



St. Joseph of Cluny Newsletter

Cluny Killiney

March 2023

Special points of interest:

- College Entrance Exhibitions UCD & Trinity
- Minister Norma Foley's Visit
- 6th Year Charity Fundraising Success
- LC Class of 2022 Destinations

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From the Principal's Desk



It has been a very busy term here in Cluny. As I write the Leaving Cert Music practicals have begun in earnest and the Junior Cycle Home Economics practicals are in full swing.



We were delighted the class of 2022 received recognition for their outstanding Leaving Cert results.

Susan Holahan, Eimear Callaghan and Naomi Cunningham received Trinity Entrance Exhibition awards for their outstanding results, it is unprecedented for the school to have three students receive these awards. Well done to Susan, Eimear and Naomi!

There were six students from the class of 2022 who were awarded Entrance scholarships from University College Dublin.

They were Emer Bolger, Caoimhe Brady, Naoise Curry, Anna Healy, Ellen Jones and Amy Kelly. Well done to Emer, Caoimhe, Naoise, Anna, Ellen & Amy. Entrance scholarships are given to students who receive 560 pts or more. The results from 2022 solidified our status as the second highest ranking school for academic success in Co. Dublin. We are proud of all our students and can take pride in the fact that each student worked hard to achieve Leaving Certificate to the maximum of their ability.



There have been plenty of activities to keep the girls busy. This week we are celebrating Autism Awareness Week with a variety of activities during the course of the week. Many thanks to Ms. McFarland for helping to organise the various events taking place this week.

Minister for Education Norma Foley's Recent Visit



From the Principal's Desk continued

Last Friday we were delighted to have a visit from the Mellerup Eferskole a Danish Music school. We hosted over 100 students and 17 teachers. They put on a great performance. Many thanks to Ms. Masterson for organising the visit.

We were all struck by devastation caused by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. The First Year students guided by their CSPE teachers Ms. Kavanagh and Ms. Doyle held bake sales over consecutive Fridays and raised over €1000. Well done to the First Year girls!



Our Sixth Year students have chosen St. Joseph's Dementia Care Shankill as their charity this year. Before Christmas they held a very successful table quiz. In early March they held a coffee morning for parents in aid of St. Joseph's Dementia Care Shankill and also invited in the residents to visit the school. It was such a privilege to see how well the girls interacted with the residents and also to speak to them and their carers. We also delighted to welcome our incoming First Year group of 64 students who completed their aptitude tests. We will have a number of events during the last term to help make their transition from primary to secondary as smooth as possible.

"Cluny focuses on Wellbeing and Sustainability as part of School Improvement Plan"

This year we are focusing on Wellbeing and Sustainability as part of our School Improvement Plan

There is a strong tradition in Cluny of focusing on student wellbeing. Wellbeing is at the heart of both curricular and extra-curricular experiences in school. Wellbeing is now identified as a clear area of learning within the new Junior Cycle Framework, which is a welcome development and one which supports much of the work done in St. Joseph of Cluny

All Junior students partake in PE, SPHE, CSPE classes along with Guidance and Choir while all Senior students engage in PE, Guidance and SPHE.. These classes explicitly address important, age-appropriate areas of Wellbeing..

Supporting the curricular emphasis on Wellbeing, we offer a wide array of co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for students. Parent suggestions for new additions to these programmes are always welcome.



In terms of sustainability we are working towards the Global Citizenship – Litter & Waste theme. We are in the process of conducting an environmental audit. I would like to thank Ms. McEvoy and the Green School Committee for all their hard work. As part of our recycling plan we recently had a book sale where instead of throwing out books the girls recycling and sold on books for a nominal fee. The recycling of the books was also part of our Well read school which is being coordinated by our librarian Ms. Curtin.

We have started our well read school award journey in recent months. In preparation for our portfolio, we have run several literary and reading themed events for students, staff, parents and members of the wider community. Some of the highlights from this term include the second-year library trip to the Lexicon library in

Dun Laoghaire, a pop-up library and drop everything and read event (DEAR) for Ireland Reads, World Book Day dress as a book character event, staff book club, primary school class visits from Johnstown and the Harold for Harry Potter Week and our recent book drive in conjunction with Green Schools and the sixth-year charity coffee morning. We are aiming to submit our well-read school portfolio in May 2024.

