

## Message from the Principal

On behalf of the staff at Margaret Aylward Community College I would like to warmly welcome back our students after their restful and refreshing Christmas break. A school community is about working together, caring for each other and supporting each other, as students continue their academic journey through secondary school. Our first year students need support as they make the transition into secondary school. We are proud of our current third and sixth years who, with the support of their teachers, are working hard to achieve their goals. We wish our Leaving Certificate students from last year continued success in their studies now that many have progressed onto either Further or Third Level Education.

As we begin the new term we have an opportunity to look back at the many achievements since last September outlined in this newsletter. These include participation in mentoring programmes, high achievers grinds, a creative art exhibition, creative writing and book reading workshops, and attendance at productions in the Grand Canal Theatre and the Helix in DCU, which will benefit students academically.



Our Transition Year Group have been involved in many activities including multimedia, smart skills and employability skills organised by the DCU Access programme, photography workshops, a residential trip to Wicklow, a referee course, and legal studies at the Bar of Ireland. As a business venture Transition Year students held a very successful Christmas Market Day. In the coming months Transition Year students will participate in a 'Future Voices' programme, designed to empower young people to progress to third level education, and in the Gaisce Awards.



Congratulations to our Leaving Certificate Applied students who organised a very successful Tadhg Ó'Fainín Foundation Walk for charity and to our Transition Year students who also raised a substantial sum of money for St. Francis's Hospice. The generosity of our students and parents, both past and present, was well displayed with the many gifts of toys, clothes and food donated to the homeless and to the Aoibhneas refuge at Christmas time.



Congratulations to students who received academic, sports, arts and culture, and community spirit awards organised by the DCU Access programme in the Helix. Congratulations also to the many students recognised for their excellent efforts at our own college awards ceremony in December. We look forward to the continued success of our students in the coming months.

Thank you to staff who organised outdoor activities in the area of sport, hillwalking, cross country, visits to the cinema, the web summit and fieldtrips. Our sixth year students welcomed Danish students, who study Irish history, to our school in October. To enhance students' experiences in Margaret Aylward Community College we look forward to students benefiting from our new state of the art Science room, the introduction of guitar, violin, additional choir classes, activities to celebrate the centenary of the 1916 Rising, and basketball coaching.



In Margaret Aylward Community College we are conscious of student well-being. Parental involvement and support is important as students grow and develop academically and socially. We thank parents who attend our parent teacher meetings which are an important time for communication between parents and teachers. Parents also attend a parent group each Wednesday and some parents of first year students are now attending Maths classes. We aim to organise further events for parents during a 'Wellness Week' this coming term.

Finally I would like to thank Ms. Joan McSweeney, who has co-ordinated the production of this newsletter, and the many students and teachers who have contributed articles and photographs. We look forward to making more newsletters available on our new college website which is nearing completion.

Teresa Murphy, Principal

## Our Open Evening



On Thursday 22nd October Margaret Aylward Community College held its annual Open Evening which was a resounding success. The Principal, staff and pupils welcomed prospective students and parents who were given an extensive tour of the school facilities. Our first years acted as guides for the evening.

A new venture this year was having the event coincide with Halloween. The Halloween maze frightened even the bravest among us !!!! If you were unable to make the open evening do not worry, just give the school a call and we can organise a personal tour. Applications are now open for 2016/2017.

## Visit by Danish Students to MACC

In October a group of Danish students came into our school. There were 21 students and two teachers from their school with them. In my 6<sup>th</sup> year History class there are 12 students, including myself. For the Danish students coming into our class we set up tables with our History books, our exam papers and essays on display to show all of our hard work. The students were shocked by the pages of work we had written because they type everything onto computers. Some of my class mates explained the subject to the foreign students and then answered their questions. Then we had a break so people could eat, drink and mix with new people, to get to know them and to hear about their lifestyle. Near the end we split the students up to bring them into some classes to show them how our school is run. Before the students left they thanked us and gave us chocolates from their country.

