



news from ceist...

29 August 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 Annual Education Conference 2014

The Ninth Annual CEIST Education Conference will be held in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath on Thursday, 25th September & Friday, 26th September, 2014. The theme for our conference is **"Living the message of Pope Francis in CEIST Schools"**.

The CEIST Annual Education Conference provides an ideal opportunity for our School Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairpersons to network, share ideas and best practice with their peers. Booking forms have been distributed to our Schools. Please book early with the CEIST Education Office to secure accommodation in the Hodson Bay Hotel.

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CEIST News



CEIST Induction Day for Newly Appointed Principals and Deputy Principals

CEIST held an Induction Day for our recently appointed Principals and Deputy Principals on the 12th of August 2014. The induction day was very kindly hosted by Scoil Christ Ri, Portlaoise and CEIST were very grateful for their exceptionally warm welcome and hospitality provided to all on the day.

The induction day provided a great opportunity for the newly appointed Principals and Deputy Principals to meet staff from the CEIST Education Office and gain a stronger understanding of the Trust and of the services it provides to the schools.

It also afforded the opportunity to create networks with other newly appointed Principals and Deputy Principals within other CEIST schools.

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Education Matters



BT Announces €75, 000 Schools Grant

BT has reaffirmed its commitment to encouraging bright young minds around the country with a €75,000 grant. The financial aid will enable students to compete in the annual BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition by providing them with accommodation.

Schools which are located over 70km from the RDS in Dublin, the home of the exhibition, are eligible to apply for a grant of €150 per individual entry or €300 for a group entry, up to a maximum of €1,500 per school.

[MORE >](#)

Date for your Diary

CEIST plans to hold our **Trustee Support Day for Chairpersons of CEIST Schools Boards of Management on Saturday 18th of October.**

We would be grateful to all of our Chairpersons if they could make a special effort to attend this seminar.

The venue to be confirmed shortly and further information will be disseminated to our schools and Board of Management Chairpersons nearer the time.

Catholic Youth Conference

The Catholic Youth Conference is being held on the 30th and 31st August.

Click [here](#) to view flyer.

Prayers for beginning of new school year

CEIST distributed prayer services for school staff and students to mark the beginning of new school year. Click on links below to download.

[Staff Prayer Service - beginning of new school year](#)

[Student Prayer Service - beginning of new school year](#)

Coláiste Íosagáin, Portarlington Launch School Magazine

Congratulations Coláiste Íosagáin, Portarlington on the launch of their school magazine "The Journey".

Click [here](#) for further information.

Profile your news with CEISTI!

CEIST always welcomes any news items, photos, event profiles, etc from our CEIST community.

If you have a news snippet big or small please email to woods@ceist.ie and it will be profiled on our website and e-newsletter.

The next publication of our e-news is scheduled for **Tuesday, 30th September.**

News from CEIST Schools



Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, an Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe

Déanann Coláiste Chroí Mhuire comhghairdeachas leis na scoiláirí ar fad a fuair a gcuir torthaí Ardteiste le déanaí.

Tá an scoil an-bhródúil astu agus an-bhuíoch dá gcuir tuismitheoirí ar fad a chuir a gcuir paistí chuig an scoil.

Déanann an scoil comhghairdeachas faoi leith le Dearbhail Ní Chaoimh a fuair ocht A1 agus dhá A2 in abhair Ardleibhéal agus a bheidh ag tabhairt faoi Leigheas in Ollscoil na Gaillimhe go luath.

Guíonn an scoil gach rath ar rang na hArdteiste 2014 don todchái.

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Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew School Building Project

Construction has begun on a major extension and refurbishment of Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew, Co. Galway.

The €5 million project includes new General Purpose area, Library, Multimedia Lab, Business / IT room, Demonstration room, Music and Drama rooms, Religion room, Two Lecture rooms, Five general classrooms and a Sports Hall.

The existing school will also be completely refurbished during the 18 month building programme. Holy Rosary College, which currently has over 550 pupils, will celebrate 50 years as a Co-Ed school in 2015 / 2016.

[MORE >](#)



Our Lady's College Greenhills Successful in Northern Ireland Sentinus Young Innovators Competition 2014

On Friday June 20th two students from Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda along with their teacher Miss Frances O'Regan set out for the Odyssey Arena, Belfast to compete in the Northern Ireland Sentinus Young Innovators Competition.

This competition has been running for a number of years and Our Lady's College has a very successful history of achievement in it.

This year the students and teacher excelled themselves. Elle Loughran won the Overall Young Scientist award which comes with a trophy and prize money. She also won the Queen's University Award for Mathematics for her excellent work.

[MORE >](#)



St. Aloysius Cork Student Receives Excellent Leaving Cert Results

St Aloysius School, Cork Principal, Richel Long was delighted to share the following good news with CEIST.

St Aloysius School, Cork Head Girl Edel Kavanagh received 525 points in her Leaving Cert. Edel was one of 10% of our students who received over 500 points.

Congratulations to all our students, we are very proud of them all.

[MORE >](#)



Presentation College, Tuam Students Excel in Leaving Certificate

Presentation College, Currylea, Tuam kindly shared with CEIST a photo of students who received over 500 points in their Leaving Certificate.



