

DOMINICAN COLLEGE TAYLOR'S HILL



WINTER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY
2025

Head & Deputy Head Girl



Izzy Barton Murphy and Eabheann Conneely

Thank You For The Music



Recently, the Fifth Year students worked very hard to bring together the show, *Thank You for the Music*. It revolves around Sophie, played by Sophie Maher, and her mother Donna, played by Ruby Kearns. The musical was directed by Ms Kerrigan and Ms Hosty. They performed from January 23rd to the 26th. Even though one of the nights had to be rescheduled due to a storm, the Fifth Years still put on an amazing show; with incredible acting, singing and dancing!

All The Best Tom!

At the beginning of September many of us were starting new chapters at school, with new classes, teachers and timetables to get used to.

However, someone's chapter at our school came to a close - our lovely caretaker, Tom O'Brien. Tom chose to retire after 18 years working here and on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

Students and teachers will miss seeing Tom around the school. Whether he was breaking open our lockers or driving us to matches, his cheerful personality and helpful nature always brightened up our day.

On the morning of his last day here, Dr. Kinsella came on the intercom and asked everyone to give a big round of applause and cheer for Tom and for all that he contributed to our school over the years. Students lined the corridors as Tom left work for the final time. A fitting tribute for a wonderful man who meant so much to us all.

All the best in your future endeavours
Tom! Up Mayo!





TY

TASTIC!



Killaloe Trip

The TY girls have been busy this year! To start off the first term, they took a trip down to Killaloe Adventure Centre back in September. They took part in activities like canoeing and kayaking on the lake, as well as archery and rock climbing on land.



Enterprise Fair

Lots of preparation was done in the lead up to the Enterprise Fair just before Christmas. The TY girls spent the morning selling festive treats, like hot chocolate and candy canes, which was a huge success. Most classes had some time to check out all of the products being sold in Rosary Hall. Afterwards, they had a free afternoon for ice skating at the Docks!



Re-Love Fashion Competition

4/1 recently took part in the ReLove Fashion Competition, where they had to create a clothing design made out of recycled materials. They ended up winning a prize for their design- a sewing machine - and were also featured in the Galway Advertiser!





TY TASTIC!



Eilemental Trip

The second big outing the TYs took was to Eilemental in Furbo.

They took a bus out to the adventure park, where they got to have a go at laser tag on a bog. Everyone had a great time on this team-building trip!



Madra Visit and Bakesale

As part of their community care project, students in 4/3 were lucky enough to be visited by three team members from Madra, who taught them all about responsible dog ownership and adoption. They also brought along a furry friend who had a great time meeting everyone!

The girls then set up a bakesale, where they sold homemade treats in Room 30 at lunch. They ended up raising over €200 which all went to Madra.



CodePlus Workshop

The girls from all three TY classes got to partake in CodePlus Ireland's workshops aimed at encouraging women to pursue coding. Over the course of three days, they became familiar with Scratch and Mirco-bit programmes, learnt about AI, and then applied their knowledge to coding their own robots.





Commitment Responsibility STUDENT COUNCIL Integrity Honest Communication Values Purpose Determination Listening

Our Student Council has been particularly active in the school this year. Each year group elected its representatives in early October and the Council quickly got to work. Weekly meetings have been held at lunchtime and the Council has been taking huge strides in its efforts to improve the experience of school for all those who attend Dominican College.

One of the first orders of business was to elect the Chairperson (Haleema Lamidi), Deputy Chairperson (Jamila Salif), Secretary (Ciara Kelly), Deputy Secretary (Sana Siddiqui) and Public Relations Team (Muireann Elliman, Sophia Gregory, Kate Keady). Some of our members attended the Comhairle na nOg Youth Conference on October 30th and reported back to the group on issues arising from that.

We also had to look over the school's healthy Eating Policy and Homework policy and provide some feedback.

The Student Council again organised the International Student Identity Card to be available this year for all our students. This has been very popular among our students over the last two years.

