School Newsletter

Le Chéile Secondary School

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A message from our Principal Ms Harrington

'Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.
Nothing can be done without hope and confidence'
Helen Keller

I am delighted to welcome you to our first newsletter of 2021/22.

As we emerged from the challenges of the last two years we welcomed our students back in September full of hope and confidence that this year together we can 'build back better'.
It is great to see that the year has begun with the busyness and productivity that characterises life in Le Chéile Secondary School. We are finally seeing the green shoots of 'normality'!

In this first newsletter of the school year I would like acknowledge and congratulate our Class of 2021 on their wonderful Leaving Certificate results. What an amazing and resilient group of young people. We are so proud to see them move onto the next phase of their life journey and we wish them every success.

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. In such a short period of time they have had the opportunity to involve themselves in many activities and events and I would like to thank the staff for their willingness to give their time so generously. As the restrictions are eased we look forward to once again seeing our students involved in the extracurricular programme.

This year we welcomed a number of new teachers to our school, all of whom have spoken so positively about our fantastic students and 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.

I would like to thank you as parents for working in partnership with us to ensure we maintain the highest possible standards for your sons and daughters. I look forward to meeting with you in the coming year and thank you for your continued support.

Ms. Leona Harrington

Principal

House of Swag is back!

After nearly two years House of Swag is back at Le Chéile Secondary school. The benefit to our students and school community is massive providing much needed focus on creativity and self expression for health of the mind and body, friendships and skills for life. Prior to the pandemic we held three whole school shows, crews were created and prepared for competition. Now that restrictions are lifting we are able to restart this exceptional programme for our students to enjoy and grow individually and together. We are welcoming all students of Le Chéile to get involved in something exceptional.

Higher Options Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th October 2021

This October, the higher options event was held for all sixth year students. This event was a virtual exposition for various different colleges and courses across the country (and the world). Featured were many virtual booths with information about universities and what they have to offer. Students had the opportunity to chat one-on-one with students and representatives of all colleges present. The main event was a series of live talks featuring leading experts in many fields, such as nursing, business and law. These talks also covered other important topics, like deciding what career path you'd like to pursue, or studying abroad. Students were able to ask questions directly to those at the event, too. Higher options was a very useful opportunity to gain insight into potential career paths and colleges, and all of sixth year are very grateful to have been given this opportunity.

Welcoming the 1st year Cohort of 2021!

In August we welcomed our current 1st years to the school and they embarked on the Belong Plus program. The NCSE Belonging Plus+ transition and transfer programmes for 1st year, takes account of the social, emotional and personal aspects of transition, as well as the learning and thinking skills needed at post primary. The basic classroom skills of "One Voice", "Hands Up and Wait" and "Listen" were taught in this first week, while at the same time learning about our new school, our Core Values, rules, our timetable, school staff and opportunities available to students.
Congratulations to all students involved in graduating from this course and thank you to Ms Byrne for co-ordinating the week.

Le Chéile '6km A Day , Meet Our Heroes on the Way'

In Le Chéile the first years have taken it upon themselves along with their Year Head and Tutors to walk/run / cycle 6km a day for the whole month of October. This means that each first year pupil , along with their class tutors will walk/run/cycle 100km over the month of October. Our goal is to cover 36,000 km in total. Why this number you ask ?

If we add up the distances from all of the far away places our House Leaders were born from Dublin , Ireland , the answer is 36,000 km. Therefore , we are metaphorically traveling to meet our house heroes from Dublin. We are tracking our steps/activities using an app called "Strava". We first years are participating in this initiative to raise money for Jigsaw , based in Blanchardstown Shopping Centre. To date, the first years have had an outstanding performance and their spirits are very high which motivates others to be persistent, and they are giving it their all. Physical activity has a huge potential to enhance our wellbeing. Even a short burst of 10 minutes' brisk walking increases our mental alertness, energy and positive mood. Participation in regular physical activity can increase our self-esteem and can reduce stress and anxiety.

This is our appeal to you, if you would be kind enough to support us, please visit the following link and donate what you can. https://gofund.me/97340451 . This money is for a good cause to help young minds across the age of 12-25 who get expert advice and support.

