

## HOCKEY

### Senior Hockey

Our Senior Hockey team was unfortunate to miss out on a place in the Palmer Cup Final this year. After being 2-0 down at half time the girls turned all the pressure on the Jes. This hard work paid off as Aisling Lupton scored a tremendous goal. Continuous pressure in the last few minutes from our midfield and forwards lead to multiple short corners. Unfortunately we couldn't convert a goal to equalise the match. Best of luck to our 6th years (Saoirse Burke, Ailbhe Doyle, Jackie Anderson, Maria Wall, Aoibhin McDonnell and Christina Boyle) who will be missed on the pitch next year.



### Junior hockey

This year it was great to see a large group of very enthusiastic hockey players back on the pitch at Junior level. We had two u15 teams and two first year teams entered in competitions and all teams competed well against schools from Galway, Sligo and Athlone. One of the first year teams and one of the U15 teams got to the semi-finals of their respective competitions. In both cases they were very unlucky to lose out to the eventual winners by very narrow margins.

Well done to all involved and we hope to see them back on the pitch in September!

### Hockey Achievements

Dominican College was well represented at interprovincial level with Aoibhin McDonnell, Saoirse Burke, Lauren O'Donnell on the u18th Connacht team as well as Aisling Lupton and Roisin Shaughnessy on the u16 team. The girls played the interprovincial tournament in a round robin format during the year. The U18 girls recorded a historical 1-0 win against Leinster while the u16 team made it very difficult for Leinster South. The match went to shuttles with the Connacht girls unfortunate to lose out.

Well done to all our players involved with the Greenfields u15 team who reached the final of this year's Smith Cup. Mia O'Donnell helped Greenfields by converting an excellent shuttle in the final. There is no doubt the future of Taylor's hockey is bright with all these players involved.

## SOCCER

Taylor's soccer teams had some excellent performances this year!

The U20 team, including 6th Years Ivanna Lally, Chloe Cubbard and Eve Dossen, were eventually knocked out by the team that went on to win the All-Ireland.

The U17s began with a great 3-1 win over Colaiste na Coiribe and followed that up with an even more impressive 7-2 win against Mercy Roscommon. Unfortunately, with their captain, Eve Dossen, away on international duty, Taylor's went out in the Connacht semi final.

The U-15 and First Year teams both performed admirably but came up short in the quarter final stage of both competitions.

### International and Provincial Honours

Well done to Eve Dossen in 6th Year who starred for the Irish U17 soccer team. Eve has had a busy year travelling around Europe with the Irish squad playing teams like England, Norway and Portugal. In March she played in the televised Euro Qualifiers in Dublin.

Well done also to Isabelle Fitzpatrick (3d Year) who played for the Irish U16 soccer team during the year and Jasmine Greaney (3d Year) who played for the Connacht U15 team. Jasmine's amazing goal against Leinster went viral and can be seen on the school app!



Eve Dossen  
Irish U17 soccer team



Isabelle Fitzpatrick  
Irish U16 soccer team

### TAYLOR'S HILL EQUESTRIAN TEAM

On the 20th of February, Taylor's Hill Equestrian Team competed in an Interschools Ireland showjumping event at Ower Equestrian Centre. The team consisted of Mia Higgins (TY), Ava Joyce (1st year) and Lilly Dubois (1st year). The girls competed in the Novice Teams event placing 5th, with Ava placing third in the Novice Individuals Category. The girls had a very enjoyable day and are excited to welcome any future Taylor's equestrian girls to the team!



## GO-KARTING

Our school has participated in the Formula Female scheme organised by Nicci Daly since its beginning. Each year, the girls spend a day learning about motorsports including its mathematics, cornering, building sensors, pit stop challenges and racing go-karts themselves.

This year, the top drivers from the day attended the Connacht finals to select drivers to compete in the All-Ireland finals. Eve Lyons was named overall champion and will now undergo training and compete in the finals.

Well done also to Chloe Cubbard, Liadh O'Connor, Sienna O'Brien, Mikayla Murray, Lillian Sabbat Skibinska who progressed to the Connacht finals.



### CONNACHT BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

Our 2nd year basketball team won the Connacht title this year with a resounding 30-14 win over Dunmore. Cheered on by raucous home supporters, the girls went on to beat a team from Bundoran 24-16 in a qualifier for the All-Ireland series. In the All-Ireland quarter final the team lost out in a hard fought match against Presentation, Listowel. Huge congratulations to all involved and thanks to the coaching team, Ms. Cradock and Sean Hynes.



