



Le Cheile Secondary School

Message from the Deputy Principal

Advent is my favourite time of the year and it has been lovely to see our school building become a little bit more magical with the arrival of our beautiful Christmas tree and the wonderful sound of the choir practising Christmas carols.

At Le Chéile we feel that Christmas is the perfect time to emphasise the importance of charity, and of giving to those less fortunate than ourselves. The generosity of our students has been evident in their overwhelming response to the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal and their support for the SVP Christmas Food Hamper appeal being organised by the Justice Ambassadors. We hope that these initiatives will bring some joy to those families who face an uncertain and perhaps difficult festive season.

It has been a long and busy term, and as always everyone has worked really hard. There have been some amazing achievements and many highlights.

Over the past week we have been compiling the Student Profiles which form part of the new Junior Cycle programme. It is wonderful to see how involved our students are in all aspects of school life, how generously they share their talents and how selflessly our teachers give of their time to support the extra curricular life of the school. As you browse the pages of our Christmas Newsletter I have no doubt that you will be once again impressed by the vibrancy of school life here at Le Chéile Secondary School.

As the Christmas holidays near, I hope you all have a peaceful and joyous break, and I wish you every happiness for the New Year.

Leona Harrington
Deputy Principal



Christmas Newsletter

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians

Christmas greetings from Le Chéile Secondary School. In the Christian tradition it is the time of year when we celebrate 'Emmanuel' - God with us. At Le Chéile our animating principle is that 'God is Love, Love is Here'. We strive everyday in how we relate to one another, in the values that we espouse, in our solidarity with those who are weak and fragile, in our care for our earth, in our promotion of talents to show that God is with us - that Love is here. I hope that whether you come from a faith tradition that celebrates Christmas, hold a different set of faith beliefs or no beliefs at all that you stand with us in educating the young people of Tyrrelstown in an environment that is loving, generous and respectful. I know our young people will become agents for good in our world.

This term the focus in school has been keenly focused on providing the very best in our learning environment. Some of this is seen in our classrooms that are well equipped and bright and display exemplar work of students. We have new spaces in school - we are particularly proud of our 'learning plaza' - a space beyond the confines of the classroom where students can develop the ability to work both independently and collaboratively. This term the English Department was inspected by the DES. We are delighted with the affirmation that we received through this report. Of course the reports says that the teaching was very good but also that the positive relationships in the school are evident to all.

As we draw towards the end of term you are warmly invited to join us in celebrating the talents of our students in the first Le Chéile Secondary School talent show and carol service on Thursday 22nd December at 6.30pm. We will also have a Christmas Carol and a Prayer Service on Friday morning at 8.35. This will be followed by Assembly.

I wish each of you a blessed and holy season.

Le each dea ghúí
Dr. Moran

Students Learn Lots During Spectacular Science Week

By Ms. Sheehan

Science week at Le Chéile Secondary school ran from the 13th – 17th November 2017. With daily riddles, dingbats and hidden scientists it was hard to miss!

On Monday during lunchtime students got to learn about magic and science with the green coin trick. Students in 1st and 2nd year were also treated to a talk from Dr. Ciaran Mac an Bhaird about the everyday maths patterns seen in life. On Tuesday, students took part in a life web chat called I'm a scientist, get me out of here! During this, students got to talk to real life scientists who are working in research based industry. Some great questions were produced and students were able to see that science extends beyond Le Chéile!

On Wednesday students were treated to a water into wine experiment. By changing the pH of the solution, students saw that the indicator present also changed colour-plenty of oo's and ahhs could be heard in the lab!

On Thursday, students were given a challenge to bring science home with them. They were shown how to make lava lamps and had to teach someone else how to make one-with some very interesting results! Thursday also saw a talk from Tom Scanlon who works as a Chemical Engineer in Mallinckrodt Pharmaceutical. Again, students were given the opportunity to ask questions and learn about the everyday tasks that are part of his job.

The week ended with our first science fair.



Above: First year students enjoy a presentation on Maths in everyday life. Below: Science quiz. All other pictures on this page and the next are from our fabulous Science Fair



Tomorrow's innovators showcase their impressive scientific projects at SciFest@School in Le Chéile Secondary School

Friday 17th November 2017

On the 17th November 2017 over 50 students from 1st, 2nd and Transition Year exhibited 25 projects in SciFest@School in Le Chéile Secondary School. This was the school's first SciFest@School and it couldn't have gotten a better group to start with.

Students demonstrated their knowledge of science, technology, engineering and maths through their creative and innovative projects. Some of the projects on display included a project about the effect of the PS4 on learning and concentration, a project to see what types of hair were affected by dry shampoo and another about rabbits eating their own poo!

The overall prize went to Gabrielle, Destiny and Christian from Transition year with their project about the growth of plants in terrarium chosen by Michelle Lobby and Paul Dervan, lecturers from the Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown.

Commenting on the success of the science fair, Dr Moran said: "We are delighted to host SciFest@School in our school because the SciFest competition allows students to develop their study of science, technology, engineering and maths outside of the classroom and apply it to everyday life. All of the students have worked very hard on their projects and should be very proud of their achievements. We all wish the best of luck to the students going on to the next stage of the SciFest competition which will see them compete in SciFest@College in IT Blanchardstown.

Sheila Porter, SciFest CEO added: "Since SciFest@School was launched nationwide in 2011 it has gone from strength to strength. I am continually amazed by the passion and dedication demonstrated by the students. SciFest@School is a celebration of STEM subjects. It encourages students to push the boundaries of the classroom, use their knowledge of science, investigate and be creative in their projects. The achievement of these students is an inspiration to us all and is a tribute to them and to the hard work and support of their teachers."

