

# Presentation Perspective Newsletter



PRESENTATION  
WEXFORD

October 2024

## Principals Address

A very warm welcome to all of our new first year students who begin their educational journey with us here in Presentation Secondary School, Wexford. We also welcome many new transfer students who have joined us here in the school. We all hope that you have many happy years here with us all. Well done to the Leaving Cert Class of 2024 on their excellent results in their recent state exams. Results were very high, and our students performed beyond expectations. There were also many students with many additional needs, both emotionally, socially & other who performed above expectations and is a testament to the great work that all staff contribute each day here. Well done to those students but also to the staff who worked with these students on their 5/6-year journey. I would like to wish our Leaving Cert Class of 2024 every best wish as they go the many different pathways that they have chosen.

At our school, we pride ourselves on the strong relationships that exist between our enthusiastic students, supportive parents/guardians along with the professionalism and dedication of our staff to ensure a holistic education for all our students. We encourage our students to actively participate in all areas of school life to help them achieve their full potential. In doing so we strive to create a caring and supportive environment where all students are known, valued and respected.

We had a very massive turnout for our Open Night on Tues 8th Oct. Our campus was a buzz of activity where we welcomed 5th & 6th Class students & their Parents/Guardians, they got a huge flavour of what we have to offer on our wonderful campus.

Over 300 of our own students along with our dedicated staff were on hand to showcase life here on Grogans Road. Our students gave tours, speeches, showed off subject areas, extra curricular activities and painted a truly reflective impression of daily school life here on our campus. There were freshly baked cookies, students checked out activities in our sports hall, school gym and astro turf, guests got to experience a range of activities from learning some German, French or Spanish, to drawing in Graphics, some exciting Science experiments and more. Our wonderful choir performed before the Head Girl & Principal speeches.

The atmosphere around the school was electric and it was lovely to see our own students lead the way and usher in future students, guiding them around the school and answering all their questions.

We have a proud tradition of academic excellence, & I would like to take the opportunity to remind parents and students, of the vast amount of extra-curricular activities that are available here in Presentation Wexford, from Camogie, Gaelic Football, Basketball, Equestrian, Couch to 5K, Badminton, Soccer, Debating, Athletics, Deep-green, Games Club, Choir, Green Schools, Library Club & the Feminist Society there is something for everyone on offer. I would encourage all students to try at least one of the many activities offered to our students by the wonderful staff of the school.

Can I remind Parents/Guardians & students that student entrance to the school is by the Grogan's Road entrance only. If you are dropping your daughter into the school grounds, for any reason, can I ask that you please be mindful of speed limits. In addition, all students must be collected when going home for appointments etc.

As Principal here in Presentation Secondary School, my door is always open to staff, parents and students and I am looking forward to working with all members of our school community in a challenging and positive environment, always upholding the values on which we were found.

*William Ryan*



MR. BILLY RYAN

In this newsletter  
you can expect:

Beginning of  
year Updates

Open Night  
2024

Senior Trips

Sporting  
Achievements

Teaching and  
Learning

Halloween  
Competition



## Extra Curricular & Societies Fair Day 5/9/24

On the 5th of September, our school held the highly anticipated Extra Curricular & Societies Fair Day. This event was a fantastic opportunity for 1st year students, transfer students, and international students to explore the wide range of activities and societies available at our school.

A big thank you goes to Mr. Lynch, the prefects, and all the students who participated in showcasing the diverse opportunities on offer. From sports teams to academic clubs, and creative arts to community service groups, there was certainly something for everyone.

The fair was a great success, helping new students find their passions and make new friends. We look forward to seeing everyone get involved and make the most of their time here!



## 5th Year Academic Scholars

Congratulations to Bronagh Lucas, Ruth McMahon, Rebecca Nolan, Rachel Nolan & Andrea Zsurzs on their academic scholars award. For our 5th years this award is based on their Junior Cycle results for 2023.

## Gymnastics Stars

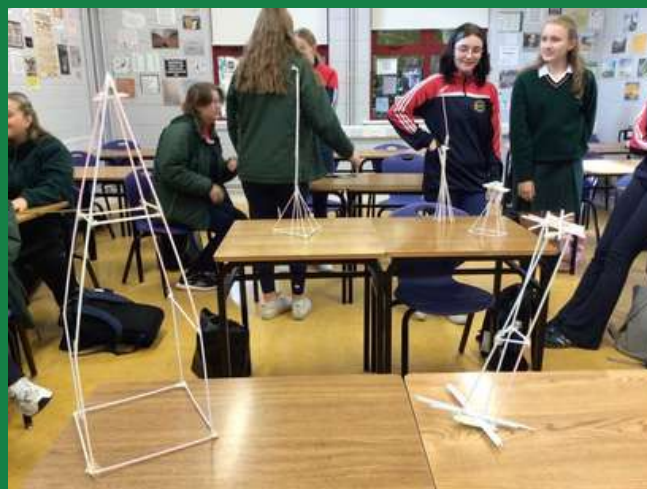
Representing Ireland in the World Acrobatic Gymnastics Championship was a huge achievement for Aoibhe Ormonde and Sarah Murphy. We were extremely proud of them both.





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## Student Bonding Days - September



At the beginning of the school year, our school held student bonding days for all students from 1st to 6th year, organized by the dedicated Mr. Walsh. These days were filled with engaging activities designed to foster camaraderie and a sense of community among students. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the teachers who meticulously planned and facilitated these activities, ensuring that each student felt included and valued. Special thanks also to the class tutors for their unwavering support and guidance throughout these bonding days, making them a memorable start to the academic year.





## Historic Win for Glynn Barntown: First Senior Camogie Title

In an exhilarating match, Glynn Barntown celebrated a historic victory, claiming their first Senior Camogie title. The team defeated St. Martins with a final score of 2-11 to 2-8. Congratulations are in order for Ms. Dempsey, the standout player of the match, and Mr. Walsh, whose leadership and strategy played a crucial role. This win is also a testament to the efforts of both current and former students on the panel, who have contributed to this significant achievement.

