

AVS Notes 7th April 2017

Easter Holidays:

We would like to wish all of our parents, their families, our students and members of the community a very happy and restful Easter holiday break and thank you all for your continued support of our school.

‘The Kube’

Abbey Vocational students present “The Kube” in the Abbey Hotel on Sat 6th May. This is based on the popular TV show and is proven to be a fantastic success. . This is a relatively new fundraising event that has only been held in this area once before. Contestants are faced with challenges to overcome, most of which involve balance, manual dexterity, hand-eye coordination, and spatial awareness. The contestants who can successfully complete each challenge in the quickest time will move one step closer to "beating the Kube”. This event is open to all students and our 50 contestants will be selected after the Easter holidays. This week the promotional video was shown to our 1st, 2nd, 3rd years, TY’s, 5th year and LCA students; it was also played in the assembly area during lunch Thursday and Friday of this week. There will be excellent prizes on offer for the winner and runner – up. All returned sponsorship cards will be included in a draw for prizes also.

For “The Kube” anyone can get involved! We have asked students to return their sponsorship cards immediately after the Easter holidays to their class tutor. We will confirm the names of our 50 contestants that week. This promises to be a fun filled night not to be missed. Check out our twitter feed and school website for more details. Tickets will be available from the school office after Easter. Keep an eye on the Twitter page for more information. Funds raised go towards our extra curricular activities.

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	
Sports Day Option 1	April 25 th
TASTY Gala Ball	April 25 th
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
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

Spanish Club

Club de Espanol takes place every Thursday in room 1 with Ms. McNulty. All first years are welcome to join and get involved in a variety of activities. The club focused on the Easter holidays in Spain to learn about their traditions and how they differ from Ireland.

Book Club

Book club returned this week on Monday 3rd April in the reading room. Students discussed their own books with the group. Focusing on character, themes and why they did or didn't enjoy their text. Book club will return after the Easter break.

Level 2 Day Trip

The students involved in our Level 2 programme went to visit Solis Lough Eske Castle and grounds on Monday 3rd April for their level two day trip. They walked along the picturesque grounds of Lough Eske enjoying the boardwalk and the lake views. In addition, they enjoyed the scenery the garden and grounds had to offer. The students took lots of photos to showcase their day; they took flower, plant and leaf samples for a nature table they are working on in school. After the lengthy walk our students enjoyed a proper afternoon tea by the fireside in the hotel, served by Lough Eske's attentive and welcoming staff. We would like to thank the staff for their welcoming manner and the efforts they went to on the day.

LCVP Mini Company

5th year LCVP classes completed a mini company project in school on Wednesday 5th of April. They made homemade soup and bread "Souper Valu" which was on sale in the Assembly area during lunchtime for €1.50. A few of the student's grandmothers had shared their recipes and assisted them with baking the bread to accompany the soup. On Thursday 6th April, another class sold "Nice Cream" which offered a variety of ice cream and tempting toppings. The mini - companies highlighted the innovative side of our students and illustrated to them the effort and work required to run a successful business.

C.S.P.E Trip

On Friday 7th April a 2nd year class visited Ballyshannon court and the Gardaí station as part of their CSPE project. The students had a very enjoyable day and found this to be a great learning experience.

School Tour Abroad

The highly anticipated School Tour takes place from Monday 10th April until Thursday 13th April. Students involved in the tour will head to Spain and stay in in Barcelona where they will discover the six worlds of one of Europe's most iconic theme parks, Portaventura, in the Costa Dorada, one of Spain's most popular tourist areas; and just one hour from Barcelona! In addition students will have a field day as they get to visit Nou Camp and live through the emotion of entering the field, discover and interact with the history of the museum and trophy areas. We hope our students enjoy some mild and sunny weather on their trip away. When we return from the Easter break we will have a full update on the tour and the activities the students participated; we hope our students have a wonderful trip!

Transition Year:

Disability Awareness Talk

Trevor Alcorn gave TY students a talk and an insight into living a life with a disability. Students participated in games throughout the course of the day which illustrated how certain games can be adjusted for people with disabilities, for example, pairing a visually impaired person with a partner that can help and guide them throughout the activity. Mrs. Regan taught students useful tips and guidelines to follow when helping and playing activities with others with disabilities. Adjustments such as lowering basketball nets and baskets for people with trouble throwing up high and using a bell ball for the visually impaired. She demonstrated to students how visually impaired people can use a rope to run along for athletics so they know the direction they're running in. This was a great experience for our students.

