ALL THE NEWS FROM OUR NEW SCHOOL

ETSSW NEWSLETTER

www.etsswicklow.eu

EDITION 01

WHAT AN ADVENTURE!

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THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who contributed articles to this first ever edition of the ETSSW Newsletter. It's great to see that we have so many nice memories from our first term and also to know that there is a lot to look forward to in 2020.

FIRST TERM MEMORIES

At the start of the term, word reached us that our new school in Crinion Park wasn't ready, so we started the year in Rathnew by reopening a closed down school – St. Joseph's Girls' National School. For three weeks, we brought life back to that building but then the moment arrived to move to Crinion Park and in the middle of September, the gates to the school opened for the first time. How exciting to see all the new furniture, the new projectors, the new classrooms, everything new. Student action brought us two new table tennis tables through a sponsored walk.

Everyone settled into life in secondary school, with lots of interesting subjects to study, great clubs to join and plenty of theme weeks like science, maths and enterprise weeks. Our first-year debaters took on senior students from other schools in Bray and Wicklow and also took part in the famous UCD debating programme.



And then we had those great moments when the athletics team became the first group to represent us in competition and when the girls won the first ever game in soccer and the boys won the first ever games in Gaelic Football.

It's been an action-packed few months to say the least and now we are ready to go into the second term with so much more to look forward to as we continue building our school and trying to make it better and better every day! See you again in 2020.

ETSS Wicklow Mission Statement has been worked on by students, staff and parents before reaching the Board of Management for approval: We are a school where students grow in diversity and democracy, as independent thinkers and lifelong learners, as citizens promoting dignity and fairness for all.

Young Scientist Competition in January

TALENT SHOW 2019

Is it possible to have a talent show with only first year students in the school? ETSS Wicklow students have proven that the answer is *yes, it is* – our first ever event has shown that when everyone works together and comes up with lots of ideas for acts, anything is possible.

Our school is really lucky to have talented students who can play musical instruments, such as Cody playing the *piano* and Lenna playing the *Kazoo*. Our talent show included a lot of diverse acts starting with a group of students performing the poem '*Ozymandias*' by Shelley, a tragic message about the ancient Egyptian ruler Ozymandias who thought he'd live forever, but learned that time was a more powerful force than his great kingdom. Eve and Jack introduced the audience to *declamation*, a hugely popular way to learn public speaking for over 2000 years which still flourishes in the United States today. Jack gave a version of the famous speech from the film *Malice* where an arrogant doctor declares he is 'God' and Eve presented a speech from the UK science fiction programme *Dr. Who* where the famous doctor bravely tried to stop a parasite from eating people's memories. Other acts included *drama* and *mime* and we even had a *lottery* with prizes for the audience in the middle and towards the end of the show.

One of the highlights of the show was the performance by ten students of the famous song '*To Life*' from the musical '*Fiddler on the Roof*'. The story is set in the town of Anatevka where Jewish people were singing a song of hope in the face of an uncertain future as they celebrated a wedding agreement between the characters Tevye and Lazar. We heard a story from Russia, an Irish act and songs including 'Winter Wonderland.' It was a great Talent Show.

One of the real benefits of events like this is the preparation work - for a week leading up to the event, there were a lot of rehearsals as everyone tried their best to get their acts to the best performance levels for the show. Part of the challenge was to overcome nerves and to move outside comfort zones, so well done to everyone for engaging in this effort and we hope to see the benefits of the confidence you gained in future shows.

Congratulations to all the performers and a big thanks to *Shauna* and *Aisling* for coordinating this event. Also thanks to *Fran* and *John* for helping to set the event up, to **Lenna** and *Eanna* for presenting it, *Corey* and *Dylan* for working as stage crew, the *media team* for their work on a souvenir film, the *PSA* for helping us out with the organisation and a special thanks to all audience members for showing your support by being with us on the night. We hope to see you again in May for our next event – more details to follow after Christmas.

VISIT TO RNLI IN WICKLOW TOWN

In September our school visited the RNLI station in Wicklow. We met Jock and Ger who told us all about the history of the RNLI and the lifeboats.

