

Who are Blakestown Community School?

A community school open 41 years.

It provides equal access to a comprehensive, community based, multi denominational education.

The Creative Schools programme will:

1. Enhance the students learning through arts participation.
2. Connect students with their own culture.
3. Present an opportunity to show that art and culture can be available to all
4. Break down barriers for students participating in cultural activities.
5. Allow the student/young persons voice to be included in planning the school environment to develop a creative and inclusive atmosphere.



A slower start due to...

- School closures because of the pandemic.
- Restrictions on meeting in person.
- No substitution cover for teachers.
- Delay in School Coordinator training.



Department of Education 

@Education_Ire



Following the Government announcement today, schools will continue to operate with their Covid-19 plans, with all current protective measures in place, until 28 February 2022.

Further guidance will be issued to schools in advance of this date.

Getting to know Blakestown Community School

Email & phone

Pre-recorded and customised video
for the school to use

Setup shared
folder for
resources

Remote
introduction
– Video and
PowerPoint
presentation

Editable/
shared
schedule for
Understand
Phase

- Research on local resources for the school and creating a repository for these on Google Drive as the school uses Google Classroom

- Visiting the school virtually, through social media/website

- Using software to support our collaboration through MSO or Google



What is the role of the Creative Associate

- To be open, approachable, respectful and understanding of the role of the School Coordinator on their terms within their constraints of time and resources.
- To encourage the involvement of all staff and students in a school to ensure that creativity is embraced.
- Helping a school understand their whole school perception of what creativity is and how it can be translated into every aspect of the curriculum.
- To open opportunities for the students voice to be heard throughout the process.

Understand



- Current creative activities.
- Meeting some of the students.
- Tour of the school and its facilities.
- Creativity notice board on-site and digital.
- Plans to recruit a student creative committee
- Plans to recruit a staff/teacher/SNA creative committee.
- Scheduled a ‘What is creativity?’ brainstorm with the student committee.
- Prepared and issued surveys for the consultation process with the whole school community – leadership, board, teachers, parents and the students.

Creative exploration through the voice of the young person

‘Open space’

Three questions:

1. What is creativity?
2. What kind of creative things do you currently do?
3. What creative things would you like to do in school?

Students then grouped the activities into arts categories.



Value of consultation with BCS school community

We surveyed the board of management, the teaching staff and the parents/guardians:

- The common theme from the **students** is to develop an all-inclusive visual representation of wellbeing for all young people and adults alike can enjoy in their school.
- 81.3% of **parents** tell us that their children do not take part in any creative activities outside school.
- Mindfulness and meditation is a common suggestion from the parents.
- 100% of **teaching** staff agree that the school currently provides tools for teachers to foster creativity and pupils to engage in creative processes.
- Although only 77.8% believe that they can include creativity in their teaching to a large extent. Why not 100%?



What they were already doing?

Blakestown Community School
16 March · 🌐

Well done to our second year art students who participated in Creative Engagement workshops this week with graphic designer Eimear O'Keane. Our students explored design through the theme of Inclusion, working with our artist to create collages, lettering and imagery which will come together using the medium of risograph print. We're very excited to see the finished results!! #yellowflag #napdcreativeengagement #worldwiseglobalschools



