Le Chéile Secondary School

Summer Newsletter 2019

A Message from the Deputy Principal

As I sit here reflecting on and giving thanks for another eventful year at Le Chéile I am struck by the many wonderful memories that we have created as a school community in 2018/19

Again this year our students have had the opportunity to be involved in so many rich learning experiences - Whether you enjoy football, basketball or rugby, creative writing or quizzes, art or science, the company of books or computers, would like to star in a musical, work out in the gym, or go on an exchange trip to a foreign country all of these opportunities and many more have been yours to embrace this year. I urge you to continue to make the most of your talents, to always be your best self and to realise your full potential. What you sow now, you will harvest later.

This year was also a time for nostalgia as we bid farewell to our first group of students, the Class of 2019, students who have remained in our care for the past five years and now embark upon the next chapter and challenge in life. We wish them every success and happiness as they begin this new phase in their life journey.

As another school year comes to an end I would like to thank all those in the Le Chéile school community who have shared their talents, enriched the life of our school and created so many memorable moments, it is indeed a privilege to be part of such a wonderful team.

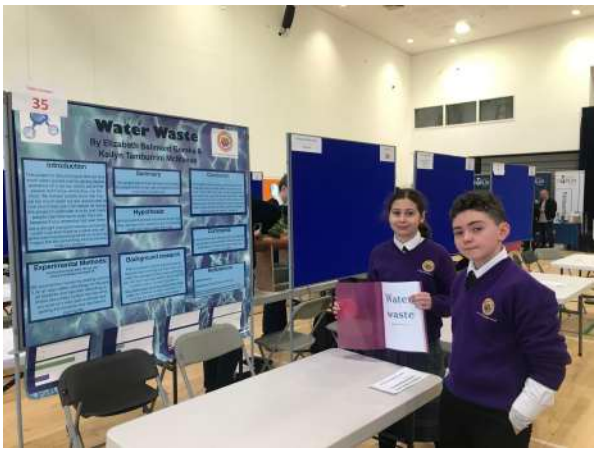
Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to wish our students who will be sitting their State Exams in the coming days the very best of luck. We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers as you begin the Leaving Cert and Junior Cert exams.

I wish all our students and their families a safe (and sun filled!) Summer holiday and look forward to welcoming you back in August.

