

AVS Notes 3rd December 2016

Second Year Parent Teacher Meeting

The second year parent teacher meeting will take place on Thursday, 8th December. Parents are asked to attend between 3:45pm and 6:15 pm. All parents of second year students are welcome to attend.

Junior Cycle Information for Parents

Regular updates for parents, teachers and students concerning Junior Cycle are available at @AVS_JuniorCycle on Twitter. We would be grateful if parents/guardians could take time to complete an online questionnaire about Junior Cycle 'Statements of Learning' which we are currently conducting. The link is available at @AVS_JuniorCycle on Twitter and through the school website.

Third Year English students during the first week in December will be among the first students to complete the Assessment Task for their Junior Certificate exams, contributing to 10% of their Junior Cycle English grade. The Assessment Task will take place during the week of the 5th to the 9th December.

Christmas Carol Service

The annual Christmas Carol service will take place on the 14th December at 6:30 pm. The service will take place in the Church of Ireland in Donegal Town. Participants of the St. John Paul II award will be involved during this service. All members of the community and students will be involved on the night. All are welcome to attend.

Art trip

Mr Daly's first year art class visited the Donegal Council offices on the morning of Friday, 2nd December to see the exhibition on show there. The office is housing the '*Domestic Violence Against Women*' exhibition. The offices have a diverse range of exhibitions on show all year around. Students felt the exhibition was "interesting" and showcased many art techniques they may not have experienced before.

Book Club

The first book club meeting took place last Monday, 21st November. Mentors will be reading the Steinbeck comic '*The Red Pony*' over the next four weeks. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 12th December where the award winning book of the year '*Knights of the Borrowed Dark*' will be read by those attending. '*Knights of the Borrowed Dark*' is the first novel by the Irish author Dave Rudden who has been shortlisted for the Hennessy New Writing Award and the Bath Short Story Award. It will be an interesting read for students with it being compared to the likes of the popular '*Percy Jackson*' series.

School Christmas Concert

The Prefects and Leaving Cert 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.

Transition Year:

Sports Leadership

Thirty TY students took part in a sports leadership course for the duration of the week. The course was run by Kevin Campbell and the students learned important skills like engaging children in activities and being able to produce a “lesson plan”. The students will be assessed on a sporting event that they have to plan and run for first year students in the upcoming weeks.

Work experience

All TY students will be taking part in their work experience next week from Monday 5th to Friday 9th. Students will have to write a reflective diary on their experience. This week will allow students to fully understand the world of work; the importance of being professional, punctual and co – operative. In addition, students will be able to decide whether they like or dislike their chosen career. Students are completing their experience in various locations in Ireland and some will even venture as far as the United Kingdom.

History Trip

Two TY classes went to Derry on Thursday 1st December. In the morning students crossed the Peace Bridge in Derry; an iconic landmark in the city. The bridge opened in 2011 in the hope it would improve relations between unionists and nationalists by improving access between the two areas.

They also visited the Guildhall, the Museum of Free Derry. The Free Derry museum contains the Bloody Sunday Trust. “*The Free Derry Museum opened in 2007 in order to tell the story of what happened in the city during the period 1968 – 1972, popularly known as ‘Free Derry’, and including the civil rights era, Battle of the Bogside, Internment, Bloody Sunday and Operation Motorman*”. (www.bloodysundaytrust.org).

This was followed by lunch and shopping. In the afternoon students were taken on a guided tour of the Walls of Derry showcasing the rich history of Derry. Discover Northern Ireland.com states: that the wall “*is the only remaining completely walled city in Ireland and one of the finest examples of Walled Cities in Europe. The Walls were built during the period 1613-1618 by the honorable, the Irish Society as defenses for early seventeenth century settlers from England and Scotland*”.

LYIT

Niamh Boyle won a Kindle Fire and was presented with her prize on Thursday 1st December. Niamh was the winner of the *Department of Design & Creative Media* competition at LYIT. The prize was presented to her by the Head of Department, Nollaig Crombie. Well done Niamh!

Gambia Talk

Alec Reid gave our TY students a wonderful, motivating talk on Tuesday, 29th November. Alex Reid is a member of ‘*The Gambian Schools Trust*’, a small educational charity run by unpaid Trustees, who donate their time, energy and administration to the cause. The TY students this year will take part in an annual raffle to raise much needed funds for the project. TY’s are selling tickets at the price of €1 for the raffle. The prizes for the raffle are being selected at the moment. Students of the school will be carol singing at Supervalu, Donegal Town too, to raise more funds for the programme.

Dundrum Christmas Trip

The TY students will be going on a Christmas ice skating trip to Dundrum Town Centre on Thursday, 15th December. Afterwards students can shop till they drop in the festive Dundrum Center.

Hairspray

Some of the students who performed in the school musical '*Hairspray*' will be participating in the annual *Abbey Singers Christmas Concert*. They will be performing a medley of songs from the show.

