

**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 Inaugural Conference for Student Leaders

The inaugural CEIST Student Leadership conference was launched on Thursday, 29th January by Bishop Denis Nulty of the Kildare and Leighlin Diocese in St. Leo's College, Carlow. CEIST recognises that the students in its schools today will be the leaders of tomorrow and is committed to playing a part in preparing them for that role.



The conference will be held in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra on Tuesday March 24th. Each of the CEIST 110 schools will be asked to nominate three student leaders to attend the event. They will have a chance to meet with one another, to explore the possibilities of leadership as well as the values associated with being a good leader. Students who have displayed leadership in their own schools will also have an opportunity to share their experiences.

[MORE >](#)

## CEIST News



### A New and Strong Future for Girls' Post Primary Education in Galway City Centre

CEIST, the patron, and the Boards of Management of Presentation Secondary School and Mercy Newtownsmith are pleased to announce the next stage in the process that will see, as and from September 2016, these two schools unite as one school.

This new school will continue the proud traditions of the Mercy and Presentation Sisters and will ensure the existing provision for girls' second-level education in the Galway city area into the future.

[MORE >](#)



### CEIST Middle Leadership Programme

CEIST are running four seminars for our Middle Leadership Programme. The course will run in Dublin for a limited number of participants and we are delighted with the interest shown in the programme. It is now fully booked but we intend to offer additional courses in other locations in the next academic year.

[MORE >](#)

## Competition



### All Ireland CEIST Bake-off Update

We were delighted to announce that 60 schools have registered for the **CEIST Bake-Off**. Each school was invited to register interest in this competition by December 5, 2014. 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 Ardcoil na Tríonóide, Athy during the week of March 23, 2014. The final bake-off will be judged by Catherine Leydon of Odlums and TV3.

[MORE >](#)



### Design a CEIST Award Competition

We are receiving some wonderful and creative entries for our design a perpetual CEIST Award competition. 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.

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[MORE >](#)

## Don't Forget



### Computer in Education Society of Ireland Conference 2015

The annual conference of the Computers in Education Society of Ireland will take place in Galway on February 27th and 28th, 2015.

The theme for this year's conference is **Beyond the Horizon – Technology in Education**. 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](#) to download the conference flyer for details on keynote speakers and workshops.

[MORE >](#)

## Education Matters



### State Unveils 3 Million Euro for Training Principals

It was announced in early January that a fund of €3m is to be made available by the Department of Education to expand supports for Principals and Teachers aspiring to the role.

The Centre for School Leadership will be set up shortly, in partnership with two principals' organisations, building on their work to mentor and support those who head up schools.

[MORE >](#)

## News from CEIST Schools



### CEIST School Newsletters

We were delighted to receive hard copy newsletters in the post recently from a number of CEIST schools. Below are a selection shared electronically for our e-news. A big thank you to **Christ King Girls, Cork, Presentation Secondary School, Listowel and Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore.**

[Christ King Girls School, Cork](#)  
[Presentation Secondary School, Listowel](#)  
[Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore](#)



### Latest News from Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore

Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore have very kindly shared their latest news with the CEIST community.

The school was deeply saddened on Dec 5th to learn of the passing of Sr. Columba Gargan.

As a colleague, past teacher and manager, the school has lost a dear ally in education.

[MORE >](#)



### Emma Helps Redesign Family Room in Mercy University Hospital, Cork

A family room on a children's leukaemia ward in Cork has been given a makeover thanks to a 17-year-old schoolgirl from Mallow in Co Cork.

Emma O'Callaghan, a 5th year student at St Mary's Secondary School, Mallow won an online Gaisce competition to help redesign the facility at the Mercy University Hospital in Cork.

[MORE >](#)



### Two Leinster Finals and a WSE All in a week's work for Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny!

The past week was a very busy one for the students and staff of Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny.

On Friday last they received very positive feedback from the WSE/MLL which took place in the school earlier in the month.

Also the school enjoyed great success on the sports fields where they won two Leinster titles in Soccer and Camogie!

[MORE >](#)



### College Scholarships for Eureka Students

Congratulations and well done to all students from Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath who received entrance scholarships to Third Level Colleges.

Well done also to students Hannah Carroll and Aubrey Ryan Ives who received recognition from Meath County Council for their painting submissions.

[MORE >](#)



### Our Lady's Castleblayney Students Visit Paris

Some seventy students from Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan accompanied by eight of their teachers, recently enjoyed a four day language trip to Paris.

Tour organiser, French teacher, Ms Carol Christie was fulsome in her praise of the young students whose manners and conduct on the trip had been second to none.

[MORE >](#)



### Padraig O Ceidigh Coaches Budding Student Entrepreneurs in Pres College Athenry

Presentation College Athenry, Co. Galway recently hosted a very successful presentation by Entrepreneur, Mr. Padraig O Ceidigh.

Padraig spoke to 300 students about his business experience and offered tips and advice to our budding entrepreneurs on how to succeed in the competitive business arena.

[MORE >](#)



### Nicole Doherty selected for RTE Music Inc Series

Nicole Doherty [15] from Our Lady's College Greenhills, Drogheda is one of the ten contestants appearing on this year's RTE Series of Music INC.

The programmes consist of music-mad teenagers working with successful celebrities gaining valuable experience and performing various tasks to help them advance to the next stage of the competition.

[MORE >](#)



### INVITATION TO RECEIVE THE IRISH FLAG

St Joseph's Secondary School, Milltown Malbay, Spanish Point, Co. Clare were honoured to be chosen by the Thomas F Meagher Foundation to attend a presentation by President Michael D Higgins to receive the Irish Flag in Waterford on March 6th.

Click [here](#) to view event brochure.

## Reviews



### CEIST Schools Excel in BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition

The BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition was held in early January and well done to all schools who participated in the event. It was the 51st running of the exhibition and we were delighted to see a number of CEIST schools winning awards.

In all, approximately 1,200 students from across the island of Ireland covering 550 projects from 206 schools competed for the coveted title 'Winners of the 2015 BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition'.

[MORE >](#)

## Technical Tips



### Safer Internet Day 2015

Safer Internet Day is an EU wide initiative to promote a safer internet for all users, especially young people. It is promoted in Ireland by the PDST Technology in Education and Webwise, and will be celebrated in Ireland on Tuesday 10th February 2015.

2015 will be the twelfth edition of the event. This year's call to action is, **"Let's Create a Better Internet Together"** and the hashtags are **#SID2015** and **#Up2Us**.

[MORE >](#)

### Children in Crossfile Maths Challenge 2015

The **Children in Crossfile Maths Challenge 2015** is available to all schools and is open for the first 2 weeks of February 2015.

Participating means:

- promoting a positive ethos of using mathematics.
- collaborating and competing with other schools at home and abroad.
- providing active shared learning opportunities for pupils.
- raising attitudes and dispositions to mathematics.
- supporting less fortunate children in other parts of the world.

For more information on how the event works for Post-Primary schools and to register, click [here](#).

### WorldWise Global Schools

WorldWise Global Schools (WWGS) is an Irish Aid programme for development education in post primary schools. The initiative aims to contribute to increased knowledge and understanding of global justice issues and increased engagement and action by students as active global citizens.

WWGS will open a 'Grant Call' from 2nd March 2015 to support schools undertaking projects which integrate a global justice and development dimension though curricular and extracurricular activities.

The deadline for applications is **26th April**. Click [here](#) for further details.

### Spring 2015 Series of Public Talks - All Hallows College

All Hallows College are hosting a series of public talks in March. **Reading the Signs of the Times: Urgent Questions for the Church Today, Four Wednesday Evenings in March, 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

Click [here](#) for further details.

# CEIST Inaugural Conference for Student Leaders

Thursday 29th January 2015

The inaugural CEIST Student Leadership conference was launched today by Bishop Denis Nulty of the Kildare and Leighlin Diocese in St. Leo's College, Carlow.

CEIST recognises that the students in its schools today will be the leaders of tomorrow and is committed to playing a part in preparing them for that role.

The conference will be held in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra on Tuesday March 24th. Each of the CEIST 110 schools will be asked to nominate three student leaders to attend the event. They will have a chance to meet with one another, to explore the possibilities of leadership as well as the values associated with being a good leader.

Students who have displayed leadership in their own schools will also have an opportunity to share their experiences.

Speaking at the launch Bishop Nulty spoke of the importance of fostering leadership in our young people and commended the initiative.

Dr. Marie Griffin, CEO also noted that as a Patron and Trust Body it had a responsibility in this regards as the students in all the CEIST schools today will be the leaders of tomorrow. She said CEIST were committed to playing a part in preparing students for leadership.

At the launch it was fitting that students from five CEIST schools were represented. The schools and students in question were:

- **St. Leo's College, Carlow** : Sarah Nolan, Catherine Byrne and Roisin Byrne.
- **Scoil Christ Ri, Portlaoise**: Eadah Hogan and Paula Hennessy
- **Ard Scoil na Troinoide, Athy**: Ellen Purcell, Eve Murphy and Aaron Web.
- **Presentation College, Carlow**: Stefan Comerford, Dermot McGuill and Victoria Vilcauskyie
- **Coláiste Iosagáin, Portarlinton**: Amy Murphy and Naoise O'Dea.

Our Twitter handle for the student leaders conference is [#csiconf15](https://twitter.com/csiconf15)



Pictured above are students from five CEIST schools with Bishop Denis Nulty at the student leadership launch in St Leo's College, Carlow.



Pictured above with students are Justin Brown, CEIST Faith Leadership and Governance Co-ordinator, Bishop Denis Nulty, Fr. John Cummins, Dr. Marie Griffin, CEIST CEO and Maeve Mahon, CEIST Director.



Pictured above with students are (back row, LtoR) Margaret Farrell, Teacher in St Leo's College, Justin Brown, CEIST, John McCormack, Principal, Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Athy, Bishop Denis Nulty, Robert Norton, Meitheal, Sinead Holloway, Teacher in Coláiste Íosagáin, Portarlinton. Front Row (LtorR) Fr. John Cummins, Claire Ryan (Principal, St Leo's College, Carlow), Dr. Marie Griffin, CEO, CEIST and Maeve Mahon, CEIST Director.

# A New and Strong Future for Girls' Post Primary Education in Galway City Centre

Thursday 8th January 2015

CEIST, the patron, and the Boards of Management of Presentation Secondary School and Mercy Newtownsmith are pleased to announce the next stage in the process that will see, as and from September 2016, these two schools unite as one school.

This new school will continue the proud traditions of the Mercy and Presentation Sisters and will ensure the existing provision for girls' second-level education in the Galway city area into the future.

The new school will cater for over five hundred girls and will allow for a broader curriculum and new programme options.

From September 2015, both schools will cooperate closely in terms of curricular provision.

The proposed process to unite the two schools, which will take place over the next eighteen months, will be supported by a Steering Group. This Steering Group will have nominees of parents, teachers and members of the Boards of Management of both schools.

The Mercy Sisters have been providing second-level education in Galway city centre for 78 years and the Presentation Sisters will celebrate two hundred years of involvement in Galway city education in 2015.

The coming together of these two long-established schools will ensure the provision into the future of strong Catholic second-level education for girls in the Galway city area.

All enquiries please to the **CEIST Education Office 01-6510350**.

# CEIST Middle Leadership Programme

Tuesday 20th January 2015

CEIST are running four seminars for our Middle Leadership Programme. The course will run in Dublin for a limited number of participants and we are delighted with the interest shown in the programme.

It is now fully booked but we intend to offer additional courses in other locations in the next academic year.

This will depend, of course, on identified need and the evaluation. The purpose of the course is to help teachers make the first (or later) step towards leadership.

CEIST would hope to complement existing provision in this area, especially by focusing on leadership in a Faith context.

Download brochure for further information

[CEIST Middle Leadership Brochure](#)

# CEIST All-Ireland Bake-Off Update

Wednesday 14th January 2015



There has been an overwhelming response to the [CEIST All-Ireland Bake-Off](#) with up to sixty schools now registered to take part in the competition. Entries are coming in from all corners of the country. Many schools are running their own bake-off to pick entrants for the national competition.

Feedback indicates that there is a wealth of interest in baking which is enjoying a real resurgence worldwide. The competition also links in with core course work and gives students an opportunity to develop design and planning skills.

Schools are keeping in contact with one another on twitter [@ceistbakeoff](#). Entry forms have now been sent to all participating schools and completed entries for finalists must be received by **Friday, 27th February, 2015**.

Congratulations to Aisling Coen at St Aloysius Secondary School, Sharman, Crawford Street Cork who won the Odlum's Hamper in the draw before Christmas.

At Árdcoil na Tríonóide we are looking forward to hosting the national final during the week of March 23, 2014. The final bake-off will be judged by Catherine Leydon of Odlums and TV3 and we look forward to having a great day. Go n-éirí an bóthar libh.

# Design a CEIST Award Competition

Thursday 27th November 2014



**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**

**Winning design determines the CEIST Perpetual Award**

*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

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

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.

2015: "Beyond the Horizon – Technology in Education"



The annual conference of the Computers in Education Society of Ireland will take place in **Galway** on **February 27th and 28th, 2015**. The theme for this year's conference is **Beyond the Horizon – Technology in Education**. 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.

Image source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/artbystevejohnson/4607812720> (used and modified under [Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic License](#))

**Friday February 27th, 7pm – 9pm: TeachMeet**

It has become our custom since 2009 to host a Teachmeet on the eve of our annual conference. We are delighted to announce that we are hosting a special TeachMeet the evening before the 2015 conference. We have invited our friends and colleagues from the East to come West and join us! [Teachmeet East](#) has been running successfully for the past few years in Leinster, so we are thrilled they have agreed to host a special Teachmeet "East meets West" with us. This is going to be one NOT to miss!

*The Friday evening TeachMeet will take place at the [Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology \(GMIT\)](#).*

**UPDATE:** [View the TeachMeet programme here](#) and [view a Twitter List of presenters here](#)

**Saturday February 28th, 9am – 5pm**

On Saturday 28th we continue on the beautiful [Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology \(GMIT\)](#) campus. The blend of talks, workshops, vendors and networking opportunities which has proven so popular in previous years will again be a feature of conference 2015.

*CESI graciously acknowledges the various supports provided for conference by the [Teacher Professional Networks](#) and by the [PDST Technology in Education](#)*



# State Unveils 3 Million Euro for Training Principals

Monday 5th January 2015



A fund of €3m is to be made available by the Department of Education to expand supports for Principals and Teachers aspiring to the role.

The Centre for School Leadership will be set up shortly, in partnership with two principals' organisations, building on their work to mentor and support those who head up schools.

There have been increasing difficulties getting applicants for the role of principal at primary and second-level, largely associated with perceptions about the workload.

The National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) at second level, and the Irish Primary Principals' Network (IPPN) already offer a range of supports for newcomers. But they also offer ongoing assistance to those in the job.

The department has decided to spend €3m over the next three years on the new centre, with postgraduate qualifications for those interested in becoming leaders to be the focus this year.

"We know that we need to better prepare people to become school leaders, but we also need to support them better once they are in leadership roles," said Education Minister Jan O'Sullivan.

"That will be the main focus of the Centre for School Leadership, on induction programmes, coaching and mentoring support."

Such a centre has long been called for by both groups, with IPPN already moving during 2014 to set up a National Centre for Leadership and Innovation.

At an Oireachtas education committee hearing earlier in the year, the NAPD proposed a leadership and planning centre to involve both organisations, together with the expertise in the department's own professional development services, and other education partners.

All existing funded leadership programmes are to be reviewed, with plans for the new centre to build on the work of existing support services for school leaders.

"When you walk into a school, you immediately know a lot about the culture and climate of the school. Positive environments are what we want for all of our children," the minister said.

She said that can be achieved by providing top quality teachers, working alongside highly-trained, confident school leaders.

*(Article and image courtesy of Irish Examiner).*

# Latest News from Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore

Wednesday 28th January 2015

Sacred Heart Secondary School (SHS), Tullamore was deeply saddened on Dec 5th to learn of the passing of Sr. Columba Gargan.

As a colleague, past teacher and manager, the SHS has lost a dear ally in education.

Sr. Columba moved to Tullamore in 1982 to take up the position of Maths teacher. She defined an era of teaching in the school and remained with us until her retirement in 2002. The esteem in which she was held could be seen by the number of past pupils who both visited the convent during the weekend and who attended her funeral on Monday. It was heartening to note that the impact of a dedicated teacher lives long past the five or six years of instruction.

Sr Columba not only leant to the teaching tradition in the school but also served as chair on the Board from 1988-2003. She was renowned for her clear judgement and vision and the unstinting support she gave her Principals throughout her management. Sr. Columba was involved in many organisations and was an active member on the JMB/AMCSS until her recent illness.

Her loss will be felt by all the schools she served with but particularly so in the SHS where her influence shaped choices and options for countless young ladies. It was only fitting that the senior SHS girls accompanied her on her final journey and the honour was ours.

## SHS Young Social Innovators



SHS Young Social Innovators group Helping Hands are organising a Homelessness week from the 2nd until the 6th February to raise awareness of the problem of homelessness in Ireland.

They are planning guest speakers from the Peter McVerry trust and Midlands Simon community as well as a sleep out on Friday 6th where they are looking to raise much needed funds for homelessness.

## Annual Ladies Lunch

Our annual Ladies Lunch was held in The Bridge House Hotel. The Transition Year and Leaving Certificate Applied Students were dressed in style! Debbie Deegan from the charity To Russia With Love was the invited speaker. Her message and ability to have changed the lives of so many children was a lesson to the students.

## Operation Transformation

The First and Second Year students have undertaken Operation Transformation, every Monday and Tuesday and 12:30 along with their teachers walk or jog for 40 minutes. We hope 2015 will prove to be a healthy year!

## BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition



Congratulations to 2nd Yr students Olivia Summerville and Maria Guinan who won best overall display at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition in January.

## Mental Health Awareness Programme



On the 26th of January as part of our Mental Health Awareness Programme Finbar Walsh (father of Donal) gave a talk to all students during the day and for parents at night.

He emphasised to students how life is so special and if they need help at any stage where to look for it. His positivity was contagious and the students were very moved by this speaker.

# Emma Helps Redesign Family Room in Mercy University Hospital, Cork

Monday 19th January 2015



A family room on a children's leukaemia ward in Cork has been given a makeover thanks to a 17-year-old schoolgirl from Mallow in Co Cork.

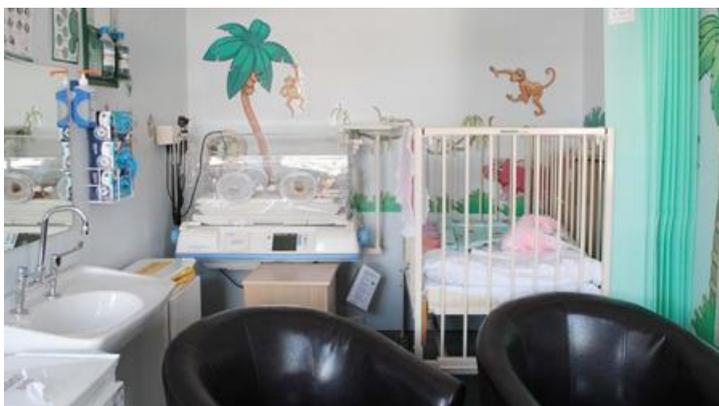
Emma O'Callaghan, a 5th year student at St Mary's Secondary School, Mallow won an online Gaisce competition to help redesign the facility at the Mercy University Hospital in Cork.

Her idea of a circus themed room was realised with the help of professional designers Optimise Design, and with €10,000 in sponsorship from furniture company DFS. Emma was featured on the Six One RTE News for her great work, well done to Emma and all involved in the project.

The unit at the Mercy University Hospital is the only independent facility of its kind outside of Dublin and is currently looking after the in-patient and at home needs of 40 children.



Pictured below is the unit before the makeover.



# Two Leinster Finals and a WSE – All in a week’s work for Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny!

Thursday 29th January 2015

The past week was a very busy one for the students and staff of Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny.

On Friday they received very positive feedback from the WSE/MLL which took place in the school earlier in the month.

The school received many commendations and praise from the Inspectorate, most notably for the school’s warm and welcoming atmosphere, numerous extra-curricular activities and exemplary teaching.



Buoyed on by such recognition the school’s Senior A Camogie Team (pictured above) became Leinster Champions for the second consecutive year.

The girls beat Birr in the game which was held in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny.

Not content with winning one Leinster Championship the school U17 Soccer Team (pictured below) won their Leinster Final three days later when they beat Scoil Christ Ri, Portlaoise by 2 goals to 1.



The team are now through to the All- Ireland Semi-Final.

We extend our congratulations to both teams and their mentors and the school itself on a very positive few days in Presentation Kilkenny.

# College Scholarships for Eureka Students

Monday 5th January 2015

Congratulations and well done to all students from Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath who received entrance scholarships to Third Level Colleges.



Pictured above are Sarah Smith who is studying Primary Teaching in St Pat's, Drumcondra.



Pictured above are Lydia Igoe and Grainne Clarke both studying Science courses at UCD. (Ellen Casey also won a scholarship to UCD based on her Leaving Certificate results).



Niamh O'Kelly Lynch won a scholarship to study in Trinity College in photo with Vice-Provost of Trinity College, Prof Linda Hogan.

## Calendar Girls

Congratulations to Hannah Carroll (2nd year) whose painting was selected for the month of January in the Meath County Council Calendar 2015. Well done to Aubrey Ryan Ives (1st year) whose painting was highly commended.



Pictured above Hannah Carroll with her painting.



Aubrey Ryan Ives, 1st year in Eureka, whose painting was highly commended.



Hannah Carroll, 2nd year student in Eureka Secondary School, receiving her prize from Councillor Jim Holloway and other members of Meath County Council.

# Our Lady's Castleblayney Students Visit Paris

Monday 26th January 2015

Some seventy students from Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan accompanied by eight of their teachers, recently enjoyed a four day language trip to Paris.

Upon arrival in Paris, the group was met by a luxury double-decker coach. The students were then immediately immersed in the history and culture of this beautiful city as they enjoyed a panoramic city tour of Paris. A tour guide filled everyone in on the finer details as well as pointing out all famous landmarks. The Champs Elysées provided the venue for lunch before the students took the Métro to the Louvre Museum.

They were then met again by their coach and made their way to the fabulous area of Montmartre. There were many tired legs on the climb to the Basilica of Sacré Coeur, although all agreed that the breathtaking views from the summit were worth it.

Here they had time to visit the cobbled streets with their little shops, the renowned Place de Tetre with it's many artists and of course the Chocolate Museum did a roaring trade! Following the evening meal at a Parisian restaurant, the group enjoyed a relaxing cruise along the River Seine on the Bateau Mouche. The hotel was a welcome sight on that night, after a long but satisfying day.

The second days programme began with a visit to the Latin Quarter and Notre Dame Cathedral. After visiting the cathedral the students enjoyed real French cuisine in the little traditional restaurants of the Quartier Latin. After lunch the group took the short coach trip to Versailles. They visited the splendid Château and gardens of Louis xiv. Some took the train around the estate while others talked their teachers into hiring golf buggies. One of the highlights for the students was when a group of Japanese tourists mistook the three male teachers for a famous Irish boyband!! After a frantic bid to rescue them it was back to Paris for an evening meal and then everyone cooled down at Paris' Aquatic pool, Aquaboulevard.

The third day saw the group join Mickey Mouse and Co. in Eurodisney. This was followed by an evening meal in Planet Hollywood, where one student celebrated an 18th birthday he will never forget! From there it was on to the Eiffel Tower. Everyone was happy to take the elevator to the third floor after an already exhausting day.

On the last day it was time for some retail therapy. Val d' Europe international shopping centre provided the venue. All too soon it was time to depart for Charles de Gaulle airport.

Tour organiser, French teacher, Ms Carol Christie was fulsome in her praise of the young students whose manners and conduct on the trip had been second to none. "They were a pleasure to be with, wonderful ambassadors for Our Lady's and indeed their parents should be very proud of them. They were so enthusiastic and eager to practise their French and have learned so much over these days, it will certainly stand them in good stead especially for the Leaving Certs when they come to do their orals. They take home with them many happy memories and as the students said goodbye to Paris, full of emotion, many of them promised to return!"

Au revoir Paris, à la prochaine fois.



Pictured outside Versailles, at the gates of the chateau are some 70 students and their teachers from Our Lady's Castleblayney who enjoyed a four day language trip to Paris in recent weeks.

# Padraig O Ceidigh Coaches Budding Student Entrepreneurs in Pres College Athenry

Wednesday 14th January 2015

Presentation College Athenry, Co. Galway recently hosted a very successful presentation by Entrepreneur, Mr. Padraig O Ceidigh.

Padraig spoke to 300 students about his business experience and offered tips and advice to our budding entrepreneurs on how to succeed in the competitive business arena.

Click [here](#) to listen to the excellent motivational speech from Padraig, which was kindly shared by school teacher, Mr. Jason Cotter.

He gives some great examples to the students of where people found "a problem" which formed the start of their business idea and then went on to develop it into a business generating in some cases very significant incomes!



Pictured above Padraig O Ceidigh speaking to Business Studies students at Presentation College Athenry on Friday 9th January.



Serial Entrepreneur, Mr. Padraig O Ceidigh is presented with a locally crafted frame by Presentation College, Athenry students, Ethan Wilkinson and Kate Gilligan in appreciation of the presentation he made to students on Friday 9th January.



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- CEIST Annual Conference**
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## BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2015

Tuesday 13th January 2015

The BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2015 concluded last Saturday and well done to all schools who participated in the event. It was the 51st running of the exhibition and we were delighted to see a number of CEIST schools winning awards.

Transition year students Ian O'Sullivan and Eimear Murphy, both aged 16, from Colaiste Treasa, Kanturk, Co Cork took home the top prize for their project entitled, "Alcohol consumption: Does the apple fall far from the tree?". The announcement was made in the BT Arena at Dublin's RDS by Jan O'Sullivan, TD, Minister for Education and Skills and Colm O'Neill, CEO, BT Ireland. The pair entered in the Intermediate section of the Social & Behavioural Sciences category.



Pictured above Rachael Ni Dhonnachadha, [St Vincent's Dundalk](#) receiving best Individual award from Minister for the Department of Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan.

Best Individual which went to Rachael Ni Dhonnachadha, aged 16, and a fifth year student from St Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk, Co Louth, for her project "Brap: Boxers handwrap, preventing wrist injury in boxing." She was entered in the Biological & Ecological Sciences category at senior level. Rachel also won two highly commended awards.

Colm O'Neill, CEO, BT Ireland said, "Every year the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition captures the public's imagination by demonstrating the creativity, ingenuity and potential of our young people. Over the past three days we have had some of Ireland's brightest, hard-working and positive young people inspire us with their ideas. Everyone involved with the exhibition has been hugely impressed by the calibre of these entries."

Jan O'Sullivan, TD Minister for Education and Skills commented "The talent we have seen in the RDS this week offers a positive insight into the future of this country and I am greatly impressed by the standard of the entries to this important event. I would like to congratulate our winners who have done exceptionally well to succeed against such worthy competitors and I hope that everyone who participated in this year's BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition will continue to innovate and create new ideas. I want to commend all the students involved, in particular the winning entries, but also their parents and teachers who have helped them come so far."

In all, approximately 1,200 students from across the island of Ireland covering 550 projects from 206 schools competed for the coveted title 'Winners of the 2015 BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition'.

### CEIST Award Winners

Well done to all CEIST schools who participated in the competition and the following is a list of CEIST schools and their associated projects that won awards at the exhibition.

#### Highly Commended Winners

##### Biological and Ecological

###### Intermediate

**Group:** Michelle Ryan, Caoimhe Lanigan, "To compare the cancerous effects of e-cigarettes to normal cigarettes and observe how they affect cancer cell growth", Presentation Secondary School, Thurles.

**Group:** Bronagh Morrissey, Lucy Kennedy, Flavia Alvarez, "An exploration into the effects of slurry usage on the earthworm population and hence on the soil health of Irish farms", Presentation Secondary School, Thurles.

**Group:** Amy McArdle, Caoimhe McEvoy Warr, Ciara Babington, "Do cheap sun-glasses really protect your eyes against UVA, UVB and HEV?", St. Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk.

**Group:** Ciara McLoughlin, Aoife O'Malley, Aoife McLoughlin, "An investigation into the symmetry of sycamore tree, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, "helicopter" seeds and its effect on dispersal distances", St. Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk.

###### Junior

**Group:** Lucy O'Growney, Lara Norrish, "Does size matter when hermit crabs choose a shell?", Mary Immaculate Secondary School - Lisdoonvarna.

**Group:** Thomas Hartigan, Dara Kenneally, "A study of the movement of out-wintering cattle in the Burren", Mary Immaculate Secondary School - Lisdoonvarna.

**Group:** Isabelle Walsh, Ellen King, "What swims in the rock pools of North Clare?", Mary Immaculate Secondary School - Lisdoonvarna.

##### Chemical, Physical & Mathematical

###### Junior

**Group:** Olivia Summerville, Maria Guinan, "Honeybees don't need protractors to make perfect hexagons", Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore.

##### Social and Behavioural Sciences

###### Junior

**Individual:** Fearghal Burke, "The geography of the voting patterns in the Eurovision song contest", Mary Immaculate Secondary School - Lisdoonvarna.

##### Technology

###### Junior

**Group:** Ellen O'Donnell, Alice Ryan, Estelle Parkinson, "Gas-Hear: A device to prevent lives being lost to slurry fumes", Presentation Secondary School, Thurles.

#### Category Winners

##### Biological and Ecological Sciences

###### Senior

**Individual:** (1st) Stephen O'Connell, "Follow me into a lobster pot - Lobster preferences when entering a lobster plot", Mary Immaculate Secondary School - Lisdoonvarna.

###### Junior

**Group:** (3rd) Eibhlis Myers, Anna Burns, "The production of single cell proteins to supply long duration space missions with a nutritious food supply", St. Mary's Secondary School, Mallow.

**Individual:** (2nd) Jessica Kelly, "Morphological differences in *Himantalia elongata* found at different locations in North Clare, Mary Immaculate Secondary School", Lisdoonvarna.

##### Chemical, Physical and Mathematical Sciences

###### Senior

**Individual (3rd)** Eile Loughran, "To develop and functionalise a graphene-based biosensor to measure attractin, a protein biomarker for high-grade gliomas", Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda.

###### Intermediate

**Individual (2nd)** RoseAnne O'Mahony, "Global warming and changes in Irish grass growth patterns", Christ King Girls Secondary School, Cork.

###### Junior

**Group (1st)** Shauna Murphy, Caoimhe Cronin, "Measurement of radon emanation and its correlation with indoor radon levels in some areas of Mallow", St. Mary's Secondary School, Mallow.

##### Social and Behavioural Sciences

###### Senior

**Group (1st)** Barbara Wawrzynek, Erin Crowley, "Long-term consequences of Syncopa on teenagers' mental health", Meán Scoil Mhuire gan Smál, Roscommon Town.

**Individual (2nd)** Deirdre O'Connell, "The geography of award winning Young Scientist projects", Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna.

###### Intermediate

**Individual (3rd)** Emily Cahill, "An Investigation into the influence of gender equality education on the attitudes of children towards gender roles in the workforce", Presentation Secondary School, Miltown, Co. Kerry.

##### Technology

**Individual (1st)** Christopher Carragher, "Memory buddy", Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.

#### Special Awards

##### Alcatel Lucent

**Special Award - Intermediate:** Emma Finlay, Ciara Moloney, Keelan Flynn, "Medical devices for the (sustainable) future", Presentation Secondary School, Thurles.

##### EMC

**Special Award - Intermediate:** RoseAnne O'Mahony, "Global warming and changes in Irish grass growth patterns", Christ King Girls Secondary School, Cork.

##### Health Products Regulatory Authority

**Special Award - Senior:** Christopher Carragher, "Memory buddy", Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.

##### Institute of Physics

**Special Award - Junior:** Shauna Murphy, Caoimhe Cronin, "Measurement of radon emanation and its correlation with indoor radon levels in some areas of Mallow", St. Mary's Secondary School, Mallow.

##### Intellectual Winners

**Special Award - Senior:** Eile Loughran, "To develop and functionalise a graphene-based biosensor to measure attractin, a protein biomarker for high-grade gliomas", Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda.

##### Jack Restan Displays

**Special Award - Junior:** Olivia Summerville, Maria Guinan, "Honeybees don't need protractors to make perfect hexagons", Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore.

##### Psychological Society of Ireland

**Special Award - Intermediate:** Emily Cahill, "An Investigation into the influence of gender equality education on the attitudes of children towards gender roles in the workforce", Presentation Secondary School, Miltown, Co. Kerry.

#### Student Travel Awards

##### Intel Student Award

**Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences - Junior:** Shauna Murphy, "Measurement of radon emanation and its correlation with indoor radon levels in some areas of Mallow", St. Mary's Secondary School, Mallow.

##### Perrigo Student Award

**Biological and Ecological - Senior:** Rachel NiDhonnachadha, "Brap: Boxer's handwrap, preventing wrist injury in boxing", St. Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk.

#### Best Teacher Awards

##### BT Biological and Ecological Educator of Excellence

John Simms, Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna.

##### Analog Educator of Excellence

Olivia O'Brien, Presentation Secondary School, Thurles.

##### Intel Educator of Excellence

Padraig Harlow, Meán Scoil Mhuire gan Smál, Roscommon Town.

#### Further Information on CEIST Award Winners

Rachel Ni Dhonnachadha (16), who is a fifth-year student at St. Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk, looked at wrist injuries, a common problem in boxing. As a former boxer, Rachel designed a glove-like wrist support that could reduce wrist deflection and so reduce injuries. "It is comfortable to wear and supports the wrist without restricting normal movement," she said. She asked Irish boxing champion Katie Taylor to try the wrist support and she found it effective, said Rachel, who has applied for a patent. She received a perpetual trophy and a cheque for €2,400.

St Mary's Secondary School, Mallow, Co. Cork scooped four awards, click [here to view press release](#) from the school, while [Mary Immaculate Secondary School](#) scooped seven awards at the event! Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney also kindly shared their [press release](#) on 6th year student Christopher Carragher as he captured the Overall Award in the Technology Section of the BT Young Scientist Competition held in RDS Dublin at the weekend.

For the second time this year, Christopher has returned to Castleblayney, the bearer of prestigious accolades and prizes for his participation in Science & Technology Competitions, with the most recent being an overall category award at the BT Young Scientist Competition, having been declared the National Scifest Winner in November.

# Nicole Doherty selected for RTE Music Inc Series

Thursday 15th January 2015



Nicole Doherty [15] from Our Lady's College Greenhills, Drogheda is one of the ten contestants appearing on this years RTE Series of [Music INC](#).

The programmes consist of music-mad teenagers working with successful celebrities gaining valuable experience and performing various tasks to help them advance to the next stage of the competition.

The programme will be aired on RTE2 each Friday at five o'clock. Hopefully this will be the start of something big for Nicole.