Sarah Onechere

First year student in Helen Keller

Dublin Climate Action Week -September 2021

Thanks to Fingal County Council and South Dublin County Council for organising and hosting a very interesting and informative Fast Fashion webinar. Our Second Year Home Economics Students really enjoyed conversation and live panel discussions on how fashion impacts our climate. They heard from both industry experts and those living sustainably through their wardrobe choices on how collectively we can reduce our impact on the planet. Thank you to Ms Doyle for organising for the students.

Cycle Against Suicide Campaign

Well done to our students who earned their first CASuicide ambassador school plaque. Their leadership in the promotion resilience and mental health education was invaluable to our school during a very tough year. Looking forward to seeing what they do this year.

Feast Day Celebrations 2021

The Feast of the Guardian Angels (2nd Oct) is a very special day on our school calendar as this is our school Feast Day. This year we celebrated our Feast Day on Friday, 1st October.

We were delighted to welcome Dr. Eilis Humphreys and Therese Davey from the Le Chéile Schools Trust to our Feast Day celebration. We thank Fr. Eoin for celebrating our beautiful Mass, a now well-embedded tradition in the school. During our celebration of Mass our Second Year students are invested as angels and promised to take care and be a guardian to our First Years students.

The second part of our celebration was the awarding of our leadership badges. These were presented to students who are ambassadors or hold positions of responsibility within the school community. A large of number leadership awards were presented during the ceremony demonstrating once again what amazing students we have in Le Chéile.

Prefects, Head Girl and Head Boy were also announced. Later in the newsletter you will find the names of the prefects and a few words from our Head Boy and Head Girl. Congratulations to all!

Two very special people joined us as part of our celebrations, Dr. Áine Moran, founding Principal of Le Chéile Secondary School and Ryan Dwane one of the first students in Le Chéile. Ryan was the recipient of the Spirit of Le Chéile Award in 2019, however because of Covid restrictions we were unable to make a presentation to Ryan. We are delighted that Dr. Moran was with us to finally present Ryan with his award. A wonderful young man and a most deserving recipient, we are very proud to call him a past pupil.

We wish Dr. Moran every blessing and much happiness as she takes up her role as Principal in Sancta Maria College, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo.

As a final surprise everyone got an ice cream to finish off the day. Thank you to all those involved in making our Feast Day celebrations so special.

Season of Creation

To celebrate the Season of Creation this year Ms Lenihan held a poster competition to raise awareness about caring for the planet. The Season of Creation took place from the 1st of September to the 4th of October. The goals of Laudato Si include: responding to the cry of the Earth, responding to the cry of the poor, fostering ecological economics, adopting a sustainable lifestyle, offering ecological education, developing ecological spirituality and supporting the local Community. Students really understood these goals and included them in their posters. The competition received many excellent entries, and the posters were printed and displayed around the school. Mr Walshe, Father Brian and the Transition Years also planted a tree to mark the beginning of the Season and students made announcements over the intercom about the season of creation for all students to hear. The winners of the poster competition were: Ava Martin and Emily Han. Well done to all students on all of your amazing art work!

European Week of Languages

As always, European Week of Languages was a huge success this year. The MFL department, with the help of TY students, ran numerous activities throughout the week. Despite being restricted in what they could do this year, the whole week was jam packed!

Language Bingo - All students were offered a bingo card. The numbers corresponded to words and phrases in different European Languages. Words and phrases were posted on Schoology. If you had that number you marked it off and wrote the word on the back of the card. First to get all numbers on their card got a prize.

Tour de Tyrrelstown – Some of the TY French students organised a language relay race in Tyrrelstown park. This activity was held during some first year and TY PE classes.

Art competition – Students were invited to draw a picture representing a country, language or culture in Europe. Prizes included bracelets, stickers and pencils.

Poster competition – Students were invited to make a poster full of information on countries, languages or culture in Europe. Prizes.

European Scavenger Hunt – Pictures of famous European monuments and buildings were stuck up around school and students had to find them during the week and email name of building/ monument and city to win a prize.

EDL Kahoot – Students got the opportunity to show off their general knowledge when teachers ran a series of Kahoot quizzes in their language classes.

