

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

**Training for School Boards of Management**

November brings to an end a very busy period for CEIST as it is during this month that training for new School Boards of Management takes place.

CEIST had 33 new Boards taking up office last month. As well as visiting all new Boards at their first meeting, CEIST in conjunction with the JMB also encouraged Board members to participate in Board training, which took place on 15th, 22nd and 29th November at various locations throughout Ireland. A CEIST representative was present at all 9 venues and was involved in the delivery of the training. New Boards from other voluntary secondary schools are also present on the day so each event attracts a large gathering.



[MORE](#)

### Competition

**Design a CEIST Award Competition**

We are inviting CEIST schools to participate in designing a perpetual CEIST Award. Each school is asked to organise a competition within their school in the coming weeks with a view to inviting students to submit entries for this award.

The actual design can be based on any medium for example sculpture, artwork, etc. The winning design from each school to be submitted via email to [competitions@ceist.ie](mailto:competitions@ceist.ie). (please note that no actual model is required) shortlisting of entries will be undertaken by CEIST and schools will be notified of being shortlisted.

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**Hour of Code**

The Hour of Code will take place during the week of Dec 8th - 14th in schools all over the world.

Following on from "EU Code week", during which Ireland arranged more coding events than any other country in the EU, this provides an opportunity for teachers and students alike to try coding.

Hadi Partovi, promoting the Hour of Code gave a very clear presentation at the Web Summit in Dublin, a fantastic event dubbed 'the ploughing championship for those interested in IT' - his presentation can be accessed [at this link](#)

The aim of Hour of Code is to show that coding is not just for 'geeks and boys' but rather to introduce students, teachers and parents in a fun way to computational thinking.

There are lots of [teaching resources](#) accessible once teachers complete the free sign up procedure.

**Data Protection in Schools Website**

A new website was created for [Data Protection in Schools](#).

The website offers sector specific guidance to assist schools in the area of data protection legislation and provides examples, model policies, codes of practice and useful links to other resources.

**Catholic Schools Week**

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2014 is: **'Catholic Schools - Centres of Faith and Learning'**

CSW 2014 will begin on Sunday January 26 2014 and end on February 2 2014.

Click [here](#) to view resources for CSW 2014.

**Coláiste Bride Presentation Day Highlights Video**

Coláiste Bride, Clondalkin, Dublin (twitter handle @Colaisbride) posted a tweet with video on their Presentation Day highlights last week.

Click [here](#) to view video.

**Mathletes Challenge**

Last year 3,000 students spent 1,000,000 minutes learning maths...are you up for the Challenge?

Click [here](#) to download flyer for further information.

**Profile Your School On Our E-News!**

As usual we encourage our schools to profile their good news or upcoming events on our e-news.

We are especially interested in hearing from schools who have not featured much up to now.

All news big or small is welcome, please send to [jwoods@ceist.ie](mailto:jwoods@ceist.ie)

### Education Matters

**Trinity College Dublin Access Programmes**

**St. Josephs Secondary School, Rush is College Ready!**

At the entrance to St Joseph's Secondary School, Rush is a large banner which says: **College for Every Student.**

Not far from this large green banner, hangs a wall of fame with the names, photos and the list of college courses which the graduating class of 2013 are now taking in college.

[MORE](#)

**Haiti Education Initiative Summer 2015**

Last year ACE-Ireland sent three teachers: Jonathan Tieman, Ellen Regan and Saoirse Rooney to Haiti to develop an action plan for a future volunteer initiative.

On the back of their successful visit we are offering the opportunity for two Irish teachers to volunteer in Haiti from July 3rd to August 7th 2015.

[MORE](#)

### News from CEIST Schools

**Coláiste Nano Nagle Name Change for Limerick School**

On the 20th of October 2014 Presentation Secondary School, Sexton Street, Limerick officially became known as Coláiste Nano Nagle, in honour of venerable Nano Nagle.

This was a very special day in Coláiste Nano Nagle and the school was delighted to be joined by a very special guest, the Minister of Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan. Minister O'Sullivan unveiled the new name to the school and invited guests.

[MORE](#)

**St Joseph's Secondary School Rush Receives School of Distinction Award**

On Tuesday, 18th November 2014, St Joseph's Secondary School in Rush North County Dublin was honoured to host Provost of Trinity College Dublin, Dr Patrick Prendergast, Supreme Court Judge, Mr Justice Frank Clarke and Dr Oran Doyle, Head of the School of Law, Trinity College for the presentation of the 'School of Distinction Award 2013 - 2014'.

