

NEWSLETTER

Sandymount Park ETSS



THANK YOU

Staff would like to pass on their thanks for the kind gifts and messages received.

As we have come to the end of another academic year, I want to express my gratitude for your support and dedication to our school and its activities. Together, we have witnessed the Sandymount Park community flourish, fueled by our shared values and the progress of our students.

Throughout the year, our students have demonstrated remarkable growth, evident in their continued enthusiasm and active participation in all aspects of school life. From classroom learning to whole-school events, from extracurricular activities to end-of-term assessments, our students have wholeheartedly embraced every opportunity. Their positive interactions with peers and staff have created a nurturing environment that enables each individual to thrive and reach their full potential.

We take great pride in showcasing our students' progress at various events held throughout the year. The Summer Showcase, Talent Show, TY Showcase Festival of Learning, SciFest, and Grease the Musical were just a few of the occasions where we celebrated their accomplishments. It was a joy to witness their talents and achievements on display, as they truly embodied the spirit of Sandymount Park.

In conversations with students, they have expressed their enjoyment of school trips, whole-school events, and the ever-popular canteen. They also appreciate the calm and supportive environment and acknowledge that challenges they encounter in their learning journey foster personal growth. The integration of technology - iPads, Microsoft Teams, and OneNote, has been instrumental in enhancing their learning experience, further equipping students with the skills necessary for the future.

I wish you all a wonderful summer break, Your support and involvement have been instrumental in our continued success, and we are immensely grateful for your commitment to our school and its vision.

Paula



Congratulations to Georgia Smith who was a Grand Prix winner in the This is Art! 2023 competition with her beautiful mural The Stratford Fox.

Code of Behaviour

In Sandymount Park we seek to build positive relationships across the school community to provide a safe and happy learning environment where all students can thrive. We expect students to make a positive impact on the school and local community and we consider positive behaviour to be essential to a student's growth and development as a young person. A positive proactive approach is taken towards discipline and every effort is made to implement the Code of Behaviour in a fair, reasonable, and consistent manner. We aim to strike a balance between the educational needs of each individual student with the educational needs of other students in the school. When a student fails to respect the Code of Behaviour, they impact on the rights of other students and staff and sanctions may be needed.

Vaping: The HSE has warned that vaping is an "emerging risk" to the health of children and young people and they are especially vulnerable to the effects of nicotine on their developing brains including nicotine addiction, mood disorders, and lowering of impulse control. To protect the health and safety of students and as a deterrent, vaping on school grounds incurs an automatic suspension. Our Code of Behaviour has been updated to include the sanction of suspension for a student found in a toilet cubicle/stall with others.

Our Code of Behaviour can be found in the Journal and on the website [here](#).

Changes 23/24

Each year brings change to our school community as some students and staff move on and others join. We sadly say goodbye to Deputy Principal Brian who is moving closer to home, thank you to Brian for his significant contribution to the development of Sandymount Park. Goodbye also to teachers Ian, Emily and Justin.

We welcome 90 new students to 1st year and teachers Tim Page (Science, Physics, Maths), Liam Regan (Irish, German), Sally O'Regan (SEN), Eoin O'Donoghue (Spanish, English), Erica Dent (Science, Physics, Maths), Sara Quill (PE, Maths), Romina Torinotti (French, Spanish) and SNA Jojo McDonnell.



Welcome



We are delighted to announce that **Aisling Sammon** has been appointed Deputy Principal. Aisling is a graduate of UCD, TCD and MU and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Sandymount Park. Aisling is a teacher of Italian and German, a Guidance Counsellor and has supported schools nationwide as an Advisor on the PDST Post-Primary Health and Wellbeing Team. Aisling has worked as a Guidance Counsellor and Behaviour for Learning teacher in North Wicklow ETSS and introduced and coordinated the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme there. Aisling has a keen interest in sport and fitness and is passionate about educational leadership and empowering young people to reach their potential. Aisling is a wonderful addition to our team and school community.

SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION

The Department of Education requires schools to engage in School Self Evaluation (SSE), a collaborative and reflective process of internal review. SSE is evidence-based, involving gathering information from various sources and creating action plans based on the findings. It allows schools to assess their strengths and areas for improvement within their own context and report them to the school community. SSE benefits teachers by fostering the sharing of experiences and ideas, leading to increased effectiveness in the classroom. Students also benefit by having a voice in their learning experience. SSE benefits the school by focusing all teachers on a few key strategies for improvement. Our SSE theme is Challenging all learners - every student, every moment, every lesson.

