



Easter Newsletter - April 2019

Principal's Welcome

The purpose of our newsletter is to highlight all the many positive things that are happening in school in the last quarter. It is important that all stakeholders, parents, teachers and students are aware of all the great work that goes on as part of the school self evaluation/school improvement process.

However, it would be remiss of me not to discuss the difficult period that the school and our local community have gone through. Our newsletter reflects that today. We will always remember and cherish our wonderful colleague Dawn. Some of the pictures in this newsletter will highlight the beautiful impact that she has had.

Also in this newsletter we remember our vibrant student Mark Doogan and the lovely impact that he had on our school community. Our thoughts and prayers, at this time and in the times ahead, are with Dawn's family and her partner Patrick, also with Mark's family, friends and the many past pupils who are affected by both tragedies.

This newsletter highlights that we have to find a way to move forward, without forgetting and not without honouring the lovely memory of all who passed through these buildings over the years. Those who are with us and those who are no longer with us.

The aim of our newsletter is to celebrate the positivity and the privileged position that we are in, working with the various families of the Rosses and the various students.

We wish everyone well for the coming year. We also wish to congratulate our Senior Soccer panel, their Manager Mr Enda Walsh and all who helped lift the sadness a little bit and gave us a little bit of light with reaching the U17 All Ireland Final.

This quarter coming will also see another one of our amazing musical productions in 'Grease'. To Mr Gillen, Ms Duddy, Ms Laughlin, Suzanne and all the team who help out - thank you. This adds so much to the quality of life in our school and allows kids to develop in so many ways.

We would also like to highlight in our Leaving Certificate group last year, one of the most positive results has been that 23% of our students have gone into apprenticeships. Sadly, league tables do not take stock of this wonderful achievement as they only gauge those students who have qualified to go to college, which is at 72% this year.

We do celebrate and we have taken a choice in the last couple of years to direct our students to the value of apprenticeships. The costs of college can be considerable and this is a brilliantly alternative route and a very rewarding route. We are delighted to say that there is a great balance now in school over the last 2 years between apprenticeship programmes, third level and those who wish to go into the world of work.

As a school community, we are delighted that we are honouring the variety of gifts that our students have. Thank you as always for the pleasure of working with your lovely young people.

Kind wishes for the coming term.

John Gorman
Principal



John Gorman
PRINCIPAL



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Deputy Principal's Welcome

A Chairde,

As we approach the Easter break, we endeavour, through our newsletter, to give you a small insight into some of the wonderful happenings in our school over the last term. Great work has been done by all, staff and students, in such a wide range of activities with the ongoing support of our parent body. Over the last number of months, we have had students excel in both the academic and non-academic areas. We are exceedingly proud of their success.

This has been a challenging term for both staff and students; where we lost our colleague, teacher and friend, Ms Dawn Croke. Dawn was a valuable and respected member of our school community and we all feel a great sense of loss. Dawn's passing has shown us all that is good about our community and, more specifically, our school community. We are very proud of how our students rallied to support us, the staff, and each other during this difficult time. We hope that, going forward, we can honour Dawn's memory by always striving to reach our full potential and living life to the full.

I would like to pay particular tribute to our sports students and their coaches, who have showcased the talent, drive and abilities of our students on a county, provincial and national level - we are very proud of you all. To all who participated in our Musical, we congratulate them on a superb show. All are a credit to themselves and to their school. Credit must be paid to our students who participated so well in national competitions this year such as YSI, Young Scientist, AIB Bank competition and others - thank you for representing us so well.

It is all this variety and activity that makes our school an interesting, dynamic place that is constantly challenging and stimulating.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Dáire Gillen
Deputy Principal



Dáire Gillen
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL





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Ms Dawn Croke



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In memory of our dear colleague & friend, Ms. Dawn Croke

*I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun;
Of happy memories that I leave when life is done.*





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Core Values

Core Values

Respect

—

Encouragement

—

Collaboration

—

Kindness

—

Accountability

—

Celebrate achievement

—

Student Centered

—

Best Practice

The Rosses Community School operates through reflective practice and reflective approach to all aspects of school life.

