



# The Teresian School

## DECEMBER NEWS

### Secondary School 2022

#### A Message from our Principal

As Christmas approaches and the festive mood is palpable, we have much to be grateful for. This past term has seen the return of so many activities and events, restoring those precious connections for which we longed when they were taken from us. Sport, debating, music, meetings it's all back in person and we are relishing it. It was wonderful to see so many parents and some past pupils too at our recent mulled wine evening. The talent of our singers and musicians added to the lovely atmosphere, not to mention the creativity and humour on display throughout the School on our doors!

Preparations have been underway for some time for the annual Carol Service. Aoife and the choir have been doing trojan work preparing the carols, as have the RE teachers, Frances, Leo and Matet in preparing the readings and reflections. After an absence of three years, it will be lovely to be together as a full school community in the Church of the Sacred Heart lifting our voices and marking the start of our Christmas. We are very grateful for the support of parents in ensuring that we have full attendance at the service.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all who contributed this year to the Christmas Campaigns. This is faith in action and the expression of a core value of the Teresian School, being a person for others. The impact of your generosity on the work of the local St. Vincent de Paul Conference, Brother Kevin's work in the Capuchin Day Centre and Aoibhneas Women's Refuge will make a real difference in the lives of many who are facing challenges we can only imagine.

I wish to express my deep appreciation for the support and encouragement given by the Board of Management, the previous Board and the newly established one, and the Trustees. I am deeply appreciative of Rosaleen, Chairperson of the Board of Management for her dedicated service to the School. I am extremely grateful also to the Parents' Association for their ongoing work with School Management to provide the best for the students in our School. The Students' Council, the Team Captains, the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, and the wider student body have shown great leadership this year and have been proactive and constructive throughout the term. To all the staff, teaching, and support, who each day show genuine care and concern for our students, and work to ensure that each one has a truly positive, holistic school experience, my sincere thanks and well done on a great term's work.

As we look forward to a relaxing, restorative few weeks during the Christmas holidays it is particularly important that the exam year students take a break to recover and rejuvenate. This will enable them to be ready for the marathon ahead. We look forward to seeing everyone back on the 5th January.

May the New Year bring peace to our world, our country, our homes, and our hearts. Wishing each and every one in our school community a very happy, healthy Christmas and a New Year filled with an abundance of blessings. Beannachtaí na Nollag chuig cách.

# On the Irish Times Feeder School Tables 2022 ---

The Irish Times published their feeder school list on Wednesday 14th December. While as a school we treat these league tables with significant reservation, we understand that for parents and prospective parents this data can be interesting. However, we believe that the essence and value of a school can never be encapsulated in bald statistics.

Nonetheless, we were astonished that despite achieving a 114% progression rate to Third Level\*, The Teresian School did not appear on the top 10 fee paying schools list. Our record of excellence in terms of student attainment and progression to Third Level has not changed. We would like to give some context to the statistics presented.

The Irish Times has excluded The Teresian School along with another 164 schools because “165 schools have had a significant reduction of 15 per cent or more in the number of students sitting the Leaving Cert in the past year. It’s a statistical aberration – these schools have seemingly high college progression precisely because their Leaving Cert student numbers are declining”. The use of this unrefined statistical calculation is in our view most unfair and misleading.

The number of students in The Teresian School varies every year (as is the case in all schools). The Leaving Certificate class of 2022 was just 3 students lower than in 2021. However, as a small school this exceeds the 15% threshold set by the Irish Times. Instead of excluding the outliers from their statistical analysis the Irish Times chose to use a blunt instrument, thereby negating the success of the Teresian Leaving Cert class of 2022. The Class of 2022 achieved an average of 534 points with 18% of the class achieving 600+ points. We are extremely proud of our students and their excellent achievements.

While we were excluded from the top ten in the Irish Times feeder school list it is important to note from the actual evidence above, that our record in terms of student progression to Third Level remains consistently excellent. We are immensely proud of the academic success of our students. We promote and deliver the highest standards of teaching and learning, enabling all our students to reach their full potential not only academically but personally, socially, and spiritually as is the aim of Povedan education.

It is worth noting that when the results are published next year, we will have more students in 2023 than we did in 2022. However, there will be no boost in ranking when a school has a higher level of students than the previous year. What is it they say about statistics?

*\* This is explained by the fact that the Third Level colleges who provide the data to the Irish Times and other publications are precluded under law from indicating in which year students who have secured a place in 2022 actually sat the Leaving Certificate. On average 25% of college entrants in any one year sat the exam in a previous year.*

## Student Council

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The Student Council hosted their first very successful Breakfast Morning for the whole school, on Thursday, 15th December. Students enjoyed tea, coffee, hot chocolate and baked goods. Everyone really enjoyed the friendly and festive atmosphere. It was a wonderful opportunity for students from all years to gather together and enjoy some hot drinks and treats to start their day. The Student Council hopes to run more coffee mornings next term.



