



End of School Year Newsletter
Academic Year 2022-2023

A big thank you to our Principal Mr Usher, Deputy Principal Ms Doyle, Teaching staff, SNAs, School maintenance staff, and students for a wonderful academic year.

There have been so many fantastic events throughout this school year which would not have been possible without the amazing school community that we have here in Larkin Community College.

This newsletter aims to give a highlight of some of the fantastic events that have happened this year.



School trip abroad: Spain



Senior cycle language students were very lucky this year to be offered the opportunity to travel abroad over the May bank holiday weekend to practice their Italian or Spanish language skills in Italy or Spain.



As Spanish has now been in the school a number of years it was wonderful to be able to bring students on a trip to Spain to experience the culture and practice their language skills. Below is a taste of what they got to do:

Day 1: Students went to the National Gallery of Catalunya for a panoramic view of the Mediterranean. They saw the Olympic Stadium, La Sagrada Familia and the Gaudi buildings. They went to Central Park, visited the Picasso museum and wandered the old town of Barcelona. They sampled traditional food which the students ordered in Spanish. They visited and learned about the history of the Barcelona port and of course viewed the stunning architecture of Barcelona!

Day 2: Early morning start with a swim on the beach, followed by a fun day in Port Aventura theme park!! A day filled with sunshine and laughs!

Day 3: Jam packed final day in Barcelona! Students visited the Monserrat Monastery, then on to the National Gallery of Catalunya, time for shopping then an evening walk on the beach with some fun races. They were all so sad to be leaving. Haste el ano que viene!



Day 1: Fun filled day with a boat tour on Lake Garda, Romeo and Juliet House + “Arena di Verona” and of course a pit stop at Kiko Milano. Students are having an amazing time and representing our school so well! They are picking up Italian at pace!

Day 3: Our Italian students spent their last day in Italy at Gardaland! They also went bowling followed by a dip in the hotel pool after dinner! What an amazing trip!

Thank you to Ms. Higgins, Ms. Macari and Mr. Windle for joining the students and making it a trip to remember



LCA



LCA students have had a busy and productive year and have learnt so many new skills through completion of their different Tasks and Key Assignments.

Fifth year LCA students completed their Art Task and interviews this year. They created amazing masks that really highlighted their interests and talents!

Sixth year LCA students worked on their Practical Achievement Task after school on Wednesdays with the help of Tina and Ms. Conway. They baked so many delicious foods including brownies and Avoca style scones!



JCSP

This year's highlights

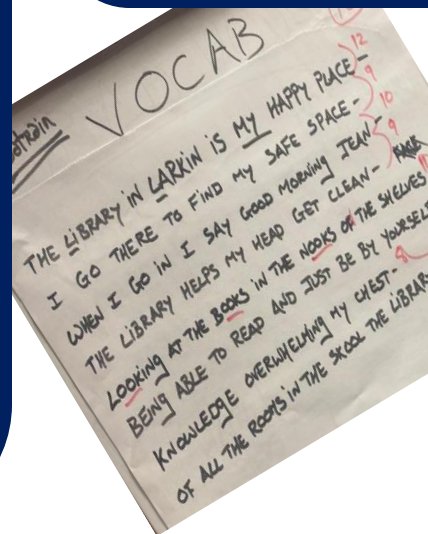
There have been lots of events organised through the JCSP programme this year, including a visit from Woolly farms, who brought their farm animals of hamsters, bunny rabbits, guinea pigs, lambs, pigs and goats to the school for all second year JCSP students for an educational and fun farm experience.

In January all first year students took part in the introduction to archaeology workshop and completed their session with a mini dig excavation.

In March Second years had a special visit from John Cummins Poetician who did a poetry and rap Workshop with students. They really enjoyed the experience!

Our Elves were busy this year with wrapping books for our first years to give as presents to their siblings. It's a great JCSP initiative and a wonderful way to spread Christmas!

The JCSP Library hosts tonnes of activities during the year. In November, all first year classes met Author Kevin McDermott. Kevin explained how the novel *In Pieces* evolved from a writing project he did with students in another JCSP Library School and read extracts. As the 1st years have all read this novel, they had some terrific questions for Kevin and gave him their thoughts about the book.





P-TECH

It has been another eventful year for P-TECH, along with our Junior Cycle students studying robotics and coding, trips for our senior cycle students to NCI, a Canva workshop in IBM, visits from industry mentors to our students in school, and our Transition year students completed a six week work placement with our industry partners.

