



Tiernan Tribune

— St Tiernan's Community School Newsletter —



2020-2021

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians



It goes without saying that the 2020/2021 school year has been an exceptionally challenging one, but I am extremely proud of how well our school community has faced these challenges. All year, our students and staff have been unwavering both in their compliance with the Covid-19 regulations and in their dedication to ensure

that teaching and learning continued throughout the year.

To the adjusted school setting, our students responded maturely and positively from day 1. Through our social media platforms and the work of the Student Council, we ensured that the student voice of St Tiernan's was consistently heard and listened to, especially during the periods of online learning. Thanks to our exceptionally hard-working School Completion team, we ensured that our most vulnerable students were catered for, ensuring that all students would have access to online learning during the lockdown period.

The efforts and commitment of the teachers in St Tiernan's to adapt and adjust to the rigours of online teaching from

January to March was truly admirable, and we were delighted to see a huge increase in online engagement by our students. This resilience and hard work has not gone unnoticed, and I believe that this demonstrates the remarkable spirit and character of our school community. We are, and always have been, in this together.

Fortunately, face-to-face teaching and learning has returned for all students and we are delighted that St Tiernan's is full of life again. The Covid-19 crisis has forced us all to take a step back, consider what is most important in our lives and to be grateful for what we have. We are thankful for the dedication and adaptability of our teaching and management staff, we are thankful for the enthusiasm and positive engagement of our students, and we are thankful for the support and appreciation of the parent body. We look forward to brighter days ahead in the next school year.

We hope you enjoy this insight into life in St Tiernan's over the past few months, capturing moments from both online and in-school learning, and again thank you for your continued support of our school. We look forward to continuing to work together with you as partners in education and members of our community in the years ahead.

Mr Kevin Martin, Principal

TROUSERS AS PART OF THE GIRLS' SCHOOL UNIFORM

For the past few years, trousers being included as an optional part of the female school uniform has been a topic of discussion at numerous Student Council, Parents' Association and Board of Management meetings. Thanks to the dedicated

work and campaigning of the Student Council and the Parents' Association, the Board of Management of St Tiernan's Community School has approved that female students will be offered the option of wearing either the school skirt, or school navy trousers. The trousers will be available in all UK Women's sizes.

Past Pupil Gavin O'Duffy of Amazon Europe

We were delighted to have past pupil Gavin O'Duffy of Amazon Europe speaking to our TY and 5th year students about his path to the fantastic position he currently holds, leading a Technical Strategy Team for Alexa Everywhere in the EU. "As an engineer, I have been lucky to have a career over the last 20 years where I am doing something I love, and got to travel the world and work with great teams of people."

Speaking of his time in St Tiernan's, Gavin had this to say:

"I owe a lot to St Tiernan's for giving me the chance to discover and learn programming at an early age, on the Apple computers that were meant for the adult education (they let us sneak in and use them!), and for my teachers

who encouraged me to go to university and study engineering. Tiernan's also gave me a chance to help in the school plays, and to learn Art, Cookery and English...and make friends for life.

To our current students, Gavin wanted to pass on this advice:

"I know it's not easy with COVID on top of the normal challenges of figuring out who you are or what you want to do; I found it hard at school myself, but I tried lots of different subjects and eventually found something I enjoyed, and chose to study that in 3rd level. That has made all the difference - enjoying my work. My advice to you is to try as many different subjects as you can, and take advantage of every work experience, field trip or afterschool course you can sign up for. This is your best



chance in life to try a wide variety of things, so make the most of it!

It is an honour to have Gavin as an ambassador for our school, and as a fantastic role model for our current students - exhibiting what we can all achieve when we work hard, use the opportunities presented to us and enjoy what we do!

COLLEGE AWARENESS WEEK



“College Awareness Week” was a super busy week in St Tiernan's back in November. Junior Cycle students explored their dream jobs in their SPHE classes, students who took part in a College Aware quiz received prizes from Griffith College, and the school was beautifully decorated thanks to our talented 5th years Lucy and Maija. Our Careers & Guidance department also had a jam-packed week of webinars lined up for our Senior Cycle students.

Trinity Access Programme ran a TikTok dance competition, encouraging students to share their career goals and ambitions. St Tiernan's was well-represented with fantastic entries from Lana and Alex in 3rd Year, Sophie and Abbie in 5th Year and Ella in 1st Year.