Spanish Workshop

On Monday 12th and Friday 16th December the TY's will be participating in a Spanish workshop. This involves drama dance and song through Spanish. The students always enjoy this event.

Internet Safety Talk

On Wednesday, 14th December TY's will participate in an internet safety talk to raise their awareness of the dangers online and of the importance of internet safety.

Special Olympics Ireland

On Saturday, 26th November Cormac Mac Suibhne competed in the Ulster Special Olympics in the swimming category and won an impressive two medals. Cormac won a bronze medal in the 25m backstroke and a silver medal for the 25m freestyle. Cormac's hard work and dedication has paid off. Huge congratulations to Cormac!

Christmas Card Competition

There were almost one hundred entries in total for the Leaving Certificate Christmas card competition two weeks ago. The cards are now on sale for the price of €1 in the school. The LCA students will visit classrooms this week to offer students the opportunity to buy the cards. The winner of the competition was Eimear Mc Gee. Eimear's card will be on sale with seven others by Eabha Reid, John Connolly, Shannon Patton, Nicole O'Neill, Mikeala Mc Connon, Pauric Monaghan and Aoibheann Gallagher. All profits from the venture will go to MS Donegal. In recent years students from the AVS have raised more than €3,000 for various charities through the sale of their Christmas cards. Well done to all involved!

Sport:

Senior Boys Gaelic

The senior boys' Gaelic team played their last match on Wednesday, 29th November against Coláiste Cholmcille in Ballyshannon. The AVS lads were defeated in the end by a very strong Ballyshannon side. With some of them playing their last GAA match in the school we would like to thank them very much for the effort they have put in over the last six years. They won both County and Ulster finals for the AVS and have set a great example for other students to follow in their footsteps.

1st year Soccer

The first year soccer team played on Tuesday, 29th November against St. Columbus. The AVS boys drew one all. They were one nil down in the first half which was disappointing for them at half time. After a rousing team talk, the team kicked it up a notch and scored a goal to put them level with St. Columbus. Mark Jordan scored the great goal on the day that kept

the AVS level. The goalkeeper Andrew Monaghan kept the boys well and truly in the game as he made some spectacular saves on the day. The first year team are playing again on Tuesday, 6th December.

Hurling

Hurling training takes place every Tuesday after school on the all-weather pitch. If students have any enquiries please speak to Mr O'Neill. Students must have full gear with them to attend training.

U16's Boys Basketball

The U16's boys' team played Coláiste Cholmcille on Wednesday, 29th November. Unfortunately, the AVS lost their game against Coláiste Cholmcille. On the day there were scores from, Dylan Curran, Darragh Griffin, Creegan Alcock, Ryan Coughlin and Carl Mc Carry. Well done to all the boys for their hard work this year. The final score was Coláiste Cholmcille: 49 and AVS: 28.

U19's Boys Basketball

The U19's boys' team were victorious in their game against Coláiste Cholmcille on Wednesday, 29th November. It was a great team performance. We had joint top scorers on the day: Ronan O'Donnell and Michal Drzewiecki. Other scores came from Ryan Pearson and Daniel Gallagher. This was Michal Drzewiecki, Tom O'Grady and Eamon Jordan's last basketball game for the AVS; we wish them well in the future. The final score was AVS: 59 and Coláiste Cholmcille: 45. Well done to all the boys.

1st year Basketball Blitz

On Friday, 2nd December the first year team attended a basketball blitz against in Ballyshannon. A very enjoyable day was had by all of the girls as they played their first school games for the AVS.

U16's Girls Basketball

Wednesday, 30th November Abbey U16's girls took on St. Catherine's at home in their first league game this season. The game started with high intensity, both the AVS and St. Catherine's scored early baskets with all four baskets from Sophie Carr; this put AVS into a narrow lead. The game became a lot tighter leading into the 3rd quarter with the two teams neck and neck on many occasions. There were brilliant baskets from Amy Lorinyenko, Bridin Murphy and Ellie Muldoon; AVS were put into a close lead again. Further baskets from Lucy Mc Gowan, Orla Histon, Sophie Carr and Mia Mc Calmont leading up to the final whistle gave a final score of AVS: 28, St. Catherine's: 26.

U14's Girls Basketball

On Wednesday, 30th November U14's girls also took on St. Catherine's at home in a friendly match. It was a slow starting game with Killybegs eventually taking lead along with scores from Aoife Mackle, Katelyn Duffy and Lucy Clinton for the AVS. However, at the end of the second quarter, St. Catherine's had a three point lead, but AVS put in a tough fight and with baskets from Aoife Greene, Emma O'Sullivan and Naomi Kennedy AVS began to get slowly back into the game. Unfortunately, St. Catherine's had a strong side with a final score of St. Catherine's: 40 and Abbey: 25.