



# Holy Child School

Autumn Newsletter 2021



## Environmental Committee

The Environmental Committee have been organising initiatives to earn our new Green Schools Flag, "Global Citizenship: Litter & Waste". Our aim is to raise awareness, reduce waste in school, and encourage students to do the same at home. On Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> October, HCK was officially awarded the Green Schools Biodiversity Flag in the Green Schools online ceremony. Well done to everyone involved in all the work done last year. We know it will be a great source of pride for HCK and encourage us all to be more environmentally friendly. As part of earning the Biodiversity Flag, HCK has grown a wildflower meadow. A plaque designed by sixth year student, Laura Reynolds, has now been placed by the meadow. We are looking forward to pursuing our new flag throughout the year. On behalf of the committee, we hope everyone has a wonderful midterm break. **Georgina Dowling, Head Girl and Environmental Prefect**



## Geographical Investigation Field Trip

On Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, our 6<sup>th</sup> Year Geography class along with Ms Quirke and Ms Murray undertook our Geographical Investigation on a beautiful sunny day on Killiney Beach. Expecting rain and bad weather, we wrapped up warm in wellies and coats but we were very lucky with the weather that it was a beautiful sunny day. We carried out a number of investigations on and off shore such as using oranges and ranging poles to prove the rate of longshore drift and analysing and calculating the beach fabric using a vernier callipers. We fulfilled our investigations to prove our hypothesis. The addition of the sunny weather made our trip delightful. Thank you to Ms Quirke and Ms Murray for guiding us through the day with their expert geographical knowledge. **Emma Rowley**



## From the Principal

Last Thursday week 13<sup>th</sup> October, RTÉ visited HCK. Filming a short tribute to Maeve Binchy (a past pupil of Holy Child), the presenter, Angela Scanlon (acclaimed Irish writer) arrived into our school library, thrilled to be visiting our school for the first time. Also present was one of Maeve's oldest school friends Patricia Hamilton to share memories and accounts of happy times in school.

As I reflected on the visit, I thought of the many happy friendships that have been forged in this school down through the decades. Many of the positive experiences throughout a student's life in Killiney will be formative, long lasting and we hope a force for good. Our theme for this year is Courage. Following Cornelia's mantra to 'meet the wants of the age' we educate (amongst other things) our students to have courage – to speak up, to speak out and above all to speak the truth.

Courageous role models past and present are easily identified by the girls - Mahatma Gandhi, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Malala Yousafzai, Cornelia herself. Many achieved international recognition and they have much to offer by way of example. They were/are brave, they were/are independent and they pressed ahead in the face of injustice even though sometimes the easier option was to be agreeable, to go with the flow and say nothing.

Passionate about the environment and climate change, young people are courageous when prepared to campaign, march and protest outside the Dáil at the drop of a hat. Everyone can rise to the occasion in a crisis when called upon; however, it is everyday courage which is more difficult and presents us with the most challenges. So, what might courage look like in HCK? Courage is to stand up against actions which are not in keeping with what we stand for – kindness, compassion and empathy. Is someone's behaviour to another uncalled for and unkind? Has something been said or written which is untrue? Is someone acting in a way that does not reflect the ethos of our school? Courage is being brave enough to 'call out' poor behaviour and to let someone know what is going on. In the words of Frances Fitzgerald (MEP), courage is a constant requirement rather than an occasional demand.

With admirable skill, as a small school community we have changed and adapted to the circumstance we have found ourselves in since 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020. As we leave behind the social isolation of the last 18 months, we need to remember what it means to be part of a school community and how to behave as a member of HCK. As we look forward to a better year ahead, we cannot wish away poor behaviour when we see it. There is greatness and good in everyone, we just need courage to stand up for what is right.

**Caroline O'Brien**

## Lourdes at Home

The Lourdes Schools and Youth Group hosted a moving prayer service in Blackrock College Chapel to mark the 'Lourdes at Home' Virtual Pilgrimage 2021. Girls from Holy Child Killiney have been travelling to Lourdes as helpers for almost 40 years. Emma Rowley, Chaplaincy Prefect, and Sadhbh Stack, Le Chéile Ambassador, represented HCK for this ceremony. Candles were lit for each of the 26 schools from the Dublin Diocese who travel on the annual pilgrimage. Prayers were offered for all the pilgrims, staff and volunteers who are involved in the pilgrimage; we all remain hopeful that travelling to Lourdes will resume in 2022. Actions not Words.



