



A Message from Our SENCO

I am delighted to have the opportunity to introduce myself to you all as SENCO of Thornhill College. Having been appointed in December I have thoroughly enjoyed the role and seeing our pupils succeed through what has been one of the most challenging experiences of their lives to date. The pandemic has been especially hard on our young people and I am delighted that our pupils have shown great resilience, determination and a willingness to learn through engagement with remote learning. Part of my role is to ensure that each of our pupils have the necessary skills to make outstanding progress and that their needs are continually being met. This is something I will continue to work toward and I actively encourage all staff, parents and pupils to approach me if they need to talk or express a concern regarding teaching and learning. Our Learning support team are working hard to implement strategies to actively engage and encourage pupils throughout this difficult time.

I hope that you have all had a lovely, peaceful midterm break and are coming back to school refreshed, rested and ready to learn. Each pupil has worked so hard to date and we know you are all doing your best at the moment and we are very proud. Good luck for the rest of this term and remember, we are always here to help if you need us.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Nikita Johnston (SENCO)



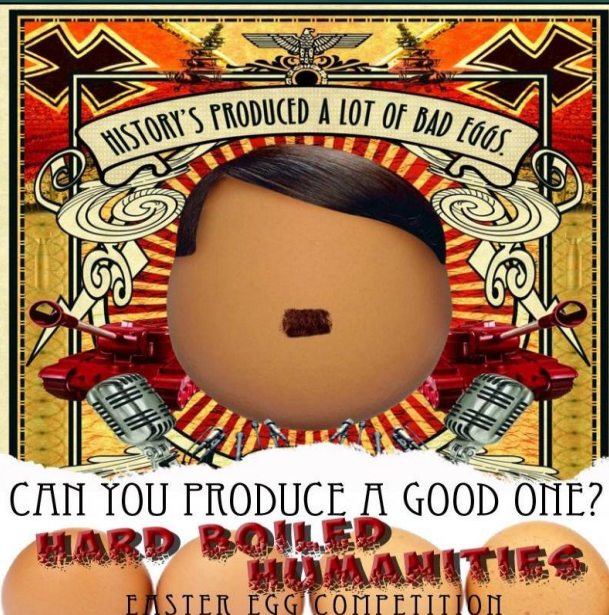
Learning Knows No Bounds

Return to School

Welcome Back!



Following the recent Assembly announcement, we are looking forward to what we hope will be the return of our **Year 12, 13 and 14 students, back to school on Monday 22nd March**. Until then, we kindly ask for your continued engagement with your studies through remote learning.



For Further Competition Details join our Google Classroom using the code: **aciwyod**

Deadline for entries: **30th March**

This competition is open to **KS3 students!**

1. Sit an egg in your egg box to steady it. Holding the egg still, carefully tap a push a hole into the top centre of your egg with a safety pin. Once you have made the hole, carefully push one end of the pin in as far as it will go to widen it.
2. Take a toothpick and insert it into the hole; stir it around to help break up the yolk and make it easier to remove the inside at stage 4.
3. Flip the egg over and make a second hole on the opposite side with your pin. Try to make the hole on the bottom a little bigger but be careful not to crack the shell. Break up the yolk again with your toothpick.
4. Hold the egg over a measuring jug with the bigger hole facing down. Use a straw to flush out the contents of the egg by placing the tip of the straw over the hole and blowing hard. First the egg white will come out, followed by the yolk- it can take a minute to get going, so be patient. You will know that it's all out when it becomes lighter and you are just blowing out bubbles of egg white followed by air.
5. Clean the shell by holding it carefully under running hot water from the kitchen tap. **TAKE CARE NOT TO BURN YOURSELF!** Wipe carefully with kitchen paper and leave to dry. Now you're ready to decorate with paint, pens, stickers, felt, glitter or whatever takes your fancy but do it gently as you do not want to have to go through all of these steps again just because your egg shell smashed!

Good luck with your entry; we look forward to seeing the finished products on Friday 30th March.

Hard boiled eggs while an easier solution will begin to smell!!!!!!

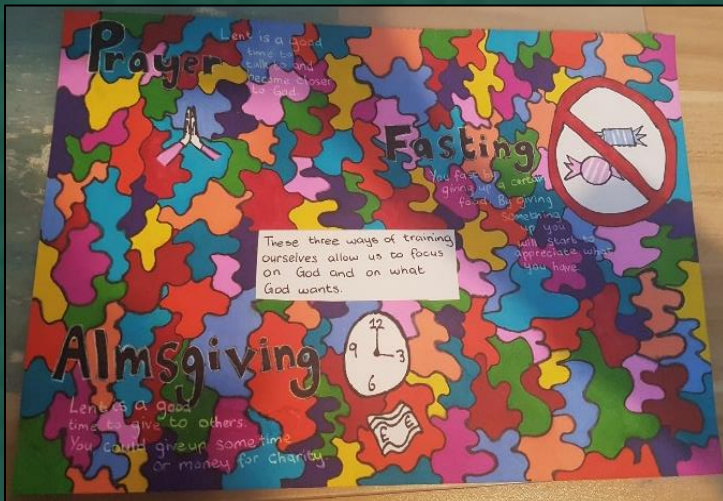
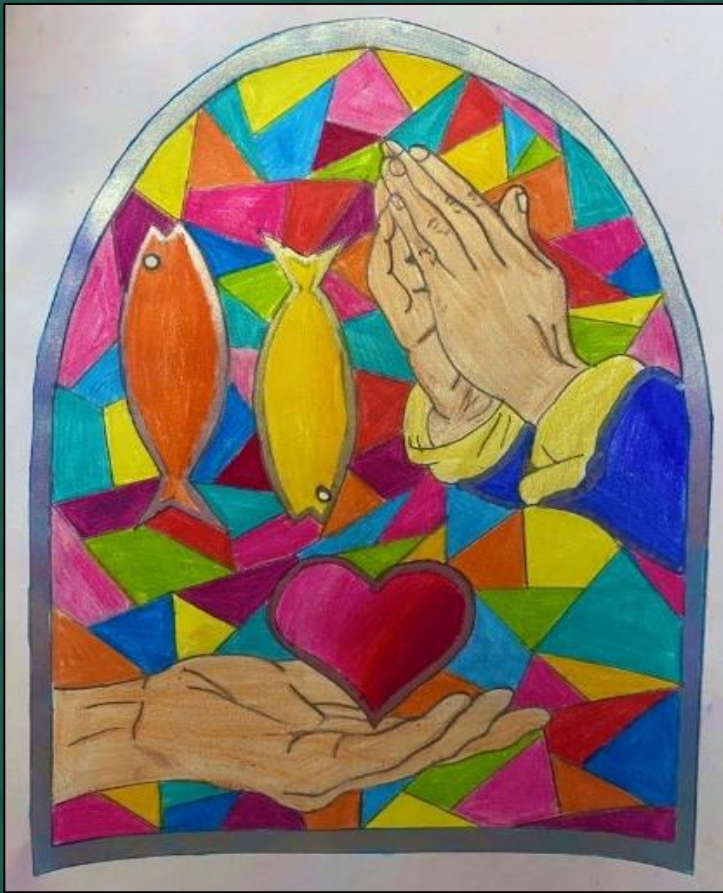




