



VILLIERS VOICES



Top Stories in this Issue...

Villiers Enterprise Business Award

Valiant Victories for Villiers Hockey Heroines

Villiers Inclusivity Winners



'Bruscair Barbie' Turns Heads at Junk Koture Regional Finals

Villiers School Drama Success

Learn about Villiers' Bottle Recycling initiative

3rd Years Bring Home Gold from Rowing Blitz

Senior Cup Rugby Team makes History

by Art Thornbury



Pitch Pioneers, Villiers Senior Rugby Team pictured at Musgrave Park, Co. Cork.

This year's Senior Rugby team has put their mark into the Villiers history books by qualifying for Munster Senior Cup, the first time in school's 200-year-old history. This momentous achievement is thanks to the 4th, 5th and 6th year students, led by their incredible coach Ger Finucane.

In order to qualify for the tournament, the team first had to battle Clonmel High School in the final Senior Cup qualifier. The match took place in

Musgrave Park, Co. Cork and was a close, intense game that had all spectators sitting on the edge of their seats. Villiers secured a lead of 13 points to 10, acquired from a fantastic penalty scored by Harry O'Donovan.

The last play of the game saw the Clonmel Team edging their way to the Villiers try line, nevertheless they managed to keep their cool and fend the team off, resulting in

a triumphant win for the school.

Villiers soon faced off against Genstal Abbey and although they played valiantly and fought to the very last second, they were ultimately defeated. Despite this, the school was tremendously proud and impressed by the team and they will certainly never be forgotten for their achievement.

OPINIONS

The Terrible Truth About TY

by Olamide Ipadeola

When it comes to Transition Year or TY as it is fondly referred to, there is a prevailing misconception that it's a "doss year", a time to kick back and coast through school with little or no effort. However, those of us who have had the privilege to experience the TY rite of passage firsthand know that this couldn't be further from the truth.

In reality, TY is a transformative year filled with invaluable opportunities for personal growth, skill development and exploration. It gives students a chance to explore their interests and express themselves

TY allows its participants to step outside of traditional

academics and engage in a diverse range of activities, from work placement, community and entrepreneurial projects to creative arts, trips cultural exchanges and outdoor pursuits. Far from being a year of idleness, TY is a time of active learning and self-discovery.

The meaningful connections, friendships and networks also made will certainly last lifetimes.

While Transition Year may be misunderstood by some, the reality is quite the opposite. It is

a proper year of growth, discovery and opportunity – a time to expand horizons, develop skills, and embrace new experiences.

So, through our first Villiers Voices publication not only do we get to practice our composing for Leaving Cert English Paper 1, but also lets us inform and dispel that age old "doss year" myth and allows TY to be recognised for what it truly is: an unforgettable stepping stone to success and fulfilment in both academic and personal pursuits.



Villiers Voices: From Vision to Victory

by TY Students

Transition Year at Villiers school is certainly a colourful time of exploration, creativity and new experiences. One of the most exciting opportunities to explore was through composing and the creation of this school newspaper, Villiers Voices!



The journey of creating a school newspaper began with the Press Pass competition and a vision – a vision of what the newspaper will be, what stories it will tell and what impact it will have on its readers.

Whether it's covering school events, sharing student achievements or addressing issues relevant to the student body, the possibilities are endless for Villiers Voices.

The journey doesn't end with the first issue. TY students will continue to work on

the newspaper throughout the year, producing regular issues.

Creating a school newspaper is a highly rewarding experience for TY students. Not only does it provide a platform for self-expression but also fosters teamwork and collaboration, core values of the TY programme.

So to all the aspiring journalists out there: pick up your pens, unleash your creativity and embark on the exciting journey of newspaper creation in Transition Year and beyond. You certainly won't regret it!

It is in the heart of the bustling school corridors, where Villiers Voices comes to life.

a platform for self-expression but also fosters teamwork and collaboration, core values of the TY programme.

