

Holy Child School

Spring Newsletter 2023



From Our Principal, Mrs. Caroline O' Brien

On 8th March, Nickola Dempsey and I flew to Oxford to attend the annual Holy Child Network of Schools Annual Conference. Following two years of remote gatherings, it was a joy to visit the Cherwell Centre once again and to spend time with other SHCJ Heads of School. The few days served as a window to reflect on what a Cornelian education is and how we can 'meet the wants of the age'. As I write, we have just celebrated Mother's Day, an opportunity to rejoice and honour all mothers as incredible role models, guides, confidantes and much more (I am thinking of my own mother here!) Cornelia, herself, was mother to five children, and so, she was not immune to the daily struggles of working with and raising a family.

Way ahead of her time, Cornelia had very clear principles about how children were to be taught. Much of her advice to her community was based on her own thoughts and deliberations as a mother, echoes of which are evident today, due in no small part to the excellent staff who work consistently to make HCK a happy school. Cornelian characteristics are embedded each and every day both within and outside the classroom. My thanks to all staff as always for their engaged commitment to all things Holy Child.

The meeting was also opportune, coming at a time when both myself, Nickola Dempsey and the Assistant Principal 1 Team are engaging with the next phase of Looking At Our Schools (LAOS), a revised and updated self-evaluation tool issued by the Department of Education. A 'weighty' document, demanding reflection and discussion, based on which, the school will draw up a School Improvement Plan (SIP), which will enhance and improve learning and teaching and management and leadership in HCK in the coming years. We will keep you informed via the wonderful KPA.

With Palm Sunday just around the corner heralding the beginning of Easter week, I found myself thinking about the scripture readings commencing with Jesus entering Jerusalem on the back of a small common donkey (aren't donkeys having quite the moment in the sun with the promotion of the Banshees of Inisherin and Jenny the Donkey?!) Tradition has it that the donkey followed Jesus to Calvary, stood in the shadow of the cross and the shadow of the cross fell on the back of the donkey. Donkeys have borne the sign of the cross since that fateful day. Thinking of this small (typically unimportant) animal present at his birth and in the last week of Jesus' life, I came across this poem on the SHCJ website and I thought you might enjoy it:



What the Donkey Saw by U.A. Fanthorpe

*No room in the inn, of course,
and not that much in the stable,
what with the shepherds, Magi, Mary,
Joseph, the heavenly host —
not to mention the baby
using our manger as a cot.
You couldn't have squeezed another cherub in
for love nor money.
Still, in spite of the overcrowding,
I did my best to make them feel wanted.
I could see the baby and I
would be going places together.*



May this Easter season offer us the opportunity to reflect on Jesus' life from the cradle to the grave. May we use the time to give witness to his message and accept the promise of resurrection available to all who profess belief in the risen Christ.

Caroline O'Brien

Final words from the Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl 2022-2023...

Happy Easter, everyone!! We're sure that everyone is thrilled to have two weeks off after such a busy term! We have been world travellers this term - The 5th and 6th Years enjoyed a snowy holiday skiing in the Italian Alps and miraculously everyone came home in one piece! Twelve lucky fifth years also embarked on the Indian Immersion programme, spending 10 days at our two link schools in Kolkata.

We have also had a chance to watch some fantastic performances, from the extremely entertaining TY musical 'All Shook Up', to the DASK performances by 1st and 2nd Year students. Congratulations to all the 3rd and 6th Years, who have now completed their mocks - we hope that everyone got through them without any casualties! A highlight for us this term was definitely the opportunity to experience the moving and inspiring talks delivered by three HCK past pupils to celebrate International Women's Day. As we now hand over the reigns to Jessica and Alice, we would like to thank all of our prefect team for all their time, dedication and commitment over the past year-you made our roles so enjoyable. Finally, the best of luck to Jess and Alice and all of the recently-elected prefects, in their new roles. We couldn't be leaving the job in more capable hands!

Isabelle Clarke and Eve McGann (Class of 2023)



Congratulations and Welcome to our New Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl



Firstly, we would like to extend a massive thank you to our outgoing Head and Deputy Head Girls, Isabelle and Eve. We couldn't have asked for better mentors this year! We truly have big shoes to fill in the following months. As well as this, we would like to congratulate all outgoing 6th Year prefects on their amazing and hard work done in all aspects of school life this academic year. Major well done, girls, and best of luck in your remaining months of 6th Year here in HCK and, of course, in your exams in June! We would also love to say a huge 'well done' to our 5th Year classmates who have to been elected as Prefects for this year. We are genuinely so excited to embark on our roles for the next year with you all. We can't wait to embrace the challenges and excitement that lie ahead and are confident in our year group's ability to add to and shape the role of prefect in HCK. We are so grateful to represent the student body and vow to do our very best in this important position. We hope to make

Holy Child an even more wonderful place for all its students and staff for the next year! **Jessica Berwick and Alice Rowley**

House Day Celebrations: Hilary House Day 2023

On January 17th, to kickstart this year's exciting Hilary House Day, students across the school were split into teams within their Houses, all ready to compete in a series of quizzes. Teams fiercely raced to write down their answers as fast as they could, with quizzes about Cornelia's life, cartoon characters, theme songs and even guessing the baby photos of the staff! Spirits were high and the mood was electric! It was an amazing way to celebrate the very happy birthday of our foundress, Cornelia Connelly.

At lunch time, we hosted some fun House-themed competitions for everyone to watch and join in on the stage in the hall. We had to start off with a tie-breaker for two teams from Cornelia and Geraldine who had won the quiz, and so, we decided that our tie breaker would be a competition to ascertain which team could pass a tennis-ball along the line without using their hands or letting the ball drop first. Although it was very close, Geraldine won!

From a 'no hands' cupcake-eating competition to a blindfolded game where competitors had to try scoop cotton balls into a bowl over their heads, as well as some intense lip sync battles (!), it certainly was lots of fun. We were so happy and proud that so many girls got involved in volunteering for the games and cheering for their House- they really helped make the day as crazy and fun as it could be! **Anna Maclachan and Elyse O'Byrne, Hilary House Heads**



HCK 5th and 6th Years hit the Slopes!

On 5th January, the 5th and 6th Years set off on our long-awaited ski trip to Italy. It was an early start in Dublin Airport but the sense of excitement made sure none of us fell asleep! When we landed, we hopped on a bus and after a quick stop for pizza (of course!) we were soon enveloped by the snowy landscape of Vulfurva. Firstly, we had our skis fitted and then had our dinner before all having an early night after our busy day of travelling.

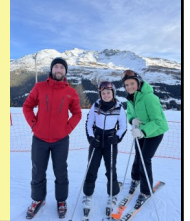
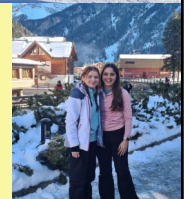
After a sleepy breakfast the next morning, the cool air definitely woke us up with a jolt as we made our way to the bottom of the mountain before we ascended on the gondola. We were quickly divided into our groups and off we skied! With picturesque Italian slopes around us, it was like skiing through a postcard and what made it even more memorable was the opportunity to do it with our friends. The fun didn't stop at night, when our groups took turns to go ice-skating and sledding... I think some of us still have the bruises to prove it!

I think we would all agree one of the highlights of our trip was the indulgently thick and rich hot chocolates that warmed us up on our ski breaks. The jury is out on whether the cookie, salted caramel, milk, dark, white or praline flavour was the best, but I think we'd all offer to try them again for the final vote! The trip to the baths was another amazing experience as we watched the sun set over the slopes from the warmth of the outdoor heated pools and waited for our turn on the slides.

On the final day, we had our ski races and it was brilliant to see how much everyone had enjoyed the skiing and embraced the spirit of the competition with Simon offering fantastic commentary on the sidelines! That night, we received our certificates and awards and said goodbye to our instructors, before it was Karaoke time. I don't think any of us will listen to Maniac 2000 in the same way again!!!

We were all sad to say goodbye to Valfurva, but the world of school and exams awaited us at home and we would always have our memories of our trip together to keep us going! A massive thanks to all of the teachers who planned the trip and accompanied us and all the girls who made it such a special trip which I have no doubt we will remember for years to come.

Mairead Quinlan 6 Alpha



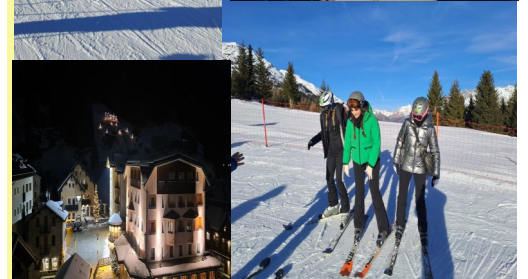
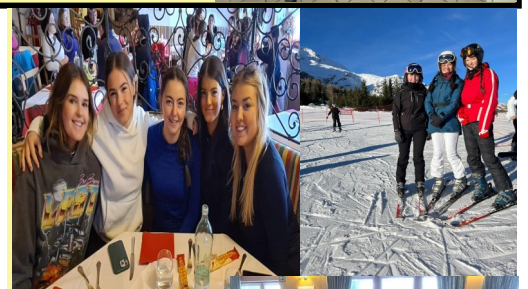
TY Routine Hair Workshop

The TY year group part took in a sensational workshop on the 11th and 12th of January, consisting of us learning about all things 'hair!' Our first task was to retrieve a mannequin head from a case! After we all eventually figured out how to clamp it onto the table (which took far longer than it should have!) we were able to begin. Firstly, we did a plait, as this was the most basic skill needed for the day. After everyone perfected that, we moved onto a fishtail. We learned how to create an up-style with this, which a lot of us will be using in the musical, so the workshop was definitely practical in that regard.

