

AVS Notes 16th December 2016

Happy Christmas

Wishing all of our students and their families and the members of our school community a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Thank you to you all for your help and support in so many ways, which continues to contribute to our happy, and successful school environment. Nollaig Shona is athbhliain faoi mhaise do chách. Le gach dea-ghuí.

Christmas Carol Service

The annual Christmas Carol Service took place on 14th December at 6:30 pm. The service took place in the Church of Ireland in Donegal Town. All members of the community and students were involved on the night. It was a wonderful service. Thank you to the Music and RE Department in the school and to all of our students who performed on the night. It was a very special occasion.

Christmas Jumper Day

All students and staff are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper on the last day of term, Thursday 22nd December. Staff and students are asked to give €2 on the day which will be donated to charity.

Book Club

The first Book Club meeting took place Monday, 21st November. Mentors will be reading the Steinbeck comic 'The Red Pony' over the next four weeks. The next meeting is scheduled for next Monday, 19th December.

Bake Sale

On Wednesday 21st a bake sale will take place in the canteen area of the school at lunchtime in aid of *Bóthar*. *“Bóthar is an Irish charity which enables families and communities worldwide to overcome hunger and poverty and to restore the environment in a sustainable way. To do this, we specialise in improved livestock production and support related training and community development. Bóthar also educates the public in Ireland about global poverty”*. For more information visit www.bothar.ie. Many delicious goods will be on sale on the day from Christmas treats to rich chocolate brownies. This bake sale is being run by class 3D. From the previous bake sales the school has raised over €340. Jasmine Kennedy, in TY, will also be conducting a bake sale on Monday, 19th December in aid of Community Care, Ghana.

Music trip

The third year music class accompanied by Ms. Doherty and Ms. Carr visited Belfast on Thursday, 15th December. The class went to see the Ulster Orchestra Christmas Concert. The conductor on the day was Robert Houlihan, a native award – winning Kerry man. Robert Houlihan worked in Metz, France, for 21 years as a music conductor. On the day students heard musical pieces such as 'Mother Goose' by Maurice Ravel and 'The Holy and the Ivy' by Sir Malcolm Arnold. It was a great event to help broaden their musical taste and assist them in their studies for their upcoming exams. Afterwards, students visited the Belfast Christmas markets which really helped improve the festive mood.

School Christmas Concert

The prefects and Leaving Certificate students are now organising the annual school Christmas Concert for the last day of term. Anyone interested in getting involved with the show, please get in touch with any of the students involved.

Christmas Cards

Christmas cards by this year's Leaving Certificate Applied students are currently being sold and sales are going extremely well. They have raised approximately €250 which will be donated to MS Donegal. The cards have been on sale in the school and in Supervalu, Donegal Town.

Texaco Children's Art Competition

Any student who is interested in entering the 63rd *Texaco Children's Art* competition can get an entry form from Mr. Daly, Ms. Mc Callig or download one from the Texaco Art competition website. Your entry can be about anything that interests you and can be no smaller than A4 or no larger than A2. For more information you can visit the website www.texacochildrensart.com. The closing date for the competition is Tuesday, 28th February 2017.

Cinema Trip

There was a Christmas outing for first year students on Tuesday, 13th December. Students went to see *'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them'*. The film focuses on the life of Newt Scamander, decades before Harry Potter. The students thought the film was magical and it was an excellent, enjoyable trip.

Leaving Certificate Theatre Trip

All Leaving Certificate students will be attending the production of *'Hamlet'* in Derry, in the Millennium Forum, in late January. The forum states that the production consists of "*a company of seasoned classical actors embrace the brutality of the greatest play ever written. A gripping, ensemble style brings exhilaration and violence to the unforgettable music and delicacy of the words*". (www.millenniumforum.co.uk). The production will assist students in their study of William Shakespeare's vibrant play for their exams in June.

St Vincent De Paul Food Collection

Our 6th year LCVP class in conjunction with the local St Vincent De Paul organised a food collection for the local St Vincent De Paul charity. The collection took place on Wednesday 14th & Thursday 15th December. We would like to thank all students and staff who donated food items on the two days.

Carol Singing

In Supervalu, Donegal Town, on Saturday 10th December almost €400 was raised for the Gambia School's Project. We would like to thank Aroma Café for the delicious hot chocolate on the day. Huge thank you to all who participated on the day. There will be a bake sale in the Abbey this Saturday, 17th December.

Chess

The chess club continues in room three, every lunchtime, for all Junior Certificate classes. This club is thriving and we are very grateful to the staff involved in organising this activity.