School Principal Ms Patricia Hayden said, "We are very proud to be the first School of Distinction in Ireland".

[MORE](#)

**PPMTA National Awards 2014**

The Post Primary Music Teachers Association held their National Conference in the Alexander Hotel, Dublin recently.

Serena Sheane a pupil of Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty Co. Cork attained the highest results nationally in her Junior Certificate Music Examination 2013.

[MORE](#)

**St Mary's College, Naas Blessing of the Beads**

St. Mary's College, Naas held their annual blessing of the beads ceremony on Thursday 27th November.

The beautiful liturgy was lead by local curate and school chaplain Fr. Liam Morgan. The CEIST school co-ordinator Justin Brown was also present.

The annual event affords students an opportunity to have their rosary beads or bracelet blessed and is part of the school's own Wear your Faith with pride initiative.

[MORE](#)

**St Joseph's Rochfortbridge Students Receive Entrance Scholarships**

Well done to Saint Joseph's, Rochfortbridge, Co. Westmeath Leaving Cert students 2014 who were awarded entrance scholarships in a number of Universities.

St Joseph's were delighted with the number of students who received outstanding result in their Leaving Certificate exam and who were the proud recipients of entrance scholarship in the various universities.

[MORE](#)

**Presentation Secondary School Castleisland Open Night**

On Thursday, November 13th, Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland held its Open Evening for incoming First Years for the 2015/2016 school year.

A Harpist was playing in the reception area as staff and students greeted 5th and 6th class girls and their parents, while the sound of the saxophone, keyboard, flute and other instruments could be heard in the foyer of the school building.

[MORE](#)

**Presentation Secondary School Waterford - Awards Night**

Awards Night at Presentation Secondary School took place on Tuesday 21st October 2014.

Awards were presented by Mayor of Waterford Metropolitan District, Councillor Lola O'Sullivan, Head Girl, Niamh Browne, extended a warm welcome to the Mayor and thanked her for her visit.

[MORE](#)

**Rotary Club National Winner from Our Lady's College, Greenhills**

Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda were delighted to share news of student Kate Hanlon who will travel to Europe representing Leinster after she was selected from Drogheda and Leinster rotary clubs.

The Rotary Club, in conjunction with the European Union, run an annual Youth Leadership Competition.

[MORE](#)

**Classroom innovators: the Twitter teacher**

An early adopter of social media, Fintan O'Mahony teacher in Scoil Mhuire, Carrick on Suir, Co. Tipperary got his school to relax its ban on mobile phones three years ago, so he could introduce Twitter to the classroom.

He realised 'Twitter would make the class more enjoyable and help to develop students' critical-thinking skills.

[MORE](#)

**News from Scoil Muire agus Pádraig, Swinford**

Congratulations to four students from Scoil Muire agus Pádraig, Swinford, Co. Mayo who were acknowledged for their outstanding achievements in the Junior Certificate Business Studies Higher Level Exam 2014.

Their achievements were recognised by NUI Galway and the Business Studies Teachers' Association Ireland (BSTA).

[MORE](#)

**Our Lady's College, Greenhills Students to perform on Late Late Toy Show!**

Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth were delighted to share the news with CEIST that three of their girls will be performing in The Late Late Toy Show tonight!

They were chosen from over 4,000 applicants, congratulations to them and we hope they enjoy the experience.

The three girls chosen to perform on the Toy show were Emma O'Brien, Rachel Ni Fhearaigh and Eleanor McHugh.

[MORE](#)

**National Scifest Award for Our Lady's Castleblayney Student**

Congratulations were the order of the day in Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan when 6th Year student, Christopher Carragher, won the overall prize at the National Scifest Final held in Marino Dublin last weekend.

Christopher, whose project entitled 'Memory Buddy', will now get an all-expenses trip to Pittsburgh, USA to the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair in May of next year.

[MORE](#)

**Presentation Secondary School Castleisland Celebrate Presentation Week**

Last week, Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland celebrated their ethos and mission and that of their founder Nano Nagle, with a number of activities throughout the school.

Each morning of 'Presentation Week', a thought for the day, which retold the story of Nano Nagle, was read through the schools intercom. Students learned of the powerful vision of a woman who fought for education for the poor during penal times.