They told us all about their new lifeboat, about how fast it can go and about its airtight cabin, which can pop out of the water. They showed us one of their smaller boats and we got to try on their special dry-suits. They were yellow and heavy with boots attached to the trousers. RNLI has rescued over 100 people. They do amazing work. They told us about satellite phones and how boats can send out a help signal within minutes. We learned a lot and realised how lucky we are to have this great service. We were disappointed though that we didn't get to sail in the new big boat, but maybe next time.



Article by Kayla, Ciaran and Garbhán

MOVING FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY: A SECRETARY'S VIEW

I had the pleasure of working at Wicklow ETNS (WETNS) for 15 years. It was very hard work but very rewarding at the same time. Having made the move this year to ETSS Wicklow (ETSSW), it was nice to see lots of familiar faces in the seventeen children and their parents that moved from WETNS at the same time. This has definitely made the move easier for me, as well as being surrounded by a new team of friendly staff who all have the enthusiasm that comes with starting a new adventure together.

I had a wonderful send off from WETNS. I feel it's a natural progression for me now to have moved onto second level as my own children almost finished primary school. I have always felt that I learnt a lot as a parent from working in a school and vice versa (though I don't plan to move on to working in a college further down the line). I'm looking forward to creating new memories and experiences here in ETSSW.

Article by Fran

Gaiety School of Acting Drama Workshop in January

CREATIVE WRITING FEATURE

The Water Cycle

It's raining. A raindrop falls from the sky and lands in a puddle. It opens its tiny eyes. "What the heck! How did I get here? One minute I was in my cloud, minding my own business and then bam! I'm here" says the droplet.

"Ah well, you see what happened was something I like to call **precipitation**" a voice said from behind him. The droplet spun around to find a frog staring at him.

"What do you mean, **precipitation**? What's that?" the droplet asked.

The frog sighed. "Precipitation means it rained. Congratulations, you're a raindrop".

"Oh," the droplet said. "So what do I do now? I need to get back to my cloud!"

"Well, you could try and **infiltrate** into the ground through the soil, but groundwater moves very slowly and it could take you months or even years to get back to your cloud. No. The best thing for you to do is join the rest of the runoff and head towards the river" said the frog.

"Oh, thanks, but err.... which way is the river?" the droplet asked.

The frog pointed south and turned to leave.

"Wait! What do I do when I get there ...?"

But the frog was gone.

The droplet decided to take the frog's advice and join all the other droplets dribbling towards the river. When he reached the riverbank he stopped to think for a moment. "Should I go in the river? I mean, it's flowing pretty quickly and I might get swept the wrong way." But before he could make up his mind the **runoff** pushed him forward. He was swept down and tossed around for ages until he finally reached a slower wider part of the river.

"Ah, that's better. But I still don't know where this river goes" the droplet cried in despair.

"Don't know where the river goes! But surely everyone knows that?!" an incredulous voice said behind him. The droplet spun around to find a fish looking at him with an expression of utmost surprise. "No, I don't, okay!" the droplet said angrily.

"Okay, okay, I'm sorry. You aren't from round these parts are you?" the fish asked.

"No, you're right, I'm not" the droplet replied. "I'm trying to get home to my cloud and a frog told me to come to the river but I don't know what to do next."

"Hmm. You know, I think you're supposed to get to the sea", the fish said.

"But then why did the frog tell me to go to the river?" the droplet asked.

"Because, silly, the river comes out at the sea. It's the most direct route to it" the fish answered, turning to swim away.

"Wait, what do I do when I reach the sea?" the droplet shouted after the fish.

"When you reach the sea, just do a little sunbathing, you'll warm up nicely and **evaporate** into **water vapour** and float back up to the clouds" the fish told him.

"But I don't want to be stuck as water vapour for the rest of my life!" the droplet cried.

"Don't worry, when you reach the clouds you'll cool down and **condense** back into a raindrop! the fish reassured him.

With his worries eased, the droplet rushed down the river again and was soon spat into the sea. The sun was shining and just as the fish had said, the droplet felt himself **evaporating** and slowly rising towards the sky. He could see the clouds. He was nearly there! As soon as he entered the cloud, he cooled and condensed back into a raindrop.

"Yes!" he cried "I'm home!". And then he started to fall.....

