



VIRGINIA COLLEGE

CO. CAVAN



Basketball
Ireland



NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2016

CSPE News



On Thursday 27th October 3C and 3E students visited Leinster house. This visit was facilitated by TD Niamh Smyth. It was a very enjoyable and informative day.

This term we were also delighted to welcome Mr. Simon Duffy who works as a prison officer in Loughan House. He gave students an insight in to his job as a prison officer and on prison life.

Both classes are now ready to write up their action projects for their Junior Cycle.

CSPE Garden Project



Andres Martinez 2A, one of our many international students, helping his classmates to tidy our school garden. This is part of their CSPE course which involves awareness and protection of the environment around them.

Interactive Shuttle



Some of our TY students enjoying the RSA Road Safety Roadshow this month in Virginia College.

Virginia College students receive DCU Academic Scholarship



On Wednesday 30th November two of our former students were invited to the annual awards ceremony in DCU. This celebratory event was to mark the excellent academic achievement of Michelle Taitte and Aoife Maguire in the 2016 Leaving Certificate examination, both of whom are now DCU registered students. Michelle is studying Irish and Journalism and Aoife is studying Sports Science and Health. Well done ladies.

Virginia College present Disco Inferno



The school musical Disco Inferno took place in The Ramor Theatre from 22nd to 27th November. The 60 + students involved worked tirelessly on the musical since last May. All their rehearsals paid off, playing to packed audiences each night! Well done to all the students and staff involved. A huge thank you to all the staff, students, parents, local businesses and everyone who supported our school musical. We couldn't do it without you.



Dress Up day 2016



On Wednesday 26th October the student council organised the annual Halloween dress up day. This year students fundraised for two local charities, Lil Jakes Sake and Make a Wish. Our students raised a total of €723 for the charities. Well done to all involved.

Junior Cycle English



Preparations continue in Virginia College among Junior Cycle English students.

For 1st year students the focus of the new Junior Cycle English course is on development of language and literacy in and through three strands: Oral language, Reading and Writing. This affords students the opportunity to engage in a rich learning experience.

2nd year students are working towards their first Classroom Based Assessment (CBA1) which is Oral Communication. Here students have opportunities to demonstrate their understanding and skills in a way which would not be possible in a formal written exam.

3rd year students completed CBA1 during 2nd year and at this stage they have also completed CBA2 which is a collection of the student's texts. This assessment offers students a chance to celebrate their achievements as creators of texts by compiling a collection of their texts in a variety of genres over time and choosing a number of pieces to present for assessment.

In addition to this, 3rd year students have just completed the written Assessment Task which will be marked by the State Examinations Commission along with the final exam in June 2017. This task facilitates students in highlighting key learning points gained when students undertook CBA2.

As we look to 2017, 3rd year students will be the first cohort to sit the state-certified examination and subsequently awarded the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement.

Lá Gaeilge 2016



This year sixty students participated in Lá Gaeilge on Tuesday 11th November. They made an effort throughout the day to speak Irish. All staff got involved by using their 'cupla focal' with students.



State Examinations 2016



Virginia College is proud of the excellent results that students achieve annually in both the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate examinations. These results are achieved by dedicated students, by hard working teachers and by the parents and the Board of Management of Virginia College who are supportive of the work of the school and the staff.



Leaving Certificate History Trip 2016



The Leaving Certificate History tour made its way to Berlin this year after three successful past trips. Leaving at 3am on a Wednesday morning, an intense trip clocked up roughly 50km of walking. Despite the odd moan, students thoroughly enjoyed the trip taking in the Olympic Stadium, Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, the Holocaust museum and

many other sites during the three days. Thank you to the 19 students who went, Stephen from Saffron Travel and to Ms Goldrick and Mr Egan for taking the time to help with the trip.

Leaving Certificate Applied Exhibition



Congratulations to 6th year Leaving Certificate Applied art students and their fantastic Paverpol Sculptures... After working very hard for a number of weeks they produced an excellent exhibition on enrolment night... Keep up the good work. ☺



Maths Week 2016

On Monday 17th October the Virginia College maths department began a busy week of events. A week of puzzles and problem solving ensued in a very enjoyable week. Well done to all teachers and students involved.



Michael Sweetman Education Trust

We are pleased to announce that following assessment in the Michael Sweetman Education Trust Competition 2017, that Leaving Certificate Applied students Danielle Kavanagh and Aine Marie Hetheron have been placed in the group of twenty four students from all over Ireland which will form the Michael Sweetman Education Trust Team to take part in the EUROSCOLA in the European Parliament on Thursday 26 January 2017, and to join the team from Tuesday 24 January to Friday 27 January 2017. Well done girls.

