



DE LA SALLE COLLEGE

WATERFORD



December 2023

A Message From Our Principal

As we approach the Christmas Holidays, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge our staff members Mr O' Doherty and Ms Barry who retired in October. I would like to thank them for their service and commitment over the years. I wish them both well in retirement where I'm sure new opportunities will come their way. I would like to congratulate Ms Ahern in her new role on the Leadership Team as Acting Deputy Principal and Mr O' Brien as 1st year Year Head. Welcome also to our new additions on the Leadership Team, Ms Middleton who has taken over Ms Barry's role in the Student Council and Ms White who is responsible for Digital Learning and Teaching.



I want to thank the new members of our Board of Management in the College and express my gratitude as they take on this voluntary role over the next three years. I wish you all the very best for the important role you undertake.

I would like to thank the staff, the parents and students for their continued support since September. The Lasallian Spirit is evident when we look back at all the curricular, co-curricular and extra curricular activities that have taken place since our return in late August.

To the De La Salle Brothers in our Community who continue to contribute so much to the staff and students in the College on a daily basis. We are blessed to have these mighty men living in the College and who are always there to support us.

Christmas time is a time of reflection and we keep in mind our staff members, students and parents in our School Community who are currently unwell at the moment and keep them in our prayers as we wish them all a full recovery.

A big thank you to all the students and staff who contributed to this newsletter and to the Student Council who along with Ms Middleton have produced an excellent Christmas newsletter. So much goes on in De La Salle College on a daily basis that it is impossible to fit everything into the newsletter. Remember to keep up to speed, follow us on twitter which can also be accessed on the school website.

Finally, I hope that you and your family have a peaceful and happy Christmas and that the new year 2024 will bring good fortunes.

Live Jesus in our hearts forever.

Tom Bourke



Tribute to Ms. Barry

Unfortunately in September of this year our previous Liaison Teacher Grace Barry retired. Ms Barry put everything into the Student Council and supported every one of our wild decisions. She was involved with the committee for over a decade, throughout that decade she made the school a better place for students and helped raise thousands for a vast range of different charities from local St Vincent De Paul & Soles Centres to helping Ukraine during the war and Earthquake appeal in Turkey. She helped organise sponsored walks for a range of chartists and sports days for students. She was passionate about every project that we undertook and was determined to finish every job. Ms Barry will be missed and her impact on the school can't go unnoticed. We'd like to thank Ms Barry for everything she did for us, the council could not have run smoothly without her.



Movie Afternoon

On the 20th of December the lucky class of 2AOK settled down for the final two classes and watched the beloved "How The Grinch Stole Christmas". When they arrived the room was decorated with all sorts of Christmas wrapped furniture, tinsel hung around boards and even the door covered in rapping paper! The boys were supplied with goodie-bags full of treats as they watched the film.

The class won the film due to their generous donations to the SVP food drive help in the school the previous Friday. The boys brought in a landslide of unwanted toys and non-perishable food items, in total they brought in five bags full of donations. They are a credit to themselves and they don't know the impact they have made this Christmas.



We are so thankful for everyone who brought in donations for the food drive, you've made someone smile during this hard time of year.

The De La Salle Show

Over the years De La Salle has become famous for its musicals and this year was no exception. This year marked the 44th De La Salle College Musical Society production. Our show "We Will Rock You" took place in the college sports hall back in October, we were delighted to have packed audiences each night. The rock musical was a fantastic success featuring many of Queen's iconic hits such as "I Want to Break Free" and "Radio Gaga". Huge congratulations to our fabulous cast and many thanks to all of the teachers, parents and volunteers in our community who helped to make it happen.

The show is always a hit every year and it is a great opportunity for students to try musical theatre for the first time or help out back stage and front of house, while developing their skills and meeting new people. Just going to see the show is a great support.



Young Ambassador Youth Awards

Six De la Salle College students were awarded with Lions Club Young Ambassador Youth Award in recognition for their voluntary work in their local community (see picture below!). They went through an interview process and competed against young people from schools around Waterford. They had two rounds of interviews where they had to talk about their CV's and voluntary work. That was then followed by a lunch in the Tower Hotel with their fellow nominees, The Lions, the Mayor and teachers from the schools involved. This Award was launched and supported by the Waterford Lions Club

In photograph left to right, (Back row: Caoilan Walsh, Darragh Bolger, Patrick O Leary) (Front row: Ben Collins, Evan de Courcey Flynn, Darragh O' Dempsey) Included is Mr D O' Brien, Deputy Principal. .



The Hub

The hub have had a great term here in De La Salle. They have had lots to celebrate and lots to do. One of their favourite past times here in The Hub is the allotment in Wyse Park. Looking after the allotment has become quite popular amongst the lads and we have produced a range of vegetables, which the boys then use to make delicious vegetable based treats. The herb garden is growing strong; we will have Rosemary, Parsley, Oregano and Thyme ready for Christmas also.

The social outing calendar has been busy since September, allowing the boys to gain independence in social areas - ordering their own drinks, food and doing the shopping needed for their weekly cookery lesson. Plans to travel further from January are also on the cards - hello public transport! We had our first 18th Birthday in The Hub, Alex turned 18, it was a really lovely day with lots of treats enjoyed!

