

AVS Notes 9th December 2016

School Reports

Reports will be available to parents on Vsware from Friday, 16th December. They be posted home to parents/ guardians following this date.

Junior Cycle Information for Parents

Third Year English students were among the first students to complete the Assessment Task for their Junior Certificate exams this week, contributing to 10% of their Junior Cycle English grade.

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.

Christmas Carol Service

The Annual Christmas Carol service will take place on 14th December at 6:30 pm. The service will take place in the Church of Ireland in Donegal Town. All members of the community and students will be involved on the night. All are welcome to attend.

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 students are currently being sold and sales are going extremely well. Their venture is now in profit and the profits will be donated to MS Donegal. The cards have been on sale in the school and in Supervalu, Donegal Town.

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 was scheduled for Monday, 12th December but it will now take place on Monday, 19th December.

Streetwise Workshops

First year students attended the Streetwise workshop on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th December. The workshop aims to make students aware of the dangers of alcohol and drug use. It was an informative talk which discussed peer pressure, addiction and healthy lifestyle choices.

Leaving Certificate Theatre Trip

All Leaving Certificate students will be attending the production of *'Hamlet'* in Derry, in the Millennium Forum, in late January. A date is yet to be confirmed however, it will either be Thursday 26th or Friday 27th of 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.

Allingham Art Competition

Two AVS students took part in the Allingham Arts competition, the presentation was in the Abbey Centre in Ballyshannon. Ailbhe Loughney came first in the U13's flash fiction section for her wonderful story called "*An Unexpected Guest*". Ella Doherty came in third place for her descriptive poem "*Through the Seasons*". Both students were presented with medals for their work. Huge congratulations to both students.

St Vincent De Paul Food Collection

Our 6th year LCVP class in conjunction with the local St Vincent De Paul are organising a Food Collection for the local St Vincent De Paul charity. We will collect before school at 8.45am to 9.00am on Wednesday 14th & Thursday 15th December in room 2. Please ensure that all food items are non-perishable, that all food items have an expiry date well into 2017 and anyone wishing to donate can send items with their child to school.

Gaeilge:

An Trial

Leaving Certificate students have been studying the play 'An Trial' by Mairéaid Ní Ghráda. Students sitting the higher level Irish paper will be attending the production of the play on Monday, 12th December. The showing is taking place in the famous Black Box Theatre, Galway. "The play explores the hypocrisies inherent in Catholic sixties Ireland. The heroine Máire becomes pregnant by a married man and then attempts to do the impossible and keep her baby". (www.aislinghear.com).

Ceili Dancing

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

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.

Cinema Trip

There will be a pre – Christmas outing for first year students on Tuesday, 13th December. Students are going to see '*Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*'. "The film takes us to a new era of J.K Rowling's Wizarding World, decades before Harry Potter and a half a world away. There are growing dangers in the wizarding world of New York in 1926 and Eddie Redmayne who takes on the role of Newt Scamander, attempts to find out what is leaving a path of destruction behind in the city that never sleeps". (www.fantasticbeasts.com). Our first years are sure to enjoy J.K. Rowling's new magical escapade.

Student Council

Some of the members of the student council met the Board of Management to deliver a presentation on the workings of the student Council and what projects and activities they are currently doing as part of the council.

Abbey Singers

Congratulations to our student Alison Edwards who performed 'Oh Holy Night' as part of the Abbey Singers Christmas Concert. Alison was superb on the night and brought a tear to many an eye. Alison was selected to join the Young Americans following her participation in their

workshops in the school. We wish Alison well in her future endeavours in this regard and we are delighted that her wonderful talent will be shared with many. Well done Alison!

Transition Year:

Work experience

All TY students will be taking part in their work experience 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. We wish to thank all of the members of the wider community for supporting us in this venture and facilitating the students in their workplace.

Dundrum Christmas Trip

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

Hairspray

Some of the students who performed in the school musical ‘*Hairspray*’ participated in the annual *Abbey Singers Christmas Concert* on Thursday, 8th December at 8pm. They performed an extract of songs from ‘*Hairspray*’. Congratulations again to all of the students involved on the night, we very proud of you all.

Gambia Talk

The TY students this year will take part in an annual raffle to raise much needed funds for the Gambia 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 on Saturday, 10th December, to raise more funds for the programme.

Spanish Workshop

On Monday 12th and Friday 16th December the TY’s will be participating in a Spanish workshop. The workshop will include elements of Spanish dance and drama. It will not only be a fun activity for all involved but it will help advance students language skills.

Internet Safety Talk

On Wednesday, 14th December TY’s will participate in an internet safety talk to make them aware of the dangers online.

Sport:

Girls Active

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

Sky Sports Living for Sport

On Tuesday, 6th December, Christy Toye visited the school. The *Sky Sports* ambassador and Donegal legend gave a motivational talk to our students in the AVS. Chris spoke to the under 14's Gaelic panel and the girls active group. The talk focused on team building games and challenges. In addition, Chris as a mentor, explained to our students the key skills needed to become a successful athlete. As stated on the Sky Sports website: "the Youth Sport Trust is a national charity that is building a brighter future for young people through PE and sport. Through 20 years of experience they have developed a unique way of maximising the power of sport to grow young people, schools and communities through the development of qualities including creativity, aspiration, resilience and empathy"(www.livingforsport.skysports.com). The students said it was a motivational talk and it helped them to understand the dedication and passion they need to succeed in sport.

First Year Soccer

The AVS boys played a tough game against Deele College in Raphoe on Thursday, 8th December. Unfortunately, after a great effort Deele were the stronger side. The final result was: AVS: 0, Deele: 3. The next game will be a cup game and will take place after the Christmas break.

Senior Girls' Gaelic

The senior girls' team had their last game of the year on Wednesday, 7th December. They played the Sacred Heart College Omagh in Castlederg. In very wet conditions the AVS girls got off to a strong start with a goal and a point within the first few minutes. This was the way for the rest of the first half. In the second half the Omagh girls came out stronger after making a number of changes. It was a point for point game in the dying minutes. Finally, the game ended in a draw match on a score line of 3-7 to 3-7. It was a great team performance, but Eva Diver, Kate Brennan and Layla Alvey were outstanding players on the day. Well done to all the girls especially our Leaving Certificate students who played their last GAA game for the Abbey Vocational School. We would like to wish the girls good luck in the future!

U15's Boys' Soccer

The AVS U15's soccer team recently defeated Moville Community College in the Schoolboys U15's Cup on Wednesday, 7th December. Despite dominating the game and having hit the woodwork on four occasions the lads were down one nil with less than ten minutes to go. James Mc Namara grabbed the equalizer for the AVS and with only three minutes left on the clock Ultan O' Grady fired the home winner. The final score: AVS: 2, Moville: 1.

Senior Boys' Soccer

The senior boys had a great win on Tuesday, 6th December. The AVS boys' had a victory of 8 goals to 4 against Rosses.

Ulster Senior Boys Gaelic Trials

Peadar Mogan and Aaron McCrea had trials in Gaelic for the Ulster All Star team on Thursday, 8th December. The boys will have to attend a final trial and results of this will follow. We wish them all the best!