

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

#### CEIST Holy Week Retreat

On Passion Sunday teachers from CEIST schools North, South, East and West made their way to the Tearmann Spirituality Centre in Glendalough, looking forward to making time for reflection and prayer.

The retreat was directed by Fr. Michael Rodgers, now in his nineteenth year doing this great work. He was assisted by Sr. Breda Ahearne C.P.

Teachers truly enjoyed every moment together and CEIST is delighted to have been able to facilitate the opportunity for them to take the time out to deepen their spiritual selves.

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### CEIST News



#### M.A. Programme - Christian Leadership in Education

Applications are currently invited for an exciting new professional qualification programme which will combine practice, policy and theory of education and educational leadership with a strong theology component.

This programme is ideally suited for those working, or intending to work, in leadership roles in the education sector. Successful applicants will be eligible for grant aid.

Further information available from Course Co-ordinator:

Dr. Eugene Duffy | T: 061 204968 | E: [Eugene.Duffy@mca.ul.ie](mailto:Eugene.Duffy@mca.ul.ie)

#### CEIST Prayers for Chairs



#### Health and Safety in Schools

The CEIST Finance Department has compiled the following useful information and guidance regarding health and safety in schools.

The article discusses insurance cover for Parents' Associations and also guidance on Security and Safeguarding your school.

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#### Finance Matters

##### CEIST Schools – Banking Arrangements

Thank you again to all our schools who have completed and returned the questionnaires in relation to banking arrangements. There are still a number of schools who have not yet returned the questionnaires and we kindly request that you submit the completed questionnaires immediately so that we can carry out a comprehensive review that we hope will ultimately benefit all our schools.

If you are encountering any difficulties in completing the questionnaires please contact either Bernadette McKeown on (01)6510423 or Mike Higgins on (01)6510424 who may be able to assist.

### Education Matters



#### iScoil's Staying Connected Conference

iScoil's Staying Connected conference will explore the benefits of online and blended learning for young people and the Irish education system.

It will do so by combining international thought leadership and best practice with the practical experience of iScoil's delivery of online education in the Irish context. The conference will also showcase and launch iScoil as Ireland's first virtual school.

The conference is being held on the 12th May in the Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin. [Click here](#) for further information.

#### Leadership and Change in Faith Based Second Level Schools

Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick are holding a symposium on May 26th and 27th. This event should be of interest to school Principals and members of school boards of management.

It is hoped that the event can explore ways in which schools can, where possible, be more explicit about their Catholic ethos and develop ways to encourage and support it in whatever ways are possible.

[Click here](#) to download flyer on the event, which also includes booking form.

#### Emerging Christianity

The Emmaus Retreat and Conference Centre, Swords, Co. Dublin will be hosting a major seminar from the 14th - 16th June.

The seminar is titled "Emerging Christianity - How we get there determines Where we Arrive", with guest speaker, Fr. Richard Rohr of the USA.

[Click here](#) to view flyer with all the details.

#### RE-IMAGINING LEARNING CONFERENCE

This conference will bring together teachers, innovators, researchers and change-makers to share ideas, experiences and learning about Junior Cycle.

As well as asking what role schools should play in a digital, media-rich, globalised society, the conference will also showcase examples of innovation from schools in Ireland and abroad.

Excellent speakers will raise thought-provoking questions and offer critical analysis on policy and practice.

[Click here](#) for further information on the event.

### Faith-related Issues



#### Catholic Schools in the Republic of Ireland - A Position Paper by the CSP

Catholic Schools Partnership was launched by Cardinal Seán Brady on 28 January 2010. It was established by the Irish Bishops' Conference and the Conference of Religious of Ireland.

The aim of the CSP is to support all partners involved in the provision of Catholic education while respecting the very real diversity that exists among Catholic schools in Ireland.

The role of the Catholic Schools Partnership is not to create a large centralised structure but to provide a framework wherein some issues can be handled at a more central level while respecting the autonomy and diversity of our schools.

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#### World Youth Day

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World Youth Day (WYD) is an international event organised by the Catholic Church, uniting young people from all over the World who are Catholic, as well as other denominations of faith. The event is presided by the Holy Father and it occurs every two or three years.

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#### CEIST International Eucharistic Youth Congress

The International Eucharistic Congress (I.E.C.) will be hosted in Dublin in 2012. This will be a very significant Ecclesial date for all of our dioceses.

On the 28th and 29th March this year Ms. Máirín O'Sullivan, who teaches in Réalt na Mara Presentation Secondary School Crosshaven, initiated the bright idea of inviting Fr. Julian Green, Director of I.E.C. for England and Wales, to come and speak to our CEIST young people and thus significantly deepen their education on the Eucharist in preparation for the International celebration.

This idea morphed into a very significant congress experience for the students of the Cork CEIST schools.

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### News from CEIST Schools



#### Presentation Thurles debaters claim Gael Linn All-Ireland debating title!

The Presentation Secondary School, Thurles debating team are definitely talk of the town having claimed the junior title at the All-Ireland Final of Comórtas an Phiarsaigh Gael Linn 2011!

In an exciting war of words in the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, on Thursday last, 31st March, they defeated teams from Athlone Community College, Co. Westmeath and CEIST schools, Mercy Secondary School ( Mounthawk ), Tralee, Co. Kerry and St. Joseph's Secondary School, Lucan, Co. Dublin.

