

## TY Newsletter Christmas 2020

We have had another very busy term here at St. Mac Dara's C.C. The Transition Years have been exceptional in terms of engagement and enthusiasm. They have gotten involved in so many projects and initiatives and although we haven't been able to get out, we have plenty of trips in the pipeline for 2021.

4 Burren's Cycle Against Suicide committee have become ambassadors for the Headstrong programme. They have designed a lesson plan around mental health and stigma and will deliver the lesson themselves to all 1<sup>st</sup> year classes. They have also created a card for every student outlining the different supports available in the school. They are also working on a Mental Health booklet for all students. On December 17<sup>th</sup> they will cycle to Liverpool on stationary bikes here at the college. They chose Liverpool as it has the highest rates of suicide in the UK. They hope to raise awareness around their message "It is OK not to be OK and it is absolutely OK to ask for help".

4 Dingle have joined an initiative called "Warm for Winter", they are collecting jackets and coats for all age groups and they will bring their collection to town before Christmas. These items will be placed on the Ha'penny Bridge and at Connolly Station for homeless people to help them stay warm this winter. It is a lovely idea and 4 Dingle have been brilliant in the organising of this.

Given that Work Experience has been so difficult to hold down, we have been very kindly offered assistance in creating a school magazine for the next block. Students will work from home meeting deadlines for the editor. There will be places for writers, photographers, designers and marketers. We cannot wait to see the finished product next year and a massive thank you to Linda Daly of the Sunday Times for your time. Speaking of newspapers, two of our students, Aoife Ivory and Lenci Phani Namburu, had their articles on climate change published in The Sunday Times recently, well done girls.

The two classes have come together to publicise and organise a memorial/information event here at the college for the 100 year anniversary of Bloody Sunday at Croke Park. They have planned loads of events for Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of November. The classes are also busy planning Green Week and collecting single use plastic bottles to create ECO BRICKS, an initiative around the Sustainable Development Goals. Students will raise so much awareness here in the college, we can't wait.

In Photography, there is now a Photographer of the Week award, Charlie Feehan was crowned in week one. Charlie Feehan, Caoimhe Molloy and Leah Hollywood were also crowned champions of the Pumpkin Carving Competition at Christmas. In Music, the classes have started to learn the Ukulele and have also learned how to thoroughly sanitise them after use! In Mini Company/Technology students are busy building benches for sale outside the school.

Our 10 week journey with "The Kids Coach" has come to an end and students have received a certificate of completion from David Nugent. Students have found this course to be both eye-opening and motivating. A big thank you to David. Next year we will welcome Oksana Burke to do Yoga and Mindfulness classes with the students. Students will receive their individual half-zip top just after Christmas too. Past – pupil Eamon Sharkey who works for GOAL will also be in to discuss the charity and where the money the class raised last term will be going to. The Sensory Garden is also coming along, slowly but surely. We also had past pupil Cameron Elliott in to speak about his career with the Defence Forces and his charity work.

As you can see this has been another very busy term. We cannot thank the TY's enough for their input and their involvement. Thank you also to the parents for their support and to Mr O'Brien, Mr Carey and Marc for all their hard work. We have a Christmas Hike on December 10<sup>th</sup> also. Please follow us on twitter @StMacDarasTY and keep an eye on the website.

Ms Jenna Clune







