

*School Improvement Plan/DEIS
Autumn Newsletter*



Autumn Newsletter - November 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



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

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**



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Keeping You Informed

Keeping You Informed



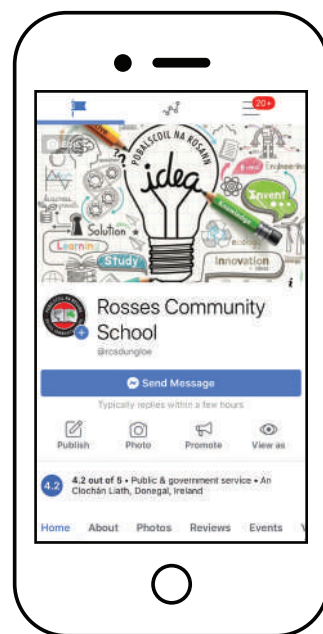
Website

www.rossescommunityschool.ie



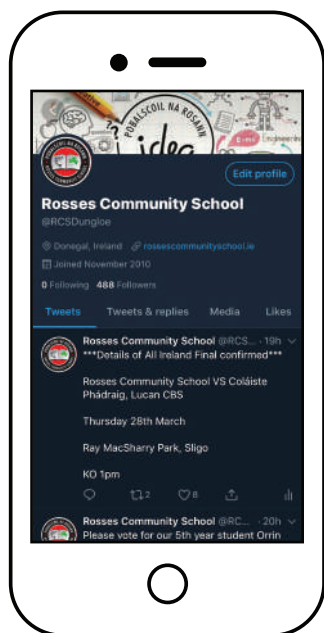
VSware

www.rossescs.vsware.ie



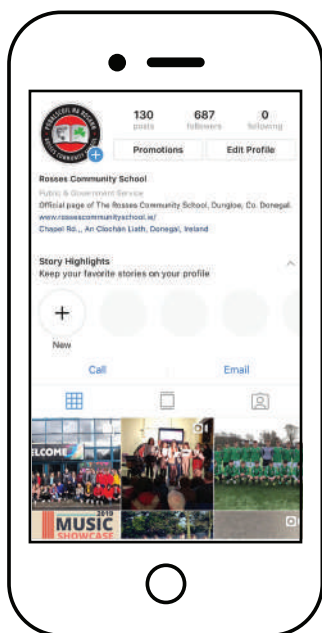
Facebook

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
-



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

School Attendance



Mrs Conlon meeting students at the entrance to the school in October, checking punctuality in relation to morning attendance. Year Heads regularly engage in this strategy to monitor attendance patterns effectively.



Derek Reddin working with 25 students from 2nd Year in non-curricular drama and speech/language activities in November. He works with 47 students in total across 1st and 2nd Year currently.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

School Attendance

Key Term: Improved Attendance



Refers to a pattern of attendance that has improved from a previous point in time (e.g., previous month), *regardless of how much absenteeism occurred in the past*



Attendance Officer Tony Forrestal attended a webinar in September with Norma Foley, Minister for Education and Dr. Patricia Graczyk as part of the national 'School Attendance Campaign.'



Jamie McGlynn and Ciaran Sharkey in 'Store Studios' in September. Joe Rodgers currently works closely with 26 of our students in music performance and technology.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

School Participation



8 students from the 5th Year Leaving Certificate Construction Studies class attended a site visit for Bennett Construction in Kevin Street, Dublin in September.



TY Cultural Studies class students and school staff visited the local islands in October with Donegal Sea Adventures. There are 84 students in TY this year.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

School Participation



28 students from Transition Year watched Celtic play Lazio in the Champions League in early October.



Students from 2B enjoying the Day of the Dead (El Día de los Muertos) celebrations in Spanish class during October. Just under 300 students now study Spanish in the RCS.



21 students visited Mallorca in October as part of the Erasmus Exchange. A fabulous experience for everyone involved.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

School Participation



Almost 30 students in 6th Year took part in the theme day of 'Anything but a bag' for Anti-Bullying week during November. Well done to all who participated.



Almost 80 TY students attended the 'Escape Rooms' in the Old Courthouse in Lifford in October as part of Maths Week 2023.