## Gaelic Football

Our Gaelic football teams had a really successful year.

The u16 team had an unbeaten run all the way to the Connacht quarter final which was played in the new Connacht Air Dome in Mayo, a wonderful experience for all involved.

The u14s also had a great run, winning 3 of their 5 games and narrowly missing out on progression from the Galway championships.

Congratulations to Niamh Mannion and Mia O'Donnell who were both selected on the Galway u14 team and played in the All-Ireland semi finals earlier this year.

Congrats also to Lauren O'Donnell. Lauren is on the Galway minor team which will play in the All-Ireland semi final over the summer.



Mia and Lauren  
O'Donnell



Niamh Mannion

## ATHLETICS

Taylor's athletes donned their brand new singlets for what was a very busy athletics calendar this year. Among many notable achievements, Katie McGeehan achieved a top ten in the Connacht Schools Combined Events. Also, Angela Cielecka came 1st in the minor girls 100m and long jump in the Minor and Junior track and field event in Dangan. Aleksandra Rydzewska placed fourth in her 100m race. Lauren Corcoran, Princess Abraham, Naomi Palmer, Caoileann Tynann, Holly Keating, Margaret Ndadi, Rhian Breathnach, Hannah Feeney and Hannah Ogundeko also performed well and are names to watch out for in the future.



# Dominican College Taylor's Hill

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2022

### MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD GIRL AND DEPUTY HEAD GIRL

We are delighted to welcome you to the Dominican College Newsletter 2022! This school year has been enjoyable for everyone as we emerged from the Covid-19 scene and had a vibrant fresh start. It has been our honour and privilege to be selected as Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl this year to represent both the student body and the school itself. The years we've spent in Taylor's have been truly enjoyable and it's safe to say our happiest memories originated here at school.

Claire & Leona



Claire

Leona

### FIRST COMPUTER SCIENCE CLASS

On the 25th of May, the first group of Taylor's students sat the Leaving Certificate Computer Science exam. This is the first time Taylor's students completed the LC Computer Science course, and the second year any Irish students sat the exam. Congratulations to our Computer Scientists!

We encourage future Leaving Cert students to consider Computer Science as one of their choice subjects. It allows students to develop programming skills as well as obtain basic knowledge of computer science. Students learnt how to code in languages like Python, JavaScript, HTML and CSS and they had a chance to complete multiple projects using BBC Micro:Bits (small embedded systems that are so much fun to work with!). Computer Science is a subject of the future and learning the basics of it in secondary school is a wonderful opportunity for anyone, not only those considering it as a future career!



### ONE GOOD SCHOOL

One Good School is an initiative being introduced to secondary schools in partnership with Jigsaw. It aims to promote the support of young people in our school community and to educate everyone on mental health: what can impact it, how to support your own mental health and how to help others with their mental health.

Many students struggle with managing our mental health through the daily challenges of school life. We believe that One Good School is a vitally important initiative that is being brought to Dominican College and we have high hopes for what we can achieve together through this program.

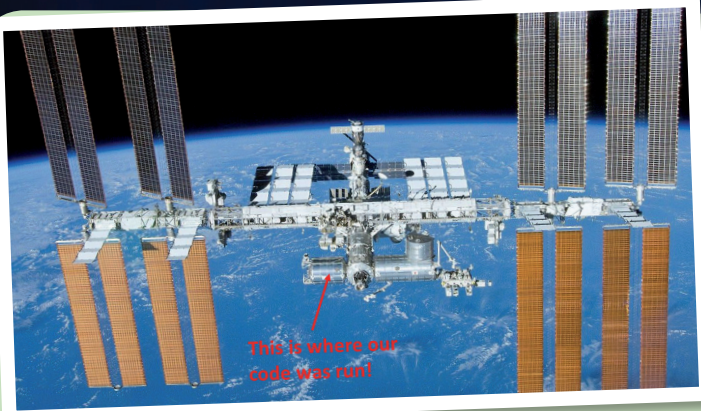
On April 1st we all came together on the hockey pitch serenaded by our wonderful traditional Irish music group to launch One Good School for Taylor's. After an introduction about the initiative and its aims by Ms. Patricia Garrett and one of the 5th year student representatives, we had two guest speakers, Chelsie Daly and Meabh De Burca, both past pupils. Chelsie is an integrative psychotherapist and founder of Stepping Stones Galway, Maeve is a 50 times capped Irish international soccer player. These gave us such inspiring speeches about their own journey with mental health and resilience. Perhaps the highlight was the performance of Uisce Jones, a Galway singer-songwriter, which included an original song about mental health. Our launch clearly showed us all that no matter your background or career path, our mental health is still something that we all struggle with and can also all express through our passion: be it playing sports, helping others, writing/playing music or whatever it is you love to do.

