

The Hub Newsletter

LOOKING BACK AT OUR FIRST TERM IN THE HUB

A WARM WELCOME!

Hello and welcome to The Hub Newsletter!

Here in this newsletter, we will keep you informed and up to date with the many activities and events taking place in the hub and the wider school community throughout the academic year. We will use this platform to acknowledge the personal and academic achievements of our students and to celebrate the many experiences we hope to share with the students for many years to come.

FIRST 8 WEEKS

Having just returned to school following the October mid-term break, this first edition of our newsletter will look back at the first eight weeks our students have spent in St. Caimin's. We are delighted to report that students have been busy settling into St. Caimin's and are embracing their new life in Secondary School. They have adapted to their new school environment with ease and are working really well in all their new subjects. First Year is a busy year, settling in and embracing all the new subjects. Students have adjusted really well after a tough year or so with Covid and should be very happy with their progress to date.

Some key points for you to note:

1. Parents should sign their child's journal each week.
2. Absent notes need to be uploaded online to VShare.
3. If a student is leaving for an appointment or returning to school from an appointment, they need to sign-out and sign-in at reception.

OUR AIMS

Here in The Hub, we strive to maximise each student's potential in the areas of academics, social experiences, and wellbeing.

We aim to ensure that each student will benefit from an integrated and inclusive education. The class provides the structure and support necessary to ensure each student maximises his or her participation in mainstream. It offers an individualised support structure for each student to achieve their personal best.

In addition to maximising each student's participation in mainstream, some students have the opportunity to engage in small practical classes such as Home Economics, Woodwork and Art. All students benefit from an Education Programme that is tailored to their individual needs.

AN INSIDE LOOK

We are very fortunate with the facilities available to us in The Hub. Our classroom consists of;

- A general classroom learning area
- 6 individual workstations
- Couch/lounge area
- Sensory Room
- Library
- Kitchen area (with a kettle, toaster, fridge, table and chairs)
- Toilet facilities
- Outdoor/recreational space

Click the link to experience a virtual tour of The Hub: <https://stcaimins.virtual360.ie/>



INDIVIDUALISED WORKSTATIONS

In The Hub, we have six purpose-built workstations, which can be tailored to suit the individual needs, learning styles and special interests of each student.

Workstations can help students achieve independent learning, in a distraction-free space. Our workstations facilitate 1:1 sessions with students and their teachers, where they can work on priority learning needs. Students can also use this space to work independently on their laptops, to complete literacy and numeracy tasks, read a book, or complete arts and crafts projects.

Students also have their own lockers, which encourage organisational skills and student independence.



SENSORY ROOM

The Sensory Room is a place where our students can go when they are feeling overwhelmed or anxious during the school day.

This room offers a calm, quiet space, where students can regain control of their emotions and be alone.

We have designed our sensory room specifically, in consultation with our parents, students and Occupational Therapists.

Our sensory room combines a range of stimuli, to help our students develop and engage their senses. These include; bean bags, dimmer lights, bubble tubes with colour-changing LED lights, a fibre optic colour-changing lamp, and a Twirly Whirly Rainmaker.



OUTDOOR AREA

This outdoor area is a fun, enclosed recreational space where students can enjoy games, a movement break, or some fresh air in between classes.

We have a bench area where students can relax, play a board game, have a conversation with friends, or even enjoy an outdoor class, when the sun is shining.

During lunch time, this area is a popular attraction for students in the hub, as well as mainstream students who come and enjoy leisure activities such as soccer, bowling, cards and basketball.

A BIRTHDAY DREAM FOR OUR RAINBOW QUEEN!

On the 28th of September, we celebrated Ava's 13th birthday in the Hub. We had a fun-filled day of treats, laughter and surprises, and we welcomed lots of happy visitors to the Hub, including some of Ava's friends (who came bearing cookies and handmade birthday cards). We even had a special visit from our Principal Mr. Cunningham and Year Head Ms. Ryan-Quinn, who both popped by to say 'Hello' to the birthday girl. It was a very exciting day filled with cake, balloons, sweets and even some presents! We look forward to celebrating some more birthday's throughout the year!



