

## AVS Notes 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017

### Student Awards Evening

On Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> May the Abbey Vocational School hosted an Awards evening to celebrate student academic achievement and involvement in extracurricular activities. We were honored to have Mr. Joe McHugh, TD and Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development, Donegal attend the event as our guest speaker. It was a lovely evening for all involved. The awards ranged from music, to drama and sports to academic achievements. Congrats to all our outstanding students!

### Leaving Certificate Ecumenical Service

The Leaving Certificate Ecumenical Service will take place on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm. The theme for this years' service is "New Journeys". Parents and Guardians of our Leaving Cert students are most welcome. This is a very special service as we see our students move on to the next chapter in their lives. The students are invited to a meal prior to the service with all our staff to celebrate their end of senior cycle.

### English Oral Communication Classroom - Based Assessment

Students in 2<sup>nd</sup> year completed their Oral Communication task this week; it ran from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May. "The specification for Junior Cycle English focuses on the development of language and literacy in and through the **three strands: Oral Language, Reading, and Writing**". The Oral Communication also allows students to conduct research e.g. searching for information, reading and note-making, organising material, developing a point of view, preparing a PowerPoint, using props, hand-outs etc. Huge congratulations to all our second years completing this and all the hard work and effort they put in over the last number of weeks.

### Dates for your Diary:

Other Dates of Note	
TY Showcase	Tues May 23 <sup>rd</sup> (TYs finish formal class)
TY Portfolio Interviews	Wed May 24 <sup>th</sup>
LC Ecumenical Service	Wed May 24 <sup>th</sup> (LC finish)
Junior Cert Finish	Fri May 26 <sup>th</sup>
House Exams	Mon May 29 <sup>th</sup> – June 2 <sup>nd</sup>
State Exams	Wed June 7 <sup>th</sup>

### Assemblies

Assemblies were conducted this week for certain year groups. Leaving Certs had a talk about their end of year Ecumenical Service, support available and the set up for the State Exams. We would like to remind students importance of full attendance every day, exam preparation and study, and overall behaviour over the final few weeks of term. Procedures for summer house exams were explained to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year students. We have asked students to begin emptying lockers in advance of doing so properly next week. 3<sup>rd</sup> year and 6<sup>th</sup> year students need to return textbooks from the book rental scheme.

### House Exams

House exams for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year students commence Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May until Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. We remind all students to ensure they are prepared and continue their efforts with their study.

### **End of Term**

Our school term ends on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> of June.

### **Vintage Tea Party**

Room 10 are hosting their very own Vintage Tea Party on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May. They will also donate the funds raised to the Bluestack Foundation. Voluntary baking and donations would be appreciated.

### **Science Quiz**

Six teams from the AVS attended the ISTA Donegal Junior Science quiz on Tuesday night. The students made excellent attempts during the rounds and with seventy teams competing in total there were tough competition. The teams finished with two team making it into the top ten; the standard was high on the night and our AVS students showed excellent showmanship and dedication.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Year School Tour**

1st year students went on their highly anticipated school tour on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May to Lough Key, Forest Park, Boyle, Co. Roscommon. The students were split into groups and rotated between three activities: Boda Borg, A History of Lough Key walk and park activities. The Boda Borg “is a Swedish concept unique to Ireland and is challenging for both adults and children. Once you enter the two-storey Boda Borg only teamwork, ingenuity, trial and error and skills you probably didn’t know you have will allow you to progress through its 47 rooms! It contained fun-filled activities, imaginative puzzles and enjoyable tasks but no instructions” so the students had a lot of work to do!

Through a nature walk students were invited to learn about the history of the park “Lough Key Forest Park is located in an area of great historical interest and is comprised of vast woodland and numerous islands.

A huge thank you to the teachers: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Mc Partlan, Ms. Canning, Ms. Dunnion, Ms. Plunkett, Ms. Mc Morrow, Mr. Lafferty and Mr. Murrin for accompanying the students on the day. Also thank you to the staff of Lough Key for organising such a pleasant and enjoyable day for our students.

