

*School Improvement Plan/DEIS
Winter Newsletter*



Winter Newsletter - January 2022

Welcome Note

Our aim is
“To nurture what is native to the soul”

Our approach
“Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí”

A Chairde,

As we enter this new school term with renewed optimism, we must take the time to reflect and celebrate the achievements of our school community during a very tumultuous time. We are, as always, so proud of how our students navigated through the last two years, and look forward to what will be achieved in the coming months.

As always, 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 during the last two years. We persevered and continued to engage in innovative lessons, competitions and projects throughout. One of the key core values of our school is respect. We would ask all partners to be mindful of this in all our interactions and to ensure that all the hard work of students and staff is supported and encouraged at all times.

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:

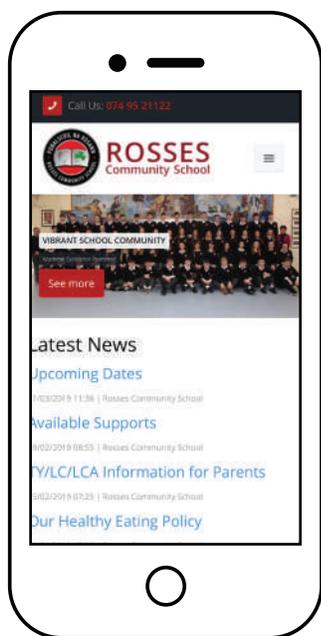
- Operates through reflective practice and reflective approach.
- Operates a solutions based approach.
 - Strives for best practice.



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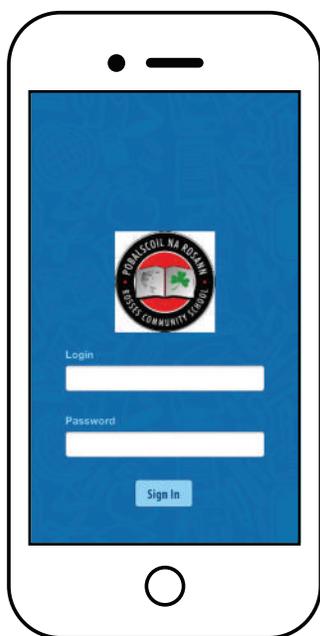
Keeping You Informed

Keeping You Informed



Website

www.rossescommunityschool.ie



VSware

www.rossescs.vsware.ie



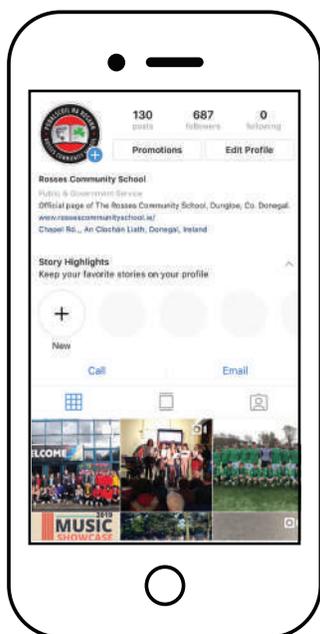
Facebook

www.facebook.com/rcsdungloe



Twitter

www.twitter.com/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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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.

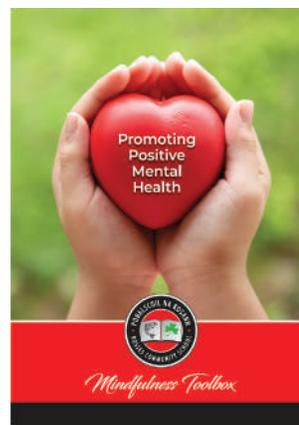
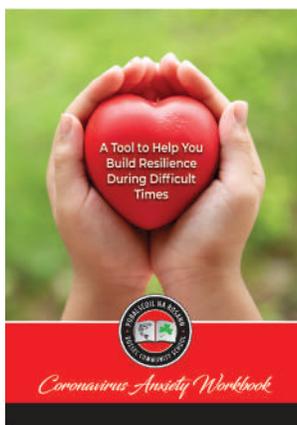


Denise O'Boyle
Psychotherapist

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



Students attending after-school band practice with Joe Rodgers in 'Store Studios' in November. 15 students are currently availing of this activity from a target group of 50.

ZARA HOLMES
Performing Arts Academy

present's
ALL STAR PERFORMING CAMP
ROSSES COMMUNITY SCHOOL HALL, DUNGLOE

€50 19TH JULY TO 21ST JULY
11AM - 1:30PM SENIORS (11-18)
2:30PM-4:30PM JUNIORS (4-10)

Dance and drama camp featuring scenes from Mamma Mia, Disney, Matilda, High School Musical and Hairspray!

BOOKINGS OPEN NOW **FACEBOOK** OR CALL **087 360 2008**
Due to COVID-19 all camps may have restricted numbers.

Zara Holmes' 'All Star Performing Camp' in late summer approximately 35 students attending this Includes primary school target groups. Zara also assists 80 kids with CBA preparation for English oral presentations.



Jenny Doherty at work with her students in creative classes. She works with 25 students in 1:1 and small group settings. Based on a target group of 1st -TY.



Attendance officer Tony Forrester who monitors absences in school. 2nd and 5th Year students were recently identified as low attenders and strategies for improving this have been devised within subject departments. Tony liaises with the Yearheads and DEIS committee to weekly identify patterns and set strategies re attendance.



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School Participation



Our 6th Year Prefects standing beside our theme of 'One Kind Word' for Anti-Bullying Week, November 2021. This week's targeted all 426 students in school, with a special focus on 1st and 2nd years. The school is currently part of the DCU - FUSE anti bullying pilot.



Students queuing for dinner as part of the School Meals project. Menus have changed after a 'healthy food review' and cashless payment is in operation as a Covid-19 measure. Typically 300 students avail of school meals at small break and 250 students at lunchtime from a target group of 426.



TY students on a trip to the Ulster-American Folk Park in Omagh in November. 37 students travelled on the day from a target group of 49.