The victory marks a milestone for the club and highlights the dedication, skill, and teamwork of everyone involved. Well done to all the players, coaches, and supporters for making this moment possible.

## Amber Maguire and Laura Carley Excel in the Great River Race

Congratulations to Amber Maguire (6th year) and Laura Carley (5th year) for their impressive participation in the recent Great River Race in London. The race, a challenging 36km row along the Thames, saw our students demonstrating remarkable stamina and perseverance. Competing in such a prestigious event is a testament to their dedication and hard work. Well done, Amber and Laura, for representing us with such distinction!



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# Senior History and Politics Trip: A Journey Through Ireland's Past and Present September 18th - 20th

Our senior History and Politics students recently embarked on an enlightening three-day trip, exploring significant historical and political sites across Ireland. Here's a recap of their journey:

## Day 1: Dublin to Belfast

The trip kicked off with a visit to Glasnevin Cemetery, where students delved into the rich history of Ireland's past leaders and revolutionaries. The next stop was Kilmainham Gaol, a former prison that played a crucial role in Irish history, especially during the fight for independence. The group then traveled to Belfast, setting the stage for the next day's adventures.

## Day 2: Exploring Belfast and Beyond

In Belfast, the students visited Stormont, the seat of the Northern Ireland Assembly, where they gained insights into the workings of Northern Ireland's political system. The day continued with a tour of the city, highlighting its complex history and vibrant culture. Later, the group journeyed to Derry, ready to explore more historical landmarks.

## Day 3: Discovering Derry

The final day was spent in Derry, a city steeped in history and known for its well-preserved city walls. Students walked through the streets, learning about the city's past and its significance in the context of Irish history. After an enriching experience, the group traveled back home, reflecting on the knowledge and memories gained over the three days.

A special thank you to Ms. Whelan, Ms. L Murphy, and Ms. Hughes for organizing and leading this excellent trip. Their dedication ensured that the students had an educational and memorable experience.

This trip not only deepened the students' understanding of Ireland's history and politics but also fostered a greater appreciation for the country's rich cultural heritage.

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# Senior History and Politics Trip: A Journey Through Ireland's Past and Present September 18th - 20th







## Pres Wex Swim Team has exciting plans ahead!

We have just recently had our annual re-election for captain and vice-captaincy with Teegan O'Brien and Kayleigh Butler as captains and Juliette Pac-Kenny as the vice-captain. Many of our swimmers have competitions outside of school to prepare for while others are awaiting the school's gala in the National Aquatic Centre in Dublin which will take place on the 2nd of February 2025. Our swimmers will make their way to the NAC on this date and represent the school with pride and will swim their absolute best! Best of luck to all! We will also be holding meetings every few weeks to keep our swimmers updated with potential future events. We are also looking to begin some swim training sessions and invite an Olympic swimmer to come talk to our members.

## International Star

A huge congratulations to Niamh White for her outstanding performance with the Irish women's under-16 team. Niamh played a pivotal role in their thrilling 4-3 victory against Wales in the first of two games at the FAI National Training Centre. Everyone at the school is incredibly proud of our latest international soccer star!



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## U17 Soccer Team Triumphs Against Gorey CS

A huge congratulations to our U17 Soccer Team for their impressive 1-0 victory against Gorey CS. The match showcased incredible teamwork and determination, with Holly Dooley scoring the decisive goal.

This win is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the entire team. Well done to everyone involved!



## National Youth Forum

Presentation Wexford was represented by 6 of our students at the National Youth Forum in Wexford County Council on Friday 18th October. Abbie Harrington, Ella Colgan & Izzy Cullen (3rd year ) and Sadie Forde, Mekdes Harte & Karolina O'Mahony (2nd year) had the opportunity to discuss issues facing teenagers and adolescents. Karolina and Izzy were elected to Comhairle na nÓg. Congratulations.





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## Georgia Harrington Shines in Junior Girls Leinster Central Golf Championships

Congratulations to Georgia Harrington, a 3rd year student, for her outstanding performance in the Junior Girls Leinster Central Golf Championships held at the Ariel Curragh. Georgia secured an impressive third place finish, showcasing her exceptional skill and dedication to the sport. Notably, she achieved a birdie on the challenging par 5 13th hole, a remarkable feat that highlights her talent and perseverance. We wish Georgia the best of luck in her upcoming golf competitions this year. Your school is proud of you, Georgia!



## Educational Visit to St. Aidan's Cathedral

Our LC Religion classes and Rang Caoimhe LCA had the enriching opportunity to visit Enniscorthy and see the relics of St. Bernadette at St. Aidan's Cathedral. The students were able to deepen their understanding of religious history and heritage through this experience. The visit provided a meaningful connection to their studies and allowed them to witness the significance of these sacred relics firsthand. It was an enlightening journey that will undoubtedly resonate with the students for a long time. Thanks to Mr.Grannell for organizing.



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## Jessica Deevy Triumphs at All Ireland Hip Hop Championship

A massive congratulations to Jessica Deevy, who recently secured the title of All Ireland Champion in the hip hop over 16 category. Jessica's dedication and talent shone brightly as she danced her way to first place, showcasing remarkable skill and passion. This achievement is a testament to her hard work and perseverance in the competitive world of hip hop dance. Well done, Jessica, on this outstanding accomplishment!



## GOAL Jersey Day: A Celebration of Unity and Generosity

A big shoutout to all the students and staff who proudly donned their Club, County, or Country colors for GOAL Jersey Day. The vibrant display of jerseys symbolized the unity and community spirit within our school. This event was more than just a fun dress-up day; it was a meaningful initiative to support a great cause. Well done to everyone for their enthusiastic participation and for making a positive impact.





