

**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



#### Latest News from the Trust

The past two months have been a particularly busy period for the CEIST Education Office with the holding of our Seventh Annual Education Conference and also the renewal of the CEIST Schools Boards of Management.

Our Conference was a great success we are glad to report and this annual event seems to get better with each passing year! We had our highest number of schools attending this year and were greatly encouraged by the feedback from our evaluation sheets.

The venue and workshops proved to be quite popular and as usual the conference provided a platform for networking amongst our School Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairpersons of School Boards of Management where they availed of the opportunity to share ideas and best practice.

We had 31 School Boards of Management renewing this year and we are very grateful for the assistance received from the schools in providing nominees for their respective boards. CEIST congratulates all newly appointed members serving on our Boards of Management for 2012 - 2015.

The Board plays a crucial role in nurturing and developing the ethos of the school and CEIST would also like to thank members who have agreed to continue serving on the board and to all who assisted in the nomination of members.

We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of those who are ending their term. Each new board will be inducted by a member of the CEIST team at their inaugural meeting.

We remind members of all boards, not just those renewing this year, to avail of the joint [Trustee/IMB training](#) taking place on Saturdays throughout November.



### CEIST News



#### CEIST Annual Statistical Form - Online Submission

The CEIST Annual Statistics Form has been revised for new school year 2012-2013. We have added new sections such as Faith and Ethos and made some other slight 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 Statistics Form can now be submitted online via <http://forms.ceist.ie> or by clicking on the CEIST E-Portal link on the [home page](#) of our website.

Please e-mail [woods@ceist.ie](mailto:woods@ceist.ie) if any issues are encountered using the e-portal.



#### CEIST Seventh Annual Education Conference 2012

The Seventh Annual CEIST Education Conference was held in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath on Thursday, 27th September, 2012 & Friday, 28th September, 2012. The theme for this year's conference was "Many Desks One Table".

The CEIST Team were greatly encouraged with the number of School Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairpersons of our Boards of Management who attended this year's conference, which proved to be the highest school representation to date from our 110 schools.

[MORE](#)



#### CS-COP Classroom of the Future!

The CS-COP IT Suppliers, **Unity** are working on a "classroom of the future" in their lab to include latest technologies from vendors such as Steljes, Canon, etc.

The pilot project will be used as an opportunity to work with selected CEIST schools that will make the best use of technology to assist in their teaching and learning, lower operational/capital costs and create greater efficiencies re administration of ICT in the school.

It is hoped that the resulting prototype and knowledge learned from the project can be showcased to other CEIST schools in due course.

### Competition



#### LASCO Maths Challenge 2013

In 2012, ten thousand primary and post-primary pupils from schools all over Ireland, UK and abroad participated in the LASCO Maths Challenge event, raising more than £10,000 for LASCO.

LASCO is the Latin American Street Children Organisation who raise money to fund projects that provide Education and Healthcare to the impoverished street children of South America.

Following the success of last year's event, this year's Challenge website has now been updated and the homepage contains a ten minute video presentation on the purpose of the LASCO Maths Challenge and how easy it is to facilitate it in schools.

[MORE](#)



#### Junior Dragons' Den

RTE ONE and Bank of Ireland are looking for young entrepreneurs from schools across Ireland to take part in Ireland's first Junior Dragons' Den on RTE.

This year, series five of RTE's Dragons' Den will include two special feature episodes of Junior Dragons' Den and they are looking for some of the brightest minds in Ireland's secondary schools to take part.

Click [here](#) for further details on this initiative.

### Don't Forget



#### School Annual Reports 2011-2012

Thank you to all our schools who have submitted their annual reports for the 2011-2012 school year.

For those schools who are still outstanding with their annual reports we would be very grateful if you could submit at your earliest convenience to the Trustees for review.

Click [here](#) to download our suggested Annual Report Template.

### Education Matters



#### Global Schoolroom - Sharing Educational Experience Worldwide

Global Schoolroom is currently recruiting primary and secondary school teachers from Ireland to volunteer on the UCD-accredited Teacher Education programme in India and Uganda this coming July.

The ripple effect of this innovative development model means that one Irish teacher sharing their experience and teaching skills for one month will contribute hugely to building better standards for 50 local teachers.

When these 50 teachers return to their communities this will impact on the education of 10,000 pupils!

[MORE](#)



#### Anti-Bullying Campaign Tools for Teachers

Secondary teachers and schools now have access to all the tools they need and a template for using them to deal effectively with the problem of bullying among students.

The Anti-Bullying Campaign programme, from Mary Kent and Sean Fallon is a free anti-bullying programme that has operated successfully in Colaiste Eanna, Ballyroan, Dublin, since 2003.

All the tools to implement the programme are available through their free website at [www.antibullyingcampaign.ie](http://www.antibullyingcampaign.ie) website.

[MORE](#)

### News from CEIST Schools



#### Meán Scoil Mhuire, Newtownsmith 75th Anniversary Celebrations

Meán Scoil Mhuire, Newtownsmith, Galway celebrated the 75th anniversary of its founding with a 2 day celebration.

The celebration took place on September 28 and 29th 2012 and was opened by President Michael D Higgins. President Higgins was accompanied by the Army Band of the 4th Western Brigade, which was followed by a variety of entertainment. Light refreshments were also served.

