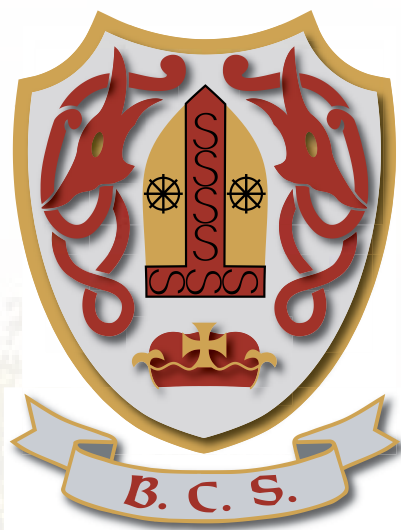


BISHOPSTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Newsletter
2018





Bishopstown Community School

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Many thanks to all who contributed to the
production of this publication.

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Welcome to our 2018 Newsletter. Our annual Newsletter serves to inform you, our parents and the wider public, of some of our achievements during the school year both in the academic and the broader spheres of extra-curricular activities.

Let me begin by saying how proud we are of our students. I compliment them on their work ethic, good nature, positivity, support and enthusiastic participation in the teaching and learning process that we engage in as a connected school community each and every day. The nature and value of our student experience is informed in no small measure by the fact we are a co-educational, multi-denominational and culturally enriched community. Of course, sound parental support forms the backbone to everything we do. We value your essential backing and willing engagement on behalf of your children.

A new Parents' Association formed in November and has enthusiastically contributed to several aspects of school life in the short time it has been active. We thank the members for their work, support and their contributions through fundraising for our new wellness gym facility. This is just one example of their engagement and we look forward to their valuable contributions in all aspects of school life in the coming year.

The Tomar Trust granted the school a substantial bursary to develop a wellness gym in the school as a consequence of a submission made by our P.E. Department and school management, relating to Wellbeing in the new Junior Certificate. We are currently proceeding with the installation of special flooring as a prerequisite to the installation of professional gym equipment. The facility will be available to our student community before Christmas 2018. We wish to publically acknowledge the fantastic work undertaken by the Tomar Trust and thank them for their generosity and foresight in recognising the importance of physical wellness and the contribution it makes to both academic achievement and a healthy lifestyle for students.

Thanks to the willing enthusiasm of students, ably facilitated by staff in their own personal time, the school produced a wonderful Fashion Show last

October. The event was a sell-out success and enjoyed by parents, guests, the wider public, staff and students. Funds raised on the night were divided between The Greater Chernobyl Cause and The Ethiopian Deaf Project. Staff also facilitated the production of a

wonderful musical – “Back To The 80s” – in March and it was a complete sell-out for each performance. We are already planning for the coming year! Parents, staff and students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and students got an opportunity to display talents generally unseen in the day-to-day teaching and learning environment. Sport is an important aspect of school life and we actively encourage participation across a wide spectrum of events. Physical wellbeing is an important component of a student's life and while some aspire to, and accomplish, high honours in their respective fields, we assist all to actively engage. The school underwent a MLL – Whole School Evaluation (Management, Leadership, Learning Whole School Evaluation) in Feb/March. I am delighted to say that the school received an excellent report achieving top accolades in all the significant and important aspects of our school life. The report is available to read on our website www.bishopstowns.ie. The whole process was welcomed wholeheartedly by management and staff, and as a school community we consider such inspections important and significant benchmarks in the life of our school. We thank the Inspectors for their thoroughness, professionalism and willingness to engage openly and honestly with staff and management.

During the 2017 – 2018 school year, Ms Gottstein and Ms Dowling facilitated the student voice in our school to effect an historic victory for deaf people in Ireland, namely, the recognition of an ISL (Irish Sign Language) version of the National Anthem. It started



John Farrell

with Alain Newstead (one of our students in the Deaf Facility) expressing frustration with being unable to sign the National Anthem during a visit of the Lord Mayor of Cork to the school in September 2017. This led to our Student Council becoming involved and with the direction of Ms Dowling and Ms Gottstein, representatives of the student council were invited to Seanad Éireann to make a presentation on the issue to the Seanad. Alain Newstead, John Cottrell and Ms Dowling spoke in the Seanad chamber in November 2017. This resulted in Senator Mark Daly proposing Bishopstown Community School organise the official ISL version of the National Anthem. The school set up a steering committee comprising Ms Dowling, Ms Gottstein and myself as Principal to lead the process. After wide consultation with the deaf community, including Trinity College (Centre for Deaf Studies), Senan Dunne and Darren Byrne compiled the officially recognised ISL version of the National Anthem. John Cottrell, Ms Dowling and Ms Gottstein attended the official launch of the ISL version in Seanad Éireann in July. It has been performed publically at both the GAA hurling and football finals in Croke Park. Alain Newstead signed the introduction to the ISL version. We are very proud of this achievement on behalf of our deaf students and the whole school community, and it is proof of the power of the student voice in effecting change at the very highest level in a democratic society.

I want to wish all our Leaving Certificate students success and happiness in their future studies and career decisions. Almost 20% of our 2018 students accomplished between 500 and in excess of 600

points. This was a fantastic result and well deserved. It has resulted in students achieving places in UCC, Cambridge, Paris, Aberdeen, CIT and PLC colleges. Bishopstown Community School allocated space to St Killian's Primary School for a number of years, however, I am delighted to announce this space has returned to our school as our growing numbers press for more space. St Killian's have moved to a new fully equipped premises in Mayfield. We wish them success in their new surroundings. The vacated space will be put to good use in the interests of our students. Finally, Ms Edwina Gottstein was appointed Deputy Principal of Bishopstown Community School in August. Ms Gottstein was formerly the Chaplain in the school and has a very deep and thorough understanding of and commitment to our school. I welcome Ms Gottstein to the role of senior management and look forward to her inputs and insights into the day to day running of our school. Mr Patrick Barry (former Deputy Principal) has been appointed Principal of Douglas Community School. We wish Mr Barry every success in his new role and thank him for his work during his time in BCS. Thank you for taking the time to read this introduction and I hope you find the rest of our Newsletter informative and that it gives you a sense of our school community.

John Farrell
Principal



SUBJECTS OFFERED IN B.C.S.

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Bishopstown Community School is a co-educational second level school which has been serving our area and the wider community for 40 years. The school has established an excellent reputation in facilitating students to achieve success both academically and in their extra-curricular pursuits.

The school provides a broad variety of subjects across the curriculum at both higher and ordinary level, from the core subjects to languages and all areas of the sciences.

The following are the range of subjects offered at both higher and ordinary level to Junior and Leaving Certificate students in Bishopstown Community School.

