

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

September / October 2020

Principal's Foreword



Welcome back to all our staff, students, and their families to the new academic year. A special welcome to those who are joining Clonkeen College for the first time, both new staff and new students.

It has been a very different start to the school year, compared with previous years. I am filled with great pride at seeing how everyone in the school community has adapted to our "new normal". It is wonderful that we can again be united under one roof, and that learning and teaching can take place face-to-face rather than remotely. I am mindful of the significant sacrifices that many of our families have made, and are continuing to make, to ensure that our school can remain open and safe. Thank-you from the bottom of my heart, to all our families and the wider school community for making this possible.

When schools closed on March 12th, 2020, it was unimaginable to me, like many others, that we would not return to the school until the new school year in September 2020. As a school community we were faced with the numerous challenges that remote learning and teaching presented to us. I was hugely impressed with the speed at which students, parents and teachers adopted a *can-do* attitude and found ways to overcome these challenges to engage and achieve. We accomplished so much during the period of school closure.

Since our return to school, our priority has been to keep everyone safe. We have put in place many measures to achieve this goal. I would like to thank those members of staff who have, both formally and informally, taken on roles to support the whole school community at this difficult time. I must highlight the tireless work by our Lead Worker Representatives, Máire Duffy and Eimear McGill, who have ensured that the school operates safely and reacts effectively to the challenges of COVID-19. Students are commended for following the national COVID-19 guidelines and engaging with the school's new procedures.

Finally, I thank our parents/guardians who have supported all our endeavours during our return to school. I ask that we all continue to work together,

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and take care of each other, as we work to provide the best possible education for our students.

Edward Melly

Welcome Back

We hope that everyone in our school community has settled back into school life after our Summer break. The new academic year brings with it a number of changes. We wish our Leaving Certificate class of 2020 every success in their chosen paths.

At the beginning of October, two of our long-time colleagues, Mr McGauley & Ms Murray retired. We also say farewell to the following members of staff who have left us during the break: Ms Egan, Mr A Brennan, Ms Shortall, Ms Reynolds, Ms Downey, Mr Tierney, Mr Gallagher and Mr McCabe. We hope that they will remember their time here at Clonkeen fondly, and we wish them the best of luck in their future endeavours.

We would like to welcome all our new 1st Year students and a number of students joining other year groups. Additionally, we welcome a number of new members of staff: Mr Kilroy (Irish), Mr Stafford (PE & English), Mr Dorman (Science), Mr Coughlan (English & History), Ms Murray (Biology & Science), Ms Kennedy (Maths), Mr Gilmore (Maths), Mr

Quinn (Maths), Mr Cobley (English & History), Ms Sheehan (Business & Accountancy), Ms Rossa (Learning Support), Mr O'Connor (Learning Support), Mr Murphy & Mr Spain. We hope that they will enjoy their time with us!

Retirements

Ms Murray and Mr McGauley brought their long careers at Clonkeen College to an end on October 2nd when they retired.

Ms Murray first came to Clonkeen in 1985 and has, over the course of her 35-year career, contributed in so many ways to school life. Ms Murray was a dedicated and enthusiastic teacher of Business and Accountancy, and will be remembered by generations of Clonkeen students for a long time to come. Her sporting interest led to her being heavily involved in Gaelic Football in the school. She brought her Kildare footballing heritage and knowledge to Clonkeen, guiding many Clonkeen, guiding teams to huge success over the years. In addition to their pastoral role as Year Heads, offering guidance and support to thousands of students over their careers, both Ms Murray and Mr McGauley have been life-long Manchester United fans. They have for a long time been involved in the organisation of

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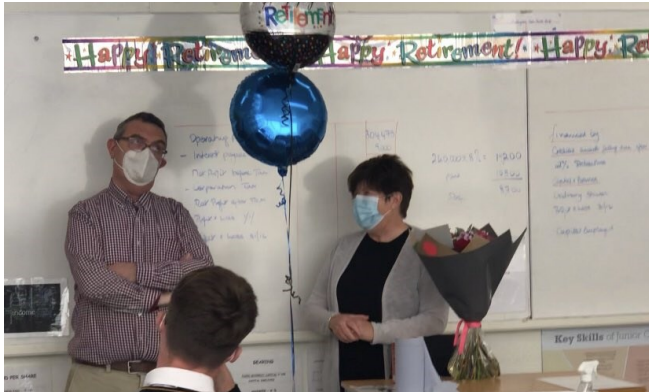


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our Manchester weekends, a firm favourite event among both staff and students.



