

Presentation Wexford Newsletter

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Our Best, Always

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April 2021 Newsletter

Outdoor Classroom 'Open' as we Enter Final Term

The clocks have moved forward, the sun is a more regular visitor and we're hoping to avail of the great outdoors at Presentation, Wexford as our new outdoor classroom space is now available for use.

The forum style space has already seen plenty of use in recent days and with the good weather set to continue as we move through Spring, Mr Ryan, Principal, is looking forward to seeing more classes take advantage of the new amenity.

"We're delighted with our new outdoor classroom space. It's another area for our students to avail of and particularly for this term where hopefully the weather will continue to improve. In the current climate of Covid-19 it's a fantastic option to have but also a space that can be utilised long into the future."

As well as the forum, the campus has seen a number of new benches and tables installed for our student body to take advantage of and enjoy.

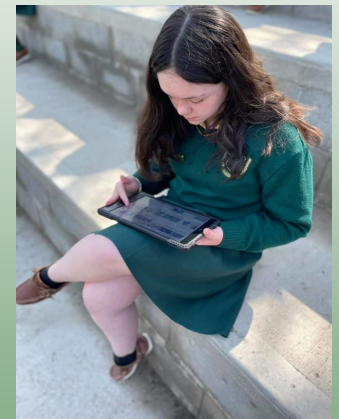


April Edition

Thank you for taking the time to catch up with the latest news at Presentation, Wexford as we return after Easter. We are delighted to welcome back our entire student body to our campus. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students a safe return to school, and particular well wishes to our Leaving Certificate class of 2021 for their final term as Presentation students.



*Further progress has been made on our **new school building** this term. We're looking forward to welcoming classes to the new wing for the start of the new academic year.*



*1st Year student Ella Dempsey enjoying the new outdoor space during a recent **Reading for Pleasure** class.*

Principal's

Address



As we enter the final term post Easter, our focus here in the school is on supporting our 6th year students who are preparing for the State Examinations, building on the learning experiences so far this year, preparing for end of year awards ceremonies, graduations and celebrations of achievement. Our focus also turns to welcoming back all of our other year groups to the school.

Our 6th years are now busy preparing for their Orals, practical's & completion of coursework. I sincerely thank our teachers who will be assisting with these examinations and practicals. We wish them all every success.

It has been wonderful to have our 5th & 6th years back in the building and our dedicated staff. It has been a juggling act for our staff mixing in school learning with On-line Learning for all other year groups. Engagement of students online has been excellent but we look forward to seeing them in person after the Easter holidays.

I would like to compliment our students, staff and indeed parents on the fantastic dedication & commitment that has gone on every day for the past few months both in our school and online. Online Learning in our school has been done so well, but it is not the same as having the students physically in the building.

The final term shall be busy with assignments, assessments, end of year celebrations, CBAs, graduations, awards, summer exams and reports – we certainly have lots to keep us busy!

Finally, a massive thank you to the whole school community for the vast amounts of commitment, understanding & goodwill that has been shown to all of us over the last few months. It has not been an easy few months but working together, we have made it this far.

I ask you all, Parents/Guardians/ students to work with us to encourage everyone to follow all guidelines set out by NPHET not only in school but outside school as well. We all have a responsibility to follow all HSE advice, protocols and exercise caution, calm and consistent messaging. We have a duty of care to all in our school and those outside of our community.

Everyone has responsibility together; we are all in this together and need your support to encourage all of our students to follow the guidelines.

Wishing all our school community a healthy and happy final term.

William Ryan

Sadness at Sr Margaret's Passing

It was with great sadness that the Presentation Community learned of the death of former Principal Sr Margaret (Patrick) Sullivan in February. Sr Margaret passed away peacefully at Kerlogue nursing home at the age of 95.

There was an outpouring of gratitude from the wider Wexford community, many of whom were taught by Sr Margaret in her many years as part of the Presentation Community. Prior to her appointment as Principal, the popular Irish teacher, among many other subjects, had been appointed as an inter-diocesan officer for Apostolic Religious Life as the Presentation

Congregation moved into union in 1972.

Sr Imelda Wickham spoke of the many years of service and memories provided by Sr Margaret in her various roles at her funeral. In line with public health guidelines, the current staff of Presentation Secondary School provided a guard of honour as Sr Margaret was laid to rest in the Presentation Convent cemetery.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.



