



news from ceist...

31 January 2013

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



Towards Leadership in CEIST Schools

"Leadership is always connected to purpose" (John L. Sullivan) and therefore, as you teach within a CEIST school, we wish to enrich your purpose and cultivate your leadership capacity.

We invite your participation in a four week programme, funded by CEIST and aimed at developing particular leadership competencies, in order to support those responsible in their roles as educators within the voluntary secondary sector.

In addition to personal and professional development for the future, participants will connect with others from within the CEIST school community and a certificate of participation will be issued on conclusion.

Eight training sessions will be conducted in total with 4 each taking place in Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork and at Colaiste na Toirbhirte, Bandon.

The training sessions will run from 5.30pm to 7.30pm on each night.

[MORE](#)



Competition



BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2013

Congratulations to all schools who participated in the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2013.

CEIST staff who attended the exhibition were very impressed by the enthusiasm and knowledge displayed from the students who had stands at the exhibition and greatly appreciated the time given by students to talk about their projects.

We were delighted to see that CEIST schools were also among the award winners with two schools receiving two of the top four awards and a number of category and special awards picked up by CEIST Schools.

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Education Matters



Stepping Stones: Starting Second-Level School in Ireland

A new film and resource to help students make the transition to second-level school has recently been published by City of Dublin VEC.

The film and accompanying teaching resource entitled Stepping Stones: Starting Second-Level School in Ireland was developed by CDVECs Separated Children's Service in order to prepare newly-arrived separated children seeking asylum, many of whom will have had limited experience of formal education in their countries of origin, for school life in Ireland.

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News from CEIST Schools



Presentation Secondary School, Sexton Street, Limerick Young Scientist 2013

Presentation Secondary School, Sexton Street, Limerick was delighted to have 5 entries in the BT Young Scientist competition this year.

11 projects were entered by the fourth year class and five were chosen, this in itself is a fantastic achievement and demonstrates the creativity and hard work of this class.

It is the first time in over 20 years that the school was represented at this event and they were very proud to come home with one highly commended award.

[MORE](#)



All-Ireland Basketball Title for Presentation Ballyphehane

Congratulations to Presentation Secondary School, Ballyphehane, Co. Cork who won the All-Ireland U19 Girls B Basketball schools cup final title recently.

Presentation Ballyphehane secured the All-Ireland title with a 46-40 win over St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon.

We hope to add article and photos shortly to the website on this great achievement for the school.

Catholic Schools Week 2013

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2013 is: **'Catholic Schools in the Community of Faith: Sharing the Good News'.**

Catholic Schools Week 2013 will be mindful of two major issues for the year 2013 (a) Year of Faith and (b) Share the Good News.

The theme of CSW 2013 reflects both. CSW 2013 commenced on Sunday January 27th 2013 and ends on February 3rd 2013.

Click [here](#) to view our website article on Catholic Schools Week 2013.

Facing up to the Problem of Bullying

A national conference is taking place titled "Facing up to the Problem of Bullying" on Friday 1st March in the Regency Hotel, Whitehall, Dublin 9 from 9.15am to 1.30pm.

Click [here](#) to download flyer with further details.

Safer Internet Day 2013

Safer Internet Day is part of a global drive to promote a safer internet for all users, especially young people.

The 10th Safer Internet Day will be celebrated on **Tuesday, February 5th, 2013** in many countries across the world, including Ireland.

[Webwise](#) has suggestions for activities and events that you can hold in your school or classroom to take part in Safer Internet Day 2013.

The theme for this year will be **online rights and responsibilities.**

CESI Conference 2013

The annual conference of the Computers in Education Society of Ireland will take place in Galway on February 22nd and 23rd, 2013.

The theme for this year's conference is **CESI 4.0: Back to our Future.**

This is a very special conference in the story of CESI: it's our 40th birthday, and we're going back to the place where it all started: Galway.

The **CESI conference** is a calendar highlight for those who are interested in integrating technology in teaching and learning and this year promises to uphold the high standard that has been set by previous CESI events.

National IT Training Conference

The National IT Training Conference is brought to you by the Irish Computer Society.

This year's theme: **Embrace and Manage Change.**

What important changes in the field of Learning and Development bring to you and your organisation?

Are you ready to embrace those changes?

If your role falls under any of the following titles, then this conference is for you.

"Educator, Training Professional, Corporate HR Specialist, Training Consultant, Test Centre Manager or Training Manager."

CEIST Annual Retreat

Palm Sunday, March 24th, marks the commencement of the CEIST Retreat we offer to all of you who work in or are retired from our schools.

We will convene for dinner at "An Tearman" Glendalough, where Fr. Michael Rodgers and Sr. Breda Ahern will lead us on retreat which concludes with lunch on Tuesday 26th.

The two days come at a minimal charge and are a great way to nourish the soul and bring healing and resolution to one's inner nature.

Please [contact](#) our office at any time (01-6510350) and we will gladly welcome your reservation.



Sancta Maria College, Louisburgh and Our Lady's Secondary School, Belmullet Innovate with ICT

Sancta Maria College in Louisburgh has partnered with Our Lady's Secondary School, Belmullet to offer students a new and innovative way of learning over the net thus broadening the curriculum by participating in a distance learning initiative.

The pilot project is currently being run in both schools. Sancta Maria College and Our Lady's Secondary School are the first two Mayo Schools to engage in this initiative.

Students are offered Applied Maths and senior Home Economics as part of the project.

[MORE](#)



Scholarships galore for Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney

Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney can justifiably be proud of the Leaving Cert class of 2012 who notched up a total of 8 scholarships.

Three of which were at national level, including the very prestigious Naughton and JP McManus scholarships, all of which were presented on the basis of excellence and high achievement in their Leaving Cert.

[MORE](#)



Mercy Lisdoonvarna success at BT Young Scientist and Technology exhibition 2013

There were tears of joy from Mercy Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare students on Friday January 11th when the results of this year's BT Young Scientist and Technology exhibition were announced.

The school scooped 7 awards for their 12 projects!

Even before the exhibition the school had success by getting so many of their projects accepted. There were 1879 entries for only 550 places at the exhibition in Dublin.

[MORE](#)



Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Waterford Celebrates Double Honour for Past Pupil

On Thursday the 20th of December, Aoife Barry, was presented with the Gwenda Hurst memorial medal by the Association of Geography Teachers of Ireland.

This honour is awarded annually to the student who, in the opinion of the State Examinations Commission, achieved the most meritorious paper in the Leaving Certificate Examination.

Aoife has also been awarded an Entrance Scholarship to NUI, Galway, based on her Leaving Certificate Examination Results.

