



Larkin Community College
Coláiste Pobail Lorcáin



LCC: New Year Newsletter

LCC New Year 2021 Newsletter

21st January

Larkin Community College



1 - Our School Promotional Video - Please watch and see what LCC has to offer!

In this months 'New Year's' Newsletter:

- **A Big Thank You!**
- **Students' Covid Struggles in 2020**
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2020 - A Year Full of Trials and Tribulations



2020 has without doubt been a year of uncertainty and it will most surely go down in the History books as one of our most challenging years of recent times.

The Covid Pandemic has ultimately transformed the way we all live our daily lives - the way in which we socially interact, the way in which we greet each other in public, the way we communicate and even how we now convey our feelings and emotions to one another. Who knew facial expressions were so important?!

At Larkin Community College, Covid 19 has also had an undeniable impact on our schooling and has transformed the way in which, this year, we have engaged in our academic life.

In March we walked out of our school gates believing this virus to be a short term inconvenience but with the cancellation of the national examinations in late Summer, we all knew that provisions would have to be set in place for when we returned in September and these huge changes have proven for all, to be a rather unwelcome transition.

Wearing masks all day every day, continuous sanitization of hands and classrooms, new timetables, staggered classes, block classes, not being able to mix class groups, trips and outings being rescheduled, not being able to greet and interact with school friends as we once did - it was all a lot to take in, especially in such a short amount of time.

And we know it hasn't been easy for everyone.

It's been tough.

At times it's taken its toll on both staff and students.

There have been negative days.

But there have been days when we dug deep and we looked to find the good in everything.

2020 is coming to a close...

But before we depart till next year:

Know this much:

YOU did it - WE did it.

You engaged with the government guidelines and necessary protocols.

You sanitized your desks.

You washed your hands.

You wore your masks.

You changed everything you knew about your daily school routine.

You have done and continue to carry out your civic duty.

You have kept us safe.

You have made us proud.

Unfortunately, it doesn't end here.

2021 hasn't got off to the best start with Covid numbers once again surging. It is a unsettling time for us all but with continued dedication and compliance to the cause, we should remain hopeful that in a few months' time, this global crisis can be firmly left in the past and become a distant memory for us all...Onwards and Upwards!

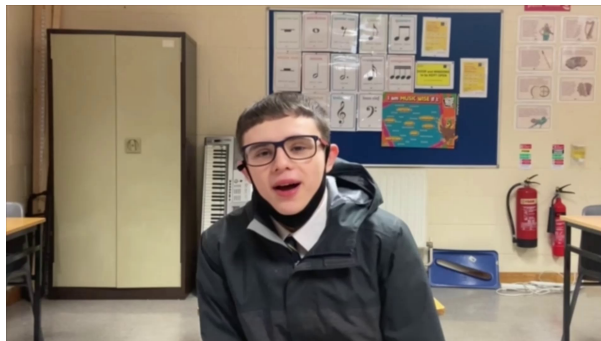
ALBERT CAMUS

He said, "In the midst of hate, I found there was, within me, an invincible love. In the midst of tears, I found there was, within me, an invincible smile. In the midst of chaos, I found there was, within me, an invincible calm. I realized, through it all, that in the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger—something better, pushing right back."

Students' Covid Struggles in 2020



Here are what some of our students have hated most about Covid 19 this term and what they're looking forward to *hopefully* getting back to doing in the near future...



<https://sway.office.com/iLBHpUoDbVjIprVU#content=oXJqb4hSnWDSOD>

'Tough Times Don't Last...

Tough Teams Do!'

2020 hasn't been the easiest but in typical Larkin style, we have still packed a lot in!



Even though 2020 altered many of our plans here at Larkin, staff and students in their typical '**can do**' fashion still managed to rally round and get involved in lots of extra-curricular activities this term!

'When Life gives you Lemons... make Lemonade...'

Zoom became our new friend, with many outside agencies, workshops and professionals visiting our classrooms virtually as well as we ourselves using the platform to host our **annual careers and open evening!**

TY's continued their **outdoor pursuits** every Tuesday taking in all the beautiful sights of the surrounding countryside of Wicklow, Howth and the Dublin Mountains.

Covid did little to hamper our creativity this year with Ms. McKenzie and select students taking part in the '**Street Couture 2020 in Association with State Street**' which really served to brighten up the darker days! The library's annual '**Inktober**' **Challenge** also allowed us to get our creative juices flowing! In addition to this, our Art groups got to grips with **Puppet Making** as well as being involved in **The Abbey's 'Dear Ireland' initiative**. Arts students also continued to forge ahead with their production of '**You, Me & Those Before Me**'- which will move from stage to screen in the New Year.

Our Basketballers and Soccer stars didn't let Covid ruin their sporting prowess and continued to persevere with their **strength and fitness training regime** to ensure that when their competitions do return, hopefully in the New Year, that they're at their physical best.

During this time of uncertainty, it was fantastic to see the **strong sense of Community Spirit** amongst the staff and students who were involved in many social awareness initiatives and fundraising activities.

Localise ran two volunteering projects with our students this term - One with first years and one with our TY Groups. TY's worked with the residents of Fairview Care Home sending them both a video message of hope as well as colourful postcards which were created with the help of Mr. Quinn.

Our 1st years also worked on sending Christmas cards of hope to The Simon Community as well as asking Trinity College students to fill each card with a donation voucher for the Simon residents - such a thoughtful idea and a great way to carry out our civic duty at this testing time.

Our **Christmas Jumper Day and Festive Raffle for St. Vincent de Paul and the Peter McVerry Trust raised a staggering €1038!** A huge thanks to everyone who bought a ticket and donated money towards such a worthwhile cause.

