



- the student voice of Enniscorthy Vocational College

# CLEAR THE AIR!!



Text and photos by Lily Byrne

Winter is coming and the people of Enniscorthy are lighting their fires to stay warm on cold evenings. STOP! Our cosy fires are burning smokey coal and releasing particles of pollution into the air. The air quality in Enniscorthy in the Winter months is awful. Real people have real concerns about how our air quality is affecting people, especially those with breathing difficulties such as asthma and COPD.

In Ireland 1,200 deaths a year are attributed to air pollution. How many of these are in Enniscorthy?

Surveys have shown that Enniscorthy in 2019 has similar air pollution rates to Dublin in the 1980's. People were dying in Dublin in the 1980's from the air quality so a ban on smokey coal was introduced.

In Enniscorthy there is an Air pollution monitor behind the Public Library, recording the amount of particle matter in the air. There are several of these devices across Wexford county as was explained to us at The Mile Post by Brendan Cooney, Environmental Scientist with Wexford County Council. See chart below showing the current seven day readings <https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/environment/air-water-and-noise-pollution/air-pollution/air-quality-monitoring> Levels of PM10 (the blue line) above 50 indicate what the WHO call "intolerable risk". Follow the link above for a full explanation and live readings of pollution levels.

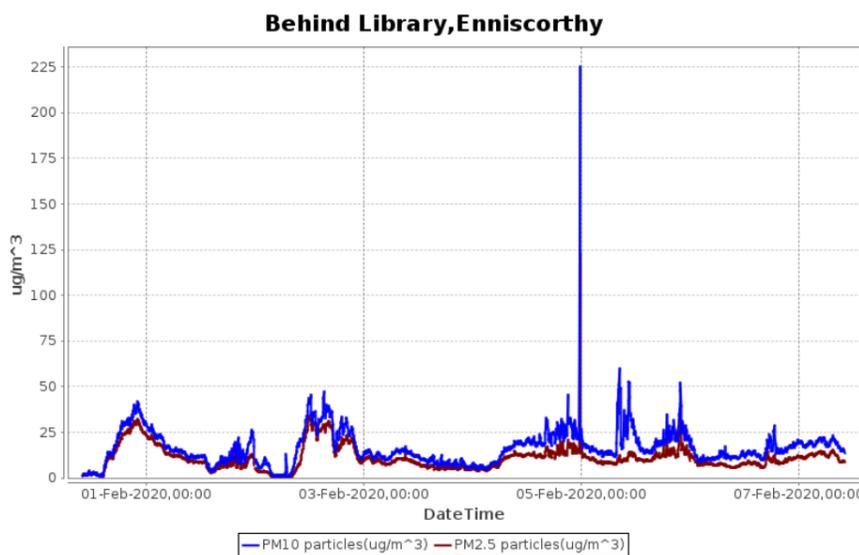
The move to smokeless coal in Wexford town has greatly improved it's air quality. If we were to stop burning Smokey coal we would greatly decrease the high amounts of Pm10, Pm2.5 and Pm1 particles recorded in the air in Enniscorthy we would have noticeably cleaner air.

Do the people of Enniscorthy not deserve clean air? In 2017 the government announced a full nationwide ban on smokey coal by Autumn 2019.

If Enniscorthy is on its way to being a black cloud of smog and smoke, none of us are going to be happy. However, there is no point in complaining about these problems if you're going to sit back and do nothing to stop or change it. We demand clean air for Enniscorthy, lets use more sustainable transport, keep our bonfires free of plastics this Halloween and bring in the promised ban on smokey coal now!



The Mile Post Issue 8



See inside.....

Celebrations & Achievements Pg 2

What is Going on? Pg 2

Interview Niall de Burca Pg 3



Languages at EVC pg 5

Editorial Pg 6

TY news Pg 6

*Dear Mylie*, Pg 7

Sports Pg 8



**2nd Years!!!**

Trip to see  
**Blood Brothers**  
 Bord Gais Theatre,  
 Dublin 26th Feb

Photography throughout by Trésa Barrett, Dennis Gurovos, Mia Barry &



Digital copy of this newspaper available on <http://www.evc.ie/>



## Happy Birthdays and Shout Outs



Congratulations to Elizabeth Rollo, 3 Rowan, on achieving an honours Grade 2 Violin from the Royal Irish Academy. Pictured with EVC's violin

Thank you to the Wellness team for a fabulous wellness week. We loved the extra long break!