Pictured above are students Lisa St. John, Ellen Byrne, Ciara Ryan, Laura Stenzel, Neasa Cosgrove (Principal), Amanda Brogan, Shauna Harte and Gabby Luksaite.



News from Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna

Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna have very kindly shared the following news items with CEIST.

Mary Immaculate Secondary School competed in the Northern Ireland Young Scientist competition which was held in Belfast during the summer and enjoyed great success winning seven awards!

The article also includes information on the school adult education programme and some outstanding student achievements in the Leaving Certificate.

[MORE >](#)



Calasanctius College Oranmore Unveils a Whole New Look

On Tuesday May 27th the school community celebrated the completion and blessing of Calasanctius College, Oranmore, Co. Galway.

The building project was the culmination of an enormous effort by a number of people over many years.

This phase of the project included the completion of the Nano Nagle Hall. Both staff and students have benefited greatly from the additional facilities.

[MORE >](#)



Long journey for Amy over as she prepares for next step

Amy Lynch, student in Mount Mercyhawk Secondary School, Tralee, was awarded a merit in the Leaving Cert Applied.

The grade on Amy Lynch's certificate read "merit" but behind that single word lay a series of huge achievements.

"It was a long journey, thinking back over the past 21 years," said her proud mother Jean.

[MORE >](#)



US-based Mercy sisters come full circle in search of their roots

LIFE came full circle in St Leo's College, Carlow as visitors from Pittsburgh returned to their roots at the local Convent of Mercy recently.

More than 170 years after a group of nuns from the local convent travelled to Pittsburgh to establish a convent there, their descendants returned to their Carlow origins to see where it all began.

[MORE >](#)

Reviews



Why Religious Education has an important role to play in our society

The following is an interesting article from the Irish Times on the important role religious education has in our society.

Irish Times Opinion: "The suggestion that time might be taken from RE in order to increase the focus on literacy, numeracy, science or IT is educationally inappropriate."

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CEIST Annual Education Conference 2014

Monday 15th September 2014

The Ninth Annual CEIST Education Conference will be held in the [Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath](#) on Thursday, 25th September & Friday, 26th September, 2014. The theme for our conference is *Living the message of Pope Francis in CEIST Schools*.

The CEIST Annual Education Conference provides an ideal opportunity for our School Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairpersons to network, share ideas and best practice with their peers.

Agenda

Day 1: Thursday, 25th September 2014

11.30am - 1.00pm	Registration
1.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Gathering Prayer & Lighting of CEIST Candle Bernard Keeley, Chairperson CEIST Board of Directors Welcome Address by CEIST CEO, Dr. Marie Griffin Educena Report, Liam Bergin, CEO
2.30 - 3.30pm	Keynote Address: Archbishop Eamon Martin Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland <i>Living the message of Pope Francis in CEIST Schools</i>
3.30pm - 3.45pm	Coffee Break
3.45pm - 4.30pm	<i>The message of Pope Francis</i> (Discussion Group Session)
4.30 - 5.00pm	<i>How to Use Twitter and Google Forms</i> , John Woods, CEIST
5.00pm - 5.15pm	Performance by Presentation Secondary School, Ballyphehane Choir (Winners of the All Island School Choir Competition in 2010 and 2013)
7.00pm	Reception and Social Gathering
7.30pm	Conference Dinner

Conference Workshops

1) "Flourish in the fast lane! Nurture Mind, Body and Spirit", Fr. Jim Purcell.

Fr Jim is a priest in the Cashes and Emly diocese. He is based in the parish of Cashes and Rosegreen. He has a Masters degree in Humanistic and Integrative Psychotherapy from UCC and has also studied Spiritual Direction in Manresa. Fr Jim has been Chaplain in second level schools for many years, he also works part time in Counselling where his approach is to nurture the whole person mind, body and spirit.

The workshop will be aimed at the busy individual and will explore self care from an experiential perspective. The participants will be furnished with tips on self care.

2) "Introducing Tablet Devices To The School Environment", CEIST Schools discuss their experiences, Chaired by John Woods, CEIST.

The workshop will be an interactive open discussion fora amongst attendees chaired by John Woods, ICS Manager, CEIST. John will invite contributions from CEIST School Principals that have introduced tablet devices to their school environments. The objective of the discussion fora will be to share experiences such as:

- School vision and planning for transforming teaching and learning
- Cost and technical issues
- Teaching and learning issues
- Benefits to schools from introduction of iPads
- Impact on teachers, students and the extended school community
- Finance and funding mechanisms

The workshop (time permitting) will also look to discuss other matters such as wireless networks, mobile device management, ensuring the safety of devices, maintenance and provision of on-demand technical support.

3) "Emerging LGBT Issues For Our Schools", Millett & Matthews Solicitors.

Presented by Brian M. Matthews and Marianne Matthews of Millett & Matthews Solicitors, this workshop will address student related LGBT issues.

Topics for discussion

1. Equality issues

- 1.1. Avoiding claims of discrimination.
- 1.2. How do you handle it?

- Uniform issues
- Changing rooms and bathroom facilities.
- Deed Polls reflecting change of name.
- Requests to amend official school records.