We learnt a variety of other hairstyles and some theory on how to look after our hair properly. We learnt so much, like how you should use your fingers or a wide-tooth comb to brush your hair and only use a brush to add shine!

Ann then showed us some 1950s-era styles that we can use for the musical. They looked so complicated yet, when she taught us, they were actually quite easy to do! For the few of us who were playing parts as boys in the musical, she also showed us how to tuck our hair back, which again, will certainly be useful. Overall, the workshop was greatly beneficial for both our musical and for general hair care. We learned some excellent tips and tricks on how to easily do hairstyles and how to care for our hair properly. It was a unique but fun experience.

Cara Dempsey 4K



India Immersion Project

The India Immersion Project is a program that is run for 5th Year students. It involves fundraising and a 12-day immersion in India as well as a year-long preparation and reflection on the trip. Twelve 5th Years were given the opportunity to travel to Kolkata, India. Before we left, engaged in various preparation tasks and fundraising initiatives, raising over €20,000 for the students in St George's School and The Mary Rice Centre, Kolkata. We also conducted a Stationery Drive, whereby each year group was asked to bring in stationery items. We received lots of stationery, books and toys, that were greatly appreciated by the staff and students in our link schools and we thank the HCK community for your kindness, generosity and donations.



We flew to Kolkata, via Dubai, on February 4th, and travelled by bus to St. Mary's School, where we would be staying in a building owned by the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers. An overwhelming journey, we tried to acclimatise to all the new noises and smells surrounding us. We noticed how the city was very different to Dublin, as everyone walks on the road, due to how many people live on the pavements and how most of the shops were outside of buildings instead of in them.



During our stay, we had the privilege to teach in St. George's School, a school for children who live on the streets. These children were amazing to work with; their work ethic was admirable, completing every task with care, highlighting to us the value they placed on education. We were all amazed that when we would suggest to play a game, the children would not join in until they finished their work. We all became very good friends with the older students in the school; they taught us how to make jewellery and we all came home with lots of new earrings! They also did mehndi hand art for us on our last day... the girls were all so talented and we were delighted. We also helped out in the Mary Rice Centre, a school for people with disabilities. This was very different to teaching at St George's, as we mostly assisted the children individually instead of leading the class. Both of these schools are amazing facilities for the children of Kolkata. It really caused us to reflect on the privilege we have here in HCK and how we can so easily take it for granted. Additionally, we had the opportunity to visit the Hope Hospital and got to see the educational opportunities and health services offered to people who otherwise might have had none. It was great to know that so many Irish people donate money and give time to keep their services going. We were all so sad to come home after such a fantastic trip and it was sad to say goodbye to our new friends.



Overall, I would highly recommend this trip to the students in younger years. I found it to be life-changing, thought-provoking, perspective-giving and a fantastic experience that I will never forget. I think it has helped me to understand the complexity of poverty and I aspire to help such communities in the future. It also gave me a chance to bond with the girls I went with and create, I hope, life-long memories.

We also had the opportunity to visit various temples and landmarks around Kolkata. It was so great to be able to actually experience and see first-hand the sacred buildings we only ever knew to exist in textbooks.

Thank you to Therese, Ms Somerville, Ms Lemass and Ms Moisselle for their guidance, humour and support, without whom the trip would not have been possible. We thank Brother Ronnie and all of the other Christian Brothers who acted as our tour guides and leaders and ended up as our friends.

We thank all of the school community who read and commented on our daily blog whilst we were away...it was heart-warming to know that you were thinking of us when we were so far away and it made us feel connected. It is still on the school website for anyone who would like to read our daily accounts.

We look forward to filling the school community in on our trip in the assembly we will be hosting after Easter.

Sally James 5H



Transition Year Work Experience

For my week of Work Experience in February, I had the opportunity to complete mine in Northern Trust, which is a leading provider of wealth management, asset servicing, asset management and banking to corporations. They run a TY programme every year and, this year, I was one of 12 TYs from all over Ireland lucky enough to be chosen. At the start of the week, we all gathered in a board room and got to know each other and engage in some team-building exercises. We met the CEO and COO of the company and Stuart, who was co-ordinating our week at Northern Trust.

We were provided with schedules of all the people and departments we were hearing from; our first stop was with management services, who gave us a tour of their office space. Throughout the week, we met people with different roles in Northern Trust from Human Resources to Money Laundering Services. We had a communications session, in which we got personal feedback on how to improve our public speaking and presenting skills. In addition, when meeting with Human Resources, we got advice on employment opportunities for the future and we wrote out a CV with help from the head of recruitment in Northern Trust. One of my favourite sessions was based on cyber security, in which we learnt about the systems put in place to ensure the company doesn't get hacked. Another highlight of the week for me at Northern Trust was the amazing food and snacks provided for us, for which we were all very grateful. At the end of the week, we had a feedback session with the CEO and COO, where we used our presentation skills and reflected on the week. One thing I learned on my work experience here is that I would enjoy having an office job, which beforehand I assumed I really wouldn't have wanted to. I really enjoyed my week at Northern Trust and learned a lot and would highly recommend their Work Experience Programme.

Anna Kenny 4K



TY Visit to the Rock 'n' Roll Museum

On the 7th of February, 4K had the chance to visit the Irish Rock 'n' Roll Museum. We were greeted by a lovely tour guide named Scott. He knew everything about Irish Rock music, which was so cool! We started off our tour being shown a wall of famous records, all by famous Irish artists! It included Thin Lizzy, The Cranberries, The Boomtown Rats, The Corrs and arguably the most famous guitarist of all time, Rory Gallagher.

We were brought to a room dedicated to U2, which was very interesting... the walls were covered in their records and old newspaper articles from the beginning of their career. We found out why they called themselves U2. Believe or not, it had to do with their school! After that, we were brought into a real recording studio, with a microphone, a drum set, a bass and an electric guitar! We were able to sing and make our own music, we decided to recreate one of our musical songs from 'All Shook Up'! Our tour guide, who is a drummer in a band, played for us while we recorded our songs.

Finally, we were brought into a room dedicated to Thin Lizzy, where we were shown all the items Phil Lynott's mother had donated to the museum! All in all, we had a really good time and we would highly recommend it!

Ruby Nathan 4K





HCK Orchestra

The HCK Orchestra meets every Friday morning from 07:45 in the Chapel. We currently have 14 members: three pianists, one cellist, four violinists, three flautists, two guitarists and one clarinettist. We play a variety of different styles including traditional Irish music, Classical, Disney theme songs and Pop!

We have recently performed for the school during our St Patrick's Day Assembly, which was held on the 16th of March.

We also look forward to upcoming events and performances, such as the April Airs Concert which will be on Sunday the 23rd of April. We are excited for our second Music Week this year which starts on Monday the 24th of April. We are also going to be playing a selection of pieces for the residents of the St Joseph's Nursing Home in Shankhill over the coming weeks.

Being in the Orchestra is amazing and we all have fun performing together and practising new repertoire with our conductor, Ms Moore. We are always looking for new members so if you are an instrumentalist, get in touch!

Alannah Robb – 2nd Year Flautist

HCK Music Update

As always, Music has continued to play a massive role in HCK life this term.

The TYs kicked off the term with an exceptional performance of their amazing musical 'All Shook Up'.

The 5th Years took part in Emmanuel in The Helix. After many rehearsals with Ms Griffin, Ms Somerville, Mrs Cluskey and Mrs Moisselle, they joined a large group of other secondary schools from the Diocese for this very special concert. We even got to hear some of the beautiful hymns in our school Mass for St. Patrick, which was really special.

We celebrated all things Irish during our St. Patrick's Day Assembly, by showcasing the wonderful talent among the music classes, instrumentalists and orchestra. We were very excited to welcome two phenomenal Irish traditional performers to HCK for the event - Kenneth Whelan on piano accordion and Mark Lysaght on guitar. They certainly got the whole school joining in which was a lovely way to finish for the long weekend!

Huge congratulations to the HCK Choir who took part in Wesley Inter-schools Choral Festival, especially to our Junior Choir who placed third. They also took part in the Feis Ceoil where they won the Youth Choir Unison Competition! They also placed 2nd place in the Junior Youth Choir Two-Part Competition. We are so proud of them and they are now busy rehearsing for more competitions later in the term such as Navan Inter-schools. We wish them and Mr Murphy the very best of luck!

