wishing Ms Ní Ghallchóir well on her maternity leave during November. Also pictured is Mr Cranley.



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Teaching and Learning



6th Year Geography students on a field-trip with Mr Carey in October.



TY Art students completed self-portraits influenced by an Artist of their choice in Ms O'Hart's class earlier this year.



3rd Year students conducting an experiment in Mrs Marry's Science class in December. 186 students currently study Science at Junior Cycle.



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Teaching and Learning



Cian and Evan were among a group of students in TY, 5th and 6th Year who learned about aviation at the Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell, Dublin in November.



Some beautiful festive Christmas decorations made during December in Mr Gibson's class in advance of the craft fair.



Carlos, Fernando and Gustavo working on their coat-racks in Mr Eamon Byrne's Woodwork class in September. There are currently 127 students in Junior Cycle Woodwork and 103 students in Leaving Certificate.



5th Year Art students learning about repoussé and incision techniques used to apply decoration on Bronze Age artefacts. They used turkey trays to experiment with mark-making using abstract and geometric patterns. 107 students currently study Art across the RCS.



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Infrastructure



The RCS Christmas Tree and Nativity Crib bring a festive warmth to the building in December.



New Postura chairs which were purchased and placed into classrooms around the RCS recently.



New In-Focus projectors were installed in classrooms across the school in September as part of ongoing ICT upgrades.



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Infrastructure



2nd Year Music students performing on new ukuleles which were purchased for the Music Department at the beginning of this school year. 72 students study Music across school currently.



Works have commenced in recent weeks on the new buildings development within the RCS.



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Infrastructure

PHASE 1

Car Parking Construction
October '22 - December '22

PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT PLAN - 1:500

KEY SHEET NUMBER: 0273-A

KEY ITEM COORDINATES FOR SITE - 577368,911354

KEY IRELAND LICENCE GRANTED

OUTPUT REFERENCE V_00_25176239

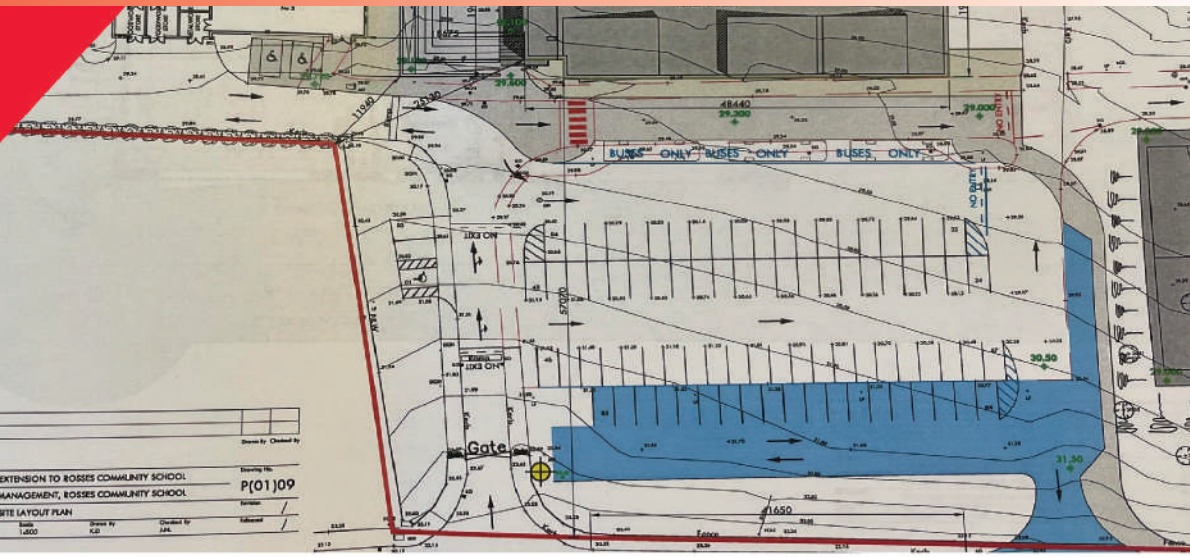
FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES.

SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL OTHER PLANS AND DOCUMENTS FORMING PART OF THIS PROJECT.

DIMENSIONS ONLY, DO NOT SCALE OFF THIS DRAWING IS COPYRIGHT

Rev	Date	Description	Drawn By	Checked By

Title	PROPOSED EXTENSION TO ROSSES COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Drawing No.	P(01)09
Client	BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, ROSSES COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Revision	
Drawing No.	PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT PLAN	Drawn By	K.P.
Scale	1:500	Checked By	J.A.L.
Date	NOV 2021		



PHASE 2

Building Construction
January '23 - November '23



PHASE 3

Retention and Snagging
December '23 - February '23



The Rosses Community School's three phase building announcement.



