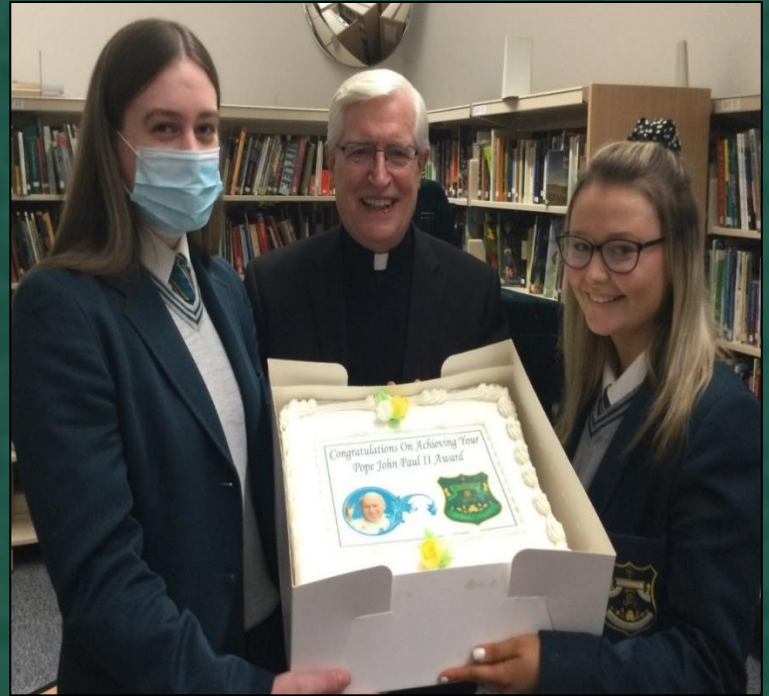




## Pope John Paul II Award Ceremony

Our congratulations go to the 36 Year 14 students who recently attended the Pope John Paul II Award Ceremony in St. Eugene's Cathedral on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March to receive their awards. 32 students received their Gold Award and 4 students received their Silver Awards. The Pope John Paul II Award is a faith achievement award for young people aged between 16 and 18 years, enabling participants to take an active role in the life of their Church and in the life of their community and society. The award helps young people enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development through participation in school, parish and community activities. Our thanks also go to the RE Department and in particular Miss Eimear Lynch, who co-ordinates the award programme in Thornhill College.





## International Women's Day

Hello! My name is Aoife Sargent and I am an English, History and Politics student in Year 13. I am a passionate feminist and an advocate for all women's rights. This International Women's Day we celebrate the women who bravely break the bias and encourage other women to do the same. In breaking the bias we are creating a more diverse, free and just world built on the foundations of equality. Our actions shape the society we live in, and so by taking formal opposition against sexist discrimination and prejudice in our world today, we can forge a future in which gender bias is not only no longer tolerated but extinct. Amanda Gorman, American poet and activist, inspires me daily with her courage in breaking gender and race bias. She remains a voice of inspiration for all women, her poems emphasising women's strength and how critical it is for their voices to be heard. Amanda Gorman fiercely demonstrates that every woman can break societal biases. One way in which we can do this is by rejecting inequality wherever and whenever it occurs, be that on the bus or even within your own home. By raising our voices, by reporting bias, by educating ourselves and others on the inequalities that plague our modern world, we collectively break the bias. This movement needs you. The atmosphere of change is dependent on the voice of youth. Your words and action possess an immense power and capacity to spark change, as Gorman poetically identifies, "The way forward isn't a road we take, the way forward is a road women make." Breaking the bias does not stop at International Women's Day. It is my hope that all people will continue to oppose the biases of gender inequality until it is consigned to our past.

