

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

Outgoing CEIST School Principals

There have been a number of recent changes in Principal and Deputy Principal positions within our schools. The Trustees would like to extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the outgoing Principals and Deputy Principals for all their hard work and efforts in managing our schools.



We offer you all our best wishes in your future endeavours.

Outgoing Principals (As Of 30/6/2011)

Frances O' Mahony (Coláiste Na Toirbhirte, Bandon), Tom Fennessey (Presentation Secondary School, Ballingarry), Rosemary O'Sullivan (Presentation Secondary School, Tralee), Maree O'Rourke (Presentation Secondary School, Tuam), Mary Forde (Presentation Secondary School, Athenry), Elizabeth Flanagan (Scoil Carmel, Limerick), Martin Carney (Scoil Mhuire agus Padraig, Swinford), Mary Ryan (Sacred Heart School, Westport), Vivienne Fitzgerald - Smith (St. Aloysius Secondary School, Cork), Donie Byrne (St. Anne's Secondary School, Tipp Town), Ted O'Connor (Mercy Secondary School, Scoil Mhuire, Kanturk), Gene O'Sullivan (St. Mary's Secondary School, New Ross), John Buckley (North Presentation Secondary School, Farranree, Cork and Vincent Donovan (St. Joseph's Secondary School, Navan).

Outgoing Deputy Principals (As Of 30/06/2011)

Joe Keating (Ardscuil Mhuire, Corbally), Teresa Nolan (Coláiste Naomh Mhuire, Naas), Mary Fleming (Sacred Heart School, Tullamore), Ms. Breda Lyons (St. Brigid's Secondary School, Killarney), John O Dowd (St. Columba's College, Stranorlar), and Harry Hughes (St. Joseph's Secondary School, Spanish Point).

CEIST News



CEIST Members' Area

The CEIST Members' Area is a private site for use by our School Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairpersons of CEIST School Boards of Management.

We plan to eventually provide access to all members' of the CEIST community. A number of ICT School policies were recently added by CEIST schools on the private site, which we hope will assist other CEIST schools in the formulation of their ICT policies. CEIST welcomes submissions of other school policies for generating ideas and receiving useful feedback from other schools.

The objective of the Members' Area is to provide a useful site for collaboration amongst the CEIST community, where ideas and best practice can be shared for the benefit of all. Click [here](#) to login to the site and for any issues accessing please e-mail jwoods@ceist.ie or phone 086-0437146.



First Meeting for New Board Members

Following the fourth CEIST AGM, Mr. Diarmaid Ó Murchú, has been appointed Chairman of the Board on the retirement of Mr. Jack O'Brien. Jack was involved in the original start-up processes of the Trust and gave loyal and unstinting commitment to the congregations as they created a new form of Trusteeship for their schools. Two new Board Directors have been appointed, namely Rev. Canon Brendan Kilcoyne, President St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, Co. Galway and Mr. Gene O'Sullivan, retiring Principal St. Mary's Secondary School, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

The Directors are appointed by the CEIST Members group, who include representatives of the establishing Congregations and have ultimate responsibility for the Company. The Directors manage the day-to-day affairs of the Company on behalf of the Members.

Click [here](#) to view the list of Directors and Members along with profiles.



Health and Safety in our Schools

Security and Safeguarding your School

All the exams are over and we are now entering the summer holiday period where schools may be empty or have minimal occupation for a period of time. With this in mind we need to be very mindful to ensure that our school property is adequately protected and safeguarded. During recessionary times there is always an increase in the numbers of break-ins and burglaries. We must not forget about the dangers of people who might be working alone in the school during the holidays. While this is not good practice, there are times when it cannot be avoided but should, at all times, be kept to a minimum.

Now is a good time to check that your security alarm system is fully operational!

In the April 2011 edition of the CEIST E-News we wrote about Security and Safeguarding Your School. If you click [here](#) it will take you to the article.



