

FLL Robotics Team:

On 22nd of February 2024, The Banagher College FLL robotics team (Darragh Egan, (Engineer, Coder and Team Captain), Freya Maher (Graphic Designer), Tim Lally (Coder), Colm Shaw, (Engineer), John Searson (Engineer) and Alex Sullivan (Coder) were accompanied by teachers Ms. Clarke, Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Mullery to the LOETB information Hub in Tullamore to represent Banagher College at the LOETB First Lego League regional final, which was an event designed for the nine LOETB schools and part of the wider LOETB S.T.E.A.M. Program.

The robotics team built a Lego robot, called 'Banana Bot' to compete in the arena, which also involved coding the robot to compete different tasks. The team also produced a presentation on the innovation side of the competition, which involved them picking a problem in their school/community and solving it. The team chose Banagher College's TV Pantomime and the issue of reduced visibility because of the stage design. The team designed a new tiered stage and built it as a prototype in Minecraft. Because of the high quality of their innovation and presentation, the team were awarded a trophy for '**Best Innovation Project**' and came back to the school with a win in their pockets!

Camogie Shield Win:

Congratulations to our seven students who were on the Offaly Minor Camogie Panel which won the Leinster Minor A Shield when defeating Dublin in Fenagh on Sunday last. Captain of the team Allie Butler received The Shield from Leinster Camogie Chairman Martin Quilty while Aoife Byrne won the Player Of The Match Trophy. Having lost to Kilkenny, the Offaly girls recovered momentum to defeat Meath and Dublin which gives them good preparation for the upcoming All Ireland Championship. The Banagher College students involved were Allie Butler (Captain), Gráinne Kennedy, Aoife Byrne, Fianait Dooley, Niamh Sheehy, Sarah Clancy and Sorcha Troy. Another statistic from Sunday's final was that three Banagher College players accounted for all of the Offaly scores of 3-3, with Fianait Dooley scoring 2-0, Niamh Sheehy hitting 0-3 and Aoife Byrne striking a goal.

Hard luck to our three students involved with the Offaly U-16 Camogie team which lost 2-13 to 1-5 to Dublin on Sunday. Banagher College girls on the panel are Niamh Daly, Holly Sexton and Ailbhe Martin.

Garda Youth Awards:

The launch of the Garda Youth Awards took place recently. It is an excellent initiative which recognises young people aged between 13-21 years. It is kindly sponsored by Pat McDonagh of Supermacs each year and we are delighted to be associated with it.

The award recognises young people who make a positive contribution to their community making it a better place to live.

The four award categories are:

- Individual Award
- Group Award
- Special Achievement Award
- Community Safety Award

It also recognises young people who have overcome difficult circumstances and defied the odds and those whose crime prevention or safety innovation has made their community a safer place.

We have had super candidates in the past number of years who have been recognised and celebrated by the Laois/Offaly Division. Ailis Malone was last year's winner, chosen for her community involvement. She was successful not only in the local division but also at National Level which is a tremendous achievement. She was invited back to attend this year's launch and was honoured to join the committee, Pat McDonagh and Tipperary Senior Hurling Captain for 2024 Garda Ronan Maher at the launch. Well done Ailis.

5th Yr Ag Science Outing:

Our Fifth Year Agricultural Science class recently went on a class trip to see different dairy systems, farm layouts and also to get information on courses involving various agriculture education systems which is very useful to our students who are hoping to pursue a future in agriculture. We started off the day with a visit to Brian Larkin's Farm outside Rathcabbin. We viewed his rotary parlour system and his shed layouts. We then visited Gurteen Agricultural College outside Carrig, and there, we were given a most educational and detailed tour of the campus by Richard Hamilton. We then went to Bakers, a farm outside Birr to view their Herringbone milking parlour and farm layout. It was a most enjoyable day out and we are very grateful to all those who made us so welcome on their various premises.

First Year Boys Football:

Our First Year Boys made a good start to their Gaelic Football campaign when they travelled to Athlone on Wednesday February 21 and came away with a good win against Athlone Community College.

Banagher College : 5-8 Athlone C C : 2-8.