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#### St. Leo's College, Carlow win second All-Ireland Football Title

St. Leo's College, Carlow beat Coláiste na Scellege of Kerry to win the All-Ireland Colleges Ladies A title at Crough, Co. Limerick on Saturday, 9th April. This was two All-Irelands in a row for the school.

St. Leo's were simply magnificent on the day as they coasted to a comprehensive victory, beating Coláiste na Scellege on a scoreline of 3-13 to 1-2.

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#### Mount Mercy College, Cork Student Wins Prestigious Musicians' Award

Mairéad Hickey, a student at Mount Mercy College, Cork has won the prestigious National Concert Hall 'Young Musicians' Award, which came with a €8,000 cheque.

The Young Musicians' Award at The National Concert Hall supports the development of talented young musicians in Ireland and, for the first time, the 2011 competition was open to classical string players of violin, viola, cello or double bass.

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#### St. Mary's Secondary School, Mallow Students 'Poverty Week', in aid of Self Help Africa.

From the 21st - 25th of March, students from St. Mary's Secondary School in Mallow, Co. Cork, experienced 'Poverty Week', in aid of Self Help Africa.

Organised by a group of fifth years, the students discovered a taste of what it was like to live in poverty.

By experiencing what it's like to live without, they gained a better insight into the lives of people living in conditions of extreme poverty.

[MORE >](#)



#### CEIST Schools are Top Achievers in Prestigious Art Competition!

Students from CEIST schools did very well in this year's Texaco Children's Art Competition. The overall winner was student, Keith Blake, from Presentation Secondary School, Ballingarry, Thurles, Co. Tipperary for his self-portrait entitled 'A Warm Place'.

Deirdre Manny who is a student in St. Joseph's Secondary School, Rochfortbridge, Co. Westmeath came first in the special needs category for the second year in a row, for her work entitled 'Welsh Poppies'.

Other CEIST winners in the competition included Shania McDonagh from Mount St. Michael Secondary School, Co. Mayo who came first in the Category C - 12 to 13 years and Juliette Morrison from St. Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk, Co. Louth who was second in this category.

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#### Exciting New Developments in E-Learning for Presentation College, Carlow

Presentation College, Carlow have made some significant investments to their ICT infrastructure and integration of ICT into their teaching and learning within the school.

When the new extension to the school was built, it was decided to upgrade the whole network infrastructure.

The school has also invested in a new Virtual Learning Environment, which comprises of a private cloud based service designed specifically for schools and using curriculum content from the Department of Education.

[MORE >](#)



#### Ardscioil Mhuire Transition Year students bridge generation gap

Transition year students in Ardscioil Mhuire, Ballinasloe are bridging the generation gap with two new initiatives inspired by the Young Social Innovators project.

Young Social Innovators or Y.S.I. was set up in 2001 by Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy and Rachel Collier to engage young people in social projects that will benefit their community.

[MORE >](#)



#### School Profile of the Month

The CEIST website includes a "Monthly School Profile" Section where we profile a different CEIST school each month.

Our latest school profile is from Sancta Maria College, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo, which was the first Catholic Co-education Secondary School in Ireland.

[MORE >](#)

### Reflecting CEIST Values



#### Presentation Secondary School, Kildare Town Fundraising Events

Presentation Secondary School, Kildare Town have done some tremendous work recently in raising funds for very worthwhile charities.

The students organised a civics day, raffle and table quiz with €1,000 being raised for their chosen charity and Hospice.

Students from all years took part in their 24hour 'Give it Up' event in support of the Trócaire Fast campaign raising €2,000 in the process. Well done to all involved.

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## CEIST Holy Week Retreat Glendalough Wicklow 17 – 19 April 2011

Thursday 21st April 2011

On Passion Sunday teachers from CEIST schools North, South, East and West made their way to the Tearmann Spirituality Centre in Glendalough, looking forward to making time for reflection and prayer.

The retreat was directed by Fr. Michael Rodgers, now in his nineteenth year doing this great work. He was assisted by Sr. Breda Ahearn C.P.



The 'Valley of the Saints' looked simply amazing in

the brilliant sunshine, bringing to mind the words of Teilhard de Chardin, 'Divine radiating from blazing matter'.

The teacher-pilgrims were furnished with a journal, a staff and a collection of poetry to aid their journey into the inner landscape of their hearts.

Fr. Michael called on Irish mystics such as Patrick Kavanagh, Brendan Kennelly and Seamus Heaney, to name but a few, in addition to St. Kevin himself as he opened door after door into the sacred.

Teachers truly enjoyed every moment together and CEIST is delighted to have been able to facilitate the opportunity for them to take the time out to deepen their spiritual selves.

They will return to their respective schools up-lifted and spiritually fortified for the last term. Many have already signed up for next



year's retreat!

The staff at CEIST wish all our teachers a very happy and holy Easter.





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## Financial Calendar for CEIST Schools

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## Health and Safety Topics

### Insurance Cover for Parents Associations

Schools often ask about the nature and extent of cover provided for Parents' Associations under the Public Liability Section of the Custodian School Protection Policy.

