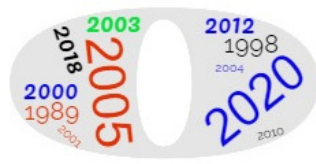




Coláiste Pobail Ráth Dara

Rath Dara Community College

Strength through Cooperation



Who We Are

Rath Dara Community College, which is a constituent college of DDLETB, opened its doors on 1st September 1986 in temporary accommodation and moved to its present building in September 1987.

It is a co-educational, multi-denominational community college in Dublin 15.

The college provides a comprehensive curriculum of academic and practical subjects, catering for a wide range of abilities in its student population.

The college can boast of a wide range of extra curricular activities: cultural and artistic, debating, drama, sport (Gaelic football and Soccer), Minecraft Club, Podcast Club and Gaisce to mention but a few.

Rath Dara Community College has been to the forefront in piloting important new courses. These include:

- The Junior Cycle School Programme
- The Transition Year Programme
- The Leaving Certificate Applied Programme
- The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

What is ETB School Ethos?

ETB schools are state, co-educational, multi-denominational schools underpinned by five core values: Excellence in Education, Care, Equality, Community and Respect.

ETB schools are under the patronage of the local Education and Training Boards (ETBs) who are the largest provider of multi-denominational education in Ireland. ETB schools give equal opportunities to all students in the communities they serve and strive to provide high-quality education through respectful, positive, supportive and responsive learning environments.



Excellence in Education

Accelerated Pathway Programme

This is an exciting new programme which will launch in September 2022. It a dynamic and tailored academic experience for academically gifted students. Rath Dara Community College's vision is to provide excellence in education through innovative teaching practices that create an individualised pathway in education for students.

Class Sizes

What makes Rath Dara Community College unique is its size. Rath Dara Community College has limited enrolment each year which means that class sizes are smaller and the student, as an individual, is recognised and nurtured. Smaller class numbers have been proven to enable students to learn faster and perform better. Class sizes of 20 or less result in more individual attention, increased participation, and better communication between the teacher and students.

Digital Technology

We embrace digital technology and are a member of the DDLETB pilot programme of Google Chromebooks in the classroom. We are committed to ensuring that our students have the same opportunities and access to the digital world of education through a programme in which cost is accessible for all parents. This initiative means that first year students have access to a personal Chromebook that they can use throughout their education.



Highlights of 2021-2022

Well-Being Wednesday



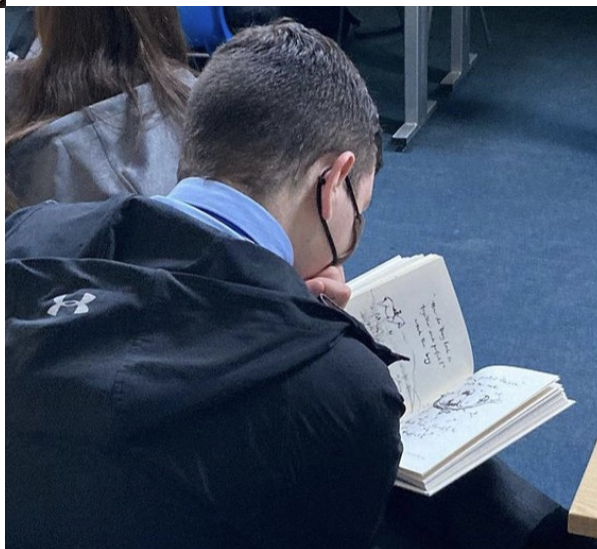
Visit from Minister Roderic O’Gorman and Councillor Pamela Conroy



Virtual Open Night



Drop Everything and Read



Maths Week



Under 15 Soccer



Christmas in Rath Dara Community College



Well-Being Cycle, in Partnership with Ger Conroy Fitness

Ger is a past pupil and local business owner

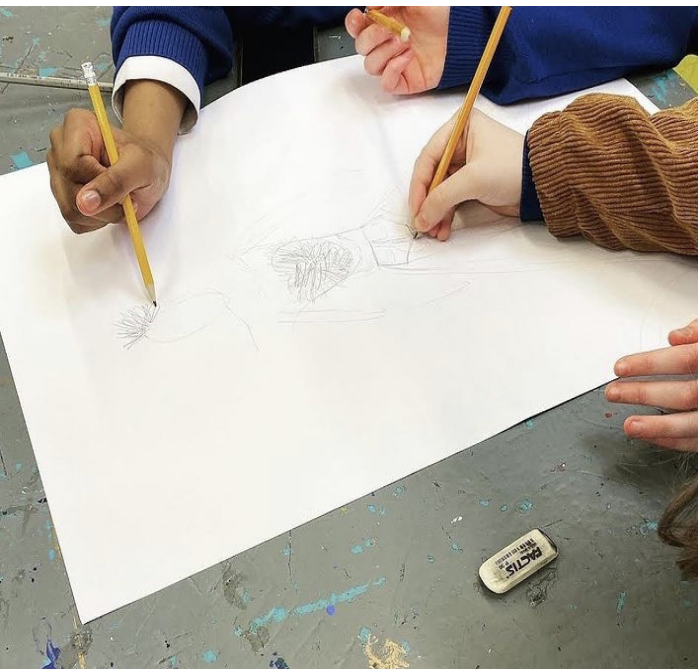
We raised €400 for Suicide Awareness, Dublin 15