Good work Breanna, winning two medals at the kickboxing world championships.

Thanks Ms Walsh for the cuppa tea and biccies at evening study!!

Happy Birthday to Christina Collins and Deann Skettitt

Happy Birthday to Ms Stafford!

Happy Birthday Kayla and Leanne!!! Sweet Sixteen. Enjoy your party. From the girls xx

Well Done to Ms Stafford and the LA students who slept out to raise money for the homeless.

Happy Birthday Evan Power!!  
Sweet Sixteen



Jessica Doyle performing with Wexford Youth Theatre in WMH Expressions project. Well done! 2nd place!

### What's on.....

- Weds 26th Feb** All Second Years to see Blood Brothers, Dublin
- Tues 14th April:** Intercultural Day
- Tues 5nd May** Storyteller Niall de Burca visits.
- Tues 5nd May:** Final of Super Six Gaelic Football League
- Weds 6th May:** Wexford GAA players Mags Darcy, Davy Fitzgerald talk
- TBC** sponsored 5km run / walk



**Word of the Week Winners!!**  
Deann Skerritt and Tamika O'Leary

## FDYS Youth Drop In, The Island Road, Enniscorthy



Pictured L—R , Pilar, Leonie, Justin, Sam, Cameron, James, Emma Mia and Alex



**Check out FDYS** Drop in youth service  
 Mondays 3-6pm Roma group  
 Thursdays 4-6pm  
 Fridays 4-8pm  
**Ph 053 9234574**

*I go to FDYS, and it has given me so many opportunities, and allowed me to make new friends. Last year was difficult for me socially, as there was a lot of drama happening in my friend group. I thought that FDYS might be just adults telling you what to do or a bit like scouts. But it's not like that at all. The leaders there are more like friends, and you can talk about anything you want with them. The people are non-judgemental, and there are a lot of activities to get stuck into. There's a kitchen where you can bake, a pool table, a sport hall, musical instruments, art supplies and a computer. There are also clubs you can join in with, including a SciFi geeks club. Over the course of the year, trips also take place, and so-called 'focus groups' where a representative of groups such as BelongTo and Pieta House will come in to ask the diverse group of young people in the youth group questions about what they want. I would recommend FDYS to anyone who'd like a casual, laid back place to meet friends after school, and make a difference in the world. - Mia Barry (3 Rowan)*

The youth organisation on the Island Road in central Enniscorthy called FDYS is a joyous, relaxing and inspiring group of young people. The Leaders who are there to help out are very welcoming too. Our youth group is kind, reliable and crazy which is what makes us a wonderful group. FDYS welcomes everyone, all nationalities and sexualities. We are a mixed "youth family".

Everyone of us plays an important role, some of us cook while others play games or help each other while doing homework. - Leonie Kossel (5 D)

# C'mere till I tell Ya!

Niall de Burca *Storyteller & Friend of EVC*

Lee O'Connor & Daniel Power

At this time of year most children are excited about the arrival of Santa but the students in EVC were equally excited about the arrival of storyteller Niall de Burca. He has been visiting our school for an amazing 12 years. Entertaining but equally scaring students and teachers with his antics.

From hearing Niall perform during his annual visits to EVC we know he has a serious talent for storytelling. Niall engages with his audiences, drawing us in, making us laugh and giving us unexpected jump scares.

We sat down with the man himself when he visited EVC on the 27th of November and got down to business with asking some important questions. Niall travels to every corner of the world telling stories and works in all sorts of places from embassies to high security prisons.



He said that he doesn't have a favourite place in Ireland because he loves each county, from the beaches in Galway to the Wexford accent but he loves to go back to Galway to see his teenage caras (friends) again, or over to Mayo to his Aunties. He finds the craic wherever he goes.

