



Bish E-Zine Christmas

WELCOME TO OUR E-ZINE

Dear Friends of the Bish,

Welcome to our Christmas 2020 e-zine. As we approach the end of the year 2020 please enjoy this snapshot of our last term. Looking back on the year just past, we give thanks for all of the good things in our school and in our life. We do realise that 2020 has been a very difficult time for all of our school community; some have lost loved ones and we keep them all in our prayers. There appears to be progress in the Covid 19 pandemic with the emergence of a number of different vaccines. Hopefully 2021 will bring some normality to our lives.

The reopening of the school has worked far better than any of us could have imagined, many thanks to all of our students, parents, teachers and Board of Management for all of their assistance and support to ensure that the school building is as safe as possible. Bishop Daniel Delany's (Founder of Patrician Brothers) words: "Love God, work hard and take care of one another" have certainly been evident in the school since we reopened. I hope that you will be able to enjoy Christmas with all of your loved ones. Please remain healthy and safe. Happy Christmas to all.



John Madden - Principal.

JOHN LOUGHLIN RETIRES



From a being a student in the mid 1990's to a teacher in the 2010's the "Bish" provided John a place to combine both his interest, dedication and talent for science, teaching and sport. With respect to science John was a very active member of the local Galway/Mayo branch of the Irish Science Teachers Association (ISTA) and was for the last few years the treasurer of the local branch. He played a very active role within the organisation and in 2014 brought its annual conference to NUI Galway under the banner "Inspiring Science from Irelands Silicon Valley". In 2018 John took on the role of national Chairperson and was heavily involved in consulting with and providing feedback to the NCCA on the changes that were due to the Junior Science and Biology syllabus specifications.

As a student John was an active member of the "Bish" athletics teams excelling in both track/field and cross country. When he joined the teaching staff he coached alongside Mr Derek Murray and true to form John brought the same methodology, dedication and perfection to coaching athletes as did to teaching his students. He contributed to bringing numerous South Connacht and Connacht titles back to "Bish" over the years at various age grades. This success cumulated in a historic All Ireland Intermediate 4x100m relay title in June 2016. It should be noted that this competition is notoriously difficult to medal in with the "Bish" taking Gold in a photo finish winning by 1/100th of a second. John was away in Belgium on science business on the day but showing true dedication to the sport he managed to get a live stream of the race to witness the history unfolding. As well as track and field John, also a keen soccer enthusiast, also contributed handsomely to the success to the blue and white of the school's soccer teams. In 2015, the U17 team under his coaching and guidance won both Connacht and All-Ireland titles beating Presentation College Athenry in the Connacht decider and winning the All-Ireland title on a nervous penalty shootout against Colaiste Choilm, Ballincollig

John is and will always be remembered as a highly accomplished, professional and dedicated teacher. In his 11 years here, he excelled in teaching Biology, Science and Maths and quickly established himself within the school and in the field of education. In his role as an assistant examiner in Higher Level Biology he combined his knowledge of the subject and syllabus to write his Leaving Certificate Biology text book "Bio", this well-regarded text book is still being used in our classroom today. In November 2020 John left the "Bish" and the teaching profession to take up the role as Chief Examiner within the State Exams Commission and it is with that we all wish him the very best of luck.

Written by Keith O' Reilly

PRES LIFE AT CHRISTMAS



M5/M6/TY CAR WASH



Students from M5/M6 and Transition Year came together to conduct a car wash in aid of Jigsaw Galway. €210 was raised on the day. Thanks to Ms. Considine for organising the students on the day and sincere thanks to the students themselves for all their hard work and efforts.

NEW 6TH YEAR PREFECTS

Two new 6th Year prefects were announced this term - Rory Markham and Fionán Conway. They will work alongside our other prefects as ambassadors for our school. Pictured here with their Year Head Mr. McGinn.



ART AND CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT



More amazing art work and the Cultural Engagement Project Blah Blah can be found on our website under the Student Blog in the Parents&Students Tab:

http://www.bish.ie/media/download_gallery/Bish%20Cyanotype%20photographic%20documentation.pdf

TEAM HOPE FUNDRAISER

As the annual shoebox appeal could **not** go ahead this year due to Covid, TY3 and the Headstrong Committee decided to raise funds for Team Hope instead so that they could continue to help children who are vulnerable in Africa and Eastern Europe.

On Friday the 18th of December we had a Christmas jumper day in order to support Team Hope. We encouraged all members of the Bish community to wear a Christmas jumper and to donate as they entered the school that morning, with donation buckets at the doors.

We have to remember that many of the children who are supported by Team Hope have never received a present before. Team Hope work hard every year to change this.



HEADSTRONG PROGRAMME



The Headstrong Programme, in association with Cycle Against Suicide, is an opportunity to develop positive mental health throughout our school.

In November, the Headstrong team created a beautiful Remembrance Tree where students were invited to write their loved ones name on a tag and hang it from the branches. Many thanks to our teachers who brought their class groups to the tree to do this. They also had a PowerPoint based on grief overhead.

In December, the committee developed ideas for Christmas including decorating our foyer and running a classroom decorating competition with our first year students to encourage them to mix together as a group but also alleviating the stress of Christmas tests.

SVP COLLECTION AND ASSISTANCE



2020 has become a year like no other. The class of TY1 wanted to take some initiative and help those in need in the community.

Along with their Religion teacher Ms Holden, they created a Young Saint Vincent de Paul Society. Over the past few weeks they have worked with the help of the regional officer from SVP, Helen Ralph.

The 2020 Young Saint Vincent de Paul project is called 'Hoodie Season'. The committee asked everyone to donate any pre-loved or worn zip-ups/hoodies/fleece jackets for any age or gender and drop them off at collection points in the school. On the 17th December they donated them to SVP on Merchant's Road.

This was a very worthwhile project as the items collected will be either sold in the SVP charity shop or they will be given to someone who is in serious need of a hoodie this Christmas.

TRANSITION YEARS



Our TYs had a visit from Reptile Haven before finishing up for Christmas where they got up close and personal with snakes, geckos, bearded dragons and more. A great workshop and enjoyed by all.



AROUND THE SCHOOL



View of the Bish on the way to the Pres building. The heron stands guard. Fast becoming the Bish mascot.



Construction of the benches which are now an outdoor seating area in the yard. TY students put them together under the direction of Mr. Burke.



Left: One of the wreaths made by our TY classes.

Above: Study before school/last minute homework.

2E Winners of the Marketing Competition.

View from the Monastery Building.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We are currently working on building our social media platforms to connect with current and past students more. Please follow our pages to keep up to date with latest news and events in The Bish. Thank you to all our contributors for this edition of the ezine.

We wish you all a very happy, peaceful and restful Christmas and New Year. Stay safe and see you all in 2021!

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