



## **PARENTS NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2016**

*EDITED BY COLETTE CLARKE*

We are in the final stages of our academic year and we encourage all of our students to work hard right up to the exams whether they are in-house exams or Junior/Leaving Cert/LCA exams. All we ask is that you just do your very best.

It has certainly been a busy year and we are proud of each and every one of our students. Good luck in your exams, read the questions carefully and answer all questions asked. Don't leave gaps. Enjoy catching up on our news. If you wish you can also visit our school website at [www.lucancc.ie](http://www.lucancc.ie)

to see more detail. Enjoy the read. We wish you a happy and safe summer.

### **A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL (Ms. Birnie)**

Well here we are at the end of another busy year. As a school we have experienced plenty of successes from reaching three finals in one season with our Senior Boys Soccer team Soccer to performing Bohemian Rhapsody in the National Concert Hall; from winning the Amnesty Student Activism Award to winning Best Film at the CAST film festival for Positivity Man; from Addams Family sell-out shows to Applied Maths Quiz regional champions; our students have represented us well in every field and we are proud not only of the successes but also of the many attempts to succeed.

Our staff do their utmost to provide opportunities for students to try new things, to get involved, to compete against other schools, to push themselves to achieve their best. Our students bring good manners and courtesy to school as well as full uniform, books and resources, they face up to the challenges they meet, are gracious in defeat and modest in victory. Our PA held the first ever Garden Fete fundraiser and continue to work for the improvement of resources and facilities for our students.

At this time of the year examinations are an important part of the school timetable and we wish our Leaving Certificate, LCA and Junior Certificate students every success in their exams. Be organised, calm and positive and we hope that the luck of the Irish will accompany you throughout the exams.

Reports for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, TY and 5<sup>th</sup> year students will be posted out in mid-June along with booklists, uniform lists and other important information for all continuing students. Thank you for returning your re-enrolment forms and voluntary contribution receipts. We will now start the process of offering available places to transfer applicants. If you have not yet sent in the reenrolment form please do so immediately.

Finally, thank you to everyone who contributed to our successful year. Our students, teachers, admin staff, SNAs, cleaners and caretaker all played their part. We appreciate your support as parent/guardians and wish you all a safe and relaxing summer.



## **PARENTS ASSOCIATION (By Elaine Brady)**



Congratulations to the wonderful Parents Association of Lucan Community College for the raising of much needed funds. Sandra Coleman acted as coordinator and together with the rest of the team ran a very successful and enjoyable Fete on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The money raised will contribute to resourcing the long awaited school extension to continue to enhance the teaching and learning experiences that take place in the College. Thanks to all who helped out and a special thanks to Robert Curley, a past pupil of Lucan CC who hosted two cookery demonstrations and tastings which were enjoyed by all who partook. It was great to see Robert back in the kitchen.

The Parents Association of Lucan Community College would like to invite new members to join the Parents Association. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 6th September at 7.30pm in the College.



## **FIRST, SECOND AND FIFTH YEAR NEWS**

What a fantastic year we have had. Most of our students have worked hard and to the best of their ability. Well done. You have participated well in classes and completed homework to the best standard throughout the year. You have participated in extra-curricular activities which has been a wonderful experience for you and has enabled you to learn new skills and make new friends. You are lucky to have so many activities made available to you in this college. You also have tutors who take great care of you and they will be extremely proud of you when you do your best in your forthcoming exams.

Our second and fifth years had international trips abroad to Italy and Barcelona. It was an enjoyable experience for all who participated. Thanks students for your respect and good behaviour, you were great ambassadors for your school and country. Our First Years will head to Tayto Park the end of May, as part of their end of year trip and our second years are going to Glendalough. We wish you all a safe and good fun trip. All of your tutors and Year Heads wish you the best of luck in your exams and a happy and safe summer.