Niall said when he was young his aunties, who are now 84 and 85, told him a lot of stories and from there his curiosity sparked. His story Bricín Greine or Freckles is his favourite to tell and he really gets the audience involved in this story. Like lots of his stories it is a myth that he has made his own.

It is great to hear him say "I think the opportunities that teens are offered today are amazing. The opportunities teens have now for travel and being able to make a career in what you love are things I admire."

We asked what makes him angry and he replied LITTER "I can't understand it. We have such a lovely country and it breaks my heart when I see illegal dumping or litter." When we asked what makes him happy, he replied "Food, I love it!" And the ocean when I'm in it I feel a million bucks". He told us a secret which was that he loves munching on a macaroon bar with a cup of tea with a book and he also loves flowers, geography and making audiences laugh!!!

## A Cut Above

**Hairdressing Course, EVC, Further Education** *Megan Mc Namara & Áine Sinnott*



Our names are Áine and Megan, we are TY students who have an interest in hair (as we have lots of it LOL) and hairdressing. We were happy to be asked to investigate the Hairdressing PLC course for The Mile Post.

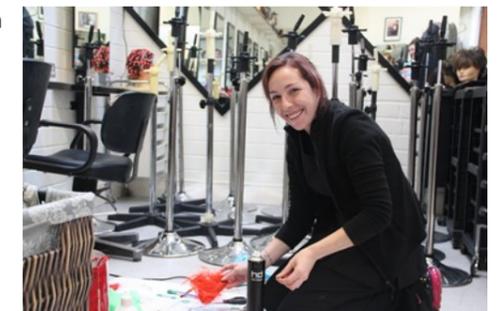
We visited the salon and were greeted by the director Mary Ivers and tutor Jacinta Blaney. They invited us to walk around to have a look and get a feel of the place and the atmosphere. We were told to ask any questions we had.

At first glance we noticed the room was much larger than expected and well organized, a cut above the rest (excuse the pun). It is like an actual salon, with a row of sinks and mirrors and even has its own kitchen where they have lunch and make tea/coffee for clients. The working environment was friendly and Jacinta and Mary spoke

with great warmth of their training students.

We were a bit distracted by the various mannequin heads around the salon which were extravagantly styled for a fantasy competition which colleges around Ireland compete in. Last year they won 2nd place in the competition for their ice queen themed mannequin. Michelle Murphy, a hairdressing trainee in her 2nd year, was working on this year's project on the theme of a Chinese dragon for New Year's celebrations.

Michelle was happy to chat and gave us a run through of the course. At the beginning of their first year they receive a full hairdressing kit, which is included in the approx. €950 course fee, it has everything needed for the two years and after - including your own hairdryer, scissors, curlers etc. Also, in the First Year they do not work on live heads. Instead they train on mannequin heads until the end of year exam which determines if they will return the next year, although throughout the two years, they have continuous assessment. The course is open to both male and females and both barbering and hairdressing is taught. There are grants students can apply for to cover the cost of their course. The students go to various industry specialist workshops around Ireland too.



As part of their training, First Years go on work experience in different hairdressing salons every Thursday while the Second Years have an open salon day. The Second Years go on work experience every Friday. Both years have work experience before the Christmas holidays for two weeks and have opportunity to travel to Sweden for 3 weeks in January included in the course cost.

In conclusion we were impressed with the salon as a place to train to be a hairdresser or barber.

*Hairdressing Salon at Enniscorthy  
Vocational College*

*Open to the public every Thursday  
Call 086 8760909 for appointment*

### A DMC with Ms Kennedy

Lee O'Connor and Daniel Power

When we think of Ms Kennedy some of us think of her patrolling the corridors, others think of their trips to WIT, Trinity College and UCD or of raising the pride flag above the school. One thing is for certain straight talking Ms Kennedy constantly pushes us all to achieve our full potential.

Ms Kennedy kindly agreed to be interviewed for the Mile Post and we got a few surprises. Not surprisingly she has always had a passion for helping people which led to her career in teaching. We can't believe she has been teaching in E.V.C. for 26 YEARS!!! She is part of the furniture.