*Aoife Sargent*  
Year 13



## International Women's Day

IWD is an opportunity to appreciate all the strong, important women in your life, from mothers, to friends, to teachers. This year's theme, **Break the Bias**, is extremely significant as it calls for more than reflection, but action. We are striving towards a gender equal world, a diverse world free of the constraints of stereotypes and discrimination. To achieve this, we must actively Break the Bias, which can be done in the simplest of ways, such as striking the IWD 2022 pose, crossing your arms in solidarity, and sharing your images or videos on social media using [#IWD2022](#) [#BreakTheBias](#) to further encourage people to commit to helping forge an inclusive world. One of our chosen representatives for this theme is Scarlett Curtis, a writer and activist. Scarlett has actively broken the bias as the co-founder of [The Pink Protest](#) collective. To date the organisation has been a part of campaigns that have changed two laws; a bill to help end period poverty and a bill to get FGM into the Children's Act. In 2018, Scarlett also curated the bestseller and National Book Award winner, *'Feminists Don't Wear Pink & other lies'*; a collection of essays by 52 famous women on what feminism means to them and how we can shape our future to reach the goal of gender equality. Whether posting a photo using [#BreakTheBias](#), or constructing campaigns, all actions of solidarity with this movement are valued and will ultimately aid establishing women's equality globally. Happy International Women's Day!

*Sadie Sturgeon*  
Year 13



WILL YOU  
HELP BREAK  
THE BIAS?



International Women's Day  
[#WD2022](#) [#BreakTheBias](#)



## Feminism in Schools

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March saw the launch of the first ever Feminism in Schools Conference in NI. It was hosted by Hazelwood College and saw involvement from local schools and organisations, as well as elected representatives from across the political sector in NI. Thornhill would LOVE to have student representatives at next year's conference. So, if this sounds like your kind of thing, and if you are currently in **Years 12-14**, then come along to Mrs Quigg's History room on the **first** and **third** Tuesday of every month, period 6/first lunch. Bring your lunch. **Our inaugural meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th April #BreaktheBias**

Mrs Louise Quigg  
History Teacher



## World Autism Acceptance Week

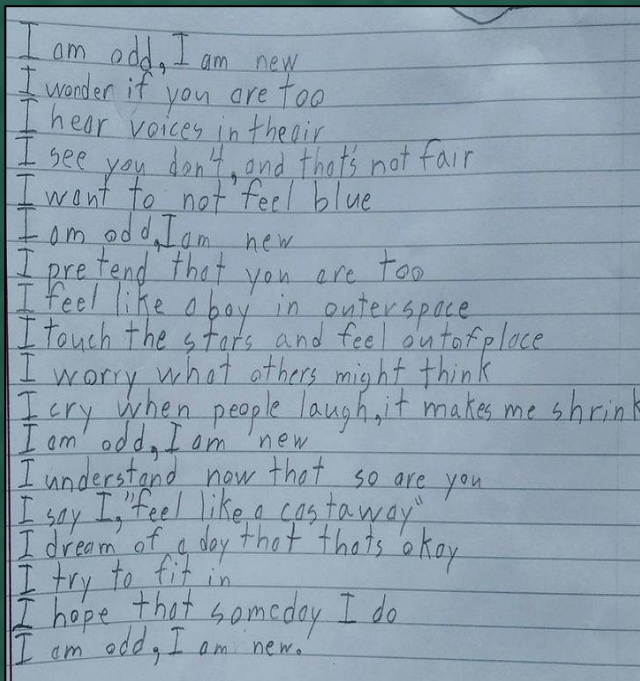
This week is World Autism Acceptance Week (28<sup>th</sup> March Until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April) with the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April being Autism Awareness Day. To enable our pupils at Thornhill College to increase their knowledge, understanding and acceptance of Autism, peer awareness training took place during this week's assembly. Pupils watched a video to highlight what Autism is and how it can affect people with the condition. The link of this can be found below if you wish to view this at home.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/peer-training-for-post-primary-pupils>

**Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** is a lifelong condition that can affect a person's social skills, such as communication and the way they interact with other people. It is estimated that there are around 700,000 Autistic people in the UK with 1 in every 100 Children having ASD. The aim of Autism Acceptance Week is to help more people understand what autism is, as well as the ways it can affect life for Autistic people. In Thornhill College we want to raise awareness and acceptance of autism both in and outside of school and enable all of our pupils to have a safe and welcoming environment to make outstanding progress.

Benjamin Giroux is a 10-year-old boy with Autism and he wrote a poem titled "I Am". This poem beautifully articulates his feelings about having Autism and has inspired many others, with the poem getting global attention.