TY Digital literacy: Animation Workshop LYIT

A group of Transition Year students from the school attended a two-day course in the LYIT in Letterkenny. The first day consisted of students designing animations with the help of LYIT college students. They also created 'Stop Animations' which is animation that is captured in one frame at a time, with physical objects that are moved between frames. When you play back the sequence of images rapidly, it creates the illusion of movement. (www.dragonframe.com). The also showed the participants how to produce an animation without needing expensive software or equipment. Everything they produced was through free software such as iMovie or Windows Moviemaker and ordinary digital cameras. The participants, worked in small groups on the day and planned a script and storyboard which they made into a model animation film. Students learnt how to edit and add sound effects, use open source music and record dialogue on the day.

Mock Trials

On Friday 7th April TY students went to Sligo Court house to take part in a Mock Trial competition.. On the morning of the trial, all the schools were informed of their side of the case, and who they were opposing. 5 Marks were awarded for each role (excluding jury)

Our team was up against Abbey Fields college from Limerick. They acted as the defence during the cases. The following students were involved on the day: Aishling Meehan, Odhrán Quinn, Katie Shovlin, Ella Duffy, Jamie Crawford, Ruairí O'Connor, Ciaran McGroary, Justin Metcalfe, Jasmine Kennedy, Luke Sweeney, Aine McGowan, Laura Taylor, Shaun Campbell and Philip Myers.

Well done to all of our students who took part. Well done to Odhrán Quinn who won the prize for the best Barrister for his questioning and presenting and he also came 2nd for best humour. Also well done to Conor Kennedy for coming 3rd in the best artist section. The team came third overall.

Walk

The TY's will be participating in a walk at Slieve League on Wednesday 26th April. Mr. Clarke, Mr. Carty and Ms. Regan will accompany them as part of their environmental studies programme.

Design, Innovation, Creativity and Enterprise Conference

A group of our TY students ventured to LYIT on Thursday 6th April. This is the third consecutive year LYIT has hosted DICE. There was an electric mix of speakers on the day who work in animation, film, fashion, design and graphics who shared their creative thinking on the

day. The conference aimed to inform students about how design influences our communities and environments. The students were introduced to the work of the design department where they were informed about animation, graphics, fashion and advertising. They visited the cartoon saloon, attended a workshop in SFX and animation. It was a very stimulating day and our students really felt they came away with a greater eye and mind for creativity and innovation,

Tourism Project

The LYIT Tourism project commenced on Thursday 6th April. This is a new pilot project, which involves the TYs of AVS Donegal Town and St. Columba's College Stranorlar. This project, funded by Donegal County Council and Donegal Tourism LTD focuses on the areas of Tourism, Hospitality, Food Handling, Customer Care, Restaurant training and Restaurant service!

The programme will be delivered on a one day per week pilot basis (over four weeks) to two second level schools, one from the south of Co. Donegal. The School of Tourism plans to deliver a four-day training programme for Transition Year students. The programme will address the above issues by focusing on the following:

- (a) Introduction to the Tourism Industry
- (b) The tourism product in Co. Donegal (specific focus on regional food, crafts and tourism activities along northern section of the Wild Atlantic Way)
- (c) Restaurant service
- (d) Introduction to food hygiene and food handling
- (e) Customer care

This is another excellent opportunity for all our students involved.

John Paul II Awards

To celebrate the 10th year of the holding of the John Paul II awards a full youth day was held in Knock on Wednesday 5th April. Over 100 students from Donegal took part in the event. TY students involved in the John Paul II awards went on day trip to Knock Shrine. We thank Ms Feeney for organising the trip. When students arrived, they were brought into the main church where they joined in songs and prayer and had a talk from the late Donal Walsh's mother about his inspiring life. This was an inspirational and peaceful day with John Paul Awards students at Knock Shrine.

