



# Griffeen Community College CollegeAcademi2021-2022



## Yearly Highlights Academic Year 2021-2022 Principal's Welcome



Welcome to our end of year Griffeen CC

Newsletter. It has been a very busy year and fitting in all of activities and events at this stage is a struggle. The newsletter will, however, give you a flavour of what has been happening throughout the year. More information can be found if you pop over to our Twitter and Facebook accounts, or browse through our website.

2021/22 brought many challenges for all in the wider school community, but within GCC there was a wonderful sense of resilience and support which helped to carry us through to end the year in a very successful way.

It has been especially rewarding to see the end of Covid restrictions in the college. This has allowed freedoms that had been so starkly absent from school life to return, none more so, than for the first and second year groups who had never experienced second level school as it should be.

This newsletter illustrates the tremendous ability of our students and staff to become involved and make use of every opportunity to develop their interests and skills. There have been a number of initiatives such as SciFest, Art exhibitions, Virtual showcases and online presentations, Internet Safety week, numerous sporting activities, Awards Ceremonies, assemblies, trips, our wellbeing programme and so much more.

This published edition of the newsletter can also be accessed through our Website. If you haven't already done so, link in with our Twitter and Facebook accounts, both of which are packed with daily notifications and news items that are of interest to the whole school community and which will keep you up to date.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school community, the Board of Management, staff, students and parents for the continued care, support and commitment to GCC. On behalf of myself, Ms Fitzgerald Aherne, Mr Kelly and all the staff, we hope you have a restful summer and we wish all our third years the very best of luck as they embark on their State Examinations. *Édel Morrow*

# CASEMENT AERODROME BALDONELL

Mrs Darii & Ms Hanlon



On the 4th of November 2021, all third year students took part in a C.S.P.E trip to Casement Aerodrome, Baldonell.

Our students have gained a valuable experience of an Irish soldier's life and gave them an insight in the possible career choices in the Air Corps, Defence Forces. It was a fantastic day full of unexpected highlights. Our students learned a lot from them and gained great respect of the work done by the Irish Defence Forces.

Sgt Robbie Johnston gave us a Museum tour and Military Training Demo, Sgt Joey Everitt & crew for brought out the Fire Rescue trucks and talked us through the capabilities of the rescue fire trucks and its equipment. We certainly did not expect the fire engine's display of hose power. Luckily, we were just about far enough away not to get soaked! It was an awesome display.

Lt Ward and Lt Brennan talked us through their work with the planes and career opportunities. Cpl O'Sullivan gave us the Helicopter demonstration and its equipment. Flight Sgt Matt McNamarra, whose own career in the Air Corps spans over thirty years and whose family have had three generations served in the Irish Defence Forces, has provided us with great insights into what it is the role of the Air Corps really is, life at Casement Aerodrome. He talked about his experiences of being deployed, and the careers available within and through the Defence Forces.

We learned about how active the Air Corps are around Ireland carrying out search and rescue missions, emergency hospital transfers, fishery patrols and counteracting drug smuggling. Their work is not reported in the media, so it was a surprise to us to learn how much work they do in Ireland, as well as their work abroad.



# SCIENCE

Ms Quirke

The Science Department in GCC have had an extremely exciting few months. Between prepping for Junior Cycle exams, having our first Senior Cycle group in Biology and having a new equipped laboratory, students studying Science have had many extra opportunities.

Before Easter, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Years participated in the Amgen Biotech programme. This gives students the opportunity to use 3<sup>rd</sup> level lab equipment that would not be usually used by the Science curriculum at 2<sup>nd</sup> level.

They had the opportunity to practice micro-pipetting, loading gels in gel electrophoresis tanks and solving 'crimes' using sample DNA. The resources supplied by Amgen Biotech and UCD allowed students to delve into Molecular Biology on a deeper level and definitely ignited students' interests in wanting to do further study in Science upon leaving school.