We sadly waved goodbye to Caleb who has moved back to his beloved Kerry. We will really miss Caleb and his witty personality around the school. We wish Caleb the very best of luck with the rest of LCA 2 and life in Kerry. We might even organise a school tour to visit him!

As has become tradition, we had our 'Pizza and Panto' night at the beginning of December. This was a great night, the Waterford Panto Society yet again provided a night of laughter, singing and dancing. The boys loved it!

We have our first 3 students almost finished the L2LP and L1LP curriculum on offer—this is a huge achievement, well done to our 3rd year boys completing this.



DEAR Challenge

All 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year students took part in October in De La Salle's DEAR Challenge to promote literacy and bring back the joy of reading. A challenge in itself to get over 25 classes to 'Drop Everything and Read' at the same time but it was a great success & many more are to come. Organised by Ms A Phelan, it is one of many exciting initiatives that the Library Team are running this year.



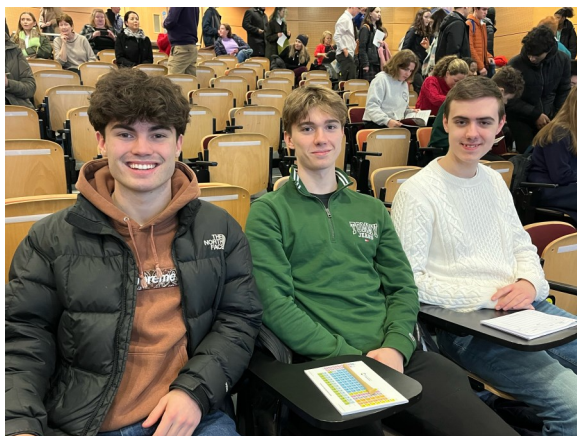
College Chess Club

Our chess club has resumed this year. All are welcome to come along and play chess in C9 on Tuesday lunchtime (12.30 and 13.10). From January the chess club will also meet on Friday lunchtime (12.30 and 13.10) as we gear up for challenge games against other schools and competition later in the year. We have always had a history of successful chess teams in the school, for example we came second at the All-Irelands last year. We would love to keep up the thriving chess scene in De La Salle and hope to see some fresh faces and new talent. All are very welcome!



Senior science quiz

Two teams of 6th year science students competed in the annual ISTA senior science quiz held during science week in SETU. Robert, Fionn and Delvin finished in a very commendable 5th place. George, Luke and Cormac won the regional round in SETU and competed in the national finals held in Trinity College Dublin on December 2nd, where they finished in a tie for 9th place. This was a fantastic achievement against many of the best science students in the country. All students involved had a great time and enjoyed their days out during the events. Well done to all involved you should be very proud of yourselves!



Computer Science Department

The Computer Science Department have been very busy this term organising visits from the 'Mathematics and Computing Department' from SETU for all of our 5th and 6th year Computer Science students. We welcomed Bernie McKeown from SETU and past pupils of De La Salle College who are studying computing at SETU or who have qualified from SETU and are working in the I.T. industry. The students got a great insight into the computing courses available and what college life is like in SETU.



Christmas Concert

The annual Christmas concert took place in the College Chapel on Monday the 11th of December. It was a fantastic occasion with many performances from the students which included Trad, Classical, Musical Theatre, Rock and Pop music. We are so lucky to have such a wide range of talent here in the College and it is spectacular that we got to show it off to the friends and family who came along to this fantastic night. The night finished with a rousing performance from the Senior Choir that put us all in a festive mood.

Thanks to all who helped, particularly Ms. Flynn backstage and Ms. Doolan, front of house, and the students who looked after the sound. Well done to all!



College Choir

Every year, Christmas is a very busy time for the choir and this year was no exception, they started their Christmas exploits in the Sacred Heart Church at the WLR Christmas concert which will be played on Christmas day. They then sang at the Ad Hoc Chorale and friends concert in the Cathedral in the city centre. They went out to sing at Waterford Hospital to show their appreciation for all the hardworking staff. As well as that they sang carols for the children in St. Martins School who danced and sang along with them. They made an appearance at the beautiful Carols by Candlelight and lastly of course they performed their usual six carol services for the various year groups in the school. A huge well done to all the lads and a big thanks to Brother Ben, Ms. Harrison and Mr. P O'Brien whose work can never go unnoticed.



Gaeilgeoiri na Míosa

I mbliana, cuireadh tús leis an bhfeachtas “Gaeilgeoir na Míosa”. Is feachtas é seo a spreagann daltaí úsáid a bhaint as an nGaeilge labhartha sa rang agus ar fud na scoile. Tugtar na gradaim ag deir-eadh na míosa agus is iad na múinteoirí a dhéanann na hainmniúcháin. Tugann na gradaim seo aitheantas do na daltaí a dhéanann iarracht an Ghaeilge a labhairt. Níl béim ar an ngramadach nó ar chaighdeán na Gaeilge ach ar an dtoilteanas an teanga a labhairt. Go dtí seo, tá teastais faighte ag níos mó ná 40 daltaí. Comhghairdeas leo go léir.

