Larkin Community College
Coláiste Pobail Lorcáin

September - December 2023 Newsletter







Welcome to our September- December 2023 newsletter to celebrate some of our accomplishments from the first term!

We would firstly like to extend a huge thank you to our Principal Mr. Usher, Deputy Principal Ms. Doyle, Teaching staff, SNAs, School Maintenance Staff, and Students for a wonderful first term.

There have been so many fantastic events throughout this school over the last few months which would not have been possible without the amazing school community that we have here in Larkin Community College. Unfortunately, we could not include everything so be sure to follow us on our social media to keep up to date on what happens on a weekly basis!

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Football

The Grant Thornton Football Development Programme Report in conjunction with Larkin Community College and Shelbourne Football Club was launched on the 6th of September. It was a wonderful morning reflecting on the success of the first year of the programme and a great way to start the new school year.

The impact of this program on our students' lives has been nothing short of profound. Their physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being has flourished, as evidenced by the radiant smiles on their faces and the palpable sense of excitement that accompanies them. The football development program, which is open to all, serves as a testament to our community's collaborative spirit, emphasizing inclusivity and diversity. It has created a climate where learning is not confined to the classroom but extends to sports, promoting personal growth, teamwork, and leadership skills that will benefit our students throughout their lives.

We want to extend our appreciation to Shelbourne Football Club, to Michael and the Grant Thornton team, to the members of the committee, our remarkable staff, our dedicated students, and supportive parents who have played an integral role in making this programme possible.



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Football





In December our first and second year football students visited the Mansion House to do a fireside chat with the Lord Mayor of Dublin Daithí de Róiste.



Students had a really enjoyable morning!

Huge thank you to the Lord Mayor for facilitating, to Ms.O'Higgins for organising and to Derek, Mary, Ms. Doogan, Ms.O'Keeffe and Mr.Usher for accompanying the group! Well done everyone!

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LCA

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

The Hygiene Hub Worked with class 602 and Ms. O'Dowd who participated in a community work initiative where generous donations of hygiene products from staff and students were donated to vulnerable people in our community

Class 602 also visited Dublin Castle recently to recognise and celebrate youth engagement in Climate Action Justice throughout Ireland. The event included speakers from schools, Foroige, Localise, National Youth Assembly and ECOUNESCO





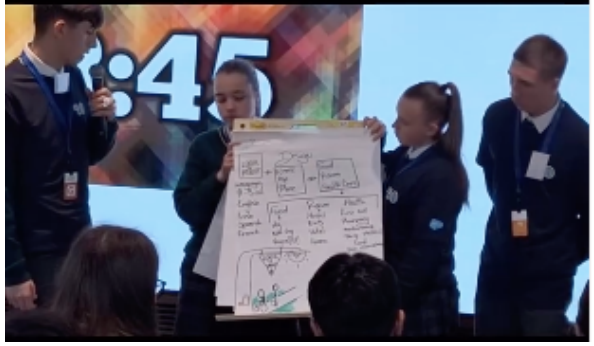




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P-TECH



It has been another eventful term for P-TECH, along with our Junior Cycle students studying robotics and coding, senior cycle students went to Salesforce for TY event.



Student breakout teams were working on a solution to solve real world problem using AI.



Congratulations to Jack, Alesha, Lexie, Hayden, Ruby & Jamie who presented their impact solution to the homelessness crisis using AI at the Salesforce sponsored Volunteer Suit Up challenge and came in first place.



Thanks to NEIC Dublin, NCI, CDETB and special mention to the organisers, leaders and committed volunteers who lent their time and support on the day.





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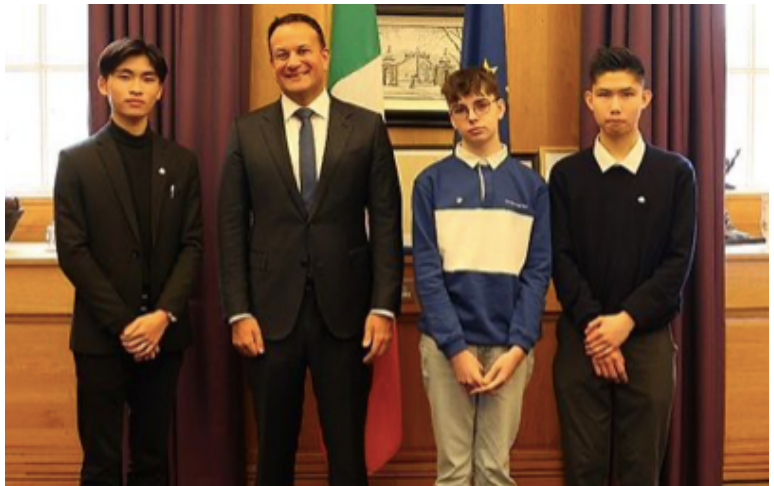
TY Work Experience