After Easter, 5<sup>th</sup> Year Biology students got the opportunity to do their Ecology field study in Phoenix Park. They identified species of plant and animal by using identifying keys. They used quadrants to count the number of plant species and were shown equipment used to capture and release small organisms. Afterwards, they were given the opportunity to visit the zoo where they came face to face with many species of animal including snakes, crocodiles, elephants, wolves, monkeys – the list goes on! On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, 5 students from Robinson class in 2<sup>nd</sup> Year competed in SciFest@College at TU Tallaght. They submitted their project idea back in March and from then until May, worked on their project investigation, report and poster. John and Alexander worked on a project entitled 'Which disinfectant is the best to clean surfaces?'. Georgina and Sofiya worked on an investigation called 'How much fat is in your food?' and Afiq completed a project called 'Do different types of water have different surface tensions?'. It was a fantastic day and the students represented the school extremely well even getting commended by one judge on 2 occasions for their content knowledge and the way they presented their project. At the end of the competition, awards were given to students in different categories based upon their project content and age.

Second year student, Afiq Ezani, Robinson class, won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Chemistry category in the Junior section. He also won the SciFest Chemistry Student Award for best overall Chemistry content in the three categories of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Technology. We are extremely proud of his achievements! Ms.Quirke also won an award for the school which was the RSC School Chemistry Award for overseeing Afiq's project in Chemistry. Well done to all involved!



## Seachtain na Geailge Yoga

During Seachtain na Geailge the students of Griffeen participated in a relaxing class of Yoga with @yoga\_as\_Gaeilge. The students also enjoyed a whole school quiz as Gaeilge, where the winners of each Tutor class

received some lovely prizes. Mr. O Faolain surprised his Irish students with an interactive traditional Irish music performance, accompanied by the drumming Jig and Reel beats from the students.



## College Awareness Week

The aim of this week was to open our student's eyes to the host of opportunities available to them in the future from the world of further and higher education to apprenticeships and travel options. In Griffeen Community College we aim to support our students to realising their dreams, whatever they may be. We look forward to seeing them flourish as individuals in their chosen field of study, setting up their own business ventures and being the innovators of the future. CAW 2021 at GCC offered our students a range of talks and workshops from colleges of further and higher education. Students also had the opportunity to attend a portfolio workshop and learn about the huge range of apprenticeships currently on offer in Ireland. During this week our staff spoke to their classes about their education and career journeys from school to present.

# SPORTS

## Boys Basketball



**COLÁISTE POBAIL  
GHRIFÍN  
GRIFFEEN  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



The second year boys' basketball team had a very successful season reaching the semifinal of their respective league. There may be some future national players in the squad. Watch this space!

First years also had a very successful first season in the GCC colours. We look forward to seeing what they can do next year.

## Athletics

This year, we had a great turn out for Athletics Club each Thursday! Ms. Hickey and Mr. Hogan saw the fitness levels of our Athletics Club get better and better each week with our final run of the year being 6.5km. Well done to everyone involved, we finished off with a picnic to celebrate the success of everyone involved!



## CHESS CLUB Mr. Ward



Students took part in a social Chess club during lunch time, all year-round. It was great to see students from every year participate in this competitive board game. Students worked towards a whole school Chess Tournament battling against each other until it came down to the final two students, where second year student Dan Savovic in McAleese won to runner up Bartosz Lacki in first year Thunberg.

We have had over 70 students taking part in chess club over the course of the year with 50 students who now come to chess club regularly, which is held twice a week at lunchtime. We started with 3 boards (2 which were missing pieces) and now have 15 boards in total. We hope to get more equipment for next year from the ICU (Irish chess union) as we are looking to start up a competitive school Chess team.

# FUNDRAISERS

## Irish Red Cross

Griffeen CC Student Council, along with their teachers Ms. Browne, Mrs McLoughlin and Ms Hanlon organised a 'Piece of Cake!' Bake sale on the 7th of April, in Aid of the Irish Red Cross. Third and Second year students made handmade bracelets for this occasion. Each student researched a Country that is currently at war and made a bracelet in the colour of the Countries flag. These bracelets were also sold at the bake sale to raise awareness about all the Countries across the world currently at War. Students, teachers and special needs assistants were asked to donate baked goods on the day and the generosity was overwhelming. There was also a 'guess the amount in the jar' competitions for students and teachers.