The Music classes and Music Department are looking forward to their second Music Week, as we busily prepare fun activities, competitions and performances!

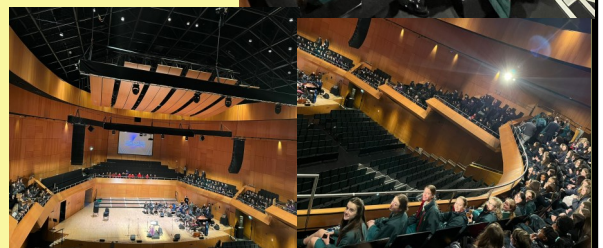
We also look forward to our annual **April Airs Concert**, which will be held on 23rd of April. It promised to be a lovely afternoon showcasing HCK's musical talents! I would also like to wish Sally James, the incoming Music Prefect, the best of luck in her role! I hope she enjoys it as much as I have.

Amelia Ryan – 6th Year outgoing Music Prefect

Fifth Year Emmanuel

Thirty-three 5th Year students attended Emmanuel on February 28th. The exciting day started off with a bus journey to Our Lady of Victories Church. We participated in workshops and practised songs we would be singing that evening. Though everyone was shy to begin with, we soon all came out of our shells and cheered each other on. We then walked to The Helix and got ourselves some lunch on the DCU Campus.

After lunch, we had a dress rehearsal and did a full run through of the programme in The Helix. During a break, one of the teachers showed off his skills on the guitar while we all sang along to some much-loved classics. The show attracted a full house and our singing had the audience in awe and we were blown away by each fantastic soloist! We danced, clapped and waved our torches through the songs. Overall, it was a very fun day, full of music, faith and fun and we hope that other groups will get to experience it in the future.



All Shook Up: The Musical

This year's TY musical was 'All Shook Up,' a heart-warming tale about following dreams, being open to love and the power of music. Auditions started back in September and a week later we were assigned our roles. There was no messing around with Pat and Ms. Griffin and it was straight into rehearsals, kicking it off with a big dance number, 'Come on Everybody' which, let's face it, did not go too well. Our first rehearsals consisted of sixty shy, unsure girls on stage, but we can safely say that it only got better from there.

Things were going slowly but surely upwards until after our Christmas holidays. Pat and Ms. Griffin had repeatedly told us that all the hard work would start then, but I don't think anyone actually believed them until we came into rehearsals and were told we only had four more Friday morning rehearsals until the Musical! The two hours of rehearsals per week turned into fourteen hours and three weekends! It was hard, but we definitely made some unforgettable memories and got closer and closer as a year group.

The last two days of rehearsals were so exciting, as we finally noticed how the show was all coming together. On the Friday morning of show day, there was a sense of nervousness and excitement. Getting ready for our dress rehearsal was when it all started to feel real. During our breaks, nerves started building up for everyone, thinking of all the things that could go wrong but also thinking about the fact that we would only be performing our Musical three more times! With this in mind, we all tried our very best to enjoy every second we had on and off stage together. It is safe to say that we surprised ourselves with how well we rose to the occasion on our first proper performance on the Friday evening. Pat and Ms. Griffin weren't lying about the adrenaline rush you get from being on stage, as all of the nervousness we had originally experienced had disappeared by the first song. Naturally, it would have been absolutely impossible to pull off without the amazing support and mentorship of Ms Griffin and

Pat and what brought the musical to life was the set design and costume by Ms McCann and Ms Mulcahy. The musical was an unforgettable experience and was definitely one of our highlights of the year.

Sarah Moody and Anna Kenny TY



TY Microsoft DreamSpace

On March 10th, TYs visited Microsoft and participated in the first of three sessions of the DreamSpace program. The first thing we did was look at photo AI, which generates completely new pictures from sentences or words you input into the software. It is really cool because you can make an original picture of whatever you want. We looked at a few examples and then we used the software to make our own pictures. We came up with a sentence to describe the picture we wanted to create and then we input it into the software to create our picture. The next thing we did involved working in groups to create a language using only our eyes and eyebrows so we could communicate with each other. One person was given a word and had to spell it out using the eye language we created and the other person had to guess the word they were spelling. This was a lot harder than I thought it would be!

Our last task involved programming a robot, and we learned how to control a robot's movements within a square space. We competed to see whose robot was most precise and the winning team received some Microsoft merchandise! I'm really looking forward to the two remaining days of the program.

Alannah Bewley 4K

TY Visit to Kilmainham Gaol

On January 31st, 4K took a trip to Kilmainham Gaol. Here, we learned all about prisoners of the past and their experience in Kilmainham Gaol. We recognised many famous names above various cells including Thomas Clark, Padraig Pearse and Countess Markievicz. We were allowed to go inside Grace Gifford's (Joseph Plunkett's wife) cell, which had a water-coloured painting of the Madonna and her child on the wall. We also heard about Robert Emmet, a rebel leader and orator and heard that he was originally buried in Bully's Acre, which is on the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham. We learned that many films and TV shows have been filmed in the jail, such as Paddington Bear 2, in which the jail was heavily influenced by Kilmainham Gaol and nearly looks identical. Other films such as 'In the Name of the Father' and 'The Italian Job' were also filmed there. We also saw where the 1916 rebels were executed and where many prisoners were hung as public entertainment. This was a very interesting and educational trip that the TY students from 4K really enjoyed.



TY Community Care Programme

Here in HCK, we have all been shaped by our ethos to help others and of course to truly embody our motto, 'Actions Not Words'. During Transition Year, we do this by carrying out a week of Community Care. Six volunteers help out with Meals on Wheels and the Five Loaves in Bray every Tuesday and, of course, we all dedicate an hour a week of Community Care for our Gaisce Awards.

For the week dedicated to Community Care, many of us choose to go to charity shops or help out with local charities. I was lucky to have the opportunity to help out in a wonderful inner city Band 1 Deis school. To the students, attending school is the highlight of their day – many don't want to leave! I was so excited to be able to get to know the students, teach classes, find different ways to convey concepts to students (of which many would have learning difficulties) and organise events for them. All of this was a great help in preparing to volunteer at the same school for July Provision, which is wonderful Government initiative whereby teachers are given an allowance to put towards events for their students. Many of the boys and girls in the school wouldn't otherwise get to experience the different outings we plan for them over the week in July and it is wonderful to see the work that so many people put into ensuring they get the most fun possible in the time we have.

We have all found different ways to help out in our communities for our Gaisce Awards, from Glee Club with Pat to helping 1st Years with debating; we all did our best to get involved. Like a few others in our year, I was able to help out with a tag rugby team for people with special needs. Every Sunday morning, we'd be up early no matter the weather and no matter how cold it was! It was absolutely brilliant to get to increase our own skill sets while helping others. The other volunteers and I were blown away by how grateful everyone was to have us there and we grew to look forward to Sundays as we got the update on the latest gossip, got to chat for an hour with wonderful people who, like ourselves, want to have the best time we can on the pitch.

Amy Kelly 4C



Seachtain na Gaeilge i Scoil an Linbh Íosa (HCK)

Bhí go leor gníomhaíochtaí ar siúl sa scoil an tseachtain seo caite le haghaidh Lá Fhéile Pádraig a cheiliúradh. Bhí póstaeir á gcur suas timpeall na scoile le seanfhocail scríofa orthu. Rinne go leor daoine iarracht ollmhór labhairt as Gaeilge nuair a bhí an seans acu. Thug na múinteoirí greamán Ghaeilge amach freisin, agus chaitheamar iad le haghaidh na seachtaine. I lár na seachtaine bhí Aifreann ar siúl, inar labhair an sagart agus na daltaí as Gaeilge. Chríochnaíomar an tseachtain le tionóil ceiliúrach, inar sheinn agus inar chan na scoláirí ó bhlianta éagsúla amhráin a scríobh amhránaithe Éireannacha. Chur an idirbhliain taispeántas ar siúl dúinn inar labhair siad linn faoi Naomh Pádraig. Chríochnaíomar an tionóil le taispeántais ó cheoltóirí Éireannacha cáiliúla agus bhaineamar an-taitneamh agus sult astu. Ba sheachtain do-chreidte a bhí ann agus go raibh míle maith ag gach duine a bhí páirteach ann.

Le Aisling Nixon

There was a range of events happening in the school last week to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. There were posters being hung up around the school with Irish phrases. Many students made efforts to speak Irish when they had the chance. The teachers gave out Irish stickers and we wore them for the week. In the middle of the week, Mass was on and students and the priest spoke Irish. We finished the week with a celebratory assembly, in which instruments were played and students from various year groups wrote and sang Irish songs and songs written by Irish singers. The Transition Years put on a presentation for us, in which they taught of about St. Patrick. We finished the assembly with a display from some famous Irish musicians and we really enjoyed this. It was an incredible week and thank you to everyone who took part.