On Wednesday February 22nd we were delighted to welcome to our school the Minister of Education Norma Foley T.D. and Cormac Devlin to Cluny. Minister Foley spoke to the girls and outlined her plans for the Senior Cycle and also met the girls individually. She also went on a tour of the school and spoke to the teachers. PTO



From the Principal's Desk continued

Our public speaking competitions are in full swing. Well done to TY students Grace Groarke and Emma Jane Hughes who represented Cluny in the PhilSpeaks Schools Mace Debating Competition in TCD. Well done to Third Year students Aimee Walsh, Layla Gavigan and Ellen Kearns who reached the knock out stages of the Junior Leinster Schools debates which were recently held in UCD. Congratulations to Ellen who has made it through to the quarter final. I also want to congratulate Niamh Moriarty in TY who won the Bernadette Garvey Memorial cup an all-Ireland speech and drama competition for 13 to 18 year olds.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the chaplaincy team for all their hard work this term. This year we formed an Ember team which deals with faith formation in the school and tries to carry on the work first started by the founder of the Cluny order Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey. On a very early Monday in March The Ember group travelled to Knock at 6 a.m. as part of the inaugural Le Cheile Youth Symposium. I would like to

thank the girls along with Ms. Keenan and Mr. Geraghty who took the time out of their busy schedule to accompany the girls. This term we celebrated Catholic Schools Week with a visit from Sr. Maeve Guinan who is the Provincial of the order in Ireland and Britain. As well as this we also had our inaugural grandparents and person of commitment day on Wednesday January 25th.

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all the parents, teachers and students for your cards and messages of support following the death of my late sister Catherine Healy R.I.P. As we approach the time of Easter we hope that the resurrection and the promising of an everlasting spirit will provide comfort and hope to those of us who have lost dear friends and relations. Have a Happy Easter!

Ben Healy, Principal



Grandparents
and person of
commitment day



5th Year Cultural Tour of Berlin



Destinations: Class of 2022

Congratulations to all our students. We wish you the absolute best in your chosen pathway. Our doors are always open, and we would love you to visit anytime.

625 points	16%
500+	51%
400+	19%
300+	14%

University College Galway

Engineering



University College Dublin

Economics and Geography

Science

Veterinary

Engineering

Social Science (5 Students)

Health and Performance Science



Technological University Dublin

Business Management (3 Students)

Marketing (3 students)

Engineering

Computer Science

Human Resource

Chemical Sciences with Medicinal Chemistry



Maynooth University

Criminology and Psychology



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Trinity College Dublin

Human Nutrition and Dietetics

Speech and Language Therapy (2 students)

Physical Sciences

Engineering

Global Business

Computer Science

Geoscience

Chemical Science

Physics and Astrophysics

Occupational Therapy (2 students)

Bray College of Further Education

Pre-University Science



Blackrock Further Education Institute

Applied Psychology



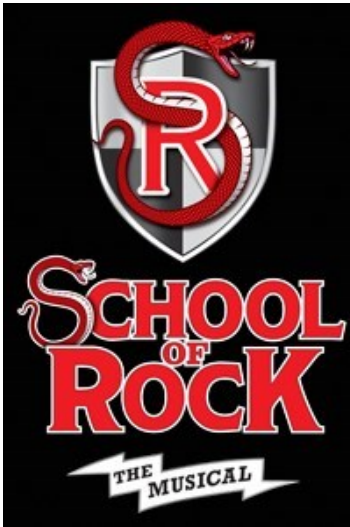
Dance College, Madrid

Dance

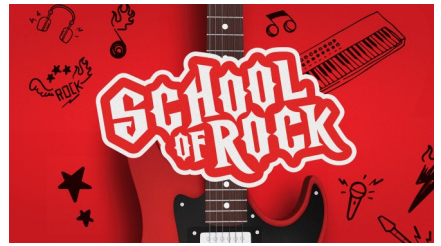
Gap Year

2 students





TY Musical Success: School of Rock



We started auditions for our musical towards the end of September and were assigned our parts by the end of October. Since then, we have been so busy doing rehearsals, set design and designing the programme. We began by figuring out what costumes we were all going to wear, what we were going to do with the set and what props we would need. We were split into three separate groups which determined our roles.

