



# news from ceist...

28 May 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

**Latest News From CEIST**

The Month of May is quite a busy month for schools and indeed for the Trust with our attendance at school award ceremonies, end of term Masses, senior management appointment processes and so forth. We are looking forward to our **Principal Regional Network Meetings** and **two support meetings for Administration Staff of CEIST schools** that we are holding in June.

We are also making plans at present for our 10th CEIST Annual Education Conference, which is being held again this year in the **Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath on the 24th and 25th September.**

CEIST offers best wishes to all students in our schools undertaking their exams this year and to school staff who are retiring at the end of this school term.



## CEIST News

**CEIST School Perpetual Award**

The CEIST team is greatly encouraged to see pictures of students receiving the CEIST award at their respective school award ceremonies. [Click here](#) to view images.

The CEIST award is intended to honour students who best demonstrate the CEIST values and ethos.



Sr. Maura Crowe, Chairperson of Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna presents the inaugural school CEIST award to student, Hannah King.

### Dates for your Calendar!

CEIST is holding regional network meetings for Principals on **June 9th (Calasanz College, Oranmore), June 17th (St. Columba, Kildock) and June 18th (St. Mary's Secondary School, Mallow).**

We are also holding two June meetings for CEIST School Administration Staff. These meetings to be held on **June 8th (Kilkenny, exact venue to be confirmed) and June 9th (Calasanz College, Oranmore).**

**TY EXPO 2015**

**TY EXPO 2015** is one of the most important events to include in the TY calendar, and is the ideal way to kick-start the year with excitement and enthusiasm. 100 exhibitors will be on show, eager to share their time, information (and giveaways) with you and your TY students.

TY EXPO 2015 will expose TY Teachers and Coordinators to new ideas and opportunities. Students will discover a whole range of possibilities, with an opportunity to connect directly with the people who offer fantastic programmes, activities and competitions.

There will also be a series of TY related presentations on the main stage and many gifts and prizes on the day.

### CEIST Student Leadership Conference 2015

The CEIST team really enjoyed our first student leadership conference, which was held in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra on the 24th March. We are already looking forward to next year's event!

Click [HERE](#) to view images from the day, where we were delighted to have as guest speaker, An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny.

### CEIST on Twitter

The twitter handle for CEIST is [@ceist\\_ie](#) and we are delighted to be included in tweets from our schools and others in the education community.

It is a useful medium for schools to profile their 'good news' and share useful resources and we enjoy retweeting to our followers!

### PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival

The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) invite you to submit original and creative videos focusing on PLURAL+ themes: Migration, Diversity and Social Inclusion.

Recognizing youth as powerful agents of social change in a world often characterized by intolerance, and cultural and religious divisions, PLURAL+ invites youth to address key challenges and opportunities related to social inclusion and cohesion, migrant integration, respect for identity, diversity, and human rights, both at local and global levels.

Young people aged 9-25 are invited to submit short videos of five minutes maximum in length for consideration in the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival. For further information click [here](#).

### SchoolDays.ie Newsletter

The monthly SchoolDays.ie E-Newsletter provides some useful resources for schools, click [here](#) to view the latest edition.

## Faith-related Issues

**Nuns who helped to shape face of Galway**

President Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabina visited the Presentation Order to mark the 200th anniversary of the order's arrival in Galway city.

The Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary had been set up in Cork 1775 by Nana Nagle to help and educate the poor.

The following is an article taken from the Connacht Tribune to mark the anniversary.

[MORE](#)

## News from CEIST Schools

**Mercy College Woodford Excellent Practice Endorsement from DES**

An evaluation conducted by the Department of Education and Skills at Mercy College Woodford, Co. Galway has endorsed the very high quality of teaching and learning in the school.

The identity of the mixed secondary school, serving the communities of Woodford, Ballinakill and Abbey, was found to be intrinsically linked to its position within the community.

"Excellent practice" was observed among the teachers, with very good engagement witnessed by students. The report cited many good examples of the use of multimedia and a familiarity with technology.

[MORE](#)

**Presentation Bagenalstown Win Concern Debates 2014-15 Competition**

Congratulations to Presentation De La Salle College, Bagenalstown on becoming Concern Debate Champions.

The school defeated St. Flannan's College, Ennis, Co. Clare in the final on Thursday night, 14th May in The Helix, DCU, Dublin.

The Concern Debates is Concern Worldwide's flagship schools' activity. It gives students the opportunity to research and debate issues that affect those living in the developing world.

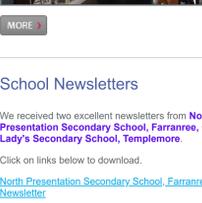
[MORE](#)

**Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland Unveil School Ethos Wall**

On 21st May 2015 Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland unveiled their school Ethos wall in the main foyer of the school.

The design and creation of the Ethos wall celebrates the values we hold and share as a community in Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland.

Our Ethos wall is a visual representation of the connectedness between the spirituality which the school seeks to promote and the daily life of the school.



[MORE](#)

**School Newsletters**

We received two excellent newsletters from **North Presentation Secondary School, Farranree, Cork** and **Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore**.

Click on links below to download.

[North Presentation Secondary School, Farranree May Newsletter](#)

[Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore Easter Newsletter](#)

**Mary Immaculate Lisdoonvarna Student Awards and Success in SciFest Competition**

Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare shared news of their student participation in the SciFest competition which was held in GMT on 14th May 2015. The school also held their fifth annual student awards ceremony.

Sr. Maura Crowe, Chairperson Board of Management, encouraged and challenged each student of Mary Immaculate to be the best possible person they can be.

Click [here](#) to view other news from the school.

[MORE](#)

**Our Lady's Greenhills Student Wins Major Science Award**

Congratulations to student Anna McEvoy of Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda who was awarded First Place in the Monsanto Company Award for Innovation in Plant Science and Sustainability. The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) is the world's largest international pre-college science competition.