Mass was celebrated at the Abbey Church, St Francis Street, at 5pm. This was followed by a gala dinner at the Radisson Blu Hotel at 7.30pm for past students, teachers, and friends of the Mercy.

[MORE](#)



#### Mount Mercy College, Cork Official Opening of West Wing Extension

On Friday 21st September, 2012 Mount Mercy College, Model Farm Road, Cork welcomed the Minister of Education and Skills, Mr. Ruairi Quinn to the official opening of the new 'West Wing' extension.

Bishop John Buckley blessed the new extension as an audience of invited guests, students and teachers attended the celebration.

The Principal, Pádraigin Uí Ríordáin, spoke warmly of the foresight of the founding Principal of Mount Mercy College, Sister Pius O'Dwyer.

[MORE](#)



#### News from Coláiste Muire, Ennis

Coláiste Muire, Ennis Co. Clare have kindly shared with CEIST some very interesting news snippets from the school.

Coláiste Muire has gone digital with the introduction of iPads for all new first years. The school is also offering Chinese as part of its Transition Year Programme for 2012/13.

The TY students have also been busy with participation in initiatives such as **Press Pass** scheme, which delivered free national and regional newspapers to more than 14,000 students in 250 schools across the country!

[MORE](#)



#### Presentation Clonmel 16th Annual Excellence Awards

Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel celebrated the 16th Annual Presentation Awards for Excellence in St. Mary's Church Inishtown in October.

The awards acknowledge the tremendous achievements of the girls across the whole spectrum of education in the school.

The awards recognize that this pursuit of excellence is not confined to academic achievement but encompasses the whole range of activities that makes for a rounded and balanced education.

[MORE](#)



#### St Joseph's Castleisland Launch Educational Partnership with St Patrick's

St Joseph's Secondary School, Castleisland, Co. Kerry and St Patrick's Boys Secondary School recently announced the launch of its educational partnership.

Both schools' rich heritage and tradition in education are well known in the town of Castleisland and its surrounding parishes and this launch is another chapter on the provision of quality education to second level students.

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#### All Island School Choir Competition 2012

The All Island School Choir Competition is organised by Co-operation Ireland School and RTE.

This is the fourth televised series of the All Island School Choir Competition, which brings young people together throughout the island and encourages the tradition of choral music in second level schools.

Well done to all CEIST Schools who participated and congratulations to the following CEIST Schools who advanced to their regional heat finals.

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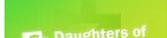


#### Irish EU Science Olympiad

The State Examination Commission has identified five students from Presentation Secondary School, Thurles as high achievers in Maths and Science in the 2012 Junior Certificate Examination.

The students are Aida Izzydorzcyk, Christine Mc Auliffe, Jane Anne Mc Kevitt, Brida Kemerczyk and Soracha Henderson.

These students will take part in the National Olympiads on Oct 27th in DCU to select teams to represent Ireland in the International Junior Science Olympiad in Tehran and the European Union Science Olympiad in Luxembourg. Well done to their teachers for all their hard work and commitment. CEIST wishes the best of luck to the girls in the competition.



The Dublin Pilgrimage for Young Mercy Leaders and International Good Cup of Tea day are two very worthwhile events being run by the Sisters of Mercy.

Click [here](#) for further information.

**CS-COP Newsletter**  
The CEIST Schools Co-Operative Purchasing Programme (CS-COP) was setup to promote and encourage collective purchasing across our schools in order to avail of economies of scale with the objective of reducing school operating costs and enabling savings for your school.

Click [here](#) to view the latest newsletter detailing new suppliers to the programme and latest supplier offers and advice on products.

**Olympic Themed Resources For Use In R.E. Classes**  
The following is a variety of Olympic themed resources for use in R.E. classes kindly shared by **Gary Abrahamian**, Post-Primary Diocesan Adviser.

Click [here](#) to view PowerPoint's on Olympic Values, Disability and Sport & Morality and Sport.

View [clips](#) of Katie Taylor, David Rudisha, the film Chariots of Fire and the Paralympics.

**Official Opening of New School Extensions**  
Congratulations to **Scoll Mhuire, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon** and **Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth** who both recently celebrated the official openings of their new school extensions.

**Mercy Secondary School, Coolock Students Launch Book**  
Congratulations to students from Mercy Secondary School, Coolock, Dublin on the launch of their Book "A Window on the Lane", which includes a series of stories and poems from 4th year students (2011-12).

The book was officially launched on the 9th October in the school.

**Presentation College, Currylea, Tuam, Green School Awards**  
Presentation College, Currylea, Tuam, Co. Galway had some recent success in the green schools competition.

Click [here](#) to view photos of the winners.

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## CEIST Seventh Annual Education Conference 2012

Tuesday 2nd October 2012

The [Seventh Annual CEIST Education Conference](#) was held in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath on Thursday, 27th September, 2012 & Friday, 28th September, 2012. The theme for this year's conference was *"Many Desks One Table"*.

The CEIST Team were greatly encouraged with the number of School Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairpersons of our Boards of Management who attended this year's conference, which proved to be the highest school representation to date from our 110 schools.

There was a great sense of community at the conference and our Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairpersons availed of the opportunity to network and share ideas with each other. We received very positive feedback again for the workshops and indeed for our two keynote speakers. CEIST would like to very much thank our keynote speakers and workshop presenters for their time and energy given to the conference.

We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to the three excellent school choirs who participated at the conference.

