

Scoil Aireagail Newsletter



September
October 2022

Principal Helen McTighe'S Message

Since I have last written to you, I have been struck by the warm welcome that I have received from the Scoil Aireagail community and by the number of teachers, parents and students who have identified various connections with me and my extended family and neighbours.

I think that the word 'connect' is an important one. We hope to connect with families in our local community during our Open Night where we will highlight all that makes Scoil Aireagail such a special school. Parents were able to connect with teachers at our first-year information night and at our third-year and sixth-year parent teacher meetings recently. Indeed, I am delighted to note that we had full attendance at our third-year parent teacher meeting. The connection and collaboration between home and school is essential for our students to achieve their full potential.

Everyday teachers and students make connections with the curriculum both in the classroom and during extracurricular activities. I want to commend our students for their engagement with this learning and their participation in all the activities mentioned in this newsletter. I want to thank the teachers and Special Needs Assistants, also for listening to the students, for tailoring the delivery of the curriculum to suit their needs and for their part in making all these activities possible. As the old Irish proverb goes, "Ní neart go cur le chéile", together we can achieve more.

Scoil Aireagail Development Programme

Scoil Aireagail is continuing with its Development Programme across a range of areas. The building of new classrooms and a new state-of-the-art ASD unit are all at an advanced stage in the planning process. Four new classrooms together with toilet facilities are planned to the front of our site, with the new ASD unit to the side. The ASD unit will include specialist areas and classrooms, toilet facilities, a sensory room and a sensory garden. Scoil Aireagail has already secured very significant funding to upgrade and reconfigure our basketball area. Additionally, we have upgraded much of our equipment and materials in Art, Engineering, Construction Studies, Home Economics, PE and Science. Much of this new equipment has already been delivered with more to follow over the coming weeks. Scoil Aireagail will continue to proceed with its Development Programme, so as all our students have access to the best facilities and resources available.

Why choose Scoil Aireagail for your child?

1. Individuality is celebrated in the school; your child does not have to play a particular sport to fit in. There is a place for every child here, be it for the child that wishes to excel academically, likes music, likes sport etc

2. Smaller class sizes means more time spent on 1:1 teacher student time helps build good relationships and therefore improve grades or identify issues early on.

3. The school is a community, and everyone knows everyone again helps promote a positive environment.

4. Teachers treat students with respect.

5. Student welfare is the number 1 priority of all in the school.

6. Open door policy, you are welcome to visit the school at any time and I have always felt heard when I have visited.

7. Fantastic transition year programme covers a wide range of extra activities and topics that are vital to the age group.

8. Big focus on mental health awareness

9. Wide range of subjects to choose from and the LCVP programme is a wonderful programme.

10. Physical activity is a big part of the school and encouraged to help promote overall health and wellness.

11. Mixed school leads to both boys and girls developing healthy relationships with one another where they respect each other and view one another as equals.

Lastly as a past student, I loved my time at Scoil Aireagail. It honours many of my values that I want my children to have honesty, work ethic, integrity, enthusiasm, and leadership. Our children start secondary school as teenagers and leave as adults, this is where they learn to grow up and Scoil Aireagail has a positive environment which can help make this time enjoyable.

Deborah Walshe Byrne, Current Parent and Past Pupil, Scoil Aireagail



Cairdeas Mentoring Programme helping our new first year students settle into Scoil Aireagail Each year our 6th year Cairdeas group work with our 1st years as mentors to help them ease into their new secondary school experience. Our Cairdeas team has organised some fun activities in the hall for all our 1st years with the aim of building relationships with each other and their mentors. Thanks to the 6th year students who have completed the Cairdeas training programme for the academic year 2022-2023. Denis Roche, Jake Power, Cormac McEvoy, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Sean Fitzgerald, Orestas Balsys, Arthur Long, Ciara Walsh, Katie Fitzpatrick, Hannah Perse, Holly O'Brien, Marie Culleton, Jessica Roche Fortune, Alec Butler, Shannon Wall



Gaeilge

Chuaigh na daltaí Gaeilge go Baile Munna chun an Dráma Ardteiste 'An Triail' a fheiceáil Chuaigh na daltaí Gaeilge go Baile Munna chun an Dráma Ardteiste 'An Triail' a fheiceáil. Ba thaispeántas den chéad scoth é le aisteoirí iontacha ó Fíabín. Bhain na daltaí an-taitneamh agus tairbhe as an lá. Yesterday, our Gaeilge students went to Ballymun to see a performance of the Leaving Cert drama 'An Triail' It was a fantastic performance. Our students really enjoyed and benefitted from the day.



