

Ardgillan College

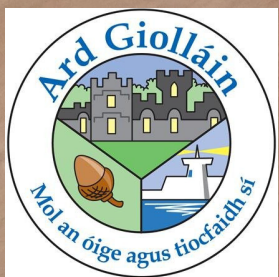
Newsletter

2018

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2019

Teamwork. Respect. Excellence



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What a year it has been in Ardgillan!

On any given day in Ardgillan College, there's a multitude of things happening - bells, quizzes, experiments, rehearsals, debates, tests, seagull attacks and goals skimming the nets of the astro pitch! This year was more challenging than most however as we lost the use of Phase 1 of the building. That didn't stop the students and staff from pulling together as a team to make it one of the most successful and rewarding years yet!



In May 2019 we said goodbye to our 6th Years. We want to wish this wonderful group of students the very best in their Leaving Certificate exams in June and in their future endeavors.

Farewell Class of 2019!

Goodbyes are Hard!

Unfortunately our 6th years were not the only people whom we had to say goodbye to this year. It was with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to our Principal, Mr. O'Leary, our Deputy Principal, Ms. NíMhurchu and our secretary Helen O'Gorman. We wish to thank them for all their hard work and dedication to the college and wish them an abundance of happiness in the next chapter of their lives. They will be deeply missed!



6th Year and TY Graduation Ceremonies

Ardgillan held two very successful Graduation Ceremonies for our Transition Years and Sixth Years in May 2019. The Sixth Year Graduation was an emotional affair as we said a final goodbye to a fantastic group of students. A group of students sang 'I'll always Remember us this Way' from the movie 'A Star is Born' and a number of students made speeches to encapsulate their experience of Ardgillan. All students were presented with a yearbook, certificate and a hoodie designed by the students to keep as a memento of their time in school. Sincere thanks to Mr. Finnegan, Ms. Ryan, Ms. O'Farrell, Ms. Morcoss and the Graduation Committee for organizing such a wonderful occasion.

The TY Graduation showcased all of the hard work that the students completed over the course of the year. Several students spoke to the crowd about their highlights and top experiences. There was also a special dance performance and video presentation. Thank you to Ms. Connolly and Ms. O'Reilly for organizing a marvelous night for our TY's and their parents.



Sixth Year Graduation



TY Graduation

Awards Ceremony May 2019

Our Awards Ceremony celebrated the talent, enthusiasm, hard work, dedication and achievements of the students of Ardgillan in all fields from Sport to Music to Engineering. Mr. O'Leary chose Ciaran Morrissey for his Principal's award. Ms.Dunne and Mr.Lanigan MC'd the event. Thank you to the Awards Committee and Mr.McBrearty for all their hard work to put the day together.



Mr. Finnegan and 6th Year Students of the Year



1st Year Students of the Year



Ciaran Morrissey being presented with his award by Mr. O'Leary



Ms. Doherty with 3rd Year Students of the Year

Trinity College 21st Century School of Distinction Award

Ardgillan College received the 21st Century School of Distinction Award from Trinity College in May 2019. This award commends the schools efforts in promoting progression to third level education among students. We take a whole school approach to promoting third level and each year run a college awareness week as well as other activities such as college talks for all year groups.

Progression rates since the college opened are continually on the rise as each year more of our students choose to progress to third level education.

Pictured below Mr Michael O'Leary, Principal and Michelle Dunne, Guidance Counsellor with the award.



Sports

What a year for sport in Ardgillan College it was! Thank you to all of the teachers who coached the teams, organised matches and facilitated training sessions. Without you, sport in the school would not be possible.

Soccer

The Junior Boys Team won the North East Division 1 League and got to the Leinster Cup Semi Final.

The Senior Team got to the Final in their division but were narrowly defeated.

Girls Gaelic

Our Under 16 Girl's Gaelic team got to the Junior Girls Leinster Final where they put in a stellar performance but were just pipped to the post.

Athletics

Jamie Ruhan and Sandra Eqwin both came 2nd in the North Leinster High Jump in their respective categories. Milcah Anevho was 3rd in the North Leinster 200m Race.

Boys Gaelic

Our U-14 Boys team reached the Division D Semi Final and our U-16 Junior Gaelic Team reached the Division D Final. Our Senior Team reached the Division D Semi Final where they were unfortunately defeated.

Hurling

Our U-14 Hurlers took part in a Dublin Blitz and performed well but unfortunately did not progress to the next round. Our U-16 Hurlers reached the Semi Final in their division but were narrowly defeated in the final minutes of the game.