The three schools who participated were **Cnoc Mhuire, Granard, Co Longford, Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew, Co Galway and St. Joseph's Secondary School, Navan, Co. Meath**. The choirs were superb and really energised everybody at the conference and were a credit to the schools.

CEIST are also very grateful to the many exhibitors that displayed their products and indeed this year so great was the demand for exhibitor space that we unfortunately could not accommodate all requests.

## CEIST Conference 2012 Workshops

We had four workshops at this year's conference and we hope to have all presentations available for downloading or via e-mail in due course.

### 1) "Faith Competency Interviewing". Mr. Ned Prendergast, outgoing Director of Faith Development, CEIST.

Since the introduction by JMB of Competency Interviewing for Principal and Deputy Principal posts earlier this year, many Principals and Chairpersons have been anxious to learn more about the initiative and how the new approach can be adapted to interviewing for any teaching post in a school. Ned Prendergast, who is one of the Trainers for the JMB initiative, explored the use of this new approach in the area of Faith Competency Interviewing as it may apply to any teaching post in a faith school.

This presentation was designed for panels doing interviewing and if that is your purpose please [contact Ned](#) if you wish to receive the presentation via e-mail stating your background and purpose in request.

### 2) "The implications and challenges of implementing the revised Junior Cycle curriculum". Ms. Majella O'Shea, NCCA.

The workshop provided an overview/update on the junior cycle developments and discussed the implications of the change for planning junior cycle programmes in schools and for learning and teaching in the classroom.

It was presented by Majella O'Shea who is involved with the junior cycle developments in the NCCA. Click [here](#) to download the presentation kindly shared by Majella to CEIST. Further information can be obtained at [www.juniorcycle.ie](http://www.juniorcycle.ie)

### 3) "Social Media: The Challenges for Schools". Dr Maureen Griffin, UCC.

Social media, while offering many advantages, also presents a number of challenges for schools. Dr. Maureen Griffin has visited over 120 schools across Ireland, and her presentation outlined Irish student's use of social media including social networking such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, online chat facilities and online gaming. The challenges each of these present for schools was discussed with particular focus on cyber-bullying and sexting. Resources for schools were outlined and practical advice and tips for dealing with the misuses of technology offered.

Click [here](#) to download the presentation which was very kindly shared to CEIST by Dr Maureen Griffin.

### 4) "Good Accounting and Financial Practices". James Hughes, Chartered Accountant.

This workshop discussed critical matters such as incorporating control over expenditure, the role of the finance sub-committee within the school, the signing of cheques and particularly electronic payments, and general internal controls applicable to all schools.

## Feedback from the Conference

We are in the process of compiling a summary from evaluation sheets returned by attendees. Many thanks to all of you who completed as this feedback will be invaluable in planning future conference programmes.

The general consensus from the evaluation feedback was that the Sheraton Hotel was an ideal venue because of its central location and top class services provided by the hotel. The majority of attendees are in favour of keeping the two day format. The keynote speakers, Professor Bart McGetterick and Bishop Brendan Kelly were very well received as were all the workshop presenters. A minority of people requested a Mass for next year's conference.

## Conference Photos

Below are a selection of photos from the conference.



Click to enable Adobe Flash Player.



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## Global Schoolroom - Sharing Educational Experience Worldwide

Wednesday 17th October 2012



### Sharing Educational Experience Worldwide

**WANT TO HAVE A REAL IMPACT WHEN YOU VOLUNTEER THIS SUMMER?**

**SHARE YOUR TEACHING EXPERIENCE WITH TEACHERS IN INDIA AND UGANDA AND THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS WILL BENEFIT.**

Global Schoolroom is currently recruiting primary and secondary school teachers from Ireland to volunteer on the UCD-accredited Teacher Education programme in India and Uganda this coming July.

The ripple effect of this innovative development model means that one Irish teacher sharing their experience and teaching skills for one month will contribute hugely to building better standards for 50 local teachers. When these 50 teachers return to their communities this will impact on the education of 10,000 pupils!

**1 MONTH X 1 IRISH TEACHER X 50 LOCAL TEACHERS = 10,000 PUPILS!**

Global Schoolroom is a charity registered in Ireland that seeks to promote the sharing of educational experience between communities worldwide to help eradicate poverty, promote economic development and build sustainable communities.

We work directly with teachers and communities to build a strong framework for high standards of teacher education. The Global Schoolroom programme is designed to be sustained by local networks. This is achieved through the forging of respectful links between educational partners to their mutual benefit.

This sharing of good educational practices enriches the collective educational experience, widens the cultural horizons of everyone involved and expands each individual's scope for opportunity. Children in the communities involved receive a better quality education which ultimately leads to greater economic development and higher standards of living.

For more information or to get an application form, go to [www.globalschoolroom.net](http://www.globalschoolroom.net) or email [info@globalschoolroom.net](mailto:info@globalschoolroom.net).

**THE CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30th, 2012**

### Global Schoolroom 2013 Application Form

[Global Schoolroom Application form](#)

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## Anti-Bullying Campaign Tools for Teachers

Wednesday 24th October 2012

Research shows that there is some bullying in virtually every Irish secondary school.

Now, however, secondary teachers have access to the tools they need and a template for using them to deal effectively with this problem.

