

**CEIST** Catholic Education An Irish Schools Trust

**news from ceist...**

CEIST is the trustee body for the voluntary secondary schools of the Daughters of Charity, the Presentation Sisters, the Sisters of the Christian Retreat, the Sisters of Mercy and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

**Feature**

**In November We Remember**

**All Saints Day – November 1st**

The church celebrates holy men and women throughout the year on various Saint days. November 1st is the day we celebrate all known and unknown saints together. This day is dedicated to the saints of the church. We pray for them today and we thank them also for their tremendous courage and generosity they showed to all throughout their lives.

**All Souls Day – November 2nd**

On this day we remember all those who have died. We remember their kind deeds, the things they did for us and for other people; we remember how we loved them and how they loved us, and we pray we will be united with them again. We also pray for those who have died that we never knew. We pray for all those who have died alone with one to remember or pray for them. By remembering those who were loved, they are never really gone from us.

**CEIST News**

**CEIST School Prayer Book 2017**

**Faith-related Issues**

**Scoil Bhríde - In November We Remember**

**St Mary's Newport - In November We Remember**

**News from CEIST Schools**

**Ardscail Mhuire Ballinasloe - School News**

**Caritas College Ballyfermot 50 Year Anniversary Celebration**

**Grand celebration as Presentation Secondary School Castleisland Marks 90th Anniversary**

**Latest News from Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney**

**Mercy Beaumont hosts Students from Walton High School, Georgia, USA**

**News from Mount St Michael Secondary School Rosscarbery**

**News from Presentation College Currylea**

**Presentation Secondary School Waterford Awards Night 2017**

**Scoil Mhuire Strokestown Celebrates its 50th Anniversary**

**St Mary's Secondary School Mallow Students Receive Scholarships**

**St. Leo's Carlow - Latest News**

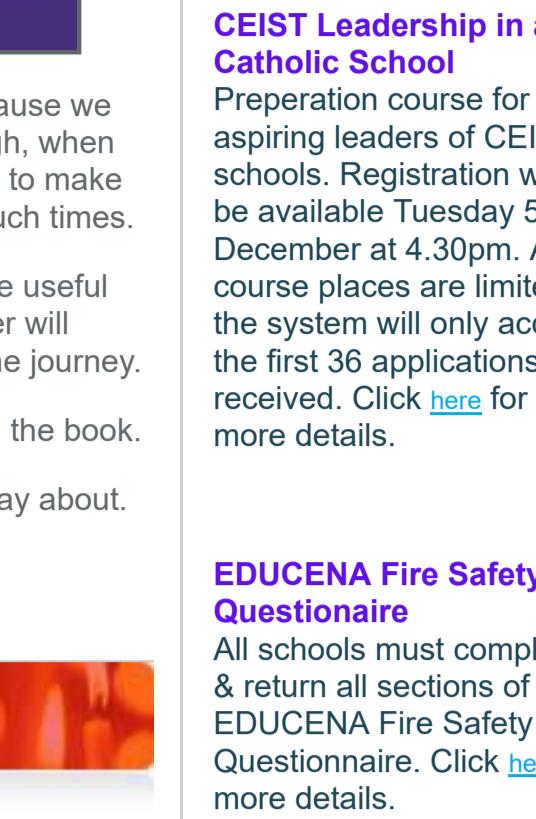
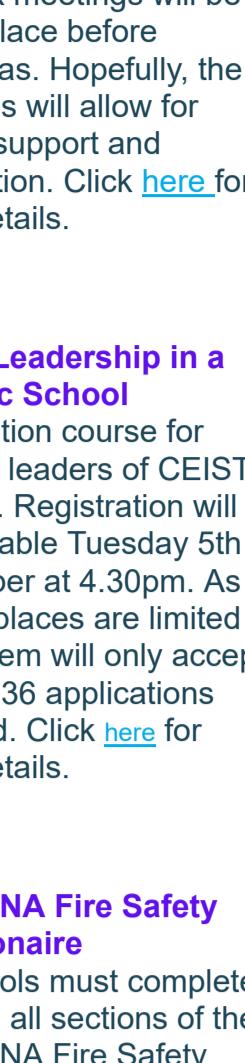
**Reflecting CEIST Values**

**Happy Presentation Day**

**Latest News from Calasancius College Oranmore**

**Presentation Secondary School Ballyphehane Presentation Day**

30 November 2017



## Feature

### In November We Remember

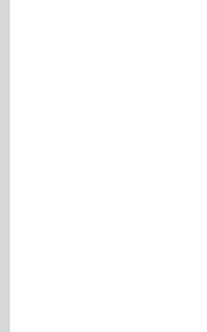
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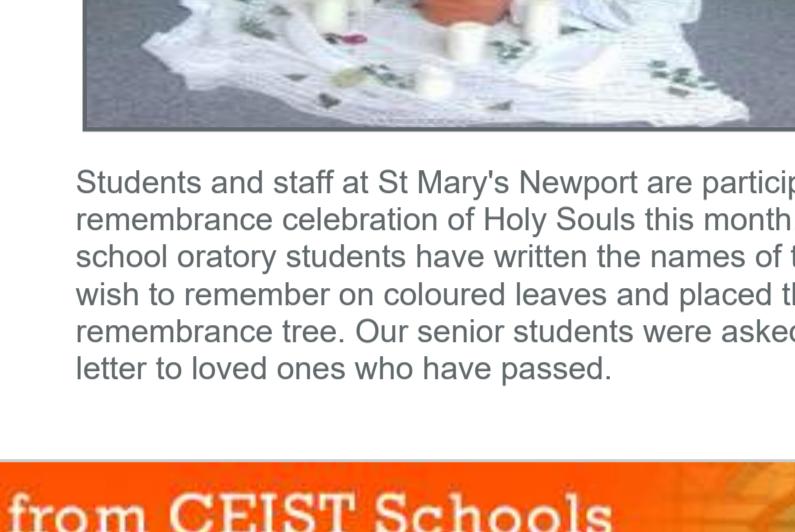
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## CEIST News



### CEIST School Prayer Book 2017



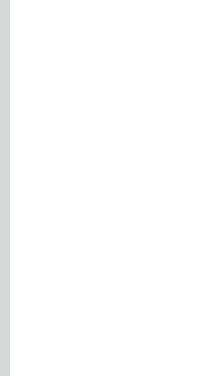
'Dear young people, love Jesus Christ more and more! Our love is a response to his call and you can answer this call. May you feel the Lord's presence in your hearts, as a friend who knows how to help and understand you, who encourages you in difficult times and never abandons you.'

We don't need special words or religious words because we can pray simply and directly. There are times, 'though', when we would like to have the words already there for us to make praying easier. Jesus gave us the 'Our Father' for such times.

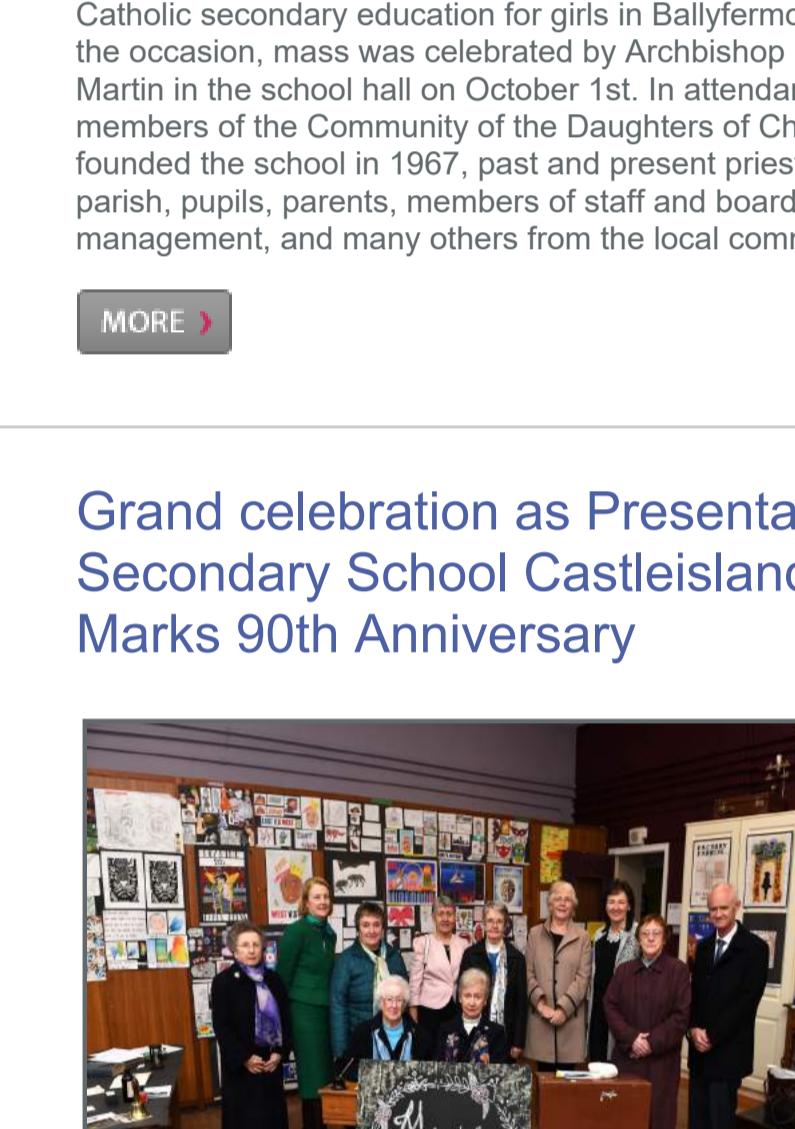
This little book is a gathering of prayers that might be useful for the school year. It will help at times when a prayer will remind us that God is present with us and sharing the journey. Many thanks to Justin Brown of CEIST for preparing the book. Remember that no issue is too big or too small to pray about.

[Click here to view and download this booklet.](#)

## Faith-related Issues

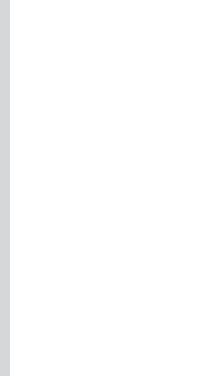


### Scoil Bhríde - In November We Remember

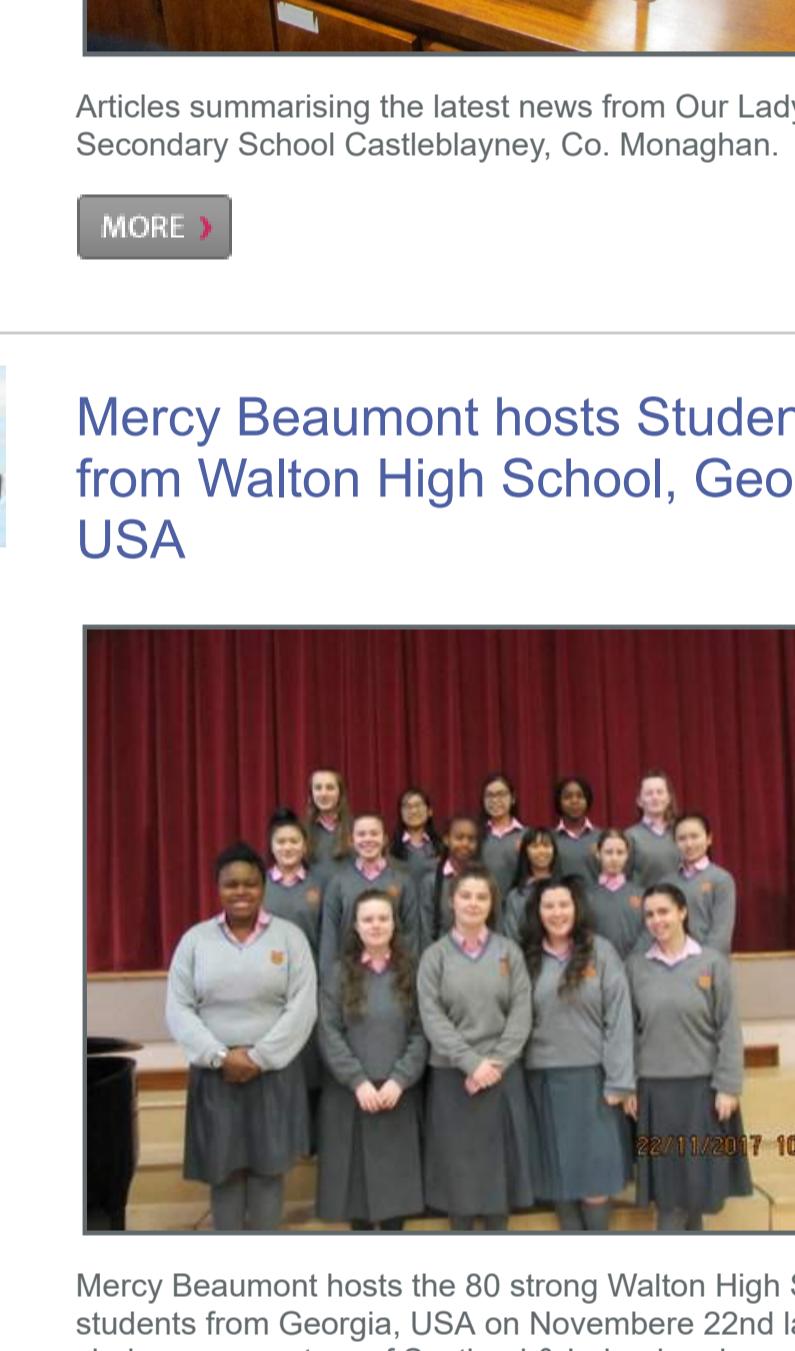


Scoil Bhríde, Mercy Secondary School, Tuam, Co. Galway mass service on the theme of In November We Remember.

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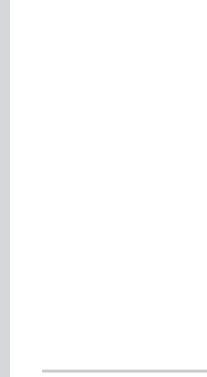


### St Mary's Newport - In November We Remember



Students and staff at St Mary's Newport are participating in our remembrance celebration of Holy Souls this month. In our school oratory students have written the names of those they wish to remember on coloured leaves and placed these on our remembrance tree. Our senior students were asked to write a letter to loved ones who have passed.

## News from CEIST Schools

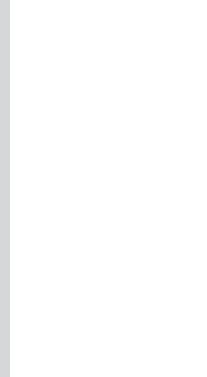


### Ardscail Mhuire Ballinasloe - School News



Articles summarising the latest news from Ardscail Mhuire Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

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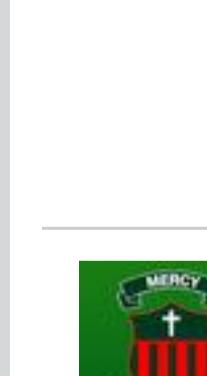


### Caritas College Ballyfermot 50 Year Anniversary Celebration

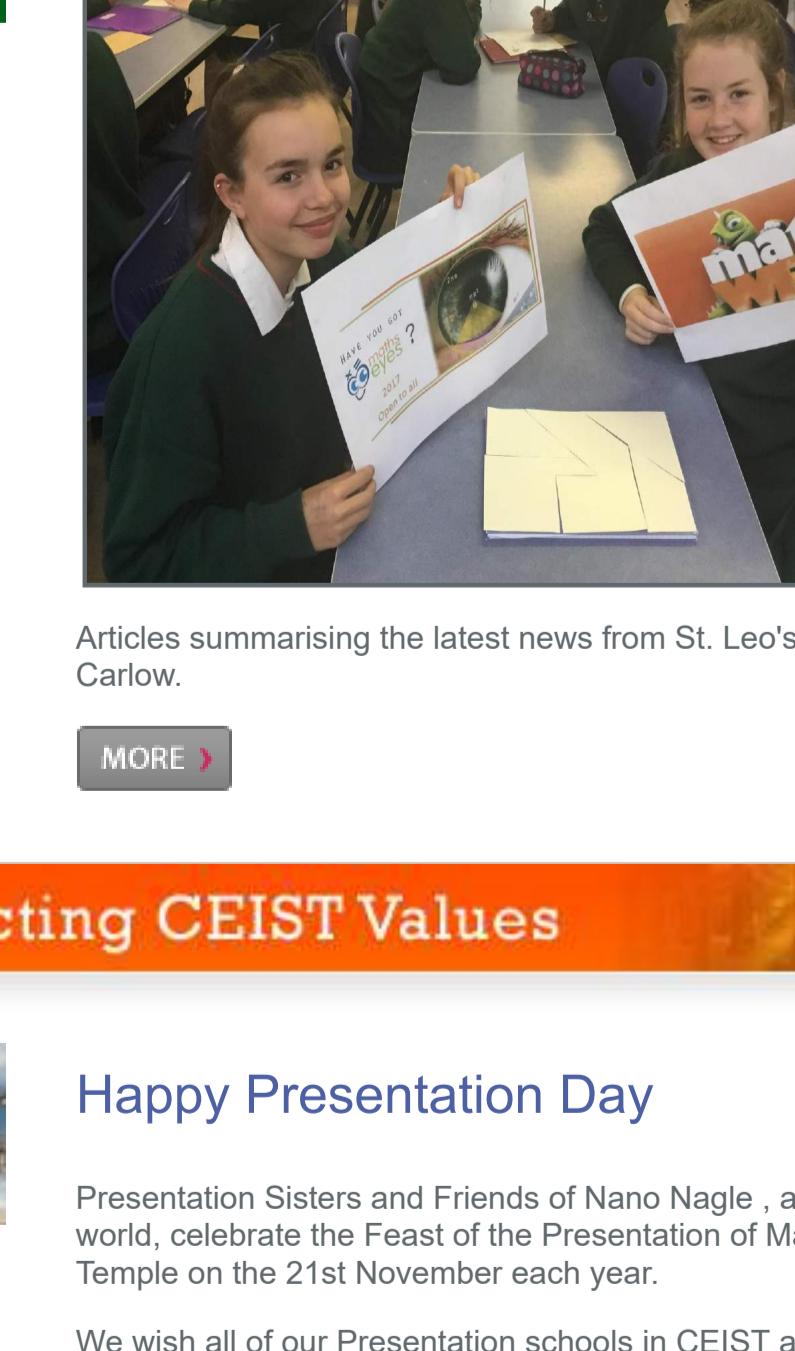


2017 marks 50 years of Caritas College providing quality Catholic secondary education for girls in Ballyfermot. To mark the occasion, mass was celebrated by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin in the school hall on October 1st. In attendance were many former students, their families and friends, many who founded the school in 1967, past and present priests of the parish, pupils, parents, members of staff and board of management, and many others from the local community.

