

Scoil Aireagail Newsletter



Easter
2023

Principal Helen McTighe's Message

Dear parents/ guardians,

I write this entry at a time when the clocks have gone forward and there is a sense of development and progress in the air. This is a good time to reflect on all that has happened in school life since our last newsletter. This term we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board (KCETB). This was opportunity to highlight our core belief that learning is for all, that learning has the power to change lives and build communities, and that our school can offer an educational pathway for every student. We held our inaugural Grandparents Day which was a very special opportunity to showcase our ethos which centres on our five core values: excellence in education, care, community, equality and respect.

In our community, everyone is valued for who they are and challenged to be the best possible version of themselves. Ours is a culture of inclusion for the greater good of all. We have three priorities:

- A safe and healthy environment
- A community in which staff and students can flourish
- A community of welcome

You will notice new changes to our school infrastructure over the coming months with the upgrade to our basketball courts and the development of seven new classrooms to cater for our growing school community. Parents play a key role in the life of our school and your participation is always welcome and your support is greatly valued. Thank you to all those parents who take the time to express their gratitude for all that our staff do in Scoil Aireagail to care for your children, whether it is by phone, email or card. These sentiments are very much appreciated.

As we move into the summer term, this is a time for students to consolidate their learning over the course of the year as they prepare for summer exams and state exams. We provide a Studyclix account for all our students. This is an excellent resource to help students revise topics covered in class. All students need to develop their use of this as becoming an independent learner is a key skill that does not suddenly emerge when finished secondary school. Like all achievements, it takes time, consistency and hard work.

Thank you for your support,
Helen

Scoil Aireagail celebrate Grandparents Day As part of our celebration of ETB Week, Scoil Aireagail held our first ever Grandparents day yesterday afternoon. Our wonderful students welcomed their loving Grandparents to our school for some Music, Dance and Poetry performed by our students followed by Tea and Cake! This was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon for all and it is sure to be an annual event! Many thanks to all for coming and to all who helped with the organising and baking of goods.



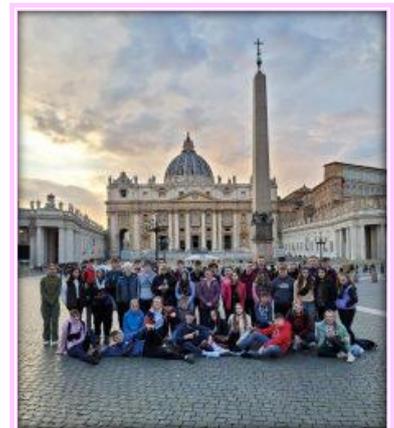
John O'Shea founder of Goal visits Scoil Aireagail In February our 5th and 6th year students attended a talk by John O'Shea, an entrepreneurial activist and the founder of Goal. It was an eye opening experience that taught them about the sorrows happening in the forgotten world and urging them to take action and let the voices of the youth speak out about issues. Overall it was a very informative and inspirational discussion.



Scoil Aireagail Guidance Counselling Website Career Guidance and Counselling is at the heart of our Pastoral Care System at Scoil Aireagail. Our Guidance Counsellors have a caring and supportive role in the school where students can get advice and supports about a range of issues. From relationships to study skills and family difficulties to college advice and information, the Guidance Counsellors are on hand to meet with students in a confidential environment where they can be cared for and supported throughout their time in the school. To access Scoil Aireagail's Guidance Counselling Website please scan this QR Code.



TY and 5th Year trip to Rome Some TY and 5th year students recently returned from a trip to Rome. They took in the sights and learned about the history, architecture, archeology, art and religious culture of one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in Europe. A wonderful trip was had by all involved and judging by the number of coins thrown into the Trevi Fountain, many will be returning!! Scan the QR code to view the highlights!



