

Art Trips



Fr Frank Browne Exhibition

5th years and senior international students recently had the opportunity to go on a trip to visit the **Sean Scully exhibition** in the National Gallery. The exhibition was to honour the artist's 70th birthday. It is rare that the National Gallery displays works by an artist who is still living. Students got to see examples of Scully's early works and some of his most recent work which was really interesting.

5th years also visited the **Fr Frank Browne exhibition** in Dun Laoghaire library. Fr Frank Browne was a well known photographer who captured images of everyday life in Dublin in the early 1900's. He also took photographs from on board the Titanic and WW1.

Ms Russell



Sean Scully Exhibition

Geography Field Trip

The 6th year Geography students have completed their field study on Killiney beach. We had a wonderful calm Autumn day in October to carry out the investigation as to how erosion takes place on Killiney beach and the effects of this on the beach. *Many thanks to Mr Nolan for accompanying us on the day!*

Ms O'Hagan



Geography Trip

Football

Every Thursday there is great fun in Rockford Manor. We have football training which offers us a nice opportunity to clear our heads after the monotonous daily routines. Pupils from all years participate in training which takes place at the Farm United Football Club's pitch, near the school.



Football Players

The team is usually synergistic. We have a fantastic trainer, Mr Nolan, who supports us and I really like that he makes the football training joyful and exciting. Everybody tries to do their best, in my opinion the team gets better every week. In the warm-up we do many different exercises, such as stretching and running. After the warm-up we usually improve our skills with the ball then we play matches. At the end of training Mr Nolan gives us feedback about our performance. Mr Nolan's constructive criticism significantly improves our performance as individuals and as a team. Luca Kozak (1A)

Volleyball

The cadette A team remains unbeaten in its competition so far. The cadette B and C teams played really well, however they got knocked out in the second round of their competition. All teams are still training. *Well done to all the girls!*

Ms Howlin

U16 Cadette Basketball

The U16's have had a successful start in the Basketball Ireland League campaign. The girls have had success against Mount Anville, St.Columba's, Rathdown and St. Colmcille's. As a result they got through to the quarter final. *Well done girls!*

Ms Whyte



Spikeball Players

Spikeball

On Friday 20th November, our three spikeball teams A, B and C competed in the preliminary rounds of the Regional Spikeball competition. An exciting and riveting tournament was to be seen with the girls showcasing their talents, drive and hunger. Both the A team and the C team have qualified for the Regional Final which will take place in December. The A team championed by Ava Rose Judge, defeated their opponents from Mount Carmel, Swords and Trinity secondary schools with an impressive six out of six wins. The C team led by Amy Campbell defeated their rivals in 3 matches out of six matches and drew the last. Let's wish them luck in their quest in becoming All Ireland Champions.

Mainéar Átha na Carrage abú!

Ms Haverty

Dates for the Diary

22nd Dec: Carol Service

Christmas holidays commence

6th Jan: School re-opens

14th Jan: 2nd Yr Parent/Teacher meeting

20th Jan: Information Night for 3rd & 4th Yr

parents re 5th Yr /TYP/

LCA

27th Jan: Information Night for incoming

First Yrs (Sept 2016)

28th Jan: 1st Yr Parent /Teacher meeting

1st & 2nd Feb: TY exams

3rd – 12th Feb: Mock Exams (3rd & 6th

Years)

15th – 19th Feb: Mid Term Break



Rockford News

Newsletter

December 2015

ROCKFORD MANOR, Secondary School, Stradbrook Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
Telephone: 280 1522 E-mail: info@rockfordmanor.ie Website: www.rockfordmanor.ie

"A Christian environment where teaching and learning nurture the personal development of every student"



The Finale

Rhythm of Rockford

The annual Rhythm of Rockford concert took place on October 22nd. It was an entertaining evening of music and dance.

There was beautiful singing from students from first year up to and including sixth year.

Many of the students displayed their talent with instrumental playing on piano and guitar. This year saw the addition of contemporary dance to the programme. Beautifully choreographed pieces were performed by new students to Rockford Manor. Other exciting acts came in the form of hip hop dance crews and an Irish dance troupe. Some of the transition years were involved in the finale performance which was a piece from the popular musical 'Hairspray'. The transition year students did a wonderful job organising many aspects of the gig and ensuring the smooth and successful running of the concert. *Many thanks to them and also to Ms O'Toole, Ms Behan, Ms Hennigan and Mr Burns for their help and involvement with the event.*

Ms Whyte



Duet by Sinead and Nicole

Congratulations to Ms. Behan on the birth of her daughter, Hannah.



Transition Years in EU Persuasion



Hairspray



Irish Dancing



Duet by Nancy and Chelsea

Winter Message

Welcome to the Winter 2015 newsletter.

