



# HALLOWEEN NEWSLETTER

Happy Halloween



October 27th 2023 Issue #9

## Update from Our New Deputy Principal



It is a privilege and an honour to be appointed Deputy Principal of ETSS Wicklow. As a passionate advocate for inclusion, I strive for each of our students to reach their potential and succeed.

After a busy but rewarding term, which has seen our school community continue to grow; welcoming in another group of first year students and having our first senior cycle group enter fifth year, it is now time for all our students to have a rest and recharge before the November exams commence.

Wishing all our students and families a lovely midterm!

## Fancy Dress Day

Our schools fancy dress day started off with us all going to our base classes in our fancy dress and then donating 2 and upwards euro to go towards charity focused helping ETSS schools students came in as Pirates, Soldiers and other charters our first and second years enjoyed a murder mystery event students overall really enjoyed the event and are looking forward to next year!



By Oscar Kavanagh



## New Building Ready to Go!!

This year our school had started renovations on the old unused building and just finished the renovations. With the renovations and updates to the building there are 3 new base classes and a new art room to allow for more resources.

Students have responded warmly to the new building. One art student said they really enjoy the additional space!"

Along with the other rooms there are 2 resource rooms that have been responded to positively with students and staff alike.



## Anything But a Bag Day

The student council organised a small "Anything but a bag" fundraiser for Wednesday the 18th of October. For those of you don't know it means that students, teachers and SNAs could bring their belongings in anything but a bag! It was a great success in ETSS Wicklow. Everyone was very excited and had a lot of great ideas. I know that we had a wheelbarrow all the way to a TESCO basket. The student council were busy collecting money for fundraising for to get a new water fountain. Overall, it was a good turnout and I can't wait to see more things that the student council do to make our school the best it can be!



Harry Tindale – Third Year







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Issue #9

## 1st Term in First Year

First years are settling in great, here at ETSS Wicklow, getting to know their timetables, teachers and classmates.

Everyone is making new friends and getting to know each other great. We're all getting used to using iPads as well, as it was a change going from textbooks to iPads.

"I am definitely enjoying coming here, and am settling in great" said some pupils from Shannon class, first year "it was a bit of a change, but I got used to it.

There is always lots of chat at break as friends from different classes laugh and talk together.

Lots of the first years have joined club, sports and other clubs.

Caoilfhionn McLindon - Shannon Class

## Study Survey

This year the press team was curious on how students felt about the upcoming exams and their thoughts on studying, so we created and sent out a Microsoft forms survey to understand how students felt about the November exams. We asked students their overall thoughts on the exams, and we found out the overwhelming feeling about the exams was very positive. One student said "I mean I just tend not really to think about it, but i mean they're exams".

We asked students how they felt about the changing of exam dates. There was some mixed opinion, with some who really enjoyed the extra study time and others who disliked it. For example one student said "A good idea, as it would relieve some stress coming up to Christmas for those in non-state exam years".

We also asked students about their study habits, such as how often they study. We found that out of the 22 responses only two study daily, eight study 1-2 times a week, and three only study at the weekend. We asked if more after school study would help, but the response was "I haven't really went there yet but I think it helps a lot of people".

By Oscar Kavanagh



## Top 10 Study Tips & Tricks Stacey Finn, Guidance Counsellor



1. **Work smarter, not harder!** - Use the techniques, strategies and methods your subject teachers did with you in class during study skills week. Choose 1 study method for each subject that suits you and use that!
2. **Try not to bite off more than you can chew!** - The average attention span for teenagers is 8 minutes! Focus on one task for 8-9 minutes, then change task. This will save you from boredom!
3. **Get the worst of it out of the way!** - we all dread that one subject, one topic or one task. Do that one first! Then the dread is gone and you can focus more clearly.
4. **Start small!** - Starting with shorter and more succinct tasks will give you a sense of productivity. This will motivate you to keep going!
5. **Stay focused!** - Staying focused is hard when you have a lot to focus on. Remove distractions. If you have a pile of work to do, don't keep it all on your desk. Having everything in your sight will overwhelm you. Out of sight, out of mind!
6. **Practise, practise practise!** - Just like riding a bike, or learning to play an instrument, practising for your exams by completing exam questions, textbook exercises again and again will make answer the questions in your exam easier. Practise makes progress!
7. **Fake it until you make it!** - Pretend you are productive. To feign productivity, get up, get dressed, do a small task to get that sense of achievement and always keep your shoes on! (Can't fall asleep if your feet are firmly flat on the floor!)
8. **Be careful of your narrative!** - Talk to your friends about anything BUT the exam! Your stress can impact how stressed they become. And their stress might make you more stressed! Don't let your social life become about the exams too.
9. **Sleep!** - Most research shows that sleep plays a critical role in the formation and storage of long-term memories. Poor sleep impairs memory consolidation by disrupting the normal process.
10. **Use it or lose it!** - Apply your knowledge as much as possible. Teach your family and friends about the things you have learned. The more you use it, the more you will remember it. If you don't use it, it will be lost!