WORK EXPERIENCE IN UCD



Four lucky TY students - Sylvia, Armaan, Evdoxia and Aadya - had the opportunity to participate in a week-long work experience in the UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research and Systems Biology Ireland.

These photos showcase some of the activities they got up to: Aadya doing some immunohistochemistry on human skin tissue, St Tiernan's students researching and producing a poster about the ethics of a national DNA database, planning out a bacteria experiment in the lab, with Evdoxia at the hood carrying out her piece of work in aseptic conditions and finally the students listening to a talk given by Hannah Sharpe who dialed in from the University of Oxford speaking about her very exciting job as part of the team who developed the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine for Covid-19 along with researcher Danny Johnston who gave a seminar on vaccines. A fantastic week was had by all!



VIRTUAL NOVEMBER CLASS AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Unfortunately we can't attach audio files to the 'Tribune', so hopefully you'll all remember some of the beautiful music which enhanced these school ceremonies earlier in the year.

Ms Bannigan and Ms Tynan rehearsed with students from various year groups to produce a combination of solo pieces, duets and even a small choral piece (which was very socially distanced!) and record these with the help of Tim

Peare. While we all would have preferred to perform live, this did give the students an insight into what recording themselves is like! Huge thanks to all involved, with special thanks to Lisa, Marion, Tim, the 2nd year Music Class, Cerys and Beatriz (2nd Year), Ariana, Sylvia and Leslieann (TY), Jael, Miruna and Gloria (5th Year), Sinéad (6th Year) and of course, Ms Bannigan and Ms Tynan.



Fingers crossed we will be able to have some live music at our ceremonies next year!

CP ADVENTURE - TEAM-BUILDING ACTIVITIES WITH THE TYS



The Transition Year classes were delighted to enjoy a day of outdoor activities courtesy of CP Adventures in late April. For archery, they were first coached and practiced with sharp arrows, then they got to shoot each other with sponge-tipped arrows! Later in the afternoon came the Bushcraft portion of the day. This involved setting up a shelter amongst the trees. They also learned how to build their own fire in a tin bucket using cotton wool, Vaseline and flint. They had to collect their own sticks for the fire.



Finally, everyone participated in team games including gutter ball, wellie throwing, outdoor Sudoku and other puzzles. A fantastic day was had by all, they thoroughly enjoyed it! Yet another example of what TY is all about: getting involved, getting active and having the craic!

School Improvement Projects:

TY Fairy Garden



Our TY students had a very busy first term in school, working on something magical: Gairdín na Sí (Fairy Garden). They've planted a few new plants, sanded and repainted the arch at the entrance, and of course, painted and hung up the fairy doors. What a gorgeous initiative bringing a much-needed spark of magic into the school! Well done to everyone who participated in the project.



Music Department — Practical Work in the Classroom

Another department which faced a challenging, restricting year was the Music department, as students and the Music teachers alike engaged in rigorous cleaning of instruments before and after use, ensured that there was as much ventilation as possible at all times, and singing as a group was placed on hold for the year. However, beautiful music was still made and could be heard from the Music room throughout the year!

A number of our 2nd year Music students enjoyed playing ukulele, while some of our 3rd years were experimenting with drum patterns and piano parts.



TY MINI COMPANY:

"Wrap & Go"



Back in late November, our TY Mini Company "Wrap & Go" launched a series of hand-crafted festive products, with all proceeds raised being donated to St Vincent de Paul. The products included the exceptionally popular "Elf Quarantine Box" and "Customised Santa Tray" as exhibited in the photos here.



With the assistance of Mr Deane, the students designed and created these products from scratch and, with the help of Ms Buggie, they marketed and sold the products. The products were a **huge** hit with the families in our community and the project was a brilliant success, giving these students a great insight into product production and business. In the end, they raised €1,500 for St Vincent de Paul. Well done again to all involved!



This year, our sixth year students could not celebrate the traditional Graduation and Awards night as in previous years. On Tuesday, 11 May, they had a pre-recorded Graduation and Awards ceremony.

Even though it was not the way the school would like to have marked their time here in St Tiernan's, the students enjoyed it and appreciated that we were able to recognise their contribution to the school. Please see the school website for a recording of the ceremony.

