**Letters to Editor 27/02/2018**

**Irish Times**

Beast from the East

about 11 hours ago

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Sir, – Please can the Garda, the Government, the local councils, the AA, the radio, the television, the fire brigade and the ambulance service define what an unnecessary journey is before they tell me not to make one. – Yours, etc,

PAVEL MARIANSKI,

Dungarvan,

Co Waterford.

Sir, – A snow news day. – Yours, etc,

RONAN SCANLAN

Leopardstown,

Dublin 18.

Leaving Cert reform is overdue

Mon, Feb 26, 2018, 00:07

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A chara, – I believe we are underestimating the impact technology is going to have on our daily lives over the coming decades.

For this reason, I would love that when students graduate from secondary school that they would be knowledgeable in plenty of subjects, fearless, entrepreneurial and open minded.

They should be creative, agile, analytical, inquisitive and multilingual. They should know how to cook, administer CPR, be tech and financially savvy and confident public speakers. They should learn how to look after their mental, physical and sexual wellbeing and have a thorough understanding of social issues, team work, equality, their history and the environments within which they live.

They should also understand the importance of being an upstanding citizen, extracurricular activities and the power of their vote.

They need to have developed leadership skills, become self-aware and they need to leave secondary school with a clear idea of what their life dream is and how best to pursue it, but most importantly, they need to be happy.

What shouldn’t happen is students, during their late teenage years, suffering from exam stress, anxiety or possible panic attacks and wasting up to two years of their lives trying to learn answers off by heart so that they can regurgitate them over a few days during their Leaving Certificate. – Is mise,

JASON POWER,

Dartry,

Dublin 6.

Arming teachers in US schools

Sat, Feb 24, 2018, 00:11

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 Sir, – Arming teachers.

An American solution to an American problem? – Yours, etc,

DAVID DORAN,

Bagenalstown,

Co Carlow.

Sir, – This business is not being thought through properly. President Trump’s idea to arm the teachers is not a brilliant one as each would require an AK 47 to meet the possibility, indeed likelihood, of an encounter with a visitor equipped with modern weaponry against which a mere pistol would be useless. The proper approach would be to arm every pupil in every school with pistols, say a 22-calibre light model for the youngsters rising to a 357 magnum for the seniors. End of problem, and the NRA would benefit from increased demand for firearms, and all Americans would be able to exercise their constitutional right to carry arms. – Yours, etc,

SEAMUS Ó DUNLAING,

Bray,

Co Wicklow.

Sir, – One has to admire the initiative of the NRA and its presidential supporter. There are over three million teachers in America and some bright executive has seen a potential market arising from the tragic events of the past few days. One just hopes that they are offering discounts in pursuit of this noble goal of tackling the problem of guns by providing more guns! – Yours, etc,

DAVE ROBBIE,

Booterstown, Co Dublin.

Sir, – I recall occasions, at heated moments in my school days, when the teacher (always male) would fire the blackboard duster at some delinquent in the back row. Invariably he missed and ended up apologising (or not) to the unfortunate person sitting next to the intended target. I am not sure how this scenario works with live bullets. – Yours, etc,

IVAN RUSK,

Quin, Co Clare.

Sir, – My 23-year-old niece teaches middle school in Washington DC, and it is a job she loves. Now her president wants her to carry a gun into class with her to protect her pupils. I don’t think so! – Yours, etc,

ANN CARROLL,

Carbury,

Co Kildare.