



19
2016

Clár Comórtha
Céad Bliain
Centenary
Programme

BLAKESTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOL
POBALSCOIL ÉANNA

NEWLINK 2016





PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

As always it is a pleasure to write in this edition of Newslink. Readers of Newslink , really enjoy our annual school magazine, that so aptly chronicles our many activities and successes.

Last year, I wished our students well in the Pope John Paul II Award and then on Friday 27th November, 2015 in St. Paul's Church, Arran Quay, I shared a very special evening with parents. Nine of our students were presented with Gold Awards by Bishop Ray Field, acknowledging their active involvement in their community. I especially thank their Award Leaders Ms. Mary Quinn and Clinton Maher, Pastoral Worker and Fr. George Begley, Huntstown Parish for his support. A first for Blakestown Community School and Blanchardstown.



Nationally, this is a very special year as we commemorate the Centenary of the 1916 Rising. Blakestown Community School embraced the Centenary Programme with many related activities. On March 7th, Ms. Linda Chatham and I accompanied Jason Kinch Cording, Trevor Fahey and Amanda Beatty nominated by the school to collect our official copy of the Proclamation, at the National Flag Ceremony in the presence of our President of Ireland Michael D Higgins in Croke Park. We survived the cold and it was most enjoyable.

For me, Proclamation Day, Tuesday March 15th is most memorable, as our students took pride in the raising of the flag. Over my 33 years in Blakestown Community School there have been many emotional moments, but raising our National Flag on that day will be especially treasured. I thank the committee of staff and students who organised the event and our Irish dancers, who really enhanced the ceremony.

I would also like to commend the exhibition of history projects in the school library, the standard was excellent, making the task of judging very difficult. On a visit to Kilmainham Jail, our sixth year students were most fortunate to meet and have photographs taken with the granddaughter of Thomas MacDonagh, signatory of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic.

I also congratulate our Water Explorers, "Aqua Dudes" who were awarded with an International Award in the area of Community Impact. Another first for Blakestown Community School. They are wonderful ambassadors for our school and well done to them and their mentor Ms. Shauna Keyes.

On behalf of the Board of Management, Ms. Carroll and myself, I express a deep and genuine gratitude to all staff who give so generously of their time to engage students in such a variety of events and activities outside the classroom. Three wonderful performances of our Variety Show took place on 10th March, 2016. A big thank you to show director Ms. Jackie Forde and all staff and students involved. The talent showcased was amazing and much appreciated by packed audiences. I also commend our students, winners of Fingal Anti-Graffiti Poster Competition and the students who collected our World Wise Global Schools Diplomatic Award for work in Development Education. Mercury class who designed bookmarks for Ethiopia, our Regional Finalists in the Build a Bank Challenge and all students who engaged in Active Week organised by our P.E. Department.

I want to especially remember our esteemed colleague, teacher and friend Anne Fitzmaurice who died 30th August, 2015. Anne, an excellent teacher of English, History, Geography and



Religion taught in Blakestown from 1985 until she retired in 2009. She is fondly remembered by colleagues, parents and students past and present. It was a very sad time for all in Blakestown Community School when we parted with a very valued member of our school community. We remember her husband Sean and daughter Eimear in a very special way.

Since the last issue of Newslink, Mr. Brendan O'Daly retired. Brendan joined our staff in September 1980 and enjoyed a long and successful career in Blakestown Community School. Brendan taught Business, Business Studies, Maths and Accounting. I can only speak mostly highly of Brendan's personal and professional attributes as he discharged many duties over the years including Class Tutor, Year Head, Subject Co-ordinator of Business, timetabling and Exam Secretary. He will be especially remembered for the development of performing arts in Blakestown Community School as he produced and directed phenomenally successful musicals. He also enjoyed a huge fan base as a member of the much loved "Men in Black". A loyal, kind, supportive colleague, friend to many and widely respected by staff, students and parents past and present. It is great to have this opportunity to pay tribute to one of the finest colleagues, a person could have - and a thorough gentleman. We wish Brendan well on his retirement.

