

AVS Notes 5th May 2017

Student Awards Evening

On Monday, 15th May at 7pm the Abbey Vocational School will be hosting an awards evening to celebrate student academic achievement and involvement in extracurricular activities. We are 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. Their teachers nominated students across a variety of categories earlier in the school year. Students nominated were sent invitations home welcoming the nominee and their parents and guardians to the awards ceremony. Congrats to all our outstanding students!

Leaving Certificate Ecumenical Service

The Leaving Cert Ecumenical Service will take place on Wednesday 24th May at 7pm. The theme for this year's 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 educational careers. The students are invited to a meal prior to the service with all of our staff to celebrate their end of senior cycle.

Dates for your Diary:

Other Dates of Note	
LCA Trip	May 9 th
PA Golf Classic	May 10 th
Annual Awards Ceremony	May 15 th
TASTY Gala Ball	May 16 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 of Note

Date	Subject	Time
Mon 8 th May	LC Art – 2 groups	9.00 to 2.00
Tues 9 th May	LC Engineering	9.00 – 4.15
Wed 10 th May	LC Engineering JC Art	9.00 – 4.15 9.00-12.30
Thurs 11 th May	LC Construction	9.00 – 1.30
Fri 12 th May	LC Construction	9.00 – 1.30

Evening Study

Any student interested in evening study can collect a form from the school office.

Countdown Final

The Countdown final took place this week. There were 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.

Our crowning champions were Laura O' Donnell in 5th year who was the senior winner and David Keaney in 3rd year who was the junior champion. If any students would like to join this Countdown competition you can enroll again next year at the next school term.

IMTA Maths Quiz

Well done to our 3rd year Maths students who participated in the IMTA Annual Pi Quiz in Letterkenny on Friday evening.

Art Exams

Leaving Cert art students sat one part of the practical component of their exam over the course of the last two weeks. The 'History of Appreciation' exam will take place in June where they will examine art work over the years. Junior Cert students sat their drawing exam on Wednesday 3rd May. This consisted of a still life drawing and a figure drawing. Well done to our students on the completion of one component of their exams.

LCA Leisure Trip

LCA classes 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 several spot prizes. The hampers are worth over €50 each and have lots of treats. They will be on display in assembly every day. Tickets on sale at lunchtime. Thank you to Ms Harvey for organising this event.

LCA Bluestack Trip

LCA students travel to the Bluestack Centre once a week and work with a landscape gardener. This is an exciting opportunity for them to improve gardening conditions around the Bluestack and improve fencing.

LCVP Exams

Congratulations to all Leaving Certificate students who completed their Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme this week on Wednesday 3rd May. The written paper which is offered at common level is worth 40%. The majority of students were very happy with the written paper on completing the exam.

Graphic and Construction Studies Task

Leaving Cert students in LCA finalised their task for their Graphic and Construction Task. Students had to construct a small piece of furniture. The projects ranged from chairs to tables with some constructing garden planters. The task is extremely beneficial as it enables students: to become familiar with various drawing systems; to develop a range of graphical skills and to understand the use of a range of materials.

CAO

The CAO reopens for prospective college students for change of mind on May 5th. At the beginning of May, applicants will be able to register a change of course choices online, free of charge. If you change online, and have supplied an e-mail address, an acknowledgement will also be sent to that e-mail address. There is no fee for using the Change of Mind Facility. You may **change** course choices (without fee) as often as you wish, up to 5:15pm on the 1st July.

Metal work Exams

Congratulations to our Junior Cert students who completed their metal work exams this week on Thursday and Friday.

Transition Year:

Face Painting Day

Some of our TY students are currently preparing to take part in a face-painting day in conjunction with Donegal Town Credit Union during the summer.

LYIT

A group of twenty TY students will visit Letterkenny Institute of Technology on Monday 8th May. Students on the day will “discover exciting third level education opportunities at Letterkenny Institute of Technology. They have two thriving campuses in Ireland's North West: Letterkenny and Killybegs. On campus, LYIT have Schools of Business, Engineering, Science and Tourism and provide a wide variety of programmes, with awards right up to Masters and Doctorate level”. On the day students, will attend three lectures from the Schools of Science, Computing and Nursing.