(Left) Sr Margaret, pictured at our Bicenentary Celebrations in 2018, with Sr Madeleine Ryan (Chairperson Board Of Management) & Sr Grace Redmond. (Right) Sr Margaret was also a keen photographer.

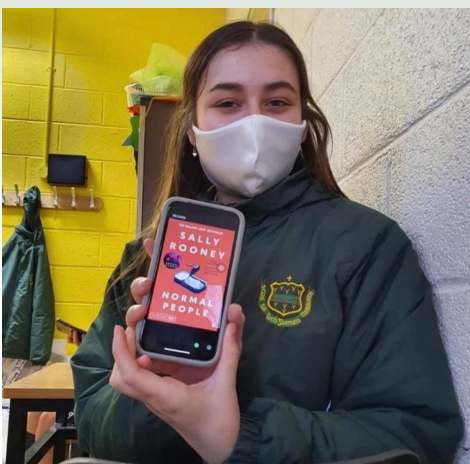


Presentation Pride as Katie hits our TV Screens

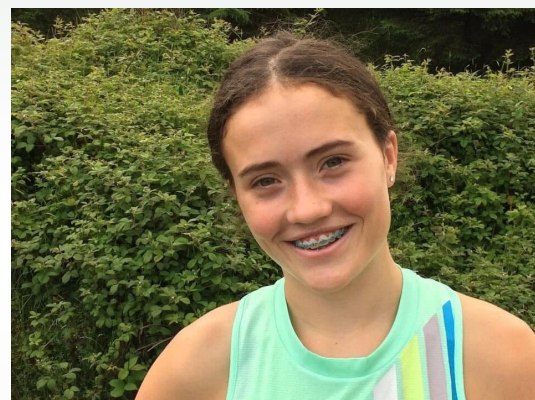
The entire school community, like much of the country, were cheering at their television screens last term as TY student Katie Cullen and her family competed in hit RTÉ show Ireland's Fittest Family. Katie performed incredibly well over the entire series, helping her family reach the final. Well done, Katie.



Literacy Week



We normally mark Literacy Week with great colour and enthusiasm here in the school and we owe a big thank you to Ms Power & her team of librarians for their commitment to all things literary despite the current climate. This year they pushed for as many students and staff as possible to join their town library or renew their to download and enjoy as many books online as possible. Congratulations to 5th Year student Isabelle Roche who won the One for All Prize.



She's used to finishing on the podium for her running ability and **Claragh Keane** also placed at the **Wexford Student Enterprise Awards**. Congratulations on your achievement in the senior category and to Mr Hackett for his guidance.



Congratulations also to Student Librarian Keelyn Ryan, 5th Year, who received an email from The Irish Times last term to say that a narrative piece that she submitted to the annual supplement "Young Irish Writers" was been shortlisted to the final 50 from hundreds of entries.



2nd Year students enjoying the JFK case study during their **Forensic Fun** Workshop this term.

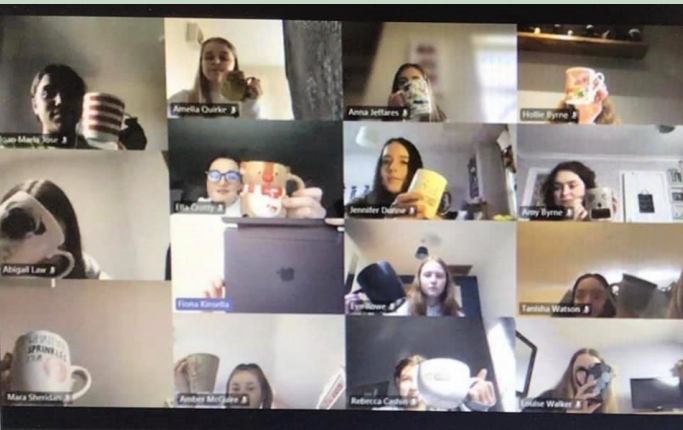


Seachtain na Gaeilge

With this year being like no other year before it, we had a Seachtain na Gaeilge like no other as this year's celebration of ár dteanga dúchais went virtual.

A big thank you to all the students who engaged on Instagram through @preswexgaeilge to take part in our various activities such as the Tóráíocht Taisce, Comórtas Ealaíne, Ainmnigh an Múinteoir Gaeilge and loads more.

A big well done too to all the students who sent us in videos of music and Irish dancing. Maith sibh uilig agus le cúnamh Dé feicimid arís sibh i Mí Aibreáin.