Rugby

Our Junior Rugby Team won the Fingal Metro County Cup and Our Senior Team were narrowly defeated in their Fingal Cup final. The ladies took part in a tag rugby blitz and put in an exceptional performance on the day.

Chess

On the 30th November 2018, Ardgillan's chess team competed against St. Benildus secondary school in Kilmacud, Dublin. This was Ardgillan's first ever time entering a chess competition and although the team made a valiant effort, Benildus reigned supreme on the day. Ardgillan is hoping to build on their chess skills for next year.

Cricket

The senior cricket team won the Leinster Senior Plate after beating The High School Rathgar in the plate final.

Basketball

This year our 1st, 2nd, U16 and U19 teams took part in the North East League. All teams qualified for the Quarter Final Play-Offs.

It was a great season for the 1st year girls with a record of 22 players registered. The girls showed lots of potential and enthusiasm but unfortunately were beaten in their quarter final.

The 2nd Year and U16 girls teams had a challenging year in a new division, with the 2nd year team suffering a heartbreaking defeat in overtime against Sacred Heart, Drogheda. 2nd year Most Valuable Player (MVP) was Lauren O Neill-Carey and Top Scorer was Lily Grant. U16s MVP and top scorer was Sandra Egwin. The 1st year boys reached the quarter finals while second year boys were defeated in the semi-finals.

The senior boys U19's team were narrowly defeated in the North East Quarter finals. It is a bittersweet ending to the year as we say goodbye to our dedicated 6th year players Kevin Harkin, Tami Adaji, and Cian Nulty who have been great role models for our younger players. We wish them every success in their exams and future ventures. MVPs for the boys teams this year were Kevin Harkin, Patrick Nouaha, Conor Coleman and Alvin Emeski.

The senior boys ran their third annual Student vs Teachers basketball match in aid of the Irish Cancer society on Daffodil Day and raised a record €650. We would like to say thank you to all of the coaches who helped this year- Ms Delaney, Ms. O Toole, Mr O Neill, Ms. Kenny, Mr Lanigan and Ms. Harkin.



Our Basketball Stars





Our Gaelic Stars



Our Soccer Stars



Our Athletics Stars



Our Rugby Stars



Our Rugby Stars



Our Hurling Stars



Our Cricket Stars



Ardgillan did Grease!



In the cold depths of January, Ardgillan's students took it back to the 50's to sell out two nights of the hit musical Grease! They superbly portrayed the love story of Sandy Olsson and Danny Zuko on stage with lots of laughs and some supreme dance moves thrown in. It was a huge success and the teachers even took to the stage to perform as Teen Angels! Thank you and well done to all involved!



Junk Kouture

It was a wonderful year for our Junk Kouture class. 5 groups progressed with their recycled material designs to the Regional Final in The Helix at DCU. One group made it all the way to the final at the 3Arena in May 2019 and put in a stellar performance on the big stage on the night. Well done to Ellen Heffernan, Colm Buttimer, Aisling Woods and your teachers, Ms. McVeigh, Ms. Farrelly and Mr. Daly for all their hard work.



Trips!

The amount of trips that took place this year would make your head spin! Our students travelled everywhere from The Great Wall of China to Kilmainhain Jail to Microsoft HQ to Ardgillan Castle to Newgrange Megalithic Tomb to Art Museums. They canoed in the waters of Carlingford Lough and jumped in to the brown bogs of the Midlands. They hiked up the Wicklow mountains and drove cars in Collon and made their own TV shows in Maynooth. They went Ice skating in Dundrum and frequented Open Day at DCU. They watched Romeo and Juliet declare their love for one another at the Helix and all of that only names but a few!



Trips!



Sports Day

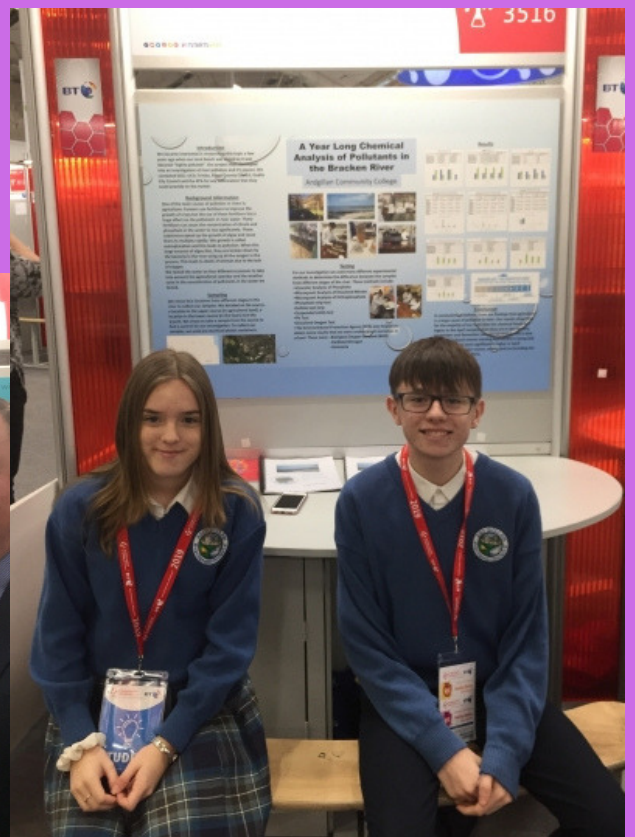
Sports Day was a huge success this year. The weather was mild and the ice cream was cold! Thank you to the P.E.