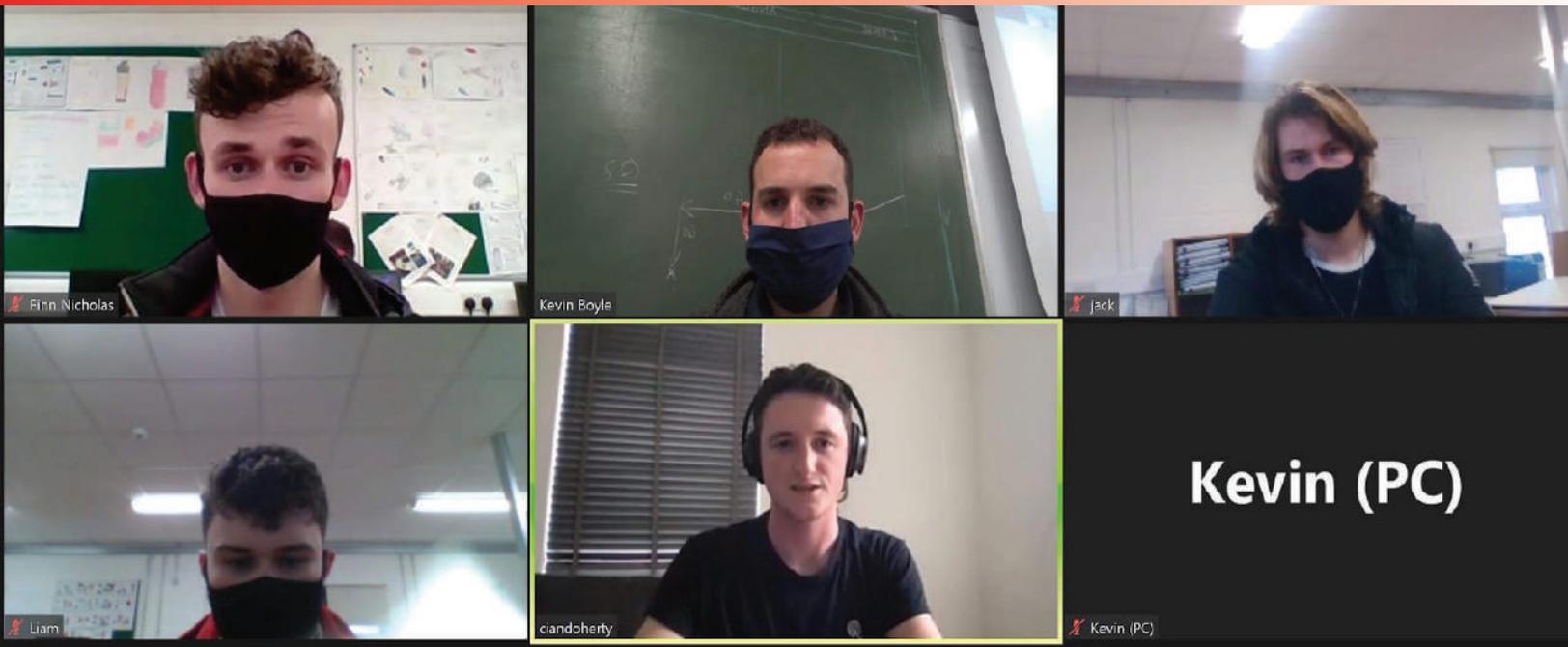


PE teacher Amy McBride with her senior students. The subject is now offered at Leaving Certificate with 38 students across 5th and 6th Year. This year group will be the first to sit a State Exam in this subject.



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School Participation



Computer Science students in a workshop with past student Cian Doherty discussing careers in Computing. The school now offers Computer Science in Leaving Certificate with 12 students studying the subject between 5th and 6th Year. This year will be the first group to sit a state exam in this subject.



TY students celebrating 'European Day of Languages' which took place in the RCS in October. We currently have 222 students studying Spanish and 41 students studying French from a target group of 426.



Students on a trip to Century Cinemas, Letterkenny in October. Enjoying lunch! 20 students participated in this trip from a target group of 25.

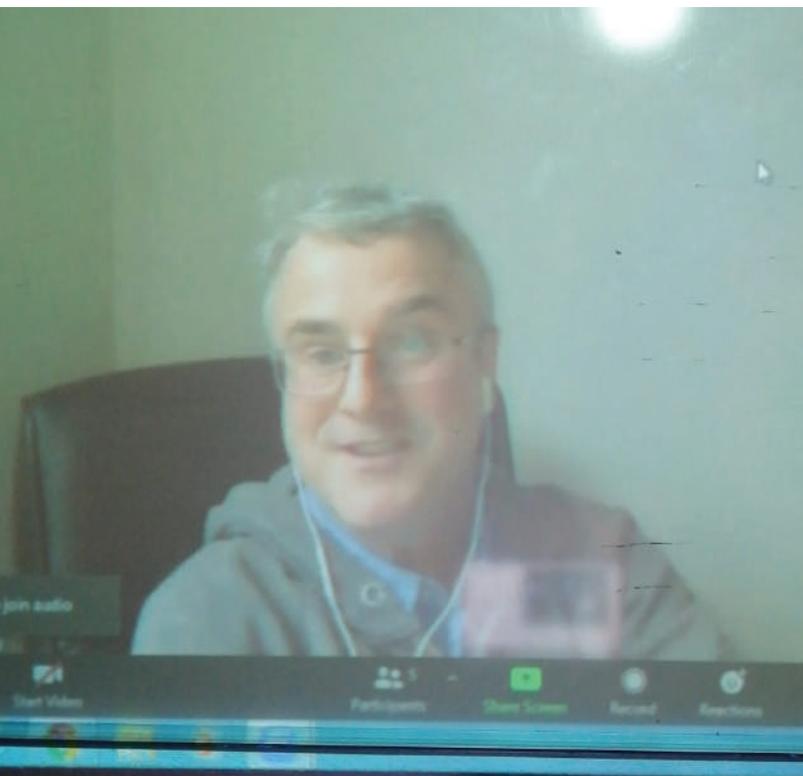


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Retention



Guest speaker Alison from 'Forensic Fun' during October exploring the death of JFK through a workshop with 85 TY and 5th Year students which also focused on careers in the area of Forensics in UL.



Past student and Assistant Director in various film/tv projects Enda Doherty speaking with 55 of our TY and 5th Year LCA students in November about career pathways in film and tv. There are currently over 60 past pupils engaged in this Alumni project.