## From the Chaplaincy Prefect

This academic year our chosen Cornelian Characteristic is gratitude. The entire HCK school community were filled with gratitude that we were able to return to school in the company of each other and we remain grateful as our lives continue to return to normality. Each class has its own gratitude banner to inspire them throughout the year. We are delighted that travelling away on retreat has resumed. Benildus Pastoral Centre in Kilmacud and Dromantine Retreat Centre in Newry were filled with the happy voices and laughter of Third, Fourth and Fifth Year girls on various days during September and October. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed these special days. We have had two special ceremonies for our House Days. On 15<sup>th</sup> September the Fifth Years led a lovely ceremony to bless the school year; on 15<sup>th</sup> October we celebrated the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. We offer our congratulations to all the Holy Child Sisters and the wider SHCJ community

and are grateful to Sr Geraldine for her inspiring words shared on video with every class. Thank you also to the Second Years for the time and effort they put into preparing 460 greeting cards to mark this special occasion; every member of the school community has received a card. The Sixth Years were very excited to be the first group in the school to play our new school board game 'Cornelia's Labyrinth'. It was great fun to mix within our year group, and also learn even more details about our foundress, Cornelia. We were delighted to meet past pupil Annabel Cleere who is a graduate of IADT, and NCAD. Annabel described the process of working with Mrs Moisselle and designing the board game; her creativity and talent are so inspiring. Please check the calendar for the upcoming Advent Masses which will resume in December; everyone is welcome. Actions not Words.

**Emma Rowley**

## From the Head Girl & Deputy Head Girl

We hope everyone has settled into the new school year and the routine after the summer break. We have had a busy first half term in HCK with plenty of events, retreats, trips to Carlingford, and House Days taking place. We'd like to wish a special welcome to the incoming first year students, other new students, and new staff members. The year began with the first year introductory camp, which included debating, hockey, basketball, and drama workshops. We had our first House Day, a picnic and prayer ceremony, on 15th September to celebrate the beginning of the school year. On 15th October, we celebrated our second House Day of the year, the founding of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, SHCJ. To celebrate 175th anniversary of the SHCJ, past student Annabel Cleere, class of 2015, designed a board game, 'Cornelia's Labyrinth', in collaboration with Mrs Moisselle and the class of 2021. We all thoroughly enjoyed playing it. Thank to everyone for their contributions towards our four chosen charities this year: DePaul Ireland, CanTeen Ireland, The Rape Crisis Center, Irish Refugee Council. Sixth Year Prefects were also busy organising Wellbeing Week which took place the week of 11th-15th October. Through a number of activities, including a talk from guest-speaker, registered dietitian Louise Reynolds, the importance of physical and mental wellbeing was promoted. We would also like to congratulate the Class of 2021 on receiving their outstanding Leaving Certificate results and the Class of 2020 for finally celebrating their Debs! We hope everyone has a relaxing midterm break! **Georgina Dowling and Mia Conlon**

## Cornelia Connelly Young SVP Conference

The Cornelia Connelly SVP Conference has thirty dedicated Fifth Year members who are co-committed to the year-long Young SVP Programme. This is the largest number of participants ever. We have a wonderful variety of different personalities in our group, all working towards a common goal, to embrace the message of Frederic Ozanam, Founder of SVP: 'Let us do without hesitation whatever good lies at our hands'. To begin we elected the members to different leadership positions. Anya Sliwinski was elected as President, and Zoë Hall was elected as Vice President. Each Tuesday we meet at lunch time which is really enjoyable. Throughout the year we will organise the SVP Christmas Campaign, plan awareness campaigns and undertake peer education classes introducing younger years to the wonderful work of the SVP. We are looking forward to engaging the SVP girls from other years in our activities. Actions not Words. **Rebecca McCormack, Molly Callaghan and Alice Beatty, Young SVP Communications Team**