[MORE >](#)

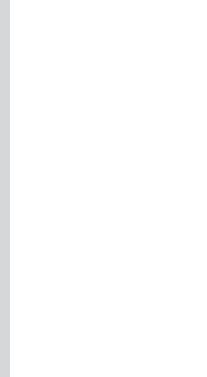


### Grand celebration as Presentation Secondary School Castleisland Marks 90th Anniversary



NINE decades dedicated to educating girls through their testing years culminated in three special events to mark the 90th anniversary of Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland on November 24th 2017.

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### Latest News from Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney



Articles summarising the latest news from Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan

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### Mercy Beaumont hosts Students from Walton High School, Georgia, USA



Mercy Beaumont hosts the 80 strong Walton High School students from Georgia, USA on November 22nd last. The choir were on a tour of Scotland & Ireland and spent a morning in with us. Some time was spent on a meet and greet session where the students got to know each other.

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### News from Mount St Michael Secondary School Rosscarbery



Articles summarising the latest news from St Michael Secondary School, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

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### News from Presentation College Currylea



Articles summarising the latest news from Presentation College, Currylea, Tuam, Co. Galway

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### Presentation Secondary School Waterford Awards Night 2017



Awards Night at Presentation Secondary School took place on Tuesday 24th October 2017. Awards were presented by Mayor of Waterford City 2017, Councillor Councillor Reinhardt, Head Girl, Ruth Walsh and Deputy Head Girl Megan Thornton, extended a warm welcome to the Mayor and thanked him for his visit.

[MORE >](#)



### Scoil Mhuire Strokestown Celebrates its 50th Anniversary



Scoil Mhuire Strokestown, Co. Roscommon celebrated its 50th Anniversary on October 20th of this year. The picture above shows the class 1967 at the 50th Anniversary Celebrations at the school.

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### St Mary's Secondary School Mallow Students Receive Scholarships



St Marys Secondary School, Mallow Students Receive Scholarships based on their Leaving Certificate results 2017.

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### St. Leo's Carlow - Latest News



Articles summarising the latest news from St. Leo's College Carlow.

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### Reflecting CEIST Values



#### Happy Presentation Day

Presentation Sisters and Friends of Nano Nagle, all over the world, celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple on the 21st November each year.

We wish all of our Presentation schools in CEIST and the wider community a Happy Presentation Day.

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### Latest News from Calasancius College Oranmore



Articles summarising the latest news from Calasancius College Oranmore, Co. Galway.

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### Presentation Secondary School Ballyphehane Presentation Day



A community Mass was held in Presentation Secondary School, Ballyphehane on Tuesday 21st November to celebrate the work of the Presentation Sisters in Ballyphehane over the last 60 years.

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Catholic Education  
An Irish Schools Trust

## School Prayers



*"Dear young people, love Jesus Christ more and more!. Our life is a response to his call and you will be happy and will build your life well if you can answer this call. May you feel the Lord's presence in your life. He is close to you as a companion, as a friend who knows how to help and understand you, who encourages you in difficult times and never abandons you"*

September 2017



**"Educators...do not be disheartened in the face of difficulties that the educational challenge presents. Educating is not a profession but a way of being. In order to educate it is necessary to step out of ourselves and be among young people, to accompany them in the stages of their growth and to set ourselves beside them. Give them hope and optimism for their journey in the world. Teach them to see the beauty and goodness of creation. But above all with your life be witnesses of what you communicate. Educators – teachers, parents pass on knowledge and values with their words, but their words will have an incisive effect on children and young people if they are accompanied by their witness, their consistent way of life. Without consistency it is impossible to educate".**

Pope Francis



# Foreword

**Prayer is a very simple thing: it is talking to God.**

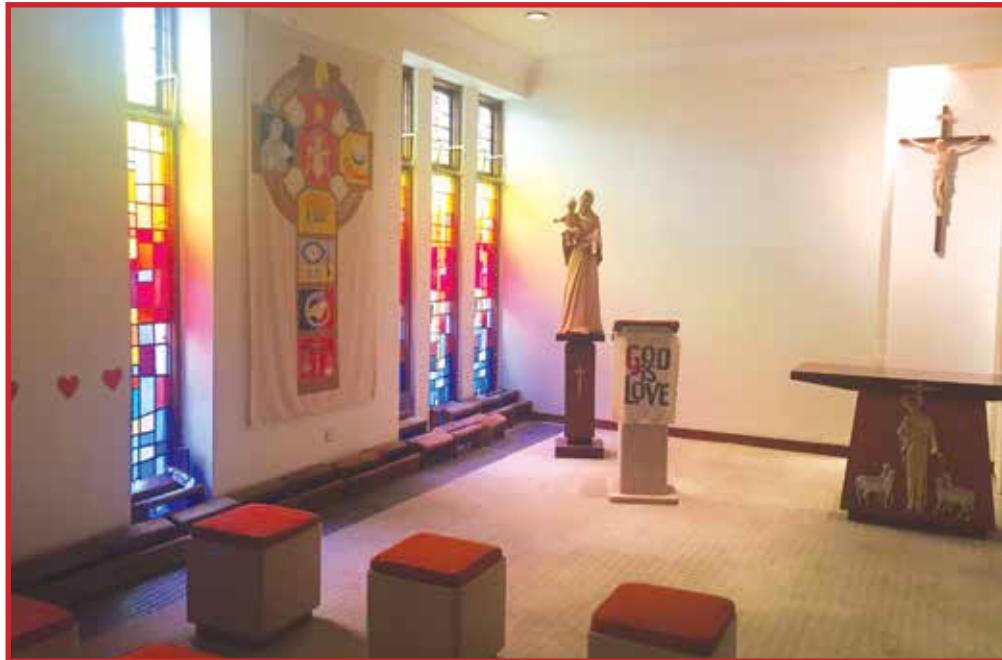
We don't need special words or religious words because we can pray simply and directly. There are times, 'though, when we would like to have the words already there for us to make praying easier. Jesus gave us the 'Our Father' for such times.

This little book is a gathering of prayers that might be useful for the school year. It will help at times when a prayer will remind us that God is present with us and sharing the journey.

Many thanks to Justin Brown of CEIST for preparing the book.

Remember that no issue is too big or too small to pray about.

**Dr Marie Griffin**



The oratory in Presentation Secondary School, Rockford Manor, Blackrock. Co. Dublin.

# Contents

## Prayers for School Year

Start of School Year – Staff/Students

September Prayer

Mercy Day (Sisters of Mercy) - September 24th

St. Vincent De Paul (Daughters of Charity) – September 27th

New Board of Management – October 15th

Autumn Prayer

Jules Chevalier (Missionaries of the Sacred Heart)– October 21st

In November We Remember

Anthony Receveur (Daughters of the Christian Retreat)– November 19th

Presentation Day (Presentation Sisters) – November 21st

Advent/Christmas

New Calendar Year

Catholic Schools Week - February

Lent/Easter

Praying for Students doing Exams

End of School Year Prayer

## Other Prayers

Student Prayers at Exam Time

Graduation Prayer

Prayer for Teachers

Student Council Meeting

Sporting Prayer

Interview/Shortlisting

Board of Management Meeting

End of a Board Meeting

Tragedy in the school community

Reflections on Laudato Si

Climate Blessing

New Beginnings

A Prayer for Justice and Peace

A Blessing for one who holds power

# Student Prayer Service

## Light a Candle

(As the candle is being lit, read this passage aloud):

'People of goodness do not need to bestow blessing; instead they become a blessing. Their presence is goodness and they engender new life, strength, courage and vitality by their presence. That was exactly how Jesus blessed the people around him'.

Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy



## Opening Prayer

Loving God, at the beginning of this new school year we ask you to bless us, the students, our teachers and staff of this school, that together we may grow in faith, hope and love as we learn from you and each other how to follow your Son, Jesus.

## Scripture Reading

**Mark 12:28-31**

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Response: Thanks be to God**

We take a moment to think about someone or something that might be making us anxious about the year ahead.....**Pause**

We take a chance to think about someone or something that is helping to make this new school year an enjoyable experience.....**Pause**

We take time to reflect on what can we do to make this school year a positive experience for ourselves and others.....**Pause**

(You could invite the students to write one hope for the year on a piece of paper which they could place in the centre or in a basket with gentle music in the background.)

## Reflection

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!' So I went forth and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

## Intercessions

1. Lord, guide us on our way and protect us as we journey together through this school year.

**Response: Let us know that you are with us every step of the way.**

2. Lord, keep our families and friends in your loving embrace and help us to love one another.

**Response: Let us know that you are with us every step of the way.**

3. Lord, as we face challenges during the year, guide us with your light.

**Response: Let us know that you are with us every step of the way.**

## Closing Prayer

**Together we pray:**

Loving God, we entrust ourselves to you. Daily guide our minds and hearts so that we will work for the good of our school community and be a help to all people. Teach us to be generous in our outlook, courageous in face of difficulty, and wise in our decisions. We ask this, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



### Resources Used

Meeting at Prayer: Ways for Groups to pray together, Kerry Diocesan Liturgy Committee

Blessings and Prayers:  
For Home and Family,  
Canadian Conference of  
Catholic Bishops  
[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

Reflections,  
Collated by Anne M. Holton

# Staff Prayer Service

'The future depends on what we do in the present'.

– Mahatma Ghandi

## Light a Candle

As the candle is being lit, read this passage aloud:

Jesus said 'You are the light of the world'. May the light of the candle and the warmth of its flame fill our hearts with the light and warmth of God's love.  
May we share this light and warmth with each other.



## Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our heart and minds to new colleagues and new students. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our sharing and the courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new academic year. Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year!

## Penitential Rite

There are times when we make mistakes or do things that are not helpful to ourselves or others. Aware of God's forgiveness, we ask for the strength and courage to move forward and be the light of the world.

- For the mistakes I have made, Lord, forgive me.
- When I am selfish and unloving, Christ, forgive me.
- When I find it difficult to do the right thing. Lord, give me your strength and courage.

## Scripture Reading

*A reading from a letter of St Paul to the Ephesians*

This then is what I pray, kneeling before the Father: In the abundance of his glory may he, through his Spirit, enable your inner selves to grow strong, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and

built on love, with all God's holy people you will have the strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth: so that, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God. Glory be to him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or image; glory be to him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Response: Thanks be to God**

## **Intercession Prayers**

We pray that our school will always be a place of welcome, where all students, staff and parents feel valued and included. Lord hear us.

**Response: Lord Graciously Hear Us.**

We pray for all those who are sick. We also remember their family and friends and we ask God to give them strength and comfort at this time of need.

Lord hear us.

**Response: Lord Graciously Hear Us.**

We pray for our colleagues and all the office staff, caretakers and cleaning staff in our school who work to make our time in this school a happy one.

Lord hear us.

**Response: Lord Graciously Hear Us.**

We remember all those in our school community who have lost loved ones. We pray that the Lord will comfort them in their loss. Lord hear us.

**Response: Lord Graciously Hear Us.**

We pray for all the members of our founding congregation who gave so much of their lives unselfishly and who helped to make our school a life-giving place to be. Lord hear us.

**Response: Lord Graciously Hear Us.**

## **Closing Prayer**

Lord God, your Spirit of wisdom fills our lives and teaches us your ways. Look upon our young people. May they enjoy their learning and take delight in new discoveries. Help them to persevere in their studies and give them the desire to learn all things well.

Look upon our teachers. May they strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience and endeavour always to bring the truth to eager minds.

## September Prayer

We thank you Lord, for all that was good during the summer,  
For the love of our family and friends,  
And for the sunshine and warm days.

As we begin a new school year we ask for your help and pray your blessing on everybody in this school.

Show us how to work together for the good of all.

May we share our talents and abilities to the full and grow in knowledge, wisdom and happiness.

Give us the grace to become more like Jesus in the ways we think and behave.

During this school year let us become builders of your ways and instruments of your peace.

We ask this school year blessing through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



First Year students as they start school in  
Coláiste Iosagáin, Portarlington, Co. Laois.

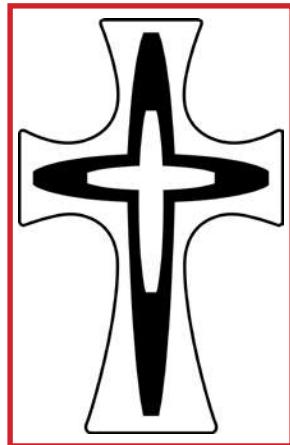
# Mercy Day

**24th September**

On this day in 1827, the feast of Our Lady of Mercy, Catherine McAuley opened the first House of Mercy in Baggot St. Dublin, as a place of safety and refuge, for poor women.

Mother Frances Warde, one of the first Sisters of Mercy, wrote of Catherine that: "She was a woman of God and God made her a woman of vision".

Since then, throughout the world, thousands of young women (and indeed, more recently, young men) have been educated in Mercy schools, the sick have been cared for in Mercy hospitals and the poor have been cared for by Mercy sisters.



**We pray today that, like Catherine, we too may learn  
“to see the world and its people in terms of God’s love;  
to love everyone who needs love; to care for everyone  
who needs care”.**

**We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord.  
Amen.**

Catherine McAuley

God, our Father, we reflect upon your call to Catherine McAuley and her unwavering response to you. As a CEIST school in the Mercy tradition we pray that ours may always be a place in which the light of faith will burn brightly and in which our students will be inspired by Gospel Values and come to know you in their lives. May we be ever mindful of the tradition of the Mercy Sisters which we have entrusted to embrace and carry into the future. Bless us with the wisdom to always allow your Holy Spirit to lead us in our work here. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

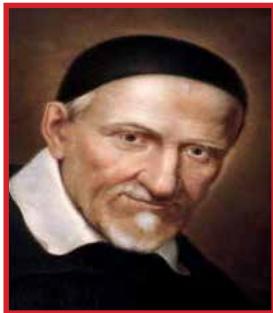
# Daughters of Charity

**27th September**

Deeply moved by the poverty and suffering all around him in Paris in the 1600s, Vincent de Paul reached out to those in need through simple acts of kindness.

In time he invited Louise de Marillac to join in his work by organizing a group of ladies to go out into the streets of Paris and care for the poor and the sick. These Daughters of Charity worked in hospitals, schools and orphanages.

Today we celebrate the work of the Daughters of Charity and their founding saints, Vincent and Louise.

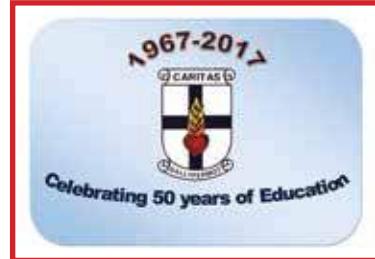


Let us pray one of St. Louise's simple, but sensible, prayers and, repeating it during the day, ask God to:

**“Grant me the grace to spend this day without offending You and without failing my neighbour”. Amen.**

(St. Louise de Marillac)

God, our Father, we reflect upon your call to Saints Vincent De Paul and Louise de Marillac and their unwavering response to you. As a CEIST school in the tradition of the Daughters of Charity we pray that ours may always be a place in which the light of faith will burn brightly and in which our students will be inspired by Gospel Values and come to know you in their lives. May we be ever mindful of the tradition of the Daughters of Charity which we have entrusted to embrace and carry into the future. Bless us with the wisdom to always allow your Holy Spirit to lead us in our work here. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.



# New Board of Management

**15th October**

As we begin our work as a Board of Management we turn to you O Lord, for it is your work that we do, the work of your Gospel.

Over the course of the next three years we ask that we not be too quick with our judgements and interpretations. May we open to your wisdom and to see with your eyes.

We ask that we be guided by the CEIST Charter and our five values which we hold dear.

May we not be so absorbed in our tasks that we forget those we serve – students, staff and parents. May the way in which we carry out of work enhance their experience of our school. May it be a place of peace, charity and understanding.

Lord, as the ground and goal for all that we do we ask you to bless us, our families and our work.

Amen.



*The Board of Management of Ardscoil Na Tríonóide, Athy  
at their inaugural meeting of their three year term.*

## Autumn Prayer

O God, of Creation, you have blessed us  
With the changing of the seasons.

As we embrace these autumn months,  
May the earlier setting of the sun  
Remind us to take time to rest.

May the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet  
Remind us of the brevity of this earthly life.

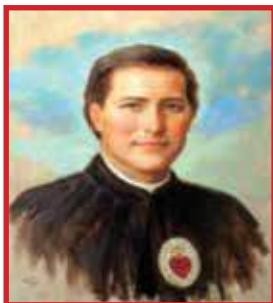
May the scurrying of the squirrels  
And the migration of the birds  
Remind us that you call us to follow your will.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.  
Amen.