Transition Year MiniMed

We recently had an amazing opportunity in February to engage in the RCSI MiniMed programme, which was live streamed to us for a week. The aim of the programme was to educate TY students about careers in medicine, pharmacy and physiotherapy and they really did a great job in conveying the information with real life videos and guest speakers. I found the programme particularly fascinating because studying medicine at university greatly appeals to me.

Each day of the programme had a clear schedule with a different theme. I loved hearing from professionals of General Practice and Neurosurgery and trying to work out which specialty stood out to me. Their talks would focus on their day-to-day work life and also their path to where they are now. Something that I learnt from them was that you don't always need to know what career you want to do and that you can change careers many times in your life. We heard from the medics of their path from secondary school to their specialty, going into great detail on their subject choices and life in university. Many had studied abroad and had great opportunities in their professions, which made me excited for my own future. Students could ask the speakers questions at the end of their talks.

The most interesting part of the week was the caesarean section that was live-streamed to us from a hospital. It was such a complex procedure and was something that none of us had ever seen before. I was glad to know the woman couldn't actually feel the surgery! We could all feel the happiness that the new parents were feeling and the job satisfaction that the surgeon gets out of his job. Afterwards, the surgeon then sat down on Zoom to let us ask him about his work.



I am grateful that I was able to participate in the RCSI MiniMed Online and for the invaluable information that I learnt about the world of medicine.

Kirsten Duffy 4K

Junk Kouture

The process began in 3rd Year while tidying an overflowing art cupboard. We'd been instructed to start stockpiling curious items that would otherwise have been thrown out and been absorbed into landfill. The conversation was centred around bottle caps, blinds and barcodes from packages and was well rounded off with a debate on the merits and potential dangers of Coke cans being used as a tool for creation.

With such an creative year group, we ensured that the Junk Kouture classroom was fit to bursting with enthusiasm and students. The course began with an introduction into high fashion and looks of the runway, as we brainstormed and toyed with countless ideas. Often, we looked to the world around us for inspiration and were influenced by Vikings, Hollywood's red carpets and vintage Dior looks.

With our plans set in place, we were entrusted with mannequins and told to go wild with our creation – we certainly did. As with our ideas about our looks, we were given complete freedom in the methods we employed to make our pieces, yet always had the experienced hand of Ms. Mulcahy there to advise us, prevent injury and to give kind words of wisdom and support.

As we were continuing at our own pace, we would see a bit of a hat one week, shoes the next and a wonderful whirlwind of fabrics, materials and controlled chaos swirled about the classroom non-stop. As many of the looks were quite large (and there were many of us), we didn't see the finished outfits until the day of our photo shoot dawned. Those of us modelling the dresses had many makeup artists, hair stylists and others to help us get around in the occasionally cumbersome outfits. As always, we had the freedom to express ourselves and we had our own choice of locations but always had help from our team and from Ms. Mulcahy.



The work, however, wasn't over. Once our pictures were taken, we had to make short videos to accompany them as well as choose songs to represent our looks and make mood boards for the design. We had an incredible amount of fun throughout the whole process and our teams propped up the live video announcement of the regional finals on an iPad in the corner of the Maths class!

I was thrilled to make regionals and to hear a few days later that I had reached the national finals which will take place on the 4th of May. I'm very grateful to Ms. Mulcahy and loved getting involved with Junk Kouture this year; I would strongly recommend it to anyone who has an interest in art or design. **Amy Kelly 4C**

Fifth Year Spanish Trip

The 5th Year Spanish students started their sunny Thursday morning in Town outside Irish Film Institute. The students enjoyed a well-deserved break from the classroom and watched a film based on the true story of two Spanish lifeguards who travelled to the Greek Islands to save lives during the 2015 refugee crisis. It was a moving film and a great way for the girls to improve their Spanish. They enjoyed an authentic Spanish lunch at Port House Pintxo.



Barista Training

On Thursday the 9th of February, Transition Years collectively looked forward to becoming coffee art extraordinaires! Though eager to begin at once, we knew that we would be happy to settle for a brief introduction to the beginning of our promising barista careers and were excited for our hour and a half long course with the Dublin Barista School. Tomas and John were both wonderful teachers and we enjoyed their 'Dad joke's, café background music choices as well as their coffee immensely! We took over two corners of Cornelia Connelly Hall for the day and transformed them into our very own mini café, kitted out with beautiful espresso machines and even coffee grinders... very chic! As a group, we were taught the names of all the parts of the coffee machine, how to care and clean for the pieces of potentially expensive equipment and of course, how to make a cup of coffee. We learnt things like the finer points of espresso shots and how the chosen milk or amount of water will affect the outcome. We all (as well as many of the staff) enjoyed the fruits of our labour. We had the opportunity to make the coffees for ourselves and our instructor would guide our hands into creating the iconic hearts and swirls of milk on the tops of our drinks. Our morning was spent delighting over coffee (while drinking copious amounts of it) spreading the joy of our new-found skills to the teachers along the corridors and feeling for all the world that we were tucked away in a foreign place in a café with our splendid Killiney views surrounding us and soft music playing. As a group, needless to say, we were inspired to go out and begin our barista careers, eagerly encouraged by John, who hoped that we would seek summer jobs as baristas. He was passionate about his career, which undoubtedly infected us and we now fully intend to seize the opportunity after being showed the ropes over the course of our lovely morning.

Amy Kelly 4C



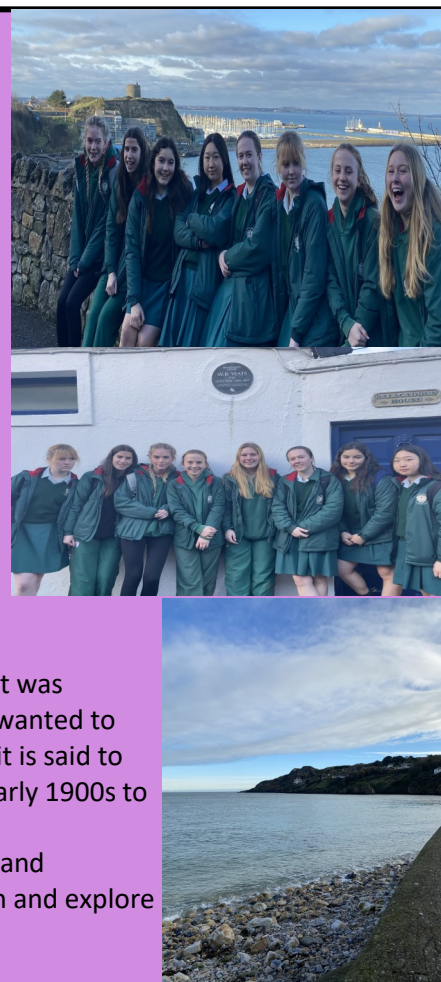
TY Trip to Howth

On a recent Social and Cultural trip, 4K had the opportunity to travel to Howth, a historic fishing village and the only one on the north side of Dublin City. Shockingly, Howth is at risk of being underwater by 2050 due to climate change.

We took an hour DART ride from Killiney to Howth station. When arriving in Howth, we walked to the house of WB Yeats. It was quite a walk up a very steep hill but we got there eventually. This hill eventually lead us to the summit but it involved some climbing! The famous Irish poet WB Yeats, who often features on the Leaving Certificate English course, lived at Balcadden House, Howth. There was a plaque in honor of him, so we took a picture of this and explored and admired the house. The house had spectacular sea views and views over the harbour and Ireland's Eye (Inis Mac Neasáin). We took a few stops on the way down the hill to take in the views, get a closer look at Ireland's Eye and check out the Howth Lighthouse. Howth seems to be hot spot for visitors to our city. The Howth Lighthouse represents both a farewell and a welcome as it is both a symbol of adventurous travels and a symbol of returning home to Ireland.

After our sightseeing, we stopped to get fish and chips in a busy chipper and it was delicious! Unfortunately, we didn't get to the Howth Martello Tower like we wanted to but I learned that it has a beautiful position overlooking the Harbour. Today, it is said to be a vintage radio museum that exhibits radios and gramophones from the early 1900s to the present day.

It was a beautiful day to go to Howth there were lots of different restaurants and different monuments. It was a very relaxing trip. I would love to go back again and explore more of the village.



5th Year French Breakfast/Film

On the 27th of February, the 3rd Year and 5th Year French classes gathered together in the Cornelia Connelly Hall and had the lovely treat of a French breakfast with crêpes, croissants, pains au chocolat and lots more French food delights!

The Fifth Years then took the DART to Dun Laoghaire and went to the Pavilion Theatre to see this year's Senior Cycle French film, *Mes Frères et Moi*. The film was about a boy and his four older brothers, whose mother is unwell. Set in the South of France, the boys live in a housing project that has beautiful views, which the film's cinematography really captures beautifully.

We really enjoyed the movie and it was a perfect day to embrace our love of French! Thank you to the French staff for organising this great day. **Rebecca Hennessy 5H**



From the Chaplaincy Prefect

Greetings from the Chaplaincy Team! As always, there has been a great sense of school spirit throughout this term with so many activities taking place which honour and celebrate our Foundress and school ethos.

