

# SANDYMOUNT PARK ETSS

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

We are excited to share the amazing work happening here at Sandymount Park ETSS. This newsletter is designed to highlight the achievements, events, and activities that make our school community so special. We believe in the power of collaboration and are always eager to showcase the fantastic contributions of our students, teachers and families.

For this reason, we encourage parents and guardians to get involved. If you have any news, achievements, or information you'd like to us to share, please contact [office@sandymountparketss.ie](mailto:office@sandymountparketss.ie) for the attention of Romina.

## FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- Punctuality Matters – Ensure your child arrives by 8:15 am to get organised before lessons start at 8:30 am.
- Attendance is Key – Regular attendance is essential for learning. Please avoid absences unless absolutely necessary.
- Mobile Phones – Phones must stay in lockers throughout the school day. Please remind your child to follow this rule.
- Homework & Study – Support good study habits by setting aside time and a quiet space for homework each evening.

## ON THIS NEWSLETTER

- ✓ Curricular highlights
- ✓ Extra-curricular activities
- ✓ Sports competitions
- ✓ Transition Year
- ✓ School trips
- ✓ Upcoming events



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We are delighted to introduce our new school newsletter – a space to celebrate achievements, share important updates, and highlight the fantastic work happening across our school community.

Thank you for your continued support – we look forward to sharing our school's journey with you. A special thanks to Romina for compiling all our news and putting this newsletter together.

# CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

## INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Our classrooms continue to be vibrant spaces where students actively engage with a wide range of subjects, from the sciences to the arts. The dedication of both students and teachers is evident in the exciting projects, innovative lessons, and collaborative learning happening across all disciplines. These efforts are helping them build key skills that will support both their studies and future endeavours.

## MATHS

### Maggie Gough Maths Competiton



Well done to Arthur (2nd Year) who placed in the top 50 students nationally in the Irish Maths Teacher's Association Maggie Gough competition. There were over 15,000 entries across the country. Congratulations also to Theo, Julian, Frank and Ruby who all placed within the top 2.5% nationally of all second years. An incredible achievement.

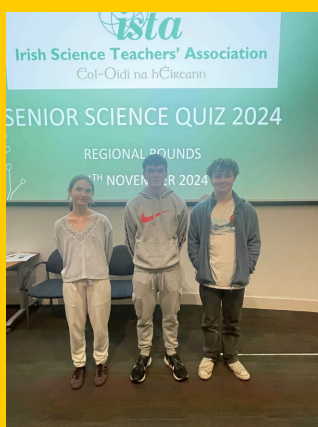
### First Year Maths Competition

Congratulations to Aarit (1st Year) who placed in the top 50 students nationally in the Irish Maths Teacher's Association First Year Maths Competition. There were 14,000 entries across Ireland. Congratulations also to Levon, Petar and James who all placed within the 2.5% of all students nationally.



# CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

## SCIENCE



### Senior Cycle Science Quiz

Congratulations to Liam, Ayla and Avi (6th Year) who all recently competed in the national Irish Science Teacher's Association Senior Cycle Science Quiz. They competed in the Dublin regional round in October and placed 4th which qualified them for the national final. There they secured a top 10 finish nationally. Well done to them!

## FRENCH

### Penpals - 1st Year students



The 1st Year French students have written two letters each to their penpals in Orthez, in South West France. They have introduced themselves, their hobbies and their life in school. The students put a lot of thought and effort into their letters, making it a fun and meaningful way to practice their writing skills. They are now eagerly awaiting their second reply!

# CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

## CSPE (CIVIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION)



2nd Year Skellig students have been completing an 8-week Climate Literacy Programme where they have learned about the current climate crisis and topics such as sustainable development, climate justice, plastic pollution, biodiversity and fast fashion. The class have chosen to complete an Action Project on fast fashion where they will inform their 1st year peers about the causes and affects of and solutions to fast fashion.

At the left we can see Cole and Taiguara up-cycling old T-shirts into tote bags.

Sha, Polly Jean, Zara and Lania testing if climate justice needs an 'all-hands-on-deck' approach to be successful. What is your guess?



## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

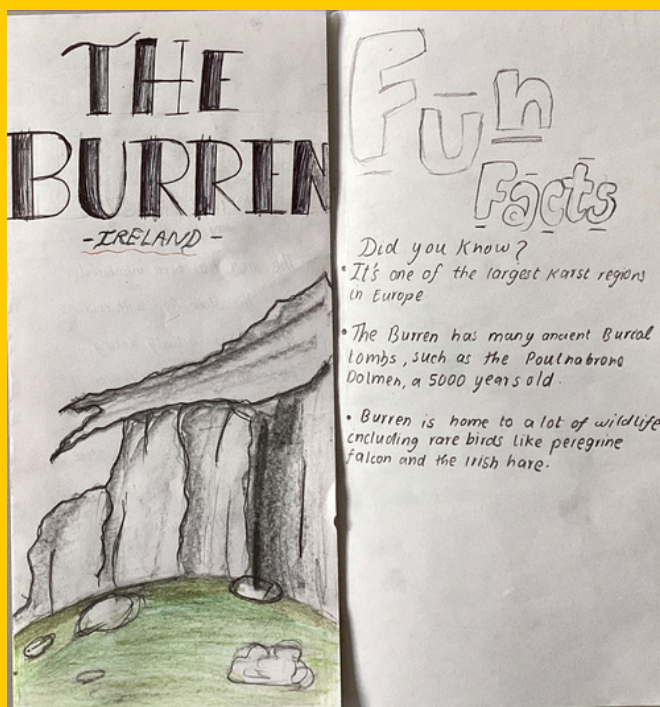
Congratulations to Polly-Jean and Arthur who have been awarded 2nd Years students of the month (January) for embodying the school values of kindness, hard-work, participation and community.



# CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

## GEOGRAPHY

1st Year Geography students have been learning about Weathering and Mass Movement. Students made models of underground features in a karst region and designed their own tourist information leaflets for the Burren, Co. Clare.



# CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

## 2ND YEAR MFL (GERMAN, SPANISH, FRENCH)

### Spoken production and interaction

The 2nd year classes have been working hard in preparation for their upcoming Classroom-Based Assessment (CBA) in April where they will have to complete an oral communication task and present it to the class. In German, students recently created Tik-Tok style videos on a typical day in school and also presented PowerPoint/Poster presentations on their hobbies in preparation for this. In French, the focus has been on food and French gastronomy. Here a snippet of Spanish students Arthur, Roman, Florence and Cole practising for one of their role-plays:



# CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

## WRIGGLE VISIT

Wriggle visited our school to videorecord and interview students and teachers about their experiences with technology and iPads in the classroom. The team gathered valuable insights on how these tools have enhanced learning, encouraged creativity, and supported academic growth. Thank you to the students and teachers who participated and shared their perspectives. We are excited to see how this footage will help showcase the positive impact of technology in education.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

### **New rowing machines**

The PE Department is excited to announce the development of a new gym space to enhance our school's fitness facilities. In the past month, two rowing machines have been purchased, providing students with a great opportunity to improve their cardiovascular fitness and build strength. We look forward to offering even more fitness options for our students in the near future!



# EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

At Sandymount Park ETSS we offer a wide range of extracurricular activities designed to complement the academic experience and help students explore their interests beyond the classroom. Whether it's sports, choir, green schools, or clubs, students have the opportunity to develop new skills, build friendships and grow in confidence. These activities play an important role in shaping well-rounded individuals and are a great way for students to get involved in the school community.



## BAKING CLUB

We had the pleasure of welcoming the grandmother of one of our students to our Baking Club. It was a heartwarming occasion as she shared her baking expertise with the group. The students thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on experience, and it was a wonderful reminder of the strong connections between generations. A big thank you to Amelia and her family for making this special visit possible!

## LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CLUB



Food has been a recurrent topic this term in our Language and Culture Club. Tadek and Cormac made a presentation on German food, and Azd baked some aash bel Zaatar following his grandmother recipe and ingredients brought all the way from Palestine.

We also learnt some historic facts from Lithuania thanks to Goda and Andrius, who shared some of their grandparents post-war anecdotes.



# EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

## LIBRARY CLUB



The "Sip & Read" initiative has been a wonderful addition to Thursday lunchtimes at the school library, giving students a chance to relax with a good book while enjoying hot chocolate and biscuits. Open to all year groups, it provides a calm and welcoming space to encourage reading for pleasure. With its success so far, our school librarians hope to continue this initiative into the next term.

## STUDY BUDDIES



Study Buddies is a student-led initiative taken by 5th years students in which they meet once per week to share their study techniques and tips to succeed in specific subjects. Well done to all our student facilitators for your contributions so far. We were also delighted to welcome the teachers Paola and Tim for Spanish and Physics respectively as our special guests.