The End

HALLOWEEN PARTY



The clock ticked slowly as people were getting ecstatic for our Halloween Party organised by the student council. Earlier that morning, a handful of students decided to dress up. We had a wide variety of costumes from a berry to a clown to a zombie.

At the end of Artistic Performance Class, our teachers Shauna and Aisling told us to get ready for the Halloween party. Halloween decorations were dotted around the classroom.

Shauna opened up the sweets and left them on the table. As everyone from Joyce arrived in, people got into their groups with their buds. The Halloween music started to play and the party had started.

There were two prizes to be won – a prize for the raffle and a prize for a costume contest. Jamie Brennan won the raffle and Garbhán Byrne won the costume contest.

The party was a blast and we also welcomed visitors from CEART to the school We're currently working on the Christmas party.

Article by Lenna

FUTSOL TOURNAMENT

On 23rd October 2019, five girls from ETSS Wicklow represented us in a futsol tournament. They arrived at school at 08.30 and headed off to Woodlands Academy, Kilcroney, Bray, playing against more experienced teams. Dale and Oonagh (Eve's mom) were a great help as they were the girls' chauffeurs for the day. Six matches in all, the girls played some brilliant football with great passing and team spirit. Eve, Little Rose, Lucy, Grace and Lenna were in flying form, particularly as they had no prior training.

The tournament had a rocky start and with no spare substitutions, the girls had an uphill battle. However, as the games went on, the girls improved miraculously, ending with a spectacular win. Lenna proved to be a brilliant goalie as she blocked many potential goals from the opposition. Grace played a blinder in defence,

passing the ball to Little Rose and Eve who both had spectacular passing skills. Their skilful passing to Lucy enabled her to put the ball in the back of the net four times. Little Rose even managed to score two more fabulous goals. Each and every one of them played with great energy and the atmosphere was electric. They finished tired but happy and ready for next time.

Afterwards, they drove back to school, no doubt happier with the stop-off at MacDonalds, a reward for playing our first ever football tournament (with some fantastic football). All credit to everyone involved, including the players, the opposition and of course, not forgetting the coach Dale and supporter Oonagh.

Article by Lucy

ATHLETICS

The first event in the athletics calendar was on Thursday 1 October in Avondale forest - it was a relay race. The morning was really cold and the experience was a bit nerve wracking for the five ETSSW students who competed – Calum M, Calum D, John, Sonny and me, Jamie.

The second event was also at Avondale Forrest and it was a 2k cross country run. Our school was in seventh place overall. This was a good result for us overall.

In the most recent race at shoreline track in Greystones, there were 2 heats. Sonny, Ryan, Luc, Ngozi and I (Jamie) competed. Everyone finished in good positions in the top ten, so with another race coming up in March, we're hoping one of us might get in the medals for the first time - may the best teen win!

Article by Jamie



The staff at ETSSW run lunch time clubs to help students discover and nurture their abilities and talents. One very popular club is the Art Club which Aisling runs once a week on a Thursday.

ART CLUB

If students are looking for an opportunity to unwind, chill and explore art at their own pace they should come by the Art Club, Thursday lunch times. It's an opportunity to be creative in a relaxed environment while also providing those interested in art, but not studying it as a choice subject, the chance to express themselves and be visually creative.

We play music, chat and enjoy the task at hand. Currently we are experimenting with depicting motion using shade, colour and lines to create the illusion of movement. Inspired by the pioneering work in photography and early film, such as Edward Muybridge's "Study in Motion" and stop-motion theory, the club is perfect for a range of skill levels and interests.

DAY IN BALTINGLASS ADVENTURE CENTRE



As part of our PE programme, we got to go to an adventure centre in Baltinglass for a day.

The trip took place in the middle of September. We got to try ziplining, orienteering, kayaking, archery and wall climbing in this really beautiful area of Wicklow.

Baltinglass was very fun. It was the last day in the temporary building. We were all excited to be going to our real school building but first to enjoy ourselves in Baltinglass.

