

St. Mary's Secondary School

New Ross



Annual Report 2021-22



Annual Report 2021-22

Our Annual Report for the school year 2021/2022 affirms our core values and offers a snapshot of how we have lived these values through a variety of activities during the school year.

The Board acknowledges the work of all the school community in navigating another school year with additional protocols due to the continuing presence of Covid 19 and the desire to help students re-engage with learning, consolidate learning, close gaps in learning and create additional learning opportunities.

The Board acknowledges the roles played by all members of the school community and thanks everyone who was involved in initiating, facilitating, organising or supporting the activities and helping maintain wellbeing among all members of the school community.

The report is a sample of the activities and additional images and samples of media coverage of school events are included in the album at the end of the report.



Annual Report 2021-22

Mission Statement

St. Mary's School is a community, which is proud of its Catholic tradition and is committed to developing each person's full potential in a positive, supportive environment. We invite everyone to participate and urge everyone to contribute.

Ní neart go cur le chéile.



What We Treasure

- Promoting spiritual and human development
- We believe knowledge of and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ give meaning and purpose in our lives
- Achieving quality in teaching and learning
- We are committed to excellence and to continually improving the quality of teaching and learning
- Showing respect for every person
- We respect the unique and intrinsic value of every person
- Creating community
- Our schools are faith communities of welcome and hospitality where Gospel values are lived and where there is a special care for those most in need.
- Being just and responsible
- We seek to act justly and responsibly in all our relationships



Board Of Management

The Board of Management members were:

Ms. Elmar Whelan, Chairperson

Ms. Niamh King

Ms. Jackie Mc Kevitt

Mr. Darragh Wafer

Mr. Tom Cummins

Ms. Barbara Kehoe

Ms. Georgina Murphy

Ms. Mary Browne

Mr. John Michael Porter, Secretary to Board of Management

Ms Niamh King stepped down as a parent nominee in October as her daughter completed her Leaving Certificate programme and was replaced by Ms. Geraldine Purcell.



Board Of Management

The board met on eight occasions in an oversight and supportive role:

30th September 2021/ 1st November 2021/ 1st December 2021/in person 24th January 2022/28th February 2022/

28th March 2022/ 9th May 2022/ 13th June 2022

The September, November and December meetings were held by Zoom.

During the course of the year the Board were involved in many aspects of school life including:

Teaching & Learning:

Supporting curriculum planning by reviewing: staff allocation schedules, curriculum review, school enrolment and employment of staff.

Supporting teaching and learning by discussing/overseeing: Leaving Cert Accredited Grading Process. Junior Cycle assessment, reporting and wellbeing, provision of Mock exams, provision of the Orals during the Easter holidays.

Continuing Professional Development including supporting school involvement in Droichead.

Recognising achievement by acknowledging students who receive entrance scholarships to Third Level institutions.

Promoting the school's Digital Strategy.

Encouraging the Adult Education programme.

Discussing the school's Distance Learning practices and procedures and the impact of them on teaching and learning.

Ensuring compliance with the HSE Covid 19 protocols.

Ratification of the Schools List of Needs and Priorities re Middle Leadership and Management

Discussing health and safety and welfare issues.

Providing additional supports by using the CLASS hours.



Board Of Management

Policy Development:

Updating school policies.

The admission policy for 21/22 was ratified.

The Covid Response plan was ratified.

The Anti-Bullying Policy was reviewed and ratified.

The Child Safeguarding Policy was reviewed and ratified.

Code of behaviour review commenced.

Finance Management

Preparation of budget.

Regular monitoring.

Forwarding information to CEIST and JMB for financial regulation.

Resource Management

Painting of the exterior of the school

New car park gates allowing for pedestrian access.

Reconfiguration of disabled parking bay in staff carpark.

Refurbishment of student toilet blocks.

New flooring in the music room and new seating in the Graphics room.

Reconfiguration of the Career Guidance room.

Utilisation of the IT grant to update PCs in the IT room and Career Guidance room.

Progress of the provision of a fire escape to the chapel area.