Time has flown past since the school year began on 25th August. As always, the school has been a hive of activity since then and now the Christmas holidays are here. We welcome all of our new students and staff to Rockford Manor. We also welcome the international students who have come from all over the world. They have settled in well and are making a valuable contribution to our school community. In life, we value routines and rituals. The familiar is comforting. Every year in school we celebrate a number of occasions at exactly the same time in our calendar as in previous years. This year in Rockford Manor has been no different. The new first years started their secondary school careers with an Orientation Day in August. The Annual Open Day was held at the end of September. This was swiftly followed by the Votive Mass to mark the start of a new academic year. First Years had their Annual Liturgy just before the midterm break and Presentation Day was celebrated by the whole school on November 20th.

In between all of these important school occasions, the students and staff participated in a wide variety of activities which you can read about in this newsletter. They include bonding trips, fundraisers for a variety of charities, the Rhythm of Rockford variety show, many sporting fixtures and cultural outings to the theatre, art galleries and musical events. Special thanks also to the staff for its dedication to the academic work of the school and its commitment to providing the many co-curricular activities on offer, the students for their good humour and co-operation and the Parents' Council for its support.

Over the summer holidays, several classrooms and communal areas were painted. Special thanks are due to Darren and Eamon for all of their hard work. The school is looking particularly well and this work is ongoing. The main computer room was equipped with new computers and we continue to invest in updating our ICT facilities. Thank you to all parents who paid the voluntary contribution this year. The money contributed funds our efforts to provide Rockford Manor students with the best facilities possible.

Best wishes to all for a Happy, Peaceful Christmas and New Year 2016.

Liz Caffrey

Tony Collison

Principal

Deputy Principal

Transition Year



Transition Year Trip

This term has seen the TY students start off the year with **Android Programming** at IADT, followed by many **workshops** such as public speaking, drama, aromatherapy and a fitness programme sponsored by Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown Sports Partnership.

The students have been on **trips** such as the Wicklow Way where some students learnt that 'deers' do actually exist and they were not unicorns! Some students were also overheard saying "great having no coverage"! The girls were given plenty of advice at the **AXA Road Safety Show** and at UCD about life changes that they can implement.

Many students applied for key positions in **'Build a Bank'** competition and did interviews with AIB personnel. A record 67 students have signed up for the **President's Award**. *Keep up the good work girls!*
Ms O' Toole

Coffee Morning

On Thursday, September 19th a coffee morning in aid of **The Irish Hospice Foundation** was held in Rockford Manor. Staff and students united to prepare culinary delights, while raising awareness of the great work done by **The Irish Hospice Foundation**. The fundraiser proved to be a tremendous success with our abundant supplies quickly running out! The impressive sum of **€479** was raised. *Huge thanks to everybody. Well done!*
Ms Daly



School Choir

2M CSPE Action Project

Class 2M ran a Halloween themed **raffle** and **cake sale** in the hall on October 19th. It was in aid of **Make-A-Wish foundation**. It raised **275 euro** and a cheque for this amount was presented to Mary Quille, fundraising officer, from **Make-A-Wish** when she visited the class on November 12th. *Many thanks to Ms Young and all who supported the event especially Anthea Ring who provided the fabulous cakes for the Raffle prizes.*

Hannah O'Brien (2M)

Choir News

The Rockford Manor Choir has had a very busy term. It performed at the School Open Night and the Official Opening Mass of the school year in September. In October at the Rhythm of Rockford concert the choir performed songs by Queen. With Christmas approaching the girls are in high demand again. On December 3rd the choir was invited to take part in a special Red Hurley Christmas concert in The Church of the Guardian Angels, Newtownpark Avenue. The girls performed a set of carols by John Rutter and accompanied Red Hurley on the night singing other well known carols. On December 10th the choir will be back in The Church of the Guardian Angels. On this occasion the choir will be performing at the annual Christmas Carol Service with the Guardian Angels National School choir. Rehearsals are already underway with both schools working hard in preparation.
Ms Whyte

Footloose in the Wicklow Mountains!

On the early morning of September 9th, the transition year students began the **An Gaisce hike**. Lots of fatigued faces, unaware of the amount of memories that were to be made in the next two days boarded the buses that morning.

Forty minutes or so later, we landed in Lough Dan Scout Centre. Quickly putting our bags in the rooms provided, we began our 26km hike shortly after our arrival. With a few giggly falls (myself probably holding the record), shoe sucking bogs, many knee-stabbing thistles and the cold winds against us, we made it to the top of Mount Scarr.



At the top of Scarr

After the evening meal, activities took place until 9pm, ranging from tree climbing, to archery or lake jumping. Rolling our instructor into the water from the pontoon was a major highlight. Later that night we headed to a campfire in our pyjamas and slippers. Singing in English, Irish, German and Spanish, laughing, drinking tea and munching popcorn and biscuits – it was the ideal place to be! The next morning we prepared for our second hike.