# SCHOOL RETREATS



The annual Retreat Programme has resumed, with girls travelling away for day and overnight Retreats. This is a hugely enjoyable and very beneficial part of the RE programme. Benildus Pastoral Centre in Kilmacud and Dromantine Retreat Centre in Newry welcomed girls from Third, Fourth and Fifth Year in September and October. The girls engaged in a wide range of activities exploring issues of life and faith. They were given opportunities to nourish their spiritual selves, to participate in various workshops encouraging teamwork and harmony within the group. The Retreat timetable included sessions exploring the value of friendship and the importance of gratitude, our focused Cornelian Characteristic for this academic year. The girls enjoyed outdoor games, celebrated prayerful liturgies and Masses together, participated in craft work, and availed of quiet times of meditation and silence. Alongside this they enjoyed countless tasty meals, endless tea and biscuit breaks, and time out to relax and nourish friendships within each year group. Thank you to all the teachers who accompanied the girls to Kilmacud and Newry. Well done to all the girls who were hugely complimented for their warm hearted and good humoured participation, and excellent behaviour throughout.

## TY Social and Cultural Trips to Howth & MoLi

For our Social and Cultural trip we went to Howth. It is the only fishing village in Ireland which is at risk of being underwater by 2050 due to climate change. We took a long hour DART ride from Killiney to Howth Station. When arriving in Howth we walked to the house of WB Yates. The house had spectacular sea views and views over the harbour and Ireland's Eye. Unfortunately, we didn't get to the Howth Martello like we wanted to but I learned that it has a beautiful position overlooking the harbour. Howth was a very beautiful town with lots of different restaurants and monuments. It was a very relaxing trip. I would love to go back again and explore more of the village. **Rachel Jackson and Hannah Murphy**



My class, 4A, visited the Museum of Literature Ireland in Dublin City during our Social and Cultural class on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October. We took the DART from Killiney to Pearse Station and made our way to the museum through St. Stephen's Green. The museum is a partnership between the National Library of Ireland and University College Dublin and teaches its visitors about the past and present literature of Ireland, the history of the beautiful historic building it's situated in, and gives you the opportunity to see where significant contributors to Irish literacy wrote, lived, and died. The workers within MoLI are extremely knowledgeable and informative. They were happy to help us with anything we needed and always did their best to answer any questions we had. Overall, the trip to the Museum of Literature Ireland has been one of our favourite Social and Cultural trips this year and was so worthwhile. **Anna MacLachlan**



# Celebrating Our Feast Days

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 HCK had their first House Day of the school year which was lead by Geraldine House. Even during the restrictions we were able to have an enjoyable day. The 5<sup>th</sup> Year House Captains played games with the new 1<sup>st</sup> Years and the whole school got chocolate bars that matched the House colours. House challenges took place throughout the following week for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Years. Each afternoon from Monday to Thursday a riddle was sent out to both year groups. It was a competition between the Houses to see who could get the correct answer first. On Friday the winners were announced and they received house points. This was a great opportunity for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Years to get involved in their Houses as any amount of House Points really help.  
**Malisa Haugh, Geraldine House Captain**

On Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> of October, Holy Child held its annual fundraising House Day in honour of the founding of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. The day was led by Madeleine House. The students picked four charities to support throughout the day: CanTeen Ireland, Irish Refugee Council, DePaul Ireland, and Dublin Rape Crisis Centre. Every student in the school paid a donation of €10 in support of the charities chosen. For the House Day activities, every year group gathered at the Cornelia Connelly Hall at their designated time slot to play "Cornelia's Labyrinth", a board game that was designed by Mrs Moisselle, Annabel Cleere (Class of 2013) and the Class of 2021. To top the day off, students were surprised by a Teddy's Ice Cream truck in the bottom car park. Every student got an ice cream and it was a lovely end to the House Day.  
**Sarah McFarland, Madeleine House Captain**



# Social Action Activities and Community Outreach

In the spirit of the chosen Cornelian Characteristic for this year, I want to express sincere gratitude to all the students, parents and staff who supported our annual fundraiser this year. Following discussions with their classes the Social Action Representatives posted suggested the names of suggested charities in our Teams group. We selected 4 very worthy charities to receive our donation: CanTeen supports young people with cancer, DePaul Ireland works with homeless people, the Irish Refugee Council and the Rape Crisis Centre. On the House Day every student had an opportunity to play our newly designed school Board Game, 'Cornelia's Labyrinth', and also enjoy a delicious Teddy's ice cream. Each girl was asked to 'pay to play', give €10 on VSWare to support the chosen charities. Ms Quinn also organised a coffee morning for the staff to raise funds. The Fifth Year House Captains decorated Cornelia Connelly Hall with House colours, and the Social Action girls gave everyone in their classes a 'ticket for Teddy's'. It was a really nice day and had an atmosphere like 'old times'. The total raised to date is €3630. Further donations can be made on VSWare, or directly to Anne in the office.  
**Laura Reynolds, Social Action Prefect**

