



# Newsletter

## A Warm Welcome...

March 2015 Issue 02

It is hard to believe that we are already into the month of March. It only feels like yesterday that we were in the month of September! The next few weeks will see quite an amount of activity within the school as we continue to inform parents, prepare students for state exams and already begin preparations for the next school year. I hope this newsletter finds you well and keeps you informed and updated on all the happenings within Tarbert Comprehensive School.

*Richard Prendiville - Príomhoide*

### Seamus Whitty

#### Don't miss this Golden Opportunity!

On March 12th and 13th 2015 Kerry Life Education tutor, Seamus Whitty will address LC2, LC1 and T.Y. students during the school days on:

- Building Self-esteem
- Positive decision making
- Solution focused approaches to issues
- Teenage Psychology

On Thursday Night 12th of March at 7.30p.m. In the School Assembly Hall, Seamus will address 2nd year students with their parents. This is a chance for you to experience substantial growth in your relationships. Teenage years can be a troubled time for some. Taking time out to gain some insights and to renew and recharge yourselves. This will benefit all and the session will be enjoyable, informative and with high quality input.

## School Registration

In the coming weeks students will be completing their registration for the next academic school year 2015-16. This work is necessary in March/April/May so as to allow all students to be registered prior to the summer break. A registration form must be completed by each individual student returning to school in September 2015.

As well as the registration form we ask parents for the yearly contribution of €60 (€100 per family). This contribution is used as follows: student insurance providing 24hour cover all year round, Study Skills seminars for Leaving and Junior Certificate students, school reflection days, buses for matches and extracurricular outings, photocopying and upkeep of the library. As you can see the money is put to very good use and allows us offer opportunities to our students in a wide spectrum of areas.

Naturally I would never want money matters to be a concern for any parent or family as I am conscious that educating and rearing a child in 21st century Ireland is a costly undertaking. No parent or indeed child should feel embarrassed because of financial pressures. So if this arises for you around this time of year please contact Sr. Frances, Ms. Moloney or myself and the matter will be dealt with sensitively and in total confidence.

## Return of Music

The Board of Management has facilitated the re-introduction of Music as a subject at Junior Cycle for the coming year. As a result Music will now be offered to the new incoming 1st years for 2015/16 in the option blocks. Music will be sampled by all students in the first eight weeks of term along with the other optional subjects before students select their final choices.

## Important Dates to Note

CAO	Change of Mind Facility Opens May 2nd - Closes July 1st 2015
"Hear and Dare	Deadline for Supporting Documents - 1st April 2015
Post Leaving Cert Courses	Apply online Mid February 2015 - August 2015
SUSI Maintenance Grant	Apply May 2015 - July 2015 <a href="http://www.susi.ie">www.susi.ie</a>

# TY/LC1/ LCA1 2015-2016

An information night on the courses, subjects and options available to your son/daughter for next year in either TY, LC1 or LCA1 will be held in the school on Tuesday March 3rd at 7pm. Parents of the current TY students should note that this will be a similar presentation to last year. Nevertheless all are welcome.

Preliminary course forms for 2015/16 will be distributed to all 3rd year/TY students on Wednesday March 4th. These are to be returned by Monday March 9th. Those students opting for the traditional Leaving Certificate route will be issued option forms on Thursday March 12th. These forms must be returned by Friday March 20th. I am asking students and parents to adhere to these deadlines so as to allow for sufficient planning and preparatory work to be completed before and across the Easter break. Option choice should not be dependent on Pre Examination scores.

In many cases Pre Examination results will not be back until late March. Remember students have been getting grades and feedback from teachers in various optional subjects for almost 3 full years and so this feedback should form the basis of any decision. Students will be informed about the success of their option choices after the Easter return. As with previous years it is likely that the majority of students will get their preferred option choices.

## State Examinations June 2015

The Junior and Leaving Certificate Examination timetables for June 2015 have been published by the State Examinations Commission. They are available to download on the school website at [www.tarbertcomprehensive.ie](http://www.tarbertcomprehensive.ie) under the 'Latest News' blog or by visiting [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)

In the coming weeks a number of key deadlines for project/portfolio work in various subjects will be approaching. This can often be quite a daunting time for students attempting to juggle the demands of various deadlines approaching in a short time span. Oral examinations are also fast approaching. Leaving Certificate students complete Irish orals exams commencing the week of April 13th with French orals the following week, April 20th.