The bus journey was fun and when we arrived, we walked in the back of this building and there was was a huge field with archery and a zip line in the distance. First, we got in two separate mini buses to an orientation field. Then we played a game of rounders with different teams. We all had names. I was with Alexander and Bill and we were called the three stooges

That lasted a while and then we took the buses back to Baltinglass. Then we all took a walk to the zip line with a climbing frame on the side and we all had a go at it. This wasn't the best I have to admit that but the climbing wall was fun. I made it to the top.

Shortly after we had lunch, we got into our wet suits and headed down to the lake. It was icy (a) but then we swung off a rope into the lake, that was fun.

When we got back, we had more lunch and then did archery ∞ . I wasn't the best, but I got a bullseye

At this stage it was time to go home and we were all wrecked. The bus home was fun, but we all secretly wanted to go to bed **L**. It was half four when I got home and I had a very heavy bag and had to cycle home from Rathnew.

Overall, I think it was great fun and I learnt how to do orienteering, which I didn't know how to do before Baltinglass.

Article by Jonathan

LITERARY AWARENESS WEEK

Our first literary awareness week took place from the 18-22 November 2019. The English department ran a number of fun book related activities to highlight the value of literacy and encourage a love of reading amongst our students.

Pupils were provided with a copy of the book of the week, *'The Pearl'* by *John Steinbeck*. The 'drop everything and read' opportunities throughout the week allowed students to explore the parable's theme and symbols. Students really identified with how the main characters were destroyed by greed and that we should be grateful for what we have.

SKYPE in the classroom provided an amazing opportunity for our students to meet and interview American critically acclaimed Fantasy author *Melisa Ruscsak*. They learnt about the writing process and are looking forward to the premiere in early 2021 of her book *'The Fallen'* which is currently being turned into a Hollywood movie.

The end of the week culminated with the exploration through group drama about how the plot and theme of the book might have changed if the Pearl had been thrown away at the start. The winning performances received a homework pass for their wonderful insights.

Literary Awareness week really managed to capture the joy and pleasure of reading for both staff and students. So well done to everyone for engaging in all the activities and don't forget how enjoyable reading can be and how much we can learn from it.





Model United Nations happening in March

VISITS TO LEINSTER HOUSE AND NATIONAL MUSEUM

On Thursday 26 September, our school Educate Together Secondary School Wicklow went on a trip to the Dáil. We were given a guided tour and we saw TDs and Senators discussing important issues and making laws. It was a very exciting trip because we could meet an important member of the Government, Minister Simon Harris, and it was actually my first-time meeting someone that famous!

We were talking about the history of Leinster House and we all learned something new. Also, that day we went to the National Museum where we saw a lot of very expensive things such as gold and very old items that had been used by people thousands of years ago. Also, we saw a lot of dead and old bog bodies. It was scary even though we knew they had lived thousands of years ago – it was my first time seeing a dead body.

It was a very cool trip and very exciting and the good thing was that it was completely free. This was a perfect way to learn more about the history of politics in Ireland and also to understand how it works in real life. It was also a great opportunity to learn more history. Thanks to all the teachers who brought us on this trip.



We learned a lot that makes school more interesting because we see that what we do in school is useful in the future.

Article by Daniels

VISIT TO WICKLOW GAOL

On Friday the 27th of September our school went to the Wicklow Gaol. We got a tour around the Gaol and saw many interesting things. These included: (1) the prison cells; (2) the exercise yard; (3) the basement; (4) a prison themed café; (5) a gift shop.

The prison cells - we were told that men and woman were separated and the youngest age in there was five. The cells could be holding up to 60 people at once in one cell. There were many types of cells holding men, women and children.

The exercise yard - they were forced to work on a treadmill and if they stopped, their legs were crushed. Many lives passed away from the walking and others barely survived. They were forced to endure it for six hours.

The basement - the basement was dark and they kept high level people down there. They were whipped and forced to sleep in a dark room for the night. Many starved or were whipped to death.

The cafe - it was only recently added, but it has a really nice menu. It is near the entrance and I recommend you visit it.

Gift shop – again, it was also only recently added, but it is filled to the brim with many exclusive presents to buy for your friends and family.

