

*School Improvement Plan/DEIS
Spring Newsletter*

April 2023



Issue 12



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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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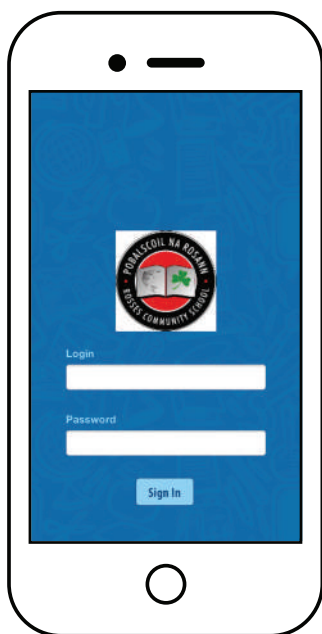
Keeping You Informed

Keeping You Informed



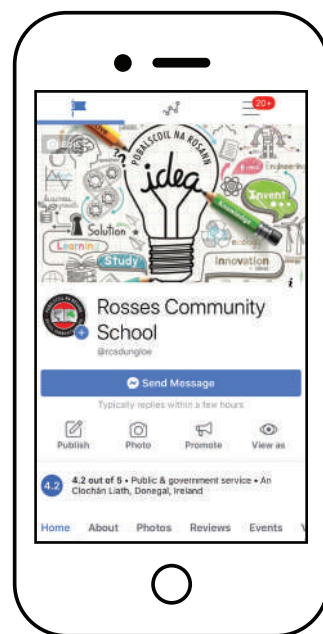
Website

www.rossescommunityschool.ie



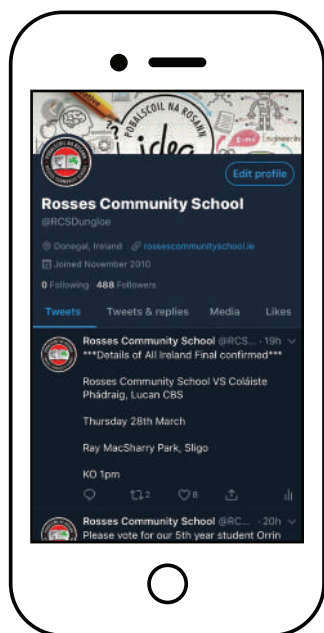
VSware

www.rossescs.vsware.ie



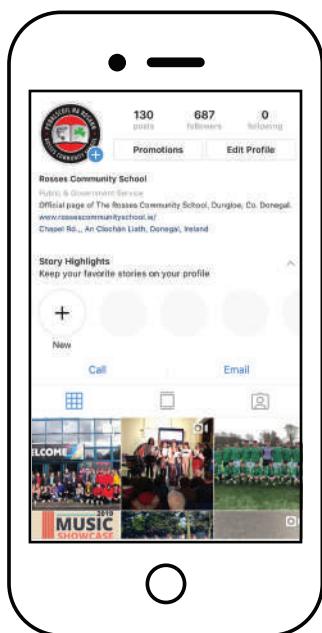
Facebook

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



Our clerical staff Angela and Annie contact parents daily on student attendance, a strategy aimed at improving awareness around attendance and lowering absenteeism.

Dear Parent, Patrick is registered as absent for morning roll call. If you believe your child should be in school please let us know on [9521122](tel:9521122). Otherwise if your child is absent with your knowledge please ensure your child hands in an absence note on their return to school. Regards, J Gorman RCS

Texts are sent daily to parents from the school in an effort to highlight student attendance and improve the accuracy of rolls taken.



Joe Rodgers provides music performance and music technology classes to over 30 students in the RCS currently. Here, students prepare for the St. Patrick's Day concert in the RCS!



Year Head Patricia Graham and other Year Heads monitor late entries to school each morning in an effort to improve punctuality of attendance.