Cleachtadh a dhéanann Máistreacht

Irish Speaker of the Month

This year, a new initiative called “Gaeilgeoir na Míosa” was started in the college. The aim of this initiative is to encourage students to use their spoken Irish in class and throughout the school. The awards are given at the end of the month and it is the Irish teachers who nominate the students. The awards give recognition to the students who make an effort to speak Irish. The emphasis is not on grammar or the standard of Irish, but instead on the willingness to speak the language. To date, over 40 students have received the certs. Congratulations to them all!, don’t forget practice makes perfect!



Yellow Flag Programme

The Yellow Flag Programme provides a practical series of 8 steps that bring issues of inter-culturalism, equality and diversity into the whole-school programme and allows schools to apply them to the day to day running of the school. It works with students, staff, management, parents and wider community groups so that issues of diversity and equality are not merely seen as “school subjects” but can be understood and taken outside the school setting into everyone’s personal lives. Similar to the Green Schools Programme, the Yellow Flag is an award scheme. On successfully completing the 8 steps and being evaluated externally, the school is awarded its Yellow Flag in recognition of its work in promoting diversity & inclusion.

The award is publicised locally, and the school can fly its flag with pride and use the logo on its official correspondence. The school will be running this programme for the next two years, with Ms. Flynn as programme lead as well as Mr. Walsh, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Howlin and Ms. Fowler supporting.



Student Conference On Climate Change

TY students selected to attend this event and represent our school were Cathal O' Brien, Harry Smith and Sean McGrath. This day saw student/teacher teams from different Waterford schools visiting City Hall and taking part in a climate conference for young people. During this busy day, they had a chance to offer input on the national and regional Climate Action Plan as part of the consultation process. Cathal, Harry & Sean were excellent representatives for the school and their engagement and input on the day was well received by all members of city council on the day.



Quercus Entrance Scholarship

We were delighted to see Aidan Burke of last year's outstanding Leaving Cert class at University College Cork recently, where he received a Quercus Entrance Scholarship. An impeccably polite and excellent student, Aidan is now studying Biomedical Science in UCC. Aidan is photographed alongside Principal Mick Walsh.



Public Speaking

One of our fifth year students Caoilan Walsh recently competed in the Waterford public speaking competition and came out on top! He was rewarded with a brand new fifth gen iPad for his troubles and got the opportunity to compete in Trinity at a national level. A big well done to Caoilan! We are very proud of his accomplishments and can't wait to see what he does he next.



The De La Salle Library

When is a book so much more than a book? When is a room so much more than a room?

The Library has been an absolute joy to work in over the last few months. Both Ms Stack and Ms. Knox have given their all to this project as they believe the room itself and all it contains, are quite precious. It is their hope that staff and students can enjoy the wonderful atmosphere in the Library and perhaps, give some books a chance to entertain, enthrall and challenge you!

Our school was founded in 1895 but some of the books in the Library go further back into our history. What a fantastic legacy for us all to appreciate today!

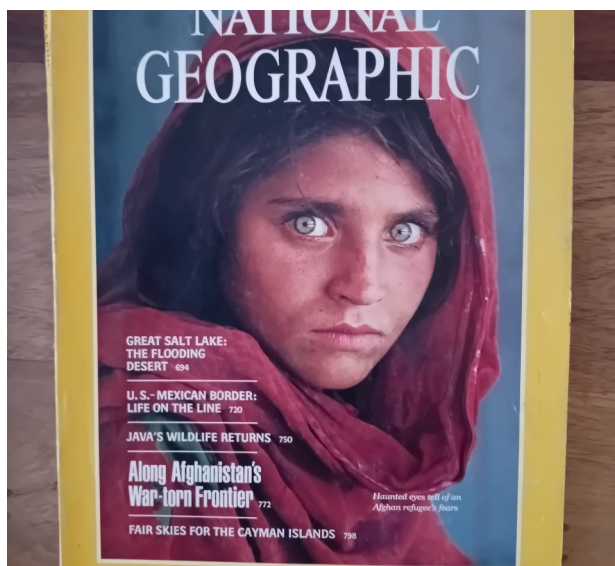
Some students have already been in awe at what is on view; 1912 Dictionaries, Tech Graph drawings from the 1800s, a beautiful book published by John Bull here in Waterford on the French Revolution, 'Skinner's Road Maps of Ireland' 1778, 'Dante's Inferno' with illustrations by Gustav Dore, 'Illustrations from The Book of Kells', Charles Darwin's 'The Origin of the Species' an entire cabinet of Gaeligethe list of wonders is truly endless.

We can all feel the benefits of spending time in the Library. The Library Team (Ms Knox, Ms Phelan, Ms Mernagh and Ms Hanratty) will be introducing new lunchtime activities for students in the New Year. Some of you have already been creative with reading; Drop Everything and Read, The Great Poetry Competition, The Great Reads Awards - well done all of you!