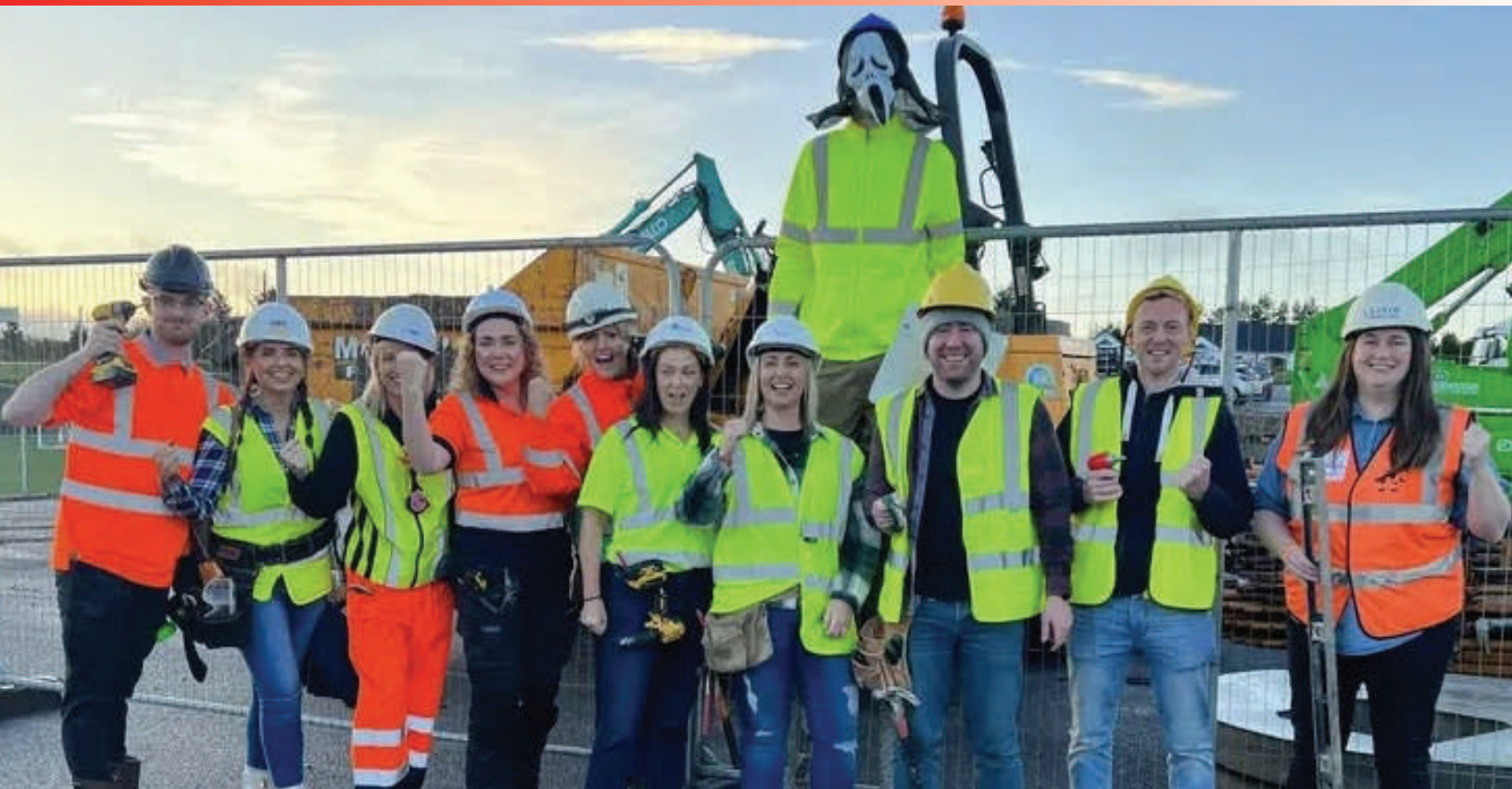


Over 70 students went to London in November as part of the TY Science trip which takes place annually. Students saw and experienced a range of locations and experiences around the city over a few days.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

School Participation



Our SNA team dressing up for Halloween celebrations in the RCS in October. Over 250 students dressed up for the occasion. A great day's fun for everyone.



The TY & LCA students attended the RCS Road-Safety Show during October.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

School Participation



22 students from 6th Year Chemistry, Biology and Physics visited Randox in November to learn about careers as part of Science Week.



3rd Year students with Mr MacRuairí during the RCS Christmas Village during November. A great array of activities and displays were on display for our many young visitors, a great day of fun!



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Retention



In October, percussionist and composer Eamonn Cagney came to the RCS and held workshops with all Music students across school from 1st to 6th Year.



46 of our students attended the Ploughing Championships in September.



Richie Sadlier was a guest speaker in September and spoke with 128 students in 5th and 6th Year about his life journey and managing his wellbeing. A hugely engaging experience for our students.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Retention



1st Year and TY Mini-Company students participated in a Digital Marketing workshop with past pupil Eimear Walsh in November.



90 students in 2nd Year enjoyed a Forensics workshop in October where they learned about the Antwerp Diamond Heist and engaged in forensic investigation techniques.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Retention



Guest speaker David Keaney, an entrepreneur and hospitality graduate spoke with almost 70 Business Studies and Home Economics students in September.



93 students in 3rd Year took part in talks with guest speakers Jigsaw for World Mental Health Day in October.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Educational Transitions



31 students from 6th Year attended the ATU Open Day in Letterkenny in November. Many of our former students now attend across a variety of third-level courses.



**BEST OF LUCK TO ALL OUR STUDENTS
RECEIVING THEIR LEAVING
CERTIFICATE RESULTS TODAY.**



**ROSSES
COMMUNITY
SCHOOL**

Congratulations to the class of 2022/2023 who received their Leaving Certificate results in September. 76 students in total received results. We are very proud of you all.



One of the many stands at our Careers Fair in September. In total, 17 third level institutions presented to over 300 students at the Careers Fair.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Educational Transitions



95 students from 11 national schools attended the 1st Year Induction Days on the 21st and 22nd November. Students experienced a range of subject taster experiences over their few days in the RCS.



Congratulations to Emily Colangelo, from the class of 2023/23, who was selected to perform with the Riverdance Summer School in Dublin at the Gaieity Theatre during August.



Congratulations to former students Adam Neely and Jade O'Donnell who were part of winning teams at the World GAA Games in Derry in July.