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School Participation

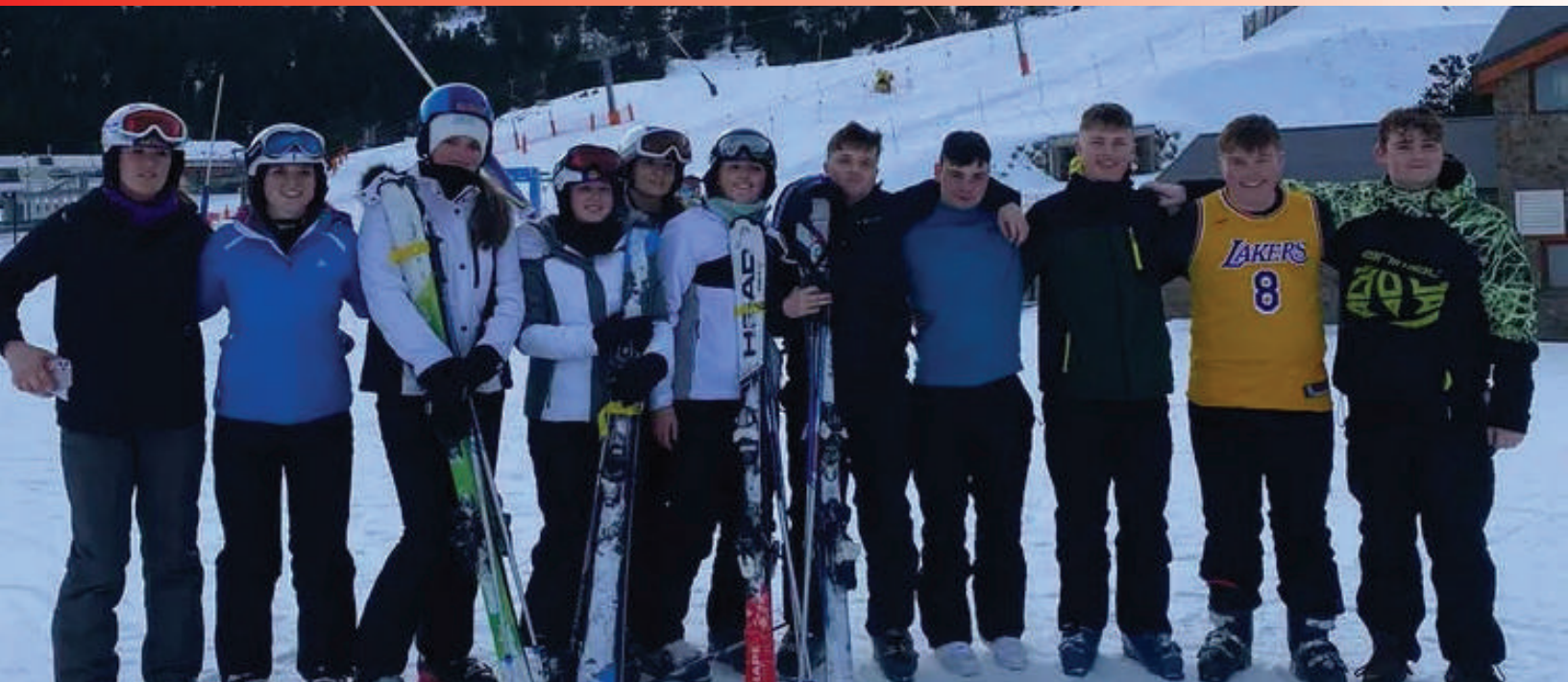


2nd Year students attended the Workhouse Museum in Dunfanaghy in January as part of History Week. 45 students attended this trip.



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School Participation



In December, 42 students from 5th and 6th Year travelled with their teachers to Andorra for a skiing trip. An amazing experience was had by all!



In January, over 40 Business Studies students from 2nd Year attended the World of Work programme at ATU Donegal in Letterkenny.



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School Participation



In December, 48 students from TY and Croí enjoyed a trip to Arena 7 and Century Cinemas in Letterkenny.



In early March, 18 girls from the 2nd Year Girls Soccer team travelled to Glasgow to watch Celtic defeat Hearts in Parkhead.



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School Participation

BREAKFAST

COCO POPS/RICE KRISPIES 70c
YOGHURTS 70c CROISSANTS^{15 24} 70c
TOASTIE (CHEESE & HAM) €1.30 ^{11 15 24}
CRUSTY ROLL¹⁴ 40c PORRIDGE 70c ^{15 24}
TEA/COFFEE 50c

Our Breakfast Club menu which offers various healthy breakfast options to over 200 of our students each day.



Members of the RCS Pastoral Care team who provide support to all students in the school. on a daily basis.

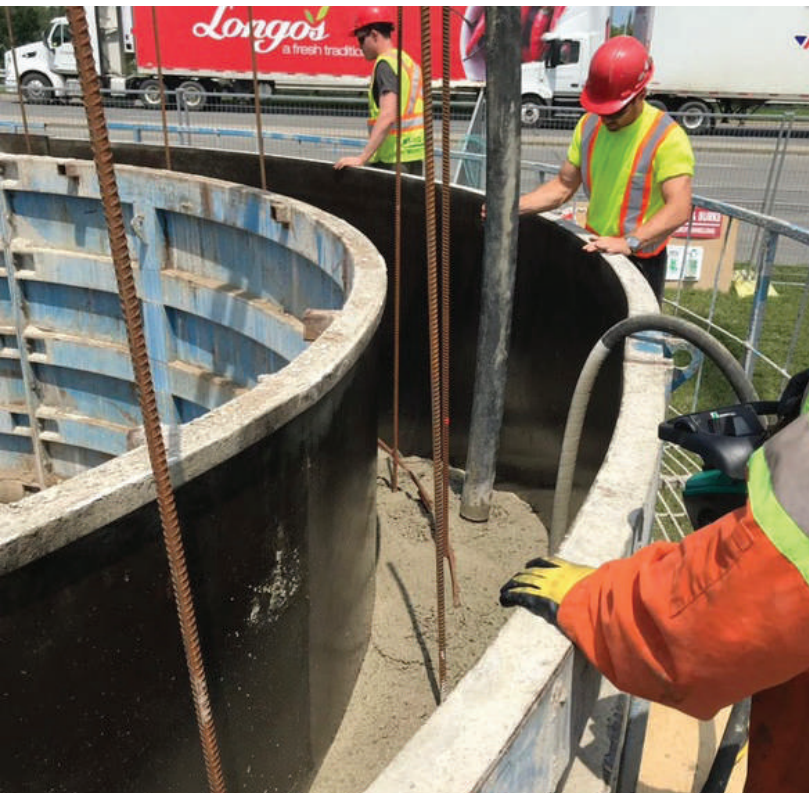


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Retention



38 students from 5th Year Engineering, Technology, Economics and Business were spoken to by the team at Sliabh Liag Distillery in Ardara in February. They learned about building, manufacturing, engineering and the running of the business.



During Engineer's Week in the RCS, over 60 students from 2nd and 5th Year learned about steel fixing and shuttering from guest speaker Eamon Boyle of Ward and Burke Microtunnelling services in Toronto, Canada.