Our TY students were out on their NEIC work experience for a week in November. This is such an invaluable week for students giving them the opportunity to work and shadow professionals in different industries around the NEIC and greater Dublin area. Huge thank you to Olive from the NEIC for all her support with this programme, to Ms. McKenzie our TY Co-Ordinator and to every single company/ department who took one of our students on. We really appreciate all the support and guidance you have given to each student, we know it will really help them with their future planning.







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The ARTS





Arts Showcase 2024

A sneak peak of some of our 3rd, 4th and 5th years in action during their after-school Arts rehearsals! Students are getting ready for their Arts Showcase which will take place on the 18th of January in the Sean O'Casey Theatre at 19:00!

A huge thank you to our amazing teachers Ms.Fallon, Ms.Kennedy, Ms.Shiggins and Beatrice for their hard work with the cast and crew! We cannot wait to see the students on stage in what will be a fantastic evening of entertainment!



Workshops with the Gate Theatre

Our 3rd years had the last of their taster Drama classes with the brilliant Dave Kelly, facilitator from the Gate Theatre.

Our third year Arts group enjoyed a six-week Drama Workshop with the brilliant Dave Kelly from the Gate Theatre. Students got to try out and explore various drama techniques and principles.

It was fantastic to see the students involved learn new skills and grow in confidence each week. We hope to further our partnership with the Gate Theatre next term, especially considering they will be starting their own youth theatre in the coming months!

A huge thanks to Dave and to community engagement coordinator John Taite for offering this exciting opportunity to Larkin students.



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Positive Mental Health Awareness Week

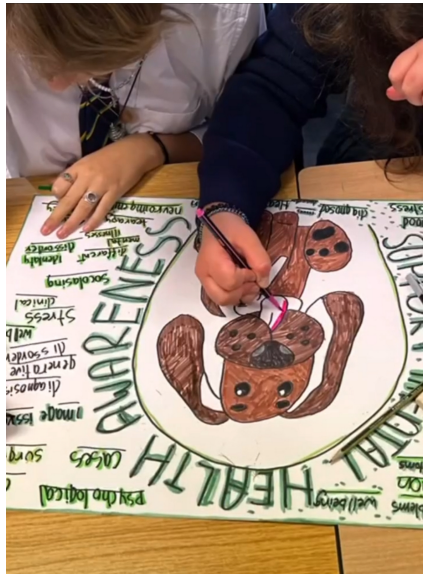
Students and staff took part in a Positive Mental Health awareness week in October with lots of fun activities organised.

Some events that took place included, green ribbons were handed out on World Mental Health Day, a Random Acts of Kindness jar along with positive music playing throughout the halls.

Students were treated to a “Move your mind” fun dance class.

Students and staff were gifted some positive affirmation cards as they arrived to school and our school ukulele band played an impromptu gig in the atrium at lunch time. Teachers also facilitated a poster competition and some fabulous posters were created!

A huge thank you to all the students and staff who participated! It was a wonderful week full of positivity!











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Maths Week

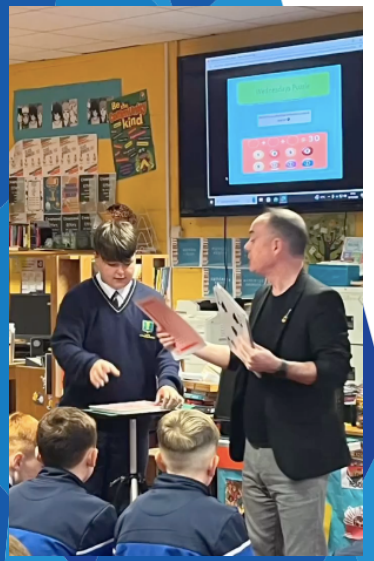


In October for maths week we had fun with activities such as puzzle of the day, using maths in real life, drop everything and countdown, maths dingbats, a whole school quiz and a maths Kahoot!



All first years had a maths library class! Lots of fun was had playing maths games and activities.

