



Wishing our staff, students  
and parents a very happy  
and peaceful Christmas.  
We re-open on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>  
January 2023



Christmas Newsletter  
December 21, 2022

## CONGRATULATIONS

This term the school has had various outings and fun challenges. We had lots of fun making this newsletter. All the TY's in our class contributed to it by each writing a little piece, we hope you enjoy! Don't forget to check our school app and social media pages regularly to keep up to date with school events! Happy Christmas from **Class 4A!**

### Dear Parents and Guardians,

Once again, our school has been very busy this term. We have had a busy schedule including preparations for our carol service, parent teacher meetings and numerous sports including Gaelic, soccer and basketball.

Congratulations to all students and staff involved in our wonderful Carol Service in the Parish church on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Thanks to Fr. James McDonagh for celebrating with us and for providing us with the church for the afternoon. We also extend thanks to Fr. James & Fr. Jim Peyton who visited on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December to offer Christmas confessions to students.

We would like to thank our staff for their never-ending enthusiasm and dedication – without them, much of what you read about below would not have happened.

This newsletter celebrates the **achievement** of our students. Congratulations to all those who won, took part or even helped out in various events this term.

*Michelle McDermott & Maura Cullinan*

### Dates for your diary...

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January** – School reopens for everyone

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January** – 2<sup>nd</sup> year Parent-Teacher Meetings

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January** -3<sup>rd</sup>/TY Subject Options Event

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January** – SCHOOL CLOSED for staff training

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January** – Leaving Cert Mock Exams begin.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**– Junior Cert Mocks Exams begin.

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February** – SCHOOL CLOSED Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February** – 5<sup>th</sup> year and TY Parent-Teacher Meetings

### School Choir

Our Choir have had great success this year and were recently nominated for the Cathaoirleach Award for Arts & Culture. We are delighted to announce that the choir have been successful in this category and will visit the Council Chambers in the New Year for a presentation! Well done to all!

### Cathaoirleach Award Nominees

Congratulations to Conor McDonagh, Mark Dunleavy and Lisa Golden who were recently nominated for a 'Spirit of Sligo' award with the Cathaoirleach. Mr. O'Connor nominated the trio following their success at the Fleadh during the summer of 2022.

Congratulations to our current 6<sup>th</sup> year students who were also nominated by Ms. Carty for a 'Schools Group/Class' award following their efforts in fundraising for the Ukraine while they were in 5<sup>th</sup> year.

Both nominated groups were issued with a certificate of achievement from An Cathaoirleach.



### Junior Cycle Results

Congratulations to all of the students who received their Junior Cycle results on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November. After the long wait, it was great for the students to get the opportunity to celebrate their achievements with their friends and families. Well done to all!

### Feeling Festive!

Students have been busy decorating the school for Christmas. Second years and Ms McGrath made bows for all the classroom doors and created a beautiful advent display in our sacred space. Ms Kelly and her students decorated our tree! Thank you all!



## Enterprise Day

This year's TY enterprise day was a huge success. The TY students worked hard this term thinking of product ideas and creating their stalls. The whole school enjoyed the festive atmosphere and the Transition years were delighted with the support from staff and students.

### Student Council

The Student Council met multiple times this term. Recently, we have introduced the ISIC card. These are student cards which you can get that come with many benefits which include discounts to a bunch of different franchises such as Sports Direct, McDonald's and Irish Rail to name but a few! We are looking forward to using them in the new term.

## CBA's for Junior Cycle

CBA's are well underway for our second and third-year students and will continue in the New Year.

## Science Week

Students took part in a wide range of events for this year's Science Week from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November, from launching Egg Astronauts to making model atoms out of sweets! The students got to explore engineering and design and test their own crafts. Thank you to the Science Department for organising the events!

### #Think Languages

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December TY's took part in a national event called #Think Languages where the students participated in workshops and learned a few words in Chinese, Japanese and were also taught Irish Sign Language. Everyone took part in a quiz where the winners got #Think Languages t-shirts. All students had a great day.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Year German Languages Trip

On the 24<sup>th</sup> November the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year German class went to see a German film, *Der Pfad (The Path)* in the Model in Sligo town. The students thoroughly enjoyed the film and found it entertaining and educational.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Year Trip to ATU

On Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, 6<sup>th</sup> year students travelled to ATU in Sligo for their open day. The students were accompanied by their guidance teachers, Ms. McNamee and Ms. Cullinan. ATU Sligo has recently been upgraded from an IT (Institute of Technology) to a university and is attended by over 8000 students.