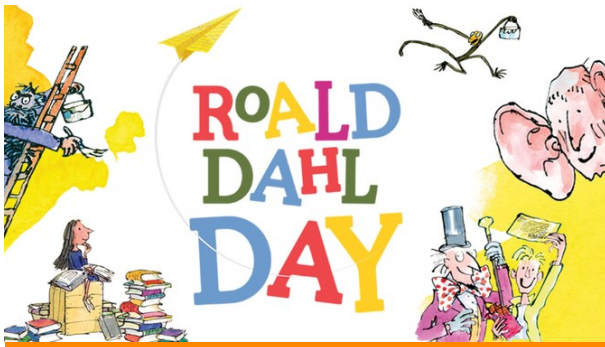
## *Megan Beare Concern Worldwide*

HCK girls were privileged to receive an inspirational talk from past pupil Megan Beare (Class of 2013). Fifth and Sixth Year girls heard about Megan's work with Concern Worldwide. Megan has recently returned from Kabul, Afghanistan, and prior to this she worked in India, Liberia and Uganda. Megan has been involved in humanitarian aid, in designing and evaluating projects improving women's and children's health, and in lobbying and advocacy. The girls really engaged with Megan's presentation and were very motivated by her enthusiasm and courage.

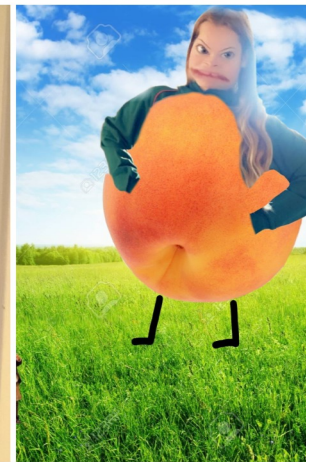
## *TY Gardening*

The Tuesday morning gardening group continue to work enthusiastically in Beaufort Centre. Laura patiently rescued rosemary plants and Charley ruthlessly pruned roses, while Lisa and Isabelle steadfastly cleared the paving stones. Meanwhile Isabelle, Jessica, Emily and Elyse fearlessly tackled an overgrown rockery. Well done girls for working so hard to keep the grounds of Beaufort attractive for the residents.





When I heard that in my first week of HCK that Roald Dahl Day was coming up, I was so excited to take part! Roald Dahl was one (still is) of my favourite authors. Ideas immediately started flooding into my head. When it got to lunch, the first thing I could think of doing was to ask Eleanor if she wanted to do a collaboration. We were thinking of doing Matilda because we could make a throne out of books, but a few days later, I had a great idea to do the BFG. So on the Monday before it was due, we dot dressed. I got dressed into knee high white ankle socks, a white t-shirt and a denim dress. Eleanor found a shirt, a brown jacket, and some baggy trousers and bam! We were the BFG and Sophie! We went into Eleanor's back garden to take the picture. Eleanor sat on a stool, with her hand out in front of her whilst I was at the back of the garden, it's an optical illusion because it looks like I'm in Eleanor's hand, but I'm actually just further away. We had so much fun doing this and had great laughs. I can't wait to see what will come for Roald Dahl Day next year. **Emily J O'Brien**



## Rootine Hair

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of October we participated in the Rootine Hair Workshop. Anne from Rootine came into the school to teach us about hair care and how to do different hair styles. I was in the first group on the Monday morning, and we had a really great time. We went up to room 20 and each person was given a doll with long hair to practise the styles on. Between each hairstyle, Anne taught us some theory on how to take care of our hair properly as well as how to make a homemade hair-mask out of mayonnaise, lemon, and honey. We learned how to do a Celtic braid, a fishtail braid, a French braid, a waterfall braid and even some hairstyles we could use for our musical! It was a really fun day and I hope next year's 4<sup>th</sup> Years have the opportunity to experience it too. **Minnie Mansfield**