# Jules Chevalier and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

**21st October**



Jules Chevalier founded the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in 1854 to bring the Good News of God's love to all people. He believed all our lives could be enriched by a spirituality centred on the heart of Jesus which was so full of love, compassion and understanding.

God, our Father, we pray that we may get to know your Son better each day, and that like Him we may always try to listen to others, to accept them as they

are and not to expect everyone to be as we think they should be. May your Holy Spirit to fill us with the compassion and wisdom in the choices we make today. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God, our Father, we reflect upon your call to Jules Chevalier and his unwavering response to you. As a CEIST school in the tradition of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart we pray that ours may always be a place in which the light of faith will burn brightly and in which our students will be inspired by Gospel Values and come to know you in their lives. May we be ever mindful of the tradition of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart which we have entrusted to embrace and carry into the future. Bless us with the wisdom to always allow your Holy Spirit to lead us in our work here. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.



Students from Coláiste an Chroí Naofa,  
Carraig na bhG Fear, Co. Cork.

## In November We Remember

We gather at this time of year to recall with gratitude those who have passed away and whose memory is dear to us. We remember family, friends, staff members and students who have been part of our school community.

We pray for those who are grieving. Our grief is a sign of our deep love for those we have lost. We ask God to comfort those who mourn and touch the depth of their sadness with tenderness and a sense of peace. We call on our Mother, Mary to comfort those of us who grieve.

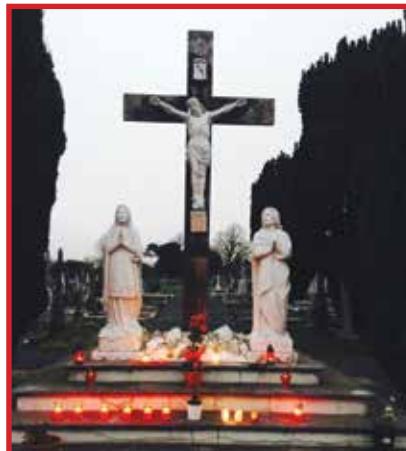


The school community in Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Athy mark November, the month of the Holy Souls.

God, our Father,

As we remember those who have gone before us this November there is sadness in our hearts as they are no longer with us. Give us the comfort of knowing that they have gone only as far as you and you are very near.

Amen.



# Feast Day of Anthony Receveur

19th November

At the time of the French Revolution in 1789 Anthony Receveur founded the Sisters of the Christian Retreat. Their aim is to awaken an alienated world to God through reflection, prayer and retreat. This objective is embodied in their approach to Catholic Education.

**"We are in the way of Him who is himself our way.  
In the school of Him who is himself the truth."**

**In the company of Him who is himself our life."**

Fr. Anthony Receveur



God, our Father, we reflect upon your call to Anthony Receveur and his unwavering response to you. As a CEIST school in the tradition of the Sisters of the Christian Retreat, we pray that ours may always be a place in which the light of faith will burn brightly and in which our students will be inspired by Gospel Values and come to know you in their lives. May we be ever mindful of the tradition of the Sisters which we have entrusted to embrace and carry into the future. Bless us with the wisdom to always allow your Holy Spirit to lead us in our work here. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.



Guests at the celebration to mark the  
50th Anniversary of Holy Rosary College,  
Mountbellew.

# Presentation Day

**21st November**



Nano Nagle wanted to help the poor she saw around her in Cork. Determined to help to educate them, both to improve their lives and to deepen their faith, in spite of the dangers she faced because of the Penal Laws, she opened her first school in 1754 with an enrollment of thirty-five girls in a two-room cabin.

Nano taught the children during the day and visited and nursed the sick by night. As a result, she became known in Cork as the Lady with the Lantern.

Believing that this work must be continued after her death, Nano founded the congregation now known as the Presentation Sisters in 1775.

Since then the Presentation Sisters have educated young people and cared for the sick and the poor all over the world.

**We pray today: that we may always try to follow Nano's example. When she wanted to help others she didn't look around her and say "I can't do anything, too many people need help". She responded to the needs of those she could do something for. Help us, like her, to do the best we can, where we are, each day of our lives.**

**We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.**

God, our Father, we reflect upon your call to Nano Nagle and their unwavering response to you. As a CEIST school in the Presentation tradition we pray that ours may always be a place in which the light of faith will burn brightly and in which our students will be inspired by Gospel Values and come to know you in their lives. May we be ever mindful of the tradition of the Presentation Sisters which we have entrusted to embrace and carry into the future. Bless us with the wisdom to always allow your Holy Spirit to lead us in our work here. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.



## Advent / Christmas Prayer

Advent itself is a time when we prepare for the coming of Christ. As we light each of the candles on the wreath over the next few weeks we reflect on what Advent means in our own lives.

The Wreath is an important Advent symbol. It is made in the form of a ring. The ring is a symbol of eternity, since it has no beginning or end. It acts as a symbol for God who has no beginning or end.

Advent is a time of waiting. We often find ourselves waiting for things in life, sometimes with impatience and sometimes in excited anticipation. Advent is a time when we look forward to the coming of Jesus Christ.

Preparations for Christmas can be busy. Unfortunately, rather than being a time of quiet reflection, during which we look forward to the Light of Christ coming into the world, these few weeks can become a time of hectic preparation for a very commercial Christmas!

But Advent is the time to come and rest, to find comfort and peace in our God.

God our Father, you loved us so much that you sent your only Son into the world to be our savior and friend. Bless us as we wait for the coming of your Son. Open our hearts so that we may recognize him when he comes and make him welcome - whatever form he might take. We make this prayer through your Son Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

### Christmas Prayer

Dear Lord,  
You were born, unexpectedly, bringing light in the darkness of winter. Help us to become aware of our own light, gifted from God.



Guide us to see the opportunities this Christmas to be an unexpected light for others. Through our actions let us use our gifts unselfishly, to brighten the days of those around us.

Let us be grateful for all that has been gifted to us by sharing it freely with others, to build community, in Jesus' name. Amen.

# New Year Prayer

## *January*

God of our yesterdays, our todays and our tomorrows, thank you for the year behind us and for the year ahead.

Help us in this New Year to worry less and to laugh more. Help us to remember that when Jesus was born in a stable he came for us that we could know you better.

Thank you for another new year and for new chances every day. We pray for peace, hope, respect and justice that we might share them with others.

Amen.



# Prayer for Catholic Schools Week

**February**

Father,

You gave us your Son as a beacon of hope for all people. As Teacher, he has given us the prime example of the importance of education. We look to him for inspiration and strength.

Thank you for the many sisters, brothers, priests, and lay people who have dedicated their lives in service to our Catholic schools.

Thank you for the teachers and support staff who sustain our schools today.

Thank you for the parents who have given witness to the importance of Catholic education in their daily lives.

Thank you for the students who work hard to further their education.

Bless our school and the many people who advance our mission.

May our building be a home for those who seek to grow in faith, knowledge, and service of others.

May our community always support one another and exhibit hospitality to newcomers.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord,

Amen.



Representatives from some of the CEIST schools at our annual Student Leadership Conference.

## Prayer for Lent / Easter

### Prayer for Lent

God, our Father and Creator,  
Each year you bless us with  
the season of Spring  
And fill the world around us  
with new life:

Lambs are born, birds build  
nests, flowers appear and  
new leaves clothe the trees.  
For all these beautiful things  
we thank you.



Students of Mercy College, Tuam  
with their Lenten Garden.

Lord Jesus,

Each springtime you bless us with the Season of Lent, to bring new life to our hearts and souls and minds.

You call us to open our hands generously to help others, to open our minds to the goodness of others. To open our hearts to the needs of others and to open to our souls in prayer to you.

During this Lent help us Lord Jesus to answer your call and to become more and more like you. Amen.

### Easter Prayer

Dear Lord,

Help us Lord to keep the Easter message in our hearts.

When all seems dark, draw our attention to the rising Son.

When we reflect on the past, guide us to celebrate the new growth it cultivated.

Let us draw on the example of Jesus' leadership, when we fear like the apostles did.

Build our strength for each new beginning in Your name, Amen.



Mount St. Anne's, Killenard  
as Easter Sunday Dawns.

## Prayer for Students doing Exams

Dear Lord,

As students prepare to take their exams we remind ourselves that their value is not based on their performance or results.

Help them not only with this test but the many tests of life that are sure to come their way.

Help them to remain focused and calm, confident in their facts and ability and firm in the knowledge that no matter what happens today you are there with them.



We also think of the parents and families of our exam students who will also experience the stresses and strains of this period. May they be blessed with patience, understanding and resilience.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Leaving Cert Students from  
Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spideal  
after they completed their Irish, Paper 1.

## End of School Year Prayer

We thank you, Lord God,

For all what was good during the past school year,  
Both the things we remember and the things we have forgotten.

We ask you to continue to take care of us during the Summer holidays,  
Keep us safe from harm, protect us from danger.

Help us to enjoy the long hours of sunlight  
And be glad of the company of family and friends.

We pray for all in this school community –  
May they have a happy Summer.

And when September comes round,  
May we be glad to meet together again.



The holidays begin for these students from Calasanzius College, Oranmore on the last day of school.

## Student Prayers at Exam Time

Lord, as I face into examination time,  
I turn once more to you, asking for your blessing and assistance.

I ask you to give me peace of mind with a strong sense of work at this time.  
May I give myself space and time to revise and prepare to sit my examinations.

Help me to keep focused on this task and not get too distracted by other aspects of my life.

Keep me from getting into a panic and help me to do justice to all my work and preparations.

On the days of my examinations, keep me calm, help me to think clearly, and understand what I'm being asked, and so to recall the study and work that I have put in this past year.

Above all, Lord, I ask that you will allow my efforts to bring about the life you have planned for me.

May I be open to your vision of what you wish for me and may I accomplish this now and in my future life.

Amen.

Lord, As I prepare to sit my exams  
send your Holy Spirit to guide me  
and be with me.

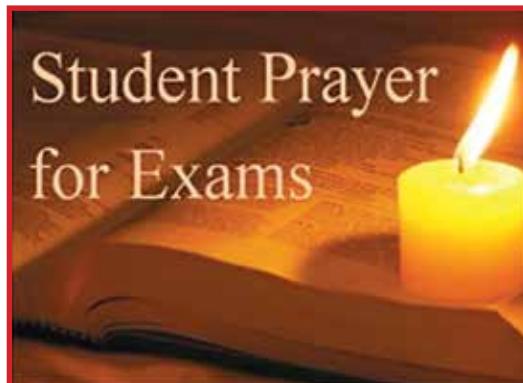
Thank you for the many talents and  
gifts you have given me and for  
the opportunity of education.

Keep me calm.

Help me to remember all that I have studied, to express it clearly and to the answer the questions the best I can.

Give me peace, understanding and wisdom and be with me today and always.

Amen.



## Graduation Prayer

God, thank you for all you do for me. You have guided me all these years in secondary school, and I pray that you continue to be with me as I head into this new time in my life. I pray that I continue to feel your presence and have your strength with me as I head off into my future ventures. I ask for your guidance and discernment as I face complicated decisions and grow into the Christian you desire me to be.



I also ask that you bestow your blessings and love over my friends and family as we go through a time of transition. I ask that you keep us safe. I ask that you make sure we feel loved and protected. Lord, I ask for the words to let them know they are cared for and that I appreciate them.

And Lord, I thank you for being here with me in this time. I do not know what the future brings, but you do. I pray for the confidence to go after your plans for me with all my heart. I thank you for giving me the opportunities to fulfil those plans.

Amen.



Two Leaving Certificate Students from  
Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise following their  
Graduation Mass.

## Teachers Prayers

Lord Jesus,

You came among us as a Teacher to share with us the Good News of the Father's infinite love.

In sharing your compassion and wisdom, you opened the eyes of the blind and unblocked the ears of the deaf.

May we who are also privileged to teach, learn from your compassion and wisdom, so that we too may encourage our students to see and celebrate their gifts and support them in hearing and heeding the truth that will set them free.

As teachers may we always be willing to learn from your example of gentle service, may we become sources of hope and enthusiasm for the young people in our care and may our work in school be always guided by the inspiration of your Spirit. Amen.



Teachers from Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin  
at the CEIST Induction Day  
for new teachers in Portlaoise.

Lord Jesus,

Guide us in our work so that the young people before us may grow to become all that you have called them to be.

May our teaching encourage them to embrace life in all its beauty and mystery. May our patience with them allow them to learn from their mistakes.

May our listening to them help them to respect themselves and others.

Through the gift of your Spirit inspire us to love what we do, to be a support to one another and to never give up on a child in our care.

Amen.

## Prayer for Student Councils

Dear Lord,

God, the source of all our gifts,  
You have called us to serve in  
a special way in our school,  
Grant us the light of your  
Spirit to guide us in our  
responsibilities as a School  
Council.

May we listen to one another  
in a spirit of genuine respect  
May we encourage and  
develop one another's  
unique talents.

May we use the gifts of the Spirit in creative Christian leadership  
May we approach our decision making through discernment and prayer  
May we respond and support the students we represent.  
May we engage with all in school to build your community.

Help us to respond as a council, with the love of the Father, the example of  
Jesus, and guidance of the Spirit in our hearts.

Amen.



*The Student Council in Coláiste Bríde,  
Enniscorthy.*



*The Student Council in Scoil Dara, Kilcock.*

## Sporting Prayer

God, you are the source of life and leisure, you take delight in seeing us enjoy the gifts you have given.

For the surge of a runner, we thank you

For the hands of a hurler we thank you

For the speed of a sliotar we thank you

For the flight of a football we thank you

For the glory of a goal, we thank you

For the brilliance of the basket we thank you

For the wonder of winning, we thank you

For the lesson of losing, we thank you

Lord, help us to handle well the pain of injury and the disappointment of defeat  
May we draw satisfaction from doing our best, win, lose or draw.

By using the talents you have given us, may we give you the greatest of pleasure.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.



Students from  
Presentation Waterford  
celebrate their  
U16 All Ireland Basketball win.



Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore winners of The Harty Cup.

## Prayers before an Interview Process

Loving God, we ask you to be with us today as we face an important decision making moment.

May we use the gifts of wisdom, courage and right judgement which we received from your Spirit.

May this process today bring out the best in the candidates that we will interview and may our selection process be fair and just.

At the end of today may we have found the best person for our school community.

Be with us Lord.

Amen.



And so this morning, we bring to our work recognition that you, Lord, are the ground and the goal, the inspiration of all that we do.

In this awareness may we do our work today carefully yet joyfully.

May we not be too quick with our judgements, our agenda, our interpretations.

May we pause patiently, to be open to your wisdom, to see with your eyes.

And may we not be so absorbed in our tasks that we forget those whom we serve – the Trustees, the Board of Management, staff, students and parents with whom and for whom we work on this process.

May the way in which we carry out our work today reflect your Gospel values, we ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

# Prayers for Board of Management Meetings

## Introduction:

O God, come to our aid.  
O Lord, make haste to help us.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen Alleluia.



## John 14:1-4

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## Concluding Prayer:

Risen Christ, we come to you today asking for your guidance, wisdom, and support as we begin this meeting. Help us to engage in meaningful discussion; allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community. Fill us with your grace as we make decisions that might affect the community, students, staff, visitors and friends of this school. And continue to remind us that all that we do here today, all that we accomplish, is for the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of You, and for the service of humanity. We ask these things in your name.

Amen.

(Adapted from <http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/5080/prayer-before-a-meeting>)

## Prayers for Board of Management Meetings

Today, Lord, we ask that in our work as members of Boards of Management of CEIST schools we may always be mindful of Your call and of the fundamental guiding principle that the goal of our schools is the formation of the human person.

May each of our schools nourish and support the spirituality of each person, inspiring them to be fully alive human beings with hope and joy in their lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



The Board of Management of Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin.

Lord God,

We give thanks for the opportunity to serve this school community.

May we use the gifts you have given us generously  
for the good of all who are teaching and learning here.

Guide us in our work of creating a place of faith and learning  
where each person feels welcome  
and comes to know that they have something to contribute  
to the beautiful enterprise that is the education of the young.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Prayers for Board of Management Meetings

Lord, we pray that our meeting tonight  
Was a humble and sincere effort  
To listen to many voices  
About the many concerns  
That affect our school community.

We pray that we also listened to Your Spirit in our hearts  
When difficult decisions had to be made.  
Thank you for the Spirit of right judgement  
The Spirit of discernment and courage.

May the consensus we reached be a gift  
An acorn that will  
Grow and achieve its potential  
For all who teach and learn here.

Amen.



## Prayer on the occasion of a death

### Opening Prayer

Compassionate God, we come to you tonight at this very sad time for our school community. \_\_\_\_\_ touched our lives by his/her presence here with us. Life is a series of beginnings and endings. Comfort us as we cope with this ending and lead \_\_\_\_\_ into a new beginning in the shadow of your love.



### Reading: *Matthew 11:28-30*

Come to me all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

### Prayers of Intercession

#### **Response: Hear our Prayer**

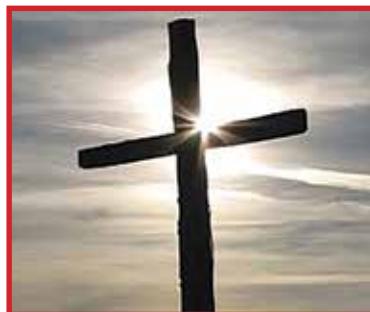
For \_\_\_\_\_ who has died and is on his/her way to you, Lord. Give him/her the fullness of life and happiness. In your mercy....