The Rosses Community School operates a solutions based approach to all aspects of school life.

The Rosses Community School strives for best practice in all aspects of school life.



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Student Leadership

Student Leadership

Impact, Influence and Inspiration.

Student leadership involves providing our students with opportunities to practice and develop a range of leadership skills in a supportive, learning and social environment where success and errors are processed and reflected upon.

Leaders are required to communicate well, engage in critical thinking and lead groups in problem solving and planning. The leadership framework within the Rosses Community School provides opportunities and experiences that facilitate our students' transition from school life into the community and beyond into the world of work and adult responsibility.

Prefects

The Prefects at the Rosses Community School form an integral part of the pastoral care structure in the school. Prefects are involved in many aspects of school life and act as ambassadors to the school at all times. Prefects set an example of the highest personal standards of uniform, punctuality, attendance, courtesy and attention to school rules.

Student Council

The membership of the Student Council consists of twelve students elected from the student body. The Student Council represent our students' interests and liaise with school management to improve the student experience of all.

Mentors

The Mentors are 5th Year students who volunteer to undergo training in leadership, relationship-building and communication in order to work solely with incoming 1st year students to help them adapt to their new school surroundings. Mentors meet the 1st year students weekly and are a helping hand in enabling them to meet new people from within the school community.



Head Boy - Dean McDevitt & Head Girl - Lauryn Doherty



Prefects



Student Council



5th Year Mentors



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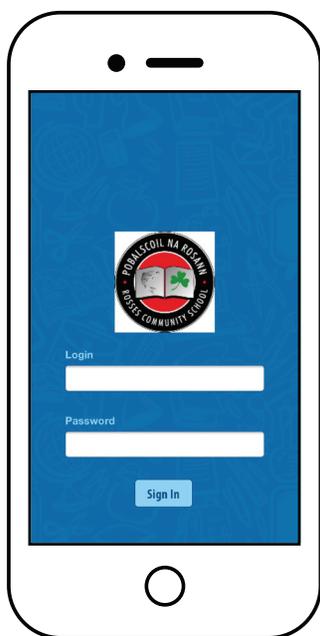
Keeping You Informed