## French Debating

On Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, myself and three other 6<sup>th</sup> Years, Izabella Boyne, Amy Melia and Georgina Dowling took part in the Alliance Française Debates (Les Joutes Oratoires) over Zoom. It was an incredibly enriching and worthwhile experience because we had the opportunity to write speeches on a topic relevant to the modern day. The motion we debated was 'The school system does not respond to our needs'. It allowed us to develop both our oral and comprehension skills in an enjoyable way. Fortunately, we managed to advance to the next round of debates. We are very much looking forward to hearing our new motion for the upcoming round to start our speech preparation. We hope to advance further in the competition. **Phoebe Cunningham**



## First Year Beach Clean

All four First Year CSPE classes took action to keep our beach and surrounding areas free from rubbish. During Maths Week we undertook a cross-curricular task. Using the trundle wheel, we measured the distance we travelled and the amount of waste we collected. Thankfully, we only collected a total of 35.3 lbs of waste. We were expecting to collect a lot more. It's good that people are also helping to keep our seas litter free.



# HCK Development This Year

As you may have seen or heard, the builders are in! Stage One of this new phase of development has commenced! We are focussing on STEM, Hockey and improving accessibility. We will be delivering three new STEM classrooms, long overdue and key to our strategy to encourage more girls into the sciences. Each classroom will be developed successively to support the continuation of teaching and learning throughout the academic year. The build will take about 35 weeks. Our new facility will promote team work, critical thinking, enterprise and creativity. Our students will be supported in developing their interest in an expanding field of inquiry with confidence and competence.



Our new hockey pitch is well underway at this stage and should be completed by the third week of November. Our old pitch was no longer fit for purpose as reduction of the pile meant neither the ball nor the players could move quickly. Developing key skills that improve the game was inhibited. We are installing a new sand-based hockey pitch, with new shock pads fitted and a deeper run off at the end of the pitch. This will provide a different playing experience and will be in keeping with the high standard of coaching our players receive and the high standard of play they are capable of.

Accessibility: We will be for the first time in the history of HCK, installing lifts to make the school more accessible to students and staff who have physical disabilities. As well as it being way overdue, this is very much in keeping with our ethos of inclusivity and diversity and reflects the emphasis we put on our social action and citizenship programme.

We are very grateful to all our parents, alumnae and wider community for their fantastic support of these exciting new facilities in our school. Thank you. We will be continuing to fundraise this year. If you would like to get involved please contact our Development Director, Melissa Harrison on [mharrison@holychildkilliney.ie](mailto:mharrison@holychildkilliney.ie) or 086 604 2849.

## Killiney Parents Association

The KPA is back at work and planning lots of events and activities for our girls this year. We have lots of new and positive members who are already hard at work with some great goals for the year. We have funded more equipment for Hockey and Basketball so that our girls can train more effectively. This equipment is for girls across the years and abilities.

The Joanna Fortune talk was well attended and received. She spoke eloquently and practically about nurturing and keeping our girls safe. It's a great use of the KPA budget as it got a great reaction from parents.

The Parents Lunch is being planned and tickets go on sale on Eventbrite on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. It looks like it will be a sold out event, so plan your tables now! The lunch is a major fundraiser for the KPA and your support is so appreciated. We are planning a raffle too so any donations would be most welcome.

The KPA is also working towards broadening the skills sets of our girls. We are looking at resilience and assertiveness training for our girls that is age appropriate.

Lastly, the KPA AGM is on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> of November in the Cornelia Connolly Hall. It would be great to see you there. We welcome any ideas and feedback. **Barbara Stack, KPA chair.**

## Congratulations Show Jumpers

Our Show Jumpers have competed well at the first two events of the season. The first event, in Mullingar, saw Grace Dixon, Amelia Durkan, Chloe Walsh and Lucy Loughrey jump excellently in the Novice competition. For Amelia, Chloe and Lucy it was their first opportunity to jump for HCK and the whole team really enjoyed the event. The next event in Barnadown Equestrian centre saw Chloe, Amelia and Lucy joined by Maddie Sinclair. Again, the team put in a strong performance and there was success in the individual events which saw Amelia place 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 90cm while Chloe placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 80cm event. Congratulations to Lexi O'Byrne White who her division in the National Dressage Championships in September with her horse Quibelle. A great achievement for Lexi – well done! Congratulations to Ella Maher who also took part in the National Dressage Championships. Ella won the Junior Novice Championship on her horse Mac and also came in third place at preliminary level. A wonderful achievement for both Lexi and Ella. HCK pride.