Creativity in Religious Education



Before our mid-term break our Year 10 students created beautiful stained glass windows in Religious Education after studying the importance of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving during Lent. Well done to Megan, Grace, Beth and Aneena from 10A for the beautiful work below.



Poetry in English



Inspired by the Amanda Gorman poem, "The Hill We Climb" read at President Biden's inauguration, our Year 10 students have written their own poems reflecting on Derry.



Cassie 10C

The Rebirth of Derry

The walls that were built to fight,
have instead caused us to unite
and as divided as we are,
we never seem to notice,
as we walk up the steep derry streets,
of how we were born in different places
and raised in different ways,
we know our city isn't perfect,
but we all can only hope,
that in the not so distant future
that together hand in hand
and together we shall stand.

Derry

The walls built from shattered bones
The streets filled with the tears
Of families cradling loved ones
The armies rushing past
Not caring who was hit
In a never ending cycle
Of violence
But there is one thing
One thing that could not be broken
No matter how much strength
Or guns
Or men
The army had.
Hope.
Hope that one day
A free people could live
In a place where their language
Their culture
And their spirit
Could roam.

Aoibhe 10C

Anna 10C

Derry, We all Know...

We all know Derry's past time,
It starts with the troubles, soldiers fighting a war.
If you drive through the city all the murals you'll see
From our great leader John Hume,
To an awful time in history.
This awful time I tell, is Bloody Sunday itself,
14 innocent citizens shot dead, with people trying to help.
The great walls surrendering Derry is a remark from our past,
The mind is a brittle object, that's not a spell we can just cast.
Derry is an amazing place with lots of things for history,
I just hope things don't go back to the way they used to be.
The former times of Derry have shaped the city today,
Just continue building Derry up from this present day.

DERRY IN OUR WORDS

A Collection of poems about Derry by Year 10 Pupils from Thornhill College

Together in Derry

It's been a while since our
Beautiful city, so bright,
Was brought to tears
By the bombs and the gun fight,

There was a time
When people lived in terror,
Wanting to fix things
And make this city better.

Now that we have
Put down that gun,
Both sides stay together
And can now live as one.

Annie, 10C
Thornhill College, Derry



Together We Rise

we once had a past of conflict and division,
of violence and hatred.
A strong abomination for those who differed from us
once roared through our streets.
The faith you believed in,
once kept our hearts apart.

the shooting and the brutality
tried to tear the place we called home down
standing behind a rifle, seen as a way
of letting emotions fire out.

despite the history forever stored in our walls,
regardless of the bitter memories
there's a side to every city,
a name to every face,
with their own story to tell.

Whatever our differences may be,
there is no arguing with the fact
that we are all together as one.

Lilly 10C

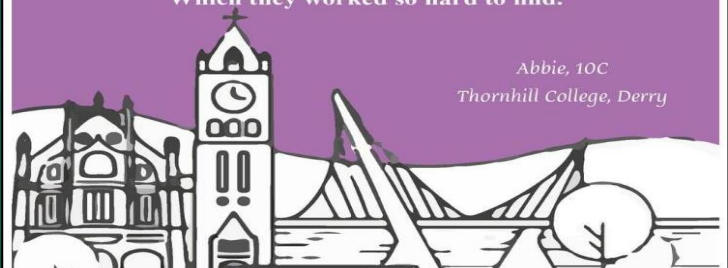
DERRY IN OUR WORDS

A Collection of poems about Derry by Year 10 Pupils from Thornhill College

We Rise

Their beautiful Derry City
Set upon the Foyle
Has come a long way,
Since the battle on their soil.
We have heard the stories,
Of bullets, guns and tears,
And feel so glad and happy,
That we no longer live in fear.
They have peace and happiness,
And children normal lives,
They have a bright Tomorrow,
Which they worked so hard to find.