SCHOOL LIFE

AEN Week

by Aimee Mac Mahon

Only at Villiers would you witness a genuine unicorn grazing on the lawn. This was one of the many wonderful sights to behold during our annual Additional Educational Needs (AEN) week, 4th – 8th of March.

Organised by the students for the students, the Friday included informative talks, games and an escape room, where students had to utilise all five of their senses.



Icecream was also offered to students as part of the school's feel-good Friday initiative.

The event's purpose was to educate students and help them to understand the everyday challenges the people with additional educational needs face. Overall, the week was a great success and was enjoyed by all



Brewing Barista Brilliance

by Ethan O'Sullivan

It's more than just learning to brew a perfect cup of coffee; it's an immersive experience that combines artistry, technique and passion.

TY Barista training offered students insight into the world of coffee making, unlocking a world of flavors, taste and creativity with every cup brewed!



There's always time for coffee!

Seachtain na Gaeilge

by Eirin O'Brien & Ms. Crowley

Mar dhalta sa idirbhliain anseo, tá suim again machnamh a dheanamh ar thábhacht oideachais teanga na Gaeilge sa mheánscoil.

Tríd an treimhse a chaith mé ar scoil, tá an Ghaeilge ina chuid lárnach den churaclam agus ní féidir le hiompar na teanga seo a bhrú ar an dalta. Ní hamhain go nascann sí linn le saibhreas ar noidhrecht cultúrtha, ach bíonn rol lárnach aici i gcas na scileanna cumarsáide a fhorbairt agus an

tuiscint atá againn ar ar niaitheantas mar shaoránaigh na hÉireann a leathnú.

Sna ranganna Gaeilge againn, cuirtear béim ní amháin ar an teanga féin ach ar an gcomhra atáimid ag déanamh agus ar ghniomhaidheachtaí a thugann beocht don teanga.

Is acmhainn luachmhar i oideachas teanga na Gaeilge inár dtaithe sa mheánscoil.

Má taimid ag plé le diospoireachtaí, scribhneoireacht chruthaiheach, in sna tionscadail cultúrtha, spreagann ár múinteoirí sinn chun

úsaid a bhaint as an teanga agus a bheith gníomhach léi i gcomhthéacs praiticiúil.

Mar a dúirt Pádraig MacPiarais fadó, "Beatha teanga í a labhairt"



SCHOOL LIFE

Buddies Without Borders & Empathy Week

by Zoe Carr



Empathy week took place in Villiers on the week of the 26th of February 2024, and the theme of the week was 'home'.

On Tuesday the 27th, a pancake breakfast fundraiser for Focus Ireland, a charity for the homeless, was organised by Ronan Doheny and Vanessa Urban

From the Social Justice club and Ionaloana Kohlbacher, Benedetta Bocchiardo and Ewa Okręć from the Buddies Without Borders Global Schools club.

The event took place in the dining hall, and they raised an approximate amount of €1,000 in aid of Focus Ireland, linking in with the week's theme of home.

TY CONCERN DEBATE

On Wednesday the 20th of March a group of outstanding TY debaters accompanied Ms. Mulrennan to the Concern Debate Workshop in Newcastle West. We discussed issues created in our society as a result of gender inequalities, stereotypes in the form of walking debates and created a timeline of women's issues throughout history and designed a campaign to reduce gender inequalities.



The TY debating team with their teacher, Ms. Mulrennan

International Women's Day

As part of Empathy week, there were three workshops presented to school students about International Women's Day, which took place on the 8th of February.

The presentations ranged from the history and origins of the suffrage movement to what feminism means in the 21st century. It highlighted the importance of celebrating the annual event through some fun interactive activities.

The BWB club also presented an informative PowerPoint about the day.

