THE BUZZ

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Thank you to those who contributed to our positive poetry competition during wellbeing week. Entries have been rotated on the screens over the last week and we are delighted to announce the winner. Congratulations to Ruairí Bray in 6th year whose winning poem *The Night Train* will be featured in the yearbook. Ruairí's poem is included below.

The Night Train

there's peace on the night train,
the odd white silence
of the muffled engines
putting ones mind to rest

interrupted only by the clack clack of the tracks and intermittent stops at stations dimly lit

the night train gives solace to the weary commuter peacefully, sleepily waiting, for their destination.

By Ruairí Bray



We remind 6th year students that LG-3 will be available as a quiet room before all mock exams. Students who feel they need a quiet space to sit before any exams are welcome to come along and destress.













Congratulations to 5th Year Students Edward DeBono and Lucy Cronnelly, winners of the Irish round of the Oxford Union debates. This debating competition is very highly regarded and is known as one of the most prestigious among school debating competitions.

For the Irish regional round, the teams debated in a Mace format. This meant that they had only 15 minutes to prepare their approach to the topic they had received on the day. The two motions debated on the day were:

Round 1: This House prefers a world where, after COVID-19 is no longer a threat to public health and safety, working from home remains the norm.

Round 2: This House believes that liberal democracies should boycott major sporting events hosted by countries with known human rights abuses.

They will progress to debating in Oxford University later in the school year. We look forward to following their progress and seeing how they fair while debating in Oxford Union this March. Good Luck!

Gongratulations!







HI STUDENTS,

We hope you're all doing ok. This is a busy period, with mocks, class tests, projects, Hpat preparation, CAO deadlines etc... you must be exhausted! Make sure to schedule in some downtime and rest. Downtime replenishes the brain's stores of attention and motivation, encourages productivity and creativity, and is essential to both achieve our highest levels of performance and improve our mood. The importance of rest cannot be overstated.

UCAS



Well done to all the 6th years for submitting their UCAS applications; the application process is time consuming and we wish you every success with your applications.

CAO



Final push for 6th years to get their CAO submitted before the Feb 1st deadline. The important thing about this deadline to note is that all restricted courses must be on your CAO by this deadline (any course marked with an asterisk in your CAO handbook – usually requiring an additional assessment such as a portfolio or audition). Remember the CAO portal will re-open in May with their free change of mind facility, so if you're still feeling unsure about what courses you applied for or what order your choices are in you can amend your application. The change of mind allows you to make any changes you like except introduce a restricted course, so you can consider this February deadline as a first draft.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES



PLC (post leaving cert) courses are offered in some schools, colleges and community education centres. A great thing about PLC courses is that as well as offering a recognised qualification in their own right, they can also offer an alternative route to Higher Level education - a stepping stone, so to speak. All PLCs are currently open for applications. Application is made directly to each individual college. A few have open days in the next week – check individual websites for details.

WEBINARS



Last week's webinar on music and drama was very well attended; thank you to the attendees for your fantastic questions and engagement. We continue looking at restricted courses this week covering artistic disciplines such as photography and film.

Have a great week

EXTRACURRICULARS

HOCKEY



We are very excited to be adding to our extracurricular time-table!

Wed / Pembroke Hockey Club / 3:30pm

Meet: At main reception ground floor

Transport: Bus will leave just after 3:35pm

and return to the school for 5:30pm

Equipment: bring your own and some extra

-if possible - for others!

CHESS



As of this week chess is moving to B-7! Chess / Fridays / 3:30 / B-7

MASTERCLASS



This Monday, Sept 24th, we have a Masterclass in Geography with Breege Henry. It is for 6th years and will be live online at 5pm.



This Wednesday, Sept 26th, we have a Masterclass in Biology with Wesley Hammond. It is for 6th years and will be live online at 7pm.



This Thursday, Sept 27th, we have a Masterclass in English Paper 2 with Liam Dingle. It is for 6th years and will be live online at 7pm.