Thank you to everyone who brought in all of the delicious baked goods and to everyone who donated. The response was phenomenal and we are delighted to announce that we raised €700!



**Bake sale**

**Bring any baked goods for sale!**

**All funds raised will be used to support the Red Cross who aid war-torn countries!**



# UKRAINE



On the 2nd of March Griffeen school community Filled a classroom with donations to Ukraine. The 1st year Digital media students arranged a collection for families in Ukraine who were passing the border in Poland. This collection was run by Green Speed, a Polish Courier service with a base in Ireland. The students designed a list of items needed which included items such as Hygiene products, First aid equipment, Toys, baby formula, food and nappies.

## STUDENT COUNCIL

We would like to thank our outgoing Student Council for all their hard work all year. From hosting and organising our inaugural Christmas Craft Fair and our first ever Bake Sale, their hard work and dedicated has set a high bar for next year's council



# LEAVING CERT APPLIED FUNDRAISER

## St. Francis Hospice



5th Year leaving Cert Applied students in Rang Saoirse organised and ran a Bewley's Coffee Morning in Aid of St. Francis Hospice, Blanchardstown, Dublin.

The students advertised their fundraiser by sticking up their posters and handing out their Menus which they designed in their ICT class. The menu they designed catered for all dietary requirements. Each student made sandwiches and scones, of all kinds, for the occasion, which they wrapped up and labelled, adhering to Covid-19 guidelines.

In total we raised one hundred euro for the Hospice, which the class were delighted with. Staff even got involved and brought in some of their well-known famous treats to help raise money for this great cause.



# European Day of Languages



During European Day of Languages week, all of our students took part in various language related activities such as: watching videos of young polyglots' around the world, famous celebrities talking about their experiences of learning other languages and also understanding the science behind the brain function when learning other languages. Students who speak other languages were asked to teach their class teachers and their peers, some of the basic introduction phrases in the language that they speak. Students also took part in a survey to establish how many languages are spoken in our school up to date. As a result of these surveys we found out that there are currently over twenty-five languages spoken in Griffeen Community College. We had a Paella cooking competition where student's took video's of themselves cooking this traditional Spanish dish. There was also a whole school EDL poster competition which students took part in and won an array of prizes.



# STAND UP AWARENESS WEEK

## Affirmation Rainbow

During stand up awareness week students of GCC came together to spread some positivity, using positive affirmations on a colourful rainbow. The students created this beautiful rainbow to take a stand against homophobic bullying, making the statement that this kind of behaviour does not have a place at griffin community College.



As part our Stand Up Awareness Week every student at GCC created an origami butterfly. Each year group had a different colour of the LGBTI+ flag. Every student did an amazing job with their butterflies and we created an art instillation with them. They represent freedom and our Ethos of Dignity and Inclusion.

## SPORTS WEEK

For the second last week of school Ms Kinsella organised a whole school active week to promote exercise and fitness. the week started off with a whole school walk. During all classes teachers were encouraged to do ten minutes of activities with their class groups such as jumping jacks and dancing, this was carried on all throughout the week. The students really enjoyed getting up out of their seats and moving around.

On the Tuesday Second year students competed against each other in a rounder's blitz.

The whole school met up at Lucan's Harriers track and Weston hockey Club's Astro pitch, for a sports day on Wednesday which included games such as Football, rounder's, track, tug o' war and team building games such as sac racing and over and under. Well done to Second year, rang Hume were the overall winners of sports day - Their tutor Ms Browne is super proud!

Teachers competed against students in a game of tug o' war where they demonstrated their brute strength!

First thing Friday morning, to get the heart pumping the whole school got involved in an outdoor 80's theme aerobics class. Students and teachers all danced it out on the school Astro in the sun.



# LOST AND FOUND

Some Paw-sitive news.

On April the 4th Holly, a Schnauzer dog was found on the school grounds a long, long way from home. Holly had travelled the whole way from Co. Fermanagh. A member of staff found Holly and safely reunited her with her family, after five days missing.