Student Council 2022 - 2023 - Officers and Members:

Chairperson: Amy Prendergast (5th year)

Vice Chair: Michael O Shea (5th year)

Secretary: Katie Fitzpatrick (6th year)

Vice secretary: Holly Long (3rd year)

Treasurer: Andrew Fitzpatrick (6th year)

Vice Treasurer: Mark Power (4th year)

PRO: Kyle Murray (1st year)

PRO: Shauna Sutton (4th year)

Freya Reid (1st year)

Emma Sutton Duggan (2nd year)

Cameron Walsh (2nd year)

Patrick Dungan (3rd year)

Scoil Aireagail Student Council would like to thank everyone who ran in the recent elections. There was unprecedented demand and congratulations to our newest and re-elected members. We have devised an action plan which consists of many fundraiser events, where we come together as a whole school community to raise money for both charities and our school.

Before we reveal our first event, our Junior members are attending a Comhairle na nÓg training day in Langton's Hotel in Kilkenny.

Furthermore, our Senior members are training in the Springhill Court Hotel which is an official KCETB Student Council Training Day to enhance their understand of their roles as officers in collaboration with other local schools.

The Student Council is very unique in that's it's 100% **student voice**. Every member represents their classmates. So, if you have an idea or an issue, we want to hear from you.



Soccer

Scoil Aireagail Transition Year Soccer Blitz

In September our Transition Year Girls and Boys who attended a Soccer Blitz in Graiguenamanagh today. Our girls were victorious in both games against Duiske college and Grennan college. While our boys defeated Duiske College, We were unsuccessful against Grennan College All students enjoyed the day and look forward to more soccer games throughout the year.



Scoil Aireagail Hurling

It has been a busy few weeks on the hurling front in Scoil Aireagail. The juvenile hurlers played a blitz in Dunmore and played a challenge match against Duiske College/CPO. Competitive action for this team will begin after Christmas. Our juniors had a great win over Rathdowney in our first competitive game of the year on a scoreline of 3-14 to 2-14. Next up is Presentation De La Salle Bagenalstown in the semi final. Our seniors have played two challenge matches with the competitive action starting in November.



Scoil Aireagail Camogie

Camogie girls battle to victory against Duiske College

Scoil Aireagail took on neighbours Duiske College in a challenge camogie game in Graiguenamanagh last week. It was a good battle and there were some brilliant display of skills. A hard graft ensured Scoil Aireagail ran out comprehensive winners in the end.



Past Pupil GAA Success

Scoil Aireagail is very proud of our past pupil Julieann Malone who represented Kilkenny in a fantastic All Ireland Senior Camogie All Ireland victory.

Congratulations to Ballyhale Shamrocks on their fantastic county final win last weekend making it five in a row. We are very proud of all our past pupils involved.

Finally, we would like to congratulate the many past pupils who represented Kilkenny in the All Ireland Junior Football Title in their victory over the summer.



TY News

Our TY students have had a busy and active term with their coordinator Ms. Naddy organizing so many great activities and workshops for them to get involved in. Big thanks to Ms. Naddy for working so hard to help students get maximum benefit from their Transition year experience.

TY students hike up Brandon Hill Our TY students recently braved the elements and hiked Brandon Hill in Graiguenamanagh. Even though the weather wasn't in our favour, students gave it their all and reached the top. A massive well done to all.