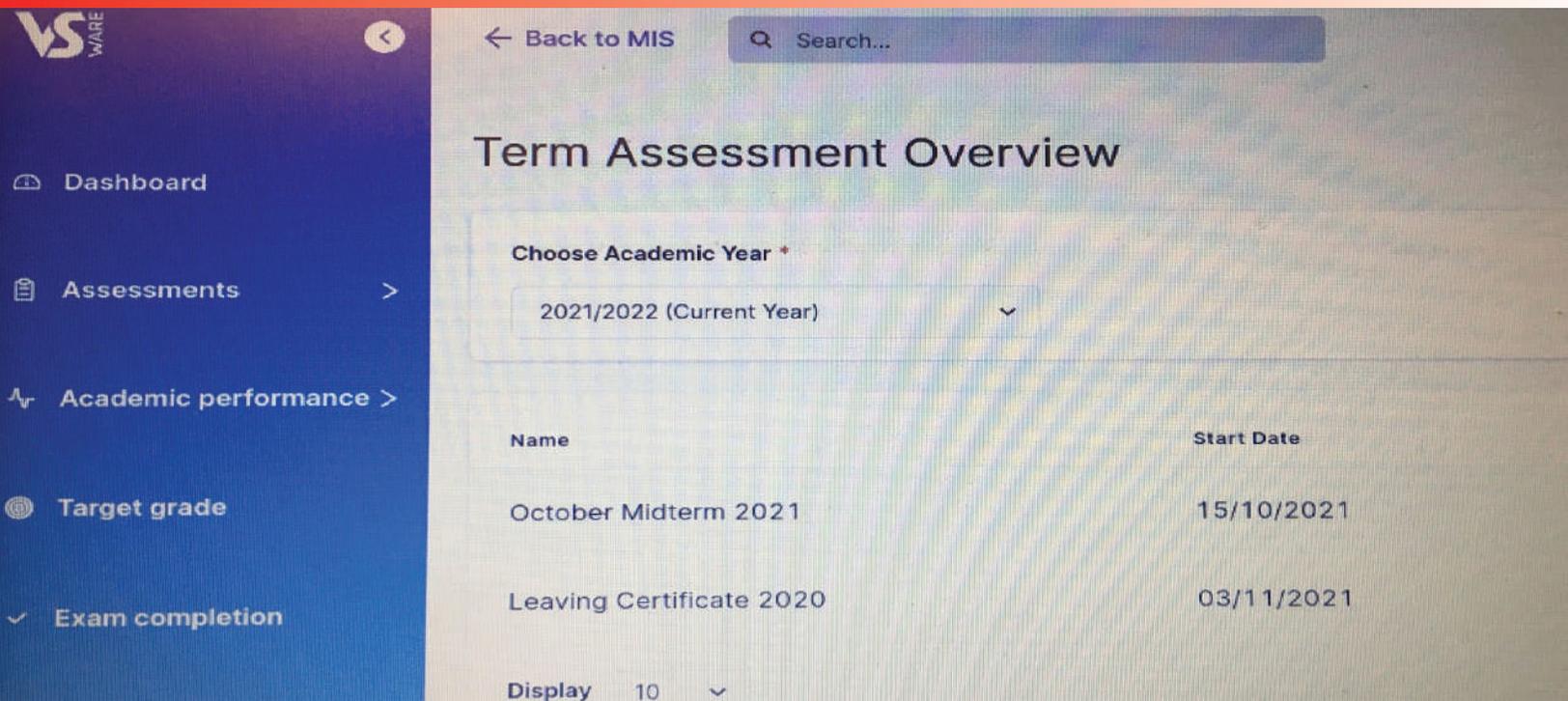


2nd Year students David Geoghegan and Aidan Hunter working hard with Mr Cranley with the refurbishment of the store room in the Metalwork/Engineering classroom. 10 students are currently taking part in a Junior Cert Work Experience programme.



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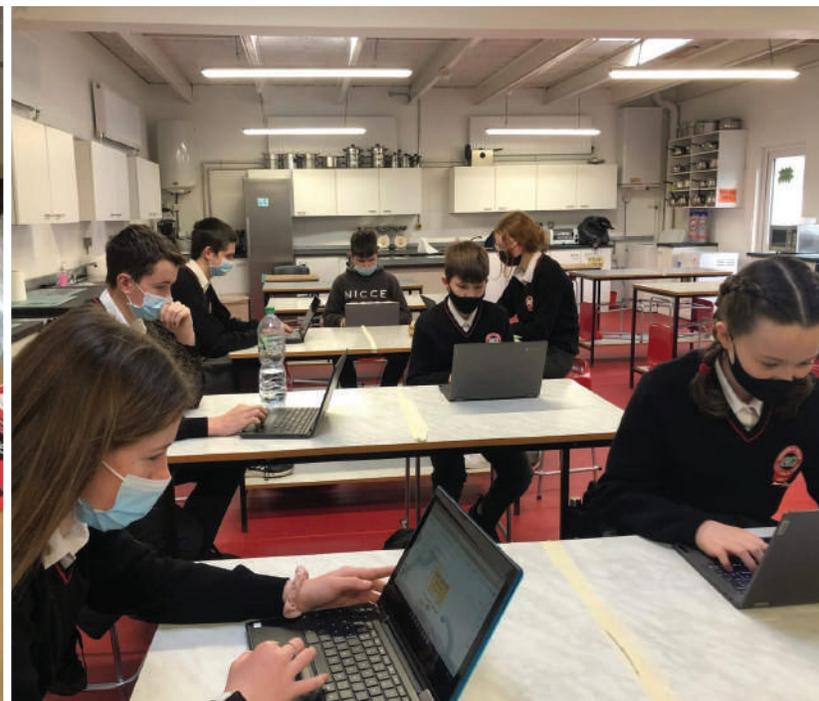
Retention



Assessment reports are issued three times a year, students received their latest report in October. This targets all 426 students and gives a regular communication between parents and students in terms of academic progress, attendance and engagement.



Louise Hankey from the British Council in Barcelona talking to senior students about careers in TEFL and studying languages in university during November. In 5th and 6th Year, we currently have 43 students studying Spanish and 20 students studying French in Leaving Cert cycle.



Our Student Council has 12 students, 6 boys and 6 girls representing each year group. Here they are attending the AGM of Donegal Youth Council in November.