Her favourite part of the day is greeting us students on the way in to start our wonderful day. She loves lunchtime too because by then she's starving.

Ms Kennedy seems to really like her job and she knows she is good at it. She is quite content in her current position and doesn't see herself wanting Mr Wickham's position any time soon but wouldn't rule out the possibility for the future.

On behalf of First Years we asked her for some advice from all her years' experience. Her advice is to take it easy and give yourself time to adjust and adapt to secondary school.

We are not sure what to think of this but if she wasn't teaching she sees herself working in a zoo or a wildlife centre as an education officer. She studied zoology in university. We are sure there are days when some of that stands to her here at EVC!!

Don't ever tell her you have spilled your breakfast on your jumper. She has heard it too many times and is likely to hand you a big bib.

It was very inspiring and heartening to hear her say that there is good in absolutely everyone. She also firmly believes that there is something in EVC for everyone who passes through the doors.

She loves hill walking and socialising with her friends and visits the pub now and then. *(You deserve it Miss)*

Ms Kennedy is patient, but she says watch out if she has been very fair and patient with someone and they repeatedly don't listen and work with her. She says then it will be BANG and watch out!!

Her thoughts on the year so far? It is all very calm in school, there is a huge amount of work being done and she is very happy with the year. *(Daniel did remind her that it is early in the year!)*

Thank you Ms Kennedy for taking the time to talk with us.



Extract from **Innocence Lost** by Oisín Mullet, 2nd Year

I always appear to collide with the things in life I love  
I am a boy so intelligent not able to cope  
Darkness is not easily diminished



FREE Breakfast Club every morning in the school canteen. 8:15 to 8:45am



### New Technology

Charlie and Moez showing off some of the quality work being produced on the snazzy new laser cutter / engraver in Room 104. It is hugely enhancing engineering, woodwork and metalwork projects. You can even burn on photographs to wood!



# Celebrating our Languages

By Deniss Gurovs, TY

Ready, Steady, Talk.....!!



European Day of Languages was a great day at EVC. We celebrated the many different languages spoken by EVC students. A big group of us gathered in the library and it was so loud, full of the chatter of different languages. We played "speed greeting" a flashing buzzer alerted everyone when to move seat and to listen to a language and learn a few words.

I took photos of everyone working together to organise the event and throughout the activity. We had a lot of students who helped and supported this day that only happens once a year.

This is a brilliant day of the year and is very interesting to listen to all the languages in our school and to chat with other students with different languages about the similarities of being bilingual. Some of us decided to stay back in the library afterwards and to drink some tea and listen to others speak their languages. Together we generated a Sense of Community.



There were 18 languages represented: Croatian, Hungarian, Italian, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian, French, Dutch, Afrikaans, Irish, Arabic, Chinese, Lithuanian, Latvian, Polish, Russian and Sign Language.



## "Our Delightful Culinary Experience" !!

By 3 Ash

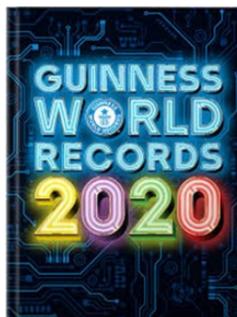
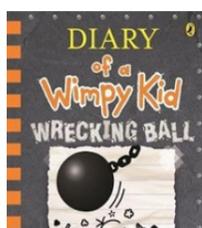
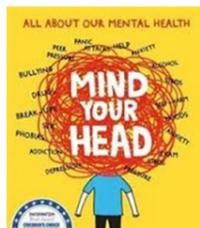
- JCSP Celebrity Chef Initiative



Two chefs Andrew Duncan and Pat Davies from Table Forty One in Gorey and Druid's Glen Hotel in Wicklow came into Room 10 and cooked with us and Ms Henderson. "The food was spectacular" according to Robbie. We made a carbonara with onions, bacon, pasta and cheese. While the onions brought tears to Kian's eyes it was so good Robbie was caught licking his plate! For desert we made a panna cotta (pictured below) which was "deadly" according to Daniel.