SURFING IN LAHINCH

In the days leading up to the October break, our first-year students embarked on their very first school trip with their friends and classmates in St. Caimin's Community College. The location – Lahinch, Co. Clare. Lahinch ticks all the boxes - with a long sandy beach, waves ideal for surfing, and beautiful views across Liscannor Bay, it was the perfect day away from the classroom for our students. Our first years enjoyed various activities on the day, including surf lessons, a dip in the ocean, a trip to the local playground, a walk and kick around on the beach and a well-earned ice-cream at the end of the day. The surfing lessons were provided by

qualified ISA surf coaches and beach lifeguards and the students picked up lots of new information on all things surf-related - waves, environment, tides, and surfing techniques, with plenty of entertainment and games from the instructors thrown in for good measure. The students were given great care and attention from the team of instructors, and they had a ball. For the majority of our students, it was their first experience on a surfboard, but the crew in Lahinch were very encouraging and supportive. Students were provided with all surfing equipment on the day, including foam boards and wet suits. Overall, the day was a great success and gave students an opportunity to enjoy some well-deserved sunshine, waves, and fresh air. Thanks to all teachers and staff who helped to make it such a memorable day!

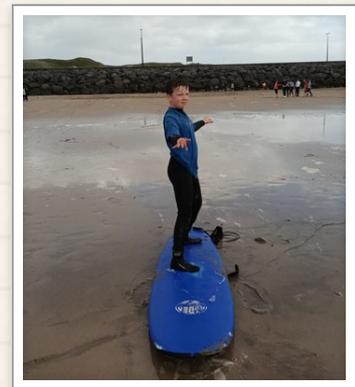
Here are some pictures taken on the day!



FUN IN THE SAND!



IT'S A THUMBS UP FROM LUKE!



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BALANCE!



THE SKY IS THE LIMIT!



HOLD ON TIGHT!



TEAM BONDING!

TRICK OR TREAT!

Here in The Hub, we really enjoyed getting into the spirit of Halloween! After a mysterious overnight make-over, our classroom was a spooky sight to behold, decorated with pumpkins, bats, creepy spiders, nests and gory limbs! The students enjoyed lots of activities including

pumpkin carving, cupcake-decorating, games and a Halloween-themed cinema party. Not to mention an unexpected visit from a scary Ms. Bulfin...



HAPPY CAMPER!



IN THE ZONE!



THE END RESULT...

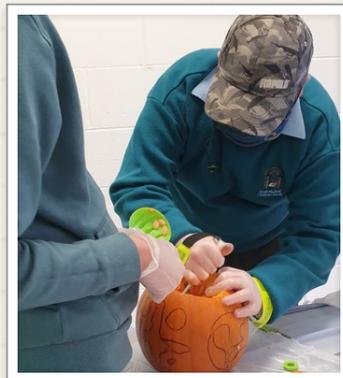








TAKING SHAPE!



TEAM WORK!



PUMPKIN FRIEND!

EXPLORING OUR OPTIONS

As part of our inclusive education programme here at St. Caimin's, our students have been accessing a variety of mainstream classes including; Woodwork, Home Economics, Art and Science. Here is a taste of what they have been up to in their option classes...

Home Economics:

Our two master chef's, Luke and Ava have been exceptionally busy lately, putting their culinary skills to practice in the Home Economics kitchen. Luke and Ava are a great team and have worked together to produce some delightful sweet treats over the past number of weeks, including chocolate chip cookies, buns and chocolate rice crispy squares, YUM! This week, Ms. Counihan was delighted to announce Ava and Luke as her *Chef's of the Week*. Congratulations!