Rap Workshops



Art Club



Well-Being Walk



St. Valentine's Day Treats

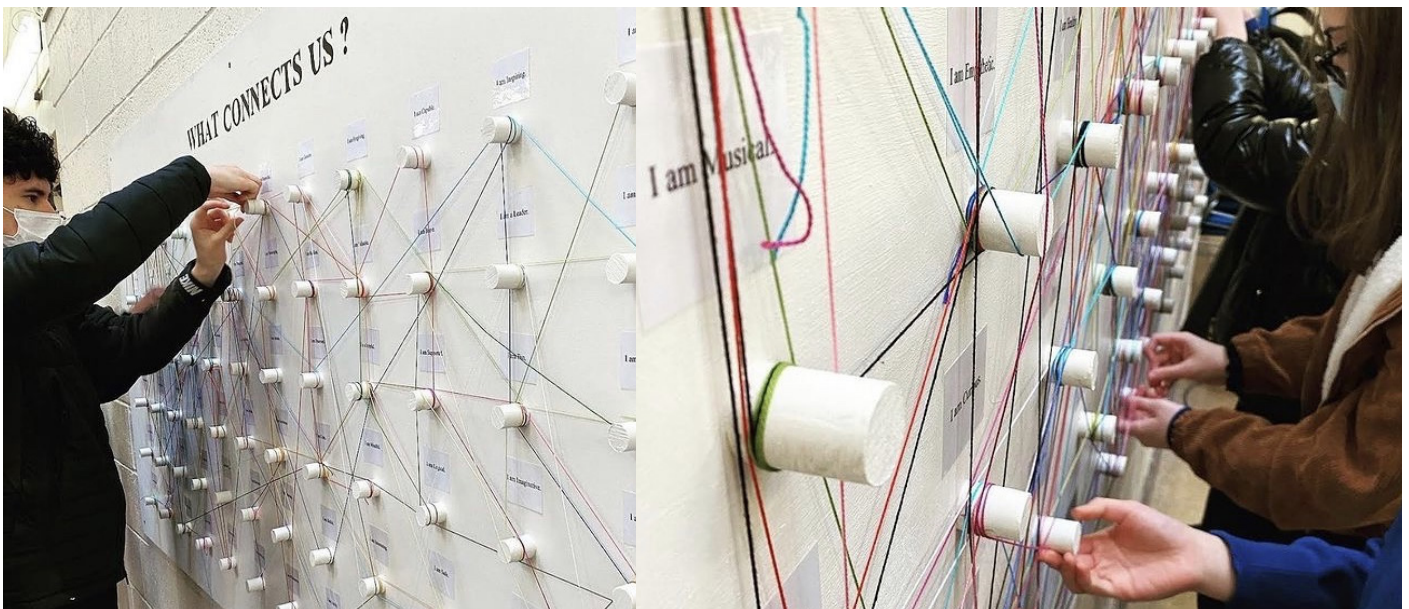


Collaborative Art Piece

What Connects Us? 2022

"What connects us?" is a collaborative and interactive mixed media art work designed and created by the teachers and students of Rath Dara Community College. The artwork invites the viewer to reflect on an array of positive affirmations and connect with them by circling them with coloured string. The piece then becomes a spiderweb of connections reflecting each person's character while also becoming a portrait of the school. It encourages students and teachers to reflect on the positive aspects of themselves as individuals while also being able to visually see the similarities that bring us all together.

The sensory experience has been unveiled in the school as part of a series of well-being events and activities to highlight the importance of mental health and promote inclusivity and positivity among the school community.



LCA Library Exhibition



Attendance Awards



Industry Training



JCSP Make a Book Trip to Dublin Zoo



Fundraising for Cystic Fibrosis



Digital Media Literacy Trip to Grangegorman



Seachtain na Gaeilge



Attendance Awards



FIT Virtual Reality Workshop



Second Year Business Studies Trip to IBM, as Part of the BITC Programme



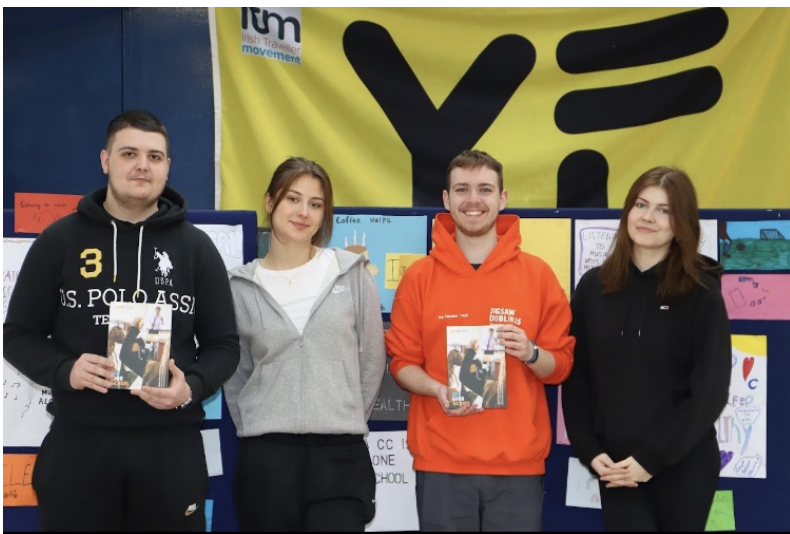
Story- Telling Workshop with Niallstory



SCP Easter Treats



Jigsaw One Good School



Jigsaw One Good School is about promoting a better understanding of mental health across the whole school community and particularly what helps and hurts our mental health. Parents, school staff, leadership and students have done online courses and attended webinars.

We had an art competition to promote mental health awareness.

We will have lots of activities next year to promote the well-being of the whole-school community. Rath Dara CC have worked with Jigsaw in Blanchardstown since 2008. Every year Jigsaw has trained Rath Dara CC students as peer educators to younger students.
By Vlad Ilies



Fundraising Cake Sale for the Irish Red Cross in Ukraine



We had a cake sale on the 1st of April as a fundraiser for the Red Cross to aid people in Ukraine.

Before we actually started the cake sale we need to announce to the whole school that the cake sale was happening on the 1st of April, so some of my classmates went around the whole school telling the whole school when, where and who it was for. I didn't go around the school as I was designing posters.

Fast forward to the day of the cake sale, Arminas and I were in charge of the ping pong tables (we just sat around making sure the balls didn't get lost) and the others were in charge of selling the cakes and music.

I enjoyed the experience as it was a relaxing day and we raised €500 for a worthy cause.

By Tigran Barsegjan

Student Voice

Sixth Years Students

Ebenezer Imadojemun

When I first started at Rath Dara I came a little bit later than everyone else in first year so when I came I didn't have any friends in the school. Fortunately for me, I was quick to make friends because everyone was friendly and from there everything was just all fun and laughter anytime I would hang out with them. One thing I like about the school is that it is small because I feel it helped me with my education in a very positive way. Rath Dara Community College is very welcoming, supportive and diverse.

Nathan Mukwayanzo

I felt very welcome and everyone's very inclusive. The school has very good staff and small year groups. I'll remember RCC because of the warm welcome.

Robert Rus

When I first came to this school I didn't really know English, but I still felt welcomed. I don't know the exact reason, but it was probably the aura of the school and its people. I liked the diversity of cultures, and I even met other people from my country that helped me at the start by translating for me until my English got better. I also like the teachers here because they really show passion and dedication in their job. I had fun moments in this school and I will remember them for the rest of my life.