The One Good School committee currently consists of three student representatives (Anisha Henderson, Grace McQuaid and Máire Geraghty), two parent representatives (Nadine Gregory Leleux and Yasmin McNelis), and four staff and management representatives (Ms. Patricia Garrett, Ms. Liz O'Brien, Ms. Louise O'Callaghan and Ms. Lorraine Byrnes). At the moment we're working on our school action plan for next year, which will include some webinars and workshops by Jigsaw. Watch this space for more updates and information about One Good School.



By Grace McQuaid and Máire Geraghty  
on behalf of the One Good School Committee





### ASTRO PI - OUR EXPERIMENT IN SPACE!

Astro Pi: Mission Space Lab is a competition organised by the European Space Agency in which students from member states are encouraged to design and code an experiment. After two elimination rounds our team, Solar6, were successful and will have our experiment run on the International Space Station.

Our experiment focuses on investigating the differences and similarities between magnetometer readings on Earth taken from observatories and those taken from the ISS as it orbits earth. When Coronal Mass Ejections\* from the Sun are directed at Earth, they can cause disturbances in our magnetic field and create geomagnetic storms. As we are approaching the next solar maximum\*\* in 2025, the Earth (and the ISS) will experience increasing levels of solar activity - this is ideal for our project, as the magnetometer is more likely to record useful data. If the values on the ISS are found to be greater than on Earth, there could be a high risk of adverse effects on astronauts' health and possible damage to equipment (such as solar cells) on board the ISS.

Our team, Solar6 (Ania Kierczuk(6th), Lucy Garrett(5th), Marta Prieto(5th), Amy Freddy(6th), Aishlinn O'Grady Corcoran(6th) and Diana Kudrjavceva(6th)) came up with the experiment idea, programmed it in Python and tested it on a Raspberry Pi computer. We faced many challenges, but the hard work we put into this project was worth it! Our experiment was run on the ISS this spring! Now, we are patiently waiting for results to be sent to us so we can analyse them and complete the final stage of the competition (and hopefully win!)

*Thanks to the teachers who helped us with our space adventure - Mrs Coll and Dr Edmondson. We will be forever grateful for your help (and pizzas!) – Solar6*

### INTERNATIONAL DAY AND LE CHÉILE DAY

The diversity in our school is astounding and in order to celebrate that, the fifth year prefects decided to hold an international day on the 8th of March 2022. This is when students from foreign countries got the opportunity to share their pride in their heritage with our school community.

In the days leading up to the celebration, the front hall was festooned with flags from all 68 nationalities in the school. A map of the world marking every country was also put up in the front hall. Students were encouraged to dress in their traditional clothing and it's safe to say a great effort was made on this front. Throughout the day, music from different countries was played and a competition was held to guess the number of nationalities in the school.

International Day was celebrated alongside Le Chéile day. As a Le Chéile school, we commemorate being a part of the Le Chéile community annually and we thought that International Day was perfect to do this.

The party really got started during lunch when a speaker system was set up outside the school and a flash mob began. Girls from all different year groups came together to dance, sing and celebrate our different ethnicities

International day showed us how we are alike in many ways while respecting and embracing the ways we're different. It exhibited the wonderful multiculturalism we have in this school and reminded us to value every cultural identity which is also central to the ethos of a Le Chéile school; to support and appreciate each other.

We were ecstatic to see so many people contributing to this day and we appreciate everyone who donated in aid of Ukraine.



### LUCY GARRETT WINS BRONZE IN THE EUROPEAN OLYMPIAD OF EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCE

"The European Olympiad of Experimental Science (EOES) is an annual science olympiad for school students from the European Union. At EOES each team carries out two experimental tasks that combine biology, chemistry and physics, and give students the opportunity to feel

like real researchers and to pit their science skills against those of the other participants."

The Irish Olympiad of Experimental Science (IrEOES) is an individual competition that serves as the selection event for EOES. This year over 230 students, from all over the country, took part in the first round of the IrEOES. Students answered questions from the fields of chemistry, biology and physics. Twenty four of the highest achieving students from the field of physics, then faced each other in the second round of the competition in January. Of those twenty four, six students were invited to compete in the third round of the olympiad. Lucy won the bronze medal in the third round of the competition and was chosen to be on one of the two teams that represented Ireland in the EOES in Hradec Králové, Czech Republic. Lucy and her team performed incredibly well, achieving bronze medals in the European Olympiad.

