



Coláiste Pobail Acla

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

MAY 2019

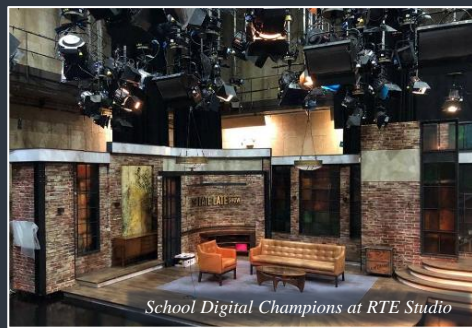
*Ag obair as lámh a chéile
Working together*



1st Year Culture Trip



Wellbeing Youth Conference - Mulranny



School Digital Champions at RTE Studio



School Digital Champions with Minister Seán Canney



TYS in France



TYS in Monaco

Principal's Message

The summer has arrived marking the end of another school year and I would like to acknowledge the great work done by everyone and to wish our students who are sitting their examinations the very best of luck.

I would like to compliment all of our students who represented our school on the various teams and projects and to our staff who organised all the extra-curricular activities. It has been a very successful year for all involved. I would also like to thank the Parents Association who have made a fantastic effort in relation to fundraising for the school as well as giving their time so generously in helping out at school events.

It has been a busy year both in the classroom and through extra-curricular activities. Our TY musical "Hairspray" was a resounding success. Our School Digital Champions have represented our school very well throughout the year. Our TY Mini company groups have shown that hard work and dedication really does pay off with their successes this year. Our Coiste Gaeilge have again made a fantastic effort with the promotion of Gaeilge in the school culminating in our school retaining the Gaelbhreach again this year. I would like to thank our student council who have put in so much work around the school this year. I would like to thank all the businesses who gave our students work experience opportunities throughout the year. Thanks to all of our school community for your support throughout the year. I would like to wish our Leaving Certificate students the very best in their exams and for the future. I hope you all have an enjoyable and relaxing summer break.

Le meas,
Paul Fahy

Important Dates

5th June – State Exams Begin

25th June – State Exams End

13th August - Leaving Certificate Results

16th August – CAO Round 1 Offers

26th August – School Reopens for 1st Year Students

28th August – 2nd, 3rd, 5th & 6th Year Students Return to School

2nd September – Transition Year Students Return to School

Mid September – Junior Certificate Results

Thank you Ms. Sweeney!

Máire Sweeney announced her retirement from teaching in February 2019. Máire has a long and distinguished history of educating the people of Achill and surrounding areas. Over the years Máire set very high standards for both students and staff. Máire's hard work, professionalism and caring nature will be sorely missed in Coláiste Pobail Acla. On behalf of all in Coláiste Pobail Acla we would like to wish her a long and happy retirement. Go raibh maith agat a Mháire.

Transition Years Travel to France

The TYs travelled to Nice, France on Tuesday 7th May. We left the school at 9am for our flight at 17.25. In total, 42 students travelled for the four day trip. On our arrival we checked in before taking a walk down town in search of a McDonald's or KFC! On Wednesday we met our tour guide, Brigette, for a walking tour of Nice, taking in the famous sights and history. This was followed by a trip to Marineland for a number of aquatic shows including Orcas and dolphins. Thursday saw us travel along the coast to Monaco where we visited the Prince's Palace and the Oceanographic museum, as well as some free time to wander the streets and Grand Prix circuit of the principality. Friday was dedicated to the beach and some shopping, where we enjoyed some glorious sunshine and took in the spectacular views of the French Riviera!



School Digital Champions

Conor Conway (2nd Year), Declan Foley (3rd Year) and Thomas McNamara (3rd Year) represented the school when they showcased their School Digital Champions project at Google Headquarters in Dublin on May 2nd. The project comprised of an app, website and game that they developed to promote awareness of reducing our carbon footprint and being more environmentally friendly. At Google, the team listened to talks from Google, YouTube and Samsung with information on careers and new developments in the tech industry and were presented with certificates of participation from Minister Seán Canney, Minister of State for Natural Resources, Community Affairs and Digital Development. This project was guided by Mrs. Lally and Ms. Murtagh. Well done to all involved.



Wellbeing Youth Conference - Mulranny



Gaelbhrtach



Foireann Díospóireachta



Irish Scholarship Recipients

Numeracy Initiatives in Coláiste Pobail Acla

Maths and Numeracy are promoted throughout the school. This is ongoing throughout the school year. In the second part of the academic year we have run the following initiatives.

Irish Junior Maths Competition: 6 First Year students qualified for the final of the Irish Junior Maths Competition in March 2019. The first round had been held in the school in January.

Paired Maths: TY students work with First years and help them with their basic Maths Skills.

'Who wants to be a Number Millionaire': This is a competition we have in the school in May where the Second Years practice their Maths Skills and can win prizes in the process!

