



# Cross & Passion College

## Religious Education Programme



**DOMINE NOVERIM TE**  
**Lord let me know you**

22nd December 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had another extremely busy term with many more opportunities for our students to develop their understanding of and participation in our Religious Education Programme and school ethos.



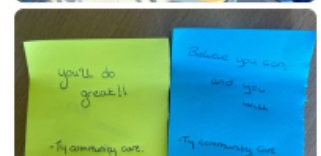
Our *TY School Leadership Class* ran a fundraising campaign in conjunction with **'Trick or Treat for Temple Street'** They compiled goody bags which students ordered to be delivered to someone in school that they felt deserved a treat. There were many happy recipients, both students and staff. We are delighted to say that we raised a fantastic €202.18 for the Children's Hospital Foundation.



Our **Buddy Club** continues to work very well with the TY prefects visiting our AS classroom every Tuesday for fun and games. It is an important part of our ethos to ensure that everyone in our school community feels included and enjoys spending time with each other.

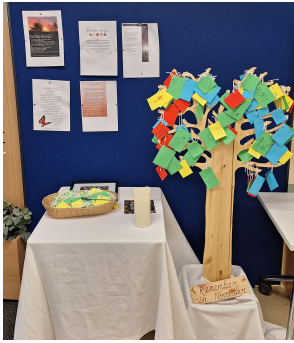
The Halloween party was particularly enjoyable with lots of treats, games and laughter. Well done to all involved in organising this lovely event for the students.

The *TY Community Care* class handwrote and delivered **'Positivity Notes'** to Third and Sixth Year students ahead of their November assessments. They aimed to provide a source of affirmation and advice during the assessments. It was a lovely way to express their good wishes for those undertaking exams.





We were privileged to be joined by a number of clients from **Cuan Mhuire Addiction Treatment Centre**, Athy who spoke about their experiences with addiction and recovery. It was an extremely powerful experience and we are very appreciative of the bravery of the clients who shared their stories to help us understand and learn.



As a school community we are invited to participate with '**In November We Remember**'. It is a lovely opportunity to think about those we love who have passed. Students are encouraged to write the names of the people they wish to remember on a tag and place it on the tree. Our thanks to Ms Doran who made the tree and to Ms Whyte for organising the tags and display.

Our **Founders Day** scheduled for Tuesday 21st November was celebrated on Monday 20th November due to Junior Cycle Staff Training.

Amy Schmelter, an Ember team member, made a whole school announcement via the intercom sharing insights into our founder Elizabeth Prout as well as launching an Art competition for First, Second and Third Year students. Some beautiful and creative pieces of artwork depicting our founder, Elizabeth Prout and the history of our school were produced. Katie O' Donnell, an Ember Team member, was delighted to congratulate Lucy Curtis (3F), Kayden Casey (3E) and Ella Fishbourne (1B) on their winning entries. Well done to all entered the competition



Well done to the TY Prefects and Ms Mills for organising a wonderful Kindness Week. They created a range of activities to encourage all of our students to show **KINDNESS** this week and every week.

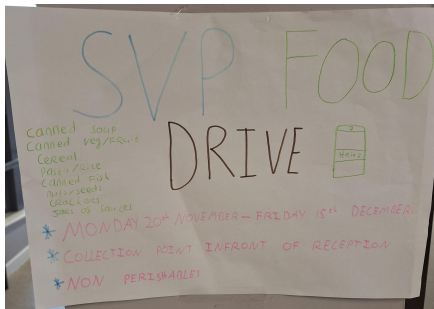




First Year and TY Students participated in **SARI Anti Discrimination** workshops. The facilitators delivered a range of activities designed to help students experience new perspectives and educate them to identify discriminatory behaviour and attitudes. We hope the students will take the skills and learnings from the team work, fairplay and respect demonstrated and apply them in their future everyday life.

Further SARI workshops will be organised for the remaining year groups in 2024.

Ms Bucke and the **TY Community Care Class** organised a Food Drive in aid of St



Vincent de Paul.