Application for Sports Capital funding for pitch development

Child Protection Oversight

Oversight of reports at each meeting

Completing the Child safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Ratifying the Child Safeguarding Policy



Parents' Council

The work of the Board was supported by an active Parents' Council. This vibrant group of parents helped by:

Reviewing School Policies

Fundraising with a Christmas draw.

Debs for 2020, 2021 and 2022 class groups held August 7th/8th/9th

€4000 donated to help development of a new communication app for parents – Unique Schools App launched.

Communication with the general body of parents included:

Notifications by phone and texts

Individual meetings

Newsletters

Via our website www.stmarysnewross.org

Through our Twitter account @mercynewross

Through Guidance St. Mary's New Ross on Facebook

1st year parent talk

Information talks re subject choice and Transition Year



Student Leadership

The Students' Council met regularly. Work completed included:

Class reps liaising with peers.

Updated Student Council noticeboard.

Involvement in Wexford Comhairle na nOg

Hosting a Christmas jumper day for SVP.

Organising a whole-school Christmas fun draw.

Organising a 3rd years Kris Kindle.

Donating €1145 to Meals on Wheels from a number of charity collections not presented due to the lockdown period.

Researching and choosing a journal style chosen for the student journal.

Researching a design for a new PE tops.

Organising a Friendship week.

Giving 'Good Luck' chocolate to JC students.



Student Leadership

The work of the Student Council was complemented by the work of Meitheal Leaders who took responsibility for the care of 1st year students in their transition into secondary school, and the Prefects, Deputy Head Girls and Head Girl who supported all the other students.

Other opportunities to lead was given to the Health and Safety Response team giving students a role in keeping a student's perspective on the Covid Response Plan.



Faith Development

Our Religion Department, supported by the school chaplain Mons. Joe Mc Grath, organised the liturgies and rituals central to the Faith Development of our school community:

Start of Year Mass.

Mercy Day Celebrated.

Remembrance activities held for 'In November we Remember'

JPI I Award participants and JPI I Photo Competition held.

The Christmas Carol Service was held in Parish church and relayed live to the school.

Carols were also sung in school and at the Community Hospital



Activities for Catholic Schools' week held.

St. Brigid's Day – homemade crosses

St. Blaise's Day – throat blessing.

Activities organised as part of the Ceist Ceilúradh including lighting the Ceist Ceilúradh Candle

Blessed ashes were distributed on Ash Wednesday.

We were honoured by a visit by the new Bishop of Ferns, Bishop Nash, who took time to talk to a group of students to gain students' perspectives on church issues.

We were delighted to host the 6th Year end of year Mass back in the school.



Annual Report 2021-22

Faith Development

6th Year Mass



Staff

Our teaching staff allocation from the Department of Education and skills was just over 39 teachers consisting of whole time equivalent hours, contract of indefinite duration hours, part-time hours and hours for special education needs. Every effort was made to make the best use of the allocated hours to provide learning and teaching opportunities for our students.

The ancillary staff consisted of three secretarial staff, four cleaning and housekeeping staff, three canteen staff, a caretaker and a sports hall caretaker.

We lost our esteemed colleague, Seamus Doyle, and condolences were extended to his family and friends.

Gaisce PAL Awards were presented to Annette Larkin and posthumously to Kathleen Woodcock – collected by her husband and daughter.



Academic Excellence

The fundamentals of learning and teaching were evident in the interactions in the classrooms between students and teachers. This was supported by a variety of experiences outside the classroom with a range of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. We set high standards and have high expectations for our students.

Regular attendance is essential to maintain progress and the overall school attendance was over 95%. All attendance figures were reported to the Educational Welfare Services in TUSLA.



Academic achievement in 2021/22 was evidenced in a number of ways including:

Grades achieved in Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate were above the National averages.

Level 1 and Level 2 programmes.

Teaching staff engaged in Junior Cycle and other continuing professional development courses.

A Quercus UCC Scholarship was awarded to Aoife Nolan and Hannah Roche.

Texaco Art and Credit Union Art category winners.

Completion of JCT inservice

Hosting of online Parent-Teacher Meetings

Co-ordinating Leaving Cert Orals and Music Practicals during Easter

UCD Entrance Scholarships awarded to Daragh Donohue, Clare Doyle, Ellen Quinn, Sinead Ryan and Heather Roche.