[MORE](#)



BT Young Scientist Success for Presentation Secondary School, Thurles

Congratulations to Presentation Secondary School, Thurles, Co. Tipperary students Sinead Lawless, Jane Anne Mc Keivitt and Rachel McCormack whose project Defib excelled at this year's BT Young Scientist Competition.

The girls won the Senior Social and Behavioural Sciences category and also scooped the Health Research Board Award.

Their project was a community based study of response times for each stage of the chain of survival model of cardiac resuscitation for out of hospital cardiac arrest.

[MORE](#)



Sancta Maria College, Louisburgh Students Fund-Raising Initiatives

Students in Sancta Maria College in Louisburgh, Co. Mayo launched a novel and exciting fund-raising drive which saw them reaching out to their friends and relations throughout the world over the last couple of weeks.

They ran a fun on-line quiz on Louisburgh and Mayo which members could join for a subscription of €12 and have an opportunity to win great prizes including a \$2,500 holiday in Ireland and a 7 nights stay for up to 6 people in Breatny House Hotel Resort!

[MORE](#)



St Joseph's Students Win Model United Nations Accolades at University College Cork

St Joseph's Secondary School, Rush, Co. Dublin students participated in Model United Nations (MUN), hosted recently by the International Relations Society in University College Cork.

The Rush students did themselves proud and won four awards at the MUN, two for Best Delegate and two for Runner Up.

The Model United Nations is a three day debating competition organised for second level schools throughout the country.

[MORE](#)



Three in a row for Presentation Secondary School, Milltown, Co. Kerry

Robert Leask, a Leaving Cert student, of Presentation Secondary School Milltown, Co. Kerry secured a first in the Young Scientist of the Year competition in RDS Dublin last week to follow in the footsteps of Aoife Stevens and Niamh MacSweeney in the previous two years.

Robert was awarded first prize in the Senior Technology category for his project "Ellipse Compass".

[MORE](#)



Scoil Mhuire, Buncrana - The Lip Dub

The students and teachers from Scoil Mhuire, Buncrana, Co. Donegal created one of the first whole school Lip Dubs in the Republic of Ireland.

Congratulations to the students involved and to Ms. Mc Gonagle, Mr. Baldrick, Ms. Wheston, Ms. Deeney, Mr. Rainey and all the other teachers who made this happen!

[MORE](#)



Mercy Navan appearance on RTE 1 for Televised Mass

Following an invitation from Roger Childs, Director of Religious Programming in RTE, the Schola at St Joseph's Secondary School, Navan, Co. Meath provided the music for the televised mass on RTE 1 at 11am on Sunday 27th January, marking the beginning of Catholic Schools Week.

The mass reflected the liturgical practice of the school, where participation is valued and encouraged.

[MORE](#)



News from Christ King Girls Secondary School, Cork

Christ King Girls Secondary School, Cork kindly shared some recent news snippets with CEIST.

Student Gráinne Ní Luasa received the "Louise O'Connell" Memorial Cup and Medal from the PPMTA and the school had news and photos on student projects at the recent BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition.

[MORE](#)



News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

Month

Year

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

Towards Leadership in CEIST Schools

Friday 18th January 2013

"Leadership is always connected to purpose"(John L. Sullivan) and therefore, as you teach within a CEIST school, we wish to enrich your purpose and cultivate your leadership capacity

We invite your participation in a four week programme, funded by CEIST and aimed at developing particular leadership competencies, in order to support those responsible in their roles as educators within the voluntary secondary sector.

In addition to personal and professional development for the future, participants will connect with others from within the CEIST school community and a **certificate of participation** will be issued on conclusion.

All training sessions will run from 5.00pm – 7.30pm at the **Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork** and at **Coláiste na Toirbhirte, Ard Aoibhinn, Bandon**.

Please note [4 extra sessions](#) will take place at the **Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick on four dates over March and April**.

Dates and times to be added on this page in due course.

Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork

Thursday January 31st Leadership and life's journey within a CEIST school

Presenter: Clare Ryan: Principal St. Leo's College, Carlow. Former member of the "Leadership Development in schools" team and former Director of the National Education and Welfare Board.

The focus of the evening will be on roles and responsibilities as a teacher within a particular context. We will explore opportunities to address challenges in our roles: we will look at ways to enrich our abilities to be supportive of leadership.

Thursday February 7th In-school Management of Teaching and Learning

Presenter: Jean Geoghan, former Principal Christ King Secondary School, Cork and regional co-ordinator, School Development planning initiative.

The seminar will challenge us to come to understandings of leadership and management and the opportunities to play and active role in same.

Wednesday February 20th Self-Evaluation within the Whole School Context; Theory and Practice

Presenter: Mr. Kevin McCarthy, Department of Education and Skills Divisional Inspector. The emphasis will be on both the self and others working towards excellence in teaching and learning.

Wednesday February 27th Who do you say I am?

Presenter: Ned Prendergast, former Director CEIST Faith Development Department and facilitator of the new Interview Competency Recruitment model.

Ned will lead us in a considered understanding of the current reality for the voluntary secondary sector – the expectations and demands of us within that context – he will prepare us for the role of leadership with such an understanding.

To book a place and avail of the opportunity to partake, please e-mail sstopes@ceist.ie or telephone: 01 6510350 no later than January 25th 2013.

Coláiste na Toirbhirte, Ard Aoibhinn, Bandon

Wednesday 6th February Leadership and life's journey within a CEIST school

Presenter: Clare Ryan: Principal St. Leo's College, Carlow. Former member of the "Leadership Development in schools" team and former Director of the National Education and Welfare Board.

The focus of the evening will be on roles and responsibilities as a teacher within a faith-based context. We will explore opportunities to address challenges in our roles: we will look at ways to enrich our abilities to be supportive of leadership.

Thursday 21st February Self-Evaluation within the Whole School Context; Theory and Practice

Presenter: Mr. Kevin McCarthy & Miriam Horgan - Department of Education and Skills Divisional Inspector. The emphasis will be on both the self and others working towards excellence in teaching and learning.

Thursday 28th February In-school Management of Teaching and Learning

Presenter: Jean Geoghan, former Principal Christ King Secondary School, Cork and regional co-ordinator, School Development planning initiative.

The seminar will challenge us to come to understandings of leadership and management and the opportunities to play and active role in same.

Thursday 7th March Who Do You Say I Am?

Presenter: Ned Prendergast, former Director CEIST Faith Development Department and facilitator of the new Interview Competency Recruitment model.

Ned will lead us in a considered understanding of the current reality for the voluntary secondary sector – the expectations and demands of us within that context – he will prepare us for the role of leadership with such an understanding.