We learned about the career of being a chef. It is hard work but can be good fun. There are opportunities to travel. Andy lived in Vancouver in Canada where he worked in a fancy restaurant and spent his free time surfing and snowboarding.



New books in your school library! Tons and tons more!

## I Subscribe to The Grassmen - Dean Buckley



The Grassmen have a YouTube channel I follow all about agriculture. The main lad has the nickname Donkey. They review tractors and make films of working on farms.

I met Donkey and the lads at The Ploughing this year. Donkey looked even bigger in real life than he does in the videos. There was a big que to meet them and to buy their merch.

They raffled a Fiat 11090 for charity, for the Make a Wish foundation, to raise money for sick children. They had the tractor all done up and sold tickets at the Ploughing Match.

They have done different challenges, some where they travel around the world.

I like learning about tractors and machinery and I like farming. We have one of those Fiat tractors at home. I'm a hard-worker and I would often do a bit of farming after school.

Check out the website [www.grassmen.com](http://www.grassmen.com) and YouTube channel and the Grassmen magazines in the school library.

Donkey & Dean pictured at the Ploughing 2019



Guess who the beaming little boys is? Pictured meeting his hero the late Brendan Grace.



Answer: Mr Sharkey of course!

**Editorial**

73% of LGBTI+ students feel unsafe at school.

77% of LGBTI+ students experience verbal harassment.

38% experience physical harassment.

These statistics are from a recent poll, the largest survey of LGBTI+ young people in the Irish education system. Called the "School Climate Survey", 800 LGBTI+ young people in Irish schools were surveyed by Belongto youth services in conjunction with academics at Columbia University in the US. [www.belongto.org](http://www.belongto.org)

These statistics are appalling and unacceptable.

On the week of 11th- 15th November here at EVC we raised the Pride flag to show everyone that LGBTI+ students are supported and valid. We celebrated, especially our younger students who expect to be accepted for who they are. During the week we had a film show, we decorated the senior resource area and dressed in rainbow colours. We were happy and pleased with ourselves.

The following week a fifth year student at EVC, prompted by the national School Climate Survey, interviewed a sample group of 5 students in this school on their personal experiences as LGBTI+ students in our school environment. 100% of the students interviewed said that they have experienced homophobia in school. One student said they have received hate speech comments such as "faggot" (on school grounds).

75% of the students interviewed said that being LGBTI+ effects their attendance at PE for fear of hate speech while changing for PE.

Stand Up week is a reminder that this school does not tolerate homophobia or transphobia.

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive school but this evidence shows we all have to open our ears and call out this behaviour. We cannot be bystanders and allow these toxic comments and behaviours to continue. We have a duty to be accepting and kind to one another, especially to our younger students.



**Digital Inclusion: TYs & Age Action Ireland**

As part of our computer class with Ms English we are working towards digital inclusion with Age Action Ireland. The "Getting Started Computer Training" programme delivers one to one computer, tablet and smartphone training to people over the age of 55 all over Ireland. Every Tuesday our TY class meet with our "students."

we ask our students what they want to learn in this session. Usually we teach them how to shop online, read the news, check the weather, use YouTube, set up a Facebook account etc, things that come to our generation as second nature. I now know how teachers feel, being a teacher is hard and requires patience but it is nice to be able to teach adults something.



(Áine Sinnott & Margaret Murphy)

(Marie O'Connor & Charlotte Lee)

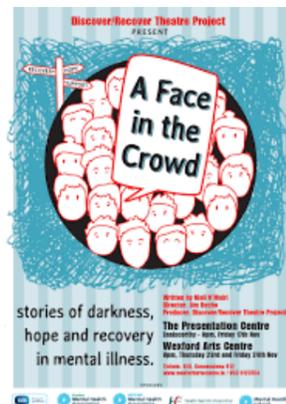


**A Face in The Crowd**

In Sept we went to see the play called A Face in the Crowd at the Wexford Arts Centre.

