

Presentation Perspective Newsletter



ISSUE #2

PRESENTATION
WEXFORD

December 2024

Principals Address

The staff and management would like to wish all parents and students at Presentation Secondary School, peace and joy for Christmas and a good New Year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire school community for your support and commitment to the work of the school during the last calendar year. I would like to thank the staff & students who have given of their time, in big ways and small, to contribute to the work of the school through the many activities they have organised during the year. Your input makes a significant contribution to the vibrant character and atmosphere of our school. Thank you!

I would also like to acknowledge the support and work of the school's Board of Management and thank them for their enormous commitment. The Board of Management members give generously of their time and expertise to support and enhance the essential work of the school.

We look forward in hope with the great news we received of our new extension adding much needed facilities to our ever-growing campus & our school curriculum. The new extension will house, 4 new classrooms, Science Lab, 2 Home Ec rooms, Multimedia room, Technology room, 2 SET rooms, and 4 special rooms with suite included. These facilities will make an enormous difference to the provision of education in our school.

Christmas is a joyous time but for some families it can be a challenging time financially and emotionally. It is important that we as a school community recognise the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves. This year the plight of the homeless has been uppermost in our thoughts and since early November groups have been raising funds for St Vincent de Paul and the Team Hope Shoe Box appeals have also been the focus of the charity work ongoing in the school. The donations from students, parents and staff are hugely appreciated and will provide much needed support for families who are struggling this Christmas.

I wish you and yours a very happy and peaceful Christmas and every good wish for 2025.

Billy Ryan
Principal



MR. BILLY RYAN

In this newsletter you can expect:

Library Corner

Celebrating our
Past Pupils

Presentation
Day 2024

Amber Flag Day

Campus
Expansion

Escape Wexford
Review

Halloween Party Fun for 1st Years!



Our 1st Year students had a fantastic time at the Halloween Party!

The event was expertly organized by our dedicated Meitheal Leaders, along with their coordinator, Mr. Stafford.

The atmosphere was filled with excitement as students participated in various games and activities, making it a memorable day for everyone involved. The laughter and joy were contagious, showcasing the spirit of our school community.

A big shoutout to all the Meitheal Leaders and Mr. Stafford for their hard work in making this event a success. Well done, everyone!

We look forward to more fun events in the future



Halloween Spirit for a Great Cause!

A huge congratulations to all our students and staff for embracing the Halloween spirit this year! Everyone came together to support a very worthy cause: Trick or Treat for Temple Street.

The enthusiasm and creativity displayed during this initiative were truly inspiring. It's heartwarming to see our school community unite for such an important cause, making a positive impact while having fun.

Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to this fantastic event. Your efforts not only brought joy to our Halloween celebrations but also helped raise awareness and support for Temple Street. Well done, everyone!



Library Corner

Celebrating Young Poets at Presentation

At Presentation, we take immense pride in our thriving culture of writing. This year, we are excited to introduce our latest group of talented poets: Martyna, Ella, Sadie, and Catherine. Each of these students has submitted their heartfelt poems to the prestigious Oide Ireland National Poetry Competition.

Their participation in this competition not only showcases their creativity and dedication but also highlights the strong literary tradition we nurture at our school.

Let's celebrate and support our young poets as they shine in this national competition!



Library Corner

Halloween Horror Micro-fiction Competition



In a thrilling conclusion to this year's Halloween Horror micro-fiction competition, Jessica, a third-year student, has taken the top prize. Her chilling entry managed to unnerve the judges in under 50 words, showcasing not only her talent but also her ability to captivate and disturb with remarkable brevity. The competition saw an impressive turnout of 60 creative entries, each bringing a unique twist to the horror genre.

Congratulations to Jessica and well done to all participants for their creativity and effort.

Alumna Hayley,s Literacy Triumph

In an inspiring start to the week, past pupil Hayley, who is set to graduate with a BA Hons in Writing and Literature from ATU Sligo, has shared exciting news with her alma mater. Hayley's first published poem has been featured in the Scrimshaw Journal, marking a significant milestone in her burgeoning literary career.

Adding to the excitement, Hayley is preparing to embark on a new adventure in America, where she aims to pursue a career in journalism. Her success story is a testament to her hard work and creativity. The PresWex community is beaming with pride as they celebrate Hayley's achievements and wish her the best on her journey ahead.

Well done, Hayley! You're an inspiration to us all.

Hayley Lynch Kelly

From Wexford, Halyey is a recent graduate from Sligo IT. Her main interests lie in lifestyle and writing feature pieces.

Published writer/poet

Library Corner

Senior Library Team's Festive Book Research Trip

On November 15th, our Senior Library Team members visited The Book Centre Wexford to research books that would make perfect Christmas presents for the whole family. Their suggested book buys will be displayed in the coming weeks, providing fantastic recommendations for anyone looking to gift the joy of reading this festive season.

During their visit, the team had the pleasure of meeting Amy, a past team member, who is now gaining valuable work experience at the store. This encounter added a special touch to the trip, highlighting the ongoing connection between our school community and local businesses.

We encourage everyone to support local this holiday season. Keep an eye out for the team's book suggestions, and happy reading!



