

On **Friday November 30th** the 6th yr construction students gained valuable insight into the construction industry in Ireland. Two speakers working within the construction sector came to GCC on behalf of the **Construction Industry Federation** and explained the variety of roles which exist within the sector, where the jobs are currently and where there will be gaps in future years. The students also learned about the different pay scales depending on qualifications of employee and the variety of projects currently underway in Cork and throughout Ireland. Pathways into a career in the construction industry were looked at from level 8 to apprenticeship routes. The benefits of having qualified, skilled employees were highlighted. Afterwards students had the opportunity to ask questions. Mr O'Leary, Ms.O'Donoghue and the construction teachers present told students they are available for guidance should this be a career path they wish to find out more about. *(Kerri McCarthy)*

APPRENTICES.IE

apprentices.ie is administered by CIF Safety & Manpower Services. The goal of the website is to facilitate the rebuilding of a vibrant training structure across all trades in the construction sector. The website enables school-leavers and CIF members to connect. CIF members approved by SOLAS to employ apprentices can register in a matter of minutes on the website, as can school-leavers seeking an apprenticeship. Also, the website offers employers a free service to advertise the apprenticeship vacancies that they have



Transition Year Carol Singing at Carechoice Nursing Home Ballynoe, Whites Cross.

Thirty three transition year students paid a special visit to Ballynoe Nursing Home on **Monday the 3rd of December** last. The residents and students enjoyed a medley of Christmas Carols performed by the students under the musical directorship of Ms. Evelyn Gilbert.

The students had the pleasure of meeting among the group, one of the oldest residents at 102 years young . We enjoyed hearing about Christmases past, varying Christmas traditions and the life experiences of the residents. The group were treated to light refreshments served by the staff of the nursing home who were delighted by the joyous singing, the variety of musical instruments played by the students and particularly the way in which each and every student conducted themselves while there. Often the elderly are overlooked during the Season of Christmas so to have the privilege of spending a day in their company was a real treat for all concerned. It was a lovely start to the Christmas Season. *(Evelyn Gilbert)*



Gift Wrapping in Care Choice Nursing Home, Whites Cross.

Ten of our Transition Year pupils volunteered to take part in wrapping gifts in Carechoice Nursing Home, Whites Cross on **Friday the 7th of December** last. The home has many residents and the students helped the staff wrap individual presents for each member of the community. The Nursing home has such a warm and caring feel which is sensed on entering through the front door and our students were delighted to help the staff in their preparations for Christmas. *(Evelyn Gilbert)*



GCC Hope Foundation Committee 2018/2019

The Hope Foundation is an Irish charity that works with the slums and children of Calcutta.

The Hope Foundation was set up in 1999 to raise money for one girls' home, over time the charity has grown and now has offices in Ireland, the UK, Germany and India.

Hope has helped 25,000 children in education alone and the healthcare program has helped hundreds of thousands of the poorest children and families in Calcutta.

Ms. Reeves has been coordinating the group of students this year again. We have weekly meetings to discuss issues raised by the group. Here we discuss plans for fundraising, raising awareness throughout the school etc. This year in GCC there are 2 girls travelling to Calcutta with the Hope foundation in March, Transition years Triona Lane and Meena Dabis. On our trip we will visit a few of these projects for example, hospitals, schools and crèches and many more. We will spend a full week in Calcutta. Altogether we have to fundraise €7,000 by March.

The school has been very supportive throughout the past few weeks. We organised, with the help of Ms. Reeves's classes a Cake Sale in both senior and junior buildings. The morning started with the collection of all the cakes in her base classroom, these were then distributed to both selling areas. We raised a large amount for the charity through the cake sale. Ms. Reeves kindly delivered the unsold cakes to the Simon homeless shelter, Anderson's Quay, Cork and St.Helen's Convent, Blarney a residential care centre for people addicted to alcohol/drugs. So not only are we helping internationally but also at a local level to those in need.

We also sell the Hope Foundation chocolate bars to raise additional money. We will be having many more events throughout the year and your support would be very much appreciated.

I'd like to thank everyone who helped us prepare for the bake sale, especially Ms. Reeves's 1st year Geography class, Rang Aoife and her TY Geography classes. Thanks also to Kathleen O'Shea SNA who helped in the C-block last Friday. In total we raised €466. (*Written by Triona Lane*)



European Champion

Ellie Keane, 2nd year Rang Tara returned to school this week having won the European Freestyle Dance Championship. She was competing in Blackpool Tower in England over the weekend.

Munster Soccer

Chloe Atkinson 2nd Year, made a panel of 20 players for the Munster Schoolgirls U15. She did not make the final squad of 18 but was on standby for the interprovincial tournament having gone through a trial process of over 100 players.



Rang Barra visit Glennon Brothers Sawmill

On Thursday 6th December, Rang Barra, along with Mr. Browne and Mr. Crowley visited the Glennon Bros sawmill in Fermoy. This was to complete one of the Key Assignments in the Forestry module of their Agriculture/Horticulture course.

After a damp start to the morning, the weather cleared up and a very enjoyable tour was had led by Michael O' Brien of Glennon Bros. In spite of the enormous amount of lumber present in the holding yard, he informed us that they were, in fact, low in supplies, only having sufficient supplies for 5 days production. It takes a minimum of 60 loads of limber per day to keep the mill running. The sawmill is one of the most advanced in Europe and the students were shown how sophisticated computer systems along with laser scanning were used to get the very most usable timber from each log. The students were shown the sawmill itself which can be operated by one individual from a computer console. There is very little waste from the process with the main product being sawn timber and woodchip is sent elsewhere to be made into MDF. Sawdust is used for bedding or as fuel for the onsite furnaces in the massive wood drying kilns.

The students were shown the new state of the art planing plant which is used to produce high quality dressed timber. The vast majority is sold into the Irish market. Michael and his colleague Dermot then took the students to the training room for some refreshments and to answer all their questions so they could write up their report. A most enjoyable time was had by all and the students got a first-hand account as to how vibrant the forestry industry is in Ireland today. *(Eoin Browne & Kevin Crowley)*