Mrs Nikita Johnston (Learning Support Co-ordinator)



## Walled City Passion

Walled City Passion completely reimagines The Easter Passion for a modern-day audience and will be broadcast on RTÉ One on Easter Sunday night 17th April (10:30 - 11:30pm) as well as on the BBC iPlayer and RTÉ Player at 4:30pm on Good Friday 15<sup>th</sup>. Thornhill College was among the schools which took part in a huge outdoor music video shoot on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 in Ebrington Square. The girls were among between 500 – 750 students from schools all around Derry to take part. This music video will be used as part of the TV show / live stream on RTÉ & BBC - and will also be shown on big screens in Guildhall Square as part of the **Walled City Passion** Event that will take place for free in Derry during Easter on 14th, 15th & 16th April.

Walled City Passion is the concept of Archdeacon of Derry & Raphoe, Venerable Robert Miller FRSA, and it is a huge cross-community project that enjoys full support from Derry City & Strabane District Council, Inner City Trust, Tourism NI, RTÉ, BBC, local businesses and churches of the 4 major denominations.

The video of the school children singing 'Teenage Kicks' is now live on: [www.WalledCityPassion.com](http://www.WalledCityPassion.com)



## Junior School Reward Steps

Congratulations to the pupils in Years 8, 9 & 10 who have reached 10 points or more in the Junior School Reward Steps during March. These points were rewarded for the students' positive contribution to the life of the school. Congratulations to all of you and keep up the good work!



### YEAR 8

**8A:** Olivia Barr, Lily Coyle, & Zoe Dalzell

**8C:** Olivia Hampson, Hayden McCallion-Mackey, Ava Melaugh, Thea Moran, Niamh O'Reilly, Aoife Quigley, Sophie Shongo & Dearbhla Torley

**8E:** Eden Carlyle, Aoife Harkin, Ameragh Kealey, Molly Killen, Meabh McCloskey, Marisa McElhinney, Sophie McElhinney, Cerys McGarvey, Faye McIntyre, Kayleigh Meehan & Aisling O'Doherty

**8F:** Dervla, Cassidy, Holly Doherty, Molly Kate Doherty, Sarah Beth Hamilton, Millie McDonagh, Eireann McGeoghegan, Cara McLaughlin & Alexa Mooney.

**8G:** Rose Abdelsayed, Grace Armstrong, Jovita Biju, Kendra Breslin, Rosie Cameron, Hannah Cooper, Freya Coyle, Grace Curry, Aoife Duffy, Amelia Gallagher, Lucy Gray, Ella Hickey, Maible Kelpie, Sally McDaid, Ellie McDevitt, Lauren McKeegan, Eva McWilliams, Eadaoin Molloy, Melete O'Flanagan, Niamh Peyton, Rhaya Porter & Charlotte Walsh.

**8H:** Mia Connolly, Sophie Connolly, Eabha Crossan, Millie Doherty, Ella Doran, Eila Doughty, Jodie Lindsay, Sally McDevitt, Aoife Moody, Grace O'Donovan, Anna Petropoulos, Sarah Sweeney, Grace Twells, Ada Tyler & Eliidh Wild

### YEAR 9

**9A:** Leonelle Atoge, Sophie Hegarty, Sarah Kelly, Eadaoin Long, Ava Loughran, Beth McGrotty, Emer Moran & Rosie O'Neill

**9B:** Niamh Anderson, Amy Brolly, Hannah Curran, Erin Doherty, Sarah Geary, Hannah Gormley, Caoimhe Hargan, Grace Logue, Kacey McCaul, Niamh McHenery, Eva McLaughlin, Evelyn McLaughlin, Ava McNamee, Erin Mullan & Katelyn Quigley

**9C:** Niamh Donnelly & Hannah Drinan

**9D:** Amy Burns & Alannah Gormley

**9E:** Ava Curran, Emma Feeney, Jenna Gallagher, Tegan Jennings & Ava Jones

**9G:** Emily Barr, Katie Callaghan, Maggie Campbell, Olivia Crossan, Leah Giboney, Mary-Cait Keenan, Ava Kerlin, Kayla Lynch, Grace McBride, Chloe McCrudden, Meghan McDaid, Anna McLaughlin, Eoibhlin McSherry & Sophie Nash