To book a place and avail of the opportunity to partake, please e-mail sstopes@ceist.ie or telephone: **01 6510350** no later than Thursday 31st January 2013.



Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)



BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2013

Monday 14th January 2013

Congratulations to all CEIST schools who participated in the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition last week.

CEIST staff who attended the exhibition were very impressed by the enthusiasm and knowledge displayed from the students of CEIST schools who had stands at the exhibition and greatly appreciated the time given by students to talk about their projects.

The Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairí Quinn, presented the awards, praising the students and their teachers for their hard work and commitment.

We were delighted to see that CEIST schools were also among the award winners with two schools receiving two of the top four awards and a number of category and special awards picked up by CEIST Schools.

Edel Browne (15) of Presentation College, Athenry, Co Galway, was the worthy recipient of the best individual award for inventing a device that can help people with Parkinson's disease walk more smoothly. Edel developed a simple laser pointer device that can be attached to the patient's shoes, giving them a target to focus on in front of them, in the process improving gait.

Her award includes a BT perpetual trophy and €2,400, and Edel also believes that her invention has commercial possibilities.

A CEIST school also scooped the runner-up individual award with **Shauna O'Neill of Meán Scoil Muire gan Smál, Roscommon**.

Shauna conducted a highly complex and exhaustive study of how water can be changed after exposure to powerful magnetic fields. Shauna takes home a trophy and a cheque for €1,200.

Full list of qualified projects

Click [HERE](#) to view the full list of qualified projects for 2013 with **CEIST schools highlighted in yellow**.

CEIST Schools Category Award Winners

[Category Awards - Biological and Ecological Sciences](#)

1st - Intermediate Group, **Our Ladys College - Drogheda, Co. Louth** 'Horse chestnut trees under attack'

2nd - Intermediate Individual, Clare, **Mary Immaculate Secondary School - Lisdoonvarna**, 'Are there morphological differences in the leaf of Geranium sanguineum that are separated geographically?'

[Category Award - Chemical, Physical and Mathematical Sciences](#)

Joint 2nd - Junior Group, **Presentation Secondary School, Grogan's Road, Wexford** 'To investigate the use of Wexford red silica sand to reduce phosphates in wastewater effluent'.

[Category Award - Technology](#)

1st - Intermediate Group, **St Joseph's College, Lucan, Co. Dublin** 'To investigate, design and create a temperature lowering apparatus used to elongate endurance during exercise'.

1st - Senior Individual, **Presentation Secondary School, Milltown, Co. Kerry** 'Ellipse compass'

[Category Award -Social and Behavioural Sciences](#)

1st - Senior Group, **Presentation Secondary School, Thurles, Co. Tipperary** 'A Shock in Time: a community based study of response times for each stage of the chain of survival model of cardiac resuscitation for out of hospital cardiac arrest'

2nd - Intermediate Individual, **Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare** 'Computer and internet usage among adults in North Clare'.

3rd - Intermediate Individual, **St Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk, Co. Louth** 'A study on attitudes towards people with an intellectual disability'.

3rd - Intermediate Group, **St. Leo's College, Carlow** 'The big C: Breast Cancer - what's my risk?'.

Travel Awards

Intel Student Award, **Meán Scoil Muire gan Smál, Roscommon**, 'The effect of static magnetic fields on molecular and macroscopic properties of water'.

Special Awards

ComReg Special Award, **Scoil Mhuire, Strokestown, Roscommon** 'Protect your engine from petrol damage'.

Google Trailblazers- Best Girl, **St Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary** 'Investigating methods of automatically classifying sheet music according to difficulty'.

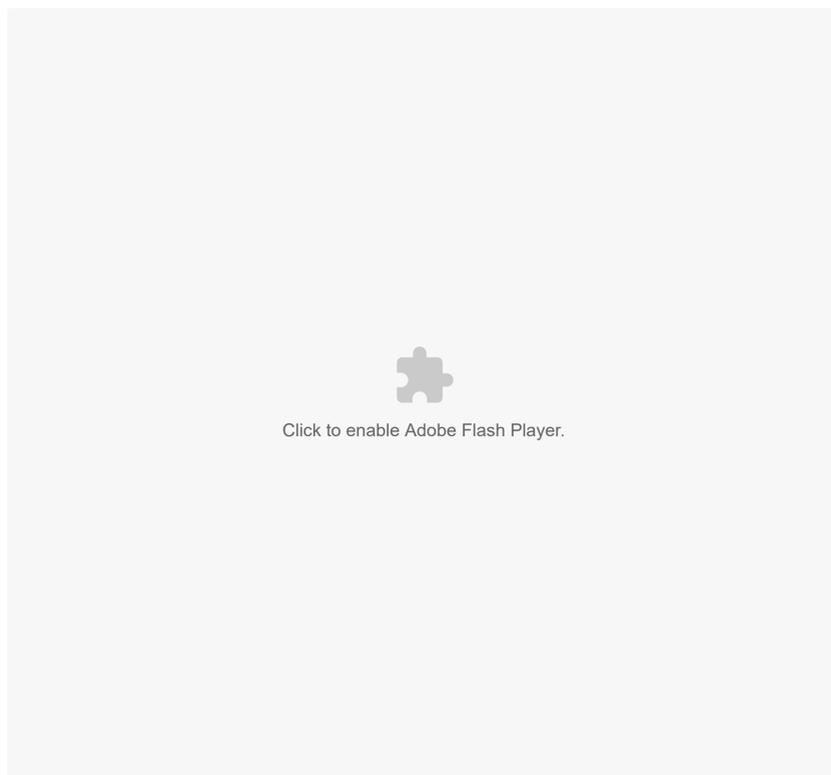
Health Research Board Special Award, **Presentation Secondary School, Thurles** "A Shock in Time: a community based study of response times for each stage of the chain of survival model of cardiac resuscitation for out of hospital cardiac."

Institutes of Technology Ireland Special Award, **Presentation Secondary School, Wexford** "To investigate the use of Wexford red silica sand to reduce phosphates in wastewater effluent'.

Marie Keating Foundation Special Award, **St. Leo's College, Carlow** 'The big C: Breast Cancer - what's my risk?'

Photo Gallery

Below are a some photos taken at the exhibition, we hope to add more in due course. Hover mouse over photo to view more details.





Recent News

Keywords

Category
 --- Select ---

Month Year
 Any Any

SEARCH

- [Events](#)
- [CEIST Annual Conference](#)
- [E-News](#)
- [Monthly School Feature](#)



Presentation Secondary School, Sexton Street, Limerick Young Scientist 2013

Wednesday 30th January 2013

Presentation Secondary School, Sexton Street, Limerick was delighted to have 5 entries in the BT Young Scientist competition this year.

