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DE LA SALLE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2020/21 EDITION



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Applications for 1st Year 2022 or beyond

Message from the Principal



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the Winter Term Interactive Newsletter.

It was as busy as ever in DLSC throughout the months of November and December in spite of the Covid restrictions. Students and staff valiantly continued to abide by the Covid Rules. Thanks to the efforts made by everyone we had zero transmission in the school and passed the DES Covid Inspection, compliant in all areas! It was however disappointing for everyone to see the numbers soar in the community over the Christmas holiday period, which resulted in school closures and a shift back to Remote Teaching and Learning.

In this edition Ms Fitzpatrick, our Guidance Counsellor tells us all about the busy College Awareness Week that she and the Transition Year students hosted in the College at the end of November. Students were left in no doubt that college is accessible for all our students and that in De La Salle College they will be given whatever support and advice they need to help them make the best college and career choices.

The Department Focus for this edition of the Newsletter is on Business Studies and Ms O' Sullivan our Business Teacher, gives a comprehensive overview of the wide variety of interesting topics being covered with each year group in her online classes.

Mr Brennan our Transition Coordinator keeps us up-to-date on TY activities. This great cohort of students, are managing to make the most of the year in spite of all the restrictions and limitations at this time. Have a look at the collages of student photos which speak for themselves! A highlight for many TY students before Christmas was the REPTILE HAVEN EXPERIENCE when Melanie from Retile Haven brought all sorts of creepy crawlies into the school to give students a fascinating talk about reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. Needless to say I didn't hang around too long, once Melanie began to take her creature friends out of their cages to say hello to our students! The students were much braver and loved the whole experience!

Mr Brennan also writes about an exciting new pilot project that has been introduced for TY students this year called the **BITaz WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME**. Because of the level five lockdown, it was extremely difficult for some students to find work experience placements this term. However, thanks to BITA (British & Irish Trading Alliance] in particular, CEO Paul Whitnell and Paul Edmonds (Kornerstone & Partners) our students had the opportunity instead, to attend a week of very interesting and inspiring of workshops. Students were able to interact directly with and gain mentorship from a number of extremely successful entrepreneurs in a range of different industries like construction, corporate finance, accountancy, recruitment, waste management & environmental sustainability. I would like to sincerely thank all the contributors for giving of their time to DLSC and the TY students. We look forward to working again with BITA and developing this project into the future.

Congratulations to Matthew Escanillas on his winning design for the TY Logo and the team of TY students who helped to design the new TY sweat- shirt!_ Special thanks to Mr Brennan and the TY Tutors Mr Broderick and Ms Egan for their continued efforts to organise a wide range of activities to engage the students during these very challenging times!

Great fun was had by all on the DLSC Festive Jumper Day which was organised by the Student Council in conjunction with the Green Schools Committee in order to raise funds for the DLSC Plastic Free School Initiative and the local Saint Vincent De Paul. As a thank you treat for students we invited Team Samba to the school and in no time at all he had our First and Second Year students, working as a team, making great music and able to put on a great performance for staff. Of course Christmas would not be complete in DLSC without Mr Claus, who paid a visit to all classes bringing treats and good cheer. A big thank you to him!

Since the return after the Christmas holidays, students and teachers have adapted once again to teaching and learning in cyber space. This is by no means an easy feat for anyone, least of all you, the parents at home, who have to encourage and motivate your sons to stay in engaged in the remote teaching and learning programme. The Student Council took the welcome initiative to survey the students' experience of online learning and we also recently completed a survey with parents. The feedback was collated and presented to staff and the BOM. It was very much appreciated and we will do our best to adapt and tweak plans accordingly. Overall the responses were very positive and engagement by students has remained very steady and positive throughout this time. Once again thanks to everyone for their resilience, positivity and support.

The school has been a very empty place over the last few weeks but our Caretakers Noel and Frank have seized the opportunity to continue to renovate and paint classrooms. Building C is almost completed at this stage. The Art Room is also nearing completion as thankfully essential school related building projects are able to continue at this time. During this term we have also managed to upgrade the Broadband service in the school to better facilitate the use of IT and Chromebooks, when everyone returns to school. We are also upgrading the heating system in the School Gym and have plans to replace windows and fire doors in the Assembly Hall area to improve ventilation, safety and security. We will continue as ever to make every effort to improve the plant and facilities for our students.