Mr Patrick Butler, our school caretaker is retiring this month. Paddy has a long association with Blakestown Community School, as his children attended our school and he started work here in 1999. Paddy was totally committed to his work and caretaking in Blakestown Community School is a demanding job. Paddy has a genuine interest in the school, positive, affirming and very supportive of staff and students. Paddy, a valued colleague will be missed by everyone, his close friends on the maintenance team and especially Ralph - they have shouldered the onerous task of caretaking for many years together. We wish Paddy a long and happy retirement with his wife Bridget and family. I hope he will make plenty of time to relax and read. I thank you Paddy for the contribution you made to Blakestown Community School over the years.

Our School Self Evaluation (SSE) for literacy and numeracy is well established. We have also completed our SSE report on Assessment for Learning (AFL). The School Improvement Plan for same is underway and will provide a tool kit of assessment strategies. Spelling Bee has reached the final and a countdown competition in numeracy is to follow. Again this year over sixty students received Excellence Awards and sixteen Outstanding Attendance Awards. Well Done.

We have gained new members in our Parents Association and our new HSCL teacher Ms. Shauna Keyes and I appreciate their support and look forward to regular meetings. Our Student Council is thriving, they have met with me as Principal and presented their ideas to the Board of Management. Keep it Up.

Being Principal is both rewarding and challenging - as Management, we have to oversee the implementation of the Framework for Junior Cycle. This implementation involves great changes for Management, Teachers, Parents and Students. The initial changes will take place in English, Science and Business - now known as specifications rather than subjects. The school will keep parents informed as we have already done with classroom based assessments (CBA's) in 2nd Year English.

We intend to continue the Friends for Life Programme, a school based positive mental health programme and with the support of the Board of Management I continue to lobby the DES for essential financial assistance to update our ICT system. We will continue to tackle the issue of attendance and punctuality - I appeal to parents for your support in these areas.



I thank all the teaching staff, SNA's, Student Support Team, Chaplain, Pastoral Care Teams, SEN Department, HSCL, NBSS and EAL teachers and the staff of EOP - Eleanor, Una, Lisa, Rita and Karen, The BMYI, Board of Management and Parents for their support.

I would like to thank Ms. Bernadette Carroll Deputy Principal for her tremendous support and phenomenal work rate during the last year.

I also thank our Secretarial Staff Fiona, Nicola and Aelita, Maintenance Staff Ralph, Paddy, Ann, Roisin, Philomena and Michelle, Leo and his team and our TUS team Michael, Murat and Derek. Thank you to Marcella who sustains us all throughout the year.

A final word of thanks to this year's editorial team Mr Stephen Dunning and Eoghan Byrne. Producing Newslink is a demanding task and well done on another fine production.

Eileen O'Connor
Principal



Newslink 2016

Blakestown Community School



15/03/2016



Energy & Environment Awareness Day 15/03/16



www.greenaware.ie





Gaeltacht 2015

In May 2015 a group of 1st years went to Achill Island off the coast of Mayo. We all met up outside the school on Friday morning at about 8 o'clock. Ms. O'Mahony and Ms. O'Riordan accompanied us on the tour. We got the bus across to Longford where we stopped at Mc Donald's for some breakfast. We then arrived at the Gaeltacht in the afternoon where it was lashing rain. We went into the hall where we then went upstairs to have some lunch. We were given soup and sandwiches which we thought were disgusting. After we finished our lunch we went back downstairs to hall where we did rock climbing and played games. We were brought to our Bean an Tí afterwards and the boys and girls were separated into different houses. We had our dinner and left to go gorge walking. We went to go get our wetsuits. They were so hard to put on. We went gorge walking in two different groups and we all got re-baptised with different names. We went back, got changed out of our wetsuits and went home. When we went home we had our supper and then we went to bed at 11 o'clock.

The next morning, we were woken up at 8 o'clock for our breakfast. We went upstairs got dressed and left to go get our wetsuits on once again to go surfing. We all had such a good time at surfing as it was something we had never done before. We went back to the hall where we had our lunch and we were given soup and sandwiches which we loved this time around. Is maith an t-anlann an t-ocras! We stayed in the hall for a while and later on that day we went back again to put on our wetsuits. We went to the bog where we did an obstacle course. The obstacle course was great we had to climb over and under a number of wooden beams. It was all team work. One of the best parts of the whole entire trip was the bog. At the end of the obstacle course we had to go through the bog. Holly and Hannah were the first two people to jump in everyone else was too afraid. After the bog we returned to our houses to get showered and into our pyjamas. We all went to the hall for a movie night but instead we played numerous games.