Please see www.scifest.ie





Dancing on Ice

by Lara Cacho (pictured above)

Friday, 1st of December.

It was the day all 1st and 2nd year students who did not lose points during September/October along with those from the winning house of Mother Teresa were waiting for. It was all students could think of ever since they got their permission slips.

WE WERE GOING ICESKATING!!

The thrill and excitement rushed through our veins as the assembly was coming to an end, no patience was left.

As we boarded the bus, everyone started chatting about what they were looking forward to, particularly the iceskating but the food at McDonalds too!

When we arrived, the cold fresh breeze coming from the tent brushed off our faces as we got off the bus. We then got our skates and proceeded to try to walk in them. Whilst the other people were still putting on their skates, we glanced around the rink, of course, there were other people so we had to be cautious getting into the rink.

Once everyone was ready, we walked into the rink. Most people clutched onto the rails and some skated freely. The joy and laughter spread around the rink as some slipped but still had a smile on their faces. Everyone had a great time.

But as we played, the time was coming to an end. Although, we still had McDonalds to get to!!

When we were ready, we walked across the road and to McDonalds. Our bellies grumbled as soon as we set our eyes upon the logo, the crave of chicken nuggets and fries grew larger and larger as we stepped in. We all had money to buy food but it was the long lines that frustrated people the most, it took at least 20 minutes before everyone had the chance to order off the menu.

We were running out of time so we just had to eat in the bus.

Although it wasn't as luxurious as the restaurant, the bus was pretty cool too.

When we finished, we were stuffed.

The trip ended rather quickly, in my opinion, but it was an amazing experience to share with everyone. We all walked back to the school with a bright smile written all over our faces. "I can't wait to tell my other classmates all about it." I mumbled.



Amazing Animation in Art

By Klaudia Belowicka

For our art project this term we had to create many types of animations. The first type of animation we created was a thaumatrope which is a circle with two different images on each side and when spun they create one piece. The next type of creation was the phenakistoscope which was a paper wheel with many images on it when it spun it looked like the images were moving. The last form of our individual projects was the flipbook which was a small booklet of images of a person or animal or maybe an object moving when you flipped through the pages. Last came our group project which was a paper cut out animation which took the most time. First we had to decide on our story based around an Irish proverb, then we had to create a storyboard. The next part was the simplest in my opinion which was creating backgrounds, characters and props. Finally after a week of preparations we started shooting the animation. Shooting it was very stressful as we had to move small little parts of the character at a time which took a lot of time but in the end we managed just fine. The last part was adding sound effects and editing it. We were surprised by how good the finished work looked and were proud of ourselves and our teamwork.



Pictures of work in progress. Animation projects were completed by TY and 2nd year Art students under the guidance of their Art Teacher Ms. Bracken.

Positive Mental Health Poster Design Competition Winners

The Positive Mental Health Poster Design Competition proved to be very competitive again this year. All staff members were given the chance to vote for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each year and voting proved to be extremely tight. The standard of work by all those who entered was very high and everyone who took part received a certificate, while the top 3 in each year received a small prize. Thank you very much to Le Chéile Secondary School, Odeon Cinema Blanchardstown and Dunnes Stores Blanchardstown for sponsoring these prizes.



Pictured top-left: First year entrants receiving certificates. Top-right: Mr. McNulty presents prizes to First Year Winner-Wafiyah Abdullah Zaidi, 2nd Nourah Taalib Ramadaan, 3rd Nicole Rosca. Middle-left: Last years first year winner Martyna Pawlak who came 2nd this year presents the prize to Second Year Winner Klaudia Bielowicka, 3rd Abigail Lotoc. Middle-right: Third Year Winner Gillian Garcia, 2nd Martyna Glowicka, 3rd Angel Ebo. Bottom-left: Mr. Walsh presents the prize to Fourth & Fifth Year Winner Cornelia Asuagwu (who retained her title), 2nd Gabriele Vilickaite, 3rd Gabriele Birbalaite. Bottom-right: Veronika Ilitska receives the prize for the poster with the most positive message. The winning posters hang above each contestant in photos. Congratulations to all winners and all who entered.



Green Schools at Le Chéile – We're Dreaming of a Green Christmas

By Dr. Finnegan

The Green Schools committee at Le Chéile have a very busy, but exciting time ahead as we prepare to apply for our next Green Flag, the Energy Flag. This year we formed a new committee and are delighted to have members from across the year groups. We held a competition to find a motto to represent our Green Committee and the work that we do, with the winning motto to be revealed in due course!

Our focus for December has been on finding ways to be environmentally friendly over the Christmas period and we are encouraging everyone this year to change the lyrics and dream of a Green Christmas! Check out our noticeboard upstairs for ideas.

In true Le Chéile spirit, we are always welcoming to new members on the Green Schools Committee. So if you want to make 2018 a cleaner, greener year, then come and join Dr. Finnegan and the Green Schools committee.

In the words of one of our house leaders, Mahatma Gandhi,

'Be the change you wish to see in the world'.



Having Fun Cleaning Up

by Rio Pavliy

The clean up on Thursday 26 of October was an excellent experience. Mr. McNulty was the teacher that brought us to clean up Tyrrelstown along with Ms. Bannon. Dr. Moran wished us all good luck with our mission before we left. They took some pictures of us with Edmund Rice College students who joined us and then we set out on our journey. We went to St. Luke's primary school and got the equipment that we needed to clean. We got garbage bags and we also got high viz safety vests, rubber gloves and garbage grabbers. We then went along the path with Mr. McNulty, Ms. Bannon and the other teachers and volunteers. Next we split up into two groups and went our way to our designated area to be cleaned.