Our first- and second-year students got to enjoy a performance by a maths magician Caolan Mc Bride.





Students were wowed with card tricks and different magic illusions which ended with a numbers game which had a surprising ending that brought the whole room to their feet!



It was a really enjoyable and inclusive show that kept everyone guessing until the very end! We're still trying to figure out how he did some of the tricks!

Thank you to the Maths department and Jean for organising such a fantastic week for students.

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Stand Up Week



In November we celebrated Stand Up Week. This is a national week for post-primary schools, youth services and youthreach centres in Ireland to join together and take a stand against homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. It is an opportunity to take steps to make spaces safe and supportive for LGBTQ+ young people.

Some of the below activities took place in Larkin as part of the week:

Students were greeted with some fun tunes and rainbow stickers one morning. These stickers are a symbol of 'Allyship' for the LGBTQI+ community which is what students had been covering across SPHE, CSPE and Tutor classes.

There was a standup book display in the library and all library classes completed a lesson on this topic.

Posters were created and our second years put together a display highlighting famous members of the LGBTQ+ community. Shoutout also came in and gave their annual talk to senior cycle students which always goes down really well.

Huge thank you to everyone involved in organising and planning the week.



Stand Up Awareness Week
6—10 Nov



Science Week





A big thank you to Gardiner Street Primary School , Rutland Street Primary School & Central Model 5th and 6th class students for visiting us in November as part of Science Week.

Ms. O'Keeffe's 5th year students entertained them with wonderful experiments. 5th year students were divided into stations with each station hosting a different experiment.

Special thanks to Jean for allowing them to use the JCSP library for the morning.

It was wonderful to welcome "The Mad Professor" into our library too. He managed to spark the imagination of both our first and second year students with lots of interactive activities, games and excitement!

Students were also creating and racing balloon rockets in Science class as well as creating models of cell structures using play –doh!

A really great week, well done to everybody involved!











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Careers Evening





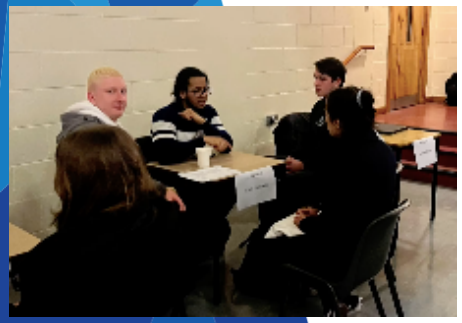
Huge thank you to all our wonderful past students, friends of Larkin, representatives of an Gardai, TU Dublin, NCI, The Lir and PTech Ireland for coming along to our annual careers evening in November. It gave senior cycle students the opportunity to explore what it is they might like to do when they leave school.

There is a world of opportunity at their feet and so many pathways to get there.

We hope each student took a little something from the evening and hope that you too will come back and share your story with our future students.

To our alumni, we are always blown away by you and are incredibly proud of you all.

Thank you for keeping your connection with us and sharing your stories in a way that only you can with students











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College Awareness Week

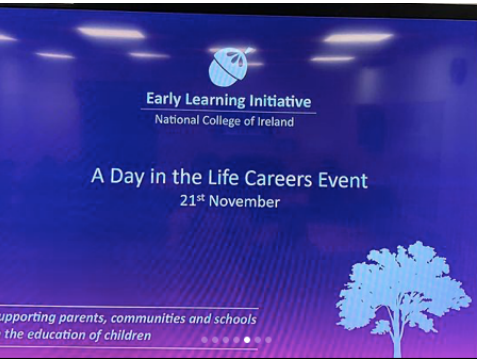


As part of college awareness week in November, we would like to thank Swan Youth Service for inviting us down to the CDETB Education Fair. It was a great opportunity for our students to speak to colleges of further education and see what they have to offer and to get an insight into the pathways that their courses can open up to them. Thanks to Mr.Delaney and Ms.Neill for supporting the group!



Huge thanks to Rebecca and Ava at the Early learning Initiative who hosted a “Day in the Life Careers Event” in NCI with class 201 as part of College awareness week.F rom Maples and Crosscare to Central Bank, there was a variety of careers for students to hear about and investigate! Thanks to Ms.Sweeney and Mr.Devine for facilitating the trip.

Junior cycle students also enjoyed a careers class to get them thinking what they might like to do after leaving school.







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JCSP



Our first year JCSP Christmas Celebration took place in December.