Virginia College trip to Butlers Chocolate Factory



On Thursday, the 17th of November, 3rd Year Home Economics students and 6LCA students paid a visit to Butlers Chocolate Factory in Dublin. Students partook in the ultimate chocolate experience where they watched the Butlers Chocolate Movie, wandered around the Museum, savoured the chocolate aroma from the gallery and enjoyed demonstrations on how

chocolates are created. Throughout the visit, students were treated to numerous delicious samples. To top off the day, they had the opportunity to dress like a chocolatier to decorate their own chocolate elephant, which they brought home as a souvenir. Overall, a thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all.



Virginia College Language Adventure

In March of next year 75 of our 2nd year students of French & Spanish will head to Bundoran in Donegal for three days of language tuition and adventure activities. Students will solve puzzles which involve team work & they will get the chance to surf the waters of the Atlantic! This trip is run yearly and has always been a very popular school outing. Keep an eye on our twitter page for pictures from Donegal next March!

Ramor United visit Virginia College

On Wednesday October 24th, Virginia College was delighted to welcome back our former students from the victorious Ramor United team.

In what was a huge occasion for our school, town and local areas, we welcomed back former students Damien Barkey, Eoin Somerville, James Bradley, Aaron Farrelly, Kevin Mulvany, Brian O'Connell, Conor Bradley, Cathal Maguire and Michéal Smart as senior county champions.

It has been an absolute pleasure to have so many of the panel represent our school at all age levels in various different sports in their time in the school.

It is often said that winning is a habit and this certainly has been the case with this special group of players, from first year through to Leaving Certificate.





SCIENCE CORNER

Geometry, Fractals and Carpets – Maths in Virginia College 2016

Colette Greene, Jason Cunningham, Holi Deegan, Aishling Grealy, Olivia Smith, Julianne Aromi and Carmen Gordi, students from Virginia College became involved in the Sierpinski Carpet Project in January 2016.

The Sierpinski Carpet Project is a non-profit, collective and joint activity among people, from 3 to 99 years old, around the world. The aim of the project is to build a giant geometric fractal, known as a Sierpinski Carpet, with coloured square stickers. This fractal was first described by Waclaw Sierpinski in 1916. It is constructed by dividing a square into 9 others of side $1/3$ of the primitive and eliminating the square which occupies the central position, repeating this process in each of the squares that remain at infinitum. In each power (iteration), the number of squares is multiplied by 8, this produces a geometrical object with a gap of zero area but with an infinite perimeter. Some microchips have this fractal design.

This project aims to introduce the concept of a fractal through a

classic example, to familiarise students with its construction, to develop manual and visual work, to encourage an interchange of knowledge and experiences between the participants of the project and finally to highlight collaborative work.

Virginia College is the Irish representative of this International Project. This project involved students working collaboratively to build a Sierpinski Carpet 4.86 m x 4.86 m. It was completed in March and took 32768 stickers and 512 students (from first years to sixth years) to complete. The carpet was then sent to Professor Jose Rodriguez in Almeria in Spain. The final carpet was assembled in Almeria and required the collaboration of 32,768 students from 512 centres. The final carpet measured 45m square and marked the hundred year anniversary of the publication of the Sierpinski Carpet. This giant Sierpinski carpet was be presented at the 13th Internation Congress of Mathematical Education (ICME) which was held in Hamburg July 24th to 31st , 2016.



European Youth Parliament (EYP)

Transition year students are given many opportunities to develop in a variety of ways. The EYP offers interested students a chance to meet with their peers from different schools across Ireland to promote awareness and discuss different European issues among young people. The EYP aims to empower young people to question the world around them and come up with innovative solutions to global problems.

Jack Kiernan from Virginia College availed of the opportunity to take part in the weekend long conference which took place in Castlebar Co Mayo. There were many activities, debates and discussions during the weekend. Jack found the weekend very educational, was part of a winning debating team and really enjoyed the experience. He received certification for the event and must be congratulated for his efforts. Well done Jack for availing of the opportunity.





Science Week 2016

Virginia College has had a long tradition of promoting the sciences, with an excellent science team and interested students. The school acknowledges the importance of science as a subject and actively promotes Science Week as an annual school event. All students are encouraged to take part and various events are held for the different year groups. A cell model building competition was held for the first year group and the standard of the work submitted was exceptional. The winner was Isabella Sturzu with runners up Cathal Flanagan and Oisin Donoghue and highly commended entries from Grace Carroll, Ozkar Bzymek, and Ryan Tobin. The second year competition involved model making with "The Respiratory System" as the main theme and the winner

was Andres Martinez Carelzo with runners up Nicole Geraghty and Caitlynn Hannon. Other events included a third year quiz which showed the competitive nature of the students involved. This year's events proved to be a great success and fostered an engagement with the Sciences as part of everyday life.