## **THIRD YEAR NEWS-(a note from your Year Head & Team).**

With just a matter of weeks left to the Junior Cert exam, students are busy putting the final touches to their exam preparations, finalizing study notes and answering practice exam questions. The orals and practicals are now complete with marks already achieved in some subjects. Excellent reports were received from the external examiners who were very impressed with the students' standard of work, generally. They have worked really hard and I am sure their results will reflect their efforts. All that remains now is to stick to the study plan and don't panic! Keep an eye on time- management when answering questions to ensure you don't spend too much time on one question and not enough on others. Lots of sleep, exercise and a healthy, balanced diet will see you through these difficult weeks. Parents are encouraged to be as supportive as possible to exam students and to be aware of their needs.

The Junior Cert exam timetable is available on-line and at the school office. It is imperative that students be aware of the days and times of their exams. They should keep their timetable visible and highlight exams. Ms. Malone and Ms. Casey will address the students before the end of term to go over important details e.g. uniform etc.

A very well-attended parent and student evening was held recently for the 3rd years as they prepare for their journey into Transition Year. Ms. Williams and Ms. Casey outlined what will be expected of students during the year and how they can maximise their TY experience. Students should be seeking gainful work experience at this stage for the two dates given. It is advised not to wait until the last minute or risk taking what you are given! Students should also be organising their voluntary work as explained on the night.

We would urge any student who has not already done so, to submit their TY option form and fee as soon as possible. If any student, for whatever reason, will not be returning to TY, please indicate to your tutor or year head as soon as possible. We wish these students the best for their future. It is important that any item of uniform that has been outgrown or misplaced, should be replaced over the holidays prior to a return in August into TY. The shoes should be black leather and the coat should be black and have a school crest.

The 3rd year management team wish all students, both 3rd years and 6th years, the very best of luck in their exams and enjoy the well-deserved holidays!

#### **FOURTH YEAR/TRANSITION YEAR NEWS-(a note from TY Coordinator, your Year Head & Team).**

Friday May 20th was the final assessment day for the Transition Year students. The H area was a hive of activity as the TY students arrived into school for their interviews carrying their portfolio boxes. All the students were interviewed by their Tutor and another member of staff about their involvement in Transition year and their experiences and what they would change if they were to do it again. The students' portfolio boxes were bursting with projects, certificates, photos and more. The staff were truly impressed by the honesty and maturity of the students. On Tuesday 24th May they graduate and have now completed their first year of their three year senior cycle. I would like to congratulate them, especially those who got really involved. It was a year packed with opportunities and for those who grabbed the opportunities they were rewarded.

It was a pleasure being your coordinator this year. I have seen you grow in confidence as you achieved many new skills during the year. You have made new friends and many memories. Now it is time to go forward and remember "you can make it happen" all the best & wishing you a safe and happy summer.

#### **YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS (By Grainne McKeever)**

This year was the first year we ran the Young social Innovators program here at LCC, and what an incredible success it was, Miss McKeever and her outstanding team of TY students entered a project based on mental health. They researched the area, spotted something that was missing (a comprehensive course in mental health for all senior cycle students in Ireland) and went about developing their own course book and gathering interest and support from various mental health activists such as Panti Bliss, Bressie, Philly McMahan and Blind boy Boat club. Niamh Moore, one of our amazing spokes-people gave a breath-taking speech at a conference in Smock Alley in front of 200 people which engaged many more people in our campaign. They also presented their project at a speak out in UCD and were shortlisted for the awards at City West where they gathered with 7000 students from all over the country to present their work and enjoy a day of fun and games.

At each and every point along the way, they represented our school with great pride and dignity and we are so proud of them and what they have achieved. They will continue this project in a 'step-up' programme next year, and we wish them the best of luck.

They also took part in CAST film festival, they entered a short comedy film based around a character named 'POSITIVITY MAN' they also created a big social media campaign to promote it with over 1000 likes, On the night of the big awards ceremony they attended the gala at The Lighthouse cinema looking stunning in evening gowns and tuxedos and took home the award for BEST FILM out of 2000 applicants.... So well deserved. The film is still available on YouTube.