SSE Focus Areas

Whole-class Feedback

WHOLE CLASS FEEDBACK
Planning for Success

From learning that focuses on the progress that's needed.

Next Steps in Learning
Create a list of the concepts or ideas that all or a majority of pupils need further support with.
* All pupils need to understand how to structure a paragraph better.
* Most pupils would benefit from looking at a diagram that shows what a good one looks like and what a bad one looks like.
* Pupils need to master a checking process on their own.

Misconceptions/Errors
Write down the specific errors in the piece of work that caused problems for you.
* Paragraphs aren't too short or too long. There needs to be clear structure. Pupils are not using connectives or paragraph words.
* Many simple rules/strategies are missing. If they checked if their answer was reasonable, that would be good.

Need Further Support
Write the names of pupils who need individual feedback of what their feedback is.
* They don't use full stops at the end of sentences. Does she understand the concept of a sentence?

Guided Practice
Give pupils 3 part paragraphs:
1. Start
2. Examples
3. Explain
Write 2 more paragraphs about "What's the best of...".

Release
Use flashcards to rehearse the parts of a cell.
* Work with a partner to explain in more detail what you know about each part.

Further Research
What phrases would you use to describe your "cell" and what do other people do?
Create your own 3 part paragraph.

Retrieval Practice

A pedagogical method that is all about moving knowledge from short-term to long-term memory. Every time that information is retrieved, or an answer is generated, it changes the original memory to make it stronger.

- Boosting recall
- Embedding information in long term memory
- Starter activities
- Establish prior knowledge
- Recap prior knowledge

Writing Structure

PEA
Point
Evidence
Analysis

How To Answer PEA Questions

Point
Introduction to your answer, *point* and *introduce*

Evidence
What evidence will prove your point?

Analysis
This is the *important part!*
Back up and *Explain*

Learning Intentions

Learning intentions are what the teacher wants the students to know, understand, and be able to do as a result of learning and teaching activities.

Student Awards Summer 2023

Academic Achievement: Arthur Guerreiro, Olivia Ruiz Martinez, Lily-Ann Westley, Calla Claassen, Afnan Noor, Iarlaith Daly, Ipek Alp, Kitty Nassah Byrne, Reuben Clarke, Milo McCormack, Meabh Lunn

Spirit of the School: Penelope Grande, Ava Green, Jun Tong Song, Sébastien Licciardi, Sara Marini Lazarov, Adrijus Satkunas, Goda Gruckaityte, Kate Kennedy, Lenna Shields, Daniyal Awan, Stijn Naessens

Values: *Kindness* Anastasiia Lytvyn, *Respect* Samson Cronin, *Empathy* Conor Doyle, *Hard Work* Isabella Rooney, *Participation* Nicoletta Kondratiuk, *Curiosity* Seppe Naessens, *Creativity* Oisín Corrigan, *Democracy* Nia Harrington, *Community* Michael Lawless

Student of the Year: 1st Sophie Kiernan, 2nd Sergei Vasilev, 3rd Zara Ilyas, TY Joshua Horgan Smith, Glendalough Hannah Clarke, 5th Eimear Byrne

Congratulations and well done all



Anti-Bullying

Our school community believes that each student has a right to learn in an environment free from fear and intimidation and therefore it does not tolerate bullying of any kind. It is our collective responsibility to proactively address and combat bullying through a comprehensive set of measures designed to empower every member of our school community to effectively address such behavior.

THE LANGUAGE OF EMPATHY
Erasmus + Transnational Project - Wellbeing - Intercultural Skills and Language Development

- JAN - MAY 2023**: LAUNCH & PRE-PROJECT ACTIVITIES
 - introducing concept of project to staff
 - Anti-bullying Team (Shared Concerns)
 - introducing concept of project to students and parents.
- SEPTEMBER 2023**
 - Scenario based incidents helping students with language they can use.
 - Creating posters
 - Zoom Meeting
 - Etwinning Platform
 - Digital tools: My Simple Show etc
- OCTOBER 2023**: SANDYMOUNT PARK ETSS
 - Anti-Bullying Week in Sandymount Park
 - Displaying Posters / Videos
 - Sharing Language
- DECEMBER 2023**: LIEBIGSCHULE FRANKFURT
 - Human Rights Week
 - Displaying Posters / Videos
- MARCH 2024**: STAALICHE REALSCHULE FEUCHT
 - Visit to Nurnberg
- APRIL / MAY 2024**: INFORMATION BOOKLET/APP LAUNCH