11 projects were entered by the fourth year class and five were chosen, this in itself is a fantastic achievement and demonstrates the creativity and hard work of this class.

It is the first time in over 20 years that the school was represented at this event and we were extremely lucky to come home with one highly commended award.



The first of these projects was completed by Sarah Little (pictured above) and is called First Impressions. She wanted to see if it is possible to influence a person's first impression when they meet someone new for the first time.

Her main finding was that a woman can make herself look more ambitious, hardworking and honest by wearing little or no makeup. Sarah won a Highly Commended award for this project.

Chelsea McNally and Katelyn McMahon (pictured below on right) worked together to investigate why students sometimes fail to bring in their PE gear to class. They called their project 'Skip it'.

They discovered that genuinely forgetting to bring in gear is the main cause followed by sickness and injury.

The girls also learned that boys and students in exam classes are more likely to lie to their teacher as to why they have no gear.

Roisin Hogan, fed plants various amounts of vitamin C for 5 weeks to find out if it can have an effect on the growth of a plant.

She discovered that vitamin C can cause the plant to divide in two and in some cases cause double the number of flowers.

If this result can be transferred to other plants it may lead to the growing of crops that require less space and less of the Earth's resources.

When Nicola Bennett lived in Southill she was tired of the negative comments that she frequently heard about this area.

Nicola has used this competition as an opportunity to tell the public about the achievements and community spirit that still exists in this neighbourhood.

She believes that the media should play a greater role in focusing on the positive aspects of Southill.



Pictured above Nicola Bennett with her project on Southill.

Finally, Daria Biel, Rosanna Marciniak and Paulina Bielarska investigated the difficulties that International Students have in the Irish school system.

They found that it is important for students, like themselves, to get as many opportunities as possible to speak to Irish students.

There are two reasons for this, the first is that it is the best way to learn English and the second is that they will be more likely to find things in common, making it easier to make friends.



Pictured above Daria Biel, Rosanna Marciniak and Paulina Bielarska at their stand during the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2013.



Pictured above Roisin Hogan at her project stand during the exhibition.



News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)



Stepping Stones: Starting Second-Level School in Ireland

Tuesday 22nd January 2013

A new film and resource to help students make the transition to second-level school has recently been published by City of Dublin VEC.

The film and accompanying teaching resource entitled **Stepping Stones: Starting Second-Level School in Ireland** was developed by CDVECs Separated Children's Service in order to prepare newly-arrived separated children seeking asylum, many of whom will have had limited experience of formal education in their countries of origin, for school life in Ireland.

A copy of the resource can be downloaded here <http://www.separatedchildrenservice.ie/resources>

Although primarily designed for use with asylum seeking, refugee and new migrant students, it can also be used with outgoing 6th class pupils and incoming First Years.

The DVD film may also be used with parents, introducing them to the second-level system and showing them what their young child may expect in school.

More information on the resource

The film and accompanying teaching resource entitled Stepping Stones: Starting Second-Level School in Ireland was developed by CDVECs Separated Children Service in order to prepare newly-arrived separated children seeking asylum, many of whom will have had limited experience of formal education in their countries of origin, for school life in Ireland.

The film was inspired by the experiences of young refugees who arrived in Ireland as teenagers, several of whom actively contributed to the making of the film.

The aim of the film is to show students what a typical school is like and to introduce them to some of the situations they will encounter in school.

Stepping Stones is a film in two parts. Part 1 presents a dramatisation of their first encounters in an Irish school, showing new students what a typical second-level school looks like (e.g. different rooms for different subjects) and introduces the students to some of the people they will encounter (principal, teachers, librarian, classmates).

The second part features interviews with three young people from migrant backgrounds. All three students reflect on their experience of school life, highlighting specific examples of how they have managed to settle in, and giving advice to students on everything from managing homework to making friends.

Regardless of their English language abilities, level of education in their home country, mother tongue, literacy levels, or age, they all share the same concerns about starting school in Ireland - Will I fit in? Will I understand? Will I make friends? Will I succeed?

The themes will resonate with many incoming first year students – feeling lost in a big school, not knowing where to go, making friends, feeling overwhelmed by work, and getting support from teachers.

The resource can be accessed online at www.separatedchildrenservice.ie

Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Any

Year

Any

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

Scholarships galore for Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney

Wednesday 16th January 2013

Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney can justifiably be proud of the Leaving Cert class of 2012 who notched up a total of 8 scholarships, three at national level, including the very prestigious Naughton and JP McManus scholarships, all of which were presented on the basis of excellence and high achievement in their Leaving Cert .

First to the podium in Trinity College Dublin was Fearghal Donaghy, Dearbhla Hughes and Ryan Woods all of whom received entrance scholarships based on their excellent Leaving Cert results.



Pictured above left to right, Ryan Woods, Dearbhla Hughes, Fearghal Donaghy and Principal, Mr Gerard McGill.

Fearghal is now pursuing Theoretical Physics while Dearbhla Hughes is studying Computer Science & German.

Ryan Woods is studying Pharmacy. All 3 students enjoy the financial benefit of €1000 for one year and are given priority in the allocation of places in College Residences.

A few weeks later, Frances Ryan and Fearghal Donaghy were to receive further acknowledgement of their excellence and interest in the Science area when they were both awarded scholarships by the Naughton Foundation.

These scholarships, sponsored by the Naughton Foundation, are awarded to the top science students from the counties of Monaghan, Louth, Meath, Cavan, Mayo and Donegal who intend to pursue a full-time undergraduate programme in Engineering, Science or Technology related courses.



Mr Martin Naughton of the Naughton Foundation presents the silver medal award to Fearghal Donaghy of the Leaving cert class of 2012, Our Lady's Secondary School. Also in the photo is Mr Ruairi Quinn, Minister for Education and Principal of Our Lady's Mr Gerard McGill.

Two scholarships, gold and silver are presented in each of the named counties and Our Lady's was very proud to have received both scholarships for Co Monaghan with Frances receiving the gold and Fearghal the silver.

The gold medal award is worth €4000 per annum to the student for the duration of his/her undergraduate programme while the silver medal winner receives €2000, with a €1000 donation to the school's Science department. The scholarships were presented by Mr Martin Naughton of the Naughton Foundation at a ceremony in Dublin attended by the Minister for Education, Mr Ruairi Quinn.



Frances Ryan, Our Lady's Secondary School receives the Gold Medal Award from Mr Martin Naughton of the Naughton Foundation. She is pictured here with Minister for Education, Mr Ruairi Quinn and Principal of Our Lady's, Mr Gerard McGill.