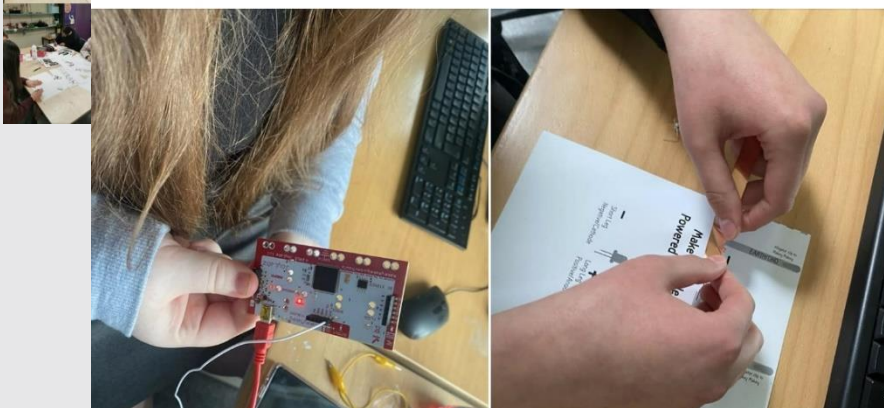
Blakestown Community School
7 May · 🌐

BCS took part in Blast which is an arts in education residency opportunity . A selection of third year students had the opportunity to work with Film artist Helen Flanagan over the two days of her residency with us. They explored the themes of inclusion, sustainability and creativity within our school. We look forward to sharing the documentary they planned, filmed and edited with the school community next week. #blast #ArtsInEducation



Blakestown Community School
30 April · 🌐

Tinkering and Crafting with Mr. O Connell on Friday. Students created their own circuits to power LED lights, using crafts material and MakeyMakeys.



Blakestown Community School
4 April · 🌐

Our music students were busy composing with Jeremy from Create-school today. Sound production, writing lyrics and performance. A very creative day for all. Thank you Jeremy.



From bird houses to micro forests and 'Farm to fork'

Blakestown Community School
1 April

We were delighted to be joined by visual artist Eileen Hutton today. Eileen worked alongside artist Gareth Kennedy and curator Rayne Booth in helping our first year green schools group construct bug hotels which have been placed within our microforest. Eileen's practice aims to generate reciprocal relationships with the natural environment. She taught students about bird ecology, food web and purpose built habitats. Thanks to Fingal Arts Council for this amazing hands on learning experience. #SuperProjects #educationforliving #GlobalGoals #biodiversity



Blakestown Community School
29 April

Enjoying the outdoor learning space on a glorious sunny day. Our first year green schools students continued with their #superproject. They had a workshop with artist Gareth Kennedy and curator Rayne Booth where they captured their selected native birds using ink and feathers as their drawing mediums. We then welcomed Mick Fortune to the microforest and he worked on bird song and folklore. Students recorded bird songs and stories relating to their assigned bird which will be played on our PA system next week to introduce the school to birdcalls from a diverse Irish woodland. Thanks to Fingal Arts Council for a creative day of learning. Fingal County Council



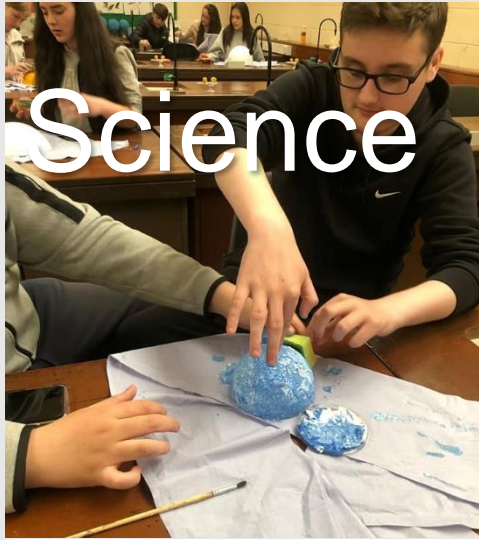
Blakestown Community School
3 April

Transition year students were busy working with Ms. Molloy on their Farm to fork module on Friday. They have planted a range of vegetables which will be used in Home Economics classes.