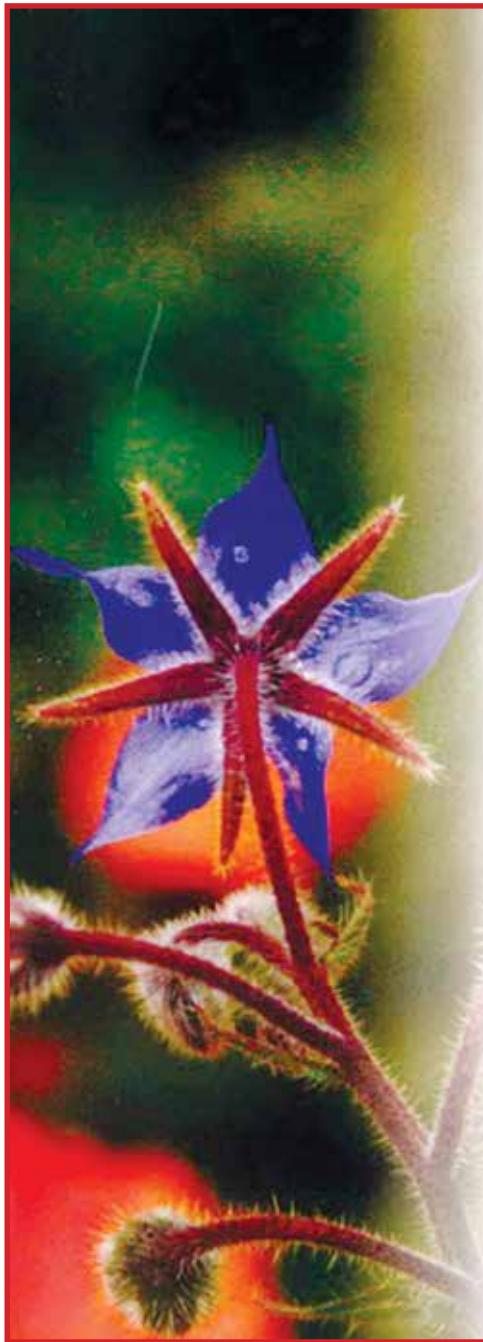
For those who are mourning the loss of \_\_\_\_\_. Give them strength in the days ahead and help them to feel your healing presence. In your mercy....

For our school community. May we remember with joy the life of \_\_\_\_\_ and be grateful for the gift of his/her presence here with us. In your mercy ...

### Closing Prayer

O Lord, support us all the day long,  
Until the shadows lengthen, and the evening  
comes,  
and the busy world is hushed,  
and the fever of life is over, and our work is  
done.  
Then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us safe lodging,  
A holy rest, and peace at last:  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.





OUR EFFORTS AT EDUCATION WILL BE INADEQUATE AND INEFFECTUAL UNLESS WE STRIVE TO PROMOTE A NEW WAY OF THINKING ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS, LIFE, SOCIETY AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE.

OTHERWISE, THE PARADIGM OF CONSUMERISM WILL CONTINUE TO ADVANCE, WITH THE HELP OF THE MEDIA AND THE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE WORKINGS OF THE MARKET...

THE RICH HERITAGE OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY, THE FRUIT OF TWENTY CENTURIES OF PERSONAL AND COMMUNAL EXPERIENCE, HAS A PRECIOUS CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE TO THE RENEWAL OF HUMANITY...

SOCIAL PROBLEMS MUST BE ADDRESSED BY COMMUNITY NETWORKS AND NOT SIMPLY BY THE SUM OF INDIVIDUAL GOOD DEEDS...

THE ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION NEEDED TO BRING ABOUT LASTING CHANGE IS ALSO A COMMUNITY CONVERSION...

*Laudato Si, par. 215-219*

## Pope Francis:

Education cannot be neutral. It is either positive or negative; either it enriches or it impoverishes; either it enables a person to grow or it lessens, even corrupts him.

The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this occurs through a rich path made up of many ingredients.

10th May, 2014

Address to Italian teachers, parents, educators, pupils

## Psalm 138

I give you thanks with all my heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;  
I bow down before your holy temple.  
  
I give thanks to your name  
for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;  
for exalted above all are your name and your word.  
  
On the day I called, you answered me;  
you increased the strength of my soul.  
  
All the earth's rulers shall praise you  
for they have heard the words of your mouth;  
they shall sing of your ways  
for great is your glory, O God.



Though you are high, you look on the lowly  
and the haughty you know from afar.  
  
Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve my life;  
you stretch out your hand and save me.  
  
You will fulfil your purpose for me;  
your steadfast love endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands.



## **Scripture:** **2 Cor 3:17-18**

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.



### **(Pause for Reflection)**

Let us all join together to say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Our Father .....



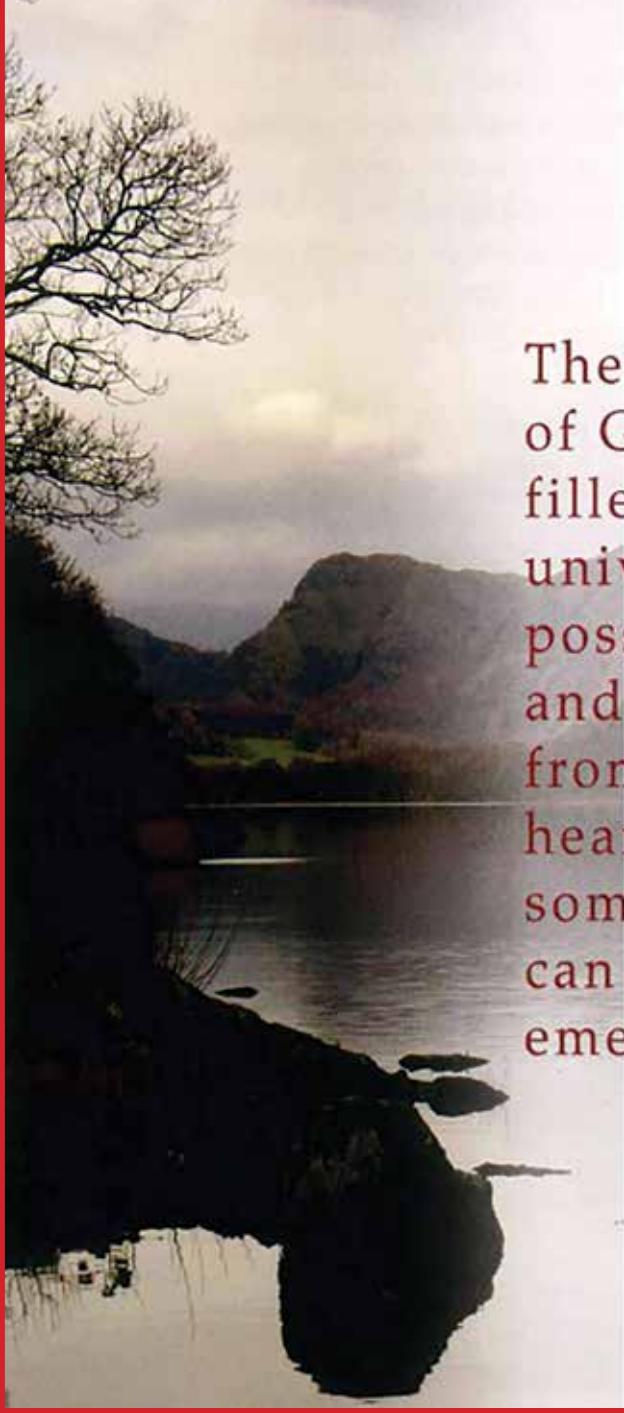
### **Prayer:**

We pray, mindful of men and women throughout human history who allowed the Spirit of Life to work in them for the betterment of our world and humanity.

For their lives and their inspiration, we give thanks.

Amen.





The Spirit  
of God has  
filled the  
universe with  
possibilities  
and therefore,  
from the very  
heart of things,  
something new  
can always  
emerge.

*Laudato Si, par. 80*

## **Psalm 148**

Praise God from the heavens,  
Praise God in the heights!  
Praise God, all you angels,  
Praise God, you heavenly hosts!

Praise God, sun and moon,  
Praise God, shining stars.  
Praise God, highest heavens,  
And the waters above the heavens!

Mountains and all hills,  
Fruit trees and all cedars!  
Beasts, wild and tame,  
Reptiles and birds on the wing!

All earth's rulers and peoples,  
Leaders and those of renown!  
Young men and women,  
The old together with children!



### **Scripture:**

And I heard a loud voice saying, "Look, God's dwelling place is now among the people and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and He himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

### **Prayer:**

We open now to the mystery of Life, knowing this adventure to be a journey back to the ever present source discovered in our own depths, and a forward journey toward a new heaven and a new Earth, which is being born through us, and know above all and below all that this is not a path to God, but a path in God.

We celebrate this great adventure.

Amen.

\*Reflections on *Laudato Si* are taken from *Praying In a New Time*,  
Christian Brothers European Province, 2015.

## Climate Blessing

We Hold the Earth.

We hold brothers and sisters who suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change.

We hold all species that suffer.

We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life.

We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions.

We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions and our actions as communities so that we may, with integrity, look into the eyes of our brothers and sisters and say we are doing our part to care for them and the future of their children.

This we know all things are connected, like the blood which unites one family. Our God is the same God, whose compassion is equal for all.

For we do not weave the web of life, we are merely a strand to it.

Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

Let us give thanks for the web in the circle that connects us.

Thanks be to God, the God of all.



## New Beginnings

Blessed are you, Creator, God of new beginnings.

For you challenge us to constantly move beyond our pasts

And call us into fresh possibilities for  
the future.

Blessed are you, Lord of the  
impossible,

For you never get discouraged and  
never cease to hope,

Believe and strive for a happier, fairer  
and wiser world.

Blessed are you, God of the  
covenant,

For you make promises and never break them,

For you trust us to do good and love us when we fail,

And you daily renew our confidence and courage.

God of unconditional love, help us to believe in ourselves as you believe in us.

Help us to see our potential as you see it.

Constantly provide us with the new opportunities which your covenant promises  
and inspire us with the dreams to follow new paths of potential growth and  
goodness.



Photos are from The mass to mark the opening of the new CEIST school in Galway,  
Our Lady's College.

# A Prayer for Justice and Peace

## Scripture

I was hungry and you gave me food to eat.  
I was thirsty and you gave me drink.

I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear.

I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.

Mat 25: 35-36



*The Youth Conference of Saint Vincent De Paul  
in Presentation, Wexford.*

In lives where love has been born this day

Thanks be to you, O God.

In families where forgiveness has been strong

Thanks be to you.

In nations where wrongs have been addressed,

Where tenderness has been cherished and where visions for earth's oneness have been served

Thanks be to you.

May those who are weary find rest.

May those who carry burdens for their people find strength.

May the midwives of new beginnings in our world find hope.

And may the least among us find strength on our souls, worth in our words, love in our living.

Amen.

*Praying with the Earth, John Philip Newell.*

## A Blessing for one who holds power

May the gift of leadership awaken in you as a vocation  
Keep you mindful of the providence that calls you to serve.

As high over the mountains the eagle spreads its wings,  
May your perspective be larger than the view from the foothills.

When the way is flat and dull in terms of grey endurance,  
May your imagination continue to evoke horizons.

When thirst burns in times of drought  
May you be blessed to find the wells.

May you have the wisdom to read time clearly  
And know when the seed of change will flourish.

In your heart may there be a sanctuary  
For the stillness where the clarity is born.

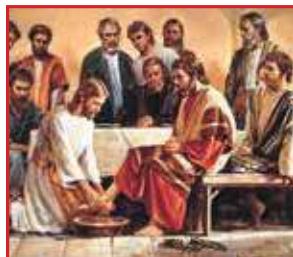
May your work be infused with passion and creativity  
And have the wisdom to balance compassion and challenge.

May your soul find the graciousness  
To rise above the fester of small mediocrities.

May your power never become a shell  
Wherein your heart would silently atrophy.

May you welcome your own vulnerability  
As the ground where healing and truth join.

May integrity of soul be your first ideal,  
The source that will guide and bless your work.



John O'Donoghue



*Reach for Resilience*

**PRAY, HOPE  
AND DON'T  
WORRY**



**It's ok not to feel ok  
and it's ok to ask for help!**

*The school motto of St. Mary's College, Naas.*



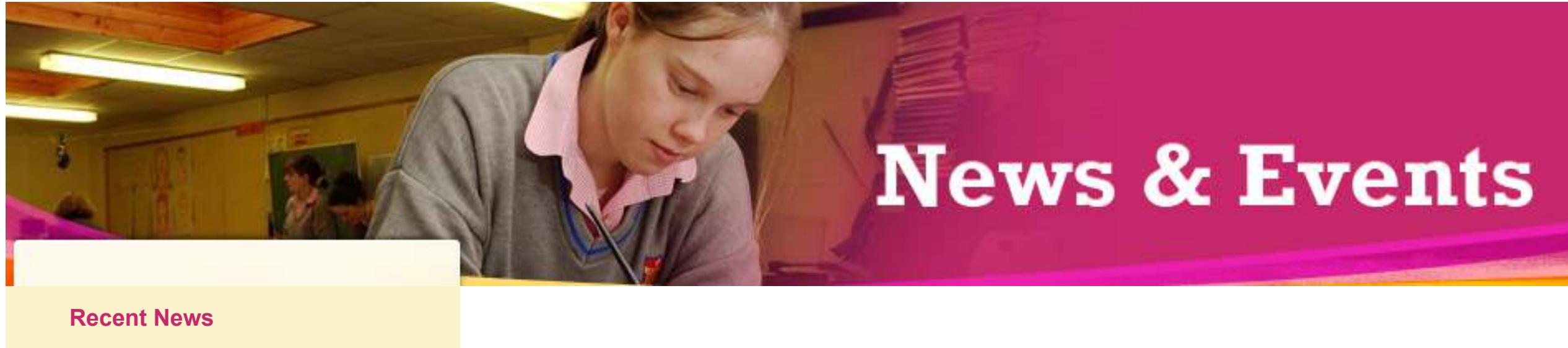
# CEIST

Catholic Education  
An Irish Schools Trust



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## Scoil Bhride - In November We Remember

Friday 17th November 2017

Here, In Scoil Bhride, Mercy Secondary School, Tuam, Co. Galway, we enjoyed a very beautiful service yesterday on the theme of In November We Remember. Our school chaplain, Sr. Teresa Nolan and her team, prepared a lovely service for all the school community including the parents and family-members who attended.

The readings, prayers and responsorial psalm were all performed by our newest students, our 1st years. Their 1st year choir, directed by Mrs Mary Murphy, led the school in song.

The 1st years made posters of a beloved relative who had passed away and these touching tributes were hung up on the wall of the venue for all to read.

In school, we have a bare-leaved tree on which the girls have hung paper leaves inscribed with the names of their dead. It is a simple and quietly-powerful sight and helps us recall our loved ones who have passed away.



Tree of Remembrance



Student Caoimhe Cunningham with her poster of her Nanny Tess



**Recent News**

**Keywords**

**Category**  --- Select ---

**Month**  Any **Year**  Any

**SEARCH**

---

**Events**

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

---

**E-News**

[Monthly School Feature](#)

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## Ardscoil Mhuire Ballinasloe - School News

Tuesday 28th November 2017

### Ardscoil Mhuire Ballinasloe - Friendship Week

Ardscoil Mhuire Ballinasloe had a very successful friendship week all this week in our school. It was organised by members of the Student Council, 5th Years and our Meitheal Group.



It involved many meetings ran by our student body planning events and organising resources. Students from 1st year, 2nd year and 3rd Year did different activities at different times throughout the week promoting better friendships in their class and year groups and doing random kind acts for one another and sharing information about themselves to socialise and mix better with one another.

It was a huge success and enjoyed by all. Lets hope we can continue this great work throughout the school year.