Abbie, 10C
Thornhill College, Derry



DERRY IN OUR WORDS

A Collection of poems about Derry by Year 10 Pupils from Thornhill College

Rebirth of Derry

What pulls us apart
Makes us split
Like the Slash of a river, rushing through
A schism that will become history
Because now the wounds are being sealed
The hurt being healed.
A city brought together
Underneath the banner of one name
What divided them, now put aside
Because when the light at the end of the tunnel shines,
All that is seen is unity and peace
A shining city with people of love
DIVISION is no stranger to them
But the difficult past may bring forth
A nation inclined to the rebirth of Derry

Sakina, 10C
Thornhill College, Derry

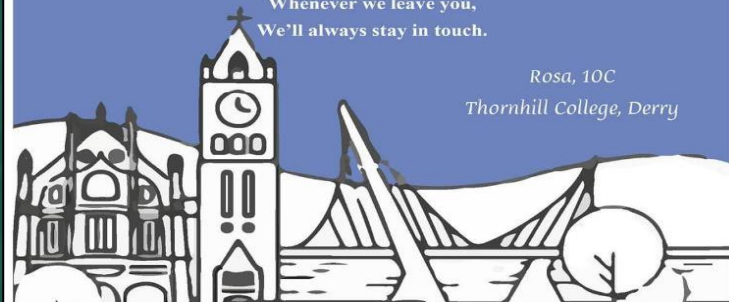


DERRY IN OUR WORDS

A Collection of poems about Derry by Year 10 Pupils from Thornhill College

The Walls, the Walls, the Derry Walls,
What once seemed big now seems so small.
The ships are gone, the boats at sea
There's nothing other than charity.
The buns, the buns the Derry buns,
Not the hair the turnover ones,
Your woman, your woman over there,
Your man with tatoos and no hair.
Derry is a very nice place
The buildings, the chapels where we say 'amazing grace'.
The people of Derry, on the other hand,
Are like sheep, not shepherds and join the band.
They are very competitive at times, you see,
They will win the competition, I guarantee.
But all the people, are very nice
They are different to others, they've got some spice.
Oh Derry, our Derry we love you so much
Whenever we leave you,
We'll always stay in touch.

Rosa, 10C
Thornhill College, Derry



Love is in the Air in Thornhill College



In the run up to Valentine's Day, our KS3 Spanish students were challenged to watch a video, with the instructions in Spanish, showing them how to make a paper heart. Below are some examples of their work. ¡Muy Bien!

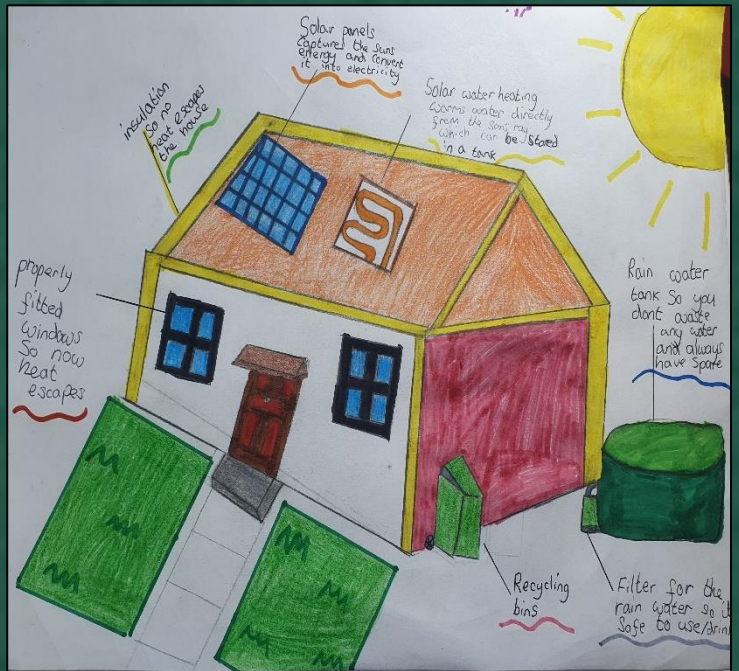
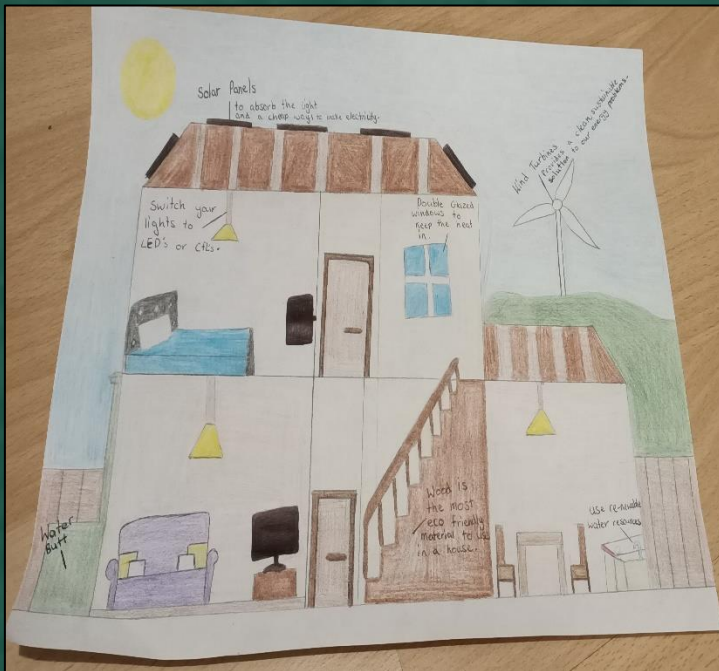
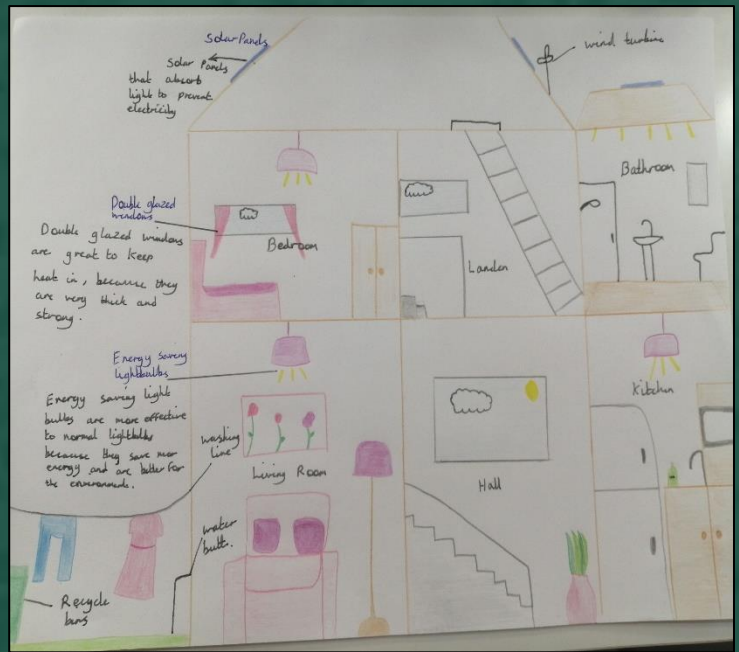
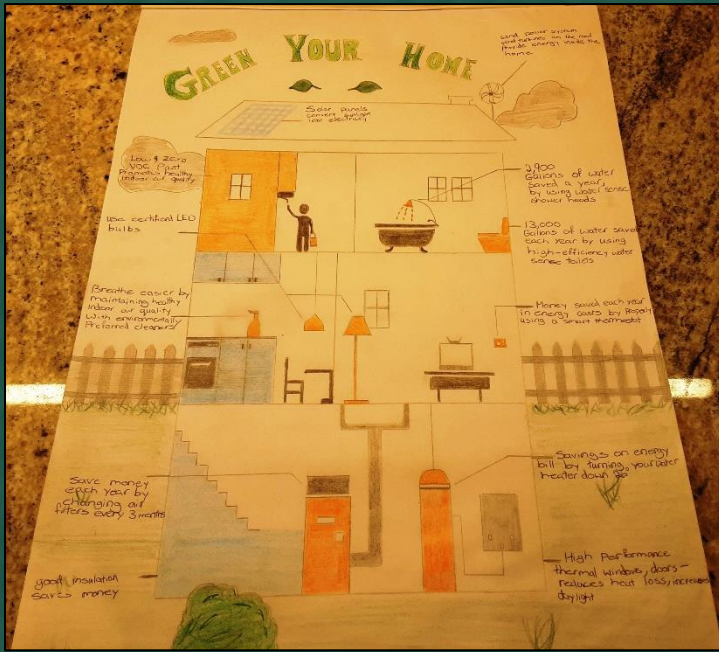