TY ACTIVITIES

Arts & Culture

Villiers School Drama – "As We Like It"

by Hannes Schoombée & Paddy Murphy

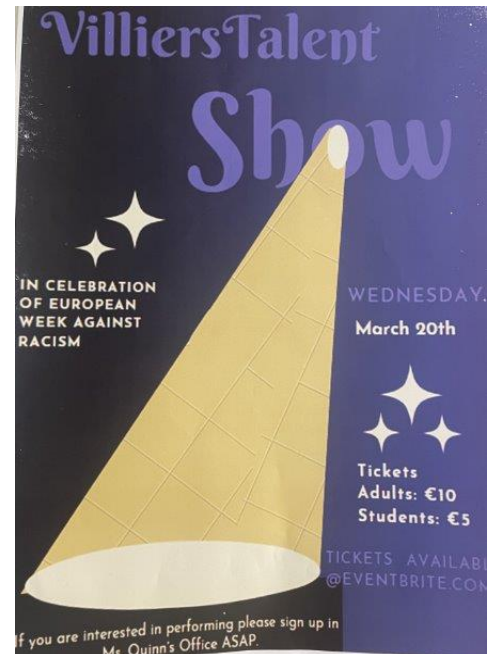
"All the world's a stage" Thursday 1st of February at the Life Centre. The 2024 TY Drama was a modern adaptation of Shakespeare's iconic comedy 'As you like it'

With a limited budget and tight schedule, this adaptation was a fun challenge for TY students to solve. The group was divided into 3 groups; actors, musicians and

producers. The script was written by the directors and the students had the opportunity to put their own spin on the story with tons of cheeky jokes and at times interesting and bizarre twists to the plot.

The drama was very well received by the audience. They had a good laugh at all the jokes, and even chimed into the music

Talent and hard work created an incredible evening that will long be remembered.



Business & Enterprise

Valiant Ventures

by Cormac Welsh

Heartiest of Congratulations to Maria Clara Zanardo, Gabrielle Sheehy and Amy McNamara who scooped 2nd place and deservedly so, in the regional finals of the Young Enterprise awards with their uniquely innovative, "Latch Attach" product.

The competition took place on the 14th of March at the Castletroy Park Hotel, Dublin Road, Limerick. The TY students were thrilled with

the outcome, "we are so grateful for the support of our wonderful parents, teachers and friends, and our amazing sponsor Mr. Binman.

The enterprise competition has been an amazing opportunity to learn new skills and meet extraordinary people and we hope that next year someone will win first place for Villiers", Maria enthused.

Another entry from Villiers to the competition was Harry Lillis' Agri-Trees, manufacturing metal Christmas trees. He placed 3rd at the event.

A Limerick –
 In Villiers School, this year marks the transition,
 A time of growth and self-recognition.
 With challenges to face,
 And new paths to trace,

The future is indeed looking very bright with these wonderful forward thinking, inspirational, and aspiring young entrepreneurs!



Gabrielle Sheehy, Maria Clara Zanardo and Amy McNamara

Successful Christmas Market

On the 8th of December 2023, Villiers hosted their first public Christmas Market. It was hosted in our PE hall where Students and Real business could sell products and gifts at their stalls. A few of the stalls had Ms Foley's Enterprise students selling their own products, including Latch Attach, Blue Amber and Eco Trees. The event gathered a large crowd.



FASHION

Villiers Fashion Show by Seán Hayes

The Villiers TY Fashion show held last December in the Radisson Blu Hotel and Spa was a resounding success and a great experience for all of the students involved. It was a highly enjoyable event and also a great experience for all of the parents and friends of the students that went along on the night and supported the event.

Fortunately, for everyone the models from Villiers really made the occasion and were looking more dapper than ever. This was a great experience to start off our TY and would I recommend it to any students going into TY.



Junk Kouture by Edie Hurrell

This years Junk Kouture TY fashions designers were Ellan Dann, Rebeka Rickus and Ava Shire. Entitled "Bruscar Barbie and obviously influenced by none other than the classic and iconic 1960's Barbie costumes.



Rebecca Rickus, Bruscair Barbie

"It was an unbelievable experience to get to represent the school at the regional finals on the 4th of March in the Helix, in Dublin. The standard was extremely high, and it is great to see the amazing talent that is out there," exclaimed the students. While designing and crafting their work, the students took inspiration from the UN sustainable development goals

of gender equality, with particular focus on the empowerment of women and girls.

