



news from ceist... 28 February 2014

CEIST is the trustee body for the voluntary secondary schools of the Daughters of Charity, the Presentation Sisters, the Sisters of the Christian Retreat, the Sisters of Mercy and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

Feature

CEIST Holy Week Retreat 2014

We return to the Tearmann Spirituality centre in Glendalough, once again, for our annual [CEIST Retreat](#) which will take place at the beginning of Holy Week 2013. The retreat will run from Palm Sunday 13th April to Tuesday 15th April.

For the past four years members of our CEIST School Communities, Chairpersons, Principals and staffs, (past and present) have joined us in the Valley of the Saints, expertly guided by Fr. Michael Rogers and Sr. Breda Ahern CP for these days of pilgrimage.

If you would like to join us for this very special introduction to Holy Week, or for more information, please contact Siobhan Stopes: Email: ssstopes@ceist.ie or Tel: **01-6510350**. The cost of the retreat, which includes accommodation and all meals is €150.00.

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Education Matters

Annual Statistical Returns Reminder

CEIST statistical returns for 2013-14 can be submitted online via <http://forms.ceist.ie> or by clicking on the **CEIST E-Portal** link on the home page of our [website](#).

The data collected from these statistics are crucial in informing the Education Office of underlying trends and standards adhered to in our schools.

Please e-mail woods@ceist.ie if any issues are encountered using the e-portal.

CEIST Prayers for Chairs

News from CEIST Schools

Explosion of Colour for St. Mary's Mallow Anti-Trafficking Campaign

Sunday 23rd February was an historic day for Mallow as the Young Social Innovators class at St. Mary's Secondary School, hosted Mallow's first ever Colour Run. The event was organised to raise awareness for the anti-trafficking campaign S.T.O.P (Stop Trafficking of People).

Over 300 runners, spectators and helpers were involved. Dave O'Regan from Cork's RedFM visited in the RedFM patroller. This caused great excitement and really added to the electric atmosphere around the school at the finish line. The Young Social Innovators class are donating the proceeds of the event, €1000 to the organisation APT (Act to Prevent Trafficking).

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Scoil Mhuire, Kanturk, Co. Cork Students Use 3D Printer for Technology

Scoil Mhuire, Kanturk, Cork will be one of the first schools in Ireland to use the process of additive manufacturing in the form of 3D Printing.

The school has just purchased a 3D printer for the technology department.

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Resources

[Click to view useful resources](#)

Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, an Spidéal in partnership with SmartBay, GMIT and the Marine Institute

Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, Spiddal students have embarked on an exciting project with SmartBay, Ireland's national marine research test and demonstration facility.

Transition and fourth year Physics and Chemistry students from Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, an Spidéal, were invited to attend a pilot workshop which took place on 30 January 2014.

[MORE](#)

Commissioner's Visit Copperfastens Presentation Athenry's Euro Connection

EU Commissioner Maire Geoghegan-Quinn was back on familiar ground recently when she visited [Presentation College, Athenry](#), to see for herself the pioneering work being done to spread the European vision.

The Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science officially opened the school in her capacity as Minister for the Gaeltacht in 1981, but this time she was meeting First Year students to hear about their involvement in the European Studies Programme, a crossborder project which allows them to link up with schools in other European countries.

[MORE](#)

Doodle 4 Google

Congratulations to Steven Comiskey who is a student in [Killing Presentation Secondary School](#), Rahan, Co. Offaly.

Steven is one of the 75 finalists nationwide chosen by Google for their Doodle 4 Google competition.

One talented artist will see his or her artwork on the Google Ireland homepage, receive a €5,000 college scholarship and a €10,000 technology grant for his or her school as well as a Chromebook for themselves and their teacher. Click [here](#) to give Steven your vote.

Calasanz College, Oranmore Crowned All-Ireland U-16 Basketball Champions

Congratulations from CEIST to Calasanz College U-16 A Boys Basketball team who recently won the U16 'A' Boys All Ireland Schools Cup Final.

Calasanz College, Oranmore faced local rivals St Joseph's College (Bish) in an historic U16 'A' Boys All Ireland Schools Cup Final where both schools came from Galway.

[MORE](#)

News from Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna

[Mary Immaculate Secondary School](#), Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare have kindly shared the following news snippets on their school comenius visit and where two of their students visited EMC2 in Cork.

Comenius is a European Schools Initiative funded by the European Union. Mary Immaculate Secondary School is involved in an educational project with partner schools in Italy and the Netherlands.

[MORE](#)

Nothing Wasted at Árdscóil na Tríonóide!

Six teams of Transition Year students from [Árdscóil na Tríonóide](#), Athy have been working on creating high-end wearable fashion from everyday junk that would normally find its way to the bin.

A number of creations have now been submitted to the national "Junk Kouture" competition which has established itself as the premier fashion competition for teenagers throughout all of Ireland.

[MORE](#)

Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney History tour to Berlin

Before Christmas a group of forty five senior history students from Mr. Kelly's and Mr. O. Boyle's history classes in [Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney](#) had the opportunity of bringing their Leaving Certificate History syllabus to life when they visited the historical German city of Berlin from December 5th to December 8th.

[MORE](#)

Cnoc Mhuire, Granard, Co. Longford Students Celebrate Mass in RTE Studio

Cnoc Mhuire, Granard, Co. Longford students were in the RTE Studio on Sunday morning 2nd February for Mass to mark the end of Catholic Schools Week 2014.