Maths Walk and Maths Eyes: As part of our Numeracy Initiative, the first years take a Maths Walk at the beginning of the school year. They will repeat this walk at the end of their first year. This links in with Maths Eyes and shows how Maths is all around us.

The above are the main initiatives that take place during 2nd and 3rd term in our school. We always encourage students to use their Mental Maths skills to link Numeracy to their everyday life.

Literacy

Heinrich Boll Essay Competition

Tara O'Keeffe, (Transition Year) won the Heinrich Boll Essay Competition. Pictured below, she is presented with her prize, a perpetual sculpture by Ronan Halpin and a €25 book token. She was presented by Sheila Mc Hugh (left), Chairperson of Heinrich Boll Foundation Achill and the German Ambassador, H.E. Deike Potzel.



Gaelbhrtach

Comhghairdeas dár scoláirí a bhain an Gaelbhrtach amach arís I mbliana. Scéim í Gaelbhrtach a chuireann ar chumas scoileanna gradam aitheantais a fháil as a gcuid oibre chun an Ghaeilge chumarsáideach a chur chun cinn. Le linn na bliana eagraíodh go leor imeachtaí as Gaeilge, Ghaelfhisean na bliana, Ciorcal Comhrá, Tráth na gCeist, Tóraíocht Taisce agus go leor imeachtaí eile. "Is fearr Gaeilge Briste ná Béarla cliste"

Díospóireachtaí

Bhí foireann díospóireachta sóisearach na scoile ag glacadh páir te sa Chraobh Réigiúnach de Chomórtas. Is mór an éacht é go bhfuil daltaí CPA i measc an 16 foireann is fearr sa tír! Comhghairdeas libh a chailfí! Míle buíochas do Ms Ní Fhearraigh.

Wellbeing

Our annual Well-being week this year took place from the 11th-15th of March. A jam-packed week of fun, interaction and engagement from all students and teachers made it a very eventful week. This year we had the great Tom Parsons of the Mayo football team to open the week. He discussed the power of mental preparation and self-belief in our ability in overcoming setbacks.

Our Junior students participated in workshops with Pat Forde from stopthebully.ie while our senior students had a presentation entitled 'Breathe' from Niall Dunne who works in Mayo Mental Health. Very insightful talks for all students.

This year we set up our assembly area for the 'Cube' game. This included 10 games with every student having 3 lives for each game. Winners of the week Amy McHugh and Ciaran Callaghan came out with an Elverys sport voucher.

Colaiste Pobail Acla is part of the CPR4SCHOOLS programme and this week also gave every student the opportunity to learn basic training in hands only CPR. As this is a vital skill to learn the engagement from all students throughout the week was fantastic. We finished the week off with 6km walk/jog and a Teacher V Student soccer match. The students winning the game (this time).

Parents Association

End of Year Report - May 2019

The Parents Association have had a very successful 2018/2019 year. We had a great response to all our fundraising events. These events were held throughout the year and included:

- Church gate collection.
- Whist Drive held in CPA.

We also received donations from various events including the Achill Sheep Show and a whist drive held in the Valley National School. All funds raised will be used to contribute to purchasing a set of Chromebook laptops for the school.

A special word of thanks to all the local businesses who supported and donated prizes and to the Achill Community for their generosity and continued support throughout the year.

Our next fundraising event will be a car wash which is due to be held in September 2019.

Our next Parents Association Meeting will be held in September 2019 – All Parents/Guardians are encouraged and welcome to attend.

TY Musical - Hairspray

Well done and congratulations to our Transition Year Students who performed Hairspray for 2 nights in Halla Acla. What a fantastic performance by all involved. A special thanks to our Drama department Ms Duffy, Mrs Hanley, Ms O' Malley and Mrs Callaghan for bringing the performance together. Thanks to all staff who contributed in numerous different ways. Thanks to all the local businesses who supported our musical and to all the parental and community support that helped make these nights so successful.



TY Musical



TY Musical

Siansa Gael Linn 2019

Síar is an 8 piece traditional Irish music group made up of teenagers from Achill, Newport, Lahardane and Castlebar. Caoilte O'Cúnaigh and brothers Patrick and Conor Cafferkey from 3rd, 5th and 6th year respectively, represented the Achill part of Síar. The group competed against 60 other groups from all over Ireland in the prestigious Siansa Gael Linn 2019 competition for Irish music and song. They were selected for the final 8 and went on to perform in the National Concert Hall in Dublin in April. They were awarded an amazing 3rd place. The group have been overwhelmed by the support they have received and are looking forward to playing at a range of events together over the summer.



