

# VIRGINIA COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Easter  
2024



## MOCK EXAMS

Congratulations to all Third and Sixth year students who completed their mock exams in January. Best of luck with your studies.

## SENIOR CYCLE INFORMATION EVENING

Virginia College hosted an Information Evening on the Senior Cycle courses for parents of 3rd and TY parents. It was a great evening for all students and parents in attendance.

## GIRLS' RUGBY

Girls' rugby is now available in the school to all year groups. It is great to see all the girls getting involved. Training is on Tuesday at lunch and Wednesdays after school. Everyone is welcome.

## SONG WRITING COMPETITION

Well done to our students Alona Dolhova and Alyssa Seavers who represented our school at the Cavan Institute "Win Big Song Writing Competition" final. Well done girls.

## HISTORY TRIP

Virginia College 5th year History students enjoyed their visit to the play: "Seán Moylan: Irish revolutionary" in the Ramor Theatre as part of their Senior Cycle History studies.

## YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS

Well done to 2nd year students Layla Lavelle and Leona McCullough who have made it through to the semi-finals of the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards! We wish them the best of luck!



## LUNCHTIME CLUBS

1st Year clubs had their first successful science club. Four of the members are pictured displaying their profiles on animals native and non-native to Ireland.

They have brainstormed some future topics, which include Chemical Reactions, Nuclear Physics, Materials Studies and even Minecraft!

Science club is on-going in Room 1 at lunch time on Fridays and open to all!



# BT YOUNG SCIENTIST

Students from different year groups in Virginia College were selected from their BT Young Scientist classes to participate in the BT Young Scientist Awards 2024 in Dublin. Five projects were selected.

The projects were titled:

- **Mismatched Medics:** An analysis of the inadequacy of skin-colour-matching plasters in promoting inclusiveness.  
- Charlie Brady, Leon Conlon and Eve Brennan
- **In the Eyes of the Beholder:** An investigation into testing the accuracy of eyewitness testimonies in criminal convictions.  
- Conor Sheehan, Evan Durston and Caolán Mahon
- **The Green Goddess Experiment:** A comprehensive examination on exploring optimal components for an Eco-friendly Dry Shampoo.  
- Kelly Ryan, Layla Lavelle and Leona McCullough
- **You had me at Aloe!:** An investigation into the antifungal efficacy of aloe vera in vitro and its use as a treatment to maintain post harvest table Berry quality.  
- Kayle Curran Doughty and Kate O'Sullivan
- **Different Club Different Game:** Investigation on how the loft and angle of branded golf clubs affect the distance a golf ball travels.  
- Sean King and Daniel Lynch



# ENGINEERING TRIP

Mr Sheridan's 5th and 6th year Engineering students travelled to Mergon Group and Hand Engineering as part of an educational engineering trip.

Mergon Group design, develop and manufacture assemblies and components that are essential in some of the world's most famous, popular and innovative products. From automotive components, medical devices to industrial products, you'll find Mergon-made components worldwide. Whilst on a tour of their Castlepollard plant students witnessed a range of plastic moulding processes that are part of the Leaving Certificate curriculum. They also experienced the design process, CNC machines and tool-making in the research and development department of this international company. Mergon kindly provided finger food for the students once the tour was completed.

After a quick stop in Collinstown for some food the students were brought to Hand Engineering.

Hand Engineering is a leading manufacturer of specialist equipment for a variety of sectors including Construction, Agriculture, Peat and Forestry. They are also a leading excavator attachment manufacturer. Here students gained first-hand experience of MIG welding, plasma and laser cutting as well as a wide variety of other engineering processes. The owner Darragh Hand was extremely welcoming and engaged well with the students and their questions. He was also kind enough to provide the students with a free winter hat.

During both visits to their manufacturing facilities students showed a keen interest and were engaged through questioning. Hopefully, students have gained a better understanding of the Leaving Certificate course content as well as gaining an insight to the many roles of an engineer from designing in a lab to putting the finishing touches on a product before it is shipped to the other side of the world.



# SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

Seachtain na Gaeilge was held last week in Virginia College and a number of events took place throughout the week. Staff and students in the school were involved in the events taking place throughout the week and really enjoyed the activities. Seachtain na Gaeilge began on Monday the 11th of March with a welcoming message from 6th year students over the intercom. They informed all staff and students that Seachtain na Gaeilge had begun and that a new seanfhocal and Irish phrase would be announced each morning during tutor class to encourage everyone to speak more Irish throughout the week.

Most of the events took place during the Irish classes. 1st and 2nd year Irish classes enjoyed doing a treasure hunt whilst using their Irish to find clues around the school. There were prizes for the winners that some students got to enjoy!

We organised a tráth na gceist for TY students where the winners enjoyed prizes! We organised activities during class periods for the other years throughout the week, to promote the Irish language and encourage all students to participate in a fun and interactive way.

On Wednesday, we held our 'Lá Glas' where both students and staff participated in wearing 'Green' for the day to promote the Irish language and culture around the school. Everyone got involved and really enjoyed the day.

The staff at Virginia College also brushed up on their Irish whilst participating in puzzles and dingbats in the staffroom during the week. Overall, it was a very successful and enjoyable week in Virginia College!



# U19 GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Virginia College U19 girls' basketball team retained their All Ireland 'A' league title in style on Tuesday 20th February with a fantastic 52-42 win over Kerry school Mercy Mounthawk. The side booked their spot in the final after an unbeaten league run, starting off earlier in the year with five wins in the regional campaign followed by a win over Our Lady's Castleblayney in the regional final.

The side defeated Holy Faith Clontarf in the All-Ireland round 16 game before recording wins over All Ireland Cup champions Presentation Kilkenny in the quarter final and Calasanctius, Oronmore in the semi-final.

The All Ireland final was played in front of a packed National Basketball Arena where the large, enthusiastic Virginia College crowd made their voices heard throughout the clash, being the '6th player' throughout.

Virginia's Captain and Irish U18 international Emma Tolan hit a game high of 25 points and deservedly was crowned the match MVP after a prolific game at both ends of the court. But truthfully all ten team members played a huge part in the victory over the Tralee side. The team led by Ms. Ní Chearra and Ms. Coyle were excellent from the tip-off with a superb defensive structure and composure under the basket a huge deciding factor on the day.

The sides were level at the end of the opening quarter 8-8 with Emma Tolan leading the charges for Virginia. The second quarter was just as tight as neither side were willing to give an inch in an entertaining half. Ciara Brady scored a beautiful outside the arc buzzer beater at the end of quarter two to leave Virginia ahead 24-20 at the break after baskets from Tolan, Katie Noble, Sinéad Kelly and Katelyn McElhinney.

A third quarter masterclass at both ends of the court from the Virginia girls, which saw them start with a 13-point unanswered run, handed them a 42-27 lead going into the final quarter with Spaniard Celia Vigil Garcia impressing alongside captain Emma Tolan. Big defensive displays under the basket from Ellen Murray, Keelin Fay and Riona Fay left it an uphill battle for Mercy Mounthawk going into the final quarter trailing by fifteen.

Closing quarter baskets from the brilliant match MVP Tolan and Sinéad Kelly alongside excellent defence from Katie Noble and 6th years Keelin Fay, Róisín Flanagan and Katelyn McElhinney ensured the cup would come back to Cavan for the second consecutive season.

Speaking after the final Emma Tolan, team captain said 'I've thoroughly enjoyed my years in Virginia College and have made memories for life. Winning an All-Ireland title is a great way to finish up. We are all extremely close so it makes it all much more enjoyable. It was a privilege to captain such a hardworking bunch of girls.'