There have been many people involved in transforming this space, we would like to compliment Ms Stack on her amazing efforts; Ms McDonagh, Mr Tom O'Neill (retired DLS teacher), Mr Brosnan and Mr O'Brien, Alan and Brendan for all their hard work too. Also thanks to the students who were so helpful over the last few weeks (Jack Power, you deserve a special mention for your creativity!)

'Thank You' to the Management of De La Salle College for supporting us in our endeavour to bring the room to life again. Ms Knox who has led this transformation of the library needs to be thanked also, without her and her efforts this simply could not have happened, her time and work is appreciated by so many. Last but not least, 'Thank you' De La Salle Brothers both past and present for what is a truly fantastic facility in our school!

So let us all enjoy the Library. At a time when AI and technology is rapidly changing our world, let us all appreciate something real and true...real books written by real people.



Young SVP Conference

Approximately thirty of our TY students are running the Young SVP conference in the school. They are doing great work for the Saint Vincent De Paul foundation, recently they ran a bake sale in the school study hall raising over 400 euro. Some of the students in the conference also volunteer their time collecting over the weekends. They hope their efforts can help those who are struggling at Christmas time and hope they have contributed if even in a small way. Drop the conference a follow on Instagram @svpdls!!



Student Council

Recently the responsibility of student council co-ordination has been taken up by Ms. Middleton, after Ms. Barry's retirement, with an initial focus on updating members, elections, etc. Our short term goals are to confirm this year's members and vote on committee members whilst co-ordinating our usual events. There is a new noticeboard for the Student Council on the A Floor corridor., opposite the Locker Room. We hope to keep the school community updated on the goings-on and activities of the Council through this noticeboard, after all the Council is there as the voice of the students. To date we have ran the SVP Food Drive, for this we organised a Tutor Group competition where donations were collected group by group. The winning group 2AOH enjoyed a Cinema Afternoon to reward their generosity. We held a No Uniform Day which raised over €1000 for UNCIEF's urgent Aid Relief in Gaza. We have also published our Christmas newsletter keeping the school community updated on a busy term here in the College. We also helped organise the Christmas Jumper Day which took place on the 20th of December. All years took part and the best jumpers took home chocolate as a prize. We hope to ratify our Constitution early in the New Year and start planning some exciting events for 2024!



LCA Woodwork Christmas Crib

Bishop Alphonsus, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, visited De La Salle College on the 8th of November and asked the LCA students would they consider making a Bethlehem village scene for the city. He presented them with the small figures and the boys accepted the challenge and with the help and expertise of the Woodwork and Art departments they planned, designed and constructed the beautiful Crib which is now on display outside the Cathedral. Huge work went into this masterpiece and massive credit goes to the students' creativity and ingenuity and we hope it will bring great joy to the people of Waterford and beyond over the Christmas festive season. Many are seriously impressed with this construction and if you are in Waterford please pay it a visit—it will inspire you.



Transition Year Ballyhass Trip

Ballyhass is an adventure centre in Cork, with many adventurous activities giving students thrilling experiences including, zip lines over a river from mountain to mountain, axe throwing, rope swinging and the wonderful waterpark that everyone enjoyed the most. This trip was held in the 1st month of the Transition Year programme, and used to bring all the students together, creating bonds and memories to cherish and which will carry on in the future. All students really enjoyed themselves to the fullest on this trip!



Trip to the WCFE

TY students got the opportunity to visit Waterford College of Further Education and get a taster of multiple courses on offer in our local PLC college. This initiative was aimed at helping students identify a potential career to pursue in the future. Some students were taught in early child care, photography, animal care, media, hairdressing and more. This time was full of fun while being an educational experience for the TY's.



TY Barista Course

TY's have had the option of doing a Barista Course this year in Under The Clock coffee shop. They were shown how to pull espresso shots and make different drinks like lattes and cappuccinos. It was a good learning experience for all and at the end participants received their level one barista certificate which they can now put on the CV's!



John Paul II Awards

Some TY students have taken up the challenge of the John Paul II awards. The Award enables participants to take an active part in the life of their Church and their community. Some activities these students are undertaking include Mass, readings, I.T mass presentations and coffee mornings. There are many more activities to help their local parish and community in the coming weeks.

We would also like to congratulate the students who completed the awards during the last school year who travelled to Lismore back in October with Br Tom. Three of the students received a Gold award which is a huge achievement. We are all very proud of all the students who are doing the JP2 awards.



Dundrum On Ice

After the TY's Christmas exams, all six classes went on a trip to Dundrum. They went ice skating and shopping afterwards around the shopping centre. Everyone involved had a great time and got Christmas shopping done. Perhaps some of the students favourite moments were watching as their teachers tried their hand at skating. A big thanks to Mr. Ormond, Mr. Morrissey, Ms. Phelan, Ms. Harrington and Ms. Cantwell for bringing the TY's up to Dublin.

Christmas Decorating

The TY'S also took part in a class decoration competition where they picked their favourite teacher and turned their classroom into a winter wonderland. The class that won the festive competition was TY6 who beautifully decorated Ms McManus' classroom with colourful light sand other festive attire.



