

CLOGHER ROAD Community College

Summer 2021



As we start to feel the summer approaching and society starts to open up again, it is natural to take time to reflect on the year and to acknowledge what a difficult and challenging time we have been through. When I consider the year it has been I am filled with both pride and awe at how our school community - students, staff and families responded to the situation. It was a year that required us all to work together, to be innovative in how we approached our work and study and to rise to the challenge of keeping our expectations and care high. As this newsletter highlights, even though we were limited in what we could do, it is fantastic to see the amount of activities that did take place. The newsletter offers just a snapshot of life at Clogher Road Community College. It is with great excitement and hope that I look forward to next year and what opportunities lie ahead for our students as society starts to return to normal. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff for their dedication and care for the students, all of our students for being their wonderful selves and keeping us all going and finally to all of families that are linked to us - a huge thank you for supporting us and our students. I wish you all a happy and relaxing summer and look forward to welcoming you back for another great year in Clogher Road Community College.

Lesley Byrne, Principal

Reports from

Clogher Road CC Cook-A-Long

The Cook-A-Long in my opinion was very good; it was well planned out and gave me something to do on a Wednesday afternoon. If you wanted to, you could have gone to the home economics room where we did the dish with Sinead and after got a box with the ingredients to make it at home. I really enjoyed making the recipes at home and would do the Cook-A-Long again. 5 stars, totally recommend.

Lia Molloy

Climate Action Week

It was a very congested week in December, and we were encouraging people to partake in a Climate Action Week. One of the ways we did this was by asking all year groups to walk or cycle to school to reduce emissions, and the year group that did the most would be rewarded a prize. At the end of this week, a member of the Green Party by the name of Patrick Costello came to the school, and we staged a miniature exhibition for him and his companion on how we acted as a school during Climate Action Week and showed him around all of the wonderful nature areas within our school grounds, and he was very impressed.

Adam Hamilton

Big Brother, Big Sister

Big Brother, Big Sister was a small group of fourth years and first years. Each first year had a fourth year partner and could ask/talk to them about any worries or trouble they're having in school or at home. They would meet in Room 18 (Mr Grant's room) on a Thursday at lunchtime (12 to 12:30).

Lisa McGrath

Educate Burkina Faso

We decided to raise money for our event task for Burkina Faso. My class got tighter to make this happen; we made a plan and got everything ready 17th December. We went out to the classes and told them we are raising money for charity for Burkina Faso. It was great fun; we had a great time and so did our customers. We sold key-rings, cheese, mergus (Algerian sausages) and banania, which is French choco milk.

Chaoib Bouterfas



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College Awareness Week TikTok Challenge

For College Awareness Week, Anne got Amy and I to teach the first, second and third years a TikTok dance we saw on TikTok, but Amy and I put our own twist on the dance. This was a competition. Anyone could do this; all you had to do was learn the dance and record it. The video that got the most likes won. The prize was you won money for yourself or your school. We taught the students and recorded the dance. Our video was in the lead for so long, but sadly we didn't win the overall prize however we were delighted to win best collaboration.

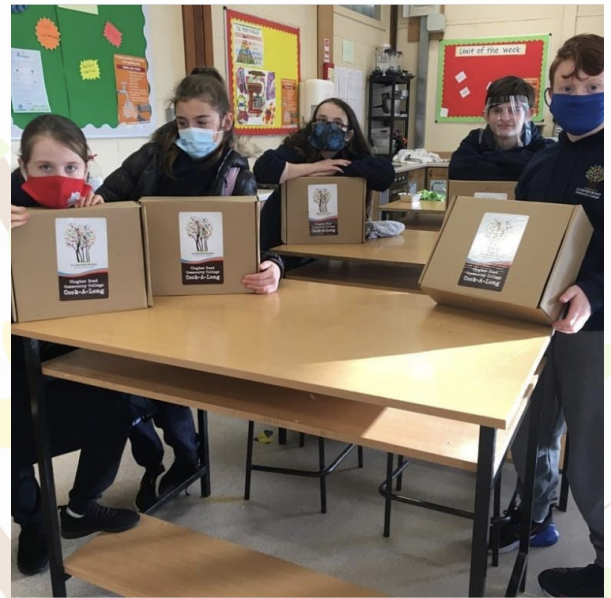
Katie McKeever

Clogher Road CC Cook-A-Long

I started doing the baking club in first year, and I will say that it definitely helped me ease into the school. We would finish our last class on a Wednesday and then head to the Home Ec room to start baking.