### **Transition Year:**

#### ***Waterbus***

TY students went on a scenic boat trip around Donegal Bay on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May courtesy of ‘Donegal Waterbus’ and Donegal Credit Union. This was a great outing and was a special thank you to the students who participated in TASTY.

#### ***Donegal Youth Council Sports Recognition Event***

Donegal Youth Council invited 20 Transition Year and 3rd year girls to a Sports Recognition Event in St. Catherine’s Vocational School co – ordinated by youth co coordinator Carlin Maguire. “Young ladies from all over Donegal have been attending the events which the youth council have been working hard to develop over the past few months. It aims to promote more female participation in sports, create a more inclusive environment for girls and for female participation in sports to receive adequate recognition in comparison to their male counterparts” (donegalyouthservice.ie). The sports the girls participated in were: bubble football, Zumba, basketball, yoga and kingball. Our youth council member from A.V.S. were Mark Driscoll and Ewan Cullinan who have represented the school from 2016/2017. There

are 33 youth council members all over Donegal helping young people deal with issues. The schools that took part on the day were, Carrick, Killybegs, Ballyshannon, Bundoran and Glenties.

### ***TASTY***

Our Gala night finally arrived and on the 16<sup>th</sup> May the TASTY awards night took place against the beautiful backdrop of Solis Lough Eske. All teams came out top on the night and we can't stress enough how hard each team member worked so a huge well done to every one of you. On the night, each team presented their dish and gave an audio/visual presentation. The categories for the prizes were: Social Media, Food and Presentations, Best Food Story plus the overall winner.

The results were as follows:

**Food and Presentations** - Seaside Bakery Donegal - Solis Lough Eske Castle

**Social Media** - Lord of the Wings Team Tavern - The Village Tavern

**Food Story** - Stewstack - Harveys Point

**Bronze** - Foireann Caonach - Smugglers Creek Inn

**Silver** - StewStack - Harveys Point

**Gold** - Uisce Fishce Quay West

We are delighted to announce Seaside Bakery with Solis Lough Eske won the overall grand prize at the Tasty 2017 Donegal Transition Year Food Project with their Tonn Aran Seaweed Bread! The product will be available to purchase at the Donegal Food Festival. We wish to thank Solis Lough Eske for their hospitality and for the wonderful evening.

The Steering Committee of 'Tasty' 2017 Enda O'Rourke, Emily Brown Rush, Conor Daly, Geraldine Diver and Dr. Sean Duffy would like to express their sincere thanks and gratitude to everyone involved in this project and anyone who helped in any way. It is such a great achievement for the 42 TY Students who took part. To the hotels and restaurants that gave of their time and expertise in helping the students and this project grow, as without you this could not have been achieved.

Therefore, a massive thank you to: Solis Lough Eske Castle, Quay West, The Village Tavern, Harveys Point, Chandpur Indian Restaurant, The Mill Park Hotel, Smugglers Creek Inn again a huge thank you for your mentoring and all the hard work you completed with our students.

Thank you to our sponsors for supporting & believing in this project: The Credit Union, Donegal Town, Solis Lough Eske Castle, LEO - Donegal Food Coast, The Sandhouse Hotel and Marine Spa, Pallas Foods, A Taste of Donegal Food Festival, Donegal Bay Waterbus.

The judges on the night were extremely impressed with our students and thank you to our judges who give up their time to support 'TASTY': Neven Maguire - MacNeans Restaurant Blacklion, Thomas Clancy - Sunday Business Post, Ursula Donnelly - Local Enterprise Office Donegal, Anne McHugh - Chief Executive, Donegal ETB, Joan Crawford - Failte Ireland, Paul Hannigan - President Letterkenny Institute of Technology, Zack Gallagher - Irish Food Guide, Chef Garbriel McSharry for his hard work and input.

