

JCSP NEWSLETTER



Larkin Community College
Coláiste Pobail Lorcáin

Summer 2022

In our school, the JCSP programme ensures that all students enjoy positive experiences in school. The objective of the JCSP programme is "every student is capable of success." This success comes in many forms. We believe that the implementation of the JCSP programme will intertwine with our schools' ethos and see our students attain a more rounded and complete education.

For what initiatives did we do this year?

Being Active: We were able to provide football equipment for our football scholarship students. The students were able to actively engage with their football skills, conditioning and training. This was very useful towards student wellbeing. Thanks to Ms. Doogan for facilitating this.

Christmas Celebration: We celebrated our annual Christmas celebration by letting the first year students design their own decorations! We had a live in class acoustic performance from Mr. McCourt.

Field Trip: Our first year students enjoyed a trip to Causey Farm at the start of April. Students got to enjoy team building activities through the bread making task, a trip around the farm to see all the animals and finally, they enjoyed some bog jumping!

Easter Celebration: We gifted all our first year students with an Easter egg to say well done on a wonderful semester of work!

Aquaponics: First, second and third year students created a beautiful wall display in Aquaponics using art materials to highlight the wonderful work that is being undertaken in class.

Summer Celebration: Our third years will be celebrating their graduation from Junior Cycle on the 25th of May. We will have a graduation ceremony followed by ice cream to celebrate all of their wonderful achievements over the last three years. We are delighted to celebrate with our students' families for the first in person event we have been able to host this year!



JCSP Library in Larkin Community College

In Larkin Community College the library is more than just a room for reading!

Our students have access to a high-quality library run by two qualified librarians. The librarians work as part of a network of librarians in the JCSP Library Project. Larkin is very lucky to have a JCSP Library as there are only 30 in the whole country.

Jenny and Robin are responsible, together with key school staff, for drawing up and implementing library strategies to tackle the literacy difficulties experienced by many JCSP students.

Our library has established programmes of library-based classes, events and activities. Reading and writing skills are developed, reading habits nurtured and the information skills needed to navigate and participate in society are practised.



Christmas Family Literacy Initiative

As a Literacy Initiative to encourage reading in the home, the library purchased lots of great picture books suitable for younger brothers and sisters. Junior students were invited to visit our 'library shop' and choose a book gift for their siblings. Thanks to our dedicated team of TY Relationship Keepers, helpers and wrappers, almost 100 books went home as Christmas presents this year.

College Awareness Week

We had lots going on for College Awareness Week in Larkin Library.

All library classes completed our College Awareness Week quiz. We displayed College and Career books in the library and on Sora. Students also took part in a Kahoot! quiz where they were asked to guess what other jobs their teachers had previously. We showcased past students as role models on our College Wall of Fame. We contacted lots of past students and asked them to share a photo of their student cards and details of their college courses and what they did next.

We also used the week to highlight other past students of Larkin who have been in the media recently. Well-known past student and actor Barry Keoghan, appeared as the Joker in The Batman and in Marvel's Eternals as Druig – he even has his own Lego character and action figure now. Shelbourne and Ireland winger Jessica Ziu has agreed a move to West Ham in the Women's Super League. Artist Seán O'Rourke was recently featured in The Business Post and Irish Tatler. Carly Mahady has been working with The Marie Keating Foundation and sharing her story to promote Breast Cancer Awareness. Thommas Kane Byrne premiered his play Rearing is Sparing in The Axis Theatre, Ballymun. It's great to be able to show that there's lots of varied career options open to students.



European Day of Languages

We have students from at least 36 different countries in Larkin! Students enjoyed several activities in our library to mark European Day of Languages. Several classes did our Languages Kahoot! Students wrote welcome messages in their first language on our library tree, students put pins on our map of the world noticeboard to mark their country of origin.

First Year Fridays and nearly normal lunchtimes

It was great to see things starting to get back to normal in the library in September and to see some easing in the Covid restrictions. We continued our First Year Fridays and regular Kahoot! quizzes for Roald Dahl Day, started a Bookflix – book and movie club, got back to being able play chess and cards during lunchtime and eventually year groups were allowed to mix during lunchtime and student Library Assistants able to help out a little.

