



Mercy Secondary School
Inchicore



Report on Teaching and Learning

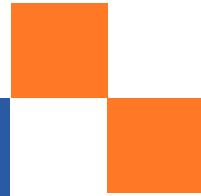
November - December 2024

Nurturing Global Thinkers,
Shaping Leaders



Designed by: Danielle O'Leary
Teaching & Learning Coordinator

Foreword



Greetings and warm regards,

As we conclude this term, we are proud to reflect on the achievements and joyous moments that have defined the past months. The winter assessments showcased the hard work and progress of our students, highlighting their dedication and resilience. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the commitment they've shown to their learning.

A highlight of the term was the return of the Mercy Christmas Market, which was a resounding success. The festive event brought the community together in celebration, with beautifully crafted gifts, seasonal treats, and plenty of holiday cheer. Adding to the magic was the wonderful performance by our school choir, whose carol singing created a heartwarming and festive atmosphere. Their harmonies, combined with the enthusiasm of all involved, made the event truly special. We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this memorable occasion.

Our sports teams also shone brightly this term, achieving success in badminton, basketball, and football. From thrilling basketball matches to skillful badminton displays and outstanding football teamwork, our students showcased their talents, determination, and school pride.

This term's successes are a testament to the collective effort of our students, staff, and families. Together, we've created an environment where growth and achievement flourish.

As we approach the Christmas season, we wish everyone a joyful, restful break and look forward to building on this term's accomplishments in the new year.

Sincere thank you to all colleagues who shared their professional practice in order to carry out this report.

Warm regards,

Danielle O'Leary

Teaching and Learning Coordinator



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Milestones



01



Female Leadership

Our wonderful 5th year student Roksana received the very prestigious female leadership award from Intel and TrailblazHER at TUD

02



Stand Up Week

Amazing support in our school community for Stand Up Week 2024.

03



November Remembrance

Our students had the opportunity to remember their loved ones who have passed away. Each student wrote the name of their loved one in each heart.

04



LCA Award

We are incredibly proud of past pupil Chelsea Fahy Byrne who received the highest credits in the LCA examination 2024 for this region. Fantastic achievement

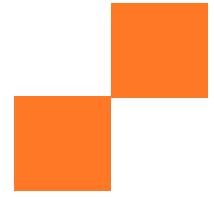
05



Awards Ceremony

Some of our wonderful students who received awards at our November assemblies.

Academic Programs



The academic programs at Mercy Secondary School places an emphasis on every aspect of student growth and development, while meeting Department of Education requirements. Suitable class sizes and exceptional, qualified teachers allow us to offer a comfortable and inclusive educational environment, while ensuring each student receives the individualised attention and support they need.



01

Junior Cycle



02

Junior Cycle Schools Programme



03

Transition Year



04

Leaving Cert Applied



05

Leaving Cert
Established

Teaching and Learning- 1st Year

Home Economics: Melissa McGee

Students have settled in well after their taster subjects. This term we have been focusing on breakfasts, packed lunches, snacks and resourceful cookery. Students have developed their culinary, hygiene and safety skills by cooking chicken goujons and baking Christmas chocolate biscuit cake puddings.

PE: Donal Byrne

After learning different Fundamental Movement Skills in term 1, the 1st year students have been busy applying these into Gymnastics every PE class. After learning different rolls, jumps and balances each week, students are now working in groups to create a gymnastics sequence. They will perform what they created to the rest of their class.



Geography: Laura Doyle

Students have spent this term learning all about earthquakes and fold mountains. They have practiced lots of diagrams and enjoyed researching different earthquakes that have taken place around the world. Most importantly, they learnt some tips to try and survive an earthquake, by hiding under their desks!

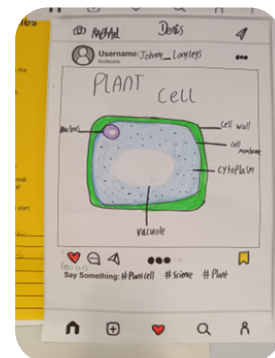
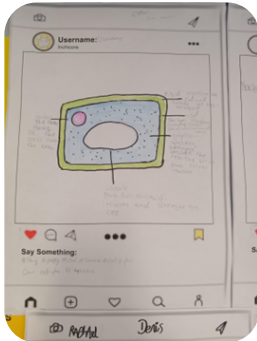
Teaching and Learning- 1st Year

Science: Cian Hurley

So far, we have covered The Cell and States of Matter. When studying The Cell, students made posters of “Cell-fies” - detailed diagrams of plant cells in a social media template and used their own hashtags to caption them #PlantCell #Science. These posters now proudly decorate the Science lab. We also used microscopes to look at plant cells (from an onion) and animal cells (from students' cheeks).

Students also completed Tarsia Puzzles when revising for their Winter Assessments. These are like jigsaws where they have to match scientific terms with their definitions to complete the puzzle. Some students even used stopwatches to see who could complete theirs the fastest.

When studying States of Matter, we observed water moving between the solid, liquid and gas phases (ice, water and steam). We also investigated the melting point of dark, milk and white chocolate to establish if there are any differences. A delicious way to explore the properties of different materials.



English: Louise O'Toole

Students have been reading the novel 'The Outsiders' Just before their exam we finished the novel which they all loved. Students have since been answering questions such as creating blog posts for characters, discussing what they think the characters are up to in 10 years time and to finish students created their own front cover for the novel.

Teaching and Learning- 1st Year

English: Letitia Enright

Students complete their Spelling and Grammar Ninja at the start of every class for ten minutes. They also work on their spellings every Thursday completing a spelling test. Students spellings have really improved over the weeks. Students have been studying film studies and have watched E.T before their exams which they enjoyed. They are currently looking at different types of reviews and practicing writing them.

English: Sinead O'Sullivan

Students have been doing their spelling and grammar Ninja for 10 minutes at the start of every class. Hard work has been done on the weekly spelling test and all students are improving their scores weekly. They have watched the movie ET and are currently working on character descriptions. Next week they will be completing a film review.