As a school we try to keep a vigilant eye on how students are coping throughout the year and make every effort to keep parents informed if we find a student slipping behind or under unhealthy pressure. Our aim is to allow students manage as healthy a balance as possible between homework, study and project work. A few tough weeks at this time of the year can ultimately pay dividends later and also remove considerable pressure from the terminal exam in June as by then students will already know they have many marks secured. As a parent, if you feel that your son/daughter is under excessive stress from exams then please feel free to contact the school authorities. Equally if you wish to get an update on your child's progress approaching the exams then you may contact their subject teacher by telephone through school office or by using the school journal.

Finally can I commend the teaching staff of the school that go above and beyond the call of duty in giving so much of their own personal time to prepare students for projects, portfolios and orals – evenings after school and holiday times are often sacrificed to make sure students are ready. Thank you to one and all.

## Tarbert Comprehensive Parents Association Fashion Show

The Tarbert Comprehensive Parents Association Fashion Show will be held this year on Friday the 6th of March in the Tinteán Theatre Ballybunion at 8PM. The modelling team for the shops taking part from the North Kerry and West Limerick Region will comprise of The Ursula Stokes modelling agency, our talented Transition Year students and children from the local communities.

The Fashion Show is the Parents Association annual fund raiser and all funds raised go directly to improving the facilities and services in the school. The Parents Association would like to acknowledge that this fund raiser is only possible each year thanks to the support and generosity of the School, the shops that take part, the local businesses for the sponsorship and donations, and of course the families and local community members that purchase tickets.

Tickets cost €10.00 each and this will include the wine and cheese reception and entry into the door prize draw. Our tickets are now on sale for this great event during lunch time on 24th Feb, 26th Feb, 3rd March, and 5th March. We would ask if it is at all possible if you could please support us. Even if you cannot attend on the night, if possible please buy a ticket any way and put your name on the back and give to a member of the Association and you will be entered into the door prize draw. So relax with family and friends with our complimentary wine and cheese reception and have a great night out. We thank you most sincerely for your support in the past and we look forward to your continued support for this year's event. For tickets please contact: 087 6986744 - The Parents Association.

# BT Young Scientist Exhibition 2015

by Oran Pierse

As part of our TY science class, we all entered projects for the BT Young Scientist competition. We split up into groups, the brainstorming for ideas began and we all decided on our project topics. Even within our class, we had a wide variety of topics ranging from new methods of testing soil to the effects of chemicals on hair.

After much research and experimentation, we submitted our projects to the competition. Although none of us made the final selection for the RDS Exhibition, it was a great learning experience and all students received free tickets to visit the exhibition in the RDS.



*Eager Young Scientists!*

*L-R: Niamh O'Connell, Athea, Caolainn Healy, Tarbert, James McFarland, Listowel, Aine O'Neill, Ballylongford and Oran Pierse, Listowel.*

We got good use out of our tickets when we all took a bus up to Dublin to visit the BT Young Scientist Exhibition. It was a fantastic event with thousands of people crammed into the exhibition hall. It gave us all a great flavour of the event, and what's needed to be successful in it. The huge variety of projects on display gave us an insight into the many different applications of science in daily life. The projects ranged from the science of snapchat to a Boxer's hand wrap.

I believe that taking part in this competition was a very worthwhile experience. We all learnt a lot about science and how it can be applied to solve every day problems.

## T.Y. Drama National Finals

After hours of fun in rehearsal, 'The Romantic Lover' a one act comedy, was staged by our Transition Year students in Macroom's Briery Gap Theatre on Saturday February 28th. A motley cast and crew, comprising of Eamon O'Callaghan in the lead role, Ciara Finnegan, Klara Hunt, Bryony Kelly, James Shine and Aine O' Neill, took to the stage and did us proud with an excellent performance. Eoin Creagan combined the roles of stage manager and photographer and did so with equal excellence. To our joy, we were awarded with the overall runners up award and James Shine was awarded with the best individual in a supporting role. In the words of the late Dr. Bryan MacMahon 'The stage will never die!'

## School Library

The Tarbert Comprehensive Thomas Mc Greevy school library has re opened to students since before Christmas. We have undertaken some refurbishment of the interior of the library space, making it more spacious and welcoming . The walls were painted and the shelves varnished over the October midterm. We have installed a new computer station, a flat screen television and a cosy area for students who use the library at break time. New notice boards advertise cultural activities in the library and the local area, and a display cabinet now illuminates the sporting and artistic achievements of our students.