### Ardscoil Mhuire Ballinasloe Raise €966 for 'Suicide or Survive'

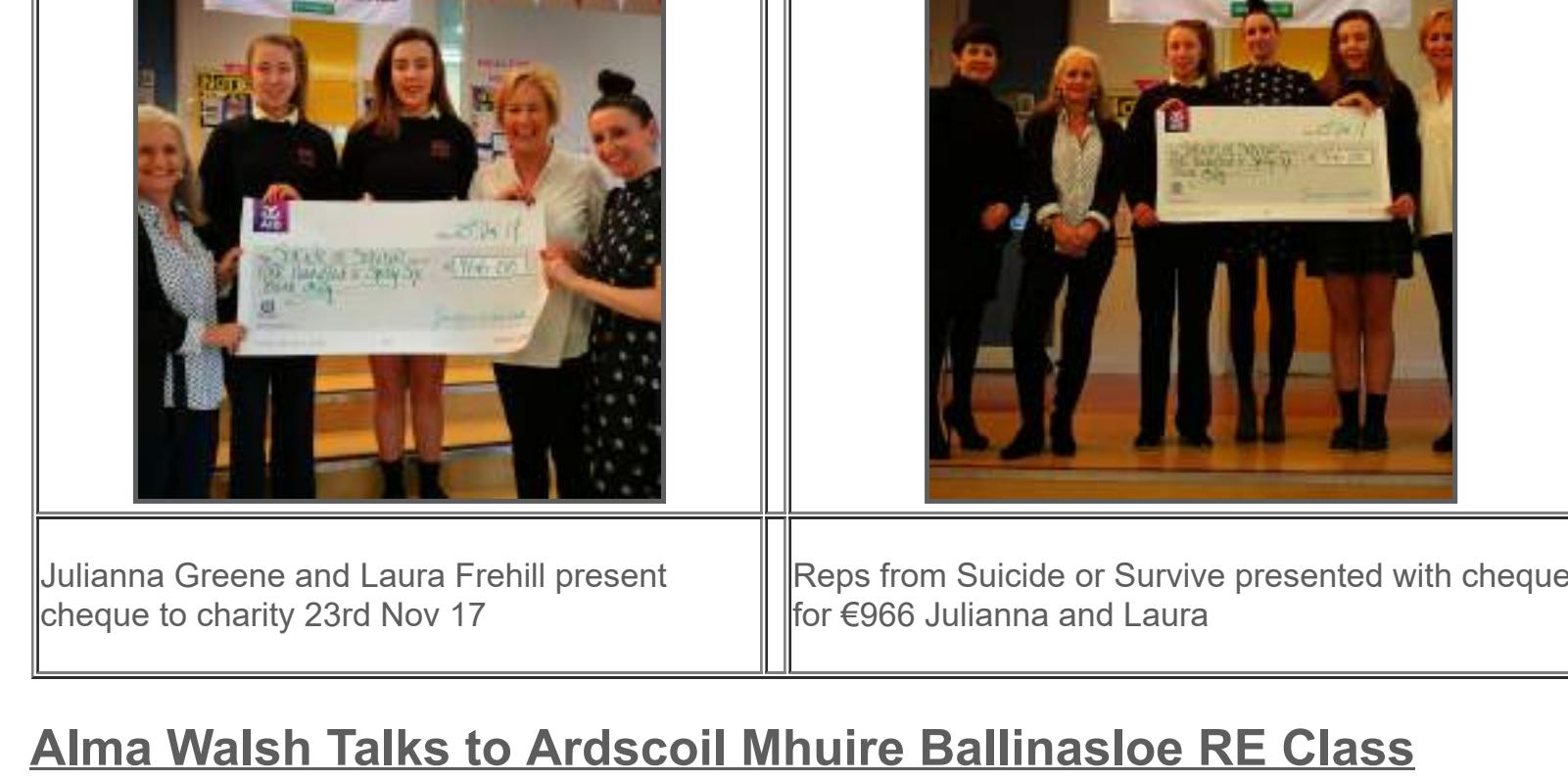
Congratulations to Laura Frehill and Julianna Greene TY students who presented a cheque for €966 to the charity 'Suicide or Survive'.

The girls raised funds in school and in the local community and completed a five day walk on the Camino in Northern Spain.

The charity representatives came to school on Thursday last 23rd November to receive the cheque and were truly delighted with the very generous donation

Both girls were recently awarded 'Ballinasloe Young People of the Year' award for their fundraising endeavours.

Congratulations and well done to both of you.



### Alma Walsh Talks to Ardscoil Mhuire Ballinasloe RE Class



Our Leaving Cert Religion class enjoyed a talk from Alma Walsh, Donal Walsh's mum (RIP). She is inspirational giving advice and sharing her experience of living with illness and continuing on the work great Donal had begun when he passed away. As she said herself saving the lives of people who find themselves in a dark place and who after hearing her caring words feeling enthused and motivated to make the most of every day and count their blessings.

Donal Walsh was aged just 16 when he died of cancer in May 2013. Just before he died he made a television appeal urging young people contemplating suicide to value life. Read full from the Irish Mirror [here](#)

All articles and photos provided by Yvonne McGlynn

# News & Events

**Recent News**

**Keywords**

**Category**

--- Select ---

**Month** Any    **Year** Any

**SEARCH**

**Events**

- [CEIST Annual Conference](#)
- [E-News](#)
- [Monthly School Feature](#)

## Calasanctius College - School News

Wednesday 29th November 2017

### Happy Presentation Day.

### TY Students at the launch of the Irish Young Philosopher Awards

"I think it is important that we should be taught about philosophy as it helps you to learn to think for yourself ... , and furthermore helps you to live a life where you have at least a basic idea as to why you are here."

This is what a TY student wrote in a recent essay, one of the four TY pupils from our school who attended the launch of the Irish Young Philosopher of the Year Award (IYPA) at Áras an Uachtaráin last Thursday 16th November 2017. He was echoing the words of President Michael D Higgins at a similar reception at the Áras to commemorate World Philosophy Day, around this time last year: "The teaching of philosophy is one of the most powerful tools we have at our disposal to empower our children into acting as free and responsible subjects in an ever more complex, interconnected and uncertain world."

Calasanctius College was one of the very few schools (seven in total, two primary and five secondary) represented at the IYPA launch. Four TY students Dara Walsh, Robert Spelman, Laura Gough, Liwia Scurovski attended the event, accompanied by TY Coordinator Mr Declan Duffy, and Mr Luison Lassala, Philosophy facilitator and one of the founding members of Philosophy Ireland, the organisers of the Awards.

It was a great privilege for us to be there, mixing with other students and teachers of Philosophy, as well as with academics from UCD, TCD, NUIG, and some journalists, like Joe Humphreys from The Irish Times who has a column on philosophical matters every Tuesday.

President Higgins delivered a wonderful speech, insisting yet again on the importance of a holistic education that gives pride of place to the ability to think critically, to face big questions and seek satisfying answers, to break away from a technocratic approach to education where preparation for the job market seems to be the norm.

We heard from several teachers and TY students why introducing philosophical enquiry into the classroom has been transformational, for themselves and for the wider school community. Being able to engage in philosophical discussions had positive impact also in how those students related to each other (as a 'community of enquiry' someone called it) and how they approached their study of the other subjects. The enthusiasm and passion that came across clearly from all who spoke was infectious.

Precisely to further encourage the study of philosophy in schools (secondary and primary), Philosophy Ireland, in cooperation with UCD, have organised the Irish Young Philosophy Awards: an annual festival similar to the BT Young Scientist Exhibition, where school students will share their projects and engage in philosophical discussions about anything that matters to them. We are looking forward to a big uptake from Calasanctius TY students to submit projects for the IYPA.

More details about the Awards can be found at their website: [www.youngphilosopherawards.ucd.ie](http://www.youngphilosopherawards.ucd.ie)

You can read more about the launch event at the Áras on the following media:

- [The Irish Times](#)
- [Irish Independent](#)
- [RTE](#)

### TY Christmas Shoe-box Appeal

Once again, our TY students prepared the Christmas Shoeboxes which will be received on Christmas morning by children, struggling in poverty or with the effects of conflict, in Eastern Europe or Africa. On Monday 13th November twenty TYs will work at the Shoebox depot in Ballybrit Racecourse where they will prepare the shoeboxes for dispatch.



# News & Events

**Recent News**

**Keywords**

**Category**  --- Select ---

**Month**  Any **Year**  Any

**SEARCH**

---

**Events**

**CEIST Annual Conference**

**E-News**

**Monthly School Feature**

## Caritas College Ballyfermot 50 Year Anniversary

Tuesday 28th November 2017

2017 marks 50 years of Caritas College providing quality Catholic secondary education for girls in Ballyfermot. To mark the occasion, mass was celebrated by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin in the school hall on October 1st. In attendance were members of the Community of the Daughters of Charity who founded the school in 1967, past and present priests of the parish, pupils, parents, members of staff and board of management, and many others from the local community.

The school choir and a group of past pupils sang, alumni and teachers spoke of the positive impact Caritas College has had on the lives of our students through the years. Afterwards all were invited to tour the school and view the exhibits on display to mark the occasion. One particular favourite was the recreation of a typical Dublin home from 1967 as shown in the photo below.



The evening concluded with a reception in the all-purpose area where all gathered to reminisce, and five principals, past and present, Sr. Claire Sweeney, Ms Sandra Doyle, Sr. Loretto Kelly, Ms Adrienne Whelan, Sr. Gemma McEvitt cut the anniversary cake.





**Recent News**

**Keywords**

**Category**

-- Select --

**Month** Any    **Year** Any

**SEARCH**

**Events**

**CEIST Annual Conference**

**E-News**

**Monthly School Feature**

## Our Ladies Castleblayney - School News

Wednesday 29th November 2017

### Our Lady's Castleblayney are crowned National Champions in Show Choir Ireland 2017

Our Lady's choir travelled to Dublin on Sat 4th November to the Show Choir Ireland 2017 Competition and returned later that evening as National Champions. Around the same time last year the choir had been placed in 2nd place and in true champion style this very talented hard-working committed group of young people returned in 2017 to finish off what they had started the previous year!

The National Show Choir Competitions are held each year for performing groups who usually sing and dance, combining fun, excitement, passion and friendship in a performance that will inspire the audience and impress the four judges present.

This year there were seven groups who qualified to take part in the final and it is interesting to note that Our Lady's was the only secondary school who qualified with all the other competitors coming from stage schools and performing arts academies, some being 3rd level institutions. Our Lady's talented choir with a range of students from First to Sixth Year, a 61 strong group, put on a superb performance that captivated the audience and had the judges remarking 'on the phenomenal performance' that had left the judges 'speechless'. One judge remarked 'this is how you do it...'. The panel of judges loved the group's 'use of space, their high energy' and singled out Laura Brereton, Lisa Rose McMahon and Emma Larney for special mention. They also commented that every single member of the group gave 200% and left the audience wanting more. The choir won both the judges & the audience vote and came away with 1st place, a superb trophy, the overall prize of €1000 and also captured the choreography award, for good measure.

Speaking to the Principal of Our Lady's, Mr Kelly in the wake of the success, he acknowledged the outstanding commitment and dedication made by the Music teacher Ms Murray in preparing the students to such a high standard. "Their success is a just reward for all their hard work and efforts and we as a school are incredibly proud of their achievements. They are a very important part of our school community and make a very special and inspirational contribution to liturgies and most events in Our Lady's – they are the gift that keeps on giving. The students in the choir are excellent role models for our school community and we could all learn lessons from their generosity of spirit, honesty of effort and humility".

The choir and Ms Murray were feted for the entire school community in the gym on Monday afternoon where their breath-taking and electric performance was pitch perfect and professional to the last. Congratulations to all concerned.

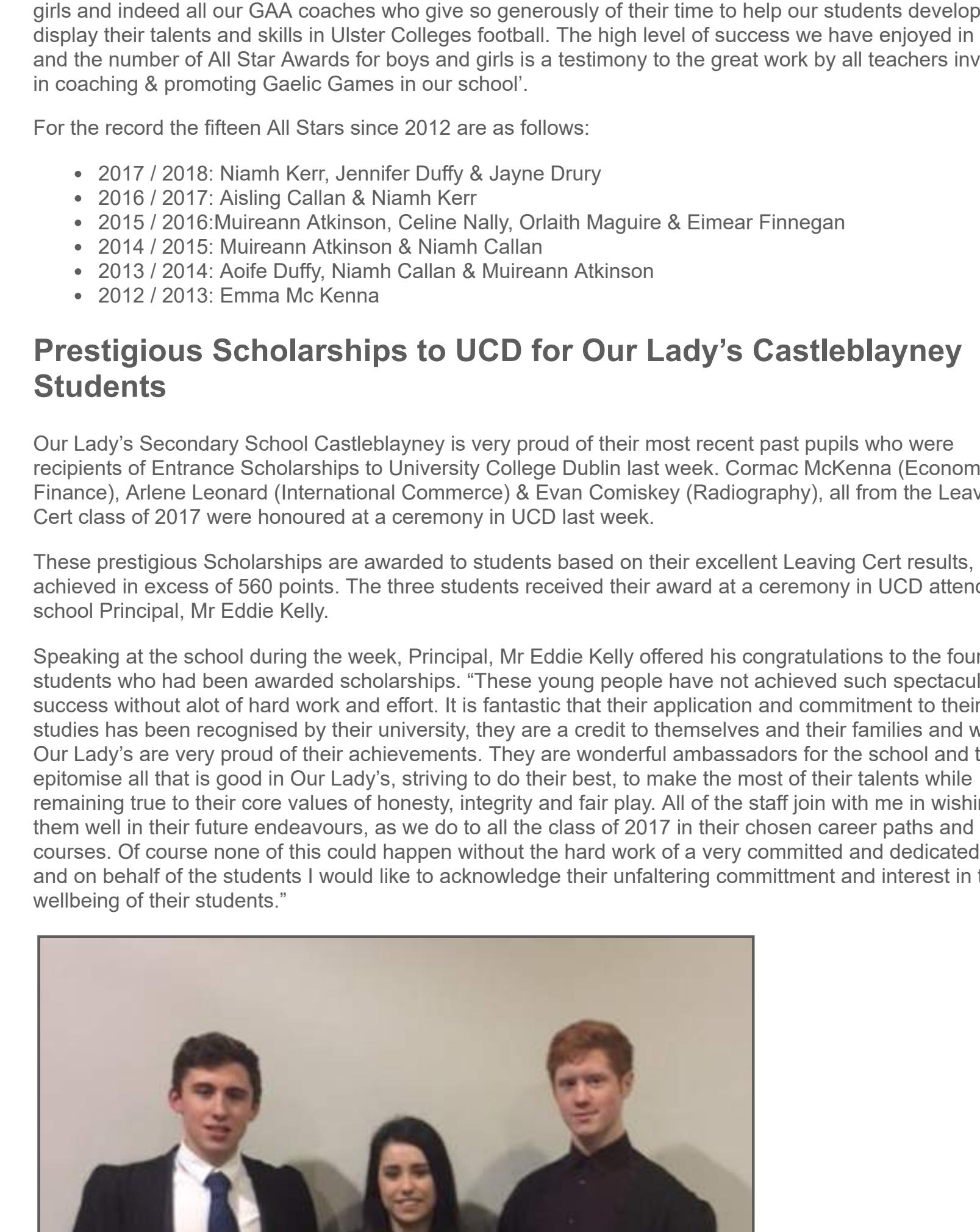


Pictured in Our Lady's Secondary School are the 61 strong choir who captured 1st prize in the National Show Choir Competition 2017 in the O'Reilly Hall against stiff competition from stage and performing arts groups, many of whom are in full-time performance! The group who also received the choreography award are pictured here with their mentor, Music teacher, Ms Murray and Our Lady's Principal, Mr Eddie Kelly.

### All Star Awards

Three more All Star Awards for Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney

..... as they celebrate their 15th Ladies All Star in six years



Our Lady's Secondary School added to their fantastic success in the Ulster Ladies Colleges All Star Awards scheme on Wednesday November 8th when it was announced that three girls from the school, Niamh Kerr, Jennifer Duffy and Jayne Drury were selected on the Ulster Ladies All Star team for 2017 / 2018. This brings the total number of Ladies All Star Awards in the school to fifteen in six years - an extremely impressive record by any schools standards.

The three girls were among five girls selected by the school to attend an initial trial in Cookstown where 130 girls from across the province attended. All three girls impressed the selectors present to be invited back to the second trial on November 7th that was attended by 75 players. The school was delighted that the three girls were selected as representatives on this year's team.

Niamh is the daughter of Ciaran & Ann Kerr from Annpalla and plays her club football with O' Neill Shamrocks. This is the second year in a row that Niamh has been selected on the Ulster Colleges All Star team matching the achievement of her brother Barry who received Ulster Colleges All Stars in 2014 & 2015. Jennifer is the daughter of Mick & Patricia Duffy from Carrickaderry, Clontibret and also plays her club football with O' Neill Shamrocks. This is Jennifer's first All Star Award. Jayne is the daughter of Stephen & Marie Drury from Ballybay and plays her club football with the St. Brigid's Club in Ballybay. Jayne is the youngest ever Ulster Ladies Colleges All Star in Our Lady's. All three girls will receive their awards at a special ceremony in Kelly's Inn Ballygawley after Christmas and will train with the Ulster All Star panel in the coming weeks in preparation for the Interprovincial tournament in Kinnegar, Westmeath in January.

These awards come as a timely boost to the Senior Girls GAA team who have made a promising start to their Ulster 'A' campaign. Speaking at the school during the week the Principal Mr Kelly congratulated the girls on their outstanding achievement 'for a school to have one Ulster Colleges All Star in any year is a fantastic achievement but to have three representatives on the team in one year is a huge honour and one of which we are very proud. All three girls are excellent role models for their peers and for the younger students in the school and I've no doubt that they have great futures ahead of them in Gaelic Games. I would like to pay particular tribute to their coaches Mr Graham & Ms O'Keeffe for the fantastic work they are doing with the girls and indeed all our GAA coaches who give so generously of their time to help our students develop and display their talents and skills in Ulster Colleges football. The high level of success we have enjoyed in GAA and the number of All Star Awards for boys and girls is a testimony to the great work by all teachers involved in coaching & promoting Gaelic Games in our school'.

For the record the fifteen All Stars since 2012 are as follows:

- 2017 / 2018: Niamh Kerr, Jennifer Duffy & Jayne Drury
- 2016 / 2017: Aisling Callan & Niamh Kerr
- 2015 / 2016: Muireann Atkinson, Celine Nally, Orlaith Maguire & Eimear Finnegan
- 2014 / 2015: Muireann Atkinson & Niamh Callan
- 2013 / 2014: Aoife Duffy, Niamh Callan & Muireann Atkinson
- 2012 / 2013: Emma Mc Kenna

### Prestigious Scholarships to UCD for Our Lady's Castleblayney Students

Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney is very proud of their most recent past pupils who were recipients of Entrance Scholarships to University College Dublin last week. Cormac McKenna (Economics & Finance), Arlene Leonard (International Commerce) & Evan Comiskey (Radiography), all from the Leaving Cert class of 2017 were honoured at a ceremony in UCD last week.

These prestigious Scholarships are awarded to students based on their excellent Leaving Cert results, having achieved in excess of 560 points. The three students received their award at a ceremony in UCD attended by school Principal, Mr Eddie Kelly.