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## Training for School Boards of Management

Thursday 27th November 2014

November sees the end of a very busy period for CEIST as it during this month that training for new Boards of Management takes place.

CEIST had 33 new Boards taking up office last month. As well as visiting all new Boards at their first meeting CEIST in conjunction with the JMB also encouraged Board members to participate in Board training which took place on 15th, 22nd and 29th November at various locations throughout Ireland.

Members of a Board are asked to attend one session on a Saturday and a location convenient for them. The training begins at 9.15am and ends with lunch at 2.

A CEIST representative was present at all 9 venues and was involved in the delivery of the training. New Boards from other voluntary secondary schools are also present on the day so each event attracts a large gathering.

During each session there is an ethos 'break out' segment where CEIST have an opportunity to meet Boards from our own schools.

We are very impressed and thankful for the commitment and enthusiastic response from the numerous volunteers who attended these seminars and serve on our Boards.



Pictured above at the inaugural Board of Management meeting of Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Athy are Back Row (LtoR) Fiona Rainsford, Sylvia Aspil, Sr, Bernadette Sheerin, RSM, Dympna McWey, Jackie Cooper and Rita Rigney. Front Row (LtoR) John McCauley, Vincent Gorman, Johnny McCormack and Justin Brown (CEIST).



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## All-Ireland CEIST Bake-Off

Friday 14th November 2014

It is a very exciting time in the CEIST community. This academic year will see the first ever All-Ireland CEIST Schools Bake-Off.

The event is kindly sponsored by Odlums. It is a great opportunity for all CEIST schools to forge links with one another and strengthen community ties.

Our bake-off is centered on the theme of "Talents" where students can choose to depict their own talents or those of their family, school or community.

Each school is invited to register interest in this competition by **December 5, 2014**. Having registered, all interested students in your school will prepare and decorate a cake. Each school will choose their best entries to go forward for the bake-off selection.

All entries received will be short listed to the best seven entries to go forward to the bake-off final.

The bake-off will take place in **Árdscoil na Tríonóide, Athy during the week of March 23, 2014**. The final bake-off will be judged by Catherine Leydon of Odlums and TV3.

Please follow us on Twitter [@ceistbakeoff](https://twitter.com/ceistbakeoff)



Pictured above (left to right) Mr John McCormack (Principal, Árdscoil na Tríonóide), Mr Vincent Gorman (Chairperson Board of Management, Árdscoil na Tríonóide), Mr Justin Brown (CEIST Faith Leadership and Governance Team), Ms Jackie Cooper (Home Economics Teacher, Árdscoil na Tríonóide, Athy).

## Download Brochure/Registration Form

[CEIST Bake-Off Brochure](#)

[Registration Form](#)



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## Design a CEIST Award Competition

Thursday 27th November 2014

We are inviting CEIST schools to participate in designing a perpetual CEIST Award.

Each school is asked to organise a competition within their school in the coming weeks with a view to inviting students to submit entries for this award. Entries to be judged by a panel set up in each school and the winning entry from each school to be forwarded to CEIST for final adjudication.

The actual design can be based on any medium for example sculpture, artwork, etc. The winning design from each school to be submitted via email to [competitions@ceist.ie](mailto:competitions@ceist.ie). (please note that no actual model is required) shortlisting of entries will be undertaken by CEIST and schools will be notified of being shortlisted.

Deadline for submission of entries is **January 31st 2015**.

The design for the CEIST Award should embody or capture the spirit and values of CEIST. An Award based on the winning design will be donated by CEIST to each school for their annual Awards Ceremony. It will be awarded to the student who best exemplifies the [CEIST Charter Values](#).

**The Prize for the best design is an iPad.** Individual submission or entries from teams of two are accepted". Also each individual school winner will receive a **€50 book token**.

## Flyer

Click [here](#) to download Flyer.

**CEIST**  
Catholic Education  
An Irish Schools Trust

**DESIGN A PERPETUAL CEIST AWARD**  
Award (based on the winning design) will go to each school. Schools may then present the award to the student who is deemed to best embody the CEIST Charter values. Check out the Charter values on our website [www.ceist.ie](http://www.ceist.ie)

**Win an iPad**

*Competition Details*

- Each school is invited to organise a competition
- Set internal closing date
- Select school winning entry
- Forward winning entry to CEIST office by e-mail
- Photograph of entry will suffice

**Winning design determines the CEIST Perpetual Award**

Closing date for winning entries from each school to reach the CEIST office by **Jan 31st 2015**.