Congratulations to 6th Year students who were the recipients of these prestigious St Tiernan's awards.

Sixth Year Graduation and Presentation of Awards 2021

THE PADDY BYRNE AWARD



Maximus
Prakanang-Kelly

VALEDICTORIAN AWARD



Sinéad English

COMPANIONSHIP AWARD



Afnan Ahmed

Interview with Past Pupil Iga Kirejko

Iga graduated from St Tiernan's in 2017 and has returned twice in the past couple of years to carry out some work experience in our school. Iga is currently in her third year of Pharmaceutical Science with Medicinal Chemistry in TU Dublin.

Iga got into college with a QQI Level 5. She always thought she would go to UCD, but this didn't actually work out in the end. She was extremely thankful that she had included some Level 5 "back ups". In terms of the CAO, Iga suggests "to put down your first three courses as your dream courses, the next three should be what you think you are capable of achieving (points-wise) and finally everyone should include three or four back-up courses or safety nets: Level 5 courses in the field you're interested in." Iga advises our current and future 6th year students not to panic or stress too much about the Leaving Cert exams, as "there's always a different door". She is thoroughly happy with her decision to do a Level 5 course in Lab Science first, followed by one year of a General Science course in TU Dublin, and finally moving into her Pharmaceutical Science Level 7 degree.

Speaking of her college experience, Iga confirms that life is very different. "You're thrown in at the deep end and you really have to look after yourself. No one's running around after you checking your homework! You really have to grow up!" However, she also loves TU Dublin and "couldn't recommend it highly enough", praising their smaller classes and the way the lecturers form connections with their students - which isn't always the case in university!

Iga came back to do her work experience in St Tiernan's because she likes that people know her here and she feels very welcome. She commended the students she has worked with for being incredibly respectful and kind. She also complimented two of our wonderful teachers - Ms Brett and Ms Ní Cheallachán - for all of their guidance and kindness when she was in school. She encourages any current students to reach out to a teacher that they know and trust any time they need help, as the St Tiernan's teachers really are some of the most caring people she has met.

Iga's parting comments to our current students were "Everything does work out in the end. You don't have to worry about the future too much - living in the present is very important. You can't change the future, you can only change the 'now'. Everything is possible, no matter what, if you just put your mind to it!" It was a pleasure to chat with smiley Iga, who is an amazing ambassador for our school. We wish her all the best in her undoubtedly bright future!



A Christmas Treat — Toy Show Pyjamas!



At the end of November, every student in the school was surprised with a pair of Penney's Late Late Toy Show Pyjamas. The pyjamas were kindly donated by Barnardos Ireland, and were the perfect way to say a huge thanks to all students for complying fantastically with the Covid-19 guidelines in the first two terms of school.

The Christmas spirit was well and truly alive in St Tiernan's that day, with everyone set to watch the Toy Show and probably already mentally counting out mini marshmallows for their hot chocolate.

#MAKINGTHEMOSTOFIT — HIGHLIGHTS OF LOCKDOWN LEARNING

As part of a student survey about how they were finding remote learning, we asked our students to give examples of a task/activity which they enjoyed:

- ✓ Summarising the French Revolution using storyboardthat.com
- ✓ We had to write about how George's life would be (he is a character from a novel that we read in class) 10 years after the novel ended.
- ✓ Adding Music to a video which we made ourselves
- ✓ Art assignments/classes in general
- ✓ Making a poster for relaxation
- ✓ CSPE talks on Thursdays
- ✓ Watching a music documentary and answering questions on it - it was amazing!
- ✓ Business quizzes
- ✓ Our English Drop Everything And Read class on Mondays
- ✓ Cooking different recipes for Home Ec
- ✓ SPHE relationships and connection - worksheets
- ✓ P.E. 10km run
- ✓ Irish worksheets
- ✓ I have enjoyed Maths classes because they are on Zoom and similar to what it's like in school
- ✓ Science tasks and Music assignments
- ✓ Romeo and Juliet - a play we are studying in English
- ✓ When teachers send video/ screencasts for lessons. I find it easier to understand and take notes because I can pause it.
- ✓ English poetry screencast classes
- ✓ Social Ed classes - we watch a YouTube video about a topic or social issue in society and write a personal response to it
- ✓ I enjoyed the science class about nuclear energy
- ✓ Researching a topic and putting it into a presentation/using IT skills

— Art Department — Glass Projects with local Primary Schools



These photos showcase a project carried out by Ms Brennan and two boys from Queen of Angels Primary School last year. The kids came up with a story about Dublin getting attacked by a killer robot! They worked together to make a key scene in their story in fused glass. They cut and collaged all of the coloured glass shapes and Ms Brennan fired them together in a kiln. Here are a few process shots and a photo of the final project.