LANGUAGES

Irish
English
French
Irish Sign Language

HUMANITIES

Geography
History
Civic, Social and Political Education

MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE

Mathematics
Applied Mathematics
Science
Biology
Chemistry
Physics

ARTS

Art Craft & Design
Music

BUSINESS

Business
Accounting
Economics

TECHNOLOGY & PRACTICAL

Home Economics (Social and Scientific)
Material Technology (Wood)
Material Technology (Metal)
Construction Studies
Engineering

NON EXAMINATION SUBJECTS

Computers
Social and Personal Health Education
Physical Education
Career Guidance
Religious Education
Wellbeing

5th Year students enjoying a day of reflection in Gougane Barra



JUNIOR CYCLE

Our first year students began the year in high spirits. Having completed induction days in May many students were already familiar with the building and their new classmates. To build on the friendships already forming, in early September the students completed a team building day. This has become an annual event here



and allows students to get to know their year group while engaging in some fun activities. This year's trip to "West Cork Secret" was no different, students had a fantastic day.



MID TERM CELEBRATION

Come the end of October our first years are well settled in. As part of the team building initiatives run by the school, a Mid Term Celebration is organised for first year students. This event includes elements from many different subjects, (Science, Art, English, Maths), and of course encourages fun and creativity.

Throughout the school year first years engage in many activities and workshops such as a six week block of swimming lessons and a French breakfast, as well as numeracy and literacy initiatives.



FIRST YEAR VOLCANO MAKING COMPETITION

Well done to the First Year Geography students who recently took part in a volcano making competition. Their task was to construct an active volcano. The students used different ingredients such as baking soda, washing up liquid, coke and vinegar to help bring on the eruption. There was a fantastic effort made by all students and it was clear that a lot of team work and hard work went into making them.

Best overall volcano: Caoimhe McGovern, Hollie O' Driscoll and Rachel Chucks

Best volcano in 1K : Eimear Hallahan, Emilia Donnellon and Mya Hendrick

Best volcano in 1J: Áine O Mahony and Maria Castrillo





included the effects of Vaping, the use of over the counter medications such as Calpol and Nurofen, the power of the potato, and the science behind your make-up. All the students agreed that it was a fantastic opportunity, and want to hold a preliminary round of the festival in school in Autumn 2018 for next year's competition.



HOME ECONOMICS

Parents and other family members were invited in for a cup of tea at the end of the First Year Home Economics taster course. Over the years it has proven to be a nice informal setting for parents and staff to meet and chat over a cup of tea and a scone.

SCIFEST

Big congratulations to all first years who attended Scifest in May in CIT. Students spent many weeks preparing, designing, researching and carrying out investigations before presenting their work at Scifest. They were interviewed by a number of judges before having the chance to hear some speakers working in the science field, including an astronaut. Projects

ROCKET LAUNCH

The end of year Rocket Launch is always a great day for students and parents, once again this cross curricular event was a great success, with students self- built rockets reaching dizzying heights.



SECOND YEAR

CHOCOLATIER VISIT

Second year students were treated to a most enjoyable day with a French chocolatier, Benoit Lorge. Students were given the opportunity to experience first-hand



the art of French chocolate making from a native French speaker. The demonstration gave students a chance to use their French vocabulary associated with food and cooking, and of course taste the delectable treats on offer.

SEANACHAÍ

Renowned storyteller Eddie Lenihan visited in a event organised by the English and Irish departments of BCS. Eddie enthralled the students, bringing characters to life through the medium of poetry and storytelling while also giving students an opportunity to explore the literary terms. Students enjoyed meeting and listening to this colourful character.

HOME ECONOMICS

First and second year students of Home Economics were treated to an action packed morning of cookery, presented by Sinead Clancy. Sinead works as a lecturer in the neighbouring campus of CIT and her focus was on “Healthy Eating Made Easy”. This event was held as part of the JCSP.





SCIENCE CELL STUDIES

2nd Year Science Sarah and Gemma display their model of an animal cell.



ATTENDANCE RECORD

Congratulations to Ellie McCarthy who received a certificate for her unbroken attendance record of 9 years.



THIRD YEAR

Our third year students have been busy completing their coursework across the year in preparation for the Junior Certificate exams. As always this milestone was marked by both a third year mass and their JCSP Profile of achievement awards.



CSPE ACTION PROJECT: FUNDRAISING AND VISIT TO CSPCA, MAHON

The students from third year and their CSPE teacher, Ms. O

Donovan, visited the CSPCA in Mahon as part of their Junior Certificate CSPE Action Project in order to learn about the invaluable work they do in the local area. This was followed by a bake sale held in the school, raising much needed funds for CSPCA, which they presented to the charity.



GEOGRAPHY 3RD YEAR FIELD TRIP

As part of the Geography coursework students of BCS went on a field trip which was close to home, yet very relevant to their studies. They visited Inniscarra Dam, run by the ESB on the River Lee.

The students were taken on a guided tour and into the lower workings of the dam, where the generators are located. Here the students could walk around the two turbines. They were informed both of the history of the dam, its construction and the responsibility of the ESB towards the preservation of the fisheries of the Lee. They were shown the salmon weir and how it worked. Following on from the tour of the inner





working of the dam, the students had an opportunity to go to the top of the dam and walk along the top wall taking in its sheer height and the difference in water levels from above and below the dam. There they could also see the top chute for the fish travelling upstream to spawn and how the chute worked. Students enjoyed the experience hugely with some having to face their fears by climbing to the top of the dam.

MUSIC TRIP TO NATIONAL CONCERT HALL DUBLIN

On the 20th of November last, students from Second and Third Year Music classes set off early on our annual visit to the National Concert Hall Dublin. Each

year, the music students eagerly look forward to this concert where the music they are studying in class is performed by the National Symphony Orchestra. On this occasion we were able to witness the live performance of such works as Rossini's Overture to



William Tell and Handel's Water Music, amongst many others. This opportunity greatly

enhanced the students' depth of learning of these works which are part of the course work of the Junior Cert music curriculum. Our visit to Dublin also included a visit to the National Gallery where the students were able to appreciate wonderful art and in particular, paintings by Irish artists. All in all, a wonderful cultural experience was enjoyed by all.

MASS

An exam mass was held for Third Year Students who contributed to the ceremony by singing, playing music, reading, carrying gifts and symbols. Recognising the theme of friendship, they prepared posters with hand prints reflecting on their journey together over the last three years in Bishopstown Community School. It was a nice way to end the year for the students.



TRANSITION YEAR

TEAM BUILDING -BALLYHASS AND ZIP-IT

This year's Transition Year was bookended by team building events. Throughout the year student choice led the activities we participated in, with our first bonding day taking place at Ballyhass Lakes. The students took part in Ziplining across a valley, a high jump and, the best part of all, the water obstacle



course. This was the highlight of the day for many students.