The Harty Cup 2024

De la Salle's Harty team lost out to St Flannans by 1 point in a crunch tie at Fethard back in November. It was a close battle with confusion at the end of the game over a score board mistake. Ard Scoil Ris of Limerick, the competition favourites, beat us in Bansha on the last day to end our campaign. It was a tough group but it is good to be competing with other power houses in Munster in what is a very competitive hurling competition in Munster.

At local level the 3rd team reached the B Final v Waterpark. It took place on Wednesday 20th in the SETU Arena. De La Salle College 1 and De La Salle College 2 also played in the Waterford county semi final on Dec. 14th .

It was and continues to be a good journey but the future is bright as we have 10 hurlers who will be in 6th year next year. We are disappointed that we were knocked out but we feel that this was not to be our year. Our joint captains of the Harty were Callum Carroll and Aaron O Neill who lead from start to finish.



Basketball

A huge well done to the under 16 and under 19 basketball squads who competed in the Kilkenny & South East Basketball league. The under 16's were unlucky not to qualify for playoffs however the under 19's lost out in the final to Presentation De La Salle Bagnelstown in the SETU Arena. Both teams represented the school admirably, we are very proud of everyone involved!



Soccer

This year Jason Healy represented Ireland 12 times including in May when he played in the Euros and reached the quarter final going out against Spain while beating Hungary and Wales to get out of our group. He signed his first ever pro contract at 17 also making his professional debut for Waterford at 17 which was a massive achievement. With Ireland he's been to Hungary, Holland, Norway and Cyprus all representing Ireland. In November he was involved in the first team's promotion back up to the premier division by beating Cork 2-1 in the play off final. This year was a real high on a personal for Jason and as a collective point of view and he can't wait for the new year to start and to get back going again.



Reflections from Romeo Akachukwu ... In May of 2023 I played the European finals against Poland, Wales, Hungary and Spain. Against Wales I scored a memorable and special goal which meant a lot to me. They pushed on and made it to the last 8 in the tournament in Europe. In November of 2023 I scored my first career hat trick against Athlone town where I was substituted and came on to help the team win 3-1. I then pushed on and started the remaining games in the playoffs and helped the team to get promoted into the premier division. Later that month I flew out to Albania where we were unfortunate not to qualify whilst being in a tough group. As of now I am looking forward to the new season in the top flight and cannot wait to get started!

Under 15 soccer team

Our Under-15 soccer team had a great victory over a strong Carrigtwohill team this afternoon. Darragh Hutchinson set the tone for the game when he opened the scoring within five minutes, with Seán Lyons Mullan helping himself to a hat-trick! Orion Cala and Josh Paul also got themselves on the scoresheet. A big thanks to Whitebox Property, who sponsored their new half-zip and Thanks also to jersey sponsors, Fairway Coaches! We are very proud of the students and wish them the best in the future.



Peer Education & Climate Action

Ms. Butler-Kelly has been doing great work in the school with peer education programmes and climate action initiatives.

Firstly, some of the students organised a peer education session with first years where they invited a first year class group (1EmH) to take part in some activities designed to teach awareness of climate action and climate change with special emphasis on single use plastics. This event was enjoyed by all.

In the second event, again some of the TY environmental studies students attended a mini workshop in conjunction with Oide about a European project called Climate Detectives. At this workshop the students learnt about how to become 'climate detectives' and the steps required if they wished to partake in this European project. After the workshop, some students have submitted their ideas for investigations as part of this project and their submissions are being reviewed currently by a panel of scientists. We wish them the very best of luck with this project.



First Year Overnight Soccer

We were delighted to run our fantastic Overnight Soccer Fundraiser for 1st Years this term. All of the students in attendance both evenings, had a great time with plenty of football, pizza and PlayStation! Over €5,000 was raised on night 1, with 1AK raising the most to earn a homework free week! On Night 2 €3,462 was raised by the students. This is amazing fundraising for an extremely worth cause.

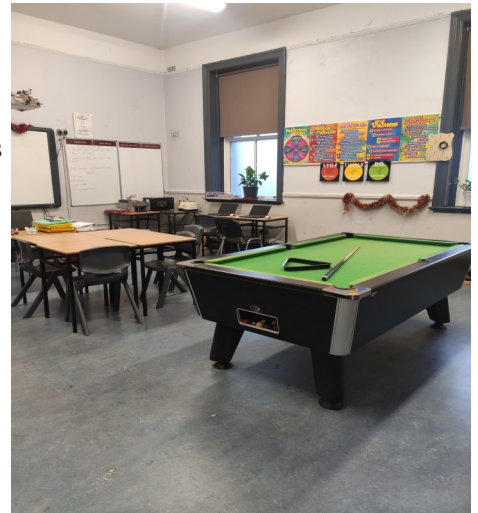
Well done to everyone involved in these De La Salle College Waterford All-Night-Soccer events, with a whopping over €8,500 raised towards the Lasallian Project 2023 to build eight classrooms in Keelamudiman in India. Congratulations to all the students and the staff that helped out. It was a great success. A huge thanks to the TY and 5th Year students who helped out, and also Br. Tommy who has been involved with the event since 22 November 1988!