The mass was celebrated by Fr Simon Cadam, along with the choir, pupils and staff of Cnoc Mhuire Secondary School, Granard, Longford drawing to a close Catholic Schools Week.

[MORE](#)

Transforming Curriculum Change with Collaborative Live Links in Mathematics and Italian

The following is an article from the European Schoolnet website of CEIST school [Coláiste Bride, Clondalkin](#), Co. Dublin who were recently featured on the site.

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Reflecting CEIST Values

Young Social Innovators Speakouts 2014

Each year Young Social Innovators (YSI) organises regional events called "YSI Speak Outs".

These events give young people a platform to talk about social issues and communicate their YSI project work in creative ways.

[MORE](#)

Technical Tips

Windows XP End of Support Notice

Windows XP and Office 2003 will reach end of extended support on 8th April 2014.

After this date, Microsoft will not provide public support for these products, including security patches, non-security hotfixes, incident support or online technical content updates for any customers, including those on a Premier Support contract.

The following [Microsoft whitepaper](#) outlines the options available to customers, highlight the benefits of a modern operating system and outline the tools and services available to migrate away from Windows XP.

New MA Programme

The Master of Arts in Christian Leadership in Education is an innovative postgraduate programme, leading to a professional qualification.

This programme was originally established by the Department of Theology and Religious Studies of Mary Immaculate College in conjunction with CEIST.

It is offered on two campuses; Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, and Marino Institute of Education, Dublin.

Those taking the Graduate Diploma will take the taught modules and exit after three semesters without completing the dissertation.

Click [here](#) to download the brochure.

Network of School Planners Ireland

The Eighth Annual Conference of the Network of School Planners Ireland is taking place on the 1st March in the The Heritage Golf & Spa Resort, Killenard, Co. Laois.

The theme of the conference is "**Wellbeing in The School Community: A Practical Approach to Managing and Change**".

Click [here](#) to download the conference flyer.

CESI Conference 2014

The annual conference of the Computers in Education Society of Ireland will take place in Galway on February 28th and March 1st, 2014. The theme for this year's conference is "**Spark the Imagination**".

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

Click [here](#) for further details on the event.

Bullying in the Digital Age – The Challenge for Schools in 2014

One of the key challenges facing school management in 2014 is effectively dealing with bullying in a digital age.

La Touche Training are holding a [one day conference](#) that will provide up-to-date knowledge and practical guidance from leading experts who will share the benefit of their expertise and experience in this area.

Click [here](#) to download conference brochure.

Energy Savings in Schools

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) have published their e-newsletter for February, which as usual provides useful ideas on energy savings for schools.

It also provides information on grants available for schools who wish to make their buildings more energy efficient, click [here](#) to view their latest e-zine.

Free Online Maths Resource

A free, interactive online maths resource for students and teachers in Ireland, which includes an option for live one-to-one tutorials has recently been launched.

The online maths lessons have been developed by Galway company [ALISON](#) in partnership with the award-winning tutoring company Maths Doctor from Macmillan Science & Education.

Click [here](#) for more info via the Silicon Republic website.

Profile your school on CEIST E-News!

CEIST would love to share your news snippets, student achievements, photos, upcoming events, etc.

Please send to woods@ceist.ie or contact John Woods on 086-0437146/01-6510433.

The next publication of our e-newsletter will be on **Monday 31st March, 2014**.

CEIST e-News is the online Newsletter of CEIST. To unsubscribe, [click here](#).

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Keywords

Category

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Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

Events

CEIST Annual Conference

E-News

Monthly School Feature



CEIST Holy Week Retreat 2014

Monday 24th February 2014

We return to the Tearmann Spirituality centre in Glendalough, once again, for our annual [CEIST Retreat](#) which will take place at the beginning of Holy Week 2013. The retreat will run from Palm Sunday **13th April to Tuesday 15th April**.

For the past four years members of our CEIST School Communities, Chairpersons, Principals and staffs, (past and present) have joined us in the Valley of the Saints, expertly guided by Fr. Michael Rogers and Sr. Breda Ahern CP for these days of pilgrimage.

Our experiences have been very different – both in the content of the retreat and the vagaries of the weather! However, on previous occasions the opportunity to take time out at this most sacred time of the year has been deeply appreciated by those who have taken part.

Some of the feedback we have received included the following:

“A most wonderful experience. It gave me many great opportunities to delve into my inner self and realise what’s really important in my life”.

“I so enjoyed the peace and calm”.

“Such an enriching experience I will never forget it”.

“I experienced a beautiful God once again breathing his love, life and energy into me”.

“Time to reflect and go on the journey inward and outward”.

“I found that even though time was short I got the chance to refuel my batteries and enter into the true spirit of this great season”.

If you would like to join us for this very special introduction to Holy Week, or for more information, please contact Siobhan Stopes: E-mail: sstopes@ceist.ie or Tel: **01-6510350**.

The cost of the retreat, which includes accommodation and all meals is €150.00.

Click [here](#) to download our Retreat flyer.



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Category

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Month

Year

Any



Any



SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

Explosion of Colour for St. Mary's Mallow Anti-Trafficking Campaign

Wednesday 26th February 2014



Sunday 23rd February was an historic day for Mallow as the Young Social Innovators class at St. Mary's Secondary School, hosted Mallow's first ever Colour Run.

The event was organised to raise awareness for the anti-trafficking campaign S.T.O.P (Stop Trafficking of People).