## ETSSW Open Night

On Tuesday 17th of October ETSS Wicklow had the great pleasure of welcoming local 6th class students into the school, from 6.30-8.30pm. There was an exuberant atmosphere as prospective students and their families were given tours of the school by our current students. In Art, guests had an opportunity to create some wonderful but messy artwork. For any fans of 'the great British Bake-Off' there was a chance to get creative and ice their own cupcake in our state-of-the-art Home Economics room. Our Maths teacher Lucy got students involved in Uno, Mathopoly, solving Maths riddles, fun algebra equations, and finished off with an exciting equation race. Our English department had lots of fun quizzes, riddles and activities about classic literature. In Science, students conducted an array of interesting and exciting experiments. Visiting students had the wonderful opportunity to further try out new musical instruments, VR reality simulation, Volleyball and modern languages with some of our current students. It was a great evening for all and we looking forward to welcoming new students next year.







## Sports in ETSS Wicklow

The last couple of weeks was full of challenging sport matches including the school football team, after playing tough matches throughout the past couple of weeks. Last week on Tuesday, the junior team edged a 3-2 win in extra time over tough opposition Cistercian College in the Junior cup. This Week, the minor team lost to Colaiste an Atha, a very strong team but the team played very well and persevered right until the final whistle. There was also two first years (Dougie Bowie and Ryan Cox) playing their first ever match for the school, against an age group above them. On Wednesday, the minor team traveled to Glenart College and narrowly lost 1-0 after a great team performance.

Dougie, Bowie Class, 1st year

The girls basketball team has come on a lot as there has been a lot of interest from all the girls this year. Our team captain is Faye Fitzgibbon who has been selected by the team. We have played three games so far this year, The team has showed great effort in all three.

All the girls have showed their commitment on and off the pitch as we have come together to design a new girls basketball jersey produced by the team.

Lily - Third Year

## Student Council trip to the Ombudsman for Children's office in Dublin

The student council went to the Ombudsman for Children's office in Dublin to learn about Children's Rights. Firstly, they had a tour around the office. It was amazing and they found out that they actually take suggestions from children to make it a more friendly environment. They also covered the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to find out more about the children's rights and how we can use them to implement new things in our school and they also got some experience for the trip. Overall, this trip was a success and will definitely make a positive impact on the student council.



Girls basketball team



Boys soccer team

## Junior Cert results

On Wednesday October 18th, the current Transition Year students in ETSS Wicklow (JC Class of 2023) received their Junior Cycle examination results. Families of the students were invited to a ceremony that was held to celebrate these remarkable results. There was a passionate speech given by Principal, John Maddock that commended students on their achievements and their hard work and dedication during their Junior Cycle throughout the struggle of the Covid-19 pandemic. Afterwards, refreshments and treats were provided to students and their families so they could celebrate their results together. The JC Class of 2023 have most certainly done our school proud. Though these exams are a milestone in their education and the history of Wicklow's newest school; we would like to remind our students that they should not lose sight of the fact that there are many paths to achieving their dreams and this is just one step on that journey. Well done to all students on their fantastic achievements!



## Looking Forward to Next Term -Principal John Maddock

We have had a very busy and productive first half term at ETSS Wicklow. 2023-2024 so far has seen three new first year groups settle into school life, while for the first time we've had Leaving Certificate 5th year students start this September. Our first half term has seen many highlights including our second ever set of Junior Cycle results, different academic themed weeks, sporting success, visits from government ministers and student trips at home and abroad. Following the mid-term now we have a number of different events, initiatives and important weeks to focus on such as Revision Week, Exam Week from the 13th November, Science Week, Enterprise Week, Careers Awareness Week and the foreign Spanish Language Exchange trip. There will also be first year parent-teacher meetings, parent-staff association meetings, the publication of reports home to parents and guardians and back by popular demand our parent-student led Winter Fair!

