

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 Restructuring

Following the Strategic Review of our first five years as a Trust, the Trustees are re-structuring the CEIST office to a reduced and more cost-effective model.

In late March, we successfully moved Offices from the Maynooth Business Campus to new offices in the vacated Presentation Secondary School, Kildare Town.

Both the Faith Development and School Support Departments are closing, and a new Department entitled "Faith Leadership & Governance" is being created, with a reduction in numbers from the existing seven, down to four personnel. The Finance Department will be reduced from two to one.

In this time of changes, staff has had time to review their particular circumstances, with the result that a lot of those whom you have come to know and trust, will not be with us when we start the new academic year.

The Trust has been most fortunate to have such very fine people give of their gifts and talents so generously in our initial five years of formation. We have been truly blessed.

Overseeing such a radical overhaul of a structure is challenging and demanding of every aspect of one's being. We are experiencing what the congregations themselves have gone through, in the "letting go"...a demanding and painful experience.

Yet, I am confident that the next five years will bring even greater gifts and September will see new beginnings for all of us. I hope you will bear with us through all of these changes and that your loyalty will remain steadfast.

I look forward to meeting each of you on Sept. 27th and 28th, at the CEIST Annual Conference in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone and in the meantime, I wish each of you a restful and restorative break over the summer.

Le gach dea guí agus beannacht.

Anne Kelleher, CEO.



### CEIST News



#### CEIST Education Conference 2012

The Seventh Annual CEIST Education Conference will be held on Thursday the 27th and Friday 28th of September in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone.

In many ways it is the highlight of the CEIST year and crucial to our efforts to underline the mutual understandings and shared ties that bind us together into a community of schools.

CEIST were greatly encouraged by its largest attendance to date for last year's conference and it is hoped that many of our School Principals, Deputy Principals and School Board of Management Chairpersons will be able to attend again this year.

The conference theme for 2012 is "Many Desks, One Table". Keynote speakers include Bishop Brendan Kelly, Member of the Episcopal Commission for Catholic Education and Formation, Bishop of Achonry and Professor Bart McGetterick, Dean of Education, Liverpool Hope University. Click [here](#) to view bio's on each speaker.

To book your place and reserve hotel accommodation, please email [info@ceist.ie](mailto:info@ceist.ie) or ring CEIST on 01-6510350.



#### 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. Increasingly our Principals and Deputies are the managers of diminishing resources and have done a tremendous job despite difficult circumstances in ensuring that our students get the best possible education.

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

##### Outgoing Principals (As Of 29/6/2012)

Siobhán Corry (St. Joseph's College, Lucan, Co. Dublin), Catherine Moynihan (Mercy Secondary School, Kibbeggan), Seamus Falvey (St. Joseph's Secondary School, Castliscand), Marie O'Neill (Colaiste Naomh Mhuire, Naas), St. Sheila Kelleher (Presentation Secondary School, Ballyphehane), Eugene Broderick (Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Waterford), Gerry Kietly (Colaiste Muire, Ballymote).

##### Outgoing Deputy Principals (As of 29/6/2012)

Bernie Condon (Scoil Mhuire, Strokestown), Donal Lynch and Ann Mulligan (Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda), Margaret Kyne (Meán Scoil Mhuire, Galway), PJ McDermott (Sacred Heart School, Westport), Dymphna O'Donoghue (Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna), Luke Glynn (Presentation College, Athlone), Marian Merrick (Calasancius College, Oranmore), Mary O'Mahony (Christ King Girls Secondary School, Cork), Mary Harrington (St. Mary's Secondary School, Mallow), Breda Lyons (St. Brigids School, Killarney).

### Education Matters



#### Contracts, Agreements and Protocols

One of the most difficult issues facing management in our schools is undoubtedly the contracts that pertain between the Board of Management and the employee.