Mrs Harrington

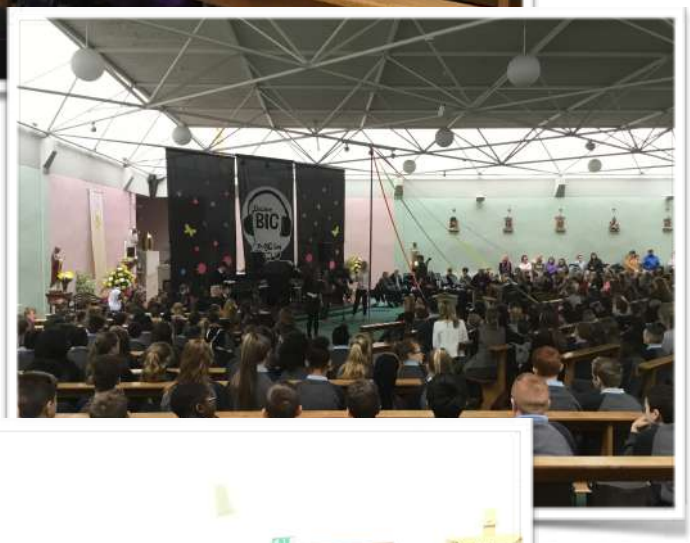
The Big Bang 🤓

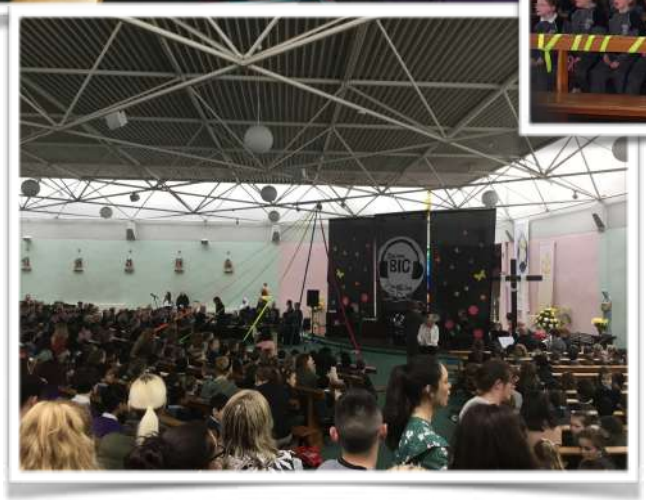
On Wednesday 8th May 5 students accompanied by Ms Sheehan attended Scifest @ College in TU Blanchardstown. Over 120 projects from 30 different schools were represented in the hall. Kailyn Tamburrini McManus and Elizabeth Bellmont Gorska represented 1st years with their project on water usage. They investigated how much water was being used by people and how aware they were of any water they were wasting. Jessica Odemena, Niamh O'Connor and Roisin Gleeson presented their project "The Big Bingewatch Theory" where they investigated the effects of binge watching tv shows vs watching one episode a week on memory retention. The two groups we're questioned intensely by judges who put them through their paces. After the judging process, the entire hall was treated to a show where different experiments were carried out. Our very own Kailyn got to make his own ice cream, the scientific way! While we didn't win any prizes, it was Le Chéiles first time to participate in this event. The confidence and communication skills the students learned and developed were invaluable. They represented our school so well and we are so proud of you all!



Scifest 2019 👩‍🔬👨‍🔬

The Big Sing 2019





The Big Sing took place on the Wednesday 8th is May 2019. The choir members and some students in the Music Classes in 2nd Year came along to the Big Sing also. The Big Sing was a great experience, lots of fun, and a great day out with all your friends! We all sang together for the Minister of Education, which was a great opportunity! We sang 3 songs, all taken from 'The Greatest Showman'. The first one was 'A Million Dreams', following onto 'The Greatest Showman' and finally 'This is Me'. The Big Sing was organized by the local Primary school St. Patrick's Senior School, Corduff and was made so schools will be more active with the music department and the community and so as-well as that, students would learn at least one instrument. There were many young musicians playing all sorts of instruments, some including, Trumpet, Drums, Piano, Bass Guitar and many more! I would definitely go to The Big Sing again because it was great, Awesome and super fun!

By Nicole Rosca

Yum Yum Pigs . . . .

Le Chéile secondary school celebrated Healthy Eating week the first week in May with a very exciting schedule.

The aim of the week was to increase the school community's knowledge on ways to eat healthily but to also provide practical examples of how to do so by planning, shopping and cooking well.

Some highlights of the week included a prize for the most healthy lunchbox, top trump games with nutritional advice and the planning of healthy weekly menus.

The school's already healthy Breakfast Club menu was extended further with a collection of frutilicious yoghurts, juicy berries and Ms. McKeown's egg-cellent brekkie (which she scrambled up at the crack of dawn) for any students who wished to avail of it.

Le Chéile's staff also got involved in Healthy Eating week when Ms. Heavey swapped her calculator for a mixing bowl and gave lunchtime cookery demonstrations on how to cook a number of healthy eating snacks and meals.

Wednesday lunchtime saw a Teacher Cook off between Team Mr. McCann/Ms. Finnegan versus Team Mr. Creedon/Mr. Kennedy. The teams were presented with a number of surprise ingredients and they were entasked with making the tastiest yet healthiest dinner. Videos of all teacher activities were uploaded onto schoology so you can catch them there if you missed out!!!

Big thanks to Ms. McKeown, Ms. Ní Dhonncha, members of Le Chéile's student council team and all the teachers who helped out to make this week possible.

Defib 5k 🏃‍♀️🏃‍♂️

Mr Kennedy's safety is your concern. With this in mind he wanted to raise funds so the school would have a Defibrillator should any students or staff have an issue with their heart! Defibs are not cheap. Students took it upon themselves to raise money through sponsorship cards while others made online contributions on our GoFundMe page. We reached the amount comfortably.

Although it was advertised as a 5k run/walk it was actually 5.5k, there must have been something wrong with Mr Cookes measuring tape. The winner of the race was Efrem with Mr Harvey and Mr McCarron following closely behind.

Sports Round Up

First Year Boys win FAI Division III Metropolitan Championship

Many congratulations are to go to our youngest boys football team who won their Division 3 Championship this season.