- 1.3. More serious issues: homophobic and transphobic bullying.
- 1.4. Admissions policies and transgender students in single-sex schools.
- 1.5. New legal developments: Gender Recognition Bill 2014.

2. Supporting LGBT students

- 2.1. Duty to provide support and counselling?
- 2.2. Duty to inform parents?
- 2.3. Sharing information with relevant staff members?
- 2.4. Staff training for those in mentoring/counselling rolls.
- 2.5. Curriculum content for CSPE: creating a culture of dignity and respect.

3. Homophobic and transphobic bullying

- 3.1. School policy.
- 3.2. DES Anti-Bullying Procedures.
- 3.3. Awareness and education programs

4. Ethos issues for faith schools

4) "Navigating Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures in Schools", Margaret Gorman, Senior Associate, Eversheds Education Group.

Margaret Gorman who heads up Eversheds Education Group will address what schools need to know regarding grievance and disciplinary procedures.

This session will give you the confidence to use the disciplinary and grievance procedures. At the outset Margaret Gorman will give a general overview of the requirements of natural justice and fair procedures and how to apply these principles in practice.

She will then describe the various procedures which are in place. The session will then focus on ensuring that the appropriate procedure is used in any given situation. The remainder of the session will be devoted to three casestudies focused on staff relations issues. These will draw largely on issues which schools typically encounter and it is intended that this part of the session will be interactive.

DAY 2: Friday, 26th September, 2014

9.00am - 10.00am	Mass celebrated by Fr. Jim Purcell with Presentation College, Currylea, Tuam, School Choir.
10.00 - 10.45am	Conference Workshops (Session 1)
10.45am - 11.15am	Coffee Break
11.15am - 12.00 pm	Conference Workshops (Session 2, repeat of above)
12.00pm - 12.45pm	Closing Address, <i>Stories for Leaders</i> , Dr Clare Maloney
12.45pm - 1.00pm	Scattering Prayer
1.00pm	Lunch

Keynote Speaker and Presenter Profiles

Archbishop Eamon Martin



Eamon Columba Martin was born in Derry in 1961; his parents, Catherine Crossan and the late John James Martin were both from Inishowen in Donegal and his grandparents came from Counties Donegal and Fermanagh. He has six sisters and five brothers.

Eamon went to St Patrick's Primary School and St Columb's College, Derry where he developed a great interest in singing and later playing the trombone! He proceeded to study for the priesthood at St Patrick's College, Maynooth during which time he took degrees in Mathematical Science and Theology. During his seminary training he was a senior cantor and leading member of the seminary choir – in his final year he was Acting Director of Sacred Music in Maynooth. His postgraduate studies were at Queen's University Belfast, the Institute of Education in London and the University of Cambridge.

After ordination on 28th June 1987, Fr Eamon was appointed to Templemore Parish in Derry City, serving as curate at St Eugene's Cathedral. In 1990 he went to teach Mathematics and Religion at his old school, St Columb's College. He became Head of Religious Education in 1997 and eventually President (Principal) of the College, a post he held for eight years.

After leaving St Columb's in 2008, Fr Eamon was appointed Executive Secretary of the Irish Bishops' Conference but he returned to his native diocese as Vicar General just over two years later. Also in 2010 he was appointed Chaplain to His Holiness. Upon the retirement of Bishop Séamus Hegarty, Monsignor Eamon was elected as Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Derry.

On 18 January 2013 it was announced that His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI had appointed Monsignor Eamon as Coadjutor Archbishop of Armagh. He was ordained Coadjutor Archbishop of Armagh on 21 April 2013 in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

As Cardinal Brady's resignation was accepted by Pope Francis on the 8th September, Archbishop Eamon is now the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

Dr Clare Maloney

Dr Clare Maloney lectures in the Marino Institute of Education in the area of Religious Education.

An author of a number of RE programmes for schools, Dr. Maloney has a particular interest in children's literature.

Dr Clare Maloney will close the conference with a presentation on the value of stories for leaders.

Fr Jim Purcell



Fr Jim is a priest in the Cashes and Emly diocese based in the parish of Rosegreen outside Cashes.

He has a Masters degree in Humanistic and integrative Psychotherapy from UCC and has also studied Spiritual Direction in Manresa.

Fr Jim has been Chaplain in second level schools for many years.

He also works part time in counselling where his approach is to nurture the whole person mind, body and spirit.

Millett and Matthews Solicitors



Brian M. Matthews BA, MA, BCL, Dip. Employment Law

Brian is a solicitor in the firm, working primarily in litigation and dispute resolution.

Brian acts for charities, schools and educational trusts, school management bodies and provides advice, training and support in relation to education law, employment law, school governance, child protection and risk management.

Brian represents clients in the High Court, the Equality Tribunal, the Employment Appeals Tribunal, the Labour Relations Commission and most recently advised an international human rights organisation in relation to a high profile preliminary reference from the Irish High Court to the European Court of Justice.

He has also advised extensively in relation to a number of Government Tribunals and Commissions of Investigation.

Marianne B. Matthews LLB, Dip Finance Law, TEP

Marianne is a solicitor who joined the firm from the asset management and investment funds department of Dublin firm, Matheson Ormsby Prentice Solicitors.

