

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

Scoil Christ RI, Portlaoise official opening of new school

The official opening of Scoil Christ RI, Portlaoise took place on Friday, 23rd September 2011.

The school was built for the Department of Education & Skills under the Public Private Partnership Scheme.

The single-sex girls school, built to accommodate 850 students, shares a 30 acre campus with the new Christian Brothers' boys' secondary school, also built for 850 students. Together they share a very large common gymnasium which is situated between the two schools.

The school was officially opened by Ms. Anne Kelleher, CEO of CEIST and was blessed by Monsignor John Byrne, P.P. Portlaoise.



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CEIST News



CEIST Annual Statistical Returns

This form has been revised for new school year 2011-2012. We have added new sections for e.g. **Faith and Ethos** and made some other amendments to the form. The data collected from these statistics are crucial in informing the Education Office of underlying trends and standards adhered to in our schools.

The new annual statistics returns form has been distributed to all schools. Please e-mail jwoods@ceist.ie if any issues are encountered completing.



Finance Matters

CEIST Schools – 2010-2011 Annual Accounts

Hopefully your school Accountants have been working on the 2010-2011 annual accounts for your school. Please remember that the deadline for submission of the school accounts to the Trustees is the end of October 2011. We would be grateful if you would let us know if you are encountering any problems in meeting the deadline so that we might provide assistance and guidance.

Water Conservation and Energy Efficiency Grants

Please ensure that your school has drawn down your grant for the above schemes if you have been successful in your application. As we are fast approaching the end of the calendar year and a new budget in December, these grants will no longer be available.



Don't Forget



Board of Management Renewals

It is the time of year for renewal of BOM. At this time we extend our gratitude to all who continue to serve our schools in a voluntary capacity, particularly during these difficult times.

We have been working for the last while to secure the services of the Trustee nominees to the BOM which are due for renewal.

If your school BOM is due for renewal on October 15th this year please ensure that you submit the names and contact details of the Parent / Teacher nominees as soon as possible to enable us to complete the appointment process.



Education Matters



NPCpp/CEIST Training Initiative

Invitation to all CEIST School Parents' in the area

CEIST schools are hosting regional based programmes for the National Parents' Council Post-Primary.

It is intended that the programme will ensure that the members of each Parents' Association will know their responsibilities, their rights and where to obtain all the knowledge required to ensure they can advise fellow Parents/Guardians as the need arises.

The CEIST schools who are hosting this NPCpp training initiative are as follows:

- Mount Mercy College, Model Farm Road, Cork – Tuesday 11th October.
- Presentation Secondary School, Miltown, Co. Kerry – Wednesday 26th October.
- Scoil Carmel, O'Connell Avenue, Limerick - Wednesday 9th November.
- Calasanctius College, Oranmore, Co. Galway – Tuesday 29th November.

Topics that will be addressed on the night include:

Purpose of Training, NPCpp assistance/support, Sectors, Constitution/Legislation, Why Parents Associations?, Meetings and objectives, Role of Officers, Areas of involvement, Rights, Responsibilities and Conflict, Curriculum, Partnership and relationships, Appeals and Grievances, Challenges.



Schools Business Partnership

Linking Schools with Business

The Schools' Business Partnership (SBP) assists the D.E.S. in its strategy to positively impact on educational inclusion in Ireland. It does this by matching one school with a large local business and engaging in various programmes.

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Faith-related Issues



The Contribution of the Sisters of Mercy to Education

On Thursday September 15th 2011, the official presentation of 'The Contribution of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy to Education: a joint project of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy and the Department of History, National University of Ireland, Maynooth' took place in Rhetoric House, Maynooth.

This study was commissioned by the Congregational Leadership Team of the Sisters of Mercy and was researched and written by Dr. Máire Ni Chearbhaill.

[MORE](#)



Young Leaders of Mercy Forum - CEIST Members Area

A forum has been setup in the [CEIST Members' Area](#) as a result of the recent inaugural Mercy International Pilgrimage for 150 Young Mercy Leaders held in the Mercy International Centre, Dublin.

This group was formed out of the involvement of the Irish students in the Pilgrimage, which was held on the 10th - 12th August 2011.

Would you like to share ideas and best practice by initiating a forum on topic of interest within our members' area? Please e-mail jwoods@ceist.ie with details.



National Religious Education Congress

The third National Religious Education Congress is for persons involved in the ministry of religious education, evangelisation, liturgical ministry, and other related ministries.