Over 300 runners, spectators and helpers were involved. Dave O'Regan from Cork's RedFM visited in the RedFM patroller. This caused great excitement and really added to the electric atmosphere around the school at the finish line.

The Young Social Innovators class are donating the proceeds of the event, €1000 to the organisation APT (Act to Prevent Trafficking).

APT is a faith-based group working against Trafficking in Persons (TIP). The members of APT are people belonging to religious congregations or missionary societies which are part of Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI) and/or the Irish Missionary Union (IMU).

APT members first met in December 2005. Concerned about the growing reality of the worldwide trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation, they wanted to explore ways of working together to prevent this evil.

APT seeks ways to protect the rights of victims of trafficking working with other groups to address the issue of demand for purchased sex, which fuels the trade in human trafficking. The organisation prays and encourages others to pray for those trafficked, for traffickers and for an end to this great violation of human rights.

St. Mary's would like to thank the following groups/people in Mallow for their invaluable help. Firstly, the Red Cross who provided their services free of charge. Secondly, An Garda Síochána who ensured the runners were safely escorted around the 5km course.

Indeed, the Gardaí deserve to be doubly thanked as they also provided assistance with the S.T.O.P campaign's Red Day held on 17th October. Thirdly, Denis Sheehan from Mallow Athletics Club deserves special mention for his guidance in relation to organising the event. Denis also helped with traffic control on the day.

Thanks also to the Mallow ladies football team who skipped a training session to participate in the Colour Run.

Finally, huge thanks to all the participants and members of the local community for supporting the Colour Run and making the day such a memorable experience. Indeed, it was such a great success; it may become an annual explosion of colour on the streets of Mallow.

Whoever thought that exercise could be so much fun!!!!

Photo Album

[St Mary's Mallow Color Run Photos](#)





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Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Any

Year

Any

SEARCH

Events

CEIST Annual Conference

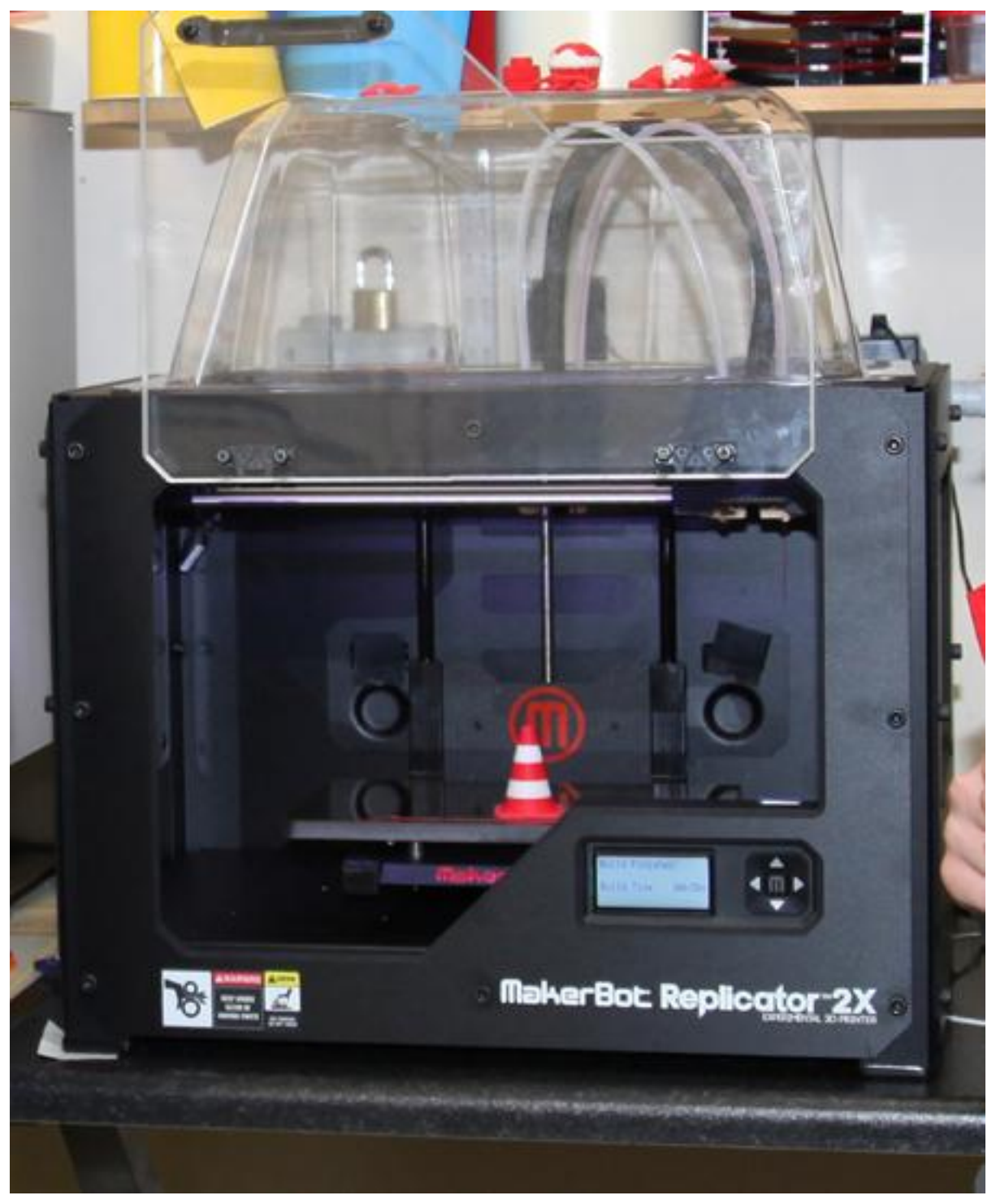
E-News

Monthly School Feature



Scoil Mhuire, Kanturk, Co. Cork Students Use 3D Printer for Technology

Monday 10th February 2014



Scoil Mhuire, Kanturk, Cork will be one of the first schools in Ireland to use the process of additive manufacturing in the form of 3D Printing.