Last January, Villiers held a non-uniform day, and in a bid to promote sustainable fashion, students were encouraged to wear second-hand clothes subsequently raising much-needed funds for the crisis in Rohingya.



Other fabulous outfits from this year's Junk Kouture module

TY TRAVELS

Students Embark on Cultural Exchange Journey to Germany

by Aine O'Brien

In a bid to foster cultural understanding and language immersion, 20 students from Villiers School embarked on an enriching German exchange program in early November. The exchange, a hallmark of Villiers School's commitment to global

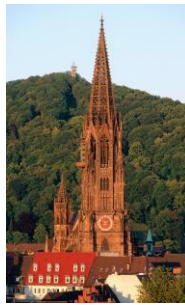
education, saw a group of eager learners' journey to Germany for an immersive experience.

Throughout their stay in Freiburg in South Germany, Villiers students were warmly welcomed by their German counterparts, forging friendships that transcended borders. They participated in a myriad of events ranging from language workshops and cultural activities to home stays with host families, providing them with firsthand

insights into German customs and traditions.

One of the highlights of the exchange was the opportunity for students to attend classes at a partner school, immersing themselves in the German educational system and gaining a unique perspective on global learning practices. The exchange also included visits to historical landmarks, museums, and other points of interest, offering students a holistic understanding of German history and heritage.

Reflecting on their experiences, Villiers students expressed gratitude for the chance to step out of their comfort zones and embrace new perspectives. The exchange not only strengthened their language skills but also instilled in them a sense of curiosity and empathy for cultures beyond their own



PORGMUN

by Tamsin Rice

This year 16 students in Villiers Secondary School were granted the opportunity to participate in MUN. MUN, otherwise known as Model United Nations is essentially a simulation of the United Nations, and a great way for adolescences with an interest in politics and current world problems to partake in interesting and sometimes intense debating. Participants are aged between 12-19 and are each given a country that they must represent and two topics that they will debate on with their committees. Depending on what committee you are assigned to you had different topics relating to that committee's name, for example the Human Rights Council committee

Spent the 2-and-a-half-day conference debating 'Guidelines for the usage of AI in Education' and 'How to Prevent Unlawful Attacks on Journalists', in total they were 10 committees.

Every year numerous MUN conferences are held worldwide, but mainly hosted in Europe, this year students from Villiers attended PorgMUN which is held in Prague, Czech Republic along with 500 other students from around the world. MUN is an excellent way to not only get a chance to engage in meaningful debates on different current word dilemmas and issues but also a wonderful way to get to talk to people from all over the world and form life-long friendships.



TY TRAVELS

Slope Seekers: A Ski Trip Like No Other

by Tamsin Rice

Skiing, who doesn't love it? Well certainly no one in Villiers Secondary School. This year in February, 60 TY students were able to attend the annual Ty Villiers Ski Trip. It took place in Italy near a pretty petite town called Pinzolo. Everyday was an action packed with lots to do.

This week long trip was no doubt about it but pretty intense and by the end of it everyone was struggling to move their bodies and keep their eyes open, I think it's safe to say the flight home was pretty quiet, each day students were soaring down the slopes for around 4 hours, followed by this they had the après skiing activities that never failed to impress such as Ice Skating, Swimming, Exploring the town, a talent show, a disco, and for some just a long sleep.