We had rehearsals every Friday and at the weekend. We got through all the acting, dancing, and singing before Christmas. After Christmas we spent our time finalising and making sure everything was perfected, before we performed.

The two weeks prior to the shows, we began running dress rehearsals. We were then introduced to the pit band, along with the lights, costumes changes and using the mics.

The excitement began!!! We knew we had a spectacular show to come!!!

We had a dress rehearsal for the 6th years on the Tuesday, everyone was buzzing, naturally a lot of nerves too. When school ended, we really enjoyed taking loads of photos together, getting into character and preparing our costumes for the show. The boys arrived shortly after, and they even got their makeup done too. We did a warmup with us and then it was showtime!! The show went very well, the audience loved it and everyone was proud of themselves.

We had our three nights of fabulous shows. The atmosphere was electric and everyone who came to watch said they had a wonderful time. People commented on our exceptional performance. Any hiccups that happened in the dress rehearsal were swiftly fixed, so everything ran smoothly. There was a lot of laughter and fun moments in the music room while people were waiting for their scenes. Everyone was on a high after each show and we'd all cheer after the curtain closed.

After the last show we were very sad, as all the build-up and excitement was over. We were also extremely happy with how it turned out so it was a bittersweet moment.

This is a treasured memory for all TY students, one that will not be forgotten. We would like to thank Ms. Masterson and Ms. O'Dwyer for all their hard work!



Photo gallery—School of Rock



Fantastic Show!
Congratulations to TY students and Guests from Blackrock College



Sixth Year Charity Coffee Morning with Bake & Book Sale

Students in Sixth Year held a coffee morning for our chosen charity, St Joseph's in Shankill, on Friday the 3rd of March. Students, staff and the wider Cluny community participated by donating books for our book sale, in affiliation with Green Schools, baked delicious treats and made tasty teas and coffees for all who attended.

Thank you to parents, teachers and students who attended and to everyone who made such generous donations allowing us to raise over €800 for this worthy charity.

A special mention to the residents of St Joseph's and their kind volunteers and workers who took the time out of their days to join us. The Sixth Years really enjoyed their company, their stories and their enthusiasm towards the music pieces played by Cluny students throughout the morning.

On behalf of all the Sixth Years and everyone in Cluny, thank you all for supporting this great charity.

Written by Caoilinn Divilly

Guests of honor, residents from St. Joseph's Dementia Care Unit Shankill



Class of 2010 Reunion



On November 18th, it was finally time for the class of 2010 to reunite! Initially delayed due to the pandemic, that Friday night, forty past pupils came together to see old friends and take a stroll down memory lane.

We were greeted on arrival at the school by Principal Ben Healy, who welcomed us individually, and most warmly. With a glass of wine – quite the novelty – we wandered through the school building, accompanied by transition year students, who impressed us with their maturity, confidence, and ideas. Any nerves or anticipation that individuals quietly harboured at the prospect of a reunion, immediately dissipated, as we shared anecdotes and memories, and rediscovered the spaces that we used to know so well. From the art room, to the sports hall, and along the rows of lockers, it was a pleasure to reconnect with familiar staff members, and to discover how the school had changed over the years.

Originally scheduled to stay for an hour, our reception at the school stretched into a third; indicative of just how friendly and warm the atmosphere was. Later, after we made our way to Dalkey to continue the festivities, the group reflected on the evening, and the lasting impression made on us all was just how inclusive the school felt. Whether it was mental health posters on the noticeboards, or the LGBTQI+ rainbows in classrooms, we were struck by how the physical space created an environment in which students were invited to express themselves and their unique identities.

Although it had been twelve years since we had all been in a room together, you would not have known it from the atmosphere! It was a joy to see everyone again, and catch-up on all the life that had happened in that time. A big thanks to the school for facilitating our reunion, and here's to the 20-year!

By Molly Brady Martin Past Pupil 2010

"It was a joy to see everyone again, and catch-up on all the life"



TY Pages:

Haircare Workshop

A professional hair stylist joined us at Cluny to embark on a Haircare workshop. She gave us helpful tips and tricks on hair maintenance.

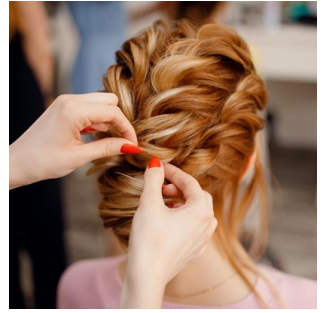
We thought that the different hairstyles were going to be easier to do, but they required lots of time and concentration.