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## Equestrian

Our first show of the year was at Wexford Equestrian at the start of October after being rained off in September. With 8 riders out to represent the school, they all jumped impressive rounds over a technical track that was causing difficulty.

Our novice team were without the advantage of a drop score but the three man team of Hazel, Kate and Ellen still just narrowly missed out on a ribbon.

Our open team of Mia, Cerys, Katelyn and Niamh had three newbies at this level. It's a big step up between novice and open and a lot of nerves were on show however they put them to great use and produced unbelievable rounds to secure 4th place and valuable league points.

Barnadown equestrian outside Gorey was the location for our second outing on Sunday 20th Oct. With most competitions called off due to Storm Ashley, the conditions were very testing. Our two teams put in their best efforts and a few unlucky faults for both teams kept us out of the ribbons. Two standout rounds of the day came from Faye Kelly in the novice who showed great strength and determination to jump one of the few clear rounds of the day. Cerys Roche in only her second open competition made it look easy and produced a foot perfect round.



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## Attendance

Our senior attendance competition has ran for the last two weeks. Each day one class period was picked at random and each student present in that class received a raffle ticket. This gave students 9 opportunities to be in with a chance of winning one of the ten prizes on offer, showing students that every class counts. Prizes included vouchers for Oven door canteen, Penneys, the Trough, Clovelly, Sweet dreams and Costa. There were also two "Skip the Q" tickets up for grabs which allows the winner to skip the Q in our canteen everyday for a week!

Our three attendance prefects, Cara, Isabelle and Keira put in a huge effort over the two weeks and made it a great success. Thanks for all your hard work and great ideas.

Our junior students can look forward to a similar competition after mid term break.





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## Empowering Students with Essential Study Skills

A heartfelt thank you to Ray from Rayse The Game, who recently conducted study skills workshops for our 5th and 2nd year students. These sessions were invaluable, equipping our students with practical strategies and techniques to enhance their study habits and academic performance. Ray's engaging approach and expert insights provided our students with the tools they need to succeed in their studies. We are incredibly grateful for Ray's contribution to our students' educational journey and look forward to seeing the positive impact of these workshops.



## Students Across the Globe: Learning from Refugee Stories

Recently members of our Students Across the Globe Group had the enriching experience of participating in a webinar hosted by Sanctuary Ambassadors. During the session, the ambassadors shared their personal journeys as refugees, providing valuable insights into the challenges and triumphs they have faced. The students were deeply engaged, gaining a profound understanding of the refugee experience. A heartfelt thank you to Schools of Sanctuary Ireland for facilitating this impactful event.



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## Celebrating the Junior Cycle Class of 2024 - October 9th

A hearty congratulations to the Junior Cycle class of 2024 for their superb results! These achievements are a true testament to the dedication and hard work put in over the past three years. The students' success would not have been possible without the unwavering guidance and support of their teachers, who have been instrumental in their academic journey. A special thank you also goes to the parents and guardians for their continuous support and encouragement, which has played a crucial role in reaching this milestone. Well done to all—students, teachers, and families alike—for making this success story possible





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## Presentation Wexford's Student Council 2024-2025

Formal elections took place on Monday 7th October where all students, using proportional representation, exercised their democratic right to vote for their preferred candidates.

Following the count, the following students were elected by their peers.

### **6th Year**

Ruby Crosbie, Shauna Hume, Emma Cullen, Aoibhe Ormonde

### **5th Year**

Elise de Sousa, Ruth McMahon, Ella Dempsey, Emily Murphy

### **TY**

Lilly Harding, Rebekah Turner, Faye Dalton-Kehoe, Maria Laffan

### **3rd Year**

Abbie Harrington, Cara O'Shaughnessy, Alex O'Brien Ottley, Taylor Byrne

### **2nd Year**

Annie Furlong, Sadie Forde, Lily Furlong, Tara Bates

### **1st Year**

Millie Cooney, Aoife Furlong, Safia Core Carley, Lucy O'Toole

The Student Council are already busy organising a 1st year movie afternoon on Friday 18th October. Plans are also underway for a fundraiser colour day for Solas Cancer support centre after midterm. The student Council are in the process of obtaining benches outside the school gates for those waiting on buses etc .A memorial garden is another project which will remember all those from the Presentation community who have passed away.

Congratulations to all those elected and we look forward to hearing the student voice this year.



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## Debate Team Shines in First Concern Debate

Our debate team proudly faced off against Castletroy College today in their first Concern debate. Each member spoke with confidence and represented the school admirably.

A round of applause goes to Isabelle, Rebecca, Veronica, and Emer for their stellar performances. Also, a special thanks to Eliza, our diligent timekeeper, for her support.

The results of this exciting match are expected within the next week. Fingers crossed for a win!

Regardless of the outcome, the team's hard work and dedication are commendable. Keep up the great work, team!



## Senior Cycle Students Explore Future Pathways in Limerick

Our senior cycle students enjoyed a fantastic day in Limerick, visiting both the University of Limerick (UL) and Mary Immaculate College (Mary I) open days. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to explore future pathways and get a glimpse of college life.

A highlight of the day was reconnecting with our past pupils, Jodie Morrissey and Lauren Devereux. They shared valuable insights and personal experiences about life at UL, helping to inspire and inform our current students.

The day was not just about tours and presentations; it was an exciting chance to envisage their futures and make informed decisions about their educational journeys. This experience truly embodies our commitment to providing our students with the best guidance and support for their future endeavors.





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## A Heartfelt Back-to-School Mass on Rowe Street

Our entire school community gathered for a very special ceremony on Rowe Street to celebrate our back-to-school Mass. The theme for the day was "Hope," embodied by the powerful message that "Hope lies in dreams, in imagination, and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality." The ceremony was a touching event that brought together students, teachers, and families, reminding us all of the strength and optimism we carry into the new school year. Thank you to everyone who made this heartfelt celebration possible.