The school has just purchased a 3D printer for the technology department. Scoil Mhuire was one of the first schools to teach technology as a new leaving certificate in 2007.

The 3D printer will be used by students to design and build components for their leaving certificate design projects.

The technology department also has a laser cutter and CNC router and a CNC vinyl cutter which enables students to design and build projects to an exemplar standard.

This gives students an excellent opportunity to achieve excellent grades in the subject, where 50% of the leaving certificate technology examination is awarded for the design project and portfolio.



The 3D printer is a "Replicator 2X" and this allows students to build project parts in a range of materials and in two colours, including ABS (Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene) a non biodegradable plastic and also in PLA (Polylactic Acid) which is a biodegradable plastic derived from corn starch which is an environmentally friendly raw material.

Students will design their projects on SolidWorks which is a CAD software package. Once designed the parts can be built on the 3D printer and incorporated into their project. This use of computer aided drawing and computer aided manufacture is cutting edge technology.

Students who study technology have opportunities to study courses such as Product Design, Manufacturing Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electronic Engineering and Software Design at Third Level.



Pictured above technology teacher Gerard Crotty with two students.

Funding for this 3D printer was organised by students and the parents association. The Transition Year students raised money through sponsorship of their Gaisce Bronze Medal 30km walk in Kenmare.

Pre leaving and leaving certificate students raised funds by holding bake sales in the school before Christmas.

The Parents Association organised a Christmas raffle. Gerald Crotty the Technology teacher would like to thank everybody involved with the fund raising which made the purchase of the 3D printer possible.

News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Any

Year

Any

SEARCH

Events

CEIST Annual Conference

E-News

Monthly School Feature

Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, an Spidéal in partnership with Smartbay, GMIT and the Marine Institute

Wednesday 5th February 2014



SmartBay, Ireland's national marine research test and demonstration facility teamed up with Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) to deliver an interactive workshop for second level students which aimed to highlight the growing opportunities within the Marine Information Communications Technology sector in Ireland.

Transition and fourth year Physics and Chemistry students from [Coláiste Chroí Mhuire](#), an Spidéal, were invited to attend a pilot workshop which took place on 30 January 2014.

Coláiste Chroí Mhuire were chosen as the Marine Institute will be working closely with Coláiste Chroí Mhuire's students in the near future, when the research station the Institute is building on the grounds of Coláiste Chroí Mhuire is fully mobilised.

Coláiste Chroí Mhuire encourages its students to think beyond third level to fourth level when they are planning their futures.

The school has a long tradition of sending students to study science related courses in university.

The workshop, entitled 'Exploring the Sub-Sea Environment' demonstrated the use of innovative applications of new and existing technologies within Galway Bay, the Irish coastal waters and beyond.

The workshop had been specifically designed to inform students of the exciting and diverse career opportunities which have emerged through the application of Information Communication Technologies in the marine science sector. The workshop included:

- applications of gaming technologies
- robotics
- computer simulation
- next generation communications technologies

The workshop introduced students to the multidisciplinary approach utilised by SmartBay to facilitate research, test and demonstration projects in a fun and intuitive manner.

Presentations and hands-on exercises focused on:

- monitoring of the sea floor
- marine mapping
- ocean observatories
- the deployment of equipment & instrumentation
- data acquisition in a marine environment

Edel O'Connor, National Coordinator, Advance Marine Technology Programme, Marine Institute said:

"Through initiatives such as the SmartBay workshop, the next generation of innovators will be supported in expanding their knowledge and broadening their horizons on the future opportunities associated with the marine in Ireland. Research, test and demonstration facilities available through SmartBay will help to facilitate the development of the Marine ICT sector and it is important that young innovators are aware of the opportunities at an early stage."

The students have been invited to present a poster on three key thematic areas including; Marine Renewable Energy, Marine Habitat and Marine Monitoring, which were completed through both English and as Gaeilge (Irish) as Coláiste Chroí Mhuire is situated in the Gaeltacht, and were appraised by representatives from both GMIT and SmartBay.

Three of the students were prize-winners, May Ni Choistealbha, Siorcha Ní Fhrighil and Beth Dowling.

The workshop were delivered using a combination of practical exercises, interactive discussions, presentations, demonstrations and also included a tour of GMIT's Marine and Freshwater Research Centre.

Dr Carina Ginty, GMIT Schools Liaison Officer, said:

"Exploring the SubSea Environment workshop is a great opportunity for secondary school students to expand their knowledge of the Marine Sector while helping them identify potential career opportunities".

Each student was presented with a certificate of completion from GMIT and SmartBay at the end of the day.



News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Any

Year

Any

SEARCH

Events

CEIST Annual Conference

E-News

Monthly School Feature



Commissioner's Visit Copperfastens Presentation Athenry's Euro Connection

Monday 10th February 2014

EU Commissioner Maire Geoghegan-Quinn was back on familiar ground recently when she visited Presentation College, Athenry, to see for herself the pioneering work being done to spread the European vision.

The Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science officially opened the school in her capacity as Minister for the Gaeltacht in 1981, but this time she was meeting First Year students to hear about their involvement in the European Studies Programme, a crossborder project which allows them to link up with schools in other European countries.



Pictured above Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, with Gerry Doherty principal of Presentation College Athenry, science teacher Helen Byrne and Jason Cotter, teacher and European Studies Coordinator.

This is a post-primary curriculum- based programme linking schools in Ireland with schools across Europe through sustained collaborative projects furthering tolerance, mutual understanding and appreciation of the cultures of others.

Currently more than 300 schools in 25 European countries are involved. The First Years of Form 6 have created resources, which represent Irish culture such as hurling, traditional music, Irish dancing and so on.

These are uploaded to the online shared area and all partner schools can view these resources and likewise our students can learn about other areas of Ireland and Europe when they log in and view other schools cultural projects.

In November, the First Year students visited the European Commission's office in Dublin and the school has previously participated in the annual Model Council of the European Union debate for secondary schools, organised by the European Commission Representation in Ireland.

"My aim is to educate our students about Europe, European culture, the benefits of being a European citizen and how the EU political system is set up and the roles of the different EU political institutions.



Pictured above Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, with science teacher Kenneth O'Dea and Junior Cert students;

The European Studies Programme breaks down geographical boundaries and makes the students feel more European," said Jason Cotter, the teacher who coordinates the programme.

The Commissioner was greeted by Mr Cotter and School Principal Gerry Doherty, who then introduced her to staff members - and to Athenry's past winner of the BT Young Scientist Competition, Edel Brown.

Following this she was introduced by Mr. Doherty to an assembly of 1st year students and she spoke to them in detail about her role in the European Commission with references to funding renewable energy projects, wind and solar-powered projects, electric vehicles and soon.



Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn with chemistry students (from left) Meghan McDonagh, Conor Gamble, Nicola Gill and Dylan Callanan.

She explained about the European Research Council which can give a grant of up to €2.5 million to individual scientists, regardless of the country in which they work. She encouraged all young scientists to aim high and to apply for any grants that may be available.

She heard about the students' involvement in the 'European Studies Programme', a cross-border project which allows them to link up with schools in other European countries.

A question and answer session followed and a number of students asked questions from the floor. To the question, 'Do you like your job?', the commissioner answered "I love my job, though I must admit to looking forward to Halloween of this year when I will retire and will have time. to devote to other interests".

More Photos



Cian Naughton presents a bouquet of flowers to EU Commissioner Máire-Geoghegan-Quinn.



Sarah Feeney presents a history of the Presentation sisters in Athenry (compiled and edited by Gerry Aherne) to Máire Geoghegan-Quinn.



Chloe O'Shaughnessy presents a letter to EU Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn at Presentation College, Athenry.

(Special thanks to the [Connacht Tribune](#) for supplying above images and article).



Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Any

Year

Any

SEARCH

Events

CEIST Annual Conference

E-News

Monthly School Feature



Calasanctius College, Oranmore Crowned All-Ireland U-16 Basketball Champions

Thursday 6th February 2014

Congratulations from CEIST to Calasanctius College U-16 A Boys Basketball team who recently won the U16 'A' Boys All Ireland Schools Cup Final. The following is an account of the win from the [school website](#).

Calasanctius College, Oranmore faced local rivals St Joseph's College (Bish) in an historic U16 'A' Boys All Ireland Schools Cup Final where both schools came from Galway.

Calasanctius won their last league encounter, despite the fact that the Bish led by 10 going into the fourth quarter, so both schools were confident going into the final. The game was played in the National Basketball Arena, a big stage for these young athletes, in front of busloads of their supporters, including The Fox from Oranmore and The Leprecaun from the Bish! The noise level in the Arena was deafening at times!

The game began with a very cautious air about it, since both sides know and respect each other so well. Neither side over committed themselves too much before John Burke, from Calasanctius, picked off a steal and set up Eoin Rockall, on the break, for the first score of the game.

The Bish quickly replied with scores from Connor Curran and John Hackett to give them the lead, before Adam Cox, Calasanctius, won a superb offensive rebound and tied the game. The teams then traded scores before Rockall found Stephen Commins on a back door cut to give Calasanctius a slender 3 point lead 12 – 9 at the end of the quarter.

The start of the second quarter was littered with turnovers and missed shots before Oisin Doyle, Calasanctius, got his name on the scoresheet. Diarmuid Byrne, St Joseph's, replied with a layup before Calasanctius went on a 15 – 4 run, including 8 points from Rockall, to extend the lead to 29 – 15. The Calasanctius defence was rock solid during this period and Cox was superb on the offensive boards.

It wasn't all doom and gloom for St Joseph's though as their guard Max Brennan managed to keep them within touching distance of the opposition with a 3 point buzzer beater as the game clock ticked down to zero to signify the end of the quarter. Calasanctius had a commanding 29-18 lead at halftime.

While a half-time performance by the Calasanctius College dancers and mascot entertained the crowd, it did little to lift the spirits of St Joseph's as the gap between the two teams quickly widened from 11 points to 22 in the third quarter, led by superb shooting from Commins who hit 12 points, including a 4-point play. Burke, Doyle and Rockall added to their tallies to cap an excellent quarter for Calasanctius, leaving the score 48 – 26 at the end of the third.

