



Midleton C.B.S

Newsletter Christmas 2020

A Word from the Principal

At the end of the 1st Term 2020/2021 it is timely to communicate with you in order to give you an update on school matters. We are in unprecedented times in relation to Covid-19, but the school community has rallied and has done really well in keeping Covid at bay. A big thank you to staff and students for adhering to government guidelines in what are very challenging times in the school context. Hopefully 2021 will see a year of improvement in relation to our lifestyles and the global pandemic. Sincere thanks to all those who contributed to this newsletter with special thanks extended to Mr Adrian Desmond.

School Closures:

Please note one date change - the scheduled school closure to provide in-service for staff on the new Junior Cycle has been changed from Friday 15th January 2021 to Monday 1st March 2021.

Parent Teacher Meetings:

Parent Teacher Meetings that were to be held in the coming months will be replaced by comprehensive reports from teachers at the times the meetings were scheduled.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Safe New Year.

Keep safe in 2021.

Niall Ahern
Principal

Transition Year Update:

Transition Year 2020 takes place against the backdrop of Covid-19 and its associated restrictions. These have limited the number, type and format of the activities we can undertake this year. Despite this however, we have been able to run both of the scheduled team bonding days (to Ballyhass lakes and the Fota Island Adventure Centres) and have booked the remaining two day trips on the Greenway in Dungarvan and to the Oysterhaven Watersports Centre.

Our after school guitar classes are still going ahead, initially by Zoom but now thankfully with our tutor on site. Our after school personal training classes can't go ahead at the moment but we are looking at ways to work within the government guidelines to provide some form of training for those interested in the new year.

With so many people working from home our work experience opportunities this year are curtailed. Those students that could organise work placements have gone on them and we have provisionally booked the first week of February as our first official week of work experience. We will be providing an online learning option for those students who can't secure a placement at that time.

Our annual TY Activities week will need a new format this year but the TY team are currently looking at ways to facilitate this and are confident that a new arrangement for this and our activities can be found.

While days out and guest speakers often are seen as the highlight of TY, the important work of subject sampling and building a solid foundation in Irish, English, Maths and the Modern Foreign Languages continues. This work will be augmented by a careers aptitude test and career guidance in the new year. On behalf of the TY team I want to wish you and yours a very Happy Christmas.

B. Speight & F. Finn

New Wellbeing Walkway:

A new “Wellbeing Walkway” has recently been created on the grounds of Midleton CBS Secondary School. The promotion of wellbeing is central to the Department of Education’s mission to enable children and young people to achieve their full potential and the creation of the Wellbeing Walkway is a testament to CBS’s endorsement of this national wellbeing plan.

The project was discussed at a number of meetings of the Parent’s Council who were extremely supportive. They agreed to part-fund the project in partnership with the Board of Management and the school’s Past Pupils Union who were also willing to offer their support to the initiative. The Student’s Council fully backed the project as did the Green School’s Committee who saw the development as an enhancement of their efforts to secure a Biodiversity Flag for the school.

A looped circuit of just over 800 metres around the school was drawn-up with the assistance of the school’s (DCG) Design & Communications Graphics subject department and construction began on the new walkway during the summer of 2020. The vastly changed school regime we returned to in September because of Covid-19 restrictions has been greatly enhanced by the availability of the new walking facility. Students are encouraged to get out in the fresh air as much as possible during break times. The pathway is 2 metres in width which allows for social distancing to be achieved without fuss. A brisk walk around the circuit provides wellbeing benefits to mind, body and spirit for students.

Thanks to Mr Kelly for all his hard work in bringing the Wellbeing Walkway to fruition.



UCC - Cooperating Teacher Reflective Development Award:

The Cooperating Teacher Reflective Development Award is designed to enhance and develop the key role of the cooperating teacher in initial teacher education. This work significantly enhances the professional learning and development of the student teacher as they grow in their school placement within Midleton CBS and we are delighted to be recognised by UCC for our work in this area.

Thanks to Ms. Fitzpatrick for all her work.



Apprenticeship Programme:

Our 6th Year Apprenticeship groups visited Dave Power Plan Hire and Sales in Knockgriffin last week. Kevin Bannon, Sales Manager, gave the lads a fantastic tour of their facilities and equipment and a full information session on career prospects within the trade. Thanks to Mr Hourihan, Ms Nash and Mr Speight for organising.



It has been a busy First Term in Midleton C.B.S



New Student Council:

Our new Student Council has been elected and has set goals for the year including working on School of Sanctuary initiatives, Green School's projects and a new school fleece.

Congratulations to all the members on their election and we look forward to an important year for student voice. Thanks to our outgoing student council members. They have been fantastic ambassadors for our school. Thanks to Ms Kelly for coordinating.



LGBTI+:

Midleton CBS was proud to display the Rainbow Flag as part of National Stand Up against LGBTI+ Bullying Week.

National research shows 73% of LGBTI+ students experienced bullying or harassment in school and we are committed to making Midleton CBS an inclusive environment for all.

Students and staff wore Rainbow Colours on Friday November 20th to show their support for LGBTI+ members of our school community. Thanks to our Career Guidance Department for organising this fabulous initiative.



Erasmus+ continues via Zoom:

Since the lockdown no travel has been possible and we had to forfeit planned trips to Bulgaria, Greece and Brussels. However, we have had many Zoom meetings with our European partners during the last few months to work on our Erasmus+ projects.

We discussed many international topics including nationalism, immigration and discrimination. In May we also examined how digitally literate our schools were through a questionnaire to staff, students and parents. These results were analysed and each country presented their findings in presentations to the others.

We hope to have a few more virtual meetings as long as travel is off the cards. Thanks to Ms Fynn for her Erasmus+ work.



New School Canopies:

Two new canopies have been installed in our outdoor courtyard. The canopies will help our students enjoy this outdoor space throughout the year.





Breast Cancer Awareness Cake Sale:

Thanks to all our fabulous staff who baked for our Cake Sale in October and raised over €500 for Breast Cancer Awareness. Thanks to Nicola from the school office for organising.



Letters to Nursing Home:

Thanks to Ms Murphy's TY Religion class who wrote letters of support to the residents of Glendonagh Nursing Home this Christmas.



Football:

Congratulations to 6th year student Diarmuid Byrne who was a member of the Cork minor football squad for the for the Munster semi - final against Kerry.



Hurling:

Well done to all our 1st Year hurlers who took part in the Christy Ring Skills competition. The standard was very high and the winners were; 1st - Fionn Daly, 2nd - Cian Stack and 3rd - Brian Healy.



Unfortunately there has been no hurling matches this academic year due to Covid-19. However, tremendous work is still being done every evening after school by a group of very dedicated teachers. Every Monday and Wednesday the Senior Hurlers are preparing for the Dr. Harty Cup, which will hopefully begin in early 2021.

The U15s and U17s train on Tuesdays and Thursdays, respectively. The U14s currently train after school on Fridays and there is a skills competition on Tuesday and Thursday at lunchtime. The numbers and enthusiasm demonstrated across all age groups is fantastic to see and huge credit must be attributed to the students who turn out in all sorts of weather.

Hopefully in the new year these lads will be rewarded with a few matches and the chance to wear the famed red and white of Midleton CBS.