The following morning was the last day so we didn't have much time to do any activities. We still had a great day we went to the beach to play different types of games. We went back got changed went back to our houses got our stuff and said goodbye to Achill. On the way home Ms. O'Mahony bought everyone Mc Donald's. We arrived back at the school at about half 5. We had such an amazing experience.

Our leaders down in the Gaeltacht were so friendly, Thómas and Humphry. Thómas was our favourite by far he was so funny and we had a great laugh with him. We will always remember this trip as we had such an amazing time. We can't wait to go back again this year.

Written by Holly Moran and Hannah Bould Conroy from 2nd Year Taylor Class





Build a Bank Challenge

BCS Beast Bank

My experience with the bank was a great one. I learned so much, made new friends and had fun. When Ms Kelly came to our business class about the idea of setting up the school bank I was interested straight away. It was nerve wrecking going to the interview to see what job we would get. For most of us it was our 1st interview so it was great experience for us. It was difficult for us at the start setting up a bank we didn't know where to start. Our main problem was finding a name and theme for the bank but as soon as "The Beast Bank" came we knew it was the name for our bank. After that we started to advertise our bank. We made posters, announcements were made daily on the intercom and we went around to classes to see who would be interested in the bank. There was a huge amount of work required to set up our bank. As well as putting all the work in at our meetings we did have fun with the whole build a bank challenge. I know now coming away from the bank I have gained valuable experience and new friends.

The build a bank challenge altogether was a good learning experience for all the participants from the Beast Bank. It taught all of us how to work as part of a team and how to solve problems as one unit. It also gave us an insight into the world of banking as we learnt how to make lodgements, record daily transactions and answer customer queries. The school students also benefitted by being made aware of saving. The competition in Athlone was a wonderful experience for the members of Beast Bank as it showed us how other school banks were operated and we learnt a lot that will be applicable in our futures. We achieved a Silver Award for our Bank which we are delighted by and proud. The build a bank challenge was extremely worthwhile and rewarding.

