



Newsletter Committee Foreword

The newsletter focuses on a variety of Ballymakenny College events. All the articles in the newsletter are written by students. This newsletter committee includes Catherine Meehan, Teja Nickute, Abi Sheerin, Emily Scallan, Ryan Sheerin, Kai Smith Kiernan, Madeleine Houssou, Evan Biggins, Sebastian Moldovan, Matthew Mc Fadden, Hazel Kumru and Rosanna Mc Mahon. Editors of the Newsletter are Shauna Matthews and Ciara Mc Crohan. Thank you to all contributors. We hope you enjoyed reading this edition of the school newsletter.

Poles Apart with Doug Allan

By Madeleine Houssou

On the 13th and 14th of March, all biology students in the school were extremely lucky to have world-renowned wildlife cinematographer, Doug Allan, speak to them about his thrilling experiences in both the Arctic and Antarctic. He went into detail of the flora and fauna he encountered, the significance of the poles to the world's beauty as well as motivated students about the importance of collective action against climate change, a crisis affecting the polar regions significantly. He emphasised the importance of change starting with our own lifestyles. At the end, we were able to ask him any questions about his career in the field of marine biology such as the scariest moments on the job and the length of his exhibitions. This was a useful segment to those that took interest in this line of work as well as those still unsure about future career paths.

Allan has been a principal cameraman on many nature documentaries including Blue Planet with David Attenborough in which he assisted in bringing the picturesque biosphere of our oceans to life on television screens internationally. He has won eight Emmys for his work, and we are grateful for the opportunity to have such an inspirational figure share their experiences. Below is a photo of him with our own environmental team here in the school!



Politics and Society Trip

By Matthew Mc Fadden

On the 20th of February, the two 5th Year Politics and Society classes were treated with a day out to Dublin, where they visited Leinster House, where the houses of the Oireachtas are situated. This was a big day in the 5th Years' calendar, and it did not disappoint!



The students got the opportunity to visit both the lower house (the Dáil) and the upper house (the Seanad) of the Oireachtas, through a guided tour which was very intriguing and informative. After the tour was finished, the students were given a quick overview of how Ireland's parliament works by parliamentary education officer Conor Reale.

Along the tour, the students bumped into some familiar faces, such as Labour Party politician Ged Nash and Virgin Media political correspondent Gavan Reilly. These cameos were the cherry on top on a very exciting day for all Politics and Society students!

Sustainability BKC

By Catherine Meehan

Ballymakenny College's Environment team has been flat out working toward earning our school's new Green Flag for Water! From trips to Dublin to discuss water conservation with other schools and professionals, to partaking in GLOBE's 'How Spongy Is Your School?' programme and raising awareness through Earth Week, BKC's Environment team have been making waves!

The Green Schools programme which is run by An Taisce has teamed up with Uisce Éireann to put forward the Green Flag for Water, which aims to raise awareness of water usage and conservation in schools around the country. To earn this flag Ballymakenny must pass an inspection by Green Schools representatives and so all students and staff involved have been busy making Ballymakenny as water friendly as possible!

At the start of the school year four of our students on the Environment team put themselves forward to take part in the Water Ambassadors programme. This programme held workshops in Dublin, which facilitated communication between professionals working in water conservation and students from around the country. The professionals spoke about their experience in the sector and had interactive demonstrations. One of which was to highlight that not all products labelled 'flushable' will actually degrade naturally, which poses a serious danger to our rivers and oceans.

Team building exercises took place also, and allowed our students and teachers to brainstorm ideas to save water and raise awareness with their peers. Our environmentally minded students even took the train to and from both workshops to reduce their carbon footprint!

Once they returned to the school work got underway. The Environment team notice board was put up in the Hub, with information on water conservation and a visualiser to help students use our bins correctly which can help reduce the amount of waste that makes its way into our rivers and seas. The Environment team also took part in GLOBE's 'How Spongy is your School?' programme where they gathered samples of rainwater to measure and test the acidity of the rain we get in Ballymakenny. They also looked for places where water collects in puddles on the yard and discussed ways to use this water, such as the strategic placing gutters and planters.

All of these steps to improve our school added to the already successful implementation of the rainwater flushing system and bottle filling stations in Ballymakenny.

Raising awareness through Earth Week was a huge success for the team. With weekly announcements stating fun facts about water usage and conservation worldwide, and our 'Walk for Water.' The idea of a walk for water is to raise awareness of how privileged we are to have a readily available and functioning clean water system in Ireland.