This has been an exceptional year for the Sciences in Virginia College. Students have taken part in SciFest, International Sierpinski Carpet competitions, Technology Quizzes and Boolean Minecraft with Microsoft under the direction of Dr Nugent. All of these activities provided a unique opportunity offering students a chance to come together and share their experiences.

Sean McEvoy called up to FAI International training camp.



Congratulations to Sean McEvoy on being included in the training camp for the U15 FAI Irish Squad. The Irish coaching staff had watched more than 700 players in recent months as they look to establish a high performance culture with the talented youngsters.

The 34 man squad stayed in the Maldron Hotel, Dublin. They had a presentation on nutrition, fitness and the importance of education delivered by Dan Horan, Head of Fitness for the FAI international teams and former Irish international player Keith Andrews.

Well done to Sean from all the staff and students at Virginia College on this wonderful achievement.

Virginia College Students Receive National Awards in Engineering and Technology



Virginia College student Evan Winterlich received a Certificate of Distinction for reaching the top twenty four projects in the country. This was out of 4498 students who sat Leaving Certificate Engineering in 2016. Evan received an A1 in Engineering and an A2 in Design and Communication Graphics. He came second overall in the local Engineering and Technology Teachers Association Area consisting of Cavan, Monaghan and Louth. Evan is currently studying Engineering in UCD. Grace Taite was placed third in Ireland in the Young Technologist 2016 for Leaving Certificate Technology. There were over 1400 students who sat LC Technology in 2016 and Grace only took up the subject in 5th Year demonstrating what a remarkable achievement it is. She came second in the local ETTA area consisting of Cavan, Monaghan and Louth. She is taking a year out and will be studying music next year in Maynooth. Well done to both students and their teachers Mr Keeshan and Mr Rooney.

Student Council 2016-2017



The annual 'Student Council Elections' in Virginia College, took place on October 10th under the co-ordination of Mr McCormick

A student council provides the forum whereby the views of students are expressed and taken on board by teachers and school management. Like other democratic institutions, students were elected to the student council to represent their schoolmates and make decisions on behalf of the students within the school community.

The classes began their nomination process by electing four members, two male, two female, from each class group to run for class election. Each class then produced their respective 'Ballot Papers' and a 'Register of Electors' for the day of the election. The election was held on the 8th of November and each class group was given the opportunity to vote during morning roll call. Student's names were crossed off the register of electors before they were handed a ballot paper which they brought to one of the polling booths in order to place their vote. They then slipped their ballot paper into the ballot box. Nominations were counted and checked by Form Tutors before results were announced

Virginia College Soccer



It has been a busy start to the year for our soccer teams. Our U17 team are currently in the Cavan/Monaghan semi-final stage of their competition and have also reached the Ulster Quarter Final. They are waiting on the next round of the Ulster draw to determine their next opponent.



Our U19 team are currently in The Ulster Quarter final while our U15 team begin their competition in the next two weeks. Best of luck to all our teams this year.

U14 GAA

Our U14 team faced a tough year as we began our Ulster Schools GAA campaign. Our players gave a very worthy account of themselves in all their games but unfortunately we did not progress to the Quarter final stages. We now look forward to next year and take all the lessons we have learned this year on board.

U16 GAA



Our U16 team had a busy campaign in the Ulster Schools GAA competition. Unfortunately the boys lost their semi-final on a score line of 2.11 to 2.8 against St. Pat's Armagh. The boys put in a terrific effort and just fell short of the line. They worked very hard all season and were a great bunch of lads to work with who have a bright future ahead of them.

Big thanks to McEvoy's Supervalu Virginia for having the boys looking so well in their lovely jerseys.

U18 GAA



Our U18 team had a busy campaign in the Ulster Schools GAA competition. Unfortunately, our McLarnon team lost to a very good OLASP of Knock team in the final playoff. Well done to all who represented the school this year, a fantastic group of players to work with! We Win, or We Learn!

Virginia students make Cavan All Star team



Congratulations to our students Killian Brady, Ronan Patterson, Lee Burdis and Kenneth Fadoju on making the Cavan Institute Post Primary GAA stars of the future team. We are very proud to have such a strong representation from our school. Well done lads