The JMB/AMCSS is arranging two workshops on Tuesday 21st August and Wednesday 22nd August, in Charleville Park hotel Charleville and the Hodson Bay hotel Athlone, to assist school management in generating appropriate contracts for temporary/fixed term staff for the 2012/13 school year.

[MORE](#)

### Faith-related Issues



#### Mercy Congregation reflect on the importance of the IEC 2012

The Venerable Catherine McAuley Stand in the Exhibition Hall of the Eucharistic Congress attracted a thousand visitors with connections to the Sisters of Mercy and was a meeting point for Sisters of Mercy who were in attendance at the Congress.

On the final day of the Congress Sisters of Mercy and a Mercy Associate shared their reflections on what the experience of the Congress meant for them personally, the Church in Ireland and the Cause of Catherine McAuley, in a video posted on The Congregation's website and can be accessed via the 'more' link at end of this article.

Video coverage of the Closing of the Eucharistic Congress "Statio Orbis" has been archived on the RTE website and will be able to be accessed [at this link](#) until July 8.

Videos of talks at the Congress can be individually [accessed here](#).

[MORE](#)



#### Prestigious Papal Award for Sister Margaret Mary Jordan

Our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI has awarded Sister Margaret Mary Jordan the highest papal honour that the pope can confer.

The gold cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice was awarded in recognition of her lifelong's dedication to witnessing to Christ, to services of the Church and the papacy, and her outstanding contribution to Catholic education.

In honouring Sr. Margaret Mary the Holy Father is implicitly expressing appreciation and gratitude for all the work done in our school by the Sisters of Mercy since the foundation of Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna in 1949.

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### News from CEIST Schools



#### St Leo's College Carlow - Catherine McAuley Lecture

THE HEAD of RTE's new digital switchover, Mary Curtis, admitted to suffering "many sleepless nights" before returning to her alma mater, St Leo's College, Carlow recently.

Mary gave a motivational speech to all the students who filled the school hall.

A large crowd of staff, family, friends and members of the Mercy community also attended the event, which was a great success.

[MORE](#)



#### Presentation Secondary School, Thurles win FAI Schools All-Ireland final

Congratulations to CEIST schools **Presentation Secondary School, Thurles, Co. Tipperary** and **Colaiste Bride, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford** who both reached the UMBRO FAI Schools First Year All Ireland Final in Athlone Town FC on Wednesday May 30th.

The eventual winners of a great final were Presentation Secondary School, Thurles.

[MORE](#)



#### New School for Presentation Secondary School, Miltown, Co. Kerry

Earlier this year, Presentation Secondary School, Miltown, Co. Kerry, celebrated the news that a new school is to be built on a site provided by the Presentation Sisters, creating a state of the art facility by 2015.

The original school was built to accommodate 200 students. Currently there are 550 pupils attending the school.

Click [here](#) to view the excellent May Newsletter Edition for Presentation Secondary School, Miltown.



#### St Mary's College, Naas Students Admirable Fundraising Efforts

STUDENTS at St. Mary's College, Naas, have donated just over €1,200 to Kildare Youth Services (KYS).

The money was raised through the students Rag Day. They paid over €2 each for the privilege of leaving their school uniforms at home for a day.

The money was handed over to Basin Street-based KYS by the students council.

[MORE](#)



#### Ballymahon, Co. Longford

The following are some news snippets from Mercy Secondary School, Ballymahon, Co. Longford. The School held their Annual Awards Ceremony in the school gym on Tuesday 22nd of May.

This ceremony was a celebration of all the achievements and highlights of the school year.

Also a graduation mass was held for the Leaving Cert students along with various fun activities to mark the school's farewell to the students leaving the school.

[MORE](#)



#### Meán Scoil Mhuire, Newtownsmith, Galway - Leaving Cert News

Forty-three pupils sat the Leaving Cert 2012 at Meán Scoil Mhuire, Newtownsmith, Galway.

The following is an article published in the Irish Independent where students and teachers were interviewed on the opening day of the Leaving Cert 2012.