While we already had an extensive range of books in the library, we have invested in some new and popular books for Junior and Senior Cycle students including those on the prescribed D.E.S. list for the Junior and Leaving Cert. We now stock fiction from writers such as Michael Morpurgo, John Green, and Khaled Hosseini to name but a few. We have many autobiographies from the sporting and political world including Paul Galvin's "In My Own Words" and Malala Yousafzai's "I am Malala". From classical literature to modern fiction and fantasy , to our new selection of Manga comics and non - fiction resources covering a range of topics such as sport ,cars, history , cookery and travel, our library aims to cater for every taste. To this end we must gratefully acknowledge the support and generosity of the **Parents' Association** who have kindly donated many new and second hand books. We also have a weekly copy of *The Kerry's Eye* and *The Farmers' Journal* available as well as the magazines *Bliss*, *Kiss*, *Match and Four*, *Four Two*, and the French magazines *Français Plus* and *Jeunes*.

Combined with initiatives such as the Senior Book Club, the First year English sustained reading class, and the literacy and numeracy drive, the basic aim of our investment in the library has been to encourage and promote reading within our school population. We are happy to report that increasing numbers of students are availing of the library and its resources. Students can check out and return books every Wednesday and Thursday morning from 8.30-8.55 a.m. Outside of these opening hours students can contact Ms.O Callaghan and /or Ms.Anderson if they want to choose or return a book.

World Book Day will take place on Thursday 5th March and we will have various activities and displays in the library on this day. We are looking forward to the continued and increasing use of the library space and welcome everybody in the school community to take advantage of this wonderful resource.

# Tarbert School Girls' GAA

By Charlotte O'Neill

To think, this time last year both our girls' teams (Senior and Junior) were preparing for a Munster Semi-final. This unfortunately couldn't be repeated this year. Our seniors due to advancement into a more experienced division found the going tough. They failed to push into a semi-final like last year, but 2015 is a new year and calls for more opportunities.

An opportunity came knocking when we were drawn against Corca Dhuighine in a Kerry schools semi-final. It was a grimy and grey afternoon much like the final score. The girls', ignoring the 1:8 to 4:7 score line played a fabulous and determined performance.

Unlike their senior counterparts, the junior girls' embarked in a successful Munster campaign. The girls' achieved a semi-final spot against Ennis Colaiste Mhuire Co. Clare. Unfortunately the girls lost by narrow margins and could not progress into the final.

The junior's next task was the Kerry Schools finals against our closest rivals Presentation Secondary School Listowel. It was an exhilarating match that unfortunately ended with a 2pt deficit for our girls'. On the other hand these girls' this year portrayed the bright future for girls' football in Tarbert Comprehensive.

Many talented 1st years are rising through the ranks this year. There is sure to be future success in this bunch of wonderful footballers. The biggest recent achievement with our panel of footballing girls is the All Ireland A u14 medal that Sophie Lynch won when she played midfield with Kerry.

## The School Gate

Safety and well being for all persons involved with Tarbert Comprehensive is of great importance to the school. With an enrolment of 621 pupils and over 60 teaching and ancillary staff, the area around the school can become exceptionally busy with traffic particularly at morning and evening times. The school therefore by its busy nature can pose considerable challenges to health and safety especially in relation to traffic.

In recent weeks I have become more and more concerned that the large volume of traffic is a potential risk to the well being of students, families, visitors and staff. In an attempt to limit this danger school staff have agreed to undertake a new car parking etiquette. As part of this strategy staff will delay departure from the school car park at the end of day until all the buses have departed (approx. 5 minutes) so as to allow students the opportunity to safely exit the school grounds. Staff have also agreed to a number of other measures. Students will also be informed of new safety measures in the coming weeks at assemblies and through intercom announcements such as:

- Using the new pedestrian crossing when entering and disembarking the buses
- Using the footpaths at the front of the school
- Students are under NO circumstances allowed park in the school car park.
- NEVER walking behind reversing vehicles etc.

It is also vital that parents take their responsibilities seriously in matters of safety. To that end I am asking parents to be conscious of the following:

- Parents are asked NOT to use the front gate to turn or 'drop' children, no matter how late/early you are. This behaviour is noted as a serious hazard to the safety of all. Parents are asked instead to turn at the upper school gate.
- The only area you are allowed to drop your child off is by stopping/parking in one of the designated areas – namely along the front wall of the school or at the bottom of the steps and again under no circumstance pull up or turn at the front gate to collect or drop a child, even if only a quick stop.
- Students are NOT to be dropped/collected in the school car park. NEVER use a Disabled car-parking space for an invalid reason nor move into a yellow box unless you have the legal right to do so. Please follow the clearly labelled road markings. NEVER move against the flow of traffic.



**Ultimately self-responsibility is the rule of the day.** As an adult, it is entirely your responsibility to adhere to the rules of the road when driving near the school or when using the car-park facilities. Please take serious note of the requests above as this will be the expected behaviour of all users of the area in front of the school and the car park. Together we will make the area in and around the school a safer place for everyone.