Wishing all of our staff and students a restful week ahead, before we return on Monday 6th with Revision Week before our first block of exams for all year groups begin on Tuesday the 14th November.

## New staff at ETSSW



We give a warm welcome to our news staff members that have joined us this year.

We would like to welcome teachers Caitlin, Clare, Francisco, Grace, Gráinne, Ivan, Orla, Robert, Saoirse, Sarah Culleton, Shannon, Stacey, Tony and our new SNAs, Chloe and Sinead. Wishing you all the besrt this year.

## SPOOKY CROSSWORD

**Happy Halloween!** 

**DIRECTIONS:** Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

N	O	Y	T	K	S	P	H	M	H	A	T	E	K	S	A	C	M	T
B	C	G	P	U	S	Z	T	Y	L	N	B	E	V	X	A	R	O	H
T	T	X	R	E	H	A	U	N	T	A	G	L	U	E	D	T	G	
E	O	Z	N	E	E	T	M	W	S	H	U	Y	L	V	Z	K	N	I
N	B	J	R	I	C	R	I	O	O	M	D	A	H	N	S	A	N	
O	E	Y	P	A	H	A	C	S	H	E	R	D	B	A	I	A	H	D
T	R	H	O	C	K	B	T	G	B	O	A	P	R	O	D	S	P	I
S	A	U	T	U	M	N	S	R	N	C	E	P	Z	D	O	D	N	M
B	R	I	L	H	V	C	O	T	A	B	N	O	T	E	L	E	K	S
M	W	Y	O	Q	A	O	W	N	Y	N	R	T	E	M	A	R	E	J
O	D	W	K	D	M	B	C	H	W	E	R	E	W	O	L	F	I	C
T	L	S	J	S	P	W	E	O	P	W	B	Y	D	N	A	C	R	A
G	R	P	T	B	I	E	W	A	F	T	J	Q	I	T	G	D	E	C
G	D	I	M	R	R	B	E	Y	A	F	T	E	R	L	I	F	E	K
Z	C	D	C	N	E	R	M	Z	U	W	I	R	U	C	T	M	Y	L
K	B	E	G	K	M	E	U	Y	X	F	N	M	O	O	N	A	E	
O	X	R	V	I	U	A	F	Q	V	D	B	X	W	J	X	D	J	R
W	M	P	R	M	W	K	C	A	L	B	B	L	O	O	D	S	U	X
L	O	G	B	Z	D	I	R	V	Q	K	H	I	C	M	H	D	S	M

AFTERLIFE  
AUTUMN  
BAT  
BLACK  
BLOOD  
BOO  
BROOMSTICK  
CACKLE  
CADAVR  
CANDY  
CASKET  
CAT  
CAULDRON

COBWEB  
COFFIN  
CREEPY  
DEMON  
EERIE  
GHOST  
GHOUL  
GRIM REAPER  
HAUNT  
HOWL  
MASK  
MIDNIGHT  
MOON

MUMMY  
OCTOBER  
OGRE  
OWL  
PHANTOM  
PRANK  
SKELETON  
SPIDER  
TOMBSTONE  
TRICK  
VAMPIRE  
WEREWOLF  
WITCH

## SPOOKY STORY

Take a look at the spooky story our open night visitors made together by each adding a sentence to the story...

It was a dark, dark night....

And I was going through the woods. Then I heard a loud snap. I accidentally stood on a branch.

I heard a loud snap then my bones want crack as I tumbled down a dark track, and I broke my arm.

It hurt so I screamed in pain, the sound was like a banshee.

The sound bounced from tree to tree, weeeee!

Then I saw a hand stick out of the ground.

There was blood all over it. Then I saw it in the woods it was a skull! I ran so fast! I fell down.

The hand started to pull the body of the monster .

I was so terrified I didn't know if I'd ever see daylight again. The monsters body got pulled right down into the ground. I saw something in the corner of my eye and thought it was the monster again. I was playing football with my friends.

Then I remembered that I had no friends. So I started playing on my own. Suddenly, the ball came flying at my face and I was knocked out cold.

When I woke up I didn't know who I was.

Suddenly I felt a sharp pain in my leg the monster had got me it was biting my leg I panicked and then a cat appeared out of nowhere and started licking my face. suddenly the cat started to talk ,I thought I was dreaming!! realised I wasn't dreaming and it was a talking cat.

The cat was saying how I was stuck here for all eternity. As I turned to walk away a werewolf jumped out of the darkness. I was skreeming because there was a murderer! The muderrrr likes watching me and I caught him and I screamed and ran away....