Marianne is a graduate of the Trinity College Dublin, has a Diploma in Finance Law, and is a Trust and Estate Practitioner (TEP, awarded by the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners), the worldwide professional body for trust and estate practitioners).

Marianne advises schools, charitable bodies, religious congregations and their representative bodies.

She advises particularly in relation to data protection policies, investigations by the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, charity law, property transactions and governance and trust structuring issues.

Margaret Gorman

Margaret Gorman, who heads up Eversheds Education Group, has unrivalled experience in education law. Margaret advises educational institutions at first, second and third level on all aspects of education law. She has a unique client perspective on legal & HR concerns facing those in the education sector as she was Deputy CEO and in-house solicitor for CPMSA the country's leading school management organisation.

Margaret acts for boards of management, colleges, patrons, trustees, insurers, management bodies and a host of other education providers on contentious and non-contentious matters. She advises them in relation to employment, HR and IR issues as well as disciplinary, grievance and complaints procedures. She drafts contracts of employment, handbooks and an extensive number of education related policies. She has in-depth experience of dealing with statutory bodies including the Child & Family Agency and Ombudsman for Children and is an expert in Child Protection.

Margaret also specialises in employment law and has substantial experience of advisory and contentious HR matters. Margaret works closely with the firm's clients in advising on employment rights, company policies, broader HR issues and drafts employment contracts and HR policies. On the contentious side Margaret is a litigator with many years' experience of complex court proceedings including High Court matters, dismissal cases before Rights Commissioner and the Employment Appeals Tribunal, Circuit Court and Equality cases. She also specialised in Tribunals of Inquiry.

Margaret also works in the firm's Data Protection Group and advises clients on data protection issues.

Margaret writes and speaks regularly on education and employment law issues.

Margaret is a member of the Law Society of Ireland and the Dublin Bar Association. She also holds a Masters in Commercial Law from UCD.

Download Conference Brochure

[CEIST Education Conference 2014 Brochure](#)



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CEIST Induction Day for Newly Appointed Principals and Deputy Principals

Wednesday 13th August 2014

CEIST held an Induction Day for our recently appointed Principals and Deputy Principals yesterday 12th of August 2014.

The induction day was very kindly hosted by Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise and CEIST were very grateful for their exceptionally warm welcome and hospitality provided to all on the day.

The induction day provided a great opportunity for the newly appointed Principals and Deputy Principals to meet staff from the CEIST Education Office and gain a stronger understanding of the Trust and of the services it provides to the schools.

It also afforded the opportunity to create networks with other newly appointed Principals and Deputy Principals within other CEIST schools.

The day began with a Prayer Service. The CEO of CEIST, Dr. Marie Griffin, then welcomed our guests and gave an overview of CEIST.

Presentations were delivered by CEIST staff who were delighted to have the opportunity to inform the new Principals and Deputy Principals of the workings of each department and the services they each offer to our 110 schools.

A most enjoyable day was had by all who attended and CEIST staff were very grateful that our new Principals and Deputy Principals allocated us some of their valuable time to attend the induction day.



Pictured above are the newly appointed Principals and Deputy Principals with CEIST staff.



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BT Announces €75, 000 Schools Grant

Thursday 7th August 2014



BT has reaffirmed its commitment to encouraging bright young minds around the country with a €75,000 grant. The financial aid will enable students to compete in the annual BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition by providing them with accommodation.

Since introducing the scheme in 2006, BT has distributed 1,115 grants to over 330 schools across the Republic and North of Ireland, amounting to a total figure of €488,700.

The amount was increased in 2012 to €75,000 per year in a bid to encourage more rural students to enter.

Schools which are located over 70km from the RDS in Dublin, the home of the exhibition, are eligible to apply for a grant of €150 per individual entry or €300 for a group entry, up to a maximum of €1,500 per school.

Limerick schools have received €38,900 to date under the BT grant scheme and Limerick teacher Donal Enright, from Desmond College praised the initiative.

He said: 'Our school is very competitive and we have a proud history of success at the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition.'

'This grant scheme is a real help in getting students to the competition, contributing significantly to transport and accommodation costs.'

'I have brought students to the exhibition every year for the past decade and each year I am more and more impressed by the calibre and creativity of the entries.'

The 2015 BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition will take place in the RDS, Dublin from January 7-10 and the closing date for entries is October 1, 2014.

There are over 120 awards to be won including the prestigious BT Young Scientist & Technologist of the Year which was won by Paul Clarke of St. Paul's College, Raheny in January this year.

In addition to the grant, BT is offering 60 participating students in the North and the Republic of Ireland the opportunity to take part in BT Young Scientist Business Bootcamps in Dublin and Belfast – a programme to help students transform their scientific ideas into real business opportunities.



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Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, an Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe

Thursday 21st August 2014

Déanann Coláiste Chroí Mhuire comhghairdeachas leis na scoláirí ar fad a fuair a gcuid torthaí Ardteiste le déanaí.

Tá an scoil an-bhródúil astu agus an-bhuíoch dá gcuid tuismitheoirí ar fad a chuir a gcuid paistí chuig an scoil.

Déanann an scoil comhghairdeachas faoi leith le Dearbhail Ní Chaoimh a fuair ocht A1 agus dhá A2 in ábhair Ardleibhéal agus a bheidh ag tabhairt faoi Leigheas in Ollscoil na Gaillimhe go luath.