'I Am' Hand Wall – All students were asked to trace their hand on a piece of paper. On the palm of their hand they wrote 'I am' in their heritage language or a language they were learning in school.

For European week of Languages, the transition years got together and made contests for the other years to enjoy, it was so cool seeing everyone get together in my class and work together on making contests, challenges, events and more. it was quite the experience.
Nina Beatrice Gicale -TY

European Week of Languages in Pictures!

Cairde Claddagh Club: What's it all about?

by Faridat Adeniji

The 'Cairde Claddagh' is an extra-curricular group with about 35 members from all years of our school. It started when our school's new ASD class 'The Claddagh' first opened and I have been a member since the start. The main activities of the 'Cairde Claddagh' involves 4-5 students going into the Claddagh during lunchtime on Wednesday and Thursday to spend time with the students.

We usually sit together at lunch and talk about lots of things such as how our day is going, food, school, hobbies, family, friends, likes, dislikes and so on. I usually sit beside Faithfulness who is my friend and we get on very well together. I think she has a beautiful name and smile. She always makes me feel happy when we meet and all the other Claddagh students are really nice and good fun too. Makuo is very funny at telling jokes and making people laugh.

We also play things like football, basketball, tag, racing, dodgeball, jumping on trampoline or just walking about talking and laughing at the others having fun. I sometimes help the SNA by going outside to the carpark to get the ball which happens quite often. We usually spend a little bit of time playing ping pong in the Claddagh games room which is called 'Little Wimbledon'!! Some of the Claddagh students are really good at this game and I am learning from them, it is a fun game to play, I'm starting to get better at it now.

The first and second year Cairde Claddagh get to attend Christmas and Birthday Parties in the Claddagh, these are such good fun and they always have special guests like Woodie, Buzz, Spiderman and Santa with singing, dancing, games and treats. I was a bit disappointed not to get to go this year because I'm a third year now. The Cairde Claddagh also join Claddagh students at different school events such as the walk, tours, school shows etc. and on open night we give tours of the Claddagh to parents/children and tell them a little bit about what we do.

I believe that being a 'Cairde Claddagh' is very good experience as it helps open our eyes to how people with Autism learn. I think that being kind and having fun is important for us all.

Claddagh News

On May 12th 2021, Claddagh students at the end of their 3rd year of the Junior Cycle Programme went on an educational and fun day trip to Dublin Zoo with their teachers Ms. Cahill, Mr. McNulty and SNAs Nicola and Jamie. This trip was part of the short course linked to Geography that Claddagh students had been working on since first year called 'Around the World in 80 Days' and was also linked to their learning about 'Animal Care'. Students completed a fun fact file on their way around the zoo and talked to zoo workers about the animals they saw. It was a very interesting and informative day for all who attended. The group enjoyed a beautiful picnic along the way in the glorious Dublin sunshine and everyone had a really lovely time.

TY Class of 2021/2022

The TY cohort of 21/22 have been kept extremely busy by their co-ordinator so far this year. Thanks to the lifting of restrictions, the TYs have been able to take part and get involved with numerous activities both inside and outside of the classroom to develop those all important life skills- don't believe me…take a look below for yourself!

Hell and Back

Phoenix Park Cycle

Our Lady's Well Mulhuddart

Bake Sale in aid of St Francis Hospice

Hiking in Glendalough

Student Council

In September, the Student Council of 20/21 hosted a Reflection Seminar and council members were given the opportunity to reflect on their practice and work over the last academic year and highlight some areas for improvement. Their work did not gone unnoticed, and they were invited to speak at a Board of Management meeting to showcase their future ideas for the Council! This is an amazing example of how powerful the student voice is in Le Chéile.

Student Voice

Anti Bullying Policy

Like all policies in the school, review and updates are constantly needed. In September the school decided that a review was needed of the anti-bullying policy. Students were given the opportunity to put their name forward to join a newly formed "policy review committee" along side teachers. The committee is now up and running and updates are been posted on Schoology on how all students can get involved-

A big thank you to Ms Carey for leading this committee in the school.

Student Council 21/22

The Race is on!

