

MUCKROSS NEWS

OCTOBER 2023

Principal's Message

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians and Colleagues,

Today we had a great final day of term celebrating the great work that has been happening throughout the first term. Thanks to the Student Council and teachers involved in planning and organising this great whole school event. The costumes, dances, camaraderie reflect the relationships, inclusion and great sense of fun that is integral to our school community.

From welcoming new first year students and their parents, new staff, receiving State exam results, welcoming back returning students and staff and settling into the rhythms of school life, this half term certainly has been very busy. A rest is thoroughly well-earned, deserved and welcomed.

This newsletter, with contributions from students and staff, will give you a flavour of all of the activities – curricular and co-curricular – that have been happening in the school in October. I would encourage any student who has not yet signed up to any of the extracurricular activities available to think of doing so after mid-term.

When we come back in November the clocks will have gone back and the evenings will be dark and cold, I remind all students to wear their warm school jackets. Mid-term is also an opportunity to check all uniform items.

A big 'thank you' to all members of our school community – students, teachers, staff, Parents, members of our Board of Management. I hope that you switch off and rest over midterm, taking time to recharge.

Best wishes,

Anne Marie Mee

ETHOS

Opening of Year School Mass

Our Opening of the Year Mass took place on September 29th, as the culmination of our first Dominican Week. As a result, the theme was Veritas, the Latin word for truth that is one of the most important mottos of the Dominican Order.



Our wonderful school choir coordinated by Ms Cunningham

St Thomas Aquinas is one of the best known Dominican saints, as a theologian, philosopher and influence on natural law theory. He has been honoured by Pope Francis by three years of celebration of his life. Recalling that Pope Paul VI described Thomas as the "light of the Church and the entire world," the Pope announced that there would be special emphasis on the seven hundredth anniversary of his canonisation in 2023. In 2024, the Church will commemorate the 750th anniversary of his death, and in 2025, the 800th anniversary of his birth. A quote attributed to St Thomas adorned the cover of our Mass leaflet: The things we love tell us who we are.

Monsignor Ciaran O'Carroll welcomed us to the Church of the Sacred Heart in Donnybrook and our chief celebrant was Fr Jim Caffrey. Caitriona de Buitléir, our head girl, set the tone with her opening words. Students from first year to sixth year took active part, beginning with an opening procession featuring our prefect team, followed by readers, soloists, students praying the intercessory prayers, presenting the offertory gifts and our Fifth Year ministers of the Eucharist who were commissioned by Monsignor O'Carroll.

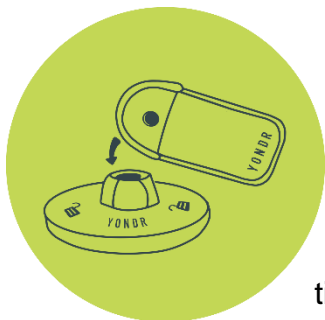
The music was inspiring and many thanks to Ms Cunningham for her hard work with the choir and orchestra. The RE team, Ms Lawless, Ms Hoban, Ms Maher, Ms O'Brien and Mr McArdle worked hard with the students preparing a beautiful, reverent liturgy and in addition, the mass leaflet was prepared by Mr McArdle. Fr Jim Caffrey was his usual eloquent self and we are very grateful to both Fr Jim and Monsignor Ciaran for facilitating this important moment of our school year.



6th Year leadership team 2022-23

Yondr Pouch Talk

We have had a successful introduction of the Yondr pouches in Muckross. A Lot more social interaction is observed among students, especially in the mornings.



A member of the Yondr team, Jackie visited Muckross to meet with each year group to explain the benefits of using the Yondr pouches. The students found it very interesting, especially the fact that they will be on their phones for twenty years of their lives unless they control and limit phone use. She also described how young people 's attention span has decreased and this is linked to excessive screen time. Phone usage is also causing disturbed sleep.

We are very happy with this initiative. We would like to thank students and parents for supporting it. If you have yet to pay for your Yondr pouch this can be done on Compass.

New Year Heads

We would like to welcome two new Year Heads to the Middle Management team in Muckross. Mr. Paddy Sugrue who has responsibility for 3rd years and Mr. Damien Langan who has responsibility for 6th Years.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

French Debating

Sadly our 5th Year French debating team lost in the first round of the French debates. We were against the motion that the age of voting should be reduced to 16. The girls - Ellie Laker, the captain, Laura Mowlds, Carrie O'Riordan and Annabelle Black - spoke very well. Thanks to Ms. Donaghy and Mr. Mullany who prepared them.