One of the topics we discussed was as to why your hair gets frizzy after drying it.

The answer is simple: When you blow dry your hair with warm air, later it is exposed to a lower temperature, the volume of the hair increases.

Instead, you should blow dry your hair with a lower temperature. This will result in your hair ending up in perfect condition.

We thoroughly enjoyed this workshop; it was so interesting and fun. The stylist was so nice to us, her advice was extremely helpful.



Volunteering in Stillorgan



In the lead up to Christmas, several students volunteered to attend Stillorgan Shopping Center in aid of St. Vincent de Paul in conjunction with Dun Laoghaire Rotary Club.

Dun Laoghaire Rotary Club is a community-based club. They provide services to others, promote integrity and advance understanding. It is run by members of the community in

Dun Laoghaire itself.

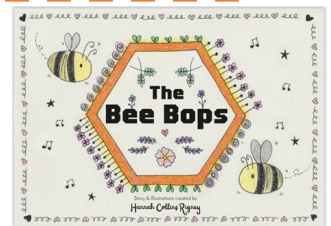
SVP (St. Vincent de Paul) is a voluntary international organization in the Catholic Church set up in 1833. Its focus is to help the poor. This charity helps thousands of families all over the world.

Two of the senior members of the club set up a remembrance tree in Stillorgan shopping center. It was extremely popular and attracted a lot of attention from local shoppers. People could put the names of those they wanted to remember on a piece of yellow ribbon and tie it to the tree.



Bee Bops

In December, our TY students had the opportunity to meet and learn from Hannah Collins Rigby, a local author of the children's book 'beebops'. Hannah came in to talk to the students about her journey of becoming an author, as well as her experience working in healthcare as a pediatric nurse.



This talk was extremely helpful in exploring different career options, as well as understanding the importance of feeling passionate about something in your life. Hannah discussed her life and what caused her to become an author. As a mother, she also spoke about how important it is to have a healthy work-life balance. This was important to learn about having a successful career from this perspective.

Hannah, as well as being an inspiration by promoting following your dreams, also created her franchise with sustainability as the focus. All her books were produced using recycled paper and her goal is to be a children's author, without dropping her strong beliefs of sustainability.

Overall, this talk was highly informative for students looking to pursue a career in healthcare as well as being an author. Transition years learned a lot from this talk. It was a great chance to learn from such a good example for finding your passion in life.



Forensic Fun Workshop



On the 30th of November transition year students participated in a forensic workshop. The TY's spent two hours investigating, engaging, and learning about forensics in a fun and interactive way. The experience allowed students to learn new skill sets as well as develop teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills. The workshop covered many aspects of forensics, such as gathering evidence and solving crimes. It was a fully interactive experience that allowed students to get a feel for the equipment used in forensics, such as fingerprint scanners. Getting to use some of the equipment really brought the workshop to life. Overall, it was a wonderful experience that all the TY's benefited from, many said they would recommend it for next year's transition year students.

During this workshop we investigated the assassination of John F. Kennedy. This investigation included getting to learn all the places, times and people included throughout the day of the assassination. There was a lot of information that we did not know which was included in the assassination.

A favourite aspect of the experience were the VR headsets showing a 3D video of the area whereby JFK was assassinated. There were realistic sound effects in the video of screams and gunshots. We could take photos with a template background, investigated our fingerprints and translated them onto tape. The Presenter was wonderful and a extremely informative. You could tell he was very energetic and passionate.

We investigated the assassination of John F. Kennedy



TY Work Experience Feedback

Work experience in Holly Park by Lucy McElheron Woods

For my February work experience, I went to St Patrick's GNS, Hollypark.

While I was there, I got to work with the Junior infants' classes. It was so much fun working with the little ones and seeing what is involved with being a teacher. For the first couple of days, I helped them with their sounds, writing skills and some math. The teacher also got me to do some one-to-one work with some of the fourth classes, where I tested them on their spellings and multiplications, which I really enjoyed.

A teacher also gave me a booklet which had all the rules/protocols a teacher must follow. Such as the steps that take place when a kid is being bullied or what topic should be covered in a certain time limit. I found it interesting to see how the classroom is organized and all the preparation there must be before each day.