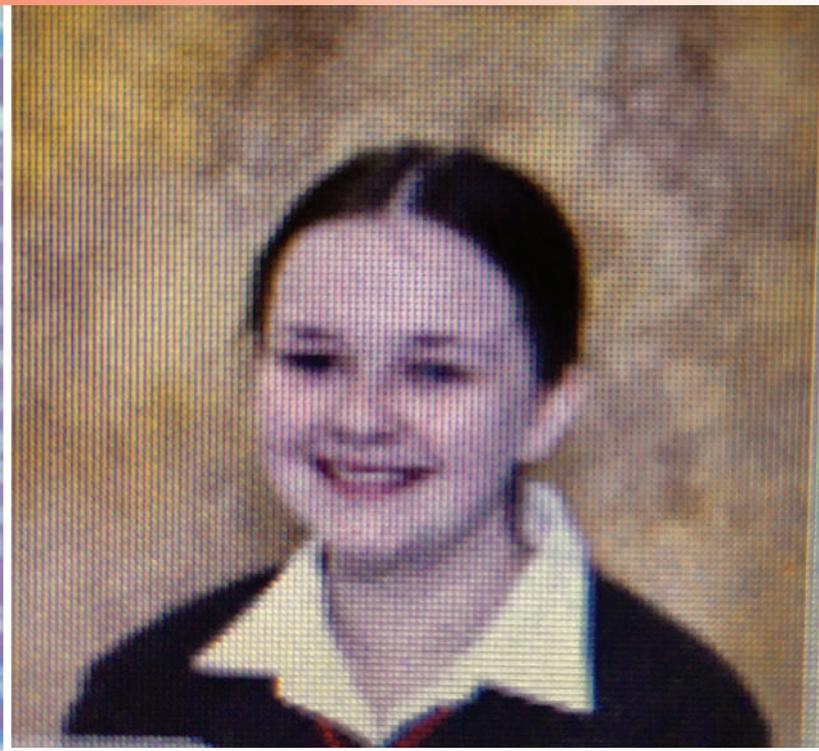


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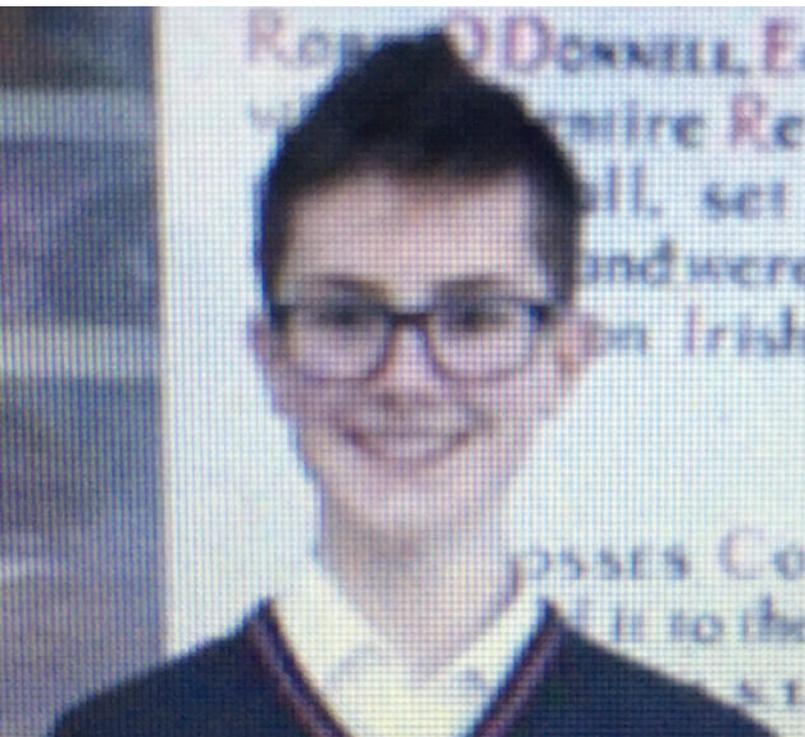
Educational Transitions



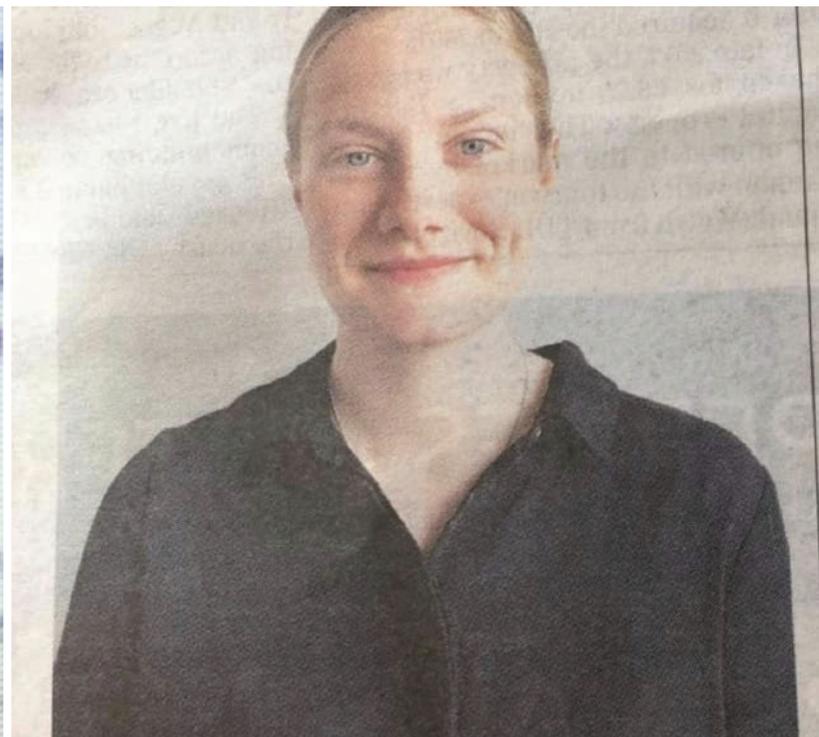
2021 Leaving Certificate student Adam McCaffrey receiving the 'New Entrants' Sport Scholarship at LYIT. Well done Adam.



Christina Ward, Leaving Cert student from the class of 2020-2021 who was also recently awarded the George Moore Scholarship.



Kieran Glackin, Leaving Cert student from the class of 2020-2021 who was recently awarded the George Moore Scholarship.



Past pupil Claudia Friel was recently awarded a Foundation Scholarship at Trinity College Dublin. Claudia was also selected as a Laidlaw Scholar. Congratulations Claudia.

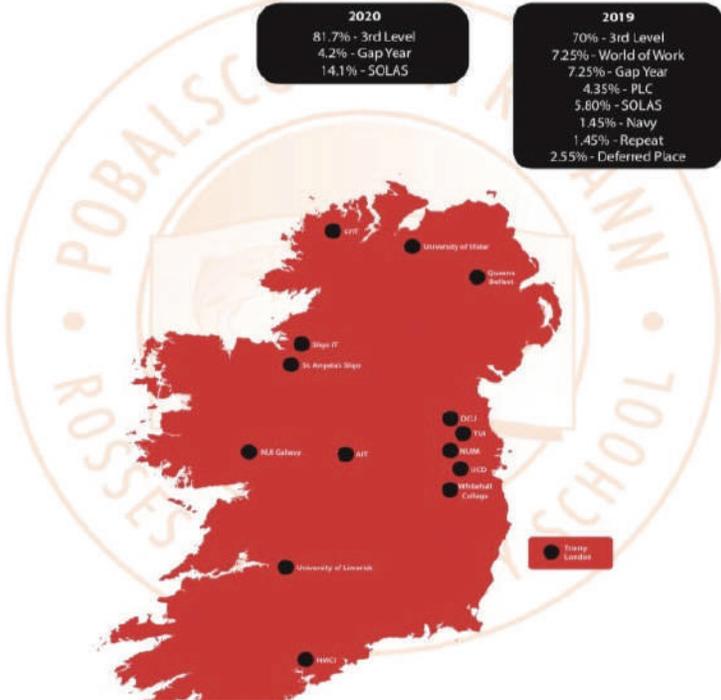


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Educational Transitions

School Progression

We value the individual and support their journey.



Tracking of alumni progression in 3rd Level and the world of work from the last three years. In 2021, we had 85% of students go on to 3rd Level, 10.5% pursue apprenticeships and the remainder entered the world of work.