**9H:** Shannon Condren & Anna Ferry



### Year 10

**10B:** Erin Fox & Caitlin Lees

**10E:** Holly Hutcheon & Erin McBride



**40 points** **THORNHILL GOLDEN PIN AWARD**  
Principal Acknowledges Golden Pin awarded and letter sent home

**30 points** **THORNHILL REWARD POSTCARD**  
Head of School Acknowledges Postcard sent home

**20 points** **THORNHILL REWARD CERTIFICATE**  
Year Head Acknowledges Certificate presented at assembly

**10 points** **THORNHILL REWARD STICKER**  
Form Teacher Acknowledges Sticker in Daybook

#ThornhillDerry



## Junior School Reward Steps

Congratulations to the pupils in Year 9 who have reached 20 points or more in the Junior School Reward Steps during March. These points were rewarded for the students' positive contribution to the life of the school. Congratulations to all of you and keep up the good work!

**9B:** Mia Bo Cheung, Ria Gallagher & Kate Strawbridge



## School Garden & Grounds

Well done to 8B and 9G for their work in our school garden and grounds this week along with Mr Michael McCloskey (Head of KS3 Science). 8B marked the start of spring by planting vegetables for a summer harvest in our school garden. Everything they planted was grown from seed. While 9G played a role in planting a native Irish hedgerow to increase biodiversity within our school grounds. Congratulations to everyone involved.



## Wildflower Garden Update

Thankfully Spring has now sprung and we can really see our wildflower garden taking shape. The daffodils that will serve as a natural border have flowered beautifully and hopefully in the next few weeks we will see our wildflowers starting to grow in the warm weather. A sign has also been designed and is currently being made which we hope to have erected in time for next month's newsletter! As ever we would like to thank Mr Johnston and Mr McCloskey for all their help.

*Laura White & Ava McGinn (Year 14)*

## Thornhill College Celebrates Enterprise Week

In March we celebrated Enterprise Week in Thornhill College with a variety of workshops, displays and competitions. Our two fabulous Year 13 Young Enterprise companies "Terry's Teatime" and "Safe Sippin'" showcased their businesses and generated a lot of interest among our college community. They were also interviewed by our very own past pupil and journalist, Anna McAree, for a feature in My Derry. Both teams went on to take part in the Young Enterprise NI North West Company Programme Competition interviews with "Safe Sippin'" being chosen to represent the North West Area at the NI final in Belfast in April. A great achievement! Safe Sippin' were also invited onto Mark Patterson Show on Radio Foyle where during their interview they highlighted how their product could help people to stay safe from drink spiking.



Congratulations to our Year 13 Young Enterprise Companies and their teachers Miss McCay and Mrs Rooney

KS3 students took part in an Entrepreneur Competition which highlighted both local and international inspirational female entrepreneurs, their characteristics and businesses.



Congratulations to the KS3 Competition Winners who were presented with their prizes by Miss O'Kane



"Burnout and Rest" Workshop Participants from Years 11 and 14

KS4 and 5 students took part in a series of online workshops hosted by Women in Enterprise and Derry and Strabane Council. Students engaged in a range of workshops focusing on "How to successfully adapt your business"; "Social Media Savvy" and "Burnout and Rest".

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you to all our participants during Enterprise Week. Thank you to Miss O'Kane our student teacher from St Marys College, who greatly assisted in the organisation of the enterprise week activities.

*Mrs Mariese Brown*  
Head of Business & Enterprise

## Safe Sippin'

We are Thornhill's Young Enterprise Team 2021/22. As a company, our mission is to provide the most affordable, compact and effective drink spiking prevention product for nights out and our goal with this product is to prevent spiking and spread awareness on the seriousness and severity of this issue. We knew before our company began that we wanted to keep the production local and sustainable so this is the reason why we have collaborated with Shipquay Fabrics and North West Regional College to manufacture our product. When coming up with our idea for our business we discussed on what we thought of what was lacking in society at the time. Immediately a spike prevention product came to mind as we were going through a spiking epidemic in the UK at the time. We knew we wanted to make change and this is how our Safe Sippin' journey began.

Our spike prevention lid costs £2. It is very important to each of us that our product is affordable as it is a necessity in our society and after coming out of the global pandemic we know that prices for necessities are increasing constantly.