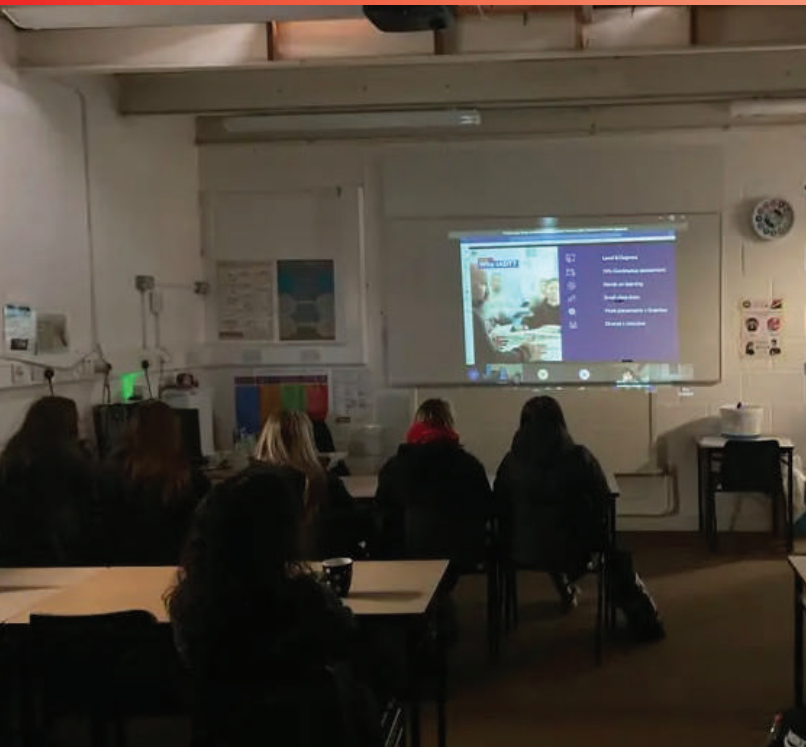


As part of History Week in the RCS in January, guest speaker John Ruddy AKA 'Manny Man' gave workshops on 'weapons in warfare' and the Cold War to all 3rd Years and to 25 students in 5th/6th Year History.

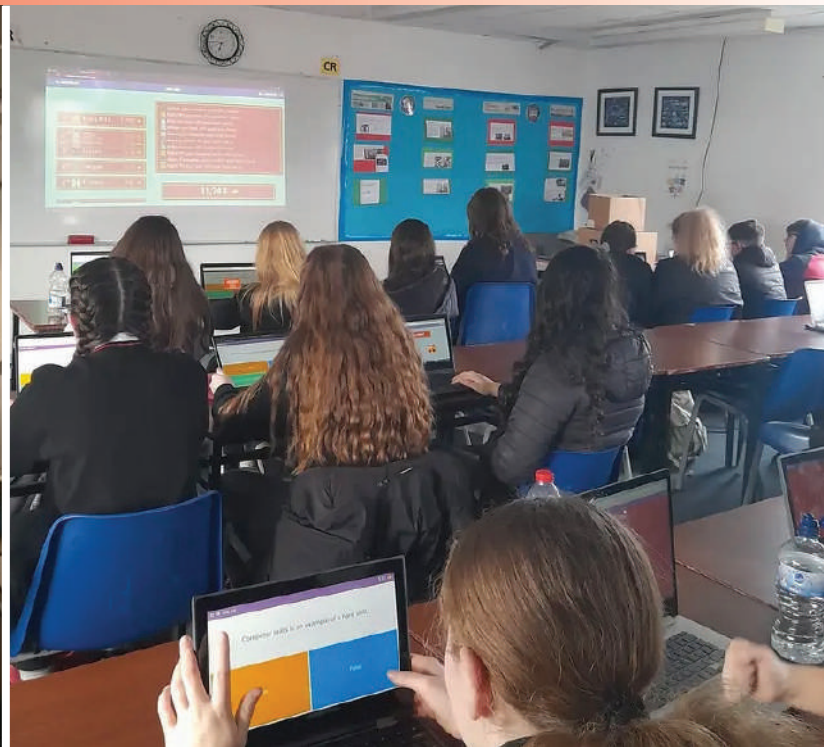


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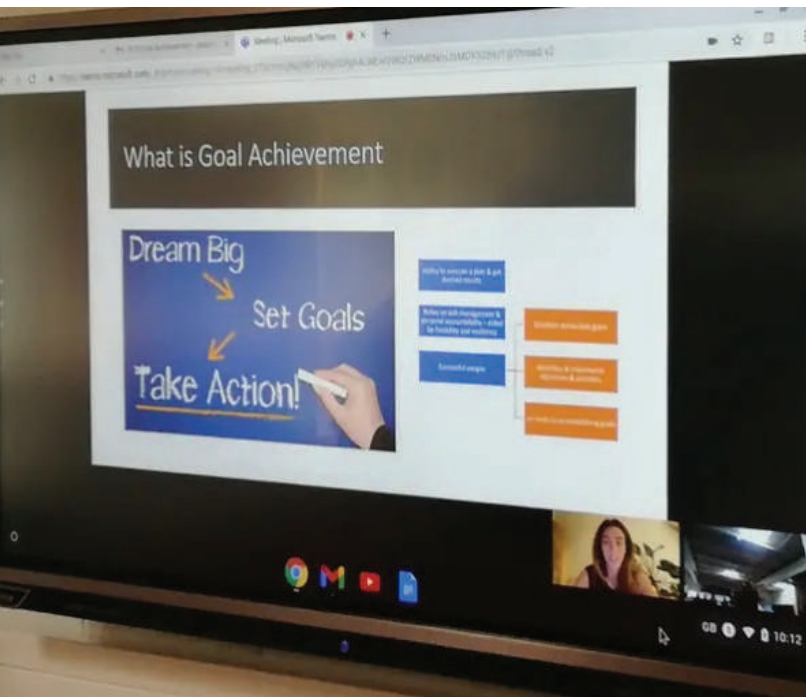
Retention



22 Computer Science students in Transition Year were given a presentation from student ambassadors in Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology in early March on careers and student life.



2nd Year Business students listening to a presentation from guest speaker Shannon Duggan in January on career paths and sustainability. 24 students attended this talk.



Over 20 of our Athletics students attended a webinar from guest speaker Aoife McDonnell of Geelong in the AFL on goal setting and motivation in February.



