

School Newsletter

Le Chéile Secondary School



School Feast Day Celebrations

by Amy Agboola (Social Media Ambassador)

On 2nd October Le Chéile celebrated the school Feast Day.

Annually in Le Chéile secondary school we hold a whole school Feast Day that everyone is encouraged to participate in and attend. The main point of the Feast Day is to come together as a school to reflect and celebrate on our school and achievements. In the morning the school held a beautiful mass with Fr. Eoin. Following this the annual school *(continued on pg.9)*

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Lots of excitement and celebrations around the latest exam results

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New Head Boy and Head Girl

Mary Adindu and Stephen Balaneasa are the newly elected Head Girl and Head Boy for the academic year 2019/2020-pg.12

“I would like to extend a special welcome to those students new to our school.”

A Message from the Principal

I am delighted to welcome you to our first newsletter of 2019/20. By now we have all settled back into school and as usual the year has begun with the busyness and productivity that characterises life in Le Chéile Secondary School.

In this first newsletter of the school year I would like acknowledge and congratulation our Class of 2019 on their wonderful Leaving Certificate results. We are so proud to see them move onto the next phase of their life journey and we wish them every success.

Whilst we had to wait a little bit longer this year for the Junior Cert results - they were worth the wait. The results reflect the talents of our students, as well as the hard work and support of their teachers. We are very proud to see them do so well and look forward to supporting them on to the next phase of their education journey.

I would like to extend a special welcome to those students new to our school. Our First Years are settling in very well and it is a joy to see new friendships being formed as the students get used to the demands of secondary school whilst also embracing all the opportunities available to them.

As ever our students have involved themselves in all aspects of school life since returning in September. It is wonderful to see them energising the school with their enthusiasm for all things curricular and extracurricular. In such a short period of time they have had the opportunity to involve themselves in so many activities and events and I would like to thank the staff for their willingness to give their time so generously.

Over the past few weeks we have welcomed many visitors to our school. All of whom have spoken so positively about our beautiful learning environment. A school however is not just a building. It is the culmination of the hopes, dreams, joys, sorrows, hard work and teamwork of the school community. Undoubtedly this school year will bring new challenges but our hope is that our students move forward confidently, use and share their many gifts and talents generously, make the most of the opportunities presented to them and have a happy and successful year.

Finally, I would like to thank you as parents for all your lovely words of support as I move from my role as Deputy Principal to Principal. I look forward to working with you in the coming year and thank you for your continued support.

Ms. Leona Harrington

Principal

European Week of Languages

European Day of Languages is celebrated all over Europe on the 26th of September every year.

Its aim is to encourage language learning across Europe. Transition Year students of Modern Foreign Languages came together this September to come up with some fresh, new, whole-school language events to run during European Week of Languages at Le Chéile. In the week leading up to European Day of Languages, students from all year groups had a chance to participate in language-and-culture-

based activities at break and lunch times, and in some of their language classes.



Events ranged from 'Musical Chairs' and a 'Teacher vs Student Cook-off' to 'Food Roulette' where students signed up to spin the wheel to see what traditional European food they would taste - and there were lots of things to try, from snails and Dijon mustard to crêpes and croissants!

Some of the TYs arranged a European dance class where students learned a traditional Polish dance while others hosted a 'World Cup Penalty Shoot-out' but with a linguistic twist! One morning the students of Le Chéile were treated to a continental breakfast at the Breakfast Club. In the classrooms, TY students paid a visit to various MFL classes to run a 'Food Race' in seven different languages! If all these activities proved tiring for students, there was an option to spend a chilled-out lunch time listening to some European tunes and relaxing with friends.