TY Students and Staff Enjoy a Memorable Hike in Glendalough

Our Transition Year (TY) students and staff recently embarked on an exciting two-day hike in the stunning surroundings of Glendalough. This adventure not only allowed them to explore the breathtaking landscapes but also provided a wonderful opportunity for teamwork and bonding.

The hike was filled with laughter, challenges, and the beauty of nature, making it a truly enriching experience for everyone involved. Participants embraced the spirit of adventure, creating lasting memories along the way.

A big thank you to all the staff and students for their enthusiasm and commitment to making this hike a success. We look forward to more adventures in the future!





A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Outgoing Parents Association Leaders

As we bid farewell to our outgoing Parents Association leaders, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to Mary Donohoe, our Chairperson, Pauline Rochford, our Vice Chairperson, and Mairead McCarthy, our Treasurer. Their dedication, enthusiasm, and unwavering support for our school have made a significant impact on our community.

Throughout their tenure, these remarkable individuals have worked tirelessly to enhance the school experience for both students and parents alike. Their commitment to fostering a positive environment has not gone unnoticed, and we are truly grateful for their contributions.

Thank you, Mary, Pauline, and Mairead, for your hard work and passion. You will be greatly missed, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

Student Council Plans for the Year Ahead

The newly elected Student Council recently convened to discuss exciting initiatives for the upcoming year. Among the key projects on their agenda are the creation of a New Memorial Garden, which aims to provide a serene space for reflection and remembrance within the school community.

Additionally, the council plans to install benches along Grogans Road, enhancing the outdoor environment for students to relax and socialize. Another highlight is the Solas Colour Day fundraiser, an event designed to promote school spirit while raising funds for important causes.

To ensure that all students have a voice in these initiatives, the Student Council will soon distribute a survey seeking feedback and opinions. Students are encouraged to keep an eye out for this opportunity to share their thoughts and contribute to the council's efforts. Stay tuned for more updates as the Student Council works to make this year memorable and impactful!



Transition Year Students Explore An Garda Síochána Operational Support Open Day

Our Transition Year (TY) students recently had an exciting trip to Dublin for the An Garda Síochána Operational Support Open Day. This event provided them with a unique opportunity to see various specialized units in action.

The students enjoyed engaging demonstrations from several units, including the Dog Unit, Mounted Unit, Water Unit, and Air Support, as well as the Public Order and Armed Support Units. Each demonstration showcased the skills and teamwork involved in maintaining safety and security in our communities.

This hands-on experience not only enhanced the students' understanding of law enforcement but also inspired many to consider future careers in this field. A big thank you to An Garda Síochána for hosting such an informative and engaging event!




Celebrating Our Past Pupils: New Profiles to Inspire Future Generations

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our past pupils who collaborated with Mr. Nugent on the creation of our Past Pupil Profiles. These profiles are an integral part of our school's focus strand, #FurtherPathways, aimed at guiding and inspiring our current students.

The new profiles will be displayed along our corridors, joining the many existing profiles that already celebrate the achievements of our alumni. Each profile serves as a testament to the diverse paths our former students have taken, showcasing their successes and the various opportunities available after graduation.

We believe that these stories will motivate our current students to explore their own potential and consider the exciting possibilities that lie ahead. Thank you once again to our past pupils for their contributions and for being role models in our school community!



Subjects studied in school and if they helped you in any way on the course:

I studied the three core subjects as well as German, Music, CRE and Biology. What I learned in many of my subjects has helped me in some way or another. As for a biology related knowledge I rely on what I learned in biology throughout the course in both Strand 1 and 2 years. The leaving cert syllabus well prepared me for many of the topics I've done this far in my classes. Once you learn the basics well, it sets you up nicely to build on the detail and difficulty well. For my science major I must also take some maths classes. The way my teachers in maths and science throughout my time in Presentation, guided and encouraged me has made my transition into college level science and maths a lot easier. Not to mention my teachers in my other subjects who taught me various methods of learning and reviewing that I incorporate regularly now.

Why did you end up where you did:

I ended up in Iona University for many reasons. I must admit the main one is running. There is a great cross country and track team here. When I was given the opportunity to be a part of a set up like this I jumped on it. The academics here are also a good standard. The location of Iona is also amazing being just twenty minutes outside of New York city.

What are you enjoying about the course:

I'm enjoying exploring biology topics in more depth and basically learning more about how the human body functions and interacts with the environment around it. I also enjoy that here in America you must complete a variety of core classes. This gives me a taste of what it's like to study a variety of subjects at university level. I've done classes in everything from philosophy to psychology. I think it's will help me finish my education here as a well rounded knowledgeable individual.

What's the course about:

General Biology

What modules are you studying:

General Biology 1 & 2, General Chemistry 1 & 2, Organic Chemistry 1 & 2, Genetics, Evolution, Calculus, Applied Statistics, General Physics 1 & 2, Anatomy

I will have some choice as to which modules I take when I decide which specific area within biology I would like to specialise in.

IONA UNIVERSITY

CLARAGH KEANE
Biology



Subjects studied in school and if they helped you in any way on the course:

I am currently studying a lot of similar aspects of material in my classes as we did in secondary school, although I will be learning some new material in the next semester. As a student from the Presentation I studied the subject Leaving Cert Physical Education which really helped me throughout my health and wellness class as we cover some very similar topics.