By: Andrew Byrne and Jermaine James

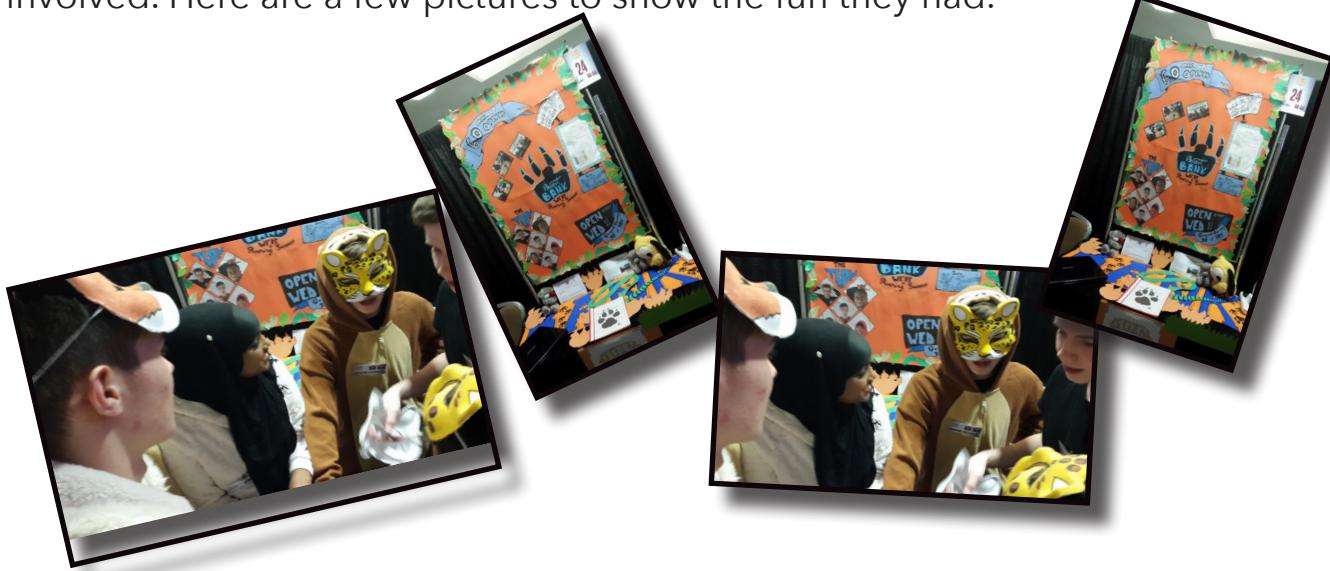






1st Year Sports Day

All 1st years took part in a multi activity sports day on Wednesday 27 th April. It was a tremendous success with all students having a great time participating in large variety of activities. With the excellent help from 25 5th year students the 1st years took part in basketball, obstacle races, benchball, zumba, welly throwing, continuous relay, tug of war, fitness and football. A great day was had by all involved. Here are a few pictures to show the fun they had.







ACADEMIC AWARDS JUNIOR CERT 2015

Subject	Higher Level	Ordinary Level	Foundation Level	Special Achievement
Music	Ion Sili	Mihai Hebristeau		
Art	Lauren Riordan	Clovis Mamba		
Science	Elica Macapagal	Jason Kinch Cording		Najmo Ali Mahamud and Eimear Kelly
Business Studies	Jermaine James	Mihai Hebristeau		
History	Rebecca Greene	Aoife Pyke		Najmo Ali Mahamud and Jason Kinch Cording
Geography	Christine Sili	Najmo Ali Mahamud		Neil Macaraeg
French	Persida Ros	Najmo Ali Mahamud		
German	Christine Sili	Sean Keulemans		Ion Sili
C.S.P.E	Anas Ouadina			
Irish	Rebecca Greene	Ingris Vilkevicius		
English	Alja Helac	Alanna Kinsella	Clovis Mamba	Najmo Ali Mahamud
Woodwork	Ion Sili	Sean Keulemans		
Metalwork	Ryan Blood	Chloe Logue		Najmo Ali Mahamud
Home Economics	Elica Macapagal	Jason Kinch Cording		Amy O'Driscoll