## Book Fair

There has been a huge emphasis on reading in Griffeen this year, as a whole school Drop everything and read time has been allocated to one class per week as part of the 'One good School' Programme. All students are asked to have a book of their choice in their bag for the class allocated to D.E.A.R time. To emphasise an importance on literacy, staff has placed a box of books in every room in the school, to make sure every student has a book to read during D.E.A.R time. In April, Mr Black organised a book fair, where each student was allowed to take one book, that they were interested in to read. When the student has finished the book it is asked of them to bring it back in the hope another student can also enjoy reading it. There was a great atmosphere and all students left happy with a book of their choice.



# Prefect Programme

Griffeen Community College has successfully completed the Teachers leadership programme for 2021/2022, Showcasing the introduction of *the Prefect Programme* here in GCC. Congratulations to our Prefects, led by the TLP team, their hard work all year was presented to the DDLETB and really showed the sense of wisdom, inclusion and dignity here in our school. #DDLETB #TLP.

This programme runs only for 5<sup>th</sup> year students and this year they are mainly focusing on 1<sup>st</sup> year wellbeing and transition to secondary school.

Pictured below is Mrs Darii & Ms Kirby on receipt of their certifications for teacher leadership poster.



# Sustainability

## Romaine Calm

Our second year students in rang Hume certainly have green fingers as they have grown their own lettuce, in recycled pots. Hume learned all about sustainability and how the lettuce plant can constantly regrow!



## Hasta Pronto, amigos españoles!

A special lunch was organised by 3rd year Sarsfield group and Mrs Rodica Darii (Spanish teacher) to wish farewell to their 2 Spanish students, Aitana Muñoz and David Adanculesei. Students were able to sample some Spanish traditional dishes, as well as some amazing Irish baking recipes, such as Paella, Tortilla, croquetas and some Irish baking. Through collective effort, all students contributed to the celebration, even baked a lovely cake and many more treats. Nika B. and Andrea C. have put together a video, which was full of lovely memories of their time together in the past academic year. You will be missed, Aitana and David! Hasta pronto!



## Wellbeing Week



Hero, which was then announced over the intercom at the end of each day. This was something both staff and students looked forward to hearing at the end of the day as it brought a smile to the nominees faces. The first year classes Attenborough, Noble and Goodall worked together on creating a collaborative 'wellness wall' display.

In October we had our Focus on Wellbeing Week which saw our school community raise awareness around mental health and how to support our own mental health as well as that of our friends and families. Activities this week included a whole school walk in your shoes, a movie afternoon, meditation sessions, creating a 'Positivitree' and celebrating the everyday heroes in our school community.

We started off the week with a whole school meditation which has helped get us all set up for a mindful week.

Students and teachers nominated their Griffeen

### Punch Your Feelings Out



were put into teams of four. Winners of the quiz go certificates and prizes. On Friday, the last day of wellbeing week we all enjoyed a whole school walk in your shoes, charity walk for St. Patrick's mental health services.

On the Tuesday of Wellbeing week the three classes Sarsfield, Esker and Shakelton enjoyed a one hour session of punching out their feelings.

On Wednesday, each second year student in classes Hume, Robinson and McAleese designed a leaf for a 'positivittree', which was then displayed on the corridors.

We also had a whole school quiz, where students

# Choir



Music to our ears

Throughout the year students from all years have enjoyed coming together, during lunch times to sing their hearts out and practice their instruments, such as guitar. These students have practiced extremely hard all throughout the year preforming for school events.



# Leaving Cert Applied

## Driving Range

As part of the L.C.A leisure and Recreation class, the students had a fun trip to the driving range where they avoided the rough and swung easy! FORE!

