

AVS Notes 28th April 2017

Dates for your Diary:

Schedule of Examination Dates

The following dates are in relation to Leaving Certificate students only:

April 28th: History, Geography and Construction Studies project and coursework must be completed.

May 2nd – 12th: Agricultural Science coursework is subject to external monitoring.

May 2nd – 12th: Art Craftwork, Construction and Engineering Practical Exams will be held during this period.

May 3rd: LVCP written examination.

Other Dates of Note	
Donegal ETB Awards	April 28 th
Schools Active Week	May 1 st – May 5 th
LCA Trip	May 9 th
PA Golf Classic	May 10 th
Annual Awards Ceremony	May 15 th
TASTY Gala Ball	May 16 th
Sports Day (Possible Date)	May 18 th
TY Portfolio Interviews	May 18 th
TY Showcase	Tues May 23 rd (TYs finish)
LC Ecumenical Service	Wed May 24 th (LC finish)
Junior Cert Finish	Fri May 26 th
House Exams	Mon: May 29 th – May 2 nd
State Exams	Wed June 7 th

State Exam Dates to Note

Date	Subject	Time
Tues 2 nd May	LC Art	9.00 – 3.30
Wed 3 rd May	LCVP	9.00 - 12.30
Thurs 4 th May	JC Metalwork	9.00 – 12.15
Fri 5 th May	JC Metalwork	9.00 – 12.15

Date	Subject	Time
Mon 8 th May	LC Art	9.00 - 2.00
Tues 9 th May	LC Engineering	9.00 – 4.15
Wed 10 th May	LC Engineering	9.00 – 4.15
	JC Art	9.00-12.30
Thurs 11 th May	LC Construction	9.00 – 1.30
Fri 12 th May	LC Construction	9.00 – 1.30

ETB Awards

Well done to our TY group who were awarded second place in their category in the ETB Awards. On Friday 28th March the ETB awards took place in the Radisson Hotel, Letterkenny. Our students had to deliver an exhibition and an oral presentation on the day. Our TY students came second in the Innovation and Enterprise section with the TASTY project.

Barcelona School Tour

On the 10th April 96 students from the Abbey and 10 staff members embarked on the fantastic trip! On arrival at Barcelona airport we went on a full day guided tour of Barcelona. This tour included many famous attractions like: 'La Sagrada Familia', a monumental church that is one of Gaudi's most famous works. It's a giant Basilica that has been under construction since 1882 and it's not expected to be completed for some time yet. Students and staff were treated to another architectural delight as they visited the 'Olympic Stadium', which hosted the Olympic Games in 1992 and designed by architect Pete Domènech i Roura. Then it was on to 'Montjuic' a prominent 698 feet high hill overlooking the Barcelona harbour that for ages played a strategic part in the defense of the city. Nowadays the area is a touristic magnet for Barcelona, which dominates Barcelona's southern suburbs and is dotted with gardens, museums, galleries and sports facilities.

Our Abbey tourists also took a walk down the famous 'Las Ramblas' where the Font de Canaletes is found and many excellent shops and restaurants are located. Lastly we saw the 'Paseo de Colón - monument a Colon' situated along Paseo de Colon, the monument is said to be the tallest monument to Colombia in the world!

On Tuesday 11th April the school group went to Montserrat Mountain located in the province of Barcelona, the mountain is the setting for the pilgrimage shrine, a monastery and service buildings for visitors.

The students also visited the 'CosmoCaixa' Science Museum Barcelona' that has an enormous variety of content and an innovative layout, turning it into one of the most modern museums of its kind. The CosmoCaixa is not about looking but a hands-on museum with many things to try out in every corner. Different scientific disciplines are being explained didactically and interactively. There is even an Amazon Forest experience; in the 1,000 m² jungle greenhouse there are not only 30m tall trees from the Amazon region but you can also see and hear animals from tropic regions, some of which are even free-roaming. Don't worry - the dangerous snakes were locked behind glass! Sometimes it rains heavily in this jungle making the experience very entertaining.

In the evening students chilled out after a tiring day and went bowling at the bowling alley in 'Les Gavarres' in Salou.

Wednesday 12th April was another fun filled day and consisted of a day trip to Port Aventura, one of Europe's newest and largest theme parks. The theme park is divided into five different cultures including Mexico, Polynesia, the Wild West, China and the Mediterranean. Many of our brave students (and staff) went on the adventurous rides!

Our football fans had a great day on Thursday 13th April as students visited 'Camp Nou', the 93,000 seat stadium, built in 1957 and enlarged for the 1982 World Cup. Students experienced the Camp Nou museum on the day where they saw the five European cups and observed much of the interactive history the venue had to offer. The group then visited Barcelona Aquarium that has 21 tanks and an 80-meter glass tunnel through a shark tank.

To finish off the school tour students had free time to shop in Maremagnum Shopping Centre, a huge shopping centre with a selection of fashion retailers, souvenir shops and fast food outlets.

