

Student Council Report for Board of Management 2022

Good evening all.

My name is Ryan Gillespie and as Chairperson of the Student Council in Colaiste lascaigh, I am delighted to be here this evening to inform you of the great work we, as a Student Council, have been involved in this year.

The school year 2021/2022 has been a busy and successful one for the Student Council despite the challenges of Covid restrictions. We started off the year with some newly elected members in September and training was provided for us to assist us in our new roles. A Student Council Team was set up on Microsoft Teams to allow us to communicate our ideas and suggestions.

In September

- We wished a fond farewell to Mary Lyons and presented her with flowers and a card on behalf of the students of Colaiste lascaigh to acknowledge her kindness to everyone and dedication to her job in Colaiste lascaigh over the years. We wish her a happy and healthy retirement.
- We applied to the Thomas Meagher Foundation for a new Irish flag as the school's flag needed to be replaced and we agreed to hold a National Flag Day in return for the flag.
- We decided to continue fundraising to purchase a drinking water fountain in this school year. We decided to hold a fundraiser at Halloween with funds contributing to the purchase of the water fountain.
- We were consulted about the introduction of a PE uniform and the members agreed that this was a positive change.

In October

- We organised a Fancy Dress fundraiser which got a great response from students and staff and was a fun day for all. We put up posters, organised prizes, collected the money, judged the costumes and awarded prizes for the best Junior, Senior and Group costumes. A total of €179 was raised.

In November

- Two of our members, Ellen and Ciara, represented Colaiste lascaigh at the ISSU Sligo Leitrim Council of Schools where they got the opportunity to meet with Student Councils from other schools and share ideas and expertise.
- We reviewed our Student Council Constitution and made some changes.
- Two members started researching suitable types of drinking water fountains with a view to purchasing one for the school.

In December

- We were asked by the local Foroige group to come up with a fundraising idea to support local girl Lara Potter and her family. We decided on a sponsored walk to be held in January with sponsorship cards to be given to all students.
- We were asked to choose a type of top, tracksuit bottoms and t-shirt for the PE Uniform.

- We came up with the idea of having a Christmas Jumper Day and helped the LCA students to organise it. €260 was raised for Focus Ireland.

In January

- We participated in the fundraising walk for Lara Potter organised in association with Foroige and Easkey Dippers which raised €4600.
- We looked at the sample PE uniforms and chose the colours for the new uniform.
- We discussed the options for the drinking water fountain.
- We decided to organise a Positivity Day for Valentine's Day and a fundraiser for Epilepsy Ireland.

In February

- For Valentine's Day we arranged a Positivity Day which started with all students writing something positive about a classmate on a post it note and placing it on the positivity wall.
- We gave every student and staff member a gift bag with chocolates, a lollipop and a positivity quote.
- We organised a Pink and Red Non-uniform Day and collected €2 from each student which was donated to Epilepsy Ireland.
- We arranged for Transition Years to make a Valentine's Day cup cake for every student. We were consulted about and discussed the proposed new Teaching and Learning Charter.

In March

- We raised the Irish Flag on 16th March for National Flag Day and placed posters and leaflets on a noticeboard about the background to the flag.
- The new Crystal Clear VersaFiller Bottle Filler and Fountain was installed thanks to our fundraising efforts over the past few years. This unit provides filtered water from the mains supply and will reduce the amount of single use plastic waste in the school as well as providing chilled drinking water for students and staff.

In April

- We discussed the school ethos and examined the core values of Colaiste Iascaigh.

In May

- We decided to organise a novelty sports day for all students but had to postpone this until September when the grass has been cut in the pitch.
- We decided on a walk and picnic for each class group instead.

Overall this has been a successful year for the Student Council. We feel that we have represented the voice of the students of Colaiste Iascaigh and have brought about positive changes to school life and in the community. We look forward to representing the student body and continuing our work in the next academic year.

Thank you for your time.