Why did you end up where you did:

I'm an English major, every school in Ireland has to focus on English and I think that the amount of English we focused on in the Presentation Secondary School. Also my core subjects of Irish, Maths, Ag Science, History, Business and Biology were all a huge help not only in deciding on what I wanted to do but challenged me in school which made me work hard and prepared me for third level.

What are you enjoying about the course:

English was my favourite subject in secondary school, along with being my strongest, this made me want to continue this in college. Here that American colleges offer a variety of different courses. I also enjoyed the selection of subjects given to us.

What's the course about:

General English

What modules are you studying:

I am currently doing a lot of the same aspects stuff as we did in the secondary school, although I will be learning some new things in my new classes next semester. Being an English major in the states means I can not only go on and career in journalism, writing, publishing, but it also means that I can go into medicine, law and teaching.

You are required to take a first year seminar, and a health and wellness class for your first year. As a student from the Presentation Secondary School I studied Leaving Cert PE in senior cycle which helped me during my health and wellness class as we cover the same topics. My chosen classes are lit to literature and a creative writing class. Each semester I must take new classes to complete my degree in America you need credits to graduate meaning you can take fun classes like yoga, ultimate frisbee and dance classes to earn extra credit which allows you to graduate, and they're a lot of fun!

MARS HILL UNIVERSITY

BECKY O'REILLY
English Major

Celebrating Our Past Pupils: New Profiles to Inspire Future Generations



Subjects studied in school and if they helped you in any way on the course:

For my leaving cert I studied Biology, History, French and Politics, along with the core subjects, English Irish and Maths. I found that History, English and Politics in particular were a benefit to me. These were my favourite subjects in school which ultimately guided me into deciding to study Law with Politics. English has helped me in writing my assignments, which is a big part of my course. It has also equipped me with the necessary skills for reading and understanding difficult texts. History and Politics are extremely relevant to my course, with some of the content overlapping with the politics modules I currently study.

Why did you end up where you did:

Even though I really enjoyed Science in school, I always knew I would pursue something more in the humanities disciplines. This was because I loved English and History. When I took up Politics for my leaving cert I knew that I would study a course that allowed me to continue to learn more about how the world works, and how we interact with each other. Researching on Careers Portal I found out that I could study Law with Politics. I knew that this was the course for me and I would do the necessary (which was a lot) to be offered a place.

What are you enjoying about the course:

Although the lectures are often long, I really enjoy learning from and hearing perspectives from experts in areas of Law with Politics. My lecturers have a vast expertise of knowledge, and are the authors of articles and books. To be able to learn from them is such a privilege. A lot of my modules will also circle back to how things can be improved? What should be changed? Where are the areas in this process? Both Law and politics require a lot of study and reading to allow a student to not only recite in an exam or assignment, but also to criticise and give an opinion on the subject.

What's the course about:

My Law modules cover topics from tort, contract, constitutional law and many more. The course gives a student the required knowledge to be able to sit exams to go on to be Solicitors and Barristers. We also learn how different laws came to be and the reasoning behind them, and how our country is set up. A lot goes on in everyday life behind the scenes that I didn't realise! The Politics modules range from learning the theories of ancient philosophers to modern international relations. We learn why countries go to war, what the best forms of government are, whether or not nuclear bombs should be used etc. While some of the ancient theory can seem mundane it shapes a lot of how society is today.

What modules are you studying:

This year (second year) I study:

- Criminal Liability and Procedures
- Criminal Offences and Defences
- Company Law 1&2
- EU constitutional law
- EU economic law
- Property Law 1&2
- Individuals and the State
- International Debates
- Comparative Politics
- Foundations in Global Development

CARA WILLETTS
Law with Politics



Subjects studied in school and if they helped you in any way on the course:

Music, Accounting, Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, English and Mathematics.

Foremost I would say Music and Physics were the most beneficial subjects for me. Although having a music knowledge was not required in the course it certainly aided in the understanding of a lot of concepts, as well as in creativity. Physics, although again, not required, aided in the understanding of sound itself, as we look at the wave nature of sound and how to engineer it.

Why did you end up where you did:

I chose this PLC out of pure interest sake. I got the maximum number of points that I could in the Leaving Cert, so that when I do decide to go into university I have as much option as possible. However, I am not sure as to the direction I want to go into in university as I have a vast array of different interests I have considered at third level. The course gave me a taster into the world of sound engineering and music technology and helped me figure out my career path.

What are you enjoying about the course:

I enjoyed this course because it was a small classroom setting similar to that of secondary school, our class had 18 people in it, and we all did the same subjects together. We talk to our teachers on a first name basis, and develop relationships with them. It's very hands on and practical, which was a change of pace from my usual academic mindset and subjects. We had one day off a week for work experience, which was very beneficial as it gives you insight into working in the industry, as well as allows you to gain external knowledge and networks with people, which is extremely important in the music industry. I also enjoyed the selection of subjects given to us.

What's the course about:

The course is, as the title suggests, about Sound Engineering and Music Technology. You work with different Digital Audio Work Stations, as well as Digital Mixing Desks, Analogue Mixing Desks, and you have access to a recording studio and radio station. It is about learning the basics of sound engineering and music technology, as well as some other similar subjects.