Jodie McCormack

When I first started at Rath Dara Community College I was scared because it was a big change from being in primary school and getting off school early, having no heavy books in my bag to being in school late and carrying lots of heavy books in my bag. It was scary seeing all the students because most of the students were bigger than me. When I first started I also made new friends. Most of the people in my class were people from my primary school.

I got involved in some after school activities like Homework Club with Mr. Boyle and Ms. Boyle. I enjoyed going to Homework Club because I would get my homework done straight away and I wouldn't have to worry about making sure my homework was done because I knew I had done it at Homework club.

Some positive features of this school are the teachers are nice they- get along well with students and listen to them. Teachers take in students' ideas and try make their ideas happen. Like when students want to do a cake sale, teachers take that in and make it happen. Another positive feature of this school is that there is lots of lunchtime clubs people can join like Chess Club, Movie Club, Podcast Club, Breakfast Club and lots more.

When I leave Rath Dara I will remember it as a great school. I will also remember it as the school my family went to. I will also remember the school for the great teachers.

Emanuel Cete

I started first year in 2016 and quickly made new friends; I felt that this school was accepting and safe. I also got involved in activities and the people I was surrounded by were friendly.

I got involved into school life pretty easily because I always liked doing homework so I participated in Homework Club and all the activities that were going on in the school. I also like sports so every sports day I was participating without a doubt. I also liked reading so I still remember the day when I got my first book in first year and it was 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid', the green coloured cover.

TY felt really great until Covid 19 unfortunately interrupted my TY and we didn't get to do some of the activities. However, until Covid came along I made sure I got most out of TY. I advise every student who is in 3rd Year not to skip 4th year because work experience is a great opportunity and you can choose where to go for your work experience and it can be the work you always wanted to practice.

The positive features and strengths of this school is that you can get help from any adult in the school and no matter what you are struggling with you will get the help you are in need of. Also, if you have family conflicts going on at home, the school will provide you with a psychologist or anyone to talk to and to guide you what you are going through. The school has an anti-bullying policy and you will be well looked after- it is one adult away and your problem will be taken care of.

Since first year, I've shaped into a more mature student, and probably if it wasn't for Rath Dara I wouldn't be the student I would be today. Rath Dara shaped me into a more mature student and it woke me up to reality and made me realise that I can push myself more and to achieve my goals with exams and my homework.

Student Voice

First Year Students

Ella Wilders

I started my first year in Rath Dara Community College in September 2021. I do metalwork, woodwork and French; my favourite is woodwork. There are lots of clubs in our school such as: Minecraft Club, Art Club, karaoke at lunch time, volleyball training, Film Club, Homework Club and lots more. Everyone here is really friendly. If you have any problems there are lots of people you can talk to about it. There is a really nice atmosphere in this school and our SNAs are really helpful. All of the teachers are very friendly and welcoming.

Alicja Wymyslo

My first year in RCC was quite fun, although at first I was a bit anxious about moving to secondary school, I still enjoyed this year and had a lot of fun.

There are a lot of fun activities in RCC, Úna and Cathriona set up Film Club for us in the library every Thursday. There are also a lot of other clubs in the school like Chess Club, Minecraft Club, Art Club, Homework Club, Karaoke Club etc. The school is very kind as well, all the students and teachers are both very friendly and welcoming. There are a lot of people in our school who you can talk to if you need help. In RCC there is also a Breakfast Club where you can get breakfast in case you didn't have breakfast at home. You get free lunches and you can also go to the shops during lunchtime too!

Michael Mongan

My first year in Rath Dara Community College was really enjoyable. The teachers are very nice and helpful when it came to helping people settle into the school and telling us which classes to go to. I really enjoy attending a small school. It helps me remember where the classes are and also knowing the teachers names. I really enjoy the school and there is so much to do here at the school. For example Film Club, Minecraft Club, Art Club, Karaoke Club and Homework Club. Some of my favourite subjects are English, Geography and Art. It's small, everyone knows everyone and if you feel down about anything you can always go to a teacher who you trust. The school has a welcoming atmosphere and I think that people should join the school.

Bonnie McCullagh

In Rath Dara you feel welcomed by all the teachers and SNAs. Before you come to this school, Úna and Cathriona bring you into the school and do activities like baking and art with you. You get to go to the cinema and McDonalds so that you will get close to your class. The deputy principal is funny and the principal is nice. They make you feel so welcomed and you know you're not alone in this school. The students are so nice. Once a week we go to the library. You may think that's boring but I said that and I now want to go to the library everyday. Ms. Carmody could help you find the book you would like to read. When you come here you will get your timetable that has all your classes and you get new classes in this school like Art, Home Economics, Woodwork, Metalwork, Music and Business Studies. Your uniform is nice and comfy. Your year head and tutor are so lovely; they go through your timetable with you and are very welcoming. You will love this school so much that will never want to miss a day.

Students' Work

'My Parents' Home' by Noah Musueni

My mother was born in Congo and moved to France when she was young; she moved to the city of Bordeaux and settled there. My dad was born and raised in Kinshasa, Congo and moved to Belgium in his mid 20s. He later moved to France where he met my mother. They also lived in Switzerland, where my eldest sister was born.



I've visited Congo and France and like them both but France is easier because they speak English as well. I've also been to Congo to see how people are living and met new family members and really enjoyed it. In my house my parents speak English, French and Lingala- my dad usually speaks more Lingala to us more than English. When I was in Congo it was different to Ireland. It is very hot it and gets dark really early. There were no traffic lights so people would make the directions but overall some stuff wasn't different and was really nice. Restaurants had the same as any other country, it just has worse poverty. There were more homeless people than in Ireland. My granddad is a priest who is highly respected and well known. My mom's dad was also a general in the army but passed away few years ago.

'Home' by Alex Roman

I was born in Romania. I stayed there for 2 years and when I was 2 I moved to Sweden so that we could have a better life. We moved to a city called Lysekil. It's not a big city but it is very popular and every summer lots of tourists visit it. There are many boats there because the city is surrounded by water. There is a big mountain you can walk to and see the whole city. I had many friends there and loved my school there. Romanians are very close to their family and we didn't have any in Sweden. After some years we moved to Ireland to be closer to our cousins and God. We moved to Blanchardstown, near Dublin City. Ireland and the people here are very nice and I am starting to settle in.

'My Home Country' by Ana Julian

I come from Araras - São Paulo. Our capital is Brasília where the president's house and the senate are located. We have 5 regions: South, Southeast, Midwest, Northeast and North. The highest income in the country comes from the Southeast, where the cities of São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo are located.

