



# *Bush Post Primary School Newsletter*

September

[www.bpps.ie](http://www.bpps.ie)



We hope all is well with you and your family and you had an enjoyable summer break. This is your monthly bulletin issued via our website. We will inform you of our achievements, events, activities, upcoming dates for your diary and much more!

It has been a busy start to the year in Bush Post Primary School!

Lots of amazing things to share with our school community and celebrate the success of our pupils in classrooms, on the sports field and outside the school!

Bush Post Primary staff and students would like to pass on their hearty congratulations to Ms Sinead McDonnell and Ms Olivia Cosgrove on their upcoming retirements. Having served the school and community with distinction for up on a combined sixty years, they skip merrily into the next stage of their lives. And they leave with lots of energy left in the tank! One can only wonder at the exciting opportunities that lie in store or the adventures and escapades that will follow. Perhaps a Mediterranean cruise, or a jaunty walk along the French Riviera. Who knows?

Sinéad has served in the role as deputy principal with distinction for the past 18 years. Before that she was an inspirational Music and English teacher. Olivia only recently vacated her role as Home School Liaison Officer. Before this her reputation was as being an outstanding Irish and Geography teacher and exceptional Year Head.

Two dynamic teachers and leaders, both were compassionate, empathetic, patient, diligent and respectful of all. They played a huge part in establishing and delivering the outstanding care system that Bush Post Primary is renowned for: I'm not sure a higher compliment can be made.

Ladies, your absence will leave a huge void in the lives of the staff and students here in Bush. No doubt we will miss you but remember what a retirement is - it is a celebration of your past and future contributions.

"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else."

# *Bush Post Primary School Leaving Certificate Results Day*

September

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Congratulations to our 6th year students on the wonderful results in the state examinations. We wish each one of them every success in their future careers.





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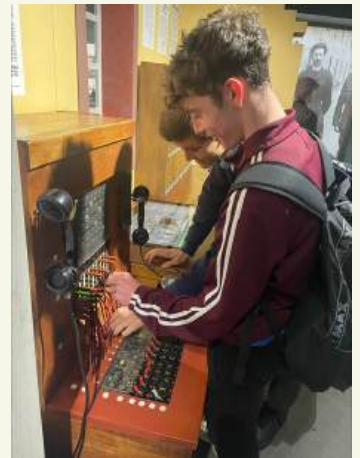
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The student council for 2024/2025 has been selected. Students from 1st to 6th year will represent students from their year groups. Students will meet once a month and it provides students with the opportunity to become involved in the affairs of the school, and work in partnership with school management and staff to address concerns and make improvements to student life in school.

6th yr History students along with their teacher Ms Lynch have been learning all about the struggle for Irish independence since 1912. On Tuesday, October 1st they visited the excellent GPO Museum on Dublin's O Connell Street and did a walking tour highlighting key places during the 1916 Rising, which is sure to help them in their studies.



# *Bush Post Primary School Music*

September

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The Music Department were delighted to welcome Professor Donald Sorah from the University of Virginia. Professor Sorah is investigating how technology is incorporated into Music Education around the world. On this trip he focused on schools in Scotland and Ireland. Bush was lucky enough to be 1 of 2 schools in Ireland to be selected for this project and Professor Sorah chose to observe lessons with 2nd years and TYs. Students used iPads to create and sample music. He was entertained by our fantastic traditional Irish music group; Liam Keenan, Lucy Keenan, Rowan Mulligan, Joy Mulligan and Stephen Óg McGuinness and dancer Lily Shields. Mr. Joyce even joined them on piano.





# TRANSITION YEAR NEWS

September

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TY students organised a Purple Run Fundraiser to help support Down Syndrome Ireland. This event aimed to raise awareness and funds through a fun walk/run where participants wear purple to show solidarity. €250 was raised and all proceeds were donated to Down Syndrome Ireland to support individuals with Down syndrome.