What modules are you studying:

- Sound Engineering
- Music Technology (Ableton Live + Protools)
- Radio Programme Production
- Digital Movie Processing (Adobe Premiere Pro)
- Image Processing (Adobe Photoshop)
- Communications
- Work Experience

ARIANNE HOGAN



Subjects studied in school and if they helped you in any way on the course:

I studied Business, German, Geography and Biology in sixth year. Biology was definitely a huge help when it came to college. Anatomy and physiology is something that I had in first year, and I progressed through all four years of general nursing. I can honestly say that having a base in biology allowed me to understand anatomy and physiology much quicker, as it built on what I had done in school. Although it is not a requirement for the course, I would highly recommend having at least an interest in it, as you will need it all through college and your nursing career too!

Why did you end up where you did:

I had Waterford down as my first choice on my CAO, in sixth year. I wasn't too certain if I wanted to be away from home, and Waterford is ideal for commuting when living in Westford. I had also heard really positive things about the nursing programme there. Now that I have some experience in SETU, I can say that I definitely made the right choice. I much prefer having classes and lectures in smaller groups as I feel I can approach any of my lecturers with questions, they are all very supportive.

What are you enjoying about the course:

My favourite thing about this course is how practical it is. All student nurses are put into practice placement in their first year for a total of 7 weeks (2 weeks in November/December and 5 weeks in April/May). As daunting as this was at the beginning, it truly is the only way to fully understand nursing, as theory can only take you so far. Getting to know patients really is the best part and knowing that you're helping them at a time when they're struggling. As a general student, I will get the opportunity to practice in all areas of nursing, which will help me decide what area I would like to eventually go into.

What's the course about:

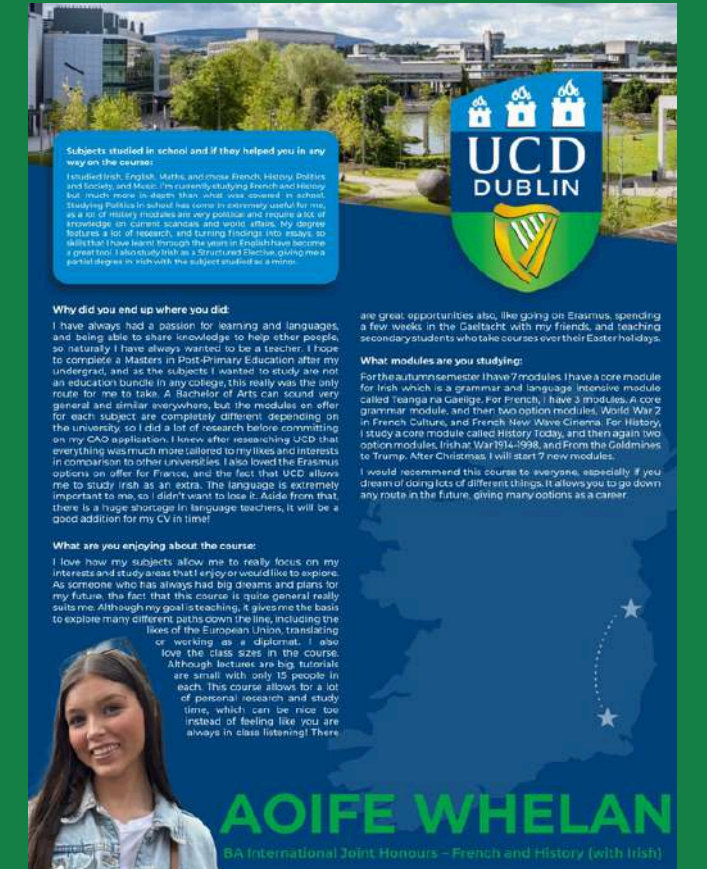
General nursing covers such a large range of topics throughout the four years. In first year its mainly getting a handle on the basics. Learning about medications and how to administer them through all different routes. Practical things such as taking observations and documenting them. Learning about the many different foods that there are to assess patients, but also how to manage different types of patients and how their needs are our top priority.

What modules are you studying:

In first year, there are 5 modules per semester. Anatomy and Physiology Introduction to General Nursing, Medication Management, Evidence Based Practice, Health and Psychosocial Studies, and Skills Lab, to name a few. It is in the skills labs that we practice all of our practical skills such as patient hygiene, medication administration, injections, blood pressure monitoring, etc. Some modules such as Anatomy and physiology are more exam based, whereas others are assignment based. Don't worry about assignments, there is a module called Learning to Learn where we are shown exactly how to do so.

I am now in my second year of nursing and couldn't be happier with my course choice. It is a lot of work but definitely worth it!

LISA WHITEACRE
General Nursing



Subjects studied in school and if they helped you in any way on the course:

I studied Irish, English, Maths, and chose French, History, Politics and Science in sixth year. I really enjoyed French and History but much more in sixth than what was covered in school. Studying Politics in school has come in extremely useful for me, as a lot of history modules are very political, so having a bit of knowledge on current, scandals and world affairs. My degree features a lot of research and writing things that really do matter to what I have learnt through the years in English have become a great tool. I also study Irish as a Structured Elective, giving me a partial degree in which works the subject studied as a minor.