History: Sinead O'Sullivan

- Students have been studying Ancient Rome and did a project on what life was like for a person in Ancient Rome.
- We have started Early Christian Ireland and are currently looking at the life of a monk.



Teaching and Learning- 1st Year

SPHE: Letitia Enright

- Students have watched Inside Out and looked at the various different emotions we can have when beginning new experiences. Like Riley in the movie our students have had varying emotions beginning school. Having settled in, students are able to recognise these various different emotions and have strategies to help them cope if they are negative.

Spanish: Raul Fernandez

Students are continuing to work with numbers and colors in Spanish. They have also started reviewing and preparing for the winter exam by practicing writing emails in Spanish. Currently, they are learning about animals and how to describe people and pets, focusing on the verb "to be" in Spanish.

Gaeilge: Sorhca Hackett

We have been focusing on getting to know one another this term and focusing on 'mé féin agus mo chlann' - myself and my family. Sometimes I feel that students are moved ahead too fast and often leave school not confident in the very basics of the language. By letting students focus on 'mo scoil' and new school life in the first term and building up their confidence, I then like to focus on the students themselves, encouraging them to be able to chat about themselves and their own lives. It's always fun and interesting, although sometimes it can be a bit nerve wracking! I encourage students to be unafraid of making mistakes and that confidence is key. The improvement can grow over the years! Maith sibh go léir!

Visual Art: Rebecca Warren

First-year students have been working on their observational drawing skills through primary source drawings. This foundational work has challenged their problem-solving abilities as they learn to analyze and represent various forms through careful drawing and tonal studies.

Building on these skills, students have now begun a self-portrait project. They have explored facial proportions and the grid technique, which has challenged their technical and mathematical skills.

Currently, students are focusing on creating detailed studies of facial features in their sketchbooks, practicing precision and tonal shading. These studies will prepare them to progress into full tonal portraits, eventually leading to painted self-portraits where they will apply their knowledge of proportion, tone, and color to create a personal and expressive piece.

Teaching and Learning- 1st Year

Maths: Avril Devereux

Students have learned the fundamental concepts of Sets and the importance of set notation. Students can identify the complement of a set as well as the union and the intersection. They can interpret problem solving questions and draw Venn diagrams using this information. Currently, students are learning all about integers and the sign rules. After this we will be progressing into decimals and percentages.

Coding: Sinead O'Sullivan

Students took part in the Bebras computational thinking challenge. They also did a project on what coding is.

Coding: Justine O'Brien

Students took part in the Bebras computational thinking challenge. They have also begun to learn to code using scratch. As part of this they learned how to connect blocks of code to make their character sprite go for a walk.

Wellbeing: Aine O'Shaughnessy

This term Erne have been learning Irish dancing as part of their wellbeing module. They have learnt the basic steps, céilí dances and rhythm. Future dancers in the making!

CSPE: Sorcha Hackett

We have been focused on Human Rights lately and especially looking at the rights of children. We have done walking debates, looked at lots of interesting statistics, some informative videos and, mainly, discussed how precious children are and how all should be treated equally and fairly. We've had some great chats and done some very important work. I hope the students realise how important they are as citizens, even at such a young age.

Spanish Exemption: Melissa McGee & Danielle Carroll

On a Friday, the students who are exempt from Spanish attend 'Social Club'. Here, students work on their literacy and numeracy skills whilst getting an opportunity to develop socially. Each week students take on different responsibilities making tea and toast for the class. They also discuss all they got up to in their other exemption classes and create a newsletter to summarise their learning. In the build up to Christmas, students have been making bracelets and will go on a Christmas outing to celebrate their achievements.

Teaching and Learning- 1st Year

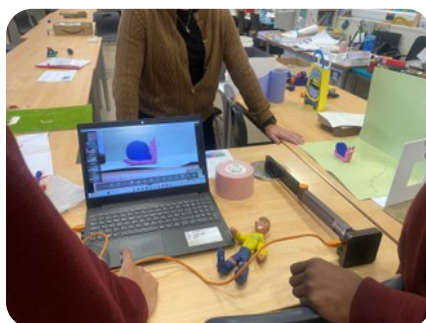
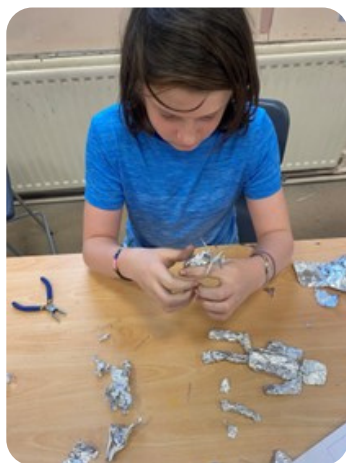
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Homeroom: Melissa McGee

Students have been working on their Social and Emotional Development. Focusing on the film 'Inside Out', students are able to identify emotions based on body language and words. Furthermore, students attend the library once per week at Richmond Barracks to develop their literacy skills and practise their social skills.

Art: Rebecca Warren

Students have been hard at work on their stop-motion animation projects, working through several creative/technical stages. They began by developing storyboards to plan their narratives, then used wire and plasticine to meticulously construct their characters. Currently, they are focused on designing and building sets to serve as the backdrops for their animations. Once the sets are complete, students will move on to filming their animations frame by frame, followed by editing their videos to bring their stories to life.



Teaching and Learning- 2nd Year

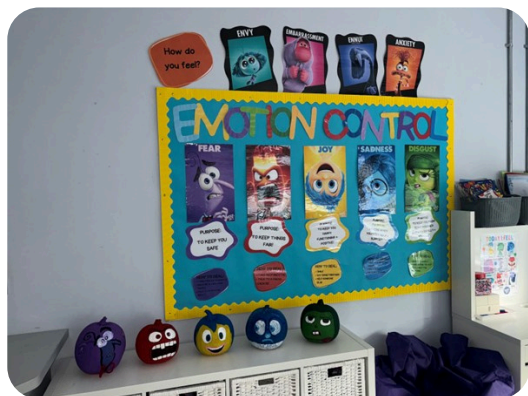
1 Setanta & 2 Lir

Home Skills: Melissa McGee

Students have been focusing on food storage/ safety this term. On a Monday students work on sorting and sequencing activities. Students cook every Thursday and scrapbook their progress. Coming up to Christmas, the students made some excellent Christmas baked goods!