Business

Ruairi Ward

Co-Founder, Owner and Director of Operations at RED OHMS Hygiene Group, Perth, Australia



1. Manners cost nothing

Be kind and respectful to everyone at every level of an organisation. Treat the cleaners with the same level of courtesy and respect as the CEO. People have a tendency to judge others based on perceptions around success, accomplishments, education level etc, however everyone is on a journey. Withhold judgment and instead offer the consideration you'd like to receive if in the same position.

2. Surround yourselves with positive people

Negativity is contagious, people can inspire you or drain you. Friends and colleagues should motivate and support you, and you should reciprocate in kind. Avoid the company of negative individuals by surrounding yourself with people who have dreams, desire, and ambition; they'll help you push for, and realize your own.

3. Stay healthy and keep fit

Maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle is invaluable. The endorphins released during exercise trigger a positive feeling in your body and mind and will contribute to improved confidence and self-esteem. Make time to train during your working week and rank this as highly as your most important meeting. This will ensure you work smarter, not harder; obtain the cognitive benefits that a healthy lifestyle has to offer.

4. Overcoming setbacks

Everyone will have setbacks in their careers and in their life in general. Try not to take these personally. Use any setbacks you endure as a learning experience. Break-down and analyse why a particular setback has come to pass. Is there anything you could have done to prevent it? If so, how can you ensure that something of this nature does not happen in the future?

5. Travel

Past student Ruairi Ward and many others have contributed to the Alumni Booklet '6 Things I Have Learned', a career pathways booklet for current Leaving Cert students. The project now contains over 70 contributions.

Leaving Certificate 2021	
Points	% No. Students
400-600	61
300-400	21
200-300	15
150-200	3

Leaving Certificate 2020	
Points	% No. Students
400-600	35
300-400	38
200-300	21
150-200	6

Leaving Certificate 2019	
Points	% No. Students
400-600	20
300-400	36
200-300	38
150-200	6

Leaving Certificate 2018	
Points	% No. Students
400-600	21
300-400	39
200-300	30
150-200	10

A graphic from our prospectus which highlights the analysis of performance of our Leaving Certificate students from the past four years. 61% of our students received over 400 points in the Leaving Cert of 2021.



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Educational Transitions



6th Year student Emilly Croke and her peers visited LYIT with Ms Cunningham for an open-day in November. 58 students in total attended from a target group of 71.



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Educational Attainment



Winners of our Art and Poetry competitions as part of Anti-Bullying week. Congratulations to all 5 winners. Approximately 100 students both senior and junior took part in this initiative.

Garda National Youth Awards 2021

Group Award Winners



'Power of Periods'
Rosces Community School
Dungloe, Co. Donegal

Winners of the Young Social Innovators Group Award at the national Garda Youth Awards 2021, our very own 'Power of Periods' team. Well done to all 11 students involved, 18 students in total took part in YSI this year.



5th Year student Emily Colangelo who is Ulster Champion and All-Scotland champion. Well done Emily! We currently have 20 students in school partaking in Irish Dancing.



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Educational Attainment



Congratulations to talented artist and 3rd Year student Cornelia Browne. Her painting was chosen for the 'Culture Night Exhibition' at the Regional Culture Centre in Letterkenny in September. 103 students currently study art in school.



Past student Noah Boyle who is currently studying in Marine Electro Technology in Cork receiving a 2nd place national award for his LC Engineering project awarded by the Engineering and Technology Teachers Association. Well done! Since 2018, the school has had 5 students who have received national Engineering awards. We have over 200 students currently engaged in Technology and Metalwork/Engineering.



Head Boy Patrick McGarvey and Head Girl Grainne McGlynn during Anti-Bullying Week. There are currently 12 prefects from our 6th Year group.



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Literacy and Numeracy

RCS '3 Step Literacy Strategy'

1. Are students using full sentences and not one-word answers?
2. Are they using full stops and capital letters in their writing?
3. Are students proof-reading their written work on completion?

Please remind our students of these items when they're writing in your subject. Refer to them when you are assessing written work.

This is a collective effort to improve literacy among students. We also continue to use Keywords as part of our literacy policy.

El senderismo
hiking
la randonnée
Siúlóireacht

A new school-wide literacy initiative reinforcing the fundamentals of literacy across subjects in November 2021. This initiative targets all 426 students in school.

'Word of the Week' which has been launched recently displays vocabulary in various languages in classrooms, a cross-curricular initiative. Three departments have combined on this; Irish, Spanish and French.

Junior Certificate School Programme

Keywords List

3rd Yr History

Topic: Ch. 17 Russia

Date: Oct 2021

Communism

Gulags

Show-Trials

NKVD

Collectivisation

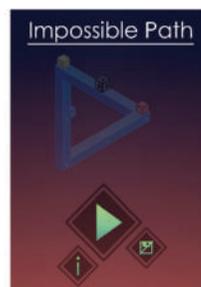
Purges

Kulaks



Rosses Community School
Maths Week 2021

Online Games to help you 'Think Outside the Box'



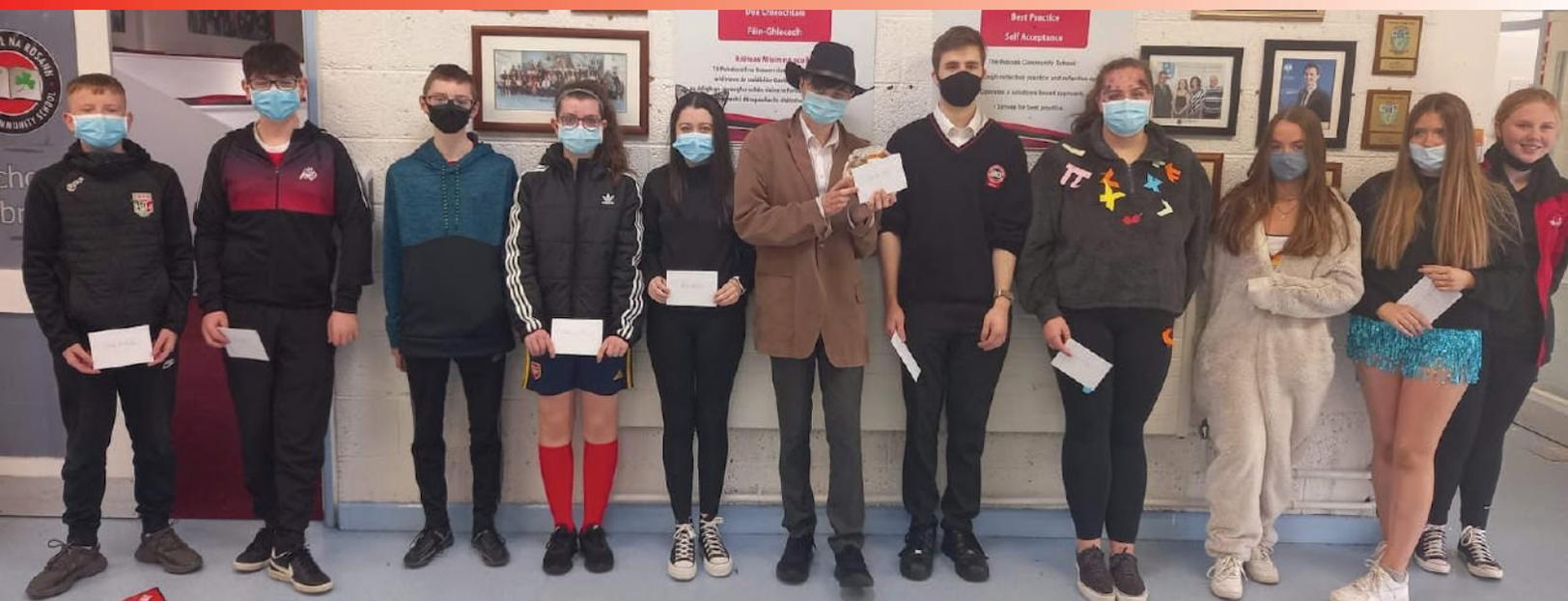
Keywords are a central part of our Literacy strategy in all classrooms and subjects in the RCS, again aimed at all 426 students.

