



Principal's Message.

Athy College was very honoured to be selected by Trinity as a School of Distinction this autumn. For years we have been to the fore of development in the IT area and awards like this act as great encouragement to all.

This newsletter is a snapshot of some of what we do. From the Arts and Science to personal development our school is constantly developing. We have welcomed outside visitors to our Career Exhibition, our musical events and our sporting facilities.

It has been a very successful term for a school which is growing steadily with enrolments increasing annually. Even before our new extension commences we will be forced to install temporary accommodation to meet our growth. A healthy future for our school and our town.

Richard Daly



Athy College received School of Distinction Award at Trinity College. Our Future Vision in technology and teaching methods were affirmed by this awards. Well done to a committed teaching staff of Athy College.

Science Week:

For Science Week this year there were many events taking place. Earlier in the term 1st and 2nd year students were able to visit the indoor Planetarium which showed the wonders of space and students learned about our Solar System and the possibilities of life on planets outside of our solar system.

5th year students were involved in a CSI day in the school where they solved crimes and learned forensic skills from two retired CSI Gardai.

All year groups were invited to "Periodic Table Bingo" at lunch times throughout the week.

In Science classes all week 1st and 2nd year students were partaking in group projects such as building straw structures and creating videos about atoms.



Athy College on Twitter



Keep up to date with happenings at Athy College by using our new Twitter. Our Twitter feed is: [@Athy_College](https://twitter.com/Athy_College)

Third Year Outing to Redhill Adventure

On Thursday the 9th of November a group of 42 third years along with their tutors attended Redhill Adventure Centre in Co. Kildare. Redhills is an activity centre that focuses on team building activities such as Splatmaster, Archery tag and airsoft. As part of our school trip we participated in Archery tag and Splatmaster. Paul, the owner of Redhills met us as we



made, foam tipped arrows. It was good fun and really brought out the competitiveness in some!!! Splatmaster is a low impact tag combat sport that shoots color filled round Ammo resulting in a Splat. It involves getting muddy but that was the fun part. Everyone enjoyed this activity even when the ammo didn't pop. Some of us were quite dirty afterwards but we changed back in the safe zone and stopped for lunch on the way back to school.

Overall, Redhills Adventure is a great day out for all ages. The martials were so helpful and nice. A big thanks to everyone involved.

By Rhys Burke



descended from the bus and explained the events arranged for the day and the safety guidelines to follow. We were then split into two groups of 21 students and divided between the tag and splatmaster. Owen, Declan and Michelle (Redhills Martials) gave us a brief demonstration on how to play the games and the safety rules to follow. Both games require team effort and were fast paced and action packed. Archery Tag pits two teams against each other in a dodgeball-type battle, but instead of balls, players try to take each other out with custom-

Student of the Month

This year we have introduced an initiative called Student of the Month. Each month teachers nominate students on the following criteria- excellent attendance and punctuality, works hard in class, respectful, good citizen, completes homework and improves all the time. Every student that receives an nomination a Student of the Month postcard is send home.

Winners for September are:

1st year	Eric McNamee Holly Dehahunt
2nd Year	Daniel Murphy Chloe Robinson
3rd Year	Jack Brody Sophie McDonald
5th Year	John Murphy Aoife Moran Terry
6th Year	Aisling Morrissey Ben Girdler

Winners for November are:

1st Year	William Holden Conor Brennan
2nd Year	Luke Connolly Eanna Maher
3rd Year	Ellen Watts Peter Delaney
5th Year	Damien Mitchell Cian McDonald
6th Year	Alex Dalton April Hanahran

100% attendance

To mark 100% attendance for the first midterm we held a breakfast to celebrate this achievement. 125 students had 100% attendance for that period. Well done to all students. While our target for attendance is 90% it is great to see the number of student achieving 100%.

CSI:

5th year students from Chemistry, Biology and Physics were invited to solve crimes for the day during Science Week. The students were involved with finding fingerprints, footprints, taking crime solving pictures in the workshop with two retired Gardai. The students then got to solve the murder while carrying out various roles of the Crime Scene Investigation Unit. Athy College were the first school to solve the crime using their skills they learned throughout the day and very good problem solving skills.