We have been approached by local chains such as Centra and Chill Off-Licence who are interested in buying our product! As a team we are extremely grateful for all the support we have received over the past while so we decided to host a giveaway for reaching 1,000 followers on our Instagram page with the help from our local influencers and businesses such as Sass & Halo and Scarpello and Co. We had the amazing opportunity to speak on the Mark Patterson Show BBC Radio Foyle and we have also featured in an article on the Belfast Live.

We have recently been awarded Company of the Year in the North-West after competing against a number of schools in our area after completing an interview on Zoom. We recently travelled to Belfast for our final interview at Invest NI where we spoke face-to-face with the Young Enterprise judging panel which was quite nerve wrecking beforehand but we tried our very best and it was a privilege being able to speak to experienced entrepreneurs/ people in the business world. The next stage of the competition is the YE Ball. This is a black tie event which is held at City Hall, Belfast on 7<sup>th</sup> April. We are extremely excited to attend the Ball and we cannot wait to see what the future holds for us!

Our Team:

Managing Director - Kymirin Downey

Sales Director - Riley Hume

Sustainability Director- Roisiona Moran

Operations Director - Emer Donaghy

Company Secretary - Jodie Walker

HR Directors - Jessica Kelly & Caoimhe Devine

Finance Directors- Dearbhla McCaul & Dearbhail Durkan

Marketing Directors - Caitlin Curran & Ciendra Devine

Digital & Technology Director s- Brianna Doherty & Katie Dorrity



Social Media: @safesippin\_





## Wellbeing Competition Winners

Congratulations to all the staff members who took part in the February Walking Challenge. A special congratulations to our winners:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Mr McCloskey with 390,870 steps

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Mrs Gorman with 389,586 steps

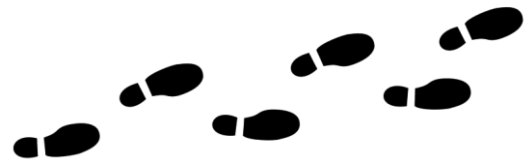
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Miss Frizelle with 379,387 steps

Our Key Stage 3 students took part in a Mental Health Quiz for Children's Mental Health Week. The winners are:

Year 8: Faye Collins and Annabell Kelly

Year 9: Aoife Kirby and Caoimhe Northy

Year 10: Grace Slevin, Ellen Tyre & Liv Ringland



# Wellbeing



## Irish Department

Comhghairdeas! Congratulations to our 130 Year 10 students of Irish who passed their Silver Fáinne examination recently and were presented with the 'Fáinne Airgid' by local GAA star, Ben McCarron. Maith sibh!

# IRISH



## Ukraine Appeal

As a school, we would like to sincerely thank all our students, staff, parents and the wider Thornhill community who contributed in any way to our Ukraine Appeal. We were truly overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of everyone involved. Despite the short notice, two buses full of clothing, food, toys, sleeping bags and medicine made their way to Ukraine from our school community. We would also like to thank Reddin's Coach Hire for kindly providing us with an additional bus and helping with the delivery of our donations, our caretaking staff and indeed Mr Liam Morgan who co-ordinated the response.



## Cross Country Success

Congratulations to all the Thornhill pupils who represented Thornhill at the Irish Schools' Cross Country Championships in Mallusk on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March. The Intermediate team did Thornhill proud and finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place overall. Team members are: Hannah Wade, Aoife Clarke, Faustina Collins, Lily-Mai Burton, Sarah Drinan and Meabh Coyle. Sophia Byrne also had a great run in a highly competitive Senior Girls' race to finish in 49<sup>th</sup> place.

Hannah Wade had a fantastic race to finish 7<sup>th</sup> overall in Ireland and as a result was selected to run for the Irish Schools' Team in the Schools' International in Wales on March 26<sup>th</sup>. In Wales Hannah finished 26<sup>th</sup> overall and was the 6<sup>th</sup> Irish scorer. An amazing achievement! Well done Hannah!