Home Room: Louise Smith & Melissa McGee

Each week students attend Richmond Barracks for a 'Literacy Library Trip'. Students develop their literacy skills and take out library books every week. Whilst developing their social skills, students can read for pleasure. While visiting the library in Richmond Barracks our student has the opportunity to use the Tovertafel magic table. The Tovertafel Consists of a series of colourful and fun interactive light games projected onto the surface of a table. The game responds to hand and arm movements, which stimulate physical and cognitive activity as well as encouraging social interaction



Teaching and Learning- 2nd Year 2 Lir

Horticulture: Sorcha Hackett

The Lir boys have had a wonderfully creative term. We have been drying and pressing flowers and making beautiful candle holders for the upcoming Christmas Market. We have sang songs about nature, read stories about nature, painted, collected all sorts of interesting items, visited Richmond Barracks and done some serious digging and clearing. We have also been focusing on shapes in nature recently, as they are doing shapes in Mathematics. I can really see the confidence growing and I'm looking forward to more adventures in nature in the near future!

Geography: Laura Doyle

Students have spent this term working on the months of the year, seasons and the weather. We have kept a weather log for each week of the term and have seen the seasons change from Autumn to Winter during plenty of outside nature hunts! Students have also worked on putting the months into chronological order and can now do it really perfectly each time!



Teaching and Learning- 2nd Year 2 Lir

Homeroom: Louise Smith

The students from the Lir class had an enjoyable outing this term, where they practiced essential life skills. They demonstrated their ability to navigate public transportation by taking a bus to a local café. While at the café, they refined social and communication skills, as they ordered hot chocolate and cakes, engaging with the staff in a friendly and polite manner. This outing also provided an opportunity to develop independence, responsibility, and budgeting skills as they managed their own choices and interactions in a real-world setting.



Science: Justine O'Brien

For the last few weeks students have been learning about the planets in our solar system. They have been learning planet related songs and they have been working to make a poster of all the planets in the solar system. For the next few weeks the students will be conducting some Christmas Science experiments such as making their own crystal decorations.

Teaching and Learning- 2nd Year 2 Lir

Art: Rebecca Warren

Students have successfully completed their bag design project, where they explored the transition from 2D to 3D design. They began by creating templates for their bags, focusing on accurately measuring with a ruler and drawing parallel lines. This was followed by constructing their templates into three-dimensional forms, involving careful cutting, folding, and gluing. As part of the project, students also worked on their painting application techniques while deepening their understanding of color theory and mixing. These skills allowed them to bring their designs to life, translating their ideas into vibrant, finished bags that showcase both their technical and creative abilities!



Teaching and Learning- 2nd Year

Religion: Rachel Murphy

In 2nd year RE, we are learning all about the different charities working with the Homeless in Ireland. We are planning on doing a year group fundraiser to help raise awareness in our school.

Home Economics: Melissa McGee & Fiona Healy

Students have been working on their Home Economics CBA. Students have been following the steps of the 'Design Brief Process' by researching possible designs, weighing up the benefits and disadvantages of their designs through peer feedback and have started sewing their wall hangings.



Geography: Laura Doyle

In second year geography this term students have been learning all about rivers! We have spent this term learning all about river keywords, river landforms and river uses. I think it is safe to say at this point second years are river experts! We have also moved on to looking at Settlement in Ireland, discovering where people live and why. Second years have spent some time thinking about where they might like to live in the future, and what 'functions' are important to them.

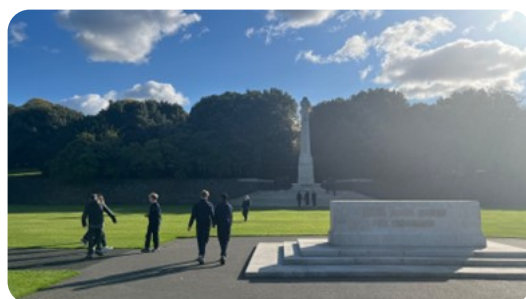
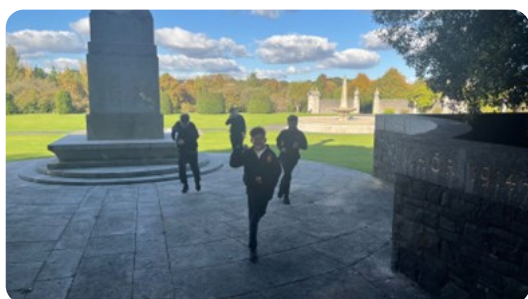
History: Aine O'Shaughnessy

This term students have been learning about the Plantations of Ulster and how this influenced Irish identity. We have discussed how Irish language, culture and religion were impacted as a result of the plantations and how this is seen today. We started studying the causes of the American Revolution and how Britain's control of the colonies caused the Americans to rebel. Students have been great at engaging in the topics!

Teaching and Learning- 2nd Year

PE: Donal Byrne

- In PE the second year students began the year taking part in different athletics events such as high jump, long jump and javelin. They then engaged in a unit of football, where students had to create a video demonstrating a specific skill in football and how to perform correct technique. Leading into Christmas students are taking part in a unit badminton, learning and developing new skills.
- In HRA students have been engaging in different forms of physical activity every week to improve physical fitness. This has included classes of Just Dance, Exercising, Circuit training and learning how to set SMART goals to take ownership of their fitness levels. Students have also taken part in walks out in the community including along the canal and to Memorial Park learning about the opportunities they have to take part in physical activity in their local area.



Teaching and Learning- 2nd Year

English HL : Sinead O'Sullivan

Students have begun to read the novel Noughts and Crosses by M Blackman. They have been working on key quotes, developing character descriptions of the 2 main characters and examining the meaning of racism, stereotypes and prejudice.

Spanish: Raul Fernandez

Students are continuing to work on how to talk about likes and dislikes in Spanish using phrases such as me gusta, me encanta, no me gusta, and me aburre.