Having finished runners-up in their group stage to Rockbrook School (the only team to defeat them in the entire season), it was rather fitting that our boys faced them again in the final for a rematch after battling through the knockout stages and a tough victorious warm-up match versus the Riversdale CC U15 team.

The boys in purple took to the field feeling confident of a win and got the match started perfectly with an early goal scored by O'Brien Akpaka . From this point the lads were well and truly in command with a dominant first half performance and, after several missed chances, doubled their lead right before half-time with a fine finish by Dare Kareem.

As expected, Rockbrook made a ferocious start to the second half and applied an enormous amount of pressure of the Le Cheile defensive wall; it held firm, and the boys should have taken a 3 goal advantage but for an excellent save onto the post by our opponents keeper. Shortly after, Rockbrook pulled a goal back and then applied more pressure for the remainder of the match…gladly, our resolute warriors held on for the 2-1 win and put themselves into the history books by being the first Le Cheile football team to win a FAI tournament. They are now promoted to Division II.

At the end of the season the Players Player of the Year award was shared between Erik Dragasius and Jake Kearney.

The Le Cheile Junior Football Player of the Year award was also given to Jake Kearney. This award is made not only on the merit of skill, but for positive attitude, leadership, and sportsmanship.

Most of the boys trained hard all season and proved that hard work brings success. Well done to all the players and helpers involved in making it a rewarding year, regardless of trophies. See you all again

Sport Against Racism

Well done to Taha who was recognised for his excellent contribution in Sport Against Racism. Taha has seen excellent leadership qualities both on and off the pitch.

Active Schools Week:

Active Schools Week is a nationwide initiative that encourages everyone in the school community to become participants in a range of physical activities.

This year we witnessed our students take part in a *skip-a-thon, puc fada, beat the keeper, keepie-upies, and boxing* events, all staged by different staff members throughout the week. Our senior students also organised a first year football tournament which lasted for several hours and was a huge success.

The culminating event was our annual school Sports Day in which our 5 school house-teams engaged in a variety of competitive events, some traditionally competitive in nature and others purely for '*the craic*'. Despite the weather being scorching all week in the build-up to sports day, the sunshine unfortunately abandoned D15 and the rain arrived before all of the events were completed and so everyone moved into the sports hall for a team dodgeball tournament.

Well done to our new house champions *Nelson Mandela* and to all participants and supporters who made it a great day and an active week.

Lidl GAA Jerseys

On the 19th of April 2019 the LGFA informed our school that we won a set of Jerseys and equipment for our Junior and Senior LGFA school team nominated by both staff and students through an online competition and selected by the LGFA judging panel.

On behalf of Ms Heavey and I we would like to thank all the fantastic students and staff who nominated our school and gave numerous receipts to Ms Heavey and I throughout the competition.

The GAA girls will be representing Le Chéile in style come September 2019.

We have won a fantastic list of equipment and set of 25 playing jerseys.

- *A Full Set of 25 Team Jerseys*
- *Full Sized Kit Bag*
- *Training Cones Set x 1 (Containing 50 Cones)*
- *Training Bibs x 2 sets of 15 (Different Colours)*
- *Set of 8 Water Bottles and Carrier*
- *Training Footballs x 6*

