

McEgan College Christmas Newsletter

2020



LCA's hand made treats for "Go raibh maith agat la"



Principal's Address

The end of any year is a time to reflect on all that has been accomplished and make plans for the future. In my view, 2020 will be remembered as a year of major changes but also one which resilience and determination by our younger population shone through. From online home-schooling to calculated grades for our Leaving Cert class of 2020 and from a cancelled Junior Certificate to welcoming our new First Years, 2020 can be seen as a whirlwind but one which our students accepted and continued to thrive and develop.

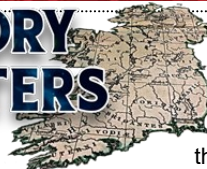
To our amazing, hardworking, caring and supportive staff, a sincere thank you. A "new normal" had to be introduced to keep everyone safe and this was not only accepted but adopted with such positivity and goodwill by staff and now is the norm in McEgan College. Each and every one of you have made such a positive impact to our school community -thank you.

I hope you and your families continue to remain happy and healthy and wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Beannachtaí na Nollag duit!

Ms. Lynam, Principal

HISTORY MATTERS



First year History students at McEgan College were given the opportunity to sample some local history during the fine weather. Firstly they were taken to see the old walls at the back of the school and it was explained to them

that these would at one time have constituted part of an outer defence wall. Then the monument to the victims of the 1798 uprising was shown and explained to them.

Next was the entrance gateway which is the only part of the old castle buildings that is standing and maintained in good repair. Its function was explained to the students and they were then told about the cannon facing outwards from the castle entrance. It was explained to them that these were a gift to Lady Ardilaun's mother from the Earl of Bantry when she married him. It was also pointed out that they were intended for use as naval guns. Thanks to the History teachers **Ms. Condon & Mr. Healy**.



Hats off to all the very hard working and dedicated TY Students who pulled out all the stops for this year's Macroom's Christmas Market. Although there wasn't an "official" Christmas Market this year in the Square, the enterprising Students had a fantastic array of Christmas gifts on sale. Equipped with the School's new Marquee, the professional display and quality of Christmas ideas that the students had on display was second to none, and it was duly noted by the Customers who purchased their products. The Snow-Man candles were sold out in no time, while other products such as the Candle Selection sold very well also. The students were also delighted to introduce their new product, Macroom Brown Bread Mix. The Bread mix included the Walton's Mill famous whole-meal flour as their main ingredient and the feedback to the Brown Bread has been tremendous. Congratulations to all the TY Enterprise Students of 2020 on a fantastic job!!!! Well done **Mr. O'Driscoll**, Thanks to **Ms. Bourke & Ms. Angland** for helping too. Great result for the Students.

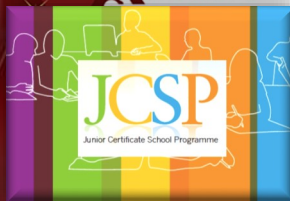
TY Mini-Company



Merry Christmas **Go Red for Cork**



Students and staff at McEgan College wore red and white with pride on Wednesday the 16th of September in support of Cork GAA and Marymount Hospice. The rebels young and old were out in force in McEgan College. Over 700 euro was raised for Marymount Hospice. The 16th of September marked the 30th anniversary of Cork winning the GAA double in 1990. 1990 was an iconic year for Cork GAA with Cork winning the double in both hurling and football.



L-R: Avril O'Dea, Eoghan O'Riordan & Ricardo Belo



Ella Fitzgerald & Katriona Lucey

Best Participation in TY- Kate Clarke & Katelyn Harrington

Best TY Enterprise Students x2 Olamide Farouk Yusuf & Linda O'Sullivan

Best Junior Chefs x2 Eleanor McCarthy & Nathan Byrne

Best Leadership Students x2 JimBob Newall & Chloe Buckley

Best Work Exp. Student x2 Shauna Cronin & Aoife Sheehan

Overall Gaelige Student Aisling Ní Chrónín

Most Innovative Fundraisers x2 Laoise O'Callaghan & Emily Leahy

Overall TY Student 2020 Aidan McCarthy



L-R: Shannon McAuliffe, Sinead Manning, Charlie Kearney & Katelyn Spillane



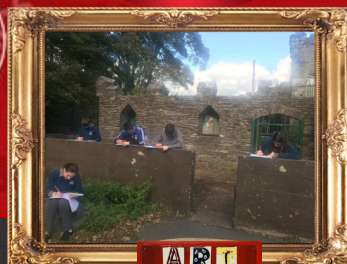
5th Years Fundraising

Junior Cert 2020 Celebrations In McEgan

The Junior Cert Class of 2020 of McEgan College finally got to celebrate their Junior Cert recently. The Covid lockdown in March effectively ended the Junior Cert State Exams for these pupils. They engaged with online learning throughout the rest of the academic year and completed their end of year exams online also. Unfortunately, they did not sit the formal State Examinations in June 2020. The students were presented with their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA), The Junior Cert Schools Programme certificates (JCSP) and a certificate to recognise their completion of the Junior Cycle at McEgan College. Superbly Organised by **Ms. Noonan**



Outdoor Education



ART CLASS

Third year students from McEgan College working on their observational drawing in the castle grounds. Making use of the lovely autumnal weather and the fantastic scenery in the castle grounds.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!