The religions we have in Brazil are very different, we have several, but most are Catholic and Evangelical, in general both are very fervent and rigid. We have Umbanda, Candomble and Spiritism, like the other most popular religions.

We just speak Portuguese and some indigenous people who live in the northern part but who are totally isolated from the whole world, speak their own language.

I like the heat a lot, so I've always liked beaches. It's what I like the most in Brazil. I love Brazilian food too. In my opinion it's the best food in the world.

One big difference I see between Brazil and Ireland is the things I can buy here, and that the Irish really appreciate the work people do. The Irish are also very kind people, they don't care what you look like, they don't look at you badly or anything, that's something common in Brazil people tend to judge a lot by your appearance, and that's why I feel good here.

Something that I love about Ireland and that can also be said to be a difference between my country is the variety of things we have here from all corners of the world, and things I like because Dublin is a big city so I will always find it if I look for it.

Students' Work- Creative Writing

'Clouds' by Gabrielle Dada

The tender appearance,
so soft
I imagine it to be,
like an escape
I might get to see.
The feeling
of just falling onto it,
the relief
it could give
no worries,
no responsibility,
no facade
of gentility,
a resemblance
to brutal honesty,
needs to be unknown
but not able
to be absorbed by all ,
if only bed could be as real.

'Moonlit Love' by Ria Sara

Midnight comes as perfect black, light rain starting to pour, made ever more enchanting by the myriad of stars that are scattered like moon dust in the sky. Night comes to bathe the moon in her comforting black, she's beautiful, I think.

"Shall we dance, m'lady?" I whisper, putting on a heavy accent and standing on one foot. She blushes softly and I catch the faint red that blooms across her pretty face before it fades away as she swats at my arm in embarrassment and spins me around, causing me to lose my footing.

I grab her by the waist and pull her into my embrace, she huffs out a soft laugh against my chest and I can physically feel myself falling more for her. Her hair was endearingly tousled, ruffled by a restless sleep I woke her from to dance beneath the stars- I could tell she needed this moment. Her cheeks began to take their natural rosy glow as we both clumsily danced from side to side. We waltzed into the hours of darkness. Spinning in circles and shuffling our feet to the quiet sound of owls hooting and crickets chirping in the night.

It looked funny, two adults giggling way past midnight and dancing drunkenly in their backyard. Anyone could tell, but at that very moment, it didn't matter. It didn't matter that we both looked weird because I was more content than I'd ever been in ages.

Into the pirouetting dawn we both danced, laughed and existed. We swayed together, our bodies close; with her hand grasping mine. It was perfect, I was with the one I loved most, my person, my one. It felt like the moment lasted forever, yet I wasn't tired. There was never a moment I'd be tired of her- if I could choose one thing in the world, it'd be her and her alone.

She dropped my hand and pulled me down with her arms entangling in my hair, our foreheads touching; breathing in each other's scent. She was always shorter than me and it was moments like this I found her to be adorably irresistible. I felt her sweet, warm breath ghost against my lips as she whispered, "I love you".

Our lips met and we kissed.

It wasn't anything all that fancy and there were no fireworks or butterflies, but it felt like home. It felt like coming home after a rough day and having your partner smooth away all your worries and fears and wrap you in the softest fleece blanket. In that kiss was the sweetness of unbeatable passion and a million loving thoughts condensed into a singular moment of pure, unfiltered love and adoration.

The world around me buzzed as I struggled to hold onto the present, it faded in and out in various blurs- pink lips and pretty smiles, twinkling doe eyes and tingling peals of laughter,, death- I startle awake on my bed- our bed, I force myself to correct and sit up. My heart beats erratically and I take huge gulps of air like my body hasn't got enough oxygen. Panic wraps its dark and murky claws around my chest like a vice grip and I feel myself choking on dry sobs.

"Hey shh, you're okay. I've got you now. Calm down" A flurry of rushed, sleepy reassurances overtake my mind and I let it, finally being able to breathe properly.

"That's it." They whisper and I come face to face with my pre-school best friend. They smile sadly at me and I shrug it off, thanking them with what I hope was more of a smile than a grimace. Although I'm pretty sure it was the latter. I wipe away the last of my tears that had slipped my eye and rush to put on a coat that distinctly smells of her and feel my throat clogging up again.

Just as I'm about to leave the room I feel a hand on my shoulder, "Let me come with you." They mutter, leaving no room for arguments and I nod my head distractedly, continuing to fumble with the door, sighing in relief when it finally opens up.

We walk to the place in static silence, it's barely past eleven at night and I know they have work tomorrow. I know I should feel guilty but I can't help but be comforted by the fact that they've agreed to come with me. So that I'm not alone with my thoughts.

Cecilia LoveHart (xxxx-xxxx)

Aged 29

A daughter, lover and friend. You'll be forever missed, we love you.

The gravestone had sunk into the soft soil giving it the appearance of shrinking. The engraved words, so weathered by rain, sat just above the level of the ground cover plants that sprawled over the dirt.

I sank to my knees, feeling numb.

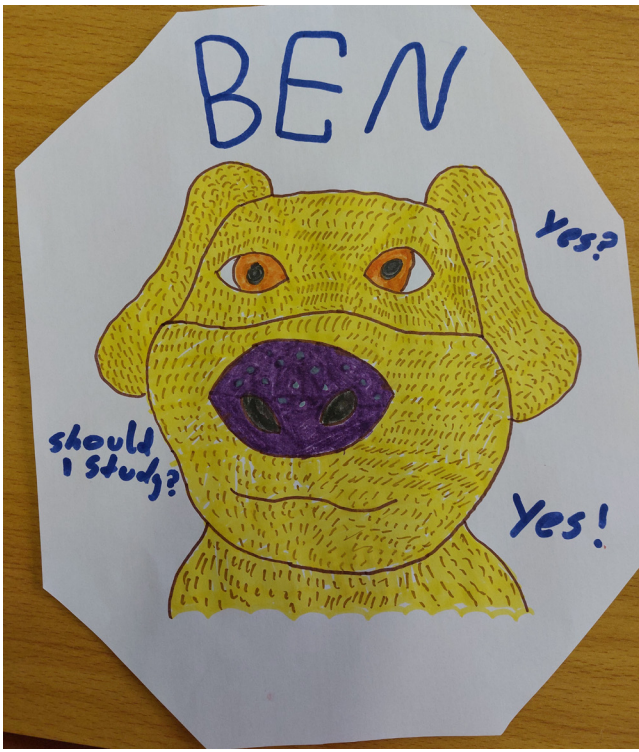
She was dead. It has been two years now. Two years of constantly feeling like my world had been ripped into shreds, like I've lost a limb.