Ms Fitzpatrick and Ms Heavey

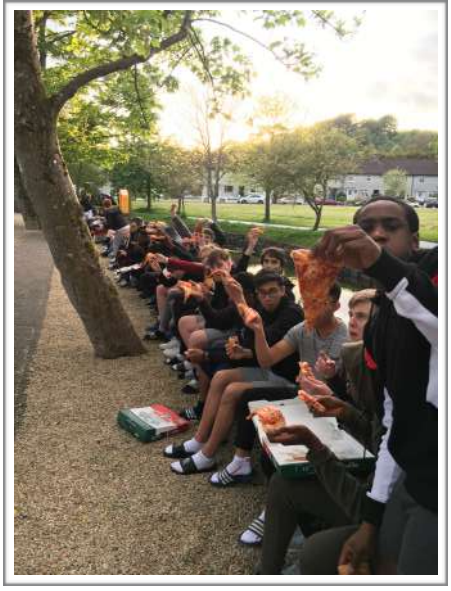
Going Somewhere Fast

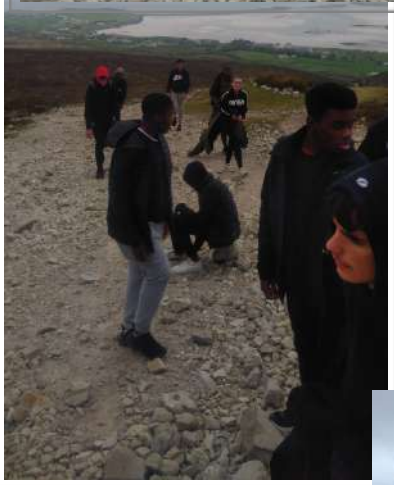
The awards keep racking up for Efrem!!! Efrem was recognised as rising star in Irish athletics by the Evening Hearld at the Aviva Stadium. Efrem broke the senior mens 5000m with a time of 14:34:22!!! The previous record has stood since 1980!!!!

We're all so proud of what Efrem has achieved over the past two years...

Sports Day Is Golden

If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a dodge ball!!!





TY Graduation

TYs on Tour . . . . to Mayo

TYs rounded off a brilliant year full of growth opportunities with a challenging ascent of Croagh Patrick (all 2,507 ft!!). We then travelled to our accommodation in the picturesque Westport. The weather was beautiful and we enjoyed Ireland's finest Supermacs & Papa Johns by the water before enjoying a hit movie beside our hostel. BUT the absolute highlight, at least for Mr Walshe & Mr Harvey was the emergence of an old friend from the shadows - Mr Gainley Snr. After a good night's sleep, breakfast was served in the hostel before we travelled to Donal Walsh's 6th Anniversary LiveLife day in Knock. It was a inspiring day which included talks from Anna Geary, Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh and Donal's parents. There were also workshops which included music, social justice (Trócaire) and prayer. It was a wonderful way to enjoy another experience together and reflect on the year that has been. WHAT TEAM?

Another year has passed and we have another TY Graduation. Well done to all our Graduates & in particular to Fabian who won the Spirit of TY 2019

Junk Koutour

This Year myself and Wiktoria Kluza entered the Junk Kouture 2019 Competition. We started planning the dress in September since Wiktoria Entered the Competition last year with Giulia. The Whole experience was like living your life to your fullest! Creating, thinking, sketching, planning. It took a really long time to make our dress, a total of 6 months. We pinned, sewed, glued, dye-cutted, and worked together hours on end. We stayed after school when it came close to the closing date to complete our dress. Every lunch, everyday we would work on our dress, having a great blast, laughing, talking and thing how far we would get!

Our dress is named “Le Chéile” which means together and also the name of our School! Why we chose that name? Well the name “Le Chéile” translates into “Together” and our school is a full of different nationalities! How it links in with our dress? All the colours represent that not one person is different from each other and we are all alike in different ways!

Getting into the Regional Finals itself was a Big Achievement. The Regional Finals took place in the Helix and only 15 designs from 80 would of got through from the Dublin Region into the **Grand Finals** and we were one of them! Tearful by the end of the Regionals going home with a big smile on our faces grateful that we got into the Grand Finals!

The Grand Final took place in the 3Arena! It was a wonderful opportunity to be someone where you never thought you would of been! We got the the 3Arena, registered and went up to get ready for the Big Show! Wiktoria, myself and Ms.Doyle were all very nervous and excited for the show! Everything was done by the time the Judges came round to ask questions about our dress. Our turn came and we told as much as possible about our hard-work dress!

As soon as it turned 7pm Wiktoria went back-stage and myself and Ms.Doyle waited eagerly to see Wiktoria Performance ! It was a great performance, she rocked the stage with wearing our dress! The results came in near the end, we waited feeling optimistic and really nervous!
We didn’t win or get the Dublin Region winner, but we were still proud of our hard work and went home with our heads held high!
We would also like to say the biggest thank you to **Ms.Doyle** for supporting us throughout the competition and helping us with everything! Thank you very much!!

Le Chéile's Got Talent

Friday the 21st of April was a day that Le Cheile staff and students will never forget. The day of our annual talent show provided us with showstopping performances from our students from first year to sixth year. Our special guest, Mrs. Browne, provided commentary through out the show as we watched singers, dancers, actors and rubix cube masters take to the stage. The show gave teachers and students an insight into the wonderful talent of our students, as we watched the versatility in their abilities. Our Le Cheile's Got Talent winners for 2019 were Josh and Jonathan Amah, who gave an outstanding instrumental performance on the drums and piano. They finished with a chorus number from High School Musical, our TY show, and invited TY students to come on to the stage and sing along. It was a very poignent moment, showing us that small things matter !