We then carried out a survey of the entire school in order to identify the main areas that the students feels could be improved in our school. The results of this survey were very interesting. After analysing these results with the help of Dr. Kinsella, we presented our results at a staff meeting. We then each presented the findings from the survey to our individual year groups at their assemblies in Rosary Hall.

The Student Council is currently putting together teams to work on a number of areas which were flagged in this school survey, such as; the toilets, the canteen, seating for senior students and student wellbeing. This is an exciting new initiative and we hope to see some real improvements in these areas before the year is over.

A huge thank you to Dr. Kinsella, Mr. Grehan (our liaison teacher) and all the staff and students for their ongoing support in our endeavours.



STEM@Taylors

ISTA Senior Science Quiz

As part of Science Week, Sixth Year Science students took part in the Irish Science Teachers' Association Senior Science Quiz - Regional Final in ATU Galway. All three Dominican College teams performed very well with the team consisting of Jamila Salif, Neev Kumar and Caitlin Peel finishing in first place. This qualified them to take place in the National Final in Trinity College Dublin at the end of November. The team consisting of Neev, Caitlin and Haleema Lamidi were one point off third place. A fantastic result for the girls and the school.



SciFest@TeenTurn

Deepta Suresh (3rd year) won the Junior Category at SciFest@TeenTurn held in IBM Dublin for her project "The Journey of Nutrients: Comparing Nutrient Composition of Processed and Fresh Cut Meat from Preparation to Consumption". Deepta won a MacBook Air for her prize. This was the culmination of weeks of work through TeenTurn's Project Squad which was held in the school for the first time this year. Well done Deepta!

SciFest National Final

Third Year students Hannah Rainey and Nicole Lally won the Best Runner Up Prize at SciFest@ATU last May and were invited to continue their project and submit for the National Final in November. The girls worked hard on their project "Man's Best Friend to the Rescue: Using Furry Filters to Improve Irish Water Quality" and were one of 63 projects to make it to the National Final in Marino Institute. They were also featured on RTE *News2Day*. This is a fantastic achievement for Nicole and Hannah.





STEM@Taylors

The Bug Doctor

All First Year students took part in a workshop with The Bug Doctor, Dr Michel Dugon, in the school. He brought in many of his exotic animals for students to see and explained all about the snakes and spiders, including how they survive and thrive in their environment. The brave students then had an opportunity to interact with these animals!



Galway Climate Inspirations Festival

A group of students took part in the Galway Climate Inspirations Festival in An Taibhdhearc. They took part in workshops relating to climate change and climate action, organised by SAUTI Youth, with Youth Work Ireland. The girls were given an opportunity to act out mini dramas on topics that were important to them, and were even treated to a climate based comedy stand up act!



Space Week

To celebrate Space Week 2024 and the launch of the Europa Clipper mission, which is a scientific mission that will explore the moon Europa for potential signs that it is habitable to ocean life, real space explorers from the MTU Blackrock Castle Observatory and Astronaut Steve Swanson were in the Galway Atlantaquaria for an event that TY students attended.

They explored how life evolved in our oceans and what this could mean for life on Europa and beyond. The students then had a Q&A session with Astronaut Steve and were interviewed by Teresa Mannion and featured on RTE news.





STEM@Taylors

Maths Week Competitions

As part of Maths Week, 2nd, TY and 5th year students took part in the Irish Maths Teachers' Association Maggie Gough competition. There were 15,795 entries from 182 schools across the country. From this, 59 students achieved a score of 95 or more and were awarded an individual trophy for their efforts. Additionally, another 44 students who scored 93 or 94 were awarded a medal for their results. 5th year student Evangela Thomas (below left) was one of the top achieving students in the country and was awarded a trophy. Yichen Liu (below right) in TY was awarded a medal for her results.



Robotics

On Wednesday January 15th our VEX Robotics team took part in the VEX V5 High Stakes competition in ATU Galway. Each year, a new game is released. Students have to design, build and code a robot to take part in the game. This year's game involved placing plastic ring doughnuts on stakes.