Lea Nolan 6LC



## Geography Field Study

The 6th year Geography field study took place in Balcadden Bay, Howth. We were very fortunate to have a dry day to carry out our study which is worth up to 20% of the final exam. The girls were well prepared and worked as a group to ensure a successful study. We studied the impact of geomorphic processes on the development of the beach.

An enjoyable day was had by all.



## Higher Achievers Hub

Margaret Aylward Community College was selected to participate in the Tolka Area Partnership's new 'High Achievers Hub'. This pilot initiative has been set up by Tolka Area Partnership and collaborating schools in the Dublin North West area to support students who do well in school to progress and reach their full academic potential. Complimentary to their schooling, extra educational supports including examination preparation, study skills and guidance are on offer to our students in an after school setting.

The Hub took place, after school, two days per week in the first term. Margaret Aylward students received additional tuition in exam subjects including Maths, Science and English as well as guidance and study skills support. This is an exciting opportunity for our students to participate in this new collaborative programme and to avail of extra educational support to allow them to reach their full potential in a fun, safe environment. We have received very positive feedback from both the students and their parents.



## Study Club

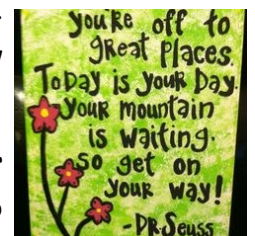
Our **Study Club** is now up and running for all third-year students. It takes place on Mondays between 3.30 and 4.30 and on Wednesday between 1.00 and 2.00 in Ms. Maguire's room. The **Study Club** provides a supervised quiet space for students to revise. Ms. Maguire will also go through different study techniques and run short workshops on their use. It allows third year students to revise class work, do exam papers and make revision notes and flashcards in preparation for their Junior Certificate exams.

## Applying for College

This is a very busy time of the year for sixth year students. As well as lots of homework and revision, this is the time they have to consider what they would like to study in college.

Students apply to courses in Universities, e.g., DCU and UCD, and in Colleges of Technology, e.g., DIT, IT Blanchardstown using a website called CAO. Students can pick up to twenty courses and write their list in order of preference. The course they want the most is placed number one on the list. They have to read a lot of information and go to Open Days in the colleges to get to know what is on offer.

Courses in Colleges of Further Education, e.g., Marino College of F.E., are usually one or two years long. Students can apply to as many colleges as they like. They usually apply to three or four colleges, on line, and are called for interviews in the spring.



Students can apply to **SUSI** for a grant (money) to help them with the expenses of going to college. They can also apply through the **HEAR** scheme which helps students who are disadvantaged go to university.

If you would like any information about going to college, just make an appointment to see Ms O'Rourke.



**"WRITING  
IS THE  
PAINTING  
OF THE  
VOICE!"**  
VOLTAIRE

## History Talk by Holocaust Survivor

[illegible]

## NOTICEBOARD

## Parent Teacher Meetings

First & Transition Year: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 3.45pm-6.15pm

Second & Fifth Year: Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 3.45pm-6.15pm

## Junior and Leaving Certificate E7A Entry Forms

Students choose subject levels for examinations. Exam fees ( €116 Leaving Certificate & €106 Junior Certificate) are paid through the bank. Medical Card holders are not liable for fees provided Medical Cards are valid on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2016.

## Mock Examinations

Mock examinations take place from the 4th February to the 12<sup>th</sup> February. Students will be given a Mock Examination Timetable and parents informed of the cost. Normal classes will take place during mock examinations where possible.

## Leaving Certificate Oral Examinations

Irish: 11<sup>th</sup> April - 15<sup>th</sup> April

French: 18<sup>th</sup> April - 22<sup>nd</sup> April

## CAO Alert

Closing date to apply to the CAO is Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 at 5.15pm

## Junior and Leaving Certificate Projects and Reports

The final submission date to the school is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 5.00pm.

