

Breakfast Club

Monday to Friday
From 8.10am - 9.50am in the Canteen
This club is open to all students in the school. The breakfast club is a free facility provided for all the students who arrive early to school. Tea, Toast, Cereal, Juice and Pancakes are provided in the Breakfast club. Breakfast is an essential meal in the day and it is important that students are alert going into class. The club is also a place for students to socialise before their classes start.

Lunch-Time Club

Monday, Tues, Thurs, Friday
From 12.50pm - 13.30pm in Room 7

This club is open to all students from 1st to 3rd year. The lunch-time club lets the students participate in games such as the Wii, draughts, chess, twister, jenga and battle ships. This club is an opportunity for students to socialise during lunch time and also to get to know other students.

Homework Club - Monday to Thursday From 3.30pm - 4.30pm in rooms 19 and 20.

It is an opportunity for students from 1st, 2nd and 3rd year to get supervised help with homework. All students receive a healthy snack before knuckling down to work. Excellent behavior and attendance are rewarded with mid-term and end of year trips and activities.

DESMOND COLLEGE STUDENTS SCALE NEW HEIGHTS

A brave group of 87 students and 5 staff from Desmond College celebrate reaching the summit after completion of a challenging 15 mile hike of the beautiful Ballyhoura trail.



NEW PITCH DEVELOPMENT

On Wednesday October 12th over 3 years of hard work came to fruition with the official opening of our school pitch. The field development committee under the leadership of Mr. Mike Nash have worked tirelessly over the last 3 years and have fundraised to the tune of € 50,000 for the Field Development Fund. The team have undertaken many fundraising initiatives including a Race Night, a Field Development Draw, Coffee Mornings and two Fashion Shows. We are very grateful to our parents, staff, students past and present and of course the local the community; their support and generosity made the development of our school pitch a reality. Our first match was a competitive First Year Hurling fixture against Coláiste Mhuire Askeaton, our first years did us proud and got us off to a winning start on the new field, they were trained by our new woodwork teacher Mr. Martin Bourke and the team captain was Larry Ward.

First year team for pitch opening with Mr. Bourke - Coach



Coaches and teachers of the Field Development Committee



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Desmond College Welcomes Our First Years



© 2011 Bridie Murphy Photography

PRINCIPALS ADDRESS

'NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS'

It is a new school year and a year of many new beginnings among the extended community of Desmond College. We welcome our new First Years and those students who have transferred to us from other schools. We hope the year is going well and that you are building worthwhile friendships that will last a lifetime. In this academic year and my first year as Principal, I have had the great pleasure in seeing our graduates receive their Leaving Cert results. It was a day of great pride and joy for students, families and staff and one that was repeated in September, when our Junior Certs received their results. Seeing the happy smiling faces, makes all the hard work and long evenings of study so worthwhile. Well done to all of you! We now concentrate on our present 3rd and 6th years and hope that they too are striving to achieve and to be the very best that they can be. The school year is very short; it won't be long until it is your moment. We have had a number of changes on staff this year. We are very pleased that Ms Cregan has stepped up to the position of Deputy Principal; we wish her well in her new role. We are delighted to welcome new staff members. We hope that they will be happy with us and we look forward to getting to know them better.

We send best wishes to those staff who have retired or moved on to pastures new.

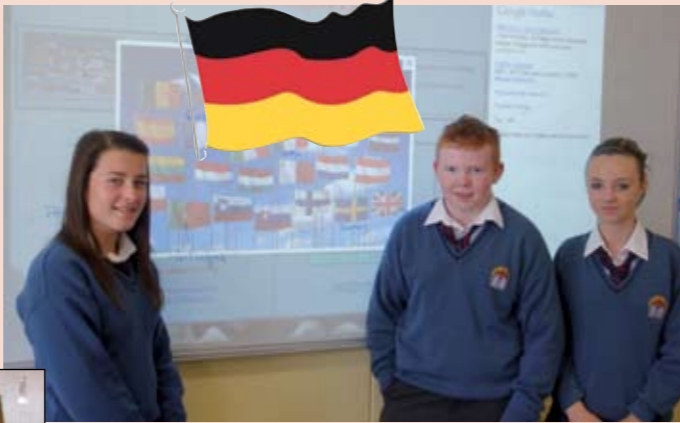
We thank them for their hard work and commitment over the years, we wish them well for the future and we hope that they will remember their years in Desmond with much fondness. We send special thanks and warm wishes to former Principal Mr Flanagan. This school year is a year of unprecedented changes and cutbacks in the Irish education system with the erosion of middle management, cutbacks in finance, in teacher allocation and resources. Yet despite all of these changes and cutbacks, one thing remains constant in Desmond College – and that is the unrivalled dedication and commitment of our staff to our students. As the going gets tough and the budget draws closer we as a school community are determined that our students get the best possible chance in Desmond College, despite the current economic climate. So we look forward to a year of Desmond factor, hurling, football, camogie, rugby and soccer matches, many played on our wonderful new pitch. We eagerly anticipate the Paris tour, school tours, drama, debates, quizzes, young scientist competition, Green Dragon, Scifest, the Way of the Cross, our fashion show, countless awareness weeks, choir, chess, athletics, golf, equestrian, basketball, and all of this accompanying top quality teaching and learning in every classroom. We really should count our blessings!