We cleaned a lot of rubbish on the path across from the roundabout because the rubbish is everywhere and is unsafe for animals and children. We got a lot of rubbish and our arms got tired from the heavy bags filled with all sorts of rubbish like wrappers, bags, plastic bottles, also cans from monster energy drinks and red bull etc. but we shared the jobs and worked as a team. The group talked and laughed together as we worked. Some passers by told us 'well done' which felt good to hear. We got a bottle of water from the kind people of TyT Soul and took a break from the walking and carrying bags to have a snack, it was a good refreshment. The job was done well by the time we returned back down the other side of the street to where we had started.

When we returned to school we all sat together in the lunch room having a bite to eat as we had missed our break and then we got treats from the teachers. Well it was all the leftover buns, brownies and cakes from the bake sale that Ms. McKiernan kindly said we could have because of all our hard work and they were delicious (see picture left). We missed some classes due to the clean-up but we had a great time doing it and a great thanks to everyone who organised it. The clean up was spectacular and I think we all enjoyed it, well I did anyway.





WoodWork Club

Takes place every Wednesday from 4-5pm with the WoodWork Department. The first project was to create a decorative bowl from white oak. These pictures show Emma and Adam hard at work. This club is a great way to develop your skills at woodwork in a safe environment under the supervision of a woodwork teacher. It's also lots of fun getting to make things from scratch and being creative. New members are always welcome.



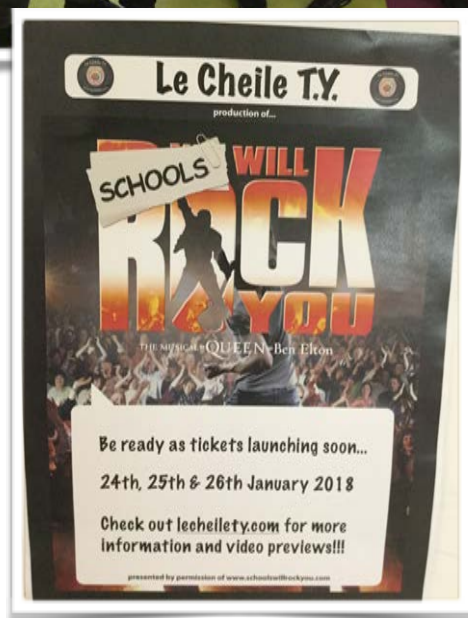
Let's Get Ready To Rock with the First Ever Le Chéile School Musical

By Stephen Balaneasa

The musical which 4th years are hosting is called "We will rock you" written by Ben Elton. The musical tells the story of a group of Bohemians who struggle to restore the free exchange of thought, fashion and live music in a distant future where everyone dresses, thinks and acts the same. Musical instruments and composers are forbidden and rock music is all but unknown.

The audition process was quite simple really, there were three judges (Mr Dunne, Mr Walshe and Ms Lattin) everyone had to sing any Queen song and perform it in front of them, also you had to act a scene out in front of them with somebody. The musical consists of famous songs written by Queen such as "We will rock you" "I want to break free" and more. The main actors are Galileo, Scaramouche and the killer queen.

Rehearsals are going well and everyone is doing their part. The musical is going to be happening near the end of January 2018. The teachers involved in the play Mr Dunne, Mr Walshe and Ms Lattin are working us all very hard at rehearsals but it will be worth it when we get the show on the road. The feelings I have about this play are that I'm very nervous to sing in front of people but I also want to in a way. We hope to see you all there to support us and enjoy a really good night of entertainment. Dates for the musical are 24th, 25th and 26th January, tickets out soon. Prepare to be Rocked.





Reel Life Science

By Dr. Finnegan

The Transition Year students from Le Chéile Secondary School had many wonderful entries this year to the Reel Life Science competition, covering topics ranging from Space to Anatomy. The Reel Life Science competition, run by NUI Galway, in association with Science Foundation Ireland, invites participants to produce an engaging and educational science video for the general public.

There was great excitement when one of our teams, who produced a video called 'The Anatomy of Movement', were shortlisted in the Secondary School category. The team members, Veronika Ilitska, Malwina Czernicka and Nina Czarnecka went on to win fourth place, which was an amazing achievement in this national competition. Their video examined and described the use of muscles in a range of activities from walking to gymnastics to horse-riding and we were all amazed by these active skills in the girls, as well as their video production and editing talents.

On Sunday 26th November, Veronika, Malwina and Nina, together with Dr. Moran and their science teacher, Dr. Finnegan, attended the awards ceremony which was part of the Galway Science and Technology Festival at NUI Galway. The day started with a screening of all of the shortlisted videos for Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and Community Groups. It was exciting to see 'Anatomy of Movement' on the big screen and it was very well received by everyone who was there on the day. This was followed by an awards ceremony, where the students were presented with their certificate and prize by representatives of the Reel Life Science Competition and Science Foundation Ireland.

Congratulations again to Veronika Ilitska, Malwina Czernicka and Nina Czarnecka on this huge achievement in the Reel Life Science competition. You can watch 'Anatomy of Movement' from the News section of the TY website, www.lecheilety.com, or at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fARDEU9wjcQ>



Student Council News

by Martyna Pawlak and Jess Odemena

This year, the student council elections were run very much like a proper government election using a polling station, proper ballot papers, polling booths, registrar of electors, polling officials and of course a secret ballot system. Two candidates from each tutor group were elected to go forward to the main election which saw a competitive campaign clearly fought mainly through the medium of schoolology, posters and word of mouth.