Similarly at the end of the year, the students chose where we would go to celebrate a fantastic year. They selected Zip-It in Farran Woods. Again, this was a terrific day. With such a variety of courses, all the students were able to meet their fears and challenge themselves. It was the perfect way to finish the year

and the students really enjoyed it. Both events have helped to cement the bond of friendship and support amongst the students that will continue to benefit them through senior cycle and the future.



FAI COACHING AWARD

Run by the FAI development officer, Stephen O'Mahony, fifteen TY students took part in a soccer coaching award this year. Students were taught the skills of coaching young children. Students showed a



high level of commitment to the course and displayed competency and skill when they participated in a soccer fun day with the students of Glasheen Boys' School. All students thoroughly enjoyed the event. A special thank you to Highfield Rugby club who came to our assistance, providing the use of their astro-turf when bad weather meant our own pitches were unplayable.



FAI FUTSAL REFEREEING

Due to the success and commitment shown by our students during the FAI coaching course, Stephen O'Mahony invited the TY's to act as referees for a primary school competition which took place in Carrigaline. Eight students from BCS spent four days out in the elements refereeing each of the games. The students loved the experience and enjoyed talent spotting the next generation of Irish soccer stars for Stephen as the games progressed.

WORK EXPERIENCE

For the first two weeks in January all Transition Year students partook in work experience. This involved students finding a placement of their choice and working in a real life environment. Students were required to work as a normal employee of the business they joined and abide by the working hours and regulations of the business. Every student thoroughly enjoyed this experience and felt they developed many skills during the two weeks. It was a very valuable experience for all Transition Year students.

FASHION SHOW

The 19th of October 2017, saw the annual Transition Year fashion show. Although the week started off with Storm Ophelia, the students didn't let this get in their way and the show went on regardless. A fantastic night was had, with a lot of money raised for the Ethiopian Deaf Project and The Greater Chernobyl Cause.

The students also showcased their many talents, with some students singing, others dancing and the whole



year group performing a song through Irish Sign Language. All their hard work and hours of rehearsals paid off and the fashion show was the highlight of the year for many of the students





MINI COMPANY

Our Transition Year students created three Mini Companies this year. One company created squad training tops for the school. The 'Half Zip Heroes' product proved to be really popular and the students were kept busy with orders throughout the year. The students involved are hoping to continue with this venture next year also.

The second Mini Company was 'Handy Holders'.



The students made phone holders out of wood. These could be personalised and could also be made bigger to fit tablets. 'Handy Holders' won Best Business Idea at the Cork City Enterprise Boards' Student Enterprise Competition. The third company was 'Seize the Sun'. The students involved sourced and sold solar chargers that can be used for any phone. Again these proved extremely popular with the students, selling out within a week, and also selling some in CIT. 'Seize the Sun' also proved successful in the Cork Enterprise competitions winning a prize for best sales.

CHINESE STUDIES

Chinese Studies, supported by UCC has proven to be an excellent addition to our Transition Year Programme over the last number of years. Every student studies the module and learns about aspects ranging from the Chinese language to culture to Tai Chi.

This year we were very lucky to have two students selected to partake in an educational trip to China over the Easter break. The two students, Caitlin Keeler and Cliona Ryan, both said they had an amazing trip and took away memories that will last a lifetime.





TOUR TO AMSTERDAM

The annual TY tour took place to Amsterdam, this April. TY students along with their teachers, Mr McCarthy, Ms Twomey and Ms O'Keeffe travelled and enjoyed a fully packed schedule.

Day one included an early start in Cork airport followed by a visit to the neighbourhood of Zaanse Schans, in the Dutch town of Zaandam, near Amsterdam. Here we saw many historic windmills and got a taste of Dutch culture for the first time. From there we went into Amsterdam and visited the house of Anne Frank. This was a very eye opening experience for everyone. From Anne Frank's house



we took a canal boat tour of Amsterdam and saw many of the sights the city has to offer.

Day two involved a tour of the Ajax stadium, a trip to the NEMO science museum and then a trip to the Tikki pool. With the temperatures reaching the mid-twenties we really had a great time soaking up the historic culture and atmosphere the city has to offer. Day three involved a trip to Efteling Theme Park. With temperatures still quite high plenty of sun cream was worn by all! The students showed they were much more courageous than the teachers by going on every ride the theme park could offer. Teachers watched on from the security of solid ground.

Everyone returned safe and sound early to Cork Airport with a very tired but excited group reporting back to school the next day for business as usual.

HELPING HAND

Transition Year students participated in the SVP Youth for Justice programme. With the theme of Befriending they undertook various projects helping others in the community. Linking with Cork Cancer Support Centre, a fundraising raffle and an awareness campaign to Kiss Away Cancer was organised. Applying their own learning, students taught science



and volleyball to primary students in St Columbas Girls' National School. Raising funds for Marymount Hospice and the Irish Cancer Society, a coffee afternoon was held. Guest speakers from Barnardos and Cork Simon Community inspired students to raise awareness about the work of these charities. Students campaigning about Homelessness organised a poster competition, in recognition that "Only a poster should be on the streets 24 hours a day". They also collected hampers and Christmas presents for SVP and Cork Penny Dinners.

The participating TYs attended a celebration day at the end of the

year where they showcased their projects and received a certificate of participation.



SENIOR CYCLE

REFLECTION DAY, GOUGANE BARRA

Beginning their Leaving Certificate journey can



be a daunting experience for students. New class groupings and settling back into the school year can take time. To help students during this time an annual reflection day is organised by our RE department. Students went on their annual reflection day to Gougane Barra. There they took in the natural beauty around them and paused for reflection throughout the day. The boulders reminded them of the obstacles they experience in life, the view from up high helped them to remember that from a different perspective challenges look different, the youthful stage of the river reflected their own energetic stage

of life, and the companionship they shared over the day reinforced the importance of friendship

and journeying with others to share stories and experiences. The reflection time in the chapel emphasised how individual gifts and talents, when brought together as a group or a community, can shine bright like a rainbow.

AIB FUTURE SPARKS, RDS

Fifth and Sixth Year students, accompanied by their Business teachers Ms O’Keeffe and Ms Clifford, got the opportunity to head

to the RDS where they were immersed in a day of hands-on workshops, inspirational talks and one-to-one time with the best in the business.

So much more than a careers fair, AIB Future Sparks Festival allows the students explore mock interviews, informal advisory sessions and psychometric testing. Thirty plus speakers from the world of entrepreneurship and business explained their stories which let students bring their business curricula to life through these real world examples.





FIFTH YEAR HOME ECONOMICS

Like the top chefs in Michelin star restaurants, Bishopstown Community School likes to use local produce wherever possible. Our Fifth Year students



capitalised on this during the school year. As part of the Leaving Cert Home Economics course Fifth Years visited the farmers market at Wilton Shopping Centre. They saw the different produce that was available, much of which was locally sourced and shared a pizza before walking back to school with a variety of breads and salads to enjoy upon their return. . Students invited Damien, co-owner of the local food

company Bodychef, in to hear about that business. Bodychef is based in Bishopstown and is one of Cork's leading healthy eating companies. They create, prepare, cook and deliver healthy meals all over Cork. The business has gone from strength to strength since its set up in 2015 when it had two employees. It now employs 15 people. Damien set the students a task



to develop their favourite 'takeaway' and Bodychef provided a voucher of €100 for the winner. This was won by Timea Szabo.