Music:

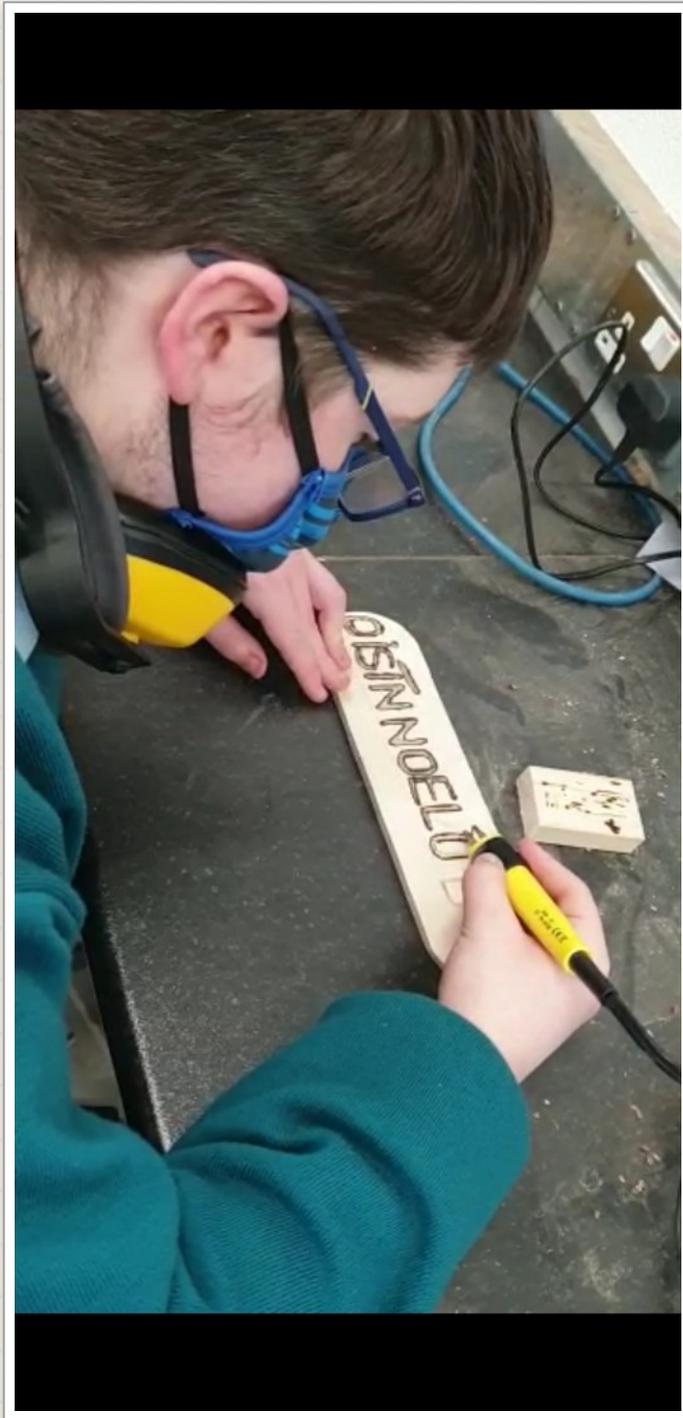
Bobby is doing great work in music at the moment. He has a passion for all music but is particularly keen on trad. Bobby has shown us his musical talent on the fiddle and even sometimes attends the trad club at lunchtime. Bobby has had the opportunity to play instruments such as the piano, ukulele, fiddle and boom whackers so far this year. We can't wait to see what comes next!