Speaking at the school during the week, Principal, Mr Eddie Kelly offered his congratulations to the four students who had been awarded scholarships. "These young people have not achieved such spectacular success without a lot of hard work and effort. It is fantastic that their application and commitment to their studies has been recognised by their university, they are a credit to themselves and their families and we in Our Lady's are very proud of their achievements. They are wonderful ambassadors for the school and they epitomise all that is good in Our Lady's, striving to do their best, to make the most of their talents while remaining true to their core values of honesty, integrity and fair play. All of the staff join in wishing them well in their future endeavours, as we do to all the class of 2017 in their chosen career paths and courses. Of course none of this could happen without the hard work of a very committed and dedicated staff and on behalf of the students I would like to acknowledge their unfaltering commitment and interest in the wellbeing of their students."



Pictured at the presentation of Entrance Scholarships in University College Dublin is three students from the Leaving Cert class of 2017 in Our Lady's, Cormac McKenna, Arlene Leonard & Evan Comiskey who were the recipients of this prestigious award.

### Science Week

Science week at Our Lady's was a hive of activity with all kinds of weird and wonderful experiments and happenings. It provided students with many interesting and varied experiences. Science really came alive! This was all part of the Cavan Monaghan Science Festival which had organised a very varied and comprehensive programme to engage people of all ages and to promote awareness not only of the Science field but also of Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths areas.

Fifth and Sixth Year Chemistry students got to see science in action when they got to use a UV-visible and infra-red spectrometer when they took part in a Royal Society of Chemistry Workshop entitled 'Spectroscopy in a Suitcase'. The students were shown how these instruments are used in identification and quantification of substances and how the results can be used to solve crimes. This was a great opportunity to get hands-on experience in using instruments that schools do not have access to. During the workshop the chemistry students were told about the huge variety of career opportunities open to chemistry graduates. They also got to hear from Trinity PhD students from Spain and India who spoke about their PhD projects and the many great experiences they have had as a result of studying chemistry at 3rd level.

On Friday afternoon 5th year chemistry, physics and music students took part in a hands-on workshop exploring MaKey MaKey. This cross-curricular activity allowed students to explore the connections between art and technology incorporating practical aspects of Science, technology, engineering, arts and maths as they invented their own musical instruments out of recycled material. The instruments ranged from a musical pizza to a piano playing harp to a musical fortune teller. It was a very enjoyable afternoon for all involved and a great example of how STEAM subjects can be explored in an innovative way.

On Friday morning TY biology and physics students organised a science quiz for all second year students. This brought an exciting and a very educational week of Science to an end and certainly left Senior students with much to think about!



Sally Moloney: Students are intrigued as 5th Year Chemistry student, Sally Moloney checks out the experiment observed by Luis, PhD student from Trinity College who took part in the workshop and spoke to the class about his PhD project and career opportunities open to Chemistry graduates.



Corinna & Dearbhla: Chemistry students, Corinna McCormack & Dearbhla McQuaid consider their next move as they construct their piano playing harp, all part of Science Week in Our Lady's

# News & Events

## Recent News

### Keywords

### Category

--- Select ---

Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

### Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

## Mercy Beaumont hosts Students from Walton High School, Georgia, USA

Wednesday 22nd November 2017

Mercy Beaumont hosts the 80 strong Walton High School students from Georgia, USA on November 22nd last. The choir were on a tour of Scotland & Ireland and spent a morning in with us. Some time was spent on a meet and greet session where the students got to know each other. The Chamber Choir sang for the visitors who in turn put in a fabulous 20 minute concert. This was a fabulous activity as part of our Cultural Week.





# News & Events

**Recent News**

**Keywords**

**Category**  --- Select ---

<b>Month</b>	<b>Year</b>
<input type="text"/> Any	<input type="text"/> Any

**SEARCH**

---

**Events**

**CEIST Annual Conference**

**E-News**

**Monthly School Feature**



**Latest News from Rosscarbery**

Wednesday 29th November 2017

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**Rosscarbery TY Students Meet MP in the European Parliament**

Congratulations to Rosscarbery TY students Roisin O Sullivan and Micheal Twomey who were selected to Meet their MP in the European Parliament and so will be travelling to Brussels in December. This was based on a historical essay written by the students and was a national competition. The agenda for the trip includes meetings and tours of the European Parliament, a visit to the Christmas markets and to the historical cities of Ghent and Brugge.

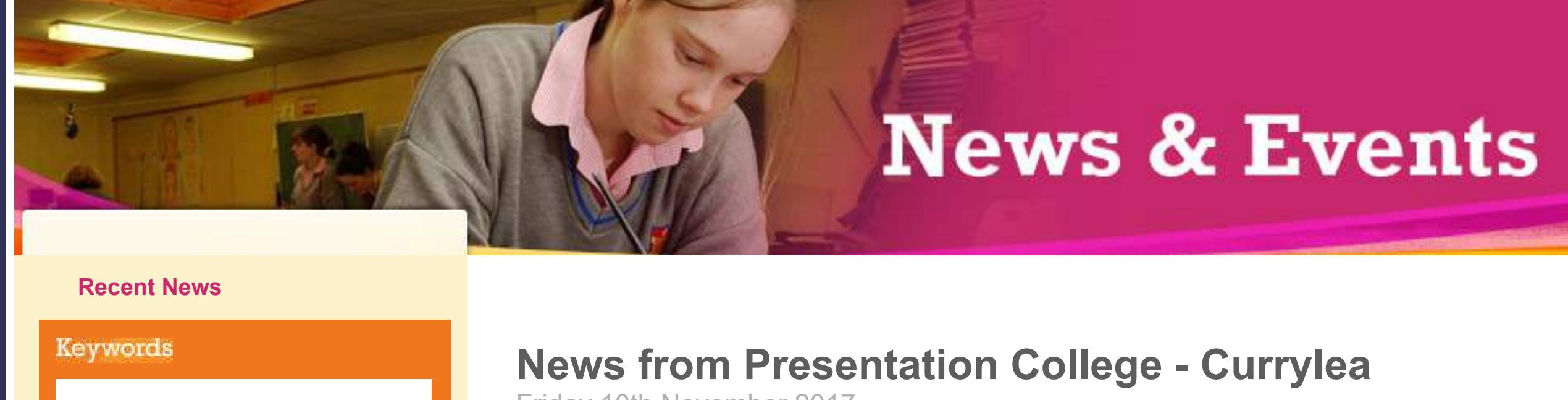
Well Done to outgoing students Kealan Mannix and Eva Whelton who received scholarships to University of Limerick & University of Dublin respectively, based on their superb Leaving Certificate Results.

**Rosscarbery Student Receives Award for 'Young Engineer 2017'**

Ciaran French, an outgoing student of Mount Saint Michael Secondary School Rosscarbery and pupil of Engineering Teacher Mr James O' Sullivan received the overall award for 'Young Engineer 2017' at the Cork City & County Branch of the Engineering technology Teachers Association held in Youghal recently. The award was in recognition of Ciaran's outstanding achievement on reaching such a high level of detail with his Leaving Certificate Engineering project 'Search & Research Helicopter'. Ciaran will now go on to represent Mt St Michael and Cork City and County at the Nationals to be held in Letterkenny, Donegal in November. Mr Bart Kerrisk Principal is delighted to announce that the 2018 Engineering Technology Awards will be hosted by Mt St Michael next September. Congratulations to Ciaran and also to Engineering teacher James O Sullivan on such an outstanding achievement.



Ciaran French with Engineering teacher James O' Sullivan along with Principal of Mt St Michael Mr. Kerrisk and Deputy Principal Ms. Keohane.



Recent News

Keywords

Category  --- Select ---

Month Any Year Any

Events

CEIST Annual Conference

E-News

Monthly School Feature

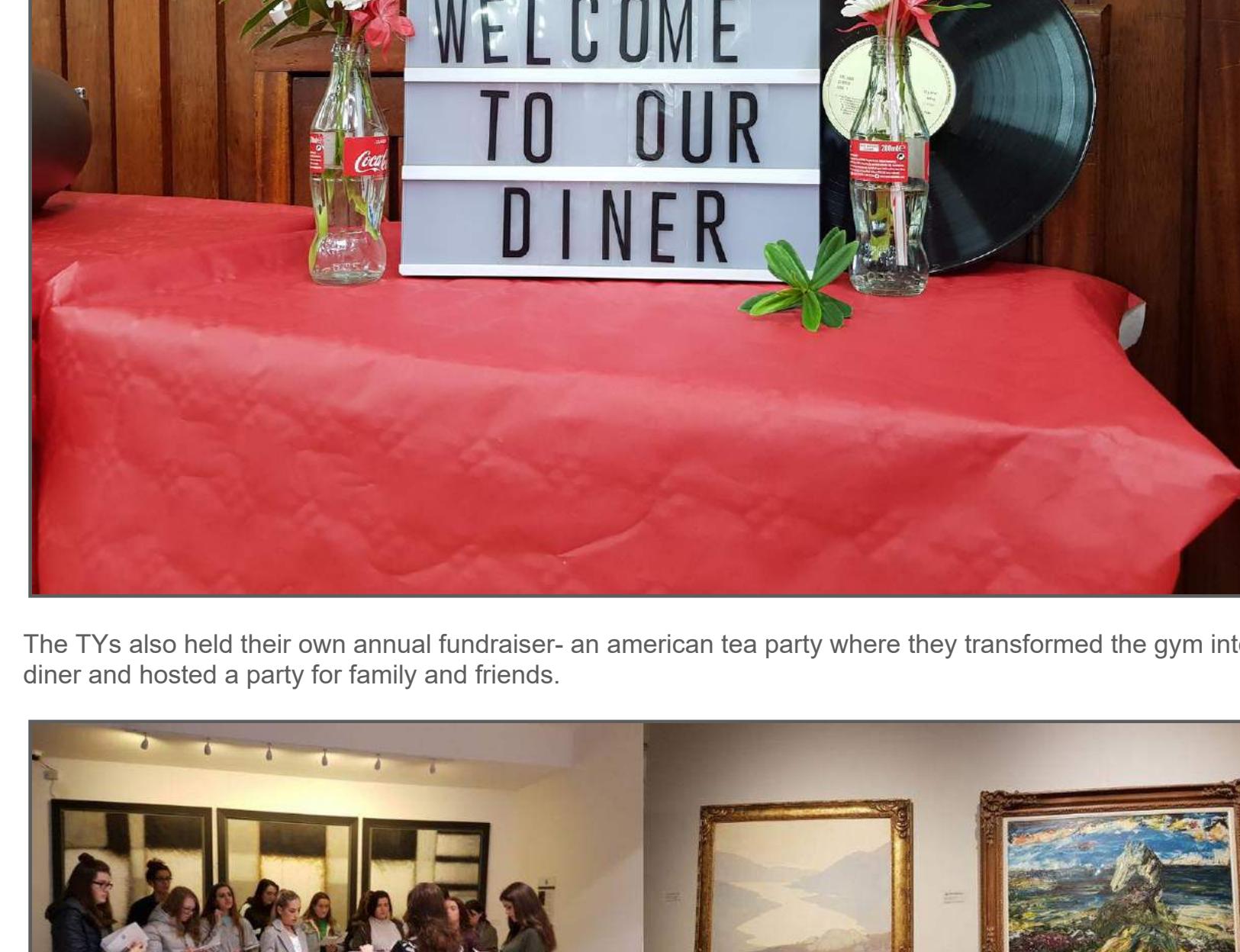
## News from Presentation College - Currylea

Friday 10th November 2017

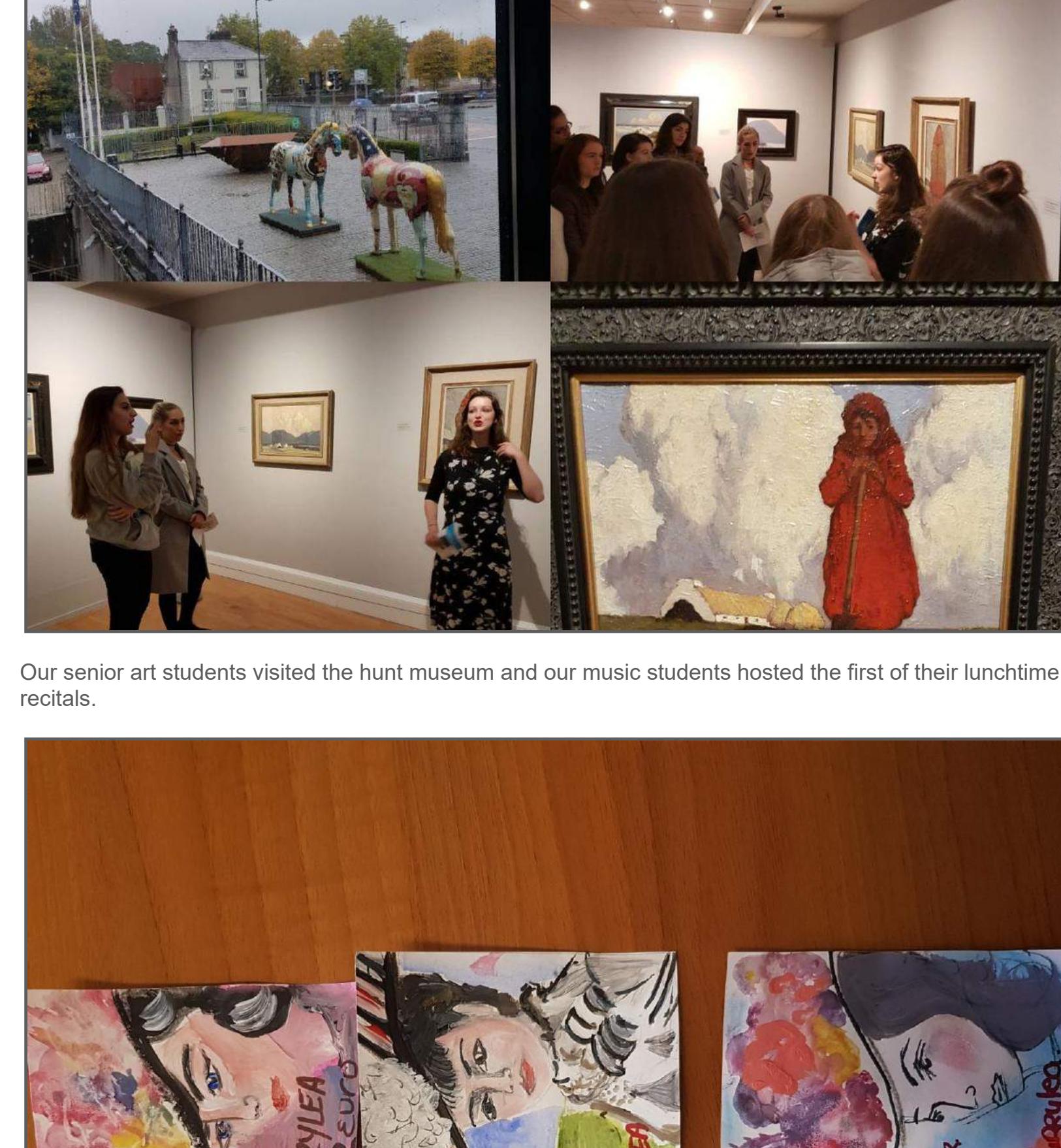
Lots happened in Pres Tuam in the first half term.



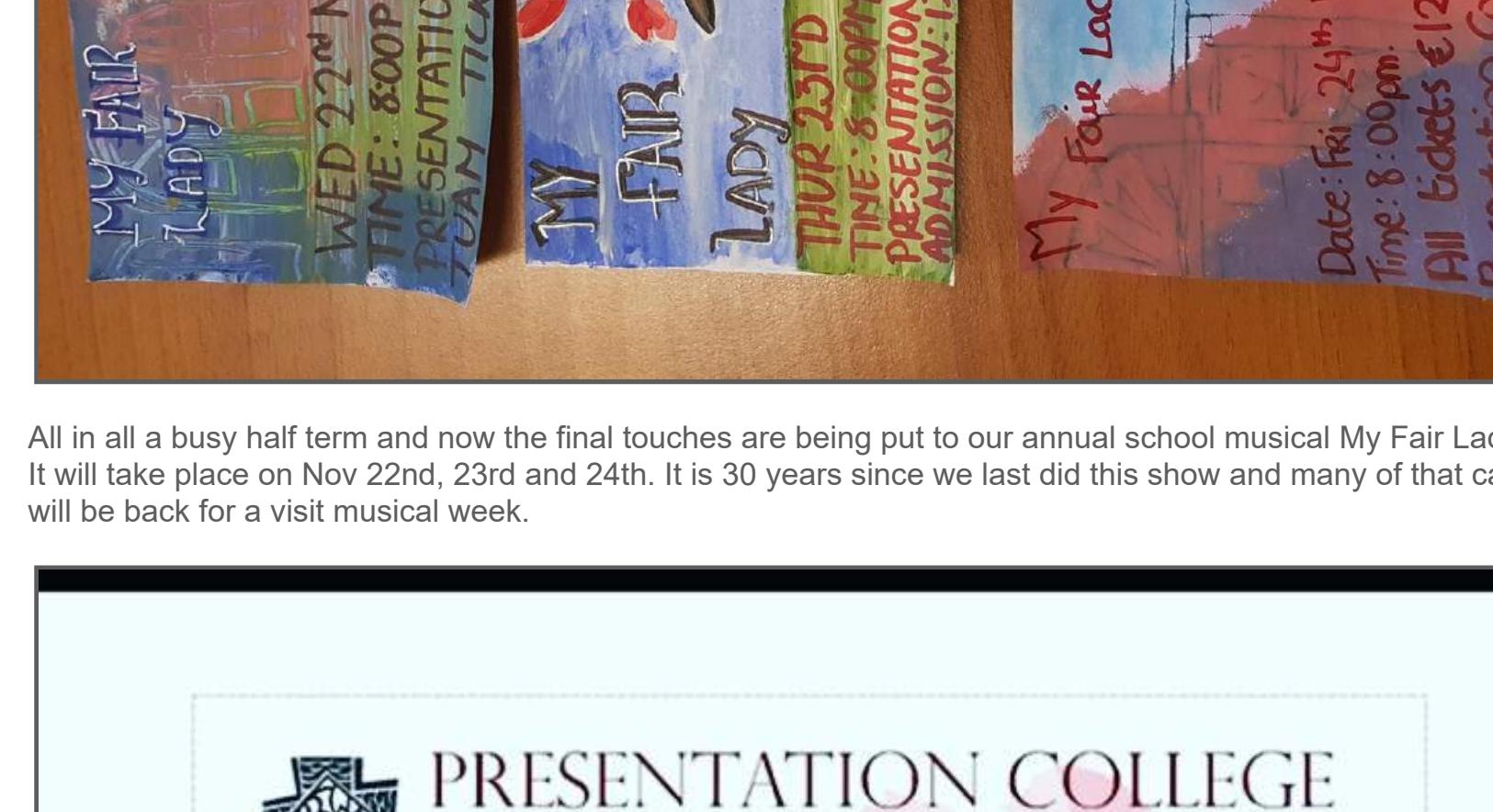
Our 3rd year students organised a coffee morning for staff in aid of Galway Hospice and the TYs organised a no uniform day in aid of Diabetes Ireland.