TY students enjoy teamwork activities in Ballyhass Lakes Mallow This year's Transition Year induction trip was to Ballyhass Lakes Adventure centre in Mallow. Students participated in various activities such as zip-lining, crate climbing, archery and the aqua park. Well done to all for getting involved and giving it their all.



TY students participate in the Aware Programme Our TY students participated in the Aware Programme over four weeks of this term. This is a life skills programme that is enables students to better manage the stress of everyday life, recognise and manage unhelpful thoughts and learn how to live a more confident life. A big thank you to Eileen for facilitating the course.

TY students get active during a Segway workshop Our TYs recently participated in a segways workshop with @emovement.ie here in Scoil Aireagail. Students really loved showing off their skills on the segways. Thanks to E-movement for facilitating the workshop.



Senior Students trip to the National Ploughing Championships

In September our senior students visited the National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska, Co. Laois. As it was the first time since 2019 that the event took place, excitement levels were at an all time high. It proved to be a great start the year.



Student Prefects

Congratulations to our new prefects 2022 2023

6th Year: Orestas Balsys & Toni Dunne

5th Year: Michael O'Shea & Tara Duggan

Our Prefects act as role models for all the students in the school. It gives students the opportunity to develop leadership skills and have an influence on the daily life of the school.

Find us on
www.scoil aireagail.ie
&
Instagram
[scoil_aireagail](https://www.instagram.com/scoil_aireagail)

Iverk Show Success

Congratulations to Scoil Aireagail students who won prizes at the Iverk Show in September. In woodwork Charles Brisco, James O'Shea, and Oscar Lewandowski. In Arts and Crafts Aine Woods, T. J. Maher, Mikolay Goreeki, and Katie Mason. In Home Economics Marie Therese Aylward. Well done to all.



Art

To welcome parents and guardians of 3rd year students into school at the beginning of October for their parent/teaching meeting, our 3rd year art students proudly hung an exhibition of their still life paintings. Students began this term studying the skills of observational drawing. Their task was to create a study of primary objects, arrange a composition and create a finished piece exploring a range of medium.



Science

3rd Year science students conduct testing in the Lab Our 3rd year science students were busy testing household products for their pH levels and whether they were acids and bases. Future scientists in the making!



History

First Year History students practicing their archaeology skills during a "cookie excavation" activity last week.



CSPE

3rd year CSPE students carry out a mock trial

On Thursday 6th October 3rd year CSPE carried out a mock trial. Well done to all involved and a special thanks to Erin for typing it all up. Tune in this Thursday for the trial of the three little pigs. To read all about the trial scan the QR CODE:



Business

1 Blue Business class get creative! 1 Blue Business class developed their creativity skills by designing comic strips to help explain in a fun way some of the key terms they have been learning in class. A really fun exercise that they worked hard on. Well done!



1 Green Business Students became Storytellers and created a story about "A Day in the life of Income" which demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of all the key terms they have learned so far in business class. The aim of this activity was to develop both their creativity and literacy skills. Well done 🙌🙌



PE Uniform

This year we have introduced a PE uniform for all students. It's great to see students wearing the school crest proudly while playing games and it also reflects the great sporting tradition we have in our school.



Maths

Scoil Aireagail Maths Week Activities This week is maths week in Scoil Aireagail. Our 5th year maths students worked on maths puzzles. They also connected with nature and used clinometers to measure trees.



Music

Every week Ms. Rowe and our music students record a piece of music for us all to enjoy on their YouTube channel. All the recordings are available to view on the Scoil Aireagail Music Dept YouTube page. Scan the QR Code:



Key Dates

Block 1 of supervised evening study runs from Monday Oct. 24th to Thursday December 15th

Parents Association Meeting- All Parents very welcome: Tuesday October 25th at 7pm

House Exams 3rd, 6th Years 24th-28th Oct

Junior Cycle Examination Results Wed, 23rd November

School re-opens after Midterm Mon, 7th November.

School Closed Mon 14th November Junior Cycle Staff Training & Fri 2nd December

5th Year Parent Teacher Meeting Thurs, 17th November

Christmas Exams 1st, 2nd and 5th Years 25th November - 1st December