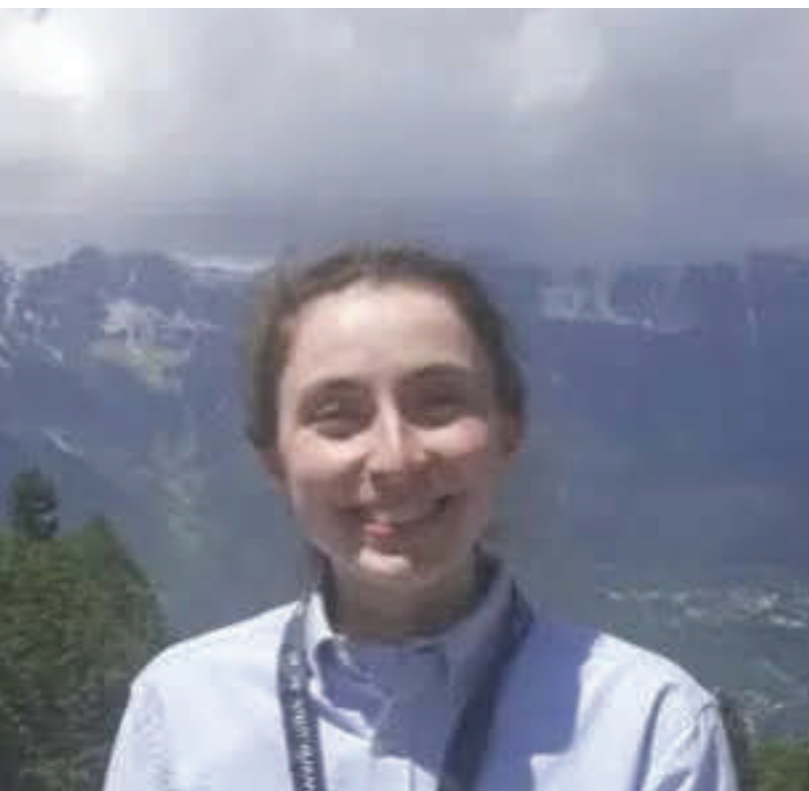


Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Educational Transitions



6th Year students attending the University of Galway Open Day in October. 25 students attended on the day.



Well done to former student Alison Graham who was part of a research group in University of Galway who were awarded 'Best Young Scientist' in Innsbruck during June.



Senior Cycle students had a talk with ATU Sligo in October, this was open to all 126 Senior students.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Educational Transitions



The incoming 1st Year class of 2023/24 who began in September. 87 students commenced their studies in the RCS, we wish you enjoyment and fulfillment in your time here.



Guidance Counsellor Helena Cunningham enjoying a chat with former past students at the Careers Fair in September. 316 students had access to a variety of career pathway conversations with third-level institutions and employers from the private and public sectors.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Educational Attainment



The RCS U15 boys team which won the Under 15 Soccer Football World Cup in Spain during October. A phenomenal achievement after seeing off competition from 11 different countries. Well done to all students involved and Mr Gibson/Mr Walsh.



Leighton Green who was the tournament top goalscorer with 18 goals during the Under 15 Soccer Football World Cup in Spain during October. Brilliant efforts Leighton!



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Educational Attainment



Well done to Evie Fitzgerald on winning the Art Competition for World Mental Health Day, fantastic work Evie. students study Art currently in the RCS.



Leah Ward and Nicole Comiskey receiving their tokens in November as a reward for their achievements in the 'Bake Off'. Well done girls!



TY student Fionn Doogan who took 5th place in the British Nationals during the summer, a magnificent result.



Congratulations to Aoife McKelvey who became U15 British National Champion in the summer, a superb achievement.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Educational Attainment



Well done to Caoimhe McGonagle and Oisín Gillespie on receiving Donegal Athletics Sport Star awards in September. A brilliant feat.



Well done to Jimmie Joe, Shaun, Darragh and Finlay who achieved 3rd place finish at the Offshore Rowing Championships during the Summer. Great effort lads!



Neil Kennedy from Dungloe won an All-Ireland medal in the Under-18 Accompaniment competition, having been placed second overall at the Fleadh Ceoil in Mullingar, alongside playing partner was Hughie Boyle



Congratulations to 6th Year student Neil Kennedy who achieved great success at the Fleadh Ceoil in Mullingar in August. Well done Neil!



Massive congratulations to 6th Year student Ulita Boyle who won the Minor County Player of the Year Award at the Donegal LGFA awards in Ballybofey in November.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Educational Attainment



Congratulations to Jack McElroy and Tristan Greene who finished 1st and 2nd place at the Donegal Schools Cross Country in October. Well done also to Hannah McGee who finished 7th place in the Senior Girls competition.



Congratulations to Annie Kerr who was selected to be part of the Donegal U15 Women's Soccer team during November.



Well done to Mia O'Donnell and Nicole Bonner Gillespie on being selected to the Ulster School Girls U15 Interprovincial Team for 2023 in November.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Educational Attainment



Class of 2023 student Caitlin Kennedy who received 600 points in her Leaving Certificate in September, pictured with Guidance Counsellor Mrs Cunningham. An outstanding achievement Caitlin. We are very proud you.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Literacy and Numeracy



'Sweets in a Jar' winner Katie Ward, pictured with Maths subject ambassadors Riaghain and Saoirse during



Students taking part in the IMTA Maggie Gaugh Competition and the Maths Week Olympiad in October.



Well done to Haley O'Neill, Conor Chambers and Ellie Doherty in 1st Year who were the winners of the poetry competition held for 'Anti-Bullying Week' in November, alongside their teacher Ms McKinley.



The winners of the 'Murder Mystery' activity held during Maths Week in October, well done to all involved.

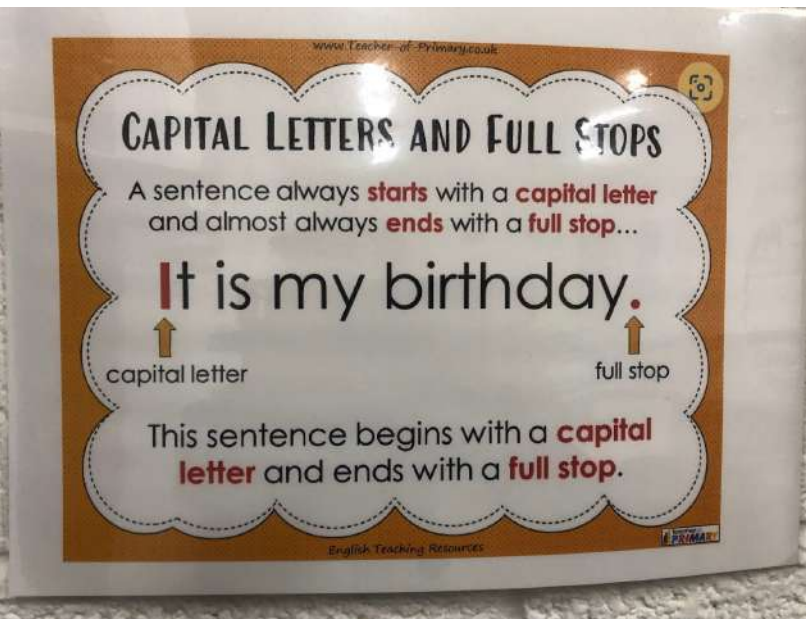


Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Literacy and Numeracy



The winning team from the Escape Rooms trip to Lifford during Maths Week 2023 in October.