A big Thanks to Ms. Creighton and Ms. O'Higgins for organising such great prizes!

This term we lost three stalwart members of our staff; **Mr. Soffe, Mr. Brown, Attendance Officer Vyvenne and General Operative Kevin** who left us to start their well-deserved retirements. They will be sorely missed, and we wish them all the best.

Although this term we said goodbye to much loved staff members, we welcomed our **new 1st year cohort** who have already made a great impact within the school and have immersed themselves in all that Larkin has to offer!

As always it is impossible to list all the fantastic achievements and activities that our students were involved in this term - For a more detailed overview please visit our website www.larkincommunitycollege.ie

A huge thanks to all our students for making the best out of a very trying situation!

We are optimistic and hopeful that 2021 will return some normality to our home and school life!

Here we go again...! Lockdown 3.0: Some Top Tips and Advice from 6th Year Richard Todea for engaging with Online Learning Platforms!



1. **Procrastinating** is the worst thing you can do, as soon as you are given some work do it straight away otherwise you will be swamped.
2. Definitely make sure to **get a break**, otherwise you will burn out.
3. Write out a **to-do list for yourself**, tick off as you work your way through. This is so efficient and helps you keep track.
4. **Fresh air**. Probably the most helpful tip, you underestimate how much better you feel after a nice walk (obviously within your 5km!)
5. For **revision**, find out the best way that works for you and use this method for everything. (e.g. mind maps, reading it over and over, writing it down many times)
6. Make sure you **check your calendar, Teams and emails** to make sure you're not missing any important information from your teachers.
7. If you **require a device** during this period, then let Mr. Usher, your tutor or year head know and we will get one out to you as soon as possible.

Also make sure you have all your **correct passwords and email addresses** for logging on to Microsoft 365!

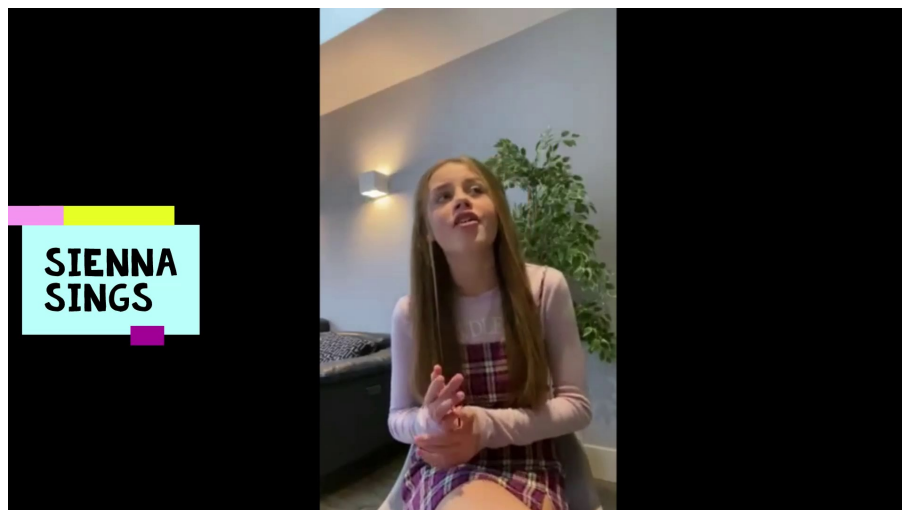
These are the things I personally find most useful.

Good Luck,

Richard

Here's how our students have been taking their mind off the Pandemic this term!

Mind Full, or Mindful?



<https://sway.office.com/iLBHpUoDbVjlprVU#content=A8fPtCV9toLD8h>

2 - How our students take their mind off the pandemic.

A Message from Our Chaplain Ms. O' Higgins



Happy New Year to the School Community.

As we come to the end of a tough year, may we remember to be kind to one another, even when we don't feel like being kind. When I am cross with someone, I have found taking a breath helps me to be authentic with my frustration rather than reacting to that person.

Life is hard for all of us right now.

Hopefully 2021 will be a bit easier.

News updates from Chaplaincy:

The Chaplain's room will be painted and turned into a meditation space in the New Year, thanks to some funding from Mc Cann Fitzgerald.

Thanks to Michael Darragh Mc Auley and the Silent Lunch students for making it happen too.

'Still'

by Feli Speaks

Still.

Covid came.

And Ireland stood still.

Shocked at how much could gather at our doorsteps – like dust.

We wrestled with what we might, What we may, How life would continue, the ways it must.

Stood still.

The virus ate through limbs of every family tree,

It choked out the lives we'd built roots around,

It emptied out purses; cutting money by the foot,

Rendered hearts bruised and persons forgotten, Left us breathless. For dead.

Still.

We closed into ourselves.

We folded behind lock and key, Inhaled through the fogs of uncertainty,

We found fun in the walls of our homes,

Made it work, Fashioned it for play,

Carved out sections we can fill joy with,

So we can hold it firm on the days we didn't know what we next, what could happen.

Still.

For those whom age had known beyond a golden jubilee,

whose eyes glaze with film reel memories,

whose daughters have vowed to love them in their sunset,

whose sons have kissed them in their sunrise.

We want your vision of us in full colour.

Stood still.

For the Frontline workers armed with nothing but faith,

For the emerging minds that must dare to dream in high definition,

For the lonely minds that are glaring at love through a screen,

For the bodies that create homes in cardboard shelters.

Still.

For you. Ireland is standing still.

But tomorrow, when our knees get soft with impatience and the gates of our homes swing open,

Which way will our legs go?

Which path does our heart know?

Contact Us



If you'd like any further information about what our college has to offer please contact us through the below channels:

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Visit us on the web at www.larkincommunitycollege.ie

<https://www.larkincommunitycollege.ie/>