**WIN!** For each individual school winner of the... "Design a Perpetual CEIST Award" Competition

a **€50** book token

**CEIST**  
Catholic Education  
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**BOOK TOKENS**

Sponsored by Allianz

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## Haiti Education Initiative Summer 2015

Tuesday 18th November 2014

Last year ACE-Ireland sent three teachers: Jonathan Tiernan, Ellen Regan and Saorise Rooney to Haiti to develop an action plan for a future volunteer initiative.

On the back of their successful visit we are offering the opportunity for two Irish teachers to volunteer in Haiti from July 3rd to August 7th 2015.

The two Irish teachers will work closely with two recent American ACE graduates in delivering professional development modules to the teachers of Basile Moreau Primary and Secondary School in Port Au Prince, Haiti.

The content of the Professional Development modules will be teaching English as a foreign language, using technology in the classroom and areas of pedagogy like lesson planning and classroom management.

Practically the selected candidates should be prepared to pay for their travel to Haiti, but all in-country expenses will be covered by ACE-Ireland.

Additionally, those candidates selected should be prepared to engage in a weekend retreat with ACE-Ireland and pre-departure training before they depart for Haiti.

Finally, a competency in French would also be preferable amongst interested candidates.

If people would be interested in applying for this opportunity (application deadline is Friday, Feb. 13th) or have further questions please contact John O'Malley, [jomalle3@nd.edu](mailto:jomalle3@nd.edu) or 085-7073932.

## Flyer

Click [here](#) to download flyer.



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## Coláiste Nano Nagle Name Change for Limerick School

Tuesday 18th November 2014

On the 20th of October 2014 Presentation Secondary School, Sexton Street, Limerick officially became known as Coláiste Nano Nagle, in honour of venerable Nano Nagle.

This was a very special day in Coláiste Nano Nagle and we were very lucky to be joined by a very special guest, the Minister of Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan. Minister O'Sullivan unveiled our new name to the school and invited guests.

She also opened our newly refurbished Home Economics room. We were also joined on the day by Noreen McManus, Ms McManus was very generous and added to the Bursary Awards for the girls with the best Leaving Certificate Results.

Lelia Fitzgerald, the chairperson of the Board of Management, was also present on this special day.

It was a great occasion in Coláiste Nano Nagle and well done to all involved.



Pictured above Dr. Amalee Meehan, CEIST Faith Leadership and Governance Co-ordinator with two students from Coláiste Nano Nagle.



Pictured above students with School Principal Marion Cummins.



Pictured above Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan unveiling plaque with new name of the school with Chairperson, Lelia Fitzgerald and school Principal, Marion Cummins.



Pictured above are Noreen McManus, Lelia Fitzgerald, Barbara Fogarty, Home Economics Teacher, Minister for Education & Skills, Jan O'Sullivan, Meta Fitzsimons, Home Economics Teacher and Principal Marion Cummins.



Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan meeting students on arrival to the school.



The Minister who opened new Home Economics room surveys the selection of food prepared by the students.



Minister for Education and Skills Jan O'Sullivan cutting the ribbon at the ceremony.



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## St Joseph's Secondary School Rush Receives School of Distinction Award

Thursday 27th November 2014

On Tuesday, 18th November 2014, St Joseph's Secondary School in Rush North County Dublin was honoured to host Provost of Trinity College Dublin, Dr Patrick Prendergast, Supreme Court Judge, Mr Justice Frank Clarke and Dr Oran Doyle, Head of the School of Law, Trinity College for the presentation of the 'School of Distinction Award 2013 – 2014' from College For Every Student (CFES) and Trinity College.



Following the presentation, Mr Justice Frank Clarke, (pictured on left addressing students) met with 50 students participating in law programmes in Trinity College and The Law Society.

He also presented Diana Oprea, winner of Future Voices, with a textbook on the Irish legal system.

The distinguished visitors congratulated the school's Model United Nations Team, who brought home the title for the second year in a row.

This is the first time in the history of the competition the same school has won the competition and

retained the title for two consecutive years.

School Principal Ms Patricia Hayden said, "We are very proud to be the first School of Distinction in Ireland. The award recognises the huge commitment of the staff and the positive, 'can do' culture of our school. St Joseph's has a reputation for being progressive and forward thinking and our students are very lucky to have the support and interest of the Provost, Mr Justice Clarke and Dr Oran Doyle. We are glad to report that Trinity College believes this network has great potential to support St Joseph's and students in the years to come and that it will continue to grow."