When Covid 19 begun, I thought I would never see the baking club again, but I was surprised when it was back on and even better. We were given our own cookbook to keep and a box with all the ingredients to make a certain dish. It was very handy. Even when we went into lockdown and stayed at home we were still sent boxes with ingredients.

Gabriel Alzoubi



Big Brother, Big Sister

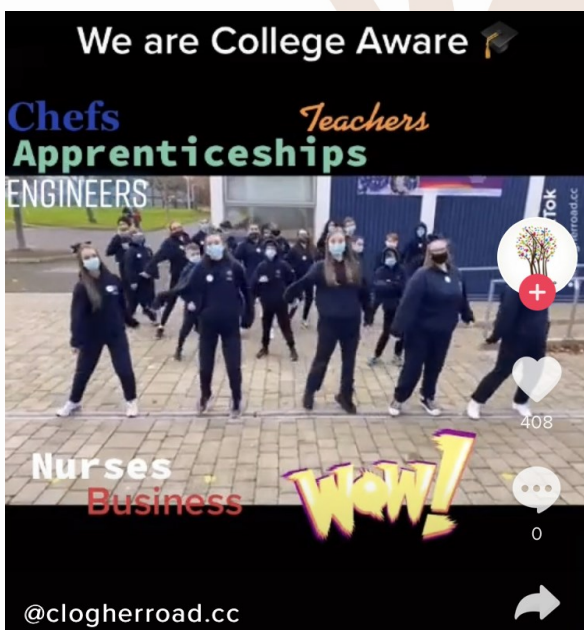
For the Big Brother, Big Sister program, we were each assigned a first year to help through with anything they needed. We got to know our first years' hobbies, favourite subjects, skills, etc. We played games with them every Thursday as a way of bonding with them. Covid meant that we couldn't do all the activities we had hoped but it was a great experience

Niamh Devlin

Writing 'Clogher Bells'

Writing song lyrics was a new experience for me, but I decided that I would give it a go. It took me about 4 hours over 2 days so it did not take me long at all. I wanted to add some funny lyrics about the teachers and that was all I knew I wanted to write. It felt weird to hear and sing my lyrics and have it recorded. It felt really cool at the same time as well. Musical instruments were added in to make it feel full. Thank you to everyone who helped to change the lyrics and also sing and play it on an instrument.

Liam Davis



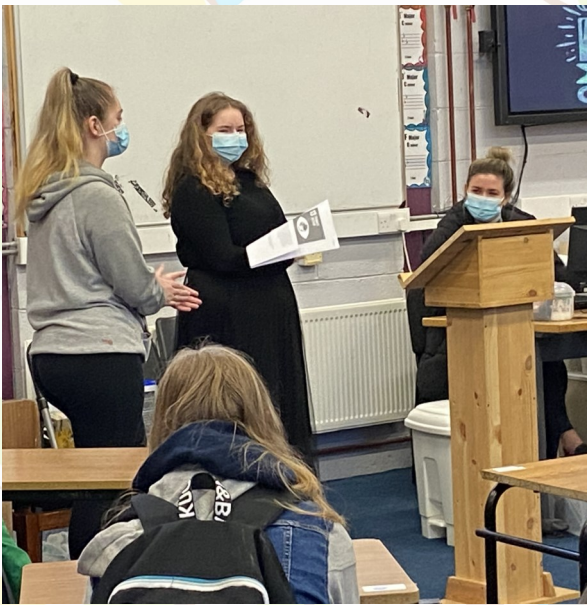
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Learning in Lockdown

What I thought about online school: I found it very difficult because I had to do loads of work by myself with no help from a teacher. What I found easy enough was the quizzes; all you would have to do is press an answer. I found the work on the phone easier to do than in the copy. And the online schedule was hard to cope with because I had classes throughout the day and it didn't really suit me. It's hard to learn at home because there is always something happening and I couldn't focus throughout the whole thing. It's easier being in school because you don't get distracted as much.