This year's congress will be held in the Brandon Hotel Conference Centre, Tralee from the 7th - 9th October and will offer the nourishment of the rich heritage of music, poetry and literature which is so integral to Kerry and to the people of Kerry.

The congress commences on Friday, 7th October, with a **YOUTH DAY** with a theme of 'DARE TO HOPE'. It is hoped the youth day will provide a positive faith experience for transition and senior students.

Click [here](#) to download RE Congress 2011 flyer.



Useful Resource

The following is a resource designed for school age children to develop their formation in the Eucharist and to assist their full, active and conscious participation in its celebration.

[MORE](#)

News from CEIST Schools



St. Joseph's Secondary School, Rush Golden Jubilee Mass

St. Joseph's Secondary School, Rush, Co. Dublin are celebrating 50 years of Mercy Education and a Golden Jubilee Mass was celebrated in the parish church on the 24th September 2011.

The Golden Jubilee celebrations were started early in the year with the visit of President Mary McAleese on 28 January 2011.

St Joseph's is also to be given a massive boost in the coming months with additional school buildings being provided at a cost of around €1 million, to cater for the growing school population in the area.

Click [here](#) to view our article on the new school buildings.

[MORE](#)



St. Mary's College Naas 75th Anniversary

St. Mary's College, Naas, Co. Kildare are celebrating their 75th Anniversary this year. To mark the event an official opening and reception was held in the school on Wednesday 21st September.

A Liturgical celebration, followed by blessing of sculpture and planting of tree was held on Friday, 23rd September.

[MORE](#)



Presentation Waterford are Basketball Ireland Girls School of the Year 2011

Presentation Secondary School, Waterford were awarded the title of **Basketball Ireland Girls School of the Year 2011**.

The 2011 Basketball Ireland Annual Award winners were announced recently at a special presentation day at the National Basketball Arena.

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Past Student from Presentation Secondary School, Listowel wins major engineers award!

Fiona Griffin who is a past student from Presentation Secondary School, Listowel and now studying in NUI Galway has won first prize in the Engineers Ireland Level 8 Innovative Student Engineer Award 2011 sponsored by Siemens, for her innovative design for a revolutionary heart valve.

[MORE](#)



Official Opening of new extension in Presentation College, Headford, Co. Galway.

Presentation Secondary School, Headford, Co. Galway are holding the official opening of their new school extension on this Friday 30th September.

The new extension consists of eight classrooms, study hall, 2 woodwork rooms, office suite and canteen.

Congratulations to all involved on the project.

Technical Tips



Free Software for Classrooms

The following is a very useful compilation of free software for use by schools, which was compiled by David Kearney.

The list contains many useful applications listed under various categories.

Click on more link below to view or download.

[MORE](#)



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Official opening of Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise

Wednesday 28th September 2011

The official opening of Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise took place on Friday, 23rd September 2011.

The school was built for the Department of Education & Skills under the Public Private Partnership Scheme.

CEIST, for the Presentation Sisters, continues to act as Trustee of the school.

The single-sex girls school, built to accommodate 850 students, shares a 30 acre campus with the new Christian Brothers' boys' secondary school, also built for 850 students. Together they share a very large common gymnasium which is situated between the two schools.

The school was opened by Ms. Anne Kelleher of CEIST and was blessed by Monsignor John Byrne, P.P. Portlaoise.

Ms. Sandra Campion, Deputy Principal, acted as Master of Ceremonies for the day. Speakers included Sr. Evelyn Byrne (Chairperson, Board of Management), Sr. Elizabeth Maxwell (Provincial, Presentation Sisters, Northern Province), Ms. Helen O' Donnell (Principal, Scoil Chríost Rí), Mr. Charles Flannagan T.D. (on behalf of the Government), Ms. Aoife Kinsella (Head Girl) and Mr. Canice Bennett (Parents' Council).

The Rev. Dr. Stanley Monkhouse joined with Mgr. John Byrne and members of the staff, Board of Management, Parents' Council and student body in the prayer service.

In addition to the blessing of the school, the ceremony involved the ceremonial passing of a candle, representing the core values and ethos of the school, between individuals representing the various groups that comprise the community of the school - students, staff, parents, Board of Management, trustees and parish.