### TY Work Experience

From Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> of December to Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> December the TY class did a block week of work experience in a variety of different places, including primary schools, play schools, retail stores, hairdressers and much more. Ms. Carty co-ordinates the programme.



### COACH HOUSE CAROL SINGING

A Christmas caroling service took place in the Coach House Hotel on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December for members of the community which was organised by members of An Garda Síochána. The choir performed a variety of Christmas songs and sang for one hour ending with 'Holy Night'. Students from all year groups were delighted to be a part of the event.

### TY CPR Training

During this term the TY classes took part in learning CPR. In these classes the students learned how to identify when someone is having a cardiac arrest, heart attack or stroke, the students practiced compressions on mannequins and learned how important it is that CPR must be performed correctly. As well as that the students also learned how to use an AED and where they are displayed in the community (there is one by the Library and in the school's gym). This training is part of our CPR4Schools initiative with the Irish Heart Foundation and in the New Year, we will begin training other students in other year groups.

### Transition Year French Trip

A few weeks later, TY students took a trip into the Model to see 'King', a French film. Students were pleasantly surprised and really enjoyed this heartfelt film and the day out.

## **FUNDRAISING**

### **MS Non-uniform day**

We recently held a non-uniform day to support Veronica Feehily in her MS treatment journey. Veronica's daughter, Shayah and her friends organised the event and we thank all students who donated and raised a grand total of €680!

### **SVP Food Appeal**

Our 2nd and 3rd year students along with Ms. McGrath and Ms. Kelly organised a food collection for the St. Vincent de Paul. There were very generous donations made - huge thanks to all those who gave to the appeal. We welcomed Maureen and Eithne from SVP today, Thursday 15th to meet with the students and receive the items donated. Well done to all!

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

Our Christmas Jumper Day on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December was in aid of SVP and raised €400! It was a wonderful way to get into the Christmas spirit just before the holidays!

## **SPORT & MOVEMENT**

### **Sean Nos Dancing**

Our TYs took part in a 4 week programme with Eimear Dooney where they learned the skills of the traditional Sean Nos Dance!

### **Under 14 Girls GAA**

The u14's Girls had two matches this term against Coola and Enniscrone!

### **Senior Boys GAA**

On 9<sup>th</sup> November, our Senior GAA Boys Team won the D final of the John Kent Sports Sligo/Leitrim championship in the Dome, Bekan with a score of 1-23 to Lough Allen's 2-07.

### **Soccer Star!**

Lesley Ann Sweeney (3rd year) participated in trials this term for the U-15 Girls Connacht Soccer team – well done Lesley Ann!

### **Best wishes!**

We wish Mr. Feeney and the Easkey Junior Hurling Team the very best of luck in the All-Ireland Junior Club final on 14<sup>th</sup> January!

## **ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

This term, we issued progress reports to 6<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students in advance of their student-parent-teacher meetings.

Our first year parent-teacher meetings also took place this term.

All students took part in Christmas tests from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> December and the reports on these assessments will issue just before we return to school on 5<sup>th</sup> January.



## **GUIDANCE & WELLBEING**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Year Study Skills Workshop**

During the term all 3<sup>rd</sup> year students participated in a study skills workshop which was run by Ms McNamee and Ms Cullinan. They were shown how to revise effectively and how to study for their Christmas exams which took place from the 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> of December.

### **Bin-it workshop**

The second years took part in a 'Bin-it' workshop on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November. They learned about litter awareness and took part in debates to tackle litter issues. It is important we tackle littering issues now, so this workshop really helped our 2<sup>nd</sup> years to get some ideas to make our community greener!

### **6<sup>th</sup> year Health & Safety Talk**

Last week, the 6<sup>th</sup> year careers classes were given a talk from Molly Kelly, a 4<sup>th</sup> year student in ATU Sligo who spoke to the students about her course in the University.

### **6<sup>th</sup> CAO Parent & Student Information Evening**

Our annual CAO information evening for parents and students in 6<sup>th</sup> year was presented by Ms. McNamee on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

### **1<sup>st</sup> year Healthy Relationships Workshop**

All first year students worked with our Home Youth Liaison Officer, Paula Hargadon for a series of lessons on Healthy Relationships.

### **TY Focus Ireland Talk**

Monica McElhinney from Focus Ireland visited our school on 25<sup>th</sup> November to talk with our TY students on the work that Focus Ireland do.

### **College Awareness Week**

To mark College Awareness week this year, which took place between 28<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December, a number of activities were organised across all year groups.

### **Big Brother Big Sister programme**

This programme continues on a weekly basis, whereby our Big Brothers/Sisters (TY students) meet with Little Brothers/Sisters (1<sup>st</sup> years) for group activities.