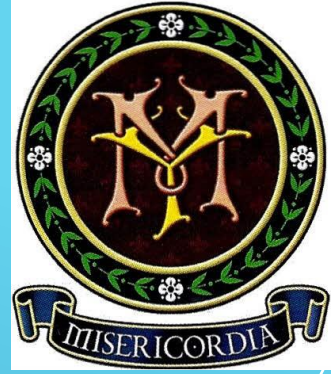


ST JOSEPH'S SECONDARY SCHOOL BALLYBUNION



December Newsletter 2021



CEIST

Catholic Education
An Irish Schools Trust



SPORT



Maire Keane Tyrell 1st year awarded Junior Golf Ireland medal by Lady Captain Olga Kiely, Vice-Captain Georgina Keane and Patsy Gleeson (Ladies Junior Officer) at Ballybunion Golf Club for 2021



Cadet Basketball:

This year the u16's have performed impressively going unbeaten in the league. On their travels the girls have beaten

Hazelwood College, Tarbert Comprehensive, Laurel Hill Limerick, Causeway Comprehensive and Castletroy college Limerick. In reward for their great work the girls play ISK Killorglin in the Regional Semi Final on December 14th where a Spot in the final awaits the winner and a place in the All Oreland Playoffs in January. The team has been terrific and are a credit to the school.

Senior basketball: This year the U19's, after winning the All Ireland last time out, faced difficult opponents in the B league. Impressively the girls went on to win 4 out of their 6 games in the league to show the step up has not hindered their form on court. In the prestigious Pinery National School Cup the girls have been in superb form winning all of their eerily round games, notably beating St. Andrews College Dublin and Pres Bagnalstown of Carlow, 2 difficult trips for the team. On Dec 16th the girl's cup journey came to an end narrowly losing the semi-final to Laurel Hill in the UL Arena. On the school's first year back in the B division they have performed superbly and the future is looking very bright for St. Joseph's basketball with an abundance of talent coming through in the younger teams who start their campaigns after Christmas.

LADIES FOOTBALL



CAMOGIE





SENIOR FOOTBALL & HURLING

Our Senior team had a great start to the year beating Castleisland Community College and Castlegregory Secondary School to win the Moynihan Plate. That victory was followed by a very strong Munster campaign with wins over Castlegregory Secondary School, Hazelwood College and SMGS Blarney and a Munster semi final to look forward too after Christmas.

Our Seniors Hurlers started the year with a good win over Gaelcholaiste Chiarrai but were then beaten by a strong St Joseph's Abbyeale team.

We also received a new set of school jerseys thanks to Donnacha and Bernie Kindlin of Study Kerry Ireland.



SPORT

Junior FOOTBALL

Our Junior team also had a great start to the year beating Castleisland Community College and Castlegregory to win the Tom Fitzgerald Cup.



U15 FOOTBALL

Our U15s started the year with a very narrow one point loss to Castlegregory Secondary School in Munster but finished with a well won North Kerry Blitz Shield. We also had a comprehensive win over Castleisland Community College in a challenge match.



St Josephs Ballybunion



TRANSITION YEAR



Our Transition year group have made the best of a difficult year for activities with plenty of guest speakers, days away and internal events.



JUNIOR CERT RESULTS



STUDENT COUNCIL



The students below have been elected to the Student Council for this coming year.

Maggie Mulvihill (1A)

Thanh Creed (A)

Mya O'Callaghan (2B)

Kevin Cullen (2B)

Caoimhe Carroll (3A)

Oisín Healy (3A)

Aisling Hennessy (4A)

Darragh Healy (4A)

Kelly Walsh (5C)

Jamsie Buckley (5C)

Sandra Enright (6A)

Dean Allen(6B)

SCHOOL EVENTS



Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 14th December
Please donate €2
Prizes for best costume



In aid of Ballybunion Sea and Cliff Rescue

In Service; Teaching & Learning, Curriculum

We are delighted to share our e-newsletter for December 2021. With such a volume and breadth of activities taking place in our schools daily it is difficult to include everything. This month we have taken just a snapshot on the themes We hope you enjoy!