Recognition for WNL Stars



2nd Year Students Jen Dunne & Lucy O'Sullivan enjoying a cupcake as a **welcome back treat** as the entire school community came back to our school campus.

A big thank you to Flagman Ireland for their quality range of pennants as a memento for our new FAI Women's National League players. Congratulations to Maeve Kenny & Aoibheann Rankin (Waterford FC) and Olivia Morris & Sarah O'Donoghue (Greystones United AFC).

The quartet join Tara Murphy, Seren Ward, Rita Redmond & Katie Law (Wexford Youths Women) & Zoe Butler (Greystones United AFC) who have re-signed for their national league clubs this season.

Best wishes to all players for the upcoming campaign.



Well done to 1st year student **Emma Redmond** who was featured in the Wexford People with her dad after raising over €2,500 for 3 mental health charities.

Dankeschön

We said goodbye to our German Language Assistant Michelle Adler this term and we have some words of thanks from students and staff.

Frau Adler, or the rather impressively named, “Ms. Eagle”, came to our class early in the year and helped us to get a better perspective of life in Germany. She taught us through personal experiences and vivid PowerPoints. It was brilliant for us to get an insider’s perspective on the country we have been learning about for so long and accustomed us to hearing a native German accent. She brought lots of laughs and taught us so much about the country and the language in her short time with us.

Jody Boyle 5th year



Michelle Adler started her work with us in the Presentation on the 1st October 2020.

Despite the challenge and uncertainties caused by Covid-19 Michelle arrived in Wexford and at our school full of enthusiasm and positivity, eager to share her love of the German language and culture. She really enthused the girls with her warmth, friendliness and consistent good humour.

Her excellent work and lovely manner motivated and enthused the students who not only practiced and learned lots of German but also got a very up to date and youthful insight into German culture and traditions. One of the highlights for Frau Adler was the surprise interview with well-known popstar Rea Garvey! Rea is a very successful singer and songwriter in Germany and is one of their best-known popstars who happens to be Irish and whose niece is Isabelle O’Doherty in 2nd Yr. Frau Adler and her friends are avid Rea Garvey fans, so imagine the excitement when he joined our class on Zoom and did an interview and then sung!! Frau Adler’s reaction was marvelous, joy and tears!

Frau Adler - Michelle also contributed to the German Teachers Association of Ireland. She participated in the annual conference where her pre-recorded video-presentations on various cultural topics were very successful.

As a result Michelle is busy creating more resources for the GDI Spring conference.

While there are huge challenges with Covid-19, one very positive development is the use of Technology to teach, learn and communicate. It is hoped that we have not said Adieu but rather Auf Wiedersehen to Frau Adler as she will hopefully be able to join us again online in class in the near future.

Herzlichen Dank von uns allen Frau Adler!

Ms Tina Killackey



TY Journalists

Our **TY Journalism** students enjoyed the views on Wexford Quay upon their return to school as they captured some fantastic photographs for the Photojournalism element of their Press Pass competition with NewsBrands Ireland.

Many thanks to guest speakers Simon Bourke (Wexford People), Sarah Buttle (South East Radio) & Ann Marie Guinan (Midlands Radio & Offaly Camogie) for taking the time recently to offer advice and tips from their career in media.

STEM Award for Pres Past Pupil

Past Pupil (Class of 2019) Brónagh O'Hanlon was one of ten female students who were presented with bursaries by global healthcare company Johnson and Johnson (J&J) as part of its WiSTEM2D Award Programme at an online ceremony with University of Limerick (UL) during the previous term.

The acronym WiSTEM2D refers to Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Manufacturing and Design, and is part of J&J's commitment to developing and implementing high-impact strategies to support female students undertaking STEM2D degree courses at UL and in universities around the world.

Reflecting on her achievement, Brónagh hopes it will inspire other young female students to shoot for the stars.

"Since entering college, I have really seen how little female representation there is in STEM subjects. I am here to prove that, we as women can do it, we are equally as smart, and strong and determined as our male counterparts. To any young girls reading this considering a future in science, technology, engineering or maths: Go for it!"



6th Year student **Sabia Doyle** enjoying an Easter Treat as she sits in our new Outdoor Classroom space.



Many thanks to **Tina & Alicia Fortune** for their splashes of colour to help brighten up the walls and halls of our school building. Also, thanks to **Think Print** for our new Book Cover steps up to our school library.



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