In Sandymount Park Anti-Bullying measures include:

- School policies including Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying, AUP
- Pastoral Care and Student support Teams (teachers, tutors, progress leaders, guidance counsellor, deputy principal, principal)
- The Wellbeing Curriculum including SPHE and the 1st year Student Enrichment Programme
- Themed events including Stand Up week, autism awareness day, Wellbeing week, Internet Safety day
- Involvement with FUSE, an Anti-Bullying and Online Safety Programme developed by DCU Anti-Bullying Centre
- Engagement with Nuts and Bolts Anti-Bullying Reflective Framework developed by Dr Seline Keating from the DCU Anti - Bullying Center
- Participation in The Language of Empathy Erasmus + Project

Our policies can be found in the school journal and/or the website www.sandymountparketss.ie.

Communication Guide **NEW!**

Starting from August 2023, we will be transitioning from email to VSMail as the primary method for parents to communicate with our staff in writing. This change aims to streamline communication, reduce the risk of missed messages, and address excessive communication. This will help ensure that our teachers can devote their time to crucial tasks such as lesson preparation, teaching, assessment and reporting, pastoral care, and extracurricular activities.

We kindly request that you take the time to familiarise yourself with the Sandymount Park Communication Guide (also accessible in the Journal) and adhere to the outlined Protocols.

VSMails should be:

- Concise
- Respectful
- Sent during working hours 8am-4pm
- Please do not send late night or weekend VSMails

We find that concerns and issues are best dealt with over the phone and/or in person. You can request a call back or meeting by VSMail or by calling the school office on 01-9106230.

VSWare guides are available on the website

Sandymount Park COMMUNICATION guide

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL WRITTEN COMMUNICATION MUST BE VIA VSMAIL THROUGH THE VSWARE APP. EMAILS SENT DIRECT TO TEACHERS, TUTORS, PROGRESS LEADERS, SNAS WILL NOT BE RESPONDED TO.

- 1 CHECK**
With your child, the journal, Teams, classmates
- WEBSITE**
www.sandymountparketss.ie
- TWITTER**
@SandymOuntPark
- SUBJECT CONCERN**
Contact the teacher via VSMail, request a call back
- GENERAL CONCERN**
Contact the tutor via VSMail, request a call back
- SERIOUS CONCERN**
Contact the Progress Leader via VSMail, request a call back
- PROTOCOLS**
VSMails should be:
 - Concise
 - Respectful
 - Sent during work hours 8am - 4pm
 - Please do not send late night or weekend VSMails
- CONSIDERATIONS**
Teacher time is dedicated to preparing 6 teaching lessons, assessment 6 reporting, pastoral care 6 extra curriculans. Please be cognisant of this and do not expect an immediate response to VSMails.

VSWARE, VSMAIL GUIDES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE



5th year students with teachers Ian and Susan visited the European Parliament in Strasbourg. The trip was the prize for Harper Walsh's winning entry to the Euroscola Competition 2022. See Harper's winning entry [here](#).



On May 15th Politics and Society students welcomed MEP Barry Andrews and TD Jim O'Callaghan to discuss democracy, the EU and the projects undertaken by TY students.



Festival of Learning

On Friday 26th May we held a Festival of Learning to celebrate students' learning journey throughout first year in Sandymount Park. The Festival of Learning is a showcase, where students exhibit their learning. They select three moments or highlights from a variety of subject areas, co-curricular activities or extra-curricular involvement.

Pictured here, Festival of Learning winner **Rosa Fitzpatrick**.

School Lotto Jackpot Winner!

Congratulations to Christina Byrne who won the €2000 lotto jackpot on May 5th.

Huge thanks to all our Lotto supporters, we really appreciate your contribution. Lotto subscriptions provide funds to enhance student experience such as outdoor seating areas, and furniture. You can sign up here <https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/sandymountparketts/>. If you can contribute €5 for 3 lines it would be hugely appreciated and you never know you might just win!

Thank you to our Board of Management and Parent Association. The Board of Management provides governance and oversight of all school business and the Parent Association works with senior management, staff and the board of management to build effective partnership between home and school. Members are volunteers and the school is very grateful for the significant contribution they make.