Why did you end up where you did:

I have always had a passion for learning and languages, and being able to share knowledge to help other people, so naturally I have always wanted to be a teacher. I hope to complete a Masters in Post-Primary Education after my undergrad, and as the subjects I wanted to study are not an education bundle in any college, this really was the only route for me to take. A Bachelor of Arts can sound very general and similar everywhere, but the modules on offer for each subject are completely different depending on the university, so I did a lot of research before committing on my CAO application. I knew after researching SETU that everything was much more tailored to my likes and interests in comparison to other universities. I also loved the Erasmus options on offer for France, and the fact that UCD allows me to study Irish as an extra. The language is extremely important to me, so I didn't want to lose it. Aside from that, there is a huge shortage in language teachers, it will be a good addition for my CV in time!

What are you enjoying about the course:

I love how my subjects allow me to really focus on my interests and study areas that I enjoy or would like to explore. As someone who has always had big dreams and plans for my future, the fact that this course is quite general really suits me. Although my goal is teaching, it gives me the basis to explore many different paths down the line, including the likes of the European Union, translating or working as a diplomat. I also love the class sizes in the course, although lectures are big tutorials are small with only 15 people in each. This course allows for a lot of personal research and study time, which can be nice too instead of feeling like you are always in class listening! There are great opportunities also, the going on Erasmus, spending a few weeks in the Caillatuch with my friends, and teaching secondary students who take courses over the Easter holidays.

What modules are you studying:

For the autumn semester I have 7 modules. I have a core module called Gaeilge na Gaeilge, For French, I have 3 modules. A core grammar module, and then two option modules. Aoife W02 in French Culture, and French New Wave Cinema. For History, I study a core module called History Today, and then again two option modules, Irish War 1914-1998, and From the Goldmines to Trump. After Christmas I will start 7 new modules. I would recommend this course to anyone, especially if you dream of doing lots of different things. It allows you to go down any route in the future, giving many options as a career.

AOIFE WHELAN
BA International Joint Honours – French and History (with Irish)



Congratulations to Ailbhe Geelan!

We are thrilled to celebrate the achievements of our past pupil, Ailbhe Geelan, who recently won a prestigious prize in collaboration with EY, Mazars, and Grant Thornton. This exciting recognition was presented at the 2024 Maynooth University Accountancy Showcase, highlighting Ailbhe's hard work and dedication in the field of accountancy.

Ailbhe's accomplishment not only reflects her talent but also serves as an inspiration to current students. We are proud to see our alumni making significant strides in their careers and contributing to the professional community.

Congratulations, Ailbhe! We wish you continued success in all your future endeavors!



Congratulations to Claragh Keane!

We are excited to share the achievements of our past pupil, Claragh Keane, who is currently studying at Iona University. Recently, Claragh participated in the Conference Championship, where she showcased her impressive skills on a challenging 6k cross-country course in Montgomery, New York.

Finishing in 12th place with a time of 21:05, Claragh played a vital role in helping her team secure a second-place finish overall. Her dedication and hard work are commendable and serve as an inspiration to all.

Congratulations, Claragh! We are proud of your accomplishments and look forward to seeing what you achieve next!

Celebrating Stand Up Awareness Week and Friendship Week

Our school community came together to celebrate Stand Up Awareness Week and Friendship Week, filled with engaging activities that fostered a spirit of inclusion and camaraderie. The overarching theme for the week was Friendship & Inclusion of All, emphasizing the importance of building strong, supportive relationships among students.

One of the highlights was the Best Friend Competition, where students shared their thoughts on what it means to be a good friend. This activity encouraged reflection and discussion about the qualities that make friendships meaningful.

In addition to the competition, students enjoyed face painting, adding a splash of color and creativity to the festivities. The atmosphere was further enlivened by friendship songs played over the intercom, creating a joyful backdrop for the week's events.

Overall, the celebrations not only promoted awareness but also strengthened the bonds of friendship within our school community. It was a wonderful reminder of the power of kindness and inclusion!



Thank You to Huge from SETU for Inspiring Our 6th Year Students

We extend a heartfelt thank you to Huge from SETU for taking the time to speak with our 6th year students about their future educational options in Carlow, Waterford, and Wexford. This informative session provided valuable insights into the various pathways available for students as they consider their next steps in education.

Huge's presentation highlighted the diverse opportunities within these regions, helping students to better understand their choices for third-level progression. The engagement and enthusiasm from the students were evident, as they asked questions and explored the possibilities that lie ahead.

This initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to support students in making informed decisions about their futures. We appreciate Huge's contribution to this important conversation and look forward to more collaborations that empower our students on their educational journeys.

Thank you once again, Huge, for your support and guidance!



Congratulations to Blackwater Ladies Footballers!

A huge congratulations to the Blackwater ladies footballers for their impressive victory in the county final last weekend! This win is a remarkable achievement, and we are especially proud of our own students who played a vital role on the team.

Among the standout performers was Kacey Coleman, a talented 3rd-year student, who delivered an outstanding performance by scoring a sparkling hat-trick in the second half. Her contributions were crucial in securing the win, and her skill on the field truly shone through.

This victory not only highlights the dedication and hard work of the players but also fosters a sense of community and pride within our school. We celebrate this achievement and look forward to more successes in the future. Well done, Blackwater ladies!



Empowering Our 3rd Year Students: A Study Skills Workshop with Inspire Education

Our 3rd year students benefited from an insightful study skills workshop led by Shane from Inspire Education. The session provided valuable strategies to enhance their academic performance. A big thank you to Shane and Inspire Education for their support and expertise. This workshop will surely aid our students in their exam preparations.