In the end 12 successful candidates were duly elected after every student in the school got the chance to cast their vote for who should represent their year group. The Student Council (pic above) consists of 6 junior members (Maciej Smiechowski, Josh McGuirk, Martyna Pawlak, Omar Hamed, Glenn Cullen and Jessica Odemena) and 6 senior members (Mary Adindu, Daniels Afekhai, Andrea Beyer, Ilana Mocan, OJ Okey and Sean Wilders). The Student Council meet regularly and each member has unique ideas and opinions to bring to the table which is great for the accurate representation of our student body.

Up to this point, some of the issues we have been working on this year are planning the surprise trips for the winning houses and we are attempting to reach a suitable compromise with school management on the subject of students staying inside during lunchtime. There is also a letter concerning a fundraiser for new football and rugby gear in the works. We have made a suggestion/advice box in which we get feedback from all of the students. We need your voice! Your submissions to the box may be anonymous or not. All feedback and suggestions are very welcome!

Remember, the Student Council are here to listen to any concerns you might have about any aspect of school life, if you want something to change, talk to one of your year's representative member and watch your aspirations for Le Chéile Secondary School take flight.

Guidance Service in Le Cheile Secondary School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Deirdre Keane and I am the newly appointed Guidance Counsellor in Le Chéile.

The three key areas in which the Guidance Counsellor has a major role and responsibility are:

1. Personal Counselling
2. Career Counselling
3. Educational Counselling

Since the Guidance provision in all schools is a whole-school endeavour, I will be working in conjunction with students, parents/guardians, the management and staff of Le Chéile to provide a guidance service that is collaborative in nature. I very much look forward to establishing strong relationships with the school community.

By now all the students are aware of who I am and where my office is and I have met with several students in various capacities. Over the coming weeks I will be working with the Third Years assisting them with their Senior Level options and Subject Choices. I will get the opportunity to meet the parents of the Third Year students on 16th January 2018 at the Information Evening for students entering Senior Level and their parents.

Please contact me if you have any queries via email or telephone – as detailed below:

Email: guidance@lecheilesecondaryschool.ie

Telephone: 018227181 extn 112.

Kind regards,

Deirdre Keane
Guidance Counsellor



College Awareness Week 2017

by Mr. Kennedy and Mr. McCann

This year Le Cheile Secondary school partook in the eventful week that is College Awareness Week. Both teachers and students (and parents through the Le Cheile App) used this weekly focus to think about life after school.

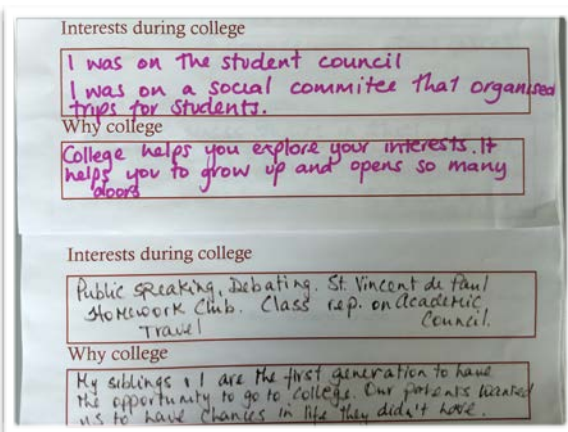
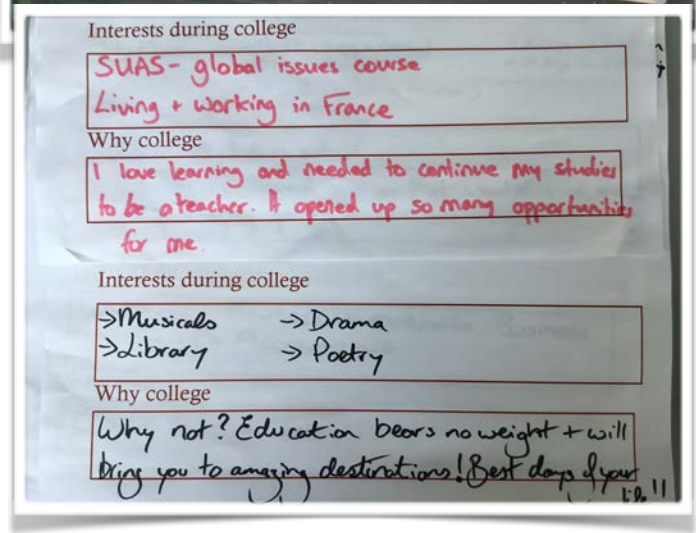
On Monday, all staff became mentors to students and answered their many questions from how to pick a college course to what it was like to be a college student, along with posting their experiences on their classroom doors. Below are some of their responses about college.

Tuesday allowed students to create posters on their dream college course, which were put up around the school. Finally on Wednesday both students and teachers structured a pathway to college with students setting targets to achieve their individual goals, such as what colleges are in our locality and are easiest to attend.

The week was a huge success as it linked what we are doing day to day in class to life in 3rd level. It also allowed students to set new goals so as to reach their desired 3rd level course. It stands to reason and studies show that the earlier a person starts to think about going to college the more likely they are to follow through on this ambition. The serious advantages of living in Dublin with so many 3rd level options right on our doorstep should not be underestimated either.

A big thanks to all the staff for their participation during this week and helping our students understand that anyone can go to college because college is designed for everyone. Best of luck to our 5th year students who will be filling out their college CAO forms for college placement next year. And remember its never too early to start thinking about college.

The College Awareness Team.