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Premiere "Young Film Stars" We were delighted to attend the Premier of "Young Film Stars", held in the Set Theatre in Kilkenny just before the Christmas break. The project was a unique collaboration between Amber's One Million Stars Ireland and Young Irish Film Makers. As we emerged from a series of lockdowns of 2020 and 2022, it became evident that young people were disproportionately affected by the impact of not being able to socialise together in person. This project, funded by the Coca Cola Thank You Fund aimed to promote healthy, safe and empowering experiences around socialisation and connection. This was achieved by using a blended approach of creative activities, that raise awareness around staying safe in relationships and promote healthy relationships while enabling young people to have access to the best standard of media production. The young people have learned to navigate and model story telling in an empowering way. Check out the 3 short films created by TY students in Scoil Aireagail and photos from the premiere night by scanning this QR Code.



5th Year students examine their local area during an architecture workshop run by Studio Anois 5th Year students completed a workshop looking at local amenities and architecture, run by Town Ecologics, Studio Anois got students to discuss our locality and how a little thought could improve the use of space.

LCVP students meet with Local Enterprise Office, Kilkenny

In February Rosie Dunne from our Local Enterprise Office in Kilkenny came to speak to our 5th Year LCVP students. She spoke to them about the work that they carry out and also how to set up your own business. Thanks to Rosie for facilitating such a useful talk.

2nd Year Art students work with their 'Blast' Artist in residency programme This term 2nd year art students have been working with with Artist Thomas Duffy. The 'Blast' Artist in residency programme is a unique opportunity for Scoil Aireagail students to explore the creative process and understand how artists work today.



Bank of Ireland School Bank recruitment Programme for our TY Business students

Our TY Business students had a Zoom presentation with Sean O'Byrne, Youth Co-ordinator, Bank of Ireland. The aim of the presentation was to help students improve their financial wellbeing and give them the tools needed to take control of their finances in order to plan and save for the future. Sean also spoke to students about the school bank project which our TY Business students will get involved with over this term. Students will apply for positions with Bank of Ireland and get involved with running a school bank. Thanks to Sean for taking the time to talk to our students.

TY Art Students celebrate Là Fhèill Brìghde Back in February our TY Art students learned to weave the traditional St. Brigid's cross in Art class and created art work to celebrate the feast day of St. Brigid that marks the welcome beginning of Spring.



Daniella Le Mentec French assistante works with our French students En Février Daniella Le Mentec a passé la semaine à Scoil Aireagail. Elle a rencontré tous les élèves qui étudient le français et elle a aidé les étudiants en terminale à préparer leur examen oral. Merci bien à Daniella. Big thank you to Daniella who spent a week in February with us. Daniella is studying to be an English teacher at the university in Grenoble. It was great to have Daniella with us for the week and it was wonderful for our students to have the opportunity to chat with a young French person and improve their spoken French.



Students celebrate World Book Day Thursday 2nd of March was World Book Day and to celebrate it our English classes took part in a variety of fun tasks and competitions. Writing poems and short stories about the joy of reading, creating posters and bookmarks inspired by our favourite novels to name just a few. In addition to this we encouraged students to dress up as their favourite book characters. The day culminated in the whole school taking part in a 'Drop Everything And Read'. A fantastic day was had celebrating all that is wonderful about reading.



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1st Year student wins ETB Photography Competition Congratulations to one of our 1st Year students who won a prize in the ETB photography competition celebrating our educational ethos, pictured here with his photo titled 'respect' getting presented with his prize by Principal Ms McTighe.



Scoil Aireagail's Junior Cycle class of 2022 received their JCPAs On Monday, 20th March, Scoil Aireagail's Junior Cycle class of 2022 received their JCPAs. This celebrated all their achievements over the three years. This included academics, sport, wellbeing, and developing the Key Skills embedded in the Junior Cycle. The students received the certificates from Ms. McTighe and afterwards celebrated with a tea party. Well done, Junior Cycle Class of 22.



Student Council visit the Office of the Ombudsman for Children (OCO) To learn more about Children's rights our Student Council members went on a trip to the office of the Ombudsman for children (OCO) in February. This workshop helped them to understand their role and how to represent students in Scoil Aireagail.