Geography



As part of their unit of work on Energy in Geography, our Year 8's have been creating their very own Green Manifesto's and Eco-Homes. Well done ladies!!



A Message from Our Junior Head Girl - Beth

Hi everyone,

Can you believe it's almost one year since we began remote learning? I don't think any of us imagined that the pandemic would continue into 2021 but here we are and every single one of us is making it work. For some people it's probably their dream, staying in their pyjamas until lunchtime, eating snacks throughout the day and convincing themselves that it makes them work harder. For others who like routine and structure in their life, this might not be the case, but I'm certainly sure of one thing we all miss our friends! Things are going in the right direction though and hopefully we will all be back before the school year is out.

I can't help but think about the Year 8's, who have not got to explore our wonderful school and discover what it has to offer, but do not worry Year 8's you will have plenty of opportunity in the future to do this with your classmates, friends and teachers.

At the moment, our time spent at home allows us to think of what lies ahead in the future. Whether that be Year 10's choosing their GCSE's, or Year 12's choosing A-Level Subjects. We're all looking forward to life post-covid where we can go out with our friends without facemasks and without the 2m social distancing that we have become used to. However, it is important to remember to stay positive, we're one step closer to the end of this than we were yesterday! Spring is just around the corner and there are brighter and more promising days ahead.

Stay safe and take care!

Beth Tinney (*Junior Head Girl*)



A
smile
IS THE BEST
MAKEUP
ANY girl
CAN WEAR.

Poetry in English

Mrs McLaughlin's Year 9's were asked to write a response to a Seamus Heaney poem of their own choice. Róise in 9C chose 'A Call' and wrote her own poem 'Summoning Everyman'.

A beautiful and moving piece of work well done!



Summoning Everyman

By Róise 9C

The weeds have run rampant and there's no back
Strong enough to mind the leek-rig now.
The grave hall clocks tick on
And the sun strikes the pendulum as it always has,
Catching feather-floating dust in the air.

My 'I love yous' were drowned out by death in the air.
The whirring wheeze of the ventilator, the rhythm
Monitoring his heart, the song
Of the whistling wind and the mournful chirping of the Mórrígan bird.

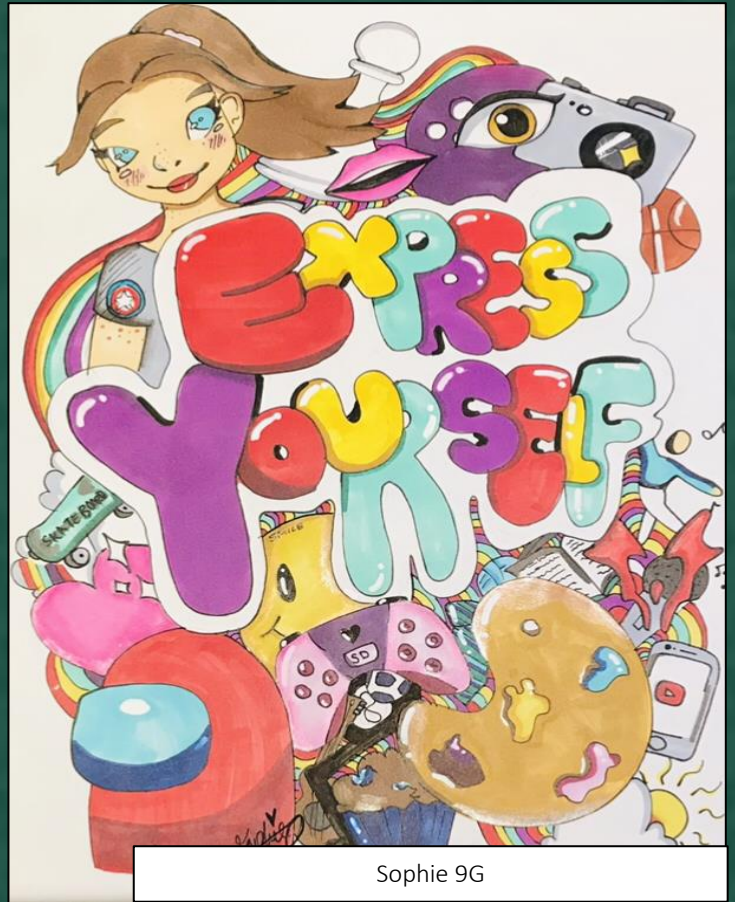
Now I touch, inspect and separate *his* flowers.
Death has summoned him,
And I say 'I love you' every day.