The Anti-Bullying Campaign programme, from Mary Kent and Seán Fallon is a free anti-bullying programme for secondary schools that is available through the [www.antibullyingcampaign.ie](http://www.antibullyingcampaign.ie) website. It operates as two strands.

Strand 1 raises awareness among students about the nature and unacceptability of bullying behaviour, so students come to recognise it as different from horseplay or "slagging," reject it as unacceptable and damaging, and are in a position to report it to teachers, given the right conditions and opportunity.

Strand 2 uses a "Reform, not Blame" approach that students see as fair, rather than a punitive approach, to deal with bullying incidents when they arise. This approach gives a "win-win" outcome for both the bullying student and the targeted student, much to the relief of anxious observers of the bullying behaviour. This approach empowers students who know about bullying to report it, knowing they will not be getting anyone in trouble.

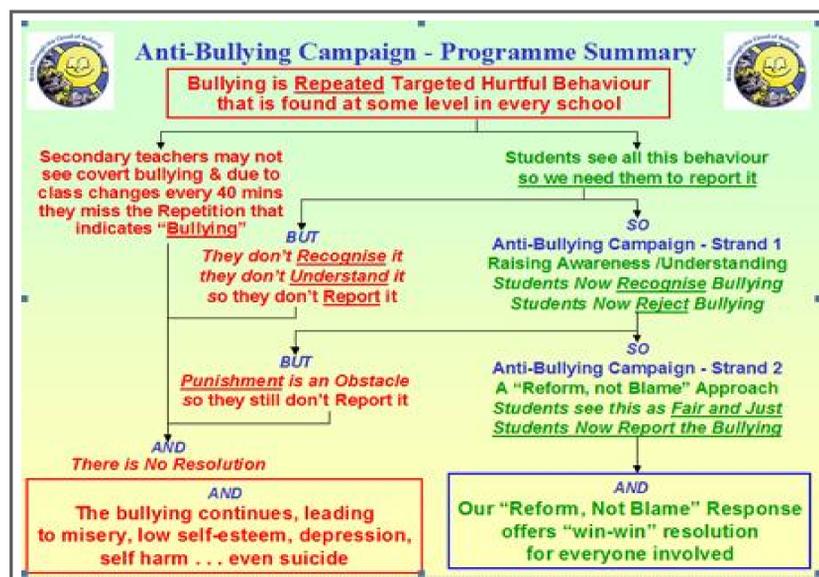
This two-strand Anti-Bullying Campaign programme has proved very effective in some schools and the number of schools where it is fully implemented is growing. Its success is based on its recognition that:

- Bullying is identifiable as deliberate, hurtful behaviour that is repeated in act or in impact, reflecting a power imbalance between the bullying and targeted students. It is the repetition of the hurtful behaviour that makes it clearly identifiable.
- Only the adults in a school can deal effectively with bullying. But for the adults to do so they have to (a) know about it and (b) know how to deal with it without making matters worse, a worry for all teachers.
- Teachers in secondary schools cannot know about bullying through their own observation because they move from class to class and so miss the repetition that is the hallmark of bullying behaviour.
- Students observe most bullying incidents but do not recognise or understand the nature of bullying or the damage it can do or do not want to be targeted themselves so they do not usually report it to teachers.
- The awareness-raising strand, through a broad range of exercises using worksheets, films with questions, competitions and questionnaires helps students to recognise bullying and, by appealing to their natural sense of justice and what empathy they have, encourages them to reject it as unfair and unacceptable.
- If the response of a school to bullying behaviour includes punishment, this creates reluctance among students to report it to teachers, to "rat" on fellow students, even if they recognise the bullying and reject it as unacceptable. Punishment provides the justification for the "no ratting" culture among students and this prevents reporting of bullying behaviour.
- By using a "Reform, not Blame" approach that looks forward, based on a promise sincerely given not to bully in the future, rather than looking backward with blame and condemnation for previous bullying behaviour, perpetrators who "repent" are offered a "clean sheet" with no punishment if they keep their promise. Most bullying students agree to keep this promise.
- Removing the prospect of punishment overcomes the problem of the "no ratting" culture and students are at last empowered to report bullying behaviour.
- In this environment students report the bullying, the teachers deal with it (using the "Reform, not Blame" approach) and the bullying is brought to an end with no backlash against the targeted student, the bullying student or the observers (since nobody got in trouble) - a "win-win-win" situation.

This programme is now available to all secondary schools, free of charge from the [www.antibullyingcampaign.ie](http://www.antibullyingcampaign.ie) website. Please try it. We believe that once you do and see the difference it makes to the lives of your students you will never want your school to be without it again. Mary Kent & Seán Fallon.

Click [here](#) to download a short PowerPoint summarising the programme.

## Programme Summary



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## All Island School Choir Competition 2012

Thursday 25th October 2012

The All Island School Choir Competition is organised by Co-operation Ireland and RTÉ.

This is the fourth televised series of the All Island School Choir Competition, which brings young people together throughout the island and encourages the tradition of choral music in second level schools.

Well done to all CEIST Schools who participated and congratulations to the following CEIST Schools who advanced to their regional heat finals.

### Cork Heat

Coláiste an Chroí Naofa, Carraig na bhFear, Co. Cork.

St. Mary's Secondary School, Macroom, Co. Cork.

### Castlebar Heat

Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

St. Joseph's Secondary School, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

St. Leo's College, Co. Carlow.