Frances Ryan is studying Science at DCU while Fearghal Donaghy is studying Theoretical Physics at Trinity College.

Shortly afterwards the Entrance scholarships were announced for University College Dublin and once again two students from the class of 2012 were honoured with Aodhan Callan and James Lavelle receiving just recognition for their excellent achievement in their Leaving Certs.

Both boys, Aodhan and James are studying Engineering in UCD and were the recipients of €1000 for one year and priority in the allocation of places in college residences.



Aodhan Callan & James Lavelle of the Leaving cert class of 2012 in Our Lady's are presented with Entrance scholarships to UCD. Principal Mr Gerard McGill was also in attendance.

The icing on the cake for Aodhan Callan was the award of one of the very prestigious JP McManus Scholarships in November which saw Aodhan travel to Limerick where he was presented with his award by the former President Bill Clinton.

Aodhan receives €6750 per annum for the duration of his undergraduate programme, he is now pursuing Engineering in UCD.



Aodhan Callan receives the JP McManus scholarship from former President, Mr Bill Clinton. Also pictured is Mr JP McManus and School Principal, Mr Gerard McGill.

Speaking at the school during the week, Principal, Mr Gerard McGill offered his congratulations to all the students who had been awarded scholarships.

"These young people have not reached such dizzying heights without a lot of hard work and effort and indeed have reaped the rewards of their efforts, they are a credit to themselves and their families and we in Our Lady's are very proud of their achievements, all of these young students received well in excess of 500 points!

They are wonderful ambassadors for the school and they epitomise all that is good in Our Lady's, striving to do their best, to make the most of their talents while remaining true to their core values of honesty, integrity and fair play. All of the staff join with me in wishing them well in their future endeavours.

As we do to all the class of 2012 in their chosen career paths and courses. Of course none of this could happen without the hard work of a very committed and dedicated staff and on behalf of the students I would like to acknowledge their unfaltering commitment and interest in the well being of their students."

Congratulations to all concerned.



Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Any

Year

Any

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)



Mercy Lisdoonvarna success at Young Scientist Exhibition

Monday 28th January 2013

There were tears of joy from Mercy Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare students on Friday January 11th when the results of this year's BT Young Scientist and Technology exhibition were announced. The school scooped 7 awards for their 12 projects!

Even before the exhibition the school had success by getting so many of their projects accepted. There were 1879 entries for only 550 places at the exhibition in Dublin.

Aisling O'Rourke, who is a fourth year student in Mary Immaculate Secondary School in Lisdoonvarna took second prize in the Intermediate Individual section of the Biological and Ecological Sciences.

Her project looked at whether there are differences in the morphology of the leaf of *Geranium sanguineum* (Bloody Cranesbill) located in geographically separated areas. She also looked at how exposure would affect leaf morphology. She took 3 measurements from each of 2800 leaves.

She looked at plants in the Burren and the Aran Islands. The judges said that her work was a "very detailed assessment and analysis of morphological variation in leaf parameters of *Geranium sanguineum* which is to be commended".

Deirdre O'Connell is a 3rd year student at Mary Immaculate Secondary School in Lisdoonvarna. She was awarded second place in the Intermediate Individual section of the Social and Behavioural Sciences. Her project was entitled "Computer and Internet usage among adults in North Clare".

One of her judges said that "this is a well organised and presented study. You address an interesting topic, one which is largely ignored in the media. Your findings present a positive outlook for the future".

Claire Costello and Ellen O'Loughlin are two second year students from Mary Immaculate Secondary School in Lisdoonvarna. They were awarded a Highly Commended by the judges in the Junior Group section of the Biological and Ecological Sciences.

Their project looked at whether a sea urchin (*Paracentrotus lividus*) would pass a predator to get to food. They found that the presence of a predator did deter the sea urchins from going for their food. The judges said that their project contained "nicely designed experiments with simple apparatus and plenty of replication".

Keelan McMahon is a fifth year student in Lisdoonvarna. He was awarded a Highly Commended by the judges in the senior Individual section of the Social and Behavioural Sciences.

His project examined if there was a correlation between the successes of a G.A.A. club and the population of the area it members came from. His project attracted a lot of attention from the public. One of his visitors was former G.A.A. President Sean Kelly. (Sean is one of the Members' of CEIST).

Martyna Bujnowska and Orlaith Bowen are two second year students in Lisdoonvarna. They were awarded a Highly Commended by the judges in the Junior Group section of the Biological and Ecological Sciences.

Their project looked at the clumping behaviour of mussels (*Mytilus edulis*). The judge said that they had carried out their project with "careful and precise experimentation".

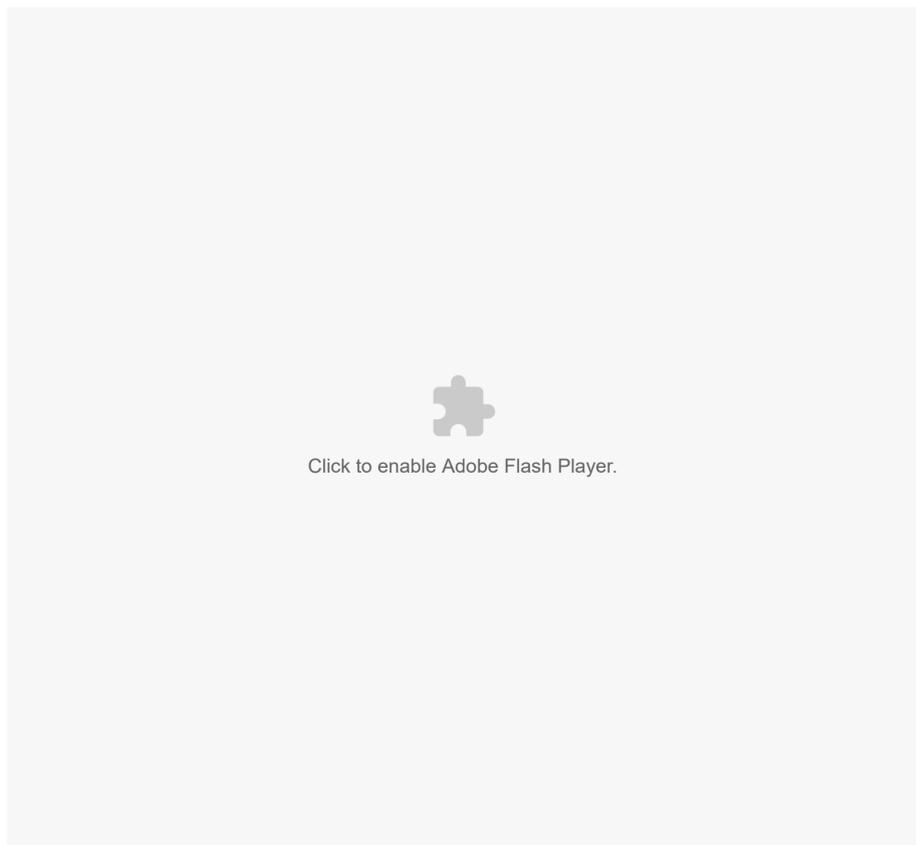
David Sims is a 5th year student in Lisdoonvarna. He was awarded a Highly Commended by the judges in the Senior Individual section of the Biological and Ecological Sciences. His project looked at the growth of the *Ulva lactuca* and *Enteromorpha intestinalis* in relation to the amount of nutrients (nitrates and phosphorus) in the water.