Cooking Class at McEgan



Emily Barrett



Second Years

Abbey McCarthy



Kate Buckley

Merry Christmas

MUSIC CLASS!



Ciara McSweeney, Aisling McCarthy, Laura Casey, Aoife Mullins, Maciej Powazka, Brian Julia Litwin, Noe Koller, Kate Twomey & Jazzon Tiernan



Graham Lynch, Bridget Ward, Shaun Barnes, Cormac Slatter & Leah Kelly



Laura Casey, Aoife Mullins, Maciej Powazka, Brian Murphy, Noreen Bradley & Ciara McSweeney



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



BIODIVERSITY



Nikolay



Felicity



Seamus



Jennifer & Jodie



LCA group & Ms. Shannon

Social Club

Jessica McSweeney & Michaela O'Connor have come with a novel idea for their PAT (Practical Achievement Task) which is part of their LCA programme. The students have started a social club for students in Room 22. When exploring ideas with their teacher Ms Manning, they felt that due to Covid restrictions there are many people in our community suffering from isolation. When they explored this further, they realised as all students are now in PODS (or Base Classrooms) there is no intermingling between year groups in the Assembly area at break times. The girls said they themselves miss the craic and banter, and it's difficult to form new friendships or to catch up with old friends. Their idea is to get to know students in Room 22 in an informal setting (while adhering to Covid guidelines) through fun and engaging activities. The girls have already organised seasonal art and craft, introduced "cool" music and held a Halloween Celebration. Jack and Patrick really look forward to their visits which are always full of craic and banter.

L-R: Michaela, Patrick O'Halloran Crowley, Jack Curtin & Jessica



College Awareness Week

took place in McEgan College recently. All Subject departments participated in the event. Many students got to investigate college courses related to the different subjects they are studying at school. In normal times, it is a week where the school community look forward to welcoming back past pupils to share with students their experience at the various colleges. However due to covid, past pupils returned 'virtually' sharing their experiences and many challenges of online learning. Students heard online presentations from past pupils studying in Cork Institute of Technology, Colaiste Stiofain Naofa, University College Cork, University of Limerick among many more. Much of the advice highlighted the importance of following your passion and how it is possible to succeed with supports such as The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) regardless of what barriers may be presented to you along your journey. **Ms. Manning, Careers**

McEgan Further Education/PLC Department

It has been another busy first term in McEgan College of Further Education.

Despite the constraints and adaptations due to COVID 19 restrictions, five programmes of Adult Education commenced in McEgan College this September.

Four programmes at QQI Level 5 - Early Childhood Studies; Business Studies; Health Service Skills and Nursing Studies. One programme at Level 6, Business Administration.

All programmes are up and running and students are progressing well and happy to have completed the first term.

Pathways to employment as Childcare workers; Special Needs Assistants; Health Care Assistants and administrative positions such as medical or legal secretaries or office administrators are established outcomes of the programmes offered in McEgan College of Further Education. These programmes also offer opportunities to obtain a place on Third Level programmes in Universities or Institutes of Technology through the QQI/CAO route or the Mature Student route.

We are currently accepting applications for the PLC QQI Level 5 and 6 programmes September 2021.

Email info.office@mcegan.ie PLC Co-Ordinator, **Ms. Catherine Kelleher**

Student Council



The Student Council is a very important and active organisation at McEgan. The Student Council gives students an opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions. It provides students with an open forum to discuss issues that are affecting the student body and to discuss possible solutions for these areas of concern. The Student Council plays an active role in policy making and has strong links with school management. **Ms Condon** is the liaison teacher who provides support to the Student Council.

Congratulations and best of luck to our newly elected Student Council, who were successful in being chosen by their peers to represent their views on the new Student Council. Voting took place before midterm break and every student was given the opportunity to vote.

1st Year : Aoife Mullins and Oliwia Raba

2nd Year : Niamh O Callaghan and Evan Kelleher

3rd Year : Aisling Ni Laoire and Matt Murphy

Transition Year: Ella Fitzgerald and Riccardo Bello

5th Year **Chloe Buckley (Secretary)** and Jim Bob Newell

6th Year: **Anika Roberts (Chairperson)** and **Oisín O'Neill (Deputy-Chairperson)**

LCA 5: Shannon McAuliffe and Keelan Kelleher

LCA 6: Grainne Deasy and Hugh Murray