Congratulations to the Winners of our 'Express Yourself' Wellbeing Competition

We have been overwhelmed by the talents and creativity of all the entries for our 'Express Yourself' Wellbeing Competition. Below are our 10 winners who will each receive a £10 voucher for Argos. Well done to everyone who entered, you are all winners in our eyes!



Isabelle 9B

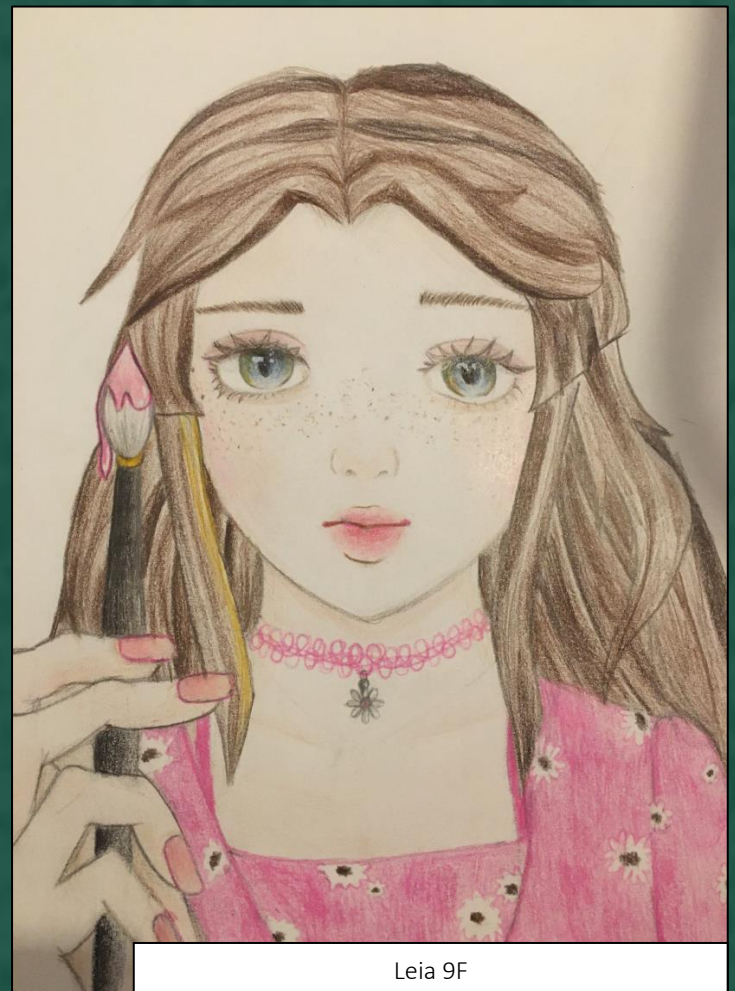


Sophie 9G

Sunday Mornings After Mass

Sunday mornings after mass, watching the news,
Conversations and compliments on my shoes,
Hearing the kettle boiling and Granda's snoring,
The wind howling and the rain heavily pouring,
Football, politics, school and life all discussed,
Sips of tea in between laughs and nods is a must,
Nana shares quiet glances, that say ever so much,
Asking me what I think and my opinion as such,
Sunday mornings after mass, all gone in a blink,
Piping hot tea quickly became an ice cold drink,
No more comfy orange sofa, just a messy chair,
Left staring into my cereal, wishing I was there,
When the virus leaves and it is safe, I will be back,
A smile and untold stories stuffed into my backpack,
No more two-meter rule and I will come inside,
You'll be there with a cup of tea, arms open wide,
Sunday mornings after mass, watching the news,
They'll be back, no more Sunday morning blues.