The RCS 'Steps to Literacy' initiative which is used by all teachers with students in all subjects to encourage a consistent approach to grammar across school.



Multi-lingual signage across the RCS caters for students for whom English is not a first language.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Partnership with Parents and Others



Mrs Julia Gribben attended an Erasmus trip in Seville in early November. She is pictured with teachers from other participating countries. The Erasmus programme has allowed hundreds of our students and staff to travel to host countries over a number of years whilst the school has facilitated students and staff likewise from other EU countries. An enriching experience for all.



Rosces Community School Careers Fair

14th September @ 09:30am
3rd, TY, 5th & 6th Years

Speakers from the following disciplines:

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



Your future starts here!

The Careers Fair which took place in September included dozens of businesses, entrepreneurs and third-level institutions from the community. Over 300 students were the beneficiaries of careers advice.



LCA INFORMATION SESSION FOR PARENTS

MONDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2:30 - 3:30

Please drop in if you have any questions around school life or want to gather any information that will help you in helping your son or daughter

In September, an information session on Leaving Certificate Applied was held in the RCS for parents of all LCA students.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Partnership with Parents and Others



In October, Junior Achievement Ireland CEO Helen Raftery visited the RCS to present the students who won the European final of the Euronext Blue Challenge with their trophy. Well done again boys!



Panto scenes from the RCS Christmas Village which was a huge success in late November. Hugely well attended by the wider community. Many thanks to the staff and students involved for such a brilliant effort.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Partnership with Parents and Others



1ST YEAR INFORMATION SESSION FOR PARENTS

WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2:30 - 3:30

Please drop in if you have any questions around school life or want to gather any information that will help you in helping your son or daughter

A 1st Year information session was held for parents of all incoming students in 2023 in mid-September. 87 students in total have commenced 1st Year in the RCS.



Pius Gallagher visited the school in November to collect Christmas Shoeboxes and donations from students for 'Team Hope.' She is pictured with Anna-Marie McCready and Michelle Gallagher. Well done to all students and staff who contributed to this worthwhile cause.



Rosces Community School Parents Activities

Pilates Class

Starts Friday 29th September

9:45am - 10:30am

RCS Sports Hall

Instructor - Annemarie O'Donnell - 6 week block



Pilates classes have been running through the Autumn for parents in the community. This was organised by Gavin Ward, Home School Liaison Officer.



Rosces Community School Dyslexia Workshop

Commencing Monday 2nd October 2023

20 week Programme

3rd class to 1st Year Students

2 Hour Session

4:45pm-6:45pm

- One to One Tutoring
- Bilateral Movement
- Educational games/activities



A Dyslexia workshop commenced in early October, a 20 week programme with a variety of activities and strategies.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Partnership with Parents and Others



A selection of moments captured at the RCS Christmas Market in late November. A fabulous day for all involved. Well done on all the hard work and preparation of staff, students and others who helped in any way.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Partnership with Parents and Others





Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Management & Leadership



The school wishes Ms Joanne Doherty the very best on her retirement from the RCS. We thank you for your dedication and service to our students over the years.



Mr Gorman and Mr Gillen pictured with guest speaker Richie Sadlier who spoke to senior students in the Autumn in talks regarding wellbeing.



We also wish to thank Mrs Bridget Marry the very best on the occasion of her retirement. The school thanks her for her exceptional service both to the school and students over her time in the RCS.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Management & Leadership



Mr Gorman speaking to an audience during the Careers Fair in September. We thank all those businesses and institutions who attended on the day. You made a fantastic impression on our students.



The staff and students of the RCS wishes to thank Mrs Ann O'Donnell the best of health and happiness as she retires from her role of Caretaker in the RCS.



Mr Gorman and Mr Gillen presenting Caitlin Kennedy with the RCS Gold Medal, only the fifth recipient ever to achieve this. She has commenced Pharmacy Studies in the University of Ulster. Best of luck Caitlin!



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Teaching & Learning



Ms Joanne Doherty with her 2nd Year Science class, her final class teaching before beginning her retirement. Thank you for everything Ms Doherty!



The LCPE class learning about anti-doping in Sport and practicing a mock-drug testing process with anti-doping practitioner Owen Bonner.