We began our term celebrating Catholic Schools Week. Prayer services were held in the Chapel and fun activities were organised in the Prayer Room; these were based on our Holy Child ethos and social outreach. There was great competitive spirit from the girls and prizes included notebooks, bookmarks, badges and more from much-coveted 'Religious Lucky Dip'.

On St Brigid's Day, we 'Paused for Peace' at midday, joining schools, businesses and institutions around the world in a global prayer for peace initiative.

During Lent, Mass was celebrated in our lovely Chapel every Wednesday morning. Each Mass had a special intention and it was wonderful to welcome the parents, family members, staff and girls, as we gathered together in solidarity with people who need our support, and to celebrate happy occasions in school.

After the Mock Exams the 6th Years were delighted to go on an overnight retreat to Dromantine. It's safe to say we really embraced and benefitted hugely from the Retreat, and had a wonderful time.

A number of 5th Year girls applied to travel as Blueshirt helpers to Lourdes with the Dublin Diocesan in September 2023. The Pilgrimage travels with 100 - 120 sick pilgrims. Students submitted written applications and then had the opportunity to meet with Mrs Pat Creaney, who is an annual volunteer in Lourdes. Congratulations to the four girls: Jessica Berwick, Alice Rowley, Elyse O'Byrne and Rebecca Hennessy, who were chosen to travel and who are very lucky to be accompanied by Ms Moore. The girls have begun their preparatory programme with meetings in school and with the other groups.

Congratulations to the Fifth Years who represented HCK so well in the Emmanuel faith music festival in the Helix. It is wonderful to see this happening again after a three year break.

I personally would like to thank our Chaplaincy Team for all their dedication and hard work. It has been a privilege working with the team. I have really enjoyed getting to know them throughout the year. A big thank you to Camille Griffin, our Le Chéile Ambassador, for all her support, and to the Eucharistic Ministry Team who are the backbone of all the faith ceremonies in HCK.

Last but not least, a massive thank you to Mrs Moisse for her hard work and strong spirit without whom none of this would be possible. It has been an honour being the Chaplaincy Prefect and I know that it will continue to be a special and important part of our school. I wish the incoming Chaplaincy Prefect, Elyse, happiness as she brings lots of energy and enthusiasm to her role as the Chaplaincy Prefect 2023/2024.

Wishing you and your family a happy and relaxing Easter.

Ellie Breslin, Outgoing Chaplaincy Prefect.



Creative Writing Corner

Holy Child Killiney boasts of many talented writers. From poetry to short stories and most recently, our own versions of Ernest Hemmingway's 'Six Word Stories', as part of our *World Book Day* celebrations. Check out some of our creative writing below. We invite writers of any genre from any year group to submit their work for the next newsletter so that we can celebrate the abundance of creativity and talent of the budding writers here at HCK.

Almost— A Space Poem by Sabine Narzisi (2J)

Floating in space. Almost alone- not quite. Cold as stone. Almost frozen- not quite. Still wind shivering. Bustling life is paused. Silent song fills the indigestible air. Almost as high as the stars but- not quite. Constellations as otherworldly as tropical jellyfish. Meteors drifting past like white rabbits late for a tea party. Insects are insignificant in the unimaginable unknown waiting for us to destroy them. Who knows how many disappointed beings are out there? Staring at the sun is blinding but looking at the stars is encouraged. Why? They are all burning gargantuan, massive, floating balls of fire. Why are the moon and sun opposites? One is smaller than earth and the other is over one million times larger. Why? So different, yet so far from opposites. So many questions about the secrets of the beyond. Why, why? A black hole? A white hole? Why does the red planet have a blue sunset? Why are some planets hula-hooping while others are always angry? Why are years shorter than days? Why is it raining diamonds and acid? So many questions almost answered - but not quite. Time moves like it is being reset as floating satellites toss around as though at sea. Sometimes there is eternal darkness. Pressure...more intense than the depths of the ocean. Floating like there is no weight. Quiet. Alone. Almost alone. Not quite. Dark as far as the eye can see. Sprinkles of light make shapes and tell futures. Planets aligning. Colour- yet filled with the darkest black. Endless possibilities. Maybe we won't mess it up this time. Maybe we can fix it before it's too late. Maybe whoever is out there will forgive us. Maybe our trees will still outnumber the solar system's stars. Maybe. Just maybe. Endless possibilities. Close to finding them. Almost found... but not quite.

Smile by Ais Webb 1C

Sometimes all you can do is smile.
Move on with your day
Hold back the tears
And pretend you're okay.

Reach for the stars as they collapse
Luck is not a thing that comes easily
But misfortunes follow you
you slowly give up.

Tired- tired of the life you are forced into
Tired- tired of the pain of reality that hits all too quickly.

But when there is no end in sight,
We **must** continue the fight.

Because as the fairy tales say:
There is light at the end of the tunnel
they always live happily ever after.

So don't let this chapter be the last,
Continue your story into the next paragraph,
The lines won't write themselves.

Don't let this be the end,
I'd love to read your sequel as the story unfolds.

'Debate' by Kate Fan 3A

Debate, a battle with word and wit,
Thought is like the point where two swords meet.
With a pen as swift as a sword,
I support my position, not to be ignored.

Lobster Pots by Eve McGann 6Alpha

The sea burst open at the beach
Each wave delivered its white foam crash
And the pebbles and rocks at the crest
Shifted and scrambled over one another like the many heads
Of waiting crowds
to catch each roaring entrance

A dark and impenetrable tar held the night across its surface
And the distant horizon was just a deeper blackness, between
two shadows
Crescents of light floated atop and hopped the waves
Like pale jumping moons

And above where the tracks lay paved,
and light overlooked the beach like, a deserted watchtower
A dart steamed into the station
And the night-time travellers stared out the window
At their own tired faces
Their breaths fogged the vision like a frost,
And rows of lightbulbs hung from the ceilings
empty, without their ideas

The train took in a breath – then was gone.
And I was left, a figure at the foot of the inscrutable ocean
Stood like a thumb
A wave curled over then, and drew away quietly
Its silver glistening hand
To reveal for a second, a secret,
gurgled up at my feet -
Two rotting wooden lobster pots, lungless
with a sailor's rope
entangled between and set out, a display

A bigger wave rolled into shore then,
And lapped it all away.

World Book Week

World Book Day is an annual event, which took place on March 2nd this year. Here in HCK, we were lucky enough to have a World Book Week, in which there was an array of activities planned to celebrate and promote reading and books.

The activities included Teacher Book Bingo on Monday – teachers wore a book quote and students had to match teachers' names to the correct quote, which was a lot of fun!

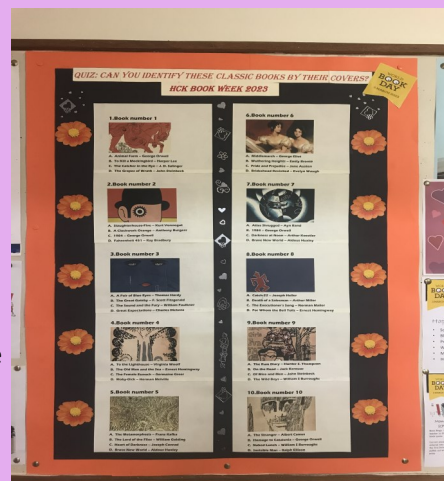
On Tuesday afternoon, the Book Quiz took place in the Cornelia Connelly Hall, where there were plenty of chocolates and jellies to be won.

On Wednesday, we had Literary Pictionary in the library, where students drew a title of a book and their teammates had to guess which book it was!

We were lucky to have a visit from Alison Weatherby (author of *The Secrets Act*) for First and Second Years on Thursday which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Additionally, we had Mad Hatter Fancy Dress Tea Party on Friday at lunchtime, in which students dressed up as a character from a book of their choice for a chance to win a €40 Penney's gift voucher, which concluded the week. There also were events such as Blind Date with a Book, Where's Wally School Search, and Match the Book Cover to the Title.

Overall, Book Week in HCK was a great success and everyone had an amazing time. **Catherine Hearn and Kate Stanley, 3rd Year**



Book Recommendations from Mary He and Ais Webb

Twin Crowns by Catherine Doyle and Katherine Webber

This is about twins who both want the crown but one of the twins is an outcasted witch!

Genre: Fantasy Fiction



The Midnight Game by Cynthia Murphy

This is about people meeting up to play the midnight Game. But who will make it out alive?

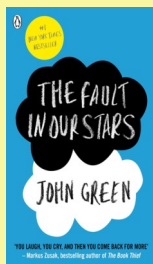
Genre: Thriller, horror, supernatural



The Fault in our Stars by John Green

This is about two teenagers– one a cancer survivor and one a cancer patient, who bond partially over how stupid their support group leader is and their shared interest in an amazing book called 'Imperial Affliction.' Their friendship grows nearly as quickly as the cancer spreads.