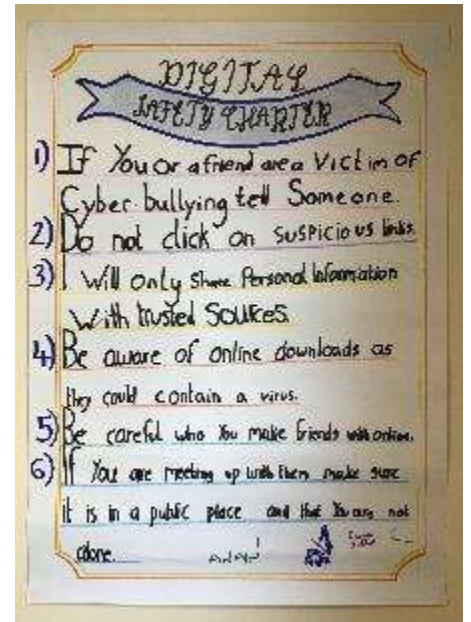


# Internet Safety Week



As Part of Internet safety week, our first years had an excellent talk from Kayleigh Cullinan on Bullying, it effects and where to seek support if you are being bullied.

The third year Digital media classes came together and made a collaborative display for our school, educating Griffeen about how to stay safe online.



Three Lucan Community Gardai came to the school to talk to our first year students about internet safety. The talk included information about the Law related to sharing photos online, an individual's presence on social media, sharing photographs without permission, digital footprints and online bullying. They spoke to students about the significance of commenting or liking distasteful posts about others and the impact that could have on their own personal responsibility. Lots of valuable information was shared and will continue to be of relevance throughout their life. Definitely one talk we will revisit in the next academic year.



Kayleigh Cullinan talks to first year students

# Microsoft

Mr Quigley

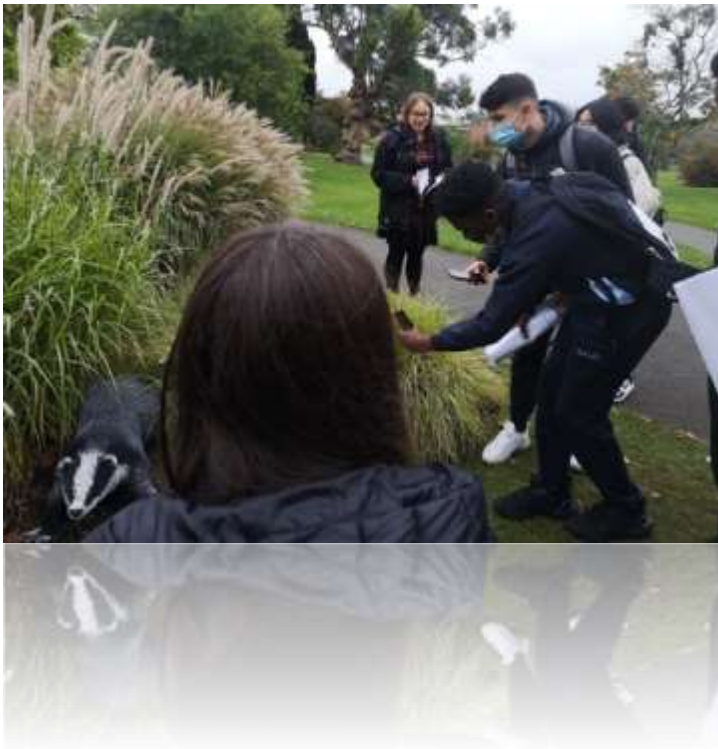


In May 5th year students payed a visit to Microsoft Dublin headquarters. This is the 2nd group that have been accepted on to the JAI/Microsoft mentoring programme - whereby MS mentors will guide 8 pupils through a 2-year cycle of mentoring, career guidance and personal development. JAI/Microsoft will be accepting a further group of 8 from TY in the new academic cycle.

# Art

## Bontanic Gardens – Sculpture in Context

Our 5th year art students had a brilliant day at the National Botanic Gardens visiting the Sculpture in Context exhibition. We had a very informative tour that guided our students around a number of sculptures which they loved and we even got to speak with one of the artists Frank Hallinan Flood who gave us an insight into how he made his stunning sculpture entitled 'Drangonfly'.





## Awards Ceremony

The school year ended on a positive note in our online school awards ceremony, where students accepted wellbeing awards, sports awards, Science certificates and principal awards to acknowledge all the hard work and dedication students have put in all year round. Special thanks to all staff and students involved in the making of the music and music videos which had us singing and laughing.

Here at Griffeen Community College we wish all staff, students and parents a safe and happy summer and we are looking forward to seeing you all back here for another fun filled year.