Mr McGauley joined the staff at Clonkeen College in 1993. Over the last 27 years he has offered spiritual guidance and support to many in his role as a Religion and English teacher. Mr McGauley's passion for helping those most in need shone through in the Third World Support Group, he established in Clonkeen soon after his arrival here. Over the years Mr McGauley has encouraged our boys to take action to help the poorest of the poor in the world. Under his guidance the group has, over the course of its existence, raised hundreds of thousands of euro and helped countless communities in the developing world. Of particular note are the schools that the group has built and subsequently extended, providing access to education for so many of the world's poorest children.

While we are sorry to have to say goodbye to two such inspiring and committed members of our school community, we hope that each will enjoy a long, happy and healthy retirement.

L1 News

Everyone in L1 was very excited to return to Clonkeen this September. There have been many new changes for us. We have fewer teachers and SNA's working with us. We are very good at wearing our masks and got used to wearing them over the Summer holidays.

In class we are studying the Tempest by William Shakespeare. We have been reading the scripts and acting with Mr. McGloughlin. On Wednesday we go on our "Out and About" trips. We have been on some lovely walks to Killiney Hill and Cabinteely Park. We have also been working in the Greenhouse for Horticulture. On Wednesday 14th October we celebrated Daniel Woods 15th Birthday. We had pizza and hot chocolate!



L1 Performing the Tempest by William Shakespeare in class.

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Student Council

Congratulations to the newly-elected members of our Student Council. All classes from 2nd to 6th Year elected their representatives in Septembers. Our 1st Year classes will choose their representatives after the Christmas break.

Training for our Student Council took place on Wednesday, 30th September in the library and was delivered by Ms O'Keeffe, our Student Council Liaison Teacher. Following their training, Mr Melly presented Student Council badges to each student.

We hope that this year will be as successful as previous years for our new Student Council.

Chairperson: Ayman Memon (6.1)

Secretary: John Murray (5.2)

Treasurer: Salmaan Bari (5.1)

P.R.O.: Robert O'Gorman (5.3)

Joshua Kelly (6.2)

Bilal Ali (C2)

Tadhg O'Reilly (6.3)

Bao Zhang (C3)

Ire Guidoriagao (D2)

Dylan Carrick (C4)

Eoin Farrelly (D3)

Gervie Pasia (B1)

Liam Dunne (D4)

Fionn Keane O'Hagan (B2)

Louis Mitchell (L1)

Chris Kissan Thomas (B3)

Hugo Byrne (C1)

Conor J. Byrne (B4)

Maths Week

Maths week took place on 10th – 18th of October. Students from all years took part in daily maths puzzles (see below to challenge yourself!) where the winners were Shane Brandon (B2), Dillon McKeown (C3), Shane Russell (6th Year), JP Ga-an (B2) and Ayman Memon (6th Year). We had fantastic work handed in from each year group on mathematicians, jokes, maths in the real world, maths phenomenon and maths eyes. These were displayed all around the school and drew lots of attention from students and staff. There were cross-curricular links with the home economics students where they were challenged to make a maths pi. The winners were Ross Hume in 5th Year and Ruhan Malik in 1st Year.

1st – 3rd Year took part in the Irish Math's Olympiad, where the highest scoring students were: 1st Year: Seán Lambie, Jai Prakesh Panda and Tanmai Hanumanthu, 2nd Year: Jake Keogh, Daniel Cunskis, Fionn Lowry, Pauk Sweeney and Milan Vadell Bourke, 3rd Year: Albin Neelish (1st overall in Northern Ireland & the Republic of Ireland), Aleksander Ivanov and Ajay Srinivasan Somanathan.

Senior students took part in PRISM problem solving competition where the highest scoring students

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5th Year: Saul Sweeney O'Connor, Salmaan Bari, and Eoin Molloy, 6th Year: Caolan Burns and Ben Fallon.