It was a very tired group that arrived in Donegal on Friday morning (4am!). Although the group were exhausted students and staff had an absolute ball in Barcelona; it was certainly an action packed and fun filled trip!

We would like to compliment all of our students who travelled on the school Tour Abroad. Their behaviour was exemplary and we extend great credit to their parents and to each and every one of them. Thank you to all of our staff who travelled on the Tour and who made this experience possible for the students.

Chess Competition

The chess competition will be held on Tuesday 2nd May and Wednesday 3rd May in the stage area.

Count down Final

The Countdown final takes place this week. There are two finals – a Junior and a Senior final. This has been a very exciting venture on behalf of the Maths Department in the school to enhance the problem solving skills of our students and we congratulate all involved.

Operation Discovery

Abbots Ireland are coming to visit the AVS to run a module called *Operation Discovery*. As stated on the Abbot website: “Abbot want to spark a worldwide conversation about how good health opens life's possibilities. But, they realize healthcare needs vary from country to country. That's why they work to understand, anticipate and stay ahead of health trends around the world. They invest in technologies, tailor their science and partner with others – to create meaningful local solutions and ultimately better results for the people they serve”. The project aims to provide real world experience to inspire students to take a greater interest in science and science related careers.

Art Exams

Leaving and Junior Certificate Art students are currently preparing for their practical exams, which commence the week of the 1st May 2017 and run for the following two weeks.

National Poetry Ireland Day

Happy Poetry Day Ireland! On Thursday 27th April, we invited everyone in the AVS to get involved in National Poetry Ireland Day. The English Department created a trail of poems and sticky notes throughout the school and YouTube poets such as Gary Turk and Prince EA were played in the assembly at lunch.

LCA Task Examinations

Well done to the LCA students who completed two Task Interviews this week .The first was in Construction and the second in Enterprise. They did extremely well. Well done to the students involved.

LCA Leisure Trip

LCA class are preparing for their end of year adventure trip on Tuesday 9th May. They will be visiting Letterkenny Adventure Centre to participate in team challenges.

This week they are holding a raffle for two hampers and a number of spot prizes. The hampers are worth over €50 each and have lots of treats. They will be on display in assembly everyday. Tickets on sale at lunchtime. Thank you to Ms Harvey for organising this event.

Transition Year:

Sliabh Liag Environmental Trip

As part of the Environmental Studies programme our TY students traveled to Teelin, Donegal, along with teachers: Mr Clarke, Mrs Regan, Mrs Crawford and Mr Carty. Students climbed to the peak of one of the highest sea cliffs in Europe then walked into Carrick Village and got a chance to eat and go to the local shop. It was a tiring walk but the view from the top was worth the trek! All had a great day and the good weather added to everyone's enjoyment of the day. Our local scenery and the beauty on our doorstep were fully embraced by the students on that trip.

Social Media Talk

Zach Gallagher presented a talk to TY students who are involved in the Donegal TASTY project. He provided them with information about the advantages and disadvantages of social media when promoting a project. In addition, Zach also showed students marketing strategies and how social media is a benefit to marketing. He helped student's consider how advertising on social media could assist them in their TASTY project.

TASTY

All Transition Year Students along with their Chefs are busy putting the final touches to preparing 'Tasty' dishes! 'Donegal Fusion' and Chandpur Indian Restaurant' are producing a new dish called Chicken Badami, which will be on the restaurant's menu for both dining in and take away. On Wednesday, the team met and interviewed James Jordan of 'Jordan's Atlantic Foods' as he is one of the Donegal Suppliers. Our students this week did a fun tasting test with some of the teachers in school on Thursday 27th and caught the experience on camera.

Another one of our teams 'Quay West and Uisce Fishe' are still working on their creative dish which is Whiskey & Honey Cured Salmon on a Stout Saltine with Cream Cheese and a Seaweed Aoili. They completed their first test run of their honey and whiskey cured salmon on Thursday 27th May which sounds delicious!

'The Foireann Caonach and the Smugglers Inn after several weeks of trial and error, have finalised their food offering, which is Irish Mist & Carrageen Cheesecake. The TY Team will be at Smugglers Creek on Tuesday 2nd May to visit the nearby tourist attractions, including Rossnowlagh Beach and the Franciscan Friary.

The 'Seaside Bakery Donegal' and Solis Lough Eske Castle are continuing to perfect their Seaweed Bread "TonnAran". On Monday 24th at the Seaside Bakery the team tested out different bread recipes at the castle to master their new healthy seaweed bread.

'Lord of the Wings' and The Village Tavern are producing, Honey Glazed Chicken Wings. This team are even using Silkie Whiskey from Kilcar, which they are using to 'smoke' in a wooden cask over six weeks to give their wings double the flavour.