Friday lunchtimes became the day for 1st years to visit the library along with their 4th Year mentors. It was great to see things get back to normal as students chatted with TYs, did some drawing, played chess and read and recommended books to each other. It's been lovely to see the 4th years show such maturity in their new roles, since their training with NCI to become Relationship Keepers to help support our first years.



Friendship Week

What a lovely lunchtime in Larkin Library! Thank you to all the students who came in to get Polaroid pics done with their friends and also to those who came in and made new friends. Thank you to Ms. Higgins for organising a friendship bracelet making station and to Ms. Raftery for organising the treats and Polaroid station! Well done everyone!



Home Languages Books

We have been expanding our collection of Home Languages books in Larkin Library this year and have been encouraging students to read books in their home languages. JCSP Libraries want to encourage reading for pleasure and help keep literacy in home languages alive by helping establish routines for practicing reading and writing in the home language.

We now have a selection of Romanian, Polish and Lithuanian Wimpy Kids and Harry Potters along with some classic fairytales, picture books and recommended novels from each country.

JCSP Libraries are delighted to introduce our new collaborative project with Languages Connect under which we have added a new Home Languages collection to our Digital Library on Sora. The aim of this collection is to encourage students, with home languages other than English or Irish, to access books in their home language. The collection contains titles, in eBook and eAudiobook format, across 25 different European and Asian languages. There are currently over 630 titles in the collection.

Inktober Challenge

There was a very high standard of entries for Inktober this year and hundreds of entries. Massive congratulations to three overall winners voted by Larkin staff and students : Anthony, Elaine and Michelle received a large Art pack each. Well done for your fabulous work guys!

The runners up were voted on in our Instagram stories. Well done to Marta, Geraldine, Nikita and Michelle - runners up each got a sketch pad and their choice of colours. Thanks and well done to everyone else who took part.



JCSP Library Statements

2nd and 3rd Year Larkin students have been learning about library layout, A-Z, the Dewey Decimal System and working on their JCSP Library statements.



Leabhra Feabhra

Larkin Library supported the Leabhra Feabhra initiative. We bought some lovely new picture books and novels as Gaeilge for our school library and 1st and 2nd year students came to the library for Irish class to take part in our Leabhra Feabhra activities where some won book tokens to buy an Irish book for themselves or as a gift.



Magician Caolan McBride and Maths Week

We were delighted to have Professional Magician Caolan McBride with us to celebrate Maths Week with our 1st year students. Caolan entertained us with all sorts of magic, card tricks, number squares and tricks using library books. Students and staff thoroughly enjoyed his performance and it was a lovely way to finish off Maths week. We were also delighted to have had our first visitor in almost 2 years after the Covid restrictions.

During Maths Week, students also participated in other fun activities such as puzzle of the day, Maths Kahoot! and Maths Dingbats. All 1st and 2nd years had Maths Library Class during this week.



National DEAR Day

Lots of Larkin students and staff got caught reading to celebrate National Drop Everything And Read Day! Well done to Ms McKenna and Victoria for the winning photos.



New Books

We have been updating our non-fiction section and have lots of new books on particularly on Business and Social Media, many new graphic novels have just arrived in stock and we now have a large collection of books from the Little People Big Dreams series.

Trending Titles on BookTok

Thanks to Michelle for putting together our Trending Books noticeboard and to Charlie and Kayleigh for the #BookTok recommendations and display ideas. Check out these popular teen books from the school library or on Sora!



JCSP Reading Challenge

Well done to all of our wonderful JCSP Reading Challenge participants. Our 1st and 2nd year classes read and quizzed on 14 MILLION words in just 6 weeks!!

Those who achieved their points targets and the most improved and exceptional effort students were awarded certs and prizes. The top 4 students in each class also received One4All gift vouchers. Class 101 was the overall winning class. Well done all for your hard work - keep it up!