Following the presentations at St Joseph's, the Provost and the Second Year student departed for a large mentoring showcase in the Convention Centre Dublin which is a 'prelude' to College Awareness Week.

Around 1,200 Second Year students across Trinity College partner schools met with over 300 former TAP students who worked as mentors at this event and will also do so over the coming years.

The mentoring showcase was followed by a lovely concert and reflections by Lord David Puttnam and his son Sacha.

Tánaiste and Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton TD who launched the 'College For Every Student' initiative in the Google Foundry Building on 11th of October 2014, was also in attendance.

St Joseph's Secondary School in Rush Co. Dublin is the only school outside the US to receive the 'School of Distinction' award. [See Huffington Post article](#)

Click [here](#) to view photo gallery from the event.



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## PPMTA National Awards 2014

Tuesday 4th November 2014



The Post Primary Music Teachers Association held their National Conference in the Alexander Hotel, Dublin recently.

Serena Sheane a pupil of Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty Co. Cork attained the highest results nationally in her Junior Certificate Music Examination 2013.

Serena was awarded the "Louise O'Connell" perpetual trophy and medal by Marian Mullen who is the Chief Examiner for both the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate Music examinations.

Serena is pictured above with her principal Ms. Ann Marie Brosnan and her music teacher Ms. Una Whyte and her mother Lisa.

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## St Mary's College, Naas Blessing of the Beads

Thursday 27th November 2014

St. Mary's Naas held their annual blessing of the beads ceremony on Thursday 27th November.

The beautiful liturgy was lead by local curate and school chaplain Fr. Liam Morgan. The CEIST school co-ordinator Justin Brown was also present.

The annual event affords students an opportunity to have their rosary beads or bracelet blessed and is part of the school's own Wear your Faith with pride initiative.

Fr. Liam reminded the students of the importance of prayer in their own lives and how they could always talk to God during prayer. This fits in nicely with one of the school's own motto which is 'Pray, Hope and Don't Worry'.

At the end of the blessing the students said a decade of the rosary. One could not but be impressed with the prayerfulness of the ceremony itself and the respectful participation of the students.

In times when we hear so much about an absence of faith among our young such ceremonies serve as a heartening reminder that the spark of faith is very much alive.

The school itself is very fortunate to have a very committed RE Team which is admirably co-ordinated by Ms. Bronwyn Cuddy and Ms. Irene Woods. The RE team also organise a weekly prayer meeting every Friday. Students are invited to attend to pray a decade of the rosary for their own intentions.



Ms. Bronwyn Cuddy and Ms. Irene Woods RE Coordinators in St. Mary's College Naas with some First Year students in the school's beautiful oratory.



Fr Liam Morgan pictured with some of the students after the ceremony.



Fr. Liam Morgan leads the beautiful ceremony.

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## Leaving Cert students 2014 awarded entrance scholarships in a number of Universities

Friday 7th November 2014

Well done to Saint Joseph's, Rochfortbridge, Co. Westmeath Leaving Cert students 2014 who were awarded entrance scholarships in a number of Universities.

St Joseph's were delighted with the number of students who received outstanding result in their Leaving Certificate exam and who were the proud recipients of entrance scholarship in the various universities.



Pictured above are Alan Rigney (Rhode), Laura O' Sullivan (Rochfortbridge), Therese Walsh (Coralstown) and Callum Coffey (Delvin) who all received entrance scholarships to Maynooth University.

Therese and Laura are both studying Primary School teaching, Alan is studying law, German and Maths and Callum is undertaking a degree in Finance.

The scholarship is awarded to students who have achieved in excess of 525 points. Well done Laura, Therese, Callum and Alan.

Other students who received scholarship awards this year include Katie Killeen who received an excellence scholarship from NUI Galway. The scholarship received by Katie is awarded to students who have achieved a minimum of 560 points in their Leaving Certificate. The Excellence Scholarship is designed to recognise and reward Leaving Cert success for the highest achieving students and to encourage their on-going commitment to academic excellence. Katie was one of only 49 students nationally to achieve this scholarship. Katie is pursuing a degree in Engineering.