Ms. V. Gavin (Principal)



Principal Ms. Vourneen Gavin-Barry, Deputy Principal Liz Cregan

This year for "The European Day of Languages, the 2nd Year German students- members of Rang Bronna and Brendain took part in 2 competitions run by Leargas. They worked together to create two projects- a calendar that represents the different languages of Europe and a short video clip in German. The video clip is a sketch of a classroom scene with each student taking part. The students have shown their German and acting skills!! It is excellent and highly entertaining!



Rang Barra celebrated "The European Day of Languages" by creating two calendars that detail the different languages present in Europe. Each month is dedicated to the history and language of a European country. The students researched these topics and came up with an image to represent each country as well as researching each country's native language. These calendars are part of the Leargas competition that was run to celebrate "The European Day of Languages".



Shoebox Appeal

Rang Barra students have launched our annual charity Shoebox Appeal. Appealing to peoples charitable spirit people are being asked to donate the filled shoe boxes and give them in to reception by Tuesday November 15th.



Well done to our U16 Camogie Team Winners of the County Camogie Final Orla Condon, Deborah Murphy, Claire Scanlon, Alice Brislane, Leah Kelly, Emma Herbert, Rachel Dore, Leanne Browne, Stacey Flynn, Laoise McCarthy, Clara Danagher, Julie Cantillon, Aislinn Lane, Kiara Carroll, Laura O' Sullivan, Orla Wrenn, Adrianna Rodrigues, Shauna Tobin, Rose Magner.



Player of the final Kiara Carroll being presented with her award by AIB Student Officer with Ms. Corkery and Ms. Cregan



The County Premier Football Winners U/16

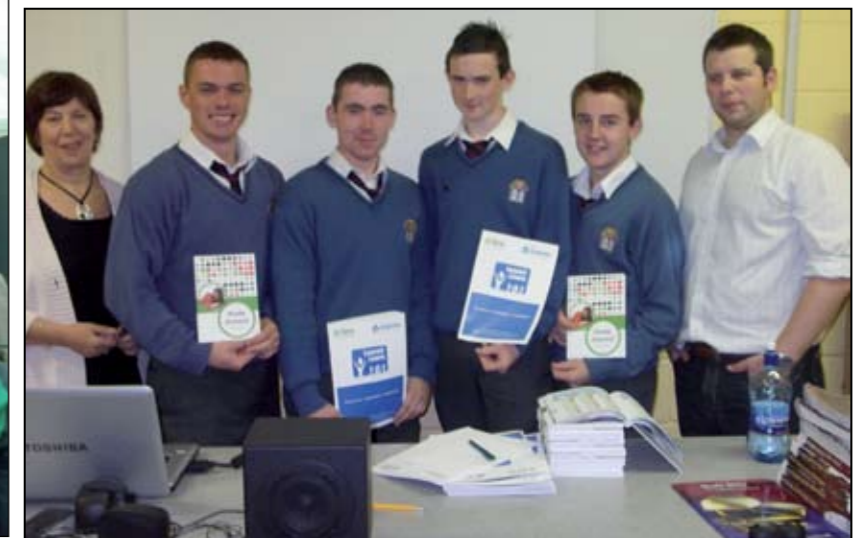
Congratulations to the U/16 County Premier Football NCW Winners and all of our students that are part of the panel.

Religious Education Dept News

Our sincere thanks is extended to Fr. Richard Keane who celebrated the opening of the school year mass. It was a sacred and joyous occasion, where we welcomed all new students and members of staff. Volunteers from various classes represented their year group. Our very talented choir made it a very spiritual experience.