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

## DEBATE CLUB



Juniors have been debating interesting motions such as whether Gardaí should be allowed to carry firearms and if extreme methods of warfare should be banned.

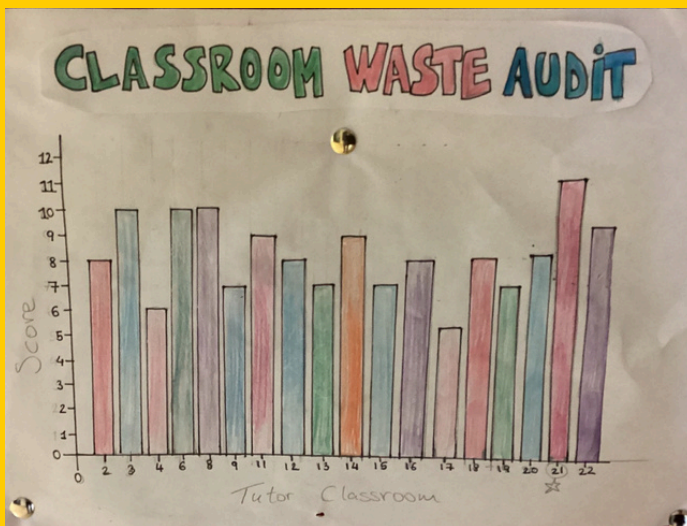
Seniors have been debating interesting motions such as Ireland's neutral stance during World War II and whether body modifications constitute an act of self-betrayal.

We look forward to the next round of the UCD Junior Debating Competition where 3rd year student Oisín will be debating after his and Roman's 1st place win in the preliminary rounds in December.

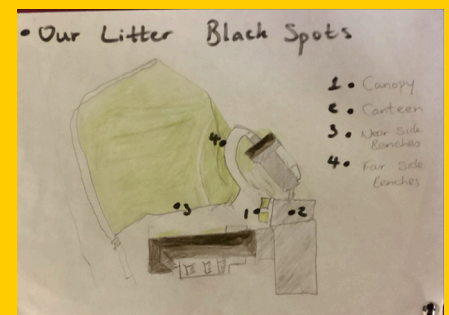
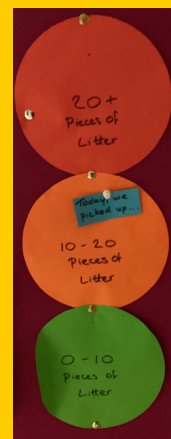


# EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

## GREEN SCHOOLS



Green School students welcomed a visitor from Dublin City Council to show off the work they have been doing to achieve a Green Flag for our school. They have recently added to their noticeboard the following: a new traffic lights system to demonstrate litter levels, the results of our classroom waste audit, a map of our litter blackspots and a new design to display our Green Code.



# SPORTS COMPETITIONS

## TEAM SPIRIT - HOCKEY

It has been a short but promising season for our hockey teams, As our players continue to push themselves on the field, they have shown remarkable determination and teamwork. With the season now behind us, we look ahead to the next term. We have gathered some testimonials from our players, who reflect on their experiences and highlight the standout moments from this term's matches.

### Boys Hockey Match vs Temple Carrig Greystones (0-2 loss)

"Friday's match was a riveting game of hockey that could be compared to professional standards. It was an unfortunate loss for our team, there was hard work from both teams but sadly, in the end, Temple Carrig wanted the win more. At the start, the match was even with both teams moving it swiftly up and down the pitch. There was great effort and incredible work rate from all the players. In the second half we had a lot of chances to score, but unfortunately, we didn't capitalise on them and let the game slip away with the other team scoring two goals in quick succession. Overall, it was a great learning experience for all of us and i think we can take a lot away from this game" - Taiguara.



# SPORTS COMPETITIONS

1st Year Girls Hockey Match v Temple Carrig Greystones (5-0 win, Abbie, Hannah x2, Vera and Sophie)



"We started off with us taking a long bus ride to a fancy-looking school. We (the 1st Year girls) ate snacks and had lots of fun on the sideline, but then it was our turn. The sun was high in the sky and we started the game with high hopes and loads of energy. Abbie started us off with our first goal and we took it gratefully. Next, Hannah scored twice... but then disaster struck. Our goalie had to swap with another person. We were on the edge with no goalie, but Vera got us another goal. We were saved by the whistle for halftime. We were flying it at 4:0 and 2 subs. We had a team talk and we decided to try to enter the circle from the side and experiment with our skills as we were so far ahead. The second half was much calmer, with Sofia getting our 5th goal and a goalie in the back. We tried really hard and came out with an amazing 5:0 score to us. Everyone had a great time with multiple rookies who had their first ever hockey match. SPETTS!!!" - Ellie.

