



Rockford News

Newsletter

June 2017

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"A Christian environment where teaching and learning nurture the personal development of every student"



Whole School Tour- Tayto Park

Tayto Park

On the 12th of May 2017, all 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th year students went to Tayto Park in Ashbourne, Co. Meath. From wall climbing to the Cú Chulainn rollercoaster, to visiting the Tayto factory, there was an abundance of activities. It was a great day out, enjoyed by all!



Whole School Tour- Tayto Park



Whole School Tour- Tayto Park

All-Ireland Volleyball Winners

Rockford's Senior Volleyball team won their All Ireland Final match against Ardscoil Tramore in UCD on the 7th December. On their way to the final, they defeated several schools including Cluny, The Grange, Santa Sabina Sutton, Presentation Terenure, Holy Child Killiney and Stokestown Roscommon. The future is bright for Volleyball in Rockford!



All-Ireland Volleyball Winners

Farewells

We were delighted to have such a wonderful staff group this year. Unfortunately there are a number of members who we bid farewell.

Kathryn Keane (Administrator)
Rachael O'Donovan (German Department)
The PME's- Brian Cantwell, Rachael Malone, Elisabeth Sinnott, Laura McNamara, Emma Cowley and Bonita Darcy. Katie Murphy (Religion department) Nathan Rice (Religion department) Harry Blackmore (CSPE and Resource)

We would like to thank you all for your hard work throughout this academic year and wish you all the best with your future endeavors.

Summer Message

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter 2017. The summer term has flown past. As well as continuing with their studies, the students participated in a variety of activities including fundraisers, choral competitions, basketball matches and school trips to various locations. The photographs and articles reflect the many events which took place this term.

The end of the school year was marked as usual by the Annual Awards Ceremony and the Graduation Mass. We bid farewell to the Leaving Certificate Class of 2017 and wish them success in their exams and every blessing as they continue on their journey in life. We said goodbye also, to the international students who spent this academic year in Rockford Manor. We hope that they enjoyed their stay in Ireland as much as we enjoyed having them in the school.

Rockford Manor School has been granted funding for ICT. WiFi will be installed in the school over the summer holidays. 2016/17 has been a very successful year in the school. In spite of the many challenges faced by all schools at present, Rockford Manor continues to thrive. Huge thanks are due to the staff members who give so generously of their time and energy to provide support, encouragement and inspiration to the students. The many successes achieved this year are testament to their dedication. Finally, best wishes to all for an enjoyable summer break. Hopefully, the sun will shine! We look forward to the students returning in late August with energy and enthusiasm to meet the challenges of the next academic year.

Liz Caffrey
Principal

Tony Collison
Deputy Principal





Alannah Petit de Mange Curtis - Winner of the English Essay competition with Ms. Keane

Student Awards

The annual student awards ceremony at Rockford Manor took place on May 18th. This is always a special event in Rockford's calendar as we get the opportunity to thank our students for their invaluable contribution to school life and honour the students in areas such as academic achievement, effort, leadership, sport, music, art and community spirit. At the beginning of the ceremony, Ms. Caffrey acknowledged not only the students nominated for awards but all students in each year group, as without their co-operation and support, events such as the awards ceremony would not be possible. Certificates of commendation were presented to over 190 students. Students placed first, second and third in their respective year group were awarded medals. The recipients of the category awards in 6th year were as follows:

Biology- Alannah Petit de Mange Curtis

Chemistry- Niamh Cassidy

French- Cara Cleary

Home Economics- Dionne Baker

German- Dionne Baker

French- Holly Naylor

Music- Nancy O'Neill

Geography- Amy Livingstone

Sports Awards 2017

Senior Overall Sports person -

Klaudia Krasowska

Junior Overall Sports person -

Weronika Niemierzycka

Circuit Class Award -

Belen Perdiguer Torralba

Senior Basketball Award- Joanna Doorley

Junior Basketball Award- Nicole Bolger

Junior Volleyball Award- Natasha Coffey

Senior Volleyball Award- Agustienne Levita

The title of Sports Captain will be handed down from Emma Hughes to Lauren Hayes for this coming academic year. A special thanks to Emma Hughes for her commitment to the sports department this year.



Caitlin Farrelly who won the Truell Cup

Golf

Congratulations to Caitlin Farrelly who won the Truell Cup and the Lady Presidents Perpetual Trophy in Woodenbridge Golf Club. Caitlin is the only Junior member in the history of Woodenbridge Golf Club to win these awards. What an achievement! Well done Caitlin!

Student Awards

We are delighted to announce that our head girl for this coming academic year of 2017/2018 will be Abigail Doyle, who will be accompanied by Carol Lewis as deputy head girl. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our current head girl, Sinead Lang and deputy head girl, Cara Cleary for all their hard work throughout the year.

Prefects

Our new team of prefects has been announced for the next academic year. In order to gain a prefect badge, students are nominated and have to undergo a series of interviews. We are delighted with our chosen group of prefects for this year and would like to thank our current prefects for their dedication and hard work throughout this year.