FIRST YEAR CANDIDATES:

Hera Sophie Voros Biro
Mahad Rahman
Maxim Vatavu
Mariyam Nour

Second Year Candidates

Mercy Agunbiade
Ava Martin
Mazen Qotb
Gabriela Zielinska

Third Year Candidates:

Holly Smith
Simon Zwirko
Jayden Emeka
Peter Read

TY Candidates:

Roisin Ahern
Chloe Forde
Akin Olorungbohunmi
Roisin Coffey Duff

Fifth Year Candidates:

Electra Ogiamien
Alyssa Palombo
Chidera Dim
Sharon Okanume
Nicole Rosca

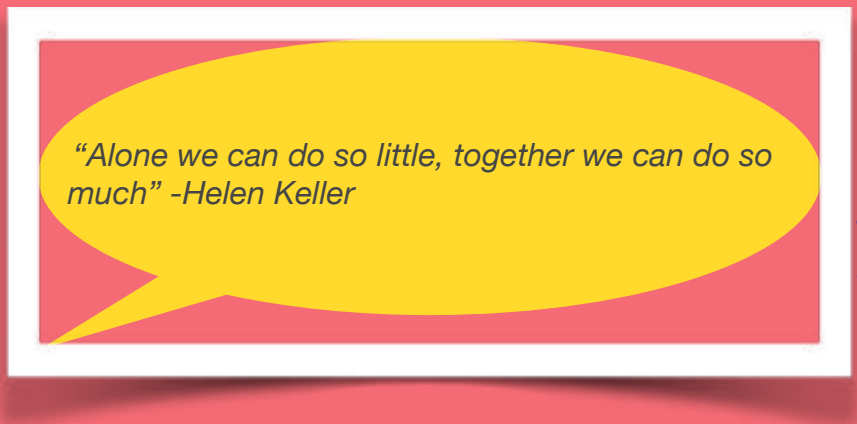
Junior and Senior Book Club

Junior Book Club

Junior book club will take place in the library every Monday at Junior lunchtime after the Midterm break. We have had a lot of interest from students who would like to join this club. It will be a nice time for students to relax, read and discuss their books while also improving their literacy skills. Thank you to everyone who has messaged me and I look forward to starting in November.
Ms Lenihan

Senior Book Club

As a sixth year student there have been many times I have heard my peers wishing they could read an entire book without becoming preoccupied with our schoolwork and daily responsibilities. I hoped that if the students had each other's support we would be more likely to pick up a book and continue reading. Literacy and articulation are lifelong skills that continue to develop long after leaving school, many students had an interest in improving these skills and we came together to form a book club. Our club commenced last week with Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen as our first pick. One of our goals for the club was for literature to feel accessible for everyone. It was important for us to agree on a book that could be found easily and inexpensively in store or online. Our club meets each Tuesday in the beautiful LeChéile library, there we discuss our thoughts and interpretations on the chapters we have completed since our last meeting. We currently have around fifteen members but we strongly encourage more people to join! Anyone in TY, fifth year or sixth year is welcome, for more information please contact Ruby.mae.ffrench@lecheilesecondaryschool.ie.



LCA Cohort 2021/2022 off to a flying

We welcome the new cohort of LCA students for this year. This is an alternative Leaving Certificate where students participate in more practical subjects and are continuously assessed throughout their two years in LCA.

Awards Day

Congratulations to our students who received awards for the month of September. All exhibiting our value 'Called to Be Our Best Self.

LCA Cohort 2021/2022 off to a flying start!

Practical Classes

Communication skills in Social Education

Project on comparing French and Irish Culture during French class

LCA Cohort 2021/2022 off to a flying start!

Hair and beauty class have been kept busy with Halloween Make-up...What do you think?

And finally.....Clay Pottery decorations for Christmas made in Craft and Design class. Coming your way soon!

The LCA team are in the process of putting together a database of local business and workplaces that may be willing to take on students for Work Experience. If there is any family member or community member that feel they may be able to facilitate this please contact Ms Barron on the email below.

ALSO...We are also looking for some community speakers who may be able to visit the LCA class over the year describing the World of Work, to help with Mock Interviews and to talk about the community that we live in. If anyone would be willing to help please get in touch.
If you can help please contact msbarron@lecheilesecondaryschool.ie

Sports are Back!!