SIXTH YEAR

SIXTH YEAR TRIP TO NMCI

On the 26th October, the Sixth Year Engineering class took a trip to the National Maritime College of Ireland, where they saw first-hand all the courses the college has to offer, as well as getting a full tour of the purpose built campus in Ringaskiddy.

ENGLISH SEMINAR

In March Sixth Year students attended a seminar delivered by two advising examiners with the State Examinations Commission in Leaving Cert English. Both examiners are experts in their field and have been correcting Leaving Cert English for a number of years. The material covered consisted of time allocation, comprehension strategies, Shakespearean drama, part B exercises & exemplars, unseen poetry, comparative, persuasive, argumentative, narrative and aesthetic language. All students received a take home booklet. This was highly beneficial to our students.

PROFESSOR SHANE KILCOMMINS VISITS BCS

Bishopstown Community School had the privilege of listening to Professor Shane Kilcommins (Head of the Law Faculty) of UL. He introduced the students to some interesting cases that have come before the courts and invited them to analyse the judgements.

He then differentiated between key concepts in the Law of Evidence; the Admission of Evidence, Testimony, Documentary Evidence, Real Evidence, Direct Evidence, Circumstantial Evidence and Principal Facts. Professor Kilcommins discussed the principles relating to the various exclusionary rules, and the rationale for their application. Students were then involved in a workshop where they had to apply the rules and principles to scenarios in order to demonstrate the possibilities for conviction or acquittal. Student responses were widely varied and led to many thought-provoking, insightful debates later on.

UL ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION WINNERS

Bishopstown students were celebrating, having secured another national essay competition win. Leaving Certificate student Jason Lenihan came away with first place in the competition while three of his classmates received certificates of honourable achievement for their essays also. Jason was awarded first place nationally for his essay entitled “100 years since the 1916 Proclamation and despite the aspirations of equality for all, Ireland is still a deeply unequal society.” The school had more cause to celebrate with Saoirse Brennan, Seán Fouhy and Anna



Mustata receiving honourable certificates for the same essay. Saoirse shone a light on our two-tiered health system which actively discriminates against those who cannot afford private healthcare. Seán opened his essay with a very powerful quote: “All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others”. Seán went on to reference the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, which is ten



years old, and yet the Irish government continues to remain the only EU country that has failed to ratify it. According to Anna, one of the easiest ways to see inequality in Ireland is simply to look at a map. Anna examined urban growth and the need for decentralisation of resources and opportunities. To Jason, Saoirse, Sean & Anna – you did yourselves and your school proud.

GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIP

Waterfall forestry provided our Sixth Year students with ample resources to complete their fieldwork component of the course. Students, equipped with ranging poles, rope, quadrant, and a bunch of oranges,

headed off to investigate and report on the cross-section of forestry. They engaged in many tasks, including discovering the river processes taking place at that point of the river, the speed of the water flow and the slope of the land. They then returned to school to analyse the data before completing their course booklets



GRADUATION MASS

The Sixth Year graduation mass was a beautiful ceremony marking the end of their time in second level education. The Sixth Years' spirit of participation was reflected throughout the ceremony with students making their own mark on music and reading selections. The gifts and talents of this particular group of students contributed greatly to the ceremony, with a decorated backdrop of the horizons that await them. The theme of ‘Go forth and set the world on fire’ was chosen by the students to show that they each have individual strengths and roles to play in making a difference in the world. Colourful balloons were released at the end of the ceremony to represent their hopes and dreams for the future.







WHOLE SCHOOL INITIATIVES

LORD MAYOR'S VISIT

Bishoptown Community School was visited by the Lord Mayor Tony Fitzgerald and his wife Lady Mayoress Georgina Fitzgerald as part of the long standing tradition of visiting the schools of the city. He was welcomed by our own student council who accompanied the Lord Mayor to the stage before a whole school rendition of our national anthem



Amhran Na bhFiann. He spoke of the importance of our anthem and the need to maintain the respect of the song and what it stands for. He asked that people sing the anthem with a sense of pride and to sing till the end as year on year it seems to get shorter. He spoke of his love of the city and its people and in having a sense of place to be proud of. After meeting with students and staff the Lord Mayor then took to the microphone himself and performed Paul McCartney's

"Let it Be" he was accompanied by the school band and music students from first to sixth year with the whole student body joining in the chorus. It was a great morning.

ACTIVE WEEK 2018

Active week 2018 set off to a busy start, the week was jam packed with all year groups being involved in an active-athon run by the Student Council and year group competitions organised by the TY students in Uni-hoc. Many students took on the Cube a joint numeracy and PE Department initiative, inspired by the T.V. show, challenging both mind and body. Here the students competed in five of the legendary Cube games, and while we did not have the glass cube we were able to simulate the pressure by adding a stopwatch and additional competitors. Across the week many other activities took place including Ultimate Frisbee and the now annual Seniors V Junior Soccer match taking place. This year held an added incentive to the competition



with TY's purchasing a trophy for the winners, there was a lot at stake. They named the Cup the Principal's Cup, the 6th year students were not going to let the junior team beat them on their last important soccer match and a late goal meant that it was the senior team who lifted the trophy. The Student Council hosted their first futsal match of their PE hall fundraiser. Friday, the final day of active week as always retained one very important activity.



STUDENT VS TEACHER BASKETBALL MATCH

Teachers have triumphed in this event over the last few years. And boy was it looking to be one hell of a match, both teams drew on their strengths to field highly skilled and competitive teams throughout each quarter. With Ms. Long keeping everyone on best behaviour on the court and Ms. Sheehan making sure the timing and score keeping left nothing to be



disputed, it was a nail biting match. The students, who seemed to be the stronger team this year, held a slight lead throughout. Coming to the final minutes however the lead narrowed and then the gap disappeared. 23:23, and then the final whistle went. It was decided that this needed to be settled here and now, a winner declared, so 5 minutes of extra time was played, with roars from the student body spurring on the their team, they again took the lead but this time they were not giving it up and they pushed on defending to the last second. When Ms Long blew the final whistle, the hall erupted, 28:25 to the students. Students were lifted and the students got their hands on that all important trophy a well-deserved win for the students and a brilliant match for spectators. So after a short prize giving ceremony for the week's activities Active Week 2018 drew to a close until next year.