Killybegs Tourism Training Programme

A new TY Tourism Training pilot project was launched on Tuesday 4th April in the LYIT School of Tourism, Killybegs. LYIT’s School of Tourism in Killybegs has developed a four-day training programme for Transition Year students to address some of the industry training needs for TY students. During April and May, the programme is being delivered on a one day per week pilot basis (over four weeks) to two second level schools, Abbey Vocational School, Donegal Town and one from St. Columba’s College, Stranorlar. In total 40 students have been recruited onto the programme, 20 from each school.

The programme will address the issues which were raised by industry and stakeholders by focusing on an introduction to the tourism industry and the tourism product in County Donegal with specific focus on tourism activities along the Wild Atlantic Way. It will also include restaurant service, food hygiene, food handling and customer care within the tourism sector. The programme which is funded by Donegal County Council is being delivered by School of Tourism lecturers and guest speakers from the tourism industry. The programme will conclude with a presentation of Certificates to the TY students and a lunch for 24 invited guests from the hospitality and tourism industry, Donegal County Council, Donegal ETB and both schools on May 8th and 9th.

Portfolio

The TY’s are very busy working on completing their portfolios which is part of their Transition Year course. “Transition Year allows students to become more independent and reflective learners. The Transition Year Portfolio is designed specifically to support this form of learning” (www.4schools.ie). Each student must submit a folder with 2 -3 pieces of work from each subject or area they worked in this year as evidence of their independent learning.

Showcase

Preparation for the showcase is well under way! 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 be fun filled highlighting the TY year

through wonderful speeches, skits, PowerPoints full of memories and an abundance of photos! The showcase takes place in the AVS on Tuesday 23rd May. All TY parents and guardians are welcome as well as Incoming TYs and parents of incoming TY students.

TASTY

Each dish is now officially finalised and the students are preparing for the Gala night. The Gala night will take place on Tuesday May 16th in Solis Lough Eske Hotel seating over 200 guests on the night. Chef Gabriel McSharry along with Dymphna Kennedy 'TASTY' Project Marketing co-ordinator will meet with all Hotels & Restaurants involved with the 'Tasty' Project individually this week to ensure their 'Dish' is meeting all the criteria set out by The Steering Committee. **'Uisce Fische and Quay West Restaurant Donegal'** are still focusing their efforts on getting the correct balance of honey right in their flavorsome salmon dish.

'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. They had a recent interview with Conor Daly a local businessman who is supplying the team with 'Active Irish Honey' which they are using as a sweetener in their dish.

'Lord of the Wings' and The Village Tavern had a great week as they took some wonderful photos with Mullaney Media with mentor Enda O' Rourke, along the beautiful Wild Atlantic Way. It's all about "Donegal Heather Honey" which they group taste tested this week as they are using this in the glaze. The 'Lord of the Wings' even shared some of their #Damntastywings on Slieve League in glorious 20° sunshine; they met nine nationalities over a few hours! **'Mill Park Hotel & Leisure Centre and Tírconnail Toffee'** are cooking up Silkie Toffee Pudding. They had another successful day in the Mill Park Hotel putting the finishing touches to their dish on. This included some toffee test taste trials!

'The Foireann Caonach and the Smugglers Inn are creating an exciting Irish Mist and Carrageen Cheesecake. The team on Tuesday 2nd May and their mentor Mary Crawford went on a walk around Rossnowlagh to take some photos of the tourist attractions there.

'Seaside Bakery Donegal' and Solis Lough Eske Castle are continuing to perfect their Seaweed Bread "TonnAran". They started to make their own butter for their dish using local produce. **'StewStack and Harvey's Point'**. The mentors have had nothing but praise for their team stating that they "are so proud to be part of the Tasty 2017 programme and we would like to say thank you for giving us this opportunity and congratulations to everyone involved".

Sport:

Ireland Under 18's Soccer

Jack Keaney our very own student from the Abbey Vocational journeyed to the UK to Wolverhampton on Friday 21st April for two days. Jack trained with the Irish U18's Soccer team at the Wolves FC training ground. That Saturday evening, he flew out to Bratislava and trained there with the team on Sunday. For the following week on the Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday the team played a total of four games against: Czech Republic, Russia, Turkey and Slovakia. At the end of the competition every player got an FAI cap for his participation. Well done to Jack for his hard work and motivation; we are all very proud of his ongoing efforts. Jack is now continuing to train with Sligo Rovers U19's and Seniors club every week while balancing his Leaving Cert studies. Well done Jack!!