Inspiring Words from Olympians: PresWex Swimming Team's Webinar Experience

Our PresWex swimming team recently had the privilege of watching the "Dare to Believe! Meet the Olympians" webinar, organized by Team Ireland. The event featured inspiring messages from Olympians, including the impactful words of Kellie Harrington, who emphasized that "small changes can make a difference."

This motivational session provided our students with valuable insights and encouragement, reinforcing the importance of dedication and perseverance in their athletic and academic endeavors.

A heartfelt thank you to Ms. Pac-Kenny for organizing this enriching experience. It was a fantastic opportunity for our team to connect with and learn from some of the best athletes in the world.



Celebrating Achievements: Pope John Paul II Award Ceremony

Congratulations to our Pope John Paul II participants who received their Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Spirit Awards at St. Aidan's Cathedral. Presented by Bishop Ger, this ceremony highlighted the dedication of our students and the support of their teachers, Mr. Grannell and Mr. Hackett. Well done to all!



Heartfelt Gratitude for Shoe Box Appeal Support

A massive thank you to all the students, staff, and parents who generously supported the Shoe Box Appeal this year. Your kindness and thoughtfulness in thinking of others truly embody the spirit of our community. Your contributions will make a significant difference and bring joy to many. Thank you all for your support and compassion.



Memorable Welcome Event Unites School Community

We are grateful to our transfer, international, and local students who made last night's Welcome Event truly unforgettable. The evening provided a wonderful opportunity for students, families, and host families/agencies to create bonds and build lasting friendships. A special thank you goes to Ms. Dooley for organizing such a heartwarming and successful event. Your efforts have greatly enriched our school community.



Spreading Festive Cheer: JP II Students Visit Wygram Nursing Home

Our JP II students in Transition Year recently brought joy to the residents of Wygram Nursing Home by sharing the festive spirit through carols and a festive raffle. The event was a heartwarming experience, with students singing carols and engaging with the residents. Adding to the festive atmosphere, Mr. Grannell and Mr. Malone lent their voices to the caroling, making the occasion even more special. Well done to all involved for spreading cheer and making the festive season brighter for the Wygram community!



U17 Soccer Team Triumphs in FAI Cup Match

Congratulations to our U17 soccer team for their fantastic 2-0 victory over St. Mary's Arklow in the FAI Cup, played on November 21st! Holly Dooley and Shannon McGuire scored the decisive goals, leading the team to a well-deserved win.

A big shoutout to the entire team and their mentors for their hard work and dedication. Well done!



Presentation Day 2024

This year, we proudly marked #PresDay2024 with the inspiring themes: “Deeds not Words, Let your Light Shine.” Our community came together for a beautiful service at Rowe Street, where the essence of our themes was vividly brought to life.

During the service, our 6th-year students shared heartfelt words of wisdom with the 1st-year students, symbolically passing the light on to the next generation. This gesture not only highlighted the strength of our school spirit but also emphasized the importance of guidance and support across different year groups.

The event was a poignant reminder of the power of actions over words and the bright future that lies ahead when we let our inner light shine. This special day will be cherished as a testament to our shared values and commitment to fostering a nurturing and inspiring school environment.



Presentation Day 2024

In a heartfelt tribute, students and staff recently visited the Convent Graveyard to honor the sisters who have given so much to our community. Each student placed a rose on the graves, a gesture of gratitude and remembrance for the contributions made by these remarkable women.

The day was further enriched with quizzes about the life of Nano Nagle, adding an educational and engaging element to the event. These activities not only deepened our understanding of her legacy but also fostered a sense of appreciation for our shared history.

A big thank you to everyone who participated and helped organize this meaningful day. Your efforts made it a truly memorable experience for all involved.



Presentation Day 2024

On Presentation Day, we celebrated with an inspiring face-painting event organized by our amazing Wellness team. The theme was 'I Am Enough,' and the event aimed to remind everyone that they are perfect just the way they are.

During lunch, students enthusiastically participated in the face-painting activity, embracing the positive and empowering message. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to come together and support each other in recognizing their self-worth.

We encourage all students to sign their pledge on page 7 of the journal and always remember that you are enough exactly as you are. A big thank you to Ms. L Murphy and our Wellness team for organizing this uplifting event. #iamenough



Presentation Day 2024



TY D Impresses with Poetry for Science Week

Well done to TY D for their outstanding work on the Poetry Module with acclaimed poet Stephen James Smith. The students showcased their own poetry during Science Week at The Arts Centre, impressing the audience with their creativity and passion.

The performance was even more special as two representatives from Creative Ireland attended to watch the students' work. Their presence highlighted the significance of the event and the high calibre of the performances.

A big thank you to their teacher, Ms. Cullen, for guiding and supporting the students through this enriching experience. Your dedication has clearly paid off!



Gratitude for Graphedia's Sponsorship

A heartfelt thank you to Graphedia for their continued support in sponsoring our equestrian jackets. Their generosity ensures that our team is well-equipped and proudly represents our school in every event. We are grateful for their partnership and look forward to continued collaboration.



