

Short Film:

The S.T.E.A.M club takes its leap into the world of film as it submits its drama – comedy “as Gaeilge”, short film ‘ Seiceamair.’ The film follows the simple story of a student who cannot afford lunch who then happens to stumble across a poster for a chess tournament, offering the winner a free lunch for a year in the school canteen. Twists ensue as our protagonist (Cameron O’ Sullivan) faces the schools infamous chess champion Magnus Fischer (Daniel Reilly).

Directed by Jack Marshall and produced through the channel of the S.T.E.A.M club, this film hopes to be one of many to be brought to life through Banagher College. The resources are there and anyone with an interest in film or story telling can easily get in to bring their vision to life.

The film has been submitted to the Fresh Film Festival and is hoping to make waves under the school category. Submissions closed on February 1st and the award ceremony will take place mid to late April. There has been approval and positive reactions to the film so far in Banagher College from students and teachers alike.

School 5 Km Run and 3.5 Km Walk:

Banagher College will host its first ever 5Km Run event on Friday 22nd of March at 1pm. There will also be a 3.5Km Walk taking place. It is a whole school event with all students and staff getting involved. Students are busy training for the event, both in their Physical Education classes and at home. The students have access to a weekly training plan provided by their P.E. Teachers. The tension is building as to whether it will be a teacher or a student who crosses the finish line first.

Music Generation:

Music generation is most certainly a highlight of the Banagher College T.Y experience, it is an open and calm environment that creates a space for students to learn and thrive in. Students learn how to play, compose and breakdown music. At the beginning of the course students pick a song to cover and play themselves. It's a course where students really have a voice and a say

in how they learn and spend their time in it. No prior musical experience is required to engage and enjoy yourself. It is almost preferable to go in with no previous experience playing or composing music as this course can really change your perception of your musical ability. It presents music in a fun, accessible and exciting new way in a classroom setting unlike your everyday classes that only make it easier to learn and grow. The most rewarding aspect is seeing students or groups of students, write their own songs and form new bonds together through the universal language of music. Thanks very much to the two musicians working with the students- Dave Peyton and Aoibheann McKnight who work with with Music Generation Offaly.

Student Enterprise:

On Tuesday March 5th, TY students Katelyn Smyth and Therese Searson showcased their enterprise 'ZipnScrunchies' at the student enterprise programme Offaly County Finals 2024 in the Tullamore Court Hotel on March 5th. They were eager to take part in the competition after running their own mini business for the last six months with the help of their business teacher Ms. Hehir. They enjoyed the experience of the whole day where they learned so much from looking at other business stands, learning about their experience and talking to the three judges about their enterprise. They were overjoyed when they found out that they had won the 'Most Innovative' award which showed how unique their business idea of 'ZipnScrunchies' took off. Katelyn and Therese enjoyed the opportunity to showcase their talent. If interested in their product, feel free to message them on our Instagram or TikTok @ZipnScrunchies

Fellow TY Student Rian Glynn Dolan was also a winner at the Student enterprise Day when he was awarded with the prize for “Best Display” for his “Rian’s Bottles” Stand as well as coming out of the hat in the Free Draw.

Breast Cancer Awareness Talk:

We welcomed Patricia from Breast Cancer Ireland to speak to our Leaving Certificate students last Thursday. Having gone through breast cancer herself she was well positioned to advise our students on the signs and symptoms to look out for. She told us that 1 in 9 women will be diagnosed with breast

cancer in their lifetime and that men can get it too. 23% of all women diagnosed with breast cancer in Ireland are between 20-50 years of age.

She explained that knowing the 8 signs and symptoms to look out for and by making time to check your breasts each month could save your life. To actively promote this advice Patricia got everyone to download the Breast Aware app on our phones and set a reminder which will alert us each month to examine ourselves.

She went on to give a very thorough demonstration on “Doris” the mobile bust she brings to schools. Each student was invited to come forward and examine Doris using three fingers in a circular motion under the arms, under and over the collar bone and around the breast. This was very beneficial as the bust had hidden lumps so we could actually experience what a lump feels like. She allowed for questions to be asked and was informative and reassuring. Patricia also met the teachers during lunchtime to raise awareness to make time to check.

The signs and symptoms to look out for are:

- A puckering of the skin of the breast
- A lump in the breast or armpit
- A change in the skin around the nipple or nipple discharge
- Dimpling of the nipple or nipple retraction
- An unusual increase in the size of one breast
- An enlargement of the glands
- One breast unusually lower than the other. Nipples at different levels
- An unusual swelling in the armpit

Thanks to Cornmarket and the TUI Teachers’ Union of Ireland for sponsoring the talk.