Trustee Support Day for Chairpersons of CEIST School Boards of Management

CEIST invited our School Board of Management Chairpersons to a Trustee support day on Saturday 11th June in the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

After registration and coffee, CEIST CEO, Anne Kelleher welcomed all attendees and started the day with an opening prayer followed by an acknowledgement and appreciation to all Boards of Management for their hard work and voluntary service.

The Directors of each department in CEIST gave a presentation on the day, which provided helpful material and support mechanisms for our Chairpersons.

It is hoped that the support day from the Trust was both enjoyable and beneficial for the Chairpersons.

[MORE](#)

Mercy Reunion

A Mercy Reunion was held on the 16th June in the Meyrick Hotel in Galway for the class of 1961 who completed their Leaving Certificate at the Mercy Convent, Tuam.

School Summer Newsletters

We have received a number of really excellent summer newsletters from CEIST schools. Please click on the respective school links below to download.

- [Mercy Secondary School, Mounthawk, Tralee, Co. Kerry.](#)
- [Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Drimnagh, Dublin 12.](#)
- [Sacred Heart School, Westport, Co. Mayo.](#)
- [St. Marys College, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.](#)

Fifth Annual Liturgical/Catechetical Conference - September

The Christian Community: Enriched through Eucharist and Growing in the Mission of Christ 15th - 17th September.

This is the fifth annual course led by Dr Sheila O'Dea RSM, with Rev Dermot Nestor, exploring aspects of Liturgy and catechesis.

It follows on from last year's Growing as the Body of Christ and before that, Entrusted with the Treasure.

Click [here](#) to download brochure.

Download CEIST Logo's

Click [here](#) to download our CEIST Logo's.

Send us your news!

We very much welcome your news snippets, photos, ideas or just general feedback for our e-newsletter, please send to jwoods@ceist.ie.

The next e-newsletter will be published on Wednesday 31st August.

National Conference on Bullying

A national conference on the theme of *'Bullying in the Workplace, Home & School'*, is taking place on the 27th September in the Regency Hotel, Whitehall, Dublin 9.

Click [here](#) for further details.

Catholic Grandparents Association

The Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA) was formally launched in 2009 in Our Lady's Shrine, Knock, by Cardinal Seán Brady.

The CGA has opened a new office at Our Lady's Shrine in Knock, click [here](#) to learn more.

Education Matters



The Leaving Cert - A Roller Coaster

Fr. Paddy Byrne wrote an excellent blog on the Leaving Certificate for the Kandle website.

Fr. Paddy recently participated in a most uplifting and spiritual Leaving Certificate Graduation Ceremony in Bagenalstown, with the theme for the Graduation Liturgy being "Life is a roller coaster".

[MORE](#)

Faith-related Issues



National Religious Education Congress

This year the third National Religious Education Congress for persons involved in the ministry of religious education, evangelisation, liturgical ministry, and other related ministries will be held in the

Brandon Hotel Conference Centre, Tralee

7th-9th October

The first two congresses (2007 and 2009) attracted almost 500 participants from national and international communities.

A "Youth Day" on Friday 7th October will be offered for post-primary students and their chaperones.

The theme of the congress is Come be Nourished; Share the Good News. Click [here](#) to book your place at the 2011 RE Congress.

[MORE](#)

News from CEIST Schools



Inside the Classroom - Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise.

The following is a very interesting article from Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise TY student, Aoidean Delaney.

Inside the Classroom - Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise, Where students potential shines through

[MORE](#)



St. Joseph's Secondary School, Navan, Officially Open New Theatre

On the 16th May of this year, St. Joseph's Mercy Secondary School held the official opening of their new theatre. A tremendous amount of background work was carried out to bring this great day to fruition.

The final product is a tribute to all those concerned with education in St. Joseph's.

[MORE](#)



St. Mary's Secondary School, New Ross, School Magazine

Congratulations to St. Mary's Secondary School, New Ross, Co. Wexford on the publication of their new magazine called **THE MAYFLY**.