Kathryn Dempsey DCU Entrance Scholarship

Ellen Quinn UCD Ad Astra Scholarship



Career Guidance

The career guidance department gave individual student advice, presented information evenings for students and parents via Zoom and hosted Parents and Students Webinars on Subject Options via Zoom.

They also organised DATS for 3rd year students and gave feedback to the students and maintained a Facebook page - Guidance St. Mary's New Ross



5th Yrs. trip to UCC



Other Learning Opportunities

Other opportunities for learning were offered within a variety of activities including:

Maths Week

Science Week

European Day of Languages poster competition

Festive baking in Home Ec

Festive crafts in 1st yr Wellbeing

LCVP mini companies

World Book Day

Kahoot Klub

Amber Flag Activities

Christmas Musical performances

Supervision on Fridays

Achievement Board

Meal for 6th years

People Are People Group

Meitheal leadership

People Are People



Display for Black History Month



People Are People Student Advocacy group attended the Worldwide Global Schools Conference.



People are People group volunteering their time sorting and packing clothes to send to women and men currently affected by the conflict in Ukraine.



People are People – workshop with Wexford Poet Laureate and past student Sasha Terfous.

Wellbeing

The promotion of wellbeing was evidenced by a number of activities including a welcome return for trips and our Talent Show and Sports Day:



Great day out for 3rd years orienteering in Kennedy Park.



Thanks to school steward Lisa for organising buns for World Teacher Day



Christmas cheer among 3rd years as they exchanged Kris Kindle gifts and then watched 'Romeo and Juliet'.

Wellbeing

The promotion of wellbeing was evidenced by a number of activities including a welcome return for trips and our Talent Show and Sports Day:



Nollaig na mBan Celebration



Random Easter eggs distributed by Year Heads



1st Yr Zoo Trip



2nd Years Dunmore East

Wellbeing

Sports Day



Wellbeing

Sports Day



Wellbeing

6th year Guard of Honour



Wellbeing

Talent Show



Wellbeing

Talent Show



Congratulations to Hannah Chapman who received the Marguerite Brereton Memorial Award at the Talent Show and thanks to Mrs Brereton who made the presentation.



Wellbeing



Summer Provision Programme trip to Kilkenny



6th Year Present



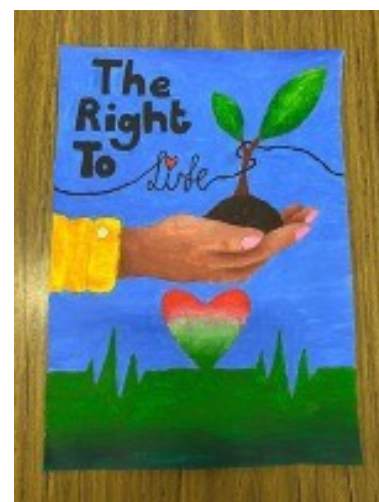
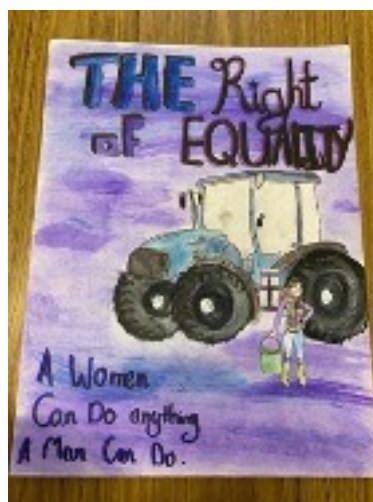
Fantastic breakfast organised by the Sunshine Cafe this morning. Full Irish, Omelettes, French Toast and Fruit Salad with juices and tea/coffee on the menu. Prepared with care and served with smiles

Individual subject areas also created numerous learning opportunities with a range of activities inside and outside the classroom. Examples of these are displayed pictorially in the following pages.

