



## **Blackwater Community School**

### **Christmas Newsletter 2023**

*Dear Parent/Guardian*

*A thuismitheoirí dhíl,*

*I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year. This newsletter affords me the opportunity to update you regarding some of the recent happenings at our school. We have been extremely busy in the run up to Christmas. Please remember to make contact whenever you feel necessary to follow up on your son's/daughter's progress at our school.*

*Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh uilig*

*Mise le meas,*

*Donnchadh Uas O'Rinn*

*Priomhoide*



#### **BCS Self Evaluation**

We recently had a Whole School Evaluation (WSE-MLL). This focused on Leadership & Management, Teaching & Learning and Student Well Being. The process was completed over 2 weeks with Staff, Students and Parents surveyed. Classes were observed and staff and students were interviewed. Sincere thanks to everyone involved including Staff, Students, Parents' Council, Board of Management and Trustees. We are delighted to report that the verbal feedback was extremely positive and will be published in the New Year on the Department of Education website.

#### **Choir**

Our school choir practices weekly and are preparing for upcoming Choral opportunities after Christmas. Already they have performed this year at our Open Night, Awards Night, at Santa at the Stand and a variety of school related ceremonies under the instruction of Ms. Fiona Tobin & Ms. Claire Lane.



### **Subject & Themed Weeks**

Since September subject departments and focus groups have organised a variety of activities for students, which were extremely positive for the BCS community. These have included Wellbeing Week, Stand Up Awareness week, Science Week, Careers Week, DCG week and History week in recent months. Thank you to all students and staff involved, we look forward to the continuity of such weeks in the New Year.

### **School Development Planning**

All subject plans have had their Annual Review. The Principal presented an Annual Report for the Parents' Council, Board of Management, Trustees and Inspectorate. Recent Policies reviewed and adopted included- Homework, Dignity in the Workplace, Critical Incident Plans, Health and Safety, Child Protection Statement & Policy, Risk Assessments for all Subjects, School Self Evaluation Plan, School Improvement Plan, School Vision, Anti Bullying Statement & Policy, Smart Device Wellbeing Policy, Admission policy, LCA Policy, LCVP Policy, TY Policy, Literacy Policy and AEN & Whole School Inclusion Policy. We will be prioritising the Substance Use Policy next term.

### **Parent/Teacher Meetings**

6<sup>th</sup> Year, 3rd Year and TY Parent Teacher meetings have now taken place. Thank you to parents, students & staff for providing valuable feedback in recent weeks.

### **School Phone App**

All parents are urged to contact the school if they are experiencing any difficulties engaging fully with the phone app system and thank you to all for your continued support of its implementation.

### **Health & Safety**

Frequent H & S meetings take place between the Principal and the Safety rep. Mr Colm Perrott. All the fire extinguishers have been either repaired or replaced. We have had 2 fire drills since September.

### **Christmas Examinations**

Thanks to Mrs Síle Heneghan who prepared the schedule for the Christmas Examinations.

### **Student Voice**

The Student Voice Committee organised a collection of non-perishable food items to donate to the local St Vincent de Paul. They held a Christmas Jumper Day On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of December. Thanks to everyone's support with this initiative. The committee continue to meet Weekly to organise events.



### **Green Schools**

The Green Schools Committee continue to meet regularly for discussions and to organise events. On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> of November. 20 Green school students did a Walk Ability Survey. This was part of the Environmental Survey for our travel Green Flag. The committee continue their excellent work at reducing the number of plastic bottles used within BCS by increased use of water stations, reducing the amount of paper being used and separating rubbish for effective recycling.



### **BT Young Scientist Exhibition 2024**

Four Students from BCS have been accepted to compete in the BT Young Scientist in January 2024. 2<sup>nd</sup> Year students Saoirse Duffy, Kate Fletcher O'Connor and Shauna Deery. 5<sup>th</sup> Year student Conor O'Brien. This is a fantastic achievement and we would like to wish them the very best of luck in the competition.



### **Open Night**

We had a very successful Open Night on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> of October for incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Years for the 2024/2025 Academic Year

### **Awards Night**

Our Awards Night took place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of December. It was a fantastic evening to celebrate the achievements of our students here at BCS.