The TYs also held their own annual fundraiser- an american tea party where they transformed the gym into a diner and hosted a party for family and friends.



Our senior art students visited the hunt museum and our music students hosted the first of their lunchtime recitals.



All in all a busy half term and now the final touches are being put to our annual school musical My Fair Lady. It will take place on Nov 22nd, 23rd and 24th. It is 30 years since we last did this show and many of that cast will be back for a visit musical week.





#### Recent News

Keywords

Category  --- Select ---

Month  Any Year  Any

**SEARCH**

#### Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

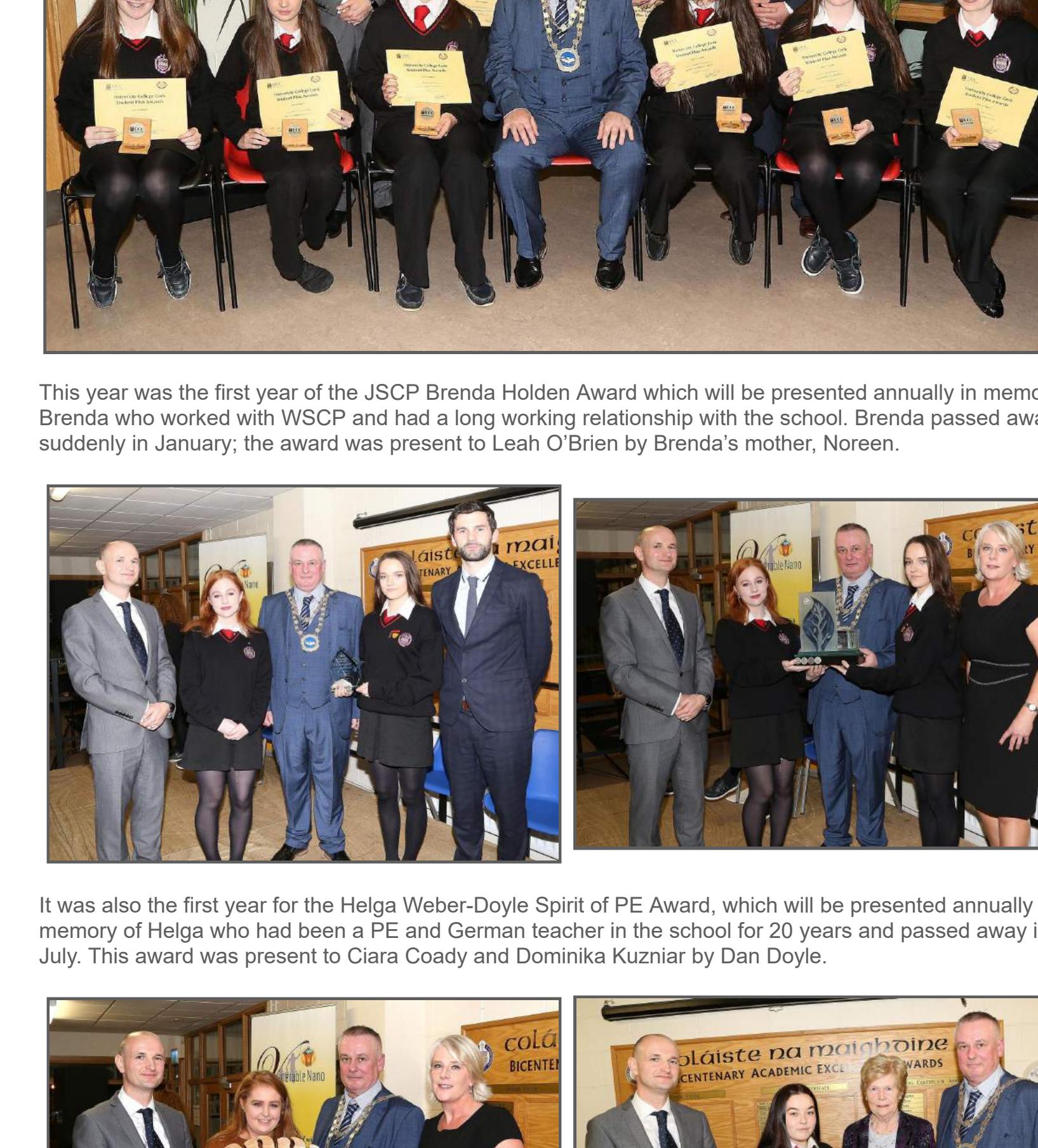


## Presentation Secondary School Waterford Awards Night 2017

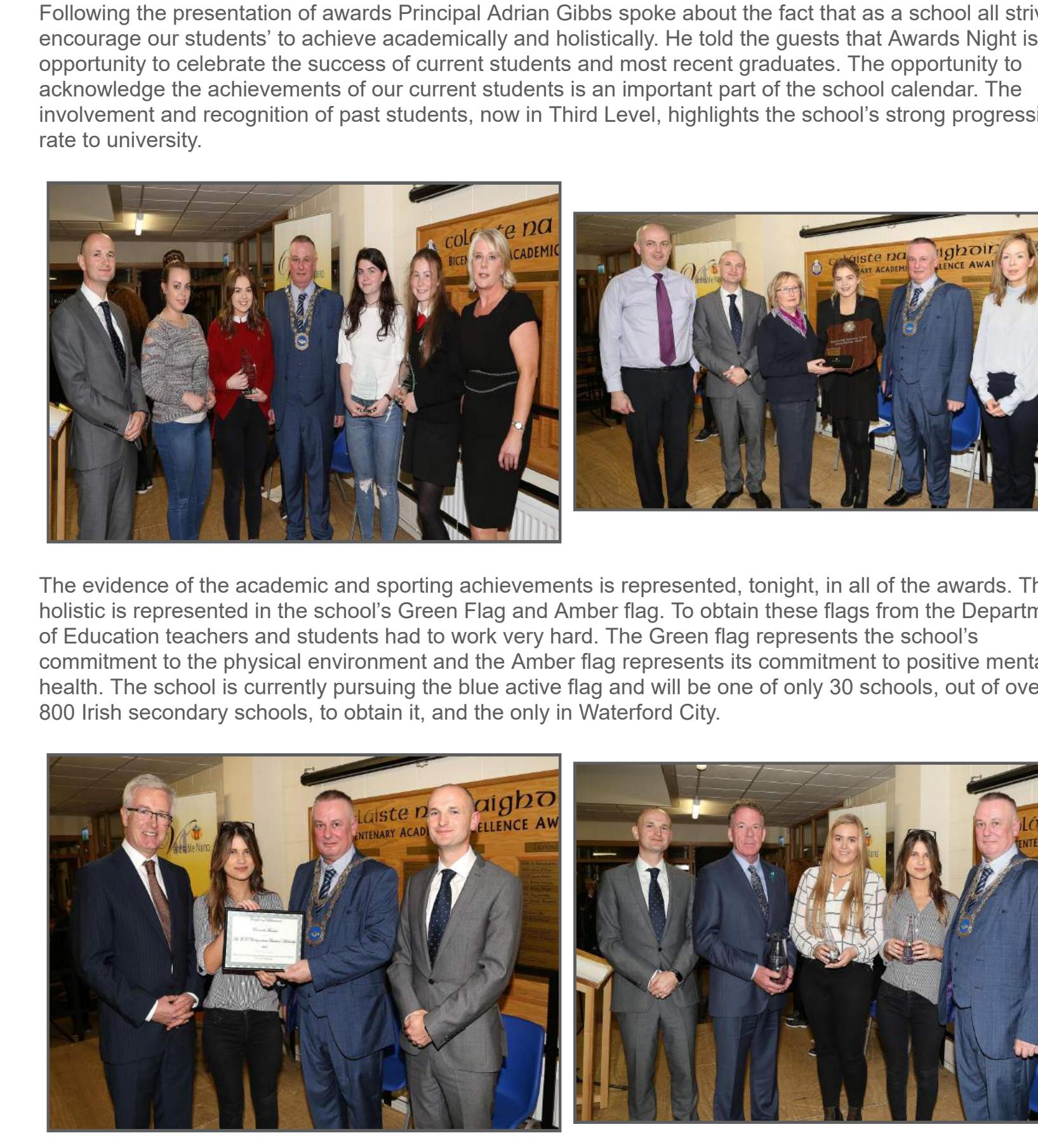
Friday 24th November 2017



Awards Night at Presentation Secondary School took place on Tuesday 24th October 2017. Awards were presented by Mayor of Waterford City and County, Councillor Sean Reinhardt. Head Girl, Ruth Walsh and Deputy Head Girl Megan Thornton, extended a warm welcome to the Mayor and thanked him for his visit. The Mayor addressed the student and guests, telling them how he impressed he was with the facilities of the school. He remarked that he was delighted to be at the event where there was such wide range of achievements to be celebrated.



Business and Academic Awards were presented by Virginia O'Sullivan from Lisduggan District Credit Union. Adrian Gibbs, Principal, acknowledged the generous donation by LDCU to the school as part of its five year secondary schools' initiative.



This year was the first year of the JSCP Brenda Holden Award which will be presented annually in memory of Brenda who worked with WSCP and had a long working relationship with the school. Brenda passed away suddenly in January; the award was present to Leah O'Brien by Brenda's mother, Noreen.



It was also the first year for the Helga Weber-Doyle Spirit of PE Award, which will be presented annually in memory of Helga who had been a PE and German teacher in the school for 20 years and passed away in July. This award was present to Ciara Coady and Dominika Kuzniar by Dan Doyle.



Following the presentation of awards Principal Adrian Gibbs spoke about the fact that as a school all strive to encourage our students' to achieve academically and holistically. He told the guests that Awards Night is an opportunity to celebrate the success of current students and most recent graduates. The opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of our current students is an important part of the school calendar. The involvement and recognition of past students, now in Third Level, highlights the school's strong progression rate to university.



Adrian Gibbs said he was delighted to welcome parents, family members, students, teachers past and present as well as the Mayor of Waterford Metropolitan Seán Reinhardt to participate in the celebration.



Mayor of Waterford Metropolitan District, Cllr. Seán Reinhardt, presenting the Academic Achievement Awards sponsored by Lisduggan Credit union



Mayor of Waterford Metropolitan District, Cllr. Seán Reinhardt, presenting the Junior Art Award to Kim Dalton, with Principal Adrian Gibbs.



Mayor of Waterford Metropolitan District, Cllr. Seán Reinhardt, presenting the Active Historian Award to Katie Whelan, with Principal Adrian Gibbs.



Ruth Gallen, DP, presenting a replica of the Spirit of PE Award to Dan Doyle



## Recent News

Keywords

Category  --- Select ---

Month  Any Year  Any

**SEARCH**

## Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)



## St. Leo's Carlow - Latest News

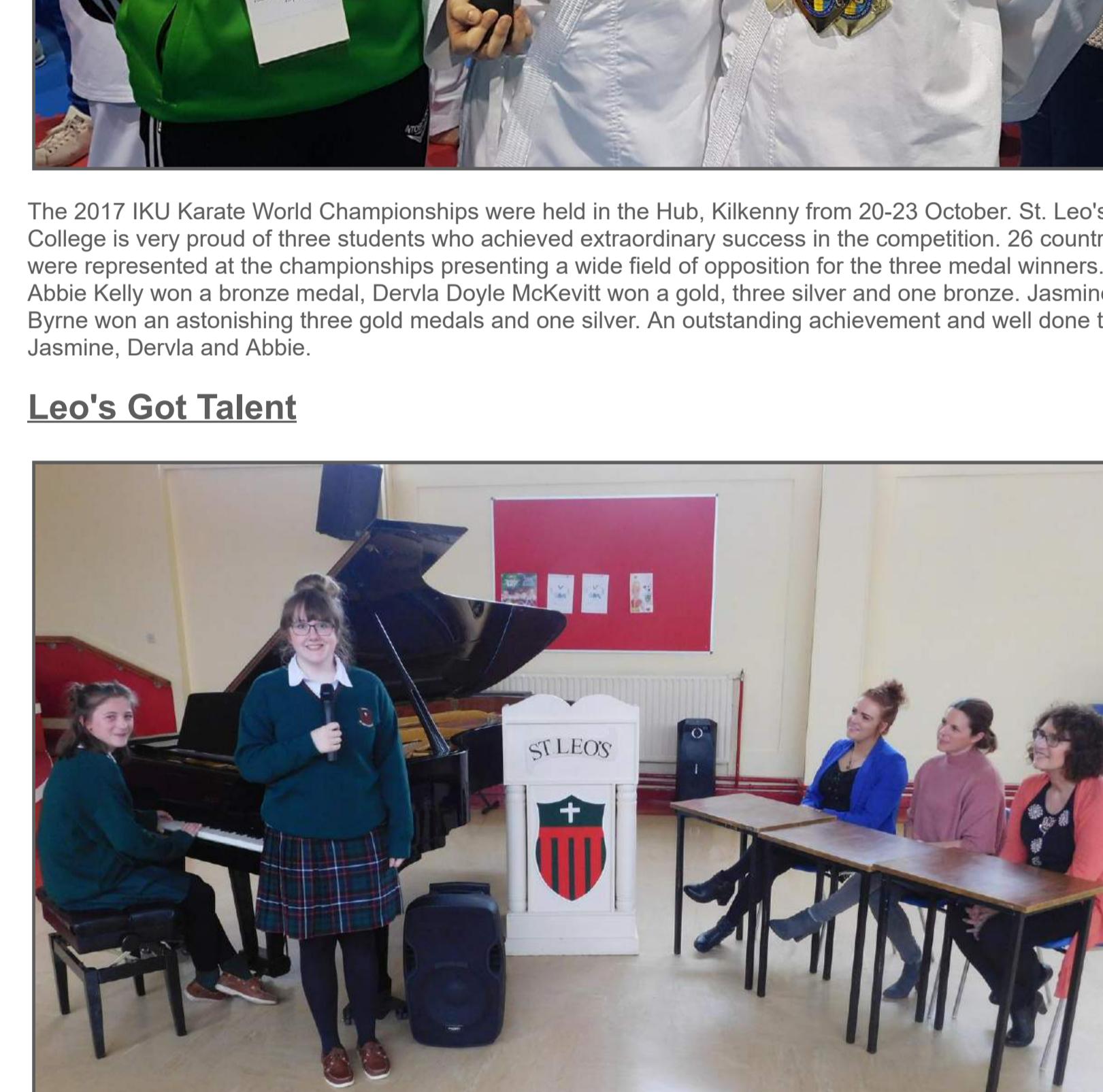
Thursday 9th November 2017

### St. Leo's College Maths Week



St. Leo's College Maths Week was held from 16-20 October. Led by the Maths Department and Department Coordinator Sarah Tallon the week was carefully structured with daily challenges, competitions and activities. Whole school participation was evident with students and teachers taking part in pop up activities and events throughout the week. Winners of the various competitions were announced the following week and nobody was left in any doubt that maths counts!

### The 2017 IKU Karate World Championships



The 2017 IKU Karate World Championships were held in the Hub, Kilkenny from 20-23 October. St. Leo's College is very proud of three students who achieved extraordinary success in the competition. 26 countries were represented at the championships presenting a wide field of opposition for the three medal winners. Abbie Kelly won a bronze medal, Dervla Doyle McEvitt won a gold, three silver and one bronze. Jasmine Byrne ran an astonishing three gold medals and one silver. An outstanding achievement and well done to Jasmine, Dervla and Abbie.

### Leo's Got Talent



St. Leo's College is proud to present its annual sell-out show Leo's Got Talent on Wednesday 15 November at 7pm in the school Assembly Hall. The variety and quality of talent performing at the show never fails to impress and this year promises to take the audience on an entertainment tour de force. The anticipation is heightened by the adjudication factor and the challenge faced by our judges to pick winners from among such superb performances. Organised and run by St. Leo's College Parent's Council the show has gained a reputation for excellence that grows each passing year. Get your tickets well in advance to avoid disappointment.

### St. Leo's College History Trip



The St. Leo's College History Trip to Ferrycarrig Heritage Park was enjoyed by over 130 third year students on October 26. The trip is a practical and immersive experience that revises the Ancient Ireland aspect of the Junior Certificate History Course. In St. Leo's College the students cover Ancient Ireland in first year so the journey to Ferrycarrig is truly a trip back in time. It brings the daily lives and culture of our ancient Irish ancestors to vivid life for the students.