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## Junior 7's Team Excels in Laois and Beyond

Our Junior 7's Camogie team has been making waves this season, showcasing their talent and dedication. At the Leinster College Camogie in Laois, the team had impressive victories over Rathdowney and Banagher, proving their prowess on the field. Despite their valiant efforts, they narrowly missed out on the final, falling to a strong Johnstown team. Their performance was a testament to their hard work and skill, and they have much to be proud of.

The Junior Camogie team also kicked off their championship season with a dominant 4-10 to 0-10 victory over Colaiste Bride, Enniscorthy. This win was a solid performance for their first game, setting a high standard for the rest of the season. In round 2, the team faced a formidable Bunclody side. Despite taking an early lead, Bunclody fought back, leading by four points at half time. The girls showed incredible resilience, leveling the game in the second half. However, a couple of late goals from Bunclody sealed the match, with Bunclody ultimately winning by 10 points. Looking ahead, the team has one group game remaining. A win against Colaiste Bride, Enniscorthy would secure a quarter-final spot after the mid-term. The team's journey so far highlights their determination and spirit, and we look forward to their continued success in the championship. Well done to the Junior 7's team for their outstanding efforts and achievements.





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## Basketball

The seniors and under 16s have both completed the group stages of the south east league. The u16s have remained unbeaten so far, starting with a hard fought away victory over Loreto, followed by a home win against St Mary's New Ross, before two more wins on the road against Rosbercon and Ramsgrange. We await our opponents for a home quarter final.

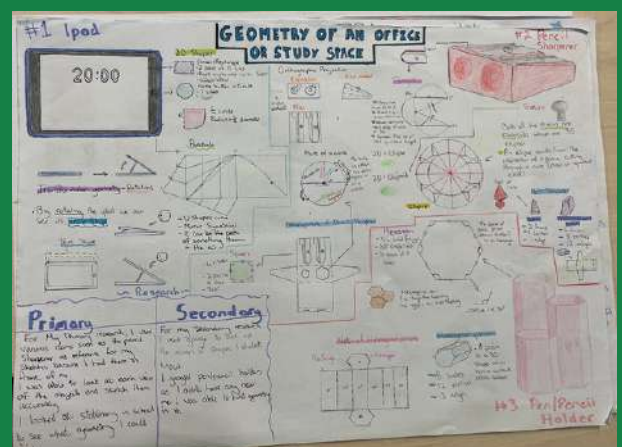
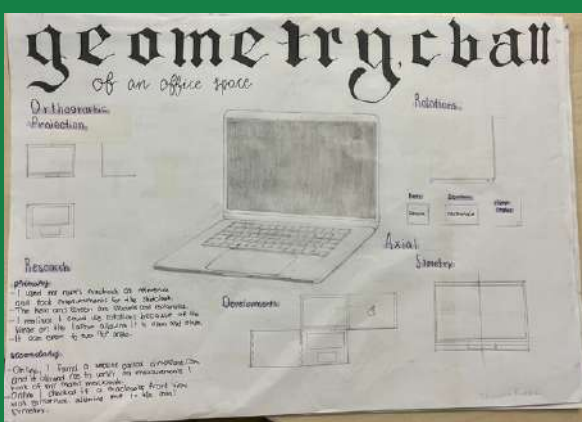
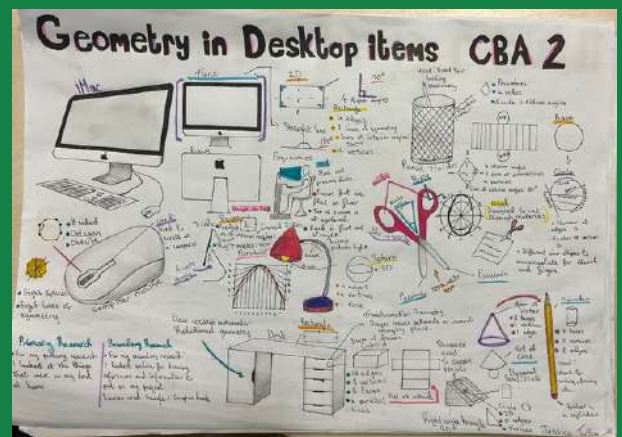
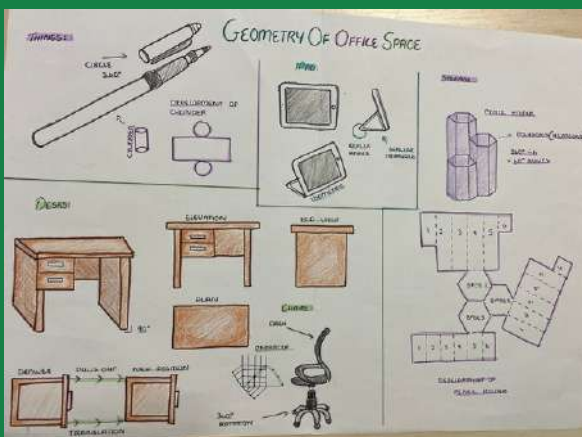
The senior team were defeated by Loreto at the start of their campaign, but two further wins against St Mary's New Ross and Ramsgrange CS leaves them second in the table and will have an away quarter final after Hallowe'en break.

Training takes place each Tuesday after school for 1st years and Wednesdays for 2nd years. League matches for both these teams commence after Christmas.



## 3rd Graphics Students Ace CBA 2 with Impressive Technical Designs

The third-year graphics have recently completed their Classroom-Based Assessment (CBA 2) with impressive results. The project focused on creating detailed, accurate technical drawings of items found in their office or study space, showcasing the students' skills in precision and creativity. From desk accessories to technology, the students demonstrated a strong grasp of design principles and technical accuracy. Their hard work and dedication were evident in the high quality of their submissions, earning them well-deserved praise from their teachers and peers.