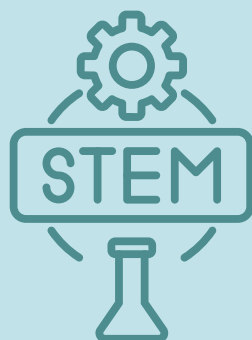
Our team started working on the design and build back in September, with a practice day taking place in ATU in November. After some modifications were made by the team, they were ready to take on the main competition.

After the final of all 26 qualifier matches, Dominican College were in top position! This meant they were given the first option of picking another school to join up with for the finals. After making an alliance with St Colman's Claremorris, Taylor's were ready to head into the finals.

Dominican College were awarded the prize for Robot Skills Champion for the driver Cristina Prieto and the overall Excellence Award for best team on the day.

Well done to all who took part, especially driver Cristina Prieto, coder Leah Curran, main builders Lara Curran and Erinlee Diviney, and Engineer Report Book writer Aoibheann Reid.

The team has now qualified for the National Final in Cork in February.

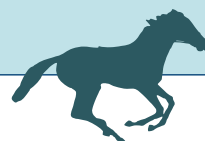




Sports

Senior Football

The senior football team had a fantastic start to the year, making it all the way to a Connacht Quarter Final. With a match that had to be rearranged twice due to storms and frozen pitches, the senior girls took on Colaiste Chroi Mhuire Spiddal in December. After a spirited first half the girls were one point down heading into the second half. Unfortunately CCM were the stronger team in the second half and resulted in a defeat for Taylor's, but it was a great final session of football in school for our wonderful Leaving Cert students who kept playing, including our Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl. We look forward to next season for the Fifth Year and TY students who are involved in the team.



Equestrian

This year, First Year students Cara Rooney and Lily O'Keefe; Second Year Gracie Allison; and TY student Ava Joyce represented Taylors in equestrian sports. At a recent event Gracie (right) won a 3rd place rosette with Cara (first on left) coming in 4th.



Athletics

Recently the South Connacht Cross Country event took place and Mae O'Halloran, Jennifer McCarthy, and Laura Campion succeeded in qualifying for the Connacht Finals in February! As well as this, at the recent County Galway Indoor Athletics Championships several of Taylor's track athletes won medals. Well done to Angela Cielecka, Inga Cielecka, Michelle Nnadi, Princess Ehigiamusoe, and Praise Limbila and good luck at any upcoming events.



Basketball

Taylor's Under-16 Basketball team had a great start to the year when they came 2nd in Connacht! This team also reached the All Ireland play offs in Limerick, where they beat Glanmire Community College (Cork) but lost out to Laurel Hill Secondary School (Limerick).





Talented Taylors



Excellence Scholarships 2024

Taylor's was delighted by the fact that there were five students who were awarded scholarships from University of Galway after the 2024 Leaving Cert. The recipients of the scholarship are seen below from left to right; Sharon Thomas (Arts), Laura Tuczynska - Dowlaszewicz (Arts), Oliwia Senkowska (Science), Melaniya Stolbova (Science) and Sara Amirouche (Nursing Studies).

Our 2024 graduates were also awarded scholarships from Trinity and UCD, with Ani Andonian being awarded an Entrance Excellence Award from Trinity College, Dublin and Prisha Dusad receiving a UCD Entrance Scholars Award.





Taylor's Goes Green



Slogan Competition

This school year, our main focus is biodiversity and we are hoping to receive the green flag. We are taking every step possible towards improving the biodiversity in our school environment. One of these steps was a Slogan and Poster Competition under the theme of 'Biodiversity'.

Bottlecap Mural

Over the last few years, the students in our school have been accumulating a collection of plastic bottle-caps. The collection grew to quite a large amount and the Green Schools Committee have decided to create a mural using these bottle-caps. The mural will be next to our sensory garden and also will play a part in the effectiveness of the garden. The mural will display beautiful depictions of Galway and the sea.



Sensory Garden

With the help of Ms Steede, members of the Green Schools Committee created a sensory garden in our school. The sensory garden displays a beautiful array of native wildflowers, angel leaves and succulents. Two trees of unity and diversity are also displayed