Some of the online Maths games provided in the student booklet for 'Maths Week 2021' which was held in October. This was aimed at all 426 students in the RCS.



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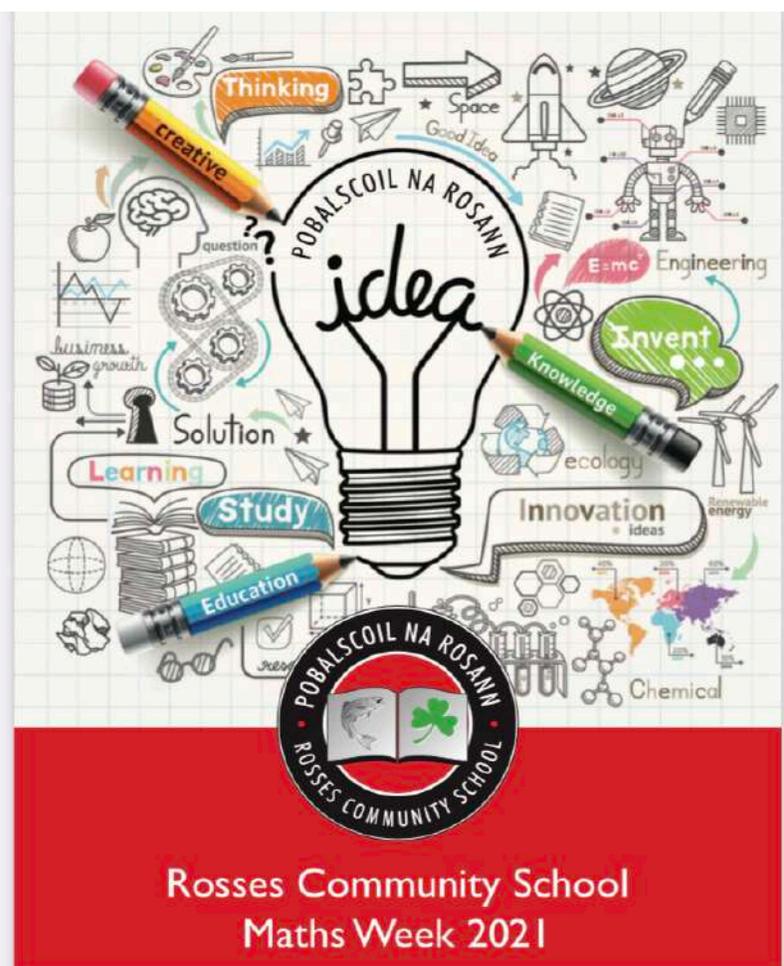
Literacy and Numeracy



The 11 students who were 'Maths Week 2021' challenge winners, congratulations to all involved.



2nd Year student Tarlagh Boyle receiving a prize for correctly guessing the number of sweets in the jar during 'Maths Week 2021'. All students and teachers took part.



Maths activities and problems for the whole family to solve in November! This was shared with all families in school.



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Partnership with Parents and Others



Our Camogie players enjoying the new pitch this Autumn, many of whom play with Dungloe Hurling. There are 12 girls playing Camogie in school currently from a target group of 90.



Rosses Community School Parents Activities

Walking Group
Tuesday 5th October
10-11am Lidl Carpark

Couch to 5K
Tuesday 5th October
@ 11am Lidl Carpark

Healthy Body. Healthy Mind
Coffee Morning
Thursday 7th October
@ 10am Club Beag

Pilates Class with
Annemarie O Donnell
Wednesday 13th October
@ 10am Club Beag



For more info contact:

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

Activities for parents organised by Home-School
Community Liaison Coordinator Gavin Ward in October.
This was created for all families in school.



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.

THURSDAY 11TH NOV

4:15 - 6PM



An induction information evening for parents of
incoming 1st Year students in November. 80 students
have currently enrolled for the coming September.



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Partnership with Parents and Others



TY and Senior students at a workshop with Redmond Herry on a combined Art/History project in conjunction with Donegal County Council for the N56 upgrade. Over 40 students will be working on this initiative from a target group of 200.



Fiachra McGettigan enjoying birthday celebrations in the 'Hub' above the Cope. The school has used the facility as an outreach centre in recent times catering for 35-40 students.



Garda Patrick McGlynn talking to 82 of our 1st Year students about the nature of bullying during 'Anti-Bullying Week' in November.



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Management and Leadership



Mr Gorman and Ms Laughlin's 2nd Year students enjoying an online workshop in Music with upcoming London 'drill and rap' artist 'Cillian.' A nephew of Dr Tony MacRuairi. There are 120 students currently studying music in junior and senior cycle.



Mr Gorman and Mr Gillen wishing Lorraine Coyle a fond farewell as she begins employment with Loreto Letterkenny. Thank you for everything Lorraine. Lorraine was the senior ASD coordinator in school, having been in RCS for nearly 15 years.



Mr Gillen with Maeve Monaghan and John Shovlin enjoying Halloween fun! Over 150 students and staff took part in the themed day.



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Management and Leadership



Images of the proposed new buildings which are incoming in the RCS.