Article by Corey & Dylan





INFORMATION ABOUT THE PARENT-STAFF ASSOCIATION

The parent-staff association (PSA) meets once a month to discuss issues relating to school life and to provide opportunities for parents to become more involved in the school community. Every parent and guardian is automatically a member of the PSA and the monthly meetings are open to everyone because the objective is to encourage as many parents and guardians as possible to be involved. If you want to find out more, email us at <u>reception@etsswicklow.ie</u>

ETSSW Festival will take place in May

GAELIC FOOTBALL COMPETITION



Sporting history made at Bray Emmets GAA Club

Sporting history was made at Bray Emmets GAA Club grounds on Wednesday 4 December 2019 when ETSS Wicklow took part in its very first Gaelic Football competition. The format of the competition was a 7-a-side blitz involving teams from Arklow, Wicklow and Bray.

ETSS Wicklow took on a very good Glenart Community College (Arklow) team in the first game and thanks to some fine blocking and tackling by Calum Murphy, ETSS Wicklow were only three points down at half time. The Wicklow boys came flying out in the second half and Jamie Moorehouse worked tirelessly in the middle of the park to set up two brilliantly taken goals by Jake Mitchell before adding some lovely scores himself. Jamie Roche popped

over three very well taken points too which helped ETSS Wicklow record their first ever Gaelic Football victory. **Final score: ETSS Wicklow 5 – 7 Glenart 3 – 4**

ETSS Wicklow came up against a very strong Woodbrook College (Bray) team in their second game and were well down at half time. But the Wicklow boys showed great courage in the second half and the great team work and commitment of Corey Nolan inspired a brave comeback attempt by the Educate Together lads. However, Woodbrook were just a little strong on the day and came out on top in the end. **Final score: Woodbrook College 5 – 9 ETSS Wicklow 3 – 7**

In the third and final game, ETSS Wicklow took on Glenart's B team (the Arklow school brought two teams along). Glenart were very lively and converted some nice points in the first few minutes of the game, but once the boys from ETSS Wicklow got going, there was no stopping them. Seán Moorehouse, who had done well in goal in the previous game, now moved up to full forward where he laid off some lovely passes to Ryan O'Toole who clinically converted two goals. At the back, Johnny Bourne proved to be a very safe pair of hands and Glenart couldn't find any way through the ETSS Wicklow defence. The final game marked another victory for the Educate Together boys in what was a thoroughly enjoyable and historic sporting occasion for Wicklow's newest post-primary school. **Final score: ETSS Wicklow 6 – 8 Glenart 4 – 5**

DEBATING CULTURE GROWING AT ETSSW

Wicklow Educate Together secondary school does in fact have a debate team and it is a fabulous one. There are four main debaters being Eve stokes, Lenna Smith, Johnny Bourne and Jack Campbell. The team have gone together to three UCD junior school debates and two Concern debates. Well it was simply great. The team have gone against many schools and have enjoyed themselves in the process. The team have also debated at the school at a vision evening.

THE UCD DEBATES

The junior school debates were held In University College Dublin. They hold debating competition rounds every year and our debating team have gone to every one of them for 2019. The layouts of these debates are quite strange. From each school there is a pair who have been given their argument and have been told if they are opposing or proposing. The pair will then sit on whichever side they are on (opposing or proposing) and there will be other schools which are also working in twos. The opposing and proposing sides that are made up of different schools will then individually debate a topic. The topics this year have been (1) 'Should the use of performance enhancing drugs be legalized?' (2) 'organ donations should be mandatory' (3) 'should stay at home parents be paid a working wage?' These debates have such a sweet atmosphere.

THE CONCERN DEBATES

The Concern debates are held by different schools around Ireland and our school, ETSS Wicklow, is hosting a concern debate soon. These debates are definitely far more difficult as most of our debate team's opponents are in Transition Year, meaning they are senior students. That makes it extra difficult for our first-year debate team to stand up in front of an audience, judges and the opposite team. While these debates don't give off a calm feeling, they really help with any stage fright or worries as it's more competitive for us since our school is actually the only one with first years as team members.

OUR FIRST DEBATE

A couple of weeks into school there was a vision evening. This was a day when all of the parents could come in to the school, see how their child or children have been doing education wise, watch a video on all the activities we've been doing and experience our debaters in action! The debate was "should teachers be replaced by robots?" Eve and Ceire (Ceire's a teacher!) were proposing and Lenna and John (John's also a teacher!) were opposing the statement.