#### **LEAVING CERT. APPLIED (LCA) NEWS:**

*Class Harrington:* They have come to the end of their first year of LCA and have done some fantastic work to date. Well done in your oral Irish exams completed recently and we wish you well in your written Irish exam which will take place in June.

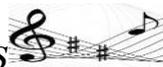
*Class Walcott:* Last week class Walcott did the following exams...oral German exams, English and Communications oral and ICT exams. All students did extremely well. We wish you well in your forthcoming Leaving Cert Applied exams. The time table can be obtained on-line. We look forward to you all achieving the best results that you can. We also look forward to seeing you on your graduation evening on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.

### **SIXTH YEAR NEWS- (a note from your Year Head & Team).**

Thanks to our 6<sup>th</sup> year students who finished out the year in such a mature and respectful manner. The breakfast on Monday morning was a lovely relaxed affair with the tutor team working hard to ensure that everyone had something to eat. Ms Malone reminded the students to be in early for every exam and to be sure not to have phones or notes in the exam hall. Any confiscated items are sent straight to the State Examinations Commission for investigation.

We wish our sixth years the best of luck as they are about to sit their leaving certificate exams. Where have the six years gone to? They have flown by and you are now going to leave school and head out into the adult world of responsibilities and independence. We hope that you do your very best in your exams and complete all exams. Be on time for each of your exams. Timetables can be obtained on line or from the front office, so get familiar with the timetable and know exactly when each of your exams are on as you only get one chance to do that exam. If you miss it that's it. Full uniform has to be worn and bring your stationary with you...plenty of extra pens and pencils. We wish you the best of luck.

### **DRAMA AND MUSIC NEWS**



The Addam's Family appeared in Lucan CC on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of May and what an excellent performance from our current transition years. There was a standing ovation on the first night and this carried through every night after. The atmosphere was electric, it was entertaining and funny and the singing and dancing were amazing and of the highest standard. Our students thoroughly enjoyed being on stage so much so that there were tears at the end of the production. You are all a fantastic group of students and well done whether you performed, helped out back stage or on front of house. We are proud of you all. Thanks to Mr. Purcell on keyboard and Mr. O Gorman on Guitar who attended rehearsals and accompanied our students musically. Thanks to everyone who helped out in whatever way to make the show the fantastic production it was. But a huge thank you to our choreographer Jodi, musical director Ms. Conway and Director Mr. Duffy.



### **HISTORY DEPT.**

*1916 Rising History Exhibition: (By Shivaani Shyamsundar)*

Ten students from Transition Year helped put together the 1916 Rising History Exhibition this year. We worked with Ms. McCarty and the History department for two hectic weeks and we put in extra hours for it to be perfect. We got information from teachers and students in the school who had relatives that fought or took part in the Rising. We had to type it up and stick them on notice boards. Some people brought in primary sources and we had to be very careful with them. We used room J2 to show off what we had put together and

different classes throughout the years came in to see it. We are very proud of it and we are honoured to have taken part in the centenary celebrations.

*Training to be a Tour Guide: (By Hannah Mahony)* On the Monday the 11th of April 2016 Ms. Gallagher's Tourism Class and a few other history enthusiasts went to Glasnevin Cemetery to learn how to be tour guides. We got an induction into tour guiding and a tour of the graveyard itself. On Friday the 22nd of April we returned to give our own tour. Each person in the group had a different Irish patriot to give a presentation on, such as Daniel O'Connell, Michael Collins, Countess Markievicz, etc. We all enjoyed the experience of being a tour guide for the day!

*Training to be a Tour Guide: (By Rachel McLaughlin)* We were asked by the History Department if we would like to take part in training to be a tour guide. Some of us decided to put our names forward to do this. On the 11th April 2016, we got a bus to Glasnevin Cemetery where we met a tour guide, Bridget. That day we got a tour of the cemetery, we did training and we got a person to research over the next two weeks. We were given people like Grace Gifford Plunkett, Michael Collins and Maud Gonne. Our next visit was on the 22nd April 2016 when we came back to Glasnevin Cemetery with our research done. We had to present our person to all our other friends that were doing this program and to two teachers – Ms. Gaffney and Ms. MacManus. I would like to thank Ms. Gallagher for organizing this wonderful experience for all of us.