Students using the online library as part of the JSCP programme in the RCS. 106 students are currently taking part in the JSCP programme.



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Educational Transitions



Current and past students, Karl Magee and Aaron Ward who lined out for the Donegal U20 team in January. Congratulations to both players.



Past student Patrick McGarvey receiving the ATU Donegal Sports Scholarship. In 2022, 49% of our students began study in ATU Donegal. Congratulations to Patrick.



Conor Diver, another past student, was also a recipient of the Donegal Sports Scholarship from ATU Donegal. Well done Conor!



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Educational Transitions



Our Career Guidance Counsellor, Helena Cunningham, assists our Leaving Cert students with DARE and HEAR applications for 3rd Level. 53 of our students are doing the Leaving Certificate in 2023.



SENIOR CYCLE SUBJECT INFORMATION EVENING

TY, LC & LCA Subject Information Evening for parents and students in 3rd Year and TY

TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY
FROM 4-6PM

In February, a Senior Cycle subject information evening was strongly attended, allowing our students to make informed choices about their next steps in education.



3rd & 6th Years

*Good Luck
in Your Mock Exams!*

Our 3rd and 6th Year students sat Mock Examinations in February. 53 students from 6th Year and 89 students from 3rd Year sat examinations in preparation for state exams.



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Educational Attainment



Michael McCarry, Zach Macadangdang and Seosamh MacAoidh who competed in the BT Young Scientist competition in the RDS in January. Well done lads.



Well done to Katie O'Donnell who was a senior winner in the 'Bake Off' competition held in the RCS during March, which involved Pobalscoil Gaoth Dobhair and St. Columba's Comprehensive School Glenties also.



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Educational Attainment



Well done to Leaving Certificate student Ulitah Boyle on winning an Ulster LGFA All-Star in February. Great achievement!



Congratulations to Amy Timoney on her silver medal at the Scottish National Indoor Championships 60m Hurdles at U17 level in January!



Jimmie-Joe Boyle in 3rd Year who finished in the top 20 in the National Rowing Championships in Limerick in February. Excellent achievement! 10 students in the RCS currently take part in Rowing.



Congratulations to 2nd Year student Aidan Carragher who won 1st place in the 'Entrepreneurial Journey' category of the Donegal Student Enterprise Awards held in Letterkenny in early March.



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Educational Attainment



Our U14 Girls who won a Gaelic Football blitz in O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny in February. The girls won 4/4 games, well done!



Sarah-Jane Hartnett and Aisha Bonner who lined out with the Donegal Minor Camogie team in February. Well done girls! 30 girls are currently playing Camogie in the RCS.



Odhran Rodgers from 1st Year who finished 3rd place in the District Cross Country in Coleraine in January. Great effort!



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Educational Attainment



Well done to the Under 14.5 Boys Gaelic Football team who reached the Ulster Semi-Final, losing out narrowly to St Joseph's, Crossmaglen in January.



Congratulations to the U17 Girls Soccer team who reached the Ulster Final against Pobalscoil Gaoth Dobhair in January. Over 100 girls are currently playing with teams in the RCS.



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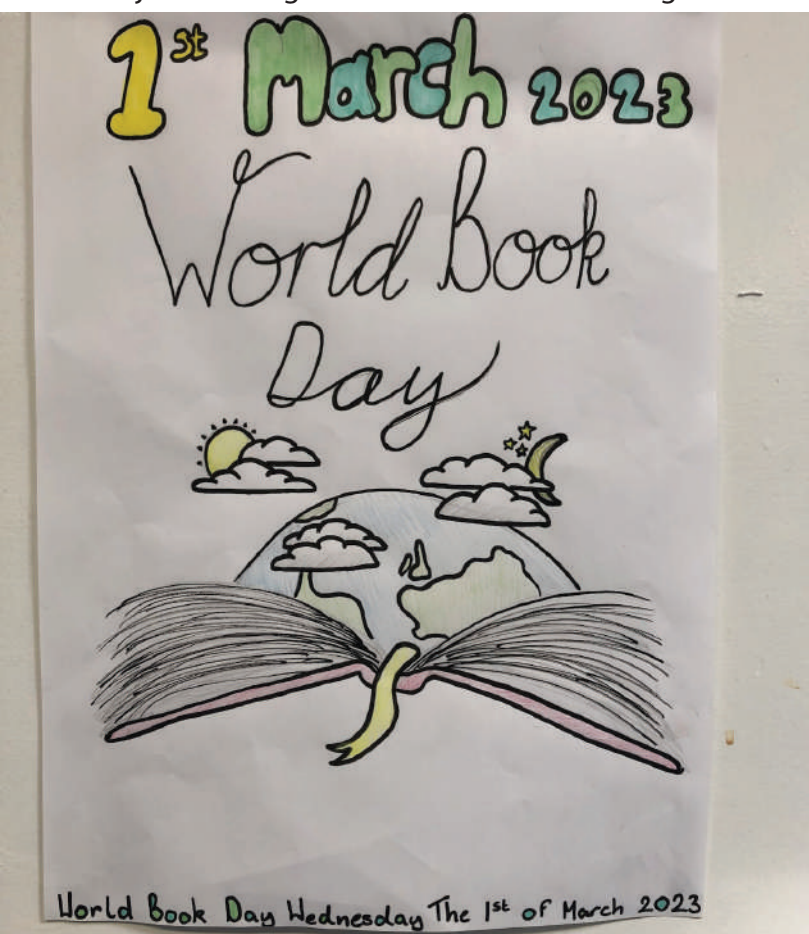
Literacy and Numeracy