Best wishes to Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore, and choir director, Regina McCarthy who won their regional heat and are now in the All Island final. Click [here](#) to view our article on the school for more details.

Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore choir will join Loreto College, Fermoy in the All Island final, live on RTÉ One television from the Titanic Centre Belfast on Sunday November 11th.

Two more choirs for the Grand Final event will be selected from Regional Competitions involving Leinster and Northern Ireland schools.

Click [here](#) for the full list of schools who advanced to the regional finals.

### CEIST School Choirs



Pictured above are St Leo's College, Carlow All Island School Choir 2012 Team.



Pictured above are Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore School Choir



Pictured above Coláiste an Chroí Naofa, Carraig na bhFear, School Choir with Conductor Ms. Catherine Buckley.



Pictured above Ms Aoife Donovan and the School Choir 2012 of St Mary's Secondary School, Macroom, Co. Cork with Tommie O'Gorman of RTE.

Click [here](#) to read more about St Mary's Secondary School, Macroom School Choir from the school website.



Pictured above are the St Joseph's Secondary School, Castlebar School Choir 2012.

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## Meánscoil Mhuire, Newtownsmith, Galway Celebrate 75th Anniversary

Wednesday 24th October 2012

Meán Scoil Mhuire, Newtownsmith, Galway celebrated the 75th anniversary of its founding with a 2 day celebration.

The celebration took place on September 28 and 29th 2012 and was opened by President Michael D Higgins.

President Higgins was accompanied by the Army Band of the 4th Western Brigade, which was followed by a variety of entertainment. Light refreshments were also served.

Mass was celebrated at the Abbey Church, St Francis Street, at 5pm.

This was followed by a gala dinner at the Radisson Blu Hotel at 7.30pm for past students, teachers, and friends of the Mercy.

The following is an account of the celebrations from the school.

Meánscoil Mhuire, Newtownsmith, Galway proudly celebrated the 75th Anniversary of its founding the weekend of 28th & 29th September 2012.

In our celebrations we are joined by hundreds of past students and of course current students, together with past and present teachers, to celebrate the achievements and the high quality of educational provision at Meánscoil Mhuire for generations of Galway girls.

The school was founded in 1937 to provide Secondary Education for girls of Galway city and its hinterland, in the Mercy tradition, as inspired by the Congregation's foundress, Catherine McAuley.

Catherine McAuley was a Dublin woman whose life was dedicated to the alleviation of poverty and the empowerment of women and children. At the age of fifty-three she took religious vows and established the Mercy Order to better pursue her mission of altruism and service to the poor and disadvantaged.

She was a nun for a mere ten years but in that time she developed a powerful vision which to this day is inspiring, noble, laudable, pertinent and thoroughly Christian.



She stood for the ideal of improving the life chances of others and we continue to carry the torch for her. We are dedicated to the service and enrichment of others.

Her timeless ideal still underpins our work.

We educate and influence young ladies to realise their full potential and to develop their noblest human qualities of compassion, care, tolerance and civic responsibility.

It would be pertinent for me to borrow and adapt the words of the late Senator Edward Kennedy "The cause endures, the hope still lives and the dream shall never die".

As the inheritors of Catherine McAuley's vision, we recommit ourselves for its pursuit on this 75th Anniversary of our school. We celebrate past successes and we rededicate ourselves, with renewed vigour, to the ideals of our foundress.

It is a great honour for us that our special occasion is enhanced by the formal, affirming visit, of our esteemed President, Michael D. Higgins.

We rejoice in the recognition and acknowledgement inherent in the Presidential visit. We thank him sincerely for his affirmation and we can face the future with uplifted spirit.

The aspirations of Mercy Sisters and teachers at Meánscoil Mhuire have always been to follow the vision and to adhere to the highest ideals of Catherine McAuley.

May God bless our work.



## Other Photos



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## Mount Mercy College, Cork Official Opening of West Wing Extension

Tuesday 2nd October 2012

On Friday 21st September, 2012 Mount Mercy College, Model Farm Road, Cork welcomed the Minister of Education and Skills, Mr. Ruairí Quinn to the official opening of the new 'West Wing' extension.

Bishop John Buckley blessed the new extension as an audience of invited guests, students and teachers attended the celebration.

The Principal, Pádraigín Uí Riordáin, spoke warmly of the foresight of the founding Principal of Mount Mercy College, Sister Pius O'Dwyer. A meeting room in the new wing is now dedicated to her memory, in honour of St. Pius' efforts to promote and introduce the teaching of honours maths and science subjects to girls, back in 1965.

Guests who attended included the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr John Buttimer, Ms. Anne Kelleher, CEO CEIST, Prof. Michael Murphy UCC, Dr Dan Collins CIT, as well as Public Representatives, Business Representatives and members of Mount Mercy College Parents Association.

Staff and students were joined on the day by former Principal, Ms. Murphy, and retired staff. Guests were treated to a musical interlude which included a piece by violinist Mairead Hickey, a current 5th Year pupil and National Young Musician, and Singer Rosemary Doyle.

After the opening ceremony the Minister toured the new wing, and the updated science labs, which the Dept. funded through the Summer Works Scheme. Minister Quinn also visited the newly revamped library and the school's Prayer room with its colourful stained glass windows and wall mural completed by Transition Year Students.