### **SPORTS DAY NEWS**

Our first and second year students participated in an enjoyable day on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May. The sun was shining (ordered by Mr. Phelan) and students participated and got into the spirit. Various activities were organised by our energetic PE department e.g. Puc Fada, Shot Putt and various athletic event. Medals were awarded to our winners at the end of each event. Well done to all our winners but also to all our participants. Our team events consisted of Basketball, Soccer and Dodgeball. Attendance was excellent and students cheered their fellow classmates as points were precious and needed to decide the sport's day class of the year for each year group. Results of this will be revealed at the end of year ceremony, when medals and trophies will be awarded. Well done to the PE department for your annual organisation of sports day.

### **LANGUAGE AND LITERACY COMMITTEE 2015-2016**

The Language and Literacy Committee had a busy Spring /Summer season. The LLN Student Committee, (which is made of Transition Year students) was involved in organising a number of activities for the promotion of literacy in our school. A special thanks to the student committee – they brought many new and clever ideas to the promotion of literacy. They worked hard putting their ideas to work, setting up a 'Book Sale / Swap', producing eye-catching posters, arranging the production, distribution and collection of entry forms for the poetry competition, acting as judges, typing up the winning entries, arranging prizes, etc.

World Book Day took place on 3rd March. Everybody's favourite – Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) time was arranged during the day. A second-hand book sale / swap was organised & run during break-time and lunch time by the student committee for the week. There was a great interest in the promotion.

Along with the English Department, the Language and Literacy Committee held a Spring Poetry Competition before Easter. The competition was open to 1st, 2nd & 4th Year students. Prizes were given to the winner from each class and the overall winner from each year.

#### **First Year Winners**

Class Walton: David Wright  
Class Corrigan: Tracey Asemota  
Class Williams: David Griffen  
Class Hume: Stephen Loftus  
Class Beckett: Leo Lee

#### **Second Year Winners**

Class Rye: Enya Duffy  
Class Shannon: Jennifer Aniboh  
Class Liffey: Jessica Okakpu  
Class Griffeen: Sabina Kulovac  
Class Slaney: Emma Long  
Class Avoca: Jemi Nguisani

### Transition Year Winners

Class Hone: Wesley Hatton & Hannah Mahony  
Class O’Riada: David White  
Class Gandon: Oscar O’Shea  
Class McAuley: Mark Young  
Class Clarke: Thomas O’Neill

### Overall Winners

First Year: Dylan Kerin  
Second Year: Olan Song  
Transition Year: Niamh McDonagh

Congratulations to the winners and well done to all the students who participated in the competition. It was indeed a showcase of all our literary talent at LCC.

### STUDENT COUNCIL

Our Student Council held their last meeting for this academic year on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May. We would like to thank Ms. Mc Manus and Ms. Doyle for attending these meetings and guiding us. We wish Aidan O’Driscoll the best of luck in his Leaving cert and thanks for all his hard work over the years as a member of the Student Council. We look forward to September when our meetings resume and we hope to come back refreshed and with lots of new ideas.

### GLUAIS (Grace Clifford)

The Gluais team are currently organising the fun day for the 1st year students. The fun day will take place on Wednesday 1st June from 10.35am until 1pm. The Gluais team have worked very hard with the 1st years and have completed a number of different activities with them throughout the year as well as helping the students settle into secondary school life. I would like to very much thank the team for their hard work, effort, enthusiasm and commitment to the Gluais programme and wish them the very best in their fourth coming exams.

The new Gluais are busy preparing for the in-coming 1st year students. The team are completing a booklet for each 1st year student and have visited all the primary schools in the area to introduce themselves and inform the 6th class students of their role. At the end of the month our in-coming 1st years will visit our college and the Gluais team will show them around the school and answer any questions preparing them for September 2016. The students so far have been a pleasure to work with and I look forward to working with them throughout the year.