Art



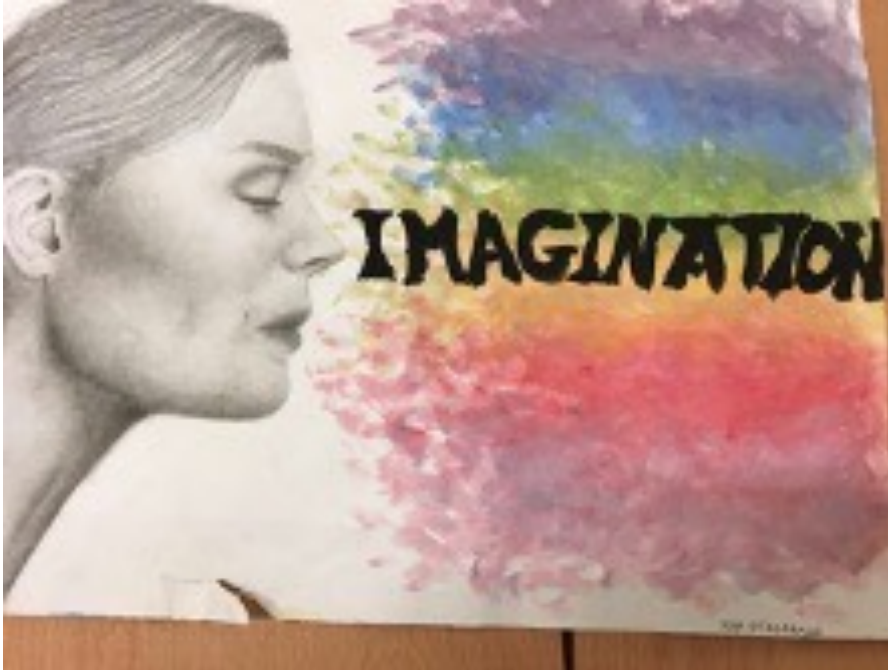
Molly Laffan, 6th year, with her work "Dreaming of Earth." Molly was awarded a certificate of commendation in the 67th Texaco Art competition



Nicola Walsh, Áine Crean, Zoe Wickham and Clodagh Crean won prizes in our People are People Humans Rights Art Competition.

5th year art group visited Butler Gallery in Kilkenny and also viewed our local craftwork- the Ros Tapestry - on display in Kilkenny Castle.

Art



Anna Elmes and Mya Fitzgerald Credit Union Art Winners

Business Studies Department



6th Year Business tuning in to watch live coverage of the budget.



The Business notice board got a bit of revamping.

World Youth Enterprise – Congratulations to Grace and Issy ‘2 Peas in a Pod’ who were selected to represent Ireland in the World Enterprise Challenge.



English Department



Our 1st years are rays of sunshine who shine like diamonds when writing poetry with a focus on metaphor and simile

English Film review and poster design



Isabel, Molly and Saoirse won the 4.2 Mayfly competition.



English Department



Bookfest



Queen of Ms.Walpole's 6th Yr. English quiz: Queen Sofia and Princess Jessica (runner up).



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English Department

World Book Day



Gaeilge



Our Transition year students ag baint taitneamh as Lá Gaeilge i mbaile Loch Garman agus an ionad náisiúnta oidhreacht na hÉireann.



Bhí daltaí na hidirbhliana ag cruthú Crosóga Bríde sa rang Gaeilge



Ghlac daltaí na hidirbhliana páirt i ndúshlán Gaeilge 24. Beatha teanga í a labhairt.

Gaeilge



Ms O'Briens I.2. Irish class - Revising their ábhair scoile while designing their class timetable!



Irish class outside - enjoying the sunshine - cúpla focail nua for seachtain na Gaeilge.

Geography

6th Year Geographical Investigation, Tramore Beach.



History



2nd Year History students walking the Rebellion Route for their 1798 History Project



2nd Year History trip to see the film Arracht and visit the Famine Museum in Johnstown Castle

Mr Wafer's 2nd year History class raised our national flag celebrating our wonderful country.