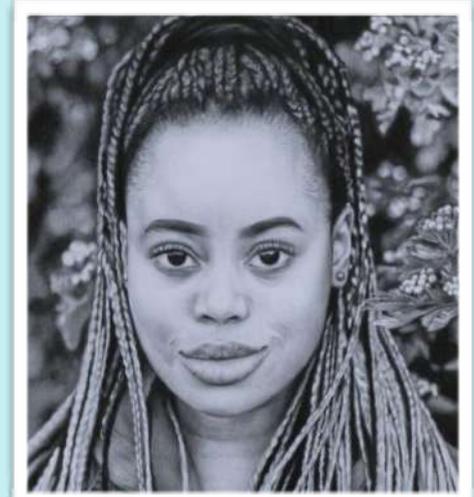
Well done to the Transition Year students for all their planning, preparation, hard-work and professionalism during those few exciting days and thank you to the language teachers at Le Chéile for facilitating the events.



TAKING OPPORTUNITIES!!

Last Spring Ms. O' Brien posted a link on Schoology about a portrait competition running in the National Gallery, Dublin city. One student seized that opportunity, took a chance and entered. Because of her choice and action, we now have a Le Cheile student who is a national prize winner and whose work is currently on exhibition in the prestigious National Gallery of Ireland. This exhibition will be moved to be exhibited in Cork soon. Congratulations to the über talented MARTYNA GLOWICKA 🎨

Here is her masterpiece which she created of fellow student and friend Kissmat.



Junior Cycle Results Day

by Carla Tudor (Social Media Ambassador)

On Friday, 4th October the Junior Cycle results were presented to last years 3rd year students.

Our students arrived to school, eager to receive their results that morning. The school organised a trip to Leisureplex Blanchardstown for us and we got to enjoy the morning bowling with our classmates.



Although we were undeniably nervous for the important news we'd be getting in the afternoon, everyone was excited to let out their competitive sides and relax with their friends. Once we arrived back to school, we all gathered in the GP hall and the excitement levels began to rise. We were called out by our tutor groups and received our results, one by one. All students greatly appreciate our

teachers efforts to make this a memorable day and definitely one we will never forget.



CLADDAGH NEWS

Thank you to all the 1st and 2nd year Cairde Claddagh Club members who joined Claddagh students and lots of Le Chéile staff for the double birthday celebration of Johan and Kingsley last month. Big thanks also to 2 of our favourite Toy Story characters Woody and Buzz for providing lots of fun and entertainment by singing, dancing and playing games at the party. A great time was had by all.

Happy Birthday Johan and Kingsley from all at Le Chéile!!



CONCERN DEBATE

The Concern debate season is underway and Le Cheile had an animated and enthusiastic senior debating society willing to rise to the challenge. The rounds began with an away debate, hosted by Holy Family Community School, Rathcoole. The motion debated was "The eradication of global hunger by 2030 is beyond humanity's reach." The team considered of four 5th year students: Jessica Odemena, Siri Nandipaty, Ilinca Fabian, and Carla Tudor. The girls were extraordinary and debated with confidence and conviction. They were sadly defeated but ready for the next debate which will be hosted by Le Cheile on November 13, all welcome.

EVENING STUDY

Evening Study has started back up again. This is a wonderful opportunity to ensure that you take time out of your busy days and get that vital time to focus on your school work and study.

Evening Study takes places Monday 4:00pm-6:00pm, Tuesday-Thursday 3:45pm-5:45pm.



Evening Study costs €50 per half term or €150 for the full year. Information and permission slips can be collected from Ms Stanley or from Reception.

5TH YEAR POLITICS AND SOCIETY TRIP



On the 1 October the 5th year Politics and Society group attended a Dail trip. Despite the ferocious weather, the trip was hugely informative and enjoyable. We began by attending Taoiseach questions where a number of issues were discussed, ranging from hospital bed shortages to Brexit and the emergency allocations of the 2019

budget. The class were then taken on a tour of the Dail, accompanied by a personal assistant of the Taoiseach, and councillor, Ted Leddy. He went to great lengths to explain the procedures within the Dail, the history of significant figures and also answered a number of questions from the group.