The Public Liability Section of the School Protection Policy provides an indemnity to the Board of Management, Patron and Trustees of the school for their legal liability for damages and legal costs and expenses arising out of and in connection with a “**School Related Activity**”, which is defined in the Policy as:

“**any activity usual to a school which is carried out with full knowledge and authority of and under the control of the Board of Management/Governors of the School or of any person specifically authorized by them**”

The indemnity under the policy can be extended, **at the request of the Board of Management** to include **Parents Associations**.

(a) **Provided** the liability arises out of and in the course of a **School Related Activity**.

And

(b) **Subject to** the terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions of the policy.

However, the School Protection Policy **does not provide any cover whatsoever** where a Parent Association is **acting as a separate and autonomous entity** without approval of and at the written request of the Board of Management. It is **therefore advisable** for Parents Associations to **effect their own separate liability cover** to insure the Association and its officers in respect of such activities/events. You should contact Allianz directly to arrange the appropriate cover. Parents Associations that are affiliated to the National Parents Council can receive cover at reduced rates.

### Security and Safeguarding your School

The School Insurance Policy requires the Board of Management at all times to exercise **reasonable care** to prevent loss or damage to their property. This is important throughout the year but especially during holiday periods when the school may lie vacant for a number of months.

The Board should establish a dedicated **Security Risk Management Group** that could be independent of or indeed form part of the general health and safety function of the school. The size of the group would be dependent of the size and complexity of the school and could be made up of the caretakers, teaching staff, members of the Board and perhaps pupils and parents.

The group needs to carry out their own “**Risk Assessment**” to identify ways, in which intruders could enter, possibly start fires, steal equipment, cause damage and what the effect would be and how to prevent or reduce the risk.

School Security Protection falls into three broad categories:

1. **Physical Security:** Fencing around the School, Locks, Strong Rooms etc.
2. **Electronic Security:** Intruder Alarms, Sensors, CCTV.
3. **Management/Housekeeping:** Key & Alarm Code Control, Lockup Procedures, Storage of Valuables etc.

You insurer will provide advice on any issues relating to security and will review and advise on any specifications for the installation of security equipment. Click on link below to view a security risk assessment checklist, which will assist in completing your security risk assessment.

### Allianz Security Risk Assessment Checklist

[Security Risk Assessment Checklist](#)



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## Catholic Schools in the Republic of Ireland – A Position Paper by the CSP

Thursday 7th April 2011

Catholic Schools Partnership was launched by Cardinal Seán Brady on 28 January 2010. It was established by the Irish Bishops' Conference and the Conference of Religious of Ireland.

The aim of the CSP is to support all partners involved in the provision of Catholic education while respecting the very real diversity that exists among Catholic schools in Ireland.

The role of the Catholic Schools Partnership is not to create a large centralised structure but to provide a framework wherein some issues can be handled at a more central level while respecting the autonomy and diversity of our schools.

CSP functions on the basis of subsidiarity, namely that matters ought to be handled by the smallest, lowest or least centralized competent authority.

The CSP does not replace or amalgamate the existing Catholic management, trustee and patron organizations, rather it seeks to foster a deeper sense of partnership and shared purpose among patrons/trustees, management bodies including boards of management and teachers in Catholic schools.

At the heart of the partnership is a council with thirty-three members drawn from across the spectrum of Catholic schools.

The office is based in Saint Patrick's College Maynooth, Co. Kildare and Father Michael Drumm is Executive Chairperson of the Catholic Schools Partnership.

Catholic Schools Partnership launched a Position Paper entitled Catholic Schools in the Republic of Ireland on 6 April 2011, click on link below to view. (article courtesy of [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie)).

## Catholic Schools Partnership Position Paper

[CSP Position Paper](#)

## Timeline for continuation of the CSP consultation process

[CSP Timeline](#)



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## World Youth Day

Thursday 21st April 2011

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The 2011 World Youth Day will take place in Madrid from the 16th to the 21st of August, 2011.

World Youth Day (WYD) is an international event organized by the Catholic Church, uniting young people from all over the World who are Catholic, as well as other denominations of faith. The event is presided by the Holy Father and it occurs every two or three years.

WYD began in 1984, on Palm Sunday. Pope John Paul II asked youth from all over the world to come to Rome to celebrate the Year of Redemption. They responded with great enthusiasm, surprising all expectations. In 1985, the Pope wrote a letter to all the youth of the world and later that year he officially initiate the World Youth Day.

This Day is an incentive for young people of the Church to share and celebrate their faith, while meditating on the message the Pope chooses for each meeting. The theme chosen is from St. Paul: "Rooted and built up in Christ; strengthened in the faith."

This will be the second time this international event will be held in Spain, the first being celebrated in 1989 in Santiago de Compostela.

### Magis Ireland

[Magis Ireland](#) have a very useful section on their website on World Youth Day. Click [here](#) to access their FAQ's regarding the MAGiS-World Youth Day event.

### Other Useful Websites

<http://www.worldyouthday.com/>

<http://www.madridwyd2011.com/>



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## CEIST International Eucharistic Youth Congress 28 – 29 March Cork

Wednesday 13th April 2011

The International Eucharistic Congress (I.E.C.) will be hosted in Dublin in 2012. This will be a very significant Ecclesial date for all of our diaries.