Conor O'Rourke



Sustainable Development Goals Mural

As part of Ethical Education, our teacher introduced us to the sustainable development goals. She asked us to reflect on how we would educate the whole school about these goals. We decided that the first thing we needed to do was create a mural showing people what the goals are. We felt that the windows in the lobby of our school would be the best place to put it as everyone visiting our school can see it and so can all the teachers and students that pass by daily. Our plan is to complete case studies on the goals and develop our mural. We will join the case study, the goal and the country it's taking place in together with string and change or add to them each term.

Caithlin Balfé



Letter from the Tánaiste

I absolutely love football and was really upset when I came back to school and realised that we wouldn't be allowed to play it in PE anymore. I decided to use my voice and write to Leo Varadkar to see if there really was a valid reason why we couldn't play. If I'm honest, I didn't expect him to get back to me, but he did!

I felt really special when I received the letter and he explained to me that there was no way we could play football during COVID because the cases were too high, which was fair enough.

Dylan Redmond



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Climate Action Week

For term one and term two, we studied Global Goal 13: Climate Action in Ethical Education. During this, we learned why biodiversity is important, why litter is detrimental to climate change and how the earth's temperatures are rising rapidly because of the amount of energy we use. The sustainability group took over assemblies to educate each year group about these issues and outline what we were going to do for the week.

We reflected on this and decided to run a Climate Action Week to lessen the impact that we were having on the climate. We made bird feeders from plastic bottles, we created a biodiversity area where we threw bee bombs, each class did one hour of litter picking around our campus and the community per day and each class did a zero power hour to combat the large amount of energy we use daily. At the end of the week, we invited Green Party TD Simon Costello in to see what we had done, which was a great end to the week.

Liam Davis



Aquaponics and Horticulture

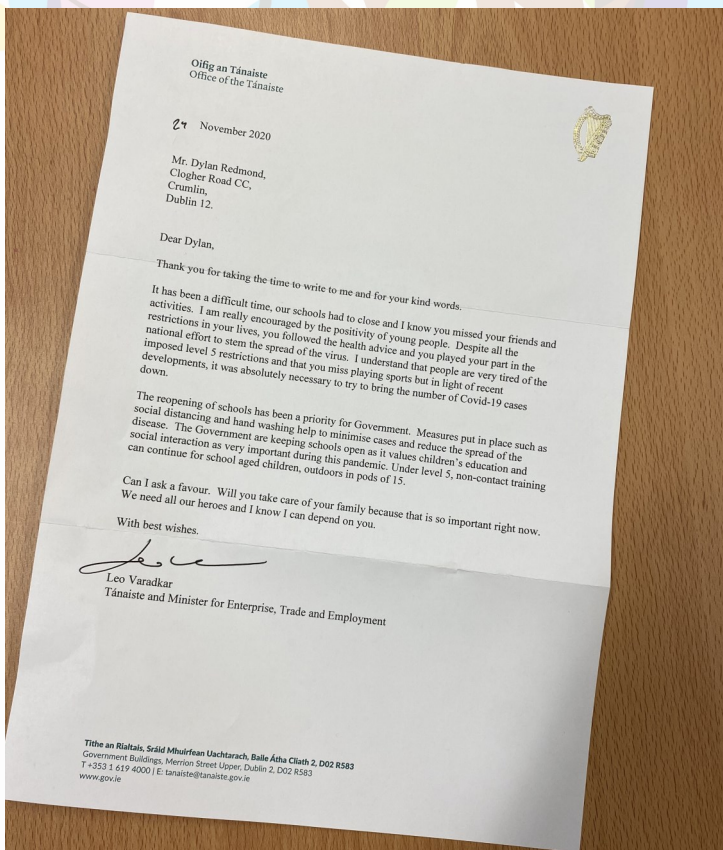
The aquaponics unit that is located in the front lobby was installed in January of 2020. Its first full year in the school has seen many ups and downs that have provided many valuable learning experiences.