Geography Field Trip to Portrane

Leaving Certificate Geography students, accompanied by Ms Blount, Ms Hyland, Ms De Lee and Ms Murray traveled to Portrane Beach to complete their field study

on October 4th. The day involved examining the processes of coastal erosion leading to the



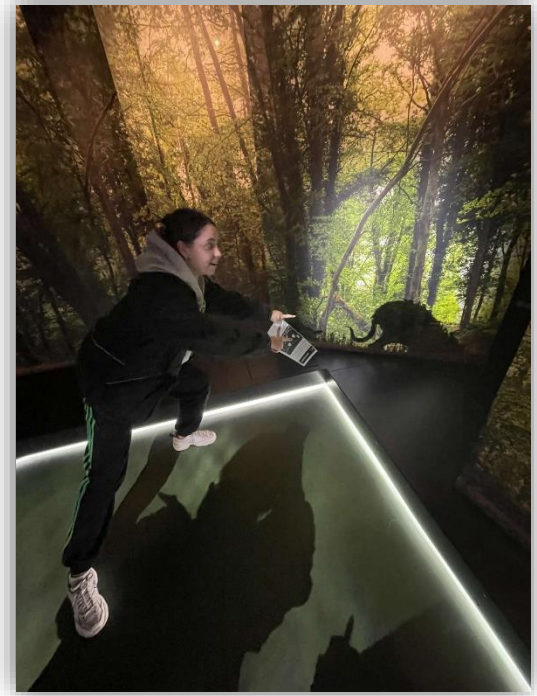
formation of physical features such as a sea cliff, sea arch and sea cave. The girls had a great day seeing geography in action and gained a greater insight into our ever-changing landscape, taking careful measurements and using a variety of research methods. The final write-up of their study and conclusions will be worth 20% of their Leaving Certificate grade, and work has already started on the drafting process. Well done to all on the enthusiasm shown.

Art Trip to Newgrange



On Thursday 5th October the 6th year Art class visited Newgrange in Brú na Boinne Co. Meath. We had studied the prehistoric site of Newgrange for the Irish section of the Visual Culture course. Dating from 3200 C the structure is world famous, and the students were amazed to see theory brought to life by actually stepping inside the ancient passage grave.

Students experienced the simulation of the rising sun illuminating the passage on the Winter Solstice and viewed the ancient stone carvings in situ. Visiting the site was a brilliant experience that enhances understanding and personal response to the art. Thank you to Ms Keane who organised this trip and also to Ms Shine who accompanied her.



Study Skills

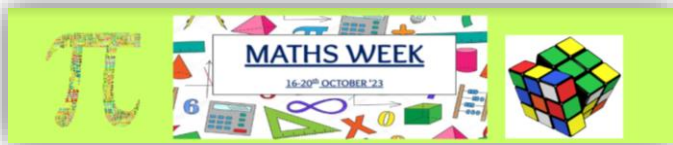
[Student Enrichment Services](#) came to Muckross to give study skills workshops to our 6th Year students on 11th October and to our 3rd Year on 25th October. The aim was to develop competencies to increase confidence and reduce anxiety about exams and deadlines. We received very positive feedback from the students and hope they will put the tips and strategies into action.

Health & Wellbeing Week 9th -13th October

The Healthy Eating committee of students, parents and teachers are looking at ways of implementing our recently ratified Healthy Eating Policy. Well done to the Healthy Eating Committee, headed by Ms. S. Doyle and Ms. R. O'Reilly for organising an informative and fun programme for the week, the very successful first Health & Wellbeing Week. Activities included:

- Yoga/relaxation before school
- Healthy Swaps Assembly
- Music before school
- Food Samples
- Nutrition talk with parent and dietitian Geraldine Guiry.
- Disco Zumba with Lainey Higgins and Lucy McKeon
- Disco dance with Ms. Cunningham in PE Hall
- Cookery Demo and Nutrition Talk with Fiona Staunton
- 1st & 5th Year Buddy Quiz

An emagazine about this week has been shared with you on COMPASS today.



What other week of the year sees an Eiffel Tower made out of toothpicks and marshmallows, the teachers being thrashed by the students at Countdown, a giant peacock mural, and a Rubik's cube solved in 13 seconds?!