Our Lady's College also enjoyed [An Chaeibhralach Success](#). An Chaeibhralach is an Irish language scheme which officially recognises schools who are active in the promotion of Irish.

[MORE](#)

**News from Calasanz College, Oranmore**

Calasanz College, Oranmore, Co. Galway has enjoyed a hugely successful year on the sporting field, [winning their first ever national soccer crown by capturing the FAI U15 Title!](#)

As well as capturing the U-15 title, the school reached the First Year All-Ireland Final; the rugby side captured the Connacht Junior Development Cup this year, while the school's hurlers reached the All-Ireland semi-final and the Gaelic footballers reached a Connacht Final.

We've done also to [Calasanz College students on their recent fund raising initiative for ENABLE Ireland.](#)

**News Snippets and Excellent Photos from Presentation College Currylea**

The following are some news snippets from Presentation Secondary School, Currylea, Co. Galway, that were kindly shared by the school Principal, Neasa Gosgrove.

The Transition Years did some wonderful work on transforming the former convent garden and the school was delighted to share news of students winning prizes in the Mental Health Post Primary Art Competition.

[MORE](#)

**Sacred Heart Drogheda Student Wins World Irish Dancing Championship!**

On the 27th of March, Lauren Finglas a second year student of the Sacred Heart Secondary School, Drogheda, travelled to Montreal for the World Irish Dancing Championships.

Lauren was competing over nine days, dancing in the Under 15 girls' category alongside 163 other competitors from all over the world.

Girls travelled from Australia, America, Scotland, England, Ireland, Canada, Holland and New Zealand.

[MORE](#)

**Latest News from Presentation College Athenry**

Presentation College Athenry students have been very busy of late with students excelling in a number of disciplines.

Jason Cotter, Teacher in Presentation College, Athenry has kindly shared their following end of term news snippets and associated photos.

[MORE](#)

**St. Mary's High School, Midleton Gathering**

St. Mary's High School, Midleton, Co. Cork pupils and staff opened their doors to welcome over 200 past pupils and retired teachers last Friday night May 8th.

Past Pupils who travelled from as far as New York to reconnect with old friends, shared memories of happy days and close scrapes while visiting their old classrooms, science laboratories and the library.

Present pupils who were guiding the guests looked on bemused as thirty-somethings sitting in their old desks hauled with laughter!

[MORE](#)

**Latest News from Eurkea Secondary School, Kells**

For a second consecutive year the [Eureka Secondary School](#) (Public Access to Law) team triumphed in the All Ireland Mock Trials Final and will now be representing Ireland in the Empire Mock Trials World Finals in New York City in October.

Congratulations also to Ciara Skehan, Leaving Certificate Prefect in Eureka Secondary School, who won the [inaugural CEIST Perpetual Award](#). The award goes to the student who embodies the CEIST Core Values.

Click [here](#) for further news from Eureka.

**Latest News from Our Lady's Castleblayney**

Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan were thrilled to receive the **Amber Flag** recently in the school. Being awarded the flag recognises the school's initiatives in promoting positive mental health.

Our **Lady's Choir** were winners once again on the stage of the National Concert Hall Dublin on Monday 10th May when they took 3rd prize in the prestigious All Ireland Waltons' Music for Schools Competition!

Click [HERE](#) to view our article on sixth year student **Christopher Carragher**, who won a prize of \$1500 at the Intel ISEF competition in Pittsburgh. Christopher had the privilege of having an asteroid named after him!!!

[MORE](#)

**National ECO UNESCO Young Environmentalist Award for Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont**

Congratulations to Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont, Dublin on their great achievement in winning a National ECO UNESCO Young Environmentalist Award.

The school's Eco Committee are delighted with their win at the National Showcase held in the Mansion House on May 13th last.

Their project Plastic Pals won in the Junior Art and Design section.



[MORE](#)

**News from Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore**

The following news was kindly shared by Una Crowe of Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

The students have been very busy working on a number of exciting initiatives.

[MORE](#)

**Presentation Secondary School Waterford TY Graduation**

Presentation Secondary School, Cannon Street, Waterford, Transition Year Graduation Night took place on Thursday May 21st.

It was attended by the parents and guardians of the 72 students, along with their teachers.

The night was organised by TY Co-ordinator Katherine O'Sullivan and the Co-ordinator of Programmes Orla Bolger.

[MORE](#)

**Presentation Thurles Students Enjoy CEIST Student Conference and Challenge to Change Seminar**

Presentation Secondary School, Thurles students [give the following account](#) of their experience from the CEIST Student Leadership Conference, held in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra on the 24th March.

Presentation Secondary School, Thurles Transition Year students recently travelled to Kilkenny to take part in the [Presentation Sisters Seminar 'Challenge to Change'](#).

The Challenge to Change annual seminar provides opportunity for Presentation schools nationwide to showcase their project work on various social and ecological issues.

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## Nuns who helped to shape face of Galway

Wednesday 6th May 2015



President Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabina visited the Presentation Order to mark the 200th anniversary of the order's arrival in Galway city. They are pictured with some of the sisters at the Presentation Convent. Front row: Sisters Angela Murphy, Gertrude Shortall, Columbiere Scully, President Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabina, and Sr. Helen Hyland. Back Row: Sisters Esther Halvey, Bernadette Breathnach, Regina Walsh, Brid Leonard, Kathleen McDonagh, Imelda Walsh, Pauline Morris, Clare Hogan, Anne Fox, Maire McNiallías, Kathleen Fahy and Margarita Ryan. Photo: Joe O'Shaughnessy.

Rambling through Galway's bustling Latin Quarter these days, with its high-end bars and restaurants, where happy tourists rub shoulders with relaxed locals, it's difficult to imagine the poverty that existed in this area 200 years ago when the Presentation order of nuns established their first Galway convent in Kirwan's Lane.