One Book, One Community

We are incredibly happy that we chose *The New Girl* by Sinéad Moriarty as our One Book, One Community title for 2022. All Larkin 1st year classes and 6th classes in four local primary schools were gifted a copy of the book by Larkin Library. The book, about a Syrian refugee who joins an Irish school and which focuses on friendship and empathy, recently won an An Post 2021 Book of the Year Award.



Sinéad Moriarty visited the library and gave a fantastic talk about her novel and the power of empathy. The students really enjoyed the author's visit and were thrilled with their signed copies of the book. Sinéad's visit and a talk from Calvin from The Scoop Foundation, talking about his experiences volunteering in Syria and Ukraine were organised as part of this outreach project. Students have now been given the opportunity to develop a rich understanding of the refugee experience and the ability to imagine the world through the eyes of another thanks to this project focused around *The New Girl*.

Thanks again to students from 101 and Ms O'Brien for doing such a wonderful job of acting out some of scenes from the book and to pupils from Central Model Senior School and Gardiner St Primary for joining us.

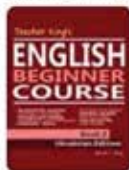




JCSP
Demonstration
Library
Project



Teacher King's English Beginner Course
Book 2-Ukrainian Edition - Kevin L. King



Borrow

Read sample

Add to list

Being a Superhero як стати
супергероєм - Liz Shmuller, KidKiddos
Books



Borrow

Read sample

Add to list

My First Ukrainian Weather & Outdoors
Picture Book with English Translations -
Aneta S.

Teach & Learn Basic Ukrainian words for Children
Series: Book 3



Borrow

Read sample

Add to list

My First Ukrainian Vegetables & Spices
Picture Book with English Translations -
Aneta S.

Teach & Learn Basic Ukrainian words for Children
Series: Book 4



Borrow

Read sample

Add to list

Stand Up Week

Well done to all our participants and winners in the library for Stand Up Week quizzes, Kahoots and book recommendations. Students received book tokens and Chapters vouchers as prizes. Stand Up Awareness Week is a time for second-level schools, youth services, and Youthreach Centres in Ireland to join together and take a stand against homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying.



Sora

Sora, our Digital Library is an online eBook and eAudiobook lending library. The collection consists of a wide range of teenage and young adult titles to suit all year groups, interests and ability levels. In addition, the library hosts collections of titles to support teacher CPD and staff/parent book clubs. The collection currently consists over 32,300 items.

Lots of great new Manga & Graphic Novel titles have just been added to our Digital Library on Sora. We have also added a range of new titles to support the large number of Ukrainian students coming into our schools. Something for everyone. Get in touch with us if you need login details.



Causey Farm

First years had a great day on Wednesday 6th of April, on their first class trip together.

They got to spend the day in Causey Farm! The day kicked off with baking some homemade brown bread, followed by a tour of the farm!

First stop was a visit to Peppa Pig, but it was the puppies, rabbits and baby lambs that stole our hearts! Our city slickers proved that they would make epic farmers by managing to catch some lambs and hens that escaped! We won't ask how they escaped!

We saw and fed horses, donkeys, llamas, cows and many other animals! We finished up the tour of the farm by visiting Ivan the camel!

Back to base for lunch and to taste our freshly baked brown bread! We finished off the day with some bog jumping! Congrats to Ermuunn from Class 101 who was nominated Star Bog Jumper!

Well done everyone on what was a fantastic day!



Causey Farm Trip Reflections

All first years went to Causey Farm on a trip. It was extremely fun and we all had a great time. The farm had many animals with lots of different fences to keep them in. We also made bread in teams at the start, which turned out great!

The bread we made was brown soda bread. Our instructor showed us how to make the bread, then we made it ourselves. The raw bread was very sticky to handle so we had to cover the mixture in flour.

After we baked bread, we went to see the animals. We saw a range of farm animals like pigs and cows. We also saw many animals that weren't native to Ireland, like camels and llamas. We had to hop a fence to see the camel, his name was Ivan! Some puppies were running loose, so we were able to catch them!