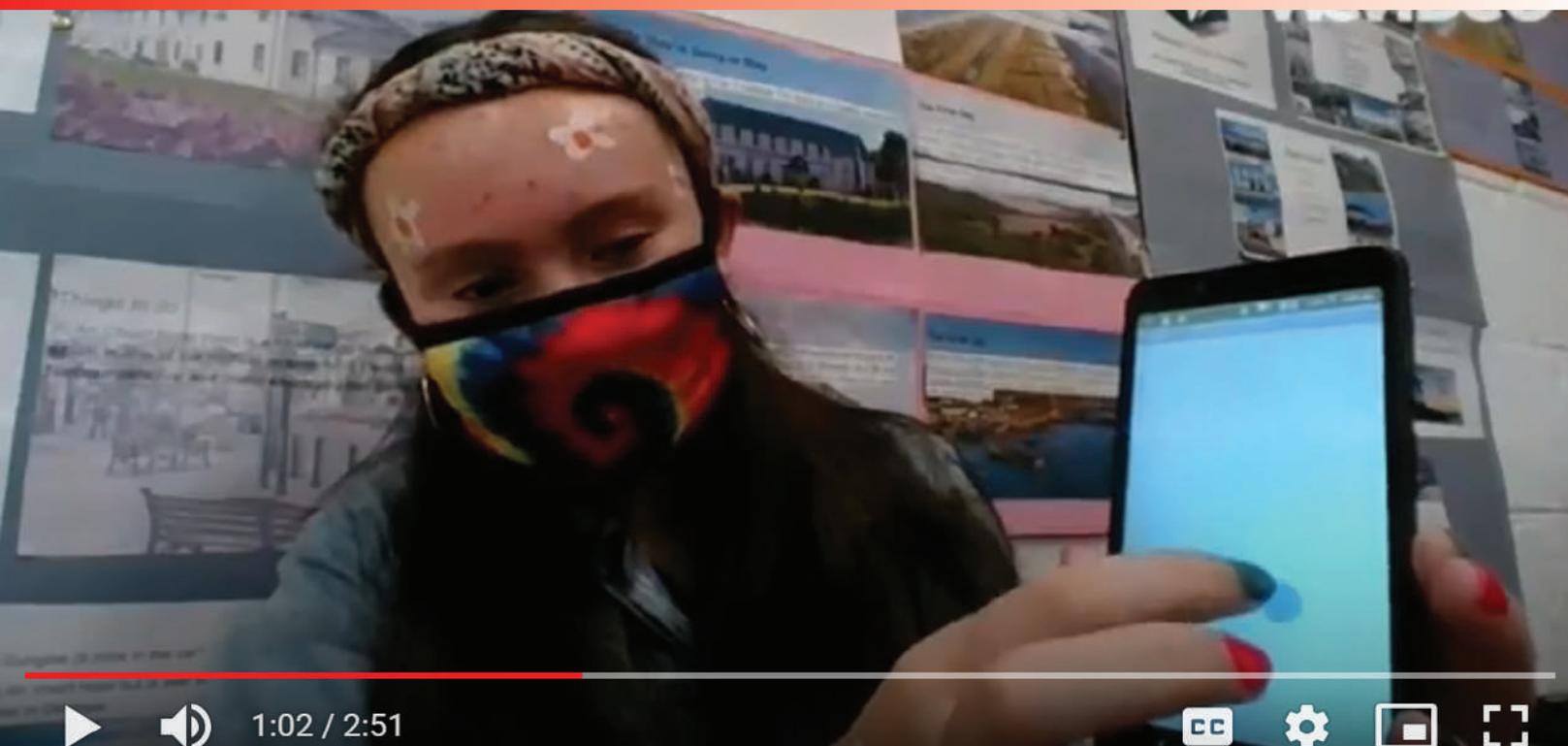


A visual of the proposed new entrance which will be constructed in the RCS.

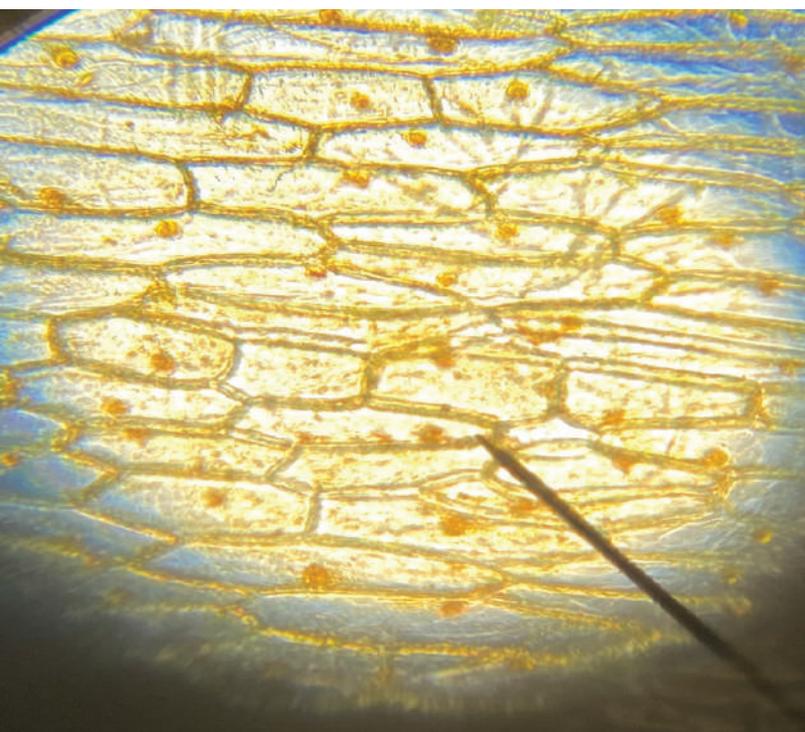


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Teaching and Learning



Sarah Walsh showcasing the app she created along with her video editing skills as part of TY Computer Studies. Currently 12 students in senior cycle are studying computer science which was introduced in 2020.



Chloe Walker Boyle in 5th Year giving a wonderful example of onion cells stained with iodine, displaying the nucleus of some of the cells stained yellow in Ms Waugh's Science class. 180 students currently study Science in Junior Cycle.



2nd Year students baking apple tarts in Mrs Conlon's class during October. Over 100 students currently study Home Economics in Junior and Senior cycle.



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Teaching and Learning



TY students operating a drill machine in Mr Eamonn Byrne's class in November. There are 120 students in Woodwork in Junior Cycle and 100 in Senior Cycle.



Ms Doherty's TY Cultural Studies class on an outing to Maghery recently. Currently 48 students in TY. With 12 having progressed to senior cycle, 10 of those to LCA apprentice led programme.