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# 6th Year Geography Paris Trip 26th-29th September

Day 1: **The Rainy Arrival:** Our much-anticipated school trip to Paris began with a hiccup—a flight delay that left everyone feeling a bit weary. We finally touched down in the City of Light, greeted by a steady rain. Undeterred, we made our way into the heart of Paris, catching glimpses of the iconic landmarks through the drizzle. After a long day of travel, we checked into our hotel, ready for the adventures that awaited us.

Day 2: **Iconic Paris:** The morning started with a visit to one of the world's most recognizable landmarks, the Eiffel Tower. Standing beneath its towering structure was a surreal experience. We ascended to its upper levels, taking in the breathtaking views of the city below. Following this, we embarked on a two-hour guided tour of Paris, soaking up the rich history and culture that permeates every street and building.

The afternoon was spent exploring Les Invalides, a complex of buildings with museums and monuments relating to the military history of France. In the evening, we made our way to the Montparnasse Tower, where we were treated to a stunning sunset over the Paris skyline. It was a perfect end to a day filled with iconic sights.

Day 3: **The Magic of Disneyland Paris:** Day three was all about fun and fantasy as we visited Disneyland Paris. From the exhilarating rides to meeting beloved characters, it was a day of pure joy and excitement. The magic of Disneyland captivated everyone, young and old, making it a highlight of the trip.

Day 4: **Montmartre and Farewell:** Our final day in Paris began with a visit to the Sacré-Cœur Basilica, perched atop the Montmartre hill. The view from the basilica was nothing short of spectacular, offering a panoramic vista of the city. We spent the rest of the morning exploring the artistic charm of Montmartre, with its winding streets, bustling squares, and vibrant atmosphere.

As our journey came to an end, we headed to the airport, reminiscing about the unforgettable experiences and memories we had created over the past few days. Paris had truly lived up to its reputation, leaving us with stories to tell and a longing to return someday.

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# 6th Year Geography Paris Trip 26th-29th September





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## Open Night - October 8th

Our school's Open Night on Tuesday, October 8th, at Presentation Wexford was a fantastic success! The evening was filled with excitement as we showcased a wide range of subjects, highlighting the diverse and comprehensive education our school offers. Our sports programs were also on display, demonstrating the vibrant athletic opportunities available to students.

Visitors had the chance to tour our beautiful campus, including our new facilities such as the Rossiter Wing, which has added modern classrooms and a state-of-the-art science lab to our school. Our excellent sports facilities, including the recently opened astro turf and gym, were also highlighted. Sports such as soccer, camogie, and basketball were showcased, reflecting the dedication and skill of our student athletes.

Prospective new students and their families had the opportunity to see firsthand what we have to offer. It was wonderful to open our doors to the wider community and share the vibrant, supportive environment that makes our school special.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the dedicated staff and students who generously gave up their evening to make this event possible. Your commitment and enthusiasm truly made the night memorable for all who attended.

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## Open Night - October 8th





# Academic Achievement

Presentation Wexford has launched a new initiative this year to boost academic achievement. Each student now has an academic tracker in their school journal for each subject. Please see a sample page below. They can be found from page 119 of the journal.

The objective is that every student will set a SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time bound) target for each subject. Then, after every test they will plot their result on the graph for that subject. They can then draw a line between the results and they will have a clear, visual representation of their grades, if their grades are improving or not, and if they are achieving their target. If they are not meeting their target they will find ways to improve and write those in on the tracker sheet as well. The aim would then be to improve on each test by approximately 5% until they reach their target.

There is a space for parents and guardians to initial each test result if you wish. This is an excellent way to get an overall view of how your child is doing academically in each subject.

**Target Setting**

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**SMART**

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## Academic Achievement Awards

In September we rewarded excellent academic achievement in our school by awarding 20 students as Academic Scholars, based on their results in term tests & state exams. To mark their achievements they received the 'Scoláire' badge, a certificate, & sponsored supervised study or a voucher



## Blazing Sky

BLAZING SKY, composed by Liam Bates, is a stunningly beautiful and evocative piece of music. Streaming it on platforms like Amazon Music, Spotify, and Apple Music will generate funds for UNICEF. We are incredibly proud of our past and present students who contributed to this remarkable project.

## Polocrosse Star

Congratulations to Maria Migasiewicz for her outstanding achievements. She represented the U16 Polocrosse team in the test series and also proudly represented Wexford, securing the All Ireland Cup at the end of September. Well done, Maria!





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## Celebrating French Culture: The Premiere of "Destination Francophonie: The Norman Way"

The school recently had the immense pleasure of hosting parents and friends for the premiere of "Destination Francophonie: The Norman Way." Our students embarked on an educational journey to Cherbourg and Normandy, immersing themselves in the rich cultural heritage of the region.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to Isabelle O'Doherty, Jane Lois Ablog, and Nessa Geelan for their invaluable contributions to making this night a success. The event was graced by distinguished guests including Mme Céline Place, the French Ambassador, along with French teachers from Wexford schools, members of the Lycée Millet from Cherbourg, and a delegation from the Cotentin region.

The day was filled with vibrant discussions about the possibility of a future senior exchange later this year, further strengthening the bonds of francophonie and enhancing our students' global awareness and appreciation of French culture. Vive la francophonie!



## Junk Kouture Dublin City Final

A huge well done to Stacks of Attax in the Junk Kouture Dublin City Final in October. The design created by Ella Hurley, Orla Goldsmith and Katie Hore was a huge hit at the final with it receiving a special mention from judge Claire Garvey. A number of 5th years travelled to support the girls in the RDS. The outfit was made using Match Attax cards and over 2000 card pieces were sewn on it. The purpose of the design was to highlight the excessive waste in children's entertainment.