Thank you to our wonderful MC Michael Daly Chief and Editor of The Donegal Democrat Pauric Byrne Ocean FM, Margaret Gallagher Donegal Times, Matt Britton Donegal Democrat and Paul O'Sullivan Donegal Online for the great publicity over the build up to the Awards and Presentation Night.

Thank you to Peter Mullaney of Mullaney Media, Stacey Dunlevy, General Manager Sean Carney, Executive Head Chef Cedric Bottarlini and all The Solis Lough Eske Staff for providing 'Tasty' with such a wonderful backdrop for the Awards Ceremony.

Again, none of this would have been possible without the teachers and mentors of The AVS who were dedicated to their teams over the last number of weeks

### ***Transition to Senior Cycle Talk***

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May TY's had a "transition to 5<sup>th</sup> year talk" from Mr Sean Magee which is vital as our students will now begin to focus more on career choices and their academic subjects. The TY programme offers students an educational experience with a view to achieve increased maturity, before proceeding to further study. It is important that TY students understand the importance of 5<sup>th</sup> year and how to settle in as they transition from a programme which placed greater responsibility on learning and decision making.

### ***Showcase***

All parents and guardians of our TY students and incoming parents of TY students are very welcome to join us for the TY showcase on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May which promises to be an energetic night. TY students are actively working in co-ordination with Ms Regan, Ms Rooney, Ms O' Mahoney, Ms Cunningham and Ms Murray preparing for the night. The showcase focuses on all the events, talks, activities, trips and outings the TY's ventured on this year. It promises to highlight the TY year through wonderful speeches, skits, PowerPoints full of memories and an abundance of photos plus comic videos! Students managed a full run through on Friday with Eilish in the Library and it is all knitting together nicely. A huge thank you to Eilish Mc Intyre who is working tirelessly with TY's to perfect their acts on the night.

### ***Abbots Trip – Operation Discovery***

Our TY's loved the Abbot Ireland visit they participated in this Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May. 30 students visited the Abbot Ireland Donegal plant. "More than a century ago, physician and drug store proprietor Dr. Wallace C. Abbott started the Abbott Alkaloid Company with the mission of championing scientific investigation for the benefit of both patients and physicians. Today, Abbot operate with approximately 94,000 employees around the world, working to improve human health through nutrition, diagnostics, medical devices and pharmaceuticals". Students participated in different experiments on the day. The first was an experiment using Chemilumi which is like the chemical reaction that occurs in glow sticks. This was followed with a DNA experiment where students isolated saliva DNA. Thank you to Abbots for such an interesting day and a special thanks to Paul Martin, HR manager of Abbots, for organising the trip.

## **Sports:**

### ***Leaving Cert Students v the AVS Teachers***

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> was one enjoyable morning as some of our Leaving Cert students played a volleyball match against our very own AVS teachers. Our brave teachers: Mr Carty, Mr Hegarty, Ms Rooney, Ms Mc Loughlin, Mr Mc Loone, Mr Murrin, Mr O' Donnell, Ms Harvey, Ms O' Mahoney, Ms Mc Partlan, Mr Plunkett, Mr Clarke, Ms Regan and Ms Meyers braved the court to take on a mix of Leaving Certs. It was entertaining to say the least. The teachers were one game down but fought their way back and won two games making the

teachers victorious in the end. Refreshments followed the heated game so students could relax and cool down.

### ***Irish Cycling Team***

A huge well done to Oisín Doherty in 3<sup>rd</sup> year a member of the AAA Cycling Team in Dunloe who cycled with the Irish team this week. From Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> until Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of June Oisín raced in the UK with the Irish Cycling Team in Derbyshire and in London. Oisín competed in a series of criterium races. A criterium is a bike race consisting of short races on flat surfaces with tight corners; the lengths can vary from 500 m to 1000m. Currently, he is preparing for several races at the end of the season. Well done and we wish you all the success in the future Oisín!