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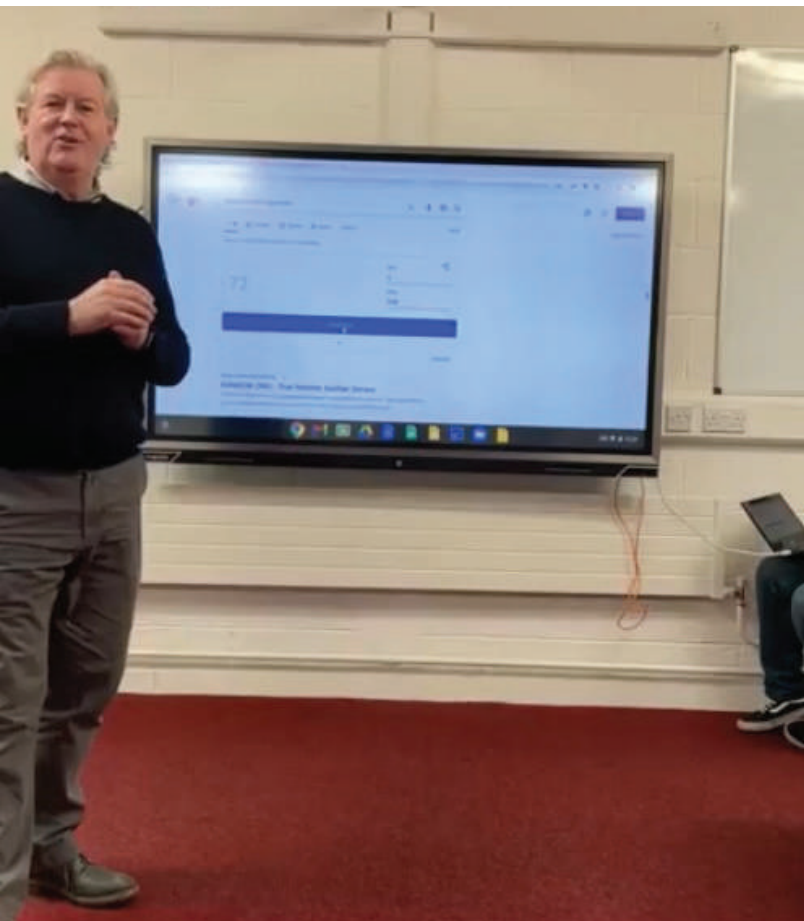
Bealach straitséiseach na Gaeilge



Bhain páistí na hIdirbhliana agus Coiste na nDaltaí sult as phictiúrlann and Arena 7 i mí Dheireadh Fómhair.



Thug Aoibheann McCann, Annie Kerr agus Ms Watters cuairt ar RnaG i mí na Samhna.



Ag tarraingt na n-uimhreacha do chrannchur 200 na scoile. Tá muid buíoch as bhur dtacaíocht.



Déanaimid comhghairdeas le Neil Kennedy a bhua gradam fídléireachta Ed Teavy International faoi ocht mbliana déag a bhí ar siúl i gContae an Chabháin.



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Bealach straitséiseach na Gaeilge



Emily Colangelo agus Aoife McKelvey i mbun damhsa ag an choirn cheoil a bhíonn ar siúl gach mí ag am lóin sa leabharlann.