It's focus was on spreading awareness of the dilemma of mental health. The play consists of actors re-enacting the stories of people from Enniscorthy who have had a hard time dealing with their mental illness.

During the play we learn symptoms of mental illnesses, and how they can negatively affect people's lives if left unchecked. We really learned how devastating the consequences of mental illnesses can be. Later that week, two staff members involved in the organisation and execution of the play visited us here in school. They handed everyone Mental Health Well-Being leaflets out to everyone, and then we delved further into the topic of "Well-being" and overall good mental health. They taught us the early warning signs of bad mental health and opened our eyes to how easy it to dismiss the symptoms of bad mental health. Overall, the experience was enjoyable and educational, we definitely recommend this play.



Jack Wilson

**T  
Y**

**Shielbaggan Adventure Centre**

The first trip we went was to Shielbaggan Outdoor Adventure Centre. The aim of the trip was team building; to help us to get to know each other a little better. While there we did a lot of activities; archery, swimming in the ocean and exploring caves, tower climbing and jumping off cliffs. We definitely all got to know each other a little better, but take my advice seaweed is no chocolate!!!

Fernando Mersam

**Walk A Mile in TY by Lily Byrne**

Contrary to popular belief, TY students don't spend every day on a bus to a new adventure. Most days we have classes like everybody else, but with a twist.

In maths with Mr. Meehan we are learning about statistics but instead of taking constant notes, we are creating our own questionnaires to collect our own data to analyse.

Our Community class is where we learn to be good "Relationship Keepers" which means no arguing with our parents or siblings. Then we have English with Ms H. O'Brien, in this term we have been working on this newspaper!

In Irish with Ms Nolan we are researching place names, history, culture and folklore. Home Economics class is where we learn how to tie-dye shirts, sew and cook easy and quick meals.

In music we learn about the music industry and do different workshops such as a drumming.

So, while we do go on trips and do our best to forget about the ever impending leaving cert, we don't spend every day jumping off cliffs. We have most of the same classes, we just apply them to everyday life.



**Sora**  
The student reading app

Get Sora and start reading today!

Brought to you by your school, and built with ❤️ by OverDrive.

# Ask Mylie,



Mylie, a senior student here at EVC., has the answers to your problems.

**Dear Mylie,**

This summer I worked for all the holidays with my uncle. For the first time he paid me properly, the same as the other lads he takes on. I was working so much I didn't get a chance to spend anything and I have it all saved. I have enough for insurance on a car and my cousin has a car I can have, I got my provisional license and I know I'll pass my test no bother. Soon I'll be 17. The problem is my parents well my ma really, they're going ape saying I won't do any study if I have a car and blah blah blah. ....My head is wrecked, we're arguing about it all the time, it is like they won't have any control over me anymore when I'm driving.

**Dear Senior,**

You are not the first to have that argument. Have a chat with your parents and keep calm. Point out the positives to them: they won't have to drive you anywhere, you can even give them lifts and if you get yourself driving now you will be all ready for working after your Leaving Cert and able to drive to college. They will be worried about you driving late at night and speeding with your mates in the car and also that you won't study so assure them and make some ground rules and a study plan.

*Miley*

**Dear Mylie,**

My friend and me were in the same class in primary school, we even went to playschool together. Before starting here this year we promised each other we would still be best friends no matter what. She is in a different class and she told me she was picking the same subjects as me but she didn't. Something big happened and she didn't tell me but she did tell another girl in her class. I'm fed up with her and she acts like there is nothing wrong.

**Dear First Year,**

It often happens that friends drift apart in secondary school. Everyone is entitled to make new friends, it is a part of life. You can each have different friends and still be friends with each other. (iykwim!!)

Let your friend know you are there for her and don't be too hard on her, sometimes it is easier to talk someone who doesn't know us as well when we have a problem. It doesn't mean she has forgotten you.

*Miley*

**Dear Mylie,**

I am in First Year and I love school!! I've always loved school and I work hard. It is important to me to do well in all my school work. My family even joke with me about how organised I am.

