

BISH AUTUMN E-ZINE



Letter from our Principal

As we approach the October midterm break, it is hard to believe just how quickly the first half of the school term has passed. It has been a wonderfully busy and positive start to the academic year here at The Bish, with so much happening both inside and outside the classroom. From academic achievements and sporting successes to charitable initiatives, school trips and the return of our many extracurricular activities, there is certainly plenty to celebrate.

One of the highlights of the past few weeks has been the outstanding Leaving Cert and Junior Cycle results achieved by our students. We are immensely proud of the boys and the hard work, determination and commitment they have demonstrated. These results are a testament not only to their efforts but also to the dedication of their teachers and the encouragement and support of their families. Congratulations to all involved. We hope the boys take great pride in their achievements as they continue into the next stage of their education.

It has also been particularly heartening to see the strong sense of community and social responsibility that continues to be such an important part of life at The Bish. Our Transition Year students took part in the Sleep Out for Simon, under the guidance of Ms. Bruton, raising awareness of homelessness and supporting the invaluable work of Galway Simon Community. This was a wonderful example of our students looking beyond themselves and recognising the importance of helping those who are less fortunate. We also held a very successful No Uniform Day in aid of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, with students and staff coming together to support another very worthy cause. In addition, our LCW groups have been busy fundraising for the Hope Foundation, demonstrating once again the generosity and compassion of our school community. My sincere thanks to the students, teachers and families who have supported these initiatives.

Our extracurricular programme is well and truly back in full swing, and it has been fantastic to see so many boys getting involved. On the sporting front, we have had Gaelic football and soccer blitzes, while basketball, hurling, rowing and rugby have all resumed with great enthusiasm. These activities are such an important part of school life, providing opportunities for students to develop friendships, build confidence, learn teamwork and, of course, enjoy themselves. I would like to acknowledge the enormous commitment of our teachers who give so generously of their time to coach, organise and accompany teams throughout the year.

Of course, extracurricular life at The Bish extends far beyond the sporting fields. Our debating, music, art and chess clubs have also started back, offering students opportunities to explore their interests, develop new skills and discover talents they may not even have realised they possessed. We are very fortunate to have such a broad range of activities available, and I would encourage every student to get involved in something outside the classroom during the year ahead.

Our Transition Year students have certainly hit the ground running, enjoying a wide variety of experiences including trips to Pallas Karting and Paintball, surfing and rock climbing. These opportunities are an important part of the TY experience, encouraging independence, resilience, teamwork and a willingness to try something new. We have also had a number of retreats across different year groups, providing students with valuable time away from their usual routines to reflect, connect with one another and consider their own personal development.

We were also delighted to celebrate the awarding of the McGlennon Scholarship to past pupil Oliver Molloy, who is now studying Undenominated Engineering at the University of Galway. This scholarship, named in honour of Jimmy and Breda McGlennon, recognises a Bish student pursuing studies in the area of STEM at the University of Galway. We congratulate Oliver on this wonderful achievement and wish him every success as he begins this exciting new chapter. It is always a source of great pride to see our past pupils continuing to flourish beyond their time with us.

Student leadership is another important aspect of school life, and I am delighted to congratulate Eoin Conway and Crisian Rotariu on their appointments as Head Prefect and Deputy Head Prefect respectively. Both boys have taken on significant responsibilities, and I have no doubt that they will represent their fellow students and the school with distinction. We look forward to working closely with them and the wider prefect team throughout the year. Our new 5th Year prefects have also been appointed and started the year with leadership training together with our fellow Le Cheile schools, Salerno and Taylors. Sincere thanks to former Deputy Principal Seamus Cahalan for facilitating this training.

We have also welcomed a very special new member to our school community this term. Murphy, our School Dog, has settled brilliantly into his new role and has already become a much-loved presence around the school. His calm and friendly nature has brought plenty of smiles to students and staff alike, and it has been lovely to see how warmly he has been welcomed into Bish life. I suspect Murphy is already one of the most popular members of our school community!

While there has been much to celebrate, the term has not been without its challenges. The ongoing industrial action has created difficulties for schools across the country, and unfortunately, we were left with no option but to cancel our planned Open Evening. This was particularly disappointing as we always look forward to welcoming prospective students and their families into The Bish and giving them a sense of what makes our school such a special place. The commencement of strike action has also brought challenges and uncertainty to the normal running of school life. I would like to thank our parents, students and staff for their patience, understanding and cooperation during this period. We sincerely hope that a resolution can be reached as soon as possible in the interests of the entire school community.