The New Boy Review for European Week Against Racism 18-22 March

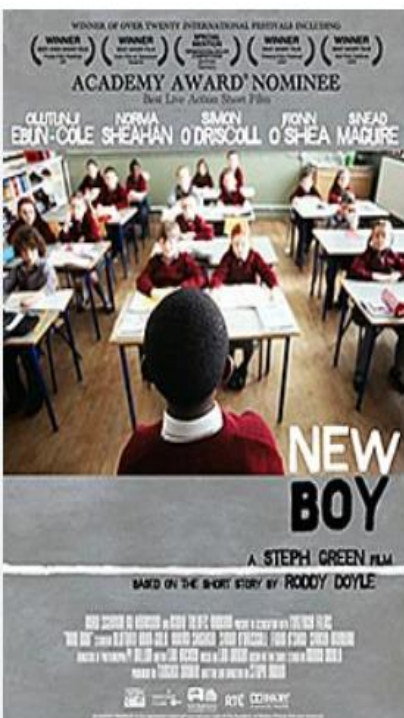
For the week that's in it, we decided to write a film review on Roddy Doyle's, "The New Boy" that we studied with our TY teacher, Ms. O'Donoghue. It is an award-winning short film portraying the challenges faced by immigrants in a new country, making it a perfect choice for anti-racism week.

Set against the backdrop of a Dublin schoolyard, the film follows the story of Joseph, a young African boy navigating the complexities of being the 'new kid' in a predominantly white school.

Doyle explores themes of acceptance, prejudice and the universal desire to belong.

The film's honest portrayal of racism and discrimination serves as a reminder of the importance of empathy and understanding in combating prejudice.

With its heartfelt performances and thought provoking narrative, "The New Boy" is a must watch for anyone passionate about promoting diversity and inclusivity.



SPORTS NEWS

Vibrant, Victorious Villiers Hockey

by Síofra Garavaglia-Drion & Kate McNamara



The 19th of March saw our senior girls at an away game take the Munster B cup and bring it home. It was a gripping game with Rockwell battling hard to sustain their status from the offset.

The half time score of 2-1 brought with it a second wind and an upward trajectory score for the Villiers vixens. The final result was 4-1. Congratulations Ladies, coaches, supporters and umpires.

Get Going Get Rowing

by Sam Dunworth

On March 8th, our Form II boys, Form III boys and TY girls brought home gold in the Munster Schools Indoor Rowing Competition. A team of TY students, all of whom were rowers also won bronze in the open category of the event. They were all very happy and proud of their accomplishments.



Form III Boys



At the Blitz was Indoor World Champion rower Ken McDonald who met with the teams

TY Triumphs as Badminton Thrives at Villiers

by Fionn O'Leary & Zane Beddows

Being captains of the U16 badminton team, we take pride in our team lead roles as TY students and our club responsibilities to ensure its smooth running. We ensure the courts are set up properly for practice and matches. This includes assembling nets, poles and other equipment to facilitate gameplay.

upcoming matches.

Reflecting on our recent matches, we faced tough competition against Coláiste Mhícal, a hard-fought draw with both teams securing three wins each and we emerged victorious in our encounter with Mungret College, clinching a 4-2 win.

Additionally, we often umpire games for other age groups, both at home and away ensuring fair play. We promote our club by putting up posters and inform about training sessions

With dedication, teamwork and passion for the sport, we aim to continue representing Villiers School on the badminton court.

This was an amazing day for all students and pupils involved in the experience. The competition brought all years together, supporting and cheering on one another. All comments from participants and spectators were all positive, just showing how the event was a success and enjoyed by all.

IT'S OUR WORLD

Blooming Minds for a Greener Tomorrow



TY afforded us ample time and little did we realise we would fortunately and eventually,

invest some of it in the school garden. Our Head Gardener, Damian educated us on the school planting initiatives carried out by Ms. Antonio's Geography class. These represent powerful means of promoting biodiversity, sustainability and environmental education.

As we continue to confront global environmental challenges, initiatives like these demonstrate how our school, education and collective action has the potential to transform in building a more sustainable future for all.



Wear your Jersey on 22nd March for Daffodil Day.

Plastic Revolution: Recycling for a Sustainable Solution



Bottle Brigade: Students rally for recycling rewards.

It's a very simple concept yet hugely impactful: we are calling upon all Villiers students and staff to collect and recycle plastic bottles and containers, which will then be redeemed for a small deposit.

This deposit retention scheme incentivises recycling while simultaneously raising funds for school programs and projects. It's a win-win situation that promotes environmental responsibility, as a means to reduce waste while generating much-needed revenue for educational initiatives.