Congratulations also to Philip Giles (Kinnegad) and Laura Conway (Rhode) who on Thursday next will be presented with entrance scholarships at an awards ceremony in University College Dublin.

This scholarship is awarded to students who have achieved in excess of 560 points or more in their Leaving Certificate Examination. It recognises both their exceptional academic ability and their commitment to their studies. Laura is pursuing a course in Pharmaceutical Science while Philip is undertaking a degree in Engineering.



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## Presentation Secondary School Castleisland Celebrate Presentation Week

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Last week, Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland celebrated their ethos and mission and that of their founder Nano Nagle, with a number of activities throughout the school.

Each morning of 'Presentation Week', a thought for the day, which retold the story of Nano Nagle, was read through the schools intercom. Students learned of the powerful vision of a woman who fought for education for the poor during penal times.



Her dedication to the value of education has inspired the girls of Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland to design many creative posters and projects to recount their appreciation of the Presentation Community which has and continues to provide education in over 23 countries worldwide.

Throughout the week, all students attended parish mass in class groups and the activities culminated in a display and presentation of projects in the school's social area on Presentation Day, Friday 21st November.



Members of the school's Parents Association and Board of Management joined with the students and teachers and the local Presentation Sisters in the school on Friday morning for a celebration of Presentation day.

Principal Katherina Broderick said "This week has given our students a real sense of what it means to be a member of Presentation Secondary School. Presentation Secondary, Castleisland continues to give lived expression of the spirit of Nano Nagle. We pride ourselves on the spirit of the school and the presence of the Presentation Sisters with us here today clearly shows that we are part of a living tradition which respects faith and reason while achieving excellence in teaching and learning".



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## Presentation Secondary School Castleisland Open Night

Wednesday 26th November 2014

On Thursday, November 13th, Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland held its Open Evening for incoming First Years for the 2015/2016 school year.

A Harpist was playing in the reception area as staff and students greeted 5th and 6th class girls and their parents, while the sound of the saxophone, keyboard, flute and other instruments could be heard in the foyer of the school building.

As the visitors made their way around the school, parents and students heard about the variety of subjects on offer in the school. Scientists were at work in the science lab displaying their experiments from Science Week. The aroma of freshly baked cakes and treats lulled the visitors into the Home Economics room where students and their teacher had their skills on display. The school's Spanish assistant, Laura, had prepared an interactive quiz which showed the importance of the language and the many situations where it is relevant in our lives.

Maths quizzes and board games engaged the young people in the Maths and Business rooms while the computer room was a great attraction, as the young people participated in the variety of programmes on offer.

While parents listened to the Principal, Katherina Broderick and the Guidance teacher, Ms Maria Kennelly, extol the mission of the school and explain the curricular and extra-curricular activities on offer at the school, the young girls enjoyed the social activity, availing of the many facilities including table tennis and the Wii.

All parents were invited to the staff room for refreshments where many recalled their time in the school and made connections with old friends. All commented on the wonderful atmosphere in the school and the welcoming and friendly students who were on hand to lead people around and answer questions.

Ms. Broderick said "We were delighted with the attendance on what was a great night. We were very pleased that so many people availed of the opportunity to see what Presentation Secondary School has to offer, from the Science Lab with all the experiments being conducted, to the social activity area, to the quiet, reflective atmosphere of the Sacred Space. I would like to thank everyone that attended and we look forward to welcoming many of these girls to our school next year".

For those who didn't enrol on the night, enrolment is still open. Contact the school for more information. Telephone **066 71 41178** or Email: [presconvent.ias@eircom.net](mailto:presconvent.ias@eircom.net)



Recently appointed principal, Katherina Broderick is looking forward to the 2015 /16 school year after their 'Open Night' at Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland, Co. Kerry.



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## Presentation Secondary School Waterford - Awards Night

Monday 17th November 2014

Awards Night at Presentation Secondary School took place on Tuesday 21st October 2014. Awards were presented by Mayor of Waterford Metropolitan District, Councillor Lola O'Sullivan. Head Girl, Niamh Browne, extended a warm welcome to the Mayor and thanked her for her visit.

The Mayor addressed the student body and encouraged our young people to think positively as we look to a brighter future for Waterford. She urged all present to respect the local environment and to responsibly dispose of all rubbish. She stressed the importance for students of getting involved in as many activities as possible both in school and in their Waterford community. She prompted the students to be aware of their potential and of the wide range of opportunities available to them.