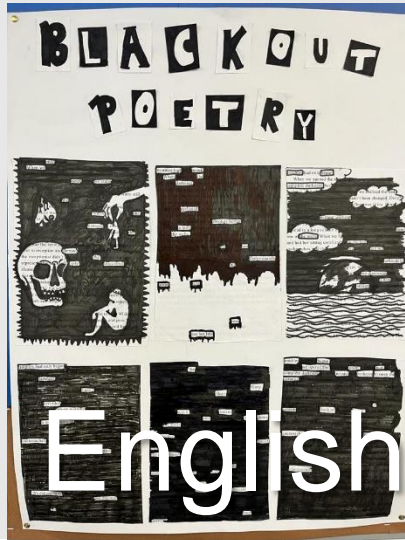




Embedding creativity into whole school life



Science

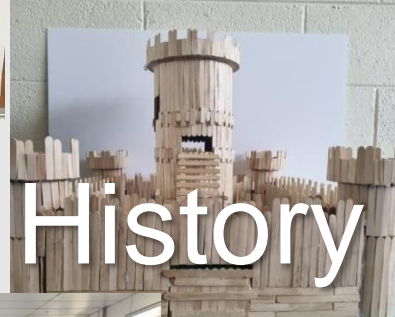


English



Blakestown Community School
29 September at 09:47
First year students in Mr. O Connells history class visited a real life archeological dig in VR and learned about how archeologists excavate a site, the tools they use and how they date artefacts!
#creativeschools

Music



History



Baking



Business



Video

What our young people are telling us...

Students celebrating individuality and visualising
“what matters
in our world” ...

Individuality,
Kindness, Inclusion,
Respect, Uniqueness,
Diversity, Equality,
Expression and
Wellbeing



Celebrating culture, diversity and inclusion through creativity

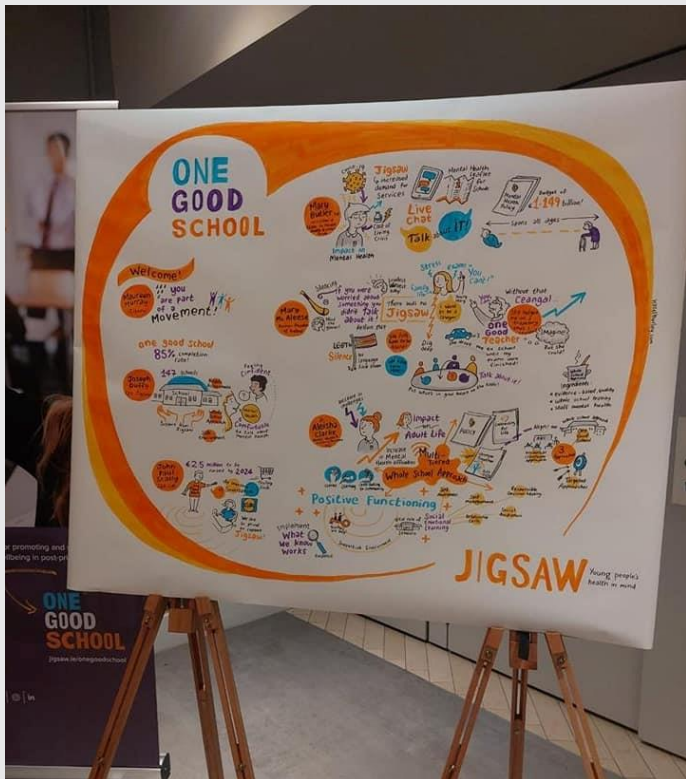
Students voice:

I am who I am

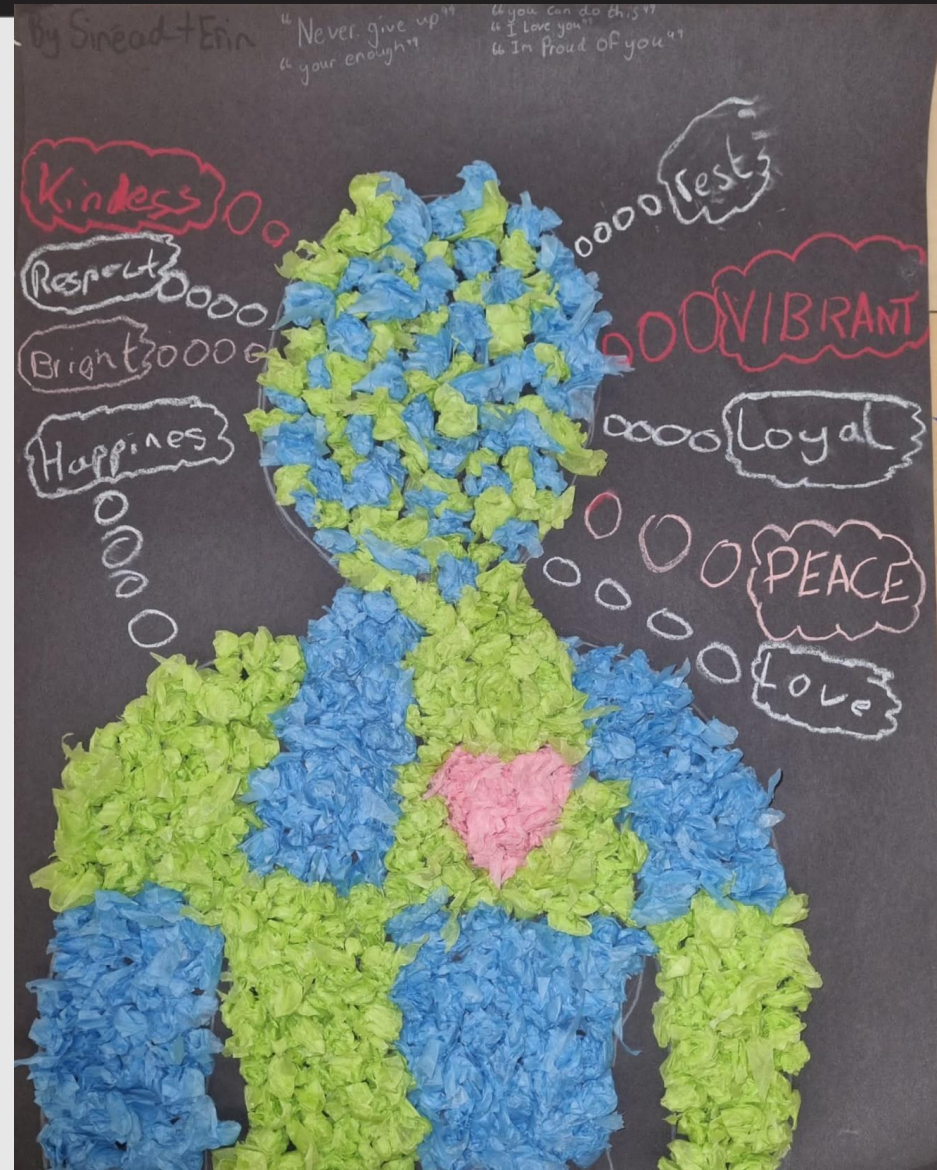


Embedding creativity into whole school life

Staff CPD on supporting the mental health and wellbeing of all young people. This topic was identified by the whole school community and student body as the theme for exploration.



Creative Wellbeing Workshop



What we achieved

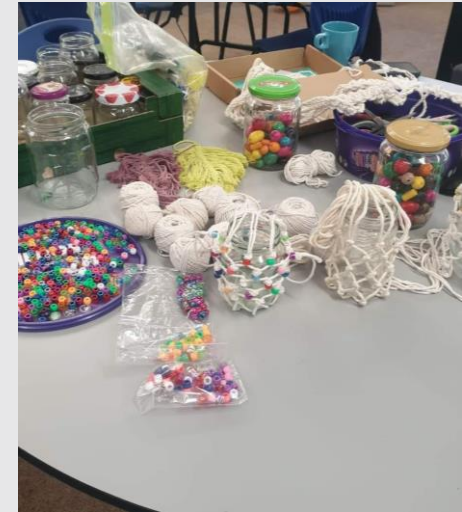
- Wellbeing and inclusion matters for the whole school, adults and students alike.
- Positive praise workshop held during Creative Schools week in 2023 for whole school participation i.e. drop everything and create.
- Established a permanent space (makers space) within the school that students can utilise to work creatively on an ongoing basis.
- Expressive walls especially in the bathrooms, using chalk.
- Presented their creative journey at the CA gathering in May.
- Schedule the Creative Schools Framework to continue beyond 2023.



Ambitions for the future

- Creative minds classes.
- Lego Spike Prime kits
- Established weekly parent's Craft, Gardening and Cookery Classes.

“ I view challenges as opportunities for growth ”



Attitude is the minds
paint brush.....

It can colour any
situation....-