Guíonn an scoil gach rath ar rang na hArdteiste 2014 don todcháí.



Pictured above a delighted Dearbhail Ní Chaoimh with her excellent leaving certificate results.



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Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew School Building Project

Friday 8th August 2014

Construction has begun on a major extension and refurbishment of Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew, Co. Galway.

The € 5 million project includes new General Purpose area, Library, Multimedia Lab, Business / IT room, Demonstration room, Music and Drama rooms, Religion room, Two Lecture rooms, Five general classrooms and a Sports Hall.

The existing school will also be completely refurbished during the 18 month building programme. Holy Rosary College, which currently has over 550 pupils, will celebrate 50 years as a Co-Ed school in 2015 / 2016.

Originally under the trusteeship of the Sisters of Christian Retreat, it joined CEIST in 2007.



Pictured above at the signing of the Contract for the extension and refurbishment of Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew, Co. Galway were:

Front: Séamus Casserley, OKM Architects; Bro. Michael Burke, Chairman Board of Management; Patrick Gardiner, MD, Coolsivna Construction; Back: Former Principals, Sr. Dympna Stack, Paddy Boyle, Former Deputy Principal, Matt Quinn, Former Principal, John Fahey and current Principal, Maureen Walsh.

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Success in Northern Ireland Sentinus Young Innovators Competition 2014

Tuesday 1st July 2014

On Friday June 20th two students from Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda along with their teacher Miss Frances O'Regan set out for the Odyssey Arena, Belfast to compete in the Northern Ireland Sentinus Young Innovators Competition.

This competition has been running for a number of years and Our Lady's College has a very successful history of achievement in it.

This year the students and teacher excelled themselves. Elle Loughran won the Overall Young Scientist award which comes with a trophy and prize money. She also won the Queen's University Award for Mathematics for her excellent work.

Elle's project was a mathematical analysis of the spiral patterns of tree cones in Ireland. Over 100 cones samples from 6 different tree species were collected and analysed. Characteristics such as mass, length, angles and spirals were measured and compared within and between species. IAA was extracted from the trees and analysed and quantified using spectrophotometric techniques. A correlation between the characteristics measured and the levels of IAA in the tree was then established.

Anna McEvoy, who has already achieved very high recognition for her original research into the cause and extent of the disease "bleeding canker" in Horse Chestnut trees (Anna won the Elan Biological Award at the Young Scientist competition in Dublin in January) won the Sentinus Young Innovators 2014 Award of Excellence.



Pictured above are award winners Elle Loughran and Anna McEvoy with their teacher Miss Frances O'Regan.

This award is accompanied by the Intel Award trophy and an opportunity to compete at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 2015. The projects that compete at this Fair are all winners in their own countries and are the very best in the world. Anna surveyed more than 1500 Horse Chestnut trees in Ireland to establish the extent of the disease.

She then collected samples of the canker and was able to extract and cultivate the organism that is responsible for causing the disease, *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi*. Anna then went on to identify the genetic sequence of the bacterium. This is the first time this has ever been done in Ireland.

Both these projects are absolutely exceptional and have only been possible because of the hard work and dedication of the students involved. They have spent countless days, weeks and months out in the woodlands, working in labs and on computers to complete the projects.

Both Anna and Ellie will tell you that the projects were only possible because of the commitment and dedication of their teacher Miss O'Regan. Her dedication to providing her students with the opportunity to excel is unequalled anywhere.

This dedication was also recognised in Belfast where Miss Frances O'Regan was awarded the Intel Teacher of Excellence Trophy. Frances will also be travelling to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to ISEF in 2015.

Congratulations to everybody involved. This is a wonderful achievement and we are very proud of you all. All awards are well deserved.

The two girls also won awards at the Drogheda Young Enterprise competition in May and their work was on display in the Laurence's Centre. They have had a great year and its only June!



Pictured above are Principal Geraldine Mulvihill, Elle Loughran, Anna McEvoy and teacher Miss Frances O'Regan.

Congratulations to

Elle Loughran

*Northern Ireland Young Scientist Overall Winner
Trophy and Prizemoney
and the Queen's University Award For Mathematics
Trophy and Prizemoney*

also

Congratulations to

Anna Mc Evoy

*Winner of Sentinus Young Innovators 2014 Award of Excellence
The Intel Award Trophy &
Competing at Intel ISEF
(International Science and Engineering Fair)
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 2015.*

also

Congratulations to

Ms Frances O'Regan

*Intel Teacher of Excellence Award
Trophy and attendance at Intel ISEF,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 2015*



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St. Aloysius Cork Student Receives Excellent Leaving Cert Results