Careers Exhibition

Athy College hosted a Careers Exhibition during College Awareness Week. It was a first of it's kind to be held in South Kildare. The exhibition was designed to raise awareness of Access programmes, College supports and Training opportunities for students. The event hosted an array of stands from Universities, Colleges, Professional bodies and Training organisations. Exhibitors travelled from the UK, Limerick, Waterford, Sligo, Dublin and many more places. Even the guards and the army came. Some students expressed that they did not believe it would be possible to organise the event because they did not believe people would travel such long distances to their school in Athy. But the people came and hundreds of people from Athy were there to meet them.

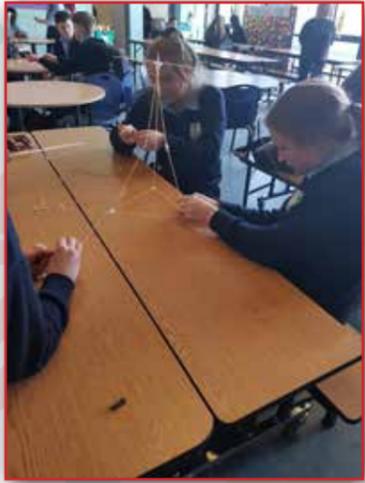
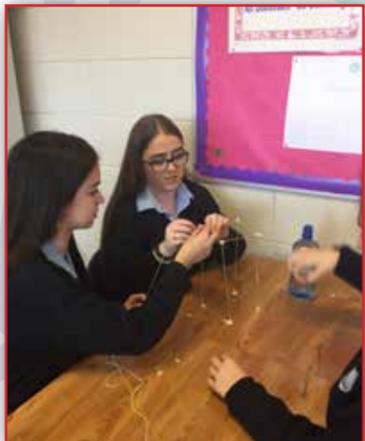
Art Literacy



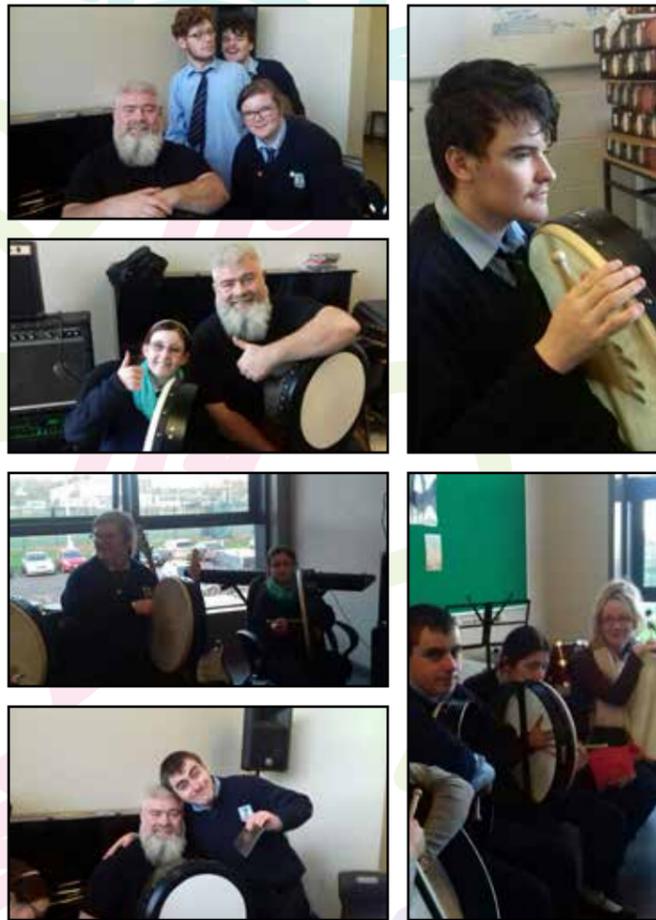
Competition Winners

1st - Aoife O'Conner 2nd - Eileen O'Conner 3rd - Aoibheann Buckley (Oak)