TRIP TO MANCHESTER

For the first year ever, forty-five students from across all year groups and five teachers made their way to Manchester for a soccer game. The bus left in



the early hours of the 30th of September and made its way to Dublin to catch the ferry. We arrived at Old Trafford to see Manchester United play Crystal Palace. The atmosphere was electric and to make it even better Man Utd won 3 – 1. On the Sunday, the



group had a private tour of Old Trafford and had a chance to go to the gift shop. The trip was extremely enjoyable for all and it will definitely not be the last game we go to!



LITERACY

Students are encouraged to explore and nurture their creativity whether that is through engineering, construction, art, music, creative writing skills, cookery or building their own mini company. The JCSP team in collaboration with English teachers wanted to further promote both literacy and creativity amongst our young writers. A poetry competition was organised for our first year students and they were tasked to write alternative endings for The Visitor written by Ian Serraillier. The competition was a resounding success with many students receiving honourable mentions and a winner selected from each class group.

The winners were
Marcus Bryan, Wiktoria
Chwialkowska, Emilia
Donelon

*A crumbling churchyard, the
sea and the moon;
The waves had gouged out
grave and bone;
A man was walking, late and
alone...*

*He saw a skeleton on the ground;
A ring on a bony finger he found.
He ran home to his wife and gave her the ring.
'Oh, where did you get it?' He said not a thing.
It's the loveliest ring in the world,' she said,
As it glowed on her finger. They slipped off to bed.
At midnight they woke. In the dark outside,
'Give me my ring!' a chill voice cried.
'What was that, William? What did it say?'
'Don't worry, my dear. It'll soon go away.'
'I'm coming!' A skeleton opened the door.
'Give me my ring!' It was crossing the floor.*

Original Ending

*'What was that, William? What did it say?'
'Don't worry, my dear. It'll soon go away.'
'I'm reaching you now! I'm climbing the bed.'
The wife pulled the sheet right over her head
It was torn from her grasp and tossed in the air:
'I'll drag you out of bed by your hair!'
'What was that, William? What did it say?'
Throw the ring through the window! THROW IT
AWAY*

*She threw it. The skeleton leapt from the sill,
Scooped up the ring and clattered downhill,
Fainter...and fainter... Then all was still.*

Alternative ending

*The creaking got louder, William turned on the light,
Standing before them a most dreadful sight,
A half fleshed skeleton, wearing a ripped wedding
gown,
Staring right at them, a bony finger pointing down.
That's my ring an eerie voice, the payback will be
brutal you have given me no choice
A deal has been done, in which you were wrong,
I'm taking my ring and the finger it's on*



D.E.A.R

Here in Bishopstown Community School we have always valued reading for pleasure, this year we continued to promote this with a very successful D.E.A.R week (Drop Everything and Read). During this week there is one class per day when teachers and students down tools and spend the class reading a novel, newspaper, magazine or comic books. The schedule of the Dear class is kept top secret so students are always delighted when they hear the beep of the intercom, awaiting the announcement especially if it means avoiding a class test. In more recent times we have noticed an increase in the number of students using e readers during this time. This year each student of the school was given a password to access over 3000 books via the JCSP Digital Library. This is a fantastic addition for our students.

READING CHALLENGE

First year students took part in a Reading Challenge initiative which entails students setting a target number of books to read across a six week period. Books are selected and targets are set in conjunction with the teacher and according to a students' ability. The aim is to engage students with reading, improve their literacy levels and help students to form the

and surprised themselves that they could even surpass their targets.

ISL

Our journey to the Seanad began with our awareness campaign in support of the recognition of Irish Sign



Language (ISL) as an official language of our country. We congratulate students from our Deaf Facility and our Student Council for their leadership in this campaign. We are delighted that the ISL Act was enacted in December. There to represent Bishopstown Community School in the Dáil chamber and witness this historic moment was Alain Newstead, Kaityln Griffin, Ms Gottstein and Ms Dowling. However our work to campaign for equality didn't



habit of reading consistently. The long term hope is that students will value and retain the habit and engage in reading throughout their lives. Each week a small reward or treat is given to encourage students to continue with the task, this years' final reward was an afternoon bowling. Students enjoyed the challenge

stop there, for, at the beginning of this school year we had the visit of the Lord Mayor to the school and as there is no official ISL interpretation of the National Anthem some of our Deaf students were excluded from fully participating with their student body in the singing of the Anthem. Responding to the student

voice a submission from Bishopstown Community School, co-ordinated by Ms Gottstein and Ms Dowling was made to the Seanad Public Consultation Committee on the treatment and use of the National Anthem. Alain Newstead, Leaving Certificate Deaf Student and John Cottrell, Student Council Vice-Chair together with Ms Dowling spoke in the Seanad explaining the exclusion of Deaf Citizens of Ireland. Other members of the Student Council and student body travelled to the Seanad in support of this submission.

The response of the Seanad Committee to our submission was to task us with the job of “coming up with the sign language version for the nation.” Senator Mark Daly, Seanad Eireann, Tuesday 5th December 2017.

Mr Farrell, Ms Dowling and Ms Gottstein formed a steering committee to co-ordinate a collaborative process to develop the ISL version. The goal was to ensure that a standardised version that is meaningful and true to the rich language of ISL was created. We gathered a group of experienced people in ISL and ISL song as a Consultative Group. The steering group wanted the process to be inclusive and democratic so they reached out an invitation to the wider deaf community to invite them to make submissions. These versions were then viewed by the Consultative Group

who proposed one standardised interpretation to be submitted for consideration by the Seanad Committee.

Concurrent to this ISL version of the National Anthem being created in the school to submit to the Consultative Group for consideration, students and teachers were busy researching the history and the meaning of the National Anthem. Workshops by Ray Greene and Fiona Landers of the Cork Deaf Choir were organised for our deaf students. The Student Council conducted a survey on the national anthem so that everyone participated in the process.

This was a unique and historic opportunity for our school community. The Seanad Committee has unanimously agreed to adopt the ISL version of the National Anthem in National Protocol on the treatment and use of the National Anthem.

Senator Jerry Buttimer, Leader of Seanad Eireann visited the school to address a whole school assembly to acknowledge the work involved by the whole school community in our ISL campaigns for equality over the last two years. During which he presented students who had led the campaign with certificates of achievement. It was a proud day for our school as students performed the ISL version of the National Anthem participating together with the whole school community on this occasion.



STUDENT COUNCIL



STUDENT COUNCIL

"The best thing about the Student Council was being able to give the students a voice in the school. We worked very well as a team and everybody helped each other in every way possible. We set up all our meetings ourselves and we took the initiative a lot of the time, and we became more mature as the year went on."

Justin Eguaiabor

What a busy year it has been for our Student Council. Work commenced with our training day and a meeting in UCC with the Students' Union. The very capable leadership of Anointed Nwachokor as Chairperson, and John Cottrell as Deputy Chairperson, brought to the fore the strengths of each individual member of the Council.