They are also learning about hobbies and giving reasons why they like or dislike them, using expressions like porque es difícil (because it's difficult) or porque es fácil (because it's easy).

Additionally, students have been introduced to the verb estar and are learning the difference between ser and estar and how to use them appropriately.

They have also started learning how to describe where things are positioned in Spanish using Spanish prepositions

Gaeilge: Sorcha Hackett

We have been focusing on verbs and learning to create more advanced sentence structures in the past tense, leading to telling a story about days out with friends. We have also covered a lot about 'Mo Cheantar' - My area - students did a mini CBA interview where I asked them a number of questions about their area. Some were nervous but it was great to see them using the Gaeilge in front of classmates and pushing themselves to do well. We then revised for the winter assessments.

CSPE: Sorcha Hackett

We've been discussing disability and ableism. Students are learning about both physical and intellectual disabilities, neuro-diversity and how society can sometimes limit people who would be otherwise able to thrive. We have looked at the disability act 2005, what it means, how the law can protect vulnerable people and why it is important for all members of society to be given a fair and equal chance. We've watched videos, read statistics and had some very important discussions.

Teaching and Learning- 2nd Year

Art: Rebecca Warren

Students have been delving into the design strand of visual art by creating custom paper bags for a chosen business. This project involved researching, planning, designing, and constructing a three-dimensional piece, while also honing their painting techniques to enhance the final product. As they complete this project, students are now transitioning to their Classroom-Based Assessment (CBA) in art. In this next phase, they will explore themes and concepts while further developing their sketchbook skills to document their creative journey.



Maths HL: Avril Devereux

Students have moved onto studying Coordinate Geometry. Students are able to use the length, slope, midpoint and equation of a line formula. They also understand how to prove if lines are parallel or perpendicular by finding their slopes. Also on Tuesdays, they are focusing on financial maths with Ms Kelly. They are using and interpreting compound interest formula along with profit and loss.

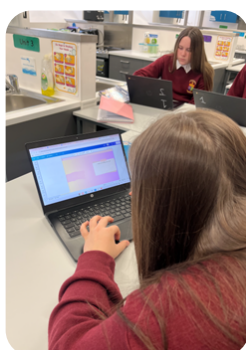
Maths OL: Danielle O'Leary

2nd years received fantastic results across the board in their winter assessments. They were tested on four core topics all consisting of past papers and some tough mock questions. We have now moved onto Algebra. We are focusing on simplifying like terms and challenging ourselves with finding the perimeter of 2D shapes with algebraic expressions and some tough addition algebraic pyramids. This class love a challenge!

Teaching and Learning- 3rd Year

Home Economics: Melissa McGee & Fiona Healy

Students have been focusing on their Food Literacy skills in preparation for CBA 2 and their cooking exam. The briefs have come in from the SEC and students have to cook/ bake dishes related to reducing food poisoning, food labels/ factors that influence food choices and diet related diseases. Students will complete their paperwork and practise their dishes in preparation for their cooking exam worth 50% of their JC grade.



Geography: Laura Doyle

Students in third year have been working so hard this term, finishing out the last couple of topics on the course. We have spent time looking at population and also migration. Students learnt about how a government monitors its population levels and why they do so, as well as the factors that can affect population increases and decreases. As a group, when studying migration, students also enjoyed chatting about people they know that moved abroad and places they might like to live in the future.

English: Louise O'Toole

Students in third year have finished their final studied novel 'The Outsiders' which they all have really enjoyed and engaged with well. They have been practising exam questions in preparation for the November assessments. Overall the students have been working really hard and putting in a lot of effort with their work. The students loved comparing their world with the world in which the characters from 'The Outsiders' live. They wrote a brief story of what they think would be in the sequel to the novel.

Teaching and Learning- 3rd Year

English: Letita Enright

Students have finished their studied play Merchant of Venice and have begun their novel The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo. Student's have been enjoying listening to the audio of the book as they follow along in their books. Each chapter is a poem so students are looking at some of the poetic techniques used while studying the novel.

History: Sinead O'Sullivan

Students have been studying life in Nazi Germany and the causes of the outbreak of World War II. They have examined examples of propaganda used in Germany and how Hitler came to power. They completed a project on a key historical person of interest.

They are currently learning about the key events of World War II, including The Blitz, Operation Barbarossa, Pearl Harbour and D Day.



Spanish: Raul Fernandez

- Students have started working on past exam papers and preparing for the winter exams.
- They began reviewing key grammar points such as the present tense, informal imperative, immediate future, and present continuous.
- They are also revisiting topics like the weather and learning new ones, such as how to talk about sports.
- Additionally, students have started preparing for the writing questions using the booklet provided as homework before the mid-term break.

Teaching and Learning- 3rd Year

Gaeilge HL: Bernie McCabe

The focus of our work has been the completion of our Junior cert novel “Daideo” le Áine Ní Ghlinn. We listened to the audio telling of this “cat & mouse” story. A novel of deception, Daideo tells the story of a young boy, Liam, on the run from his parents and a old man, Daideo, on the run from his children. They meet on a Dublin-bound train, listen to each other's story, they understand each other. But how will this new friendship work out?

On completion we considered themes, characters, plots. How to express my opinion on this novel & characters, among other things.

Our seanfhocal na míosa was “Athnaíonn ciaróg ciaróg eile” it takes one to know one!

Gaeilge OL: Sorcha Hackett

Students completed their CBA interviews and did very well overall. Many were nervous but pushed themselves and those who practised shone! We revised many topics coming up to the winter assessments including verbs, sentence structures, question words and keywords relating to the main topics (mé féin, mo cheantar, mo theach, an scoil, caitheamh aimsire) as well as revising the diary account in the past tense.

CSPE: Sorcha Hackett

3A have been organising a Christmas Jumper Day in aid of the Simon Community. They have completed all CBA reports and we have discussed what they want to learn about before finishing up the course. They have helped to plan ahead, showing interest in law, voting and electoral systems.

Science: Justine O’Brien

The 3rd years have finished learning about reproduction. They are now learning about energy, its types and sources. As part of this the students build balloon rockets to see how energy can be converted from potential energy into kinetic energy. They have also enjoyed watching the string of a guitar in slow mo to see how the vibrations of the strings produce sound energy.