Second Year Camping Adventure

by Beatrice Sanchez-Salnikava

The Le Chéile Adventure Trip for 2nd years took place on Wednesday the 25th of October in Wicklow. The night beforehand we brought in our packed bags, some packed smart while others packed for what looked like a one week trip (I am guilty). We set off at 9 on the bus, the atmosphere in the bus was filled with excitement and blasting music. After a short journey we had finally arrived and first thing I want to say is that the view was absolutely magnificent; a great getaway from reality, we were also greeted by very nice people who were our guides. This year we "cheated" a bit, instead of traditional camping with tents, we stayed at the 'An Oige' hostel which was really nice.



As soon as we put our bags away, we began with team building games and archery. All of us really enjoyed these as we got to co-operate and bond together really well. Next we did some orienteering which was really handy, we learned how to use a compass, read a map and we also were challenged to build a small windmill using sticks and tape. Then we got to put all our new skills to use when we were set a small task to find certain locations using our maps. Eventually after some of us were exhausted and hungry we had dinner - we did not have to eat dead pigeons, thankfully! Instead we enjoyed some delicious pasta bolognese made by students and teachers. Before heading out to our campfire we were all put in our bunkrooms. Finally it was time for our campfire, here we did a lot of socialising and had plenty of fun. We sang songs, played charades, made raps and listened to a super scary story about the banshee told by Mr. Park, only thing that was missing were marshmallows!! The campfire was my favourite moment from the trip because I got to make a couple of new friends. When it got late we all walked back down to the hostel and settled in for the night. Lights had to be out and we had to be in bed by 11pm but most of us stayed up a little longer chatting to our friends.



The following morning I was awoken by what seemed like Mr. Park banging two pots together, soon everyone had woken up and scuttled downstairs for some breakfast. We quickly ate our breakfast and began our activities set for that day. People were separated into two groups, our group started off with bushcraft. First we did some fire lighting skills, my main aim was not to set my hair on fire which I succeeded at, thankfully. We finished off with shelter building before embarking on our hill walk. The hill walk was tiring but worth it in the end, the nature and scenery again was absolutely beautiful. Sadly after the walk we had to leave. I slept peacefully through the entire bus ride home. We all had an amazing time and enjoyed every part of the adventure and if you're in 1st year right now, my peers and I would 100% recommend you participate in this trip next year. Last I'd like to say a special thank you to Ms. Muldoon, Mr. Park, Ms. Coughlan and any other teachers who helped to make this trip happen, we all really appreciate it.



Rugby News

Jack Fitzpatrick (Junior Coach with our Rugby teams) reports on their recent progress.

On the 15th of November our third year team went to Westmanstown Rugby club as they were set to play Coolmine Secondary School. Jonathan Sharkey and his team Introduced the lads to a low intensity warm-up before the match. From the first whistle Le Chéile went a try behind despite an uplifting speech from coach Mr Kennedy and myself as junior coach before kick-off. However a very well worked play from the lads led to a try and Warith Omotoso kicked a conversion to make the score 7-5 to Le Cheile. There were multiple times in the first half that we could've scored but Coolmine held firm. Our efforts were rewarded with a penalty but due to poor communication we were stripped of the ball and Coolmine scored to moved ahead of us on the scoreboard again. Both teams came out for the second have and both displayed great play and potential for the future, unfortunately for Le Chéile the soft try's we conceded proved costly and our best efforts to rescue the game proved fruitless by the time the final whistle sounded. The lads showed great sportsmanship and kept their heads high.

Since then all teams have been training very hard on Thursdays from 4-5. On the 30th of November the Le Cheile first year team had a blitz held in Malahide Rugby club and we welcomed our neighbours Edmond Rice College to join us in this Blitz. Both schools played very well and great rugby but unfortunately in the early stages Edmond Rice had lost their games and were knocked out of competing for the cup. As for Le Cheile we went to the semi finals and went through with some great plays from the entire squad. Le Chéile made it to the finals but had lost in the last quarter of the game as the opposition ran in tries. Player of the Blitz for Le Chéile goes to Josh McGuirk who showed great leadership and played some great stuff in both attack and defence. Edmond Rice College player of the blitz goes to Justin Ward.



Thoughts on Playing Rugby

By Francis Custodio

I would like to say it is an honour to play rugby this year. We have such an exciting team with a lot of potential. We always seem to battle through the tough losses but live for the enjoyment of our super wins this year. For me, rugby creates opportunities for fun and it is a great sport to be part of. It give me a chance to play with my classmates, along with a chance to score tries for my school, which is great.

It has been a great experience to play rugby this year and I would like to thank Mr. Kennedy for all his help and guidance during training and match days, along with my teammates and friends who play beside me in matches. Lets keep it going.



Table-Tennis

Table-tennis club started in November after the arrival of new state of the art table tennis equipment and is proving to be very popular with students from all year groups. It is held after school every week on either a Monday or Tuesday and we hope to run it one lunchtime every week in the new year. If you are interested in playing please give your name to Mr. McNulty and all info regarding practice is communicated through the table tennis schoology group. Table tennis is great fun, easy to learn and a good way to meet new friends. New members are always welcome.



First Year Boys Football

This has been an exciting start to the football season with a squad (pic bottom page 14) of 30 boys regularly attending practices and competing for places in the starting eleven. Also exciting is our first season competing in both the FAI Cup and League, both of which can offer some very challenging matches against a number of well established footballing schools.

After weeks of preparation the opening match was a very tough Cup draw versus the St Finians College in a freezing cold Mullingar. Despite losing 5-3 and being 4-0 down at half time the boys displayed a lot of character and determination to fight back and win the second half 3-2 to a much physically bigger and very skillful team. Alas, the cup dream was over... but there is always next year.