Students and staff were encouraged to donate non-perishable foods such as canned soup, vegetables, fish, meat and fruit. Dried goods such as pasta and rice, jars of sauces, crackers,

nuts, seeds, cereals and sweet treats. We were delighted with the response and hope that those in need will have a more enjoyable Christmas knowing they are cared for by others. It was a wonderful opportunity to remember the ethos and message of our founder Elizabeth Prout to care for those less fortunate than ourselves. In the words of Anne Frank " No one has ever become poor by giving"



James Meehan, Lilly McQuarrie and Katie O'Donnell, members of the **Ember Team**, along with one of their classmates introduced the season of **Advent** to all First Year groups.

In preparation for the 1st of December, each First Year student was given a copy of the Advent Wreath to colour in, researching the colour of each candle and what they represent.

They were also given an Advent Calendar to create their own countdown to Christmas through acts of kindness, with the Ember team providing a suggested list to use in addition to their own

ideas. Each day revealed a good deed to complete. It was an engaging way to enjoy the lead up to Christmas while making life better for themselves and others.



The Ember Team with the support of Ms Bucke, Ms Whyte and Mr Mann created a **beautiful focal point** in our school reception area including the

Le Cheile Values, an Advent Wreath, Crib and Christmas Tree. They also shared a slideshow for use during class meeting time highlighting the meaning and importance of the season of Advent.



Ms Bucke and the **Community Care Class** arranged a wonderful visit to *Willow Brook Nursing Home*. The students sang a range of



songs, played the guitar, keyboard, and violin. They then played Bingo with the residents with five



winning prizes! Students presented handmade Christmas cards and a gift to each resident. Our sincere thanks to Andrew Auld Buses who provided our transport to and from the nursing home without charge. It was a truly special experience for everyone involved and a reflection of our school ethos.



Our **Chat and Connect Programme** with our Sixth Year students remains a very popular experience. Once per month each class takes time to ponder a variety of topics while enjoying refreshments. There were many lively discussions and it was a lovely opportunity to further develop relationships within class groups along with supporting the community based 'Coffee Hatch'. Even Santa



popped in to check whether our students were being naughty or nice. Thankfully his phone call back to the North Pole was a positive one!

Our **Alzheimers Awareness class** organised a *Christmas Jumper Day* to raise much needed funds for The Alzheimer's Society of Ireland. It was wonderful to see the wide range of jumpers chosen by students and staff while raising awareness and funds for this very worthy cause.



We have been invited to participate in the '**Pause for Peace**' event on 1st February Brigid 1500 as Peace Ambassadors

The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins stated, 'This new Pause for Peace movement is a unique event which breaks new ground in recognising the cultural and historical importance of St. Brigid beyond boundaries and aims to form a spirit of solidarity and peace in societies all over the globe.'

This will be an opportunity to learn, share and collaborate with students from across Kildare, Ireland and internationally on various activities and movements which give recognition to the importance of St. Brigid from a cultural, religious, spiritual and historical point of view.

During the *Peace Ambassador* training day there will be discussions about events to mark Brigid 1500th with the possibility of post primary students coming together to create a student version of the St. Brigid's Cross at the Curragh Racecourse.

This is a significant event on the 2024 calendar and the President of Ireland will be in Kildare on the 1st February to witness the Brigid 1500 events. We are very much looking forward to this opportunity.



Our thanks to the volunteers representing the **Homeless Charity P.A.T.H.** who spoke with our Sixth Year Leaving Certificate Applied class about the work they do. P.A.T.H. provides food and other essentials to those who are homeless in Dublin City. We were also able to present P.A.T.H. with



the large collection of selection boxes donated by our students and staff. Thank you to all who generously donated to this collection.



Students in a number of classes participated in 'Secret Santa' which reminds us of the joy in giving without expecting anything in return. It was a very bonding experience for many as they tried to guess who had selected the thoughtful gift for them.