Also pictured are some more glass projects which Ms Brennan worked on with some very talented students from Holy Cross, Good Shepherd and Our Lady's Clonskeagh primary schools. What amazing work! Some future fantastic Art students for St Tiernan's!



Transition Year Clay Projects

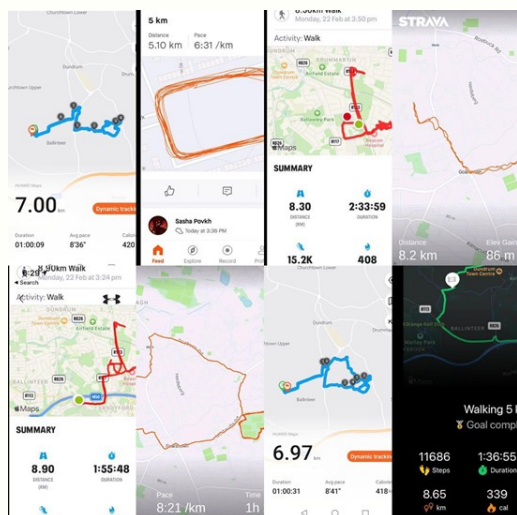
The 4B class created these beautiful wall-planters inspired by animals and characters. The 4A class created bee houses, bird feeders and bird houses in clay. All of the projects at the time these photos were taken were ready to be glazed and painted before going outside to decorate our school courtyard. Hopefully, in the next issue of the 'Tiernan Tribune', we will have photos of how these beautiful creations look out in the garden!



NON-UNIFORM DAY IN SUPPORT OF PAST PUPIL, CRAIG MULHOLLAND

The Student Council organised a non-uniform day to raise money for the Mulholland family on Friday, 30 April.

Craig, a past pupil, and brother to Jade in 5th year and Josh in TY, was in a serious motorbike accident over the Easter break. The Student Council decided to raise money to support the family as they make adjustments to their home and care for Craig. Together, our generous students and staff raised €700 for this cause which is very close to our hearts. The whole school community sent their warm thoughts, support and encouragement to Craig and his family during this difficult time. Thank you again to everyone who donated!



CLANG FUNDRAISER FOR JIGSAW

Over the lockdown period, our wonderful students, their families and staff participated in the CLANG Challenge. Jigsaw is a Charity that supports and values the mental health of young people throughout Ireland. For two weeks, the students and staff of St Tiernan's were trying to walk 1200 km together and to collect as much money as possible for the charity. Everyone involved was sharing screenshots of steps or kilometres on social media, asking for donations, tagging the charity and school and the progress was updated every day.

By the end of two weeks, we had reached our goal! The students and staff walked/ran well over the required 1200 km and together we raised just over €600 for JIGSAW. It was an excellent achievement and fantastic support for a very worthy cause. Well done to everyone involved!

HYGIENE FOR THE HOMELESS

As part of their Social Education Task, our fantastic LCAI class organised and ran a "Hygiene for the Homeless" campaign over two weeks in April. Hygiene products, clothes and sleeping bags were donated by our very generous students and staff. These items are of fundamental importance to every human being. With the help of the amazing Ms Ni Siosta, the students collected, sorted

and organised all of these donations. Alan McHugh has been bringing weekly donations into the homeless community of Dublin city every week all year, and he also brought in this donation from our school community on behalf of the LCAI class. This was truly an incredible initiative - well done to all!



On Wednesday mornings, the 4B class along with Ms McGill, and Ms Lynch, have explored some social justice issues (albeit in the silliest way possible) using the techniques of Brazilian Theatre practitioner, Augusto Boal. The main aims of these techniques are to ensure that everyone uses their voice during practice, which doesn't always happen in

a classroom setting, and that everyone should have some fun while stepping out of our collective comfort zones!