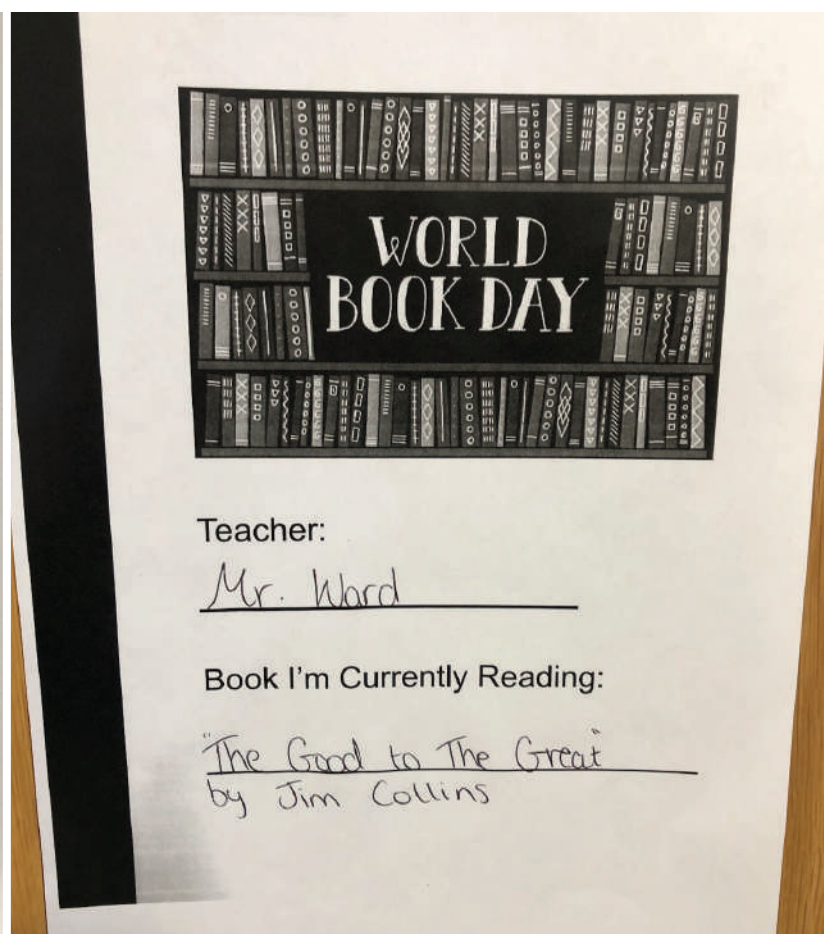
The RCS 'Numeracy Wall' created by TY students Holly McLaughlin, Leanne Duffy and Tara Gillespie in February which captures the use of numeracy across subjects among other features. Great work girls.



World Book Day took place on 1st March in the RCS for all students. Many students dressed up in character for the occasion.



TY English students created some fantastic artwork, advertising World Book Day in advance.



Teachers across the RCS shared the books they were currently reading as part of World Book Day celebrations.

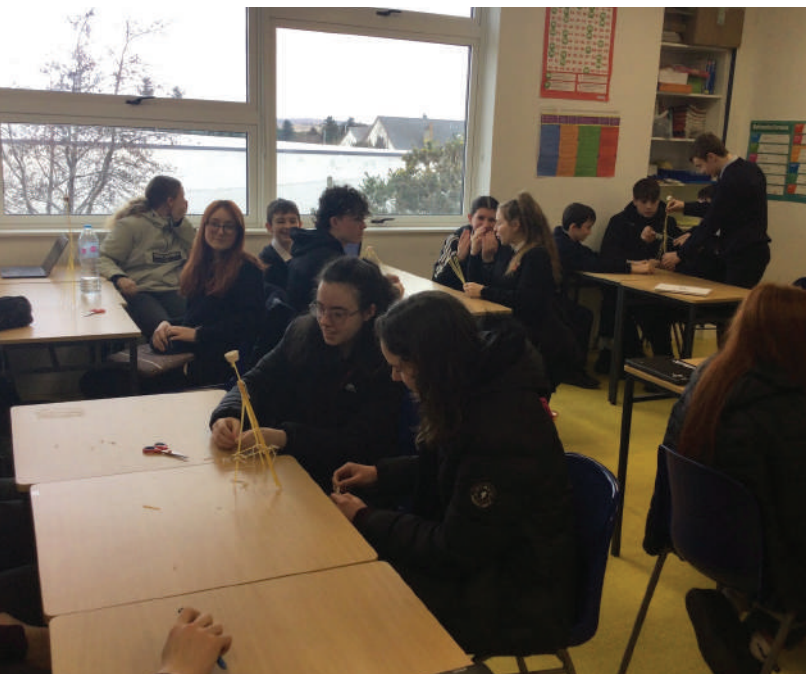


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Literacy and Numeracy



Staff who dressed up as characters from stories and novels for World Book Day, well done to all!



Well done to all of the students who took part in the 2nd Year Maths Competition held in February. Thank you to the students of St Columba's Comprehensive Glenties, Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair and Pobalscoil Chloich Cheannfhaola for taking part.



Congratulations to the winning team of the 2nd Year inter-school Maths competition; our very own RCS students Mia O'Donnell, Ultan Sweeney, Xinyi Chen and Grace Andrews!



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Partnership with Parents and Others



Well done to Caleb, Shayne, Joey and Eoghan in 1st Year who organised a World Cup charity competition which raised 110 Euro for 'Gemma's Legacy of Hope' in February.



TY students filmed the history of the Ballymanus Disaster with local historian Jimmy Duffy as part of the school's partnership with Redmond Herry on the N56 QS/Sculpture project in March.



Rosses Community School Parents Activities

Indoor Rowing

Friday 3rd March to Friday 31st March
4 week block
9:30am - 10:20am
RCS Sports Hall
Instructor - Paul McGonigle



For more info contact:

Gavin Ward on 086 780 9205 or email gward@rossescommunityschool.ie

Indoor Rowing with Paul McGonigle which has started for all interested parents from 3rd March, organised by Home-School Liaison Coordinator Gavin Ward.