How do you deal with it? How can you deal with your whole world falling apart and your chest ripping open with only a single phone call? How can I ever forget the one person that taught me to breathe, to love with everything in me?

The world was a cruel thing. No amount of preparation or time could ever prepare you to face death. Loss came and I felt the bonds of my love reach out to her, feeling her there- at the edge, wishing for her presence, to hold and nurture once more. One last time is all I ask for and yet I know it won't be granted.

The wind whispers in gentle melodies of nature and I shut my eyes at the feeling. She'd always loved the wind- the way it blew her hair off her face and her peals of adorable laughter ricocheting against the silent wind.

I miss you too, I feel it murmur against my cheeks and that's all it takes for me to break down against the grave in silent tears.



Third Year SPHE



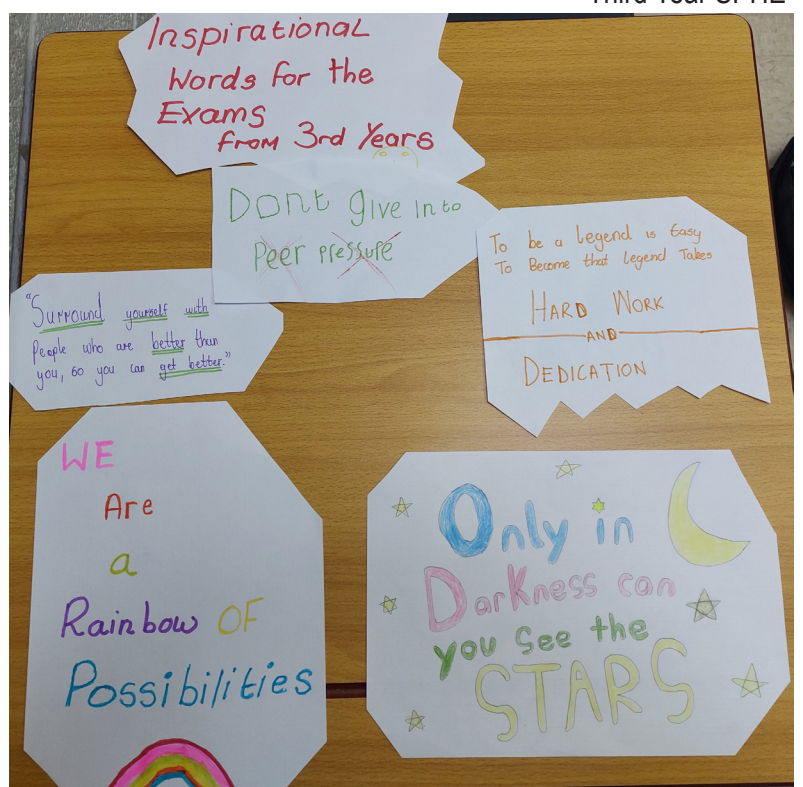
Emanuel Cete



TY Construction Studies
Carving Projects

Third Year SPHE

Arvidas Zukas



School Activities

The Trip to IBM by Jack McNamee

A while ago, before Easter, we, the 3rd year business class, went on a trip to IBM.

To travel to IBM, we took a coach. It was a pretty big coach (2 floors!) It was nice and quiet.

We got to hear about things such as jobs, abilities needed to get said jobs and came up with ideas for drones to deliver packages safely. It was quite fun, especially when we flew some drones at the end of the trip.

That pretty much sums up the trip. Thanks for reading.

Chess Club by Gabrielle Dada

Chess Club is composed of students from first to sixth year and is open to all students who are willing to participate. Chess clubs have ranks and typically higher ranks teach intermediates or absolute beginners how to play. The club supervisors are also experienced players, with some major wins under their belts as well.

We meet, on average, twice a week during lunch break. We normally meet on Mondays and Fridays but during competition season, competing members typically train everyday in the library.

Due to Covid restrictions, Local Schools' Chess Leagues now hold formal competitions online. The website ranks each player and selects an opponent with said rank in competition or similar practice. In competitions, we play two-matches that create a fast paced environment and very little room to think- but huge room for error.

All in all, Chess Club is an environment for all levels of chess players and even for those who prefer to watch.

The Podcast Club by Rishon Biju

The Podcast Club is where talk about a certain topic through a microphone.

I, for example, did a podcast a week or two ago with my other club members about Harry Potter. We were talking about the differences between Harry Potter books and films. The club is good for people with similar interests to get to know each other or just express their opinions about the topic of interest.

When I joined the club it was Ms. Carmody the librarian who asked me if I would like to join the club. I agreed and did my first podcast which was about Harry Potter's "What ifs?". One of the "What ifs?" was "What if Sirius Black didn't die?" and another one was "What if Sirius Black wasn't sent to Azkaban?"

We do the podcast every Tuesday during lunchtime.

We decide on a topic by brainstorming ideas together or Joanna, our moderator will decide on a topic and we would agree to it.

The Podcast is available on iTunes (and some other platforms) and the school's social media + website.

This experience helped me gain the confidence to talk in public. I used to be shy to talk through a microphone but now it doesn't bother me.

A good part of the experience is that the other club members and I got to know each other by just talking about Harry Potter. There are some funny moments that you will go through too. Once my voice cracked while I was talking through the microphone and the others just started laughing.

I enjoy this experience and I encourage everyone to get involved.

School Activities

Homework Club by Arminas Podcerednicenko

A homework club is an after-school club where students go to finish their homework with the help of their teachers. I decided to get involved in the homework club because I used to get stuck a lot on my homework and I wouldn't have to do the homework when I got home after school because it was finished. It takes place Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

The advantages of going to a homework club include getting help from teachers who could help you finish the homework, or if you didn't know what work you had to do for some apparent reason, you could ask your classmates, and after the homework club, we usually get something nice to eat.

I would recommend going to the homework club because of the support from the staff.

Transition Year by Daniel Dillon

In my school, my year group had to do Transition Year because we had already missed a lot of school due to the Covid 19 lockdowns and my school thought it would be better for us to do 4th year instead of going straight into 5th year. If I was able to pick I think I would have chosen to skip 4th year and go straight into 5th but 4th year was actually better than I thought. We got to go on trips every Wednesday for 10 weeks and we got to do self-defence for another 10 weeks. Another good thing about Transition Year is that we got to do trials of the subjects we are going to be picking for our Leaving Certificate. If I had skipped I wouldn't have known what some of the subjects are like because I'd never have done them. Doing 4th year helped us catch up on work that we missed in second and third year because of the lockdowns as well so that's another good thing about doing it. Our classes this year are more relaxed as well because we have matured and have a good relationship with our teachers.