Four days later, the boys in purple were at home versus Grange CC in the league. Determined not to let the disappointment of the cup affect them the team played well and despite dominating for the majority of the first half found themselves tied 1-1 at the break. Things were looking good until two careless defensive errors cost the team dearly and led to a second half collapse which saw a final score of 6-1. The team's league campaign will continue in January and February 2018 and we wish the players all the very best. By **Mr. Park**

U15 Boys Football

The boys (pic top left) have gelled well together in their opening 3 league games. A 3.1 home victory over New Cross College got the ball rolling before a narrow defeat 5.4 away to Grange Community College in a cracking game, proved to be a minor setback for the lads who were without key players captain Jaye Fitzgerald and goalie Sean Farrell on the day due to injury. A comprehensive 9.0 victory over Clonturk CC in the final game saw star striker Warith Amotoso clock up a hat-trick, bringing his tally so far to an impressive 6 goals in 3 games. Due to a surprise 1.0 victory for New Cross over Grange in the other fixture, we find ourselves topping this group on goal difference and have qualified automatically for the League Quarter Finals in the New Year. The team that awaits us is yet to be confirmed but spirits are high with the lads looking forward to our next outing and they plan to continue representing the school to the best of their ability. By **Mr. McNulty**

U17 Boys Football

This squad (pic top right) of players have done very well do gel after a number of personnel changes were forced by our recent inclusion to the FAI Cup and League structure. This structure means players are selected based on their date of birth and sadly we lost 4 key players from the team who were too old to play. Fortunately, however, it also meant that we gained several players who were too old to play U15 football this season!

The first game of the season was a local derby in the Cup versus the coveted Luttrellstown Community College, a team who finished third in the Leinster Provincials last year and featuring several boys playing club football with Shamrock Rovers and St Patrick's Athletic. Despite a very encouraging start the boys lost a key player after 25 minutes and thereafter found themselves under a bombardment of sustained LCC pressure, succumbing to a heavy 11-1 defeat. The cup dream was gone and with it some pride.

Nevertheless, the boys faced their opening League match versus Colaiste Mhuire (Cabra) at home with a determined attitude and played the entirety of the match on the front foot, causing their opponents all kinds of problems. Unfortunately, several chances were squandered and the team suddenly found themselves two goals behind, very much against the run of play. This shock sparked the boys back into life and they bravely fought back to rescue the match, drawing 2-2 and very unfortunate not to have won.

Next up in the league was an away match versus Ard Scoil La Salle in Raheny. Once more the lads looked very dominant and played some great attacking football. However, squandered chances was again their undoing and then a string of defensive disasters cost them another heavy 6-1 defeat. Despite this, the boys showed a lot of character and gave it their all for the entirety of the match. Their sportsmanship was outstanding despite several appalling outbursts from their opponents.

Another home match in the league versus New Cross College saw the boys in purple get a very well deserved 7-0 victory. After some outstanding attacking football and a much more consolidated defensive performance the boys pushed hard for a big win which would be required for goal difference in order to qualify for the play offs. At the time of writing the outcome of this is unknown due to other results pending. The lads will continue their season into 2018 with a FAI Shield match versus St Vincent's Castleknock College in February. Good luck and thanks for all your hard work, determination, and outstanding sportsmanship so far this season. You're a credit to the school and you should be proud of your efforts. By **Mr. Park.**

U16 GIRLS BASKETBALL

The U16 Girls have had a good season this year, finishing a decent third position in the league. With seven matches to play, it was a busy term for the players.

It was a slow start for the girls as they lost their first three matches against three very strong teams - Lucan C.S, Colaiste Mhuire and Scoil Chaitriona. Coming into their fourth game, they finally found their stride and began to show their real ability and team spirit. With excellent team performances, the girls got three consecutive wins against St.Joseph's, Coolmine and Luttrellstown. With consistent outstanding performances by Sally Ouattara and Mabeth Omoregie, a fantastic team effort by every single player, along with new added strength from our 5th year students, Destiny Francis, Sharon Ngoh and Naomi Amu, all combined to really solidified the wins this year. With this team spirit, along with our fantastic new indoor basketball facilities, there is no doubt that this team will be stronger than ever in 2018!

Well done girls. **By Ms Muldoon**



U16 BOYS BASKETBALL

The Boys Basketball Team had another superb season this year, where for the second year in a row, the team were unbeaten up until their final game against Kings Hospital who they lost narrowly by four points. Winning five of their six matches, the team were through to the quarter finals but unfortunately this is where the road ended for the boys

It seemed to be almost a replay of last year, where the team lost by just three points in the quarter finals. They were up against a strong Colaiste Raithin and although were leading for most of the game, the boys struggled to make their shots and Colaiste Raithin snatched the win. With such an array of talent and passion for the sport, the boys were naturally devastated with this result.

Well done to Bryan Valenzuela who captained the team this year. Bryan was also selected for the East Academy in Ireland this year, where he will be looking for selection for the U16 Irish team In June to compete in the FIBA u16 European Championship. We wish Bryan the very best with this.

Finally, Le Cheile Basketball Club wishes to thank KPM Property Maintenance for their continued support this year which we are extremely grateful for.

By Ms. Muldoon

PE Department News

The new sports hall was finally completed and ready for use the first week of November. We are absolutely thrilled with how it has turned out and are extremely excited to see the development and growth of sport at Le Cheile with these brand new state of the art facilities.