Three Presentation Sisters had come from Kilkenny in 1815 at the invitation of the then Warden of Galway, Dr Edmund Ffrench, who pledged a sum of £4,000 towards their maintenance for a six-year term.

The Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary had been set up in Cork 1775 by Nano Nagle to help and educate the poor – forty years later, there was no shortage of poverty in Galway.

The nuns' first base here was in a private house in Kirwan's Lane where they began providing education to Galway's poorest girls. They also set up a Breakfast Institute to help tackle the immediate problem of hunger.

When their Kirwan's Lane house became too small, they moved to Eyre Square for a couple of years before another house – where they still live – was purchased. The Sisters settled there in 1819. Its address is now Presentation Road, a tribute to nuns and their work, but back then, this was part of the countryside and there was a farm attached to the building.

The house had been built in the mid 1700s and was used first as a Protestant Charter School, then as an infirmary for a military barracks. It had fallen into disrepair and needed restoration but it suited the Sisters' needs and had room in its grounds for a school. In 1820 the nuns set up the West of Ireland's first Presentation Elementary School, to accommodate 500 children. The curriculum included needle work such as Limerick lace, Irish point and crochet, as well as reading, writing and arithmetic.

In the early 1820s a space was built to cater for 30 boarders; these girls attended an industrial school also run by the nuns where they learned to sew and make lace, enhancing their employment prospects.

The tradition of the 'Breakfast Room' continued, and thousands of children received their morning meal at the Presentation Convent until 1891. This was a huge safety net in a time of extreme poverty when Social Welfare did not exist and famine was common.

Unlike many of the other religious orders which were tainted by scandals of orphanages and mother-and-baby homes, the Presentation Order has emerged with its reputation untarnished.

"The Presentation Order hasn't been involved. We were lucky not to have had an orphanage," says Sr Helen Hyland, who is Community Leader at the City's Presentation Convent.

Since 1819 when it opened, 146 Sisters have passed through that building. And as with every religious order, numbers are declining, something Sr Helen is well aware of. The Laois-born nun taught in Galway during the 1980s before moving to Portlaoise and then Belfast where she was involved in social work. She was then based in Athlone for 10 years, where she worked in the Order's Provincial Leadership team.

When Sr Helen moved back to Galway six years ago, there were 21 Sisters in the convent. Since then, four have died and two have moved to a nursing home. The average age of those remaining is the mid-70s.

But all have been involved in the celebrations, which have been taking place in their three schools – The Secondary, which is located on the convent grounds; Scoil Chroí Iosa, around the corner, and Scoil Bhríde in Shantalla.

"The celebrations have brought new life to the House," says Sr Helen, explaining that the nuns had worked in one or other of the three schools. Someone who did not live to see the bicentenary celebrations was Sr Gerard Duggan, who died in last October in her 90s. Sr Helen described her as someone who provided a major link with the Convent's history as she had lived with nuns who who joined during the early years, and was a huge source of knowledge.



President Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabina with members of the Bicentenary Committees. Front Row: Anne de Burca, President Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabina, and Netta Kennedy. Back Row: Back Row: L. to R.: Séamus McGuinness, Sr. Anne Fox, Eleanor Fogarty, Srs. Kathleen Fahy, Pauline Morris and Bernadette Breathnach. Photo: Joe O'Shaughnessy.

Sr Gerard recalled a huge pot that had been employed by nuns to feed 1,000 children daily during the Great Famine and was subsequently used on the farm as a trough to feed cattle. Despite attempts by Sr Helen to locate it for the anniversary, this item seems to have been lost.

Feeding and educating the girls of Galway in the early 1800s was expensive work, and until the 1830s, when the National Board of Education was set up, the nuns received no State support.

"Most of the women who entered were well-educated and they brought dowries with them, which were used to support poor children," says Sr Helen. In the 20th century, circumstances changed again, and the nuns adapted to meet new educational needs. A new primary school, Scoil Chroí Iosa was formally opened in 1965, catering for girls from infant level to sixth class. Boys attended until first class and then moved on. Since 2014, the school has been fully co-educational.

Scoil Bhríde in Shantalla, another Presentation Primary School opened in 1955. Shantalla was an area of the city that was affected by high unemployment and, from the beginning the nuns operated a strong home-school liaison programme. In 1989, Sr Helen was to the fore in establishing a pre-school programme in Scoil Bhríde, which was later taken up by the Department of Education. The nuns ran it voluntarily, and when the Department took over, it provided a salary.

Second-level education also became more common in the mid 20th century. In 1946, the Presentation Primary School began operating a 'Secondary Top', allowing girls to continue in school right up to Leaving Cert.

The City's population expanded in the 1960s and 1970s and the nuns responded, says Cliona Ní Neill, the current Principal of Presentation Secondary School, who has been on the staff since graduating from the UCG in the mid-1980s.

A brand new secondary school was opened in 1968, after the existing school was knocked to the ground. It now has pupils from 24 countries, including Ireland, although numbers are in decline. Currently there are 300 students, with 50-60 per cent of them travelling from the east side of the city - the traditional catchment areas of Presentation Road and Newcastle now have very young families, says Cliona.

Other factors have also led to the decline, The new Claregalway Secondary, which opened in 2013, has had an enormous impact on all schools in the City, including the Presentation and as far out as Headford, adds Cliona. A bus service from the City to Claregalway has made it more difficult to get students to travel into the City.

So, for its next phase, the Presentation Secondary will amalgamate with the nearby Convent of Mercy Secondary in Newtownsmith to create a new school. This idea was first mooted in 2009, explains Cliona, but didn't happen then because of the country's financial crisis. "We were in agreement with it then, and we are still."

The new, amalgamated, school will be located on the site of the existing Presentation School and the nuns are giving some land to allow for expansion.