In welcoming the new enhanced accommodation and facilities, Principal Pádraigín Uí Riordáin pointed out in her address that the next goal is already in sight for Mount Mercy College because the school is presently fundraising for a new Sports Hall and Canteen, to be built at the rear of their expansive grounds on the Model Farm road.

### Official Opening Photos



Pictured above (LtoR) Cllr. John Buttimer, Lord Mayor of Cork, Ms. Orla McCarthy, Chemistry Teacher, Mr. Ruairí Quinn, Minister for Education & Skills and Pádraigín Uí Riordáin, Principal of Mount Mercy College at the Official Opening of the West Wing Extension, on Friday, 21st September 2012.



Pictured above (LtoR) Ms. Brid Higgisson, Chairperson Parents Association, Mr. Jerry Buttimer, T.D., Dr John Buckley, Bishop of Cork and Ross, Mr. John Kennedy, Chairman Board of Management, Sr. Liz Murphy, Mercy Provincial, Cllr. John Buttimer, Lord Mayor of Cork, Mr. Ruairí Quinn, Minister for Education and Skills, Ms. Anne Kelleher, CEO CEIST and Pádraigín Uí Riordáin, Principal, Mount Mercy College.



Mr. Ruairí Quinn, Minister for Education and Skills unveiling the Plaque at the Official Opening of the West Wing Extension with Principal Pádraigín Uí Riordáin.



Pictured above Mr. Ruairí Quinn, Minister for Education and Skills, visiting the Physics Laboratory with Cllr. John Buttimer, Lord Mayor of Cork and Pádraigín Uí Riordáin, Principal.



Mr. Ruairí Quinn, Minister for Education and Skills, speaking with Chemistry Students with Cllr. John Buttimer, Lord Mayor of Cork.

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## News from Coláiste Muire, Ennis

Tuesday 2nd October 2012

### First generation of iPad students start at Coláiste Muire, Ennis



Coláiste Muire has gone digital with the introduction of iPads for all new first years. This follows discussions early in the year with parents, board of management and staff. School Principal Jean Pound explained why they decided to take the plunge and move away from traditional school books.

"This was due to a number of factors. First of all, the weight of school bags has been an issue for secondary students for a number of years. It is estimated that many students are carrying a quarter of their weight in school books. More relevantly, these students are digital natives, they can use these devices intuitively so why not tap into this and make learning exciting".

The cost of the new technology for each student is around €620. For first years to get kitted out with books, it would probably cost around €500 to €600.

With the iPads, the books are updated automatically so the investment really is over three years through their junior cycle. Parents have been most supportive. While the initial outlay did mean an investment, they see it as an investment in their child's education and future.

While the students are all very excited about the new state of art devices, Ms Pound emphasised, this is not all about the technology, although it places them in the world of the future. It is primarily about enhancing learning and teaching.

The school has provided a special iPad locker for the students to keep their new equipment in. All of the students received their iPads in the summer to get them used to the technology. On returning to school, all the equipment was cleaned up and their school books uploaded. Ms. Pound said all the students have the same apps that are all educational and they are unable to buy any of their own apps.

The apps on the iPads include Shakespeare, Dictionary, Keynote, iTranslate, iThesarus, Pages and so on. Teachers have taken up the challenge and are embracing change. They can connect to their iPad through their digital projector in each classroom and they are busy sharing good apps with each other. All in all it has been a very positive beginning, Coláiste Muire is looking forward to an exciting year of learning and teaching.

### Introduction of Chinese



Coláiste Muire is one of a number of schools in Munster offering Chinese as part of its Transition Year Programme for 2012/13. The teaching of Chinese Language and Culture is facilitated by the UCC Confucius Institute. The UCC Confucius Institute was established in The Irish Institute of Chinese Studies (UCC) in November 2007. It is a collaboration between UCC and Shanghai University.

The aim of the Confucius Institute is to strengthen educational co-operation between China and

Ireland, support and promote the development of Chinese language education and increase mutual understanding between the peoples of China and Ireland.

Coláiste Muire welcomed William Zhang from Shanxi province near Beijing in early September. 60 Transition Year students will have Chinese classes on Tuesdays throughout the year. Any student excelling at Chinese throughout the year will have the opportunity to sit the Youth Chinese test and if recommended, participate in the Chinese Bridge Competition and perhaps avail of an educational visit to Beijing.

### Press Pass Transition Year Initiative

Transition Year students in Coláiste Muire are getting a better idea of how newspapers work under a new initiative launched on 19 September. On Monday 24 September the Press Pass scheme started to deliver free national and regional newspapers to more than 14,000 students in 250 schools across the country. This is to continue for a two week period and is accompanied by a workbook.

The newspapers are being read and shared around during English class each day. The workbook gives students a

better understanding of how papers operate and how they can be used as an educational resource. It also offers practical insights into five key areas of newspaper journalism-news, sport, features, analysis and photo-journalism. In addition, TY students taking part in the scheme can also enter a national writing competition with the best work set to be published across all NNI titles in the new year.

National Newspapers of Ireland (NNI) teamed up with the Department of Education to launch the scheme. Welcoming the initiative, Education Minister Ruairi Quinn said the strong, yet practical focus on reading and writing should help to improve literacy standards for those TY students taking part.



### Young Social Innovators Ireland/Vodafone Ireland Foundation

A group of 4th year students from Coláiste Muire, Ennis attended the launch of a partnership between Young Social Innovators Ireland and Vodafone Ireland Foundation on September 14. The partnership aims to provide young people with the tools and knowledge to become engaged in social change.