Stephen O'Connell a third year student from Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare. He was awarded a Best Display award for his project on crab.

The other students who were selected for the exhibition were: Eimear Thynne & Myra McNamara, Ben Kenneally & Maghnus Hartigan, Katie Flanagan & Dilse Guerin, Rebecca O'Callaghan & Eala Mardell and John Clancy.

This was the 49th Young Scientist competition to be held since its foundation. This was the 24th year the school has competed in the competition. All the projects were carried out under the guidance of John Sims.

Photo Gallery



News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

Month

Year

SEARCH

Events

CEIST Annual Conference

E-News

Monthly School Feature

Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Waterford Celebrates Double Honour for Past Pupil

Tuesday 15th January 2013

On Thursday the 20th of December, Aoife Barry, was presented with the Gwenda Hurst memorial medal by the Association of Geography Teachers of Ireland.

This honour is awarded annually to the student who, in the opinion of the State Examinations Commission, achieved the most meritorious paper in the Leaving Certificate Examination.

Aoife has also been awarded an Entrance Scholarship to NUI, Galway, based on her Leaving Certificate Examination Results.

This is a truly outstanding achievement. In excess of 20,000 students sat the Leaving Certificate Geography paper in June.

This year's examination was particularly challenging, requiring candidates to cogently discuss topics ranging from Plate Tectonics to the impact of NGOs on colonialism and racial distribution.

Aoife is now studying Human Rights at NUI. Her Geography teacher in Our Lady of Mercy, Ms Honor Lynch describes her as a 'superb student with excellent analytical skills.'

Aoife's years in Our Lady of Mercy were distinguished by her diligence and commitment. She was the school's deputy head girl. Apart from her academic achievements, Aoife is extremely interested in travel and languages.

She has a global perspective on current issues. A popular student with both staff and students, she is remembered as having a wonderful capacity to understand and support others.

All in Our Lady of Mercy join in congratulating her and in wishing her every success for the future.



Pictured above LtoR are Honor Lynch, Geography teacher, Aoife Barry and school Principal Mary Meade.

News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Any

Year

Any

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

BT Young Scientist Success for Presentation Secondary School, Thurles

Thursday 17th January 2013

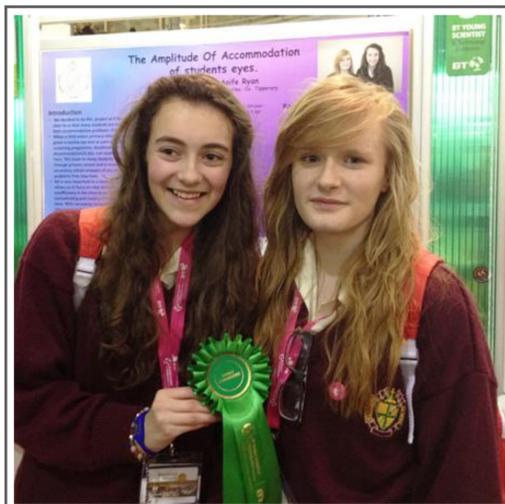
Congratulations to Presentation Secondary School, Thurles, Co. Tipperary students **Sinead Lawless, Jane Anne Mc Kevitt and Rachel McCormack** whose project **Defib** excelled at this year's BT Young Scientist Competition.

The girls won the Senior Social and Behavioural Sciences category and also scooped the Health Research Board Award.

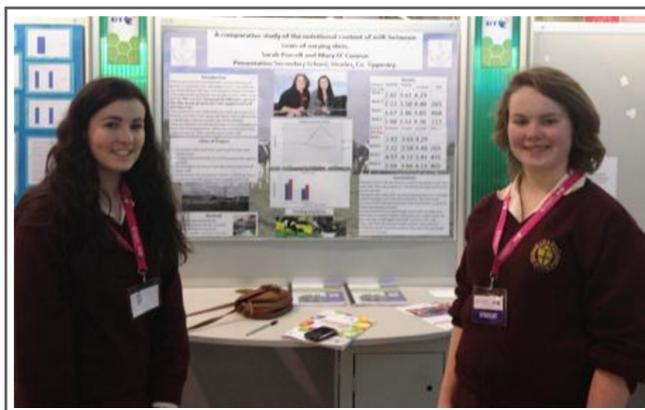
Their project was a community based study of response times for each stage of the chain of survival model of cardiac resuscitation for out of hospital cardiac arrest.



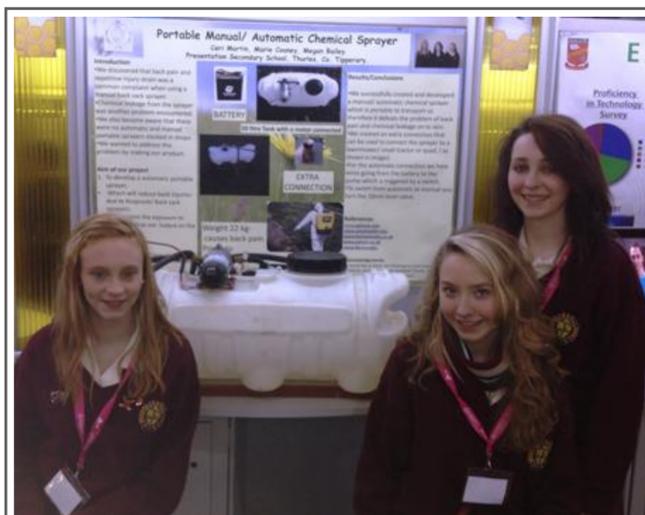
Pictured above left to right Sinead Lawless, Jane Anne Mc Kevitt and Rachel McCormack who were winners of the Senior Social and Behavioural Sciences category.



Pictured above students Aoiife Ryan and Rachel Byrne whose project **The amplitude of accommodation of student's eyes** was Highly Commended at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition.