# TRANSITION YEAR NEWS

September

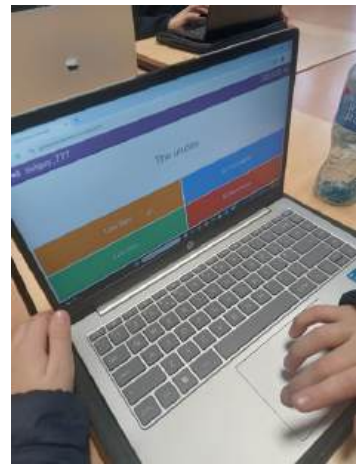
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Congratulations to the TY students who completed their First Aid training this week. Students took part in valuable Life-saving CPR skills, how to respond to medical and trauma emergencies. This included learning how to recognise a cardiac arrest, performing CPR, and using a defibrillator (AED). As many students are babysitters we covered choking and CPR for infants and children also. They practiced common medical emergencies such as seizures, strokes, and heart attacks as well as trauma situations common in a sporting context, such as concussion, injured/fractured limbs as well as spinal injury motion restriction.



To celebrate European Day of Languages, Ms. Martin's TY Spanish class taught two first year Spanish classes. Over the last two weeks, the TYs planned interesting and challenging lessons using a variety of resources such as mini whiteboards and interactive games. After the class, they reflected on their lessons and evaluated what improvements they will make next time. It was a very worthwhile experience for all involved.





# TRANSITION YEAR & LCA NEWS

September

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Francis Verling on behalf of the Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) is helping our Transition Year students to become entrepreneurs and to try their hand at running a business while still in school. Francis visited the students in September and delivered two workshops on 'Idea Generation' and 'Market Research'. He listened to the student's array of ideas and offered advice for the next stage of the process. Students will now focus on market research, website design and production in the lead up to Christmas. The students will be busy producing their products and getting ready for the school trade fair in December.



On Wednesday the 25th of September LCA5 & LCA6 students went to GoQuest where they participated in completing escape rooms.



# TRANSITION YEAR NEWS

September

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Congratulations to our TY students who are participating in the Peer Education programme . The students involved were Molly Thornton, Tegan Nash, Aoibhe Hanratty, Ella White, Aisling Traynor & Hannah Rice.

They will complete a 3-day training programme, before teaching 1st year Bush PP students SPHE related topics. The students will also visit a selection of local primary schools to continue to deliver presentations on self esteem, alcohol and vaping/smoking.

The TY Peer Education Programme empowers Transition Year students to take on leadership roles by teaching and mentoring their younger peers.

Participants receive training in areas like communication, teamwork, and facilitation skills.

Through workshops and activities, they foster a positive school environment enhancing personal growth, confidence, and community spirit among TY students.



**AFTER SCHOOL STUDY  
CONTINUES – EVERY  
MONDAY, TUESDAY &  
WEDNESDAY. SNACK  
PROVIDED! 15.50 - 17.45.**



Transition Year students recently took part in an exciting creative writing workshop run by Fighting Words. During the workshop, they explored the art of poetry by creating their own original pieces. They also delved into the key elements of short story writing, such as characterisation and conflict, before crafting their own unique stories. To bring their narratives to life, the students further enhanced their work by creating accompanying illustrations, showcasing both their writing and artistic talents.



# TY STEM PROJECT

September

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Well done to our 55 TY students who completed Day 1 of the STEM project in W5 Belfast. The All-Ireland STEM Passport for Inclusion programme is a joint initiative by Maynooth University, Microsoft Ireland, Science Foundation Ireland and the Department of Education that addresses inequalities with access to STEM careers among secondary school students. The students will develop their coding and computational skills over the coming months.





# TY TRIP TO CAUSEY FARM

September

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On Wednesday the 4th of September the TY students headed on a team-bonding trip to Causey Farm. They mingled with the farm animals, danced in a Ceilí, participated in bread-baking and got knee-deep in the bog. The day was filled with laughter and was enjoyed by all!





# *Bush Post Primary School Awards Ceremony*

September

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On Monday 16th of September Bush Post Primary school held their annual awards ceremony in the school gym. This event is held every year and is an opportunity to celebrate all areas of school life including academic excellence, citizenship and attendance. We welcomed back a number of the 'Class of 2024' who excelled in the Leaving Certificate and it was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with some of the students before they embark on the next chapter of their lives. In total over 120 students received awards in many different subjects and disciplines.

Guest speaker on the morning was Dundalk native Kate O'Connor who spoke eloquently about her experience in sport which culminated in her representing Ireland in the Heptathlon at the Paris Olympics this summer. It was an honest and thoughtful speech and was received with great enthusiasm by all present.