March 29th, brought the P-TECH Showcase Event 'I am still learning' at the National College of Ireland (NCI). Following their six-week work experience with industry partners, P-TECH Transition Year students brought the house down with a series of amazing presentations on their respective projects. Well done to all the students, NCI and our industry partners on another successful P-TECH showcase!



Culture Day



Huge congratulations to our four TY students Lorena, Raven, Robert and Sharmili who recently graduated from the Trinity access Programme, Bridge to College student leadership programme.

As part of their leadership project they planned and delivered a culture day on the 27th of April to celebrate all the different places students come from in our school. There was lots of information and tasty food from different cultures for students to try. The day was a huge success, and we hope it can be an annual event.

First Year Mathematics Competition

This year our first years entered in the IMTA first year Maths competition. This is a national competition that many schools across Ireland participate in. We are extremely proud of how well our students did in this competition, especially Clayton Curley, Witold Woldanawski, and Singsen Nian, who were the top 3 students in our school and received an Eason's voucher and a certificate in recognition of their achievement. A lot of our students also achieved above the national average, and all received a certificate of participation for having completed the online quiz. Thank you to Ms. Jackson for organising this, we look forward to seeing how next year's first years will do in this competition!



Sound baths

Music students, Arts students and silent lunch attenders have all been extremely lucky to experience relaxing meditation through sound baths this year. These have been organised by Mr. Cusack and Ms. O'Higgins and guided by Chloe from Sonas Sounds. It gave students the opportunity to destress and become immersed in a wonderful sound experience.



Boxing Champion

Larkin Community College is extremely proud of our 5th year LCA student Ava Henry, who has had an amazing year in boxing this year. In September,

Ava was named captain of the Team Ireland squad contesting the European Junior Championships in Montesilvano, Italy. She was a fantastic representative and ambassador for Ireland in the Junior European Championships, especially with her win early on in the competition over the Czech Republic.

Ava made it to the European Junior Championship semi finals where she took on Italy! The entire school watched on as we lived streamed the fight into every classroom as the fight was due to start around 12pm!

It was an amazing achievement for 5th year Ava on receiving the award of “Boxer of the Tournament” in Italy over St. Patrick’s weekend and becoming a 5 Nations Champion. We are all so proud of you Ava and look forward to watching all your future matches!



Friendship Week

Friendship week was a huge success this year with so many events for students to reflect on what being and having a good friend means to them and they created a friendship wall display.

Fifth Year students kickstarted a week of fun activities by creating friendship bracelets for one another using letter beads to spell their best friend's name. Students got really creative braiding and beading their bracelets! Thanks to Ms. Meehan for facilitating.

There was a friendship café in the library on the Thursday for Junior students, where 1st and 2nd years were encouraged to visit to have tea and chats!

Ms. Macari's first, second and third year CSPE classes took the time to think about their friends by making origami hearts this week.

As part of friendship week our wellbeing team organised a staff bake off! Well done to everyone who took part and for putting in so much effort, the standard was very high from day one!

Congratulations to Fiona on being named Star Baker for her fabulous cake! Thank you to our judges Ms. Tyrrell, Peter and Mr. Usher and to Ms. Jackson for all the organizing.

A big thank you to Ms. Meehan for all the hard work that went into making this a successful and fun-filled week!