Well done to all involved and we can't wait to see what students do for Science Week!

Why not try out our Maths Week Puzzles ?!

(Answers can be found on the last page of this newsletter.)



Day 1: Space Mission

A rocket blasts off from Earth heading for Mars, getting faster as it travels. In fact, the rocket's speed doubles every week that it's in space.

If the rocket lands on Mars in week 12, in which week was it halfway there?



Day 2:

How can you obtain 1,000 from a numerical addition containing only 8's?



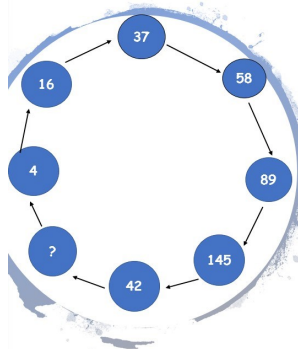
Day 3:

An aeroplane is flying from New York to London at a speed of 632 miles per hour. Another is traveling from London to New York at a speed of 546 miles per hour. When the planes meet which one will be closer to London?



Day 4:

If you have 30 white socks, 22 black socks, and 14 blue socks scattered across the floor in the dark, how many would you have to grab to get a matching pair?



Day 5: Sequences

This puzzle is by Nob Yoshigahara. Probably Japan's most celebrated inventor, collector, solver, and communicator of puzzles. It is a magical sequence that doubles back on itself.

Follow the arrows to identify the pattern and write down what the missing number is.

Finally, it wouldn't be Clonkeen Maths Week without some fabulous Maths delicacies.. Well done to Ross Hume (5.1) on this creation..



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F1 in Schools is an international STEM competition in which a team of 3–6 students use 3D CAD modelling software to design a scaled Formula 1 car. The team's design is analysed, manufactured and rigorously tested in line with technical and competition guidelines using CAD/CAM design and manufacturing tools; in a similar fashion to Formula 1. The aerodynamic design of the car is analysed by the team using computational fluid dynamic software. The cars are powered by CO₂ cartridges and are attached to a track by a nylon wire. Teams must also raise sponsorship money to pay for competition and team expenses.

The competition is held annually with regional and national finals in each participating country. In March 2020, Clonkeen College represented by Team Trojan, were due to participate in the Eastern regional final. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the regional finals were cancelled. Instead, the first Virtual National Finals were held in May 2020. Each team were judged on their overall car design, adherence to the specifications and manufacture, design and engineering portfolio, enterprise portfolio, verbal presentation and car racing.

Teams worked remotely to complete the manufacture of their car, engineering and enterprise portfolios. Teams also conducted verbal presentations with competition judges over Zoom. The manufactured cars were posted to competition headquarters to race on a specially designed F1 track against other competing schools. The car racing and team presentations were streamed live via YouTube on 29th May 2020. With excitement and anticipation, our school community cheered on Team Trojan as they made their F1 in Schools competition debut. Despite Team Trojan's impressive race time and overall performance, Quintolux from Loughrea; Apollo from Sutton; Feabhas Racing from Athlone and Annex Racing from Ballina all progressed to the World Finals in Melbourne.



The revised competition involved a significant level of commitment, problem solving and determination

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to overcome issues such as resources, supply chain and sponsorship during the Covid-19 restrictions. We are immensely proud of Team Trojan for their hard work, adaptability and enthusiasm shown in the competition. Tada gan iarracht !

Art News

The Art Department is now hosting a **Senior Cycle Portfolio Preparation Class**, after school every Tuesday between 4-5pm.

This is also the allotted time for the '**Creative Hour**' should any student wish to explore their own personal creativity!

The annual **Halloween Poster Design Competition** is took place in the run up to the October Midterm break. It was open to all 1st Year students. The winners were: 1st: Jazz Vincent Berina Ga-An (A2), 2nd: Anish Achar (A2) & 3rd: Lucas O'Donnell (A1). The runners up were: 1st: Dylan McGuirk (A4), 2nd: Theo Kelly (A1) & 3rd: Dylan Millar-Torsney (A3).

Our **Transition Year Art** students are in the process of preparing pieces inspired by The National History Museum, as they work towards hosting an ambitious exhibition of both two-dimensional and three-dimensional pieces. More to follow on this exciting exhibition!