[MORE](#)



#### Presentation College, Currylea, Tuam Students NUIG Award Winners for School Musicals

Presentation College, Currylea, Tuam Students were recent NUIG Award Winners for School Musicals.

Presentation College were nominated in 8 categories and won Best Duo, Best Orchestra, Best Musical Experience and Highest Awarded Teacher.

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#### Young Social Innovators - Darkness to Light

On May 12th, as part of the Young Social Innovators programme, TY class Rang Niamh from Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath participated in a 5km charity walk at the Phoenix Park, Dublin, led by their teacher Ms. Cronin, and accompanied by Ms. Glynn.

The walk, entitled "Darkness into Light" was organised by Pieta House, Dublin, a centre which specialises in the prevention of self-harm and suicide.

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### Technical Tips



#### JMB Advice - Fake profiles on Facebook

A number of issues have arisen in schools recently arising from the creation of fake profiles on Facebook. There have been difficulties caused to Principals and teachers arising from fake profiles set up by third parties (possibly students or former students). There have also been difficulties arising from fake profiles set up in the name of students.

The first piece of action to be taken by a person, in respect of whom a fake profile on Facebook has been set up, is to contact the Facebook Help Centre immediately and require Facebook to remove the fake profile.

Click [here](#) for link to the Facebook Help Centre.

It is understood that Facebook take these requests seriously and they usually immediately remove the fake profile. They hold themselves out as guaranteeing that the profile will be removed within 24 hours from notification.



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## Past Pupil Delivers Annual Catherine McAuley Lecture

Wednesday 27th June 2012

THE HEAD of RTÉ's new digital switchover, Mary Curtis, admitted to suffering "many sleepless nights" before returning to her alma mater, St Leo's College, Carlow recently.

Mary, the sister of well-known fashionista Elaine Curtis, stepped into the hallowed halls of the local secondary school once again for the recent Catherine McAuley lecture.

Mary gave a motivational speech to all the students who filled the school hall.

A large crowd of staff, family, friends and members of the Mercy community also attended the event, which was a great success.

Speaking particularly to the young women, Mary advised them not to place too much emphasis on the dreaded CAO.

"I wasn't really clear about what I wanted to do ... (and) through a combination of poor CAO choice and indecision, I chose the wrong course and took the scenic route. It is very difficult to fully know what you want to be when you are 18, and even more difficult then to imagine what you'll be at 40.

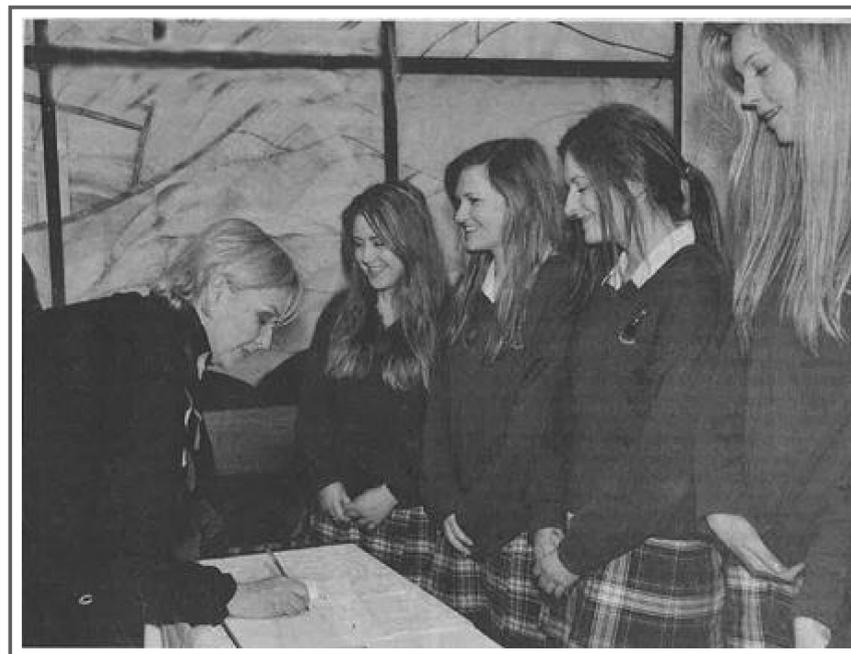
"I would say to the students here not to be disheartened if this happens. There are endless possibilities and opportunities if you believe in your capacity to achieve."