Rosses Community School Parents Activities

Yoga Classes

Starts Friday 13th January
9:30am - 10:20am
RCS Sports Hall for 6 weeks
Instructor - Patricia McGinley



Online / Internet security for teenagers & parents

Monday 16th January
5-6pm in the library
Tutor - Gareth Gibson
from The Donegal Youth Service

Maths for 1st year parents

Tutor - Jason Gallagher
Tuesday 17th January
5:00pm - 6:30pm
for 6 weeks



For more info contact: Gavin Ward on 086 780 9205 or email gward@rossescommunityschool.ie

In January, a number of workshops offered to all parents took place in Yoga, Internet Security and also in Maths for 1st Year parents.



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Partnership with Parents and Others



The RCS partnered with Pobalscoil Gaoth Dobhair and St. Columba's Comprehensive School Glenties in hosting the 'Bake Off' in March.



Our very successful 6-school Erasmus exchange project ended in January, here are some of our teachers enjoying Italian biscuits.



After the hugely successful 'Operation Transformation' school-community initiative, our leaders gathered for dinner at the Waterfront Hotel at the beginning of the year.



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Management & Leadership



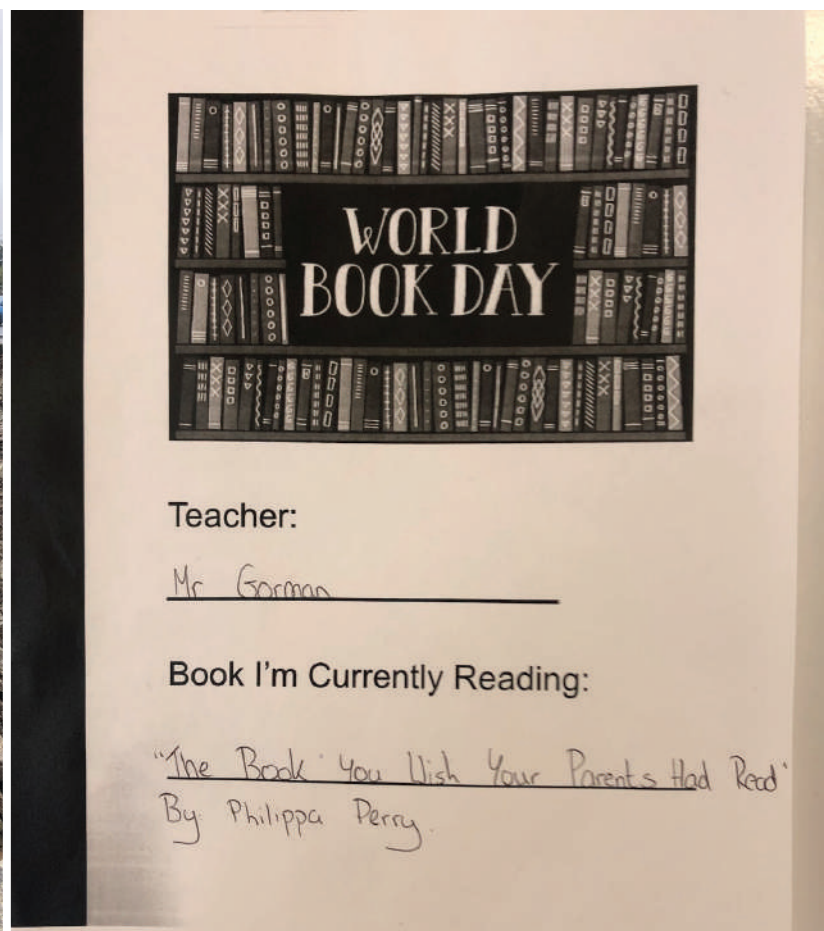
Mr Gillen with Senior Cycle students at the 6th Year Parent/Teacher meeting in March.



Our post-holders who form the middle-management team in the RCS in support of the work of the Principal and Deputy-Principal.



Since January, the school has said 'goodbye' to some old classrooms as work commences on the new buildings project.



Mr Gorman shares his current reading material as part of World Book Day in the RCS.