On the 28th and 29th March this year Ms. Máirín O'Sullivan, who teaches in Réalt na Mara Presentation Secondary School Crosshaven, initiated the bright idea of inviting Fr. Julian Green, Director of I.E.C. for England and Wales, to come and speak to our CEIST young people and thus significantly deepen their education on the Eucharist in preparation for the International celebration. This idea morphed into a very significant congress experience for the students of the Cork CEIST schools.

Two venues were chosen: Sacred Heart Missionaries Retreat Centre, Myross Leap, West Cork and Sacred Heart Missionaries, Parish Centre, Western Road, Cork City.

Three CEIST schools, Mount St. Michael Rosscarbery, Sacred Heart Clonakilty and Mercy Heights Skibbereen attended the Myross venue and were joined by Schull Community School. At the Cork City venue students and teachers from Presentation Farranree, Presentation Crosshaven, Presentation Ballyphehane, Mercy College Mount Mercy, and Sacred Heart Carraig na bhFear attended.

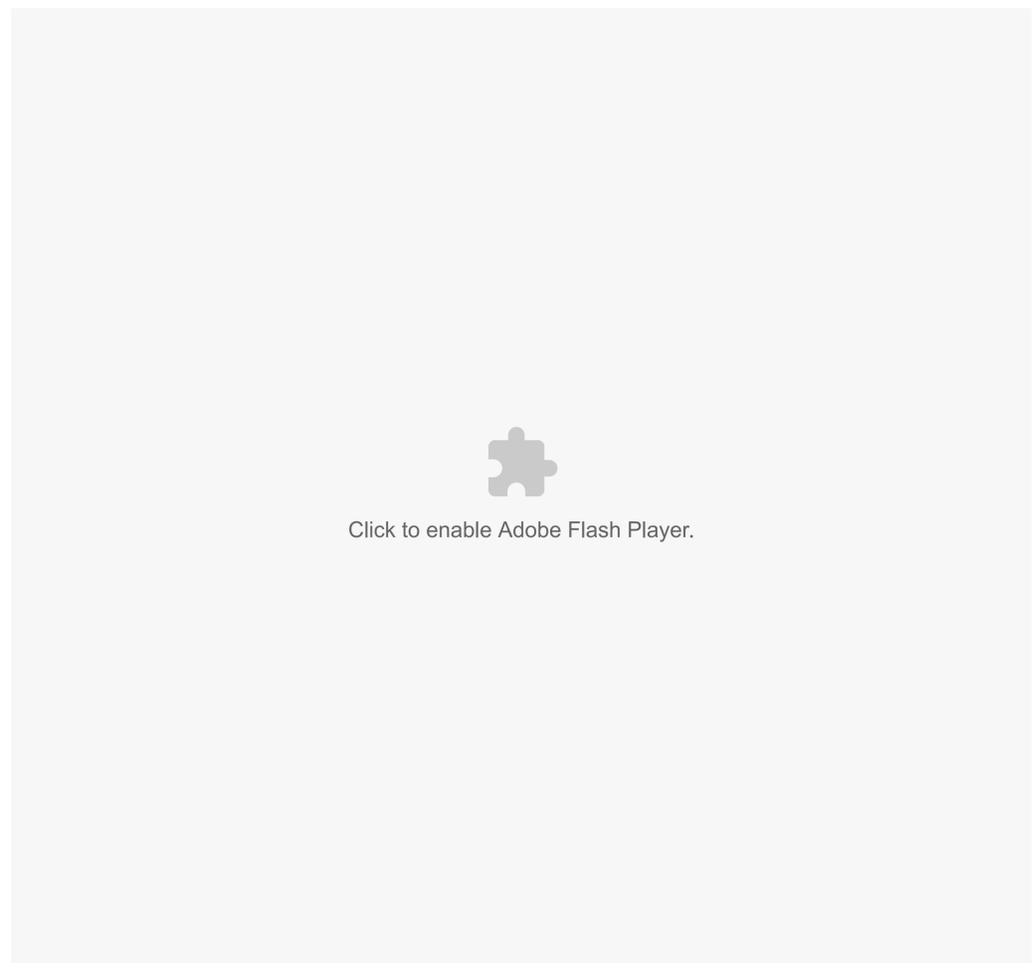
On average ten students with a teacher represented their respective school. The students were invited to research the Eucharist and to make a presentation of their findings to their peers. As each made a presentation it was obvious that they had learned much and the depth of their reverence and faith in the Holy Eucharist was evident. Students were taught the I.E.C. hymn, 'Though we are many' by Bernard Sexton. This is a delightful hymn and illuminates the essence of the Eucharist.

The highpoint of the Youth Congress was the address given by Fr. Julian Green followed by Adoration. Fr. Julian gave a testimony of his faith and how, at the age of nineteen, he came into the Catholic Church from being a member of the Church of England. He spoke from the heart and made a big impression on the young people. He skilfully brought the young people into the Adoration of the Blessed Sacred. Something very special was taking place within each person there.

CEIST was involved in the organisation of both events. Ned Prendergast and Lloyd Bracken attended both gatherings and it is envisaged that other youth Eucharistic congresses will be organised for the CEIST schools in the next term. So keep your eye on this spot. CEIST is very proud of all of the young people who participated in these events and of the teachers who helped them to prepare.

Fr. Julian Green gave a second talk to adults in the evening time at both Myross and Sacred Heart Cork City. The content of that talk is also available here. Click [here](#) to view.

