



# LCA 5 NEWSLETTER 2016

## MCEGAN COLLEGE MACROOM



### Highlights of Our Year

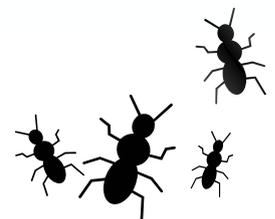
- Zip Linning at Farran Wood
- Trip to Cork City Film Festival
- Eating out as part of key assignments for Catering and Social Ed
- Visiting Colleges (VPG)
- Christmas Dinner
- Enterprise Mini Companies
- Woodwork Projects



It has been a very productive and busy year for you all. Each and every one of you have embraced the Leaving Cert Applied Programme. The 90% attendance requirement of the LCA programme has been challenging for some but all in all well done for making your way to room 14 each morning to meet with your very committed tutor Mr. Clarke who always defends and supports you where possible. You have come a long way, considering the language associated with the LCA programme such as 'Credits, Modules, Key Assignments, Tasks' to name but a few would have meant nothing to you this time last year. Well done again on your commitment and involvement in the various tasks throughout the year in Graphics, Leisure and VPG. The standard of IT work demonstrated in your portfolios was excellent, as is the quality of work in this newsletter which you have worked on under the guidance of our IT expert Ms. Creedon in class. Congratulations to those who have secured summer jobs as a result of your work experience placements, the feedback from many of the employers was outstanding but for those who know they could do better, set yourself goals for next year. As coordinator of the LCA programme, the year brought many highlights, two in particular being the Christmas lunch for the staff and our recent trip to Farran Woods. All of your teachers are very proud of the various initiatives you organised and ran so efficiently during this academic year and we look forward to working with you again next year.

Hope you have a safe and happy summer,

*Ms. Manning LCA Co-Ordinator*



# What we did this Year in LCA 5

## Social Education

LCA is a programme I hold close to my heart and facilitating this course with 12 fantastic, colourful, energetic and diverse students helps me progress and learn as a teacher. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last year teaching Social Education, ICT and the Personal Reflection module to LCA 1. One of my favourite aspects to LCA is that we are submerged in each other's company and become a little family. We have so many laughs, ups and downs that not only are the students able to reflect and learn along the way but us the teachers gain in abundance too.

This year I saw my school family (LCA) nearly as often as my own family at home!

In Communication we quickly realised that good effective communication is not only the back bone to the subject Social Education (we really do a lot of talking in our class!) but very important in all aspects of life. We looked at Taking Care of Ourselves. We brought healthy food into class – any excuse to eat while we worked! We went to the cinema to watch a film about young people dealing with suicide in *I Used To Live Here*. We also looked into the area of self-esteem and how to enhance it. We invited in a guest speaker **Kevin Raferty** who spoke to us about his job as a youth worker in Macroom. We explored our Community and we invited the talented storyteller **Mr Michael Healy** into class to ask him questions about the past. In Contemporary Issues we have discussed many issues that are effecting our society. We as a class have educated each other on issues that we hold close to our hearts with presentations. We have looked into issues like bullying, racism, alcohol, drug addition, human rights, GLBT, ethnic minorities to name but few. We have watched the film *Selma* at the **Briary Gap** to help us further our understanding of Human Rights and Racism. We have been preparing for next years task in studying Contemporary Issues 1.

We have certainly been busy in Social Education and I am really looking forward to working with everyone on their different contemporary issues for their task next year. I always look forward to my Social Education as the students make it such an interesting class with all their input into it. Thanks for making it a pleasure to teach!

## ICT

*What do we have you for now..... We have you again!!*

When working with such a bright technology savvy group it can be tough work to stay ahead of them!! In ICT we have looked into the theory of the subject and also learned about the different software and applications involved in ICT.

We have covered:

\*Typing \*Text Production \*Word Processing \*Presentations (Power Point) \*Spreadsheets \*Internet \*Email \*Publisher

The students are very capable in working alone with completing their different projects on PowerPoint or Word. They can all use word art, page design, tables, charts, borders, watermarks, headers, footers, page numbers, text boxes and so on....

The students can email their work and communicate effectively via email. They can do desk research through the use of the internet and know how to reference.

## Construction and Graphic Studies

The LCA construction Studies class was very successful for this year, we learned lots of new skills and made some beautiful projects. The fact that we were able to choose and design our work was the best part as we made something that was of use to us in our lives. The examiner told our teacher that the projects were the best that he had seen and it was also confirmed that this was the case by the external adviser as well, so we were delighted with this.

The students were a little frightened at the prospect of making projects as the Junior Cert. ones were hard but as the time moved on then they did fantastic, and I can safely say that the work was easily as good as the leaving Cert work in the school, so well done and it shows the talent that is there as well.

What I have really noticed it that the students care about their work, they care also about each other and appear to be good friends as well. It's a pleasure to teach these students and I look forward to making more beautiful items with them next year.

No matter what was asked of them they did it with a smile on their faces and this group will do very well- even though they plague me with the requests for tea and coffee each and every day- someday I will allow it provided they bring the biscuits and buns.



## Personal Reflection Task

This task is about taking stock of where we were, where we are and where we are going. The class completed Personal Reflection 1 this year. We reflected regularly about how we were getting on individually and as a group. What was going well what wasn't going so well.

By the end of April we typed out an essay on our first year of LCA and what two experiences meant the most to us. We noted what we hoped for next year also. We will return to this essay at the end of year 2 and again reflect on our year and map out what we hope to achieve in our lives after school.