We had an extraordinary **Celebration of Christmas Carols and Songs** at our annual school gathering in the Kilcullen Community Centre. It was a wonderful experience for our whole school community of over 900 students and staff. Our sincere thanks to our music teachers Ms. Susan Fox and Ms. Angie Lawrence, for all their hard work in guiding our students in their beautiful singing and playing of a range of instruments.



Our First Year students had a lovely introduction to a whole school celebration while it was a poignant day for our Sixth Year students as they celebrated their last Christmas Carols in Cross and Passion College. Well done and congratulations to everyone, students and staff who worked so hard to create this special day that will live long in our memories.



Students created beautiful pieces of **art** to celebrate Christmas. It is lovely to see their skills and talents on display in this form also.



We were delighted to welcome grandparents and Seniors in our community to our **Seniors Christmas Party**. Our Sixth Year students hosted the event along with the Religious Education Department, supported by the Home Economics and Music Departments. We had a lovely morning of chat, music, raffle prize winners and even a visit from Santa and his elves!

Our sincere thanks to Georga Dowling of Food School for decorating the hall and supplying the lines, dishes and cutlery without charge, Fallons for the loan of their cups and saucers, Kildare Farm Foods for the loan of their elf costumes, to everyone who donated raffle prizes and Brian Byrne for the beautiful photos which may be accessed

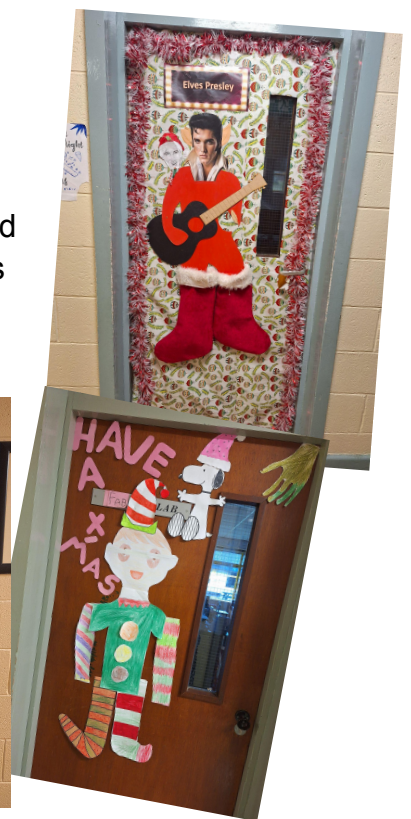
here <http://tinyurl.com/25npxwnn> and his article on p. 16 of The Kildare Nationalist which may be accessed here <https://kildare-nationalist.ie/2023/12/20/kilcullen-college-christmas-party-for-local-senior-citizens-makes-a-welcome-return/>



It is a lovely cross curricular event as the school community works together. We are so happy to have this very significant intergenerational experience as it provides a great opportunity to further build positive relationships which are central to our school ethos.



Each class has been enjoying the challenge to create the most **Festive Classroom Door Decorations**. As you can see a lot of planning, time and effort has been put into their creations which also allowed for teamwork and fun!. Which is your favourite?





Our Trustees, Le Cheile organised a beautiful Advent ceremony as part of their Space for Grace series. If you would like to access it please go to <https://youtu.be/M9wkakiKmh0>

We are also delighted to be featured in the most recent Le Cheile Newsletter which you may access here

<https://lecheiletrust.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023-12/index.html>

Marie-Therese Kilmartin, CEO of Le Cheile asks us to consider taking time to prepare ourselves spiritually by reflecting on the messages of hope, love, joy and peace.

We believe our school community has been doing just that both in the quiet moments for ourselves and the action filled days where we make a difference to others.

Wishing you and your son/ daughter/ a joyful Christmas and every happiness in the New Year.

Kind Regards,

*Tristan Bailey, Hannah Bucke, Joanne Burke, Eimear Glynn, Glenda Groome,  
Ava Healy, Sabrina Mills, Maireád O'Malley, Ingrid Wall, Louise Whyte*

Cross and Passion College Religious Education Team