In Transition Year we get to do Outdoor Education for 10 weeks. Outdoor Education is outdoor activities outside of the school. For Outdoor Education I went bowling twice, I went rock climbing, I went on walks around parks and we went to the Phoenix Park before with maps that had clues and we had to find different things around the park. We also went horse riding for one of the weeks. My favourite thing that we did was rock climbing. I thought it was very good and we had fun.



Teacher Profile: Mr. Gannon

What was your favourite school subject? Woodwork

What were you like as a student? Absolutely exceptional!

If you could be a television/ film character, who would you be and why? The Terminator - he's unstoppable!

What would you do if you won the lottery? Buy a racehorse and a few houses.

If you could bring only three items to a deserted island, what would you choose? Water, Swiss army knife, Tent

What would you do if you weren't a teacher? A carpenter

If you were to participate in a talent show, what would your talent be? I would probably attempt some comedy as I can't sing or dance.

Which supernatural power would you choose? Definitely invisibility

What brings you joy? My friends and family

What is your favourite quotation? "Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much" - Oscar Wilde

Who has been the greatest influence in your life? My Family

What would you do if you knew you could not fail? Fly a Plane

What is your favourite film of all time? Semi-Pro

What is the best piece of advice you have ever received? Success is always a process, never an event.

If you went back to school, what would you do differently? I would join more clubs/activities that the school had to offer.

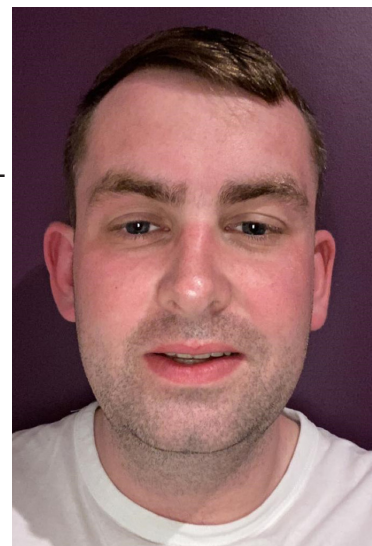
If you could time travel, would you go to the past or the future? 100% the past

What is your favourite television show? The Office

What is your favourite thing about Rath Dara Community College? The atmosphere here and how everyone looks out for one another.

What is your best or worst joke? What's the best thing about Switzerland? I don't know, but the flag is a big plus!

What advice would you give to students? Be yourself, have fun while it lasts and give 100% every day.



Past Teacher: Mr. Anderson

I have many happy memories from my time spent working in Rath Dara Community College. I started there in September 1986, fresh out of college and as green as grass. At the time, woodwork teachers were as scarce as hen's teeth and the VEC had gone down on a recruitment drive to Thomond College, Limerick, to try to enlist some student teachers before they actually graduated. I did an interview and was lucky enough to be offered five full-time jobs in various schools around Dublin city. I didn't know the city very well at the time but I selected Rath Dara for two reasons, firstly it was a brand new school and a perfect start for a new graduate and secondly because I thought it was near Castleknock and my logic was that it would therefore be a bit posh! It turned out that I was the first member of staff appointed to the school and that I was appointed before the Principal, who was appointed shortly afterwards, and we met up a couple of weeks later. That new Principal was Tom O'Brien and he mentored me very well as I developed as a teacher. I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Tom, a man I admire greatly, and thank him for looking after me so well.



The school building was only being built during that first year, so we were set up in four, double prefabs, on the grounds of St. Patrick's National School in Corduff. There were only four full-time staff so we all had to pull together to cover the curriculum. I think during that first year, as well as my own subjects of Woodwork and Technical Graphics, I taught SPHE, Science and Civics. Facilities were not great but we went over to see the progress on the school site regularly and I remember looking forward to moving into the new building with great anticipation.

The school quickly grew over the next few years. As our student population grew so too did the number of staff. In the second year of the school Joe MacNamara was appointed as Deputy Principal. Joe was a very experienced teacher and was a brilliant Deputy Principal. His wit and wisdom helped guide many students onto the correct path. He also had a great sense of fun and had a twinkle in his eye when he thought he was getting one over on one of the teachers. He is another man that I have huge respect for. Sadly, we lost Joe to cancer a few years later and he was a great loss to the school.

For any new school the first Leaving Certificate is always a big landmark. The first group of students through any school will always be a special group and more than 30 years later I still remember the names of some of those students. They had been the pioneers from the start and were probably a little bit spoiled. They did very well in their exams and the school had completed one full cycle. I often wonder how that first batch of Rath Dara students have got on in life.

After 23 years in Rath Dara, the last twelve of which as a Year Head, I finally decided it was time to move on. I can honestly say that I thoroughly enjoyed my time there. The students were great, very up front, open and up for a bit of craic. The parents too were predominantly very supportive of the school and worked with us for the good of the students. It was the teaching staff, my colleagues, that made my decision to move such a difficult one. The staff were, and still are, a remarkable group of professionals. They were innovative, dedicated and worked very well as a team. I am still lucky enough to call many of them my friends.

Rath Dara Community College is a community college in the true sense. It accepts all students from the local area and provides a safe, respectful, and caring environment for them to grow and learn. The school continues to be innovative in education and has embraced the use of digital technology to enhance the education which it provides to the students. Given the quality of the service the school provides and the leadership shown by the management team, I have no doubt that it will go from strength to strength.

I wish the school well.

Dave Anderson
Principal
Adamstown Community College
Lucan,
Co Dublin.

Student Supports

SCP



Name: Úna McDonnell

Job title: T.O.F.E School Completion Programme Co-Ordinator

The SCP co-ordinator is responsible for the running of the T.O.F.E School Completion Programme across Rath Dara community College, Ladyswell National school, Saint Patrick's Junior National School and Saint Patrick's Senior National Schooland what exactly is the project?? Well, the School Completion Programme is a TUSLA funded project that aims to improve attendance, retention and participation of students. We aim to do this through supporting students in-school (evidence-based programmes), after-school (homework clubs etc.) out of school (students who leave school early) & holidays time support (summer projects).

The support we offer can be offered

-universally in schools

- to entire classes

or the whole student body.