Congratulations to Lucy for this wonderful achievement. We wish you all the best in your future career as a scientist!

### CREATIVE WRITING

6th year student Ashlyn Buckley was shortlisted for the 2021 Edna O'Brien's Young Writers Bursary. The competition consisted of Irish teens aged from 15-17 submitting a 300-word prose for a chance to complete a 5-day creative writing Masterclass in Dublin. The competition was run by Músaem na Litreachta na hÉireann. Ashlyn got to complete an online Masterclass with Irish author Sarah Maria Griffin. She took part in creative writing exercises, discussed some of the author's favourite poetry and spoken words, as well as discussing the publishing industry.

### GREEN SCHOOLS

Once again, our Green Schools committee has been very busy. From maintaining our progress with previous flags/themes, to continuing our work on the Travel Theme and even preparing for the Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA), the committee has put in a lot of hard work this year.

#### Continued efforts on previous themes:

In 2020 we won National Water School of the Year for our efforts to save water as a school community. Part of our project aimed to obtain filtered water stations for our school. As Covid restrictions have now eased, we've enjoyed seeing students come in with their reusable water bottles and refilling from these stations. Please keep these efforts up everyone to save water and reduce our plastic consumption!

A huge congratulations to 5th year student Máire Geraghty who was invited to write an article for a book during her TY year about our school's amazing efforts to be sustainable in the middle of the pandemic. All proceeds of the book, titled "Mustard Seeds - Reflections" and written in collaboration with Sr. Loreto McLoughlin, are going to Galway Simon, Galway Hospice and an educationally disadvantaged school in Co. Kildare. It's a credit to the school that news of our sustainable success has spread so far. The book was launched on 12th April 2022 in the Connacht Hotel.

#### YEA - Young Environmentalist Award

Over the past school year we have been collecting bottle caps, tin cans and sea shells. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our collection so far. Keep on collecting as we will be making a mural out of these bottle caps for the garden we're working on in collaboration with the TY horticulture classes, using the winning drawing/sketch. As you all have put a massive effort into this we are planning a reward for the student classes involved before the school year finishes as a thank you to everyone who contributed from the Green Schools Committee. We are really grateful to everyone outside the Green Schools Committee who have been helping to promote all of our initiatives, including the YEA. We look forward to completing our sustainable sensory garden with your help in the school year of 2022/2023.

#### #andshecycles:

A huge well done to Ciara Kelly in 2nd year who was selected to become an ambassador for the #andshecycles national campaign. #andshecycles is a national campaign aimed at encouraging young girls to get back on their bicycles whilst also addressing some of the reasons why they are hesitant to begin with.

This campaign works with schools all over the country and it is a great achievement for us to have a student in the school working on the project for the second year in a row. As a result of the school's work with this project, we are currently in the process of installing new and updated bicycle shelters in the school. These will continue to benefit the students in the school now and in future years to come. We hope that this will encourage students to try cycling to school.

The awards ceremony for the campaign took place on the 5th of May in the Hyatt Hotel in Dublin. Ciara put a lot of work into the campaign this year and this award is very well deserved!



#### Lá Glas:

On the 16th of March, all the students and staff came to school dressed up in green and brought in a donation of € to raise money for the Irish Red Cross Society and The Church in Need. The best dressed students in each class participated in a competition to win some delicious treats. We all had a very fun, memorable and enjoyable "Lá Glas", particularly as this was the first Lá Glas since the Covid lockdowns. We also very successfully raised €800 for the Irish Red Cross Society and The Church in Need.

Contributors: Ciara Kelly, Sophia, Mariana Vasquez and Máire Geraghty (on behalf of the Green Schools Committee)



### SCI FEST

SciFest is a STEM fair for secondary school students held in ATU and 15 other venues nationally. This year we had 6 projects entered and came away with 3 prizes.

The competition took place on May 5th in ATU where the girls all exhibited their projects and spoke at length with the judges. All of the girls were commended for their hard work and encouraged to take part again next year.

At the award ceremony Su'ad Binyo and Marta Prieto, both 5th Year students, were awarded the runner up prize for the Boston Scientific Medical Devices Award. The girls investigated the effectiveness of painkillers and how they dissolve in our stomachs.

Aarushi Samal, a 2nd Year student, received 2 prizes for her excellent project on "The Big Questions of Life: The Multiverse". She won the Institute of Physics Award and the ESERO Ireland Discover Space Award.