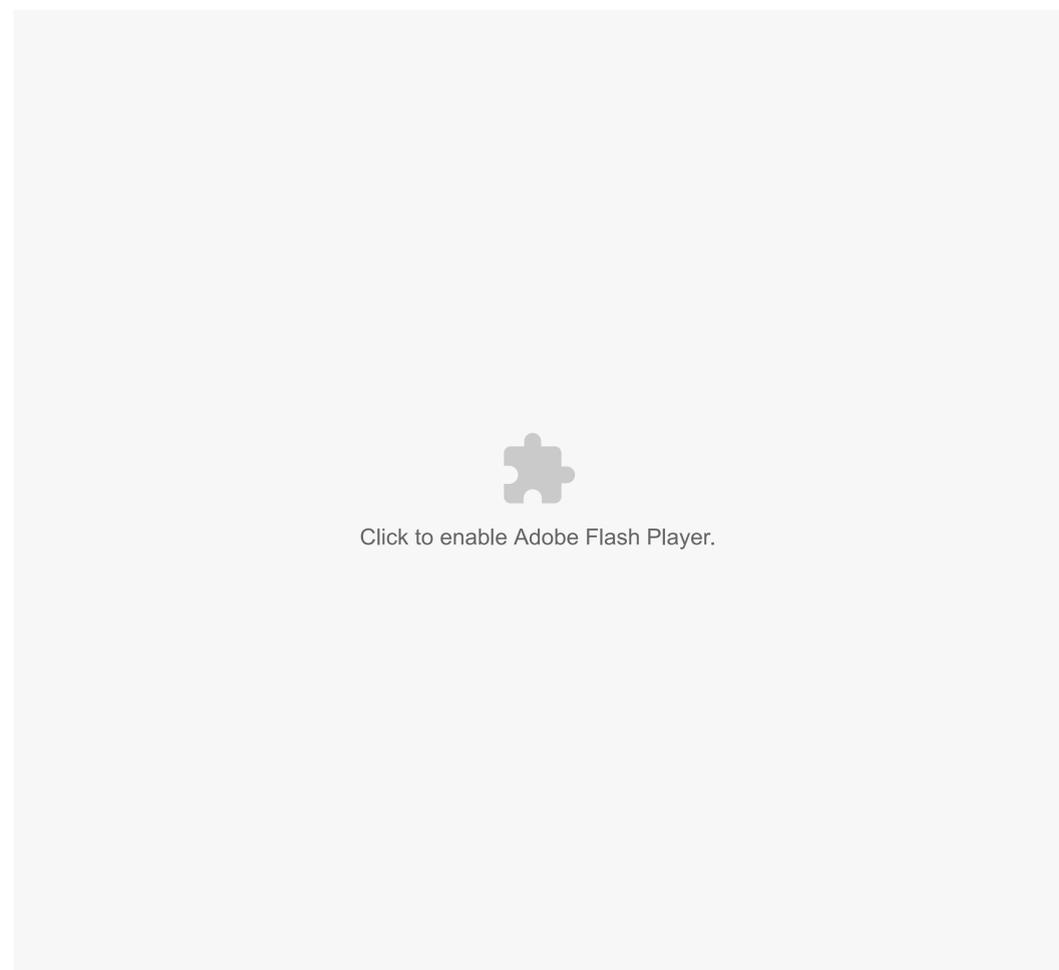
The school choir and orchestra, led by Ms. Breen, provided a wonderful backing with some incredible solo singing by Ruth.

At the end of the ceremony, the choir received a spontaneous standing ovation for its rendition of The Rhythm of Life.

Scoil Chríost Rí Head Girl Speech

Click [here](#) to download speech from Aoife Kinsella, Head Girl of Scoil Chríost Rí.

Photos from the Ceremony





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Schools' Business Partnership

Linking Schools with Business

The Schools' Business Partnership (SBP) assists the D.E.S. in its strategy to positively impact on educational inclusion in Ireland. It does this by matching one school with a large local business and engaging in various programmes.

A number of strategies were developed by the SBP to address key educational issues for schools. These include:

- Initiatives to provide assistance to students, including one-to-one mentoring by company staff;
- A skills programme to help students to understand the world of work through practical means such as site visits;
- Workshops on CV preparation, interview techniques and mock interviews; and
- Work experience placements.

In addition to these projects, a number of Management Excellence seminars are held each year for the benefit of principals and teachers. These seminars offer a unique programme in the Irish education and business context by inviting business leaders to share experience and strategy with educational leaders through a series of workshops over the course of the school year.