Keeping You Informed



Website

www.rossescommunityschool.ie



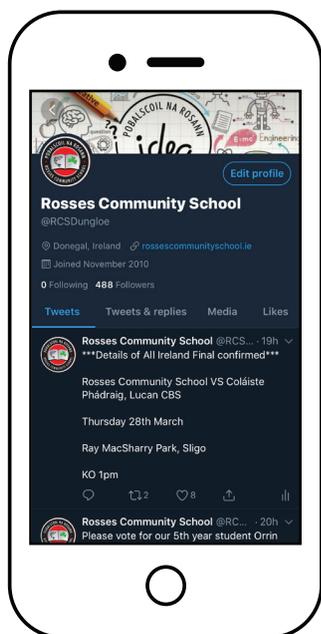
VSware

www.rossescs.vsware.ie



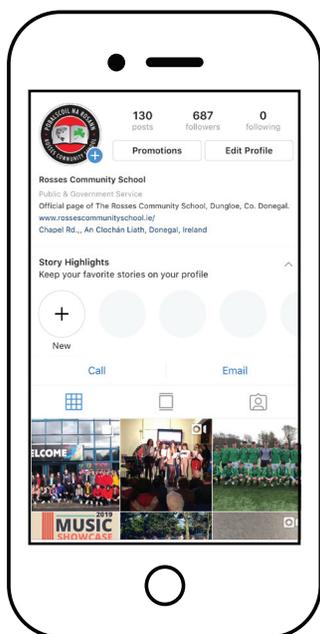
Facebook

www.facebook.com/rcsdungloe



Twitter

www.twitter.com/RCSDungloe



Instagram

www.instagram.com/rossescs



PDF Newsletter



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Dates for your diary

Dates for your diary

28th April - 3rd May

TY Trip to Barcelona

13th May

6th Year Biology Field Trip

1st - 3rd May

LC Construction Practical

16th May

RCS Careers Fair

1st May

LCVP Examination

21st May

RCS Awards Day

3rd May

Completion date for Junior Cycle Art Project

22nd May

6th Year Social Night

8th - 10th May

LC Engineering Practical

23rd - 29th May

House Exams

8th May

1st year Boys & Girls Vaccinations

29th May

All students finished for Summer Holidays

10th May

Celebrating Women Day

5th June

JC & LC State Examinations begin



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Sporting Achievements

Sporting Achievements

U14 Boys Gaelic - County Finalists

U14 Girls Soccer - Ulster Finalists

U17 Boys Soccer - Ulster Champions, All Ireland Finalists

Our 1st Year Girls' athletics team won the regional heat and placed 2nd in the County Final School's Athletics in January.

Amy Greene is the current Ulster Champion at 1500m on the Indoor track & is currently training for All Ireland's at this distance.

Aidan Mc Cole qualified for Ulster Schools XC Finals in 2019 following on from his success at District C and building on his 13th place finish at the All Ireland Cross Country B Championships in January 2019.





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Notable Achievements / The Arts & Literature

Notable Achievements This Term

Our Transition Year students have entered the VEX Robotics Competition with the help of Ms Karen Boyle.

Student Enrichment evening classes are taking place at the RCS. English and maths classes are running at present.

TY & 5th Year students had the opportunity of completing a tourism course in partnership with LYIT

A very successful Anti-bullying week was held in the school with guest speakers from Donegal Youth Services and An Garda Siochana. Congratulations to the prefects for organising the events.

The Arts & Literature

World Book Day - Celebrated in style at the RCS

Anti Bullying Poster & Poetry Competition - The 3 poetry winners were Fiachra McGettigan, Neil Kennedy and Dayna Dixon. The 3 poster winners were Erin Gallagher, Tara Geoghegan and Aishling Rodgers.

Grease the Musical will take place on 9th - 12th April. We wish all the students and staff involved the very best of luck.

Congratulations to our LC Music class on a very successful Recital Night held in the school.

JC students in French and Spanish completed their oral exams in January.

LC French students doing oral exams (worth 25%) week of 25th March.

Ben Eustace from Google New York presented an online careers talk to TYs.

We celebrated 'Día de San Valentin' in the language classes.

First Year Spanish student sent letters to pen friends in Majorca.

Our Spanish teacher Ms Aguilo completed an Erasmus+ trip to France.

Mr Forrestal completed an Erasmus+ trip to Greece.



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Term Photos





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School Outings

School Outings

On the 5th March 22 second year history students and their teachers Mr. Forrestal and Mrs McLoughlin and SNA Kathleen McGonagle headed to Belgium for a 3 day of tour the WW1 battle sites of the Somme and Ypres.

Mrs Doherty's Cultural Studies class have been very busy visiting many historical sites across the county

John and Maks visit Lakeside Boarding Kennels as part of their short course - Caring For Animals

U14 Boys' Gaelic Panel travelled to Parkhead, Glasgow to watch Celtic take on Valencia

Our 5th Year students attended a very informative careers fair in Ballybofey

Our music students represented us at the opening of the TUSLA Respite Centre in Letterkenny in March

Our TY girls attended the iWish Conference at the RDS in February

Our TY & 5th Year students attended the AIB Future Sparks Festival at the RDS in March

Our TY students are preparing for their end of year tour to Barcelona, Tarragona, Salou and Montserrat

Transition & 5th Year students visited the Music Department in University of Ulster Magee in March

Our TY Tourism class visited Donegal Airport and the Waterfront Hotel as part of their course.





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Term Photos





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Other News

Other News

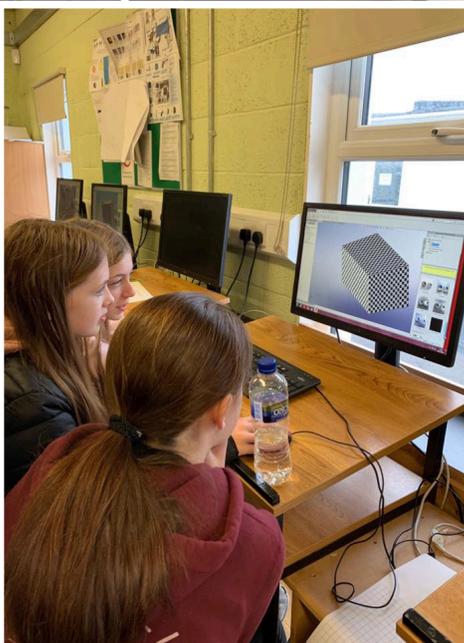
€400 raised for Oesophageal Cancer on Lollipop Day

The RCS welcomed 97 6th class students for our 1st Year Induction 2019 at the school.