Student Council members were also busy this term working with Kilkenny Lions Club on the Lions Recycle for Sight project. They helped collect used eyeglasses from the school community. These glasses are then distributed to third world countries to help improve children's and adults education and quality of life.



2nd Year trip to Castlecomer Discovery Park Our 2nd years travelled to Castlecomer on Thursday the 16th March for a team-building day out. They participated in a number of fun team-building games requiring problem solving, communication and coordination. They then enjoyed some leisurely boating activities on the large lake surrounded by the stunning natural woodland. The students really enjoyed having fun on the Pedal boats and the Canadian canoes. A great day out was had by all.

6th Year English class attend Macbeth performance

Our Higher Level English 6th year students attended the Theatre Royal in Waterford on the 19th of January for their Macbeth Review showing. The interactive performance went through key scenes from the play allowing students the opportunity to ask questions to the central characters to better understand what they say and why they say it, what they do and how they do it. It was a fantastic day and an invaluable revision resource ahead of the mocks and leaving cert.



6th Year workshop with SVP Our 6th year students completed a series of workshops over 6 weeks with the Young SVP where they learned all about the vital work SVP carry out within our local communities. Thanks to Debbie Donohoe for delivering this programme. Key points: It only takes 7 seconds to make an assumption about someone. Challenge stereotypes.



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TYs Personal safety and Self-Defence Programme In January our TYs took part in a personal safety/self-defence programme run by Personal Safety director Alex Walsh. The programme is a very valuable one that allow students to develop their personal safety and awareness. Students learned how to assess different situations and the methods on how best to protect themselves if the need arises. Thanks to Alex for running the workshop.



TY visit Kilmainham Gaol and Croke Park Also in February our TY students made a trip to Dublin City. The day started with a visit to Kilmainham Gaol where students learned about major Irish historical events and some of Ireland's political leaders that were detained in the prison. The day concluded then with a visit to Croke Park. Students got to taken in the views of Dublin during the Skyline tour and got to go behind-the-scenes for a stadium tour. Thanks to Kilmainham Gaol and @crokepark_official for having us.



1st Year Science class make atomic models 1st year Science were very busy recently. They made atomic models of some common compounds. Scientists of the future.



TYs take part in a Driver Education Workshop Back in February our TYs took part in a driver education workshop run by Woods Driving School. TYs learned valuable skills such as changing a tyre and participated in a mock theory test. Students also look at the serious consequences of drink driving. A big thank you to Jenny Woods for facilitating the workshop.



Senior Cycle Agricultural Science students visit Hennessy's farm in Kells

Our Senior Cycle Agricultural Science students recently visited Hennessy's farm in Kells. There, they saw a 50 unit rotary milking parlour in use. They also had a tour of the farm and had a very informative trip. Thanks to Liam Hennessy and Derek Perse for showing us around! They also attended an Agri Aware event in Kildalton Agricultural College which provided an in-depth look at certain aspects of the course that couldn't be explained as well in the classroom.



2nd Year CSPE students study the impact of Fast Fashion 2 yellow CSPE class recently completed a survey on fashion habits among our 1st and 3rd year students. This was part of their action project on fast fashion. Students learned about where most of the clothes they buy come from, as well as the poor working conditions in many of these countries.



Scoil Aireagail Music 6th Yr Music students have been busy practising for their upcoming Practical exams. It is wonderful to see them all performing with such confidence, musicianship and creativity. Scan the QR code to see their wonderful performances.



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Junior Hurlers Kilkenny School Team trials Well done to the first and second year hurlers who took part in a trial for the Kilkenny Schools team back in January. This team is made up of players from a number of schools and will compete against other counties later in the year. The trial was held in Dunmore and the players were put through their paces by coaches Brian Ryan and Sean Kelly.