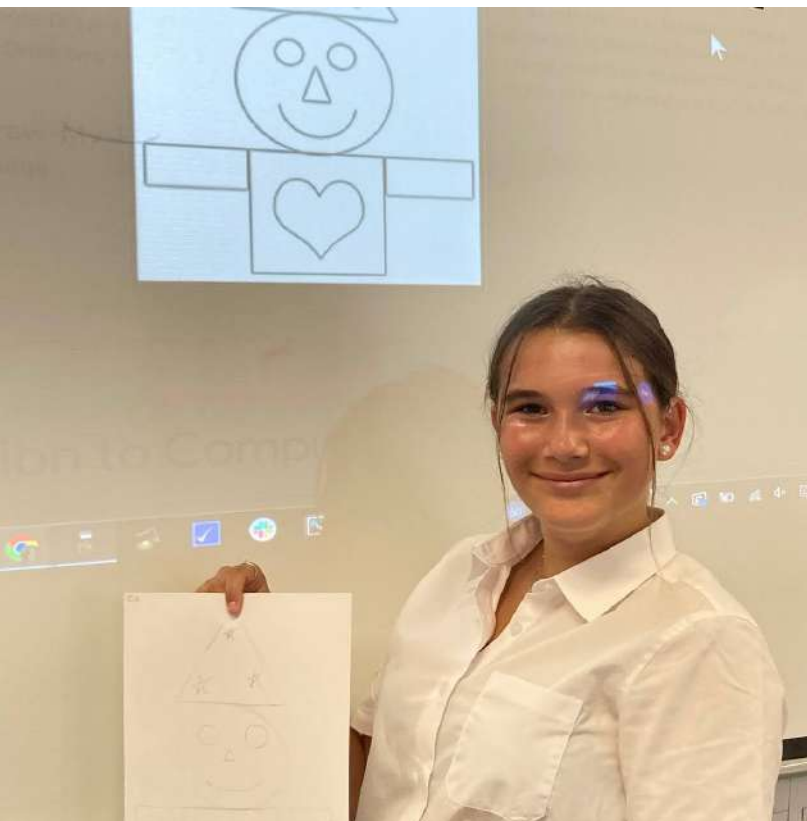


Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Teaching & Learning



Mr Boyle's Junior Science students working on hypothesis investigations in Science class during September. 270 students currently study Science at Junior Cycle.



Students follow instructions to draw pictures and learn about algorithms in TY Computer Studies in September. Pictured is TY Erasmus exchange student Concepción Gradaille.



6th Year Geography students visited the river Barra in October for their Leaving Certificate project. They learned about the effects of river erosion on the landscape.

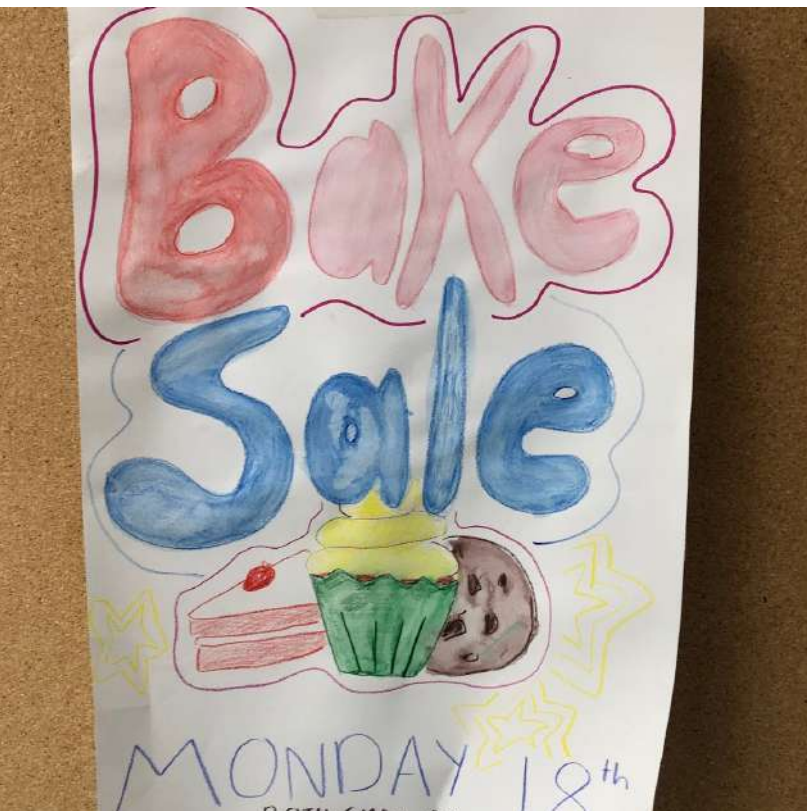


Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Teaching & Learning



Some fine artwork from the TY Languages Class who helped organise European Day of Languages in the RCS in September. Well done to all involved.



Well done to Mrs Conlon's Home Economics students for organising the 'Bake Sale' in October.



6th year Construction Studies Subject Ambassador students Katie Ward and Orlaith Gallagher teaching Mr Byrnes 1st year Wood Technology group how to use the burning pens and pillar drill properly. Well done girls!



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Infrastructure



The new front entrance to the RCS is beginning to take shape.



The new buildings near the gym have made good progress in recent months. Windows, plastering and wiring are all in process.



The foundations of many new classrooms to the right of the entrance are now in place and blockwork will proceed shortly on this phase.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Infrastructure



The foundations of a new Basketball court are being put in place currently, this will be a fantastic addition to the school and community.



The new astro-turf pitch has been fully widened and marked out during the Autumn, bringing this phase to completion. A fantastic asset to our students and school teams.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

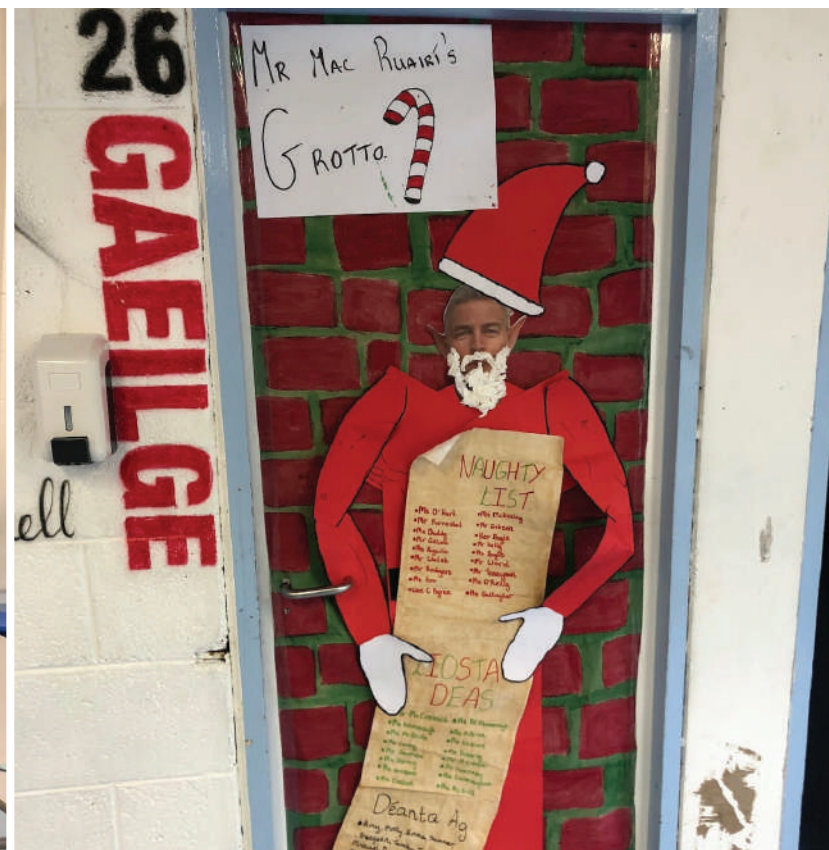
Infrastructure



For the month of November, we remember past students, staff and members of our community who have passed away.