Behavioural Support

De La Salle College introduced the behavioural support room into the college in September 2021, Mr Ellis and Ms O'Neill were actively involved in the setting up and subsequently the running of the BST room in the school. A space has been created where the main objective is for students who may be experiencing difficulties and challenges in the school to come and avail of the various programmes and resources that both teachers can provide.

The main goal for those with us in BST is to receive the necessary support and assistance required during their time here in school and to ensure that their experience here in De La Salle College is both positive and rewarding. Furthermore students within BST can avail of a cooking class once a week, which is an ideal opportunity for them to learn a new skill and interact in a positive social environment, to date this has been an extremely popular incentive for those involved, students also can look forward to an end of year trip, a highlight for the students at the end of a busy academic year. We look forward to developing and growing BST further in the future.



Great Reads Award

Here are some of our students are participating in the 'Great Reads Award' 2023. All the students enjoyed reading Irish works and get new insight about Irish authors.

Poetry Competition

In a harmonious celebration of creativity and expression, our school recently concluded a captivating poetry competition that brought forth a tidal wave of talent from our student body. The event, featuring two categories; Senior Cycle and Junior Cycle. Many students wrote heartfelt poems and four judges had the challenging task of picking the best ones.

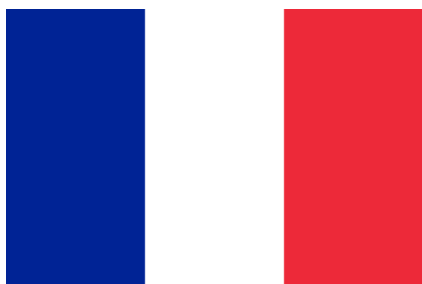
Luke Comerford Grant, a brilliant 6th-year student, emerged triumphant in the Senior Cycle category with his evocative poem titled 'Dark Chocolate.'

In the Junior Cycle category, the spotlight shone on the budding talent of Stephen Power, a gifted 1st-year student who entered a poem entitled 'What he had said'.

The winners, Luke Comerford Grant and Stephen Power, were not only bestowed with the honour of being crowned champions in their respective categories but were also awarded a prestigious 25 Euro One-for-All gift voucher. Furthermore, their poems will also be on display for all to see on our 'Poetry Wall of Fame' in the library.

In the Senior Cycle category, there was a captivating anonymous poem that became a surprise runner-up. Even without a name, the poem stirred emotions and curiosity, leaving a lasting impression on judges. The poem is 'Untitled' and will also be on display in the library.

It is clear that the school-wide poetry competition has not only showcased the incredible talent within our student body but has also strengthened our collective appreciation for the power of words. Congratulations to Luke Comerford Grant and Stephen Power, and to all the participants who contributed to making this event a resounding success. The winning poems can be seen displayed in the library.



French & German Film

Our 1st, 2nd & 5th Year French and German students along with the TY students attended Garter Lane Arts Centre for the IFI Secondary School screening of the films 'La Petite Bande' & '16 Ans' with their teachers Ms. Boyd, Ms A Phelan & Ms Whyte. A very enjoyable day was had by all!



Art Inside De La Salle

Our 1st year students have settled in and are learning new techniques, various disciplines and approaches to Visual Art. The Art Department began our year using the universal building and play language which 'built' on our STEAM initiative of 2022/23 which is to change our Departments Culture to one which champions 'Upcycling' and looking at ways to 'Cycle up' Visual Art waste. Our efforts last year were awarded with a 'National Student & Teacher Share Day' supported by JC. This Celebration of Learning Day will live forever with us as it was our version of the 'BT Young Scientist'!



Term 1 has been brought to a close by 1st years by making a group *Installation* of a Christmas tree which is on show in the E Floor.

Both 2nd year VA classes are continuing to gain confidence in 'Disciplines' they were introduced to in Year 1 of VA, as they know their rich learning environment. We have also been joined by new students... so welcome.

Well done to all Ms Ryan's 3rd year Visual Art students who have finished their CBA2 project, showcasing a wide range of artistic skills.

Congratulations to our Visual Art 3rd & 6th years of 2023 their achievements were realised in their JC & LC results and we are proud of each of our Visual Artists for the engagement.

The Art Department would like to say a big welcome to our Artist in Residence Anne Mc Donnell. Anne is providing an amazing opportunity for students to explore and learn a range of printmaking techniques, specialising in the printing process of Etching.

TYs are a busy bunch and have involved themselves in a range of Arts & Crafts.

A number of students are responsible for Upcycling our old students' tables and chairs... Thank you Bill, Ned, Fred & Jack. This group also assisted greatly with the props for 'We Will Rock You'...all those trips to Mr. Price & Dealz were worth it to arrive at the perfect prototype!

A big thank you to Ms Ryan's TY students who decorated the school crib this year. It looks fantastic and shows the dedication and joy students have in celebrating Christmas throughout the school.



Congratulations to all Visual Art students who participated in the annual De La Salle Christmas Card Design Competition. With a special congratulations to our LCA1 Visual Art student Sherwan Almohamad whose design was selected to feature on the back of the final Christmas Card created.