We were first faced with the slight issue of having an overly aggressive male tilapia fish who chased and terrorised the smaller ones. The solution to this issue was to add more fish, which in turn helped to stop the aggression, while it also added some beautiful colour and diversity to the tank with the new additions of Japanese Koi fish and a Rusty Pleco.

Sadly, the lockdowns made it difficult to manage the daily environment within the tank, as it can be delicate a balance of keeping both the temperature and water levels within the right range. We lost our pleco and some of our koi fish.

However, all hope is not lost, as we did have a plentiful harvest of pok choi, which was grown by our sixth year horticulture class and some delicious rainbow radishes that were grown by our second year gardening class. We have also promised a restock of fish to fill the tank in the new school year.

Fran O'Reilly



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Easter Camp



I am in 6th in the Marist Primary School. Next year I will be in first year in Clogher Road CC. This Easter I took part in the Easter Camp with Sinéad. The theme of the camp was 'fake-aways', where I learned how to cook my favourite takeaways, like Spice Bag, KFC and McDonald's Big Mac! I think our version on the Easter Camp was way nicer than the real thing! We also learnt how to bake all things chocolate-it was Easter after all. Yummy cupcakes, brownies, rocky roads and,

of course, a show stopper Easter cake.

I had a lot of fun. I experienced being around a secondary school which is so different to my primary school. After taking part in the Easter Camp, I'm looking forward to Home Economics class next year as well as Sinéad's Baking Club. I'm glad I'm going to Clogher Road CC next year and I can't wait to start. Taking part in the Easter Camp there helped me see what secondary school will be like.

I can't wait to for the July Summer Camp in Clogher Road CC for more learning fun in the sun.

Rua

Green Schools

For the first year as a school, we are implementing a Green School programme in the hope of gaining our Green Flag. Green-Schools is Ireland's leading environmental management and education programme for schools.

Promoting long-term, whole-school action for the environment Green-Schools is a student-led programme with involvement from the wider community. The programme is operated and coordinated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce.

Our first years have excitedly taken on the task of setting up the Green Schools committee and have come up with a few tasks to complete in the new school year. These tasks include:

- Carry out a waste survey.
- Create a notice board and posters to let the school know about our Green Schools campaign.
- Use a 'fact or image of the week' system to get other pupils thinking about the environment.
- Evaluate the recycling system and improve the system.
- Create signage about water wastage and dripping taps.
- Encourage an action e.g. re-useable water bottles instead of plastic.
- Use social media to get our message across



Paddy Gallagher

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Learning takes places in lots of places and in lots of ways in Clogher Road CC.

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Guidance at Clogher Road



Although Covid-19 curtailed many of our usual guidance activities and events we had a very busy and productive year. Our fifth and sixth year students participated in the Future You mentoring programme with UCD. The series of workshops runs throughout the year and supports students who aspire to go onto third-level study. Unfortunately, we were unable to visit UCD and participate in their residential Summer course but we still managed to gain lots of valua-



This year we partnered with Trinity Access Programme whose community mentors ran a series of workshops with our Transition Year students. Our mentors were students from Marino Institute of Education who live in the local community. They shared

their own college experience to help our TY students build their awareness of college courses, how to apply, and the benefits of a college education.