Here are our three winning pieces from the 1st Year Hallowe'en Art Competition:



Jazz Vincent Berina Ga-an



Anish Achar



Lucas O'Donnell

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Transition Year Business

Here we will hear from our three TY Businesses.

Fitaro – A Student Enterprise Project

Four TY students, Zachary Kenny Ward, Matthew Dutton, Fionn Boland and Raphael Dela Cruz, have created a promising new business for their student enterprise project: a company called Fitaro. Fitaro is a clothing and sporting apparel and equipment brand. At the moment, they are focused on clothing. Their first prototypes will be Fitaro hoodies and sweatshirts. They plan to make their first products available for purchase within a month. They also plan to move into sporting equipment in the near future. We are excited to see how this journey unfolds and if you want to keep an eye on their progress as well as see their upcoming products please follow the Fitaro Instagram account @fitarosports.



Custom Masks

This is a TY group designing customised masks for students. They will be taking orders over the next few weeks. Students will have a variety of masks to choose from.



Smooth Smoothies

Smooth Smoothies is our hard-working TY business group. We are working on making some of the most delicious and delightful smoothies. At the moment, we have made smoothies in a variety of flavours. We can't wait to start selling these beautiful smoothies to the school community. In line with the current restrictions, we will be following all Health and Safety regulations.



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Transition Year Activities

So far this year our TY students have enjoyed a wealth of outdoor activities. Between mountain biking, kayaking, sailing, climbing and pumpkin carving they have been exploring their creative sides while also getting some exercise. A huge thank-you to Ms Mooney who has organised these activities and to Mr O'Shaughnessy, Mr Faherty and Ms Dunlop who have accompanied the groups on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Here are some photos of the activities they have taken part in so far this year:



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Transition Year Music

Use your phone and QR Code reader to listen to the TY Music Halloween compositions!

TY MUSIC HALLOWEEN COMPOSITIONS

SCARY WALK

Cian Rodgerson and Evan O'Connell

Evan Vella

Jade Kendrick

Louis Mullen

Marcus Tuazon

Matthew Dutton

Sean Byrne and Lewis Fennel

Vlad Oliver Ou and Oliver O'Daly

A Halloween-themed background featuring a dark, multi-story house with glowing yellow windows and a large, bright full moon in the sky. The scene is set against a dark, misty background with silhouettes of trees and a bird flying in the distance.

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Maths Week—solutions



Day 1: Space Mission Answer

Week 11
(Halfway there in week 11 so double the distance to arrive at destination. ie if you double the distance in week 11 by week 12 you are there).



Day 4: Answer

ANSWER: 4 socks

- It doesn't matter how many socks there are (as long as there is a pair of each). It has to do with the **number of sock colours**. You only have to grab one more than the number of colors to be sure you have a pair (what else could it be?).
- So for three colors, you only have to grab four socks. The worst case would that the first three grabs get a sock of each colour. The fourth must get you a pair, since there is nothing left but one of those colors.

And there's always time for one more prize winning Maths cake! Congratulations to Ruhaan Malik (A4)!



Day 2 : Answer

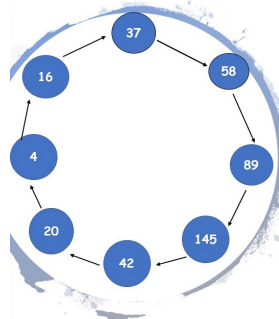
$$8+8+8+88+888=1000$$

or $8+8+8+8+\dots$ 125 times



Day 3: Answer

As both planes are meeting, they will be the same distance from London.



Day 5: Answer

- Start at 4.
- $(4)^2 = 16$
 - $(1)^2 + (6)^2 = 37$
 - $(3)^2 + (7)^2 = 58$
 - $(5)^2 + (8)^2 = 89$
 - $(8)^2 + (9)^2 = 145$
 - $(1)^2 + (4)^2 + (5)^2 = 42$
 - $(4)^2 + (2)^2 = 20$ I.e. 20 is the missing number
 - $(2)^2 + (0)^2 = 4$

Why not finish with a Maths joke?!

Well done to the Maths Department on yet another fantastic Maths Week!