Cliona and Sr. Helen feel it's a good move, the two schools have the same board of trustees in CEIST, so they have the same vision and ethos, the women explain. There will be changes, including a new Principal, and Deputy Principal, a new name, uniform, crest and mission statement.

The new school will open in September 2016 and Sr Helen is looking forward to this. "It will bring a new life to us. There will be 500 students coming in and that can only have a positive impact. We have a huge garden and are delighted to be able to contribute part of it for the future of Catholic education in the city.

"If we are dying out, at least we can leave a legacy. It's a positive thing."

And while she is sad that the number of Sisters in Ireland is declining, Sr Helen is pragmatic. "The way we knew is gone. The way I am now is not the way I was 25 or 30 years ago. It's a different way of life."

The traditional 'vowed' way of life will not continue unless something happens to change the current trends, she says. "But we don't know."

And Sr Helen points out that there are Associated and Friends of Nano Nagle all over the world, carrying out the work of this wealthy Cork woman who used her money for the benefit of others.

"The most important thing is that Charism of Nano lives on."

(Article courtesy of Connacht Tribune).

# News & Events

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## Mercy College Woodford Excellent Practice Endorsement from DES

Friday 1st May 2015



An evaluation conducted by the Department of Education and Skills at Mercy College Woodford, Co. Galway has endorsed the very high quality of teaching and learning in the school.

The identity of the mixed secondary school, serving the communities of Woodford, Ballinakill and Abbey, was found to be intrinsically linked to its position within the community.

"Excellent practice" was observed among the teachers, with very good engagement witnessed by students. The report cited many good examples of the use of multimedia and a familiarity with technology.

"Mercy College aims to foster these skills further among its students by creating a hub of excellence in this area. The school hopes to liaise with IT giant, Apple, which is committing €850 million to the region," said a school spokesperson.

The school's broad curriculum, which this year will include chemistry and agricultural science, was commended. The high quality support received by students with special educational needs was also praised.

This was recognised by the Department in its decision to select Mercy College for the creation of a new ASD unit for children with autism next September, which means extra funding for new facilities, teaching staff and special needs assistants.

In other good news, a summer works scheme has been approved to refurbish the existing art room.

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## Presentation Bagenalstown Win Concern Debates 2014-15 Competition

Saturday 16th May 2015

Congratulations to Presentation De La Salle College, Bagenalstown on becoming [Concern Debate](#) Champions.

The school defeated St. Flannan's College, Ennis, Co Clare in the final on Thursday night, 14th May in The Helix, DCU, Dublin.

The Concern Debates is Concern Worldwide's flagship schools' activity. It gives students the opportunity to research and debate issues that affect those living in the developing world.

By taking part, students learn the valuable skills of research and debating. The Concern Debates have been running for over 30 years.

Throughout the competition's history, more than 45,000 students have engaged in the debates. Around 120 schools participate annually.

**The Concern Debates aim to:**

- Promote a deeper awareness and understanding of global issues
- Provide students with a public forum, to develop skills in research, presentation and debate
- Encourage students and teachers to become lifelong advocates on issues relating to poverty, justice and human rights

Presentation De La Salle College, Bagenalstown debated 4 motions provided to them in the league phase, which was from October to January and then won through the knockout phase culminating in four rounds from February to May where they eventually reached the final on Thurs May 14th.

As winners of the competition Presentation De La Salle College, Bagenalstown are offered the opportunity to visit one of the countries overseas where Concern works. This year Pres De La Salle will see Concern's work first-hand in Mozambique.



Brianna Walsh captain of the winning team pictured above.



The four All Ireland debating Champions pictured with their award.



Presentation De La Salle, Bagenalstown supporters celebrating the victory.



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## Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland Unveil School Ethos Wall

Wednesday 27th May 2015

On 21st May 2015 [Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland](#), Co. Kerry unveiled their school Ethos wall in the main foyer of the school.

The design and creation of the Ethos wall celebrates the values we hold and share as a community in Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland.

Pope Francis said we must be “the living presence of the Gospel in the field of education, science and culture”.

Our school is a professional educational institution, we provide an education which teaches critical thinking and encourages the development of mature moral values but it is much more than this. Our school is a place in which Jesus Christ is both proclaimed and encountered through the daily interactions between staff and pupils.

In the past few months we have revisited our purpose which in the daily demands of covering a curriculum, paperwork and planning, assessment and all the other things that have to be done, we always remember that our students need first and foremost to experience the face of Jesus Christ in our daily interactions.

The wall gives witness to the founder of Presentation sisters Nano Nagle.

Our Ethos wall is a visual representation of the connectedness between the spirituality which the school seeks to promote and the daily life of the school.

It is the end result of a most worthwhile process and discussion on what it means to be part of our school. The story of its journey is truly an inspiration.

The commitment and dedication of the Transition year students and teachers to the project is commendable.

They have given of their skills and time freely with one purpose in mind to make this a centrepiece for our school to be proud of and proud of it we certainly are.



Pictured above is Bishop Ray cutting the ribbon at the unveiling of the school ethos wall.



Pictured above are Sr Teresa, Katie Flynn student, winner of inaugural CEIST Award, Sr Maureen, Sr Elizabeth, and Sr Margaret.



Pictured above are (LtoR) Elizabeth O'Connor, Student, Sr Teresa, Kathleen O'Sullivan, Student, Sr Maureen, Sr. Elizabeth and Sr. Margaret.



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## Mary Immaculate Lisdoonvarna Student Awards and Success in SciFest Competition

Monday 25th May 2015

Mary Immaculate Secondary School participated in the SciFest competition which was held in GMTI on 14th May 2015. The school had seven projects entered in the event out of a total of 84 projects. The north Clare school and teacher John Sims was delighted to take home four of the eight awards at the event. The winning projects were:

Isabelle Walsh and Ellen King won the Newstalk Best Communicator Award for their project entitled "What swims in the rock pools of North Clare?"