HOUSE OF SWAG

On Wednesday 23rd October the whole school was treated to an amazing dance performance by the House of Swag. The House of Swag promotes mental health in young people through the power of dance. It is a progressive dance school that produces several dance performances and documentary style films. Following the very hard work of Ms. O'Brien and the Performance Arts Mental Health Promoters we are very fortunate that the House of Swag will be coming to Le Chéile and holding classes in the school. I'm sure you will all agree the HOS performance was absolutely phenomenal and we look forward to seeing what amazing performances our Le Chéile students will share with us.

[#wecantransformtheworldwithourcreativity](#)



“When one looks at this newsletter, it is quite incredible to consider that all of the events detailed have only happened since last August!”

A chairde / Dearest Parents, Guardians, Students & Staff,

I am delighted to be writing to you as the school's "new" Deputy Principal as the first term draws to an end. Having watched Le Chéile grow since 2014, it is with great pleasure and pride that I pick up the baton from Ms. Harrington. I look forward to working with you, as part of a large team of people, who are committed to helping your child reach their full potential.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our students who returned to school this year but I would also like to particularly welcome our first year students, who have navigated the transition from primary to secondary very successfully. A word of welcome also to our new first year parents who have become members of a very special school community.

I am very pleased to say that it has been a hugely successful first term at Le Chéile. From an academic point of view, our students achieved excellent results in their Junior Cycle exams again this year and our first ever Leaving Certificate cohort also enjoyed outstanding success. I would like to wish our Leaving Cert students 2019 the best of luck as they start on a new life journey in college, apprenticeships or in the world of full time employment. It is an exciting time for all and we wish them all the best in their new adventures.

It has also been a very exciting term, curriculum wise, with the introduction of the senior cycle subject of Politics & Society and the continuation of Leaving Certificate P.E. (examinable course) and Leaving Certificate Computer Science.

When one looks at this newsletter, it is quite incredible to consider that all of the events detailed have only happened since last August! The wonderful buzz that can be felt at Le Chéile is as a result of an enthusiastic student population who recognise the importance of seizing every opportunity presented to them. The variety of events and activities, on offer, is only possible, however, as a result of a very hardworking staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for giving so generously of their time in the last number of months.

As the first school term break approaches, we ask all students to enjoy their well-deserved break and return safely to us in November. It is important that we all have a chance to recharge our batteries and take time out to enjoy our family and friends.

We look forward to welcoming you back on Nov. 4th and we ask that all students wear their school jackets as the weather will have gotten colder. I hope you have a fantastic midterm,

Le gach dea-ghuí,
Ms. Ní Dhonncha (Deputy Principal)

Leaving Cert PE Students visit the National Sports Campus

Earlier this month, a group of 5th and 6th year Leaving Cert Physical Education students visited the National Sports Campus in Abbotstown.

This was a fantastic opportunity for our PE students to see where Ireland's top elite performers train and compete.

They were given a full tour of the campus as well as a talk from the Head of Strength and Conditioning, Graham Byrne and a practical lesson on fundamental movement with the Head of Gymnastics Coach, Craig Filmer.



Feast Day Celebrations

leadership awards were presented to students who are ambassadors or hold positions of responsibility within the school community. Nearly 200 leadership awards were presented during the ceremony which demonstrates once again how amazing our student body is. The second years are given their angel badges and promise to take care and to be a guardian to the new 1st year students.



“it was a joyous experience!!”-Mary Adindu

Prefects, Head Girl and Head Boy were also announced during this ceremony and we were fortunate to have a representative from the Le Chéile Trust Thérèse Davey to present the Prefect awards. Mary Adindu was announced as the school’s new Head Girl and Stephen Balanesasa was announced as the new Head Boy. Mary exclaimed that “it was a joyous experience!” and Stephen reported “this memory will be ingrained with me forever..!”

Furthermore, our Head Boy OJ and Head Girl Andrea also attended the ceremony and shared some parting words with the students and new student leadership team.



“this memory will be ingrained with me forever..”-Stephen Balanesasa

After the ceremony finished in the morning, the whole school walked to Blanchardstown cinema to watch The Lion King movie. This part of Feast Day is the most exciting as you can spend time with friends. After the movie is finished we all went home, satisfied with the day we had.