Genre: Young adult, romance



The Bone Spindle by Leslie Vedder: A Review by Louise Purcell 2H

This is a story set in a fantasy world where an expert treasure hunter, Fi, pricks her finger on an old spindle awakening the ghost of Briar Rose. Fi must embark on a quest to wake Briar Rose from his deep sleep, along her side is grudging companion, Shane. Through the course of the book, these girls face all sorts of trials and we learn about their past. As the stakes get higher and higher, will they be able to succeed?

As an avid reader of all genres, this synopsis got me hooked on the book. I am a huge fan of classical retellings, so was really looking forward to reading the book. In hindsight, it may not have been the wisest move for me to choose this book as I am not the biggest fan of adventure books, but I had hoped this book would be the exception...Unfortunately, it was not!

On a positive note, I think the concept of the book was incredibly unique and the world-building was of a high standard (I almost felt like I was in another world when reading!) however, that is about where the positives end. The simple problem with the book was that it was actually rather boring. I know that may sound harsh but hear me out. When I read the synopsis, I expected this to be a nail-biting, staying-up-all-night-just-to-finish-it book however this book instead almost dragged me into a reading slump. It was slow-paced and that is something you never want in an adventure story. Also, I felt the book spent an unnecessary amount of time on one part of the quest (which wasn't even that important), which completely messed up the pacing of the rest of the book. The author spent exactly 201 pages of a 404-page book trying to achieve one measly part of the quest. This meant, that after that, the protagonist had to do about 5 really important things in less than a hundred pages, obviously that meant it was incredibly rushed, completely throwing me off!

So, who would I recommend this to? Well, I don't believe I would be particularly interested in recommending it, but if I had to, I would recommend it to somebody who wanted to savour a slow-paced book, which wouldn't entice them away from other tasks. I hope this review was helpful in forming your opinion of this book.



Le Chéile Knock Youth Faith Symposium

On Monday, 13th March, ten students set off with Ms Foody at 6am on a long but exciting journey to Knock. The theme for the Knock Symposium was *'Celebrating our Catholic Faith'*. We are all members of the JPii Team who are undertaking the Gold Medal challenge for service in school, community and parish.

Thankfully, we managed to get some sleep before arriving three hours later. Here we joined 320 other students from 32 different Le Chéile schools from all over the country. It was a wonderful celebration of the ethos of the Le Chéile Trust by students and staff of these schools.

On arrival, we were all split up into different groups with students from different schools. Although we were nervous at first to sit next to a group of people we didn't know, we had a group huddle, strategised, and decided we could do it. After everyone took their seats, we were welcomed by the staff and given a plan for the day; this was followed by a short reflection before we split up for the morning.

Each group had three sessions. The first session for us was in the Basilica where we learned all about the Apparition of Mary and observed the spectacular wall mosaic. The second was a music workshop celebrating music in prayer; we sang together and learned songs that we would later sing in the Mass. Lastly, we had a workshop where we wrote a letter to God thanking him for everything we are grateful for, and asking for support as we journey through 5th and 6th year. These workshops were so much fun; they allowed us to meet new people and make new friends from many different schools. Other workshops included meditation, presentations from the Cenacelo Community on overcoming addiction and exploring our faith journey.

After the workshops, we regrouped and had a short lunch together. Then students and staff gathered in the church for Mass. We listened to readings and prayers led by many students, including Emma who represented Holy Child Killiney, and we sang the hymns we had learned earlier in the day. We finished the day with presentations from two student service groups and some inspiring people of faith, followed by a final reflection. We said our goodbyes and got back on the bus for the long journey home. We all really enjoyed our experience in Knock and would encourage everyone to go if given the chance.

We would also like to thank Ms Foody for accompanying us on the trip. We really appreciate her time and support in ensuring we achieve our JPii Gold Award.

Emily Khan & Rebecca Hennessy, JPii Gold Award Team.



Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools is celebrated across Ireland and internationally. This year's theme was **'Walking Together in Faith & Love'**.

During Catholic Schools Week, families, parishes and schools participate in a week of celebration reflecting on the work of Catholic Schools and on their contribution to a Synodal Church.

In Holy Child, we embrace and live our Catholic values each and every day. To mark this significant week we had special activities with each R. E. class, gathering together in gratitude for the education we receive in HCK and for the many opportunities we have to live our faith through our motto, **'Actions Not Words.'**

Following some prayer time in the Chapel, the girls went to the Prayer Room for some fun challenges exploring our ethos. The girls devised a Liturgical Calendar, completed an SVP numbers challenge, and a St. Brigid quiz. Lucky Dip, Chaplaincy and SVP prizes were presented to the winners and then the girls spent time together working with their Memory Boxes. We celebrated Catholic Schools week in a warm spirit of fun and companionship.

HCK Chaplaincy Team.



HCK Debating and Public Speaking

As an extremely eventful few months come to a close, there is much to report in terms of public speaking and debating.

Holy Child has been extremely successful in debating recently, with students taking part in the Junior Schools Debating Competition, The Hist (University Historical Society) Schools Mace in Trinity College Dublin on Saturday 11th February, the Phil (University Philosophical Society) Schools Mace in Trinity College Dublin on Saturday 18th Feb, the L&H Senior Mace in UCD on Saturday 25th February, and the Hist Girls' Mace in Trinity College Dublin on Saturday 4th March. Congratulations to all those who took part in the Junior Schools Debating Competition, especially HCK C, Louise Purcell and Jean McMahon, and HCK D, Emily Kernan and Juliette Cunningham, who made it to the Octo Finals on February 23rd.

The competition consisted of two debates spaced out over the first term, for which the girls had a week to prepare.

Hard luck to our other competitors Laura Finucane, Penelope Smith-Tennyson, Cecilia Xiao, Hannah Houlihan, Maya Deegan, Isobel Fitzgerald, Maggie Long and Eve McKenna who unfortunately missed the break this time round. Thank you to Florence Mansfield and Juliette Marry who stepped in to compete in Round 2 as substitutes. Special congratulations to Juliette Cunningham who has made it to the Grand Final.

Laura and Penelope continued on to win the 'Silver Finals' at the L&H Mace in TCD and placed second as a team in the 'Hist Girls and Gender Minorities' Mace, also in Trinity. A special well done to Cecilia Xiao and Jean McMahon who did a fantastic job as this was their first mace competition. At this mace, the girls debated advanced topics regarding the place of women in STEM subjects, the ethics of politicians having social media accounts and whether the feminist movement should be praising mothers and motherhood. Laura and Penelope made it to the finals alongside the 5th Year team of Minnie Mansfield and Elyse O'Byrne. The final debate was 'This House Would implement an interest based election system in place of our geographic based system'. Laura and Penelope came second overall in the final. Laura was also named best speaker, Minnie was named as second best speaker and Penelope was awarded the place of third best speaker. All girls did the school extremely proud and performed exceptionally well!

Holy Child was delighted to host Sion Hill for an evening of friendly debate on Tuesday the 7th of March. Huge congratulations to all who took part as well as all those who were members of winning teams as well as those named best individual speakers.

Minnie Mansfield 5C, Library, Public Speaking and Debating Prefect



HCK MUN

The dedicated HCK MUN team has continued their winning streak at ROCKMUN (Blackrock College) and WCDMUN (Wesley College). ROCKMUN welcomed a strong start for first time delegates Louise Purcell and Una Kiigan (Second Years), with each of their resolutions being debated in committee and each receiving a Best Junior Delegate Award, Louise representing Japan in the Health & Youth Committee and Una representing us in DITECH. This was an outstanding start for both girls in their MUN journeys and they continued to put the work in at WCDMUN. Here, Louise was awarded another Best Junior Delegate Award in the Health & Youth Committee. Our more seasoned Fifth Year delegates also had success at each of these conferences, securing a Commended Delegate Award representing India in ECOSOC committee and a Best Delegate Award in the Crisis Committee, both at WCDMUN. WCDMUN also saw Aislinn Nixon and Keke Atiyota welcomed to the HCK MUN team, and we were very grateful to have Alice Rowley step in as a substitute at the last minute. We are also delighted to introduce our new first-time delegates to the MUN scene at SAIMUN, the St. Andrews International MUN, to be held over the first week of the Easter break at the Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Loaghaire. Florence Mansfield, Mary He, Freya Fallon (1st Years) and Sheana-Ann Plaza and Robyn Ryan (3rd Years) will be part of our Australian delegation headed by Louise Purcell at SAIMUN, with our seniors leading as the delegation of Chile. They have all been putting in a huge amount work over the last few weeks, preparing resolutions and getting to grips with the rules of MUN and we're sure that they will reap what they sow. This should be a new and exciting experience for all new delegates and we are so excited to welcome them to the HCK Model United Nations team. ***Minnie Mansfield***



Le Chéile Student School Conference

On February 2nd, we set off on our journey to the Le Chéile Conference. It was a long journey but we had two friends from our neighbouring St.



Laurence's School to keep us company. Upon our arrival at the hotel, we were assigned our rooms and headed to the restaurant for lunch. After making a few new friends and enjoying lovely homemade soup and brown bread, the group settled down to begin the afternoon. Our schedule was certainly jam-packed, from interactive group activities which involved us thinking in new ways, to dancing together in a traditional Irish Céilí.