The PE department has worked hard to ensure that students are given a broad and balanced curriculum where they experience a wide range of sports throughout their time here at Le Cheile. The department is now fully equipped with top of the range equipment and facilities to ensure that students will have the opportunity to reach their full potential in PE, sport and fitness.

The new fitness suite will be open in January, which is equipped with a full range of state of the art cardiovascular and weight lifting equipment. We are absolutely delighted with the gym and are looking forward to the new year when it is complete.



Ladies Gaelic Football

by Ms. Heavey

The very First Ladies Junior Gaelic football match took place in early December at home against Coolmine Community College. The Le Cheile Ladies have been training since September and got off to a great start, when a high ball sent in by Skye Healy landed in the hands of Precious Imasuen who stuck it in the back of the net. This was followed by a point from Sarah Geraghty.

After a slow start, Coolmine got back into the game with a goal and point of their own, despite some great performances in the backline by Jess Odemena and Briana Solinas. Beatrice Wanizo and Sarah Geraghty. Le Chéile hit back with two goals in the second half, with some fine points by Chelsea Fogarty and Sarah Geraghty.

The score ended 6-6 to 4-5 to Coolmine, but it was a great display of football from many who had not played before. Coolmine management commented on how our girls displayed great sportsmanship and were very welcoming to their team.



Above: First year boys soccer team having fun before an away game. Below: Our recently opened new PE hall and top class gym facilities.

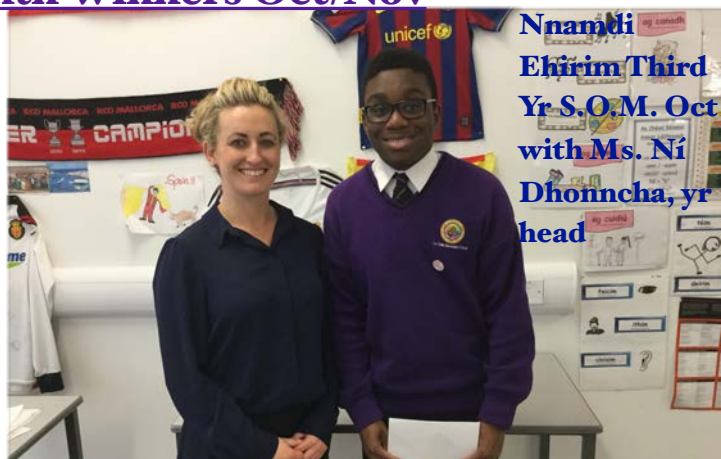
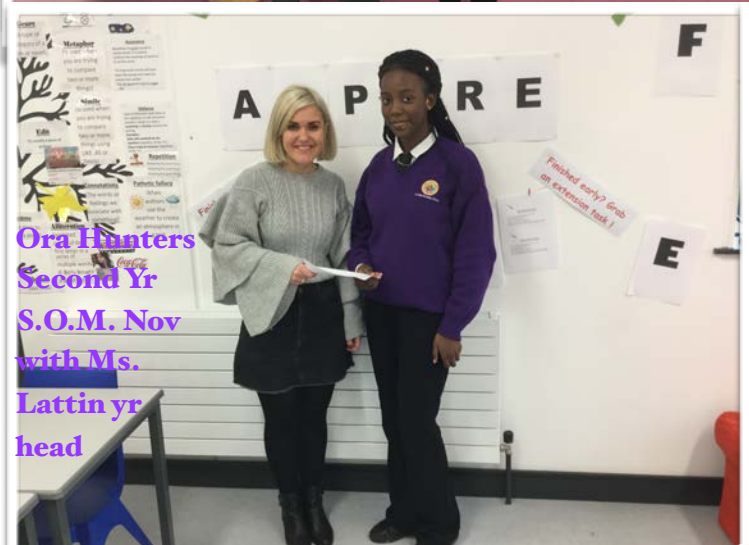


Sibling Success: Brother and Sister Ernestas

(2nd year) and Gabrielle Vilickaite (5th year) win the Student of the Month Awards for October. Pictured receiving their prizes from 2nd year head Ms. Lattin and 5th year head Ms. Finnegan.



Student of the Month Winners Oct/Nov



Nnamdi Ehirim
Third
Yr S.O.M. Oct
with Ms. Ni
Dhonncha, yr
head

Nicole Rosca
First Yr
S.O.M. Nov
with Mr.
Gainley

Gillian Garcia
Third Yr
S.O.M. Nov
with Ms. Ni
Dhonncha

Taha Hassen
Fifth Year
S.O.M. Nov
with Dr. Moran
principal

A Special Message To Third Years

Dearest Third Years and their Parents/Guardian,

Congratulation on successfully finishing your first term of 3rd year! 2017 has been a very busy year for you all and 2018 promises to be just as busy and, hopefully, just as successful!

As I said to you all at our first assembly together, I was delighted when I was given the job of 3rd year Year Head this year as you are a wonderful group of students who show kindness, respect, a sense of fun and loyalty in all your actions and words.

My advice to you for a great Christmas is:

1. Drop the phones, Ipads and gadgets for a certain period of time a day over the Christmas period – Christmas is all about catching up with your family and friends but in a face to face manner. Most of you are lucky enough to have a loving family who cares about you a lot so this Christmas, get to know three new things about each of your family members that you never knew before. You will not discover this by being on your phone!
2. Give a helping hand at home – Christmas can be a very stressful time for Mums, Dads, Grandparents and guardians. You're old enough now to be able to see how you can help in your house and you shouldn't wait to be asked. Think of all your parents and guardians do for you throughout the year. You'll feel good about yourself and they will love you even more!
3. Call into or ring somebody you know will be lonely, or on their own, this Christmas.
4. Relax and sleep lots over the Christmas break but use the first week in January to catch up on some study in your subjects – Go onto our study page on schoology to help – studying, when you're refreshed during the holidays, will make your life a lot easier when back at school...especially with the mocks are happening a few weeks after!
5. And finally, make sure to get outside for a breath of fresh air and be active. Remember that countless science studies have shown that people who spend a lot of time outside and exercise regularly (this includes walking) are, generally, happier and healthier.

