

Case Study
St. Colman's Community
College
2020 – 2022

School Coordinator:
Bridget O' Connor

Creative Associate
Fiona Lawton



St. Colman's Community College



St. Colman's Community College is a mixed gender DEIS secondary school comprising over 1000 students and over 100 staff. 'We encourage and support our students to find expression for their talents and to develop their full potential.'



Rationale for joining the programme
We provide After School study, After School Club, Breakfast Club, Extra-curricular activities for example sports, drama, art and music, Junior Certificate Schools Programme, Green Schools and Ocean Hero club.
St. Colman's aim is to enable creativity to underpin our approach to education by developing a cross-curricular approach to creative education in our school community.

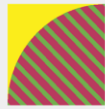
Developing Partnerships

- Zoom meeting online with creative associate, coordinator, student teachers and other staff to introduce the programme
- Coordinator training online
- Telephone meetings - informal
- Building rapport
- Information sharing

Creative conversations

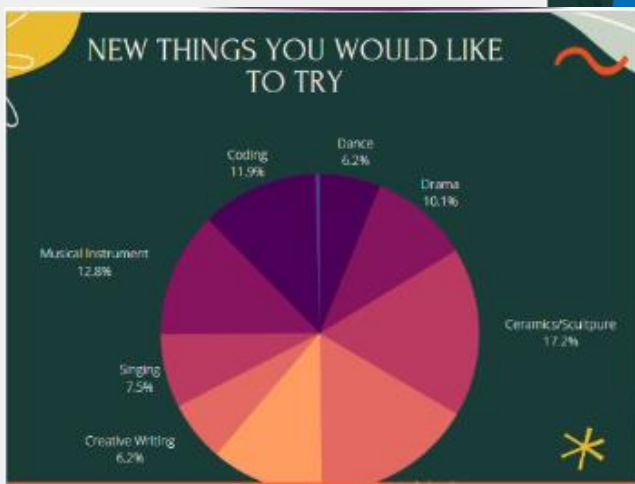
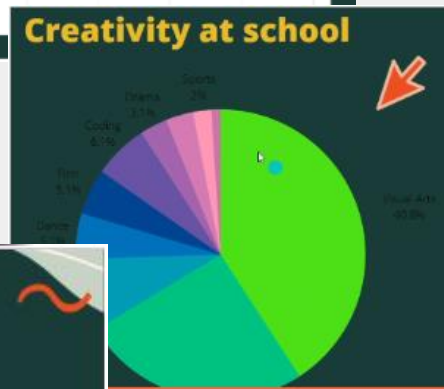
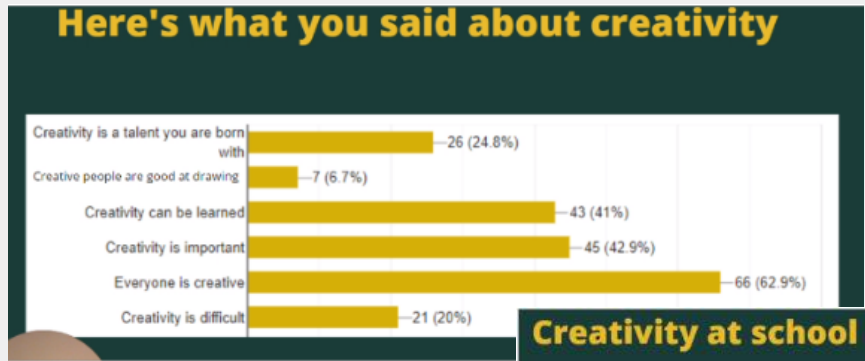
- Time and space to discuss and share ideas without a set agenda.
- Open ended rather than prescriptive., more exploratory and uncertain.
- The teaching process often necessitates a clear plan/structure. beginning and end point.
- Need to share responsibility with other staff and creative associate to expand and develop these conversations.
- Need to be open to hearing all perspectives.
- Evolving creative process.





Children and Young People

- Creative Committee established
- Zoom meetings - Year 1 held after school
- Online format - shy students mightn't have been vocal but engaged via email/zoom - gave them time to think and reflect.
- Creative forum created in google classroom to allow for maximum participation
- Surveys on creativity completed online.
- Year 2 - In person meetings - brainstorming ideas, continuing the creative conversations
- Role of committee - Involved in planning, sharing ideas and organising the creative schools week, photography competition etc..
- Reflections with students - learning about the creative process - from concept to execution/realisation.
- Podcast: <https://anchor.fm/fiona-lawton7/episodes/St--Colmans-Community-College-ei8d2r>





“He had us look deeply into the colours and shapes in the picture, something just clicked instantly!”

“Creativity is being able to do what you want!”

“Creativity is being able to do what you want and think of different things compared to other people, being different.”

“Creativity is making stuff by me for me”

“I like the way I can express myself”

Understand Phase

Thematic planning for whole school participation

Interim Reports

Identifying strengths and needs

Mobilising the school community

Surveys

Developing vision and aims

Creative Conversations



Creative Schools (Teacher Questionnaire)

Creative Schools aims to put the arts and creativity at the heart of children and young people's lives. It aims to reinforce the impact arts and creativity has on student learning, development and well-being.