A school magazine committee comprised of students was formed with the first publication coming out in May 2011 and what a fantastic edition it was from the St. Mary's Secondary School students.

THE MAYFLY is a magazine for students by students and it is composed of articles, poems, photos, artwork and interviews with members of the school community.



Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore officially open new school building

The official opening of the new school building took place on May 23rd with Bishop Michael Smith.

The new part of the building makes yet another stage of development for Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore and reflects the flexible and growing nature of the school over 150 years.

CEIST were represented at the official opening ceremony by CEO, Anne Kelleher, and School Support Co-ordinator, Tom Loughnane.

[MORE](#)



Presentation Secondary School, Kildare Town, Closing Ceremony

On Sunday, 29th May 2011 Presentation Secondary School, Kildare, held a beautiful celebration to mark the closure of the school, which first opened in 1939 on foot of the Scoil Bhríde Presentation Primary school, established in 1830 in Kildare Town.

From September it amalgamates with the De La Salle Academy and Kildare VEC to form a new community in the town catering for all second-level students.

[MORE](#)



Leaving Cert Diary from Gavin Cooney - Mercy Secondary School, Ballymahon

A huge congratulations goes to leaving cert student Gavin Cooney from Mercy Secondary School, Ballymahon, Co. Longford who was selected to write the Leaving Cert diary during the exams for the Irish Independent.

Gavin was selected above and beyond many other students from all over the country to write his impressions every evening during the course of his Leaving Cert.

[MORE](#)

Technical Tips



Organising your Files in the Cloud

Click [here](#) to access a PDF from Educause in the USA called *"7 Things You Should Know About Organizing Files in the Cloud"*. It is only two pages long and gives practical examples and raises some interesting issues about storing "school data".

A very useful free cloud application called 'Evernote' is well worth downloading. [Evernote](#) allows you to save ideas, files, images, audio, etc, and quickly access from anywhere on any device.



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Trustee Support Day for Chairpersons of CEIST School Boards of Management

Thursday 16th June 2011

CEIST invited our School Board of Management Chairpersons to a Trustee support day on Saturday 11th June in the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

After registration and coffee, CEIST CEO, Anne Kelleher welcomed all attendees and started the day with an opening prayer.



Pictured above, Anne Kelleher, CEO of CEIST, addressing the

Chairpersons.

The Directors of each department in CEIST gave a presentation on the day, with guidance towards helpful material and support mechanisms for our Chairpersons.

The guest speaker for the day was Mr. John Lonergan, former governor of Mountjoy Prison and Portlaoise Prison, who gave a most insightful and engaging speech.

