



SCHOOL COMPETITION 2024 FINALIST



FCJ SECONDARY SCHOOL BUNCLODY

L-R: Hollie-Mae Power Sinnott & Grace Warren

FCJ SECONDARY SCHOOL



ABOUT OUR SCHOOL:

FCJ Secondary School Bunclody is a co-educational, post-primary school on the banks of the River Slaney in Co. Wexford. Marie Madeleine d'Houet set up the school in 1861. There are currently over 1000 students in our school with numbers increasing each year. Our school is a Christian community of learning and companionship in which each student and member of staff experiences and is responsible for the development of person centred, holistic and enjoyable education. Our aim is to create a respectful, happy, safe and cooperative atmosphere built on a foundation of positive relationships among all in our school community. In this atmosphere students can participate fully in all school activities so as to further personal development, good citizenship and academic progress. Our school values respect for all, kindness and willingness to help others, fairness and forgiveness, courtesy and good manners. Each FCJ student knows their three rights are; The right to feel safe and happy, The right to learn and The right to be yourself.

WHY WE ENTERED THE COMPETITION?:

At the start of TY, the two of us promised ourselves we would try to make the most out of the year. Therefore, when our Agricultural Science teacher approached us asking if we wanted to take part in this amazing competition we jumped at the opportunity. Especially since the school has never entered this competition before, and we wanted to represent our school for the first time. We both have a passion for learning about both agriculture and animals since we both come from farming backgrounds and would love to get an insight into the meat industry. This project will allow us to work on a topic we love but also help us with our study of Agricultural Science for our Leaving Certificate. This competition also gives us the opportunity to grow in confidence and develop many skills such as; communication, organisational and teamwork skills which were all aims we had at the beginning of TY.

THEME OF OUR PROJECT:

Positioning Ireland as a global leader in Sustainable Beef Production

We will focus our research on the following areas:

- Examining the knowledge that farmers have about sustainability in farming.
- Investigating how including multi-species swards in the diet of Irish Angus cattle can have a positive impact on slaughter performance and sustainability on your farm.
- Demonstrating how the Irish Beef industry compares to those from across the globe by talking to leading female researchers about their sustainable farming and beef journey.
- Comparing the importance of women in the role of agriculture in Ireland compared to other countries across the world.
- Learning about consumers' eating habits whilst coming up with ideas to incorporate more beef and local produce into consumers' daily diets.

We will raise awareness and promote our theme by:

- Hosting information workshops with local Macra, IFA and ICA groups.
- Holding school competitions and fundraisers.
- Speaking to female international and national researchers about the meat industry and sustainability in their country.
- Developing and marketing a new beef product focused on all local Irish produce.
- Spread and develop our knowledge of the beef industry by meeting and visiting with local beef enterprises across the country.
- Creating a notice board in our school to keep our school community updated on the progress of the competition and our calves.
- Creating information leaflets to help local farmers better understand sustainability in farming.