With Covid case numbers now dropping and the vaccination programme underway, we are looking forward to our students returning to Churchtown. We are hopeful that school will return to as normal as it can possibly be, during the Spring and Summer Terms.

Please read on and click on the links to stay up to date with all that is happening in DLSC. A big thank you to all the staff who contributed to this publication, and particular appreciation to Mr O' Neill and Mr Kirwan who are editors of the interactive DLSC Newsletters.

Beannacht Dé,
Siobhán Foster
Principal



DLSC
Remote Learning

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

REMOTE LEARNING - CLICK HERE

50,000+
Steps a Week

Community Challenge!

OUR GOAL...

1. Get You Moving
2. **50,000** Steps Each per Week
3. 10,000,000+ combined weekly target

SO WHAT NOW?

1. Start Moving Every Day
2. Record Your Steps
3. Report your steps (Google link every Monday)

Students • Staff • Parents • Past-Pupils



DLSC
Remote Learning

DeLa Drop In Support Classroom

Finding Technology Tough...
Struggling with Subjects...
Confused by Calculus...
Just feeling fed up?
need some help, or just to chat...

Just DROP IN!

First Year Students - Friday 9:00am - 9:30am
Second Year Students - Friday 9:30am - 10:00am
Third Year Students - Friday 10:00am - 10:30am

Code - 3157n2q

School Updates

Remote Learning: As of January 6th all schools were forced to move to Remote Teaching and Learning. Having learned a lot from previous school closures and having refined our Remote Teaching and Learning plan the transition was relatively seamless, the teachers, SNA's and students have shown amazing resilience and adaptability throughout this period, keep an eye on the News section of our website for some student reflections on Remote Learning. Our Remote Teaching and Learning plan can be found [HERE](#)

Steps Challenge: Get Moving & Get Involved. If you're a student, teacher, parent/guardian, or even a past pupil try to walk more than 50,000 steps each week. Our goal is to put all our steps together and walk more than 10,000,000 each week.

Wholeschool Kahoot! To welcome in our February Midterm a wholeschool Kahoot Quiz was held, we had a fantastic turnout and all present seem to enjoy themselves, well done to our winners, 1st Ciaran Nolan (5th year), 2nd Andrew Cotter (6th year) and 3rd Adem Tayahi (2nd year). Thank you to Mr Kirwan for organising

Drop In Support: Our support class for Junior Students is now open to join, clinics take place on Fridays from 9am to 10.30am. Whether its a problem with uploading work, difficulty completing assignments or you just need a chat, we are here to help!

PE Padlet: Don't forget to click into our PE Padlet page for loads of ideas for activities for the whole family.

DLSC
PE PADLET

CLICK HERE

College Awareness Week 2020



Our goal as always was to get the message across that everyone can go to college with the support of our Guidance Department in the school. It is all about making our students aware of the many different, but equally valid routes into college. It is about getting the information out there that college can be free. In fact most of our students get grants to help them to live while at college. If you want to do a particular college course we find a way in. It is as simple as that. It is about finding what you love and embracing all of the supports we give students in De La Salle to help them to achieve that goal.

Our Transition Year students busied themselves with developing a range of visual presentations and a video which could be a useful transition tool for our incoming first year students in 2021. The motto of the guidance department is that if students are exposed to college words, phrases, knowledge, the idea of going to college is embedded in their life plans.

We have our own resident Career Coach in the school called DeLa who delivers career facts to our students on a weekly basis.

In De La Salle we are passionate about the idea of teaching to learn. Our senior students play a key role in delivering information to our junior students so that in addition to reinforcing their knowledge it gets those college facts across to the junior students.

Linking in with and supporting our local community is a fundamental part of a La Sallian education. During College Awareness Week our Transition year students linked in with local primary schools to start embedding the idea early; that all routes to higher education are possible. They developed a selection of career Powerpoints which they delivered to primary schools.

De La Salle had a range of activities planned in the school for the week that was in it. Junior students got a chance to take part in a number of career games such as Career Pods where they had to organise lots of jobs into different career categories.

Most of all our College Awareness Week is about getting across the message that in De La Salle we work with students on a one-to-one basis to find a way for you to fulfil your college dreams.