Some of the CEIST schools that have benefited from the Schools' Business Partnership include Presentation Secondary School, Warrenmount, Dublin 8, Caritas College, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, Mercy Secondary School, Goldenbridge, Dublin 8, Presentation Secondary School, Limerick City, North Presentation Secondary School, Farranree, Cork, Presentation Secondary School, Galway City, St. Columba's College, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal, Mercy College, Coolock, Dublin 5, St. Brigid's, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, Scoil Mhuire Agus Pádraig, Swinford, Co. Mayo and Presentation Secondary School, Waterford City. The business partners included, Marks & Spencer, Baxter Healthcare, Diageo, Tower Hotel/Faithlegg House Hotel, Limerick 95FM, Office Depot, IBM, Dulux Paints and DMG Services.

To date the programme is involved with 163 schools that have business partners who assist their students, teachers and managers. There are currently 105 companies participating in the SBP, with many of them linked to more than one school. The D.E.S. has provided financial contributions to allow the SBP to recruit companies to work with 40 additional schools in the future.

To find out more about SBP click [here](#).

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ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN CELEBRATES GOLDEN JUBILEE MASS WITH ST JOSEPH'S SECONDARY SCHOOL RUSH

Tuesday 27th September 2011

This year St Joseph's Secondary School in Rush is celebrating its Golden Jubilee following 50 years as the only post-primary school serving the Rush and Lusk area of North County Dublin.



To mark the Golden Jubilee Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Diarmuid Martin celebrated mass at St Maur's Church in Rush. The Mass was attended by parents and past pupils as well as current pupils. There were some past pupils in attendance who were the first girls to be enrolled in St Joseph's in 1961 which made it a very special occasion indeed.

Pictured on left, Patricia Hayden School Principal with Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Diarmuid Martin at the Jubilee Mass.

There have been many changes in the school since it was officially opened by the then Archbishop of Dublin, John Charles McQuaid. Since then, the Mercy

Sisters have transferred patronage of the school to CEIST, and the Board of Management are about to embark upon the largest expansion programme in the history of the school, which will see a [new school building](#) for the area.

Following the Mass, everyone went to St Joseph's Secondary School for light refreshments. There was a great atmosphere in the school as past pupils met, some for the first time in a long number of years. Speaking after the Mass School Principal, Ms Patricia Hayden thanked the Archbishop for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit Rush and celebrate the Jubilee Mass with the community.

Ms Hayden also thanked the School Choir, the teachers and parents for their tireless work in making the Jubilee Mass such a special occasion.

RUSH SECONDARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES GOLDEN JUBILEE WITH 'TREE OF LIFE' SCULPTURE

The St Joseph's Rush Golden Jubilee celebrations will conclude on Saturday, 15th of October next with the opening of a memorial garden and the unveiling by the Mayor of Fingal of a commemorative sculpture.

The Golden Jubilee is to be commemorated with a sculpture by artist; Paul Flynn called 'The Tree of Life.' The sculpture will be unveiled by Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Gerry McGuire during a ceremony to be held on Saturday, 15th of October next, in the school garden.

Artist Paul Flynn said, "I asked pupils to suggest ideas for a sculpture that would both commemorate the past 50 years and represent the present and future. The pupils submitted a number of images which they felt should somehow be incorporated into the piece.

These included a tree, a girl and a boy, and 5 gold birds to represent the past 5 decades. I then took those ideas and came up with a modern design. The base of the sculpture incorporates the palm prints of 4 of the original pupils and 50 of the present pupils; representatives of each year in the school, the principal, deputy principal and other members of staff."

School Principal Patricia Hayden said, "There is a great buzz throughout the school in the run up to the Golden Jubilee celebrations with students, teachers and parents working together to ensure it is a great success on the day.

The parents and students held a variety of fundraising events to fund the cost of the sculpture. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved for their tireless work during the year which will conclude with the unveiling our sculpture by the Mayor of Fingal. The excitement in the school at the moment is giving a great boost to the community."



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Presentation Waterford are Basketball Ireland Girls School of the Year 2011