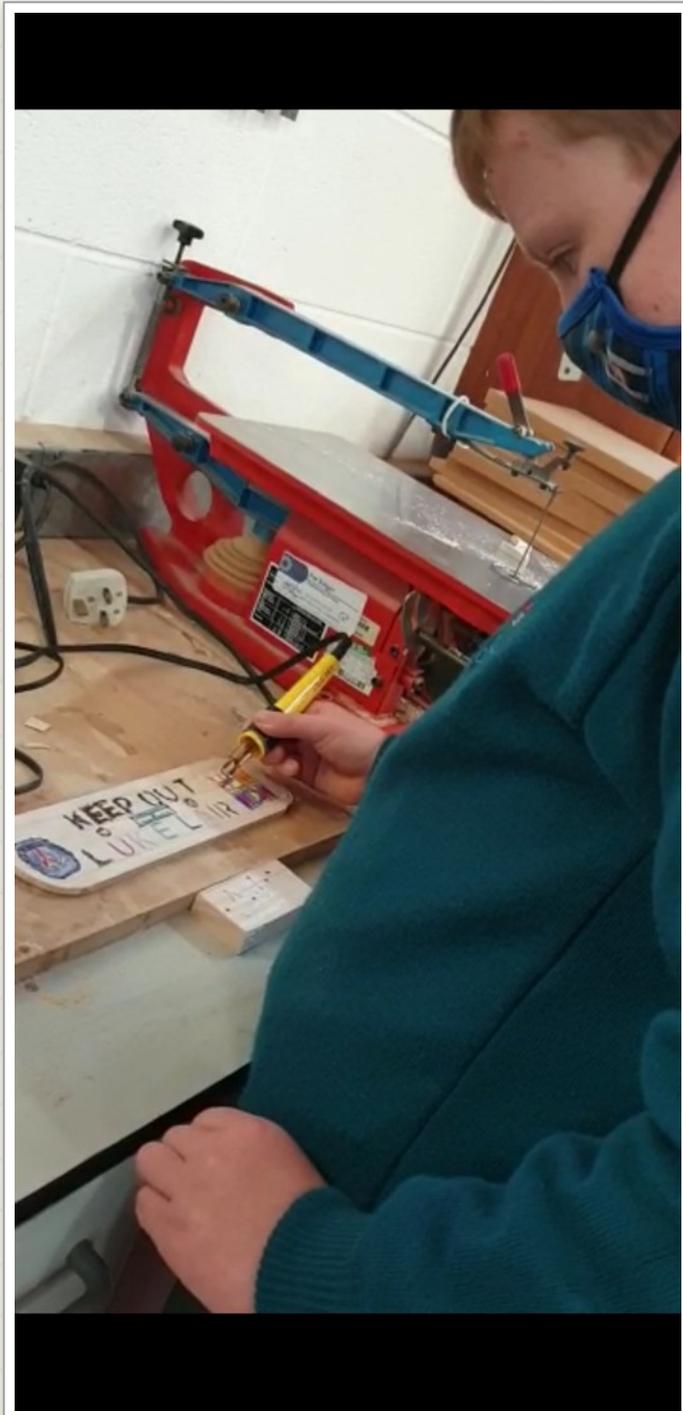


Woodwork:

Oisín, Luke B and AJ have been getting hands-on in their Woodwork classes, creating excellent original pieces such as wooden jigsaw puzzles and unique name plates for their bedroom doors. They have picked up lots of new skills and have learned how to use a variety of woodwork equipment. Recently, they learned the art of Pyrography, which involves decorating wooden pieces by burning words onto them. Impressive!