The debates this year have been so fun and the team really look forward to the oncoming debates in 2020.

REPORT FROM SCIENCE WEEK

Our first Science week in ETSSW took place from the 10-17 November. The theme this year was Climate Change and the aim for the week was to show the students different aspects of science and how scientists work.

During Science Week there were three activities for students to engage in. The *I'm a Scientist* activity had live chat sessions that students participated in for homework and a forum where students could ask questions of the scientists. The second activity was a poster competition. For the posters, students were given an Irish scientist to research. The school kindly gave book vouchers to the 1st and 2nd placed posters from each class. The posters were judged by Donal, Fran and Mildred. It was a very close-run competition with 3 posters from each class being debated by the judges. The winning posters in Heaney couldn't be separated and Grace and Luc took joint 1st place, Calum Murphy's poster picked up the 2nd prize. In the Joyce class the judges agreed on 2 posters, in 1st place was Cody and 2nd place was Sonny, Garbhán came in a close 3rd.

The week ended with both classes competing in a science quiz. All students were put into six teams of four students and one team of five in the Heaney room. The teams fought it out over eight general knowledge rounds, covering questions from biology, chemistry, physics, earth and space. I had great help with running the quiz from Jamie Brennan, Ngozi and Ceire on corrections and calculating scores. There was great excitement throughout the quiz with teams working very hard to get the top spot. It was very close with 1st and 2nd only being separated by one point. The winning team consisted of Kayla Murphy, Calum Murphy, Sonny Anderson, Max Doyle and Calum Douglas with each student getting a science homework pass. The team of Garbhán, Philip, Grace and Johnny were the runners up; each winning a stationary set.

The winning scientist from I'm a Scientist (Jake Cunningham) was also our students' favourite scientist. The students finished the week talking about science and their favourite scientists, so it was a huge success.

Students' views:

- "Science week a nice idea and the quiz was really fun. The chat with real scientists was great. I found it really fun" Luke (Joyce)
- "We did a big quiz at the end of the week which was fun. My team won the quiz." Kayla (Enright)
- *"I had loads of fun learning about the scientists, asking them questions and voting for our favourite on the website. I also really enjoyed the science quiz on Friday"* **Sonny (Joyce)**
- "My team came second place by one point, but we still got a really good prize. Over all I had a really good week and can't wait for next year." Grace (Heaney)
- "In science week we looked at a lot of scientist profiles and we had a live chat with the scientists. I really enjoyed the week"
 Corey (Heaney)

REPORT FROM MATHS WEEK

Maths Week, an All-Ireland celebration of Mathematics – returned this year from the 12-20 October. This annual festival is dedicated to raising awareness and appreciation of Maths among young people and the wider population. This year's programme of events was launched by Education and Skills Minister Joe McHugh along with Science Foundation and was a great success with over 400,000 people taking part across the country. Schools all over the country also took part and ETSS Wicklow was no exception with students excited to get in on the action!

Our school ran a series of daily Maths questions and puzzles to stimulate student thinking around problem solving and to help them apply their mathematical reasoning to solve real world problems. This fun approach to tackling real world problems is part of ETSS Wicklow's innovative approach to helping build a positive image of Mathematics in the school and wider community here in Wicklow. Some quotes from our students says it all about pupil enjoyment of the week;

- "It was a really fun to try and solve a new problem every day. There were great prizes to be won (although I didn't win any) and it was a really fun way to learn" (Sonny)
- "It was fun, exciting and challenging my favourite part was trying to answer the question. Maths is fun!" (Kayla)
- "I really enjoyed Maths Week because we could win prizes, and guess what I won! I answered the world-famous Monty Hall problem correctly and my name was pulled out of all the correct answers to win a €15 One4All voucher!" (Daniels)
- "I really enjoyed Maths Week, the problems were fun and I am looking forward to next year's events" (Cody)

You're not the only one Cody! The countdown to Maths Week starting Saturday 10 October 2020 has begun!

That brings us to the end of this first newsletter – why not consider submitting an article for the next one in May? <u>reception@etsswicklow.ie</u>