## Photo Album



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## Presentation Thurles debaters claim Gael Linn All-Ireland debating title!

Thursday 28th April 2011

The Presentation Secondary School, Thurles debating team are definitely talk of the town having claimed the junior title at the All-Ireland Final of Comórtas an Phiarsaigh Gael Linn 2011!

In an exciting war of words in the Heritage Hotel, Porlaoise, on Thursday last, 31st March, they defeated teams from Athlone Community College, Co. Westmeath; Mercy Secondary School ( Mounthawk ), Tralee, Co. Kerry and St. Joseph's Secondary School, Lucan, Co. Dublin.



Pictured above the junior debating team from Presentation Secondary School, Thurles, Co.

Tipperary following their win at the All-Ireland Final of Comórtas Díospóireachta An Phiarsaigh Gael Linn (left to right) Eibhlín de Stainléigh (teacher), Máire Clár Ní Ainiféin, Muireann Ní Chonaill, Mairéad Áine Ní Ghaoithín and Edel Ní Mheachair (teacher).

Speaking on the topical motion 'Tá déagóirí na tíre seo beag beann ar an gcúlú eacnamaíochta!' (Irish teenagers are impervious to the recession ! ), the Presentation students one by one captivated the large audience with their arguments and were highly praised by the adjudicators.

Team members, Máire Clár Ní Ainiféin ( captain ), Muireann Ní Chonaill and Mairéad Áine Ní Ghaoithín, were guided to victory by teachers Edel Ní Mheachair and Eibhlín de Stainléigh, who are justifiably proud of their students ! Having come through four rounds of the competition against tough opposition since November last to gain a place in the final, the team was rewarded with a cheque for €1,000 and the Gael Linn Perpetual trophy for their efforts.



Pictured above celebrating their win with their supporters and proud

teachers at the All-Ireland Finals of Comórtas Díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh Gael Linn are the junior debating team from Presentation Secondary School, Thurles, Co. Tipperary are Máire Clár Ní Ainiféin, Muireann Ní Chonaill and Mairéad Áine Ní Ghaoithín. Also in the picture are School Principal, Marie Collins (back row, centre), Vice-Principal Máire B. Ní Lannagáin (front row, on right), Eibhlín de Stainléigh (seated, left) and Edel Ní Mheachair (seated, right).

As part of the prize also, they have been invited to take part in 'Ri Chéile', a festival run by Comunn na Gaidhlig, Scotland and Gael Linn with funding from the organisation, Colmcille. This festival brings together young debaters from both Ireland and Scotland for a few days fun when they will get the chance to explore the similarities between their respective languages. The event will take place in Clondalkin, Co. Dublin in the autumn.

Guest chairperson on the night, Senator Brian Ó Domhnaill, steered the proceedings with great acclarity and praised all the young orators for their excellent command of current affairs. This popular competition, organised annually by Gael Linn, is for second level schools nationwide and over 150 teams took part this year.



Na seaimpíní sóisearacha, Meánscoil na Toirbhirte, Durlas, Co.

Thiobraid Árann, tar éis a mbua ag Craobh na hÉireann de Chomórtas Díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh Gael Linn 2011: Ó chlé – Antoine Ó Coileáin, Príomhfheidhmeannach Gael Linn, Eibhlín de Stainléigh (múinteoir), Máire Clár Ní Ainiféin (captaen na foirne), Muireann Ní Chonaill, Mairéad Áine Ní Ghaoithín, Edel Ní Mheachair (múinteoir) agus An Seanadóir Brian Ó Domhnaill.

Congratulating the winners on their great achievement, Gael Linn CEO Antoine Ó Coileáin said: 'The high level of participation and the high standard of debate bear testimony to an increased emphasis on developing students' communicative skills.

Gael Linn has always believed that pupils should acquire good levels of competence in spoken Irish and we are pleased that this will be rewarded by increased marks for the oral Irish exam from next year.' Presentation Secondary School, Thurles previously won the competition in 2007.



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## St. Leo's College Carlow win second All-Ireland Football Title

Wednesday 13th April 2011

St. Leo's College Carlow beat Coláiste na Sceilge of Kerry to win the All-Ireland Colleges Ladies A title at Croagh, Co. Limerick on Saturday, 9th April. This was two All-Irelands in a row for the school.

St. Leo's were simply magnificent on the day as they coasted to a comprehensive victory, beating Coláiste na Sceilge on a scoreline of 3-13 to 1-2.



"It was a fantastic team effort. All the girls were fantastic," said captain Sinead Doogue in her interview with the local Carlow newspaper 'The Nationalist'.

St. Leo's took an early lead and survived a few early scares before turning up the heat. Coláiste na Sceilge grimly held on but a five-minute spell just before half time decided the outcome.

St. Leo's joint coach Brendan Hayden sang the praises of the team. "They are very focussed and they are a bunch that wants to succeed. They are blessed with talent and are a crop you don't get too often. It is a pleasure to work with them."



Pictured above St. Leo's captain Sinead Doogue is presented with the All-Ireland Colleges cup by President of the Ladies

Football Association, Pat Quill.

Teacher, Veronica Doyle, echoed Hayden's sentiments. "They are a super team with a super commitment and dedication to football. A pleasure and a dream to work with," she stated.