This year Vodafone Ireland Foundation will invest over €400,000 in the programme. The joint venture aims to engage over 100,000 young social innovators and be available to all young people from the ages of 15-24 by 2015.

"It is vital that we educate and empower young people to become leaders on social issues, said Sr Stanislaus Kennedy, co-founder and chairperson of Young Social Innovators". She was speaking at the launch of the new three year education programme to encourage innovation in young people. 60 Transition Year students are involved with YSI in Coláiste Muire for 2012/2013.





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## Presentation Clonmel 16th Annual Excellence Awards

Tuesday 16th October 2012

Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel celebrated the 16th Annual Presentation Awards for Excellence in St. Mary's Church Irishtown in October. The awards acknowledge the tremendous achievements of the girls across the whole spectrum in education in the school. The awards recognize that this pursuit of excellence is not confined to academic achievement but encompasses the whole range of activities that makes for a rounded and balanced education. The evening is a celebration of the achievements of the students over the past school year.

The evening began a beautiful rendition of "One Step Beyond" by the Junior School Choir under the guidance of music teachers, Ms. Tracey Whelan and Ms. Jennifer Williams. The school was delighted to have Dr. Claire O'Brien as the guest speaker. It was no coincidence that Dr. Claire O'Brien was with us on a day that we celebrated "Talent and Creativity" as the theme of the day.

Dr. Clare's work takes her to the heart of innovation and research. Dr. Clare spent several years in research and product development in the University of Limerick. She now leads a team of scientists and engineers working in the areas of materials developments in Johnson & Johnson, Cork, which helps to develop medical devices such as hip, knees, shoulders and ankles replacements. Dr. Clare spoke about the necessity of following a career path that students have a keen interest in. It would be more fulfilling for someone and would give them great confidence in their own ability.

Fr. Billy Meehan opened with the ceremony with a prayer and paid tribute to the Presentation community for its continued excellent role in educating young girls in Clonmel. Mr. Michael O'Loughlin (Principal) welcomed the large attendance which included special guests, Presentation Sisters from the local community and the Trustee's representatives, members of the Board of Management, Teachers, Parents, Sponsors and most importantly, the students themselves.

Mr. O'Loughlin said "Awards Day for all of us in Presentation Clonmel is one of the major highlights in the school calendar and I want to congratulate all the students whom you will see here today as they receive their certificates and awards. I say well done to you all, we are really proud of your achievements and wish you continued success in the years ahead both in school and outside of it as well. The range of awards that will be presented reflects all aspects of school life and represents our mission of offering to our students a holistic catholic education in a caring environment".

### Certificates of Recognition of Outside Achievement in Extra Curricular Activity

The evening started with a presentation by Ms. Kathriona Murphy to over 90 girls for their involvement in extra-curricular activity. In presenting these certificates, the school recognized the outstanding achievements of the students in their chosen field of activity and is acknowledging the ambassadorial of the students on behalf of the school.

### Student of the Year Awards

The Student of the Year Award from the 1st to 6th year groups were presented by the respective Year Head in association with the sponsor of each year group. Nominations from each year were invited on stage and with mounting tension, the Year Head read out the winner. These awards were followed by the Academic Awards.

### Junior Cert Academic Award

Mrs. Anne Dwyer (Deputy-Principal) presented the Junior Certificate Academic Award. He said that "the Presentation ethos will always be to help students to reach their potential and in our school, our girls are very fortunate to be supported by a highly dedicated teaching staff. There is no doubt looking at this year's Junior Cert results that everyone reached their potential." Laura Mulcahy and Lorna Ni Cheallaigh were joint winners the Junior Cert Academic Award. Laura is a past student of Ballymac NS Primary School and Lorna is a past student of St. Oliver's, Clonmel.

### Leaving Cert Academic Award

Mr. Michael O'Loughlin (Principal) presented Leaving Cert Academic Awards. Boston Scientific Leaving Certificate Award was presented to Sorcha Murray, a past pupil of St. Michaels Clerihan N.S. who achieved 605 points in her Leaving Certificate. Sorcha Murray is now studying Pharmacy in Trinity College, Dublin. During the six years which she has spent as a student of Presentation Secondary, Sorcha has shown herself to be a student of exceptional ability. As well shining in the academic area, in her spare time, Sorcha achieved a silver medal in the Gaisce President Awards, she is an excellent racquetball player, plays the piano and was a member of senior school choir. Needless to say when it came to Leaving Cert she shone again with a brilliant result which included 4 A1 & 2 A2 grades.

Rebecca Hunt, a past student of the Sisters of Charity, was the winner of the Leaving Cert Applied Academic Award. Rebecca worked very hard and consistently since starting her programme in September 2010 and is described by her teachers as an excellent student who showed great care for others as well. Rebecca is studying a PLC course in CTI Clonmel.

### Special Category Awards

Special Category Awards were presented in areas such as Creativity, Enterprise & Initiative, Leadership, Sports Awards, Student Peer Awards, Scientific Endeavour and Master Chef. These awards recognized the tremendous work by students outside the academic area and their participation in extra curricular areas in the school community.

An addition to the evening was the presentation of Bank of Ireland Student Awards to students who received a high number of nominations in the different categories.