Have an amazing and peaceful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in January.

Nollaig shona daoibh ar fad,
Ms. Ní Dhonncha,



Goodbye Lucy, we'll miss you

It is with a very heavy heart that we must say goodbye to second year student Lucy Dempsey-Nicell (pic above in middle with friends Salman and Ilinca) who is moving away to a different part of the city. Lucy has played a very active role in school life over the past year and a half, giving generously of her time to help others through various activities such as charity bake sales and the Amber Flag Committee. She has also been a great friend to everyone she knew and will be sadly missed by students and staff. We wish Lucy every success and happiness in her new school and remind her to never be a stranger to us here at Le Chéile where she is always welcome to visit.

Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

~Robert Frost



The Hour of Code initiative was a big hit with students recently.
Well done to all those who took part.



Breakfast Club: A Great Way To Start The Day

by **Nicole Rosca**

At first, I thought breakfast club wouldn't be so great, but as I started to attend and help out every morning, it got more and more exciting! At Breakfast club we all went and saw how it would be and we students and the staff done quite well on our first day. On the first day we had cereal(cornflakes), Weetabix, bananas, toast and apple/orange juice. Later on the year we introduced oranges and to be honest they were quite delicious and sweet!

As the days went by quite a few more people came and we were glad to see new faces come from day to day. The volunteers work really well together as a team to have everything ready for students who attend, we share the different jobs and also help clean everything up at the end. There is a rota system now too so the same people do not have to be in so early every morning. There are always a few teachers and SNA staff there to help out too and they are always very helpful and kind.

We also helped to get the breakfast club up and running by doing other stuff to raise money to get more supplies/equipment for the breakfast club. One of the things we did was the bake sale, here we did exceptionally well and raised €623 to spend on materials for the breakfast club.

All the volunteers both students and staff are quite wonderful people who enjoy doing this work, it is also a great way to get to know other people in different classes and years that you might not talk to much otherwise. The students who come to have breakfast seem to enjoy it too, sitting among friends, chatting and eating before school. So if you would like to come along to breakfast club, it is on Mon-Fri from 7.30-8.20 before school starts in the GP area, it is free and everyone is welcome, it is a great club to be part of and lots of fun both for volunteers and those enjoying a healthy meal to start off the day.

Top-left: Article author Nicole Rosca (2nd from left) along with other volunteers happily doing the washing up after breakfast club. Above: Ms. McKiernan, Mr. McCann and Ms. Molloy who have been the driving force behind Breakfast Club helping out at breakfast club. Below: Student volunteers helping to prepare and serve the breakfast. Great work by these students



Christmas Market Is Magic

Well it's safe to say that the Annual Christmas Market has been a massive success. There was a fantastic array of products with a massive amount of budding young Le Chéile entrepreneurs taking part! One onlooker noted that "it was the best Christmas Market in West Dublin"... The young entrepreneurs were also in a giving spirit and managed to raise a decent sum of money for the Suicide Prevention Charity 'LiveLife'. Well done to all students and staff involved as it was a great experience for everyone who attended. The hustle and bustle mixed with fine aromas and beautiful crafts on sale really put us all in the Christmas mood.





Above: Our 2nd year Justice Ambassadors with food items ready for donation to St. Vincent de Paul pictured with SNA staff members Louise Corcoran and Aoife Bannon. Below: Three Wise Justice Ambassadors showing the true spirit of Christmas by delivering boxes filled with food to SVP. Below-right: Justice ambassadors load up the car with our donations. Bottom: Students ready to send off a load of shoeboxes to the TeamHope Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

Generous Response to SVP Hamper Appeal by Le Chéile Students by Carla Tudor

It has been a busy 4 months for all our Le Chéile students and teachers. The students have just finished their Christmas exams and everyone is looking forward to the Christmas Holidays. Although, not everyone in our local communities are as fortunate as we are. Many people in Tyrrelstown, Corduff and Mulhuddart are struggling around the Christmas holidays and need a spark of joy to remind them that there is hope. The Justice Ambassadors along with their amazing teacher Ms O'Shea organized the annual St Vincent De Paul Hamper Appeal in the school. They handed out boxes to all of the Tutor groups and reminded students of how fortunate we are to have food on the table for Christmas. Many selection boxes, tinned cans of food, soft drinks and sweets were brought in by generous students and teachers. All the food collected will be distributed to people in need living in the local area in time for Christmas. The Justice Ambassadors (Paddy Cleary, Carla Tudor, Tiffaney Umayat, Callum Daughton, Christina Spinu) sincerely thank everyone for their generosity and hope everyone has a Merry Christmas. A massive thank you to Ms O'Shea as well for organising this event, the Justice Ambassadors couldn't have done it without her!



As Christmas approaches it makes us all very proud to see that so many of our students and their families are so willing to go the extra mile for worthy causes like these and not just at Christmas. Making the world a better place is the common cause of humanity and the circumstances of Jesus' birth serve to remind us of our need to show solidarity to all our brothers and sisters in need. We are in this together 'Le Chéile' and we'd like to think that all our students are becoming Ambassadors for Justice who will always strive to make the world a better place.