Department for organizing a fun filled day!



Young Scientist

Congratulations to William Leonard and Elena Manek from third year who were highly commended for their Young Scientist project at the RDS in January 2019. Their project investigated chemical pollution in the Bracken River. Well done also to their teacher Ms. Sheahan.



Scifest

Emily Cathcart and Lucy Ellis took part in Scifest 2019. Their project was focused on finding the best, environmentally friendly face scrubs. They were highly commended for their work. Congratulations!



Emily Whelan

Emily Whelan, our current Transition Year plays for the Ireland Ladies Soccer Team. She started playing soccer when she was 6 and has travelled all around the world with the team as of late. This year Emily won the FAI award for Under 17's Irish Player of the Year. (Pictured below.) What a remarkable achievement, sincere congratulations Emily. The teachers are not looking forward to having to play against her in the annual Teachers vs Students match when she reaches 6th year!



Emily Cathcart

Emily achieved the second highest Junior Certificate Spanish result in the country last year and was presented with a special award at the Spanish Embassy in Dublin in May 2019.

Congratulations for this outstanding achievement. Well done also to Emily's Spanish teacher Ms. Fitzpatrick.

Emily also won Transition Year Participant of the year at the Transition Year Graduation Ceremony in May. What a great year for an amazing student!



Emily with her Year Head Ms. Connolly receiving her Participant of the Year Award.



Emily at the Spanish Embassy with Snr. Martin



Ardgillan received its first Amber Flag

Ardgillan was awarded their first Amber Flag, in May 2019. Maebh Fitzpatrick and Keeva Tallon of Pieta house came to the school to hand over the flag and to be part of the flag raising ceremony. This flag symbolizes that Ardgillan is proactive in Mental Health Awareness.

The Amber Flag committee have worked hard all year to promote Positive Mental Health in the school. Ardgillan has not only gained an Amber Flag but they have ignited a discussion on Mental Health within the college and begun to break the stigma surrounding Mental Health issues. The Amber Flag committee is showing everyone that Ardgillan is a school where students and staff look out for each other, listen to each other and support each other.

Well done to the Amber Flag team members - Ms. Rooney, Ms. Dunne, Ms. Murray, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Ms. NiMhurchu, Emily Cathcart, Keelin Tapley, Dylan O'Neill, Niamh Ryan, Ronan Quill, Lucy Ellis and Stefan Simonovic.



Maths Achievements

Irish Maths Olympiad

The Maths department were very proud to see two of its students, Killian Costigan and Ronan Quill reach the final selection round for the Irish Maths Olympiad Team 2019. They have already excelled in two tests to get to this point, and have been attending Maths enrichment lectures in UCD since January. We wish them the best of luck in the final selection test choose the team to represent Ireland at the International Maths Olympiad in the UK during the summer. Both students received a special award from Mr O'Leary to mark their achievements so far this year.

Pi Quiz

Ardgillan CC competed successfully in the Pi Quiz, a Junior Cert Maths Competition, for the first time in April 2019. The team of Elena Manek, Matthew McColgan, Conor Murphy and Jakub Wasiak finished in 3rd place in the North Dublin Final, held in Dominican College, Drumcondra.

