**Banagher College School Notes**  **Weekending 6-10-2023**

**Open Night:**

The Banagher College Open Night will take place on Thursday October 19th with a 7.30pm start. On that night, we welcome sixth class pupils from the local National Schools, along with their parents/guardians, to come and visit our fabulous school. For further information, please visit our website [www.bccns.ie](http://www.bccns.ie) or email admin@bccns.ie

**School Mass:**

We celebrated our beginning of the school year Mass on Friday 6th October in St Rynagh’s parish church with Fr Pat Kiernan who welcomed the whole school community. The theme chosen this year was “The future depends on what we do in the present.”

 Eric Rigney set the scene urging us to look forward to the opportunity to make a difference, to use our talents and skills to enhance our environment and to help others. Emily Cormican narrated the offertory procession beautifully. Lilí Claffey brought the school crest, Elodie Loonam, a letter sent by the Assistant Director of Nursing with the Oblate Lourdes Pilgrimage, commending our four Leaving Cert students who have just returned after a week as youth helpers. Holly Sexton and Robert Butler brought up the LOETB logo expressing the ethos and core values of Excellence in Education, Equality, Care, Community and Respect, values that we take seriously and live by in Banagher College. Karl Bond and Kevin Swan brought a hurley and a ukulele representing the team sports and myriad of extra-curricular activities that can be availed of in our school. Aisling Lyons and Cillian Mahony brought their Pope John Paul 2 Gold awards, in recognition of their work carried out in the church and community as student members of the One Good School team. Lauren Kenny brought a heart recognizing the families who work hard to provide their children with an education. John Searson offered a lighted candle for the happy repose of the soul of Mrs Marguerite Larkin, mother to past pupils Mark and Eva who passed away recently and in memory of the Irish students who lost their lives in Greece, Washington, Ennis, Clonmel and Monaghan.

Orla Moylan and Ruairí Kelly read the first and second readings reminding us that the Lord is with us and that filled with his love we can do more than we can ask or imagine. In his homily, Fr Pat told us about tennis player Coco Gauff who recently won the US Open. He connected her story to our theme and our own journey as students and gave us three points to reflect upon. He spoke about practice, how it takes time, effort and hard work to succeed in life, he mentioned perseverance, being resilient and trying again and finally prayer. Coco dropped to her knees in prayer after her win to Thank God for giving her the strength to do her best, to thank those who supported her and those who didn’t believe.

Laura Staunton, Jack Kennedy, Méabh McCann, Hazel Kenny, Róisín Buckley and Shane Rigney read the Prayers of the Faithful, praying for our students, staff, past pupils and in memory of those who were injured and lost their lives on our roads, the sick and loved ones connected to our school community who have passed away.

Following Holy Communion sixth years; Méabh Nolan, Allie Butler, Conal Kirwan and Martin Mannion shared their experience of being part of the Oblate Youth Service during their recent pilgrimage to Lourdes. They spoke about hope, the people they met, the stories they heard, highlights such as the baths, the torchlight procession and how they were inspired and moved by their interactions. They were excellent and hearing how much it meant to them was very special for the congregation.

Thanks to Ella Flynn and Mr Nolan for bringing the bread and wine and thanks to the Sacristan for the Month of October Maria Donohoe who was so helpful this week. The choir led by Ms Kelly and assisted by Ms McIntyre were beautiful and added so much to the celebration of the Mass. Afterwards, Principal Ms Kinahan, thanked Fr Pat for his encouragement and support, the local community for their warm welcome, all who attended for their respect and reverence in the

Church, the students who read and brought gifts and the choir, all who helped to make the Mass so special and the staff for all they do in our school.

**Ploughing Championships:**

Congratulations to our two Fifth Year Students who recently took part in the National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska Co Laois. Robert Duffy and Lee Hogan both competed in Laois representing North Tipperary Ploughing Association. Lee took part in the Two Furrow U-21 Junior Class on Tuesday September 19th, on a very wet day with conditions extremely testing for all competitors. After a particularly gruelling day. Lee did very well to finish in fifth place. Conditions were slightly better on Wednesday 20th when Robert Duffy participated in the Two Furrow Novice Intermediate Competition and ploughed diligently to claim fourth place.

**Junior Hurling:**

Our Junior hurling team have had two outings in the North Leinster Junior Hurling B Championship. Having played Borrisokane CC in an early season challenge game, they prepared for their Leinster campaign. On Monday September 18th they travelled away to play Coláiste Mhuire Mullingar while they were on the road again on Wednesday October 4th ,journeying up to Co Meath to play Boyne C.S. Unfortunately , the boys had no luck on either day and have one remaining group game against Coláiste Choilm Tullamore. The team and subs v Boyne C.S. were :Riley Dolan, Liam Harrington, John Gohery, Mark Daly, Oisín Lankoandé, Sam McGuckin, Hugh Claffey, Ivan Grant, Sean Devery, Robert Butler ,Daniel McDonald ,Gareth Butler ,Liam Mulhare, Sean Óg Larkin, Darragh Staunton. Subs Used- Stephen Grogan, Sean Farrell, Tom Moylan, Darren Nevin and James Slevin.

**Senior Ladies Football:**

Our Senior Ladies Football team have played two games thus far in their Leinster D Campaign. On Friday September 22nd they had a convincing victory at home over Portlaoise College. In their second outing on Thursday October 5th, they were very unlucky when they lost out to Mountrath C.S. (away), in a high scoring encounter, on a score line of Mountrath C.S. 9-5 Banagher College 5-10.Their third outing sees them face Tullamore College. Panel: Kacey Delaney Spollen, Maria Shea, Hazel Kenny, Karen Healy, Jasmine Gohery, Méabh Nolan, Patricia Kelly, Allie Butler, Emily Corcoran, Katelyn Mongan, Amy Sullivan, Fianait Dooley, Rebecca McCormack, Sophie James, Laoise Regan, Emma Deegan, Róisín Buckley, Kayleigh Killeen, Ava Kearns, Alex Leonard, Ciara Staunton, Mary Curley, Lauren Kenny, Lily Ryan, Aoife Moylan, Jennifer Boylan, Sorcha Troy and Ali Wynne.

**First Year Parents Night:**

On Wednesday October 11th at 7.30pm we will host a welcome night for the parents/guardians of our First Year Students who have recently joined our school. Having completed seven weeks in Banagher College our new First Year Cohort have settled in remarkably well to all the new opportunities and challenges presented by life in secondary school. We invite all First Year Parents to join us on Wednesday night for an up to date information session on life in First Year.