Home Economics



3rd year Home Economics - Chicken Korma



3rd years who made homemade goujons, sweet potato chips and dip



1st Year Blueberry Muffins



2nd Yr. Home Ec Pizza



1st Years Goujon Wraps

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)



Chloe Keeling @handmadecraftsbychloe
5th Year LCVP



Modified Simple Jewels - interview stage
in Wexford Student Enterprise



LCVP Trade Fair



Enterprise Winners

Modern Foreign Languages



Music



1st year music projects



1st year students making lots of noise and showcasing their musical talents



First year music students practising their Ukulele in class



TY student Hollie French won the UI8 Harp Slow Airs & and UI8 with Accompaniment on Harp in the Comhaltas County Fleadh



Brilliant Seoda Ceoil Fleadh with groups in a number of venues around the school. Students and teachers involved

Science Department



Science Week



Science Week



Science Week



Ms O'Rourke's 2nd Year Science classes wishing the school community a Happy Halloween with a Halloween Periodic Table

Transition Year

Transition Year engaged in many learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom setting. Some of the events included:



Car driving, theory and maintenance



Glendalough Gaisce



TYs working hard on their research project "My Parish"



TY Future Leaders Coaching

Transition Year

Transition Year engaged in many learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom setting. Some of the events included:



TYs - EPIC museum and ice-skating.



TYs in the Comeraghs



TY Hair & Styling Workshop



TY student Mia Walsh with MEP Maria Walsh at the European Parliament.

Transition Year



Transition Year

Congratulations to the TY classes of 22 who finished their year with an evening of entertainment, presentations and celebrations. Thanks to co-ordinator Ms Goulding for overseeing an eventful year.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Other learning opportunities are offered to students through a range of activities such as sport, debates and tours. Some images of the year are displayed in the following pages:

Sport

Equestrian



School equestrian team,



Isabelle Boland with @HorseSportIRL in equestrian event in Belgium



A winning weekend for our equestrian teams

Sport Football



Junior footballers making the most of the rain and muck



Our senior football team had an opening of season friendly win

U14 Leinster Football Winners



U14 Leinster Football Winners

Sport Football



1st Yr. football blitz

Sport Camogie



1st Year internal camogie blitz



Junior Camogie

Sport Swimming



Leah Bailey – National Performance Pathway



All- Ireland Senior Schools swimming relay finals. - The Junior girls won both the freestyle and medley relays. The team was Nicole Colfer (1st yr.), Eva Bayley (2nd yr.), Poppy Culleton (2nd yr.), Molly Hennessy Murphy (1st yr.)



Intermediate team gold freestyle relay and silver in medley relay



Best overall school in Junior Age Leinster Swimming

Sport Athletics



Cross Country team with Emma Hannan 2nd in senior and inter girls 3rd in team standings. Emma Hannan qualified for Leinster senior girls' cross country

Soccer



Ella Nolan @YouthsWomen
u17 squad



1st Year student Katie
Ryan selected to train in
the FAI South East u13
Centre of Excellence

Sport Rugby



Well done to our Senior 7s rugby team who reached the final stages of the south Leinster blitz in Carlow



Senior Rugby team - Leinster Rugby Schools blitz in Enniscorthy



Senior Rugby team - Leinster Rugby Schools blitz in Enniscorthy

5th Year Tour to Amsterdam



Student Care

The support for students follows the NEPS model of Support for All, Support for Some and Support for a Few and includes roles for all staff members and student leaders.

The structures include:

- Meitheal Leaders – trained student peer support for the Transition into secondary school.
- Prefects
- Library Leaders
- Student Council
- Class Reps
- Ancillary Staff
- Classroom Teachers
- Class Tutors
- Year Heads
- Middle Leadership Team
- Deputy Principal
- Principal

Congratulations to Mai Dempsey who takes over as Head Girl for 22-23 and thanks to Emma Mackey for the excellent job during the last year.





Student Care

A number of initiatives aided the provision of support and these included:

- World Mental Health Day
- Amber Flag Wellbeing Week
- Scoliosis testing
- HSE Vaccinations
- Meitheal interviews and training

Social Awareness

Students are given opportunities to advocate for social change through involvement in a number of activities. Students also take an opportunity to support other initiatives through a range of awareness raising and fundraising activities, some of which were highlighted earlier within faith development. Some of the events that took place and charities that benefited were:

- Fair Trade activities
- Hospice Coffee Morning
- Simon
- Christmas Team Hope Shoebox Appeal
- Solas Centre
- Christmas Hampers to St.Vincent de Paul and Meals on Wheels



Well done to all involved in our Cycle Against Suicide Bike4Life event. Our girls cycled over 2000 KM and raised €835



Well done to the 4.3 TY group who held charity fundraising with a carwash for teachers

Social Awareness



Team hope Shoebox Appeal



Student Council Christmas jumper day and presented the proceeds to Mr Seamus Darcy of SVP



Fairtrade tea, hot chocolate, treats and board games.