Educational Visit to Clonskeagh Mosque

Recently, our 5th and 6th year LC RE classes embarked on an enriching educational visit to Clonskeagh to learn about the Mosque and Islamic traditions as part of their curriculum. The trip provided students with a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of different cultural and religious practices, fostering a spirit of inclusivity and respect.

Special thanks to Mr. Grannell for organizing this insightful visit, and to Ms. Murphy and Ms. Dooley for accompanying the students. The day concluded with some festive shopping in Dundrum, adding a delightful end to an informative and memorable experience.



Social Badminton Gains Popularity

Social Badminton has become a favorite activity among our students, running after school on Thursdays and Fridays from 3-4 pm. This engaging and fun activity is open to all who wish to join. If you're interested, feel free to ask Mr. Moore or Ms. Colfer to add you to the Teams. Come and enjoy the game while connecting with your peers!



Strength and Conditioning Training: Join Us!

As the holiday break approaches, our students are demonstrating incredible dedication by participating in Strength and Conditioning training sessions. These sessions are open to everyone and take place on Fridays at lunchtime. It's a fantastic way to stay active and build strength in a supportive environment.

If you're interested in joining, please reach out to Mr. O'Shea. Let's stay fit and strong together!



Raising Awareness for Pieta House: Amber Flag Campaign

A heartfelt congratulations to all students and staff who participated in today's event by wearing shades of amber to raise awareness for Pieta House. This initiative is part of our ongoing campaign for the Amber Flag, aimed at promoting positive mental health within our community.

We are proud to announce that through your generous donations, we have raised an impressive €650 for Pieta House. Your support is greatly appreciated and will make a significant impact.

A special thank you goes to the Amber Flag Team, as well as Mr. Waters, Mr. Malone, and Mr. Moore, for their dedication and hard work in organizing this meaningful event. Your efforts have truly brought our community together for a vital cause. Well done to all involved!



Raising Awareness for Pieta House: Amber Flag Campaign



Exciting Campus Expansion Approved

We are thrilled to announce that the Department of Education has approved a new extension to our existing campus. This development comes at a pivotal time, as our school has experienced significant growth over the past 10 years. The new facilities will provide much-needed space for both our students and staff, supporting our expanding curriculum and enhancing the overall learning environment.

This extension will enable us to continue offering a diverse and enriching educational experience, catering to the evolving needs of our growing school community. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Department of Education for their support and look forward to the positive impact this expansion will bring.

Great News

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION

- 4 Classrooms
- 1 Science Lab
- 2 Home Ec Rooms
- 1 Multimedia Room
- 1 Technology Room
- 4 Special Rooms
- 2 SET Rooms
- Office Spaces
- Ancillary Offices

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Festive Spirit at School: Holiday Decorations

Thank you to Mr. Grannell for our beautiful School Crib and the Advent wreath made by his mother, Mary. Also, a big thank you to Mr. Butler for decorating our tree and school for the festive season. Your efforts have truly brought the holiday spirit to life for all of us!



Transition Year Students Attend Just 1 Life Programme

Our Transition Year students attended the Just 1 Life programme at the Wexford Opera House. The day was filled with educational and eye-opening sessions on road safety, providing invaluable lessons for our students.

We extend our gratitude to the Rotary Club of Wexford and Wexford County Council for organizing this impactful event.



Exciting Addition: New Benches at Our School

The Student Council is thrilled to announce the arrival of four fantastic new benches for our school, crafted by the talented Wexford Men's Shed. These benches provide much-needed seating and enhance our outdoor spaces.

We also extend our gratitude to George Lawlor TD for his invaluable help, and to the 5th-year Student Council members for their dedication and hard work in making this project a reality. Thank you all for your contributions!



Connecting with French Penpals

Exciting news! Our next set of letters from 3e Bastia and 3e Cherbourg are being posted to our French penpals. This exchange provides an amazing opportunity for our students to learn about the lives of French teenagers, including their likes, dislikes, and daily routines.

Engaging in this penpal program not only enhances language skills but also fosters cultural understanding and friendships across borders. We look forward to hearing from our French friends and continuing this enriching correspondence.



First Year Choir Performs for Charity

Recently, our First Year Choir took to the streets of town to perform in aid of the Wexford Mental Health Association. The girls put in a tremendous amount of effort to prepare for this performance, showcasing their talent and dedication.

A special thank you to Ms. Crosbie and Ms. O'Shea for facilitating and supporting the choir throughout their preparation. Your hard work and commitment have made this charitable event possible and successful.



Congratulations to Our Talented Students

A huge well done to all our students who performed in the Wexford School of Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker" at the Opera House. Your hard work, dedication, and talent truly shone on stage, making the performance a spectacular success. We are incredibly proud of you!



Senior Prefect, Public Relations Team, Escape Wexford Review

The three of us travelled down to Escape Wexford along with Mr O'Leary to trial their new virtual reality escape rooms. This new business has opened recently on Peter Street, just off the bandstand. They provide nine different virtual reality experiences, including runaway train, laser bots, pirates plague, manor of escape, time travel paradox, dragon tower, space station tiberia, depths of osiris and ninja trials. In each of these experiences, customers must complete different missions to reach an end goal.