ACADEMIC AWARDS LEAVING CERT 2015

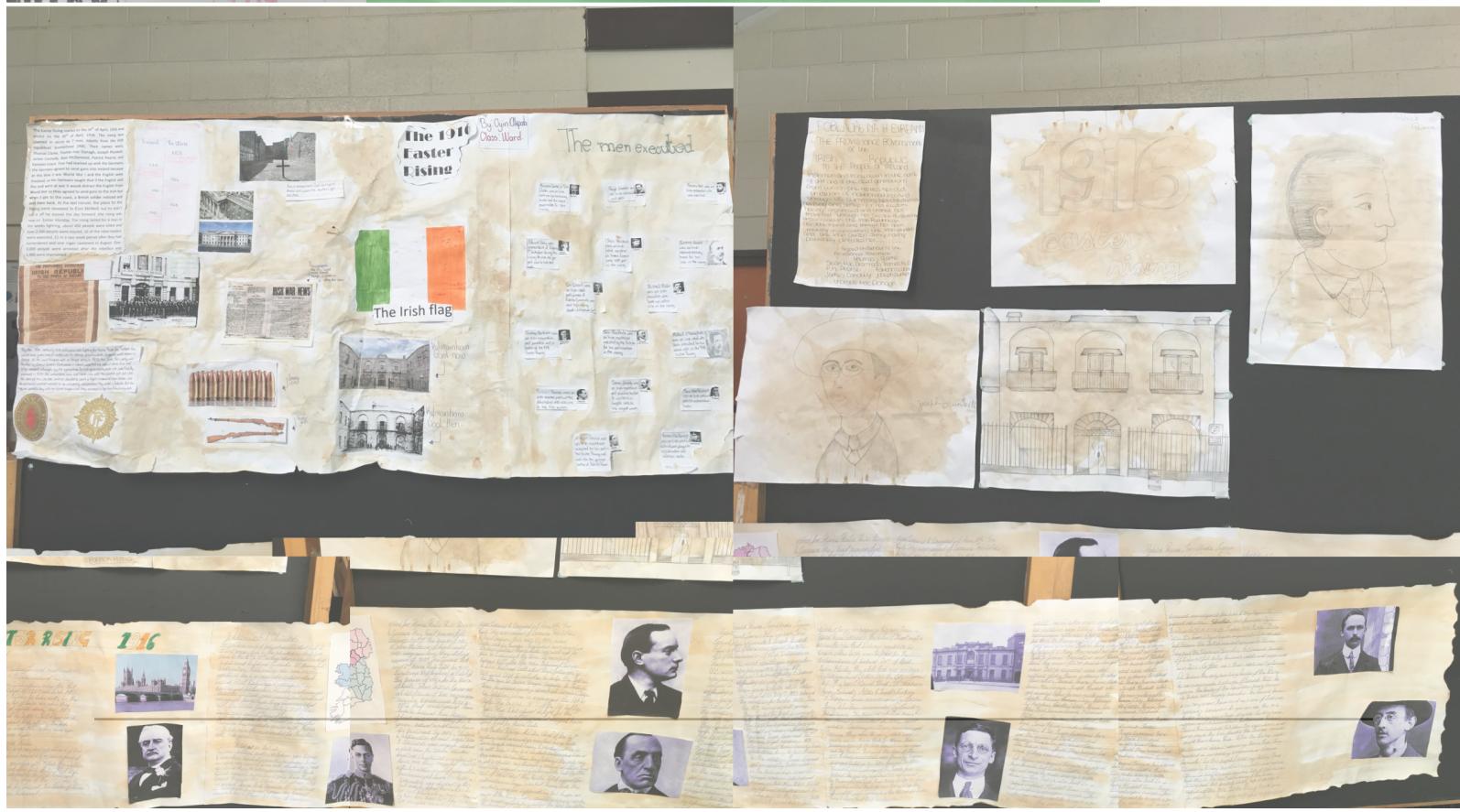
<i>Subject</i>	<i>Higher Level</i>	<i>Ordinary Level</i>	<i>Foundation Level</i>
English	Megan Bergin	Kaitlin Harrop	
Maths	Mark McMahon	Razvan Catalin Goanta	Kaitlin Harrop
German	Mark McMahon	Nicole Sinnott	
Engineering	Danut Ioan Bodiu	Corey Geoghegan	
Construction Studies	Corey Geoghegan	May Mohmeed Alie	
Irish	Kelsey Gray	Kaitlin Harrop	Emmanuel Bekunda
Business	Mark McMahon	Dora Peterfi	
Geography	Kelsey Gray	Ibrahim Abbes	
Music			
Physics/Chemistry	Kelsey Gray	Seaneen Flynn	
Biology	Mark McMahon	Jamie Healy	
Art	Jessica Core	Alica Paiva	
History	Mark McMahon	Dora Peterfi	<i>Special Achievement</i> Akvile Zykaustato Jessica Core
French	Razvan Catalin Goanta	Kaitlin Harrop	
Home Economics		Sarah Kinanga	







NOTES





BLAKESTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROCLAMATION

TO ALL CITIZENS OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD WE SHOULD BE PROUD OF WHO WE ARE AND WHERE WE BELONG. THE IRISH REPUBLIC IS ABOUT THE ALLEGIANCE OF THE IRISH PEOPLE TO OUR COUNTRY. THE REPUBLIC GUARANTEES RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, CIVIL LIBERTY, EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL ITS CITIZENS.

FOR ALMOST 100 YEARS IRELAND HAS BEEN A STRONG AND INDEPENDENT COUNTRY WE ARE KNOWABLE TO VOTE AND ELECT A NEW GOVERNMENT EVERY 5 YEARS. THE IRELAND OF 2016 IS A MODERN, SUCCESSFUL, MULTICULTURAL AND DIVERSE COUNTRY, IN STARK CONTRAST TO CONDITIONS WE LIVED IN 100 YEARS AGO IN 1916. WE NOW HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE REASONABLE FOR IRELAND. WE CALL ON OUR PEOPLE TO SUPPORT OUR PEACE KEEPING ROLE IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO REMEMBER AND REFLECT ON THOSE WHO FOUGHT AND DIED FOR OUR COUNTRY. THEY FOUGHT FOR A FAIR AND JUST SOCIETY. IT IS ONLY RIGHT THAT WE CONTINUE TO PRESERVE AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT GENERATIONS SACRIFICE AND VISION. WE OUGHT TO PROVE OURSELVES WORTHY OF THE AUGUST DESTINY TO WHICH IT IS CALLED.

**SIGNED ON BEHALF OF BLAKESTOWN
COMMUNITY SCHOOL**