Lunch at Lough Dan

This time the hike was from the Lough Dan Scouts Centre to Glendalough. We stopped along our way to have lunch overlooking the beautiful Lough Dan and fresh, lush, green forestry. We then continued on and got to Glendalough before two o' clock. We arrived back to the school later and afterwards I went for a six hour nap. LOL!
For me the Gaisce hike was not only a hike. The girls became closer and bonded much more than anyone would think for one night. Even the teachers cracked a smile or two along the way. Though we suffered aches and pains along the way, the pros definitely outnumbered the cons.
I would swap any school day in class to do it all again!

Rosie Cahill (TY1)

Leaving Certificate Applied

The LCA group has had a busy term. Each student has completed her **Practical Achievement Task** which involved learning a new skill over 8 weeks. The students attended evening



Flower Arrangement

classes on Flower Arranging or Crochet. Those who chose Flower Arranging made beautiful arrangements both square and rectangular and they finished with a wonderful Pumpkin arrangement for Halloween.

The girls who attended crochet classes made lovely items such as baby blankets, hot water bottle covers, phone covers and hair bands. The students are still working on their **ICT Task**. Having studied stop motion and researched Claymation and Silhouette Films they are now in the process of making their own silhouette film based on the story 'The Five Little Friends'. One of the cross curricular links was with Art. Ms Russell, the Art teacher, guided them on preparing all the characters, deciding on the scenes and taking the photographs.

The 3rd task they will be working on is their **Contemporary Issues Task** which requires the girls to research a topic (drugs, alcohol, homelessness) and to carry out an action in relation to the topic eg survey, visitor to the classroom etc.

The students were on **work experience** from November 2nd – 13th. They had placements with FM104, Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel Killiney, The Red Door School, Holy Child Community School Sallynoggin, local hairdressers, beauticians and cafes. Most girls received excellent reports from their employers.

The module in **Hotel, Catering and Tourism** was on ethnic cookery. For this module the girls cooked Chinese, Indian, Spanish and Mexican dishes. On Monday November 19th they prepared an Ethnic Food display for the other 6th year students and staff members. The food disappeared very quickly and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the fabulous ethnic dishes.

Best of luck with the rest of 6th Year LCA!
Ms Joyce.



Crochet Work

5th Year Trip



5th Years at Bray Station

On October 2nd the fifth years accompanied by Ms Barry, Ms Daly and Mr Burns, walked from Bray to Greystones. It was the perfect opportunity for us all to become closer as a group and to get to know the new students who have joined 5th Year. We got the dart at Seapoint station and we arrived in Bray at ten o' clock. Luckily for us we picked the perfect day for our walk as it was bright and sunny. Even though we became tired and hot we all managed to soldier on, with much fun along the way. Having arrived in Greystones it was down to the beach for a game of football. There were protests from some students but in the end we all played and had a laugh together. Some students were very competitive which led to Ms Barry gaining a few minor injuries. It was a great day and it brought our year group closer together.

Holly Naylor (L1A)



Football on the beach

Parents Council

The Parents' Council meets every 2 months. It helps in the decision making on some issues on behalf of the parents of the current pupils of Rockford Manor school and is involved in the revision of school policies. The Parents' Council also assists in the running of various functions for the students. We are currently organising a **textile collection** to raise funds. Clothes, footwear, bed linen, towels etc. are accepted. Some members of the Parents' Council retired recently so we would ask parents who can spare 1 hour approximately 6 times a year to join the Council and become involved in the decisions that impact on your daughter while she is in Rockford Manor. Our next meeting is being held on Wednesday December 16th 2015 at 8pm in Room 29. If you cannot join the council but feel you could give some time to help out at events, please contact:

Carol Thornton (Chairperson) - **0876409523**

Riona Norton (Secretary) – **0868370560**

Science News

Thanks to **Amgen**, a biopharmaceutical company in Dun Laoghaire, all senior biology students will have an opportunity to access **professional grade scientific equipment** to carry out current molecular biology techniques including micro volumetric pipetting and gel electrophoresis.

Ms O' Toole

Science Week Ireland 2015

5th Year Biology and Chemistry students attended interactive lectures on **'The Genetics Revolution'** and **'Vampires and Chemistry'** in the **Dublin Institute of Technology** on November 12th to mark Science Week 2015. Megan Keane, Shannon Kelly and Jacky Casserly very ably represented Rockford Manor on stage providing cheek cells for analysis and helping to solve crimes. The event was thoroughly enjoyable.

Ms Puetz



Science Students at DIT

SPHE Talks

A series of talks has been organised for the SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education) classes for this academic year. The first talk took place on November 3rd when a guest speaker from **Accord** spoke to all 5th year classes. A visiting speaker from **Aware** will talk to 6th years on December 14th/15th and to 5th years on January 15th. Lisa Green from the **Rape Crisis Centre** will talk to all transition year students in December. The transition year students are organising a Christmas cake sale in order to raise funds for the rape crisis centre.

Ms Hennigan