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## Mount Mercy College Cork Student Wins Prestigious Musicians' Award

Thursday 14th April 2011



Mairéad Hickey, a student at Mount Mercy College Cork, has won the prestigious National Concert Hall

Young Musicians' Award, which came with a €8,000 cheque.

Mairéad, who currently attends the Cork School of Music, intends to use the prize money to buy a bow and to attend master-classes in Romania and France.

She won through from a shortlist of five finalists who had to perform live auditions with guest judges Yossi Zivoni and Simon Aspell.

Chairman of The National Concert Hall, David Byrne, noted that the talent coming through from young musicians has never been so impressive. He, alongside Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs Minister Jimmy Deenihan, also presented an award to 13-year-old Dublin cellist Christopher Ellis, who was runner-up.

Rosita Wolfe, head of marketing for the National Concert Hall, said the competition was a very important programme in their educational activity and the support of young Irish musicians was an important strand of that programming.

"The judges were overwhelmed by the overall standard of entry which we had this year. The winners of this competition are two prodigies and will go on to perform at a very high level, and they will both be back performing on The National Concert Hall stage in the future, Ms Wolfe said."

The Young Musicians' Award at The National Concert Hall supports the development of talented young musicians in Ireland and, for the first time, the 2011 competition was open to classical string players of violin, viola, cello or double bass.

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## CEIST Schools are Top Achievers in Prestigious Art Competition!

Thursday 21st April 2011

A remarkable insight into the future of Irish art was unveiled on Tuesday 19th April 2011 as 21 young people received prizes for their works, which temporarily adorned the walls of one of the most prestigious galleries in the country.

There was much celebration in the Hugh Lane Gallery in Dublin as the winners of this year's Texaco Children's Art Competition were displayed in the 57th year of a contest which has been accurate in predicting the emergence of future talent.

Past winners of the competition have included Graham Knuttel, Robert Ballagh and fashion designer Paul Costello, as well as less likely art impresarios such as PR consultant Terry Prone, education minister Ruairi Quinn and ICTU general secretary David Begg.

Students from CEIST schools did very well in the competition. The overall winner was student, Keith Blake, (pictured below) from Presentation Secondary School, Ballingarry, Thurles, Co. Tipperary for his self-portrait entitled 'A Warm Place'. In his interview with the Irish Independent Keith said "he took about four days to complete the acrylic painting using mirrors and a picture of himself to get the skin tones right."



"I draw the whole time but it is difficult with school. I usually do portraiture and I really like drawing people," Keith said.

He expects to spend at least part of his €2,000 prize fund on college fees should he get into an art design course in the Limerick Institute of Technology after his Leaving Certificate.

He will also get the opportunity to travel to Japan, where his picture will be displayed in an international exhibition.

Deirdre Manny who is a student in St. Joseph's Secondary School, Rochfortbridge, Co. Westmeath came first in the special needs category for the second year in a row, for her work entitled 'Welsh Poppies'.

"I was on holidays, and in a garden I saw these poppies, so I took a picture of them and then in the summer I painted the picture," she said.

The 15-year-old from St Joseph's Secondary School in Rochfortbridge is currently undergoing tests to see if she is fit to go through an operation to tackle her epilepsy, which results in her getting a number of seizures every day.

Yesterday marked the 57th year of the competition, which has always been sponsored by Texaco, now owned by Chevron (Ireland), and attracted some 30,000 entries.

Professor Declan McGonagle, the director of the National College of Art and Design and chair of the judging panel, said the level of skill of the young artists is increasing every year.

"I think that is down to two situations, one is obviously the school situation, but clearly families are much more encouraging of young people spending time making art works of different types at home," he said.

Other CEIST winners in the competition included Shania McDonagh from Mount St. Michael Secondary School, Co. Mayo who came first in the Category C - 12 to 13 years and Juliette Morrison from St. Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk, Co. Louth who was second in this category.



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## Exciting new developments in e-learning for Presentation College Carlow

Thursday 14th April 2011

Presentation College Carlow have made some significant investments to their ICT infrastructure and integration of ICT into their teaching and learning within the school. When the new extension to the school was built, it was decided to upgrade the whole network infrastructure.

The computer rooms and DCG room have been fully equipped with the latest tools aiding in the education of the students. Network points have been installed in all the rooms throughout the school and in each section, a 3Com(HP) wireless access point was installed. This provides full wireless network coverage. The College has two powerful servers, one for staff administration and the other for facilitating teachers and students.

The school boasts computers and laptops all connected to the network. Reliability and planning plays a big part, and in conjunction with Dynamic Business Systems along with a managed service agreement, all aspects of the network are catered for.

Claire McHugh, ICT Co-ordinator in the school mentioned "Although the fundamentals of education never change the way in which we educate never stops changing. It is vital to us as educators, to give the best possible beginning to our students, and this is achieved with having the proper facilities in our school".

Computers are used in every aspect of teaching at Presentation College. It plays a fundamental role in the Technology and Construction rooms where students use wireless laptops and workstations to design and plan their projects.

Software such as Solidworks allows the students digitally craft, apply materials, and render in 3D their ideas. Laser lathes, CNC machine along with traditional tools bring these ideas to fruition. In addition, Science, History, English, Irish and Maths classes, the school feels they more students are immersed in the technology, the more they can cope in a digitally literate society.