CREATIVE Schools Week

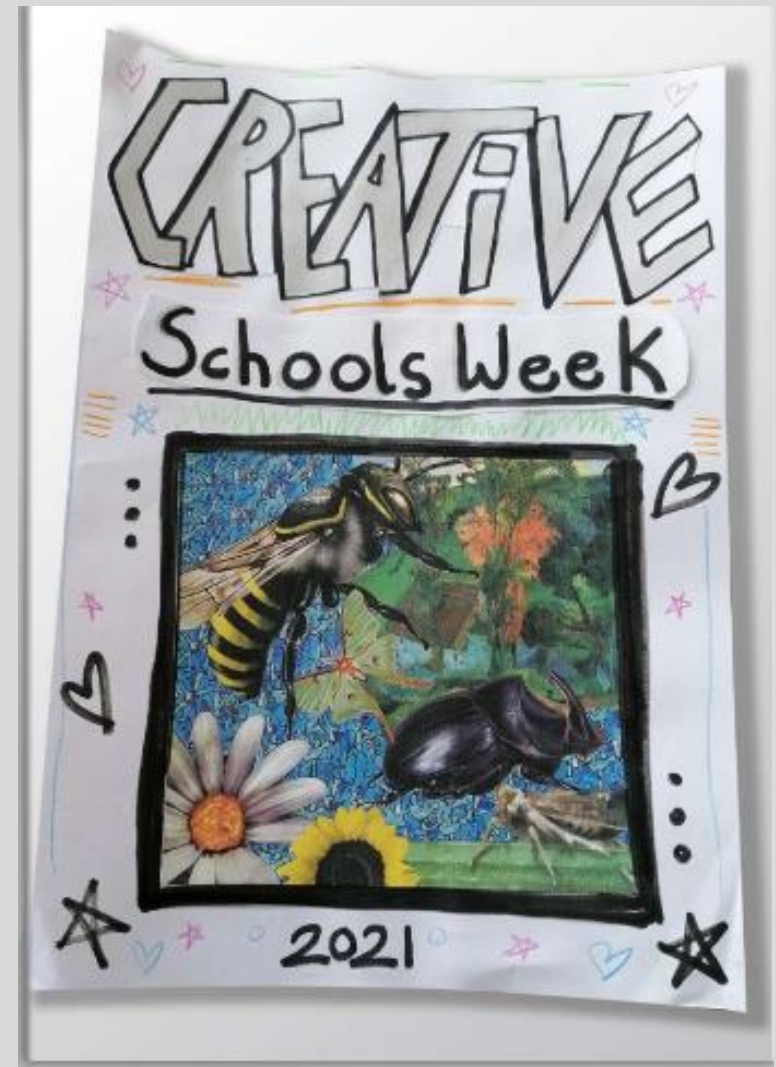
2021

Activities Year 1 - Creative Week

- Art exhibitions in two assembly areas, Junior cycle and Senior cycle.
- Creative writing workshops.
- Debating club- link shared to teachers.
- Poetry- reflection time
- Photography Exhibition.
- Parent and student submissions to digital flip book.
- Link to Midleton Arts festival.
- Journalism team - booklet. (Student Voice - Interviews with students)

Benefits of Creative Schools Week

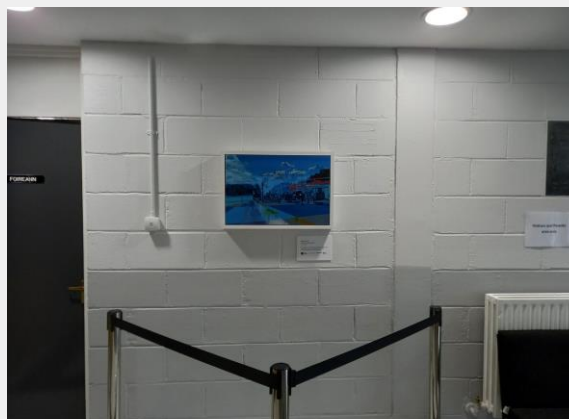
- Directly fed into the exploratory and understand phase.
- Poetry student and affect on school community
- Helped to Mobilise the school community after initial reticence.
- Helped to raise the profile of the arts and creativity - having the structure allowed for buy in from management - e.g. Christmas Lights Project





Developing relationships with artists and artistic organisations.

- Ceramics, textile, and visual artists.
- Alex Pentek
- Kinsale Pottery (Adrien Wistreich)
- Declan O'Meara Art
- Art Library - Mobile Art Gallery Glucksman (Orla Dalby) - working with the school again, lots of resources integrating art with sphe etc.
- Middleton Arts Festival
- Christmas Lights Project
- Ongoing opportunities/relationships (creative writing, engineering etc. emails)





Activities Year 2 Workshops

- Pottery
- Applique
- Oil pastel workshop linked to field trip
- Oil pastel portrait
- Jewellery
- Creative schools week- exhibitions and competitions.



Highlights

- Creative schools week
- Poetry reading
- Workshops

Challenges

- Organisational challenge timetables, booking rooms, getting cover for classes etc. may have taken from embedding the creative process across all departments
- Getting staff and management on board.

Next Steps

- Continue Creative Schools week.
- Applying for other grants
- Teach meets to explore creative links within the curriculum.
- Consolidate and develop relationships with artists
- Integrate projects - e.g. Alex Pentek (Art and Engineering)

Evergreen Trees

There is a tree inside my head,
Inside my mind.
Its roots reach deep into my brain,
Searching, connecting, compiling
The happiest memories
That only I can see.
Inside my mind.
An eager thought reaches
up into the sky,
Meeting daydreams and nightdreams,
Forming the thick woody trunk
Of my vision, my ambition.
Inside my mind.
Each step of my great plan
Reaches out in great and fragile branches,
Telling my arms, my legs, my heart and soul,
What to do,
And how to do it.
Inside my mind.
Buds and blossoms bloom
On every branch
Like some great bucket list,
Of bright green dreams fulfilled.
Of decaying dreams forgotten.
Inside my mind, there is a tree.
Not some dainty shrub
Or weakly sapling, no.
An evergreen, built on memories, dreams and ambitions.
Watch it grow forevermore.
For there is no barrier to stop it.



Poem read by Shauna Mc Namara

Alice Katherine Snow

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