Christmas Card Competition

The TY's are running an Irish Christmas card competition which is open to first, second and third years. There will be prizes for first, second and third place across each year group.

Girls Active

There will be yoga every Thursday evening from 3:45 till 4:45 pm. Cathy Waugh will be conducting the class in the library for the next two weeks. All year groups are welcome.

Gaeilge:

An Trial

Leaving Certificate students went to the production of 'An Trial' by Mairéaid Ní Ghráda on Monday, 12th December. The showing was in the Black Box theatre, Galway and the play itself is a question on the Leaving Certificate higher paper in Irish. After the show students visited the Galway Christmas markets despite the damp and wet weather, students enjoyed the festive atmosphere.

Ceilí Dancing

First and second year students will be taking part in some lively ceilí dancing with Clement Gallagher. The first years will be doing this on Monday, 19th December and second years on Wednesday, 21st December.

Transition Year:

Work experience

All TY students completed their work experience last week in various locations across the country. They will complete another week of work experience at the end of February. TY students will have to complete their work experience with a new employer next year. All students said the week was beneficial in helping them to understand the values required to work efficiently and how important it is to be able to work alongside others.

Dundrum Christmas Trip

TY students went on a Christmas ice skating trip to Dundrum Town Centre in Dublin on Thursday, 15th December. Afterwards students went shopping in the festive Dundrum Centre. The students thought the skating was a really festive experience and some students had never skated before which added to the enjoyment. They finished off the day with some lovely food before the journey home.

Spanish Workshop

On Monday 12th and Friday 16th December the TY's participated in a Spanish Workshop. In the workshop students learnt a variety of dances from the flamenco to the concha's. TY students also completed an extract of Snow White in Spanish, acting it out to the rest of the students in the workshop. The TY's said it was a really different activity and learning the dances was really entertaining. They felt it was an excellent way to experience the language in such a lively manner.

African Dance Workshop

On Wednesday, 14th December Clare Harkin from Derry ran an African dance workshop. The students found the dancing style very different but it was a good bonding activity for the TY's. They completed body warm up exercises and learnt some challenging choreography. It was an excellent Workshop.

Ceili Dancing

TY's will be attending Ceilí Dancing classes with Clement Gallagher every Friday for five weeks commencing on Friday, 13th January.

Foroige Drug and Alcohol workshop

Sixteen TY students took part in a drug and alcohol workshop with Foróige this week. They met with other students from Carrick and Bundoran. The students taking part in the workshop were split into various groups with other school. On the day they discussed the effects of drugs and alcohol. The aim of the programme is to make participants more aware of their own health and well-being. In addition, TY students stated that it assisted them in understanding how important it is to make healthy life choices. It also gave factual information and dismissed illusions about tobacco, alcohol and drugs use.

Internet Safety

All of our TY students participated in an internet safety workshop on Wednesday, 14th December. The workshop was delivered by Niall Mulrine from Ballybofey. The aim of the workshop was to educate students on how to use the Internet safely. Niall told students about the importance of friendships on social media applications and how teenagers need to be wary accepting friend requests. Niall also presented them with a video on the dangers of blackmail online. It was a good learning experience about social media and the various dangers.

P.E. activities

After the Christmas holidays TY's will be taking part in a number of activities for 3-4 weeks at a time. These will include: B Fit who organise fitness classes, a self-defense programme, a sports psychology course and aqua aerobics.

Sport:

Ulster Schools Gaelic Football All Stars

Congratulations to Peadar Mogan who was selected onto the 2017 Danske Bank Ulster Schools Football All Stars team in the No 10 spot! This is an excellent achievement for Peadar and the school. Thanks also to his coach Mr. O'Donnell. Well done Peadar!

U14 Boys Gaelic

The AVS U14 boys' Gaelic team are through to the Donegal semi-final which will take place in the second week of January.

U13 Boys Gaelic

The U13 boys' Gaelic team will start up again in February after Christmas.

Senior Boys Soccer

Huge congratulations to the AVS boy's Senior Soccer team. They played Ballyjamesduff on Thursday, 15th December. The boys played brilliantly with scores from Jack Keaney, Graham

Harron, Peadar Mogan and Daniel Meehan. The final score was AVS: 4, Ballyjamesduff: 1. The AVS boys are awaiting a draw for their opponents in the Ulster quarter-final.

Basketball

The 1st and 2nd year leagues for both girls and boys will commence at the end of January. Training will continue after Christmas for the boys every Friday after school. Training will take place next Wednesday for the first year girls. U16 and U19 Girls train every Tuesday and Thursday after school. U16 and U19 Girls playoff are on the 23rd January in Monaghan. They will play Loreto Crumlin and Coláiste Oiriall.