



## SCHOOL CANTEEN

The School Canteen is now providing a packed lunch service for students going away on school trips or matches and must be pre-ordered. The packed lunch includes: a sandwich or roll of your choice, a drink, fruit and snack. All for €4.50.

The **HIP HOP DANCE** will take place again next Thursday at lunchtime. Those interested 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students please go to room 'K' at 1.25 pm sharp.

**BASKETBALL:** Trials for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year teams will take place next Friday after school – 4 to 5 pm.

**CROSS COUNTRY:** Reminder that Training has started for the Cross Country season after school every Tuesday. Meet at the gym and please make sure to bring football boots or spikes as the pitches are quite muddy! Training finishes at 4.45 pm - ensure arrangements are made for lifts home at this time.

the **SCHOOL LIBRARY** will be open during lunch time every Tuesday and Thursday (beginning Tues. 14<sup>th</sup> October). Anyone that would like to read or play board games should come along to room 'G'.

## PUBLIC ACCESS TO LAW

The Transition Years have been successful with an application to take part in a Law Module. This course will be given by a practicing Barrister during a school day. This will give the students a unique insight into Law and the objective is to demystify the world of Law and to embody many of the principles of TY including teamwork, research and presentation skills. After the course the students will engage in a mock trial with the help of the barrister and then sit an examination on the module given.

## E-TWINNING SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP IN EUROPE

*Our school is partnered with a school in France for the purpose of completing a project on Climate Change. E-twinning is an action that supports on-line based projects between schools. The site has e-portal technology and it is hoped to produce a web site with input from subjects like French and Geography.*

*J. Coughlan*

## OPEN DAYS IN OCTOBER

14<sup>th</sup> – Limerick I.T. and U.L.

15<sup>th</sup> – College of Amenity Horticulture, Botanical Gardens

16<sup>th</sup> – Warrenstown Horticultural College.

Check [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) for further details.

## SIGN OUT YOUTH CAFE OPENING

Portumna 'Sign Out' Youth Company Ltd., in partnership with County Galway VEC, are delighted to announce the opening of 'Sign Out' Youth Cafe and all weather pitch. The Youth Café will be open as a drop-in facility for TYs, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students every Friday from 7pm – 9.30pm., starting from **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October**. Membership is €10 per year, renewable every January, or €2 per drop-in session. Members have first option to take part in projects, workshops and trips organised by the Youth Café Company and membership also includes use of the 5-a-side all weather pitch during 'Sign Out' opening hours. Membership forms available by emailing [youthsignout@gmail.com](mailto:youthsignout@gmail.com)

### Sign Out Creative Arts for Teens:

Are you interested in the opportunity to explore artistic ideas and produce a mural to decorate the disability ramp and base of YOUR

YOUTH CAFE? This workshop will take place over two days on Thurs. 30<sup>th</sup> and Fri. 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, places are limited to 15 participants at a cost of €10. For further information contact 087 6779267 or email [youthsignout@gmail.com](mailto:youthsignout@gmail.com).

## YOUTH CLUB – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> YRS.

Portumna Youth club will reopen on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October in 'Sign Out' from 7.30 to 9pm. Youth Club is open to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students and is affiliated to Youth Work Ireland. Weekly activities include table tennis, pool, film club, table top games etc and out door soccer. Sign in is between 7.30pm and 7.35pm. Once signed in there is no leaving the premises until club ends at 9pm without a parent's written consent. Membership is €5 per annum and weekly sub is €3. All members must be accompanied by a parent on registration night. Numbers limited.

## PORTUMNA & DISTRICT HEALTH FORUM

On Wednesday October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 pm, a presentation will be given by Kevin Fehin, Psychologist on "The Importance of Self Awareness".

This presentation will explore the relevance of personal insight and development and how this may improve our well being. It has long been established that a greater understanding of ourselves, particularly at an emotional level, can contribute to improved mental health and a greater resilience against the stresses and strain of everyday living.

Awareness of our strengths and vulnerabilities improves self esteem through both an increased acceptance of ourselves and greater control over our lives as a result.