Thursday 14th August 2014

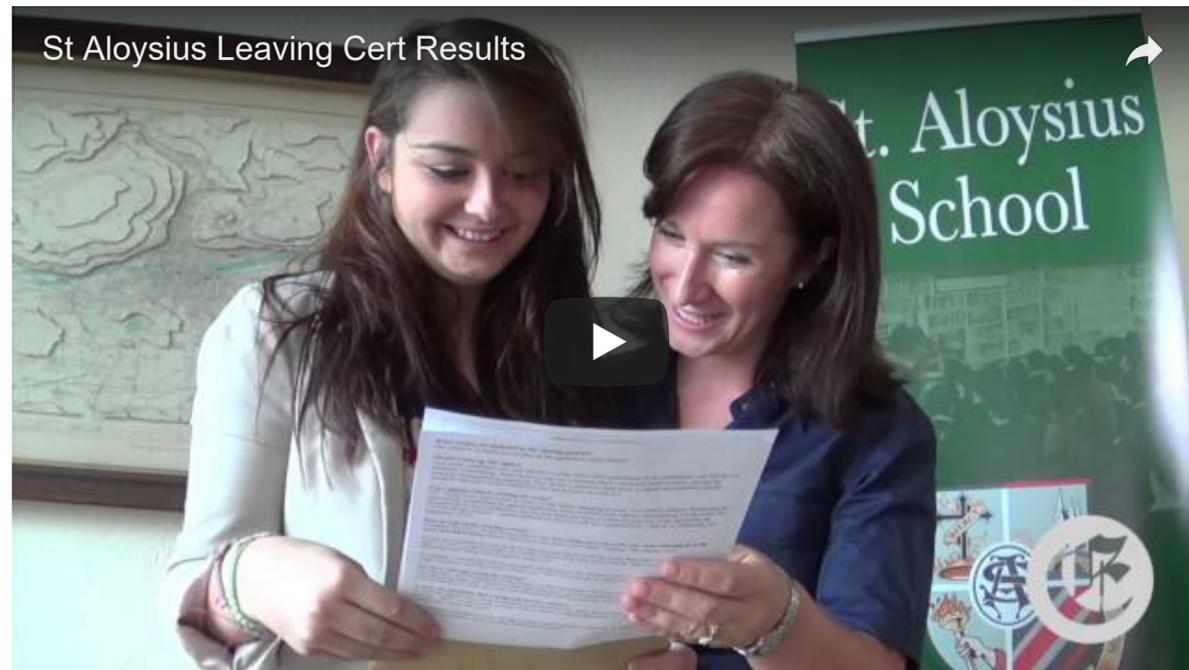
St Aloysius School, Cork Principal, Richel Long was delighted to share the following good news with CEIST.

St Aloysius School, Cork Head Girl Edel Kavanagh received 525 points in her Leaving Cert. Edel was one of 10% of our students who received over 500 points.

Edel is going to complete an undergraduate degree in politics in Trinity College.

Congratulations to all our students, we are very proud of them all.

Irish Examiner Video



A very happy Edel above in video viewing Leaving Cert results with school Principal, Richel Long.



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News from Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna

Thursday 28th August 2014

Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna have very kindly shared the following news items with CEIST.

Adult Education

**Mary Immaculate Secondary School
Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare**



**"CELEBRATING 65 YEARS
OF EDUCATION & TRAINING"**

POST LEAVING CERT PROGRAMME

**Now enrolling for
2014 – 2015**

For further information on all courses contact:
 Office: 065 7074266
 Fax: 065 7074749
 Email: furthereducation@maryimmaculate.ie
 Web: www.maryimmaculatesecondarieschool.com

QQI LEVEL 5 AWARDS

- EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION (5M2009)
- BUSINESS STUDIES (5M2102)
- COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES (5M4468)

QQI LEVEL 6 AWARDS

- ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION (6M2007)

Mary Immaculate Young Scientists scoop seven awards in Belfast

Students from Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna competed in the Northern Ireland Young Scientist competition which was held in Belfast during the summer. In keeping with their predecessors, who competed in this event in the past, this year's group had a very successful outing, much to the joy of their teacher John Sims.



Two of the students took home two awards each. **Aisling O'Rourke's** (Aisling pictured above) – "An examination of rock pool fish communities on shores north and south of Galway Bay" won the First Derivatives Award for Commercial Potential and was runner-up in the Northern Ireland Young Scientists' Senior category.



David Sims (Pictured above receiving his award) – "The feasibility of using Ulva lactuca as a method in the treatment of sewage", won the CREST Gold Science Award as well as the FM Environmental Award.



Maghnus Hartigan (Pictured above) – "Mouse's Ears: The development of a computer mouse that senses the user's subconscious reactions" won the RLC Langford Award for Control Technology.



Lisdoonvarna students made a clean sweep of the Northern Ireland Young Scientists Intermediate category when **Patrick O'Rourke** (Pictured above) – "Sport and alcohol, is it too close a relationship?" was the winner of the category and **Stephen O'Connell** (Pictured below) – "Grading crab meat – an easier way?" the runner-up in this category.



Also taking part were **Órlaith Bowen** - Predator effect on the behaviour of *Mytilus edulis* and *Littorina littorea* and **Tess Casasin Sheridan and Aoife Doherty** – "Why are the beaches in Clare different colours?".

Leaving Certificate Results

There were celebrations across the catchment of Mary Immaculate as the 42 students of Mary Immaculate received their results which were a source of pride and joy for the school community and afar.



Keelan McMahon (pictured above), one of the students who emerged delighted, achieved top marks when he earned an A1 in six Higher Level papers, including Mathematics, bringing his CAO point total to the magic and elusive 625 points. We wish Keelan well in his study of Mathematical Science in UCC.