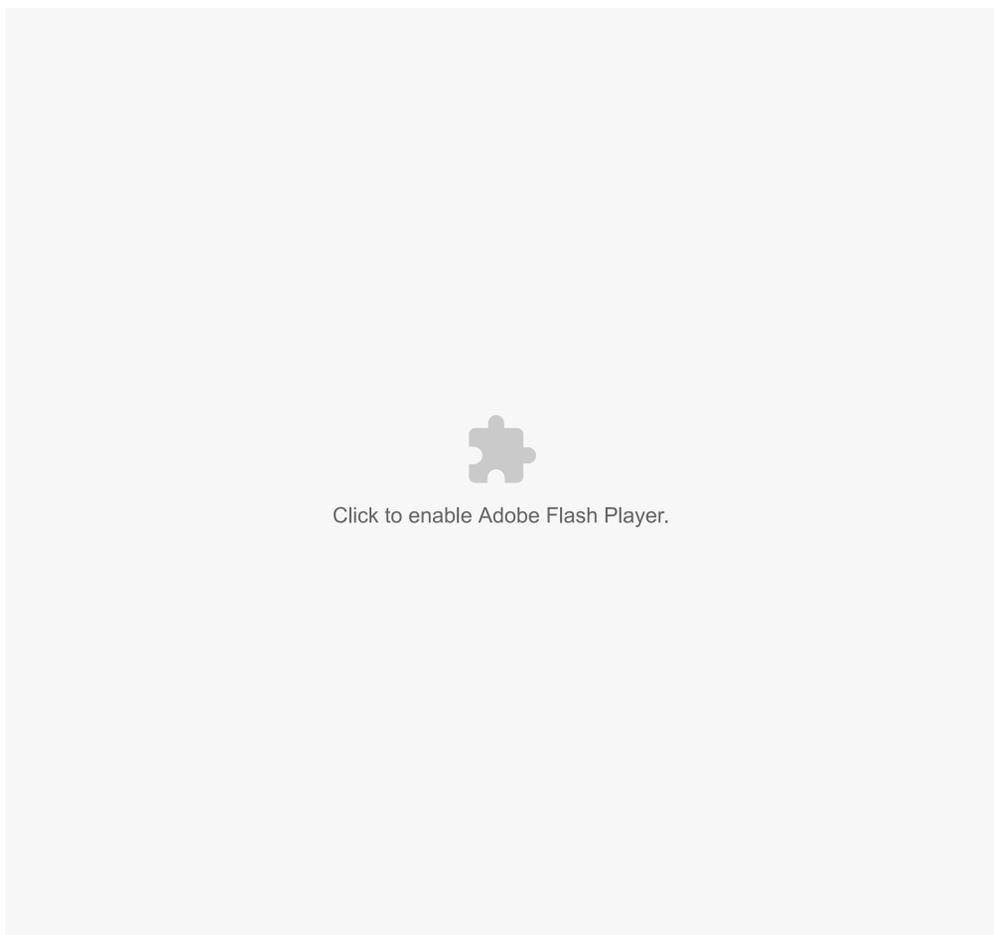
The day concluded with an open forum for our Chairpersons, which produced an informative and lively discussion on educational topics.

It is hoped that the support day provided by the Trust was both enjoyable and beneficial for all who attended.

Faith Development Presentation

Click [here](#) to download presentation from Faith Development Director, Ned Prendergast to our Chairpersons.

Photos from the Trustee Support Day for Chairpersons



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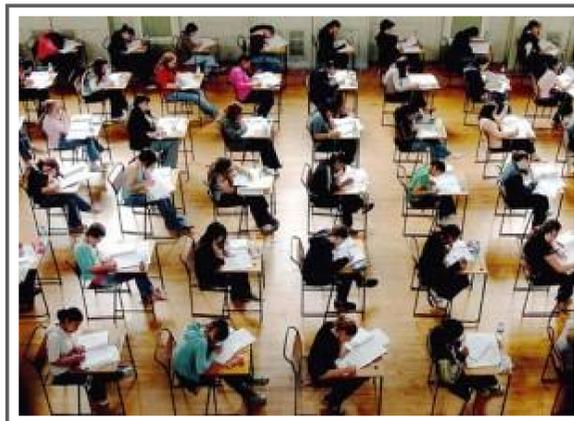
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The Leaving Cert - A Roller Coaster

Thursday 9th June 2011

As young people begin official state exams, the Junior and Leaving Certificate. These days, are no doubt anxious ones for young people and indeed their parents and family members. I recently participated in a most uplifting and spiritual Leaving Certificate Graduation Ceremony in Bagenalstown. The theme for our Graduation Liturgy, "Life is a roller coaster".



A very good metaphor, for the ups and downs experienced in all our stories. Life indeed is a roller coaster!! Young people often carry its energy,

excitement and enthusiastic spirit. Their upbeat temperament is contagious. However, there is also a sense of caution and concern with every roller coaster journey. We need courage to get on, and when we do ultimately we are not in control. At the ceremony, I suggested that courage, determination and resilience are key attributes that will enhance their journey through life.