Chelsea Thompson - Chloe Breen

Caitlin Farrelly - Orlaith O'Sullivan

Aoibh Hall - Shelise O'Toole-Plunkett

Graduation Mass

This year's 6th year graduation mass took place on the 19th of May. The students, along with their families and friends joined Fr. Bill Fortune for a celebratory mass highlighting the girls' journey throughout the years in this school. Mr. Collison took the final roll call while, Ms Caffrey, the principal, presented each student with their certificates. The main theme of the night was Stars. We would like to wish all the students that graduated all the best in their future endeavors. The past is your lesson. The present is your gift. The future is your motivation.

Student versus Teacher Basketball Game

On the 10th of May, the 6th year students played an intense Basketball game against the teachers. Despite their best efforts and the support they received from their peers, the teachers beat them by one basket! May the teachers winning streak continue!

Mental Health and Social Awareness

Throughout the year we hosted several events to raise awareness for wellbeing and positive mental health. During the week of 21st-25th November, under the guidance of Mr. Kelly and Ms. Behan, an Instagram competition ran with prizes for the best #rockfordsmiles photo. In addition, lollipops and positive quotes were distributed and teachers and students swapped happy memories on the Basketball courts. During Active Schools Week, one of the activities undertaken by the girls was meditation and yoga, which was a perfect way to clear their minds. Finally the HB ice cream day was organized by Ms. Daly and the 2nd years to raise funds for Down Syndrome Ireland. This brought a smile to everyone's faces and in addition raised €191.50.



Holly Naylor - Student of the Year 2017.
Robin Flynn - Personal Achievement Award 2017.



Positivity Week

International Culture Day

This year 17 students were elected to the Student Council and they attended several lunchtime meetings throughout the year. Under the guidance of Mr. Blackmore, the council successfully organised 'International Culture Day' on May 13th. Students from different cultures and backgrounds brought their traditional cuisine, languages, music and costumes to Rockford to celebrate diversity and cultural awareness. The Student council contacted a number of embassies, who kindly supplied flags, posters, information booklets and food for the event including delicious spring rolls from Malaysia and a Didgeridoo from Australia! It was a wonderful day and we look forward to celebrating many more successful cultural events in the coming academic year.



International Culture Day



International Culture Day



International Culture Day



International Culture Day



International Culture Day

Primary School visit for International Culture Day

International Culture Day was also co-organised by the 4th year enterprise class. On the morning of the 13th of May, a primary school was invited into Rockford Manor in which they partook in international sports and games and competed in a cultural table quiz, with many prizes won on the day. It was a fun day had by all.



Primary School Culture Day

Choir

On the 4th of May, the choir performed at the Navan Choral Festival, singing a Bartók piece 'The Wooing of a Girl'. The choir also had the great privilege of being the first Post-Primary School to perform a debut of 'Hodie Christus Natus Est' composed by Laura Shiels. The girls really enjoyed the workshop with the composer and the chance to perform music by a living composer! The choir finished a successful and busy year with a performance at the Student Award ceremony. As the academic year comes to a close, we sadly say goodbye to six sixth year students, Holly Naylor, Joanna Doorley, Sinead Lang, Cara Cleary, Nancy O'Neill, Robin Flynn and Megan Keane. We wish them the very best of luck with their bright futures.



The Choir at the Navan Choral Festival

Rhythm of Rockford

This year saw a new venture for the annual 'Rhythm of Rockford' Production, as students from 1st-6th year performed numbers from a variety of Broadway and West End Musicals including Annie, Chicago, Lion King and Wicked. The TY's did a fantastic job organising the musical including designing the stage sets, advertising, arranging the programme and costumes, as well as performing three songs from High School Musical (better than Zac Efron himself!). Many teachers were involved on the night and during rehearsals not to mention showing off their dancing skills with a fabulous performance from Grease! There was a great buzz leading up to the musical nights which took place on the 25th and 26th of October and we're really looking forward to next year's production!



Rhythm of Rockford



Nancy O'Neill

Heartiest congratulations to our 6th year student Nancy O'Neill who was accepted into DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama in association with the Irish College of Music Theatre. We look

forward to watching her perform on Broadway and the West End in the future!

Deansgrange Community Expo

On the 13th of May, a group of TY and 5th year students performed the ukulele at the Deansgrange Community Expo. Under the guidance of Ms. Whyte and Ms. Sinnott, the ukulele group performed a number of songs such as 'I'm Yours' and 'Ho Hey'. We also had the pleasure of performing exclusively for two Leinster Rugby stars at the event, Robbie Henshaw and Rob Kearney!



Deansgrange Community Expo- Ukulele group

Transition Year Outings 2016/2017

Lough Dan

On the 15th and 16th of September, the TYs took a trip to Lough Dan to complete a 25km hike as part of their An Gaisce programme. Along with Ms. Whyte, Ms. O'Donovan and Mr. Burns, the TYs climbed Mount Scarr and embraced several other activities such as swimming in the lake and arrow shooting. The girls were really impressed with the beautiful scenery as they completed their hike in Glendalough. All the girls agreed that the trip was a great bonding experience and they left with a lot of fond memories.