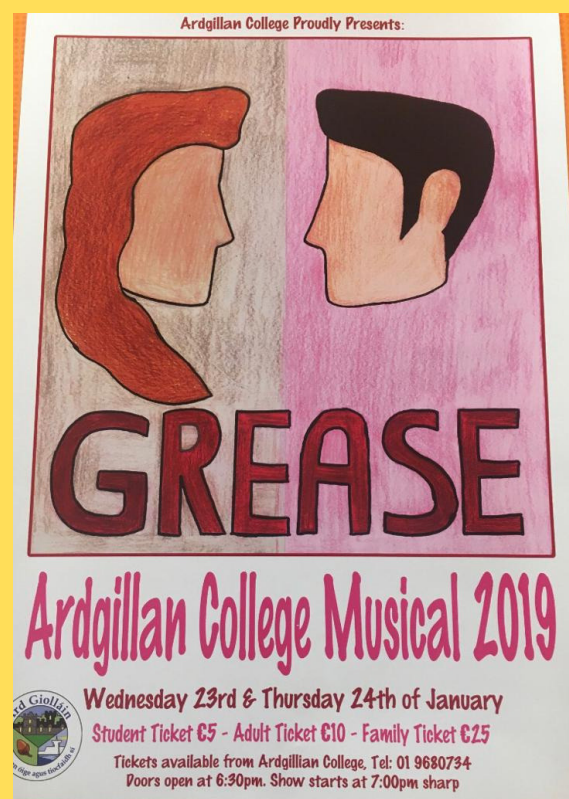
Marcus du Sautoy Lecture

Also in April, Mr O'Neill and Ms Delaney brought a group of the top Maths students in 3rd, 4th and 5th year to a lecture by the Oxford Professor Marcus du Sautoy, entitled "Algorithms: The Secrets of Modern Living" in Trinity College Dublin. The students enjoyed the lecture, and some even participated in an onstage activity showing how dating apps use algorithms designed by mathematicians. And, yes, Professor du Sautoy did sign their calculators.



Art

Our Art students produced some fabulous pieces of work this year. Students designed posters for the talent show, made all the set back drops and even painted a systematic, hydro-matic car for Grease! The corridors are looking bright and colourful too. Thank you to the art department for all their hard work.



Engineering and Technology

It was a fantastic year for Engineering and Technology in the school.

Aaron Corr won Overall Junior Certificate Technology Project in Ireland and was presented with a special award at the National Conference of Engineering and Technology Teachers last November.

This year marked the first year of Senior Cycle Engineering in Ardgillan College. We are committed to offering new and diverse subjects to all our students.

Thong Thai won Senior Engineer of the Year at our College Awards Ceremony in May. This was his first year ever undertaking Engineering and he was recommended for his excellence in manufacturing and his innate knowledge of the course theory. What an amazing achievement!

Mark Quinn won Junior Engineer of the year due to the skill he has demonstrated in manufacturing over the past three years.



Aaron Corr being presented with his Award alongside his teacher Mr. McBrearty.



Thong Thai being presented with his Student of the Year Award.

Green Schools

This year 4 of our TY students became Water Ambassadors for An Taisce and attended training and a litter picking at Poolbeg.

4 Groups also qualified for the Eco-Unesco Young Environmentalists Finals in The Convention Centre in Dublin in May 2019. Holly Davis, Aisling Woods, Sophie Mahon and Keelin Tapley entered their project called Bee-utiful Junkyard which used up cycled materials to create a beautiful, green space in our school. They also visited a local aviary and invited Gaelscoil Baile Brigin to attend a talk on Bees. The girls won Best Display at the final. Congratulations to the groups and to their teacher Ms. Delaney.



Charitable Work

This Year Ardgillan College supported many charities.

Our Teacher's vs Students Basketball match raised €650 for The Irish Cancer Society.

Our Annual Quiz night raised funds for the Parents Council which went towards organizing events in the school such as the 6th year Graduation night. The Leonards pictured below took home first place on the night!

Our Student Council made and donated numerous food hampers in December 2018 to St. Vincent De Paul.

Ms. Norris and the second years also took part in the Shoe Box Appeal for Team Hope. The students made Christmas boxes which were sent to children in difficult situations in Malawi, Romania and Kosovo. Each shoe box was filled with the necessities that these children are in need of but deprived of. Each box included something the child could wash with, write with and wear. Along with that the students added a treat such as a toy or non-perishable sweets.

Our TY students took part in Cycle Against Suicide on the 6th December 2018 and raised funds and awareness for the initiative.



Cycle Against Suicide Participants




Ardgillan Quiz Night



Our Head Boy and Head Girl for next Year

Ruari Harkin and Joyce Okoronkwo, pictured below right were announced as next years Head Boy and Head Girl at our Awards Ceremony. A sincere thanks to Amy Melia and Shane Nally, pictured below left who are our outgoing Head Boy and Head Girl. They represented their school superbly and helped to run the Student Council. Well done for all your hard work!





**What an amazing year!
Sincere thanks to our
students, staff and
parents for all your
support. Let's make the
2019-2020 School Year
exceptional!**