By adopting eco-friendly practices and participating by collecting your plastic bottles for school you are actively minimising environmental impacts and conserving finite resources.



Scoring Global Goals!!

THE GLOBAL GOALS

LET'S WORK TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE!

- 1 NO POVERTY
- 2 ZERO HUNGER
- 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
- 4 QUALITY EDUCATION
- 5 GENDER EQUALITY
- 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
- 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
- 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
- 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
- 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
- 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
- 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
- 13 CLIMATE ACTION
- 14 LIFE BELOW WATER
- 15 LIFE ON LAND
- 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
- 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR GOALS

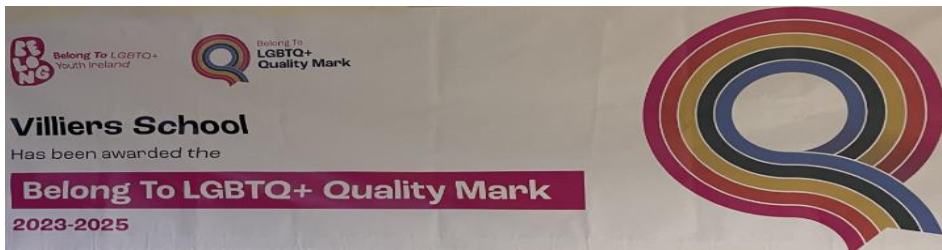
WHAT'S GOING ON ?

Top Marks Awarded for LGBTQ+ Inclusion by TY Students

The school has been awarded the Belong To LGBTQ+ Quality Mark for its commitment to inclusion. According to the Belong To organisation, 76per cent of LGBTQ+ second-level students in Ireland feel unsafe at school. Villiers takes pride in creating an environment where all students

feel safe and supported. Moninne Griffith, CEO of Belong To, said: "School can be a difficult place for LGBTQ+ students, but that does not have to be the case. There are outstanding schools committed to creating safe and supportive spaces for LGBTQ+ students", Ms Griffith said.

Our school is thankfully one of these outstanding institutions that prioritises creating a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all students. At our school, we are committed to fostering an atmosphere of acceptance, respect and understanding for all students, Regardless of their backgrounds or identities. One student said, "I am so happy at school in Villiers. Everyday, I feel valued, protected and empowered to be my authentic self".



Bye Bye Bird... by TY Students

Charlie Bird (1949-2024), one of the best-known broadcast journalists in Ireland for nearly 40 years has passed away.



Charlie Bird, former RTE chief news correspondent.

It seems fitting in the spirit of entering a journalism competition that we should acknowledge the passing of one of Ireland's best-known journalists in the first edition of our school newspaper, "Villiers Voices". Sadly, Charlie was diagnosed with the degenerative neurological, motor neuron disease in 2021.

Since then, he focused on charity work and raising awareness of his condition, raising an incredible €3.6m for MND. When MND eventually took Charlie's voice, he used voice banking technology representing a significant breakthrough in the fight against voice loss and a deterrent against voice theft and the emergence of AI and deep fake technologies.

His coverage of many stories and unwavering support for the Stardust fire victims and their families was highly commendable.

Bird was a Washington correspondent for a short while and also covered several major international news stories such as the September 11 attacks in New York and the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami. He also covered domestic stories and documentaries.

Born in Dublin, he died in Wicklow on the 11th of March 2024, at the age of 74.