Maths week aimed to get as many students as possible involved in a wide variety of fun maths activities.

The week started off with the TYs enjoying problem solving activities and origami in Go Quest whilst the 2nd years completed the Maggie Gough Competition in school.

The rest of the week included several in- class activities.

- The 1st years maths knowledge and skills were shown during a very competitive quiz.
- The 2nd years made 3-D geometric shapes into colourful bunting and raced to be the first team to complete a tarsia activity.
- The 3rd years made interesting designs with mini marshmallows and cocktail sticks-a working Ferris wheel and a replica Eiffel Tower stood out.

The daily quiz questions were so popular the maths prefects were hounded and nearly trampled with entries. Students were also put to the test with a code-breaker activity that took many the full week to decipher. Students certainly reached their daily steps target whilst running around the school trying to be the first to find out what word was spelt out on the hidden mini Rubik's cubes around the school and also while trying to find their classrooms as all door numbers were covered with mathematical equations.

The main crowd pleasers of the week were the 'Teachers V Students' countdown quiz- (maybe next year we'll have to let the teachers use their calculators to be in with a chance of winning) and the Annual Rubik's Cube Competition. There were many new competitors and several of last year's cube- solvers had managed to knock 30seconds+ off their best time. 5th Year Olivia Clarke showed us how it's done by solving in an amazing 13seconds!



A lasting memory of this years' Maths week is the fabulous Peacock Mural completed by a TY team of artistic mathematicians showing how the Pythagoras Theorem can be used to draw a line of 2 units and to create a Pythagorean spiral.



Well done to the Maths Department, for the very successful & fun Maths Week. Activities included:



TY students at GoQuest learning Origami after being in the Escape Rooms

Students competing in the Rubix Cube competition

Maths Prefects: Grace Thornton and Rachel Langley preparing to host the Maths Quiz

A lot of work went into planning, implementing, coordinating Health and Wellbeing Week, Maths Week. All weeks generated so much excitement, conversation, learning, collaboration and fun! Thanks to all staff for joining in and facilitating the various activities.

HALLOWEEN

Ms Stephenson's Transition Year Herbology class decorated the lobby with this wonderful display of carved pumpkins. Well done everyone who was involved!



6TH YEAR PARENT STUDENT TEACHER MEETING

Parent-teacher meetings in Muckcross allow parents and guardians to get a better understanding of their daughter's strengths and weaknesses. Teachers can provide insight into the student's academic abilities, areas of improvement, and overall progress in the classroom. We consider it important that senior students get to hear this feedback first hand and therefore, for the second time, we invited the 6th years to attend the meeting with their parent/guardians. The feedback from students and parents has been positive. There was great energy at the meeting and we are happy that the students, parents/guardians and teachers found the meeting so worthwhile. Mr. Langan has issued surveys to students, parents and teachers looking for feedback. A reminder to 6th Years and their Parents/Guardians to complete yours if haven't already done so.



Thanks to Mr. Core who delivered a very informative talk to 6th Year parents/guardians before the 6th Year Parent Student Teacher Meeting.

JUNIOR CYCLE RESULTS

Our Transition Year students received their Junior Cert exam results on 18th October. We are so proud of them and delighted that they did so well after all their hard work.

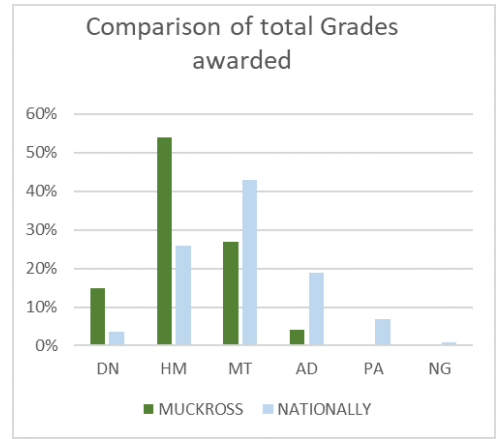
Their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) will be issued by the school later in the school year when the SEC issues the necessary files

to the school, (after the JC appeals process is concluded) for us to create this certificate. The JCPA includes the exam results, CBA results and other areas of learning.



It has been observed that the % of Distinction Grades awarded is very low (nationally <4% of all students). The comparison graphs for each subject are very similar to the comparison graph of total grades for all subjects.