### MODERN LANGUAGE NEWS

Well done to all our language students who took part in our modern languages poster competition. The talent was great and thanks to all who spent time creating wonderful posters. All your work will be on display on the doors of our language rooms from September 2016. Winners will be announced at the end of year ceremony. Thanks to Ms. Casey and Ms. Clarke for organising this event. We look forward to welcoming our German language assistant at the start of next year.

### SCI-FEST

A number of our students participated this year in Sci-Fest which took place on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Thanks to our science department who worked hard in preparing their students for this yearly activity which our students learn so much from and thoroughly enjoy. Well done to all involved and to all our participants.

### AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (By Naoise Hallissey)

The Lucan Community College Amnesty "Sleep Out" on Friday May 6th was a great success. 29 students and teachers slept overnight in the courtyard of the school to experience what sleeping rough feels like and to raise awareness about homelessness among children in Ireland. The students also raised funds for Amnesty International.

The aim of the Sleep Out was to draw attention to child and youth homelessness across Dublin and Ireland. There are currently 1,723 homeless children living in Dublin, a 90% increase since our Sleep Out last year (New figures from last week). 75% of these children are under the age of 8 and 13%



of all homeless children in Dublin live in the Lucan/Clondakin area area (Irish Times, February 2016). This was especially important to the students, as people in our local and school communities have personal experience of the homelessness crisis.

The Sleep Out began on Friday evening at 8pm. Students dispersed themselves around the courtyard with cardboard, blankets, and their sleeping bags. Each student received an identity card for the night that gave them an age, cause of homelessness, and place of accommodation based on the experiences of real homeless people. The aim of the identification cards was to inform them about the different faces, struggles, and experiences of homelessness that people go through.

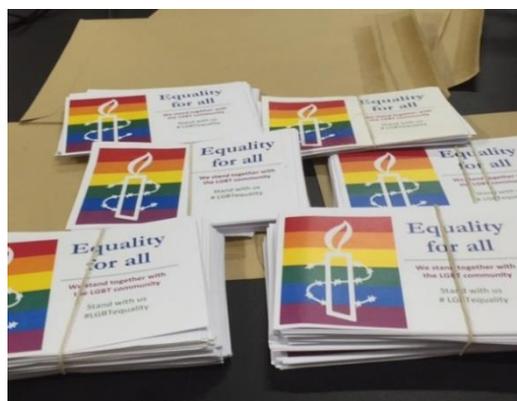
Local politicians were invited to the event but couldn't attend due to the negotiations going on in the Dáil. Students instead debated the homeless crisis amongst themselves and discussed possible solutions. The students also gave up their access to technology for the night as part of Amnesty International's "Give It Up" campaign.

The night certainly took a toll on the students, especially when it began to rain and they had to relocate to a sheltered area of the courtyard. They found it near impossible to sleep on the cold, hard ground in unpredictable weather and many were more worn out than rested by the time morning came around. "It was an exhausting experience, I felt very unsafe" said one TY student. They certainly gained an insight into sleeping rough. "I couldn't imagine doing it every day" said another TY student and "I believe that more people would feel compassion towards the homeless if they experienced sleeping rough for just one night." The Sleep Out ended at 9 am and the students received a light breakfast before they went home.

The Amnesty group, as well as the 1st - 5th year religion classes, were also involved in creating an art display of the silhouettes of all 1,723 homeless children in Dublin to draw attention to the crisis and put the number of children into perspective. This was successfully unveiled on Friday afternoon, attracting a lot of attention and questions from the other students in the school.

Overall, Friday was a great success in terms of raising awareness about the homeless crisis. Those who participated in the Sleep Out will never forget the strain and uncertainty of sleeping rough and hope their experiences will encourage others to be more aware of the struggles that homeless people regularly face.