"Being in the Student Council was great. I got to know people in the school that I have never talked to before. My biggest accomplishment is putting myself out there."

Anointed Nwachokor

Inspired by our visit to U.C.C we established the new leadership roles of Student Spirit Officers which Samuel West and Caoimhe McGovern undertook with great gusto. Their focus was on school morale and the wellbeing of students in particular. They enthusiastically added the Fun Factor, organising Christmas Games as part of the Christmas Celebration Day and giving out hot chocolate and prizes for the best Christmas Outfits adding to the cheer.



"The Student Council was a great learning experience for me. It taught me to work together with people in many different ways and how when you put all your ideas together it can turn out to be an even better outcome than we could have expected. We were given so many opportunities and many different experiences that I doubt you could get anywhere else. I love being a part of the Student Council and trying to make a difference in a great direction. Thank you Ms Gottstein and Ms Clifford for this experience."

Caoimhe McGovern



an inspirational board and a song over the intercom. This culminated with scrumptious ice-cream in the canteen.

Representatives attended the Cork City Comhairle na nÓg AGM and Lorenzo was elected to the executive committee which took him to many events with various government ministers to campaign for young peoples' rights. The Student Council of BCS was the only second level school invited to the launch of Project Ireland 2040 government plan in UCC during which Lorenzo asked a question on behalf of the whole Student Council. Testament to the dedication of this year's Student

Seeking ways to stay connected to the wider student body the Communications Team of Seán Obazi, Brandy Favour Lucky, Rachel Chucks and Lorenzo Leone effectively managed the noticeboard, suggestion box, and surveys. We also capitalised on Lorenzo's wonderful public speaking voice over the intercom. The treasurer Justin Eguabur, and secretary Mariam Malutiku kept the finances and paperwork in good order

"This year I decided to campaign for the student council. As it was my first year in Bishopstown Community School it helped me to get to know teachers and other year groups. The highlight was probably when I got to serve FREE ice-cream to everyone during Positive Week. I enjoyed my time there and I can't wait to start another year with them."

Rachel Chucks

Activities organised by the whole Student Council involved giving out passwords for a free online Digital Library, consultation on the development of school policies, and organising fundraisers for gym equipment. An active-athon and a soccer tournament were held as part of Active Week. To raise everyone's spirits before exams positive week was planned and co-ordinated by the Student Council, which involved random act of kindness, positive messages,

Council was their participation in the Irish Second Level Students Union AGM in Dublin over the Easter Holidays.



"During 2017/2018 the Student Council has been a major part of my school year. It was a way to actively try to improve the school both for me and for the whole community. It was great to work together with the other members of the Council trying to improve the school experience for everyone. Each one of us brought up ideas and problems from their year groups which we worked on as a team. I think that I am not being biased when I say that we were successful in





organising activities, that the whole school could enjoy. It took a lot of effort to think and organise these activities but while running them I could see in peoples' faces that their school day had improved because of them. The Student Council also gave me great personal experiences. It allowed me to participate in the Comhairle na nÓg's AGM. This introduced me to Comhairle, which I then joined and I am currently a member of. Another major experience was the opportunity to attend the Project Ireland 2040 launch. Both Taoiseach Leo Vradkar and Tánaiste Simon Coveny were present. I got to ask Mr Vradkar a question on behalf of the school. As member of the PR team I also got the chance to become the actual voice of the Council through the intercom, which was a lot of fun, but also helped to build self-confidence. In conclusion the Student Council was a great experience which I would recommend to anybody in the school and which I am thrilled to repeat next year."

Lorenzo Leone

John Cottrell, representing the Student Council, spoke in the Seanad Chambers in support of Alain Newstead's quest for a standardised version of the National Anthem. Little did they expect that the school would be given the task to come up with that version. Bringing back this task, John got all the members of the Student Council involved and they surveyed the school on the National Anthem to inform and set direction. The work of last year's Student Council and this year's Council was honoured by

Senator Jerry Buttimer, Leader of the Seanad who presented certificates to them for their leadership in seeing ISL being recognised as an official language of Ireland and their role in ensuring a standardised ISL version of the National Anthem was created.

"This year the Student Council I feel helped me very much in a lot of areas. The year involved a lot of public speaking, going around to classes, making announcements over the intercom, and speaking to teachers and so on. I definitely feel more confident with speaking to groups. During the year we went up to the Seanad and I spoke in front of the Senators in the chamber which a lot of people don't get to do. I feel I have the confidence to do more like it again."

John Cottrell

Student Council Experience ISSU Poem

My experience in the Student Council is one I wish I could relive.

Going to meetings, solving problems, there was so much work and joy to give.

Responsibility is a trait I get out of the experience. My fellow students want a lot, they're really high maintenance.

The voices from each member were a creative boost. Discussing plans for the future, missing some classes, attempting to bin basketball hoops.

Making people happy is what I loved the most.

I think we took the school by storm and I don't mean to boast.

All the trips we went on, the things we got done, We all feel accomplished, it was all so much fun.

Now it's the end of the year but we made a constitution, we can last two years there are no substitutions.

I get to do it all again because it's something I hold dear.

The student council is an experience that will last another year.

The bonus is, it will be put on my resumé.

Mariam Ann Malutiku

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

BISHOPSTOWN GOES 'BACK TO THE 80s'

Students from First to Fifth Year from Bishopstown Community School became the rebellious Kids of America for their production of the hit musical, 'Back to the 80s'. Students began rehearsals back in November 2017 for this spectacular and energetic musical. The musical ran over a period of two nights, March 13th and 14th, with a jam-packed full-house on both nights. Students committed themselves to weekly rehearsals as well as

weekend rehearsals to ensure that it was a first class production and one they could be immensely proud of. They got a taste for the limelight not only on the stage but also gained an insight into various elements of stage production through their involvement in costumes, make-up, stage management and set design.



Accompanied by a live band on the night, characters such as Corey Palmer (Nathan Harris), Michael Feldman (John Cottrell) and Tiffany Houston (Lauri McDonald) delighted audiences with their renditions of well-known 80's songs such as 'Footloose', 'Walking on Sunshine' and Bon Jovi's greatest hits!



The proof was in the pudding as audience members couldn't help but tap their feet and sing along to their favourite songs by the end of the night. Well done and congratulations to all students and staff involved in such a colourful production, keeping audiences enthralled and entertained from start to curtain close.





GAISCE 2018

Gaisce means, great achievement, and is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland to young people between fifteen and twenty-five years old. The Gaisce programme allows young people to develop new skills, nurture their abilities and to realise their own potential. There are three awards – Bronze, Silver and Gold and we have students taking part in each of these levels.

A group of Transition Year students set out on a wet morning in Kenmare to begin their Bronze adventure journey. While it rained for the first two hours, spirits

remained high and the group walked and sang along the old Kenmare to Killarney road. Between crossing rivers and walking up steep inclines, the students' camaraderie and helpfulness was evident throughout their journey. Though they were tired, they were extremely happy with what they had achieved and experienced on the trip.