The recent installation of 40 data projectors and provision of wireless laptops to 20 more teachers has meant that classrooms are changing to acknowledge the role of ICT in a digitally literate society. Epson and Sanyo interactive short-throw projectors have been installed in specialist rooms making learning easy.

The staff at Presentation College Carlow are confident and competent in the use of ICT, receiving regular ICT support and training. The new syllabi in all subjects acknowledge the need for ICT based learning, particularly in the new Project Maths.

## Presentation College Carlow Invest in New Virtual Learning Environment!

Presentation College Carlow have also invested in a new Virtual Learning Environment "SchoolWise" developed by LinkWise Ltd. It comprises of a private cloud based service designed specifically for schools and using curriculum content from the Department of Education. "We decided to purchase the SchoolWise in response to the level of I.T. skills existing among students and staff." Explains Claire "In a digitally literate society Presentation College is responding quickly to the use of I.C.T. in education our students."

SchoolWise has made a difference in many ways. All teachers and students are now registered on SchoolWise and have access to central school information and curricular material through the use of digital communication and resource sharing. Students can download and view assignments from their subject folders.

Once complete, the assignments can then be uploaded directly to teacher's folders. All types of materials are accessible from documents, presentations, videos and audio files. These resources can then be used by teachers and students in the classroom, accessed at home or even downloaded to other devices such as iPads and i-Phones.

"It has revolutionised the way we teach and how knowledge is consumed" says Claire. Teachers have attended two days of intense training this year as part of their staff development days. Eight teachers have been trained in Administration of the site, allowing them to create blogs, wikis and calendars, while thirty five teachers have received professional training from LinkWise in early March in using the V.L.E. to upload existing teacher resources.

SchoolWise is accessed through the schools website, which has been totally revamped and updated by LinkWise as part of the SchoolWise software. The new [website](#) is a bright, easy to navigate site, full of the latest news and photos from recent events and is now fully maintained by the school.

"The LinkWise team have worked hard to ensure this VLE is of the highest standard - it is clear and focussed. Each subject breaks down into ten relevant areas where teachers give students access to essential digital resources and information.

The staff response has been extremely positive and we in Presentation College are delighted to lead the way into this exciting Virtual Learning Cloud Technology world which acknowledges and enhances the use of ICT in our school."

More information on SchoolWise can be obtained from [www.schoolwise.ie](http://www.schoolwise.ie).

(article courtesy of The Nationalist newspaper)



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## Ardcoil Mhuire Transition Year students bridge generation gap

Tuesday 12th April 2011

Transition year students in Ardscoil Mhuire, Ballinasloe are bridging the generation gap with two new initiatives inspired by the Young Social Innovators project.

Young Social Innovators or Y.S.I. was set up in 2001 by Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy and Rachel Collier to engage young people in social projects that will benefit their community.

The first project initiated by the Ardscoil Mhuire students offers free computer classes to members of the community aged 65 and over.

Taking full advantage of the technology skills of their younger counterparts, 23 local people have been following the An Post, "Log on, Learn" scheme since January.

The Transition year students' second project is a compilation of stories and memories of life in Ballinasloe for a book entitled "Fadó, Fadó".

The aim of the book is to preserve the spirit and character of the town and introduce a new generation to its stories and history.

The book will be launched in May and will be on sale in the school and in shops around the town.

# School Support

## Sancta Maria College, Louisburgh

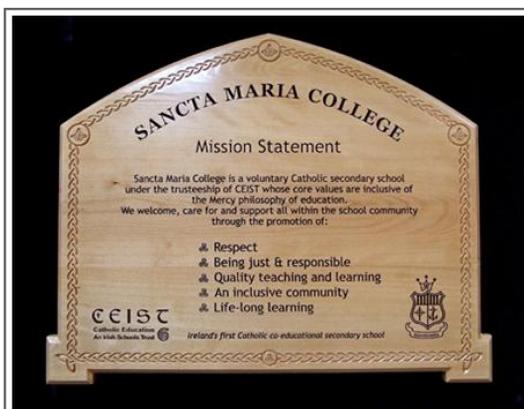


Sancta Maria College is the first Catholic Co-education Secondary School in Ireland. It is a

voluntary Catholic secondary school under the trusteeship of CEIST whose core values are inclusive of the Mercy philosophy of education. The school is located in the picturesque town of Louisburgh, bathing in the shadows of Croagh Patrick on the shores of Clew Bay in County Mayo.

Sancta Maria's mission is to welcome, care for and support all within the school community through the promotion of:

- Respect
- Being just & responsible
- Quality teaching and learning
- An inclusive community
- Life-long learning



School

### Environment

Each learner in the school is recognised as an individual with their own characteristics, talents and needs. With a caring and committed staff, great emphasis is placed on the holistic development of students as well as encouraging all students to achieve their academic potential.

The schools' main aim is to provide a wide-ranging curriculum to students within which the school community strives to develop the talents they possess. The co-educational approach to learning places emphasis on equal opportunity for all, and provides flexibility in response to an ever changing society.

### Extra-Curricular

The wide range of extra-curricular activities is a fundamental part of the schools' endeavours, whether it is on the playing fields, the concert stage, the debating chamber, or elsewhere. All students are encouraged to partake fully in ECA's that they are interested in.



Pictured above Transition Year students participating in their Musical "Little

Shop of Horrors".