The RCS Christmas tree is now installed in the main assembly as the school community gets ready for the festive season.



Our classroom doors have become decorated with festive themes throughout November. A huge well done in particular to the students involved for your creativity and artistic style!



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Bealach straitséiseach na Gaeilge



Oíche Chultúir le Pobalscoil na Rosann. Maith sibh uilig! Oíche galanta.



'Cistin na Cearnóige' oscailte anois go hoifigiúil. Beidh ár gcuid daltaí iontacha Idirbhliana agus Coiste na Gaeilge ag cur cácaí agus deochanna deasa milse ar fáil uair sa mhí. Is maith an rud an mheasarthacht!



Ceardlann Disléicse Pobalscoil Na Rosann

Ag tosnú: Luan 2ú Deireadh Fómhair, 2023

Scoláirí ó Rang a 3 - An Chéad Bhliain

Clár 20 seachtain

Seisiún dhá uair

4:45pm-6:45pm

- Teagasc duine le duine
- Gluaiseacht dhéthaobhac
- Cluichí/gníomhaíochtaí oideachasúil



Tá feastáil mhaith a dhéanamh ar an oíche seo. Tá páistí an cheantar agus na ceantair máguaird uilig ag baint pléisiúir agus taitneamh as an rang seo. Bíonn deis acu a bheith ag déanamh ranga acadúla chomh maith le ranga cluichí agus cocáireacht. Tá fáilte ríomh pháistí úra an t-am ar fad.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Bealach straitséiseach na Gaeilge



Cóisir Thae Tráthnóna! Le daltaí na hidirbhliana. Teach lán agus tráthnóna galánta le tae beag, togha agus rogha an bhia, ceol agus damhsa. Buíochas mór le gach duine a thug tacaíocht, go háirithe fear an tídon oíche, Noel Cunningham!