**Badminton:** Well done to our Badminton teams who have qualified for the Munster Finals in UL on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **French Exchange:**

**Our Partner School is Lycée St. Martin**

This school is a semi-private school of approx. 1500 students located in the heart of Rennes City in Brittany. We welcomed our French Exchange students from Lycée St Martin to Blackwater Community School on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of November until Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of November. They enjoyed various activities and day trips during their time at our school.

**Whole School Mass:** Our School Mass took place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of December in St Carthage's Church, Lismore.

**Lidl Campaign:** Thank you to all parents and staff who supported our campaign to win new LIDL Ladies Football jerseys for BCS. We were delighted to have been successful at winning a new set of jerseys which we will receive later in the school year.

### **U17 Hurling**

Congratulations to our U17 Hurling team on their victory over Kinsale Community School in the U17 B Munster Final on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Of December. Thanks to Fintan O Connor and Maurice Geary for all their work with the team. Thanks to the Parents and Guardians who travelled to Páirc Uí Chaoimh on the day to support the team.



### **Scifest4Stem**

Well Done and Congratulations to Cathal Barry (3<sup>rd</sup> Year) who won an Excellence in STEM Award at the Scifest4Stem Final 2023 at the Marino Institute of Education with his project “The effects of media propaganda on young people in Ireland”

### **Colour Run Charity Fundraiser**

Thank you to all who supported our Colour Run Charity Fundraiser. The students nominated charities to which your contributions would be allocated this year. Your support is much appreciated. Your support has allowed us to send financial contributions to each of the following organisations: Rory’s Miles 2 Mayo Cancer Fund for Children, Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, Mary’s Meals Ireland, Ronald McDonald House, Solas Centre Dungarvan, Jack & Jill Foundation, St John’s Ambulance, Walsh Family Fundraising Killeagh, Pieta House and the Gavin Glynn Foundation c/o the Kenny Family.

### **Retreats**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Year Group went on their class retreat on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> of November.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Year Group went on their class retreat on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of November.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Year Options Night**

Our 5<sup>th</sup> year option night took place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of December.

### **Parents’ Council**

Thanks to our Parents’ Council for organising a Christmas Raffle as a fundraiser for our school. Thanks to the Parents’ Council for all their hard work during our school inspection.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Year LCA Christmas Day**

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Year LCA students had their Christmas Day on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of December, they enjoyed a fun day making Gingerbread Houses, Lunch at Fulllers Bistro and watching a Christmas Movie.

### **St Vincent De Paul Breakfast**

Well done to Social & Scientific students and their teachers who prepared a wonderful staff breakfast on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of December with all proceeds going to charity.



## **BCS Programmes**

### **Transition Year (TY)**

Our TY Students have had a recent work experience week which was extremely beneficial.

### **Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)**

Our LCA students continue to have their work experience every Friday.

### **Cairde**

Our Cairde have been very helpful with the current 1<sup>st</sup> Year students and support them with fun activities and routinely in the morning at their social and locker areas.

### **ACCS Business**

The ACCS Inservice for Principals and Deputy Principals took place on 30<sup>th</sup> November & 1<sup>st</sup> December. We have staff involved in the ACCS Middle Leadership Training Project.

### **School Re-Opening**

School re- opens on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of January after the Christmas Break

### **Pre Exams**

Our Pre examinations will commence on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Year Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal**

Thanks to all who contributed to the Hope Shoebox Appeal this year.





**Parents please note:**

*Class time is of utmost importance and we would appreciate if at all possible that students would bring all their belongings with them each day to avoid unnecessary disruption to class.*

*If a parent needs to collect a student during the school day please ensure to complete all steps involved, which involve submitting an online explanation note and physically being present to collect your son/daughter from the school office, we also request that you know what class/teacher your child has at that particular time as intercom system will only be used for morning & afternoon announcements. Your full cooperation with this procedure is greatly appreciated.*

***Also, please note that if a student is late for Tutor meeting at 8.40am when roll is taken, they must ensure that they sign in at the main office as they will otherwise be marked absent.***

***Key dates for the remainder of the academic year are available on our school website.***

***I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help & support during the year.***

**Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh uilig!**

**Щасливого нового року**

**WESOLYCH SWIAT I SZCZESLIWEGO NOWEGO ROKU**

**Su sventom kaledom it naujais metais**

**Frahe Weihnachten und ein gutes neues Jahr.**

**Bonne Année**

***Donnchadh Uas Ó Rinn (Príomh Oide) Denis Ring (Principal)***