"It helped raise awareness about women and children in countries around the world who walk, on average, 6 kilometres a day to access water. They then have to carry loads of up to 20 litres on their way back." — Uisce Éireann.

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Women and children — most of which are young girls — are at a severe disadvantage as a result of this, with all their time and energy spent collecting water their education is under serious threat.

To raise awareness of this issue through Ballymakenny's 'Walk for Water' a student from each Treoir class carried 6 litres of water for 1 kilometre around the football pitch, which meant six students from each year group walked a total of 6 kilometres with their 6 litres of water. This was a great success for all students and staff taking part!

The Environment team and all staff involved have been working extremely hard this year to earn the Green Flag for Water. Hopefully, all this hard work will pay off soon and Ballymakenny will have a new Green Schools Flag!

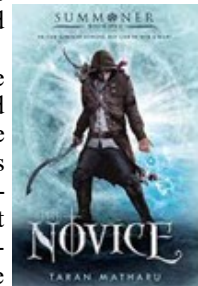
Book Review—The Novice

By Ryan Sheerin

The book I am reviewing today is called The Novice by Taran Matharu. It's a fiction book, based in a fantasy world where special sorcerers called summoners use their demon companions to allow them to use magic. The plot follows Fletcher, a blacksmith's apprentice, who was left in the small village of Pelt, shortly after birth. He meets an old soldier, who gifts him an old book. After getting in a fight with the son of a rich noble (Didric), he manages to use the book to accidentally summon a demon of his own, forcing him to leave Pelt and fend for himself.

I really enjoyed this book because there is a large cast of characters and I found it hard to put down. It's the first book in the Summoner series that features two sequels and a prequel. I first read it when I was in first year and would definitely recommend it to anybody who enjoys the fantasy genre. It has many

similarities to books such as Harry Potter.



Student Cards

By Madeleine Houssou

Last February, our Student Council in Ballymakenny College launched their second successful year of distributing student cards to all year groups for the price of €15! This card — which can be purchased both virtually and in a physical form — offers any students who wish to avail a valid form of ID for travelling as well as discounts to a variety of places including Dublin Zoo, FitBit, River Island, Costa and Life Style Sports. They are valid for a full 12 months from the point of purchase and an excellent way for students to reap rewards from lots of retailers!



TY Crime Scene Investigation Workshop

By Kai Kiernan and Evan Biggins

For the CSI workshop we began the day with a 15-minute introduction where we learned what activities the day included. This was fingerprint theory/practical, trace evidence (hair, glass fibres, etc.), fires, shoe prints, tyres, unusual crime scenes (solved with new DNA technology at the time the crimes happened), photography, and a mock crime scene investigation. The program is run by Kieran O'Brien and Jim Gallagher.

During the CSI fingerprint workshop, we took our own prints and made them into accessories to take home after learning the three different print types. The unusual crime scenes was the highlight of the workshop because we were asked to give our thoughts as we were given evidence. Lastly, during the mock investigation everyone was given their own roles, some of the roles include photographers, being a Gardaí that tape up the scene, or fingerprint analysts, each role was entertaining.

TY Work Experience

By Abi Sheerin

From the 6th-10th of March TYs in Ballymakenny College took part in their second week of work experience. I went to my old primary school, Aston Village ETNS. While I was there for the week, I got to do many different jobs helping out around the school.



I was able to help teach to Junior and Senior infants, I got to bring kids to their book fair at the end of the week and in the morning time I was able to help with their breakfast club. I was only able to help with the breakfast club once, but it was really fun. I was mainly in with the Junior Infants, they were my favourite class to help out with. There were other students from Ballymakenny College and from Greenhills, it was great to have other students my age to talk to during the breaks at lunch.

All the students and staff were very friendly and welcoming towards us during our work experience. I really enjoyed teaching the younger children, helping them with their English, maths and even their art, I was really surprised to see that they were learning to write in cursive all ready. My favourite memory was helping the kids with the iPads and them asking me to put on more videos. Overall TY work placement was a rewarding experience.