As Targeted interventions - long term to specific students who have been identified as being at risk of not reaching their full potential in school.

OR As Brief interventions - for 6- 8 weeks to students who are experiencing a crisis/ extremely difficult period in their lives.

What does your average day look like?

Generally, I will assign a different day to each of the schools in the cluster where I am available to work with their students on a specific day.

My day follows a timetable similar to a teacher, but with much more flexibility. I have set times to meet students to work on a 1:1 basis and set times where I deliver whole class programmes in the primary schools. I have set days to help out in homework clubs and set days to help with the breakfast clubs. During each day I allow time for paper and administrative work and this would also be the time when students might pop into my office for a chat depending on the type of day they are having or if they are struggling with the day. It would be very rare that two days would ever be the same- one day you might be serving cereal in a breakfast club, the next minute you might be helping a student get organized or you could be having a hot chocolate letting a student vent about the stress in their lives- the variety is why I love my job!!

I love the atmosphere in the school and how our students are accepting of each other's cultures, beliefs and backgrounds. It makes for a really inclusive and diverse school community.

We work with students, parents, school staff and other agencies to figure out what the block is to students- firstly in coming to school and secondly in reaching their full potential while in school and we support the students to overcome these barriers to attend school regularly and to reach their full potential while in school.

We are always running attendance initiatives and acknowledging and praising students for good attendance. We are also involved in supporting students with behavioural difficulties to overcome these challenges using the Mentor for Achieving Programme (M.A.P). We run transfer programmes to help our new students to settle into the school community, we run summer projects to enable us to continue to support students during school holidays. We work with the school in developing the One Good School Community. We also had an active part in the One Book, One Community initiative alongside our JSCP librarian and HSCL.

What advice would you give to our current students?

Don't let things overwhelm you, write down everything you need to do, prioritize them and tick them off the list as you go. When you can see the list written in front of you it's not half as bad as you had imagined!

Having worked in different schools across Dublin, I really feel Rath Dara has something special to offer its students- in the past small class numbers were a bad thing - now it means your son or daughter has a personalized education where the teacher knows the students and monitors their progress. They are also able to their capabilities and strengths, and push them to reach their full potential. Small class numbers also enables the teaching staff to be aware of students well-being and changes in their behaviour that may be concerning and offer the students support .

Student Supports

Chaplain

Ms Robinson – School Chaplain.

As School Chaplain my work is quite diverse – from teaching, to looking after students going through hard times, to promoting well-being activities and events, organising fundraising events, encouraging students to look at life more deeply and generally helping to enrich students' experience of school. My work changes according to what is most needed.

When I first started in Rath Dara CC, the students' parents/families were only from Ireland, but this quickly changed as families from all over the world migrated to Blanchardstown and I was involved in helping promote integration and understanding. Parents asked me to set up a multi-cultural Youth Club in the school and the group published a book about their new lives in Blanchardstown which was a brilliant experience. As that group moved into 4th year I co-ordinated "Gaisce – The President's Award" which is a set of Bronze, Silver & Gold level challenges for students. I ran that for 8 years and eventually we had the biggest Silver group in Ireland. I resumed the Gaisce Programme this year and really enjoy watching students grow as they challenge themselves.



Rath Dara CC is a Jigsaw One Good School and we are aiming to attain the Jigsaw Gold award for schools by 2023, so that's one priority at the moment. Another priority is to restore our Quiet Space Well-being Room so that students can continue to meditate, pray and take time out when they need it.

I am 18 years working in Rath Dara CC.

What is your favourite thing about our school? The staff and the students. The staff are always there for each other and there is a genuine kindness and respect between us. The students – obviously – make all our efforts worthwhile. Working in a secondary school and dealing with teenagers is never easy, and each school has its own set of challenges. However, if it has been my fate to serve as a teaching Chaplain in a secondary school, then I am very glad that it has been Rath Dara CC.

Are there any memories that stand out for you? Seeing students thrive academically and develop as people through their own hard work and the sense of accomplishment and confidence that it brings. I also think of the day trips and overnights where I brought students out of school to experience new places, new ideas and see each other from a different perspective. Other memorable moments when you visibly saw a student start to thrive after coming through a personal storm. There have been many moments that have reminded me of the goodness in human nature which far outweighs the negative. Overall, there have been so many adventures, often funny, a couple unrepeatable, but unforgettable for sure!!



Jigsaw One Good School
Art Competition Winners

Student Supports

Librarian

Name: Ms. Carmody

Job title: JCSP Demonstration Project Librarian

A JCSP Library is a student friendly space where students can explore their interests while also improving their literacy and numeracy skills. A JCSP Library has a full time Librarian who works with students and teachers to promote a love of reading, organises lunchtime and after-school clubs and lots, lots more!

When I open the library in the morning some students will call in to say hello. Then classes start and teachers will bring groups into the library for Accelerated Reader, Maths Class, Resource or other subjects. Also students will come to the library to borrow items to bring back to their classrooms, items such as iPads, class sets of books, DVDs or art supplies. At lunch time we will have a club; Monday is Manga, Tuesday is Book Club, Wednesday(after school) is Minecraft, Thursday is Movie Club, and Friday is Chess Club. After lunch we have two more classes and then after school Mr. Boyle runs Homework Club in the Library. I stay for part of the homework club.

Also part of my daily job should be ordering and cataloguing new books, shelving, making sure the library is organized and taking note of all of the items which are used everyday. As the Library can get so busy it can be hard to get to all of these tasks every day. I do have some very helpful student library assistants though to assist me with some of this.

I love how friendly our school is. The students are very polite and I really enjoying coming in to school every day.

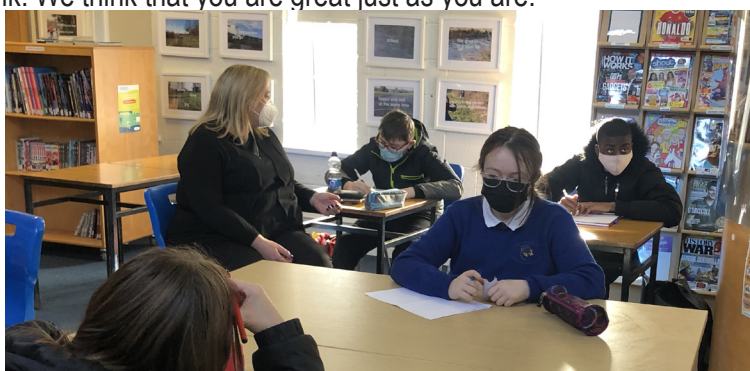
Rath Dara CC has a myriad of student supports, from our Tutor system, year heads, our amazing guidance counselor, the fantastic School Completion Team, the Chaplain and all of the teachers. Our school has a strong connection with Jigsaw and we even have a Jigsaw Book Collection in our Library which students regularly access. We also run the Jigsaw One Good Adult Programme here so that students know that if they are having issues, that they can speak with a staff member who will listen. Empower are also very active in the school and they provide a wide range of opportunities to our students in terms of further training and apprenticeships. Rath Dara CC also provides supports to students who are transitioning from the local primary schools to 1st year. We understand that it can be a daunting time in a young person's life. Every month, the families of incoming students are sent information about the school and our day to day routines, to ease any anxieties that they students may have about making the move to secondary school.