1st years celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight by baking Fairtrade Banana and Chocolate muffins,



Community Involvement

Our school is an integral part of the community and our facilities are made available to an array of organisations for a number of events. Some of the activities during 2021/22 were:

Adult Education

We organise a programme of Adult Education classes accessible to the community.

Hall

Our sports hall is used by many sporting organisations throughout the year.

Pitch

New Ross Town FC was granted use of the pitch for training, matches and to hold a Summer Camp.

Finance

The school finance is regulated on a daily basis by our financial secretary, Ms Maria Frizelle and the principal, Mr Porter. Finances are also overseen monthly by a Finance Sub-Committee and the Board of Management.

The transactions follow the directions laid down by the best practice guidelines of the finance section (FSSU) of the management body, JMB, in line with a budget passed by the Board.

The accounts are sent to CEIST after each board meeting and an annual audit is completed by Mr. Tony Brazil of the MK Brazil accounting group. Audited accounts are sent to CEIST and the JMB for scrutiny.

The 2021/22 accounts show that the school remains in a healthy financial state.





Annual Report 2021-22

DECLARATION:

This Annual Report has been prepared at the direction of the Board of Management and is a true and accurate account of the life of the school.

Signed:

John Michael Porter

John Michael Porter
Principal and Secretary to the Board of Management



Album



id Richie and sings n. She is so excited to nt. She is a very kind solutely loves singing ks up to her big sister songwriter. Last year, 14 Realta agus Gaolta sion. Proudly making 'Tonight' Katelyn will ger on her own. We are wish her the very best

Sarah Deevey
'Get it Right' by Leah Michelle
Sarah Deevey Age 13 from 'Tagoat took her singing to a whole new level during the lockdowns, using this time to teach herself new songs and improve her technique. During 2020 she was invited to sing on RTE's "Two Talented" presented by rugby legend Donnacha O'Callaghan. From here she was invited to compete on other tv shows and in Dec 2021 she competed in Dublin's RDS against singers from all over Ireland and won 1st prize. Who knows what's next for Sarah. She's doing what she loves and can't wait to sing for you all tonight.

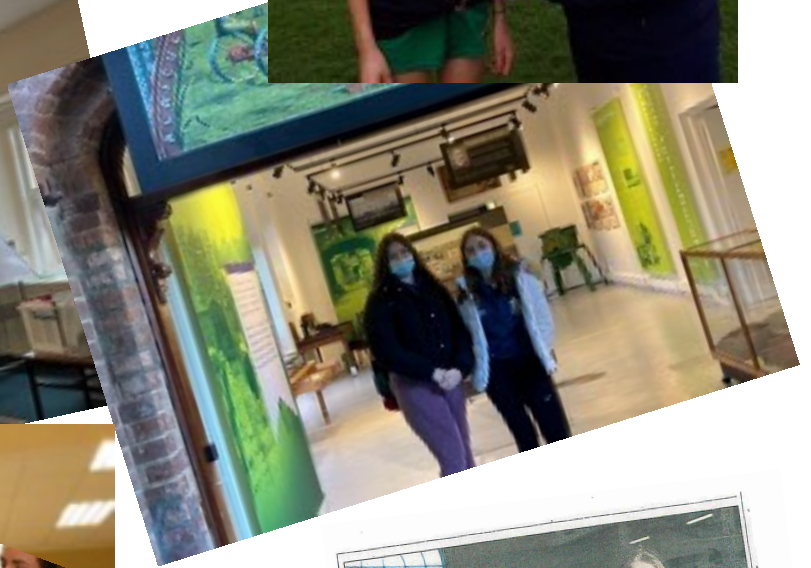
ansard and Marketa Heather
Medley of 3 songs - 'Song 2' by Blur, Day Tripper by The Beatles and 'Should I Stay Or Should I Go' by The Clash
A band from Wexford, they have been playing together for around 4 months. The band is made up of four mates, Enda on bass, Dean on guitar,