With a seemingly impossible task of coming back from trailing by 22 points, St Joseph's began the final quarter on a positive note when Curran drained a 3. Brennan also assisted forward Hackett in pulling back 2 baskets for St Joseph's, but in the end it was nowhere near enough as Calasanctius managed to weather the offensive storm with scores of their own, including a 3 from Jim Crowley, and emerge as the winning team by an impressive margin of 22 points.

A massive contingency of support headed to Dublin to cheer on the team. 5 buses, over 250 students, 12 staff, 14 cheerleaders and a fox, had a great day out stopping at the Liffey valley and Athlone en route.

Preparations were put in places days before the big game. Cheer leaders practised, banners were ordered, face paints were purchased and jerseys were gathered. All of the supporters went to the school gym the day before to perfect their chants to spur their team on. The magic worked and the mood was high as parents, students, teachers and past pupils gathered in the school to welcome home their all Ireland champions.

Tribute was paid in the congratulatory speech, by deputy principal Cora Ní Loinsigh, to the lads and to their coaches John Finn & Mary Rockall, who have dedicated their time and invaluable expertise to many school teams over the years. Once again the school extends its gratitude to the duo for capturing another golden moment in Calasanctius' sporting history!

Calasanctius College 58 (29) - (E Rockall 19, S Commins 14, O Doyle 8, J Burke 8)
St Joseph's College The Bish 36 (18) - (C Curran 13, J Hackett 10, M Brennan 9)

MVP - Eoin Rockall (Calasanctius)



Calasanctius Team: Adam Cox, Adam Hanniffy, Conor Harte, Eoin Rockall, Jim Crowley, John Burke, Mark Hughes, Oisin Doyle, Stephen Commins.



Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Any

Year

Any

SEARCH

- Events
- CEIST Annual Conference
- E-News
- Monthly School Feature



News from Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna

Tuesday 25th February 2014

[Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna](#), Co. Clare have kindly shared the following news snippets on their school comenius visit and where students visited EMC2 in Cork.

Lisdoonvarna School Hosts Comenius Visit

Comenius is a European Schools Initiative funded by the European Union. Our school is involved in an educational project with partner schools in Italy and the Netherlands.

Part of the project involves a detailed economic study of the Burren by students who wish to be involved in the project.

In mid-February Lisdoonvarna hosted students from Breno in Italy and Hoorn in Holland. They were accommodated in student's homes while they were in Ireland.

This was the penultimate meeting before the end of this present Comenius project. While in Lisdoonvarna the students worked on developing a tourist App in conjunction with the Lisdoonvarna students.

Over the three days they visited a number of tourist attractions in North Clare including the Cliffs of Moher, Poul nabrone, Aillwee Cave and the Burren Centre in Kilfenora.

They also visited the Bunratty Castle and Folk Park. They had planned to go surfing at Lahinch but this had to be cancelled due to the bad weather.

While here the students and accompanying teachers experienced some of the worst weather we have seen this year. However they took it all in their stride and did not want to leave on the final morning.

The program of events for the visit was devised by Shane Slattery and Maggie Garrihy who accompanied the visitors throughout the exchange. The final meeting of this project will be in Hoorn in Holland just before Easter.



Pictured above are Dutch and Lisdoon students and teachers.



Italian students pictured above with their hosts.

Lisdoonvarna Young Scientists visit EMC2 in Cork

Two students from Mary Immaculate Secondary School travelled to Cork last week on the invitation of EMC2. They were Rhianna McMahon and Keelan McMahon who had won two awards at this year's BT Young Scientist and Technology exhibition in Dublin.

The title of their project was "The Changing Geography of the Young Scientist competition". As well as taking second prize in the senior group Social and Behavioural Sciences, they also won the EMC2 Data Hero Award.

This award was presented to the project that showed the best use of data in the competition. For their project they had entered 20,000 lines of data into Excel.

At the EMC2 factory in Ovens in Cork they and their teacher John Sims were welcomed by senior management and members of the BT Young Scientist project team.

They explained their project to this group before being taken on a tour of this facility in Ovens. The company also presented them with a trophy and mini lpad each. Following the factory tour they were brought on a tour of UCC.

EMC established its first manufacturing facility outside of North America in Ovens, Cork in 1988 followed by sales offices in Dublin (1990) and Belfast (2005).

It is now the largest manufacturing site of EMC outside of the US and has emerged as a leader in EMC's initiative to develop and manufacture energy efficient information infrastructure technologies.

The campus also hosts EMC's International Executive Briefing Centre, Global Solutions Centre, Worldwide Customer Service Centre, VMware Support Services, Software Development and Shared Services functions.

EMC now employs over 2,500 people in Ireland between all EMC sites, including VMware, RSA, and Decho.



Pictured above are Keelan and Rhianna at EMC in Cork.



News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Any

Year

Any

SEARCH

Events

CEIST Annual Conference

E-News

Monthly School Feature

Nothing Wasted at Árdcoil na Tríonóide!

Monday 17th February 2014

The following is an article compiled by Transition Year students at Árdcoil na Tríonóide, Athy, Co. Kildare.

Six teams of Transition Year students from Árdcoil na Tríonóide, Athy have been working on creating high-end wearable fashion from everyday junk that would normally find its way to the bin.

A number of creations have now been submitted to the national “Junk Kouture” competition which has established itself as the premier fashion competition for teenagers throughout all of Ireland.