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## Students Dive into Real-World Learning at Curracloe Beach

This year's Leaving Certificate Geography class ventured to the stunning Curracloe Beach for their pivotal geographical investigation—a crucial component of their exam. Blessed with brilliant weather, the day turned out to be as educational as it was enjoyable.

As the students arrived, they were met by the vast expanse of the beach, ready to apply the geographical theories and concepts learned in the classroom to a real-world setting. Equipped with their tools and newfound enthusiasm, they set off to collect data, observe coastal processes, and understand the dynamics of this unique environment.

Each student got hands-on experience, learning new skills in data collection and analysis. From measuring wave frequency to examining sediment samples, the investigation offered an immersive learning experience. It was a golden opportunity to witness first-hand the forces that shape our coastlines and to see the practical applications of their academic studies.

The day at Curracloe Beach wasn't just about ticking a box for their Leaving Certificate. It was about connecting with nature, fostering a deeper understanding of geographical phenomena, and bonding as a class.

In the afternoon, the students packed up their equipment, leaving the beach with a sense of accomplishment and a wealth of practical knowledge to bolster their classroom learning. This investigation will surely be a cornerstone of their educational journey, merging textbook theories with tangible experiences, and preparing them for their upcoming exams.



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## Adventures in Africa: Our Zambian Odyssey

Last May, 10 students and four teachers travelled to Zambia! It was a trip of a lifetime and we all feel so lucky to have been given such an amazing opportunity!!

To travel to Zambia, we had to fundraise. Students hosted group and/ or individual fundraisers to help raise money. With fundraisers such as Swims, sponsored silences, Raffles, Shave, Wax or Dye etc., it was actually quite enjoyable! It took us nearly 2 full days travel to get to our first stop, the Garden of Oneness.

Once we arrived at the garden, the first item on our itinerary was the visiting of schools. There was two primary schools to visit, so five students went to each accompanied by two teachers. We got to learn about their everyday lives in school and students then showed us some traditional Zambian dances and songs! Teachers and students had been preparing dances and presentations for us from as early as 2023! We then watched the students play a game of football, and Mr. Carroll joined in with them! After the primary schools, it was lunch time and then straight onto the Presentation secondary school! This was about an hour from Kaoma, where the garden was. The Presentation school was a very different experience from the 2 local primary schools we visited but was definitely an enjoyable experience. We were given a full tour of the school, got to meet many of the students and then had a welcoming ceremony! We felt so welcomed in both schools and are so thankful to all the students and staff for their kindness and gratitude!

While in Kaoma, we also visited a local village. This was very much an eye opening experience. The families in the village were so grateful for everything they had, big or small, and I think, showed us just how much we can take things for granted. We had loads of time to chat with the, about their everyday lives, look around the village and even got the chance to teach them 'An Dreolin'. Miss Sinnott would be very proud!

The Garden Of Oneness was a beautiful garden filled with acres of native trees and flowers, built and used by local people. We stayed there for three days. Sister Terri taught us valuable lessons based on the philosophy of the Zambian people. Ubuntu - "I am because we are", peace flourishes when we recognize each individuals worth and dignity. Many of the plants and rocks were arranged in a spiral pattern, representing the cycle of life and the way that everything is connected. There should be no divisions, corners, start or end. We learned a lot about Zambian culture and everyone developed a deep appreciation for it.

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## Adventures in Africa: Our Zambian Odyssey

After we said goodbye to the Garden of Oneness, it was onto Mongu. This was about a 3hr bus trip. Our first stop in Mongu was Liseli Lodge. We had a warm welcome to the lovely restaurant and lodge, Liseli Lodge by Sister Mary when we arrived in Mongu in the western province of Zambia. Over our one night stay in Mongu we thoroughly enjoyed lunch and dinner in the relaxing, tranquil restaurant in Liseli Lodge. The food was delicious. We had a selection of different pizzas, salads and more to choose from. After we ate we went for a drive along a bridge over the Zambezi River, this was a beautiful drive and a great picture opportunity! We can all agree our time in Liseli Lodge was very calm and comfortable and we really enjoyed it.

Our main stop in Mongu was the Cheshire Homes for disabled children. This was one of the most important parts of the trip for many of us. We got to meet so many families and had a great time playing games, chatting , and blowing bubbles with the children. There are no words to describe just how eye opening this part of the trip was, but it is a part of the trip that will stick with us for ever!

After a quick stay in Mongu, it was time for our longest bus journey yet. This was supposed to take approximately 8hrs, but was probably closer to 9... due to our bus breaking down on the side of the road and the teachers ended up having to push the bus to get it going again! We got to Livingstone that night and it was lights out early for a big day tomorrow!

We were extremely lucky to get the opportunity to go on a spectacular safari when we were in Livingstone in the southern province of Zambia. We started the safari before 9am in the morning so we could make the best of it and see as many animals as possible. The safari lasted over 2 hours and we stopped to the the Zambezi River during it. We saw impalas, giraffes, monkeys, white rhinos and even an elephant walking out in front of us! We got to go very near the rhinos which was amazing! This was definitely one of the highlights of our time in Livingstone as it is a once in a life opportunity to go on a safari!

Also during our stay in Livingstone, we visited Victoria Falls, this was breathtaking. Victoria Falls is one of the seven natural wonders of the world and it certainly was wonderful to look at. We walked around a path to get the best views possible and even walked alongside baboons!

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## Adventures in Africa: Our Zambian Odyssey

Getting soaked was certainly worth it to see such views! Later that evening we got to go on a river cruise along the river Zambezi, this was also fabulous as to one side of the river was Zimbabwe and the other side was Zambia. The river cruise was very relaxing and enjoyable. We certainly had a great day!