At lunchtime, my friends and I sat on a bench and ate snacks and sweets. Some of my class were playing football with students from a different school. Many of the students were running and jumping around.

Finally, we went to the bog. I didn't jump in but the majority of my group did. Some people got stuck in the mud, for over 30 minutes! I didn't jump in because I didn't want to get dirty and I didn't want to get stuck.

At the end we collected our bread from the first activity. We all got on the bus and went home. Overall, the trip was really fun and I would definitely go to Causey Farm again!

by Geraldine Villegas (103)

On Wednesday April 6th we went to Causey Farm. It took one hour to get there. When we got there we made brown bread.

On the tour we saw many animals. The first that we saw were llamas. After the llamas we went into the camel enclosure and saw the camel up close. We then went to lunch. We also saw horses and fed them grass.

We then went to the bog and had tremendous amounts of fun. After that we collected our bread and went home. It was a lovely day.

By Alexandu Cocut (102)

We took a bus to the farm. It took about an hour to get there. When we got to the farm, a lady brought us inside to make brown bread. She was very kind. After we finished making the bread, she took the bread and put it in the oven whilst we went to have some fun. She brought us to a shed where you could paint the walls. Some people signed their names. After that we went to look at some animals, such as sheep, a camel, llamas, horses, geese and pigs. We also got to see border collie puppies. One of them escaped from the cage and ran out to the field and we had to try and catch it. Eventually we caught the puppy. After we saw the animals, it was time to go down to the bog. We went to the bog in a tractor and trailer. I didn't go into the bog because it looked disgusting. I was the only one who didn't jump in from our group. It was the best day and we had so much fun!

By Kornelija Grigaraviciuta (102)



Second Year Trip to Causey Farm

Second years had a fantastic day in Causey Farm on Monday May 9th as part of their end of year celebrations! The day kicked off with some bread making, followed by a walk around the farm to meet all the animals! Students ended the day by taking part in the famous Causey Farm Bog Jump! Well done everyone! It was a really enjoyable trip!

Thanks to Ms. Tyrrell, Ms. Fallon, Mr. Campbell, Mr. McGeough and Tina for accompanying the group



Third Year Trip

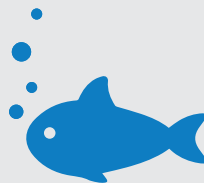
Third Year students enjoyed a well deserved class trip to Carlingford after all their hard work in their mock exams!!!

Really enjoyable day! It was lovely to be able to spend the day connecting with each other as a group, especially after the last two years.



Aquaponics

Students developed an understanding of how hydroponics and aquaponics can be used to reduce dependency on high intensity food production to more environmentally and economically sustainable crop growth systems. The students designed an LCC Aquaponic Wall Display to advertise their learning in a creative and imaginative manner. Some students took the time to paint the grey background on the wall to highlight all the work while others spent time designing mobiles and origami to express their individual ideas. First years drew posters to highlight the text LCC AQUAPONICS.



First Year Julia Skomra Swan Origami

I thought of the origami swans when I was learning the Art of Folding Paper. It was very fun to make these cranes/swans in the Aquaponic class and they only cost a few paper cuts! I am very happy with the finished product.



First Year Sofiia Kliuieva Fish Mobile

For my Aquaponics JCSP I decided to make colorful 3D fish. I used 2 pieces of plastic to make body, 2 buttons for eyes and some paper to make the fins. I glued everything together and colored with paint. Then I added some details and let it dry. All done!



Third Year Qiyu Yang Patrick from Sponge Bob Square Pants

For my JCSP Project, I made the starfish - "Patrick". Before, it was a cartoon shrimp. However, the structure was wrong. It didn't look like shrimp. A classmate told me later that it looked like a starfish from SpongeBob SquarePants, so I changed my mind and made it look more like a starfish. So, the face is a starfish, but the body is skinnier like a shrimp.