Well done to all our students who won awards!!

Each first year student has made a wonderful start to their journey in Larkin and it was lovely to celebrate your first full term with the group.

Thank you to the JCSP team for organising this very special event.

Thank you to Jean for her tireless work as our Librarian.

And finally a huge thank you to Rod Smith and Canada Life for their very kind gift for every first year student and their ongoing support to our library!







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Christmas Celebrations

Christmas Door Competiton

For the month of December each class group alongside their tutor were tasked with decorating their classroom door. A huge amount of effort and teamwork went into each door, making it very difficult for Ms. Doyle and Mr. Usher to pick a winner. Huge well done to everyone who participated and thank you for creating such a positive vibe around the corridors. We finished up the term with our annual whole school quiz! Congratulations to our winning team and well done to everyone who took part!



Congratulations to our winners listed below 🏆🏆🏆

🏆 **Ms.Tyrrell and the TYs**

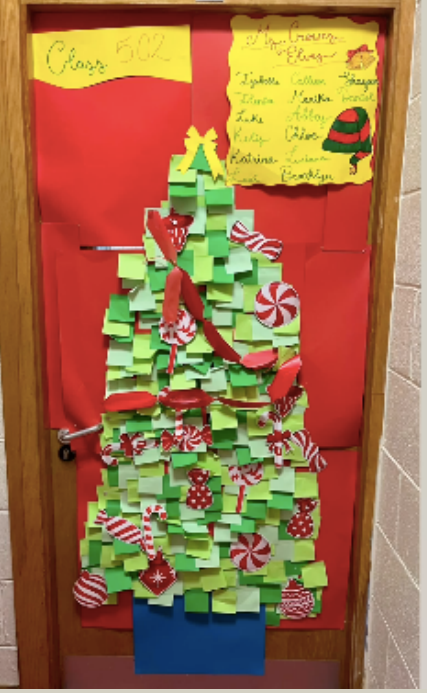
🥈 **Mr.O'Donnell and the First Years**

🥈 **Ms.Sweeney and the Second Years**

🥈 **Ms.Raftery and the Third Years**



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Class 5C2


There's room for
EVERYONE on the
Nice List






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SEASONS GREETINGS


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IT'S COOL
TO BE
NICE


ROOM 121
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Well done to
Ms.Raftery & the
third years

Student Spotlight - Ava Henry

We are extremely proud of our 6th year student Ava Henry, who has had an amazing boxing career thus far. Ava is a 6th year student taking part in the LCA programme. She has excelled in school and is popular amongst her peers and teachers. Ava is an athlete across a number of disciplines. She is a European medal winning boxer and has also captained her local football team. Ava first began boxing at the age of 9 when she attended a boxing session in Glin boxing club to help with her fitness, since then she hasn't looked back!



The emerging lightweight talent, who is a six-time Irish champion and won silver in the European Schools Championships in 2019, has been on an upward trajectory since then! In September 2022 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 where she was named captain of team Ireland! In the semi-finals she took on Italy! The entire school watched on as we lived streamed the fight into every classroom! Ava was crowned European Junior Champions lightweight gold medalist after defeating Poland in a hard fought victory, in which she came from behind to secure the title.

Ava has stayed true to her humble roots, where she ran a half marathon in July 2020 raising money for Jigsaw, a youth mental health charity.

It was an amazing achievement for 6th year Ava on receiving the award of "Boxer of the Tournament" in Assissi at a multi nations tournament over St. Patrick's weekend 2023. Whilst also becoming a 5 Nations Champion along with picking up a light-weight gold medal!

Ava also won a Garda Youth Award in July 2023 for her contributions to her local community through her club, Dublin Docklands Boxing Club. Ava will be fighting for her seventh title on 20th January in the National Stadium where she will be fighting the reigning world champion. Ava will also travel to Croatia in April to fight in the European Championships for team Ireland! We are all so proud of you Ava and know that you have a very bright ahead of you!

We would like to wish all our students, staff, partners, local community and their families a happy, healthy and peaceful 2024.

Looking forward to working with you all over the coming year!

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Thank you for taking the time to read our end of term newsletter, images and information for this have been taken from the school website and social media platforms.

The highlights from this term have been compiled into this newsletter by Ms. Raftery.

Make sure to check out the school website, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter account to keep up to date with school news during the year!

https://twitter.com/LarkinCDETB
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https://www.instagram.com/larkincdetb/

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