High School Musical

By Teja Nickute

From the 2nd to the 3rd of March, our Transition Year students performed High School Musical on stage in front of a variety of audiences. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience and a fond memory that will be shared between all of the TYs. Hard work and tremendous efforts were put in by all of the students and staff involved. The stage was beautifully crafted by our TY set design team with tremendous help from Paddy Carroll and Lisa Sherry. The performance itself would not have been possible without our selfless music teachers, Ann Marie Comaskey, Claire O'Connor, Sheree Loughran and Ciara Nolan with also a huge thanks to Thomas Dorian and Meera Navarasan who helped to bring this show together. From the very beginning of the year, auditions took place for the lead roles and supporting cast and interviews were conducted for the set design team. From then on out, rehearsals took place after school and even during some weekends. The stage was constantly being worked on from behind the scenes, but the show would not have been such a success without everyone's involvement. The musical was such an achievement that it even got recognition in the local newspaper! Thank you all who participated in this memorable experience and for one last time, what team? WILDCATS!!



TY Trip to EPIC

By Emily Scallan

On the 21st of February all Transition Year students visited Epic, The Irish Emigration Museum in Dublin. The trip was a great success as everybody had a great time and learned something new.

EPIC covers the history of the Irish diaspora and emigration to other countries. The students explored the museum and it's many interactive galleries, learning about the history of Irish emigration along the way, before getting the opportunity to have some free time in Dublin.

Everyone really enjoyed the day and were excited to see what the rest of the year has in store!



U16 Gaelic Football

By Conor Browne

On the 12th of January our under 16 gaelic squad went out and faced Coláiste na hInse in the first game of the North Leinster League.

As the first half began the lads got off to a great start. With the wind behind our backs the football was liquid. Dan McArdle swept up every ball that came his way, all the way up to Jack Healy sticking it over the bar. We were up by 14 points feeling good going into the second half.

The second half had started, and we found ourselves against the conditions and Coláiste na hInse gained a bit of an advantage. The opposition came out and caught us by complete surprise, scoring three goals on the banks. But it didn't take long until we found Flynn Richardson on that left foot to get us back on track. The game was still close, which led the lads to dig deep and get a result out of the game. In the end Ballymakenny came out on top by two points after displaying a great performance and character.



1st Year Football

By Maximillian Kuwik

On Wednesday the 8th of February the Ballymakenny first year football team played Bremore Educate Together secondary school in a home game. The kickoff whistle was at 11:00 o'clock with both teams lined up and ready to play. The Ballymakenny squad were ready to give it their all and they did. In the first half Noah Clarke opened up the score with a fantastic goal. Soon after, Alfie O'Hanlon scored the second goal of the match to give Ballymakenny a two-goal lead. But Bremore score a goal to finish the first half, 2-1. In the second-half, Alfie O'Hanlon had an amazing run with the ball and scored a great goal to make it his second of the day. After a bit of time and many great chances, Conal Boyce scored the last goal to secure 4-1 win against Bremore. Our win was highly deserved after lots of effort and practice was put in. We succeeded with help from our two coaches Aidan Cassidy and Stephen Flynn.

BKC Basketball

By Janice Clinton

At the start of the year, we didn't know how to play together as a team, but our coaches Sinead, Tara, Rachel, Cian and Maider helped us come together as a team. We had gotten into a semi final, and we had a brilliant performance against Rathoath and we won. In our final we played Ardee Community School. There was a gap in the score for a while, but in the last quarter we closed the gap. In the end we lost by 3 points. We were all upset we lost, but we were the first girls' team to get to a final in Ballymakenny College. Next year we hope to come back stronger and win a final!

BKC Camogie

By Rachel Connor

Camogie is a great sport to play as it is a great stress reliever, builds friendships, teaches you to work in with others and it is a fun way to include physical activity in your life. Our coaches this year are Eimear Brady, Lisa Sherry, Mike Lyons and Aileen Gilsean. We train after school on a Thursday for an hour. We have played Greenhills twice at home and we have played two blitz's, in these blitz's we've played Bush, St.Louis, Greenhills and Ardee Community School. At the first blitz we played St.Louis and Bush and we won against both of them. At the second blitz we played Bush again, Ardee Community School and Greenhills. We won against Bush and we're beaten by the other two schools. However, we put up a good fight. Our season is now over and despite the losses we've all had a great season.



Barcelona

By Sebastian Moldovan

Barcelona was a trip held this year for second year students and teachers. It was a four-day long trip where students visited sights and went to activities such as bowling and the theme park PortAventura. Everyone stayed at a 4-star hotel which held a buffet in the morning and in the evening. Students were brought to shopping centres for lunch to get their own food as this was an opportunity for them to be responsible for themselves. Students stayed in groups of 3 in their rooms. Overall, the students and teachers enjoyed the trip, and I would recommend it to anyone looking for a holiday somewhere warm.