Students were encouraged to interact with peers who aren't necessarily in their circle of friends, and work towards the common goals of telling stories and communicating ideas using their bodies and voices. Inclusion and equality are integral to the process – everyone in the scene must have something to do,

and everyone must act as a director for one of the created scenes. As the classes progressed, students found interesting and innovative ways of confessing to crimes, fighting super villains, and breaking up romantic relationships in the most dramatic ways possible! It has been one of the highlights of my year to facilitate these sessions with Ms Lynch, and to ingrain some of the principles of inclusivity and equality into a fun TY activity.

STAND UP WEEK – NOVEMBER 2020



On Friday 20 November we decided to take part in a colourful demonstration in support of our LGBTI Community. A selection of students and teachers from across all year groups wore a jumper in one of the colours of the pride flag, ie red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple or pink. This initiative was organised by *BelongTo Youth Services*, whose cam-

paign slogan was #ComeIn. The idea was that if everyone chose to come in, no one would have to come out. Here in St Tiernan's we are proud and committed to supporting diversity and inclusion in our school. We want everyone to know that they belong and to feel safe and supported in our community. #LoveIsLove

The Student Council - with the help of Peter Lennon and Ms. Bannigan - organised a "Random Act of Kindness Day" for Monday, 10 May. Every student in the school was surprised with an ice-cream during the final class of the day as a treat for adapting so excellently to the Covid restrictions in the school this year and to brighten up that Monday afternoon!

Each student was also given a task to complete; a random act of kindness. These included: giving someone a compliment, thanking a teacher, holding the door open for someone, leaving a positive comment on someone's social media post, and many more! We wanted the students to continue spreading the joy and passing on the kindness. After all, the world can always do with a little more kindness!



With thanks to the hard work and creativity of Sophie Phelan, Lucy Dempsey and our amazing SNA. Lisa, the 5th Year girls' bathroom received a make-over! The bathrooms were thoroughly cleaned, painted beautifully and a few personal touches such as mirrors and hygiene products were added. Fantastic work on this project ladies!

p e Department

The 2020/2021 school year was a challenging and restricting year for all subjects, and the P E Department was no different, with very strict guidelines to follow. However, Ms Suszczynska and Mr Kinevane still ensured that the students had an active and enjoyable year, especially with the following initiatives:

DANCE with Cayisha

With the support from Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown Sport Partnership we were very lucky to bring back the very popular and successful Active Dance Program to St Tiernans this year. Our 1st and 5th Year girls have been learning a routine choreographed by our wonderful dance teacher Cayisha. An excellent and creative approach from Cayisha ensured full participation and engagement from all girls. Pictured here we see our 1st years enjoying their Active Dance class out in the courtyard. Well done to all for getting involved and having so much fun!



GET GOING, GET ROWING!



The P E Department, with the support of Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown Sports Partnership, also successfully completed a six-week indoor rowing programme "Get Rowing Get Going" with all 1st years in September. The course was taught by qualified coaches and professional rowers from Neptune Rowing Club in Islandbridge. Every student competed in the 500 meters challenge and was awarded with a certificate of participation.

All TY students took part in a one-day Coaching Workshop in April and successfully completed the Course with Coaching Certificate.

Well done to all involved. All students are looking forward to an on-the-water rowing session organised by the Rowing Club, hopefully to take place soon!

BRINGING BACK SOME CLASSICS!



SKIPPING Well done to our 5th and TY girls who participated in the pilot programme of Skipping, coached by Skip'n'Rope. The girls created a fantastic skipping routine, demonstrating their creativity, teamwork, building confidence and having fun!



ROUNDERS With restrictions on playing most team or contact sports, the PE department also brought back a classic game for the 6th years - rounders! Out in the beautiful sunshine, their laughter, enthusiasm and competitiveness could be heard around the school grounds - brilliant!

ADULT EDUCATION



Learning for Work and Life

Our Adult Education Department has been serving the local communities for over 25 years now. We are currently planning our programme for the

Autumn, and expect to offer a wide range of evening classes covering a variety of subject areas. Please see our website for enrolment details and updates.

Ronan Conneely, Director of Adult Education

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We still have a limited number of places available for First Year students, 2021/2022.