We are so delighted that sporting activities are back in action this term- training has recommenced for most sports! With the upcoming sport stars and talent in the school who knows what the year will bring! Lets go Le Chéile!

Student Representation

Prefects

During our celebrations of Feast Day we also got to announce our 6th year Prefects for this academic year. Congratulations to all students elected. We know you will do the students and yourselves extremely proud this year.

Most importantly, we want to make it known that we are here to help!

"This year we are delighted to announce that twenty senior prefects were elected. We have many ideas we hope to implement this school year such as creating more student societies and supporting our younger students with their learning technology.
Most importantly, we want to make it known that we are here to help! We strongly urge students to approach us with issues they are currently experiencing, we will do our best to provide support and guidance. Prefects are recognisable by the blue badges beside our crests!"

Ruby French 6th year Prefect

"Le Chéile is a school of many virtues, and among these, three stand out the most – in fact they are the words on our School Crest – Welcome, Wisdom, Witness. As prefects, we wish to make the school an even more spectacular place than it already is for current and future students and ensure that these important words of Welcome, Wisdom and Witness are lived out in our school each day. As a prefect team we will look to make our school more eco-friendly. We will ensure that we are open to listening to the voice of all students and promoting our core value of "differences are to be celebrated".

Annabella Osa-Edo 6th Year Prefect

"By becoming a prefect for the school, I am also now an ambassador for the school. I hope to show the community around Le Chéile who we are as a school and what the school can provide for students. My initial reason for becoming a prefect was to assist in clear communication between students and teachers. Hopefully students will come to me with their thoughts and ideas to enhance their learning and experience at Le Chéile."
Adam Tully 6th Year Prefect

Our Prefects

Giulia Covaci-Ferencz Adam Tully Francesca Rosca Ruby Ffrench

Annabella Osa-Edo Colm Lynch Nourah Taalib Stephanie Richard Ajasa

Euneza Marks Emmanuella Lugboso Klaudia Bielowicka Haliyat Oyenuga Pelumi Toki

Yuvraj Singh Dheer Faridat Adeniji Shalyn Lucky Emma Connolly Skye Healy Kevin Paul

Callum Daughton Andrea David

Introducing the Head Boy and Head Girl of 2021/2022

My name is Kevin and I am this year's Head Boy. I am in sixth year in teach "Nelson Mandela". I will be your communicator this year to the higher positions for all the new ideas and any problems you have. It's my last year in this school and boy am I happy to say what a journey it has been, from being an ordinary, adventurous young little boy in first year to an almost fully grown adult in sixth year. The position of Head Boy is important to me as it is not just a role, but a position given to me, to listen and understand the concerns of my fellow colleagues.

As Head Boy this year I hope to achieve a school atmosphere where every idea is heard and taken into consideration whether they are big or small. I want the school to be a place of acceptance, not to say we don't accept new ideas, but to upgrade it a level higher, where instead of thinking of the cons of the idea proposed, we take the pros of the idea, implement them and see if is it something that can be adapted and accepted by our pupils. Along with that, I hope to represent the school in the upcoming school events as a proud "LeChéile" student and be a great role model to our Juniors students and well as our Seniors students, somebody they can look up to and be like " hey I want to be just like him, but even better".

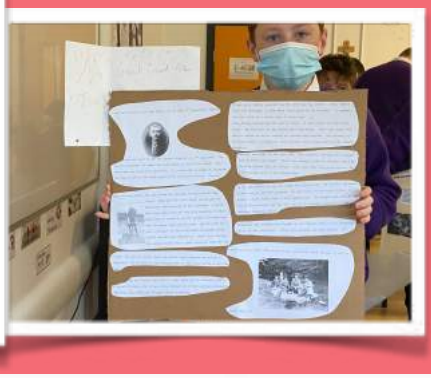
The role of Prefect and Head Girl is an honour to have been awarded with. I am Giulia Covaci and I am this years Head Girl. I am proud to be representing Le Cheile with the team of Prefects that were chosen, striving for better and also making sure that the ethos of the school is lived out in a real and meaningful way. The role is an important one to me as it gives me the chance to work with the teachers, Senior Management team, and Prefect team, striving to ensure that we are always finding ways to improve Le Cheile.