Teaching and Learning- 3rd Year

Visual Art: Rebecca Warren

Students have successfully completed their CBA2 projects and taken time to reflect on their work as they now begin on their Junior Certificate Art practical. This practical accounts for 100% of their final grade in Visual Art for the Junior Cert. To prepare for their exam booklet, students have been refining their observational and tonal drawing skills. Moving forward, they will continue researching and developing concepts, exploring their chosen theme, and effectively communicating their ideas. This process will build up to creation of their final piece, showcasing their creativity and technical abilities.



Maths HL: Danielle O'Leary

We have just finished our study of trigonometry and students will be tested on Pythagoras theorem, the ratios of Sin, Cos and Tan as well as the link between trigonometry and other topics like coordinate geometry of the line. Just before the Christmas break we will be introducing sequences and series and ensuring we are keeping up with weekly revision study assignments in order to make sure that all students are ready for the mocks in February.

Maths OL: Avril Devereux

3rd year students have finished learning how to do 16 constructions on the junior cycle curriculum. They are able to use their mathematical sets to draw and construct triangles, lines. They can measure angles using their protractors. Next, we will be focusing on the topic Geometry and the important concepts associated with Geometry.

Teaching and Learning- 3rd Year

History: Sinead O'Sullivan

Students have been studying life in Nazi Germany and the causes of the outbreak of World War II. They have examined examples of propaganda used in Germany and how Hitler came to power. They completed a project on a key historical person of interest.

They are currently learning about the key events of World War II, including The Blitz, Operation Barbarossa, Pearl Harbour and D Day.

Resource L2LP: Rachel Murphy

Two students have completed the 'My Dream Job' investigation. We have lined up a tour of Richmond park to interview various members of staff on how they achieved working in Football.

Teaching and Learning- Transition Year

English: Aine O'Shaughnessy

TY students were invited over to the library in Richmond barracks where they signed up for their own library card. They are also involved in a Citywide reading campaign and have received a copy of a novel by Helena Close. We met the author and students engaged in a short workshop talking about all things sports and writing!



Home Economics: Melissa McGee & Fiona Healy

Students have been developing their textiles and creative skills by creating Christmas Gnomes just in time for Christmas! The TY's have also been helping the Home Economics teachers prepare for our upcoming Christmas Market!

Careers: Caroline McCorriston

Transition years have been receiving the results to their psychometric tests this term during individual vocational interviews. They will use these to research the suggested careers and they will help inform their subject choices next term.

Digital Portfolio: Sinead O'Sullivan

Students are continuing to keep a digital record of everything they are doing in TY. They are also completing a weekly gratitude page.

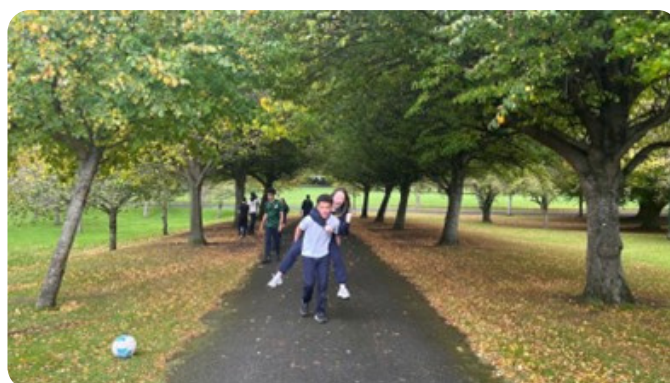
Business: Raul Fernandez

Students are finishing their presentations or posters about entrepreneurs and have started presenting to the class. They are preparing to share everything they have learned with their peers.

Teaching and Learning- Transition Year

Leisure & Recreation: Donal Byrne & Liam Regan

The TYs have been out on a number of outings in Leisure and Recreation. They went to Jumpzone, Phoenix Park Cycle and go to Memorial Park for PE. They will be heading ice staking before the Christmas break.



Teaching and Learning- Transition Year

STEM Passport Programme: Laura Doyle

TY students have finished out their STEM Passport programme with Maynooth University this term. After lots of hard work, completing three in-person days and three assignments, many students will be receiving a Level 6 qualification from Maynooth!



Spanish: Raul Fernandez

Students continue reviewing basic topics, such as describing themselves and their family. To practice daily routine actions, they also watched a short Argentinian film.

In the coming weeks, students will begin working on new topics, such as food in Spanish.

Maths: Danielle O'Leary

Students have been working really hard on Statistics and Algebra and did a winter assessment on leaving cert questions. We have moved onto Complex numbers which is brand new to all students and they are doing very well. Students are now confident in adding/subtracting complex numbers. They have investigated isquared and are challenging them selves with complex conjugate and long division.

Teaching and Learning- Transition Year

Art: Rebecca Warren

Students have been busy in art this term, engaging in a variety of exciting and creative projects!

A group of Transition Year students collaborated with a visiting artist on a photography project centered around the theme “Welcome to the Neighbourhood.” They explored the use of digital, film, and Polaroid cameras, delving into concepts of perspective and focus. To enhance their photography skills, students set up a professional-style studio in the art room, capturing portraits and experimenting with innovative approaches to art-making. Interested students can sign up to continue this project in the new year

We have also begun exploring sustainable fashion design, connecting our work to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Students created designs for unique pieces using recycled materials found in the art room, learning about eco-conscious practices while embracing creativity.

Finally, students completed their oil pastel studies, tying this work to their photography skills by creating zoomed-in studies of nature. These pieces challenged their blending techniques and understanding of color theory, resulting in vibrant and detailed works.



Teaching and Learning- Transition Year

Art: Rebecca Warren



Teaching and Learning- 5LCE

Home Economics: Fiona Healy

Students have been focusing on their 'LC Food Studies Journals' which are worth 20% of their LC exam. The assignments have come in from the SEC and students have to complete 4 out of 5 assignments, after preparing, cooking and serving a dish relating to each topic given.

This week we are cooking a Christmas Wreath Pavlova to demonstrate the properties and underlying principles of Eggs!