The theme for the Conference was '*Celebrating the Harmony of Hands, Hearts and Minds in Catholic Education*'.

The Conference gave us opportunities us to bond as a group and also reflect on the importance of education. As the day came to a close, we enjoyed our dinner and got to know many students from other Le Chéile schools around the country.

We woke up bright and early the following morning and had a lovely full Irish breakfast. An inspirational speaker from Belfast, Jim Deeds, then spoke to the whole group. We found his talk to be very uplifting. One of the things that he said that really stuck with us was that **'if things aren't OK now, it's not over yet because in the end, everything will be OK'**.

There was an interesting panel discussion about faith education. Afterwards, we practised some of the songs and readings we learnt the day before for the Mass. Following Mass, we had lunch and said our goodbyes to our new friends. Before we left we took some photos with Mrs O'Brien, Sister Geraldine and Sister Eileen. We were proud to represent Holy Child Killiney at the Conference and are so grateful to have had the opportunity to attend.

KeKe Atiyota & Neasa Duffy, Fifth Year



HCK Lenten Masses

Mass was celebrated in our lovely Chapel every Wednesday morning throughout Lent. Each Mass had its own special intention and large numbers of girls and family members came regularly to mark this holy season.

We began with prayers in solidarity with the victims of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Anya Sliwinski, our Social Action Prefect, introduced Mr Peter Power who came to address us and she presented a donation of €1,000 for UNICEF.

On International Women's Day we were delighted to welcome Mums, Grandmothers, Sisters and Aunties to the Mass, and we all enjoyed a cup of tea and chat afterwards.

St. Patrick's Day was the next special event and we celebrated Mass with hymns, readings and prayers in Irish, alongside some lovely traditional music. All who attended received a Goal Shamrock and a donation was made to the Goal Earthquake Appeal.

Another joyful event was the Mass of Blessing for incoming and outgoing Prefects.

Thank you to all who have attended early morning Lenten Mass and blessed us with your prayers and your warm encouraging presence. It is very affirming and nourishing to gather as a faith community and support each other as we strive to uphold school spirit and ethos.

Alongside this, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Years organised their own Year group Masses with their RE teachers. The Lenten Garden has flourished with beautiful flowers prepared by each student and the girls participated in so many ways to make each Mass a very special sacred celebration.

We appreciate the support of Fr. John and Fr. Michael who have celebrated these Masses with our school community.

Thank you, also, to the many girls who volunteer to read, to minister and share their musical talents with the gathered congregation- you are indeed a blessing. We also thank Mrs Moisselle for her continued passion and dedication to RE, Liturgy, Music and Chaplaincy at HCK.

We look forward now with hope to celebrating the Easter Season of peace and joy.

HCK Chaplaincy and RE Team



Basketball News

This term has seen our basketball teams extremely busy, especially our **Minor and Junior** teams, who began their league games shortly after returning from the Christmas break. This year saw a first for HCK, as we were able to enter four Junior teams and three Minor teams into their respected leagues. Our **Junior D** team started their campaign against a tough Nord Anglia side. However, continued to improve throughout the game and were unlucky on the offensive end. The **Junior A** and **Minor A** team were next, starting off with strong wins against Dalkey, with some excellent baskets by Co-Captain Jean McMahon who scored a super 11 points out of 13 points in the second half to secure the victory for HCK. Our **Minor A** team secured a convincing win with a scoreline of 40-10.

Our **Minor B/C** team played against a tough Mount Anville team, although were unlucky to not get the win after some great baskets Co-Captain Abigail Murphy and defensive pressure from Naoise Cullen. Our **Senior Cs** played against a solid Columbus College side, getting an eleven point victory with some great baskets by Isabelle Clarke and Grace O'Sullivan. Our **Minor As** and **Junior As** both secured convincing wins to continue their successful league campaigns. Our Junior Ds faced a tough St Raphaela's team they bounced back with a great win against Mount Anville... that game went down to the wire in the last quarter with both teams shooting the ball very well. In the end, it was a basket and a free throw by Ellie Begley that secured the win for HCK. Our **Minor B and Junior B** both secured wins against Coláiste Raithín with the **Minor Bs** winning by a narrow 2 baskets in the end. Our **Minor Cs** faced tough matches against Dominican Sion Hill and St Killian's. Our **Junior As** got another impressive win against Rathdown with some excellent displays of basketball and were unlucky to not qualify for their league quarter finals after a narrow defeat to Woodlands Academy. Our Junior team got an impressive win against club team, North Kildare Eagles, while our **Senior** team missed out on a win against North Kildare Eagles. However, there were some very impressive moments of play and lots to build on before their next match.

Our **Junior Bs** also missed out on their league semi-finals, after missing out in their qualifying game to Columbus College. All of our teams have been able to compete in extra practice matches on Saturday mornings against different schools/ club teams such as Meteors B.C., Firhouse B.C, North Kildare Eagles B.C and St Columbus College, which has been of great benefit for our players. Also, a huge congratulations to our **Minor As**, as they have qualified for their league semi-final, playing Castleknock CC in HCK on Thursday 16th March after an impressive undefeated run in their regular season matches. Unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be, as they missed out by a point in what was an incredible game. Fortunately, the girls qualify for the All-Ireland Playoff Tournament.

With last week being 'Women in Sport Week', our basketball teams competed in a blitz held in HCK for our **Senior/ Cadette** teams and **Junior/ Minor** teams. This was a great way for our teams to get to know each other a little better as some of them will be playing on the same teams next year.



Athletics Update

Last month, our athletics teams competed in the East Leinster Schools Championships in Phoenix Park. As always, the rain started just in time for the girls' races but once the sky started to clear, the results started pouring in! A special shoutout to Ella Molloy (2nd Year) and Rachel Murdock (1st Year) who came in 1st place overall in their respected races. A huge well done, also, to Luce Reiss Lochet (TY) and the Minor A team, who both qualify for Leinster Cross Country Championships after their impressive performances.

Our Minor A Team and Luce Reiss Lochet competed in the Leinster School's Cross-Country Championships in Santry. A special shoutout to 1st Years, Siena Fleming and Rachel Murdock, who qualified for the All-Ireland Schools Finals in Waterford Sports Centre on Saturday 11th March.

With the cross-country season coming to a close, preparations for the upcoming track & field season have begun, as the girls are busy training twice a week for the various events in preparation for the East Leinster Track & Field Schools Championships after Easter midterm. We've even been able to welcome back past pupil and All-Ireland Champion, Ellen McNally, to help the girls with their long jumps.



Sailing News

Holy Child Killiney entered twelve sailors, to make up two teams, into the **Leinster Schools Team Racing Championship** on Sunday 12th March.

The HCK teams did fantastically well, with Team 1 placed 3rd overall, and both HCK teams qualifying for the **All Ireland Schools Team Racing Championship** to be held on the 29th & 30th April. We wish the girls good luck in this competition.



Additionally, over 108 sailors (18 teams), representing 15 Leinster Schools, competed in the Provincial team racing event hosted by the National Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire. Having won 80% of their races in the Round Robin of 45 races, **HCK 1** (Lucia Cullen, Zoe Hammond, Zita Tempany, Abigail Murphy, Rachel Murdock and Juliette Marry) lost out by a hare's breath in their semi-final against St. Andrew's College 2, to finish 3rd overall.

HCK 2 (Zoe Hall, Aislinn Nixon, Amelie Hennessy, Orla Casey, Lizzie Hall and Molly O'Flaherty), having sailed fast and well in the Round Robin, had to abandon their last race due to a team-member being injured. In spite of that set-back, they also qualified for the All Ireland Championships. This was a spectacular result for HCK in their first Leinster Championship. It should be noted that that HCK were one of only two all-girls' schools competing in the event, and that they only started team-racing training this year. So, it's onwards and upwards to the All-Ireland Schools' event in late April!



Strength and Conditioning

It has been wonderful to see so many girls enjoying the Strength and Conditioning classes on Friday mornings.

Many thanks to KPA, who funded the installation of the new pull-up bars, which allow students to do TRX training and add an extra dimension to the sessions.



Hockey at HCK

It has been an extremely busy hockey season, with over 80 Leinster League matches alone played this year. We have seen all teams show great progress, through the individual and collective commitment to training and teamwork since September. The **Senior 1s** had a strong finish to the season, winning the South Dublin League. This came after a gruelling league campaign that saw the team pick up some key results, including a comprehensive victory over Dalkey and a hard fought draw against King's Hospital. This result meant the team needed to win their last game against Rathdown to qualify for the Claudia Tierney and, unfortunately, Rathdown performed better on the day to qualify, and go on to win the Claudia Tierney. The squad showed great resilience though, bouncing back to win the South Dublin League in a nail-biting final with St. Gerard's, a Millie Jerman short corner goal the only separation between the sides. The **Senior 2s** picked up a 1-1 draw against strong a strong Alex team, while they comfortably saw off St. Gerard's in the league 4-1. They also had shootout wins against St. Gerard's and Rathdown in the South Dublin League, before falling to a last minute goal by Loreto Dalkey, in incredibly wet conditions, to lose out on a place in the final. The **Senior 3s** reached the final of the South Dublin League and contested an epic battle with Loreto Dalkey. Dalkey went ahead through a short corner and, although the team played some wonderful hockey and created a plethora of chances, they were not able to find an equaliser, Sally James coming closest when her shot struck the post.