I also quoted Michelle Obama's recent remarks to young students from a North London Secondary School whom she met in Oxford University. The First Lady, spoke with passion and offered great wisdom and insight when she said "Hard work means success and deep fulfilment".

I pray that the great effort and indeed hard work in preparing for these exams by so many students, will translate into good results and new opportunity. I also reminded our Leaving Cert Students, that each one of them, are so much more than any State Exam. That no points system can ever define or measure the enormity of their spirit. There is a wonderful life, no matter how fragile our economic environment is, once the exams are over.

Recently, one of Ireland's greatest statesmen, Garrett Fitzgerald died. Much has been written of his great love for young people and his passion for education. Dr. Fitzgerald, once said "Education allows for the human spirit to embrace the possible". I found it ironic, that the day this great educationalist, died a subtle memo from the Dept of Ed. announced the cessation of two hundred and fifty language support teachers.

Education is key to the Leaving Cert Graduation Class of 2011 success in finding employment and opportunity. I ask why are often the most disadvantaged punished first? when it comes to the draconian cut-backs that have become an all too familiar reality in all our schools?? Special Needs Assistants resource hours are key to the education of many children who attend main stream Primary and Secondary Schools. It is in my opinion worrying when such necessary resources are under constant threat in all our schools.

Finally, at this Grad Ceremony, I wondered how more enhanced might the education of these young students be, if they could avail of resources other young people in our country take for granted; like a proper library and a sports gymnasium. Young people attending Secondary Schools in this county are entitled to the same resources as middle-class Secondary Colleges such as Clongowes Wood and Glenhall.

I also find it ironic that in these examples religious orders embraced the middle-classes with such fantastic opportunity (perhaps that's for another article).

The coming days for our young students are stressful and I pray a great spirit of peace, wisdom and knowledge to enlighten and to bless them all.

(Courtesy of www.kandle.ie)



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Inside the Classroom - Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise.

Monday 27th June 2011

The following is a very interesting article from Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise TY student, Aoidean Delaney.

Inside the Classroom - Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise, Where students potential shines through

Scoil Chríost Rí is an exceptional school. In terms of facilities, academic capabilities and extra-curricular activities the school is definitely up there with the best of them. Proud of its Presentation ethos and CEIST values, it is the only all-girls secondary school left in Co. Laois.



Students at this school develop a sense of individuality, independence and responsibility. The school community moved just this year to a state of the art campus on the Borris Road, with a brand new sports complex that is ranked with the most superior in the country.

Students found no difficulty in settling into their new school. However, this may have been helped by the numerous computer rooms, modern home economics rooms and top notch science labs, or maybe it was the fact that they were now on an even playing field with the teachers who were equally as lost at the beginning of the year.

We find ourselves now at the end of our first year on the Borris Road and being honest it's hard to imagine that we ever went without the technology and amenities we have become so accustomed to.



Pictured above Scoil Chríost Rí School Choir.

Not short on gifted students, Scoil Chríost Rí provides a platform where every student with an individual talent can let their true potential shine through. With a large emphasis on sport, the school champions teams ranging from volleyball to football, basketball to badminton and has a proven history of success in many competitions. Some of our athletes will compete this year on national teams.

A sport new to the school this year, soccer has become more than popular, with the school's U16 team winning the Leinster division two final. For the academically minded students, Scoil Chríost Rí has just this year introduced a debating society and continues to host a Student's Council, green schools committee and every year a group of students produces and impressive yearbook.

The school welcomes students from a variety of countries and this mixture of cultures combine and blend together to make Scoil Chríost Rí a truly unique and international community.



Pictured above (LtoR) Hazel Byrne, Aoife Campion, Orlaith Cullen and Eimear Corri from

Scoil Chríost Rí at the Laois County Council Environmental workshop on food waste and composting at the Parish Centre in Portlaoise.

