



St Oliver Post Primary School Autumn Newsletter 2020



Hello and welcome to our first newsletter of the 2020-2021 academic school year. Here at St. Oliver Post Primary School, just like in all other schools around the country, a lot has changed due to COVID 19. Our school has taken all measures possible to ensure the safety of staff and students alike during these strange times. One of the main measures is keeping one-meter distance between students in all classes. The knock-on effect of this is that it may lead to an overspill situation where surplus students will be required to attend class in the canteen, under supervision. These students will then log in to the class using a device which allows access to Microsoft Teams. Teams has provided an essential learning platform for everybody and is used for sharing classes with absent students, uploading notes and submitting projects and assignments.

Staggered break and lunch times are also in place to help manage the number of students who are out and about at any one time. The majority of students seem to like this as it means it is less crowded during break times. In the school there is also a new one-way system in place. Each route brings you back outside the school where you re-enter the building using the main entrance.

In what has become the norm across the country, face masks are worn by all school members, staff and students alike. Anti-bacterial wipes and hand sanitizer have become as essential as the pens and books used in class. The measures taken have left the school as safe as possible, even though the one-way system has been tested at times!

As we enter the second term of the year we hope that everyone will stay safe and continue the great work from the start of the year.

(By Emer Caprani)

'Fence Defence' wins National Award

As part of our First Year Enterprise program many young entrepreneurs got a chance to develop their products at a "Dragons Den" event, as reported in our spring newsletter 2019. Leading on from this event one current second year student, Alanna McCabe, has continued to make strides with her product.

'Fence Defence' is a small plastic item which can be placed on your keyring. The idea of the item is to use it to push down an electric wire without fear of being shocked. It can also be used to pick up a fallen wire and put it back on the post without having to go back and turn off the fence. This is a very clever idea and will appeal to any farmers or agricultural based people, many of whom may have wished this product had always been available.

Alanna has recently won the 'Young Innovator' award, held online this year as part of the National Ploughing Championships. She is the youngest ever winner of the event in its 10-year history, which is organised by Enterprise Ireland. Alanna was due to have a stand at the National Ploughing Championship 2020 but due to the current pandemic this has been postponed until 2021.



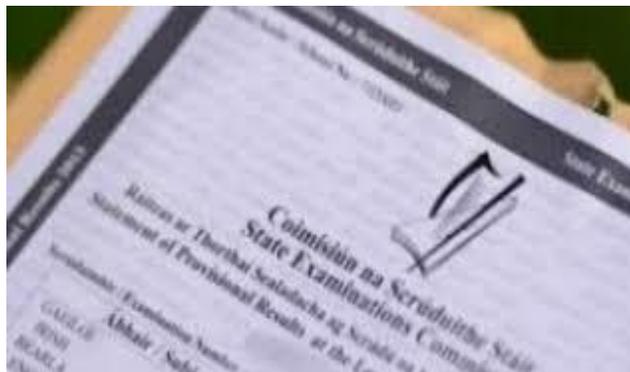
In addition to this the product has received its first order of 5,000 units. And not happy to rest there Alanna plans to develop the item even further. Speaking in an interview with the Anglo Celt, Alanna explained how you can have an add-on device which will test a fence to see if it is live or not. The current item also has space on each side to allow for logos, making it an ideal marketing tool for agri businesses.

Fingers crossed we will be reporting on further successes for Alanna and 'Fence Defence' in future newsletters.

Leaving Cert Exam Results 2020

Principal, Brendan Corcoran was delighted with the excellent results achieved in St Oliver Post Primary School this year: “After what was a particularly difficult year for our 6th years, it is fantastic to see so many students get the excellent results that their hard work and dedication deserves.

Unfortunately, this year we could not welcome all pupils into our school building to receive their results. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish the class of 2020, the very best as they start the next chapter of their lives. Well done to the parents as well, without their help and support, the pupils would not have performed so well”.



Indeed, it was very pleasing for staff to see students achieving their potential: “It is not all about top points, our pupils worked very hard to accomplish their goals. Which will see pupils take different pathways to success, be that university; apprenticeships; PLC courses; or Institutes of Technology”. Staff were thrilled with the number of pupils who breached the 500 and 600-point mark.

Well done to our 3 pupils who achieved an outstanding 625 points – Nicola Dooner, Claire Murphy and Ryan Lukin.

The staff of St Oliver Post Primary School, Oldcastle would like to extend their heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future to the Leaving Certificate class of 2020.