## Anti-Bullying Week

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At the beginning of December we celebrated Anti-Bullying Week. We began the week with our Junior Debaters debating the motion: Cyber-bullying is worse than traditional bullying at lunchtime in the library. Arguments for both the proposition and opposition teams were excellent. Well done to all involved for their time and dedication. The opposition team claimed victory. Congratulations to Olivia Fahey (Captain), Poornima Aruljothi, Valentina Jimenez Bajeck and Linda Yu.

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors continued to mark the week by creating a wonderful Random Acts of Kindness noticeboard and students were encouraged to carry out these acts throughout the week. The senior members of the ABA also visited each year group to facilitate a walking debate and discuss how to recognise and address bullying. To complete the week we held an Odd Socks Day, to celebrate everyone's individuality and what makes us all unique. Well done, everyone!

# Green Schools

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The Green School Committee had a coffee morning and bake sale in October and raised €300 for Unicef.

The balance will be used to buy water buttes to collect rainwater from the drainpipes in the school in the New Year.

Wishing Everyone a Green and Merry Christmas!



Members of the Green School Committee inspecting a Geothermal Power Plant in Iceland.

# The Soup Run

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Over the past few weeks, the school has partaken in a Soup Run each Monday evening. It is open for any TY, 5th and 6th year students who would like to come along. We prepare sandwiches, hot drinks and snacks in the Home Economics room, and bring them along with socks, hats and gloves.

We go around Dublin handing out food to those in need. We speak to the people who are receiving the food and goods and learn their stories.

It is an eye opening experience, a real chance to actively be a person for others and I would recommend doing it to any students in the school if you ever get the chance. It shows us how small things go along way and puts into perspective how lucky we are.

*Julia Holmes, Transition Year*



# Transition Year

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On Self Defence Day, our Transition Year students trained with experts, gained some important skills, and had lots of fun.

At the end of October, 58 students from across Transition Year, 5th Year and 6th Year spent a few days visiting Iceland.



They visited the Mid Atlantic Ridge touching the American and Eurasian plates, as well as the Hellisheidi power plant and lots more.



All 58 students at a glacial meltwater river



## Amber Flag

The Amber Flag Committee has been busy this term raising money and awareness for Pieta House, an organisation which works to support people who are dealing with mental health illness.

Micheline Gilsenan kindly gifted a signed Irish Rugby Jersey to the school. A raffle for the jersey was organised and students ran a tuc shop at lunchtime. This terms event raised an amazing €785 for Pieta's life-saving work.

A huge thank you to all our supporters, and congratulations to our teacher and coach Milo, the winner of the Irish Rugby Jersey.



## Stand Up Week

In November we celebrated Stand-Up Week. It is a time when we show solidarity with young people and our colleagues to ensure they feel seen, heard, and safe, and to ensure everyone knows that biphobic, homophobic, and transphobic language and bullying will not be tolerated.

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors launched the week by creating an LGBTQAI+ interactive notice board, a Pride Flag displays and Celebrity Stand-Up Profiles, highlighting the diversity in the LGBTQAI+ community.

On Tuesday students were encouraged to wear a jumper in their year's colours so that the whole school made up the LGBTQAI+ rainbow flag: 1st years red, 2nd years orange, 3rd years yellow, 4th years green, 5th years blue and 6th years purple.

We finished off the week with a Stand-Up kahoot quiz where students could apply the points they learned over the week. Well done to everyone who took part. The winners of the quiz include Juliet Sheehan, Laura Hegarty and Ahana Majumder. Special thanks to our quiz host Siofra Delaney.



# Library News

This term our 2nd Year students had the opportunity to attend a creative writing workshop with Roddy Doyle's Fighting Words organisation, which is renowned for promoting creativity and literacy amongst young people.

After some ice-breaking exercises, Fighting Words' inspiring storytelling professionals facilitated a brainstorming session in which our students established the beginning of a riveting story.



For the second part of the workshop, the students divided into groups of 3 to finish writing the story. We were impressed and often amused to hear each group's conclusion to the story.

This was a wonderful experience which built our students' confidence and imaginative and literary ability. We'll be looking forward to next year's visit!



For Stand Up Week, the Library featured a display of fiction and topical books, supported by the artwork of some of our talented Library Assistants.

At the 3D Design and Printing club which runs on Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes in the Library, many of our students have now become skilled in 3D printing.

The machine has been kindly loaned to us by UCD's I-Form and the Stryker multinational medical



technologies corporation, who are understandably keen to promote problem-solving, design and manufacturing skills amongst graduates in the coming years.

Starting by building their software skills, and moving on to the challenges of ensuring success in the manufacturing process, the girls are steadily gaining a very useful skill set in an exciting and quickly evolving field.



# Pastoral Care

1 Victoria celebrated their class namesake (Blessed Victoria Diez) 11th of November with a group photo and sharing a box of chocolates at lunchtime.



On the 24th of November, we had the Annual Mass of Remembrance for the demise of people connected with the school community in the past 12 months.