One of our own future stars Orla Condon with the great Henry Shefflin at the ploughing



Our Leaving Certs undertook a study skills seminar in September

Enjoying all things agricultural at the Ploughing Championships 2011



LIMERICK LANGUAGE ALIVE-INTEGRATION WEEK

As part of Limerick Language Alive Week, Desmond College Integration Week took place from 17th-21st October. This initiative 'One School-One Community' is to promote the Integration of all students and our First Year and Transition Year students enjoyed Drama workshops and engaged in related Artwork and International cookery.

Desmond Factor

Interest and talent is alive and well, as preparation for our annual talent show is underway. It is time to find more talented performers to participate in our talent fest next January. All acts have submitted their chosen pieces to Mr Casey who is currently working with mentors on finalising the acts for January as the D Factor will attempt to be bigger and better than previous years. Mr Casey offers a big thank you to the teachers who will give of their time mentoring students to help them strive to their best and enjoy their performance.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED 1 TRIP TO BALLYGOWAN

The Leaving Certificate Applied class went on a field trip to the Ballygowan water bottling plant in the Demense, Newcastle West on 12th October 2011. The students were required to dress up in white coverall suits and hi-visibility jackets. We were given a powerpoint presentation by Mr. Jimmy Lee (Manufacturing Manager) on the history of Ballygowan. We learnt that the water is called after a townland in Kilkenny. The concept of bottling and selling water from Ireland was first developed by Geoff Read, the founder of Ballygowan brand in the early 1980's. In 1984, after extensive market research, Ballygowan bottled water was introduced into test outlets. These included delicatessens, small grocers and supermarkets. A joint-venture partnership for the production of Ballygowan was negotiated with Richard Nash and Co. Ltd., one of Ireland's long established soft-drink manufacturers. The source of Ballygowan Pure Irish water was originally known as St. David's Well, it was given its name by the Knights Templar who discovered it in the twelfth century. The source became the exclusive property of Ballygowan in 1986. More than 60 million litres of natural water are distributed from the plant each year. The automatic bottling line operates at speeds of up to 600 bottles per minute. The capacity of this plant on one 8 hour shift is approximately 600,000 bottles of Ballygowan products. A total of 73 million bottles are produced every year.

The trip was very educational and we learn a lot about the world of work.
LCA 1 Class



GAMES TRAINING SCHEDULE

SPORT	TRAINING DAY	COACHES
U16 RUGBY	MONDAY 3.30-4.30	C LOWE
U16 FOOTBALL	TUESDAY 4-5	J CASEY, K O'RAHILLY
JUNIOR & SENIOR LADIES FOOTBALL	WEDNESDAY 3.45-4.45	N WHITE, S QUAID, M NASH
ATHLETICS	WED & THURS 1.00	M NASH, S QUAID
SOCCER	FRIDAY 4-5	J CASEY
CAMOGIE	MONDAY 3.40-4.40	M CORKERY, M RYAN, S O' KELLY, C HENNESSY
GIRLS BASKETBALL	TUESDAY 1.00-1.40	K COLLINS
U16 HURLING	THURSDAY 4-5	M NASH, J CASEY
U18 HURLING	FRIDAY 1.00-1.30	M BOURKE
BOYS BASKETBALL	TUESDAY & THURSDAY GYM	M NASH

Munster Cup trophy soccer winners 2010/2011 being presented their medals and silverware by Manager of Limerick FC. Pat Scully in June



U 16 SOCCER

We played well in the opening game of the Munster A Soccer Trophy with a tough fought battle against Kilmallock on the 14th of October. We were down 1-0 until 60mins when Shane Brosnan equalised. Peter Shanahan was unlucky to hit the bar twice but his work rate helped build momentum in mid field and lead to a fine goal from Jeff Kadima, followed by a clever goal by super sub Owen Hurley. Mr. Casey was delighted with the teams comeback and all are looking forward to the next game.

U16 First Rugby competitive match 2011/2012 season result Desmond College 24 Askeaton 34 ,next match Vs Tarbert Comprehensive School on Monday 3 October and we have drawn S.M.I in King Cup in two weeks time.



PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The AGM of the Parents Association was held on October 4th. It was attended by the principal, Ms. Gavin Barry, who welcomed parents and gave an update on school developments. She thanked the outgoing committee for the valuable support they gave the school last year, and encouraged all parents to become involved.

The officers elected for this year are:

Chairperson: Aileen McCarthy
Secretary: Marion McGuinness
Treasurer: Breda Foley

Parents meet at the school on the first Tuesday of every month, and ALL parents are warmly invited to come along for a chat in an informal atmosphere. The next meeting took place on Tues. Nov. 8th. Looking forward to seeing you there!