The competition aims to inspire and ignite passion in these teenagers while subtly educating them about the importance of recycling and reusing waste for the good of the planet.

All kinds of waste was used to create the very inventive designs submitted for this year’s competition - bottle caps, electrical wire, old plastic barrels, drinking straws, till receipts, can tabs, bottles, egg cartons, newspaper, discarded tin foil wrap and old Christmas decorations

Eadain Burgess, Eve Murphy and Ellen Purcell produced an evening dress entitled “Victoria Circuit” drawing on the fusion of electricity, water and copper wires (shocking)!

The elegant “Glitz and Glam” party dress with its bodice made of drinking straws is the work of Kayleigh Murphy, Gráinne Hughes and Sophie Oliver.

“Cap-tricity”, a dress prompted by bottle caps and electrical wires was created by Anna Hickey, Niamh Walshe and Rachel Fleming.

Till receipts inspired the party dress made by Railtin Minahan, Carrie Bell and Róisín Condron aptly titled “The Cost of Fashion”

“The Goddess of the Sea” makes the link between the motion of the waves and energy generation. It was created by Jodi Black, Eimer Fennessy and Grace Considine.

Ruth Kehoe, Megan Nolan and Michaela Finn decided to give their outfit, “Bubble Pop”, a slightly Victorian feel with a bubble wrap bustle and brought the outfit into the 21st century by using electrical wire to add texture to the bodice.



Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

Our Lady's Secondary School History tour to Berlin

Monday 17th February 2014



Before Christmas a group of forty five senior history students from Mr. Kelly's and Mr. O Boyle's history classes in Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney had the opportunity of bringing their Leaving Certificate History syllabus to life when they visited the historical German city of Berlin from December 5th to December 8th.

After arriving on Wednesday afternoon the students visited the Jewish Museum where they were divided into three groups and covered key topics such as Jewish response to National Socialism, the emergence of Jews in the modern world and women in Judaism.

Next up, the students had the opportunity to get into the festive spirit with a visit to the world renowned Berlin Christmas markets as well as relaxing with some ice skating in the outdoor skating arenas.

Thursday began with a guided tour, taking in the political, economic and social history of the city including features such as the Brandenburg Gate, Holocaust Memorial, Berlin Wall and a visit to the former headquarters of the SS the Topography of Terror.

This was followed by an interesting and informative visit to Stasi Prison used for holding political prisoners during the Cold War period, while on Thursday evening the students had the opportunity to visit the German Parliament headquarters at the Reichstag.

Friday was also an event- filled day beginning with an eagerly anticipated visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp which was used by Hitler and the Nazi's during World War 2.

After overcoming the initial disappointment of the main camp being closed due to weather, the students were treated to an excellent talk and exhibition on the history of the camp and its role during World War 2.

This was followed by a visit to the Olympic Stadium where students marvelled at the magnificent architecture and history of this famous building.

On Saturday evening a tired and weary group arrived home safely to Castleblayney with many interesting facts and additional knowledge that can be put to good use in the months ahead as well as many treasured memories that will last a lifetime.



Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

Events

CEIST Annual Conference

E-News

Monthly School Feature

Cnoc Mhuire, Granard, Co. Longford Students Celebrate Mass in RTE Studio

Monday 3rd February 2014



[Cnoc Mhuire](#), Granard, Co. Longford students were in the RTE Studio on Sunday morning 2nd February for Mass to mark the end of Catholic Schools Week 2014.

The mass was celebrated by Fr Simon Cadam, along with the choir, pupils and staff of Cnoc Mhuire Secondary School, Granard, Longford drawing to a close Catholic Schools Week.

Fr Simon Cadam also acts in a voluntary capacity as the School Board of Management Chairperson.

Before the Mass Transition Year students Danielle Kane and Ultan O'Hara spoke of the Mercy Sisters great work in the community and the current co-educational school being founded in 1947 by the Sisters of Mercy and the handing over of Trusteeship to CEIST in 2007.

RTE played video of students playing sporting activities where the school have had great successes such as winning the All Ireland Football Senior A Title in 2013.

The mass can be viewed on the RTE player <http://www.rte.ie/tv/religion/player.html> (Feb 2nd archive).



News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Any

Year

Any

SEARCH

Events

CEIST Annual Conference

E-News

Monthly School Feature



Transforming Curriculum Change with Collaborative Live Links in Mathematics and Italian

Thursday 6th February 2014



The following is an article from the European Schoolnet website of CEIST school Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin, Co. Dublin who were recently featured on the site.

Transforming Curriculum Change with Collaborative Live Links in Mathematics and Italian

[Coláiste Bríde](#) Presentation Secondary school is an all-girls school just 20 minutes by car from Dublin City Centre in Clondalkin. On entering the school what immediately strikes me are the high quality signs and displays of motivating messages about learning for the 960 students. In the main entrance clearly on display for all to see is the school focus for 2012 – 2015. It soon becomes apparent that this level of outward facing knowledge is clearly conveyed for staff, students, parents and the community of the school, but equally it enables me as a visitor to quickly get a sense of what the school is trying to achieve.

- **What's your school focus for the next 3 years?**
- **How do you communicate this to everyone?**

However, it is also important that this is more than just a statement, and having the opportunity to spend the day here with Sarah-Jayne Carey who is the lead LSL teacher, enables me to understand the “can-do” culture of the teachers and students exploring how ICT can transform learning in the classroom.