One of the programmes the school is most proud of is the transition year programme. Any student lucky enough to take part in TY will have get the most amazing experience of their life. The year is jam-packed with trips including outdoor pursuits and a European Cultural tour, a variety of teaching and learning methodologies and numerous activities and competitions that will us acquire new skills.

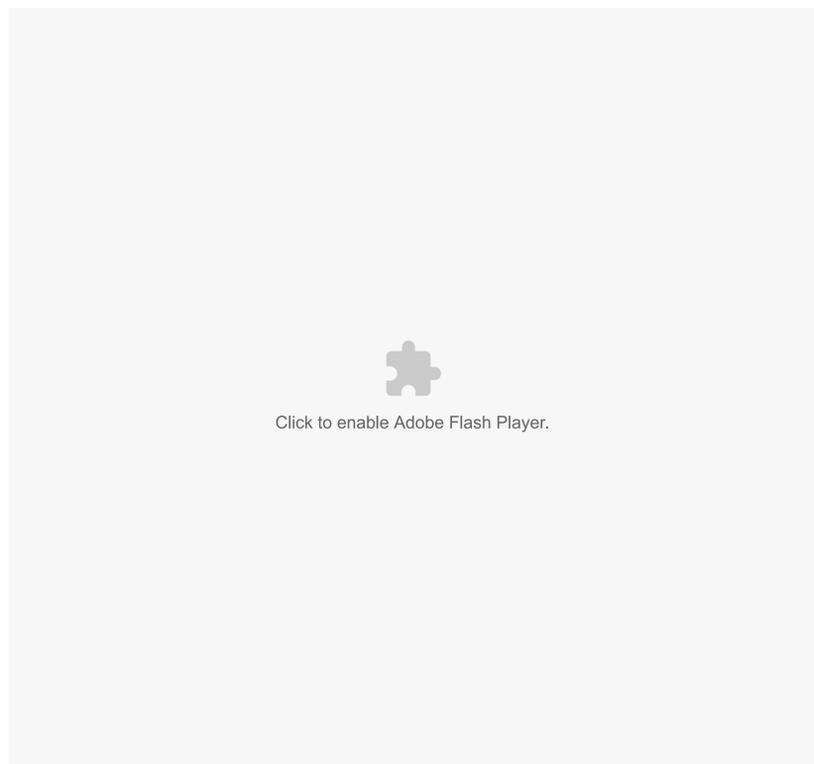
Often perceived as a 'doss year', the TY class of 2010/2011 found out that this is definitely not the case. Modules included setting up our own mini-company, ECDL, creative writing and even opportunities to channel our inner politician through debating.

Although we are all proud of our incredible new school, Scoil Chríost Rí has many reasons to be proud of their students also. One of the highlights this year was the 'Magic of the Musicals', when for one week we took to the stage to showcase our abilities as actresses, singers and dancers and entertained our local community.

The 2010/2011 school year has without doubt been one of many changes for the staff and students of the school. However, though Scoil Chríost Rí may reside at a new address its spirit and brilliance has remained.

By Aoidean Delaney,
TY graduate 10/11

School Photos





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St. Joseph's Secondary School, Navan official opening of new theatre

Wednesday 29th June 2011

The Official Opening of the New Theatre

On the 16th May of this year, St. Joseph's Mercy Secondary School held the official opening of their new theatre. A tremendous amount of background work was carried out to bring this great day to fruition.

The final product is a tribute to all those concerned with education in St. Joseph's. It is not only a functional place to host concerts, plays, lectures and meetings it is a building aesthetic proportions. The theatre comes with ample changing rooms behind and in addition an adjacent beautiful Art room.

The school choir opened the ceremony and performed numerous melodies at the close of the event as well. Bishop Michael Smith presided over the ceremony and Mercy Sisters, Political dignitaries, Trustees, the Architect, School Chaplain, former teachers, current teachers and former students and those current attended this historical occasion.