GOLF



Shane Kenny, Mossie Shine, Michael Sexton AJ O Connor at Strokeplay in Adare Manor GC

GAELTACHT TRIP

Chuaigh na daltaí on nGaelcholáiste ar thuras go dtí an Ghaeltacht le déanaí. Bhain siad an taitneamh as Gallarus agus as an dtrá gan trácht ar an siúloíd ar Cheann Sreatha. Fuair siad taispeántas photadoíreachta i monarcha Louis Mulcahy. Rinneadar cuairt ar uaigh Pheig chomh maith le uaigh feosamh O’Dalaigh an Ceoil-theoir béaloideas. Lá stairiúil suimiúil a bhí ann.



Desmond College is now beginning another season of Chess: introducing newcomers to the game and training seasoned players for upcoming competitions with rival schools (not mentioning any names). Once learnt, the game of Chess is a companion for life that is always ready to help you fight off boredom. It is also a unique link to all nationalities and cultures connecting people all over the globe through the confines of its rules. The internet has revolutionised the game making it possible to challenge anybody anywhere and students in our school club have also taken to this method of practicing the game. Not only does Chess help sharpen our thinking faculties and wit, it also provides a social link to people of varying ages. It isn’t every day a first year gets to beat a fifth year at something, however in chess this is possible and indeed on occasion has occurred in our club! (not mentioning any names). If you want the challenge of learning the game or improving as a player join our club. All are welcome to our training sessions with Mr O’Rahilly held in room 4 every Thursday lunch time.



Photo caption: Padraig Dore, Killian Enright, Sean Mc Elligott, Adrianna Rodrigues, Ciara Madigan, Anthony Mullians,

French Inspection.

We had a Department of Education and Skills French Inspection on 20th and 21st September. The Inspector spent two days in the school visiting classes and meeting with teachers and students. We were delighted with the oral feedback we received from the Inspector Ms. Niamh Murray. She was delighted with our team of teachers in the French Department. She commended the excellent work of the team, the quality of teaching demonstrated, class preparation, subject planning and the love of language displayed by all the teachers. We look forward to receiving her written report shortly. Ms. Gavin, Principal



Humorfitt: Anti-Bullying Week
As part of anti-bullying week our Junior students were treated to humorous drama sketches and role playing of issues surrounding all forms of bullying in a bid to equip them with the skills to tackle and help eliminate bullying from their lives.

TY BYTES

Transition Year Retreat to Knock Youth Ministry

TY went on a guided tour of the shrine grounds at Knock. We saw the actual site of the apparition and the golden rose given by Pope John Paul II as a gift to the Marian Shrine. We went into the Apparition Church, Parish Church/Old Church and the Basilica. We stepped back in time when we entered Knock Museum. We saw how people lived at the time of the Apparition in 1879. We saw artefacts and accounts from the witnesses of the Apparition. We ended the day with Benediction. A silent space was created where we all lit candles. It was a spiritual and peaceful experience.



Famine Remembrance

Transition Year Students and Teachers organised a Commemoration of the Famine with a presentation, singing and observed a minutes silence by students of the school. Students pictured with Ms. O’Mahony, Ms. Collins, Ms. Gavin and Ms. Cregan.

DESMOND COLLEGE TRANSITION YEARS MAKE A SPLASH

The Transition Year group travelled to Kenmare Outdoor Pursuits centre on Thursday 29th September. The group were treated to a fantastic array of water sports, including kayaking, water trampolines and banana boating. The following day they enjoyed challenging land based Team Building activities. The group were enthusiastic and amusing as they engaged in Independent Life Skills both shopping and cooking breakfast and dinner for themselves. They hope that their parents recognise the transformation after this cook off! An excellent trip was enjoyed by teachers and Transition Years alike.



Art Exhibition: In Association with West Limerick Mental Health Association

Desmond College hosted the first of its kind Art Exhibition/Competition on Monday 10th of October celebrating the beginning of a weeklong awareness campaign about Positive Mental Health. This event was jointly organised by volunteer members of West Limerick Mental Association and staff of Desmond College. Ms. Vourneen Gavin-Barry (Principal) began proceedings by welcoming community members, TY students, parents and teachers from Desmond College, Hazelwood College and Scoil Mhuire Agus Ide. Eileen O’Sullivan judged the artwork and awarded prizes to all schools for their participation in this initiative. Dan Sheehan and fellow musicians played traditional music entertaining all present. This music was punctuated by an address from the Chairperson of West Limerick Mental Health Association, Mary Browne. It was followed by an inspiring speech by Seamus Hennessy who took time out to connect with the TY students on various aspects of their development as students and young adults. He went on to present prizes to the students for the fine artwork they developed in preparation for this worthy event.