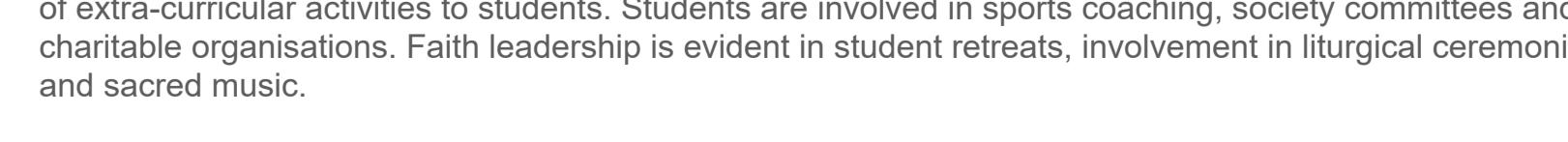
### GOAL Jersey Day



GOAL Jersey Day took place on Friday October 13th in St. Leo's College. Louise Merrigan from GOAL visited the school on the day and gave a presentation to all First Year students and members of the GOAL Committee on the current situation in Syria and GOAL's work with Syrian refugees. She also spoke about GOAL's ongoing work in East Africa and the hunger crisis in South Sudan. On behalf of GOAL she thanked the school community for its support of GOAL Jersey Day. The GOAL Committee ran a poster competition among first year students in advance of Jersey Day. Prizes were presented by Louise.

A total of 750 euro was raised for GOAL. Thank you to all parents, staff and students who wore their favourite jerseys and contributed to GOAL.

### Student Leadership



St. Leo's College has a proud tradition of developing leadership capacity in our students. Students in St. Leo's demonstrate leadership on a daily basis by wearing the correct uniform, being courteous and kind, helping a friend in need. We are a large school and every day we see future leaders developing key skills and becoming confident, assured young ladies who will play their part in shaping society in the future.

Our student leadership structures are a robust reflection of our caring, generous, compassionate ethos and the responsibility to demonstrate that ethos in our school. The girls who put themselves forward to lead are aware of that responsibility and eager to make a positive difference to their fellow students. The difference they make is profound and interweaves the very fabric of our characteristic spirit.

Two staff members give tirelessly of their energy and expertise to guide and facilitate our Student Representative Council and Senior Prefects. Ms. Joan Scott and Ms. Ann Tully May organise training for our leadership teams and facilitate meetings. Senior Prefects and Head Girls attend a training day with Dr. Brendan Byrne in September and the Student Representative Council receive training in August.

Ms. Elma O'Connell has dedicated an extraordinary amount of energy and enthusiasm to organising and facilitating our Meitheal Leadership team, a group of fifth year students who guide and mentor our first year students. Joining a large school in September can be daunting but our Meitheal leaders help to make the first year students feel welcome and secure.

St. Leo's is a large school and due to its size can offer a diverse range of subject choices and a wide variety of extra-curricular activities to students. Students are involved in sports coaching, society committees and charitable organisations. Faith leadership is evident in student retreats, involvement in liturgical ceremonies and sacred music.

In St. Leo's College every student can make a difference. Every student can be a leader.

# News & Events

**Recent News**

**Keywords**

**Category**  --- Select ---

**Month**  Any **Year**  Any

**SEARCH**

---

**Events**

**CEIST Annual Conference**

**E-News**

**Monthly School Feature**

## Happy Presentation Day

Tuesday 21st November 2017

Presentation Sisters and Friends of Nano Nagle , all over the world, celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple on the 21st November each year.

We wish all of our Presentation schools in CEIST and the wider community a Happy Presentation Day.

### Brief History of Nano Nagle

Nano Nagle wanted to help the poor she saw around her in Cork. Determined to help to educate them, both to improve their lives and to deepen their faith, in spite of the dangers she faced because of the Penal Laws, she opened her first school in 1754 with an enrollment of thirty-five girls in a two-room cabin.

Nano taught the children during the day and visited and nursed the sick by night. As a result, she became known in Cork as the "Lady with the Lantern".



Believing that this work must be continued after her death, Nano founded the congregation now known as the Presentation Sisters in 1775. Since then the Presentation Sisters have educated young people and cared for the sick and the poor all over the world.

Click [here](#) to view Irish Independent article about Nano Nagle.

Pope Francis has promoted Nano Nagle, the founder of the Presentation Sisters, on the ladder to sainthood. Click [here](#) to continue reading on RTE ....

### Prayer of Nano Nagle

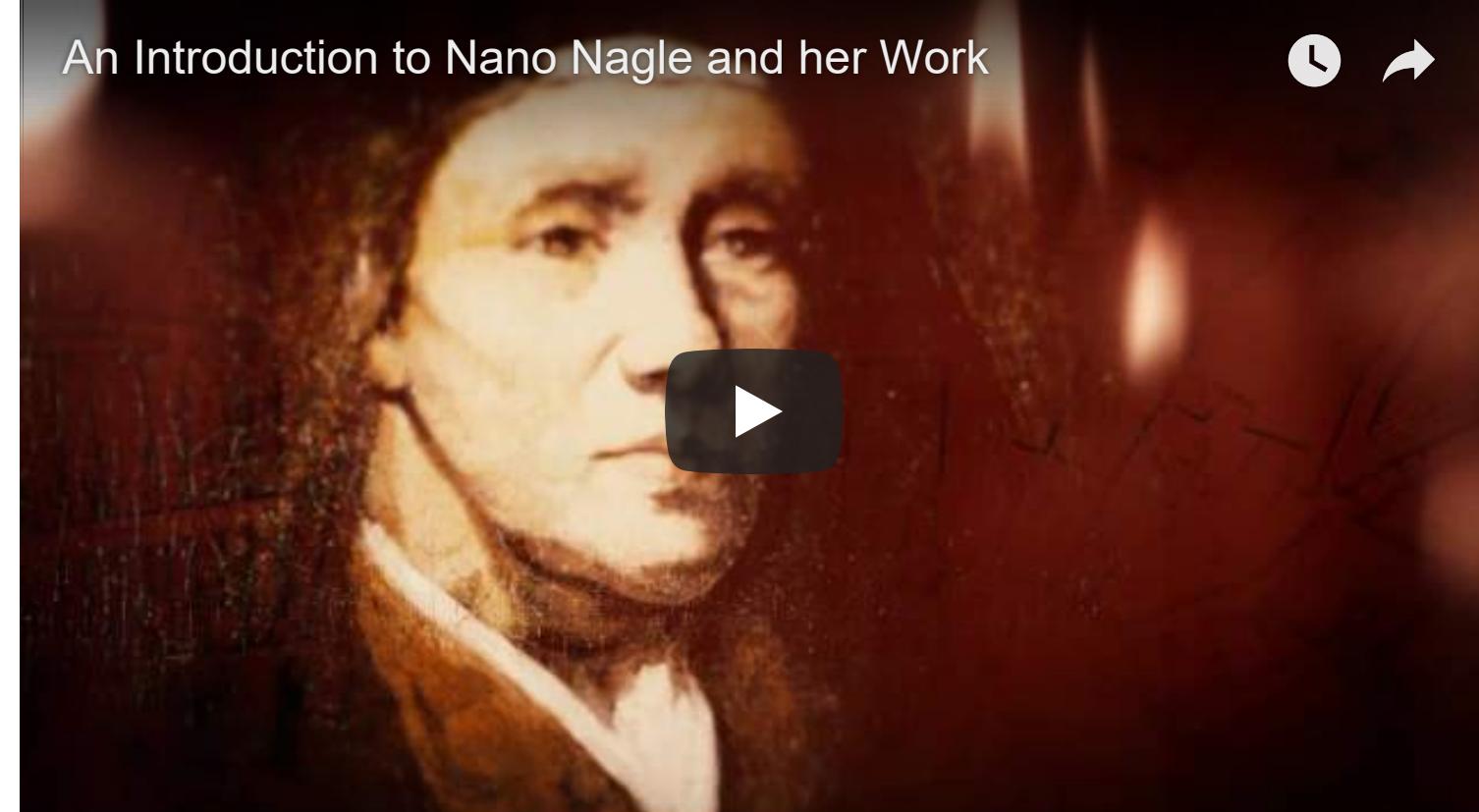


**The Nano Nagle Prayer**

Lord God,  
You raise up people from age to age  
to speak anew your word to us  
and to show us your ways.  
Such is Nano Nagle.  
In days when courage is needed,  
You give us this woman of strength  
To walk with conviction.  
In days of great change, you present us with a  
prophet whose faith is firm.  
As the light of her lantern brought hope  
into the lives made wretched by poverty and  
oppression, so may she inspire us to  
compassionate actionFor those in need around us.

**An Introduction to Nano Nagle and her Work**

An Introduction to Nano Nagle and her Work



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Events

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## Presentation Secondary School, Ballyphehane Presentation Day

Tuesday 28th November 2017

A community Mass was held in Presentation Secondary School, Ballyphehane on Tuesday 21st November to celebrate the work of the Presentation Sisters in Ballyphehane over the last 60 years.

The Presentation Primary School is celebrating 60 years while the Secondary School celebrates 50 years.

22 Presentation Sisters attended the Mass, as well as Dr. Griffin of CEIST.

It was a beautifully concelebrated Mass. Presentation Sisters, staff of both schools, retired staff, parents, past pupils and parishioners enjoyed refreshments in the school afterwards.



Ms. Gillian Murphy (Deputy Principal), Dr. Marie Griffin, Dr. Frank J. Steele (Chairperson, BOM), Ms. Nicola Barrett (Principal)



Sr. Sheila Kelleher (Former Principal) and Mrs. Nicola Barrett (Principal)



Ms. Anne Dunphy (Choir Director), Dr. Marie Griffin, Ms. Nicola Barrett (Principal)

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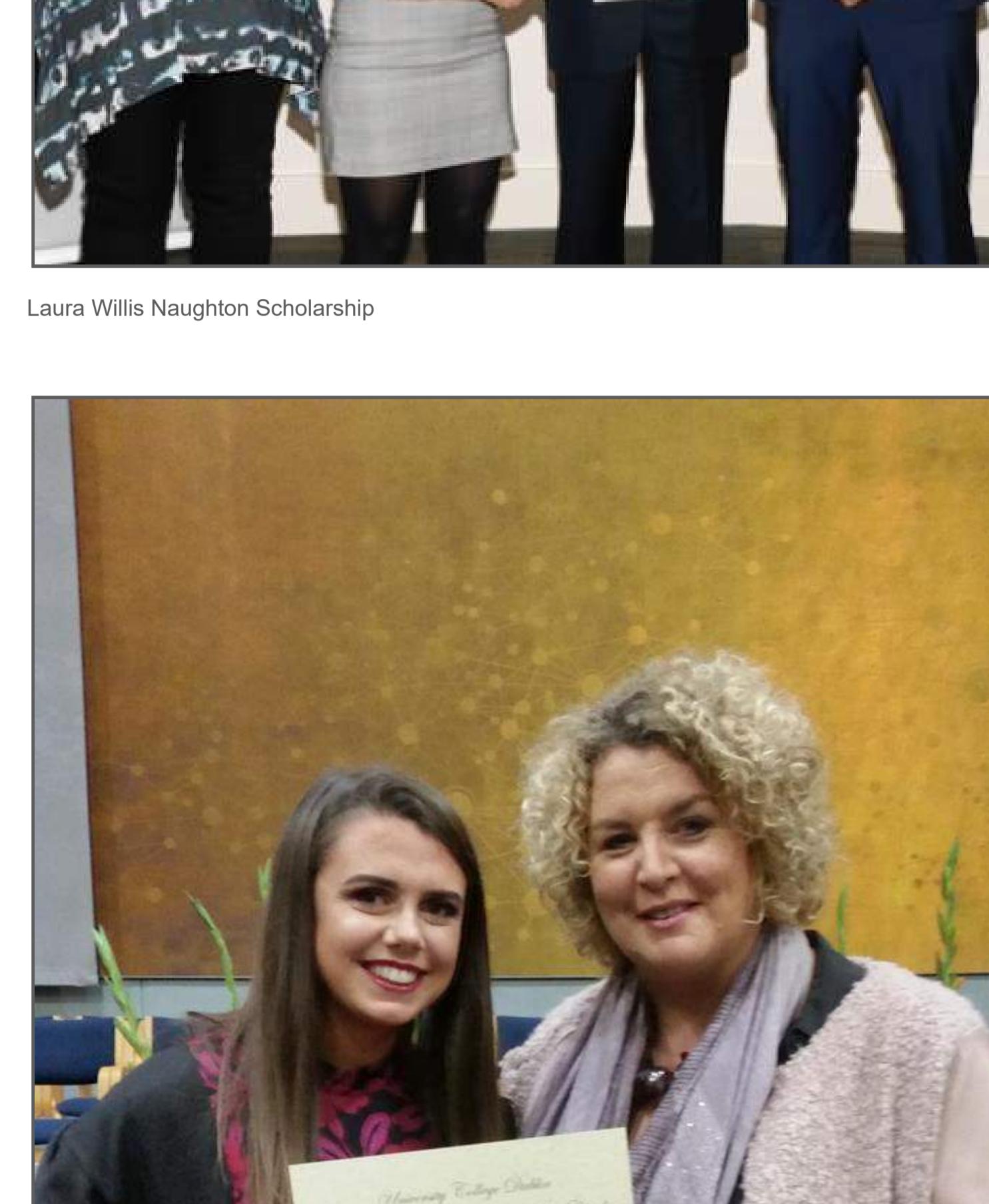
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## St Marys Secondary School, Mallow Students Receive Scholarships

Tuesday 28th November 2017

Congratulations to the students of St. Marys Secondary School Mallow who received scholarships based on their excellent Leaving Cert results 2017.



Laura Willis Naughton Scholarship



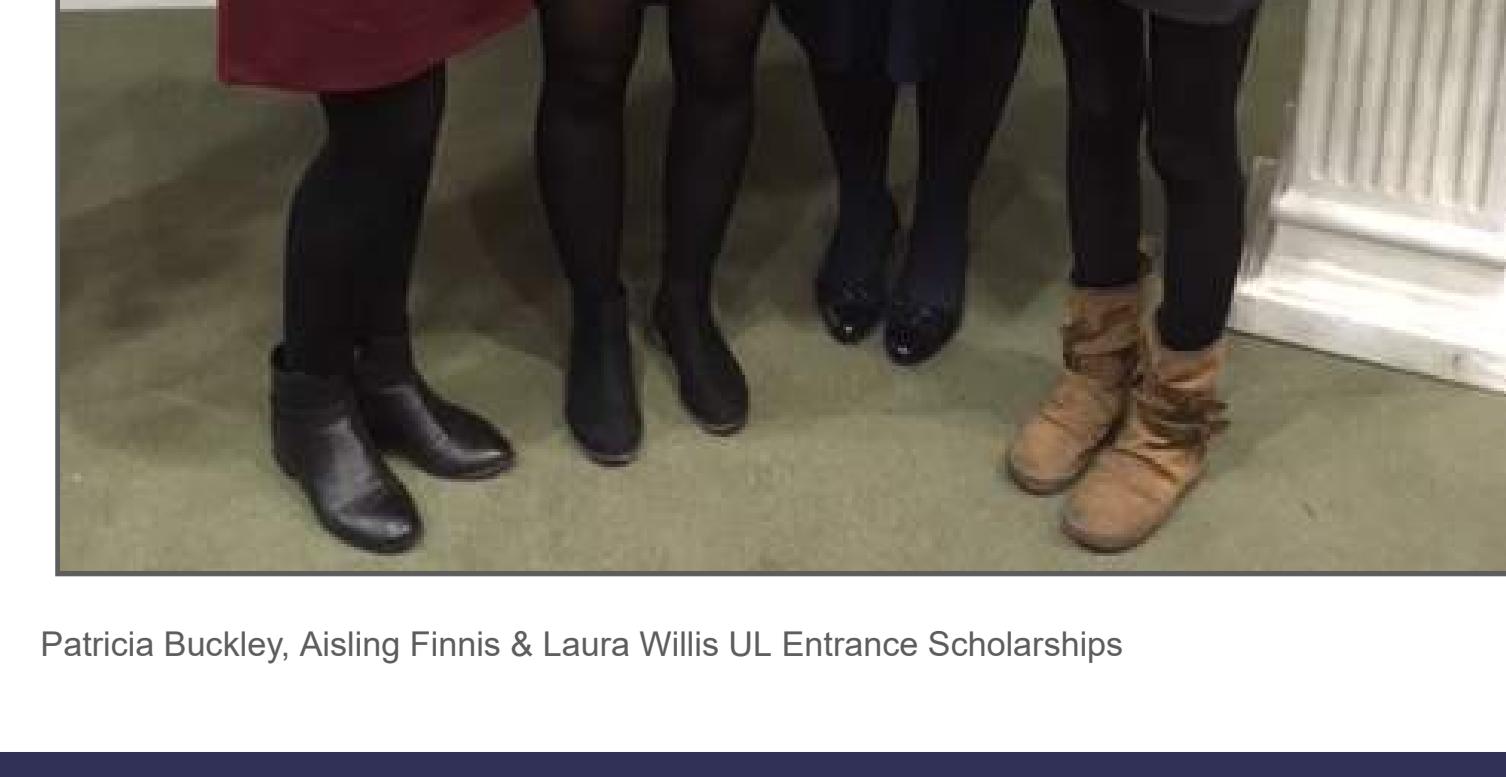
Rachel Fitzpatrick UCD Entrance Scholarship



Rachel Murphy Trinity College Dublin Entrance Exhibition Award



Alison Behan Mallow Credit Union Scholarship



Patricia Buckley, Aisling Finnis & Laura Willis UL Entrance Scholarships