## Events Diary : (11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Oct.)

- Mon. 13<sup>th</sup> – Senior Camogie in Athlone. Leaving at 10.10 a.m.
- Tues. 14<sup>th</sup> – Leaving Cert group to Limerick for Open Days – Limerick I.T. and U.L.
- Tues. 14<sup>th</sup> – Presentation of Certs to the PLC class of 2007/08 in the school at 7 pm.
- Wed. 15<sup>th</sup> – Open Year Mass for all students & staff of the school – St. Brigid's Church.
- Wed. 15<sup>th</sup> – Information Evening for all Parents of Transition Year students at 8.00 pm in the school.
- Thurs. 16<sup>th</sup> – Senior Camogie Vs New Inn in Marian Park.



## SHANE SMYTH

Shane Smyth's untimely and tragic death has numbed our community of teachers and students alike here in Portumna Community School. He started here in September 2001 and after his Junior Cert in 2004 he opted to do Transition Year, playing a part in the musical 'Grease' during this time. He completed his Leaving Certificate here in June 2007.

Over his six years in the school, Shane was a model student. He was quiet but very friendly and approachable. Shane was a gifted hurler, a fantastic free-taker and an all-round leader on the field.

He looked out for the younger students on the panel and acted as a mentor to them.

At his funeral mass yesterday, Fr. Kitching said he will be forever young in our minds. Here in Portumna Community School he will be remembered as a young man with a beautiful smile. He was respectful to teachers, genuine with his friends and kind to younger students – he was inoffensive and gentle to all.

The Management, staff and students of Portumna Community School extend our sympathy to Shane's family and many friends.



## CANTEEN

The canteen this year is offering a new range of services and foodstuffs. These changes have been implemented in response to suggestions from parents' council and students' council as well as ideas from staff in relation to nutrition.

Here is a summary of the changes:

- *Students can pre-order their food for morning break or second break from 9 a.m. each day. This ensures that there is sufficient food available at break. It also speeds up service at morning break and gives students more time.*
- *Students with special dietary needs should make direct contact with canteen staff to have their requirements met.*
- *Menus vary from day to day with Friday designated as "treat" day when foods such as chips are included on the menu with alternatives available.*
- *A range of soups, pastas & fresh sandwiches are available.*
- *The price list is displayed in the canteen and prices are competitive with local providers outside school.*
  - *Fruit, juices and water are also available.*
  - *Hot dinners are provided.*

## STUDENTS' COUNCIL

The following students were recently elected to the Students' Council for 2008-09:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year Reps. : David Conroy, Heather Burke, Aisling Egan & Naomi Burke. 3<sup>rd</sup> Year : Kevin Farragher & Conor O'Meara. T.Y. : Brian Duffy.  
5<sup>th</sup> Year : Micheal Dervan, Chloe Duane, Andrew Summers & Sean McDonagh.  
6<sup>th</sup> Year : Susan Keane, Claire Killeen & Brian Walsh.  
Prefects : Leon Tierney & Ciara Bergin.  
The First Year student reps will be elected at the end of October following an information session. A full list, including the subs, will be posted on the Notice Board.

*First meeting will take place on Tuesday (14<sup>th</sup> Oct.) at 11.20 am in Room 'A'. All reps must attend.*  
B. O'Connor.

## FREE SOFTWARE

A number of very useful free programmes have been made available on the school network. You are encouraged to transfer these to your memory stick and install them on your own computer. The list includes: AVG - Free anti-virus software. AD-AWARE - protect your pc from spyware. PAGE PLUS - a really useful desktop publishing programme. PHOTO PLUS - an excellent programme for working with digital images. TYPING TUTOR - learn to touch type. AUDACITY - make your own audio/voice recordings.  
To access these programmes you need to log in using the following details: Username – student.  
Password – Student05.  
Keep an eye on this folder throughout the year as it is regularly updated with useful free software.

## GREEN FLAG



The Green Flag Committee is up and running once again. Thank you to all the students who signed up for the 2008/09 school year to work on environmental issues like litter control and recycling. The committee will meet with Ms. Keena every Tuesday at 1.25 pm in Room V.

If there are any other students who would like to make a difference by joining please give your name to Ms. Keena.

Louise Lyons, Committee Secretary

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