	GRADE	MUCKROSS STUDENTS	NATIONALLY
90 – 100%	DN	15%	3.7%
75 – 90%	HM	54%	26%
55 – 74%	MT	27%	43%
40 – 55%	AD	4%	19%
20 – 40%	PA	0.30%	6.8%
0 – 20%	NG	0	0.93%



Sports in Muckross (Sports Captains: Ava Maleady, Sarah Flynn)

BASKETBALL

The Under '16s have played: Mount Sackville, Malahide Community College, Holy Faith Clontarf
 The Under '19s have played Mount Sackville, Malahide Community College, Holy Faith Clontarf
 Kira Lynch made the Irish U'18 Basketball panel.



GOLF

Congratulations to our golfers Aobha Gunnell, Ellen McNulty, & Sadhbh Clifford (all 6th Year), Alana Costello, Isobel Craig, Lucy Roche, Aisling Thomas, & Aoife O'Meara (all 5th Year), and Clíodhna Thomas (3rd Year), who represented the school at the Irish Schools Girls Golf Championships recently.

The highlight was Lucy (8th) and Aoife (9th) finishing inside the top-10 of a 42-player field in the individual Senior Competition at Newlands Golf Club. The Senior team also performed very well, finishing 6th out of the 15 schools competing on the day - well done everyone. A massive thank you to all students who expressed interest in representing the school in golf



HOCKEY

1st Years: have played multiple friendlies against Wesley, Sion Hill and Alex in preparation for their 8-a-side leagues beginning after mid-term.

2nd Years: There are 6 teams who have all started their respective leagues, with 6 wins and 2 losses so far.

Juniors (3rd & 4th Years): 4 teams all starting their leagues with 4 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss.

Seniors (4th, 5th & 6th Years): 6 teams have started leagues with 6 wins and 2 losses, with lots of 6th Years involved across all teams.



Many girls are representing Leinster:

At Under '16s: Cate Browns, Isabella Willis – 3rd Year; Caoimhe Dalton, Grace McKenna and Daisy Costello – 4th Year;

At U'18s: Grace Rooney, Aoife O'Meara, – 5th Year; Honor Rowell – 6th Year.

Grace McKenna, Caoimhe Dalton and Daisy Costello have also been selected for the Ireland U'16 training panel and Ava Malady (6th Year) in on the U'21 Ireland panel.

On Tuesday 24th October we had the Annual Past Pupils V Present Pupils hockey match, with the Past Pupils taking home the trophy for the first time ever after their 4-3 win!

CROSS COUNTRY

Muckross was delighted to be invited to the DSD Annual Inaugural Cross Country event on Wednesday, 18th October. Mr. McCarthy and Ms. Whyte travelled with the two teams at 1st Year level and three teams in the 2nd Year race. The 2nd year A Team came home with gold medals after superb performances from Isabelle Kilcommins, Eve McGovern, Sophie Comerford, Kate Gunne, Lara Fitzpatrick and Anna Cormican. Isabelle Kilcommins (3rd place) and Juliette O'Shea (1st Year, 6th place) also took home individual medals. The cross country teams will compete at the Blackrock Cross Country relays in the near future.

ATHLETICS

Rachel Lynch (5th Year), Laura Fielding & Anna Ryan (3rd Year) travelled with Riona to the National Indoor Arena in Abbotstown for the Leinster schools combined events. Both girls competed in 5 events over the long day, with Laura coming home with a brilliant silver medal and Rachel finishing in a fantastic 5th position.





Congratulations to Ms. Tuite who is the new President of the History Teachers Association of Ireland

DATES FOR NOVEMBER

28 October - 6 November: Mid Term Break

November: the month of the Holy Souls 'In November We Remember'

1 November: All Saint's Day

2 November: All Soul's Day

9 November: 3rd Parent Teacher Meeting

6 - 10 November: TY Work Experience

6 -10 November: Stand Up Awareness Week

6 November: Mobile Planetarium - 3rd yrs

13 - 20 November: Science Week

16 November: First Year Parent & Student Evening

23 November: 2nd Year Parent Teacher Meeting

27 November - 1 December: Languages Connect Week

28 November: Board of Management Meeting

4 December: School holiday

In November We Remember

November is a time for remembering and
praying for our loved ones who have gone
before us and whose loss we feel.