Head Boy Sean Thornton and Head Girl Eireann Arthurs made a presentation to the Deputy Principal Mrs Sinead McDonnell and Ms Olivia Cosgrove. These ladies will retire from Bush Post Primary over the next few weeks and it was a lovely opportunity to acknowledge their commitment and dedication to the school over many years.

The school principal Mr Kevin Joyce concluded the preceding's by thanking all the students gathered for their hard work and dedication, emphasising attendance and effort as the cornerstone to realising potential in all aspects of life.



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*Home School Community Liaison  
Coordinator  
Ciara Harkin*

September

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I am the new Home School Community Liaison Teacher. My role within the school is part of the 'Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools' scheme. My key purpose is to be a support to parents/guardians by building a bridge between home, school and the community. I offer a wide range of support and guidance, with the key aim of making sure all students are attending, thriving and achieving their full potential. Throughout the year I will run a range of courses to promote parents' positive participation in their child's education.

In addition, I assist with the transfer of students from primary to secondary school and often liaise between parents and staff. I advocate for parents at meetings and support with referrals to local support agencies. I support parents to ensure their child's regular attendance at school and I will often carry out home visits in order to support families if needed.

A big part of my role is to distribute supportive information and news to parents. We are delighted to announce that we will soon be launching the Compass School Manager app that will enable parents/guardians to access up-to-date and meaningful information about school life and their child's progress.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact if needed, I am here to help. I am keen to hear about any further initiative that you feel would support parents in the community. I offer a Parental Drop-in Service from 8.30am – 9.00am every morning, you can find me in my office at the back of the school, or at the front door. Alternatively, you can contact me on 0862035834 during school hours.



# GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO CARLINGFORD LOUGH

September

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On Friday 13th September a group of 2nd Year Geography students did some Water based activities in Carlingford Lough. This Activity was fully sponsored by the Lough's agency in Carlingford,. The students got kitted out in wetsuits and life jackets that were provided by Carlingford adventure centre. They did some activities on the beach and then went Kayaking in the Lough. The group was accompanied by their Geography teacher and Cathryn, one of our Sna's. A great day was had by all.





The guidance team brought 42 6th year students to UU open day on Friday 6th September. There was a great buzz on the campus with students from north and south in attendance. It was lovely to catch up with our colleagues from St Vincent's and was hard not to be impressed by the location and the building.

Students attended talks on a variety of courses and topics, engineering accountancy accommodation, psychology, business, social science etc. .

Guidance counsellors attended a very informative talk on the help and supports that are available in UU for students.

We received positive feedback from our students with a number saying they will now apply to ucas.

A very worthwhile trip with excellent behaviour from our 6th years.





# CAREERS TRIP TO THE WORLD SKILLS AND HIGHER OPTIONS EXHIBITION

September

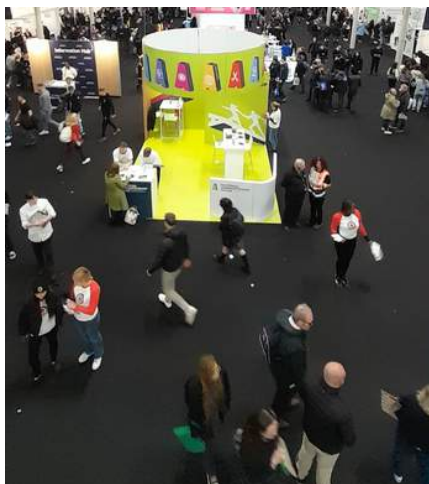
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On Wednesday 25th the Careers dept brought 105 6th years to the World skills and Higher Options exhibition in the RDS, Dublin.

This was a valuable opportunity for our students to look at apprenticeship opportunities and also Higher education Colleges and Universities in Ireland and abroad.

It was a chance for our students to access progression routes available to them and develop a structured plan for their final year at school.

It was great to see our students focused on career and points planning and we are certain this will translate into disciplined study as they work towards their career goals.





# BUSH SPORT

September

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Congratulations to the Senior Boys Rugby team who won their game against Colaiste Chu Chulainn 48 - 7 on Thursday the 19th of September.



Our basketball teams recently faced off against Castleblayney College with mixed results. The U16 girls put up a strong fight but unfortunately came up short, losing to Castleblayney. On a brighter note, the U19 girls secured a fantastic victory against the same opponents, showcasing their skill and determination on the court. Well done to both teams for their hard work and sportsmanship!



## Leinster Schools U16 Golf Qualifier