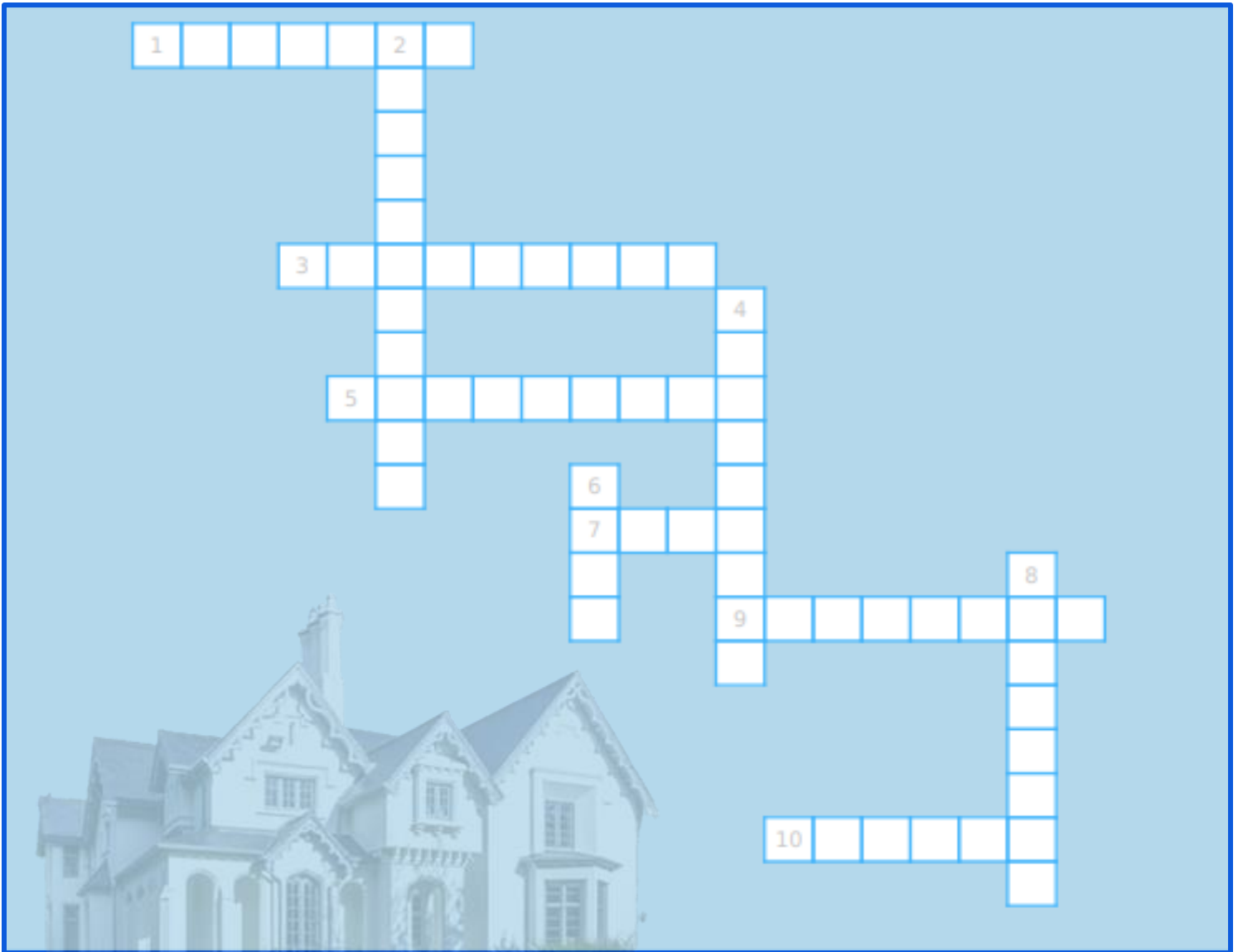
Ar Dhéis Dé a anam. Ní raibh a leithéad ann arís.

Villiers Book Club



THE CROSSWORD

Secondary School



Cross	Down
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. A set of standardized clothing worn by students at a school • 3. A punishment given to students for breaking school rules, often involving staying after school for a period of time • 5. A dining area in a school where students can purchase and eat meals • 7. A formal test of a person's knowledge or proficiency in a subject or skill • 9. A book used as a standard work for the study of a particular subject • 10. A storage compartment for students to store their belongings at school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2. A document issued by schools to parents or guardians that shows a student's grades and overall performance • 4. A person who is in the same class or course of study as another student • 6. A signal that marks the beginning or end of a class • 8. Tasks assigned by teachers to be completed outside of class