**Banagher College School Notes**  **Weekending 1-3-2024**

**Choosing Senior Subject Choice Options in Banagher College:**

Banagher College TY and 3rd Year students are currently thinking about their subject choice for senior cycle. There are lots of factors to consider when choosing subjects for Leaving Cert, so it’s important to do plenty of research in order to make informed decisions. The Guidance Counsellor in Banagher College, Ms Claire Kenny has been busy over the last few weeks to put in place supports to assist both students and parents to make these critical decisions.

Students took a differential aptitude test (DAT) to identify suitable senior subjects. An information evening was held in Banagher College for Third Year and TY parents to give parents the resources, skills and knowledge to support their son/daughter to make subject choices. According to the school’s Guidance Counsellor “students learn and take advice more readily from their peers and in a fun, relaxed environment”. With this in mind the Guidance Department organised a “***Peers Careers”*** event. This was held in the Shannon Suite in the Banagher College and each of the 17 senior subjects options were represented by our competent 5th year students. The 5th year students set up stands overflowing with information on each senior subject and met with all 186 Third Year and TY students. The Fifth years informed their junior cohorts on the practical contents, course structure and exam format of all 17 senior subject options. “The Fifth years were brimming with enthusiasm and there was a buzz of learning and excitement in the hall” said Ms Kenny.

Students are now availing of individual subject choice appointments from the Guidance Department, to ensure that each student’s choice of subjects, matches their career aspirations.

**6th Year Ag Science Trip :**

On Thursday February 22nd, our two Leaving Cert Ag Science classes went on a very educational trip to four different locations. Our first port of call was Tullamore Farm owned by the Farmer's Journal followed by a visit to JJ Grennan's in Rath. We were then treated to a great welcome on Ms. Hassett's farm and finally we visited a robotic milking parlour in Kinnity owned by Niall Byrne.

Firstly, we visited the Tullamore Farm in Mucklagh. It is run by a government scheme with the aim of showing farmers how they can farm optimally. The farm generates Zero profit. The farm primarily focuses on sheep and cattle. They use their cattle for beef. It was a great experience for us as Agricultural Science students. We got to learn different ways of farming sustainably.

After seeing Tullamore Farm, we visited JJ Grennan's in Rath. They had a tour set up for us. We split into three groups to make the tour more efficient. They specialise in meal for livestock and fertilisers. We got a good understanding of how they operate. When the tour ended, they supplied us with JJ Grennan hats!

After experiencing Grennan's operations, we went to Ms. Hassetts farm. She gave us a quick tour of her farm. Then we went to her house, and she was nice enough to give us tea, sandwiches and cake that she made herself. It was lovely. We are very grateful for her very kind gesture.

Lastly, we visited the farm of Niall Byrne in Kinnity who runs a robotic milking parlour. We got to see how the farm was run and how the robots worked. It was very interesting conclusion to a fantastic day out.

**Mini Med:**

One of our TY Students, Oisín Darcy, has just returned from a novel experience hosted by The Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland. Oisín’s brief report is as follows . ”Initially, Ms. Kenny, our Career Guidance teacher informed all pupils in TY about the MiniMed programme at RCSI. Since no other student had signed up for the programme after a few days, I decided to participate. The programme lasted for three days and was very enjoyable.

During the course of the programme, we heard from several doctors such as Dr. Catherine Moran, the first female neurosurgeon in Ireland and Dr. Sumi Dunne, a current GP. Additionally, we watched recordings of various surgeries, including a C-section, keyhole surgery to remove a tumour from the oesophagus and laparoscopic gallbladder removal surgery. On the final day, we attended a workshop, where we were shown how to insert a feeding tube into a patient’s stomach and how to use an ultrasound machine.

Overall, the programme was an excellent experience and has further piqued my desire to study Medicine in College. The programme was based in the Desmond Theatre in the RCSI building on York Street and I stayed in The Grafton Hotel in Dublin during the week”. (Oisín Darcy).

**Senior Hurling:**

Hard luck to our senior hurlers and management team. It was not our day on Saturday last with a three point loss on a scoreline of Blackwater CS 0-11 to Banagher College 1-5 in very testing conditions.

We are so proud of every single player. It has been an amazing journey to reach the Masita All-Ireland Paddy Buggy Cup Semi-Final, clinching the coveted Leinster B title for the first time in the school's history on Saturday 3rd of February 2024. The team have worked hard between early morning gym sessions, training after school, challenge matches during the school holidays - the list is endless! The team are a credit to themselves, their families, clubs and schools.

Well done to all the mentors and coaches in all eight clubs for developing the boys into the fine hurlers that we have enjoyed watching throughout the campaign.

To the supporters who have cheered the team on from the very start, thank you so much. The atmosphere you helped create and the support you showed our hurlers has been outstanding.

And finally a massive thank you to the management team, Mr Lonergan, Mr Grogan & Mr Scales, for their dedication in being with the team every step of the way and their huge belief in the team and instilling a never-say-die attitude.

***Banagher College***: Éanna Mulhare, Dáire Daly, Ruairí Kelly, Eric Rigney, Robert Duffy, Mark Kilkenny, Lee Hogan, Luke Bowe, Paul Cannon, Harry Grant, Aaron Molloy, Niall Flannery, Michael Boylan (0-1), Ricky Fitzsimons (0-1), Darragh Scully (1-3,0-3frees).

Subs Used: Killian Fitzgerald for Harry Grant 41 mins, Liam Donoghue for Ricky Fitzsimons 53 mins, Daniel Healy for Lee Hogan (inj.) 54 mins and Ricky Fitzsimons for Luke Bowe(inj.) 62 mins

**Minor Camogie**:

Our Minor Camogie Team had their first outing in this year’s Leinster Minor B campaign when they made the short trip to Coláiste Naomh Cormac on Wednesday February 28th. In a game played on a very testing school pitch, Banagher were quickly into their stride with good early scores from Emma Byrne, Holly Sexton, Laura Staunton, Amy Kenny & Annie Mulhare to set up a clear half time lead. That trend continued after the break with eleven substitutes also getting their opportunity to impress, as Banagher ran out convincing winners. This team have two more group games to play before Easter against Mountrath CS (Home) and Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown (Away).

***Banagher College***: Lilí Claffey, Isa Duffy, Laura Foley, Caitlin Donnelly, Caitlin Cooney, Elodie Loonam, Béibhinn O Meara, Aoibhe Doyle, Leah Delaney, Annie Mulhare, Amy Kenny, Emma McDermott, Emma Byrne, Holly Sexton, Laura Staunton. Subs Used: Saoirse Coughlan, Ruth Claffey, Isabelle Davis, Louise Flannery, Maddison Keegan, Caoimhe Flynn, Amber Gohery, Lily Kilkenny, Leah Kenny, Leila Monahan & Rebecca Slevin.