TYP Carlingford trip

Carlingford

The fabulous Bingo night hosted by the TY's earlier in the year raised money for their next trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre on the 27th and 28th of April. The bus left for Carlingford on the Thursday after school and the girls along with Ms. Malone, Ms. Ni Fhlanagain and Ms. Duffy participated in a series of activities such as a night line walk, zip lining and canoeing. All in all, it was a great two days and everyone really enjoyed themselves!



TYP Carlingford Trip



TYP Carlingford Trip

TY Exhibition Night

It has been a productive year for our TY students and what better way to show off all that they have achieved and experienced than to host an exhibition night for their parents, guardians and families. 'Trees' was the theme

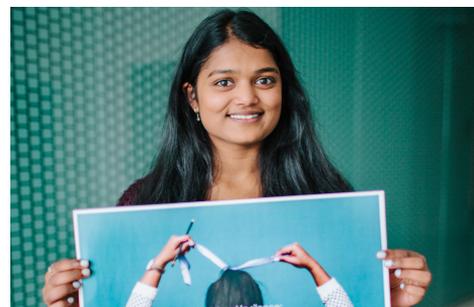
chosen by this year's TY students to review their year's work- using the analogy of roots, which have spread out and grown strong over the year. Under the guidance of Ms. O'Toole, Ms. Behan and Ms. McNamara the TY's worked tirelessly to decorate the sports hall with displays of their projects, art work and photographs. On the night, the students showed off their ukulele and dancing skills and each student presented some aspect of the year which they thoroughly enjoyed such as their participation in boxing, trips to the Criminal Courts, learning first aid, interesting science experiments they learned, and speakers they met during the year. The students received various awards for their participation in several modules, events and organisations throughout the year. 96% of students completed the ECDL module, 68% of students completed the An Gaisce Bronze Award. The highest number ever (62%) received a distinction, an indication of their contribution to the year. The international student of the year was Maria Rodriguez. The following nine students were commended for their excellent contribution to TY 2016-2017, Caitlin Dunne, Holly Bracken, Uransanaa Altannaraa, Olivija Kurpyte, Ana Alvarez, Michelle Khong, Maija Soares, Maria Rodriguez and Emma Hughes. Well done to all the Transition Year students for making the year unforgettable.

IADT

The following students attended the 'My Future IADT Programme' in IADT on May 10th. Aoife Farrell, Carol Lewis, Charlie Kelly, Kreziela Arandela, Kyla Salvatierra, Lauren Moriarty, Miriam Sarzynska, Rosie Cahill, Sarah Ellen Thompson and Shelise O'Toole. The programme sets out to improve the students' awareness of college, increase their belief in their own ability to attend college and their motivation to achieve a college place. It increases students' knowledge in how to study effectively, how to cope with study stress and how to apply for college and student grants. The girls benefitted greatly from this course, with increased levels of confidence and emerging aspirations for a future third level career. The students also provided strong individual feedback, "I think that overall the week was worthwhile and I'd definitely do a similar course again", "I feel super productive and motivated". A special thanks to Cillian Murphy, the access officer at IADT, for all his help and support throughout the programme, it is greatly appreciated here at Rockford.



Students at IADT



Carol Lewis at IADT

Zambia 2018

The coming year will see an exciting adventure for Rockford Manor as a selected group of 5th year students and teachers will travel to Zambia as part of the Global Education Experience with the Presentation Nuns. It is 10 years since our last trip to Zambia and the students from the 2008 trip have kindly volunteered to support this group in their quest for fundraising and sponsorship such as hosting a stand at the Deansgrange Community Expo on May 13th. The Rockford community will need as much support as possible and several fundraising events will take place throughout the coming academic year to raise money and awareness for this charitable excursion. Anyone who is interested in sponsoring should contact the school or they can donate through our Go Fund Me page at www.gofundme.com/rockfordmanorzambia18. We are so excited to embark on this wonderful journey and thank you in advance for your generosity.



Past Pupils promoting the Zambia Trip 2018

Dates for the Diary

Monday 28th August:	1st Year Orientation Day: 9:30 – 12:00 LCA/TY/Staff Meeting: 12:30-3:40 (Staff only)
Tuesday 29th August:	2nd, 3rd, LCA, 5th and 6th Years return to school: 9:30- 11 am 1st and 2nd Year Information and CPD Meetings: 11:15-3pm (Staff Only) N.B: No school for 1st and 4th years
Wednesday 30th Aug:	Normal Timetable: 8:45-12:30 pm for all students. N.B: No school for 4th Years TY Information Meeting for Parents/Host Parents: 7:30pm
Thursday 31st August:	Normal Timetable for all students including 4th years: 8:45-12:30
Subject Meetings:	1-3:40 pm (staff only)