# Hockey

The excitement was palpable as school hockey returned with a bang in September. As we watch the progress continue apace on our new pitch, hockey players from all years have showed commitment and dedication in making the journey up to Three Rock Rovers for hockey practice each week and despite only being able to train once a week, performances on the pitch so far have been excellent. The First Years have played blitzes against both St. Andrew's and Wesley and enjoyed being able to showcase their new skills against other schools in some really competitive matches. The minors have also (finally) been able to get their secondary school hockey careers started. The Minor 1s had narrow defeats to both Wesley and St. Andrew's but are a group that show great promise. The Minor 2s, 3s and 4s have had super matches with Rathdown, Wesley and Loreto Bray and continue to improve and adapt to the 11 a side pitch. The Junior 1s have trained excellently under new coach Jess McGrane and had a strong friendly win over Temple Carrig before a disappointing cup defeat to St. Andrew's. After a strong start for Killiney, St. Andrew's scored 3 goals in 10 minutes just before half time. Killiney came out fighting and put in a superb second half performance, grabbing a goal back just after the break and sustaining long periods of pressure for the much of the half without being able to find another breakthrough. Meanwhile the Junior 3s and the Junior 4s both started their league campaigns with strong 1-0 wins over Alex and Cluny respectively. The Senior 1s bounced back from a difficult first encounter versus Wesley to beat a strong Loreto Foxrock team 4-2. They start their Premier League campaign against Mount Anville on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October. The Senior 2s got off to a great start in the league with a hard fought battle against St. Andrew's. The team were unlucky not to find the winning goal in a keenly contested 1-1 draw. Meanwhile, our Senior 3s and 4s both put in courageous performances against strong St. Andrew's and Muckcross teams in their first league matches.

We are also very proud to have had significant representation in Leinster's recent Interpro matches versus Connaught. Millie Jerman, Aliya Davis and Kate Begley represented the U16s in a comprehensive 9-0 win, with Millie getting on the scoresheet in a match where the Connaught defence was no match for Leinster's attacking prowess. It was a narrow defeat for the U18s in a match where Olivia Napier and Sarah McFarland made considerable contributions, while Sports Captain, Alex Purcell, played a pivotal role at the back for the U20s in their 2-0 win. We look forward to following the progress of these teams and players as the Interpros continue throughout the year.



# Basketball

Our basketball teams have been working hard preparing for the start of their competitive season. With our Senior and Cadette teams getting ready to start league matches after the mid term break. Our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year groups have played their first ever matches in HCK colours against opposing schools such as Loreto on the Green and Loreto Dalkey. Putting in great performances against tough competition and never giving up. Some of our teams enjoyed well-being week with some fun relays and games, where we discovered how seriously competitive our HCK girls are! Our TY students also completed a Table Official course for basketball and will be working at our games throughout the year. They have done a superb job in learning a new skill and taking a lot of new information on board. A date for the calendar is definitely November 9<sup>th</sup> as our Senior A team play Colaiste Mhuire Crosshaven from Cork in the All Ireland Schools Cup. Hopefully we will be able to have the support of HCK in our sports hall once restrictions ease. We look forward to continue playing against more schools after mid-term break.



# Athletics

Our athletics teams got off to a great start in a Cross Country race in Mount Anville last week (13<sup>th</sup> October) with our 1<sup>st</sup> Year group finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of all the groups with 80 people competing in the race. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Years finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place out of all the groups with 150 people competing in the race. There were notable performances by some of our 1<sup>st</sup> Years such as Aela Kelly, Emma Kilbride, Isobel Moran, Ellie Begley, Jean McMahon, Martha Moore and Lizzie Hall and our 2<sup>nd</sup> Years Aisling Meehan (who came 1<sup>st</sup> place in full race), Ciara Kennedy, Ellen Wheatley, Isabella Healy and Shea Lawlor. The girls look forward to competing in more Cross Country races after mid-term break.