As I reflect on the first half of the term, what stands out most is the energy, enthusiasm and generosity of spirit that characterise The Bish. Our school is so much more than what happens in the classroom. It is about the friendships formed, the opportunities embraced, the challenges overcome and the willingness to support one another. The range of activities and achievements highlighted in this edition of our ezine is a wonderful reflection of that spirit.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff, who continue to go above and beyond for our students, and to our parents and guardians for their ongoing support. Most importantly, I want to thank the boys themselves for the positive contribution they make to school life each day.

I wish all our students, staff and families a very enjoyable and restful October midterm break. I hope everyone has an opportunity to recharge the batteries before we return for what promises to be another busy and exciting half term.

Sarah Gleeson Principal St. Joseph's Patrician College – The Bish



SPORT IN THE BISH

Our TY Future leaders organized and hosted a 1st year class Blitz, Congratulations to 1D, our winners!



Our Junior A and C1 footballers defeated Colmans Claremorris in their Quarter Finals.

Our U16 Basketball team in their game against St Gerald's Castlebar



TRANSITION YEAR TRIPS



**Our Transition years
went on a variety of
trips, from Surfing in
Lahinch to Mud
Running in Cuckoo Hill!**



MEET MURPHY, OUR SCHOOL'S BRAND NEW SUPPORT DOG!



Our annual talent show "The Bish Bash" had its sign ups take place on September 24th.

We hope you'll come to see it in the Black Box Theater come Christmas time.



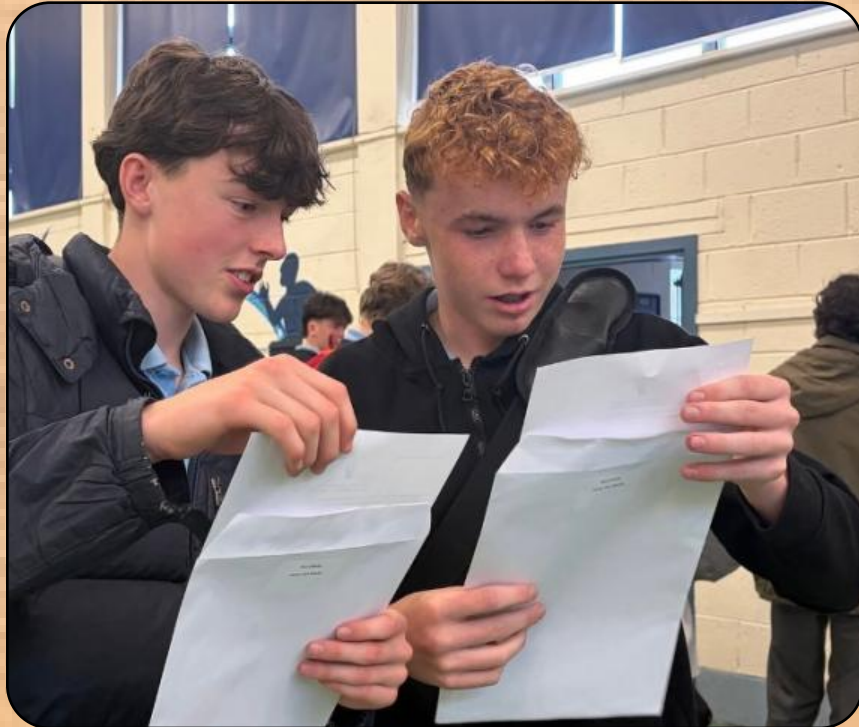
GALWAY SIMON SLEEP OUT

In support of the homeless community, our valiant Transition year students slept within the school



JUNIOR CERT RESULTS

**On October 7th
our Transition and Fifth
year students received
their Junior Certificate
results.**



TRICK OR TREAT FOR TEMPLE STREET



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Support the school via our Weekly Draw!



St. Joseph's Patrician College 'The Bish' Fundraiser Weekly Draw

Your support makes a real difference

Jackpot increases every week plus a weekly prize

Easy to enter

Scan the QR code or
visit our website
below



www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/thebish

Maximum of 3 recurring lines per supporter. Supporters
must be over 18 years of age to participate. T&Cs apply.

Powered by: **Our Fundraiser** – fundraising made easy

For info: info@ourfundraiser.ie



SCAN ME

Have a spooky Halloween and a great midterm!



by Manuel Jobby and Jack Boyle

+ James Woodings & Daniel McQuaide