Blathnaid 10F

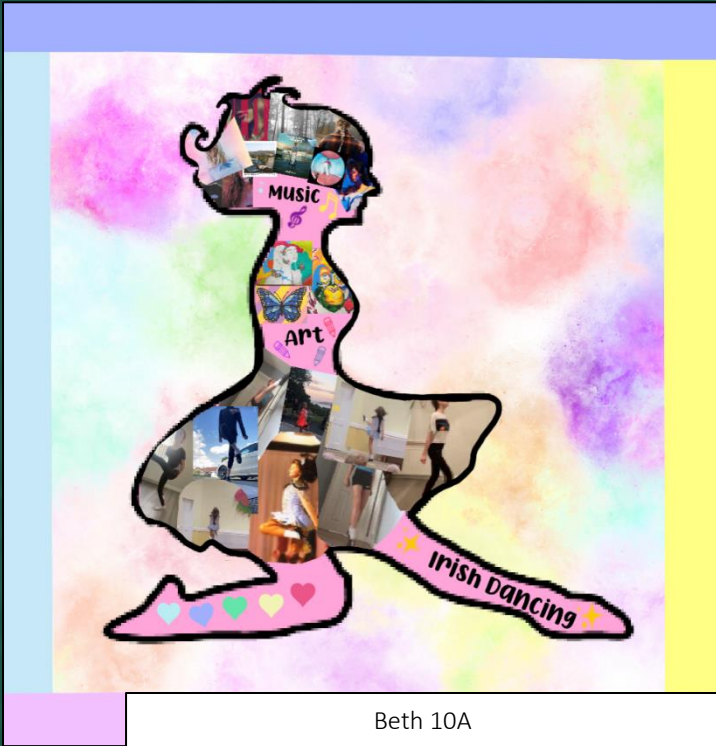
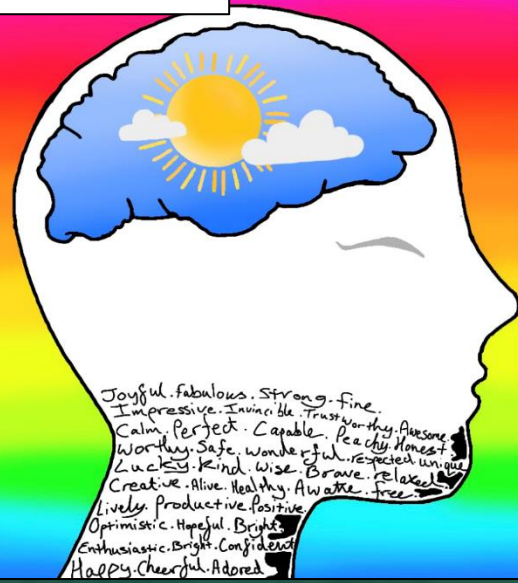
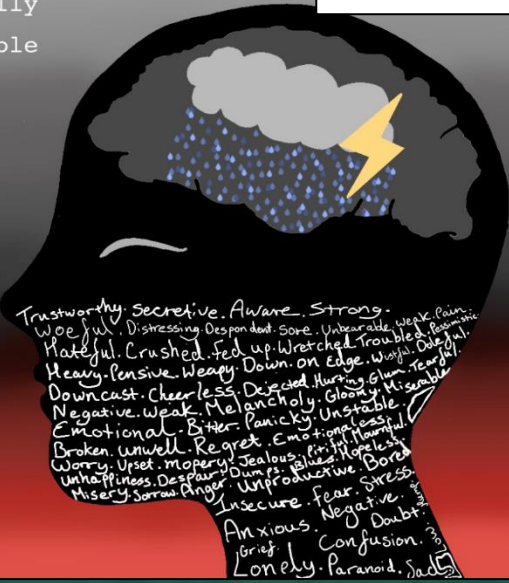


Leia 9F

Mentally Unstable

Rachel 8D

Mentally stable



Beth 10A



Clare 10F



Isabella 8D

Emma 13D

The Glass

Is it half empty or half full? I honestly couldn't care less.
 If I am the one to break it, will the shattered glass make a mess?
 I sometimes wonder what the glass contains,
 My thought process not on track, running, like wild trains.

Why does the amount in the glass always have to matter?
 What size is it? Is it smaller or is it fatter?
 I stare at the glass often and wonder why people judge it so,
 Knowing that when the last drop is gone they will all wish it didn't go.

So before you ask me if my glass is half empty or half full,
 Think of why I filled it to there, I didn't do it to be dull.
 On days my answer will differ depending on my mood,
 Some days are worse than others but that doesn't erase the good.

So when I see a glass in need of a refill I'll make sure to fill it up,
 But glass is easily broken, so I may next time use a cup.
 For cups are not judged by the quantity of what's inside,
 But only for the quality in which they provide.



Ava 8G



Star Artists Gallery



We continue to be amazed by the creative talents of our girls during lockdown. Just take a look at this selection of fantastic pieces of art work from before the mid-term break. Well done girls and keep the great work up!!!