Sixth Year student, Saoirse Brennan, received her silver medal from Eibhlín Gleeson, CEO of Cork Opera House. We were delighted to have Eibhlín Gleeson present the Silver Gaisce Award as she has had extensive experience in senior management positions nationally and internationally. Saoirse started her Silver Gaisce after receiving her Bronze Gaisce Award. She completed twenty-six weeks in three areas - Community involvement, Personal Skill and Sports. She has shown dedication, hard work, passion and enthusiasm throughout the President's Challenge. She completed this with her adventure journey which took her to Kerry, where she walked over 60km in three days. We wish Saoirse the best of luck in her Leaving Certificate and she is hoping to start her Gold Gaisce in September.



SPORTS IN BISHOPSTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PE HALL DEVELOPMENT

An exciting venture is taking place in the PE hall in BCS. The upstairs area, once a viewing area and more recently a second PE space with some minimal



equipment, is getting a serious upgrade.

Through grant money secured from the Tomar Trust Fund, donations given by local businesses, business partners and school fundraising the area is being converted to a school gym. The new gym area will have new flooring and a variety of equipment. The equipment being installed will allow for a weights area and a cardio area with spinning bikes which will double up as a circuit's area. Initial works began over Easter with the painting of the area, the rest of the works are hoped to take place over the summer months. We look forward to opening this new facility to the students in 2018/19 school year and as a great tool both for PE classes in BCS and as a mode of promoting positive student wellbeing within the school community.

Our fundraising efforts have been ongoing throughout



this year. The school hosted their table quiz fundraiser which proved to be a very successful quiz night. A big thank you to Bishopstown GAA Club who were super on the night hosting us for our quiz. The money raised on the night is going towards the development of a gym in the PE hall of the school, which will have great benefit to all the students now and in the future. The parents association also organised two further events this year to help raise funds, a very successful



bag pack was held in April in Dunnes Stores, Curraheen and a Spinathon which took place in May in Mahon point. All support at these events is greatly appreciated.



SOCCER

Our success in Soccer continued this year in BCS with our U19s team reaching the quarter finals of the Cork Cup for the first time. The senior boys put up a great fight but were beaten in the end by a very good Nagle



team. It was many of this team's last game and after playing soccer for the school for six years they will be greatly missed next year.

Our U15s narrowly lost out in the second round of the cup when they were beaten 3-2 in the closing minutes by Colaiste Daibhead. They played brilliantly in awful weather conditions and can be really proud of themselves. The boys trained every week for the full year and this dedication really paid off. We are looking forward to furthering our successes next year.



FUTSAL

Our first year girls took part in a Futsal blitz at the beginning of the year and they really proved they were a force to be reckoned with. They played in three games and although they didn't end up as victors, they could leave with their heads held high.

Due to the success of the Senior Futsal Tournament

last year, Ms Twomey and Stephen O Mahony from the FAI organised the tournament for a second year. The Transition Years completed a kickstart coaching course with Stephen during PE this year and they were able to use the skills learned at this course and refereed the tournament. Six schools took part in the blitz and after showing brilliant skill and talent, Bishopstown Community School came out as the victors. We are looking forward to next year's tournament and retaining our title.

After this Futsal tournament Stephen invited the eight students who refereed to referee at the primary schools futsal tournament. This resulted with the boys going to Turners' Cross for the finals. They have also been offered work in the FAI summer camps due to their professionalism and hard work. This is a brilliant opportunity for the students and a big thank you has to go to Stephen for all his work with us this year.



JUNIOR CAMOGIE

In January of this year it was proposed that a camogie team would be set up at Bishopstown Community School. From the get go, the students were eager and enthusiastic and brought this enthusiasm to training every Wednesday after school. By spring, the panel was chosen and the girls were entered into the Munster Junior C camogie colleges blitz at Mallow G.A.A complex. The girls played three matches throughout the day. The first match was against Waterpark College from Waterford. The girls fought very well throughout the match with some good play

from Eimear Hallihan and Caoimhe McGovern. Luckily, we grabbed a last minute point to force the match to a draw. The girls next played St Anne's from Tipperary. Despite a great effort, St Anne's proved too strong. This set them up for their third game against Presentation Secondary School, Tralee. The girls showed great skill and determination and despite the loss, they did themselves and the school proud. It is evident how much they have improved through training and practice throughout the year and hopefully they can carry this through to next year! Well done girls.

ATHLETICS

BCS athletics team has gone from strength to strength over the last few years and this year continued to perform to a high level. The dedication shown by the students was second to none with everyone out training in all weather conditions. Their efforts were observed and well rewarded with medals in the Munster Schools Cross Country Events and the Track and Field Events during the year. Both coaches Ms O'Keeffe and Ms. Clifford were very proud of their hard work and dedication throughout the season. As a testament to their hard work and dedication we had



medal wins across many discipline including cross country, Shot Putt and Hurdles. Medallists include Sarah O'Neill, Justin Eguaiabor, Sean Fouhy, Nathan O'Leary, Domink Kimita, Stephen Barrett, and Christopher Burrows. We are especially proud to add that Justin Eguaiabor has been selected to be on the Munster Schools Hurdles team! We wish him every success.

WOMEN IN SPORT: SPIKEBALL COACHING AWARD

Aptly on International Women's Day, 13 of BCS's TY ladies began a Volleyball Association of Ireland initiative for "Women in Sports". Our ladies engaged in an Introduction to Coaching of Spikeball course, they acquired and fine tuned the skills of the sport as well as coaching methods. The students then delivered spikeball coaching to a local primary school.



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the BCS Parents' Association we would like to welcome all the parents, pupils and staff back for another school year. The Parents' Association in BCS is a relatively new one, formed last year after a long period without a functioning PA. We are very



grateful to all those parents who came on board last year to kick start a new era in parental involvement. Both ourselves and the school management feel parents have a lot to offer the school and a PA is the best way to foster this. Last year we discussed the ways in which parents could participate in a positive way in the pupils' education. We are looking at encouraging parents to come in and give talks on their careers and other areas of interest and have discussed several other initiatives that we could put in place that

the students would benefit from. On a more practical level, we were asked to fund raise for new gym equipment for the PE hall. So far, we have had a bag pack and a spinathon just before the end of last year, and we hope to continue with this now that school has recommenced.

This is a very new PA and we are hoping to encourage more parents to come on board in order to make it a success. As with any school, families move on and we always need new parents to get involved as the older ones leave. It is enormously beneficial for any school to have a functioning PA and we are hoping to nurture our new beginnings so that we can grow into a strong and supportive Association. On that note, we would like to invite you all to our next PA meeting which is taking place on Thursday 20th September at 7pm in the school. Looking forward to seeing you there.