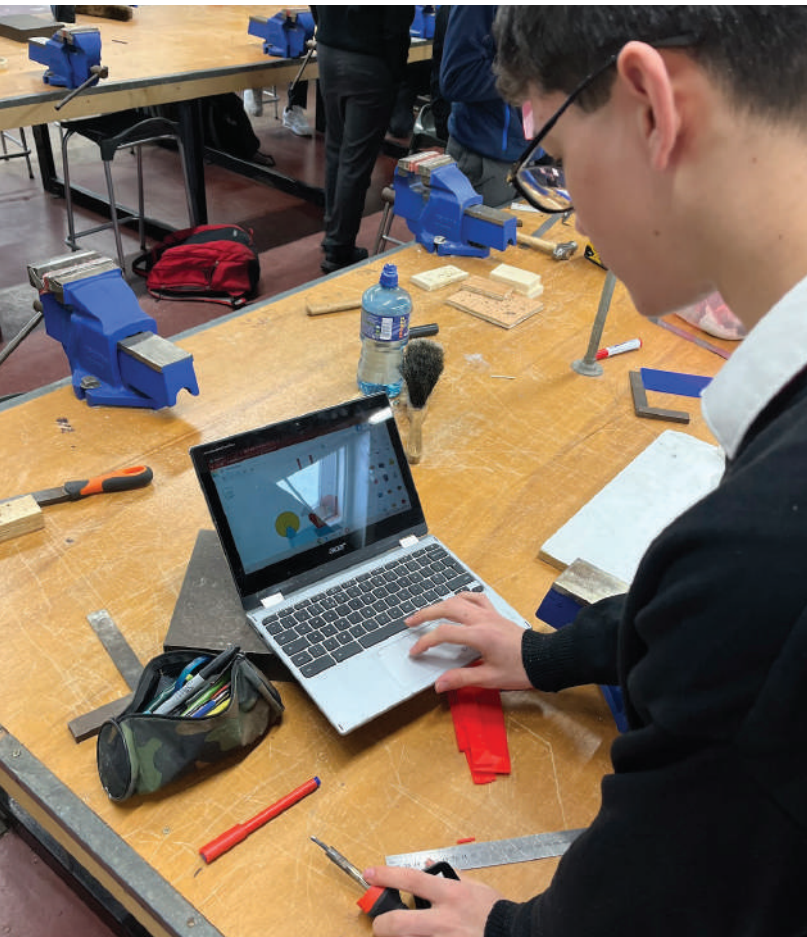


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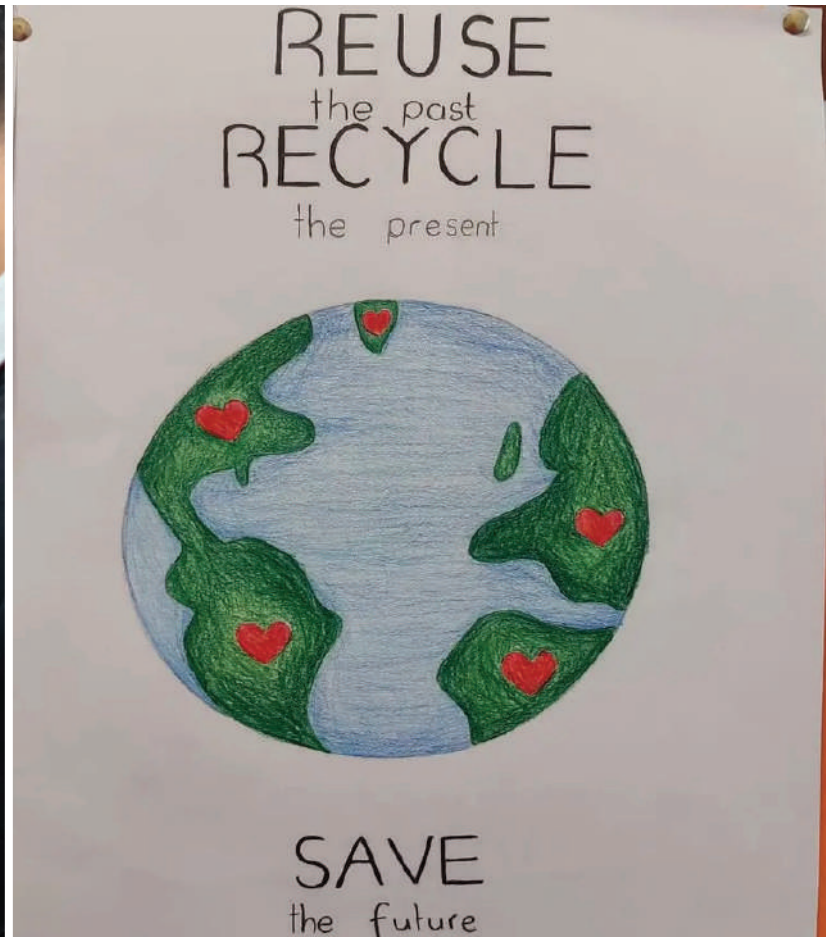
Teaching and Learning



TY Business Studies students delivering Dragon's Den-style sales pitches to judges Ms Harkin and Ms Gallagher in March.



Conor Boyle using computer software to design his project in Metalwork. Over 100 students currently study Metalwork at Junior Cycle.



Students learning about sustainability displaying their knowledge. The RCS is currently working towards Green School status.



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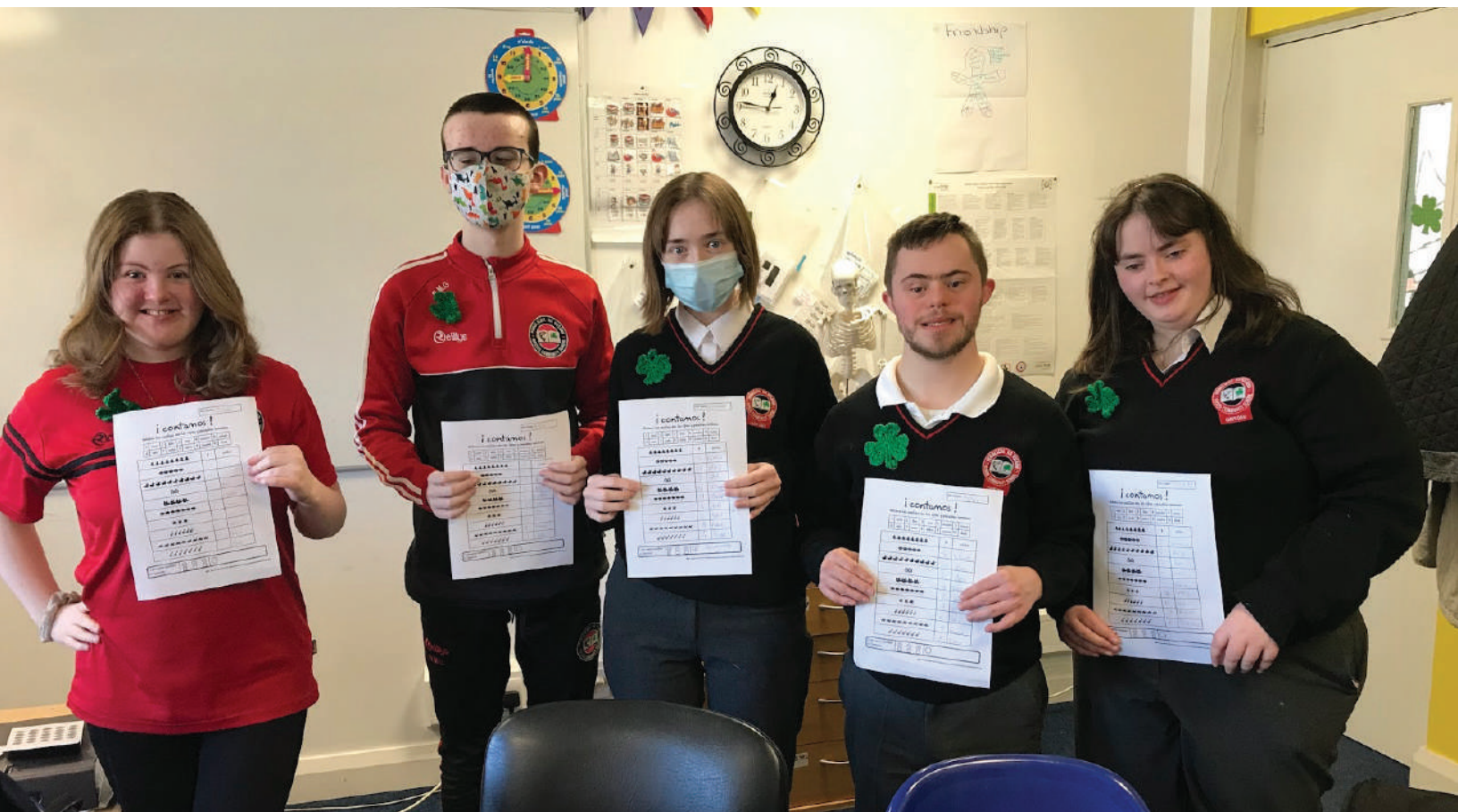
Teaching and Learning