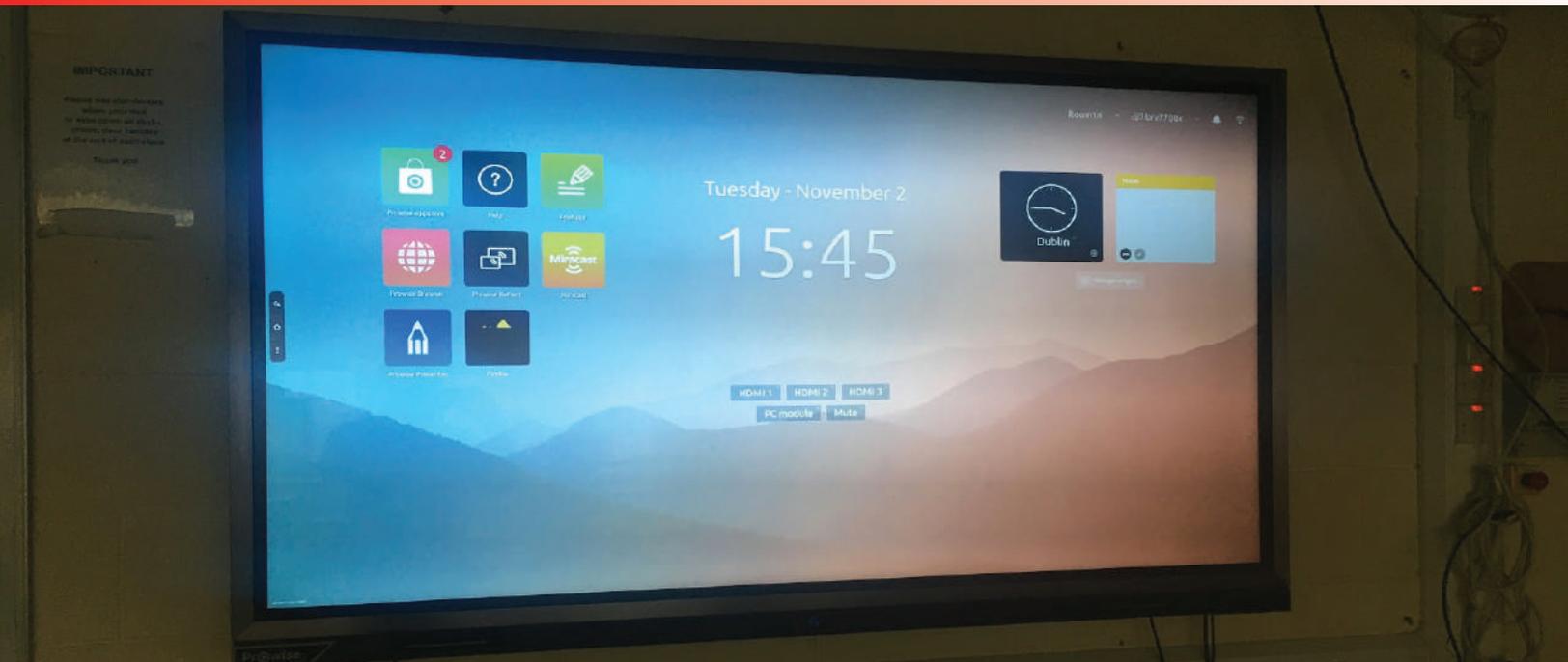


Jenny Doherty and her students' artistic pebbles on the Riverwalk in Dungloe. Jenny currently engages with 31 students in Junior Cycle.



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Infrastructure



A Pro-Wise screen in the Science Department, a number of such 'touch-screen' devices are now in place around the school. The school currently has over 500 chromebook devices among students and staff and all classrooms have interactive technology. The school facilities are fully wifi enabled and can support 1500 e-devices at 100mb speeds.



A new storage cabinet in the Engineering room was recently added.



A high quality new Vertical Bandsaw in the Engineering room purchased recently. This is part of €170,000 of new investment led by Mr Gibson, supported by Mr Cranley and Mr Byrne.



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Infrastructure



A new strip-heater in the Engineering room since September.



Some wonderful artwork now adorning the walls outside the Art room. There are currently over 100 students studying Art.



The school's new Poly-Tunnel taking shape outside the Science classrooms in November. The caretaking team in conjunction with AG Science are developing this initiative, currently 6 students taking AG Science in Senior Cycle and 10 in LCA.



Our second All-Weather pitch is now in use since September and students are making full use of it during and after school. This is part of a recent €100,000 investment and is part of phase one of this project. The next phase will see a further €100,000 investment towards full size playing and running surface.



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Bealach straitséiseach na Gaelige



Seo cuid ne na scoláirí atá ar Choiste na nDaltaí i mbliana 2021-22.



Tús áite a thabhairt don teanga. Beatha teanga í a labhairt.



Tugadh cuireadh d'aoichainteoir ó Conradh na Gaelige isteach sa scoile ag an Samhain. Rinne sí ceardlann idirghníomhach "An Seó Bóthair" le daltaí na sraithe shinsearaigh.



Is iad seo ár mbunluachanna inár scoil.



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Bealach straitséiseach na Gaelige



Daltaí na hIdirbhliana ar shiúlóid le 'Stór' a fheiceáil.



Tugadh teastas aitheantais do dhaltá a rinne ábhair tré mhéan na Gaelige anuraidh sa Teastas Sóisearach. Nach orthu a bhí an t-ádh go raibh an laoch Jim Mc Guinness ansin chun an bronnadh a dhéanamh!



Jim McGuinness agus Eamon Boner Gallagher, maith thú Eamon!



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Student Council / Student Voice



Our 5th Year mentors for 2021-22 who were a great help in assisting with the 1st Year Induction Day in November. 20 mentors took part including student subject ambassadors.



Our Student Council 2021/22. They meet once a week to discuss areas of improvement for students in school life.



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Student Council / Student Voice



Our 2021-22 Head Girl Grainne McGlynn and Head Boy Patrick McGarvey.



TALKING WITH THE TYS

NEW PODCASTS WEEKLY

Recently launched by 15 TY students and their English teachers along with help from Mr Joe Rodgers. The first edition is now on school social media!



Our award-winning TY YSI group made their voices heard on social change, winning the group award at the Donegal Garda Youth Awards 2021.



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Wellbeing



Members of our Athletics team representing the school at Finn Valley earlier this term. Currently there are over 50 members in the school's athletics programme.



Our Senior Soccer Ladies who beat Gairmscoil Chú Uladh recently 7-4 in rough weather conditions, well done! Over 100 girls are currently engaging with school teams.



Drama students received a welcome laughter-filled visit from Danny O'Carroll (AKA Buster from Mrs Brown's Boys) in November. Derek Reddin and Zara Holmes currently engage with over 60 Junior and Senior students in drama and self expression projects.



TY students brushing up on their social etiquette with the 'School of Life' 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 October.



Our current 6th Year students getting into the Halloween spirit during October!



Students enjoying 'Citadel Gymnastics' which all students engaged with in the first term. Over 200 students took part in taster programmes.



A Health and Wellbeing workshop for 3rd and 5th Year girls held in October in the school gym.



Pobalscoil na Rosann

An Clochan Liath, Co. Dhun na nGall

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Email: dgillen@rossescommunityschool.ie

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