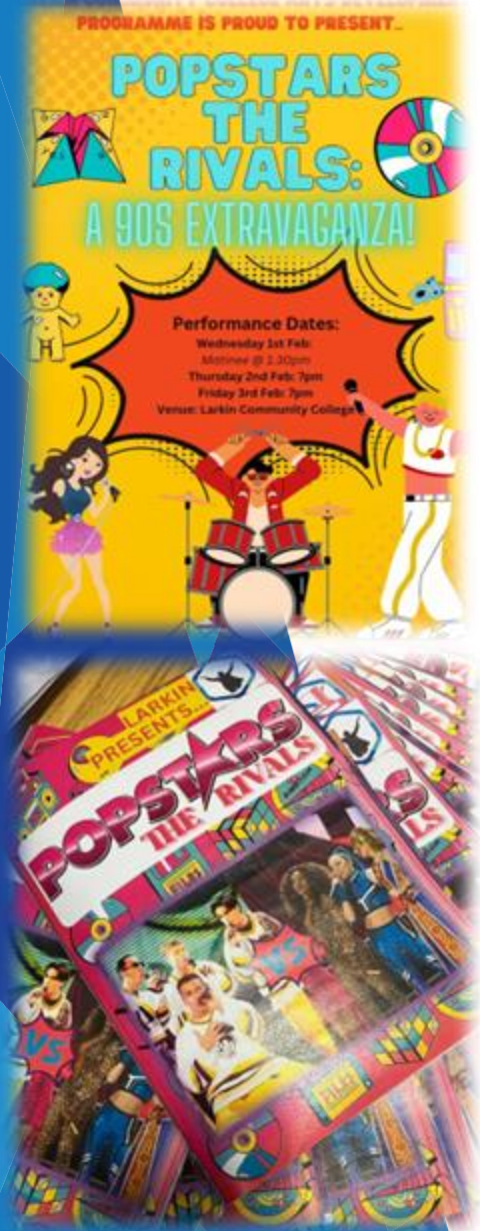
Aquaponics



Aquaponics is a short course offered to students in Junior Cycle. This year first year students studying this short course have been very lucky to go on trips to Belvedere College's Urban Farm, as well as to Grow HQ in Waterford to deepen their understanding of the subject. Ms. O'Keefe and a group of her first year aquaponics students enjoyed a wonderful day out at Grow HQ in Waterford. Learning about Biodiversity and minimizing food waste. They also enjoyed a really tasty lunch with all the produce!



The ARTS



The Arts Programme was proud to announce this year's school production; 'Popstars, The Rivals: A 90s Extravaganza!' This fantastic show had it all...Teen angst, break-ups, Romance & Comedy as well as an epic Battle of the Bands Competition thrown in for good measure! The 3 performances of the show were a huge success, the entire production was a joy from start to finish, and the students involved were absolutely amazing throughout!

We are extremely proud of all the hard work and dedication that went into putting on such a fantastic performance and we are also delighted to see the new friendships and support groups forming between cast members from 1st-4th year!

A huge thank you also to the parents/ guardians who supported all the dance rehearsals, singing, and line learning at home, too! We hope that the students involved will have fond memories of this experience for years to come!

Huge thank you to Ms. Fallon our talented Arts Coordinator and Ms. Brunton for working tirelessly with the students over the past few months on this brilliant production! Our students are very lucky to have you working with them.



Basketball

In March the Inter boy's basketball team won the CDETb final in a very close battle against Presentation Terenure winning by 1 point.

As quoted by the referees the best match was saved 'til last!

Huge congratulations to Adrian Lucaci who was awarded the MVP for a super strong performance in the first half to start the road to victory. Huge well done everyone! We are very proud of you! Thanks to Ms. Dunphy & Ms. O'Dowd for working with the teams.



Football

We were delighted to announce this year in September that Shelbourne Football Club are partnering with Larkin Community College. This new three-year educational initiative will link football and fitness.

A group of 23 first year students – girls and boys – who are a healthy mix of gender, ethnicity, talent and passion have been selected to spearhead the three-year programme that will capitalise on their love of football, using coaches and facilities provided by Shelbourne FC. The scheme will also have the support of the extensive mental and social health programmes already in place at Larkin Community College.

The skills that they have learnt on the pitch are also applicable in the classroom, teamwork, communication, managing myself, being creative, and staying well to mention but a few. These skills also form the basis of the Junior Cycle programme.

The students have shown up every morning bright and early for yoga with Micheal Darragh McAuley, and strength & conditioning training with Derek, demonstrating to us, how determined and motivated they are to succeed and how their passion for football is transferred to the classroom in how they interact and support each other.

Our first year football scholarship students have also completed a health eating workshop with the Irish health service this year. They have learnt to make lots of healthy and nutritious food, including pizzas and leak & potato soup! The students really enjoyed the experience.



Student of the Year 2023

Declan Curtin

Determined and hard working are the two traits that all teachers used to describe Declan. This is particularly significant as In Junior Cycle Declan was not really engaged in school, he would tell you himself that he often contemplated leaving. But he is wise beyond his years (the words of a fellow student)- and he just needed to find his niche.

The LCA program turned on a light in Declan and he became a dedicated student, supportive of his teachers and classmates and a role model for how to get things done to the best of your ability. He threw himself into every subject but particularly woodwork and his skill is enviable. He now wants to study and work in this area. He has an exciting and creative future ahead. It has been a pleasure Declan. Congratulations on your nomination, wishing you the very best of luck as you embark on the next chapter.



**We hope all our
students and staff have
a lovely summer and we
look forward to seeing
you all again in the next
academic year!**



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Thank you for taking the time to read our end of school year newsletter, images and information for this have been taken from the school website and social media platforms and some of the highlights from this year have been compiled into this newsletter by Ms. Jackson. Make sure to check out the school website, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter account to keep up to date with school news during the year!



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