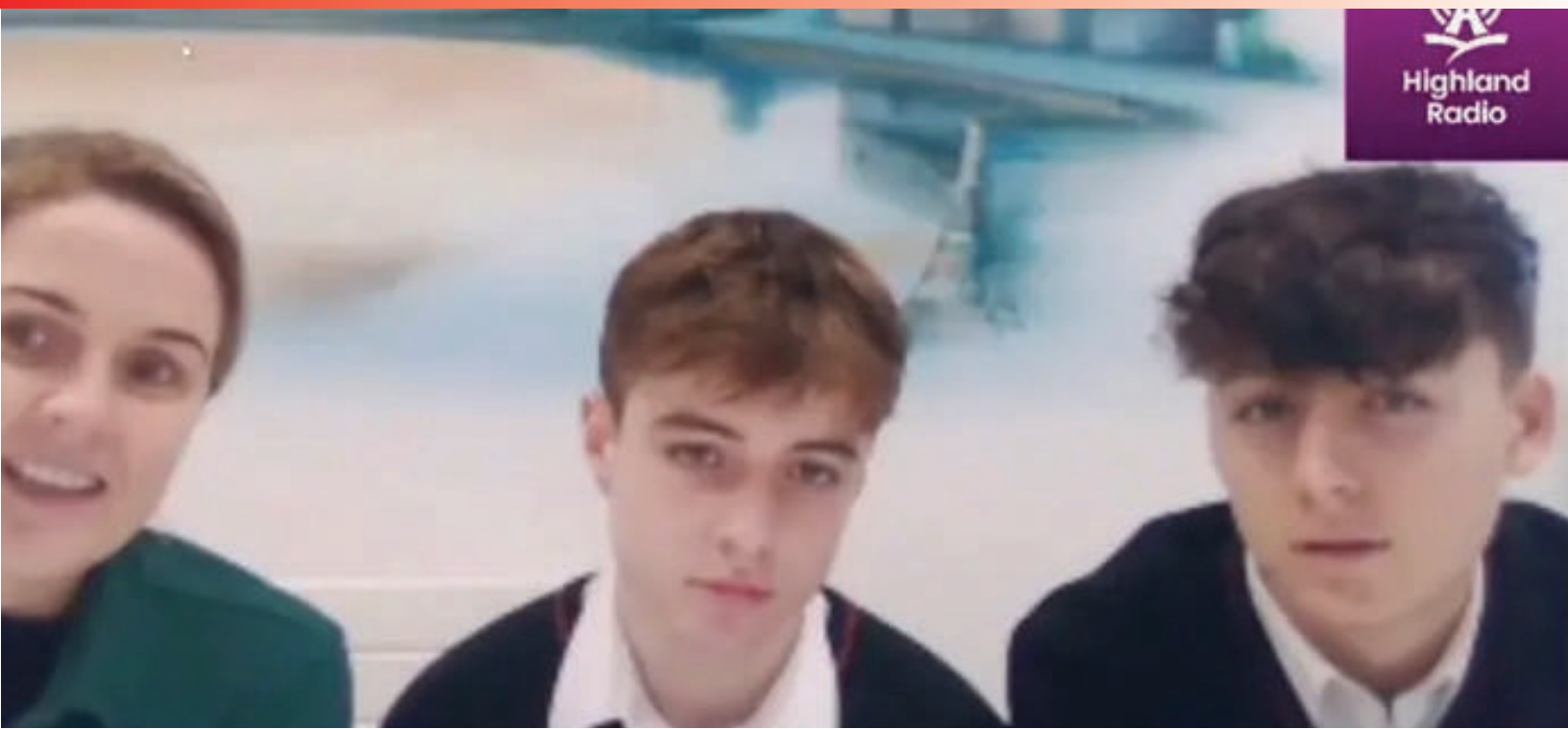


Damhsa na scaibe á déanamh le scoláirí Erasmus a bhí ar cuairt againn le gaird.



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Student Council / Student Voice



Cianan McDaid and Dylan Doherty from TY speaking on Highland Radio, pictured alongside Ms O'Reilly, discussing their role in helping the RCS become the first Irish school to win the Tata Consultancy Service goIT monthly award.



Our 6th Year Prefects leading the way for students in school during Anti-Bullying Week 2022.



Our team of twelve 6th Year prefects including Head Boy and Head Girl for 2022/23, Katie Carron and Damian McGowan.



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Student Council / Student Voice



Our 5th Year mentors for the 2022-23 school year. Well done to all on being chosen for the role.



5th Year student Finlay Thomson wrote a fantastic article for the Irish Examiner newspaper recently on the lack of transport options in rural Ireland. Well done Finlay.



Menstrual Waves

RCS Y.S.I 2022/23

The TY Young Social Innovators are working on their project called 'Menstrual Waves' which concentrates on the lack of education for young girls on the menstrual cycle. They are hoping to develop a course which teachers could use in SPHE classes. Well done to all!



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Student Council / Student Voice



Michael McDevitt talking to RCS Student Council members about the Donegal Youth Council in early November.



Senior students guiding incoming 1st Year students in Science class during the Induction programme in November.



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Wellbeing



The RCS U16 girls in action against Gairmscoil Chú Uladh in mid-November. Currently, 30 girls are playing Camogie in the RCS.



Gemma with her carved pumpkin 'Peter' which was the winning entry in the pumpkin competition which was held at Halloween. Gemma received 251 votes in the process. Well done Gemma!



TY girls participated in Kayaking earlier this year. Well done to all involved.



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Wellbeing



Our U16 Basketball girls in the RCS. Well done on all your hard work! 25 girls are involved in Basketball teams currently in school.



Senior students enjoying a drumming workshop with Eamonn Cagney back in September.



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Wellbeing



Students enjoying a penalty-shootout competition on the All-Weather pitch during European Day of Languages in the RCS in September.



'Get Going Get Rowing' delivering a programme to students in the RCS during November. 10 students currently take part in Rowing weekly in the school.



Pobalscoil na Rosann

An Clochan Liath, Co. Dhun na nGall

Tel: 074 95 21122

Email: dgillen@rossescommunityschool.ie

jgorman@rossescommunityschool.ie

Rosses Community School

Dungloe, Co. Donegal

Tel: 074 95 21122

Email: dgillen@rossescommunityschool.ie

jgorman@rossescommunityschool.ie