It has become really normal for other people in school to ask me for my homework and to borrow my stuff. Maybe it shouldn't bother me but I am getting sick of it. Fastidious First Year

**Dear Fastidious First Year,**

We have all lent homework to someone on rare occasions and if it is a good friend, maybe more often, however, you aren't really doing them any favours in the long run.

You could politely say "I will lend it to you this time but don't make it a regular thing" or put them off with general excuses like "it is in my locker", "I don't have it completely finished" or "no point asking me, I didn't understand it" They will soon get the hint and ask some other poor beggar!

*Miley*

**Samaritans:** a confidential 24 hour emotional support service for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair.

[www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)      [jo@samaritans.ie](mailto:jo@samaritans.ie)      1850 609 090

**Teenline Ireland:** a confidential listening service for young people

[www.teenline.ie](http://www.teenline.ie)      [info@teenline.ie](mailto:info@teenline.ie)      1800 833 635

**Parentline:** a confidential helpline for parents and guardians

[www.parentline.ie](http://www.parentline.ie)      [info@parentline.ie](mailto:info@parentline.ie)      01 8733500      1890 927 277



**Jigsaw Youth Mental Health  
Read Your Mind Project**

Check out the new range of self help books available in the library.  
The books have been carefully selected for everyone in our school community.

**Tell us a "joke" Mr Lawton!**

Did you hear about the student who failed her cursive handwriting test?

She got straight As!!

Revision help website for Leaving Cert.  
EVC has membership for all LC students.  
Log in details from teachers.

**studyclix.ie**  
makes exams easier

## U16 Basketball—Cracker of a Game against Selskar College



The final score was 25 points to Selskar College and 22 to the home team EVC. It was a very close game throughout. Coach Ms English was delighted with the performance of all players with special mention to Gustav Krumins who scored 3 out of 4 free shots taken. Also among the scorers were Ben Kelly and Stephen Reilly. Second years really played well considering they were playing U16s.



Well done to First Years in the **Futsal Soccer Blitz**. One of the girl's teams made it through to the semi-finals where they went on to play Bunclody Vocational College. After a tense match, the score was nil all so penalties were needed to decide who would progress to the final. After 3 penalties each for both teams the score was still level so sudden death was called for, where eventually Bunclody won on a score of 3-2. A special thanks to the 5th Year students who helped out on the day: Rachel Murphy-Buckley, Jessica Tinney, Adrian Murphy and Sean Levingstone.



**Athletics: 35 students represented EVC at the Co. Wexford Vocational Schools Athletics.** Congratulations to the medal winners: Stephen Fortune 2nd in the 200 M. Bartesz Jurkiewicz 1st in the High jump and 2nd in the long jump. Caimhe Creavin 3rd in the High Jump. Amy Shann 2nd in the 200M and 3rd in the 300M Ruslana Rannaja 2nd 800M & 3rd in the Shot Putt and Aoife Murphy 2nd Year – 2nd shot Putt



## An Open Letter to Davy Fitzgerald

*Dear Davy Fitz*

*I was delighted to hear that you have decided to stay with Wexford for a further 2 years. You have done so much for this county. You have brought us up from division 1b to division 1a. This year Wexford won a Leinster final against Kilkenny, our first Leinster title since 2004. Also, Wexford got to an All-Ireland Semi Final which Wexford were beaten by Tipperary.*

*One of your biggest achievements with this county is the belief that we could compete with the best teams in Ireland. We the supporters got great joy from seeing Wexford back at the highest level. This summer the county was awash with purple and gold.*

*One of the highlights of last year for me was when you came to the school for a wellbeing talk. It was a privilege for me to be the last student to shake your hand and ask a question and the question I asked was "how long more will you stay with Wexford?". And the answer Davy had given to me was "until they win something."*

*Well we have won something, and Davy is here to stay for the next 2 years.*

*Loch Garman Abú*

*Lee O'Connor*

*P.S. Congratulations on your recent marriage!*



To submit articles, photos, artwork, rants, letters etc for inclusion in The Mile Post please email

[TheMilePostevc@wvetb.ie](mailto:TheMilePostevc@wvetb.ie) or post in post box outside Room 3