Getting work experience in Hollypark has shown me how much work it is being a teacher and the level of patience you would have to have when dealing with the students. I do find that teaching is a very awarding job, and I really enjoyed the experience!

Work Experience with a Casting Agent and Casting Director by Niamh Moriarty

This past February I completed my second week of work experience, working with my agent at Take2 Talent Management. I thought I'd start out by explaining a little bit of what a casting agent is and what they do.

A casting agent is the person placed in charge of lots of different creatives. Writers, directors, Hair and Make-up, Stylists, and in my case, actors. They are the people who find actors auditions and meeting and are the mode of communication between a production and an actor. They make sure we're not mistreated or overworked on sets and negotiate our payment. It's a pretty fun job that mixes business, commutation and creativity whilst earning a percentage of their artists payment!

I was lucky enough to get extra experience, as she also works as a casting director. This is the person who works with production roll out auditions, watch them, and then cast the right people. I really enjoyed getting to see the two different areas of work.

I spent the week working through different talent agencies in Ireland and London gathering names and details about the top up and coming talent. This was lots of scanning through headshots, researching Resumé credits and getting references together for the lucky few. It gave me a good idea of what working as a casting assistant.

I highly recommend it for anyone who is interested in how that part of the industry. It was really eye opening!

Brown Thomas by Julia Cassidy Ryan

I completed my work experience in Brown Thomas in Dublin City centre. Throughout the week we had many talks from various departments in the business.

I enjoyed discussing and learning about Visual Merchandising, Marketing, The Creative Team and Human Resources.

My favourite talk of the week was 'Buying', as when I am older, I would love to be in charge of buying for a womenswear brand. We also had a chance to help in the stockroom, which I really enjoyed. The work experience taught me a lot about the fashion industry and retail.

Belfast Trip 5th & 6th Year History Classes Feb 2023



On Wednesday morning, the 5th and 6th Year history classes congregated in Connolly Station Dublin with Ms Byrne and Ms Joy at 7.00 am. We sat down by a café with our teas and coffees before we boarded our train. The train journey was very comfortable and lasted roughly two hours. After we arrived, we made our way to the Belfast International Youth Hostel where we put our luggage away in our rooms and regrouped in the lobby before heading out for our first day of activities.

At 11.30 am, we embarked on a walking tour of Belfast. We had to wrap up well because it was very cold! It was fun to walk around the busy city while taking in all the grand historical landmarks. We visited the Peace Wall which separates the two major communities of Belfast, now filled with murals, symbols and artwork that celebrate Irish culture, refer to particular incidents, pay tribute to martyrs like Bobby Sands or commemorate innocent victims of the Troubles. There was one stretch of the Wall filled devoted to messages of hope and signatures – we each got to sign our names! Afterwards, we continued walking down to Crumlin Road Gaol where we enjoyed lunch before heading on the tour. We saw each wing of the Gaol; the C wing was fascinating as you could view actual cells of the prisoners and the different offices, such as Medical Officer's Office and Parcel Office. It was a truly spellbinding experience. To end the day, we went to see Marvel's latest film 'Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania' in the cinema.

...the trip has brought the history I learn in class to life...

The next morning, we were served a delicious breakfast at the hostel café before travelling by Glider (sort of a mixture between luas and bus!) to the Parliament Buildings at Stormont. We arrived at the gate, and heartily prepared ourselves to walk up the tall hill at the top of which the Parliament Building was located! Once we made it to the entrance, we took plenty of photographs as the view of the beautiful Belfast landscape was very picturesque. We were led through the various rooms of the building by an excellent tour guide, while learning about the history and the magnificent architecture. Then, we travelled back to our hostel and were given some time to explore the city before we regrouped and left for the train station. Safe to say we were all exhausted by the time we got home!

I thoroughly enjoyed the trip as it brought the history I learn about in class to life for me. Visiting Northern Ireland was not only a fun and interesting school trip, but is also an invaluable experience that will greatly help me in my studies as a history student.
By Shauna Brocklesby



Wellbeing Programme & Tibetan Bowl Meditation & Sound Bath

In March, as part of the Wellbeing programme in school the first years enjoyed an afternoon Tibetan Bowl Meditation and Sound Bath courtesy of Simone and Nigel.