Over €30,000 raised in aid of Jigsaw

Just over one year on from the tragic loss of one of our school members, Darren Connell, seven of his closest friends decided to embark on a sporting journey together to remember and honor their late friend and in doing so raise funds and awareness for Jigsaw, the National Centre for Youth Mental Health.



Current and former students Harry Ryan, Ned Brunton, Craig

Mullen, James McCluskey, Pearse Sheridan, Sean Guirke and Ronan Peyton decided on a unique and original one day event, 'A Day for Darren', which would mark key areas which were important to Darren. The plan was simple, the seven lads would kick points in the GAA pitches they shared with Darren. The activity was not so simple as the lads decided to cycle between the GAA pitches in question. In doing so they would raise money for Jigsaw using a 'Go Fund Me Page'. Setting their target at a modest €750 everyone is delighted to see that the lads smashed this target, raising just over €30,000 in what is a remarkable achievement.



On Saturday 3rd October 2020 the lads hit the road, each with a football. The balls used were donated by Oldcastle GFC, Gilson National School, St. Oliver Post Primary School, Meath GAA and also Ballinlough, Moylagh and Mountugent GAA clubs.

The 111km journey started at Gilson Park, Oldcastle and then continued to the club's current grounds at Millbrook. After kicking points in their first two grounds the journey got significantly longer as the lads cycled to the Meath GAA academy in Dunganny. After this the next stop was Páirc Tailteann. It was

here that the staff members of Jigsaw Meath met the lads to thank them for their phenomenal efforts in raising funds for their free mental health service.

Back on the road for the final two stops on their journey it was a tough climb on tired legs as the seven men made their way over the mountain at Lough Crew. In what was an emotional return to the town where it all started the lads stopped off at Oldcastle cemetery to say hello to Darren. Making their way through the town, encouraged and cheered on by supporters, the journey was completed when the lads returned to Millbrook.



In what can only be described as an incredible achievement we would like to commend all of the seven past and present students who ran this event. On behalf of these gentlemen we would also like to thank everyone who contributed to the fundraiser. 'A Day for Darren' will live long in the memory for all members of our school community.

Transition Year 2020

Transition year once again has proven to be a very popular choice for students in St Oliver Post Primary school. For 2020 there are two classes of TY with this being split into three classes for some of the optional blocks.

Generally, TY brings with it many trips off site and workshops or events both inside and outside school. However due to the current COVID situation we are currently unable to attend any events which involve travel by bus. Regardless of this the students have made the most of their opening term. All students have managed to gain work experience one day a week and within school the students are getting to grips with and learning new skills in their new subjects.

Some events which have taken place over the first term include,

- Radio training course with Tinpot Productions. Here the students got the opportunity to record their own radio segment and work on their presentation skills.
- Hair care workshop. This workshop has once again proved very popular with both our male and female students. Students learned the basics of hair treatment and got hands on experience trying out different hair styles on the mannequins.
- Online Driver Theory course.
- Pitch and putt in Oldcastle. On a glorious Tuesday morning in early October both groups of students got to try their hand at pitch and putt. In what is a brilliant and challenging course, for some it was a competitive game among friends while for others it was their first time to hit a golf ball. Either way it was enjoyed by all and will be added to TY calendar for the future.

With more workshops organised for the coming weeks we will keep you updated with our TY program in our next newsletter.



Mark Cadden Setting the Standard

Second year student Mark Cadden has had a very successful 2020 so far on the golfing front.

Mark who is a member of the Oldcastle Pitch & Putt Club and also a member of the Headford Golf Club has won many events over the past few months and continues to showcase his talents.

In August Mark won the prestigious Gary Player trophy. The Flogas Irish Junior Open Tour is Ireland's largest junior golfing competition and after seeing off some strong opposition Mark showed a lot of grit, skill and determination to win the top prize.

Following on from this, Mark won the U-13 National Strokeplay Pitch & Putt Championship at Athgarvan and then won the Meath U-15 Pitch & Putt Strokeplay Championship in Navan.

Mark was due to play in the Flogas Irish Junior Open Tour in October at Moyvalley Hotel & Golf Resort, however this event was cancelled due to COVID.



In late November Mark is due to play his last event of the calendar year. The All Ireland trophy, which is to be played at Carton House in Kildare, is a two-day event. Hopefully Mark can finish out the year with another win at this competition.

In the coming years Mark is aiming to continue his winning run and build on the high standards he has set. With one eye on next year he is looking forward to playing in Royal Portrush, the same course where Shane Lowry won the Irish Open in 2019.



That concludes our Autumn Newsletter 2020. Our next newsletter will be out in February but in the meantime you can keep up to date with all events happening in our school by following us on Twitter, Facebook and checking on our website stoliverpps.ie.