We also made a visit to the Food science labs in TUD, to investigate the uses of protein in food technology and production.

Religious Education: Louise O'Toole

As it is the month of November students learned all about November we Remember. Students researched different traditions from all over the world in line with remembrance. We created a whole school November We Remember display which the 5th years played a big role in making it happen. Students from all year groups coloured their own stained glass window and wrote the name of their loved one in the heart. The display is such a lovely way to remember those that have passed away.



Spanish: Raul Fernandez

Students started preparing for the writing questions for the winter exams, focusing on daily routines and describing themselves and their family members. They have also begun Unit 2, La Familia, and are reviewing basic concepts with a family tree to practice Spanish vocabulary related to family.

Additionally, students are preparing for the aural and oral exams to be completed before the Christmas break.

Teaching and Learning- 5LCE

History: Aine O'Shaughnessy

- History students have been examining the rise of Mussolini in Fascist Italy and how his leadership had a lasting impact on Italy and the rest of Europe. Students have also been brainstorming ideas for their Leaving Cert research report that they will begin researching over the break!

English: Letitia Enright

Students have finished studying Macbeth and have begun studying their first comparative text which is Small Things Like These. Students recently went to see this after the midterm break. The novel is set in New Ross in 1985 about Bill Furlong a timber and coal merchant who grapples with his past while providing for his 5 daughters in wife during a very cold winter period.

Gaeilge HL: Bernie McCabe

The main focus of this term has been on our first piece of prose “Dís” , a short story written in a conversational style. It deals with themes of marriage & the obstacles that have to be overcome in the ordinary!

We have also been studying Irish with an ear to the oral element of the language. Composing some sraith pictures & listening to the sounds of the spoken word. Also, creating an oral account of themselves & also reciting poetry.

Biology: Justine O'Brien

The students have delved into the world of microorganisms examining bacteria, fungi and protists. They have been learning to read population graphs to see what conditions affect the growth of these organisms. They have also learned how to work in sterile conditions in preparation for their experiment to grow leaf yeast. They have spent a lot of time conducting food tests to see what biomolecules are contained in different foods. In the next few classes they will be examining the activity of enzymes and their uses in the body.

Teaching and Learning- 5LCE

Art: Rebecca Warren

Students have been deepening their exploration of Impressionism in Visual Studies, examining its impact on the art world during its time and its influence. This study has now extended into curatorship and gallery practices, as students prepare for an upcoming art gallery trip.

As part of their practical work, students have created a series of lino prints inspired by their chosen themes, refining their technical skills while expressing their personal interpretations. They are now writing artist statements to articulate the conceptual aspects of their work, linking their creative process to broader artistic ideas.

Students are also being encouraged to think critically about how their pieces might be displayed in a gallery setting. This exercise challenges them to reconsider their artistic process

Maths OL: Avril Devereux

Students have learned the concepts of complex numbers. They can add, subtract, multiply and divide complex numbers. They are able to identify the complex conjugate and the modulus. Students can plot complex numbers on an Argand diagram. We are moving onto complex roots using the quadratic formula.

Teaching and Learning- 5LCA

Hair and Beauty: Pamela Durrant

5th year LCA'S have been practicing their hairdressing skills in class this term. As have 4th year students.



VPG: Caroline McCorriston

5th years have created CVs this term and have been working on interview skills. These will be useful when looking for their second work experience and can be built upon when applying for apprenticeships etc. next year.

Leisure & Recreation: Donal Byrne

The 5th LCA class have been busy out in Leisure and Recreation this year. They are working every week on their General Education Task which will be worth 10 credits towards their Leaving Cert. The students are organising an event to raise money for a charity they chose as a class. They are currently in the process of organising a charity football match with senior Mercy students playing against the local Garda from Kilmainham Garda Station. Money will be raised from the match for Make A Wish Foundation. All students are very enthusiastic about planning and running this event and we are sure it will be a great success.

Teaching and Learning- 5LCA

Hotel Catering & Tourism: Fiona Healy

Students have been busy preparing to run a 'Mini Cafe' style event for our LIR class. They will prepare, cook and serve Mini Pizzas, Chocolate Chip Cookies and Cupcakes, along with Hot Chocolates, Tea and Coffee. This is all part of the completion of their Key Assignments for session 1.



English and Communications: Louise O'Toole

Students completed their first key assignment which was designing front covers for 3 different types of novels. They had to pick one graphic novel, one short story and a novel of their choice. Students poured all their effort in every class to complete each one. They turned out amazing!

Social Education: Letitia Enright

Students have completed two modules over the last few months, one looking at Community and the other Social and Health Education. For the Community module students have created flyers promoting 5 different facilities provided in their local area for young people. They have also interviewed an older person about their local community and how it has developed and changed over the years.

Science: Justine O'Brien

5LCA have been working hard this term to finish up their key assignments. As part of this they have had to conduct five different activities. They first examined the human body by measuring their lung capacity using balloons and also used a signal generator to test the range of their hearing. They examined their cheek cells under the microscope and sketched them. Lastly they have been taking samples from different areas in the school and culturing bacteria to see how dirty some places are. They have followed this up by examining which cleaning product is the most effective at killing bacteria.

Teaching and Learning- 5LCA

Horticulture: Sorcha Hackett

We have been focusing on the basics of growing and propagating plants. We have planted many bulbs and seeds and have continued to keep our garden spaces clean and tidy. We had to prepare for winter assessments and we also did a wonderful workshop on foraging, gathering things from nature and using them in business. We made rosehip oil and some very beautiful art prints.

Teaching and Learning- 6LCA

Mathematical Applications: Danielle O'Leary

6LCA students put in a lot of effort for their winter assessments which was a challenging mock paper and they did very well. Since the exams we have been working on Key Assignment three. Students are buying and financing their first car as well as insurance, tax and everything else that comes with it. They are enjoying this assignment and as always putting in tremendous amounts of effort.