B.C.S. AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

CORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Cork Institute of Technology is a valuable resource to our students at Bishopstown Community School. This year our Fifth and Sixth Year students visited C.I.T. for the college Open Day and were introduced to the vast array of courses available in the college; as well as the clubs and societies on offer. Throughout the year the school continues to foster strong links with the college attending the many events available including robotics, athletic track, swimming facilities, scifest, science week activities and many more.

UCC PLUS

During this academic year, the UCC Plus Office offered this school two Homework Club Programmes. We began the first Homework Club in late September with almost thirty Third Year students. Every Wednesday afternoon eighteen volunteer UCC tutors, both undergraduates and postgraduates, from a wide variety of disciplines travelled by bus to BCS for seven weeks. After a quick lunch in the staffroom they joined



their student group in a designated classroom and proceeded for the next hour and a quarter to help our students with their homework. They also advised students on how to study well and each week discussed an educational topic with their students. During the seven week period a special rapport was built between the tutors and students. A marked improvement in the standard of homework was observed by BCS Teachers. Our students found the process very helpful and became more confident independent learners. At the end of the programme,



the BCS students were invited to visit UCC where they were met by their tutor. They were then brought on a tour of the UCC campus and treated to lunch in the College Restaurant. The second Homework Club commenced in late January with a large group of Second Year students and the same process was undertaken. At the end of the Programme, all the participating students and their parents/Guardians were invited to a special event in UCC on the evening of April 10th last. The students were presented with certificates in the wonderful atmosphere of the Aula



Maxima and this was followed by a reception at the College Mini Rest. The proud parents remarked that it was a very lovely evening. We greatly appreciate the loyal commitment of all the tutors to our students. We also acknowledge the wonderful support of the UCC Plus Office and especially the Administrator Maeve Minihane. We hope to continue to have strong



links with the Cork Colleges and we are very grateful for the support and opportunities they provide our students.

HSE TALK

All Transition Year students and members of the Deaf Facility received a talk from different members of the HSE about a potential career in the HSE. The speakers included a paramedic, a nurse, a porter, an environmental health officer and a biomedical engineer, to name but a few. Students were intrigued to hear about all the different jobs from people who were actually working in the jobs every day. This was a very valuable experience for all concerned and we felt very privileged to be selected to host such an event in Cork.

BANK VISIT

Last February, our TYs teamed up with Bank of Ireland to open the 'BCS Branch'. Operating at lunchtime on Thursdays, the Bank invited students to open accounts and start themselves on the first rung of



the savings and investments ladder. Manager Aifric Walsh ran a tight ship with help from an energetic team Megan Corbett & Jade Barrett who were the Customer Digi Advisors, John Cottrell & Cait Harrington who were in charge of Sales & Marketing and Alex Redmond & Caitlin Keeler who were operations & audit along with insights from Business Teacher, Ms. Clifford and BOI Youth co-ordinator



Edward Barrett. The upshot of all this effort was over fifty new accounts which entitled us to avail of the winning €500 for the school and five 'One for All' vouchers worth €30 where each new bank account holder found themselves in the draw. Various competitions which included hampers, vouchers & candy bags took place each week.



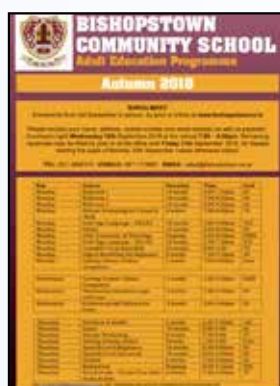
The banking team through their industry saw 63 new accounts opened which resulted in a visit to the local Branch in Patrick's Street, Cork for a day to hear inspirational speakers from health, fitness and the financial industry and to listen to up and coming young entrepreneurs' stories. Well done to all the team on successfully completing the Bank of Ireland School Bank initiative.

IBM

On the 21st of September, 2017, our Fifth Year students attended a 'Skills at Work' workshop at IBM. At this workshop our students learned invaluable skills such as CV and interview prep, as well as listening to guest speakers talk about their roles and responsibilities in the company. We would like to extend our utmost gratitude to IBM for working with our students.

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education classes are now finished for Spring 2018. We would like to congratulate a number of



students (including staff) on completing ISL level 101 and ISL level 102. The free 'getting citizens on-line' course was a great success and well attended. We look forward to running this course again in September. Our long standing tutors of Spanish, Choir, Ballroom

Dancing, Pilates and Yoga have managed another successful term whereby students have expressed high levels of satisfaction and a desire to return in September. Looking forward to another term with some exciting new courses such as Ukele and African Drumming in the pipeline. A final thank you to all parents, staff and the local community for attending classes. Check out <https://www.bishopstowncs.ie/> night-classes for further details.

PDST NATIONAL POETRY WIN

What is poetry?

For 6th year student Anna Mustata, overall winner of the PDST National Poetry Competition, poetry is the fusion between thought and feeling. 'Drowning' is a poem that examines life and human existence through a series of powerful images. Well done and congratulations to Anna.



Drowning

Life is chaos.

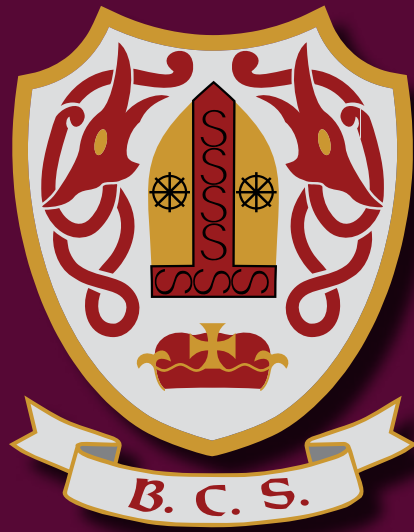
*If you lose your grip, you will be swept away
Into a swirling, raging whirlpool,
A hurricane of emotions –
Love, hope, fear, desperation –
Panic, rising uncontrollably
Flooding your lungs until you cannot move –
And then you'll sink.*

*Dark, still, murky waters –
You gaze up from the bottom of the ocean.
Sometimes, you catch a glimpse
Of sunlight dancing on the water's surface
And then it's gone.
Sounds are strange and muffled,
Images, far away.
The more you struggle, the deeper you go
Until you forget which way is up.*

*Here's a secret:
The human body is buoyant.
It wants to float back to the surface.
If you go still and close your eyes
The air in your lungs will carry you up
Until you feel a breeze against your skin
And you can breathe again.*

*It is your own struggles that push you down
Your flailing, grasping, wild panic,
Lashing out blindly in hope of grasping land.
This is humanity in times of crisis:
A panicked beast
Forgetting how to float.*

BISHOPSTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOL



OPEN NIGHT

Tuesday, 18th September, 2018
6.30 p.m.

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS 7.45

*We extend a warm welcome to parents and
students of 4th, 5th and 6th class.*