Great credit is due to all who brought this great project to a close, but, especially to Mr Vincent Donovan whose energy and vision saw this dream become a reality.

We wish him well on his retirement and we wish Ms Mary Mulligan every success as the new Principal. The school and theatre are in good hands.



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End of an era for Presentation Secondary School, Kildare

Wednesday 15th June 2011

On Sunday, 29th May 2011 Presentation Secondary School, Kildare, held a beautiful celebration to mark the closure of the school. From September it amalgamates with two other schools in the town to form a new community school catering for all second-level students from the town.

The school first opened as a primary school in 1830 and became a secondary school in 1939 and this year will amalgamate with the De La Salle Academy and Kildare VEC from September.



Pictured above the student orchestra performing at the closing ceremony.

The celebration was a wonderful occasion. It was attended by the students from the school, by staff present and past, by Sisters who had served in the school over the years, by current and former members of the Board of Management and by parents and past students.

Sr. Mary Kenny (from the Provincial Leadership Team of the Presentation Sisters), Anne Kelleher (CEO, CEIST - which has taken over the trusteeship of the school in recent years on behalf of the Presentation Sisters) and Sr. Evelyn Byrne and Noel Keating from the former Presentation Education Office attended the service.



Pictured above Sr. Cecilia Molloy speaking on behalf of the Presentation Congregation.

Among the presentations was a painting by sixth-year student and award winning artist Lisa Dunne, of the Presentation convent. Sr. Cecilia Molloy accepted the painting on behalf of the Presentation Sisters.

Presentation Sisters, many of whom were former teachers at the school, travelled to Kildare for the event, including 90-year old Sr De Lourde who taught in the school from the 1960's to the 1980's.

A silver cross, resembling a cross which hangs on the exterior of the school building, was also presented to each student of the school. Following the Mass there was a celebration event at the school featuring a string quartet and a photographic exhibition allowing those in attendance to take a nostalgic trip back in time.

Principal Herbie Wilkins said the event was a fitting way to celebrate the school. "It was a fantastic event. We had 700 or 800 people back at the school and we had a marquee to cater for all the people. The photographs were on the walls and we also had digital versions on a computer loop displayed on classroom whiteboards and other places throughout the school.

It was nostalgic but it was also a celebration of the school," he said.

Click [here](#) to view more details on the ceremony.





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Leaving Cert Diary from Gavin Cooney - Mercy Secondary School, Ballymahon

Tuesday 21st June 2011

A huge congratulations goes to leaving cert student Gavin Cooney from Mercy Secondary School, Ballymahon, Co. Longford who was selected to write the Leaving Cert diary during the exams for the Irish Independent.

Gavin was selected above and beyond many other students from all over the country to write his impressions every evening during the course of his Leaving Cert.

So make sure you get out there and buy the Irish Independent to see what life inside the Leaving Cert is like or track Gavin's electronic diary on the CEIST website.

Click on the links below to view daily editions from Gavin.

Tuesday 7th June

[After all the talk, hype and study, it's time to take plunge](#)

Wednesday 8th June

[Exam Diary: The notes are read and the prayers have been said](#)

Thursday 9th June

[Exam Diary: First-day nerves banished by paper full of mystery](#)

Friday 10th June

[Exam Diary: Poetry in motion as manageable paper finally came to be](#)

Saturday 11th June

[Tough paper -- but hell hath no fury like a maths student scorned](#)

Tuesday 14th June

[Recession is not all bad -- it makes a great essay topic](#)

Wednesday 15th June

[Slan go foill to Irish until Longford's next GAA match](#)

Thursday 16th June

[Luckily I know my 'champignons' from champagne](#)

Friday 17th June

[Longing for the final curtain -- and a little sunshine](#)

Saturday 18th June

[The end is in sight -- I just have to avoid Facebook](#)

Tuesday 21st June

[Strange feeling as we enter final straight...](#)

Wednesday 22nd June

[All done and dusted -- what an anti-climax](#)