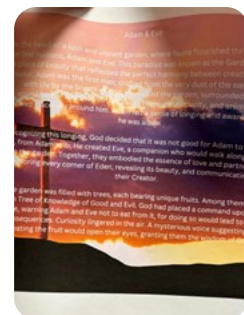
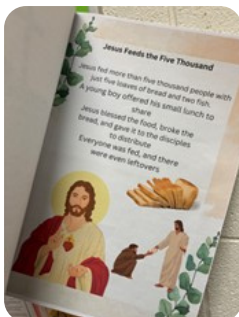


Social Ed: Laura Doyle

6LCA students are hard at work preparing for their Social Education task. Sixth years have been researching all the different types of bullying and collecting data on supports available for people experiencing bullying. This information is being used to plan an Anti-Bullying workshop with 2nd year students. Each sixth year is taking responsibility for one activity throughout the workshop, planning the activity itself and making all resources needed. It has been hard work, but the workshop is set to be a big success.

Religious Education: Louise O'Toole

Students created their own story book of stories/parables. Students researched their own story and put it into their own words. When each student completed their story we printed all of them and made a booklet.



Teaching and Learning- 6LCA

Spanish: Raul Fernandez

Students are continuing to work on the key assignment, including how to order food in a restaurant. Additionally, each student has chosen a Spanish-speaking country and started researching key facts about its culture, food, and other aspects.

Students have also started practicing past exam papers, and we are reviewing key topics such as personal details, numbers, likes, and dislikes. We are finishing Unit 1 of Module 1 – Social Relationships

Horticulture: Sorcha Hackett

We have been focusing on fruits and floristry this term. We made very tasty pastries using the blackberries we picked, as well as rosehip oil from the rosehips we collected. We did a workshop with a visiting artist and herbalist and, using items found in nature, made some wonderful art prints for the Christmas market. The students carried out a survey for the Christmas market as a key assignment and, of course, we prepared for the winter assessments.

Craft & Design: Rebecca Warren

Students have successfully completed their ceramic vessels inspired by nature, showcasing their creativity and technical skills. Throughout this project, they developed their problem-solving abilities by mastering techniques such as coiling, slab building, scoring and slipping, and imprinting textures. To complement their hands-on work, students also reflected on their learning journey, tying it back to their initial research to deepen their understanding of the creative process.

They are now starting on their fourth session in the Craft and Design module, which will introduce them to textiles and block printing



Teaching and Learning- 6LCE

Home Economics: Melissa McGee

This term the 6th years have been focusing on food commodities and nutrition. We have been revising other areas of the course completed last year in preparation for their Christmas Exams/ Mock exams.

Careers: Caroline McCorrison

6th years have been making a start on filling in their CAO form, applying to further education colleges and attending college open days this term. They have heard from Trinity College Ambassadors talk about HEAR, DARE, SUSI and the Trinity Access Programme.

Geography: Laura Doyle

Since coming back in September students have been focusing on regional geography. They spent the first few weeks becoming familiarised with the concept of what a region is, before moving on to complete their first in-depth study of a region. Students have focused on the Paris Basin and learnt about its physical, economic and cultural features.

Students have also completed their geography field study. They took a trip to the River Glin and partook in a series of investigations to prove that deposition and transportation were contributing to the formation of a meander in the river. Over the next few weeks they will begin their write up on these experiments.

Gaeilge OL: Bernie McCabe

This term's focus has moved away from literature to the spoken word. Talking about themselves, their family, their community school & local for example.

Along with this we are becoming more proficient & therefore confident, in reading poetry aloud, recounting na "Sraith Pictiúir" as we look ahead to the mocks & indeed the real oral exam next Easter.

Essay writing: understanding syntax, grammar & learning more colourful ways of expressing themselves when discussing a title.

Teaching and Learning- 6LCE

Art: Rebecca Warren

Students have completed their Visual Studies exploration of Post-Impressionist artists, gaining insights into the movement and its impact on art. They have now transitioned to their Leaving Certificate Practical Exam booklet, a significant project that, along with two finished pieces, accounts for 70% of their overall grade in Leaving Cert Art.

Currently, students are developing concepts around the three given themes, exploring ideas and inspirations that resonate with them

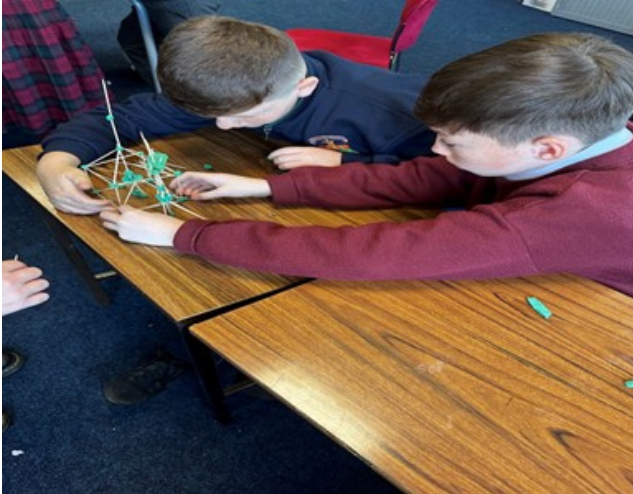
Maths OL: Avril Devereux

Students have started to look at inferential statistics. They can identify the normal distribution curve. Students are able to recall the percentages associated with the empirical rule. They can also find the mean and standard deviation on the calculator. We have started to learn about the margin of error and hypothesis testing.

Maths HL: Danielle O'Leary

Our higher level Maths students are putting in a lot of hard work and effort. Not only do they attend extra classes with me every Wednesday they are also attending extra classes in Trinity College on Saturday's. We have completed our study of Integration, students are now confident in finding areas by integration as well as the average value of a function. They will be tested just before the Christmas break and will have an intense assignment to do over the Christmas in order to prepare them fully for their mocks in February.

Student Life



Stem Club: Sarah McLoughlin & Danielle Carroll

1st year students have been participating in a weekly STEM club on Monday mornings with a focus on following visual and aural instructions. Students might build simple structures or models by listening carefully to step by step instructions. Activities so far have included building towers from toothpicks and play doh, catapults, paper aeroplanes, helicopters and hoop gliders



Choir: Rachel Murphy

Our Mercy Choir is starting preparing for our Winter Market. We are learning new songs, old songs and welcoming new members to our 50 strong choir! Come down and show your support at our Christmas Market.