Livingstone marked the end of our trip. After a long bus journey back to the capital, Lusaka, we had a quick overnight stay and then it was back on a plane home to Ireland. This was such a special trip for all involved and we are so thankful to everyone who helped us to get there - whether that was by donations, words of support, supporting our fundraisers etc. This really was a once in a lifetime opportunity that honestly seems like a fever dream and it would not have been possible without our amazing teachers - Ms O Muiri, Ms Ryan, Mr Cogley, Mr Carroll and Mr Gaynor - plus numerous members of staff who supported us along the way ! Thank you!

Ella Dempsey, Izzy Walsh, Ella Ormonde





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## Peer Mentors 24/25

Hi, my name is Rianna and I'm part of the Peer Mentor Team for this school year.

The process began last year, at the end of TY, when we applied for the position. All of the applicants got a specific time for their interview with Mr. Grannell. In the interview, we were asked about our ideas, why we want to be a peer mentor, etc.

We found out about our successful application at the start of the following year. We then attended a training session where we were assigned our Peer Mentor groups. Each group was assigned a second-year class. We started brainstorming ideas of what we could do with our class group during the year, e.g. a monthly birthday celebration, advent calendar, etc. Some of the responsibilities of being a peer mentor include; taking your class to do activities on a regular basis, running Breakfast Club and though it's not mandatory, peer mentors are always asked by staff to partake in school activities. For example, I've been involved in giving tours for the Open Night and visiting my old primary school to talk to the 5th and 6th classes about life in Presentation Wexford. Some of our upcoming events include Halloween dress up with our class, study technique sessions and themed weeks like science and maths week.

I think the Peer Mentors is such a great initiative to help 2nd year students. Their year can be overlooked, and many students find 2nd year very challenging in terms of a lack of motivation or routine. Our role as peer mentors is to support them, help motivate them and help keep them on track for 3rd year and to have some fun along the way! I also think it's a great link between the senior and junior years of the school and overall, a great opportunity for senior students to take on the role of leadership within the school.



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## Peer Mentors 24/25

Hi, my names Maryse and I'm a part of the Peer Mentor Team 24/25

In the last school year, back in TY, Mr. Grannell interviewed us one by one to see what we would bring to the Peer Mentor team. He asked us different questions about our plans we might have with our class groups and why being a peer mentor is important to us.

To me being a peer mentor is important because we offer guidance, support, and encouragement to others who are navigating similar experiences, whether in academics, work, or personal development. It involves sharing knowledge and insights, drawing from my own experiences to help someone else succeed. As a peer mentor, you build trust and create a safe environment where your class feels comfortable asking questions, discussing challenges, and seeking advice. It's a role of leadership, empathy, and active listening, with the goal of empowering others to reach their potential while also growing and learning about yourself through the process.

Besides working with our class groups, we also have the responsibility of running our successful breakfast club. This means every morning from 8.15-8.40 we supply tea, toast, and breakfast bars to anyone who decides to come. This is a wonderful opportunity to interact and get to know students from all year groups and brings our school community closer together. We also have the responsibility of buying the supplies for the breakfast club, the workers in Pettits are always surprised by the amount of bread we need each week.

So far we are just breaking the ice with our classes by taking them out for some bonding games to get to know them. I believe it's so important to have someone in the senior year that you know, and you can speak to so getting to know them is essential for not only us but for them as well. In the coming weeks we have our Halloween dress up which we do as a class theme, our senior prefects are organising a Halloween quiz that day, but we also hope to watch a movie with some treats before we have a week off.

I think being a peer mentor is a great step in a leadership role in the school community and helpful for the second years. It's always good to have a familiar face in the school community that may be able to make a difference that isn't necessarily a teacher.

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## Learning A New Language



Some quotes from our first years who started learning a language 7 weeks ago.

I enjoy learning new languages! When it comes to languages I think I'm really good at picking it up.

I love all the activities we do, I think the French language and culture is so beautiful and that's why I picked it. I hope next year I can keep going with French because I really enjoy it!!

Learning is good there is some things that were difficult but they are okay now, I like learning about the famous people in France and the new words my favourite part is using words that you would use everyday.

I like learning a new language because it gives you a sense of what people that move to a different country have to do also it feels rewarding.

I am enjoying learning the languages because I think it's a great way for me to be able to communicate and in class I love the speaking activities!

I like when we do the kahoots after the lesson cause it helps me learn and the little tests too!

I like learning about France and knowing that I'm learning a new language. I also enjoy learning basic sentences to learn to communicate with people from France. I want to go there someday and be able to understand what people are saying to me.

German: I like learning German because I get to know a new language and it's similar to English and it's a nice language to know.

French: I like learning French because I'm going to France soon and hopefully I'll be able to talk to the people in France.

I enjoy French because I like learning new things and trying to pronounce new words. I love to try and learn to spell them because I feel very proud when I learn how to actually do it.

I enjoy learning new languages. It can be a bit hard at times, but I like when we get to do Oral work or drawing things to explain something.

It is fun learning a new language but it can also be hard sometimes I find that activity and pair work is better for me because it helps me say stuff in the language I'm studying and I prefer pair work.