Awards Night provides an opportunity for the school to recognise achievements both inside and outside the classroom. All recipients, along with their families and teachers, were congratulated by the Mayor and by the School Principal, Mary Ryan. Business and Academic Awards were presented by Peter Farrell from Lisduggan District Credit Union. The principal acknowledged the generous donation by LDCU to the school as part of its five year secondary schools' initiative. The school was very pleased to receive gifts of two defibrillators for use in the main school building and in the sports hall.

Mary Ryan thanked the Parents' Association and all those who had contributed to fundraising last year. Following the presentation of awards, the Principal gave some up to date information on current events in the school. Coláiste Na Maighdine has a newly appointed Board of Management that will serve for the next three years. The new board was inaugurated by the school's trust body, CEIST, on October 20th.

Waterford City & County Council engineers have recently informed the school principal that the traffic management plan prepared for the Vincent White Road entrance is now to be completed. Unfortunately, at the time of building, there was not sufficient funding available to implement the safety plan that the school management team had discussed with Mr Michael Walsh, who was city manager at that time. Mrs Ryan was delighted to hear that the promise made then is now being honoured.

Works have been approved to extend the footpath on the school side up to Slievekeale Road, to put in another speed bump and another pedestrian crossing. There will also be realignment works at the two junctions. This is a very welcome development and will make the area around the new entrance much safer for our students.

In her concluding words, Mary Ryan commended the support of the entire school community. She believes that Coláiste Na Maighdine is well poised at this moment. Our students enjoy the best educational facilities in a standard of accommodation that's second to none. The school is growing and developing and is enjoying a high level of success both inside and out of the classroom.

As the Mayor informed the students in her opening address, the potential and opportunities are there to be availed of as we look to a bright future for Presentation education in Waterford.



Pictured above All-Ireland Basketball winners with Mayor Lola O'Sullivan and Basketball coach Alan Barber.



Business teacher Sandra Keating presenting the Senior Business Award to Emily Fanning, with Peter Farrell from Lisduggan Credit Union who sponsored the award, and Mayor Lola O'Sullivan.



Class Awards presented by Mayor Lola O'Sullivan to Hayley Cox, Courtney Healy, Lauren Hayes, Rhiannon Kavanagh, Nicole Byrne, Kate Madigan with Principal Mary Ryan.



Excellence in Transition Year award being presented to Beth Carton and Michelle Dalton by Mayor Lola O'Sullivan.

### More Photos

Click [here](#) to view more photos of the awards night.



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## Rotary Club National Winner from Our Lady's College, Greenhills

Tuesday 25th November 2014



Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda were delighted to share news of student Kate Hanlon who will travel to Europe representing Leinster after she was selected from Drogheda and Leinster rotary clubs.

The Rotary Club, in conjunction with the European Union, run an annual Youth Leadership Competition.

The prize is an all-expenses paid trip to the 'Euroscola' event in the European Parliaments in Strasbourg from 25th to the 30th of January 2015.

Kate Hanlon took part in this competition through Our Lady's College Greenhills, and was fortunate enough to win the local and regional rounds of the competition, and on 24th of November she won the National Finals in Newry.

She is looking forward to her trip to the Parliament of the European Union.



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## Classroom innovators: the Twitter teacher

Thursday 27th November 2014

Fintan O'Mahony, Scoil Mhuire, Carrick on Suir, Co Tipperary.



Tech savvy: Fintan O'Mahony with second-year students Scoil Mhuire, Carrick on Suir, Co Tipperary.

An early adopter of social media, Fintan O'Mahony got his school to relax its ban on mobile phones three years ago, so he could introduce Twitter to the classroom.

Until then his history lessons were a traditional affair of working through photocopied handouts, "which was fierce boring for you and the student".

He realised Twitter would make the class more enjoyable and help to develop students' critical-thinking skills.

Leaving Cert correctors are always asked to look out for "significant, relevant statements" in exam papers; "I realised that could be a tweet: it didn't need to be more than a couple of sentences."

For a typical class, groups of students are asked to research a topic online and then to start tweeting facts in chronological order. He monitors quality, deleting misspelt or out-of-sequence tweets.

He then uses Storify to grade and document the tweets. The groups have a sense of researching like historians, he says.

This new way of working "would make a big difference for students who would not be as interested or as able in history," says O'Mahony, who is running for the vice-presidency of the ASTI teachers' union on a modernising ticket. "You can see results in some of their scores, an extra couple of per cent."

*(article and photo courtesy of Irish Times).*



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## News from Scoil Muire agus Pádraig, Swinford

Monday 10th November 2014

Congratulations to four students from Scoil Muire agus Pádraig, Swinford, Co. Mayo who were acknowledged for their outstanding achievements in the Junior Certificate Business Studies Higher Level Exam 2014.

Their achievements were recognised by NUI Galway and the Business Studies Teachers' Association Ireland (BSTA).



Pictured above from left to right are Dr Kieran Conboy (Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law, NUI Galway), Peter McNicholas, Louis Commins, Mr Kilgallon (Business Studies Teacher), Ciara Cunningham, Tommy Stenson and the National Chairperson of the Business Studies Teachers Association.



Pictured above are a group of TY, 5th Year and 6th Year Music students from Scoil Muire & Padraig, Swinford who attended a guided tour of Trinity College Dublin with Ms Kenny and Ms Higgins recently.

The students then went on to enjoy "Shrek the Musical" in the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre.



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## Our Lady's College, Greenhills Students to perform on Late Late Toy Show!

Tuesday 18th November 2014

Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth were delighted to share the news with CEIST that three of their girls will be performing in The Late Late Toy Show on Friday November 28th.

They were chosen from over 4,000 applicants, congratulations to them and we hope they enjoy the experience.

The three girls chosen to perform on the Toy show were Emma O'Brien, Rachel Ni Fhearaigh and Eleanor McHugh.



Pictured above left to right are Emma O'Brien, Rachel Ni Fhearaigh and Eleanor McHugh.

## Updated photo from Late Late Toy Show!



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## National Scifest Award for Our Lady's Castleblayney Student

Thursday 13th November 2014

Congratulations were the order of the day in Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan when 6th Year student, Christopher Carragher, won the overall prize at the National Scifest Final held in Marino Dublin last weekend.

Christopher, whose project entitled 'Memory Buddy', will now get an all-expenses trip to Pittsburgh, USA to the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair in May of next year.

Christopher who is son of Roisín & Martin Carragher, Moneyvolan, Castleblayney has developed an electronic device which will assist people with memory loss or forgetfulness to deal with important issues such as the administration of medication and keeping appointments.

'Memory Buddy', as Christopher has so aptly named the device, allows people with memory loss to live independently and has the added facility of informing a family member through email whether medication has been taken or not.

Essentially Christopher has developed a box with a screen which using Google Calendar and through the means of a buzzer and flashing light, will remind the person that his/her medication is due and will actually issue the proper medication on the pressing of the button.

This reminder will also appear on the TV screen should the person be watching TV. It will also provide reminders to the person that they have an upcoming appointment and will assist them in locating mislaid personal effects such as keys or bags. Christopher has worked alongside Chemistry teacher, Ms Kathryn Higgins in this project. Ms Higgins also received recognition of the very important part she has played with Christopher and his project and she was awarded the very prestigious Intel Teacher of Excellence Award.

Minister of State for Skills, Research and Innovation, Damien English T.D. was in attendance at the Scifest presentation on Friday evening and was fulsome in his praise of the young people, their families and their teachers. He remarked that all of these young people are pursuing avenues of interest which will bring jobs and employment to them. He singled out Christopher's project 'Memory Buddy' in his address, remarking the aid this would be to independent living for many elderly, adding that this indeed is the way forward.

Speaking after the award in Marino on Friday evening, Chemistry teacher, Ms Kathryn Higgins congratulated Christopher on this wonderful achievement. "Christopher has been tremendously focused on the project and has given a huge amount of time and commitment to it. Indeed Christopher's parents also deserve a lot of credit for the support and encouragement given to him since he embarked on this project in January.

The idea had its origins in very simple circumstances as indeed most good ideas do! He observed elderly relatives having difficulty in remembering to take medication etc and out of this Memory Buddy was born! Christopher now goes to Pittsburgh in May where he will meet up on 1800 other young people at the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair, and he will enjoy a week-long celebration of science, technology & maths with some of the best and brightest young people in the world.

All of us in Our Lady's are very proud of Christopher's fantastic achievement and know that he will be a wonderful ambassador for Ireland!"



Christopher is pictured above with parents, Roisín & Martin Carragher and his teacher, Ms Kathryn Higgins who was awarded the very prestigious Intel Teacher of Excellence Award. Congratulations all round.