In November, we organised a very successful College Awareness week. We attended webinars and zoom workshops with Maynooth University, UCD and Trinity College. We also won a National prize in the College Aware-



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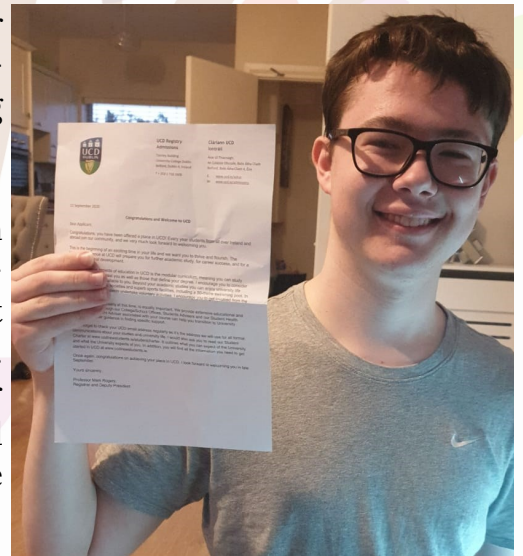
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Throughout the year, students were supported with their College, PLC and Apprenticeship applications. We hosted Career Guidance talks for parents of our transition year and sixth year students. Sixth Year students attended Virtual Open Days organised by CDETBC colleges including Pearse, Crumlin, Inchicore and Ballyfermot College.

We are delighted to see students accepting their offers on Post Leaving Cert Courses and pursuing studies in Engineering, Art, Nursing, Beauty and Business. It is also great to see students apply for University degree programmes. We have students hoping to study Engineering, Computer Science, Zoology and Arts in UCD, Trinity, TU and Maynooth. We wish them every success in their future endeavours.



Jordan King from the class of 2020 is studying Computer Science in UCD. Jordan was also awarded a scholarship from UCD and has returned to Clogher Road as a UCD Future You mentor to our fifth years.

Caitlin Burke also from our class of 2020 is just finishing her first year in Maynooth University studying for an Arts degree.

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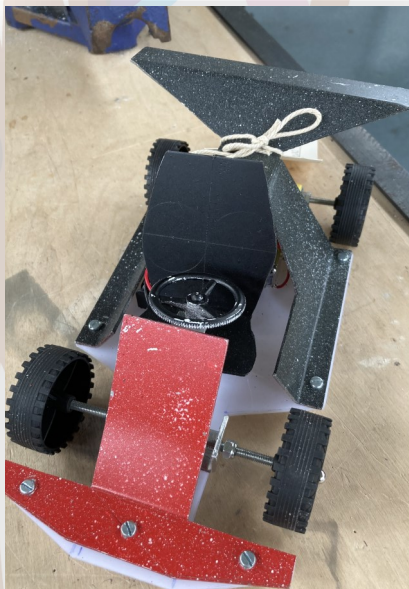
Student Artwork



Yubo Wang



Clarke Manalo



Luke Gantley



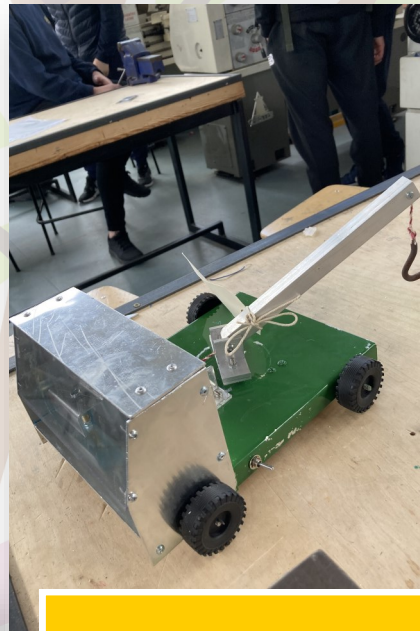
Ellie McCarthy

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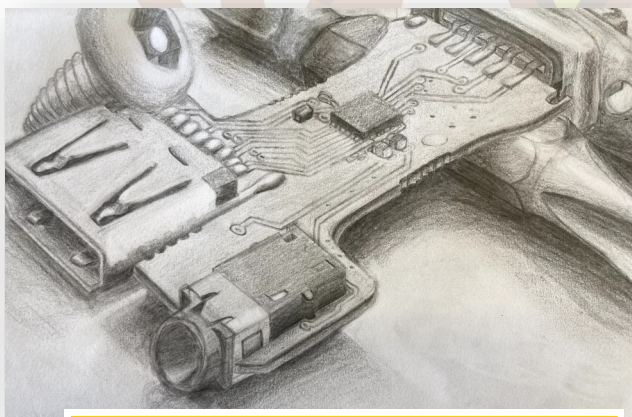
and Projects