Speaking about Catherine McAuley, Mary described her as "ambitious and kind and a doer".

"If Catherine McAuley were alive today, she would be a formidable force ... but even in Ireland 2012, there's no guarantee that her full potential would have been realised and recognised."

Praising her former school, she added that it has "changed very little".

"I mean this as a compliment because it has always gotten it right, even in my day. It was progressive and is progressive and I know that there is much time and thought given in volunteerism and the importance of being agents for social change."



Pictured above guest speaker, Mary Curtis, signing the visitors book in St. Leo's College, Carlow.

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## Presentation Thurles win All-Ireland Final

Thursday 21st June 2012

### UMBRO FAI Schools 1st Year Girls All Ireland Final

#### Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy 0-3 Presentation Secondary School, Thurles

Congratulations to the two CEIST schools, Presentation Secondary School, Thurles and Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy, Wexford who reached the FAI Schools 1st year final, with Presentation Thurles emerging victors after a great game.

Presentation Secondary School, Thurles scored a hat-trick of goals against an inspiring Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy to lift the UMBRO FAI Schools First Year Girls Cup in Athlone Town FC on Wednesday afternoon May30th.

The Thurles Tornadoes had strong opposition in Enniscorthy's Coláiste Bríde and with only a recent history in the game would have it all to do if they were to be crowned national champions at only the second time of asking (Pres narrowly missed out on the All Ireland Futsal title before Christmas).

However, as the game unfolded, the Thurles tornadoes were convincing winners especially in the second half, imposing their superiority on proceedings late on.

Shonagh Cleary got the dream start for Presentation as the Munster star struck the ball between the legs of Enniscorthy's Bríd Byrne inside the box to net her first of the afternoon on 7 minutes. A lucky strike but a goal nonetheless. Enniscorthy trio Niamh Sinnott, Derbhla Doyle and Caoimhe Denton tested keeper Christine Coffey in the early exchanges but the Thurles custodian was never tested beyond her incredible ability.

Thurles Captain Sarah McKeivitt was imposing her presence on proceedings as she linked well with colleagues Sophie Loughnane and Cara O'Connor. McKeivitt was also very unlucky to see her deft lob skim just wide of the upright on 18 minutes.

The Tipperary defence was under pressure as the interval approached with Casey Doyle and Meghan Roche of Enniscorthy combining well to spark a reaction from keeper Coffey to see their effort spring wide. There was only one between the sides as half time was called, Presentation just about justifying their slender advantage.

In the second half Coláiste Bríde imposed their presence on the game but unfortunately the equaliser was proving difficult to achieve as Niamh O' Mahony and Georgina Abbott offered their opponents no chance in the heart of defence.

It wasn't until midway through the second half that Thurles doubled their lead courtesy of lone striker Cleary once more. Shonagh went on a fantastic solo run down the centre of the park which saw her round Byrne in goal to slot the ball past the keeper's right.

Mentor's Edel Harding and Henry Flynn could hardly settle as Enniscorthy fancied their chances of getting one back courtesy of Aisling Gahan. The teenager was unlucky not to see her effort advance goal-ward however Robyn Moore intercepted at the appropriate time to keep two between the sides and she wrapped up the proceedings for Thurles with only minutes remaining as she slotted Presentation's third of the game ensuring that the All Ireland title travelled to Tipperary in 2012.