Scholars Ireland: Caroline McCorrison

12 2nd years have been participating in Scholars Ireland with a Trinity College PHD student. This years theme is 3D Printing Pioneers: Crafting Tomorrow's Innovations!



1st Year & TY Mentoring Caroline McCorrison

This term our TY mentors focused on helping our 2nd years put together a study timetable. They also created a helpful handout full of study tips.

College Awareness Week
November 2025 18th- 22nd

| Key 15th | Monday 18th | Tuesday 19th | Wednesday 20th | Thursday 21st |
|----------|--|---|--|--|
| | Interleave Slides Competition Bingo sheets 1st year | Study Skills Slides | All seniors calculating LC points worksheet | Prizes given to Scavenger hunt winners |
| | TY A & B Workshop - Careers in IT 9-10:30 | 9-10 TY Street Law | | |
| | TY A & B Workshop - Careers in IT 9-10:30 lunchroom Code Plus webinar 10-10:45 interweave seniors | 10:30- 11:30 5th year - DAME and HEAR - lunchroom | 10:30- 11:30 5th year - Aquine Mentors | |
| | | 2nd Year Scavenger Hunt outside | 11:00 3rd years - 11:30 Seniors Cancer Irish rail | |

**CAW
CMcC, DOL, FH**

A fantastic and insightful College Awareness week in Mercy. College speakers, past pupils, apprenticeships and more!

Student Life



Art Club: Rebecca Warren

Students have been refining their painting and color-mixing skills by replicating master copies of famous paintings onto canvas boards. This project has not only allowed them to practice technical techniques but also deepened their understanding of the styles and methods used by renowned artists. The finished works will be displayed in the art room, offering a visual aid for students who may take influence from the artists!



Stand Up Week: Rebecca Warren

Stand Up Week was a vibrant and fun-filled celebration of inclusivity and diversity in our school. Throughout the week, students participated in a variety of creative competitions, treasure hunts, and fundraising activities, all while promoting the important message of "Standing Up in Our Communities."



Stand Up Week: Rebecca Warren

Highlights included the Rainbow Bake Sale and Rainbow Day, which helped raise awareness and celebrate diversity.



Stand Up Week: Rebecca Warren

Through their efforts, students raised an impressive €263 for Belong To, a support service for young people in the LGBTQ+ community. This initiative not only contributed to a great cause but also fostered a spirit of unity and support within the school!

Aspire2

Danielle O'Leary



King Lir Play & Workshop

Our 6th Year HL English class enjoyed a fantastic production of King Lir which they are studying for their LC course. It was followed by a very engaging workshop



Youth Advisory Panelist's Training Day

Our wonderful YAPs from 5th and 6th year enjoyed a motivational workshop on leadership. There were even past pupils of Mercy there who are now proud Alumni of Aspire2



Study Skills Workshop

5th years were very prepared for winter exams following their 3 hour study skills/motivational workshop from Super Generation



6th Year Mentoring

All 6th years headed out to Arcadis in Citywest for a mentor session with their Aspire2 mentors. They chatted all things University, apprenticeships and the world of work



5th Year Team Bonding

Amazing team bonding session for our 5th years took place in Core Youth Club. Our 5th years worked together as a team and solved problems and challenges.

Sport

Donal Byrne



U16 Girls Basketball

The U16 Girls Team put on a great performance in their competition. They won every game in their group and progressed to the Quarter Finals. Unfortunately, they lost the Quarter Final (36 - 35) in a very close and hard fought game. They did incredible work this year and they should be very proud of what they accomplished.



U19 Boys Basketball

The boys basketball team played for the first time as an U19 team this year. After a tough few games they began to grow stronger with each match and ended the group stage with a good win over Mourne Road at home. They didn't progress out of the group stage this year but will be looking to make big improvements next year.



1st & 2nd Year Basketball

The second year boys basketball team have been putting in a good graft so far taking part in training sessions every Monday after school. The team should begin playing matches after Christmas.

We are delighted to have a first year boys basketball team this year also. After initial interest from a number of students, they sought out others who would like to play on a team. With enough players signed up to form a team, we should be playing our first matches in the New Year.



U16 Girls Badminton

Badminton is continuing to increase in popularity in Mercy. Training takes place every Tuesday and Thursday after school and numbers are always high. This dedication is starting to pay off with our U16 Girls team winning all their matches so far this year. We hope to progress to the semi finals and beyond.



U16 Boys Badminton

After a very successful year last year the boys team have moved up to Division 4. They still continue to train after school week in week out. They have a number of matches to play over the coming weeks and we hope to see them continue to play competitively in Division 4. A number of new students have gotten on board this year and we plan to have a second boys team at this level next year.

Sport

Thomas Nolan, Rachel Murphy, Paula McCarville



Boys Football

Our boys are smashing it with their latest 6-1 Win and into the next stages of the Leinster Cup.



Girls Football

Our girls always put in the extra mile and after their 4 - 1 win they too will advance into the Leinster Cup.

Christmas Baking

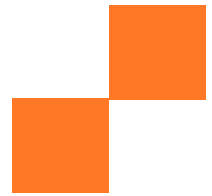


Melissa McGee & Fiona Healy

Our wonderful 1st year Home Economics students with a little help from our transition year students baked and decorated Christmas puddings.



Mercy Christmas Market



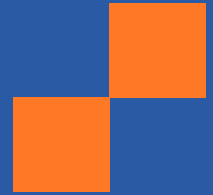
Whole School Initiative

This term has also been a time of community connection and celebration, with the return of our beloved Mercy Christmas Market. The market was a huge success, bringing festive cheer to students, staff, families, and the wider community. From beautifully crafted handmade gifts to delicious seasonal treats, the market showcased the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of our students. The event's vibrant atmosphere, complete with carol singing and dazzling decorations, truly captured the magic of the season. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making the market such a special occasion, whether by volunteering, donating, or simply attending and supporting the cause.





Mercy Secondary School
Inchicore



Nurturing Global
Thinkers,
Shaping Leaders