## Mindful Moments



Our thanks go to Ms Aine McDaid for the wonderful opportunity she has provided for our students with the Mindful Moments project. The feedback from our students has been extremely positive:

- *I've learned to relax and stop overthinking*
- *It helps me with my anxiety. I did the breathing techniques on the aeroplane and it really helped me to stay calm. I taught them to my Dad too.*
- *I've learned breathing related coping mechanisms to bring me back down to earth.*
- *I know now how to connect with my feelings. I didn't know what I was feeling most of the time and now I do my 'check in'. And I didn't know that I can have lots of different feelings at the same time.*
- *When I can't sleep I go to my 'safe space'. It's a meadow and I lay in the grass. There is a crystal blue waterfall and I listen to the sound and it helps me to stay calm. My butterfly comes along and we do a body scan together; I don't get to the end - I fall asleep.*
- *My favourite breath is the box breath. I did it before my maths test and I got the highest result I ever got.*

## Crafting for Charity

This term in our Crafting for Charity group, we started a new initiative to create bags for medical devices for those in the Foyle Hospice. This project was kindly funded by Apex Housing through their 'Housing For All Project' in Culmore. They supplied us with the materials to make over forty bags for those in need. We were joined by Rosie, who taught us new skills and introduced us to sewing, a new hobby some of us have never tried before! We spent six weeks with Rosie, developing new skills such as cutting fabric, using the machines and following a pattern to create our wonderful bags. The first week of the project, we started by choosing from the amazing range of fabrics, then using a template to cut to size. Following this we got started on assembling the pieces and began sewing the components together. At the start, it was a bit of a struggle getting used to the machine, but Rosie was there to help. By the end of the six weeks, we had made a bag each, and some of us even had made two. At the end of the process we each sewed a 'made with love' button on to each side of the bag and Ms Hodgins ironed and packaged them beautifully, ready to be sent to those in the Foyle Hospice.

Overall the experience was so fulfilling, as not only were you learning a new skill and having fun, but also making something to give back to others. The Crafting for Charity group is a great aspect of our week at school, as it gives us time out of our busy schedule to relax, create and enjoy time with friends.






**THORNHILL COLLEGE**  
GILLY CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

### Year 9 Bake Fruit Muffins

**PREP: 15 mins**      **BAKING TIME: 20 mins**





**INGREDIENTS LIST:**

<p>1/2 teaspoon Baking powder 75g Castor sugar</p>		<p>250g Self-raising flour</p>
<p>100g Margarine, softened</p>		<p>2 Eggs</p>
<p>25g Fruit of your choice</p>		<p>150 ml Semi-skimmed milk</p>

## To The Reading Nook

There it goes.  
A magpie with its latest gem,  
Tucked under a navy clad wing.  
Off to the nook. There it goes.  
Giddy as a storm.

Open the tree and pretend  
You can see into another world,  
With your knees tucked under your skirt.  
What sort of future can you read,  
In the ink?

Mammy's money melting your fears away,  
You indulge in this treasure like a sweet you snuck  
from her birthday box.  
Enjoy it while it lasts.  
Savour every second.

Close it.  
Another lifetime gone by. Three to eight hundred  
Leaflets of life absorbed in that sponge of yours.  
Open another life from the shelf.  
Step into their shoes.

To immerse yourself in the lives of hundreds.  
To live forever is to live in your joy,  
Or in your salty sadness is to read  
What they tattooed on the stack of pages  
In your hands.

Hannah Quigley (Year 13)

## Pi Day 2022

Congratulations to all the competitors and winners of the Pi Recital Competition which took place on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to celebrate Pi Day in the Maths Department. The winner, Cait McNulty 8D, recited an impressive 130 digits of pi!!

1<sup>st</sup> Cait McNulty 8D – 130 digits

2<sup>nd</sup> Amy Burns 9D – 127 digits

3<sup>rd</sup> Shannon Condren 9H – 91 digits

4<sup>th</sup> Dervla Cassidy 8F – 68 digits

5<sup>th</sup> Sophie Nash 9G – 52 digits



### Debating

Congratulations to Hannah Quigley and Lauren Rankin who came third in the Trinity College Philspeaks Debating Competition. The girls had to compete against schools from all over Ireland and debated 5 different motions with only 45 minutes preparation time. Very well done girls!

### Drama

10B have started a 6 week workshop course led by Sorcha Shanahan from the Playhouse exploring bullying through drama. They are completing great work! The course will finish with a presentation in the Playhouse.



### Eco Club

Well done to our Geography Eco Club members who participated in a litter pick around the school collecting litter as part of their Eco Bricks Project.