Well done to all 6th year Art students have started into their 70% L.C Practical project which is now the new format for L.C Art. Students are showing great engagement and showcasing their artistic abilities.

We look forward to seeing what the art department do next term to brighten up our school making it a nicer learning environment for all the students!

Home Economics

Last Thursday and Friday; the 14th and 15th of December our 2nd Year Home Economics Students had the opportunity to explore the traditional craft of Needle Felting with Paulina from Woolly Crafts as part of their Creative Textiles CBA. During the two hour session they created a wide variety of designs which will be on display in the College in the New Year.



Technology Department

Technology Department students have been busy putting their new Laser Cutter to good use in the lead up to Christmas. Students enjoyed getting creative by developing designs and creating personalised Christmas Tree Decorations for loved ones. We hope everyone who received a decoration enjoy it and we look forward to using the new Laser Cutter in the new year.



Anti-Bullying

We are very proud to raise the Cineálta Kindness Flag, which was sent to us by Norma Foley TD in acknowledgement of the hard work of our staff and students in creating the kind and caring culture that exists in our school. As the saying goes, in a world where you can be anything, be kind!

We are delighted to be a partner school with DCU Anti-Bullying Centre delivering the FUSE Anti-Bullying & Online Safety Programme to our students.

Pictured is class 1EmH who recently completed the FUSE Anti-Bullying Programme. All 1st Year students will engage with the FUSE programme this year.



SVP Food Bank

The Student Council's recent Food Bank in support of Saint Vincent De Paul was a huge success. All Junior House Tutor groups and TY classes took part in the collection. The prize for the class who donated the most was a cinema afternoon during the last week of school. 2AOH banded together in wonderful style and blew the competition away with more than three bags donated from their class. Of course the collection wasn't all about the competition but rather the food and gifts the boys raised, which were outstanding! Congrats to 2AOH and enjoy the prize!



Wood Technology Department



Mr. Ellis's 2nd year Wood Technology class are pictured here showcasing their recently completed projects. The project was to create a Kitchen Towel Roll Holder which could be wall-mounted or freestanding. The project was designed around a theme of the student's choice. Excellent craftsmanship was used when creating the projects, the boys should be very proud of their creations and themselves.



As well as that classes TY4 and TY5 have been busy creating picnic benches for the school community to enjoy. The boys have developed a range of skills by creating working drawings, creating a bill of quantities, ordering materials, creating templates and assembling the picnic benches. They should be very proud of their efforts as DLS College students will reap the rewards for their work for years to come!

Guidance Counsellors Update

The Guidance Department has had a busy first term, with our 6th years completing their CAO and UCAS applications, attending SETU & WCFE Open Days in November and many students attended other college Open Days.

Our 5th and 6th year students had a ZOOM presentation with Guy from EUNICAS about studying in Europe, where Guy gave students an overview of the options available to study in Europe and students got an opportunity to ask key questions.

Our Senior Cycle 6th year students attended the Apprenticeships Employers Roadshow in SETU Arena this term hosted by WWETB. Students had an opportunity to meet with potential employers from many different industries in the local area, the ESB and Defence Forces and find out about careers and industries of interest.

Bairbre Ruddock, Senior Training Advisor from WWETB visited the school to talk to our students about apprenticeships. We have a tour booked for our students to visit the ETB Training Centre in January, this allows our students an opportunity to talk to tutors about the huge range of apprenticeships on offer and see the cutting edge facilities available to apprentices in Waterford! Our 6th year students have been working on study skills and exam techniques in preparation for the Christmas break and before their mock exams in January - with all 6th years receiving their own study skills pack.

We would also like to invite students and parents/guardians to our **College & Careers Fair on Tuesday 27th February** from 5-7pm, which will take place in De la Salle- more details to follow. This will be a great opportunity for students, and parents/guardians to talk to colleges and employers from a range of industries on many different career paths and course areas.

Our 3rd & TY students have already been researching their 5th year subject options and will have the opportunity to complete the CAT4 assessments in the new year, to support students with their subject choice and career options.

Lastly a reminder to our 6th years, please make sure your CAO online application is set up before Jan 20th to avail of the early bird offer and use fetchcourses.ie to apply for PLC courses (e.g. WCFE) in December and January. See our Careers google classroom & Guidance padlet on the school website for information on study, wellbeing, careers & courses! Ms Martin and Ms Murphy would like to wish the students of De La Salle College a happy and peaceful Christmas break.



CAO Deadlines 2024

2024

January

- Discounted application fee (€30 fee) available up to **20 January at 5pm**

February

- Normal closing date for applications (€45 fee) is **1 February at 5pm**
- Online Change of Course Choices (free) facility closes **1 February at 5pm**
- Online facility to amend course choices becomes available (€10 fee) on **6 February at noon**

March

- Closing date for amending course choices is **1 March at 5pm**
- Most tests and interviews for restricted courses are held in March and April
- Closing date for final completion of online DARE/HEAR forms is **1 March at 5pm**
- Closing date for completion of Mature Applicant section of CAO form is **1 March at 5pm**
- Late application facility opens on **5 March at 12:00 noon**
- **DARE/HEAR** supporting documentation to arrive in CAO before **15 March at 5pm**

April

- Most tests and interviews for restricted courses are held in March and April

May

- Closing date for late applications is **1 May at 5pm**
- Online Change of Mind (free) facility becomes available on **7 May at 12:00 noon** (expected date)
- Check and Confirm reminder email sent to all applicants before end of May. Inform CAO if you do not receive it.