2nd Year students investigating Hooke's Law as part of the section on 'Forces' in Junior Cert Science.



1st Year History students learning about the origins of the Irish Flag for Flag Day on 16th March, sporting pins from the Thomas Meagher Foundation.



Croí students learning Spanish in March while wearing their Shamrocks before St. Patrick's Day!



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Infrastructure



A number of Perception Wireless Presenter Sets also located in the Music Studio. These headless audio sets facilitate boom-mike technology. The school also has Green-Screen technology in place now.



3rd Year student Aidan Hunter using the new horizontal bandsaw in Engineering class.



The Canon EOS 200 D camera which is located in our music studio, this has been recently used to capture images of the 'Bake Off' and lunchtime concerts which have taken place.



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Infrastructure



The welcome signs of foundations laid and the first blockwork on the new buildings project which has commenced in 2023.



Refurbishment work is currently taking place on the outside of some of our pre-fab classrooms.



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Bealach straitséiseach na Gaeilge



'Fráma Féiníne', deartha agus déanta ag na scoláirí; Aidan, Leah, Conor, Tara, Ruby agus Sophie do Sheachtain na Gaeilge! Buíochas d'achan duine a chuidigh leo. Maith sibh.



Ellie Bonner i mbun ceoil le linn cheiliúrtha na féile Bríde le TFP (CDP) an Chlocháin Léith.



'Gaeilgeoirí na Míosa'. I mí Eanáir bhí Caoimhe Ward, Annie Kerr, Aidan McGee, Luke Clerkin, Aoife Ní Shúilleabháin agus Sophie Ní Dhomhnaill. Maith sibh!



Lá Fhéile Bríde go luath i mí Feabhra. Bhí daltaí na hIdirbhliana gnóthach ag déanamh crosóga Bhríde.



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Bealach straitséiseach na Gaeilge



Ceol, craic and cuideachta ag múinteoirí agus daltaí ag seoladh 'Sheachtain na Gaeilge', Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar 'Bharrscéalta', Raidió na Gaeltachta i mí Feabhra.



Múinteoirí i mbun ullmhúcháin do scrúdú, 'Fháinne na Gaeilge'. Nach maith iad.



Maidin dheas cheoil le hEmily agus Neil sa scoil i mí an Mhárta. Físeán deas le feiceáil ar leathanach Facebook na scoile.



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Student Council / Student Voice



TY students taking the lead and teaching Maths to 1st Year students earlier this year.



2nd Year students Meabh Cannon and Grace Andrews made their voices heard in February with an article in the Donegal News about their BT Young Scientist work. Well done girls.



TY students Tia and Rianna, part of the 'Menstrual Waves' YSI team who presented their views on the lack of education in schools around the menstrual cycle to the YSI Den Panel in February. Great work!



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Student Council / Student Voice



Our TY coaches led a session for 1st and 2nd Year students under the guidance of Rowing Ireland coaches recently.



Orlaith, Amy, Rian and Finlay who represented the RCS at the ACCS Student Voice seminar in Portlaoise in February. Well done!



The TY Future Leaders who organised the RCS 'Fittest Friends' event for 1st Year students in January. Well done to all.



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Wellbeing



Our team of 34 students took part in the 1st Year Sports Hall Athletics competition in the Aura Leisure Centre in February.



The school's Senior Hurling squad. Over 40 boys currently play Hurling in the RCS.



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Wellbeing



The RCS U16 Boys Basketball team. There are currently 37 boys involved in Basketball in school.



5th Year student Yaroslav Vovk takes part in Goalkeeping practice with SNA Ciaran Sharkey in January.



Ms O'Hart's 1B SPHE class created this fabulous, uplifting display which sits in the upper assembly in recent months.



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Wellbeing



Action from the first West Donegal Camogie blitz between the RCS, Pobalscoil Gaoth Dobhair and Gairmscoil Chú Uladh. 30 girls are currently playing Camogie across school.



Our Under 13.5 Boys Gaelic Footballers had the pleasure of a run-out in the county ground of MacCumhaill Park against St. Columba's Stranorlar in March!



Pobalscoil na Rosann

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