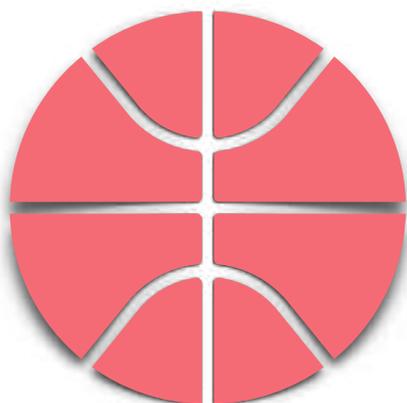
U16 & U19 Boys Basketball

Both the U16 & U19 Basketball teams had a very successful term.

This was a fantastic opportunity for our PE students to see where Irelands top elite performers train and compete. After a heavy term of matches, the U16 boys who are undefeated in their pool, are now through to the Dublin League Quarter-finals. Well done to the team and best of luck in the next round. The U19s had a tough but successful run of matches, winning four out of their five games. They are now through to the Plate quarter-finals. This year, the U19s entered the All-Ireland Cup, the competition that they won last year. However, it wasn't to be their day as they lost to Limerick team, St.Munchins College, 41-59.



U19 Team



ERASMUS

Between the 14th -18th October the final leg of the ERASMUS project took place in Budapest, Hungary.

Six students travelled from Le Chéile; Emidi Nsibu, Sanju Sudhagaran, Lauryn Larkin, Mabeth Efosa Omoregie, Angel Amarichi Ebo and Michael Belmont Gorska. The students stayed with Hungarian host families for the week and took part in cultural activities and games throughout the week.



presented the values and philosophies of life at Le Chéile and in Irish society. They in turn learned about the cultures and values of the Hungarian school Szent Gellért and the Spanish School Salesianos Manuel Lora Tamayo who were also in Hungary for the week. The students found the whole experience enriching and character-building



The ERASMUS project is a unique opportunity for our students to collaborate and exchange educational ideas and learning with students abroad, as well as fostering positive relationships. The theme of our project this year is “Discovering our Heritage and Facing Modern Challenges” and throughout the week, our students engaged in a number of activities where they shared and



with many opportunities to make new friends in Spain and Hungary.

PARTING THOUGHTS FROM OUR NEW HEAD GIRL AND HEAD BOY

Head Girl: Mary Adindu

Becoming Head Girl is a new experience that I will definitely remember forever. I am very privileged to represent the school in this way and constantly celebrate my excitement everyday.

The role of Head Girl is very important to me as it gives me the opportunity to become more independent, mature and interact with people more freely. Over this year, I would love to achieve multiple things such as understanding what I can handle in my life/ knowing my strengths and weaknesses and help to make the school a more positive environment by making a difference.

I would like to leave a mark so future generations in the Le Chéile community will know my name. The message I would like to leave, especially for the junior students is to not take anything too seriously. You are currently in one of the most relaxing stages of your life. Make many memories by photo bombing random people's pictures in school cause even if they get angry, you'll all laugh about it in the future. Don't be afraid to make many friends and experience new things.

For the senior students, your coming towards your last few years of secondary school/freedom. If you want to join any clubs or play any instruments, do it now while you still have a chance because if you don't you will end up regretting it. Most of all, do not let your friends dictate your choices no matter what. Be yourself and be happy :)

Head Boy: Stephen Balaneasa

My name is Stephen Balaneasa, I'm 18 years old and I'm officially the new Head Boy for this year. I feel privileged to have this role but also grateful that I get a chance to be a leader for the school.

This role for me is important because I get to represent the whole school as head boy and for me even now getting chosen I still feel honoured. This role is prestigious in many ways but for me it's more of a new path for improving myself and helping others even more.

What I would like to achieve this year is to show all the other students that anyone can achieve anything if goals are set. I believe that all our students have this passion inside them and I would love to convey that anything is possible during my time as Head Boy.

The message I would like to give to our students is that our school is to be respected and looked after. We should all treat this school how we treat our home because it's special in many ways.