TASTY Project Update:

'Uisce Fishe' - Quay West

Team Uisce Fishce went on a field trip to Killybegs to get an insight into the fishing industry there. We were met by Noel McGing (owner of the fishing vessel Olgarry) who very kindly organised a detailed tour of the €18,000,000 Pacelli. The owner of the Pacelli, Michael Callaghan, gave a detailed tour of the bridge and spoke about the day to day life of running the vessel. We got a tour of below deck, kitchen dining room and the berths. We also got a tour of the engine room. We were all amazed at the scale of the vessel and how pristine everything was even down to the engine room. He then proceeded to take us to Sean Ward's fishing factory and we saw how the fish would be processed and stored. As we are doing a fish dish it gave us all a huge insight into the industry. Many thanks to Noel and Michael for allowing us this opportunity.

'A Donegal Fusion' - Chandpur

Delighted that our new dish with our Tasty 2017 TY Team is coming together. We are using as our Donegal Products Donegal Reared Chicken, Donegal Sea Salt and Hive

Irish Active Honey, fused with Chandpur's Secret Spices and some surprise ingredients, we think you will love the dish that will be on our Menus shortly. We can tell you the dish will be called Chicken Badami.

Stewstack' - Harveys Point

The students and staff shared ideas and came up with the idea of a beef stout and oyster stew using local suppliers and ingredients. They named it StewStack. On the second visit the team made the dish for the first time and ate oysters to try this experience out. On the 3rd day the team are going to tour the oyster farm and the brewery.

Tirchonail Toffee - The Millpark

The team had a good day out in Sliabh Liag. We had to source duck eggs from another local farmer David Morrow, whom the team will hopefully call to see next week. The team will be in contact with Glencolmcille honey @ donegal bees.ie, Thomas Ellis, sourcing a different type of honey.

'Foireann Caonach' - Smuggler Creek Inn

We are making our own homemade butterscotch! First we boiled water and sugar until it turned into a rich golden brown colour. Then we took it off the heat and added their homemade salt and cream.

'Seaside Bakery Donegal' - Solis Lough Eske

The students visited Le Fournil Bakery yesterday with the Executive Chef. They went through a variety of methods for baking bread. They also learned about proving bread. The students will be in the kitchen here at Lough Eske Castle on Wednesday 19th April to make their own bread and they will be using all the knowledge and skills they learned during their visit to Le Fournil.

'Lord of the Wings' - The Village Tavern

Team are working on promotional video footage for their campaign and getting as many people as possible to do their 'birdie' song.

Sports:

Active Schools

The Active Schools committee members are busy preparing for Active Week from 1st-5th May.

There will be a number of interclass and lunchtime events hosted throughout the week in conjunction with many of the local sports clubs. Our Annual Sports Day will take place and our 'Couch To 5k' runners will complete their 5km race during Active Week. All students and staff are encouraged to get involved.

Primary School Athletics

The annual primary school's track and field competition will take place in the AVS in May. Last year over 600 people competed in the event; any primary school that has not yet entered can contact the school or any member in Tirchonail A.C.

U13's G.A.A.

The U13 Gaelic team played in the Ulster semi – final on Friday 7th April playing Omagh Sacred Heart school. They had hard luck on the day but did very well to reach this stage of the competition.

LCA Leisure Studies

LCA's have just completed a 5-week course in snooker at Donegal Snooker Club. This was part of their leisure studies module. Thank you to Oran O' Donnell and the committee of the club for accommodating this activity. The class are now preparing for their outdoor pursuits trip to Letterkenny Adventure Centre after Easter break.

Sports Day

The PE department classes are busy preparing for our annual sports day, which will take place in May. All students will be competing in inter-class competitions throughout the day. The events include soccer, basketball, uni-hoc, high jump, long jump, shot putt, 100m sprint, team relays, tug o war, and novelty events.

Athletics

The first event on the school's outdoor track & field calendar will be the Donegal School's Championships on Thursday 27th April. We will have a large team of 50 students travelling to this event, with many 1st years making their debut at athletics.

Well done to Niamh Moohan, Rachel Gallagher, Shane Breslin, Leo Mc Dermott-Carey and Mia Mc Calmont on winning medals at the All Ireland Indoor Track & Field finals in Athlone last weekend. This will give them great confidence going into the outdoor season.

Training continues every Tuesday after school and Thursday at lunchtime.

Couch to 5k

Well done to our couch to 5k groups who are still training on Monday and Thursdays at lunchtime. They will have their final 5km race on Tuesday 2nd May as part of Active week.