Junior Girls Hockey Match v Sandford (1 - 2 loss, Grace)

"We played a home match against Sandford Park in Railway Union Hockey Club. The score ended as 2 to 1, Sandford. Grace scored the goal for Sandymount Park in the second half and we had a lot of other chances. It was a well-played and close game. We improved on many aspects of the game like short corners, but for future games our team will need to work on our spatial awareness on the pitch. Overall though, there was a lot of effort put in from all the players" - Annabel.

# SPORTS COMPETITIONS

## Boys Hockey Team v Rathdown (0-3 loss)

“The Sandymount Park Boys’ Hockey Team travelled away to Rathdown in a league match. We had played them at home already this season in an even 0-0 draw. This was our first game away, and we started slowly, going 2-0 down at halftime. The second half was much better and we played well, forcing their goalkeeper into making a couple of saves. Unfortunately, we could not find a goal and Rathdown scored once more on the counter-attack. It ended in a 3-0 loss, but was definitely not a bad performance from the team and there are plenty of positives to take into our next match” - Cole.

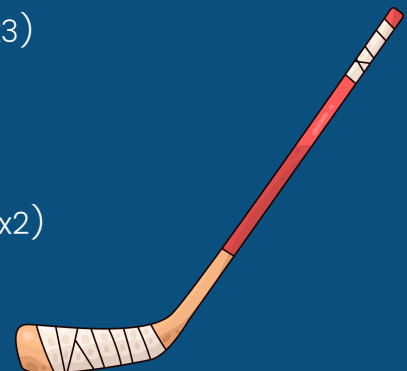


## OTHER RESULTS

Boys Team:                      3-0 win v St. Columbas (Saul x3)  
   0 – 0 v Rathdown  
   2 – 0 v Skerries (Saul x2)

1st Year Girls Team:            2-1 win v Loreto Dalkey (Abbie x2)  
   1- 0 loss v Sion Hill

Junior Girls Team:            2 – 0 loss v The High School  
   2 – 0 loss v Our Ladies Terenure  
   3 – 0 loss v Rathdown



# TRANSITION YEAR

## A YEAR OF GROWTH

It has been a busy term for our Transition Year students, marked by the fantastic musical production of *Guys and Dolls* that took place the evenings of the 22nd and 23rd of January. Even if the Red Weather Warning prevented the show from taking place on the closing night, TY students demonstrated great team-work abilities as well as perseverance during the weeks leading to the big nights. Congratulations to the students, teachers and volunteers who made this production possible.

## TY MUSICAL: GUYS AND DOLLS

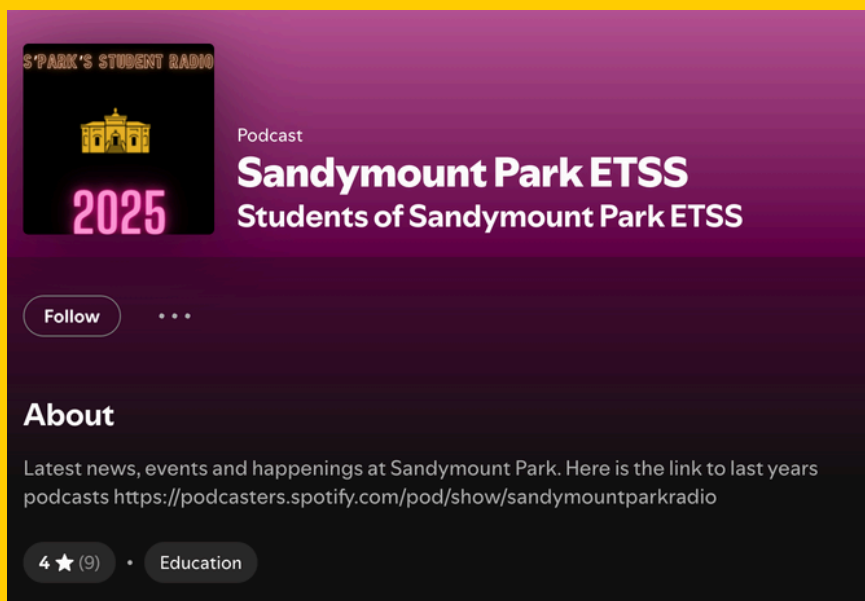


# TRANSITION YEAR

## TY PODCAST: SANDYMOUNT PARK ETSS

We are excited to introduce the school's very own student-led podcast. Produced and hosted by our Transition Year students, this podcast offers a unique perspective on a wide range of topics. From work experience reflections, the build-up to the musical and to interviews with teachers and peers, each episode highlights the diverse voices and experiences within our school community. Tune in to hear stories, ideas, and conversations that celebrate the passions, talents and achievements of both students and staff alike.