School's Active Week

The PE department have been busy organising Active Week for the Tuesday 2nd until Friday 5th May. We had a wide variety of events on offer to encourage all students and staff to get active this week. They included a rowing event with Donegal Bay Club, Cycle to School day, 5km Fun Run, Mile Challenge, Step it Out Staff and Student Pedometer day, Drop Everything and Walk, Yoga, Self-defence and Dance Zumbathon.

On Tuesday 2nd May year girls got involved in a Unihoc League. In addition, we had our 5k walk/run which left from the Craft Village at 12:30pm that day. Well done to the thirty students who pounded the pavements and sweated it out for the 5k! The boys tackled the pitch at lunch with soccer taking place at lunchtime. Ronan Brady also on Tuesday showed a number of students how to operate the rowing machines for the 'Row Around Ireland' challenge that would take place on the Friday.

Our second years got involved in the 'Drop Everything and Walk' event where they took a scenic walk through Donegal on the Wednesday during the first three classes of the day. A huge well done to all who joined in on the 'Mile Challenge' with the wonderful weather it was a tough task under the hot sun. The third years participated in self-defence on Thursday 4th in their P.E. classes which certainly mixed things up for them!

Finally, on Friday 5th May the second years got involved in the 'Row Around Ireland' challenge on the rowing machines in the assembly area. Well done to all who got in because it was a tough row as they accepted the challenge of rowing from Malin Head to Mizen Head. The results for today's rowathon are as follows: joint fastest girls were: Shona Metcalfe O' Brien and Katie Bell with a time of 2 minutes and 21 seconds. The fastest boys was Conall Smith with a time of 1 minute and 43 seconds which is as fast as the senior men in the rowing club.

The 1st, 3rd and 5th years danced in the beautiful weather on Friday evening as they stepped it out for the Zumbathon; lively music was played on the tennis courts as instructor Bridget Jones, Ms Carr, Ms Regan and Ms O' Mahoney got all of our students moving! Staff and students rocked jerseys on Friday representing a variety of teams and counties. Well done to all who took part in this week's activities for Active Schools Week. A huge thank you to the P.E. Department for organising such a successful Active Week. The PE department would also like to thank all staff for their co – operation and support during the week.

Athletics

Athletes shine in Antrim!!!!

The school team had a successful day at the Ulster E District Track & Field in Antrim on Friday. They competed against schools from Tyrone, Fermanagh and South Donegal. There were a number of outstanding performances seen on the day and large number of students excelled in their events to finish on the podium. The following students won medals and have qualified to represent the school at the Ulster finals in two weeks' time. Well done to all and their coaches. Thank you to Ms Harvey and Mr Clarke for coaching and travelling with the team.

U14 Minors

Leo Mc Dermott-Carey: 1st in shot putt and 2nd in 75m hurdles.

Niamh Moohan: 1st in 75m hurdles, 3rd in 100m and 1st in 4x100m relay.

Rachel Gallagher: 2nd in Minor girls' 75m hurdles and 2nd in long jump, 1st in 4x100m relay.

Savannah Timony: 3rd in 800m

Emma Farren: 1st in 4x100m relay.

Emily Mc Nulty: 1st in 4x100m relay

Junior

Aoife Greene: 3rd in triple jump and 3rd in 4x100m relay.

Aisling Moohan: 3rd 75m hurdles and 3rd in 4x100m relay.

Catherine Campbell: 3rd in 4x100m relay

Gwenaelle Ní Donnabhain: 3rd in 4x100m relay

Shane Breslin: 2nd shot putt

Shane Meehan: 2nd in high jump

Inter

Mia Mc Calmont: 1st in 1500m and 1st in 3000m.

Kitty Mc Nulty: 2nd in 300m hurdles and pole vault

Anna Riebling: 1st in pole vault.

Senior

Radoslaw Wymontowski: 3rd in 200m

Primary Schools Athletics

The final preparations are underway for the South Donegal Primary Schools Track and Field competition taking place at the AVS track this Friday 12th May. The first event of a very busy timetable will kick off at 10.30am. All schools should have received their information pack and are asked to take note of the timetable of events for the day. Please ensure that athletes arrive prepared for their events. This will be an action filled day with young athletes competing in throws, jumps, sprints, middle distance and relay events throughout the day. Organisers are expecting an attendance of over 600 students and hope to have all finished by 1.30pm. Good luck to all involved.