The best was certainly saved until last as Robyn nutmeg'd her marker at right back before linking up with Hazel McAuliffe with a one-two in midfield and then advancing one on one with the Enniscorthy keeper before clipping a shot over the keepers reach and into the net; Moore only realising she had scored when she lifted herself off the ground following the tumble she took to protect herself while releasing the strike. Incredible!

An extraordinary year for Presentation Secondary School who impressed throughout the day and a late surge was definitely on the cards given their late winner against Sacred Heart School, Westport in their semi final fixture.

There will be many more All Ireland titles on the cards for these girls as they progress through the ranks of schools soccer.

Mr. Alex Harkin, FAI Schools was on hand to present the Umbro Cup to Presentation's Captain Sarah McKeivitt much to the delight of their amazingly vocal travelling supporters.

**PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL, THURLES:** Christine Coffey, Robyn Moore, Norah Kennedy, Georgina Abbott, Niamh O'Mahony, Hazel McAuliffe, Sarah McKeivitt (Capt), Cara O'Connor, Sophie Loughlin, Holly O'Dwyer Shonagh Cleary

**Subs:** Bridget Delaney, Sinead O'Connell, Alix Barry Cullen, Clodagh Irwin Megan Woodlock

**Teachers:** Edel Harding & Henry Flynn



Pictured above are the UMBRO FAI Schools First Year Girls All Ireland Cup Champions 2012.

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## St Mary's College, Naas Students Admirable Fundraising Efforts

Wednesday 27th June 2012

STUDENTS at St. Mary's College, Naas, have donated just over €1,200 to Kildare Youth Services (KYS).

The money was raised through the students Rag Day. They paid over €2 each for the privilege of leaving their school uniforms at home for a day.

The money was handed over to Basin Street-based KYS by the students council.



Pictured above (LtoR) St. Mary's College Students Council Members, Evie Sammon, Hannah Denvir,

Eimear Sheehan and Ruth Clancy presented Kildare Youth Services Tom Dunne Regional Director and Ger Halpin Information Co-ordinator with a cheque.

Tom Dunne of KYS said: "We are delighted that the students identified Kildare Youth Services as one of the services to benefit from their fundraising efforts. In a time of increasing cuts to state funding, community and voluntary services throughout the county are increasingly dependent upon fundraising.

Any support we can get from the community will help to shore up what are vital services to young people in our communities."

The donation will go directly to support the delivery of programmes and opportunities for young people in Naas. Kildare Youth Services provides an integrated range of services to children, young people and their families throughout the county.

Mr. Dunne added: "In a time when young people are often portrayed negatively in the press, it is important to recognise also the positive things that they do."



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## News from Mercy Secondary School, Ballymahon, Co. Longford

Friday 15th June 2012

The following are some news snippets from Mercy Secondary School, Ballymahon, Co. Longford.

### Awards Ceremony

Mercy Secondary School, Ballymahon held their Annual Awards Ceremony in the school gym on Tuesday 22nd of May.

This ceremony was a celebration of all the achievements and highlights of the school year.

There were acknowledgements and awards in areas as diverse as CIMA Quiz Teams to Poetry, from photography to participants in Longford's got talent.

This was the first year in which we inaugurated a number of new awards. The sports awards were given for outstanding team spirit and abilities.

**Sarah Madden** was selected as Senior Girls' sportsperson of the year. **Garret Higgins** was selected as Senior Boys' sportsperson of the year.

**Shane Kenny** was selected as Junior Boys' sportsperson of the year and finally, **Tracey Dillon** was selected as Junior Girl's sportsperson of the year.

In the Creativity Awards, - **Derbhaile Flood** was selected as winner in the Junior category while **Francis Flood** won the Senior Award. **Laura Healy** won the Leadership Award.

24 students received awards for one year full attendance, 4 students received awards for 2 years full attendance, 3 students received awards for 3 years full attendance and 2 students **Tobi and Tomi Arisa** received awards for an incredible 4 years full attendance.



### Graduation Mass

Thursday night May 24th at 8pm in our school gym was the last time our Leaving Certs gathered together as a group in Mercy Ballymahon.