Make sure to follow us on Spotify. Here the link for the latest episode of the term: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/5enOi762YNidNLRC3IDr0x?si=RUwERLwOQvqUQbUXHWgjJQ>





# TRANSITION YEAR

## SKI TRIP – ANDORRA



# TRANSITION YEAR

## WORKSHOP – CIRCULAR ECONOMY



This workshop marked the second session in our series dedicated to exploring the principles of The Circular Economy. During this workshop, students had the opportunity to learn practical skills such as how to effectively patch up punctures on bicycles, ensuring they can keep their bikes in good working order. Additionally, they were introduced to the art of sewing, gaining knowledge on how to repair and restore old clothing items, promoting sustainability and reducing waste. This was an enriching experience that allowed students to rethink about their consumption habits and the importance of repairing as part of a more sustainable future.

# SCHOOL TRIPS

## EXPLORING TOGETHER

Our amazing teachers have organized eventful trips for our Junior and Senior students, providing a great complement to the learning that takes place inside the classroom. These experiences have been a wonderful way to start the year. Here's a look at some of the highlights!

## BELFAST

The Politics and Society and History Senior Cycle classes visited Stormont, Belfast, in January. Politics and Society students have been learning about power and decision-making and looked at the Northern Ireland Executive as one of their case studies. Students got to participate in a mock vote in the Parliament Buildings before visiting the Ulster Museum.



# SCHOOL TRIPS

## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

Art students had the chance of visiting the Archeology section of the National Museum of Ireland, where they had an amazing tour guide who gave them loads of info on the Pre-Christian Ireland artefacts that the students are studying for their Leaving Certificate Visual Studies section. They got to see the artefacts and hear different stories about how and where they were found.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## DON'T MISS OUT!

There's plenty to look forward to in the upcoming term as our school calendar fills with exciting events and activities. From school-wide celebrations to subject-specific initiatives, there's something for everyone. Be sure to mark your calendars and stay tuned for updates on what's to come!

### MARCH 12TH

#### PARENT-TEACHER-STUDENT MEETINGS – 2ND YEARS

A reminder to all parents of Second Year students that our upcoming Parent-Teacher-Student Meeting will take place on the 12th of March, from **15:45 to 18:15**. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with your child's teachers, discuss their progress, and gain valuable insights into their learning. We encourage all parents to attend. An online booking system is used and appointments for teachers are automatically generated. **Parents will be notified of the booking procedures via VSmail.**

### MARCH 28TH

#### THE ANNUAL SANDYMOUNT PARK ETSS TABLE QUIZ

It's almost that time of year again – the annual table quiz is around the corner, and the teachers have a winning streak that is getting a bit too comfortable. Think you've got the brainpower to take them down? Gather a team, bring your wits, and let's show them who's the boss!

Whether you're a trivia master or just in it for the laughs, it's all for a great cause. Don't miss this fun-filled evening – and remember, the real victory is knocking the teachers off their pedestal (and raising funds for the school, of course)! Venue to be announced at later date.

## IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Bank Holiday – 17/3
- Talent Show – 9/4
- School Closed – 2/4
- Festival of Learning – 11/4
- Oral Exams LC – Easter W1
- Professional Development Day

# SUPPORT THE SCHOOL

## PLAY OUR SCHOOL LOTTO

Win Big and Support the School!

Our school lotto is your chance to win while making a difference! The jackpot is currently an impressive €2,000, and we also have weekly prizes of €20. By playing each week, you're not only in with a chance to win these fantastic prizes but also directly contributing to the development and enhancement of our school. Get involved, try your luck, and help us create more opportunities for our students – it's a win-win for everyone! Scan the QR below



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!

PETER  
CLARA  
ADELE  
MARIE  
CONOR  
HENRIETTA  
ROSIE  
ROSANNA

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR  
MEMBERS FOR  
SUPPORTING AND  
ENHANCING OUR  
STUDENTS' EDUCATION**