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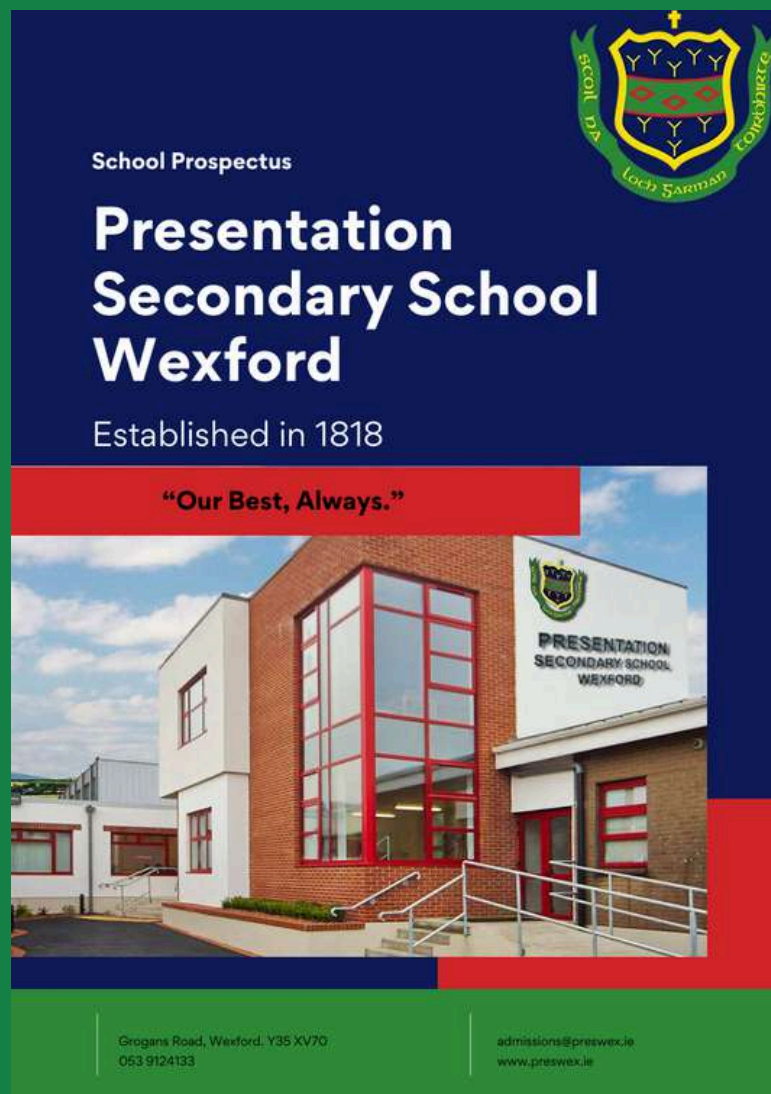
## Discover Our School: New Prospectus Available

We are excited to announce that our new school prospectus is now available! This comprehensive guide offers an in-depth look at the vibrant and dynamic educational environment here at Presentation Wexford.

Inside, you'll find detailed information about our academic programs, extracurricular activities, and the unique opportunities that await our students. Whether you're interested in our strong focus on academic excellence, our commitment to personal development, or our array of sports and cultural activities, there's something for everyone.

Explore the prospectus and see how Presentation Wexford can help shape your future. Access it now via this [link](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to our school community!





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## Meet our Senior Prefect, Public Relations Team.



### Anna Jeffares

Hi, I'm Anna Jeffares, a sixth year student at Presentation Wexford. My time here has been amazing, filled with various activities like Gaelic football and student council. Outside of school, I enjoy Irish dancing, reading, and Gaelic football. I'm thrilled to be a senior prefect, specifically handling public relations. Along with Mia and Rhianna, we've been capturing the school spirit through photos and promoting events. Our aim is to uphold and celebrate the positive reputation of Presentation.

The academic and extracurricular achievements here make us all proud, showcasing the high standards of our school.

### Rhianna Kenny

Hi my name is Rhianna Kenny and I'm a 6th year student at Presentation Wexford. Over my 6 years I've been involved in school activities such as basketball in school and dance and soccer outside. This year I have been chosen as a senior prefect. My role this year is as a Public Relations Link alongside Mia and Anna. Our role this year is to be involved in school promotion, the newsletter, school events and as a social media link. We've already got a glimpse into what our role will be like at the recent open night. I'm very grateful for this opportunity and I can't wait to see what the year holds !



### Mia Meyler

Hi, I'm Mia Meyler, a sixth year student at Presentation Wexford. Over the past six years, I've been actively involved in school activities, including the Equestrian Club and Senior Gaelic Football team. I've made great friends and memories through these teams. I also participate in school open nights and the student leadership forum. Last year, I was honored to be selected as a senior prefect, handling public relations with Anna and Rhianna. This role includes school promotion, social media, and our school newsletter. I'm grateful for this opportunity and excited for what's to come.



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## A Heartfelt Thank You from the Editor

Dear Readers,  
I wanted to extend my deepest gratitude for taking the time to read our school newsletter. Your engagement and interest mean the world to us.

We warmly welcome your contributions, as your insights and stories enrich the fabric of our publication. Whether it's a noteworthy event, an inspiring story, or a simple shoutout, your voice matters.

It's a great honor for me to be entrusted with the role of editor for the next three years. I look forward to the journey ahead and encourage you to share your suggestions on how we can make this newsletter even better.

Remember, this publication is more than just pages; it's a vibrant snapshot of the myriad activities and achievements happening within our school community. Thank you for being part of it.

Warm regards,  
Rikki O'Leary, Editor



*Thank you for reading!*

PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL, WEXFORD	053 9124133
<a href="http://www.preswex.ie">www.preswex.ie</a>	Grogan's Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford, Y35 XV70

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# Halloween Word search competition

- Complete the word search below, take a screenshot and send it to [roleary@preswex.ie](mailto:roleary@preswex.ie) before Friday November 8th to be entered into a draw to win a fantastic prize.



## Word Search

E	B	B	P	F	X	U	Z	D	G
C	A	C	A	U	L	D	R	O	N
H	T	S	D	C	O	B	W	E	B
A	W	K	P	G	G	H	O	S	T
U	I	E	B	U	L	F	U	U	V
N	T	L	X	I	M	D	D	R	V
T	C	E	V	A	M	P	I	R	E
E	H	T	W	S	I	I	K	I	N
D	W	O	D	V	H	L	X	I	L
P	U	N	V	M	S	W	O	R	N



 Skeleton	 Cauldron	 Vampire	 Bat
 Pumpkin	 Ghost	 Witch	
 Haunted	 Cobweb		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor Class: \_\_\_\_\_



*Thank you for reading!*

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SCHOOL, WEXFORD

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Wexford, Y35 XV70

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