Brooke
O'Connor



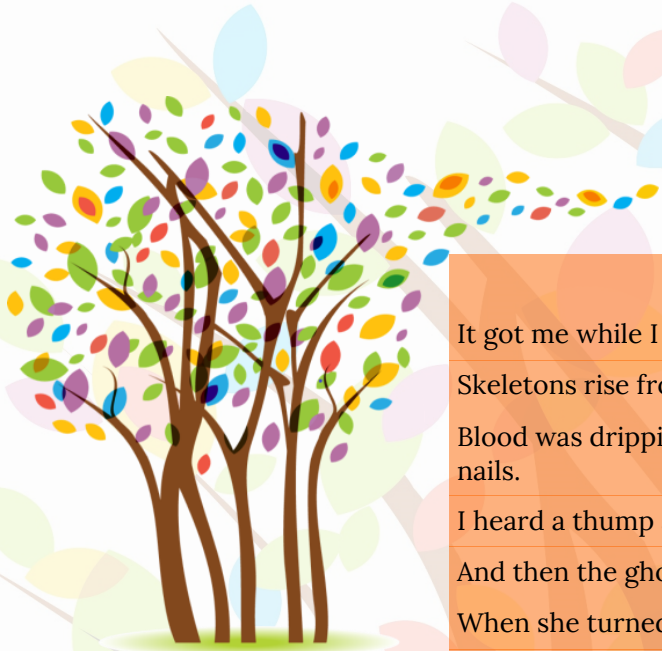
Blaine O'Reilly



Stephen Komolafe

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Creative



Spooky Six Word Stories

It got me while I screamed!	<i>Ella Byrne</i>
Skeletons rise from the grave tonight.	<i>Liam Davis</i>
Blood was dripping through her finger-nails.	<i>Amelia Jasieniewicz</i>
I heard a thump above me.	<i>Owen O'Toole</i>
And then the ghost kissed him.	<i>Kaydyn Walsh</i>
When she turned around she saw...	<i>Fyodor Strigoun</i>
You will never be alone again.	<i>Martyna Kita</i>
I once ran out of cheese.	<i>Caithlin Balfe</i>
I did not have toilet paper.	<i>Robert Fagan</i>

"We Write What We Like" Author-in-Residence Program

The wisdom of the trees humbles me.
They have amassed more knowledge than any man,
living at times the life of ten with no input.
History has acted around them, yet
they cannot control when their story ends.
They have the power to shape worlds
but not to maintain them.
I can hear their whispers, jolts of energy and sound so quiet,
but the knowledge is deafening.
It is rare for me to understand a word
but I know there's meaning.
Maybe my place is not to decipher what it is
but instead to spread the word that it is.

Cathal Moloney

SCC Songwriter-in-Residence Program

My emotions get the best of me
And I don't know why you can't see
I'm about to Fall apart
From the pain that's in my heart
And I hold the dice tight in my hand
There's so much pain that I can't stand
And I'm about to fall apart
From the pain that's in my heart

Do you really need to salt the wound
I'm all alone and feel marooned

I never own up to what I've done

We've made stupid choices in the name of fun
You used to be my shining sun
And I thought you were the one
And I thought you were the one

Was the hand they dealt us really fair?
Were we ever truly the perfect pair?
The dice were loaded from the start
I took the chance and bet my heart.
We played the game, we had our time
And then it led to our demise
You cheated all the same

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Writing



Clogher Bells

Heading off to school
With a schoolbag on my back
Walking up the road
Wanting to go back
Singing cheese like this
Wrecks me bleedin' head
Oh! What I would not give now
To go back to my bed

Dashing through the halls
Our coats and bags are flying
Rushing into class
Cleaning desks and sighing
Learning all the spellings,
Learning all things new
Listening to the teachers
While singing Lockdown Blues

Clogher Road, Clogher Road
During Covid Hell
How we're going to get through this
I simply cannot tell
Clogher Road, Clogher Road
Showing that we care
Even though we can't see you
In spirit we are there!