A Tibetan singing bowl is a type of bowl that vibrates and produces a rich, deep tone when played. Also known as singing bowls or Himalayan bowls, Tibetan singing bowls are said to promote relaxation.

The girls had been doing more traditional guided meditations in wellbeing class up to this and so we thought it would be a nice treat to experience a different type of sound and so we were delighted to welcome our visitors.

Simone and Nigel introduced the girls to the different types of Tibetan Singing Bowls and described their unique Features. They differed in their shape, size, style, tone, quality, and had unique characteristics.

The girls then lay on their mats and comfortable in their PE gear, relaxed as Simone guided them through the meditation. It was very different to what they had experienced up to that point. They were guided through a full body relaxation.

The sound bath was a relaxing, immersive experience as the students listened to soothing music and sound vibrations.

Simone mindfully helped them to relax as she guided them through their journey of sound.

She created a wonderful learning experience, and the girls enjoyed the session.

Afterwards the girls experimented with the different sounds and Tibetan bowls and had lots of questions for Simone and Nigel.

We hope they will continue to practice wellness.



Library News

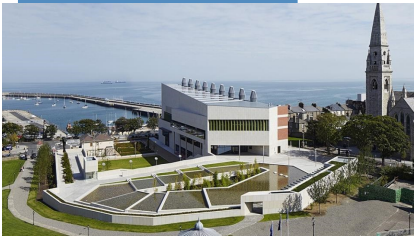


New Library Catalogue

In February, we moved to a new library management system in Cluny Library. This new system includes a search function that all students and staff can access regardless of their location. In the coming weeks, you will be able to search the library catalogue directly your own device.

Among the new features available, the front facing catalog will allow users to check if a certain book you are looking for is in stock here, check if we have books on certain topics you may be researching and lots more. This site will also enable you to reserve a book that might be out on loan. This is a snapshot of the new features that will be available over the coming weeks.

We are looking forward to assisting staff and students in using this new facility.



Second Year Trip to the DLR Lexicon

In February, second years were given the opportunity to visit the DLR Lexicon Library in Dun Laoghaire. After travelling to the DLR Lexicon by the dart, students met one of the DLR's fantastic librarians. Students enjoyed a tour of the library where they had a chance to see all of the facilities and services available to them as members. Students were also given the opportunity to renew their library membership while in the library.

Students were given a chance to browse the collection and borrow some books before they went for ice cream at Teddys. We all really enjoyed this day out.



Pop-Up Library

In preparation for Ireland Reads, we did a pop-up library in the school halls. A selection of titles was loaded up in the library cart and brought down for our colourful pop up. Lots of books were borrowed by students and staff. We are looking forward to running a pop-up library again for all!

Drop Everything and Read

To highlight Ireland Reads, our National Day of Reading on Saturday the 25th of February, we held a Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) for all staff and students on Friday the 24th of February. Students and staff took 15 minutes before lunch to pause their work and enjoy some time to read a book of their choice. We were delighted to see so many people reading! We hope you all enjoyed this event.

Library News continued

World Book Day

On Thursday the 2nd of March, we celebrated World Book Day here at Cluny library.

To celebrate the day, we held a fancy-dress fundraiser. Students and staff were invited to dress as their favourite book characters to raise money for the sixth year charity, St. Joseph's Dementia Care Center in Shankill.

We were also visited by the Cluny Book Fairy who hid two books around the schools. Well done to our students who found them!

A literature themed Kahoot quiz and national book tokens were made available to all students throughout the day.

We hope you all enjoyed the days events.



Harry Potter Week

Back by popular demand, Harry Potter Week returned to Cluny Library in March. This year we had several magical themed displays and activities for students to participate in including potions class matching game, mythical creature game, Patronus flow chart and which Hogwarts house are you in. The latter two featured raffles. Well done to Lucy Webb and Laura Ruiz de Salazar Garcia for winning these raffles.

We were delighted to welcome local primary school classes to Cluny as well for a Harry Potter quiz and board games event.

We welcomed fifth-class students from The Harold and fourth-class students from Johnstown to the library during the week. Thank you to our TY students who met with the students from the primary schools during their time here.

We are looking forward to the return of Harry Potter Week sometime again in the near future but for now... Mischief Managed!