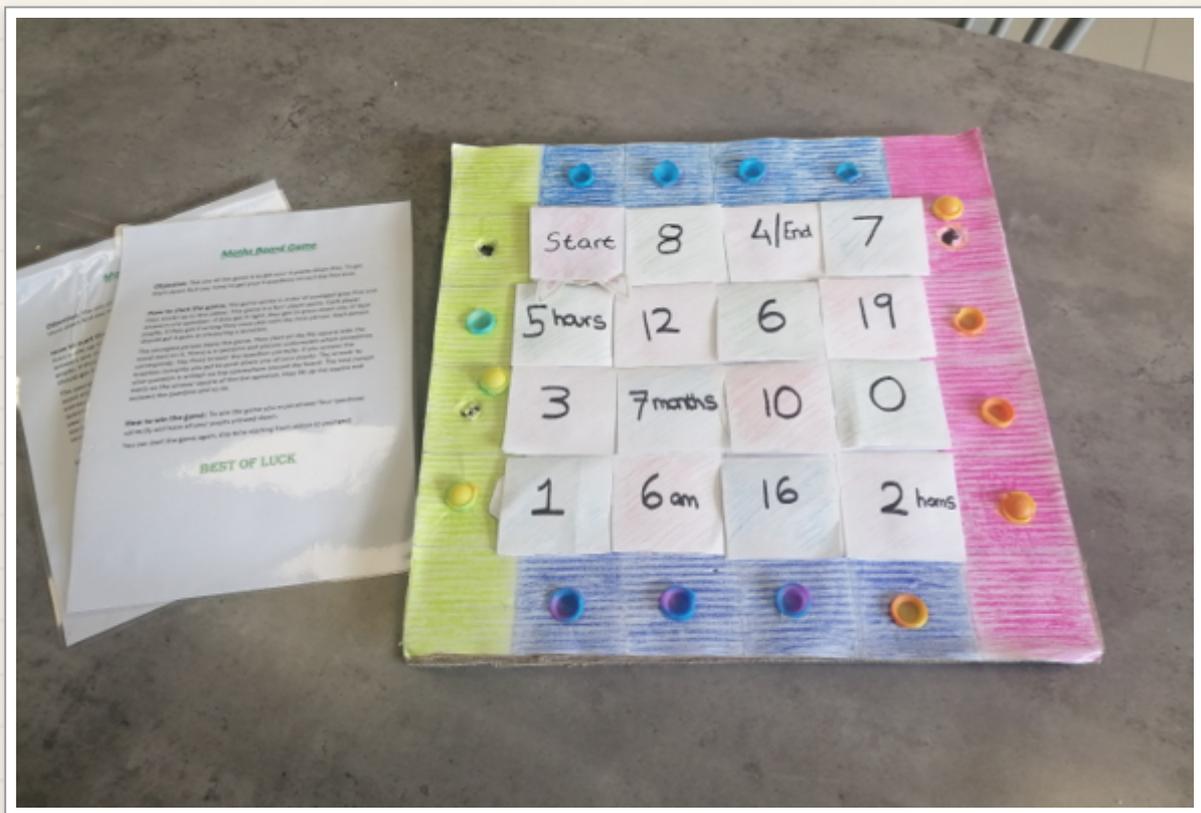
Art:

We are lucky to have lots of keen and talented artists in The Hub, and in the short time since starting secondary school, their artistic talents have come on leaps and bounds. Art classes with Ms. Whitty are a firm favourite with many students in the hub and they have enjoyed working on skills such as pencil drawings and more recently, they have really enjoyed working with clay.



TY MATHS CHALLENGE!

A small group of Transition Year students joined us in The Hub recently to introduce a brilliant initiative they have been working on. This talented and innovative group of students designed and created a maths game, which caters specifically for students with autism. The aim of the game: students must answer various maths questions. The first person with all 4 poppers popped is the winner. We were so impressed with what they came up with and everyone really enjoyed playing the game.



FORMING FRIENDSHIPS

Our students in the hub have made some lovely friends so far this year and we are delighted to say that our classroom has become a hub or activity, not only for our six students and their teacher, but for other students in the school. We have been delighted to welcome some visitors to the Hub during lunchtimes, some of whom are now regular visitors! Usually, students can be found playing soccer outside, playing board games or just having a chat with others. We love to see students outside of the hub come and visit our wonderful classroom and we are thrilled that our students are getting the opportunity to meet new people with shared interests.



Picture above: Mr. Cunningham celebrating his birthday in The Hub! (We decided against candles in case we set off the fire alarm!)