The girls' cadette volleyball team recently captured the All-Ireland A Cup. Player Lisa Needham who was chosen for the Ireland volleyball team.



Pictured above the schools cadette volleyball team that recently won the All-Ireland A Cup.

Many sports and activities are practised in Sancta Maria, with further details on the school website.

### Adult Education

Sancta Maria College offers a wide range of courses from the traditional and popular Business and Information Technology, to Childcare, Special Needs assisting and School Age Childcare. All courses lead to FETAC certification.

The team facilitates learning to the very highest standards. The Art facilities were recently upgraded to include a brand new kiln for pottery classes.

The school also boasts a state of the art computer suite with broadband access and modern I.T facilities. Access to laptops and iPads is also encouraged. There is no age limit on any of the courses offered by the college.

### Special Educational Needs

Sancta Maria's main objective for helping students with learning difficulties is to narrow the gap between the students' potential and his/her actual achievement.

The key is to diagnose these difficulties early on so that your son/daughter can use his/her strengths to work on any weaknesses.

The school has a dedicated Special Educational Needs team, trained in facilitating high achievers and those with specific learning needs.

A wide range of resources and methodologies are employed to help students reach their full potential.

Approaches used are of an eclectic nature, placing value on and embrace the different learning styles.

### Student Council

The council represents each student attending Sancta Maria equally and acts as a voice for the students in the school, by bringing their intentions to the attention of the staff.

Members meet once a week to discuss matters that may have arisen. The council strives to make school life easier for the students by taking their opinions into consideration when discussing school matters.

The committee raises awareness on topics that affect students and propose suitable solutions to make student life easier for all. All representatives can be identified easily throughout the school as each member wears a student council badge.

### School Website

The school has put great work into their website, with easy navigation, excellent content and high quality images included on the site. The website link for the school is [www.sanctamaria.ie](http://www.sanctamaria.ie) where you will find lots more useful information on the school.



Pictured above are the school 1st years surfing back in September 2010.



Students taking part in chess, which is one of the lunchtime activities in Sancta Maria College, Louisburgh.



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## Presentation Secondary School Kildare Town, Fundraising Events

Tuesday 19th April 2011

### Love day 2011, Presentation Secondary School Kildare Town

Hospice is very close to home and helps, not only our community but the families of terminally ill patients. It gives patients a place that feels like home, to spend their last days.

It brings comfort to the families to know that their loved ones are receiving the best care possible. Our 5yr class decided to fundraise for this local voluntary organisation.

Our class organised a civics day, raffle and table quiz. At break time we had a raffle and bun sale which was a big hit with something to tickle everyone's taste buds.

The excitement began to rise after lunch with the table quiz. The eight tense rounds saw a group of sixth year students come out on top.

The day was a great achievement for us when we raised €1000 for our chosen charity, Hospice. We were honoured to present a cheque of €1000 to St. Brigid's Hospice, The Curragh.



It felt good to give something back to Hospice for a change and to show how much their

work is appreciated. Plus we managed to pull off a pretty enjoyable day also.

Katie Scanlon  
5th Year.

### Trócaire Fast

The annual Trócaire Fast campaign recently took place in our school. Our school gets involved every year as it helps raise vital funds for life changing aid overseas to help people in the world's poorest countries.

As part of the campaign we watched a DVD about the work Trócaire does in Honduras. One interesting part of it was about José Gonzalez, a 15 year old boy living with his family, in Parde Claret a slum in north-west Honduras.

It was good to see how the money raised is spent to help people like José. Trócaire helps provide over 124 programmes across 38 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Trócaire have many aims they include educating and helping people cope with climate change and tackling the issue of injustice and defend human rights. Trócaires work is essential for these people and can help create a better future for them.

Students from all years took part in the 24hour 'Give it Up' event. Many students gave up many of life's luxuries such as food, T.V., iPod and some students even took to silence for the day by not talking.

The event was a great success and we raised €2000. It was a wonderful achievement to raise such an amount and we hope that our small efforts will help continue their crucial work in the poorest countries.

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## Poverty Week

Friday 15th April 2011

From the 21st - 25th of March, students from St. Mary's Secondary School in Mallow, Co. Cork, experienced 'Poverty Week', in aid of Self Help Africa.

Organised by a group of fifth years, the students discovered a taste of what it was like to live in poverty, by:

- Living on three basic meals a day, and no more
- Allowing themselves just one item of clothing apart from school uniform
- Using transport only to attend school events or lessons
- Using electric light only until 9pm each night
- Paying €1 every time they used hot water to shower
- Living without: mobile phones, computers, television, iPods, make-up, hair straighteners and dryers, and other luxury electrical equipment.



By experiencing what it's like to live without, they gained a better insight into the lives of people living in conditions of extreme poverty.

As one student described it, "I found I was feeling hungry and lonely all the time. I had no idea how much I took for granted, even the basic things like hot showers."

They fundraised to support the work of Self Help Africa amongst some of the poorest communities in the world.

On the last day of their campaign, the students invited Patsy Toland of Self Help Africa and his colleague, Tara McGrath, to speak to all the students about the great work they do.

He also told them how they can help the disadvantaged women of Africa by logging onto [www.changeherlife.org](http://www.changeherlife.org) and signing their petition.

Much needed money was raised for the charity and we thank all those who participated.

By Lisa Murphy and Órlaith Meaney.