President of the Student Council, Maura Buckley presented a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the school to Sr. Anne Healy (Presentation Sisters), Mrs Catherine McCormack (CEIST) and Dr. Claire O'Brien (Guest speaker).

Mr. O'Loughlin concluded the ceremony by congratulating all the award recipients for their individual achievements and paid tribute to Ms. Jean Rogers for organizing the smooth running of the event. The Awards ceremony concluded with the Junior Choir singing, "If you really want it, you can get it".

The Award winners were as follows;

### Academic Awards

Junior Cert: **Laura Mulcahy and Lorna Ni Cheallaigh**

Leaving Certificate: **Sorcha Murray**

Leaving Cert Applied: **Rebecca Hunt**

Student of the Year: **Eileen Flannery & Katelyn Owens (First Year), Annie Coffey (Second Year), Ellie Mackey & Roisin Walsh (Third Year), Keeley Ahearne (TY) Karen McGrath (Fifth Year) and Mairead Lambert (Sixth Year).**

Special Category Awards: **Grainne Wilson & Emma Clancy (Creativity), Jamie Caron (Enterprise and initiative), Danielle Hallahan (Sports), Fatima Haruna (Scientific Endeavour), Edel Moroney (Master Chef), Maire Buckley, Clare Nolan, Gillian Hickey, Meabh Kennedy and Emer Lyons (CEIST Social Awareness Award).**

### Student Peer Awards

First Year: **Kayleigh Tobin**

Second Year: **Anne Marie Power**

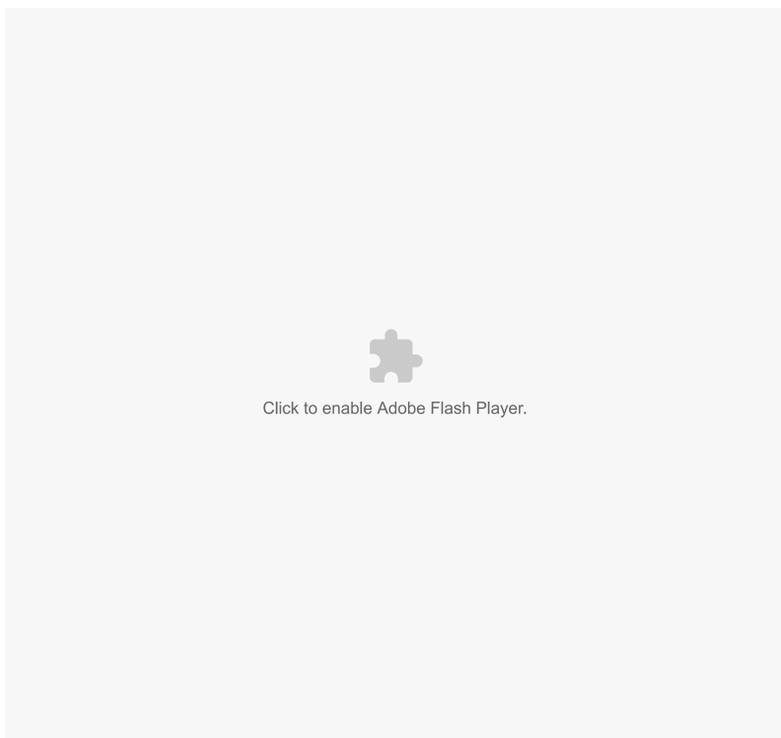
Third Year: **Lorna Ni Cheallaigh**

Fifth Year: **Maire Buckley**

Sixth Year: **Roisin McCarthy**

Bank of Ireland Award winners: **Kayleigh Tobin, Laura Nagle, Chloe Anderson, Leanne O'Regan, Rebecca Fennessy, Roisin McGrath, Keeley Ahearne, Rebecca Mullins, Maire Buckley, Lorna Ni Cheallaigh and Caitlin Orum Olesen.**

### Photos from the Awards Ceremony





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## St Joseph's Castleisland Launch Educational Partnership with St Patrick's

Wednesday 26th September 2012

St Joseph's Secondary School, Castleisland, Co. Kerry and St. Patrick's Boys Secondary School wish to announce the launch of its educational partnership.

Both schools' rich heritage and tradition in education are well known in the town of Castleisland and its surrounding parishes and this launch is another chapter on the provision of quality education to second level students.

It is envisaged the provision of subject taster modules in First Year (for example Art and Home Economics in Presentation for Boys and Woodwork and Technical Graphics for Girls in St. Patrick's) will take place in the Second Term of the 2012/2013 school year.

It is also hoped to implement the provision of a broader range of subject choices and options for Second Years and Fifth Years at the earliest opportunity.



At present a number of boys are studying Chemistry in the Presentation and a girl

from Presentation is doing Design Communication Graphics in St. Patrick's.

Both schools plan to introduce a joint Transition Year Programme in the 2013/2014 school year where community based initiatives and activities will be perused having had discussion with the broader community the schools have received tremendous support and feedback in relation to this initiative.

Both schools will also come together to promote a range of events and extra-curricular activities for example Mass at the beginning of the school year and a production of the Musical "Oliver" at Christmas.



Both Ms. Eileen Kennelly and Mr. Denis O'Donovan Principals' of both schools are to be commended for

their foresight and vision in rising to the challenges currently facing Irish education in the current climate and ensuring that quality education continues in Castleisland as has always been the case.