In our 16 November School Assembly, three Past Pupils (Caoilfhionn, Siofradh and Smrutha) shared their volunteering experience working with the children in the cave district of Guadix (Granada) this summer.

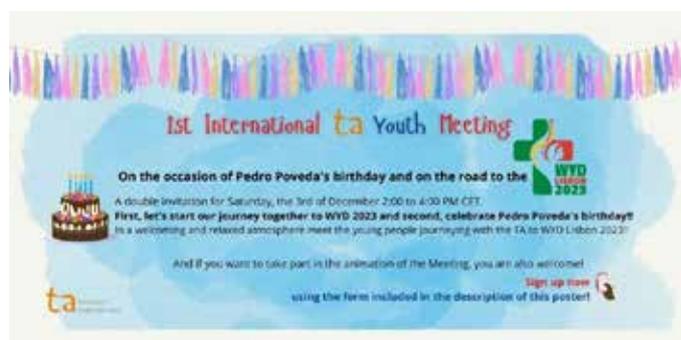


Saturdays of October and November, ten Transition Year students were involved in a 60 mins. interactive teaching with a group of children in Davao, Philippines via Zoom on different topics.

It concluded on the 26th of November with games, Cultural presentation of India, Europe and the Philippines. Followed by reading of Thank You letters from both volunteers and students from three groups of English lessons, 2 in India and 1 group in the Philippines. The other children who benefited of eBridge were the street children of Makabata Foundation and the children of Indigenous Peoples. Another round of online teaching will start in February 2023.



On the occasion of Pedro Poveda's birthday, the 3rd of December, a preparatory International Meeting for the World Youth Day Lisbon 2023 was convened.



## START Project Erasmus+

### Supporting Teachers who Support Student Transition

Staff had a brainstorming session on issues concerning the dialogue between secondary and third level institutions to make student transition easier. Start – Supporting Teachers who Support Student Transition ([supportingstart.eu](http://supportingstart.eu))



### The 4th and last training session of Eucharistic Ministers

On the 5th of December, training session concluded in the Parish Centre with Fr. Con O'Connell and Maeve Davidson, Donnybrook Parish Faith Development Officer. It was followed by a lovely and relaxed chat over a cuppa and biscuits.



## Commissioning of Eucharistic Ministers

The Commissioning took place at the 5:30 PM Gaudete Sunday Mass, the 11th of December at Donnybrook Parish, Church of the Sacred Heart, Stillorgan.

Due to the orange weather alert, the get-together and the handing of Certificates are moved to January 2023.



## Advent Reconciliation Reflection

On 14 December, we had an Advent Reconciliation Reflection with Mons Ciaran O'Carroll and Maeve Davidson in the school chapel. We would like to share here one of the beautiful lines of the Litany of Reconciliation:

Will you believe that I love you without reservation?

Will you trust me?

Will you let me be your strength?



# Sports

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## Hockey

Michael Fulham represented Leinster South as an U18 Assistant Coach, taking part in the National Interprovincial Tournament. Jason Klinkradt was selected to enter the European Top Coaches program for Hockey; an elite national program for coaches from top countries around Europe.

### Our players at the Leinster Hockey Trials

Over the summer, 9 players took part in the final rounds of Leinster Hockey Trials at U16 and U18, with 3 players making the final team. Currently 5 first year players will enter the Leinster Development program for players born in the year 2009. Overall, a big congratulations to those who participated and to Jessica McConn Walsh and Sydney Wier McErlan who made the final U18 Leinster Team. Jessica and Sydney have represented the Leinster 3 times each this season and have made the Interprovincial Semi Finals which took place on the 18th of Dec. In basketball Helena Keane represented U17 Irish over the summer. Also, to mention - Sarah Shi and Zoe Patrick participated in the East Regional U15 Team trials.



## Basketball

Basketball thrived in the early part of the winter with U16s and U19s making the All-Ireland Cup semifinals in the B league set to be played on the 6th of Dec. And winning their Semi finals to get to their first All-Ireland Cup finals in 5 years.

In the local league, the U16s made the semifinals narrowly losing to the Mt. Temple, and the U19s made the final that took place last Wednesday the 30th November. In the U19 Final, after a tough start to the game the girls gave they it all but unfortunately lost 55:35 to a strong Castleknock CC team.

### Overall Look of the Season so far:

The Seniors in both basketball and hockey have done well in the cup and league and look well placed to get out of the group. We look forward to some exciting cup games coming up in the new term as we enjoy our midterm break! The U19s and U16s basketball look to make the All-Ireland Cup B finals for the first time in the last 5 years. And the Senior and Juniors Hockey teams march on to the Cup Quarter finals. With the Senior Girls hockey making the quarterfinals narrowly losing to St. Andrews.

*Side note: With many disruptions to sport due to the weather the Senior Girls Hockey got time to help coach 4th and 3rd class after the game was cancelled due to frost.*

Merry Christmas from the Sport Staff