Album



Annual Report 2021-22



Album



Ross Town net €150,000 for FIFA approved pitch

By DAVID LOOBY

ONE of County Wexford's fastest growing clubs, New Ross Town FC finally have a place to call home at St. Mary's Secondary School, New Ross, having been awarded €150,000 to develop a FIFA approved full size AstroPitch there.

The funding announced in Friday's Sports Capital Programme will go towards the development of a full size,

FIFA approved, AstroTurf playing facility in the school grounds.

New Ross Town chairman, Pat Hanley, welcomed the news and thanked Liam Ros-

committee who liaised with the school to submit a detailed proposal.

Mr Hanley added that the club are excited at the prospect of developing a permanent base for their growing num-

bers of players from underage boys and girls to women's and men's teams. "It will also help links with other local groups," said Mr Hanley.

School principal, John Michael Porter, stated that the combined example of community in action with the school's emphasis on inclusivity and promotion of sporting opportunities for girls echoed

by the club's commitment to the development of teams for girls and for all members of the community.

"As well as club and community use the facility will be the students of our neighbouring primary schools, Bunscoil Rís and Catherine McAuley.

"We would like to thank Minister of State, Department of Justice, James Browne T.D. for his constant support, Min-

ister of State for Sport and the Gaeltacht, Jack Chambers T.D., who visited the school to view the project, local man Ger Mackey, District Manager of the Enniscorthy Municipal District, for his extensive advice and support, local councillor Michael Sheehan and the members of New Ross District Council and other local councillors and politicians for their support."

The project now proceeds to

the legal stage involving finalising the agreement between the school's property owners Educena, and the club.

A plan is in progress for additional funding and major fund raising events are being considered. It is intended that the first stage of the plan involving the laying of the AstroTurf pitch will commence later in the year and a launch detailing the phases of the plan will also be held.

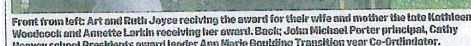
NEW ROSS STANDARD | Wednesday, February 16, 2022

NEWS

Album



Mick McCormack lays a wreath representing Thomas MacDonagh.



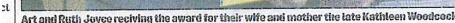
St. Mary's Secondary school was delighted to receive President Award Leaders Civic Leader certificates and medals of commendation for two staff members from Gaisce, the President's Award.

The Civic Leader awards honour teachers who have given their time voluntarily to mentor and support students in the Gaisce President's Award programme and principal, John Michael Porter, lauded the work of the teachers during their time as leaders and praised the students for the leadership skills to complete the personal challenges to obtain the award.

At a reception in the school Mr Art Joyce and daughter Ruth collected the award on behalf of the late Ms. Kathleen Woodcock who was the Transition Year coordinator and Ceiste PAI

Annette Larkin receiving her award

Music was provided by Caoimhe O'Dwyer and Hollie French and the group enjoyed refreshments, hosted by current TY co-ordinator Ms Annemarie Goulding.



NEW ROSS STANDARD | Wednesday, May 18, 2022

St Mary's students bake sale raises €740 for Pieta

A group of St Mary's TY students have raised over €790 for Pieta House through a well supported bake sale.

The team of Eimear Stafford, Caoimhe Bird, Shonagh Dempsey, Ella Furlong, Grace Glennon, Mckenzie Molloy, Kelly Nolan, Holly O'Toole and Ciara Sinnott decided to raise awareness about Pieta House within the school during their TY year.

"Pieta

The entire school got behind the girls, supporting them on the day both by baking and buying the goods.

"Our team of nine received the baked goods into our collection points. We displayed posters around the school and made announcements on the school intercom to advertise the event. We appointed different roles within the

team to manage the points of sale and to coordinate the sales queues.

"Over the course of the day we managed to raise over €740. We were so delighted with the outcome. We contacted Pieta House who were also delighted to hear of the success of our fund raising event and we organised the donation."

"She gave us a talk on the work that is done by Pieta House and how our money will help to fund multiple therapy sessions for individuals and families, and help to prevent a family from going through the pain that is caused when someone considers taking their own life. We were really successful in getting due to the support of students and teachers. We are proud of what our school has achieved and hope it can make a difference for Pieta and all those in need of their services," said Eimer.





20 NEWS

NEW ROSS STANDARD | Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Sophie Becker on a fast track to success as she graduates with degree

By BAW LOOBY

OLYMPIAN Sophie Becker says her DCU sports scholarship allowed her to train for the Olympics and also complete her degree to a high level. The Ballydooley woman graduated with a Genetics degree last week.

Sophie was one of two DCU Alumni who were part of a mixed relay team that secured sixth place in the 4x4000 meter final in Tokyo in July 2021. Now as a graduate with a BSc in Genetics and Cell Biology, she felt that as a first year in DCU in 2016 she was not anywhere near as successful as I am now. I would have been a mediocre athlete!

She chose the course because of her love of biology and said: "I researched courses and saw DCU had everything I wanted to do. I was like 'I want to do everything I can do' because it encompasses an athlete's life. I really liked it."

As an athlete she knew she had to be in County Westford and when she heard she had a talk about how good the athletics programme was there, she decided to apply.

She was also impressed by the coaches and said: "Overall it was perfect."

"They had the course I wanted and the athletics aspect was really good as well," Sophie tried in students and said they were like a second family so if you had a race at the weekend they would be there and if you were sick they would be there to look after you. Sophie was always busy with work, college and training.

"It was a crazy few years and I got through it."

It was in her final year that she was offered one of the options available with the scholarship. "I decided to do my final year over two years, which my scholarship allowed me to do and my course head was happy to let me do that. I had good reasoning as I was hoping to qualify for the Olympics. That was when I was really grateful to have it."

She would not have been able to do both of them to such a high level as she was able to do both.

The pandemic meant that the 2020 Olympics from Bunclohy was postponed and Sophie had to wait until the 2021/22 academic year she returned to DCU for the Olympics. In third year, Sophie did her internship with Murphy Processing Engineering in County Wick and began working part-time there for the summer.

When she returned from the Olympics, she took the offer of a permanent job with the company, not just for her course, she would be struggling to find work.



Sophie Becker on her graduation day.

30 NEWS

NEW ROSS STANDARD | Wednesday, April 20, 2022

WEXFORD PEOPLE WEXFORD HAS TALENT SEMI-FINAL SHOWDOWN

14 lucky acts make it through to grand final of ultra competitive Wexford Has Talent

THE 14 FINALISTS

Act: No Haste
Performing 'Millions Self Esteem' Dookey's 'No Haste' band called No Haste, from Roscommon, consisting of guitarist and lead vocalist, Conor Joyce, Lead guitarist, Ronan Joyce, Bassist, Eibhan Corcoran and Drummer, Tim Flood. They have been playing together since they were 16 and have been playing together for over 10 years. "When we all met, we started playing gigs and making music in late 2013. We hope to release an album this year, and play more venues and get our name out there."

Chloe Murphy
"Twist" by Olivia Rodrigo
Chloe Murphy, aged 17 years old from Kilmuck, Bunclohy, County Wick, has a passion for singing from a young age. Chloe has sung solo in her local church for a Christmas concert, she loves to take the lead role. Chloe also attended the Irish College of Music under Mr. Lally. Ann Mangan. Chloe recently submitted an audition to The Voice UK, showing that she has a passion to follow her dreams. Chloe's favourite singers are Olivia Rodrigo, Dua Lipa, Ariana Grande and Adele.

Curry Lacey
"I'm Good" and "Forever" by Sabrina Carpenter
Curry Lacey, 19 years old, is a contemporary and hip hop dancer. He has been dancing for over 10 years and has been teaching with West Level Dance School for nearly 5 years. He loves dance as it allows him to express himself and his emotions. Curry is currently studying at St. Mary's College and aims to go abroad and

Curry Lacey
"I'm Good" and "Forever" by Sabrina Carpenter
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