I would love to achieve different things such as give the First and Second Years the support they need while transitioning into secondary school and also into the Junior Cycle. I will listen to the student voice and their thoughts and ideas, working together we will try to implement as many ideas as possible.

I would like to say to the students in the school that the Prefect team is here to listen to you. We want you to feel comfortable to come to us at any time and talk about your school life and journey.

CBA Success

Well done to all 3rd Year History Students for completing their History CBA for the Junior cycle. What an excellent way to start the year!



Ssssssssmile- Your on Camera!!

HALLOWEEN IN LE CHÉILE

Halloween fundraiser for the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF)

This year the TY Animal Care class and Ms. Cahill organised a Halloween Dress Up Day to raise vital funds for critically endangered species across the world. After midterm, the TY students will vote which species to sponsor through the WWF with the money raised. Thank you to everyone who donated!

Halloween fundraiser for the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF)

Closing thoughts from our Deputy Principals

Dia daoibh gach duine/Hello everybody!

Thank you for taking the time out to read about all the wonderful activities that our students and staff have engaged in since our return to school in late August – Your interest is particularly appreciated as all research points to the fact that parents and guardians' recognition of their child's interests and achievements is one of the key motivations for students when choosing to be the best selves. The first half term at Le Chéile has been a busy one despite the school being subject to many of the same covid-19 restrictions as last year. We said goodbye to the 6th years of 2021 who have flocked to new pastures and we started a new chapter in our exciting story when we welcomed a new set of 180 first years.

As educators and those being educated, every August brings change to our lives but with every August also brings a time for reflection and fresh starts and it has been a truly wonderful beginning to this academic year. This September, all this learning has been evident in the classroom as students have engaged enthusiastically with the high quality Teaching and Learning opportunities that our hardworking staff have provided them with.

This learning was also evident outside the classroom when students showed their passion, organisational skills and generosity of time when participating in extra-curricular events such as the Trócaire Bakesale and Hell and Back. We also fielded our first ever hurling team at Le Chéile this month which was a wonderful development. A huge thanks to all our staff who make these opportunities possible for our students.

A particular highlight for me every year is the senior prefect interviews that are done in September. This year, Mrs. Harrington and I once again interviewed students for the roles and it was with immense pride that I listened to our students speak so highly of the school which they described as "warm", "diverse" "loving" and like a "home from home."

A huge congratulations to all of our students who were awarded with the senior prefect position and we look forward to seeing them flourish and lead over the coming year. A word of particular congratulations also to our Head Boy Kevin Paul and Head Girl Giulia Covaci along with our Deputy Head boy Colm Lynch and Deputy Head Girl Francesca Rosca. With so many positive and enriching experiences already enjoyed by all, we now take the opportunity to rest and recharge our batteries.

It has been a pleasure having all of our students back in our vibrant learning environment and I look forward to welcoming them back in their school jackets in November.

In the meantime…Tabhair aire díbh ar fad/take care of yourselves.

Ms. Ní Dhonncha

Deputy Principal

Closing thoughts from our Deputy Principals

A huge, warm welcome back to everyone and it's an absolute pleasure to welcome our 1st Years to Le Chéile. You have had a really successful start to your journey with us here in Le Chéile.

I was blown away by the amazing effort the first years made to contribute to the coffee morning in September. The most delicious treats, which were all homemade, were an absolute hit with all the students who queued for a very long time to get their hands on them! The effort and selflessness you showed was incredible – I am so proud to see that our students are so caring.

There are so many exciting events and opportunities available for you all here in Le Chéile. I hope you are all getting stuck in and enjoying all that is on offer here.

I was delighted to see our 2nd and 3rd Years return to us in September after growing so much over the summer and becoming more and more mature. You have all come back with a great attitude, ready to learn and living out our principles of Welcome, Wisdom and Witness.

Here in Le Chéile we are very lucky to have phenomenal teachers, SNAs and support staff. They provide exceptional care and support to you all and are so generous with their time. But the real magic in Le Chéile is our wonderful students. You bring so much energy, enthusiasm and joy into the school. It's been such a successful half term and you have all contributed to making this school the happy and welcoming place it is. Have a lovely, restful break and I look forward to doing it all again next term.

Ms Walsh

Deputy Principal