The occasion was the Graduation Mass. Organised very capably by Deirdre Daly, Mr O'Neill and Ms Clancy, the theme of the Mass was the upcoming theme for the Eucharistic Congress in June - Though we are many, we are one.

Ms Ryan was responsible for the fine artwork and Ms Libby Malone organised the music; the songs chosen were poignant and prayerful as always.

School Chaplain Fr Padraig McGowan, Fr Gerry Murphy, Fr Micheal Reilly, Fr Peter Tiernan, Fr Gerry Brady and Fr Joe Brilly officiated and Fr Padraig in his sermon spoke very movingly of partings, friendship and the difference we can make to this world when we live our Christianity well.

A big thank you to all the teachers, students and parents who participated on the night.

### Leaving Cert Farewell

On Wednesday 23th of May, we said fond farewells to our Leaving Cert students. The day was marked by glorious sunshine, a barbecue, all kinds of fun activities such as three legged races, balloon stomping and a titanic tug-of-war.



The end highlight was a basketball match between the students and staff; the staff displaying great skills and running out winners on a scoreline of 26 to 22. Therefore, our Leaving Certs of 2012 were happily occupied for those last Wednesday sunlit hours.

There was a lovely atmosphere and the 6th years were very well behaved and respectful. Eyes were somewhat weepy for some as they passed out through the school gates for the last time... apart from their exams of course.

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## Meán Scoil Mhuire, Newtownsmith, Galway - Leaving Cert News

Friday 8th June 2012

The following is an article published in the Irish Independent where students and teachers were interviewed on the opening day of the Leaving Cert 2012.

Meán Scoil Mhuire, Newtownsmith, Galway is 75 years old and it looks like the celebrations will be marked by good Leaving Certificate results, if the first English paper is anything to go by.

Forty-three pupils are sitting the Leaving Cert at the Newtownsmith school and these students were pleased with the opening exam yesterday morning.

Ellen Cassidy (16) from Castle Park said she hoped the paper set the tone for the rest of the exams. "I was very nervous going in but when I read the paper, it was easy. Everything I wanted came up."

Veronica Gomes (17), from Rahoon, did the same essay as Ellen – titled "When I was 18 I couldn't wait to get out of town" – and was also pleased to have the first one out of the way.

"There was good choice in the comprehension," she said.

The Irish Second Level Students Union ([www.issu.ie](http://www.issu.ie)) has an online blog and international officer Claire Stone (17) is one of the bloggers.



Pictured above students at Meán Scoil Mhuire, Newtownsmith - Veronica Gomes, Nicole Sheridan, Lisa Murphy, Patrycja Wedlarska, Ellen Cassidy and Claire Stone - reflect after sitting paper one in the Leaving Certificate English exam.

"I was pleasantly surprised by the paper," said Claire, who is from Briarhill in the east of the city. "The readings were really nice and I was really interested in them for once. They were nice to read and I enjoyed them."

She chose the essay titled: "Write a persuasive speech about the importance of literature in people's lives."

"It gave you great scope and I read a lot of books so it was really interesting."

Grace Bruen (19), from Bohermore, was very pleased with the first English paper. "I found it easy. There were good options."

"The comprehension was good and I wrote about Brian O'Driscoll and Google."

Nicole Sheridan (18), from Annaghtdown, was also pleased with the paper.

"I found the reading comprehensions easier than the past exam papers, and the essays were nice choices as well."

One student who had to go the extra yard for a good result was Patrycja Wedlarska (18), who only started to learn English after her family moved to Ballybrit in Galway from Wroclaw, southwest Poland, four years ago.

"It was easier than the mocks. I was very happy with it. My biggest difficulty learning the language is spelling," she said.

Lisa Murphy (18), from Crestwood, was also happy with the paper. "There was a lot of selection in the essays."

Lisa opted to write a story about being inspired by "an inferior rock band howling for fame" and she was also one of the many students preparing for the home economics exam yesterday afternoon.

