Fingal County Council

Press Release

December 1 2017

Fingal Students complete final mile of Marathon at Morton Stadium

1700 students from 34 Fingal schools ran the final mile of a marathon in Morton Stadium as part of the MarathonKids Programme being implemented by Fingal County Council on Thursday, December 1.

The fifth and sixth class students ran a total of 25.2 miles during group training sessions over an eight week period. To complete the marathon distance, they ran a full mile at Morton Stadium together.

On reaching the finish line, the runners were congratulated and presented with a medal by International Olympic Athlete, David Gillick.

The MarathonKids programme was first implemented across Fingal three years ago and was the first of its kind in Ireland. This year saw South Dublin County Council implement the programme across their schools too.
Fingal County Council Sports Officer and MarathonKids Coordinator, Niall McGuirk, described the benefits of such a programme and the experience of this year’s participants: “This programme was designed to benefit runners of all abilities. Each week, the runners would increase their distances gradually making it sustainable and most importantly, it was enjoyable. Students learned a huge amount about health, fitness and nutrition along the way and improved their confidence as they saw their fitness levels improve. The final mile today showed them how their hard work and commitment can pay off.”

The training programme was delivered across Fingal’s schools by MarathonKids Ireland and Fingal County Council Sports Office. Commenting on the success of this year’s programme, MarathonKids Ireland Director Seán O’Ríain said: “The Marathonkids Ireland Program has just completed its third year. Thanks to Fingal County Council’s Sports Office, year on year, we’ve seen an increased participation rate across the county. This year we were delighted that South Dublin County Council has adopted the program. The Marathonkids Ireland Program has great benefits for schools and students alike and I believe the program could benefit every school in Ireland.”

Also waiting at the finish line to present the runners with their medals were Fingal County Council Chief Executive, Paul Reid, and Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Mary McCamley. Praising the success of the programme, Mr Reid said: “I was really impressed by each and every runner who crossed the finish line today. It demonstrates huge dedication and hard work to have run 25.2 miles over the course of eight weeks before running the final mile to complete a marathon and they should be extremely proud of themselves. I’m also very proud of Fingal County Council and MarathonKids for coordinating these training sessions and for investing time and energy into the health, fitness and well-being of Fingal’s children.”

Mayor McCamley congratulated the runners on completing the programme: “This is a fantastic achievement for students as young as 11 and 12. One of the best things is that, as a fitness programme, MarathonKids is extremely inclusive and allows children of all abilities to enjoy being active. I am sure that every runner here today has individual abilities, fitness levels and may or may not be interested in sports but they all seemed to be happy, smiling and proud as they completed the final mile.”

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For further enquiries or more photos, please contact press@fingal.ie

Photo caption: Pictured at the Marathon Kids final mile event held in Morton Stadium, Santry was Mayor of Fingal, Mary McCamley, Irish international athlete, David Gillick, and Chief Executive of Fingal, Paul Reid, with Sophia Motinga, Simone
Tuthille, Emily Windsor, Doireann Carey and Aoibhinn McCooy from St Bridgid’s, Castleknock