Junior Hurling Success Well done to our 1st and 2nd year hurlers who have been very impressive in their Leinster championship campaign. They had impressive wins against Mountmellick and Clonaslee College and are now through to the Leinster semi-finals which will be played after Easter. Best of luck to all involved.



Basketball Success Congratulations to our 1st year boys basketball team who defeated Colaiste Cois Suire to qualify for quarter final of South Leinster competition to be played in March.

2nd year boys basketball team who played their 2nd game ever and had a good win over also over Colaiste Cois Suire on Tuesday.

Our 1st Year girls got through to the quarter finals of the South Leinster schools competition when they played St. Mary's New Ross. The girls fought to the final buzzer against a St Marys team packed with club players and gave a display of heart and skill against their physically imposing opponents. Well done girls! Scoil Aireagail abul!



U19 Girls Badminton Leinster Champions

On Thursday 26th of January, our U19 girls badminton team proudly represented our school in division 3 in the Leinster championships in Baldoyle, Co. Dublin. The girls were successful in the group stage against Moate Community College and Loretto Bray. Unfortunately, Ella Brennan got an injury playing in the final group match. However, Beth O'Keefe stepped in and played very well in her place. The girls got into the final against Sacred Heart and after

a hard fought match, the girls came out on top 5 to 1 as Leinster champions. We are extremely proud of the girls for the amazing win.

Report written by our TY journalist - Shauna Sutton.



U14 Girls Badminton Well done to the Girls under 14 badminton team who were runners up in division 1 of Kilkenny Secondary Schools competition held in Kilkenny recently.



U14 Boys Badminton Our boys under 14 badminton team recently competed in the Kilkenny Secondary Schools Badminton championships. Our A team were runners up in Division 2 to Callan while our B team competed well at C grade! Well done to all.

Junior Girls Soccer Well done to our junior girls soccer teams, who faced off against Duisk College last month. The girls were victorious in their efforts to come out on top with a striking score of 10:1. The girls immediately took the lead, with Emma Dempsey scoring the first goal of the game. They didn't stop there with Abbie O'keeffe scoring four consecutive goals, accompanied by a goal from Ruth Cass Hennesy. By the time the whistle blew, Emma Dempsey secured a hattrick and Órla Sutton a brace. Only one goal was lost to a penalty in the final play. There was an exceptional effort put in by all. Best of luck to the girls who will face Bagnelstown in the semi-finals after the Easter break.
Report Written by our Ty Journalists: Shauna Sutton and Kevin Prendergast



Junior Boys Soccer. On Monday 20th of March our Scoil Aireagail junior soccer team faced off against Duiske College in the Kilkenny Carlow ETB league semi-final. The boys started off strong, getting a free kick, which was taken by Josh Dungan and scored by Michael Dunne. Unfortunately, Duiske countered this with two consecutive goals, but this wasn't a problem for Scoil Aireagail, with Josh Dungan burying the ball in the back of the net to even the score before the end of the first half. Duiske began the second half stronger and despite their best efforts, the boys were unable to stop Duiske from scoring three goals consecutively. Well done to the boys who all put in their best efforts but unfortunately that will be their last match of the season. **Report written by TY journalist Shauna Sutton.**



Ukrainian Translation of our Newsletter available by scanning this QR Code
Український переклад нашого бюлетеня



Key Dates

School re-opens after Easter Mon, 17th April.

Leaving Certificate Oral Irish Exams Sat 1st April & 2nd April

Leaving Certificate Oral French Exams Tuesday 4th April

Block 4 of supervised evening study Mon 8th May.

School Closed Public Holiday Mon 1st May

1st Year Display of Work 3-4:30pm Thursday 4th May

Transition Year Graduation 7pm Thursday 18th May

2023 Student Awards Celebration Tuesday 16th May

6th Year Graduation Thurs 25th May

Summer Exams 1st, 2nd, 5th Year Mon 29th May to Friday 2nd June

School Closed for summer Friday 2nd June

State Examinations begin Wednesday 7th June