Principal John O'Loughlin said "We were delighted with the results across all the range of abilities in the school. Tremendous credit is due to the staff for their dedication and hard work and to parents for their support".

Ms. Lynch, our Guidance Counsellor was on hand to assist students and their parents with advice on the day and after the CAO offers were made.

We wish the Leaving Certificate class of 2014, now our Past Pupil Class of 2008, the very best in their future endeavours. They have had a great work ethic from day one in first year and reaped their just rewards.

First Year 2014



Pictured above 36 first year students enrolled in Mary Immaculate. Our outgoing Leaving Certificate class were excellent role model for them as they begin studying for their Junior Certificate in Mary Immaculate in three years' time.



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Calasactius College Oranmore Unveils a Whole New Look

Tuesday 5th August 2014

On Tuesday May 27th the school community celebrated the completion and blessing of Calasactius College, Oranmore, Co. Galway.

The building project was the culmination of an enormous effort by a number of people over many years.

This phase of the project included the completion of the Nano Nagle Hall. Both staff and students have benefited greatly from the additional facilities.

The official opening and blessing of the completed school was attended by many people who had contributed to the project over the years.

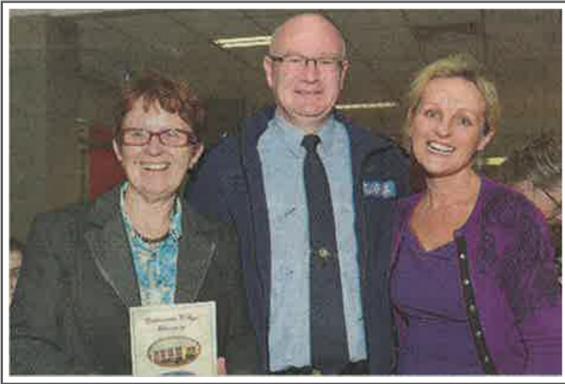
CEIST was represented by Dr Amalee Meehan.

Following speeches from Deputy Principal Cora Ní Loinsigh, Board of Management Chairperson Hannah Kiely and Principal Mary Nihill, the completed school was blessed by Oranmore Parish Priest Fr Diarmuid Hogan.

Photos



Pictured above are Deputy Noel Grealish, Senator Hildegard Naughton, Hannah Kiely, Chairperson, and Cllr Jim Cuddy.



Pictured above are Edel Carney, Principal of Scoil Mhuire, Oranmore, Sgt John Gormally, Oranmore, and Anne Hyland, Principal Scoil Iosaf Naofa.



Sr Chanel Canny, Good Shepherd, Fr Diarmuid Hogan PP Oranmore and Sr Teresa Gilligan, Athenry.



Sr Brid Burke, Athenry, Sr Dorothy Somers, Tuam and Sr Marie McGrath, Tuam.



Senator Fidelma Healy Eames, teacher Aine O'Connell and Rita Furey, Oranmore.



Córa Ní Loinsigh, Deputy Principal and Hannah Kiely, Chairperson of Calasactius College.



Martha Makaj, Megan Connolly and Courtney Bartley.



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Long journey for Amy over as she prepares for next step

Thursday 14th August 2014

As a child with Down syndrome, Amy had to fight for any help the State would give, and the family was forced to seek assistance privately.



Amy Lynch from Tralee, who was awarded a merit in the Leaving Cert Applied with her mother Jean. Photograph: Eye Focus Ltd.

The grade on Amy Lynch's certificate read "merit" but behind that single word lay a series of huge achievements.

"It was a long journey, thinking back over the past 21 years," said her proud mother Jean.

When her daughter was a toddler she would barely speak a word, and "from the health board there was not much there. In two years, you might get a block of six weeks of speech therapy and then you wouldn't get any more".

Yesterday, Amy made her voice heard, collecting her qualification in the Leaving Certificate Applied. It took two years of earning credits from, among things a French project on Les Misérables, helping to stage a play in her classroom and extensive computer and English work, capped off by a 71 per cent grade in art.

Collecting her results from Mercy Mounthawk secondary school in Tralee, a modest Amy said she was delighted her studies had paid off.

She was looking forward to attending IT Tralee in September where she is starting a three-year course in life skills supported by the HSE and St John of God.

"We are lucky to find something that will suit her," said Jean. "She loves speech and drama, and did a ballet show in Tralee."

As a child with Down syndrome, Amy had to fight for any help the State would give, and the family was forced to seek assistance privately "from an American lady in Killarney" and an elderly nun who had some experience in the field from Canada, Jean recalled. "You'd try anything."

Amy's big day yesterday was something of a family achievement too. Her younger brother Mark – who is sitting the Leaving Cert next year – and her older sister Gillian, who is doing a PhD at NUI Galway, both helped her to prepare.

As for what the future holds? Says Jean: "It's one step at a time."

(Article courtesy of [Irish Times](#))

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US-based Mercy sisters come full circle in search of their roots

Wednesday 13th August 2014

LIFE came full circle in St Leo's College, Carlow as visitors from Pittsburgh returned to their roots at the local Convent of Mercy recently.