The four of us took part in pirates plague, leading us to work as a team to escape the puzzle rooms and kill the kraken monster. We immersed ourselves into a virtual world where we were pirates attempting to save our pirate crew who had caught the "pelagic plague," turning them into fish-monsters. Along the way we had to complete a series of puzzles in different virtual escape rooms to unveil gold coins. This encouraged us to use our critical thinking skills to solve these puzzles. After releasing the gold coins, we were transported onto a pirate ship where we had to fight the victims of the pelagic plague and kill the kraken monster to stop our crewmates becoming cursed forever. We all became unaware of our real-life surroundings, even bumping into each other, as the vr headsets were so realistic!

We thoroughly enjoyed this experience, as we were immersed into a complete fantasy world, unlike anything we have done before. We did not know what to expect from this experience, as none of us had completed anything to do with virtual reality previously. We would highly recommend this new vr escape room, as it is perfect for birthday parties, something fun to do with friends, or a bonding experience with family. It is unlike anything Wexford has to offer and is an innovative new business idea.



A Week of Triumphs and Lessons at the WKC World Championships by Shauna Hume

During the October midterm, myself and six of my teammates travelled over to Albufeira, Portugal for the WKC World Championships. Over the course of the week, I fought in 4 categories and 2 different fighting styles. On Monday, the teams gathered outside the sports centre for the opening ceremony. This is always particularly exciting as the atmosphere is amazing! Each team get to walk in behind their flags, followed with a speech by the President of the organisation. Once the opening ceremony is over, the competition begins. On Tuesday, I fought in my first category, which was individuals points fighting. This however, isn't my strongest style, and I lost in the quarter-finals. On Wednesday, I competed in two categories, the first being points tag team. This category was quite an experience as it was new to myself and my teammate.

I was quite happy with how we fought, as we tagged each other out throughout the round, however we lost to Team USA. Later that day, I also fought in my individual continuous category. I managed to achieve a bronze medal, ultimately losing to the World Champion in my section. On Thursday, myself and two of my teammates fought in the 3 person team event in points fighting.

My teammates fought well, however we lost to Team Canada. Overall, the week was full of many highs and lows, but I am incredibly proud of the achievements myself and my teammates achieved and I'm delighted to have the opportunity to represent my country in a sport I love!



Presentation Photography Society

Every group starts off small, and that is exactly how our Photography society began. It did take a while to set up the society but we finally managed to achieve our goal of establishing the group which currently consists of 23 students, proudly led by one of our Amazing Deputy Principals, Ms Dooley along with some of our amazing teachers Ms Cranny and Ms J. Kelly.

The society was created for students in our school, who have an interest in photography, but nobody is perfect and neither are our photos. Our society may have only been created a month ago but we are already making progress with our photography skills. We try to show our personalities and character in the photos we take as we have different points of view and that is exactly what photography is about. Capturing memories or scenes in a still image from our point of view as we all have a different point of view on every moment in life. We hope our photography society will actively contribute in the school life and that it will have an important role in many of our school events.

For anybody who may be interested to join, our meetings are every Tuesday at Lunch time In the study hall. For more information please message Ms Dooley, Ms Cranny or Ms J. Kelly on teams.



"A Spirit of Christmas" Event: A Joyous Success

We are thrilled to share that our recent event, "A Spirit of Christmas," was a resounding success and completely sold out! Our fabulous school choir and talented dancers delighted the audience with an enchanting evening of Christmas carols and more, creating a magical festive atmosphere.

The event, held on December 16th, was dedicated to supporting Wexford Women's Refuge, with all proceeds going to this important cause. The overwhelming support from our community was heartwarming, and we are grateful for everyone who attended and contributed.

A special thank you goes to the dedicated teachers who made this event possible: Ms. Mahon, Ms. A. Redmond, and Ms. F. Murphy. Your hard work and passion truly shone through, making the evening an unforgettable experience for all.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to past pupil Rachel Grace for attending and performing. Her talent and presence added an extra touch of magic to the evening, and we are incredibly grateful for her support.

Thank you once again to everyone involved, and we look forward to many more wonderful events in the future. Happy holidays!



"A Spirit of Christmas" Event: A Joyous Success



Creative Writing Contest: New Year's Resolution in conjunction with The Library Team

- We invite students to share their thoughts, stories, or poems about their resolutions for the upcoming year.

Guidelines:

- Submissions should be original works and no longer than 500 words.
- Entries will be judged based on creativity, originality, and adherence to the theme.
- The deadline for submissions is January 31st.

Prizes:

- First Place: A gift voucher and publication in the next school newsletter.
- Runner-ups: A certificate of achievement and honorable mention in the newsletter.

We encourage everyone to participate and celebrate the festive spirit through their unique and imaginative writing!

How to Enter:

- Write your story, poem, or essay on the theme "New Year's Resolutions."
- Submit your entry by email to roleary@preswex.ie
- Make sure to include your name, year, and class with your submission.

Let's make this a fun and engaging competition for everyone. Good luck, and may your creative resolutions inspire us all!

A Heartfelt Thank You from the Editor

Dear Readers,

As we wrap up our second edition of the school's newsletter, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each one of you for taking the time to read and engage with our content. Your support and interest are what make this publication meaningful and successful.

It's been a joy to share the highlights and achievements of our school community with you. We're grateful for your continued readership and enthusiasm.

With the festive season upon us, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May this holiday season bring you joy, peace, and wonderful moments with your loved ones.

Warm regards,
Rikki O'Leary, Editor



Thank you for reading!

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