FRIENDSHIP WEEK FRIENDSHIP WEEK FRIENDSHIP WEEK FRIENDSHIP WEEK FRIENDSHIP WEEK FRIENDSHIP WEEK



Gorm Bodhrain Class



LCA Trip



New Framework for Junior Cycle



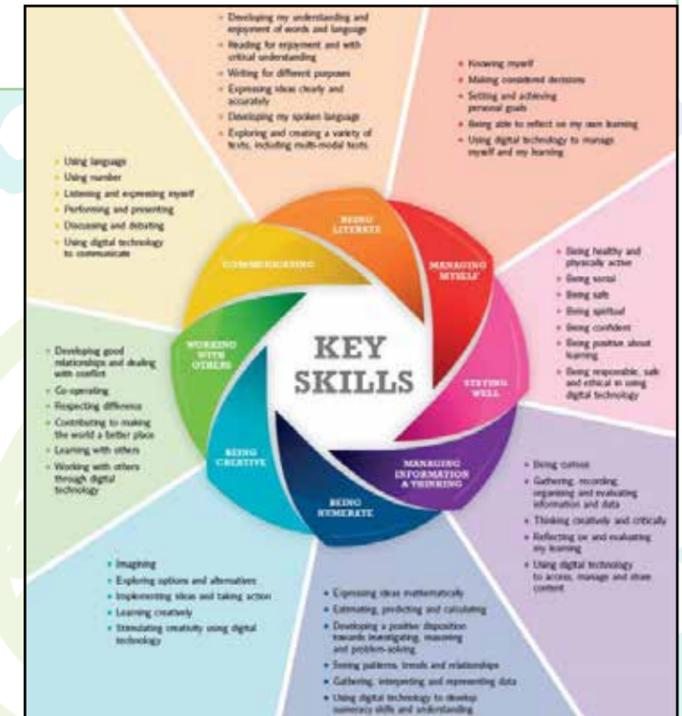
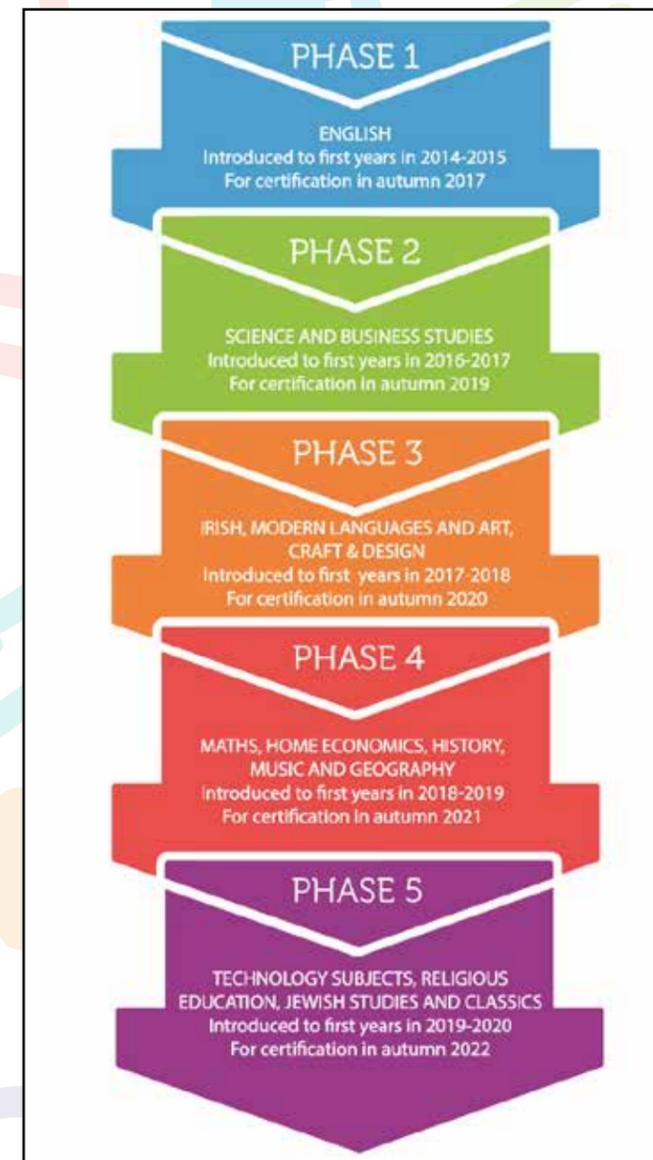
English is the first subject being examined under the new Framework for Junior Cycle. The results being presented in Junior Cycle English are based for the first time in 2017 on a new subject specification, assessment and grading system. These results represent student achievement in the SEC Final Examination including the Assessment Task, which was completed by students in Third Year.