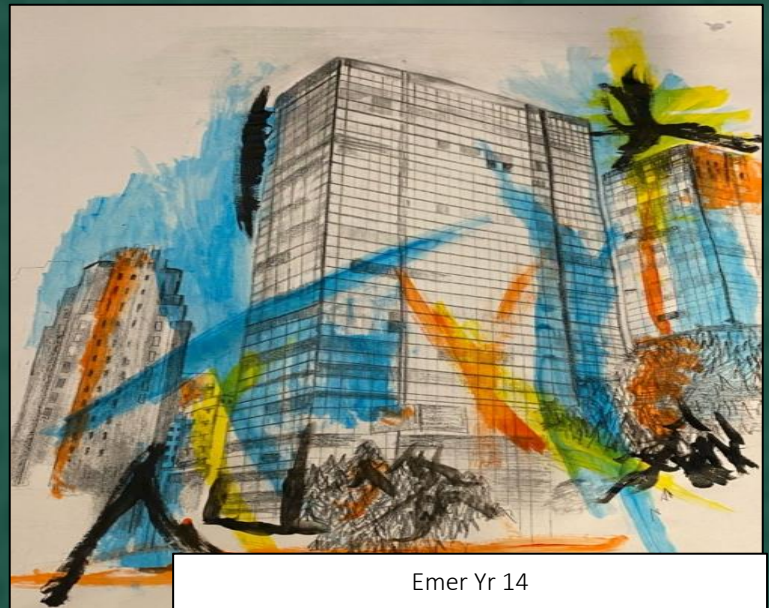
Becky Yr 14



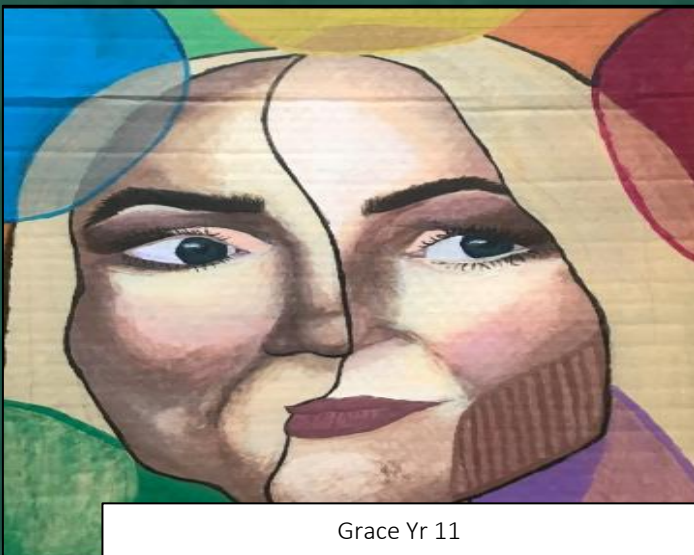
Emma Yr14



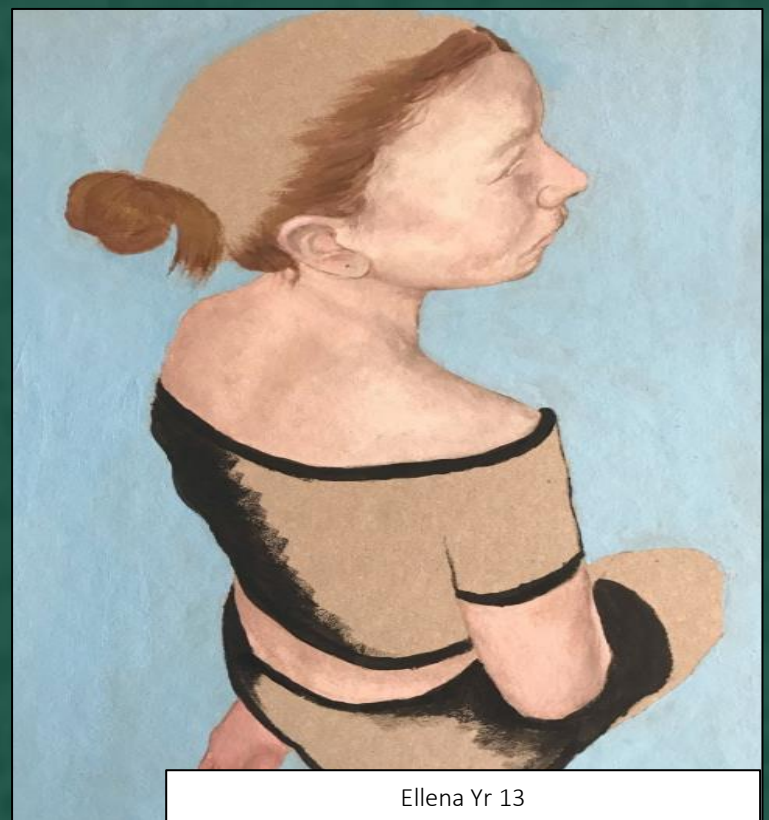
Ava Yr 11



Emer Yr 14



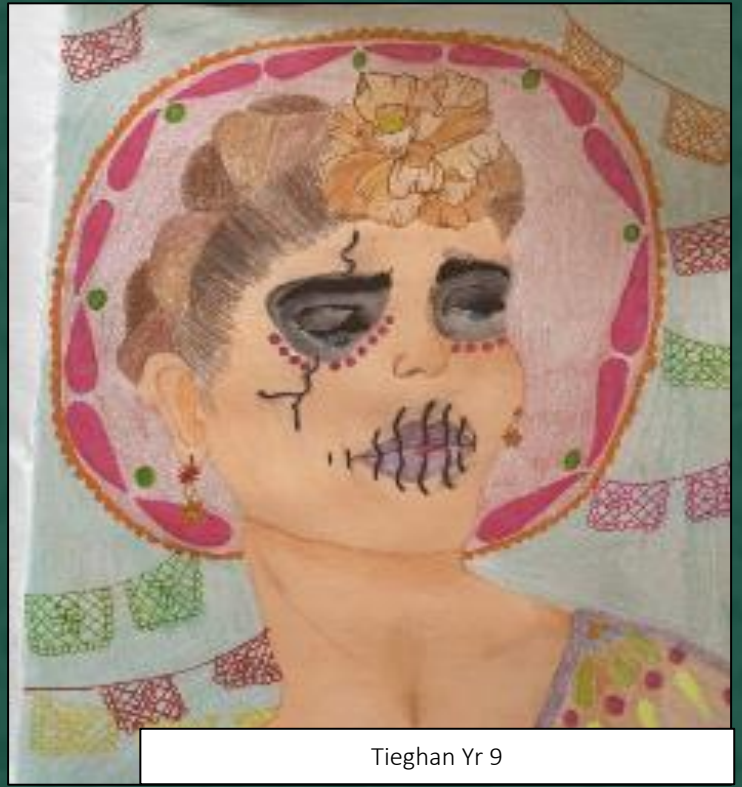
Grace Yr 11



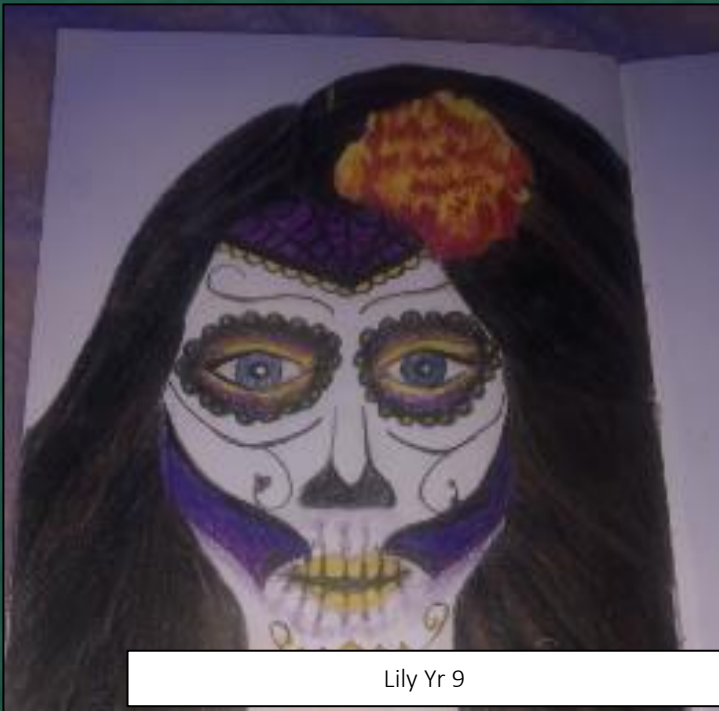
Ellena Yr 13



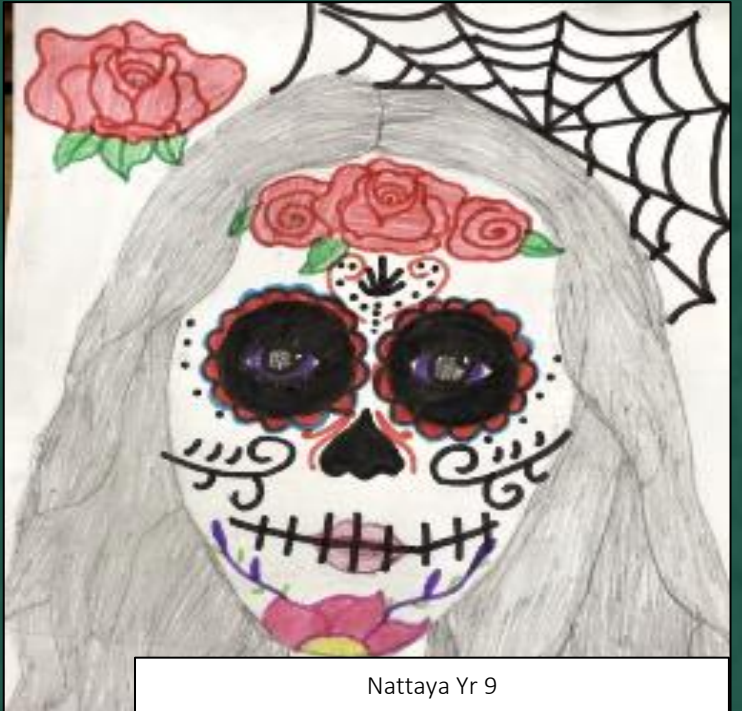
Sarah Yr 9



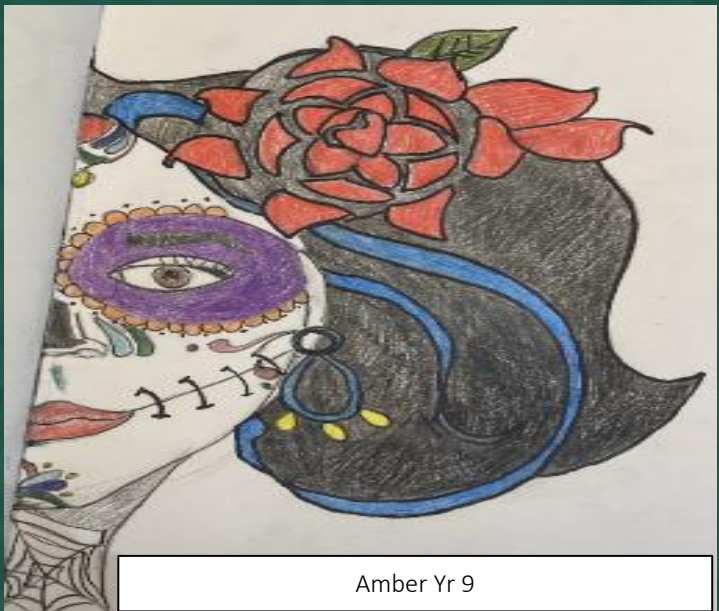
Tieghan Yr 9



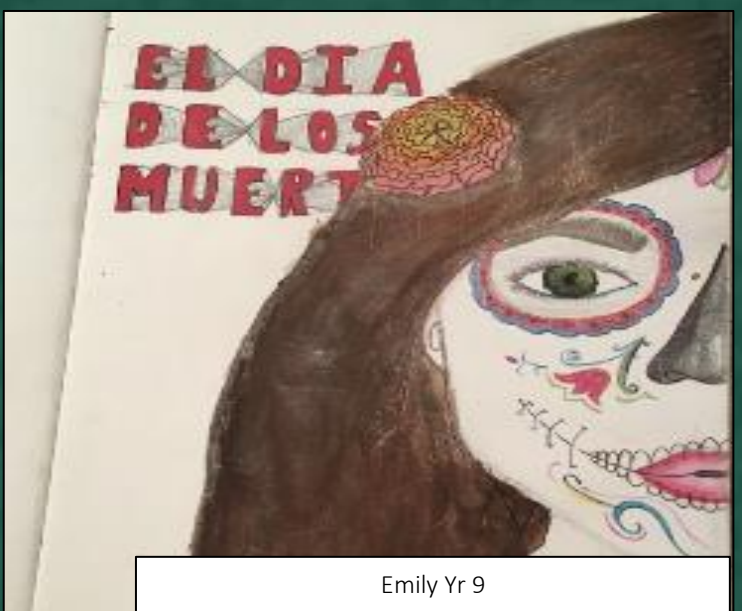
Lily Yr 9



Nattaya Yr 9



Amber Yr 9



Emily Yr 9

On fête La Chandeleur en faisant des crêpes ! Délicieux !

La Chandeleur
Février 2022

Les ingrédients pour faire des crêpes :

- 250g de farine
- 90cl de lait
- 3 cs de sucre
- 3 oeufs
- 1 pincée de sel

De la farine, des oeufs,
du lait et du sel

Des oeufs

Le lait

Le sucre

Le sel

Les garnis
Beaucoup de sucre
un citron

Délicieux

Les garnis

- De la confiture
- Des fraises
- Des bananes
- De chocolat
- De fromage
- De jambon

les fraises
le chocolat blanc

la crème
une crêpe

Bon Appétit! La Chandeleur

French Department

Well done to everyone who made 'les crêpes' to celebrate La Chandeleur (Candlemas Day) with the French Department – we are impressed by your culinary as well as linguistic skills!



Thornhill College Dances to 'Jerusalem'

Huge congratulations to our staff, students and parents who participated in the making of the Thornhill College Jerusalema video prior to the mid-term break. What a wonderful and uplifting to note for our school community to have ended our half-term on. Special thanks go to the RE Department and Mrs Hodgins for organising it and Mr McFadden for collating all the videos into the final result. We hope everyone enjoyed it!