- **How will your learning spaces change?**
- **What can your students and staff expect as standard?**

My first lesson is with Maria Broderick; the students are working on transformations in mathematics and today is about quadratic functions. In the classroom are 16 students, but on Maria's desk are two screens, one of which has the lesson content and the other shows two more students who are actually working in a classroom in [WarrenMount](#) school which is in town. (Though this could of course be anywhere in the world.) Maria has used Microsoft Lync to connect with the students and her classroom is equipped with a “Follow Me” Camera to enable Maria to move around the classroom as normal. (She soon knows what every student is doing and has high awareness of the individual students.) Maria also wears a microphone and this enables the two students to hear everything that is being said. The connection means that what is displayed on the one screen becomes visible on the other. These two students are being taught remotely to prepare for the higher paper in mathematics; it means that they can participate in the lesson remotely, but they can also interact with Maria and potentially the other students.

- **Do you have “subject specialists” in your school that could “connect” classrooms?**
- **What are the most effective ways to connect two classrooms?**
- **Can you share expertise with another school on a regular basis?**

At the beginning of the lesson, Maria highlights examples that the students have already submitted on [Edmodo](#). (This is now used as the platform across the whole school to allow continuous communication between teachers and students - it also means that parents can see what the student is learning!)

The pace of the lesson is fast, and this teacher is connected with not just what the students need to learn, but how they can learn it too. She draws on a range of resources and strategies that will enable the students to build their independent learning skills.

The students use “show-me” dry-wipe boards to demonstrate their responses to the teacher's “what would happen if?” questions. The teacher also gives them time to work it out too. This is crucial; it shows the students that taking time to work something out can be just as important as having the correct answers. The teacher has prepared some PowerPoint files with examples and in addition to this, she models strategies on the [Promethean interactive whiteboard](#) how the students should calculate the equation. The teacher also uses [Geogebra](#) where the software will draw the graph. The teacher is able to move between the different software and each time shows how to do it, but also encourages one of the students to be able to complete another example. At the end of the lesson, the teacher shows a “Summary Slide” and this captures what the students should understand, it also recaps the homework that was given out at the beginning of the lesson. It is a really useful reminder of the key learning points.

- **At the end of your lesson, what evidence do the students have to demonstrate their learning?**
- **How do the students demonstrate their understanding within the lesson?**
- **Have you tried using technology to capture the student examples? E.g. ask the students to create a short revision video. Try [Educreations](#) which allows you to video your writing or drawing.**
- **What subject specialist software is available in your school? Can students access this at home too?**
- **How do the students access the homework task? How do the students submit their work?**

The second lesson is with Salvo Cacciato who teaches Italian and French. Salvo is working with a group of students who are in their second year and whilst the oral exam in the third year is not compulsory, this school do it. This involves the students preparing six role plays and Salvo has now embedded the preparation for these as part of the curriculum. He has established a link with a school in Bassano Del Grappa Italy (between Venice and Verona) and working with the teacher there, they use [Skype](#) to enable the two classes to talk to each other. However, this is not just a little simple hello and a wave – but demonstrates how technology has led to long-term curriculum change. In preparation for the role play, Salvo's students have been using [Padlet](#) to collate materials to help each other learn the new language. Over a number of weeks, the students have introduced each other to new vocabulary and sentence structure, eventually leading to a dialogue. By collating their ideas collaboratively in Padlet, the “wall” becomes a student generated reference point of words, MS Powerpoints, Prezi, and videos. This will culminate in the students actually having the opportunity to visit each other as part of a Comenius programme; the first travel exchange will take place in March 2014.

- **Have you got a link with a school in another country? [E-Twinning](#) is always a very good place to start.**

In today's lesson the Irish students have to role-play what happens when they go to the shop to buy a new blue jumper using only Italian language; whilst the Italian students do their role-play in English. The teachers at in both countries play the role of the shop-keeper. Each time the teachers change their responses slightly according to the students they are talking to. (E.g. speaking slightly faster to more able students, or asking them an additional question) The students also have to ask for more information too, and initiate the next part of the conversation – this is easier said than done! Using Skype enables the students to rehearse with a real audience and learn with their peers. When they go to Italy, Salvo will take his students to a real shop so they have the opportunity to act out their role play for real! They will then capture this on camera so that the students can add the finished piece to their Padlet portfolio. (Imagine having to go into the shop, try on a jumper and then ask for a different size and then having to find out how much you need to pay in a different language – sometimes it can even be a challenge in your home language, but these students are enthusiastic to give it a go - LIVE!)

Both of these lessons offer a use of technology that could be replicated and extended in many ways. Enabling students to access particular expertise; connecting to another classroom in real time demonstrate the art of the possible, but also gives a real purpose for making use of the technologies that surround us.

At present the secondary teachers in Ireland are also implementing the new [Junior Cycle](#) to build “a curriculum of subjects, shorts courses and other learning experiences”(see Junior Cycle website for more information and you cannot fail to notice how ICT is anticipated as one of the key skills across all the different elements - don't be confused, it is targeted at post-primary “Secondary” students - but it is called the Junior Cycle.) <http://bit.ly/1anVe7C>

I also think this level of expectation and guidance at a National level helps to demonstrate how the use of technology will impinge upon whole school curriculum change. It is no longer just for the “techies”; this school is showing how all teachers can make a difference to the way in which students learn using technology for effective collaboration.