Congratulations to Kieran Glackin and Alfie Greene on representing our school so brilliantly at this year's BT Young Scientist Awards

A Healthy Eating Policy was introduced in the school and we have been awarded the 'Happy Heart Award'. Well done to all involved.

Students organised a very successful fundraising day for Daffodil Day





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Committees

Committees

TEACHING & LEARNING

Actions:

- Green Stickers were put on all the doors with velcro attached to assist with peer visits for teachers to promote best practice.
- Section of the staff room notice board will have an area for teachers to write down what would be of interest for teachers to observe.
- Dividing the group into 3 sub committees:
 - Curriculum Development
 - Literacy and Numeracy
 - IT Development

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND OTHERS

Actions:

- Development of the Erasmus Programme, including Mr Forrestal's visit to Greece and Ms Aguilo's visit to Normandy in France.
- Further development of our social media presence.
- Parent Network information evenings.
- Grease Musical.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE, ATTAINMENT AND RETENTION

Actions:

- A multi-tiered approach to improve attendance
- This is an evidence based approach
- RCS will use data collected this year so far to introduce attendance improvement plan after Easter
- Focus should be on improved rather than perfect attendance
- ARA committee will define RCS 3 tier plan for our own multi-tiered approach



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Committees

INFRASTRUCTURE

Actions:

- Making props for Grease, the musical
- Refurb of the classroom in the gym and moving the machines
- SEAI electricity readings
- Ensuring the school community is more energy aware

Key Priorities:

- Continuation of SEAI electricity readings
- Ensuring all fire extinguishers are in date and correct type
- Painting and refurb of running track (when weather improves)

BEALACH STRAITÉISEACH NA GAEILGE

Gníomhartha:

- Ceannaíodh leabhair Gaeilge fá choinne leabharlann na scoile, seo leabhair atá bunaithe ar an Teastas Sóisearach nua don Ghaeilge.
- Tá cúrsa traenála déanta in Ionad an Acadaimh i nGaoth Dobhair maidir le cur chun cinn an teicneolaíocht sa seomra ranga.
- Críochnaíodh 'Cearnóg na Gaeilge' agus ceannaíodh trealamh nua don chearnóg.
- Tugadh cuairt ar na bunscoileanna sa cheantar le heolas a scaipeadh faoin Sruth Gaelach.

STUDENT VOICE / STUDENT COUNCIL

Actions:

- Sourcing and measurement of Camogie tops for girls
- Looking at possibility of Sandwiches in the canteen
- Review of Mocks
- School toilets updated and checked

Key Priorities:

- Designing, ordering and getting the camogie tops.
- Doing a survey to see if there is a demand/ types/ fillings of sandwiches
- TV working in assembly areas.
- Possible TY Hoodies got at start of school year (September 2019) could wear them then to trips etc



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Committees

PARENTS' NETWORK

Recent Activities:

- Meeting 7th January 2019
- Meeting 11th February 2019
- Hosted a Internet Safety Talk for all parents on 4th March 2019
- Relaunches email address parentsnetwork@rossescommunityschool.ie
- Established representatives for each year group to feed back to meetings of Parents' Network on emerging issues within year groups and to be available as point of contact to represent parents.

Key Priorities:

- Next meeting Monday 1st April 2019 4:30 to 5:30 pm
- Parents' Network tab on school website - add photographs of committee members/year group representatives to increase awareness of Parents' Network.
- Host coffee morning for parents of incoming 1st Years
- Workshop on Chromebooks, Google suite and Vsware.
- Contribute to Careers Fair in May





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Term Photos





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