More than 170 years after a group of nuns from the local convent travelled to Pittsburgh to establish a convent there, their descendants returned to their Carlow origins to see where it all began.

On 2 November 1843 a group of seven local nuns travelled with Bishop Michael O'Connor of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to establish a convent in his diocese.



Pictured above Sister Sheila Carney with her students from Carlow University Pittsburgh on the steps of St Leo's Convent, Carlow.

The seven nuns chosen by the Reverend Mother for this mission were 33-year-old Mother Francis Xavier Warde, Sr Josephine Cullen (28), Sr Aloysia Strange (24), Sr Elizabeth Strange (22), Sr Veronica McDarby (27), Sr Philomena Reid (23) and Sr Margaret O'Brien (21).

The group, which included Fr Wilson and eight students, left Carlow in horsedrawn carriages, followed on foot by Carlow townspeople, who' prayed aloud for the departing nuns.

Together, the religious party travelled to America via a mail boat to Liverpool, followed by The Queen of the West, a threemast, 500-tonne vessel bound for New York.

The journey took four weeks and two days before the group arrived in a snow-covered Big Apple on 10 December 1843. Dr John Hughes, archbishop of New York, and William Quarter, bishop-elect of Chicago, were there to greet the travellers.

Eight days later, sisters Josephine Cullen, Elizabeth Strange, Veronica McDarby and Margaret O'Brien travelled to Pittsburgh by railway and stagecoach, arriving on 20 December.

Bishop O'Connor celebrated Mass for the sisters the following day and the anniversary of this is marked each year as Founder's Day in Carlow College, Pittsburgh.

From that day, the Carlow nuns went on to found a convent, junior school, high school, hospital and third-level college in Pittsburgh, as well as other Mercy convents in various parts of the United States. Fast forward almost 171 years, and ten visitors from Carlow University, Pittsburgh returned to Carlow soil to see where it all began.

Led by Sr Sheila Carney RSM, specialassistant to the president from Mercy heritage, the group came full circle from those who left Carlow all those years ago.



Pictured above Sister Sheila Carney with John McDarby and Ann McDarby Foley.

On Saturday 2 August, the group visited Carlow County Museum, the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow College and, of course, St Leo's Convent of Mercy.

John McDarby of Carlow Museum and his sister Anne McDarby Foley, along with Tom and Robina Mooney, were among those who greeted the guests, alongside Sr Mary Murphy, chaplain of Carlow College.

It was a particularly special occasion for the McDarbys and the Mooneys, relatives of Sister Veronica McDarby, one of the original seven St Leo's sisters who made that historic journey.

During their visit, the group met a number of locals, including Fr Conn Ó Maoldomhnaigh, vice-president of Carlow College, Gerald Moore and Hugh O'Rourke at Carlow Museum, as well as a number of Mercy sisters, including Sr Philomena Griffin, Sr Nora O'Brien, Sr Maureen Keogh, Sr Frances Conway and Sr Aine Cullen.



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Why religious education has an important role to play in our society

Thursday 3rd July 2014

Opinion: 'The suggestion that time might be taken from RE in order to increase the focus on literacy, numeracy, science or IT is educationally inappropriate'.



'At primary level, RE provides a place in the younger child's day to reflect on belonging and being cherished within a community of religious faith or other belief system.' Photograph: Getty Images.

The current critique of denominational education, and of denominational religious education in particular, risks undermining the place of this core subject in all schools, just at a moment when deeper reflection on religion, belief, spirituality and ethics could contribute enormously to the emergence of a society that seeks to embrace difference and is comfortable to celebrate the presence of a variety of religious and other belief systems.

This, of course, means respecting the beliefs of those of the majority religious tradition, too, and seeking to contribute to the religious and spiritual literacy of all young people and of adults.

Some recent commentary appears to indicate a lack of knowledge of, or perhaps interest in, the transformation of religious education (RE) after the renewal of the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s and since.

It has changed from a wholly content-focused subject to a student-focused one; from learning off questions and answers to discussion of personal experience and response; and from difference being defined denominationally within the Christian tradition, to an acknowledgment of the variety of people in Irish society today and respect for the diversity of their religions and beliefs.

RE in schools contributes not only to the personal reflection and development of young people, but should also heighten respect for the beliefs of the other and help build a diverse but cohesive society. To neglect RE is to neglect the future.

The suggestion that time might be taken from RE in order to increase the focus on literacy, numeracy, science or IT is educationally inappropriate. The debate in the 1990s, during the preparation of the Education Act, 1998, emphasised in the first instance the importance of preparing young people for the jobs market and for strengthening the nation's economy.

Reflection on this important but limited understanding of the person led to confirmation of the need for a holistic approach to education that values and seeks to educate the whole person "... for personal and home life, for working life, for living in the community and for leisure" (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment: general definition of education).

Freedom of conscience

RE contributes significantly, indeed uniquely, to the education of the whole person.

Defined in a way that is appropriate for the young person's age and stage of development, good RE honours the freedom of conscience of the young person while revering their family faith and/or belief traditions and expectations. This requires a high level of training among teachers.

At primary level, RE provides a place in the younger child's day to reflect on belonging and being cherished within a community of religious faith or other belief system.

(Article courtesy of the [Irish Times](#)).