The 'StewStack' team and Harveys Point Country Hotel continue to work on their Beef and Stout Stew, which is a wonderful traditional Irish dish. The team visited Donegal Stout to see how it is made as part of their recipe. The 'Stewstack' TY Team along with Harvey's Point Head Chef Chris McMenamin headed straight to the kitchen on Thursday morning to put the finishing touches to their Beef & Stout Stew. The TY team even tried out oysters this week to test out things they may or may not like.

Finally, 'Mill Park Hotel & Leisure Centre will present Tírconnail Toffee' their team Keri, Margarita, Evan, Shaneen and Daniel will be cooking up Silkie Toffee Pudding. The team are creating a Slieve League Sticky Toffee Carrot Cake with a Rhubarb and Custard ice cream. On Monday 24th April Tírconnail Toffee team visited the farm where they have sourced the fresh Donegal duck eggs to use in their TASTY recipe. It was a very enjoyable experience. We would like to thank the farm for having the team!

The Gala Night takes place on Tuesday 16th May for all the participating groups who have worked extremely hard with the local establishments in recent weeks. In addition, mentors, teachers and anyone who's been involved in the project is welcome, this is also open to the public and will be a great night for all!

Athletics Coaches

Thank you to Tírconnail Athletics club for mentoring 20 TY students throughout the year. They gained confidence in coaching the juvenile athletes at the club every Thursday evening as well as organising a number of cross country, sportshall and track events.

Sport:

Athletics

Well done to Leo Mc Dermot-Carey and Rachel Gallagher who competed in the British Sportshall Athletics finals in Manchester during Easter break. Leo won silver in shot putt and Rachel finished in top 10 in standing long jump.

Our athletic's team started their outdoor track season this week at the Donegal School's Track & Field Championship in Lifford. We had 40 athletes compete in throwing, jumping and running races. The following students won medals

1st place

First Yr Boys 4x100m relay (Leo Mc Dermott Carey, Conor Campbell, Shane Breslin & Sean Boyle)

Second Yr Girls 4x100m relay (Gwenaelle Ni Dhonnabhain, Aisling Moohan, Catherine Campbell, Clodagh Walsh)

Ashling Moohan - High Jump

Shane Breslin - 100m

2nd place

Senior Girls 4x100m relay (Niamh Boyle, Karla Kelly, Keri O'Loughlin & Elaine Wright)

3rd Yr Girls 4x100m relay (Hannah Shallow, Hannah Crawford, Jessica Callaghan & Kitty Mc Nulty)

Gwenaelle Ni Dhonnabhain - High Jump

Niamh Boyle - 800m

Niamh Moohan - 100m

Shane Breslin - Shot Putt

Leo Mc Dermott-Carey - 200m, Shot Putt

Hannah Shallow - 100m

3rd place

Senior Boys 4x100m relay (Conor Gallagher, Daniel Gallagher, Edward Britton & Radoslaw Wymentowski)

Shane Breslin - Javelin

This Friday we will be travelling to the Ulster Schools Districts at the Antrim Forum. Many athletes will have high hopes of a top three finish in their event to qualify for the Ulster Final.

Primary School Track and Field

The Annual South Donegal Primary School Track & Field competition will take place on Friday 12th May. Our TY athletic coaches will be officiating at the event under the guidance of Tírchonáill AC. All primary schools should have received their entry forms and timetable after they registered. Please contact the school or Tírchonáill A.C before Thursday 11th with any queries. This event has attracted large crowds and last year seen over 600 young athletes in attendance.

Active Week

The Healthy Schools Committee have been busy organising Active Week. We will have a wide variety of events on offer to encourage all students and staff to get active this week. They include a rowing event with Donegal Bay Club, Cycle to School day, 5km Fun Run, Mile Challenge, Step it Out Staff & Student Pedometer day, Drop Everything and Walk, Yoga, Self defence, Dance Zumbathon and many more lunch leagues.

Due to a number of exams taking place this week our Annual Sports Day and 6th Years vs Staff Volleyball match will be in two weeks time. Thank you to our PE Dept for organising this week.

DCU Support Visit

We were honored to have our past student Brendan Mc Cole visit us last week along with Michael Kennedy the GAA sports officer for DCU. Michael spoke to our students about the college and the various sports scholarships available to all. Brendan spoke of his experience and about the many courses and college supports that are in place there. We are all extremely proud of Brendan's achievement to date. Within thirteen months of winning the Markey Cup with the AVS Brendan has gone on to captain the DCU freshers team to both league and championship titles. He has won an Ulster U21 Championship with Donegal, made his debut and continues to be part of the Donegal senior team. He was chosen to captain the DCU team which was made up of players from twenty seven counties. He is currently studying Education in DCU. Michael spoke of his excellent leadership qualities and passion for his sport and encouraged all of the students to continue their involvement in sport in life. Michael also complimented our own students on their excellent behaviour and the courteous manner in which they welcomed him to the school.