Our **Junior 1s** had an incredible finish to the season, starting with a shootout win over St. Gerard's in the Cup. Next was a must-win match vs. Muckross, which the team took in their stride, winning 3-1, despite spending much of the game defending, which sent them into the League quarter-finals. The big games kept coming, with a Cup quarter-final against Mount Anville. HCK came out on the wrong side of the shootout this time, after an exciting 2-2 draw. That proved a motivator for the girls, who faced Mount Anville again 10 days later, winning 2-0 to send them into the semi-finals of the Junior Premier League. Four days later, they faced Foxrock, in front of a busload of roaring Killiney fans. Foxrock went 1-0 up in the second half, but Killiney responded almost instantly with an equaliser

from Julie Potter-Cogan. Nothing could separate the sides and in another dramatic shootout, goalkeeper, Aisling Meehan, proved the hero sending the team into the Junior Premier League Final. The Final was played in front of a massive crowd with the HCK supporters creating a great atmosphere, despite the torrential rain. Killiney went 1-0 down early on, to a well worked Wesley short-corner but the team quickly gained momentum and played much of the first half on top, without finding the equaliser. A well-worked move up the right hand side early in the second half saw Julie again find the net, before more drama as pitch flooded and the match got moved to the back pitch. Both teams exchanged chances, but neither could find the winner, sending the game to yet another shootout. Aisling Meehan saved 3 from 4 with Elizabeth O'Donovan and Clara Michelle Howard scoring theirs to seal a sweet victory and send the Junior Premier League back to Killiney for the first time since 2015, and only the fourth time in our history.



The **Junior 2s** also had a wonderful season and also finished by bringing back a trophy, winning the South Dublin League. They lost narrowly to eventual winners Mount Anville in the Leinster league, but they bounced back to winning ways quickly with a comprehensive 4-0 win over St. Gerard's and a 2-1 win over Dalkey, which set the squad up for a South Dublin League Final against Foxrock. The team played brilliantly in the final with Ciara Kennedy scoring on the back post after a wonderful team move to give them the lead, which was followed by an excellent defensive performance to keep a clean sheet and secure the win. The Junior 3s secured two great wins in the Leinster League, beating Mount Sackville 3-0 and finishing their league campaign with a 2-1 win over Our Lady's Terenure. They finished their season with several excellent performances in the South Dublin League.

The **Minor 1s** have made great progress throughout the year and finished their season strongly, beating Rosemont and St. Conleth's comfortably in the Minor Plate before facing Loreto Balbriggan in the semi-final. The semi was end to end with both teams playing great hockey, but it was Balbriggan who came away with a 2-1 win. The **Minors 2s and 3s** both reached South Dublin League Finals after recording wins over St. Gerard's and Foxrock. Both teams faced Dalkey in the final with the Minor 3s narrowly losing out 1-0 in an excellent, tightly-contested match in which Killiney missed a number of chances to equalise. The Minor 2s faced a strong Dalkey side and went ahead through a great goal from Ellen MacDevitt, but Dalkey equalised soon after and went 2-1 in the second half. The Killiney girls played some excellent passing hockey, creating 3 great chances to get back on level terms but ultimately it wasn't to be. The Minor 4s came back from 2-0 down against St. Mary's Naas to grab a 3-2 victory that sent them into the last 16 of the Leinster League. In that match they faced an excellent Mount Temple 2s side, but the girls fought hard and defended well for much of it, with the game finishing 3-0 to Mount Temple.



The **1st Years** enjoyed the move to 11-a-side hockey after Christmas and all three teams were extremely competitive in their league games. The Pink team had two 4-0 wins against Gerard's and Templecarrig but fell to a 2-1 defeat to Newpark, who qualified for the semi-finals. The Purple team recorded wins against Loreto Bray, Dalkey and Templecarrig but were undone by St. Raphaela's in their final game of the season. The Yellow team had two wins against Loreto Bray and St. Teresian's, but a defeat to Templecarrig meant that they needed to win their last match against St. Gerard's to qualify for the semis. Unfortunately, that game finished 1-1 despite a top class performance.

Finally, a big thank you to all our amazing team of coaches for their commitment, support and guidance to all our hockey players over the season.

6th Year Retreat

After the Spring midterm break, 6th Years were lucky to have the opportunity to go on our final Retreat with our year group. As always, we received a really warm welcome in Dromantine and thoroughly enjoyed their superb hospitality, including tasty pancakes for Shrove Tuesday breakfast.

We spent the two days reflecting on our time together in Holy Child, making friendship bracelets and candle holders and taking part in Sacred Silences. We really enjoyed working with Fr. Joe and the Retreat team, and had lots of time to chat and relax. Stories were shared between all of us during the game 'Rose, Thorn, Spaghetti', and we all had a great time doing 'Just Dance' and learning the importance of dreams while listening to Coldplay.

On the second day, we celebrated the value of community in an outdoor Mass. We were all involved, especially when singing the songs.

We have really enjoyed all our Retreats over the years in Holy Child; once again these two days were very uplifting and affirming and we appreciate all the opportunities we have had to get away from the busy routine, and spend time together reflecting, praying and enjoying each other's company.

We are all so grateful for this opportunity to come together before we undertake our exams and enter the next stage of our lives.

Rachel Berwick and Camille Griffin 6th Year



Celebrating International Women's Day in HCK

On March 8th, we were privileged to welcome past pupils, Grainne Humphreys, Laragh McCann and Amanda Bone, back to Holy Child Killiney to mark our International Women's Day celebration. These inspirational women shared stories about their time in HCK and their different pathways to their present lives. Hearing of their journeys as they navigate the worlds of film, modelling, climate activism and architecture was undoubtedly memorable and thought-provoking for our whole student body. It was also wonderful to welcome so many mums, aunts, grannies and other family members to HCK for this special morning gathering. Thank you to all who came and to our fantastic guest speakers.



HCK win Innovation Award at DLR Student Enterprise Final

On the 22nd of March, Yuna and Amy Kelly went to the **DLR Student Enterprise DLR Final** in the Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoghaire to present their student accommodation and jobs business called '*The Exchange Academy*'. They were joined by about ten other schools, so the room was packed with entrepreneurs. There was a brilliantly diverse range of businesses on offer. We loved looking at all the other stalls and meeting students from other schools. We found it really interesting to see lots of the handmade items; our business is entirely digital and so, missed out on having towers of cupcakes on our table. In preparation for the competition, we entered a detailed business report which gave an overview of our business idea, its unique selling point, marketing mix and financial projections.

We really enjoyed the process and would recommend it to any going into TY. It was really nice to bring our EOY business forward into a bigger competition and as an added benefit – we had a lot of the work done! We were delighted to win the **DLR Student Enterprise 'Innovation Award'** and a €50 voucher which was presented by Cathaoirleach Mary Hanafin.

Overall, it was a great day.

Amy Kelly 4C



Environmental News

It's been another busy term for the Environmental Committee. A Litter & Waste Bin Poster competition was held, to encourage students to conduct their own research into what items go in which bin, and promote a better awareness of correct waste disposal. Congratulations to Juliette Morehead, who came in first place and to Ella Molloy and Emily Furey, who came second for their joint entry. All the fantastic posters received will go up across the school.

Also, well done to Mary He, who planted the most trees this month using the search engine, Ecosia. Together as a school, we've managed to add an extra 200 trees (and counting) to the planet, all from our devices!!

With March has come the launch of the 'Meatless Mondays' initiative... remember to have a look at the vegetarian recipes on the school app for some ideas and check out the posters around the school for reasons to pack a greener lunch with you each Monday.

Over the past few weeks, the Environmental team have been busy making 'Ecobricks' at each of our weekly meetings and with the amazing help of Ms Byrne's CSPE classes, we're now ready to build something! A bookshelf will be made out of the bottles and any environmentally-related books will be put on this shelf in the library, dedicating a special space to environmentally-themed literature.

The eco-term for this month is 'Greenwashing'. An example of this is an oil company in the UK using a voice actor identical to David Attenborough in their ads about fossil fuels!! So, keep an eye out, it can be harder to spot than you might think.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to the girls on this committee... I could not have hoped for a more passionate, dedicated team. I've loved every minute of this role and am so grateful to have had this opportunity to feel a little less powerless in the face of such a huge issue. Best of luck to Alice, the newly-elected Deputy Head & Environmental Prefect... the job could not be left in better hands. Wishing everyone a lovely and relaxing Easter break. *Eve McGann, Outgoing Environmental Prefect*