June

- Leaving Certificate examinations

July

- Change of Mind Closes on **1 July at 5pm**
- Round A offers for certain categories of applicant e.g. mature, deferral, etc. are issued in **early July**
- Exceptional closing date for late applications for those already attending a participating HEI is **22 July at 5pm**

August

- Round Zero offers for certain categories of applicant issued in **early August**
- Current year Leaving Certificate results issued (date to be confirmed)
- Round One offers (date to be confirmed)
- HEIs begin registration

Christmas Reflection 2023

I am confident that if you do a search on the internet you will find many explanations and stories about Christmas. There is also plenty of information about Christmas Carols. One story that comes to mind is during the First World War the warring armies stopped on Christmas day to play a game of football.

‘A football match was played between German and British troops on Christmas Day. It began when a British soldier kicked a football out of his trench. The German soldiers joined in and the match began. It is reported that Germany won the match 3-2’ Then there is the story of Silent Night a Christmas Carol that will be sung throughout the world at Christmas. ‘On Christmas Eve 1818, Mohr brought the words to Gruber and asked him to compose a melody and guitar accompaniment for that night's mass, after river flooding had possibly damaged the church organ. The church was eventually destroyed by repeated flooding and replaced with the Silent-Night-Chapel’



This brief reflection is based on my personal experiences and my journeys of faith. It is about what I have discovered and my understanding of Christmas. We celebrate Christmas on the 25th of December because it was once a pagan festival: ‘The Romans celebrated the festival of Saturnalia between 17th and 25th December. It paid tribute to Saturn – the God of Agriculture and Harvest. There were sacrifices, banquets, gift giving and partying.’ It was then turned into a Christian festival which we now call Christmas. ‘The word Jesus has its roots in ‘the God of Salvation’ the word Christ has its roots in ‘the anointed one’. So when we are celebrating Christmas the birthday of Jesus Christ we are celebrating God becoming man. God becoming man is called the (Incarnation) God comes from above to us below. God is always present in our midst even though we forget God does not.

When we look closely at the word Christmas it is made up of two words. Christ and Mass which makes CHRISTMAS. When we look at the celebration of mass we need to know about the Last Supper. The Last Supper was held with Jesus and his twelve apostles. At The Last Supper Jesus shared bread and wine and emphasised to the apostles that the bread and wine was his body and blood. Just like people today the apostles were confused and did not really understand what Jesus was saying and doing. When we attend mass this celebration of the Last Supper is re-enacted by the priest. During the celebration of mass the priest re-enacts the Last Supper and changes the bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus this is called (transubstantiation). When the priest says the words of consecration this happens.

The mass involves two parts the liturgy of the word and the liturgy of the Eucharist. Liturgy means coming into the presence of God and how we go about doing that. We use signs and symbols. For example, singing hymns and sacred songs; the advent wreath; candles: the ringing of the bells; using incense for blessing statues; pictures; tapestries; a crib at Christmas; and an empty tomb at Easter time. These all help prepare us for coming into the presence of God.

So just like the apostles at the Last Supper Jesus is calling us to partake in this re-enactment at this special time of the year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ where God becomes man and daily walks among us. Jesus is reaching out to all and everyone is called by name. May God bless and protect you and all those you love.



Happy Christmas

Brother William



After School Study

Monday 8th January 2024 -6th years ONLY
ALL other years Wednesday 10th January

After School Fees Term II (Jan - June)

3 days €165.00
4 days €220.00
5 days €270.00 (6th years)

Enrolments through Mrs. O'Connor (E3) eoconnor@delasallewaterford.ie. Payments through office 051-875294 and online. Fees must be paid before commencement.

Night Study

Term II (Jan - June)

4 days €220.00 or *2 days €110.00

Our Night Study facility is open to ALL 6th year students in the Waterford area.. Night Study is fully supervised in Our Senior Library and runs from Tuesday & Thursday, 7:00pm - 9:00pm.

*Night Study does not run during Our Midterm break and College closures'.

A Word of Thanks

All of us in De La Salle Waterford wish all our friends and colleagues around the globe all the best for Christmas with the knowledge we are following in the footsteps of a great educator. May this knowledge give us the hope and strength to continue in St. Jean Baptiste's footsteps in providing for our students and giving the marginalised among us the opportunity to access education, remembering we are in the presence of God and asking Jesus to live in our hearts, forever.

The Student Council would like to sincerely thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. As we draw to a close, we would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year!

**This newsletter was compiled by Max Philpott, Kevin Gayeta,
Charlie Sheridan & Darragh O'Dempsey**