The significant challenges presented by Covid-19 since March 2020 were embraced by our school with resilience, compassion and determination ensuring our schools continued to provide and participate in the highest possible standards of teaching, learning and care. Thank you!

With the return to the classroom the entire school community – teachers, SNA's students administrators and caretaker are owed a massive amount of gratitude for their work studies and lives as they come together in person once more.

JCT Cluster day will be on the 13th Jan 2022

Following a request from the Parents Advisory Council, Supervised Study after school is going well and is offered to all students.

Athena Tracker

We decided to implement the Athena Tracker for our students starting in September. It is an **academic tracking tool which creates a student's baseline potential in each subject in each exam.**

The Athena Tracker boasts a number of features, including, but not limited to:

Continuous tracking of grades

Grade predictions for each student

Ongoing calculation of expected results. The Athena Tracker is an academic tracking tool which creates a student's baseline potential in each subject in each exam. This baseline is based on a statistical model we have built using the exam results of all of the previous results of students on the software. The purpose of the software is to highlight when a student falls below this potential and may need further support so that whenever a student falls below their potential in any subject, the teacher receives an alert and can investigate what is going on with the student and whether any additional support or intervention is required.

This ensures no student gets missed in a very busy school system.

The BOM decided not to go ahead with German Exchange this year with current covid restrictions and risks that this brings and return to it next year, Sept 2022.

Leaving cert exams results were above the national average and H1 H2 and H3 in many subjects as could be seen from the analysis of results provided. We had three students who got up to 600 points and one student who achieved the Maximum 625 points. Huge congratulations to all staff and students on the great results.

School plan, survey were sent out in May, data was colligated and in the August meeting staff were split into groups and picked 2 actions from the following: 1. Creation of a student friendly outdoor space 2. Positive reinforcements/ rewards for students 3. Increased communication with Parents 4. Improved Staff Communication 5. ICT 6. Staff Wellbeing Policy 7. Extra-Curricular Activities. Each group report back to all staff and provided a summary of actions to be taken.

Covid Learning and Support Scheme

A new programme called Covid Learning and Support Scheme (CLASS) is being put in place to help schools mitigate the adverse impacts of Covid-19 on pupil/student learning loss and wellbeing arising from the periods of school closures in 2020 and 2021. The new programme comprises two main elements:

The provision of additional teaching hours to schools to support their work in addressing learning loss among pupils/students arising from periods of school closures.

Opportunities for schools to share practice which is considered to be most effective in mitigating learning loss among pupils/students.

Under the programme, additional teaching hours are being provided to schools for the 2021/22 school year as a once off temporary allocation.

With this once off allocation, schools can provide additional teaching support to pupils/students who, in their view, arising from Covid-19 disruption. are at increased risk of learning loss and/or at risk of early school leaving. **We were allocated an additional 12 hours per week**

School Building Refurbishments Update on building

The first batch of CO2 monitors arrived 08/09/2021 and were installed in classrooms

Building in Woodwork corridor , The corridor was made wider and we built a new classroom and a link corridor to computer room .

Link Corridor between main school and front school had begun construction

2 New Gas boilers were installed to heat the main school.

We replaced the 5 existing wooden partitions with 5 soundproof partitions

Computer room being renovated to library and new trolley of devices purchased

We got the Schools Broadband updated.

Water fountain up and running

Updating of all photos in the school ongoing and painting of lobby carried out over the midterm

Thanks to Study Kerry who sponsored a set of Jerseys to the value of 1000 euro and gave an individual present to each member of staff.

Our school, has been awarded a fully funded 20-hour BLAST Artist in residency opportunity via the new BLAST Arts in Education Residency Programme 2021/2022. The timeframe for completion of the Residency is May 2022. The BLAST Arts in Education Residency application which is funded by the Department of Education is supported by the ESCI education centre network. We will get a qualified artist that will work with the students and a grant of 1000 euro.

Thank you to all the staff of the school (including the caretaker, secretaries, SNA's) the students and parents for their continued support during these very difficult times with COVID-19. I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and best wishes for the year ahead.

John O Donovan. Principal