Pictured above George Porter (SciFest) with students Isabelle Walsh and Ellen King.

This award is presented to the individual or group that demonstrate exceptional ability in effectively communicating their findings to the judges.



Pictured above Fearghal Burke with George Porter (SciFest) & Shane Galvin (Avaya).

Fearghal Burke won the EPI-STEM Maths in Science Award for his project entitled "The geography of the voting patterns in the Eurovision Song Contest". This award is presented to the project with the best use of maths in a project in the competition.



Pictured above Lucy O'Growney and Lara Norrish with Dr. Des Foley, Head of Science, GMTI.

Lucy O'Growney and Lara Norrish won the Irish Science Teachers' Association Award for their project entitled "Does size matter when hermit crabs choose a shell?" This award is presented to the best project in the Junior Category.



Pictured above Senator Lorraine Higgins with student Magnus Hartigan.

Magnus Hartigan won the Abbott Runner-up Best Project Award for his project entitled "Measurement of Physiological Reactions to Stress and Challenge in Video Games". This award is given to the overall second best project in the competition.

The other students taking part were Jane O'Loughlin, Melissa Roche, Dara Kenneally, Thomas Hartigan, Ashling O'Connell and Claire Reilly.

### Mary Immaculate Secondary School - Student Awards

Sr. Maura Crowe, Chairperson Board of Management, speaking at the Fifth Annual Award Ceremony, encouraged and challenged each student of Mary Immaculate to be the best possible person they can be.

She was delighted to see that the efforts and contributions of students to school life recognised not just this year but over all the time students have been in Mary Immaculate.

Sr. Maura congratulated all those students who were nominated and all those who received an award. It was an honour for themselves and their families.

She extended her thanks to the staff for all their work and for living out on a daily basis the Mercy ethos of Mary Immaculate.



Pictured above Hannah King being presented with the inaugural CEIST award from Sr. Maura Crowe.



Junior Student of the Year, Tom Howley, being presented with his award by Mary Burke (Year Head).



Senior Student of the Year, Kelsey McDonagh, being presented with her award by Anne Keane-Egan (Year Head).



Sr. Maura Crowe addressing the students at the awards day.



Riona Burke being presented with the Literacy Award by Josephine Gallery, her English teacher.



Seán Hegarty being presented with the Hughie Kivlehan award by principal John O'Loughlin.



Thanin Sriwang being presented with the Art Award by Mona Hynes, his Art teacher.



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## Our Lady's Greenhills Student Wins Major Science Award

Monday 18th May 2015

Congratulations to student Anna McEvoy of Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda (pictured on right) who was awarded First Place in the Monsanto Company Award for Innovation in Plant Science and Sustainability

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) is the world's largest international pre-college science competition. It is the premier science competition in the world and provides a forum for high school students to showcase their independent research annually. There were 1,702 students from 78 countries and 1,300 projects at Intel ISEF 2015. The fair provides the opportunity to finalists to display their talent on an international stage, while enabling them to submit their work for judging by doctoral-level scientists.

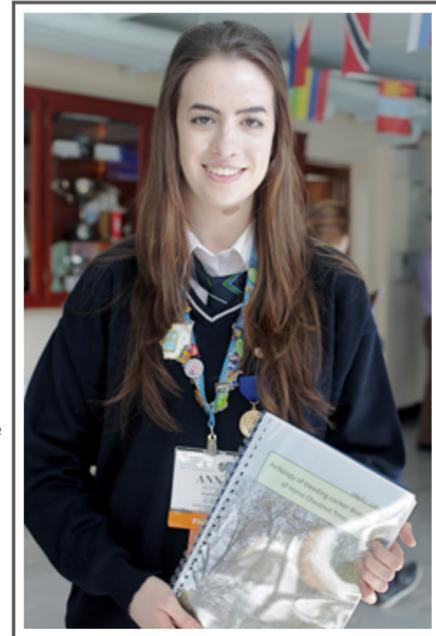
Anna previously won the Elan award for excellence in biology and the senior individual biological and ecological category in the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. She also won the overall Sentinus Young Innovator last June and qualified her to represent Northern Ireland in Intel ISEF.

Her project 'Aetiology of bleeding canker disease of horse chestnut trees' was an investigation into the incidence and causal agent of bleeding canker disease which is affecting horse chestnut trees nationwide. Anna devised a quicker and more effective method of identifying the bacterial agent causing the disease.

This year the exhibition was held in Pittsburgh (9th-16th May). In the Special Awards Anna was awarded First Place in the Monsanto Company Award for Innovation in Plant Science and Sustainability.

As a first prize winner she will be flown to St. Louis, Missouri where she will present her research to the company. In the Grand Awards (category awards) Anna won Second Prize.

A further award has been added to Second Prize-winning students in which their names will be submitted to the International Astronomical Union (IAU) for a once in a lifetime naming of a minor planet.



Pictured above is Anna with her teacher Frances O'Regan.



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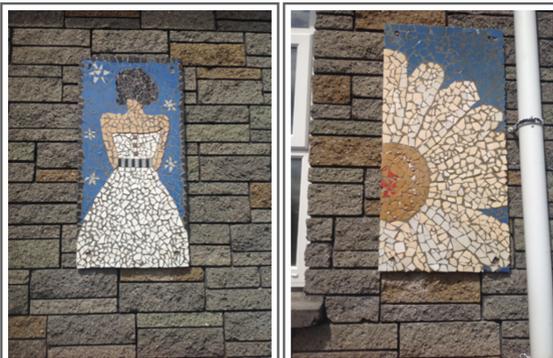
## News Snippets and Excellent Photos from Presentation College Currylea

Saturday 9th May 2015

The following are some news snippets from Presentation Secondary School, Currylea, Co. Galway, that were kindly shared by the school Principal, Neasa Gosgrove.

### TY Convent Garden Transformation!

The Transition Years are doing some wonderful work on transforming the former convent garden. It is amazing. The mosaics are made from broken tiles and grouting. The local men's shed group built a gazebo which our Leaving Certs love!

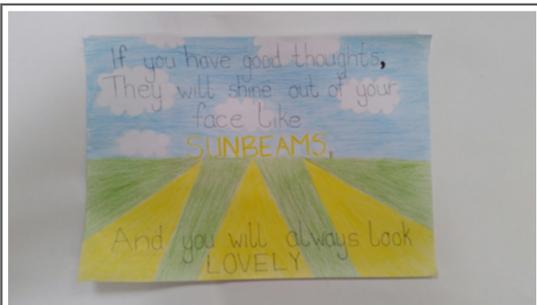


### Mental Health Ireland Post Primary Art Competition

Sandra Martyn was chosen as the Connacht winner of the Mental Health Ireland Post Primary School Art Competition and the photo created by one of the 6th year Religion classes was chosen as the Connacht winner of the photography section of the same competition.

Winners receive an All4One voucher and their winning entries will appear in the Mental Health Ireland 2016 Calendar.

Below are the photos of the winning entries from the school.



### When life turns you upside down



Remember always rotate the picture



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## Sacred Heart Drogheda Student Wins World Irish Dancing Championship!

Saturday 16th May 2015

On the 27th of March, Lauren Finglas a second year student of the Sacred Heart Secondary School, Drogheda, travelled to Montreal for the World Irish Dancing Championships.

Lauren was competing over nine days, dancing in the Under 15 girls' category alongside 163 other competitors from all over the world.

Girls travelled from Australia, America, Scotland, England, Ireland, Canada, Holland and New Zealand.

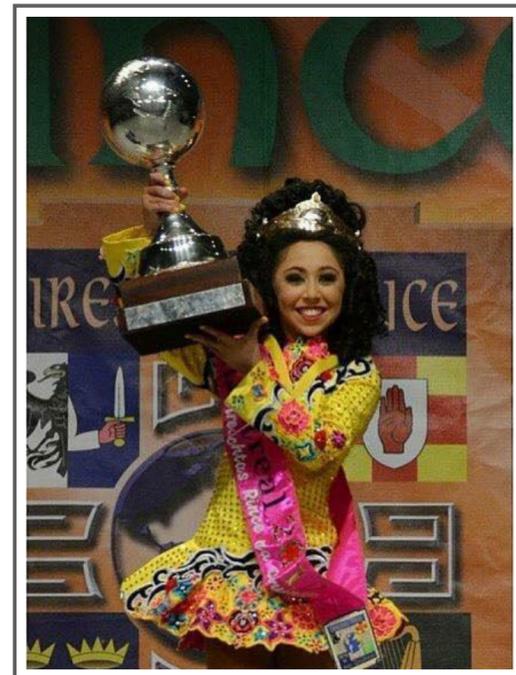
In order to compete in the World Championships, Lauren qualified within her region of Ulster. There were ten qualifying places and Lauren was fortunate enough to win. Only the best dancers in each region make their way to the World Championships.

Lauren had such an amazing time in Montreal. She experienced the Canadian culture, made new friends, visited exciting places and achieved her goal and won the World Irish Dancing Championships!!

Lauren states that words cannot describe how she felt. It was sensational, a feeling that she will never forget.

To this day, she still can't believe she is the Champion of the World!! Lauren has realised what she can achieve with hard work and dedication.

We at the Sacred Heart Secondary School and all in CEIST are extremely proud of Lauren's achievement.





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## Latest News from Presentation College Athenry

Monday 25th May 2015

Jason Cotter, Teacher in Presentation College, Athenry has kindly shared their following end of term news snippets and associated photos.

### Fitness guru, Pat Divilly gives advice to local students

In recognition of their community, skill development and physical recreation activities, over one hundred Transition Year students from Presentation College, Athenry recently received their Gaisce President's Awards. The awards were presented to students by their Principal, Mr. Gerry Doherty and those in attendance were treated to a very special motivational presentation by renowned Author and Entrepreneur, Mr. Pat Divilly. Following the ceremony, students presented Mr. Divilly, who is a Console Mental Health Ambassador, with a EUR500 donation for the charity.



Author and Entrepreneur, Mr. Pat Divilly who is a Console Mental Health Ambassador, receives a charity donation of EUR500 from students of the Presentation College in Athenry.

### European Politician visit to local Secondary School

For the second year in a row, MEP Marian Harkin has visited European Studies students of Presentation College, Athenry.

Ms. Harkin gave students a very interesting and informative presentation about the European Union and how it affects us all in our everyday lives.



Presentation College Athenry students and their European Studies Teacher, Mr. Jason Cotter, present MEP Marian Harkin with a locally produced wooden frame in appreciation for her recent visit to the school.

### Junior Certificate Students Impress Celebrity Quiz Master



Well done to Junior Certificate students, Oisín Daly, Roisin Corrigan, Imy Landon and Roisin Finn who represented Presentation College Athenry at the recent BSTAI All Ireland Quiz Final which was held in LIT, Thurles. The team, mentored by Ms. Coleman were highly commended by Celebrity Quiz Master, Emma O'Driscoll.

### Transition Year Graduate Numbers Nearly Double!



One hundred and seventy students have graduated from their year long Transition Year programme at Presentation College, Athenry.

Following their class mass, which was celebrated by School Chaplin, Fr. Benny McHale, students were presented with their certificates of completion by TY Coordinators, Ms. Emer Kilgannon and Mr. Joe Kelly.

### Awards Day 2015

Congratulations to the outstanding achievements of students at Presentation College, Athenry whose achievements were recognised at the school's annual Awards Day ceremony. The awards were sponsored by Athenry Credit Union.



Pictured above are the Credit Union Greb Brown Junior Award Winners and below are the Senior Award Winners.



Pictured above are the Leaving Cert Student of the Year Award Finalists.

### Students swept away on tour of wind farm

First year students in Form 5 recently participated in an Industry Tour which was arranged by their teacher Mr. Cotter to provide the students with an insight into a real business environment. The tour involved a full tour of the C&F Green Energy Manufacturing Facility in Cashla, where they learnt about the production process involved in manufacturing wind turbines. On what was one of the wildest days of 2015, the students and their teacher braved the elements and travelled to Derrybrien Wind Farm and were given a full site tour by ESB's Joe Knight.



Form 5 Business Studies students pictured at Derrybrien Windfarm with their teacher, Mr. Jason Cotter and ESB Windfarm Manager, Joe Knight.

### Senior and Junior Connacht Hurling Champions



Pictured above are the school Senior Hurlers winners of the Connacht Championship.

Congratulations to both Senior and Junior Hurling squads and to their mentors who have won both the Senior and Junior Connacht Hurling Champion titles.

### Fleadh Ceoil Na hEireann - Connaught Finals



Congratulations to Ms. Marian Spellman and her assistants, whose two teams of Set Dancers and substitutes represented the school at the County Fleadh, which was recently held at N.U.I. Galway.

Both teams were successful in reaching the finals, which will be held in Ballymote at the end of June.



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## St Mary's High School Midleton Gathering

Wednesday 13th May 2015

St. Mary's High School, Midleton, Co. Cork pupils and staff opened their doors to welcome over 200 past pupils and retired teachers last Friday night May 8th. Past Pupils who travelled from as far as New York to reconnect with old friends, shared memories of happy days and close scrapes while visiting their old classrooms, science laboratories and the library. Present pupils who were guiding the guests looked on bemused as thirty-somethings sitting in their old desks howled with laughter.

All were entertained by music recitals from past and present pupils including Deborah Desmond and her daughter Kate.

After a sociable cup of tea, the guests assembled in the hall for a poetry recital and a speakers address from Principal Donal Cronin and Past Pupil Sinead McSweeney.

Mr. Cronin recounted publications of Past Pupil Associations from the 1960s and showed an old medal worn by the Committee of the day. He also challenged the assembled group to reactivate the PPU to continue the tradition of old.

The next address was from a past pupil who has risen to the top echelons of Twitter's global executive ranks. Sinead McSweeney, Senior Director of Public Policy EMEA @Twitter, former director of communications for Garda Síochána and PSNI and political advisor entertained the group recalling her days in St. Mary's.

She commended St. Mary's tradition of encouraging girls and expecting excellence in STEM subjects, offering Higher Level Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics at a time when these subjects were commonly taught only in boys schools. She humorously hankered after the days of no nonsense 'Shape up or Ship out' attitude from formidable old teachers, a far cry from the positive affirming appraisals required in the work place today.

Local businesses generously donated prizes that were drawn for some lucky winners. Two thousand euro was raised for the St. Mary's High School Cultural fund.

A great night was had by all and all were glad that they took part in this heart-warming evening in their old Alma Mater.

## Photos from the Gathering



A group of past pupils pictured at the gathering.



Principal Donal Cronin pictured with past pupils of the school.



Pictured above are musical performers on the night.



Past Pupils pictured with first year students.



Pictured above are the past pupil union committee members.



TY Students who were event guides for the gathering.



Pictured above Sr Jenny (Past Principal) - pink and black jacket, Helen Finn (Teacher), Sheila Rooney(Past Teacher).



Mary Walsh (Deputy Principal), Charlie Hayes (Past Teacher) and Sr. Mairead (Past Teacher).

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## Latest News from Our Lady's Castleblayney

Monday 25th May 2015

Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan have kindly shared the following news with CEIST.

### Presentation of Amber Flag to Our Lady's

A group of 5th Year students, accompanied by their teacher, Ms Grace Duffy travelled to DCU on Tuesday 5th May to receive the Amber Flag on behalf of Our Lady's. Being awarded the flag recognises the school's initiatives in promoting positive mental health by pro-actively putting in place activities and events that encourage students and staff to 'Talk, Connect and Share'.

The awarding of the flag was the culmination of a lot of hard work by the dynamic Amber Flag committee in the school. Under the stewardship of Ms Duffy, this committee has organised a 'Positive Mental Health Week' with events such as a colour run, fancy dress for teachers, thoughts for the day, and they even organised a very lively cuddly bear who gave out hugs to staff and students at break and lunchtime! Other activities have included participation in the 5km fun run in the Phoenix Park for the launch of the Cycle for Suicide and more recently a large group of students took part in the Darkness into Light Run in Monaghan.

The committee of Joshua Kelly, Ciara Kelly, Romans Serskis, Anne Gattagne, Ross Byrne, Amy Brohan, Noelle Duffy & Tate Donnelly, Torchia McQuaid, Elana McKenna, Ciara Laverty, Megan Cunningham & David Duffy are to be commended for all their hard work and they were delighted to accept the flag on behalf of the school from Mr Alan Quinlan former Munster Rugby Player. The message being promoted as always is 'It's ok not to feel ok; and it's absolutely ok to ask for help'



Pictured in Our Lady's are the hardworking Amber Flag committee who received the flag from Mr Alan Quinlan in DCU last week. The Amber flag recognises the school's initiatives promoting positive mental health by pro-actively putting in place activities and events that encourage students and staff to 'Talk, Connect and Share'.

### Our Lady's choir hit the high notes in All Ireland Music Competition

Our Lady's Choir were winners once again on the stage of the National Concert Hall Dublin on Monday 10th May when they took 3rd prize in the prestigious All Ireland Waltons' Music for Schools Competition.

This competition is a national competition and celebration of Music in Irish schools and the choir was one of six finalists, making it the fourth consecutive time for Music teacher and conductor Cara Murray and her students to reach the finals and once again bring home a prize. Their five minute medley was entitled 'Musical Enlightenment'.

The 45 strong choir consisting of First, Second, Transition Year and Fifth Year students, together with the accomplished school musicians, played to a capacity audience in the National Concert Hall and treated the audience to some beautiful melodies. Liz Nolan of Lyric FM was MC and adjudicators, David Brophy, one of Ireland's leading conductors, and Ellen Cranitch, performer, composer and broadcaster, were extremely impressed with what David Brophy called a 'spectacular event'.

Congratulations to all concerned on another spectacular performance.



Pictured in The National Concert Hall Dublin at the Waltons Music for Schools Competition is Pierce Callaghan & Ms Cara Murray. Also in the photo are adjudicators, Mr David Brophy, Conductor, Ms Ellen Cranitch, Performer, Composer & Broadcaster & Ms Aideen Walton.



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## National ECO UNESCO Young Environmentalist Award for Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont

Wednesday 27th May 2015

Congratulations to Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont, Dublin on their great achievement in winning a National ECO UNESCO Young Environmentalist Award.

The school's Eco Committee are delighted with their win at the National Showcase held in the Mansion House on May 13th last.

Their project **Plastic Pals** won in the Junior Art and Design section.



Pictured above are members of the ECO Committee who received badges for their work.





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## News from Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore

Tuesday 28th April 2015

### Student Council

As always it has been a very busy year so far for the Student council. The last event of the outgoing Student Council's term was to hold for the first time a joint event with the Student Council from Colaiste Choilim, C.B.S. A tea party was held at the end of January in the gym of the Sacred Heart School, where tea and scones were served to 50 invited guests. There was music, recitations and dancing, and everybody had a great time. The students on both Councils did a fantastic job, preparing, serving and dancing!! A very special word of thanks goes to the musicians.

The outgoing Student Council are a hard act to follow, who under the presidency of Lauren Dunne carried out their duties with enthusiasm and hard work.



Pictured above is the 2015 student council of Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore.

### Green Flag

We are delighted to announce that the Green Schools Committee have succeeded in gaining a 6th green flag, in the theme of biodiversity. We have all worked hard under the guidance of Ms O'Meara. We are all looking forward to the flag presentation on the 26th of May.

### TY Mini Company AGM

The TY AGMs were held on the 20th of April in the Tullamore Court Hotel. They were a huge success. All the girls in the various mini companies Typhoon.ltd, l'mhungry.nom, Spacebar.ltd and Laughter Craft.ltd had prepared a folder of their mini-company experience. The parents were able to have a look at these folders to see the progress made throughout the year. All the directors gave a speech and a power point presentation of their role. All of the parents who came were very impressed. The common theme throughout the four AGMs was that the girls really enjoyed setting up and running a business in TY.

### Prestigious Irish Poet Visits School

Students and staff at the Sacred Heart School are looking forward to the Irish poet Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin's visit to the school on Tuesday the 12th May. Ní Chuilleanáin's poetry features on the 2015 and 2016 Leaving Certificate Programmes.

Ní Chuilleanáin was Associate Professor of English, Dean of the Faculty of Arts (Letters), and a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin until her retirement in 2011. She has won many awards including the Patrick Kavanagh Award for Acts and Monuments in 1973, and The Magdalene Sermon was short-listed for The Irish Times-Aer Lingus Award in 1990, and was nominated for the European Literature Prize in 1992. With her husband, the poet MacDara Woods, she is one of the continuing editors of the long-running literary journal, Cyphers, which they founded along with poets Leland Bardwell and the late Pearse Hutchinson.

This is our first time to have a poet from the course visit our school and we are very excited about the visit. The girls have prepared some questions for the poet and feel very privileged to get this opportunity to meet such a prestigious figure.

### Bar Council of Ireland

Pictured on right is Ellen Woods a Transition Year Student who was selected to represent the Sacred Heart School Tullamore. on a week long work experience in the Bar Council of Ireland.

She found it to be a most interesting week where in she attended ongoing high profile cases in both the high and criminal courts.

She also visited the Bridewell Garda Station and the Kings Inn, in where she attended lectures and got tours of the law school.

It gave her a great insight into the legal profession. She was awarded with a Certificate of Participation and attendance from the Bar Council.



### Helping Hands Young Social Innovators Group

Helping Hands YSI group pictured below raised €2.450 for the Midlands Simon Community by holding a sleep out.



### Success on the Rugby Fields!



The school celebrated with a whole school assembly for our Junior and senior rugby teams who won the Leinster 7's on Friday 25th of April.



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## Presentation Secondary School Waterford TY Graduation

Tuesday 26th May 2015

Presentation Secondary School, Cannon Street, Waterford, Transition Year Graduation Night took place on Thursday May 21st.

It was attended by the parents and guardians of the 72 students, along with their teachers.

The night was organised by TY Co-ordinator Katherine O'Sullivan and the Co-ordinator of Programmes Orla Bolger.

The night was a wonderful celebration of Transition Year. It was an especially memorable night for Principal Mary Ryan, as it was her last formal school event before she retires.



Brianna O'Regan receiving the **Senior Sport Award** from P.E. teacher Alan Barber.



Excellence in **Transition Year Award** - TY Co-ordinator Katherine O'Sullivan, Dominika Kuzniar, and Principal Mary Ryan.



Presentation Secondary School, Waterford Green schools Committee being presented with the **Green Flag for Energy**.



Presentation TY Students receiving **Build a Bank Certs** from Emma Breen (AIB Student Officer) and Noelle Chambers (Manager AIB WIT Branch).



**Spirit of Transition Year Award** - Principal Mary Ryan, Ellen Quinn, Kate Doherty, and Deputy Principal Ruth Gallen.



**TY Musical Award** - Principal Mary Ryan, Brianna O'Regan, Suzan Akintomide, and Music Teacher Mark Scanlon.