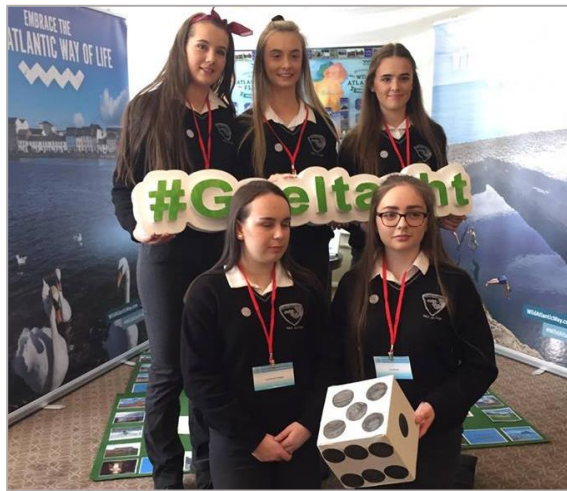
Síar - Award winners at Siansa Gael Linn Competition



First Year 'Gift a Book'

TY Minicompany

Well done to our TY enterprise company who were in the national finals of the Údarás na Gaeltachta Clár na gComhlachtaí competition which was held in Galway in April. Their innovative project was a board game based on the Wild Atlantic Way. They received very positive feedback from lecturers from both GMIT and Trinity College. The students involved were: Cára O'Neill, Tara O'Keeffe, Sarah English, Molly McManamon and Caoimhe English. Well done also to Emma O'Hara, Claire Ruddy and Emer Kerins who brought their project (Namez in Framez) to the National Craft Fair in the RDS. Well done to Ms Moran for leading our groups of entrepreneurs.



TYs with Tommy Marren

CPA Teacher wins National Teacher Award

Over the past few years our TY students, under the guidance of Mr. John Sweeney, have been taking part in a unique and interesting project which has recently made local and national news. They have worked hard to restore the Church of Ireland graveyard located in Polranny. In total, they have uncovered hundreds of graves, some dating back to the 1800s. Eleven people who were killed in World War II were buried there after being washed up on the shoreline. Their headstones are simply marked 'A sailor of the war'. When this project started nearly ten years ago this plot was completely inaccessible but is now in very good condition. This story appeared in the Mayo News in March and along with his National Teacher Award in 2018 presented at Trinity College, this project shows the fantastic work being done by John and our TY classes past and present. Well done and congratulations to John and all involved in this fantastic project.



Students with John Sweeney



John Sweeney – National Teacher Awards

Student Awards

Our annual student awards ceremony took place on Tuesday 22nd May. As usual, there was strong competition for all categories and the staff had the difficult job of narrowing it down to one winner. Among the award recipients were Fionn Curtis (Junior Student of the Year) and Ethan McNea (Senior Student of the Year). Marianna McDonnell and Colleen Manning won the Artistic Creativity Award for their outstanding work throughout the year. Congratulations to all award winners.



Ben Dempsey Jumping for Joy

Rugby

Our Junior Boys Rugby team participated in a friendly blitz at Castlebar Rugby Club in April. This was the first time a team from Coláiste Pobail Acla have played rugby. The boys performed very well, beating some higher ranked teams on the day. Many of our players attracted a lot of positive attention from other coaches, especially given that we're new to the sport.

Ben Dempsey - National Boxing Champion 2019

Ben Dempsey is the national boxing champion after beating Malo Davis, the reigning champion, in the final of the 44.6kg category last month.

Hope Gallagher did brilliantly to get to the national final of the Irish Championships after beating her opponent Georgia Mc Govern in the semi-final. Unfortunately, she didn't win the title on this occasion.



Student Award Winners

Achill Tourism

Our 1st and 2nd year students worked with Achill Tourism in a trial for the Achill Half Marathon to eliminate plastic bottles from this year's race. Our students took part in a 6km run on the Greenway using the new reusable cups. Well done to Mr Ryan for organising the event.

Aine Curtis fought in the quarter finals of the National Championship earlier this month but was very unlucky to lose in a 3/2 split decision.

Well done to all in Achill Boxing Club on a very successful year.



Host Families Required

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HOSTING FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

For more information and details contact Marie Moran @ 098 45139 OR mariemoran@cpacla.ie

The Programme

- Students stay in Ireland between 3 and 9 months
- Live with an Irish Host family
- Attend school at Coláiste Pobail Acla
- Age 14-18
- Full local coordinator support
- Students have a good level of English
- An allowance is given to host families
- All Host families will be Garda vetted

Athletics

42 students from Coláiste Pobail Acla took part in the ETB Athletics competition on 16th May in Ballina with 26 of them winning at least one medal. 54 medals were won in total on a very successful day for our school. Among the standout performers were Realtín McHugh (1st year), Donal Gralton (2nd year), Kieran Kilbane (2nd year), Patrick Cafferkey (5th year) and Feidhlim Gralton (5th year) who all won 4 medals each across a range of events. Well done to all who competed!