Pictured above students Sarah Purcell and Mary O' Connor whose project **A comparative study of the nutritional content of milk** was Highly Commended at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition.



Pictured above students Megan Bailey, Marie Cooney and Ceri Martin whose project **Portable manual/automatic chemical sprayer** was Highly Commended at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition.

News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

Events

CEIST Annual Conference

E-News

Monthly School Feature

Sancta Maria College, Louisburgh Students Fund-Raising Initiatives

Friday 4th January 2013



Students in Sancta Maria College in Louisburgh, Co. Mayo are launching a novel and exciting fund-raising drive which will see them reaching out to their friends and relations throughout the world over the coming weeks.

They are running a fun on-line quiz on Louisburgh and Mayo which members can join for a subscription of €12 and have an opportunity to win great prizes including a \$2,500 holiday in Ireland, 7 nights stay for up to 6 people in Breaffy House Hotel Resort etc...

In addition all members will automatically receive a \$100 CIE Tours International discount voucher which can be used against any holiday in the 2013 brochure Students will be promoting local arts, culture, heritage, sports, tourism and business to the diaspora and will showcase the special attractions of the Louisburgh area and Co. Mayo using the on-line quiz and information links.

Using a variety of communication channels, including e-mail, text, land mail and social media, students can contact relatives, friends and past pupils and invite them to participate and raise money which will be used to promote a state of the art outdoor exercise park.

Parents, neighbours and fellow students are encouraged to take part and answer questions about Mayo in general and Louisburgh in particular.

Further details are on www.iquestireland.com and www.sanctamaria.ie.

The closing date is **January 20th 2013**.



News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

Month

Year

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)



Sancta Maria College, Louisburgh and Our Lady's Secondary School, Belmullet Innovation with ICT

Friday 4th January 2013

[Sancta Maria College](#) in Louisburgh has partnered with [Our Lady's Secondary School](#), Belmullet to offer students a new and innovative way of learning over the net thus broadening the curriculum by participating in a distance learning initiative.

The pilot project is currently being run in both schools. Sancta Maria College and Our Lady's Secondary School are the first two Mayo Schools to engage in this initiative. Students are offered Applied Maths and senior Home Economics as part of the project.

The availability of 100MB high speed broadband in both schools has provided the opportunity for distance learning to take place.

This distance learning methodology allows for the teacher giving the class to do so from their usual location, but instead of students having to be in the same physical classroom, they can participate via a video link from the other school.

This allows all students to participate in the class without having to travel to a central location. Both the teacher and student can see and hear each other as well as being able to share content such as homework or presentations over the internet.

A culture of e-learning has been established in Sancta Maria College in recent years with i-pads introduced in classes.

School Principal, Ms. Pauline Moran explains that this latest project is another example of creating awareness of IT among all students at the school.

By choosing a unified communications platform, we are able to provide a fully featured distance learning solution for all our students.

It is hoped to expand this pilot project to include working with the nearby Islands and indeed other countries in the near future according to Ms. Moran.

Our Lady's Secondary School are very proud of their consistent high results and excellent placing in the League Tables as published in national newspapers and this initiative will further enhance student learning and high achievement.

Ms. Josephine Moran (Acting Principal, Our Lady's Secondary School, Belmullet) says that times are changing and once again Our Lady's are to the fore in embracing these changes.

This initiative offers students new and exciting opportunities and choices.

E-learning and the use of ICT are not new to Our Lady's as all computer suites and classrooms have state of the art computer equipment thanks to funding from the Department of Education & Skills and the Parent's Association.



Pictured above are the students from both schools who are taking part in the project along

with their teachers and school principals.



Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)



ST JOSEPH'S STUDENTS WIN MODEL UNITED NATIONS ACCOLADES AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

Wednesday 9th January 2013

St Joseph's Secondary School, Rush, Co. Dublin students, **Alex Farrell, Anthony Daly, Ruby Towers, Noelle Leonard, Conor Carey, Eric Healy, Bryce Ndjatang, Keith Maughan, Rosalie Adamou, Caoimhe Leonard, Luke Hosford and Jack Cummins** participated in Model United Nations (MUN), hosted recently by the International Relations Society in University College Cork.

The Rush students did themselves proud and won four awards at the MUN, two for Best Delegate and two for Runner Up.

The Model United Nations is a three day debating competition organised for second level schools throughout the country.

Based on the format of the United Nations, it explores topics of global interest we read about every day and requires participants to actively generate resolutions to such issues.

Luke Hosford (Historical Council-The Cuban Missile Crisis) and **Alex Farrell** (Council on Drugs and Crime-Solutions to Human Trafficking in Central and Northern Africa and the Opium Trade in South East Asia) received best delegate awards for their respective committees.

Jack Cummins (Security Council-Civil War in Syria) and **Keith Maughan** (Historical Council-The Cuban Missile Crisis) received runner-up awards in their categories.

School Principal Patricia Hayden said, "We are very proud of all our students who took part. It is a great achievement for them and I would like to pay tribute to the hard work put into the project by all involved.

I also wish to commend their teachers, Ms Flynn, Mr Reade and Mr O'Shea who mentored the students throughout."



Pictured above are the Model United Nations participants following their victory with teachers Ms Flynn, Mr Reade and Mr O'Shea. (photo courtesy of [Corr & Associates](#)).



News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

Month

Year

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)



Three in a row for Presentation Secondary School, Milltown, Co. Kerry

Thursday 17th January 2013

Robert Leask, a Leaving Cert student, of Presentation Secondary School Milltown, Co. Kerry secured a first in the Young Scientist of the Year competition in RDS Dublin last week to follow in the footsteps of Aoife Stevens and Niamh MacSweeney in the previous two years.

Robert was awarded first prize in the Senior Technology category for his project:

“Ellipse Compass”

Robert’s novel idea was initiated from reading the notebooks of Leonardo De Vinci.

An avid Mathematical and Technical Graphics student Robert developed a compass which could draw Ellipses something that had never been done before. After months of work he built his very first model of such a compass from Lego and worked towards entering his invention in the Young Scientist Competition.

Each of the four Judges was highly impressed with the quality of his work and particularly his depth of knowledge. Robert underwent a rigorous examination on the different aspects of his invention, design and calculations over the three days of the competition.

Teacher, Mr Denis Maguire, Robert’s mentor, acknowledged Robert’s talent and excellent ability. “He is extremely capable and self-motivated.

Robert’s success is well deserved. Staff and students are absolutely thrilled with his achievement” he said.

On behalf of Presentation Secondary School, Mr Cormac Bonner, Principal, congratulated Robert on his wonderful achievement acknowledging that it was a great honour for himself, his family and all associated with Presentation Secondary School, Milltown.”