13 December 2020 DUBLIN GAZETTE 11

GALLERIES OF THE WEEK

Aaron Roche and Zack Campbell.
Pic: www.instagram.com/aaronroche

De La Salle College

Sajad Mead and Ryan Austin.

CELEBRATING awareness

De La Salle Christian recently celebrated College Awareness Week. Transition Year students presented a range of visual presentations to catch the attention of the students in the school. The goal was to get the message across that everyone can go to college with the support of their Guidance Department in the school.

Adán Fílip and Lukás Góngora

Muhammad Mahdi and Valerina Cjanga

Ethan Looney

Fingal
IN IT TOGETHER FOR CHRISTMAS

Support your...
LOCAL BUSINESSES
THIS CHRISTMAS
#SHOPPINGAL

there's so much to discover
Find out more online at:
WWW.FINGAL.IE/CHRISTMAS



Mentors

Although curtailed by Covid restrictions our mentors have managed to organise a handful of enjoyable activities and workshops for the new first year students while following safety guidelines. The mentors had organised a fun quiz, study skills workshop, and many more activities and trips are planned for the first years. Hopefully these plans go ahead to give the first years an unforgettable and enjoyable experience for their first year in the college!

Coronavirus COVID-19



If you have fever and/or cough you should stay at home regardless of your travel or contact history.

How to Prevent



Wash
your hands well and often to avoid contamination



Cover
your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue



Avoid
touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands



Clean
and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces



Stop
shaking hands or hugging when saying hello or greeting other people



Distance
yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell

Some TY Activities this term:

- Coding Robotics
- Orienteering
- Re-using Plastics to make Bird Feeders
- Zero Waste Shopping
- Making Candle Holders
- Working with Leinster Rugby

Read More [HERE](#)

While COVID-19 meant a trip to the zoo was not possible, we decided to bring the zoo to us!

Click [HERE](#) to read more



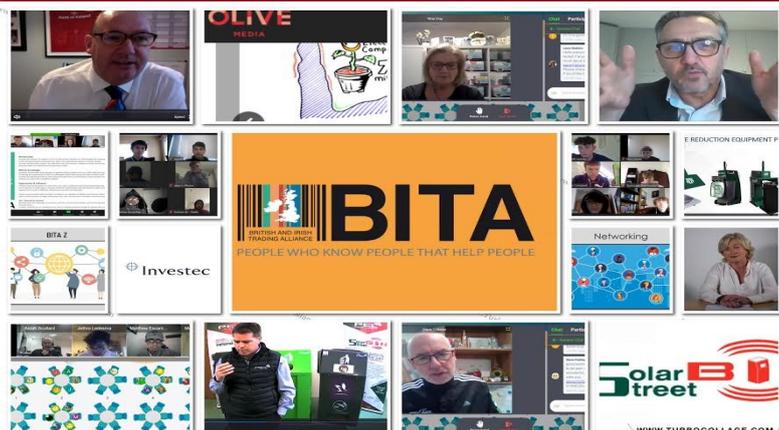
REPTILE HAVEN EXPERIENCE

While COVID-19 meant a trip to the zoo was not possible, we decided to bring the zoo to us! Before the Christmas break, the school welcomed Melanie from Reptile Haven, who gave a fascinating talk to our TY students about a variety of different species of reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. She educated our students on how to care for these incredible creatures, their habitat and behaviour. Melanie was such a wonderful guest who was so patient with the lads and encouraged them to face and overcome their fears! This was an incredibly unique and interactive experience, where the lads got to interact with, feed and hold an array of species such as snakes, lizards, geckos and even hold a 13ft python! A truly unforgettable day!



De La Salle is honoured to have been chosen as the first school in the world to pilot this exciting new TY programme, developed by BITA [British & Irish Trading Alliance] CEO **Paul Whitnell** and **Paul Edmonds** (Kornerstone & Partners). Our own TY student **Elliott Looney** has been representing De La Salle by showing off his entrepreneurial skills and ambition, already becoming a board member of BITA and helping to develop the BITAz programme alongside its senior members.

This jam-packed week which was held online, saw our students take part in a variety of interactive workshops held especially for our TYs. Students got the opportunity to interact directly with and gain mentorship from a number of extremely successful entrepreneurs in a range of different industries i.e. construction; corporate finance; accountancy; recruitment; waste management & environmental sustainability.



This programme allowed students to gain advice from some highly successful & influential figures and a first-hand insight into how businesses operate from The range of workshops held were:

The Mechanics of Business by Paul Whitnell [BITA CEO] & Elliott Looney [DLS Student & BITA Board Member]

CV Development & Interview Prep by Tina Coy (CSC Partners Recruitment Limited)

Mental-health & Well-Being Course by Marcus Hammons [Olive Media]

The World of Accountancy Aine Collins (Ex-TD & President of the Certified Public Accountants)

Structuring a Business by Peter Vanspall (Investec-UK)

StrengthsFinders

Presentation Skills & Demonstration Bottle-Crusher by Tommy Griffith (CEO Solar Street Bin)

How to Hold a Board Meeting by Aidan Scollard (Partner at Roberts Nathan Business Advisors)

Behind the Scenes of a Board Meeting Live Networking Session on Remo

Motivational Seminar with Desert Runner Dave O'Brien [the oldest man on the planet to run all 4x250-kilometre deserts in the same year]

The week was a huge success and the feedback was stellar for all involved!

Science Week 2020

After a really successful and active Science Week 2020 that included digital skills, water challenges, escape room, Kahoot quizzes, engineering challenges, and puzzle solving, amongst other activities. The winners collected their prizes. Well done to everyone who participated.



Sallemanac

NOTHING STOPS THE SALLE!



INSIDE THIS EDITION
 COVID
 TY ACTIVITIES
 NEWS AND EVENTS
 MOVIE REVIEW
 POEMS
 PUZZLES AND PROBLEMS
 AND MORE



What a year it has been thus far and despite all the challenges our school remains in true Lasallian fashion a place full of smiles, happy times and camaraderie. It's very different to what it was a year ago. One way system around the school, 58 minute classes, only one 30 minute break, hands sanitised before and after class, tables getting sprayed and yes of course our new best friend the face-mask. Despite all these obstacles we are still doing what we have always done. Giving our students the very best education they could have.

It is remarkable that despite all changes the school is still exactly the same. We are proud of that. We look after each other and respect each other. We know that we are responsible for each other and for each other's family and friends. I suppose you learn more about yourself in hard times and we as a school know who we are, we are Salle, we are proud, we are sound and yes nothing stops De La Salle!

Sallemanac

Don't forget to check out the latest edition of the Sallemanac, De La Salle College's student produced magazine. Well done to our TY editorial team and Mr. Boyd for producing such a fine publication

Our School Calendar is subject to chance depending on government advice. Please check our emails and our social media platforms regularly for updates

FEBRUARY 2021

MARCH 2021

APRIL 2021

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
							29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

Christmas in the College

Christmas was celebrated in as 'normal' a way as possible this year.

An Advent blessing was delivered over the intercom by students from various year groups, the lighting of our Advent candles was broadcasted via social media.

Thanks to our TY's the College looked festive throughout, A big thank you to SuperValu Churchtown for donating our tree and to Ms, Kelleher and her team of TY decorators for painting festive windows.

Of course no Christmas time would be complete without our annual Jumper day. This year we raised funds for the SVP and for the Student Council's water fountain fund.

Alas this year our Christmas Fair was cancelled, we look forward to hosting our annual Festive Fair in 2021, fingers crossed!





Department Focus

Business Department

The Business department likes to view every challenge as an opportunity and so the switch to online learning has given us lots of great opportunities to explore different areas of the business world as well as opportunities to learn using different resources from that in the physical classroom.

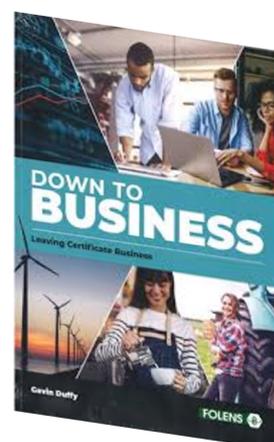
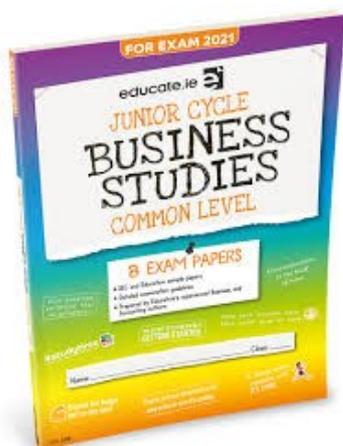
First year students have been researching and learning all about our consumer responsibilities, globalisation and our carbon footprint. Students found a number of items around the home, found out where they were made and calculated how far the items had to travel to get to Ireland. It really brought home how we as consumers can unthinkingly increase our carbon footprint and the damage this does to our environment.

Second year students took the online learning opportunity to study the impact technology has on business. From accounts to communications to transport, technology has totally changed the landscape of the business world in a short few years. Watching a video on Emirates Airline and their use of technology on a daily basis was a very interesting way of discovering how much one company relies on technology in order to satisfactorily serve its customers.

Third year students have been researching current economic indicators and how they have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. From rising unemployment figures to a drop in economic growth worldwide, the pandemic has taken its toll on our economy in a very short period of time. Students have researched the effects on various websites from cso.ie to the economist.com. Researching and sourcing specific information is a vital skill that students will use throughout their lives and one that online learning has helped them develop.

Transition year students have been continuing with their globalisation website design and creation. They research and add a new section to their website each week ranging from fairtrade to fast fashion and corporate social responsibility. They also had a class on Leaving Cert Business - why it's a great option for them as one of their Leaving Cert subjects, what's involved, how it's taught and a taste of some of the many career opportunities for Business students.

Our fifth and sixth year students have been learning about the many facets involved in managing businesses and also how and why businesses expand. This is also in keeping with the current economic state (we like to keep things current in the Business dept!). We looked at businesses that have expanded their product line to include sanitisers and face masks due to the global pandemic and why it is so important for businesses to be able to diversify as circumstances change. The most successful businesses will always have contingency plans and be versatile.



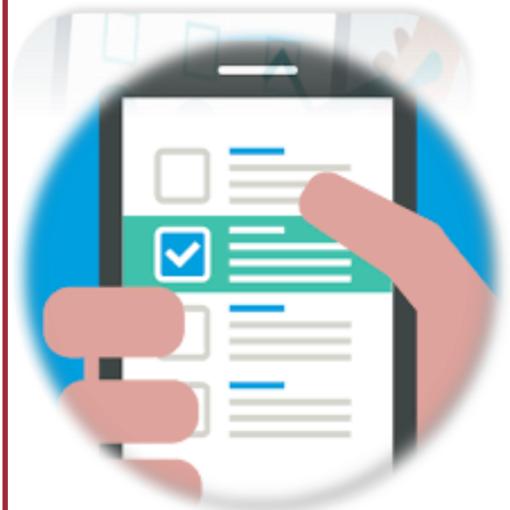
Student Council

Even though we are currently remote teaching and learning that did not stop the Student Council. The first online Student Council meeting took place to check in with members and to look at how the Council could be effective during this period at home. It was decided to conduct an online survey to get an idea of how the students were adjusting to home life and online learning.

The survey was anonymous and all questions were multiple choice.

There was a very good response to the survey and the results coming in were very interesting. From a teaching and learning point of view they were very positive.

This fantastic Student Council initiative has given us a far better insight into remote learning and the pros and cons associated with it.



Clubs/Societies:

- Chess Club
- Scrabble Club
- Book Club
- Debating Society
- Homework Club
- Maths Club
- Committees:
- Sports
- Lasallian Amination Team
- Green Schools
- Health Promotion School
- Ethos & Liturgy
- Social & Fundraising

Sports & Extra Curricular

Sport and what it can bring is at the heart of DLSCs mission. To help our students become well rounded young men. The pandemic of course makes playing sport extremely difficult and despite this we did manage for a period of time to get many of the boys safely and soundly back outside. We had a large number of our 1st years and 2nd years participating weekly in extra curricular sport. We also had junior and senior rugby sides training and looking to hopefully don the wine and gold before the academic year has passed. Sadly and understandably Covid 19 put a stop that. Despite this it is clear that even in a time of crises we still see immense value and importance in our boys playing sport together. It is a firm commitment from us that we will always look to help our students grow into happy, healthy and well rounded young men. So let's watch this space and when the time is right we will be ready to go.