

**Literacy Update** 

**The Literacy team led by Grainne McCluskey are continuing their focus on reading for pleasure during remote learning with the book buddy paired reading scheme between TYs and 1st Years. They are currently enjoying a PDF version of Matilda by Roald Dahl.**



**The Meitheal leaders are also continuing to promote connection and positive relationships with 1st Years by facilitating fun online sessions with games and opportunities for 1st Years to share their experiences. Derek Sherlock confirms they have been brilliant examples of independent action and initiative.**

**Prefects**

The great work of the Prefects should be acknowledged, for their subject presentations with TYs. The online presentations were well prepared and facilitated and were very beneficial for the TYs. Thanks to the students and the TY coordinators and Guidance Department.

**Online Communities of Practice**

**The TL21 Team continue with the focus on Communities of Practice, and the feedback from the staff survey also identified the need for greater connection and sharing of experiences and strategies. As a result, there has been a Teaching & Learning CoP on Tuesday and Wellbeing CoP on Thursday for the last few weeks. Learning has been shared on student engagement, mind mapping and whiteboard tools and online collaborative approaches to student responses using success criteria.**

**Student Teachers**

**Every year we engage fully with education colleges and have PMEs and undergraduates completing 4-year teaching degrees with us for their teaching placements. This year Sarah Freeman and Adam McGovern (Maynooth) are with us for the whole year working with the Maths and Business departments. They have also contributed to the school through substitution and Learning Support. Carrie Ann Channon is teaching Art and Aoife Stafford is back with us in the Home Economics and Religion Departments. We will welcome two PMEs from UL after the mid-term break – Sarah O’Donohue who will be working with the Woodwork/Graphics department and Ellie Bracken joining the Science Department. They will begin their placements online and like us all will be making the best of a challenging and ever-changing situation. We say goodbye to Robbie Burke (Graphics/Woodwork) and Emily O’Donoghue (English/History) who completed their placements before Christmas. With thanks to all the teachers who provide such great support to our student teachers.**

**Remote Learning Support**

**The Learning Support Team are continuing with their work via audio calls incorporating shared screens, Teams video calls with small groups and using Team Teaching resources to facilitate break out rooms or dividing classes as the needs arise. They are also collating and sharing feedback on learner voice to respond effectively to the evolving needs of students.**

**Student Survey & Support for Learning**

**The student survey carried out last week gave us heartfelt and honest feedback and students expressed appreciation for the work of their teachers. It highlighted the reality that the experience of students and teachers was similar in many ways. It seems that as a whole staff we are committed to providing the most flexible and appropriate support we can for our students and each other at this time:**