Photos by Jake Coleman



### Postcards for Equality for all!

Well done to all who participated in the recent LCC Amnesty group's international postcard campaign "**Equality for all. We stand together with the LGBT community in Uganda - Stand with us**". In one week we collected 310 signed postcards from 2 year groups, being by far the highest participation rate of any postcard campaign run by us in the last 7 years and clearly showing the strength of feeling on this issue. Currently 111 out of 129 5<sup>th</sup> year students have signed, 87 Ty's, 60 teachers and the remaining being signed by family and friends. We believe this sends out a very powerful message to authorities in Uganda to promote respect, human rights and equality for all, as well as

reinforcing our support for the LGBT members of our own school community.

## **"Ann Frank Student Activism Award! For Lucan CC Amnesty Group**



Congratulations to the Amnesty Group who were presented with the best school group award at the Amnesty National Conference this weekend. This was made extra special as the award was presented by Eva Schloss (Anne Frank's step-sister) who was at the conference to talk about women refugees and Europe's response to refugee crises both past and present. This award recognizes all the hard

work and commitment of the students in the group, to raising awareness and taking action on human rights issues over the last year. This award is very well deserved. Well done to all!

### **SENIOR SOCCER TEAM**

Our senior soccer team made it to the Dublin final in Stella Maris in Drumcondra on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May. The team were narrowly beaten after extra time after leading the match up until the final minutes of normal time. Our goal scorer was Jack O'Connor and our team were unlucky not to make it to the cup. Well done to all involved. Well done on reaching three finals in one season...what an achievement.

### **TEACHER VS STUDENT SOCCER MATCH**

Our annual teacher vs student soccer match took place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May and was played in great spirits. There was a great atmosphere as students 'narrowly' won on this occasion but it could have been different if one teacher in particular hadn't missed two penalties.....it was great to see tutors and teachers and of course your year head Mr. O'Connor all attired in red actively engaged in the game. Well done sixth years on winning the game.

### **ATHLETICS**

Congratulations to all who took part in the West Leinster Athletics competition in Santry in May. We had two buses with over forty athletes who took part in running, relay and hurdles. A number of students narrowly missed qualifications for the Leinster competition.

Max Carey our star hurdler continues to excel following on his All-Ireland win for his club. He has now come second in Leinster in hurdles and we expect another gold in the All-Ireland this summer. Best of luck Max and continued congratulations. Thanks to Ms. Kavanagh, Mr. Spillane, Mr. Phelan, Ms. McTigue and all our PE department.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR NEWS**

Thanks to Ms. Joy who is currently liaising with staff regarding end of year awards. We look forward to our end of year ceremony which takes place Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June when students are awarded well deserved certificates/medals/trophies for extra-curricular activities. So much is happening that space does not allow us to report it all. Please look at the school website-[www.lucancc.ie](http://www.lucancc.ie) to see photos and reports on all events. Here we merely list some of the key achievements in the extra-curricular arena so far this year 2016.

**Thanks to all the teachers and parents and coaches who give up their time to help out and support our after-school programme.**

## **SUMMER REPORTS AND BOOKLISTS**

All end of year reports will be posted out to families in mid-June along with booklists, calendar and other documentation for the year ahead. Our restart date is Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August and various year groups will attend on various days.

Please ensure that every student is in full uniform from the first day of term and in particular that every student has a crested school coat and proper black leather school shoes. We endeavour to ensure that every student is well presented and is representing themselves and the college well. Your support as parents/guardians is vital in this regard.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**24<sup>th</sup> May – Tuesday** - *TY Graduation Ceremony starting at 19.30*

**25<sup>th</sup> May – Wednesday** – *6<sup>th</sup> year Graduation Ceremony starting at 19.30*

**26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May** – *Formal exams for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years.*

**2 June** – *13.10 classes finish*

**3<sup>rd</sup> June** – *9.30 start for students until 12.00, then summer holidays.*

***Junior and Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied exams. Timetables can be viewed on State Examinations Commission website [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)***