Saturday 10th September 2011

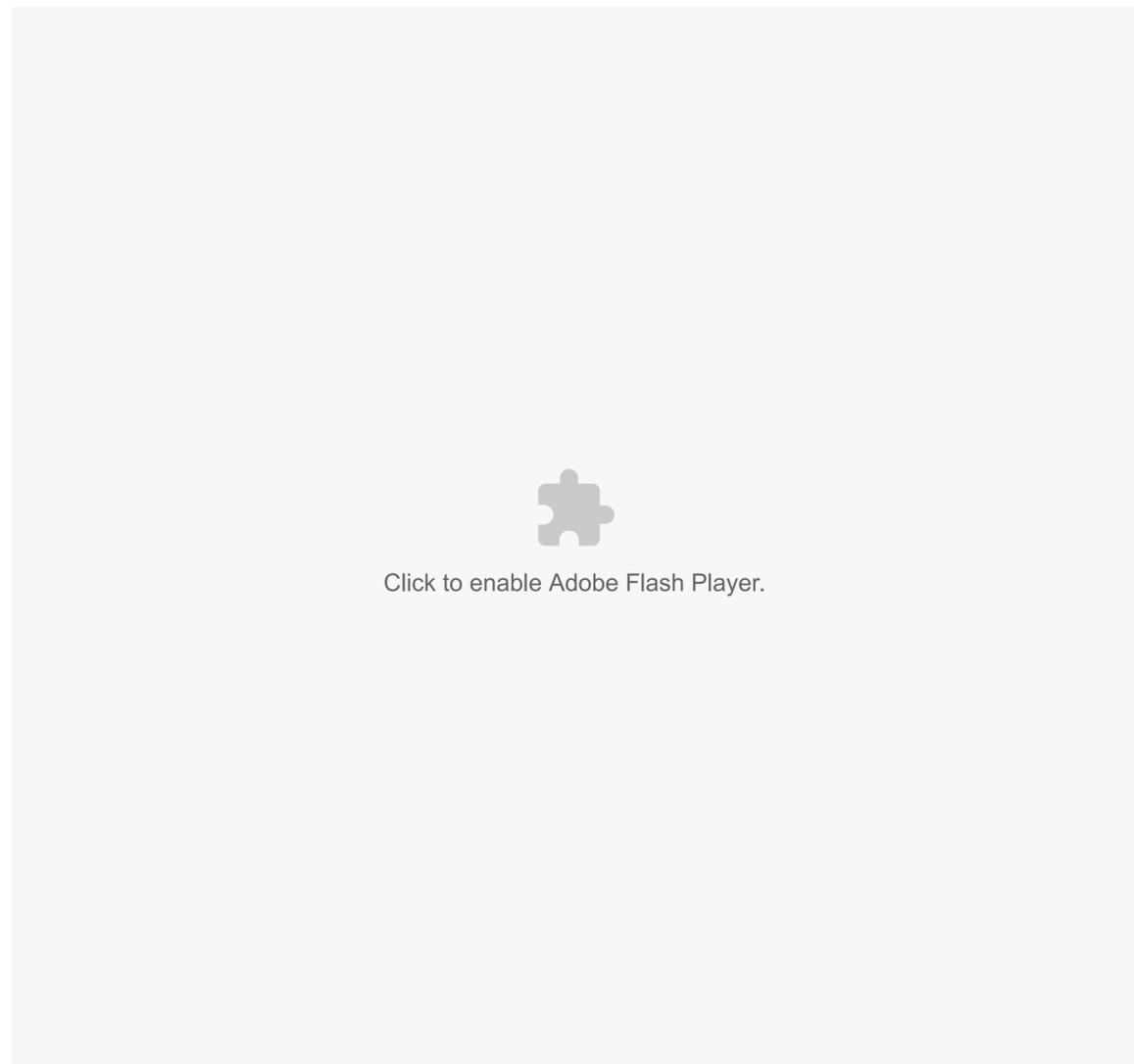
Presentation Secondary School, Waterford were awarded the title of **Basketball Ireland Girls School of the Year 2011**.

The 2011 Basketball Ireland Annual Award winners were announced recently at a special presentation day at the National Basketball Arena.

It was a great achievement for a very proud Presentation Secondary School, Waterford to win such a prestigious title, which was just reward for all the hard work the basketball teams, teachers and coaches put in during the year.

The school won the [U16 C Basketball title](#) for the first time back in January beating Portmarnock Community School in the final and had other notable wins during the year as well.

Awards Ceremony Photos





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Presentation Secondary School, Listowel student wins Engineers Ireland Level 8 Innovative Award for 2011

Monday 19th September 2011

Fiona Griffin who is a past student from Presentation Secondary School, Listowel and now studying in NUI Galway has won first prize in the Engineers Ireland Level 8 Innovative Student Engineer Award 2011 sponsored by Siemens, for her innovative design for a revolutionary heart valve.

Fiona's project was based on a 3D model of the mitral valve, a key valve in the heart, designed to facilitate treatments in the cardiac area.



Pictured receiving her award is student Fiona Griffin with Michael O'Connor,

Communications Manager, Siemens Limited and Margie McCarthy, Membership Director, Engineers Ireland.

(photo courtesy of John Stack, Listowel.)