Banagher College Team: Oisín Egan, Jack Doorley, Daniel Devery Kearns, Harry Keane, Charlie Flaherty, Colm Boylan, Shane Lynch, Robbie Wynne, Éanna Mahon, Conor Donoghue, Jack Connolly, Iarla Sheahan, Conor Moran, Diarmuid Darcy, Oisín Larkin.
Subs Used: Oisín Molloy Berry, Jack Fox, Thomas Burke, Patrick Burke, Noah Swan, Liam Hogan, Hugo Loonam, John Searson, Patrick Larkin, Sam Gohery and Dáire Hogan

First Year Boys Soccer:

Our First Year Boys Soccer team have been very active lately. In their first game away to Oaklands Edenderry on February 6th they had a 4-0 win with Charlie Flaherty, Jack Connolly, Conor Donoghue and Iarla Sheahan hitting the net. Next game was on February 9th against Ardscoil Chiaráin Clara and once again, the Banagher College boys proved stronger on a scoreline of 6-1. Scorers here were Patrick Larkin(2), Oisín Larkin, Daniel Devery Kearns, Iarla Sheahan and Conor Donoghue. The next game on Friday 23rd proved a step too far when we went under to Mercy Kilbeggan in a game played in Moate.

Mercy Kilbeggan 3 Banagher College 0.

Hard luck to the lads on a well fought campaign.

Internet Safety:

In a very different approach to Internet Safety this year, it was decided that a number of our Transition Year Students would deliver workshops to our first years on how to safely navigate the online world. Our TY Internet Safety Ambassadors proved to be wonderful volunteers and were most helpful to the young students. The committee behind this campaign are dedicated to educating our young students via multiple platforms including TikTok, workshops, competitions etc.

Girls Basketball:

In Girls Basketball on Monday 19th, our Second Years lost 39-6 to St Finian's Mullingar, but by virtue of some earlier results they have still qualified for the Quarter Final of the Midland D League. Player of the Match was Holly Sexton.

The Second Year Panel was: Amber Gohery, Caitlin Cooney, Holly Sexton, Lili Claffey, Saoirse Coughlan, Laura Foley, Beibhinn O'Meara, Maddison Keegan, Leah Delaney, Emma McDermott, Isabelle Davis, Sarah Jane Butler, Freya Maher, Kate Roe, Caoimhe Flynn, Amy Kenny, Sandra Klimek & Molly Lyons. On the same day our First Years won against St Finian's Mullingar 18-10 and qualified for the Quarter Final of the Midland D League. Players of the Match were Annie Mulhare and Rebecca Slevin.

The First Year Panel was: Annie Mulhare, Leila Monahan, Elliemay Flannery, Emma Byrne, Hannah Glynn, Louise Flannery, Rebecca Slevin, Elodie Loonam, Caitlin Mooney, Isobel Lally, Isa Duffy, Amy Kennedy, Laura Staunton, Lucy Tanner, Ruth Claffey, Saoirse Clarke, Grace Moran & Fia Lally

U-14 Rugby:

Well done to our Junior Students Oisín Molloy Berry, Gwilym Tooher, Jack Doorley, Thomas Burke, Patrick Burke, James Slevin, Colm Boylan, Niall Daly & Iarla Sheahan who were members of the Birr Rugby U-14 Leinster Schools Youth Premier League winners 2024. Played in Ballychorus, Co Dublin on Sunday last the Birr team came out on top: Birr 24 Seapoint 19

Senior Hurling:

After a great win in the Leinster Senior B Hurling Final, after extra time, over Heywood Community School on Bank Holiday Monday, our senior hurlers are on the road again on Saturday next March 2nd when they will travel to Johnstown, Co Kilkenny, to play Blackwater Community School Lismore in the Masita GAA All Ireland Semi Final & Paddy Buggy Cup. This will be a tough assignment against the Waterford outfit who have come through the Munster campaign with flying colours culminating in a Munster Final win over High School Clonmel. The Banagher College boys have come through a testing Leinster schedule with some very exciting encounters along the way. Training has gone very well and we wish the very best of luck to the lads for Saturday's game which will throw in at 2pm.