Both the new grade format for English (Distinction, Higher Merit, etc) and the old grade format (A, B, etc) appear on the JCPA. The Classroom Based Assessment reports in assessments completed in second and third year. The new format of grades for Classroom Based Assessments are Exceptional, Above Expectations, In Line with Expectations, Yet to Meet Expectations and Not Reported.

The Other Areas of Learning reflects other learning experiences/events that a student has participated outside the formal timetabled curriculum such as extra-curricular activities, co-curricular activities, Endeavour Award Achievement, etc.

Subjects

New subject specifications are being introduced in schools on a phased basis



Code Club:

The Code Club in Athy College runs Mondays and Thursdays from 4 until 5. The Code Club provides students with the time to improve problem solving skills and technology skills in small groups or as individuals. The students can use this time to learn new code languages in their own time or to create group projects. The two main projects that are currently being worked on include coding and making a working dance mat using a Raspberry Pi and creating a Super Mario game using Scratch.

Coding Workshop in IT Tallaght:

A selection of senior students and two junior students from Code Club were invited to IT Tallaght to complete a 3 hour coding workshop. The students and teachers Ms. Burke and Ms. J. Murphy left the school at 7. 30am to make it up to Tallaght from a busy day of coding digital pianos, creating Fit-Bits and coding Scratch games using X-Box kinect.

Highlights of the day included; the computational thinking challenge, the keepy-up game played by students using visual detectors and Scratch code and the students creating a digital dice. The students were rewarded for their good work with some lunch and browsing in The Square shopping centre.



Wellbeing Programme

Your child's wellbeing is of central importance to his/her educational success and overall happiness. Wellbeing has been introduced into First Year as a core part of your child's junior cycle experience. This area of learning includes, amongst others, Physical Education (PE), Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE), Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) [including Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) and a new module of Life Skills, Managing My Finance and Guidance. The new modules incorporate entrepreneurial skills from the Edison programme which supports the eight Key Skills of the Junior Cycle.

Geography Workshops - Thursday 7/12/17

All 1st, 2nd and 5th Year Geography students attended workshops in Sustainable Design as part of the Secondary School Outreach Education Programme run by the Rediscovery Centre kindly funded by Kildare County Council.

The workshops were 90 minutes in duration and are linked to the second level national curriculum through a range of subjects including Science, Geography, Maths, CSPE, ESS and Art, Craft & Design. Each workshop featured a presentation, a range of interactive activities and ended with a feedback session to encourage the students to share what they had learned throughout the workshop.

Students found it very interesting and enjoyed their group work session which involved the lifecycle analysis of everyday items such as a mobile phone, a pair of jeans, a glass bottle, a polyester shirt to name just a few. The highlight of the workshop was the Egg Wrapper Challenge where the students' brief was to design a wrapper for an egg which would withstand a drop of 2 metres without breaking!! Our fifth year students managed to do so and are now the national winners of the Egg Wrapper Challenge!!



GOAL Jersey Day in Athy College

On Friday 13th October, GOAL Jersey Day was a great success thanks to the efforts of class Fírinne, who organised the event as part of their CSPE action project. All students in the class had a particular task to do.



Athy College students and staff gladly took the opportunity on the day to wear a jersey of their choice, giving a donation to GOAL.



Class Fírinne were very grateful to everyone for the great generosity shown, giving a total of €683. 50 collected for a worthy cause that helps people living with hunger due to many natural disasters and famine around the world.