Virginia Scorers: E. Tolan (25), S. Kelly (10), C. Garcia (6), C. Brady (5), K. McElhinney (4), K. Noble (2)

Virginia College team: Emma Tolan (Captain), Keelin Fay, Katelyn McElhinney, Róisín Flanagan, Sinéad Kelly, Katie Noble, Ellen Murray, Riona Fay, Ciara Brady, Celia Vigil Garcia

Niamh Ní Chearra (Coach), Aideen Coyle (Assistant Coach)



## CAVAN INSTITUTE

The 4B Transition year class attended Cavan Institute every Friday during the last term. They studied Building and Carpentry in the workshop.

Students thoroughly enjoyed building houses using the Arckit Model house kits, creating their own house designs and learning how to carve these designs on timber.

## BC FITNESS

Over the last few weeks Class 4B have been testing their fitness with Brian Coleman in BC Fitness in Ballyjamesduff. Brian kindly gave the class sweatshirts for their hard work.



## JABBA JABBA JEMBE PERCUSSION

On the 6th of February, our TY year group participated in a Jabba Jabba Jembe Percussion workshop. They enjoyed learning different methods of playing traditional drums and had lots of fun. Thanks to David for visiting and teaching our TYs.



## STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council representatives have been announced. One student from each class was selected to represent their class.

The Student Council speak on behalf of the student body, highlight their opinions and try to make sure that all students are happy and content. The Student Council was also involved in designing the new school jacket.

The TY students selected for this year are:

4A Alicia Bourgoin

4B James Tynan Harten

4C Aoibhín Smith

Well done to all the Student Council representatives!

## TAX AND REVENUE

Thank you to Róisín Kelly for coming to our school and giving a very informative presentation to TY students on tax in Ireland. It was a very useful workshop that opened students' eyes into the tax system in Ireland.

## RCSI

Hi, my name is Anora Mathew and I completed the one week TY Mini Med program. I got to meet professors, doctors and surgeons from different branches of medicine such as forensic pathologists. We got to see a real-life c-section and even got to go to the simulation where they showed us how to use an ECG.

Overall, the experience was good I met new people from different schools. I'm thankful I got the opportunity to experience it.

## STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARDS

The Student Enterprise Awards were on the 6th of March. Congrats to our TY students Julia Wolak, Viktoria Wolak and Christopher Duffy who won top prize in the Cavan Student Enterprise Awards and have now qualified for the All-Ireland on the 9th of May. Super achievement and well deserved.



## LAW TY PROGRAM

My name is Susan Odusola. I was given the opportunity to participate in a one week course called Look into the Law TY programme in Dublin. Days one and two were online and we received workshops and talks from judges and barristers. We also had a breakout room where we got to talk to other people involved. On days three and four I went to the Bar of Ireland law library in Dublin and we got a tour around the Four Courts. We got to witness both civil and criminal cases, which was interesting. We also got to visit the Criminal Court of Justice. I'm glad I got the opportunity to attend.

## KONOR'S WORKSHOP

The transition years enjoyed a fun and interactive time with Konor's Circus Workshop in the show centre.

They learned to juggle, use diabolos, devilsticks, do puzzles and they also learned to blow up balloons and make them into poodles or swords!



# SKI TRIP

51 TY students enjoyed a skiing trip to the Santa Catherina ski resort in Valfurva, Italy. Students skied from Monday to Friday with lesson 1 taking place from 9am-11am and lesson two being from 2pm-4pm.

On the last day, the ski instructors held a race with Mr. Duffy as a commentator. This was a great opportunity for students to see what level they were at and to see how much they had improved. It was a great few days, very much enjoyed by students and staff.



# ETB ETHOS DAY

To celebrate Ethos Day on Thursday 14th March members of our student council took part in a “My Community” walk in Rossmore Park, Co. Monaghan. Students from all schools in Cavan Monaghan ETB took part in the walk and it was lovely to join together as a single community. A great day was had by everyone.





**HAPPY EASTER**