All of the girls had a great time sharing their project work, meeting like minded students and enjoying a rich STEM environment for the day.



### TY ACTIVITIES

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, TYs had a great year this year.

#### Bonding

It started off with talks and workshops from Chelsie Daly, the Shona Project, Aware, and more. The first trip outside of the school was to Rusheen Bay where we bonded with our new classmates by pushing them off paddleboards into cold water! Even though it took 45 minutes to walk down and another 45 minutes to walk back, it was a great first trip!

One month later, we got on our first school buses of the year to go to Eile Mental where we ran around the woods playing laser tag. We also went orienteering around the bog, which involved a lot of people having to be pulled out of bog holes! Overall, we all had a great time, and that day is something that will be reminisced over in years to come.

#### Work, work, work!

After Eile Mental came work experience. This was one of the main reasons why a lot of us chose to do TY and it was a really interesting experience for everyone. Some students even got part time jobs out of it! Work experience really was an integral part of the TY experience as a whole so if you're going into TY in September - look forward to it!

#### Christmas is coming....

After work experience, we began preparations for the Christmas enterprise fair. This was the first time we had been involved in actually running a business so it seemed daunting at first. The week leading up to the fair got hectic at times, and the entire year was one massive bundle of nerves on the day! Luckily, the fair went well, with some groups making a pretty sizable profit!

To finish school on a good note before the Christmas holidays, we went to the Pálás cinema and watched 'Home Alone'. When we got back to school after the Christmas break, we had a driving workshop. During the workshop we learnt how to be responsible road users, and we also learnt how to change a tire!

#### Workshops!

At the beginning of February, all three TY classes had a day-long workshop on various types of first aid. We learnt how to perform CPR, how to help someone who is choking, how to treat burns, bandage wounds, and more. This workshop was really practical and enjoyable for everyone.

We had another interactive, yet totally different workshop at the end of March - drumming! It was surprising how much we learnt in half a day - by the end of the session we were able to play a piece as a cohesive group! Even though all of the activities labelled as bonding were completed at the start of the year, workshops like this really brought our classes closer together. April went by in a blur, between a workshop for all TY students studying French, self-defence workshops, the Easter holidays, work experience and, of course, Barcelona!



### Barcelona!!!!

For the students who went to Barcelona, it was a very busy four days! It started off with a walking tour of the city after our flight landed, before we headed back to the hotel we were staying at. On day two, we visited Camp Nou (the FC Barcelona stadium) and took a cable car to Montserrat to enjoy some beautiful buildings and scenery. Day three was spent in PortAventura, and those with the stomach for it enjoyed some of the tallest and fastest roller coasters in Europe! On the final day, we visited Park Guell and S'plau shopping mall. We arrived back in Galway just before 11:00pm that evening.



#### End in sight

After returning from work experience or abroad, we got right back into our regular TY activities, with the summer enterprise fair just around the corner! Just last week, we went to the UL Sport Adventure Centre, which marked the end of our trips. As this piece is being written, our end of year assessments are looming and our graduation will be shortly afterwards. TY has been an exciting and new experience and it has provided us with the space and time to grow and mature as individuals. We have made new friends, and strengthened our bonds with our old friends. TY truly was a year unlike any other, and we hope all future TY students will enjoy it even more than we did!

### COICÍS NA GAELIGE

Eagraíodh Coicís na Gaeilge i mbliana i gColáiste San Doimínic chun ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar an nGaeilge. Thosaigh Coicís na Gaeilge ar an gcéad lá de mhí an Mhárta agus lean sé ar aghaidh go dtí an seachtú lá déag de Mhárta. Bhí lá lán le spraoi ann agus bhí an t-atmaisféar thar barr freisin! Bhí go leor imeachtaí ar siúl le gach duine a spreagadh Gaeilge a labhairt. I measc na n-imeachtaí a eagraíodh bhí Comórtas Póstaer don chéad bhliain, Tráth na gCeist agus Seisiún Ceoil le céilí. Bhí Preab-Ghaeltacht sa seomra foirne, áit a labhair na múinteoirí an Ghaeilge a bhí acu (Cleachtaigh a dhéanann máistreacht a deirtear agus is dócha go bhfuil iomlán na firinne ansin). Go raibh míle maith agaibh uilig as páirt a ghlacadh sna himeachtaí iontach. Beatha Teanga í a Labhairt mar sin leanaimis orainn ag cleachtadh. Nár laga Dia sibh!