## Recreation and Leisure

The LCA5 class of 2016 have completed a fun-filled year in Recreation and Leisure. As well as fulfilling their responsibilities in completing their key assignments and a general education task our students were heavily involved in the school's health week and sport in the college in general. We completed modules in heart rate monitoring, devising exercise diaries, taking warm ups and cool downs and recording cardio-vascular progress. The class also ran an extremely effective indoor soccer blitz for St. Colman's National School where 25 primary school students were entertained and organised in a sporting competition for an afternoon. The year culminated with a trip to Zip-It Ziplining Park in Farran Woods on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May which was a resounding success. All in all, a busy but very worthwhile and fruitful year for our LCA5 group.

## Hotel, Catering and Tourism

The Hotel, Catering and Tourism Class at McEgan aims to introduce students to the world of food, catering, hospitality and tourism. Since September the class has been busy exploring the industry in the local area and becoming proficient in basic culinary skills. The class has run many catering events including a business breakfast for Macroom employers and a staff Christmas lunch. Many of the students have had the opportunity to complete their work experience in the Hospitality sector locally which furthers their learning. The HCT class are highly sought after for all school events to provide the food and catering services! Some members of the class have been asked to look after the tea for the upcoming Sixth year Mass, which is a testament of their talents and skills. However, it's not all work and no play. This week as part of their module, the class were taken out to breakfast, to develop an awareness of standards and hospitality in tourism. This was a really enjoyable experience and was followed by plenty fresh air and exercise on the Zippit wires in Farran Woods. Well done to all the class for their high levels of interest and enthusiasm.

## Gaeilge Chumarsáideach – Conversational Irish

In this Module of L.C.A. the use of the Irish Language within the school and within their local community is highlighted to the students. They are encouraged and enabled to converse through Irish about topics and pass-times that are of interest to them. To improve the Students vocabulary and confidence in use they are encouraged to gather and expand their store of terms and phrases which they can use in personal situation. This may concern the weather, food, people places or pass-times for instance and could apply to writing a post card home whilst on holiday abroad.

Each student completes a personal investigation and research based on a topic of particular interest to them as one of the key assignments. Each student also compiles a Curriculum Vitae through the medium of Irish.

## Vocational Preparation and Guidance

Year one of LCA is very busy in this subject. We completed the jobsearch module, which is great for preparing students for the World of Work. We completed our curriculum vitae and interview techniques. We invited speakers from SECAD to help interview preparation and to learn more about the working environment as a whole.

Included in year one is work experience, which consists of one day working in local businesses. Each student completed this from Sept to Jan and then a second placement from Jan to June. This gave students valuable experience into careers and made them focus on their own future career choice. It allowed them to map out a career path and think about future plans. We invited speakers in from SOLAS and went on visits to third level colleges to get information about courses available to them. We had visits from past pupils to speak about their experiences and relay the importance of completing the LCA programme and researching future decisions properly.

Also we completed an enterprise module, which consisted of the students working in groups to set up and run a mini enterprise. This encouraged students to learn new skills such as teamwork, planning and organisation. Each student presented their enterprise in project format and participated in a task evaluation interview with an inspector in late April to discuss how their enterprise went overall. Students worked very hard during this module and set up many successful businesses such as gifts for mother's day, pizza party for students, valentine's gifts and many more. It allowed students experience the pressures of running their own business and accounting for everything that was involved such as advertising, budgeting and market research.

Vocational Preparation and Guidance is module which gives students great opportunities to learn many new skills, prepare them for the working world and give them a greater understanding how enterprise works. Well done to all the LCA 1 students on completed this module with hard work and determination.

## Music

We covered an array of topics

### September-December:

Students interviewed local DJ Michael O' Sullivan and found out about the various equipment needed to become a successful DJ. As part of the world music module students looked at African drumming as well as gumboot dancing which originated when men working in the mines weren't allowed to speak so instead they stomped out rhythms to communicate to each other. The LCA class welcomed recording engineer Ronan O'Farrell from Colaiste Stofain Naofa. Students interviewed Ronan and found

out how to mix music tracks as well as test out some of the equipment he brought.

### January-May:

Music in the Media was one of the topics looked at after returning back from Christmas, with the class focusing on how music influences the appeal of products in advertising. Students had to choose adverts that they liked and pick suitable music to accompany the advert. Students researched the steps involved in making a bodhran. Students looked at how rap/hip hop has evolved from its simple beginnings to current artists performing in sold out arenas who rap about what means most to them in their lives.



## English and Communication and RE

Well done to the LCA English and Communication and RE class, who have completed sixteen key assignments during the academic year 2015/2016. They have also completed a task in this area - which was a cross curricular endeavour between English and VPG. All candidates produced excellent portfolios and did well on the day of the assessment.

Part of their RE module involved the LCA students undertaking a project within the community. To this end, the students organised and ran the SVP Christmas Food Appeal in conjunction with the school. They ran a poster campaign and visited each class to ask them to bring in non-perishable food items. Four big boxes of food were collected and given to Saint Vincent de Paul, who in turn distributed it to needy families in the area. Well done to our LCA students who really made a difference within our community.

## Maths LCA

Mathematical Applications for the Leaving Certificate Applied is intended to prepare students for life, work, further education and a world where skills and knowledge require constant updating. The course seeks to consolidate and improve students' mathematical knowledge, skills and concepts through practical, analytical, problem solving applications and through integration with other modules.

The modules reflect the applied nature of the Leaving Certificate Applied programme. They start with the students' experiences and seek to raise their enthusiasm for mathematics through the achievements and the skills they develop in dealing with mathematics in everyday life, work and play. Students are encouraged to develop a work ethic where quality, accuracy and dependability are important.

This year's class who are very strong at Maths have completed 13 Key Assignments and Modules 1 and 2. Next year will see us concentrate on finishing the rest of the Key Assignments and working towards our final year exam.