Third Year Conor Molloy – Puffer Fish

For my JCSP project I made a puffer fish. I made a puffer fish as they are my favourite kind of fish and I thought it would be fun to make it in Ms. Conway's Aquaponics class. At first, I used a small balloon, but it deflated, and I had to start again. This time I used modrock so the shape wouldn't go off and the sticks wouldn't fall off. This pufferfish took 3 weeks to make, and it was really fun!



Christmas Decorations

Well done to our first year students who enjoyed our "design a decoration" Christmas celebration. Students designed their own unique Christmas tree decorations to take home and keep. Students celebrated in class with a live acoustic performance of Christmas songs performed by Mr. McCourt. We saw lots of fantastic designs and some wonderful festive wall designs.

A huge well done to Florin, Geraldine, Maeve and Jodie who were presented with book tokens from Chapters. These students were nominated by their teachers for their school spirit.



Football Scholarship

Our Junior Cycle footballers have been busy this year. We were able to help fund the purchase of new football equipment which was used for training and wellbeing. These photos were taken during a tournament that took place in our 3rd year scholarship class before Easter break, along with our first year scholarship students playing a league match in Stella Maris. Well done to all involved!





2021 JCSP Graduation Celebration

The postponed JCSP Graduation Celebration was held partly in the library (and in classrooms) and we looked back at some of the activities and events with these students in Larkin and in the JCSP Library over the years and all enjoyed some ice-cream afterwards. Huge congratulations to Elaine Torres, who was voted as 2021 JCSP Student of the Year!



Basketball

Our under 16 boys basketball team reached the Leinster B final in December after a string of nail biting victories. A valiant effort saw them fall short to Moyle Park in an entertaining game. The semi final victory over Colmcilles will go down in the annals as a Matusz buzzer beater sealed a one point victory in overtime. A Melpatich master class in the quarter final win over Raheny was also a season highlight, scoring 31 points in 31-30 victory. Arnas, Adrian and Krennelly are also worth honourable mentions for their hard work and talent all season.

Our senior boys also had a great year backboned by Kurt Raggas, Josue Bushenwa, Luke Kearns and Chris Onecea. The lads went undefeated until the semi final stage when they fell short to a talented Moyle Park. A great year all round and more success to come.

Arts

Each year the Arts Programme create original Drama scripts which serve to reflect the lived realities of our student body and the local community.

This year, Arts students expressed an interest in exploring the notion of personal identity - in particular, we wanted to explore how one's sexual orientation can be perceived by the wider community and how that may impact upon an individual.

Through our final piece 'Storybook High' we hope to give a voice to the LGBTQI+ Community and bring a message of acceptance to a wider audience.

Storybook High is an original script written in conjunction with LGBTQI+ Charity 'SHOUTOUT,' which reimagines some of our most loved favourite fairy-tale characters. The plot is set in a modern environment of a 'finishing school' which attempts to cultivate the stereotypes for women and men historically and socially accepted within our society. However, our protagonists fight back against this age-old oppression and attempt to carve out new identities for themselves against the backdrop of such outdated ideals. It's a project about standing firm on sexual/ personal identity against the barrage of social expectations which young people contend with on a daily basis.

Our play was showcased in May in Liberty Hall to local primary schools as well as well as our own student body. We hope you enjoyed the fruits of our efforts.







Visit from An Taoiseach

Alicja Dajwłowska Reflection

Today we met the Taoiseach and other invited guests.

In the morning I started helping setting up the P-TECH room for the visit. I helped paint a big sheet to be used as a racetrack. This racetrack was a black line that would guide the follow-line-sensor-robot from start to finish. It was fun but stressful because of the time pressure.

Then I sat at the front of the room with my robot to present. It was a dancing robot that would spin a motor to move the entire body and play loud 8-bit music, it was connected to a big speaker so it'd be loud. I met the Taoiseach and some others, Mr. Usher was beside me too.

Mr Usher explained how because P-TECH is not given points for Leaving Cert., it can be hard. The Taoiseach told me there's a good school in Sligo for robotics and such which I thought was a nice gesture.

I explained how the robot works and they really liked it. Many photos were taken by professional photographers, I wasn't as nervous as I would be in 3rd year.