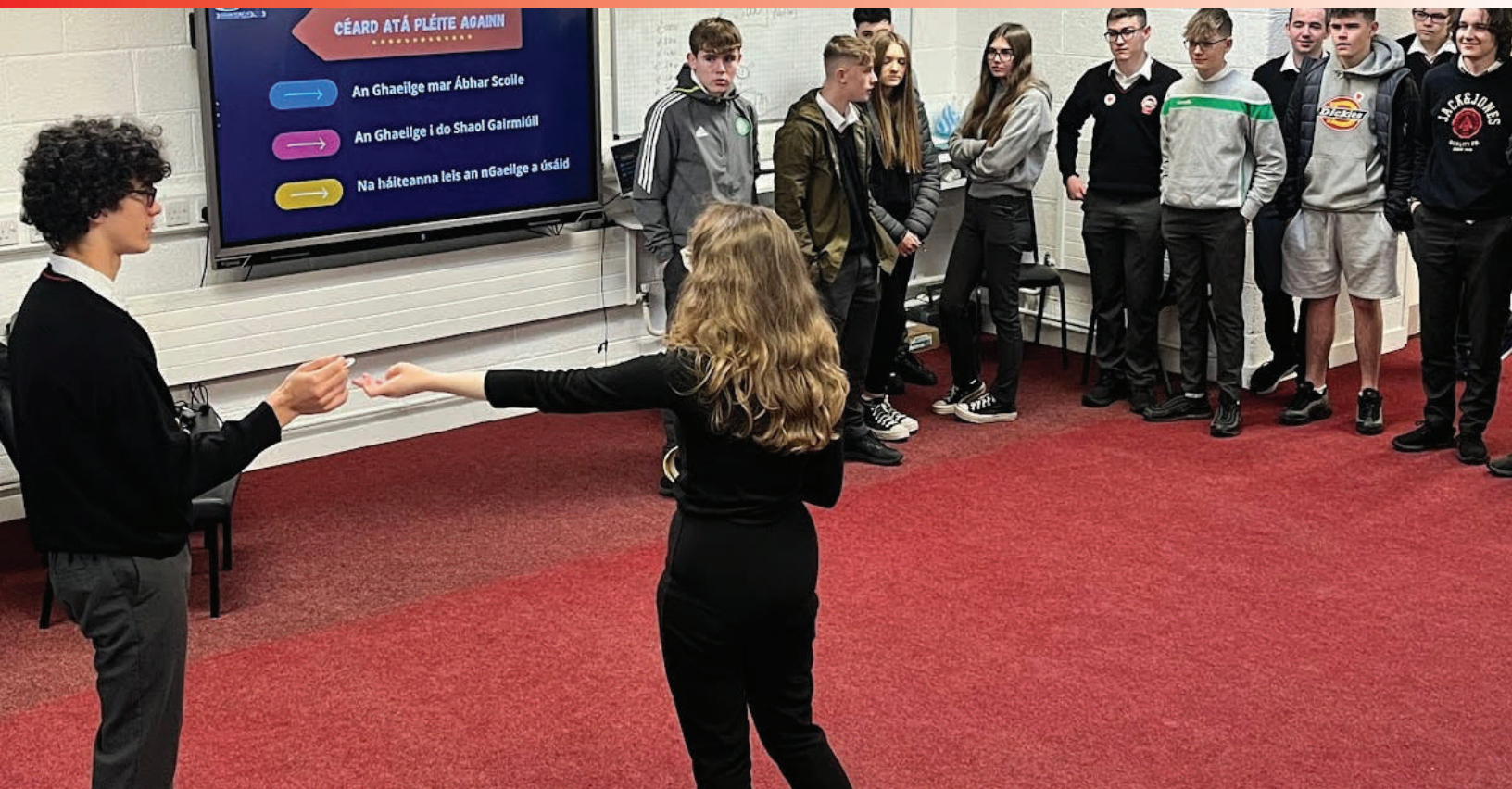


Helena Gallagher ó HG Productions le scoláirí na hidirbhliana agus a gcuid cúntóirí agus iad i mbun oibre ar an chúrsa oiliúna teilifíse agus raidió i gcomhair le Pleanáil Teanga na Rosann. Go raibh maith agaibh uilig.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Bealach straitséiseach na Gaeilge



Ghlac scolairí na hidirbhliana agus na cúigiú bliana páirt sa cheardlann idirghníomhach Seó Bóthair le Conradh na Gaeilge.



Múinteoir MacRuairi ag fógairt na mbuaiteoirí crannchur Club 200.



An cineáltas a chothú i bpobal na scoile.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Student Council / Student Voice



The Student Council in the RCS for the 2023/2024 academic year. Well done to all students elected.



Our Head Boy Finlay Thomson and Head Girl Tara Geoghegan pictured during Anti-Bullying Week in the RCS. Congratulations to you both on being awarded your roles for 6th Year.



Well done to Orlaith, Amy and Rian in 6th Year who represented the RCS at the ACCS Student Voice event in Dublin Castle in September.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Student Council / Student Voice

RCS time capsule to remain sealed until 2043

MEMBERS of the Student Council at Rosas Community School have filled a time capsule that will remain sealed in the schools assembly for twenty years until May 15, 2043.

The whole school community was given a chance to share their aspirations for their future and where they felt the school might be in 20 years' time.

"It was a lovely wee project," said Joe Rodgers a teacher who was involved in organising the time capsule.

Over 150 students and teachers contributed to the time capsule with hand written letters that were also sealed.

The time capsule also included a video from Mr Gorman the principal, Mr Gill the vice principle and a number of other teachers and students. All of the school photographs from 2022/2023 were also included on a hard drive.

Student Council Members involved include Rohan Boyle, Laila Baska, Ryan Granall, Ellie Boyle, Michael Houston, Breegen Bonner, Luke Clerkin, Allamah O'Donnell, Cormac Hanlon, Saoirse Doherty, Evan Mc Fadden and Rebecca Shovlin.

The Student Voice Committee members include Laura mc Kinley, Maureen Conlon, Joe Rodgers, Aileen Nic Suibhne, Maria Meilly, Patrick O' Donnell, Lorraine Boyle and Dara Carey.



Jack Mac Aoidh, Jamie O'Connell Doherty, Aoife Mc Kelvey, Caoimhe Gallagher, Saorta Freel, and Tom Green of the Rosas Community School with the time capsule.

Well done to all the students who took part in the 'Time-Capsule' project and Joe Rodgers for his time and efforts. Local media covered the event in the Autumn. Great work everyone involved!