Click [here](#) to listen to audio of Robert explaining his project.



Pictured above is Presentation Milltown student Gabriel Galway at the exhibition with his project, Eyes Reaction.



Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

Events

CEIST Annual Conference

E-News

Monthly School Feature

Scoil Mhuire, Buncrana - The Lip Dub

Thursday 10th January 2013



The students and teachers from [Scoil Mhuire, Buncrana, Co. Donegal](#) created one of the first whole school Lip Dubs in the Republic of Ireland.

Congratulations to the students involved and to Ms. Mc Gonagle, Mr. Baldrick, Ms. Wheston, Ms. Deeney, Mr. Rainey and all the other teachers who made this happen!

Featuring music by The Undertones, One Direction, Little Mix, Carly Rae Jepson, Jennifer Lopez, Queen and PSY's GANGNAM STYLE!

The video is Directed, Produced and Edited by Emile Rainey - Rainey Day Productions

<https://www.facebook.com/RaineyDayProductions>





Recent News

Keywords

Category

Month

Year

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

St Joseph's Secondary School, Navan Schola

Wednesday 30th January 2013

"Ready in 5, 4, 3 ..." became a familiar phrase for the fifty students and staff from St Joseph's Mercy Secondary School who travelled to RTE early on the morning of January 27 to sing at the broadcast Sunday liturgy.

Following the ICMA Summer School last July, Roger Childs, the Director of Religious Programming at RTE, invited the Schola to provide the music at mass to celebrate the beginning of Catholic Schools Week.

Members of the All School Choir, staff and parents were the worshipping community.

We were delighted to welcome back three alumni of the Schola programme for the event: Laura Duffy, Caroline Moloney and Alice Walsh, showing that the legacy of Catholic education lasts well beyond students' days in second-level.

Music for the event reflected the rich variety of sacred music that is now in the Schola's repertoire.

Gregorian chant was reflected in the Kyrie XVI, led by Niamh Fitzsimons, Brionna Meagher and Alison Pentony, and the sinuous Agnus Dei from the Missa de Angelis.

Contemporary-style liturgical music was represented by the responsorial psalm Lord, You Have the Words, sung by Lorna O'Dea and Ruth Sheridan, and Deep Within as the offertory piece, both by American composer David Haas, along with the rousing City of God by Dan Schutte as the recessional hymn.

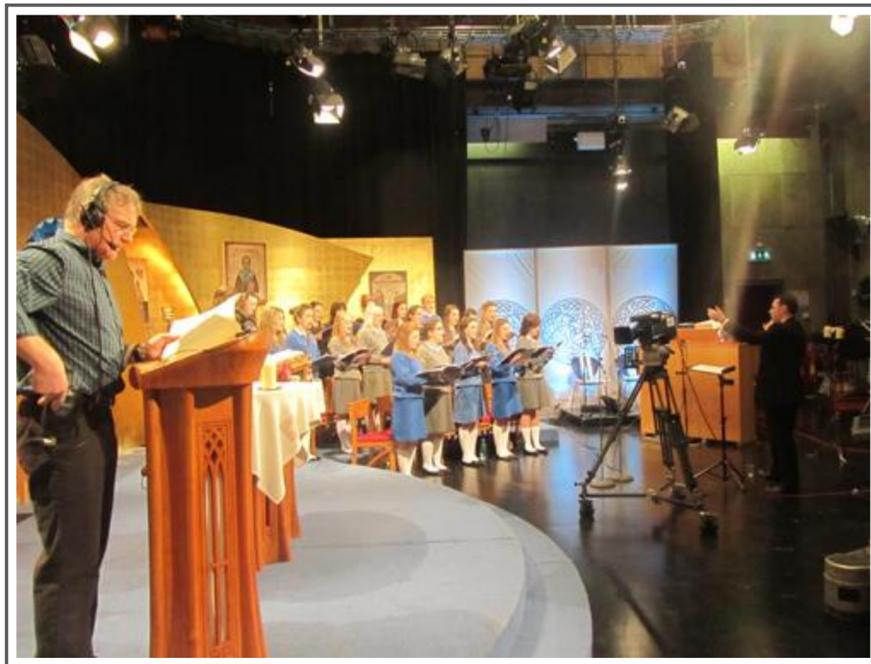
More traditional-style hymnody featured the robust Christ be With Me, by Irish composer John O'Keeffe and the haunting Taste and See by John Gibson.

Mass parts included the sprightly Gloria from the New Mass for John Carroll by Michael Joncas, with cantors Adele Crilly and Eimer Finn; the Alleluia from Liam Lawton's Glendalough Mass, led by Gillian Moloney and Katie White, and Eucharistic Acclamations from the Mass of Saint Paul by Ephrem Feeley.

The mass reflected the liturgical practice of the school, where participation is valued and encouraged.

Powerful readings of the day from Nehemiah and 1 Corinthians were read by Claire Pentony and Ms Mulligan, Nessa Farrelly led the Prayers of the Faithful and Lovely Angeles was altar server.

Fr Kevin, our school chaplain, presided and gave a thought-provoking homily, referring to the significance of Catholic Schools Week: "Our school is a community of faith for at the heart of our school is our Lord Jesus Christ who not only builds community, but challenges us to live up to that unity."



Pictured above St Joseph's Secondary School, Navan Schola performing at the broadcast RTE Sunday Liturgy.



Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Any

Year

Any

SEARCH

Events

CEIST Annual Conference

E-News

Monthly School Feature



News from Christ King Girls Secondary School, Cork

Friday 18th January 2013

Christ King Girls Secondary School, Cork have kindly shared with CEIST the following news.

Post Primary Junior Cert Music Award

Gráinne Ní Luasa received the "Louise O'Connell" Memorial Cup and Medal from the PPMTA (Post Primary Music Teacher Association) for achieving the highest mark awarded in Ireland for Junior Cert Music 2012.

The ceremony took place in Dublin last Saturday and was attended by Gráinne's proud parents, Carmel and Niall and grandparents.

Gráinne plays Cello, Piano and Tin Whistle and played with the orchestra in the school show this year. Gráinne is a transition year student.



Pictured above are Gráinne Ní Luasa and her music teacher Ms. Aisling Creedon.

BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition

Ellen Atkinson and Lia Coffey participated at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition last week.

Their project was titled "Using natural preservatives to prolong the life of fruit juices once opened". This happens to be very topical now with regards to the current food controversy!



Pictured above are Ellen Atkinson and Lia Coffey at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition.



Ellen Atkinson and Lia Coffey pictured with Minister Simon Coveney at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition.