



news from ceist...

31 March 2015

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 Student Leadership Conference 2015

The first CEIST Student Leadership Conference was held last Tuesday 24th March in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin. It was wonderful to see over 300 students representing 96 schools accompanied by 80 teachers attending our first student leadership conference. CEIST was also delighted to have as our keynote speaker, An Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny T.D. who gave an insightful speech on leadership to the students.



Ciara Ramsbottom is a 5th Year Student in Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise. She attended the CEIST Student Leadership Conference and has been asked by the Irish Catholic newspaper to write about her experience of the day. She has kindly shared her thoughts with us.

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CEIST News



CEIST Bake-Off Winner

The air of Árd Scoil na Tríonóide, Athy was filled with the smell of beautiful baking as well as excitement on Friday last when the final of the CEIST Bake Off was held in the Kildare school.

There was a very positive response to the Bake Off with over 130 applications received from 70 CEIST schools. These 130 were then shortlisted to seven by the well known Odlums/TV 3 Baker Catherine Leyden.

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Design A CEIST Perpetual Award

Congratulations to student Tessa Ni Chrocaigh from Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe who won the "Design A CEIST Perpetual Award Competition."

CEIST would like to thank all schools who entered the competition. The standard of entry was very high and the judging panel comprised of external adjudicator, sculptor Mark Ryan from Carlow and team members from CEIST found it quite a task to shortlist 6 schools and pick the eventual winning design.

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The Annual McAuley Conference

This Conference will explore resources both inside and outside the Christian tradition that can help in countering what are perceived as increasingly instrumentalist and politicised educational systems dominated by short-term thinking.

Marking the fiftieth anniversary of *Gravissimum Educationis*, and twenty-fifth anniversary of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* the 2015 McAuley Conference will consider the resources that exist within the Christian tradition to foster human growth and maturation, and to educate for the common good.

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

Star of the Sea Summer Schools

Next June up to fifty Pre-Leaving Cert students from all over Ireland will embark on two highly engaging and exciting Faith Development & Religious Education (R.E.) two-week Summer Schools in the sea-side village of Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo.

Each day will be a blend of helpful learning opportunities, outdoor recreational and social activities. There will also be times of prayer and reflection, of rest and relaxation. Weekends will include field trips and outings.

Click [here](#) to view flyer.

Share your news with CEIST!

We would be delighted to profile your latest school news on our e-newsletter and website, just e-mail to info@ceist.ie

News from CEIST Schools



News From St Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla

The following are some very interesting news items from St Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla, Co. Clare. The school was delighted that student Bethan Godber, will be one of six students on the Irish team for the EU Science Olympiad next month.

Also St Joseph's Camogie team won an All Ireland Camogie title with the senior hurlers already winning a Munster title this year. On the academic front the school welcomed a very positive Department of Education inspection report regarding the quality of science and chemistry learning and teaching, where teacher support was praised.

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Sophie Named 2015 Pramerica All-Ireland Youth Volunteer of the Year

Sophie Donnelly from Gorey, Co. Wexford has been recognised for the motivation, service and impact she has demonstrated in her school and local community.

Sophie who is a sixth year student at Presentation Secondary School, Co. Wexford, has a keen interest in volunteering and is involved in many mental health initiatives.

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Special Day for student in Ardscoil Mhuire, Ballinasloe

Congratulations to student Stephanie O'Halloran, who won the Student of the Year Award from Sky Sports Living for Sport.

Stephanie is a student in Ardscoil Mhuire, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. Katie Taylor came with a surprise visit to present Stephanie with her award during a school table quiz. This was all filmed and aired live on Sky Sports News!

As you can imagine it was a very special day for Stephanie and the school.

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Calasanctius College TY Students heading to Shanghai

The study of Chinese is a most enjoyable component of the Calasanctius College TY programme. For the third consecutive year, TY students from Calasanctius College, Oranmore are participating in a two week Easter Camp study programme at Shanghai University, 28 March - 11 April.

They will attend classes in Chinese language (Mandarin), Chinese culture and history.

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Students Impress at Student County Enterprise Board Awards

Well done to Killina Presentation Secondary School, Rahan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly TY students who did so well at the County Enterprise Board Awards on Wednesday 25th March.

The school won the student choice award, special merit award for innovation, best use of technology and 2nd overall award!

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Two CEIST Schools Contest All Ireland Football Schools Final!

The TESCO Post Primary Schools' All Ireland Junior C Football Final was contested in Tubberclair on Thursday March 26th and it was a high scoring encounter between Scoil Mhuire agus Pádraig, Swinford and Scoil Chríost Rí Portlaoise.

A 5 minute purple patch midway through the first half was to prove the difference between the two sides as Scoil Chríost Rí scored 3 rapid fire, unanswered goals and never looked back.

Congrats to Scoil Chríost Rí (pictured below) on their victory and well done to Scoil Mhuire agus Pádraig, Swinford on reaching the All Ireland Final.




Latest News from Presentation College Athenry

The following good news was kindly shared by Jason Cotter, Presentation College, Athenry, Co. Galway.

A group of enterprising students have succeeded in securing not one, but three celebrity entertainers for their fundraising concert.

Well done to Presentation College Athenry JCSP Drama students who have recently filmed their first dance DVD!

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Presentation Waterford Carry Irish Hopes in World Schools Basketball

As the current 2014 U16 'A' All-Ireland League Champions Presentation Secondary School Waterford have been selected to represent Ireland in the World Schools Basketball Championships which are to be held next April in Limoges, France.

The girls will be facing the best schools from over 20 countries such as China, Greece, Canada, Turkey, Germany and Spain!

After a fantastic effort the team have now raised almost €20,000 from fundraising activities and the generous sponsorship from local and national businesses.

[MORE >](#)



Latest News from Coláiste Nano Nagle, Limerick

Coláiste Nano Nagle, Sexton Street, Limerick has enjoyed a very successful few weeks and kindly shared the following news and pictures.

The school enjoyed great Business Studies success winning all before them in the Junior Category!

Coláiste Nano Nagle had a very special role to play in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Limerick, as they were the official flag ambassadors for the parade.

[MORE >](#)



Active Historian 2015

The Active Historian Competition has been running in Presentation Secondary School, Waterford since 2006.

All 1st years are asked to make a model that represents a period in History that they have studied in 1st year.

This competition is kindly sponsored by the school Tuck Shop.

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CEIST Student Leadership Conference 2015

Friday 27th March 2015

Ciara Ramsbottom is a 5th Year Student in Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise. She attended the CEIST Student Leadership Conference and has been asked by the Irish Catholic newspaper to write about her experience of the day. She has kindly shared her thoughts with us.

Tuesday 24th of March 2015 marked a stepping stone in CEIST's history; it marked the first ever Student Leadership Conference organised by CEIST, held in St. Patricks College Drumcondra, in Dublin. CEIST has 110 schools under their wing and 96 of those invited came along to this conference with three or four of their students whom they believed showed incredible interest in leadership within their school community.



Pictured above students at the conference with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny seated with students in 2nd row.

With over 300 students and 80 teachers attending, the organisation of rooms was perfect for the occasion; every student received a wristband upon registration and the colour of the band determined what workshops they would be in. Not only did it make life easier for the facilitators of these workshops, but it also made sure that not everyone from the same school ended up in the same classroom together. The day had already started on a great note and it could only get better.

Dr. Marie Griffin, the CEO of CEIST, started off the day with an eloquent speech about how much of an achievement it was for CEIST to be able to have 300 of their school's students hungry to learn more about leadership all in one place. A sense of pride wafted in the room as the students, myself included, realised just how much of a compliment it was for each and every one of us to have been lucky enough to have been chosen to attend the conference; we were proud because it was nice to feel that our teachers, Deputy Principals and Principals appreciated the enthusiasm we have exerted in our schools enough to choose us as representatives.



Students from CEIST schools holding the CEIST flag!

Following a beautiful and relaxing welcoming prayer myself and the three other girls, from Scoil Chríost Rí Portlaoise, were spilt up into our different groups and off we went to workshop number one: What is a leader? What makes a good leader?

In this workshop, the qualities that make a great leader was the main theme. Sitting around tables of eight, every group had to work together to identify ten leaders from a list and explain why we believed that they had the attributes that come together to form a good leader.

To some it may seem simple to do, but to sixteen and seventeen year olds it can be very daunting to sit with your peers who you don't know and try to voice your opinions without being over bearing. Luckily enough, every group got through the task and every young person got the opportunity to speak. At the end of the session, our facilitators gave us a moment to reflect on the work we had just done, they asked us to think about what we would take from today and my answer was simple: being a leader doesn't mean being the loudest person in the room, it means being the person who encourages and motivates everyone else to be the best they can possibly be.

Workshop number two was much the same, with the added element of incorporating Jesus. This group discussion focused on Jesus' leadership style and why it worked so well. It was refreshing to view Jesus' work from the perspective of how He lead His followers and not from the point of view of His teachings. The message from this workshop was straightforward: each and everyone one of us have the attributes and potential to be a successful leader, but before we reach greatness we must believe that we can use these talents and qualities to better our schools, our homes, our communities and especially ourselves. This group workshop allowed us to reflect on how we approach situations and it gave us the chance to understand that we must take responsibility for the energy we bring into a room just like Jesus did.

After our workshops finished, we were happy to hear from An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny. He spoke about his own experiences with leadership as leader of our country and he encouraged us to believe in ourselves and to become the best leaders we can possibly be. It was a great experience to hear our Taoiseach speaking to us and it was most definitely a day CEIST won't forget.

The day commenced after students from a select number of schools presented on their own experiences of leadership within their school community. My own school got the opportunity to present and the articulate Eada Hogan did our school proud.

Before parting ways for another year, we were blessed with a scattering prayer and a few thank you words from Dr. Marie Griffin again.

I commend both organisers and facilitators for a wonderful and unforgettable day. I have learned so much about leadership, so much about the great leaders in our world and most importantly, how to harness my own skills as a leader in my life.



Pictures from the Conference

Click here to [view slideshow of images](#) from the student leadership conference.

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CEIST Bake Off

Tuesday 31st March 2015

The air of Árd Scoil na Tríonóide was filled with the smell of beautiful baking as well as excitement on Friday last when the final of the CEIST Bake Off was held in the Kildare school.

There was a very positive response to the Bake Off with over 130 applications received from 70 CEIST schools.

These 130 were then shortlisted to seven by the well known Odlums/TV 3 Baker Catherine Leyden. The seven short-listed finalists who took part in Friday's competition were:

Student	School	Teacher
Flavia Alvarez	Presentation Secondary School, Thurles	Maura Carroll
Katie Elliffe	Méan Scoil Muire Gan Smal, Roscommon	Michelle Cleary
Ciara Galligan	Coláiste na Toirbhirte, Bandon	Linda Hall
Natalie McConnell	St. Columba's College, Stranorlar	Amanda Timony
Rachel McFadden	Árd Scoil na Tríonóide, Athy	Jacqueline Cooper
Sorcha Matthews	Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise	Aine Mackey
Aine O'Callaghan	St. Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla	Rose Marie Flanagan

Understandably the standard was extremely high. Catherine Leyden said she was heartened by the talent she had seen throughout the competition as it proved baking was a skill which was very much alive and well in our young people.



Pictured above Sorcha Matthews of Scoil Chríost Rí with Dr. Marie Griffin and Catherine Leyden.

However like all competitions there could only be one winner and the accolade went to Sorcha Matthews of Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise and her cake which was based on the theme of sewing. We extend our congratulations to Sorcha and her teacher Ms. Mackey.

While this was the first year of the Bake Off both CEIST and Odlums would like to see the competition becoming an annual event.

Speaking at the Bake Off on Friday CEIST CEO Dr. Marie Griffin spoke of the link between the Bake Off and the CEIST Charter value of Creating Community. She said that events like the Bake Off help create an awareness among students and schools of the wider CEIST family and network.

Dr. Griffin thanked Odlums and Árd Scoil na Tríonóide for sponsoring and hosting the event and particularly acknowledged the Trojan work of Margaret Cambie McEvoy, Deputy Principal and Jacqueline Cooper, Home Economics Teacher who helped make the event such a success.



Pictured above (left to right) are Dr. Marie Griffin, Maura Carroll, Presentation Thurles Teacher, Flavia Alvarez, Student who was runner-up and Catherine Leyden.



Natalie McConnell, student in St. Columba's College, Stranorlar pictured above with her cake.



The winning cake from Sorcha Matthews, Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise.



Pictured above (LtoR) are Emer Matthews (Sorcha's Mum), Aine Mackey, Teacher, Scoil Chríost Rí, Sorcha Matthews competition winner and Helen O'Donnell, Principal of Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise.

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Design A CEIST Perpetual Award Winner

Monday 30th March 2015

Congratulations to student Tessa Ní Chrocaigh from Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe who won the "Design A CEIST Perpetual Award Competition."

CEIST would like to thank all schools who entered the competition. The standard of entry was very high and the judging panel comprised of external adjudicator, sculptor Mark Ryan from Carlow and team members from CEIST found it quite a task to shortlist 6 schools and pick the eventual winning design.

The six schools shortlisted were as follows;

- Emily Byrne - St Leo's College, Carlow
- Aoife Anderson - Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney
- Thanin Sriwang - Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna
- Tessa Ní Chrocaigh - Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe
- Elizabeth Cronin & Eimear Courtney - St Brigid's Secondary School, Killarney
- Siming Wang - St Aloysius School, Cork

The design of the CEIST Perpetual Award that was picked as overall winner was from student Tessa Ní Chrocaigh, Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe. The description given from Tessa of her design was as follows;

"The leaf represents the growth of the student during their time in school, the veins on the inside of the leaf form a tree, symbolising inner strength."



Tessa is pictured above being presented with her winning design made of glass from An Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny, T.D. at our student leadership conference yesterday in St Patrick's College, Drumcondra. Tessa also received an iPad Air 2 as winner of the competition.

We plan to produce 110 CEIST Perpetual awards based on the winning design and deliver to each CEIST School to use at their respective annual awards ceremony.

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News From St Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla

Wednesday 25th March 2015

The following is some very interesting news snippets from [St Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla, Co. Clare](#).

St Joseph's Tulla Student on Science Olympiad Team



Bethan Godber who is a Student in St Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla, Co. Clare will be one of six students on the Irish team for the EU Science Olympiad next month. Speaking recently to the Clare Champion newspaper, Bethan explained how she made her place on the six-member team.

"Based on the Junior Cert results in maths and science, the high achievers were asked to take part in a test in November at DCU. There were about 300 students chosen to take the test. Each student got an opportunity to take a test in biology, chemistry or physics. I chose chemistry because I really love it at school and I really enjoy doing lab work.

"I took about a three-hour test at DCU and the high achievers in the test were given medals. There was a gold medal, a silver medal and two bronze medals in each subject area. I was really excited because I got a silver medal in the chemistry category.

"We were brought back during the mid-term in February to take part in the selection programme to decide who would represent Ireland. The four people in chemistry had to do lots of tests in the lab. I was then chosen to be one of two people to represent Ireland in chemistry at the European Union Science Olympiad."

She also gave credit to her teacher, Colette McNamara.

"I really love chemistry and I couldn't have done it either without my chemistry teacher. Between November and February, she was helping me practise."

The practising has only begun, she added. "I've got to keep practising in the lab at school with my teacher. We'll go back at the Easter holidays for intensive training, where we'll be practising different things that might occur in the Olympiad. On April 26, I'll be going to Austria for a week and that's where it will take place.

Explaining the format of the competition, she added, "We'll be divided into teams. There will be a biologist, a chemist and a physicist in each team and we have to work together to do lots of different experiments. I think we have three and a half hours. We have two experiments. We do them together, get results and take conclusions out of that. I'll be going through different calculations, making sure I'm getting used to using all the apparatus."

School Principal, Margaret O'Brien said Bethan's achievement is something to be very proud of.

"There are six going off for the whole of Ireland and it's just a great honour to be one of six in the country. There were a couple of hundred in the previous round.

"She's a brilliant girl. She got 12 As in her Junior Cert and nothing is a bother to her really."

All-Ireland Camogie Title Win

There were also celebrations in the school, after they won an All-Ireland Camogie title on Saturday 14th March. "The camogie win was a fantastic achievement. It was the All-Ireland Colleges Junior B final against Seamount College of Kinvara, who won the senior All-Ireland the week before.

"There were 12 of the panel on the Kinvara team. Our team played out of their skins. They scored very early on and kept up the momentum all the way through. They won eventually by 5-11 to 1-3," School Principal, Margaret O'Brien said.



Pictured above the St Joseph's players celebrate winning the All-Ireland B Camogie Title.

St Joseph's Tulla Camogie Team: Niamh O'Brien, Catherine Donnellan, Aoife Tuohy, Áine Nash, Aoife Vaughan, Alannah Ryan, Siobhán O'Connell, Regan Conway (3-8), Niamh Mulqueen (0-1), Sinead Conlon, Evelyn Duggan (1-1), Laura McGrath, Bridín Dinan, Niamh O'Gorman (1-1) and Robyn Conway (1-0). Subs: Eileen Daly for Áine Nash (half-time), Meghan Boland, Laura O'Connell, Laoise Culloo and Orlaith Nash for Siobhán O'Connell, Sinead Conlon, Bridín Dinan and Niamh O'Gorman (50 minutes).

Senior Hurlers win Munster Title

Congratulations to the Senior hurlers from St Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla won the Munster Senior title this year and unfortunately were beaten in the All-Ireland semi-final on Saturday 21st March by the Ulster Senior A Champions, Cross and Passion from Ballycastle in Antrim.

Teacher Support Praised in Secondary School Report

A Department of Education inspection regarding the quality of science and chemistry learning and teaching at St. Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla largely endorsed the work that is being done at the school.

The results were published on the department's website last week and related to an inspection that took place on November 14 of last year.

The report stated that good quality teaching was evident in all of the lessons that were observed. It added, "Classroom management was of very good quality and the positive atmosphere in all lessons was underpinned by supportive relationships and high levels of support by the teachers for the students' learning."

Students at the school were described as being "enthusiastic about and successful in their learning, giving good quality answers to questions that were posed by their teachers and by the inspector".

Two recommendations were made in the report.

"In building on the good work which has already been accomplished in school self-evaluation and subject planning, the science staff should embed opportunities for sharing practice and trialling initiatives within the subject planning process.

"Practical work is a beneficial element of students' experience of the sciences in this school and in building on this good practice, it is recommended that the potential to undertake regular, small-scale assessment of students' practical skills be explored by the science staff."

In the teaching and learning section of the report, it was stated, "The teaching approaches that were used during the lessons observed spanned a range of methodologies suited to each lesson. Of particular note was the high level of individual support that teachers gave to their students. The teachers created opportunities for students to ask questions, they answered the student's questions clearly and they circulated among the students while the students worked, providing individual guidance, support and encouragement."

Also in the same section, it stated, "it was apparent from observation that the students were meaningfully engaged in their learning during each lesson. They were attentive and participated fully in the lesson activities, They gave good quality answers to the questions posed by their teachers. In interacting with the inspector, the students positively described their enthusiasm for their studies and it was clear from observing the students' work that they were motivated in their learning."

There were also positive words about the practical side of science education at the school.

"All experimental work was undertaken safely and there was an appropriate emphasis on health and safety. The students were competent and capable in their performance of experimental work and they showed good facility in working in the laboratory and in working as part of a team. Practical work is a beneficial element of students' experience of the sciences in this school and in building on this good practice it is recommended that the potential to undertake regular, small-scale assessment of students' practical skills be explored by the science staff."

Regarding planning and preparation of science and chemistry, it stated "There was a high level of preparation for each lesson. There was clear evidence of the teachers maintaining appropriate plans. During the delivery of lessons, the teachers demonstrated a high level of subject matter expertise.

"Students' progress is monitored by means of regular assessment and reported on periodically to parents. The science staff has adopted the good practice of analysing the students' results from the certificate examinations. They use the results of this analysis to inform their planning and, consequently, their approaches to teaching and learning."



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Sophie Named 2015 Pramerica All-Ireland Youth Volunteer of the Year

Thursday 19th March 2015

Sophie Donnelly from Gorey, Co. Wexford has been recognised for the motivation, service and impact she has demonstrated in her school and local community.

Sophie, along with Michael Keohane, from Cork was named the 2015 Pramerica All-Ireland Youth Volunteer of the Year at a Gala Awards Ceremony in the Slieve Donard Resort & Spa by special guest Brent Pope on Thursday March 12th 2015. Sophie received €1,000 for a charity of her choice, a gold medallion, a crystal trophy for her school and an all-expense paid trip to the United States in May - to participate in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards ceremony.

Sophie Donnelly who is a sixth year student at Presentation Secondary School, Co. Wexford, has a keen interest in volunteering and is involved in many mental health initiatives. Since the loss of her sister to suicide, Sophie has become passionate about raising awareness of how common mental illness can be, and promoting the message "it's ok not to feel ok". Sophie wants to combat the stigma of mental illness and suicide and has gone about doing so in a number of ways.

In 2013, Sophie undertook a training week at St Patrick's mental health hospital. Since then, she has held a 'Walk in my Shoes' day at her own school as well as introducing it to other schools throughout Wexford. The event encourages students and teachers alike to wear mismatched shoes in order to appreciate how those suffering from mental illness feel when being judged by others .



Further to this, Sophie is a keen participant in Cycle against Suicide (CAS), having cycled both in this event and their monthly spin off programmes. Sophie also founded her school 'Mental Health Awareness Team,' and through this has organised a number of activities promoting positivity throughout the school.

Speaking about Sophie, her teacher, Mary Dooley says "with a personal vision, outstanding dedication, and a never wavering self-belief – all formidable in one so young – has allowed Sophie to touch the hearts of many."

The only all-Ireland youth initiative of its kind is run in partnership with The National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) and The General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland (GTCNI) and recognises outstanding acts of volunteerism by Ireland's youth. The twenty finalists in the Spirit of Community Awards all received €500 and a silver medallion in recognition for their outstanding acts of volunteerism.

Sophie pictured on left with Brent Pope receiving her award.



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Special Day for student in Ardscoil Mhuire, Ballinasloe

Friday 27th March 2015

The following is a report from teacher Karen Usher, Ardscoil Mhuire, Ballinasloe that details a special day recently for 2nd year student, Stephanie O'Halloran, who won the Student of the Year Award from Sky Sports Living for Sport.

Sky Sports Student of the Year Award

We had a very special day in Ardscoil Mhuire, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway on Wednesday March 25th.

One of our 2nd year students, Stephanie O'Halloran, won the Student of the Year Award from Sky Sports Living for Sport.

Sky Sports had already been in school filming Stephanie and her friends two weeks ago for footage to air at the awards ceremony on Saturday the 28th March.

Sky sent Karen Usher (Lead teacher for the Sky Sports Living for Sport Project), Stephanie, her Mum and her Aunt to London on an all expenses paid trip to the awards.

Sky Sports came to our school again on March 26th (this time in secret) to reveal that Stephanie had won overall Student of the Year for the Republic of Ireland.

Katie Taylor came to present Stephanie with her award during a school table quiz. This was all filmed and aired live on Sky Sports News! As you can imagine it was a very special day for Stephanie and the school.

Stephanie was on television on Sky Sports 1 on Saturday morning 28th March at 9am and again on Sunday evening for the awards show at 7.30pm.

Kate Taylor Surprising Stephanie live on Sky Sports News HQ



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Calasanctius College TY Students heading to Shanghai

Thursday 26th March 2015

The study of Chinese is a most enjoyable component of the Calasanctius College TY programme.

For the third consecutive year, TY students from Calasanctius College, Oranmore are participating in a two week Easter Camp study programme at Shanghai University, 28 March - 11 April.

They will attend classes in Chinese language (Mandarin), Chinese culture and history.

They will also enjoy a sightseeing city tour of Shanghai and field trip to Suzhou and Hangzhou city.



Pictured L-R , Lucy Maher, Laura Shivnan, Orla Kavanagh & Laoise Walsh.



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Students Impress at Student County Enterprise Board Awards

Thursday 26th March 2015

Well done to Killina Presentation Secondary School TY students who did so well at the County Enterprise Board Awards on Wednesday 25th March. The school were delighted to receive the following awards;

- Students Choice Award
- Special Merit Award for Innovation
- Best Use of Technology
- 2nd Overall Award

After two and a half hours of judging, the verdicts came in. The first business to receive an award was Cliplox, winning the Students' Choice Award. Team members Sarah Bracken, Ger Godly, Emily Tierney, Michael Hickey and Derek Mooney took to the stage on a wave of support from fellow students, who voted Cliplox as the best mini-company on the day.

And there was no time to rest on their laurels! Almost immediately after, they were straight back up on stage, this time to receive a special merit award for innovation. Their clever concept of a magnetic hair-clip holder that can attach to mirrors and walls clearly impressed the judges. The professional appearance of this high-quality, innovative product means it not only eliminates an age-old problem for ladies (and guys with long hair), but looks good doing it!

The next Killina company to be awarded for their achievements was Finding First Year. Team members Conor Owens, Darren Burke, Stephen Cowen, Thomas Dolan and Dan O'Connor received the award for best use of technology and social media for the slick-looking e-book edition of their product, Finding First Year.

This well-received book is a guide to the challenges of secondary school for incoming first years. Written by secondary school students, for secondary school students, Finding First Year provides in-depth advice on all of the problems, challenges and queries a student starting second-level education may have.

The final Killina team to be honoured were Keep Cool, receiving the 2nd overall prize. Unfortunately they just missed out in what was an extremely competitive contest to represent Offaly in Croke Park this April; choosing a winner was said to be a "mammoth task" by the judges.

Keep Cool researched and developed a unique range of therapeutic hypothermia equipment, for the emergency treatment of brain-damage in Cardiac Arrest, Stroke, and sports related head-injuries such as concussion. Since the start of TY, it has come from an idea to a finished product that will hopefully have positive effects in the real world.

Creative Creations (previously known as Santa's Little Helpers) received much positive feed-back from both judges and fellow exhibitors for their charming range of personalised cards and gifts. Team members Shauna Connolly, Katie Bryant, Denise Condron, Rachel Downes and Sinéad Kearney impressed with their turning of a passion for arts and crafts into a profitable business.

Photos



Pictured above Team members Sarah Bracken, Ger Godly, Emily Tierney, Michael Hickey and Derek Mooney of business company Cliplox who won the Students' Choice Award.



Keep Cool mini company pictured above who received the 2nd overall prize.



Pictured above Killina company Finding First Year team members Conor Owens, Darren Burke, Stephen Cowen, Thomas Dolan and Dan O'Connor who received the award for best use of technology and social media.



Pictured above "Keep Cool" mini company who finished in 2nd place receiving their awards.

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Latest News from Presentation College Athenry

Friday 27th March 2015

Enterprising Local Students Secure Celebrity Appearances

This week a group of enterprising Presentation College Athenry teenagers have succeeded in securing not one, but three celebrity entertainers for their fundraising concert.

The charity concert, which was held in the Community Hall, showcased up and coming local music artists and was headlined by Britain's Got Talent star Jordan O'Keefe and UK pop sensation Michael Sutthakorn, with support from Dublin Comedian Fabu D.

Commenting today Transition Year student Albert Dolan said "we are delighted to have secured these famous stars for our concert. It was a long hard route to getting them to agree but we stuck at it and got there in the end. We have sold all of the tickets and turned a nice profit for Galway's youth mental health charities, Console and Jigsaw!".



Presentation College Athenry JCSP Drama Class News

Congratulations to Presentation College Athenry JCSP Drama students who have recently filmed their first dance DVD!

The six students have been working with Choreographer in Residence, Cherie Worthington-Eyre since September 2014 on a pilot dance programme and as a result, have built up a great artistic skill base.



Pictured at the recent DVD screening (l-r) Mr. Gerry Doherty, Principal; Caoimhe Mc Mahon, Jack Walsh, Cherie Worthington-Eyre, Choreographer in Residence; Ms. Linda Carey, JCSP Teacher; Jessica Howard, Marta Gutierrez, Fr. Benny Mc Hale, School Chaplin; Conor Egan. Missing from the Photo, Mr. Jason Cotter, JCSP Teacher; Amy Trowell.

Athenry student wins 10,000 Euro trip to Strasbourg!



Transition Year students of Presentation College, Athenry are pictured with their Teacher, Mr. Jason Cotter and Deputy Principal, Ms. Anne Monaghan at the European Parliament in Strasbourg following Natasha Carrick's win of a EUR10,000 trip in a competition organised by the European Parliament Representation in Ireland.

Further images from the trip are available [here](#).



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Presentation Waterford Carry Irish Hopes in World Schools Basketball

Monday 23rd March 2015



ISF Basketball 2015 World Schools Championship

**Limoges
France
17/04 – 25/04/2015**

As the current 2014 U16 'A' All-Ireland League Champions Presentation Secondary School Waterford have been selected to represent Ireland in the World Schools Basketball Championships which are to be held next April in Limoges, France.

The girls will be facing the best schools from over 20 countries such as China, Greece, Canada, Turkey, Germany and Spain!

The competition will run over 9 days and will include a spectacular opening ceremony, a range of social and cultural activities and of course some very challenging basketball games.

The players are working hard under Coach Jenny Coady and Assistant Coach Alan Barber in preparation for the games, as well as organizing a huge range of fund raising events and activities.

World Schools Games Update

23rd March 2015

One month to go!

After a fantastic effort the team have now raised almost €20,000 from fundraising activities and the generous sponsorship from local and national businesses.

The draw for the group stages of the competition sees Presentation Waterford drawn against reigning World Schools Champions Turkey, as well as the best schools from Poland and Armenia. A tough draw!

The girls fly out of Dublin on 17th April and meet up with the rest of the Irish delegation in London.

Finally a big thank you to all the players, parents and sponsors for all their invaluable support in this once in a lifetime adventure.



Pictured above are the Presentation Waterford U16 'A' Basketball Team

Front L to R: Jane Fortune Sarah Kelly Brianna O'Regan Jordan Kervick Niamh Rafferty Courtney Healy Rachel Butler Niamh Teat.

Back L to R: Libby Flynn Becky Wyse Aisling O'Brien Beth Carton (c) Becky Roche (vc) Annie Fanning Lauren Sullivan Katie Devereux.

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Latest News from Coláiste Nano Nagle, Limerick

Thursday 19th March 2015

Coláiste Nano Nagle, Sexton Street, Limerick have enjoyed a very succesful few weeks and kindly shared the following news and pictures.

Business Studies Success

Congratulations to our second year business students and their teacher Ms Leahy who were very successful at the Limerick Chamber School Competition on Friday 27th February. The competition was titled 'Limerick Business Thru The Ages'.

Four groups entered from Coláiste Nano Nagle and incredibly we won all places in the Junior Category. Christine Franklin, Caitlin McCarthy, Emma Kelly and Sumeika Khan (pictured below) took the overall prize for the junior category for their project on Mes Fleurs.



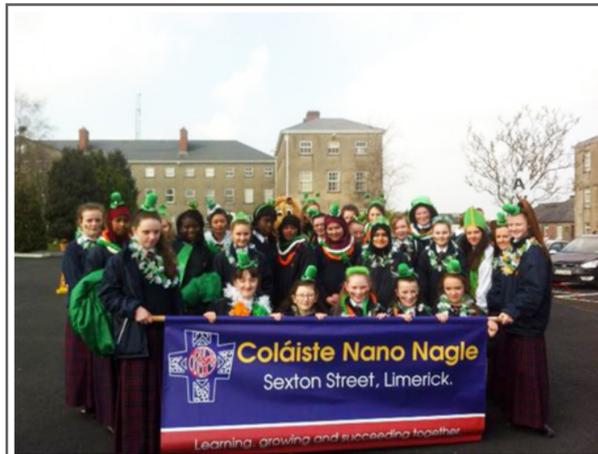
The projects on Petmania and JJ Kenneally's came joint second. A special innovation award went to a fourth team for their project on Limerick Sports School.

We are very proud of the girls and their teacher, they all worked so hard for this competition and it paid off. Well done ladies and Ms Leahy. Thank you to Limerick Chamber and LIT for hosting a great event.

St. Patrick's Day and the International Band Championship

Coláiste Nano Nagle have had an incredilby successful few days. On Sunday the 15th March our students took part in the International Bands Championship. 27 students volunteered to take part in this spectacular event and had a very enjoyable day.

On the 17th of March we had a very special role to play in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Limerick, we were the official flag ambassadors for the parade.



30 of our fantastic students volunteered to take part in the parade and carry the largest tricolour flag in Ireland. As usual our students were amazing and did our school proud, we are so lucky to have such a wonder student body.

We had a great day and we were all so proud to represent our school. Thank you to the students who took part in the band chamination and in the parade. Thank you to Ms Moloney for all the work she did organising the school's participation in both these events.

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Active Historian 2015

Tuesday 31st March 2015

The Active Historian Competition has been running in Presentation Secondary School, Waterford since 2006. All 1st years are asked to make a model that represents a period in History that they have studied in 1st year. This competition is kindly sponsored by the school Tuck Shop.

The entries include models of Newgrange, Early Christian Monasteries, Roman Aqueducts, Dolmens, Roman weapons.

Parents attended an exhibition of the entries last week, and this week the 6th class students from the Presentation Primary school paid a visit.

Once again the standard was extremely high, and the overall winner was Caoimhe Halligan, for her excellent model of an Medieval Castle.



Pictured above Caoimhe Halligan who was the overall winner.



Pictured above student Jayde Coady who came second in the competition.



Student Grainne Browne who came joint third in the competition.



Melanie Cox pictured above who came joint third in the competition.



Highly commended award winners were Lauren Dunn, Amanda Goma and Katlyn O'Donnell.



Highly commended students, Qetsia Pameló, Lily McGrath and Kim Dalton.



Pictured above Highly Commended Students, Sarah Adeleye, Kate Thornton and Olivia Lennon.