What extra-curricular activities are you involved in? We run competitions throughout the year, such as the art bookmark competition in October. Students submitted bookmark drawings very day for the whole month! Also we run Chess tournaments with other schools. We have a strong Chess Team in Rath Dara CC and we always do well. During Science and Maths week we work with the Science and Maths Departments creating fun quizzes and activities. This year, working with Schools Completion, and our Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator we ran One Book, One Community with St. Patrick's Senior School and Ladyswell NS. 120 students read *The Summer I Robbed A Bank* by David O'Doherty. We then visited the schools and had great fun doing art activities and a Kahoot Table Quiz.

Read more books! If you have any hobbies or interests ask in the library for reading materials. Reading about something you like will make reading more enjoyable. This will really help to improve your school work.

Also, don't worry too much about what other people think. We think that you are great just as you are.

Rath Dara CC is a school that listens to the student voice. Students are given considerable individual attention and everyone knows each other here. It is a friendly and welcoming environment.



Past Pupil Profile: Damilola Olufemi

Years in RCC: 2016- 2021

I studied Maths, English, French, Business, History, Biology, Irish and Religion.

Since I graduated, I am currently studying General Nursing at Trinity College Dublin.

One memory of RCC was when we went on a school trip to Maynooth during college week. It was one of my favourite memories because we got to bond with the teachers. I talked to college students, sat in their lecture room, and toured around the college. It helped me to understand and have an idea of college. As a result of that, I was determined to work hard to get into college. Another memory was the Teacher versus student match at the end of the year. It was always such a fun and happy moment for everyone.



There are many incredible things to say about Rath Dara CC. One of the things I love about RCC is the collaboration and determination of all staff to make the school a better place for all students. I love that RCC consistently communicates with students and parents and always strives to involve them in any given opportunity.

My advice to students would be to set up standards for themselves, strive to live up to those standards academically, and listen to the teachers and involve them in their education. Additionally, I would say they should believe in themselves, and everything is possible to achieve if you believe. Furthermore, students should have a positive attitude, be enthusiastic about school learning and be willing to want to know more. Finally, I would say they should make good memories with friends and teachers and be respectful and kind to everyone.

A Trip Down Memory Lane!

How many faces do you recognise?



Student Supports

HSCCL

Name: Leona Dixon

Job title: Home School Community Liaison Coordinator

What is HSCCL? As we are a DEIS school we have a lot of programmes in place to support parents and students in school. HSCCLs are part of this support system. My role is to support parents and guardians in any way possible to help their children to stay in education. I link with parents directly, in groups or one to one by text, phone, email but most importantly by doing home visits. I am also responsible for guiding parents to relevant services or agencies by referring them when necessary. I advertise and run classes and courses for parents. They know I am a direct point of contact for them in school. It is a 5 year role and I am in year 3. At the end of year 5 a new person from our staff will take over as HSCCL in Rath Dara CC.

I came here in September 1993, so almost 30 years!

I teach art and art history to all levels.

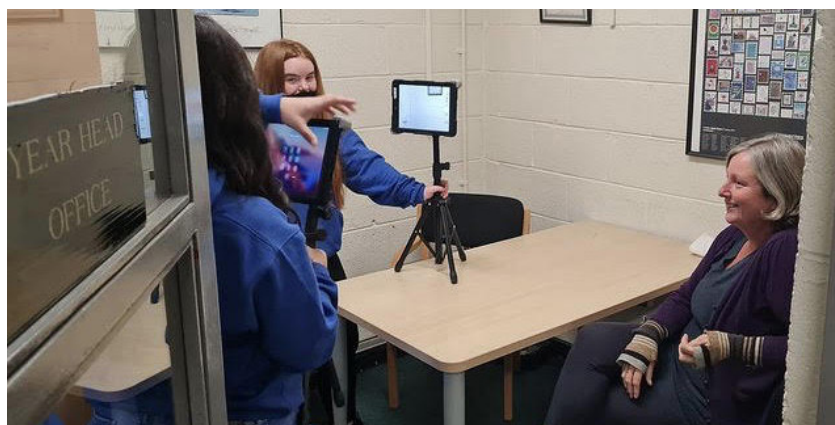
What does your average day look like? As a HSCCL my day is very varied. I am not tied in by the bell to class times. I spend at least 2 hours per day on home visits or other kinds of direct contact with parents. Then there are meetings with other agencies, linking with other HSCCLs in other schools, developing ideas for involving and supporting parents, liaising with Year Heads, Principal and Deputy Principal.....not to mention record keeping, monitoring and planning.

What is your favourite thing about your job? I love the flexibility of the role. There is time for both the paperwork and time for the peoplework! I feel like both can be done well because of this. Freedom from the classroom gives a clear head to focus on parent/guardian related work. It is the only role in school which purely relates to this group.

What is your favourite thing about our school? I think we are very special here because we see our students as whole people, with feelings, difficulties and passions. We see them as a 'work in progress' and are patient while they develop into whoever they are when they leave us!

What advice would you give to our current students? Relax, get involved with what you love while you are here, be kind and make friends!

Why should someone attend RDCC? You will be very well guided and looked after while you are here. This care starts from when you are in primary school and you participate in our Pathways to Rath Dara programme. Our smaller school means you will be treated as an individual, not lost in a huge group. We have SCP who will try to remove any barriers to your schooling. We have an amazing library and our own Librarian who works with SCP to run clubs at lunchtimes and after school. There are SNAs and other learning supports to help you in class if you need it. We have TY, LCA and LC at Senior Level, with lots of guidance around progressing to college via the access programmes for students from DEIS schools.



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Highlights: 6 items (including 'TV days out', 'TV Outdoo...')

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