English teacher and Deputy Principal, Rita Nolan said the paper "seemed fair" and that there was a good response from students exiting the exam.

School principal Mary Sweeney said it was a significant year in the school's history, and the highlight will come in September when President Michael D Higgins visits to mark the 75th anniversary.

The school, on the banks of the Corrib in the city centre, has 288 pupils, with 34 of them sitting the Junior Cert this year.

Meán Scoil MhuireThe following article from the Irish Independent profiles Leaving Cert students in Meán Scoil Mhuire, Newtownsmith, Galway.



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## Contracts, Agreements and Protocols

Tuesday 26th June 2012

One of the most difficult issues facing management in our schools is undoubtedly the contracts that pertain between the Board of Management and the employee.

The JMB/AMCSS is arranging two workshops on Tuesday 21st August and Wednesday 22nd August, in Charleville Park hotel Charleville and the Hudson Bay hotel Athlone, to assist school management in generating appropriate contracts for temporary/fixed term staff for the 2012/13 school year. Bernadette Kinsella, Assistant General Secretary, will present the workshops.

The workshops will be practical in nature with participants being brought through examples of:

- Defining which type of fixed term contract to offer
- Identifying what is the objective reason
- Examining the content of a renewal letter and when to issue
- Examining the content of a termination letter and when to issue
- Sharing case studies
- Understanding the impact of recent decisions from the adjudication process.

The workshops will be of particular benefit to school principals and any member of the school staff and/or board of management who has responsibility for preparing and issuing contracts.

In particular, newly appointed principals and deputy principals are urged to attend these workshops as the "Contracts" topic will not be covered at the Newly Appointed Principals and Deputy Principals Training Programmes.

In order to facilitate the engagement of all attendees in the workshop, schools are requested to limit their representation to a maximum of two. Copies of the JMB Contracts Book will be available at the workshops.

In order to plan the workshops it is important that a school returns the attached booking form to the Secretariat of Secondary Schools, Emmet House, Milltown, Dublin 14 on or before Thursday 16th August. Fax: 01-2695461. Email: [info@secretariat.ie](mailto:info@secretariat.ie).

This form is also available on the [JMB website](#) along with copies of the various types of contracts.



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## Presentation College, Tuam Students win School Musical awards

Thursday 21st June 2012

Presentation College, Currylea, Tuam Students were recent NUIG Award Winners for School Musicals.

Presentation College were nominated in 8 categories and won Best Duo, Best Orchestra, Best Musical Experience and Highly Appreciated Teacher.



Pictured above are Caoimhe Gordon and Eimear Glavin (orchestra members) and Jennifer Reilly and Heather Doyle (Best Duo).



Pictured above are the award winning school orchestra.

They recently won the Best Orchestra award at the Galway University Musical Awards for their accompaniment in the school's production of "Annie Get Your Gun".



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## Young Social Innovators “Darkness to Light”

Thursday 28th June 2012

On May 12th, as part of the Young Social Innovators programme, TY class Rang Niamh from Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath participated in a 5km charity walk at the Phoenix Park, Dublin, led by their teacher Ms. Cronin, and accompanied by Ms. Glynn.

The walk, entitled “Darkness into Light” was organised by Pieta House, Dublin, a centre which specialises in the prevention of self-harm and suicide.

The walk started in darkness at 4am and finished in brightness as the dawn was rising.

The event has been described as a “symbolic and beautiful event” and marks the recent upsurge in suicides, in the hope of their prevention and reduction.

The class, through organising a bake sale, and through gaining sponsorship for their walk, managed to raise over €1,000, a cheque for which they presented, on the night of their graduation to Marie Peelo, a representative from Pieta House.

The students, with the assistance of their teacher Ms Cronin, have made a [video diary](#) of their experiences on the walk. This was shown on the night of their graduation & can also be viewed on the [school website](#).

Congratulations to all involved.