Clogher Road, Clogher Road
During Covid Hell
How we're going to get through this
I simply cannot tell
Clogher Road, Clogher Road
Showing that we care
Even though we can't see you
In spirit we are there!

"We Write What We Like" Author-in-Residence Program

Valentines of pink and red,
Special words of kindness said, small surprises, funny jokes,
Paper hearts and friendly notes.

The best part of this happy day,
Is that I get the chance to say,
Today and for the whole year too,
I'm glad I have a friend like you!

And happy Valentine's Day!

Jasmine Smith

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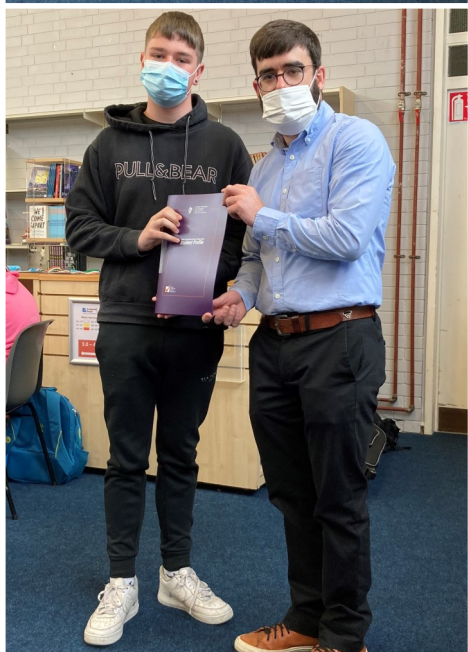


JCSP Demonstration Library Project

JCSP

On the last day of term, our JCSP Coordinator Fran O'Reilly ran the annual Summer Celebration in the Lynott Library. Every student in first, second and third year received a personalised certificate in recognition of the unique contribution every student makes to Clogher Road CC. There were also awards from the Year Heads and Tutors of each class. The brass band performed "Don't Stop Believin'" once more (Eimear's arrangement was debuted at the sixth year graduation) to rapturous applause! It's been a year to remember in lots of ways, and it's important to end on a positive note.

Neil Kettles, JCSP Librarian



CLOGHER ROAD Community College

Summer Celebration



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Nurture Group

Here in Clogher Road Community College, we have a small group of six students who participate in the Nurture Group for two terms a year. This is a new initiative in our school; however, the results are already evident despite our short time in the building this year. The students participate in this group three times a week but stay a part of their base class to practice the skills they have developed through the Nurture Group. Some of the skills we have practiced this term include:

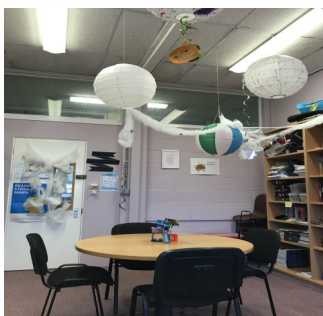
- Making good choices;
- Staying on task;
- Following instructions.



We've also channelled these skills in creative ways through gardening, arts and crafts and cooking. Students also focus on literacy and numeracy targets in this class, and we read the novel "I Am Malala" this term. The students have really engaged well and we often hear that the nurture group is one of their favourite classes of the week, which is wonderful to hear after such a tough year.



In order to create a nurture room in our school, we needed a space that was both welcoming and academic. We created an attractive yet structured environment where the students can feel safe and supported. We used lots of colour, some bean bags and the all important snack bowl! The children were carefully selected using the Boxall Profile, which is a holistic profile which focuses on both academic and social targets for each student. We then provided a variety of experiences, opportunities, approaches and resources to address these needs within a culture of trust, understanding and knowledge incorporating the six principles of nurture.



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