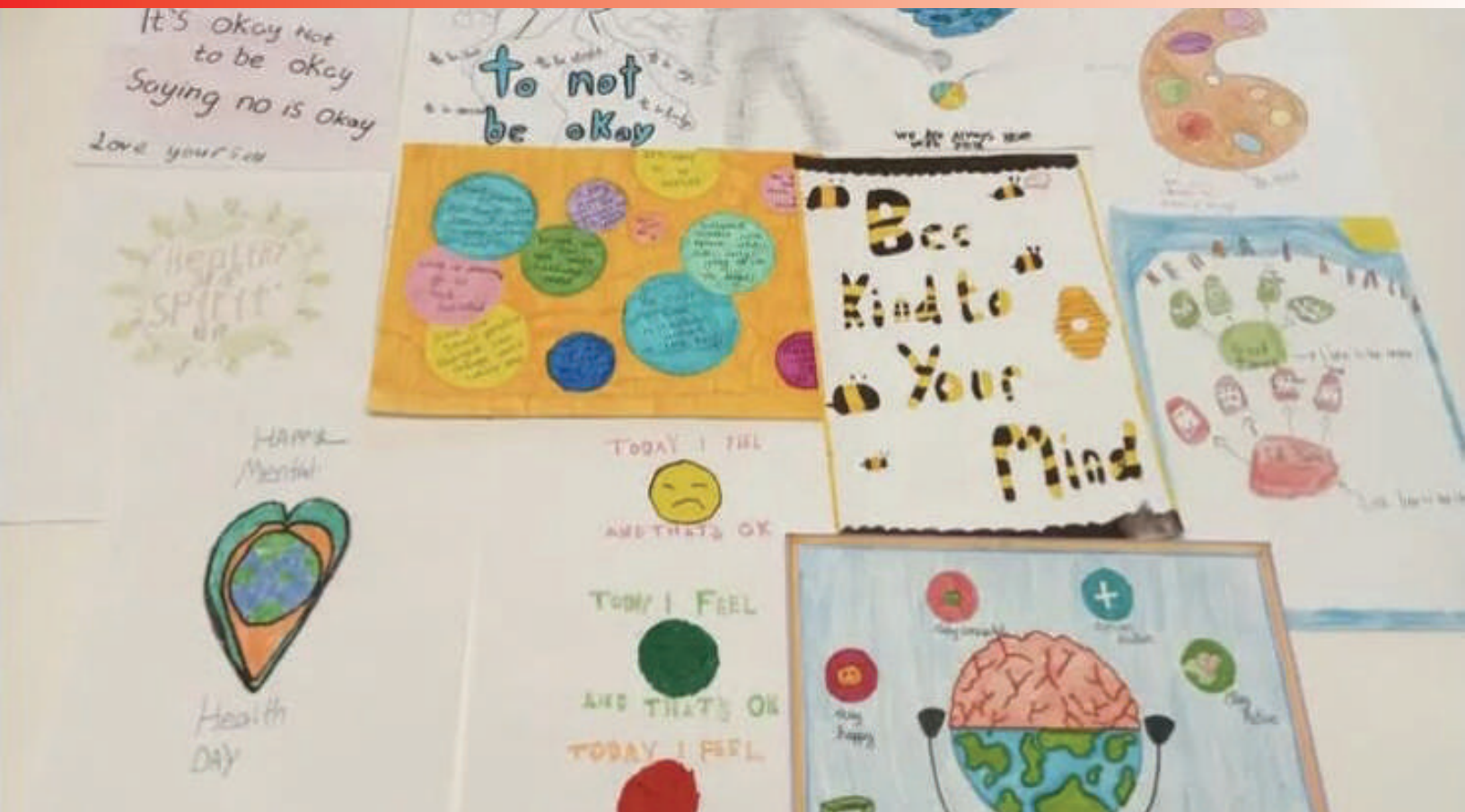


RCS representatives of the Donegal Youth Council who attended a conference in the Radisson Hotel, Letterkenny in early November.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Wellbeing



Some of the fabulous artwork produced by Art students for World Mental Health Day.



The RCS Golfers during an outing in Ballybofey Golf Club in October with PE teacher Gary Boyle.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Wellbeing



Athletics students who took part in the Finn Valley AC Cross-Country meet in September.

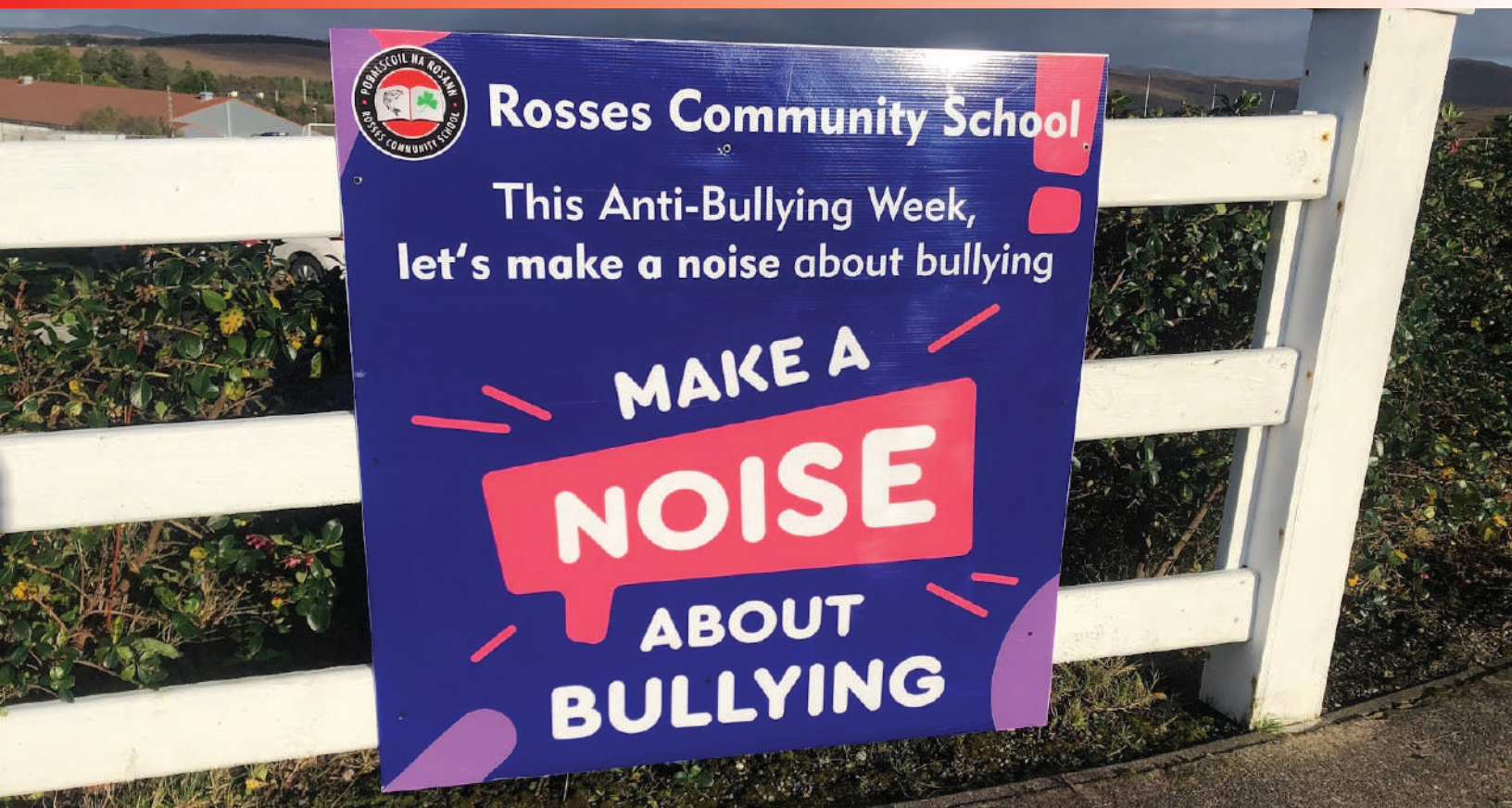


The U16 Camogie team in O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny for their first game of the year in September.



Autumn Newsletter - November 2023

Wellbeing



Anti-Bullying week which was held in November; a range of activities and guest speakers helped build awareness of the issue for students across all year groups.



The U14 Boys Gaelic Football team had the fantastic opportunity to play in MacCumhaill Park in October.



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