They've still got it!!! ⚽

Well done to all our teachers who strutted their stuff in the teacher football tournament. Le Chéile finished a respectable third in the group however it wasn't enough to progress to the knock stages after conceding a couple late goals. Tension rose in the final game between Ms Heavey & Mr Byrne after the late defensive lapse but all was forgiven soon after as McNulty netted with a trade mark bicycle kick!!! Improvements will be made for next year and Le Chéile will come again.

College Awareness

This term the CFES team were bestowed with a very special award- College Awareness Week Supporters Award. It was presented to the team along with our first cohort of sixth year students on the afternoon of Wed the 22nd May.

The award was presented by Kathleen O Toole, founder of the College Awareness Week initiative, and recognizes the support given by Le Cheile to College Awareness Week and in recognition of all the great activities that were run in the school back in November. The students attended talks from the various colleges and also engaged in career based activities with their tutors throughout the week. Le Cheile are one of only a small number of schools who received the award this year.

The highlight of the Award ceremony was the amazing speeches given by three of our sixth year students- Andrea Beyer, Oj Okeyuche and Daniel Chekhaine. They spoke so professionally in an audience of their peers and it was a very proud day for the team at Le Cheile.

The sixth years also received some cupcakes and ice cream on the day to award them for all their efforts over the year and to see them off as they become our first graduates from Le Cheile!

Seachtain Feasachta Coláiste
COLLEGE
AWARENESS WEEK

The Claddagh

The Claddagh

The Claddagh staff and students would like to say a big thank you to 6th year Cairde Claddagh OJ, Ashley and Andrea for the wonderful gift of a new bicycle they recently bought for the Claddagh. It was very thoughtful and generous of the 3 of you and our students are delighted.

The Claddagh Team would also like to say a big thank you to all those who performed the role of Cairde Claddagh this year. It has been a great success and having so many of you dropping into us for food and play on Wednesday's and Thursdays during lunchtime has really enriched The Claddagh and we hope you guys have enjoyed coming into us too.

We'd also like to say a special word of thanks to the TY students who completed their work experience placements in The Claddagh on Wednesdays, you have all been a great help to us and were important members of our team. We should have 8 openings, 2 for each of the the 4 work experience placements in the new school year. Any new TY students interested should talk to Mr. McNulty about how to apply. The current TYs who did work experience completed a course run by the HSE on inclusive practices and sometimes work as mentors to our students when they attend mainstream.

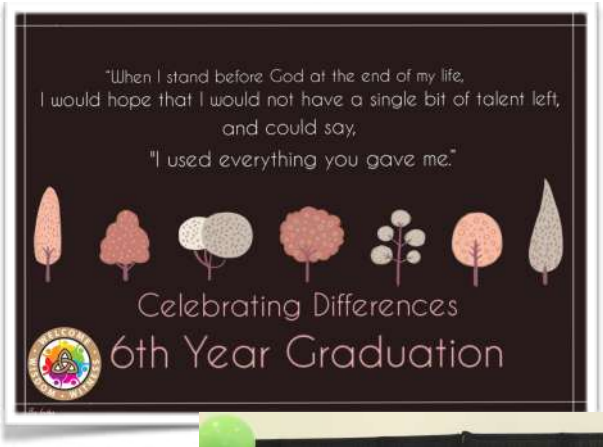
One of our TY work experience students Lola helping one of the Claddagh's Muslim students Kingsley with his morning prayer during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Below is a picture of Lola and Eadaoin on their final day day of work experience in the Claddagh classroom with Claddagh students and staff.

Le Chéile Awards Day

Le Chéile Awards Day

6th Year Graduation



Class of 2019

Thursday the 23rd of May saw the first ever Leaving Certificate graduation from Le Chéile Secondary School. The theme of the evening was celebrating talents which was very fitting for the evening. The evening began with a beautiful prayer service followed by memorable speeches from our Head Boy and Head Girl, OJ and Andrea. After a beautiful Graduation and awards ceremony the evening concluded with an emotional video which looked back on the students five years in Le Chéile. We even saw some familiar faces with Mr Gainley, Mr O'Connor, Mr Bagnall and Mr Heenan making an appearance.