They looked around the rest of the room and everyone presenting their robots, they then left.

In conclusion, I really enjoyed today! Except for the cold weather, since we had to look professional we didn't wear coats and such so my hands and body were freezing. I am getting more exposed to public events and stressful events which is wonderful because I am getting more used to them :) I was barely worried today, only when my music turned on the second time by accident. I am glad the Taoiseach laughed and said "Ah, is he dancing on his own?" Or something along those lines.



FAVOURITE MEMORY FROM JUNIOR CYCLE



Favourite memory from Junior Cycle

Being with friends, learning new things

Went to Newgrange for our history trip

Winning basketball championship

My favourite memory is the play we did in 1st year since it was the most fun and eventful time in JC. Watching my friends participate and help them practice was lots of fun

Probably being in the football scholarship, it was the most enjoyable times out of those 3 years getting to do what I love and getting our minds off exams and homework

My favourite memory in Junior Cycle was playing on the football scholarship and basketball team. I also won student of the year and footballer of the year for 2 of my 3 years in Junior Cycle

The entirety of the making process of "Tale as Old as Time," the spin-off title of Beauty and the Beast

Playing basketball for the school, winning matches while improving

Favourite trip with your classmates

We went to Causey farm, Newgrange and a lot of basketball trips Causey farm- we baked bread, saw animals. We went to Newgrange for a history trip. We also went ice skating The business class went on a trip to a chocolate factory

We went to a cinema trip to watch Jumanji 2 with our year. It was great fun and we had tons of fun and a wonderful way to end the school year

I went to Glendalough in first year. I went on many sports trips for football, basketball, rock climbing and every other sport in the school

Beach football with the whole football scholarship

Favourite memory from scholarships

Winning different basketball matches, also performing in the Beauty and the Beast play

I was in the Arts Scholarship in first year was great, the play we did was really fun, and everyone loved it and watched it.

I was on the football scholarship and my favourite memory was scoring 2 goals in an 11-0 win! Also improving my skills and transitioning into a centre back
Winning a football tournament with my football school team.

I was on the football scholarship and my favourite memory was winning the Bohemian Shield. I also played on the basketball team and my favourite memory from that was playing in the National Basketball Arena

I was on the arts scholarship, and one of my fondest memories is the play "Tale as Old as Time", I played one of the leading roles and the rehearsals period was one of the most stressful but enjoyable times of Junior Cycle.

Favourite memory from the library

Unusual species of animals were brought in the library.

A Dracula actor came in and answered some questions

Dracula talk

There was a magician that came in and had a fun time
We did a maths talk and it was interesting and I enjoyed it.

A man came into the library and brought exotic animals like snakes and tarantulas decorating the library for Christmas with things made from pages from different books and making a Christmas tree from books

One of the activities I partook in was the wild animals talks, I was a part of it 2 times in my 3 years of the JC

I really enjoyed Dave's Jungle where Dave brought in a bunch of exotic animals and we got to see and touch them

Internet safety and library time

A funny story from when you were in Junior Cycle

I was backstage with my friends before their play came on and we had a lot of fun and messing around, at some point we also annoyed Ms Fallon because we got carried away.

A funny story would be the first year play. The play was amazing and hilarious and had a great laugh with friends

Mr Quinn dressing up for Halloween every year is always fun because his costumes are always good

While I was in JC, during the Halloween time, the teachers would always dress up, some of the teachers dressed up as a cat group and Mr. Quinn dressed up in a crazy old lady. Mr Quinn always managed to make us laugh and have a fun time.

A funny story from Junior Cycle was singing Christmas songs in toilets with the boys.



JCSP THROWBACK





Check out this throwback to when some of our senior students were in Junior Cycle! Do you recognise anyone?





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Junior
Certificate
School
Programme

Thank you for taking the time to read our JCSP newsletter reviewing the school year in Larkin Community College. Thank you to the JCSP production team Jenny, Robin and Ms. Raftery for all their hard work organising the featured initiatives and creating this newsletter.