





26 November 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




### Official Launch of Galway's Newest School

Galway's newest secondary school was officially celebrated at a launch in the Radisson on Monday. Our Lady's College will officially open its doors in September 2016.


The school's motto **'Excellence Together'** sums up the intention of the new institution, which promises a new and strong future for girls' post primary education in Galway City centre. It represents the union of two great Galway schools; Presentation Secondary School and Mercy Newtownsmith.

In attendance to celebrate the union were the new school's patron, CEIST (Catholic Education An Irish Schools Trust), the Boards of Management of Presentation Secondary School and Mercy Newtownsmith, Mayor of Galway Frank Fahy, TDs, members of Galway City Council and members of the school community.

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## CEIST News




### Educating Today and Tomorrow: A renewing passion

Last week, Wednesday to Saturday, Dr. Marie Griffin, CEO CEIST, attended the world Congress on Catholic education organised by the Vatican to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the publication of Gravissimum Educationes.

Pope Francis addressed over 7,000 delegates at the Conference.

He answered a number of questions from educators working in difficult situations around the world.


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### Energy Review

About fifty CEIST Schools will share expected savings in excess of €250,000 over the next 24 months having opted for the competitive terms offered by Northern Gas and Power for their electricity supply renewals.

We would encourage other CEIST Schools to avail of this offer (expiring 4th December next) by contacting Matt Harrison, European Specialist Procurement +44 (0)191 499 8706 | +44 (0)191 247 5821 [matt.harrison@ngpltd.co.uk](mailto:matt.harrison@ngpltd.co.uk) | <http://www.ngpltd.co.uk>



### School Boards of Management

CEIST congratulates all newly appointed members serving on our Boards of Management for 2015 - 2016.

The Board plays a crucial role in nurturing and developing the ethos of the school and CEIST would also like to thank members who have agreed to continue serving on the board and to all who assisted in the nomination of members.

We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of those who are ending their term. There were 32 CEIST schools who renewed their 3 year term on the 15th October, 2015.

### Principal Regional Network Meetings

CEIST are holding further Principal Regional Network Meetings during November & December, dates and venues as follows:

**November 30th 11.00 - 1.00 p.m.** (tea/coffee from 10.30) St. Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk

**December 1st 10.00 - 12.00 p.m.** (tea/coffee from 9.30) CEIST offices, Kil. Co. Kildare

**December 14th 11.00- 1.00 p.m.** (tea/coffee from 10.30) Presentation College, Currylea, Tuam

**December 15th 11.00 - 1.15 p.m.** (tea/coffee from 10.30) Presentation Secondary School, Mitchelstown

**CEIST Middle Leadership Programme**

CEIST also plan to hold our very popular Middle Leadership Programme in the [Maldon Hotel, Oanmore, Galway](#) on the following dates and times;

**January 27th**  
5.00pm - 8.00pm

**February 6th**  
10.00am - 4.00pm

**February 24th**  
5.00pm - 8.00pm

**March 5th**  
10.00am - 4.00pm

The Booking form for attending the programme will be made available on the website on the 8th December. Please note places are limited to 36 attendees, hence it is advised to book your place early!

**Religious Education Support Day**

CEIST plan to hold a support day in two different venues for RE Teachers of CEIST Schools in the Spring of 2016

Further details will be made available to our schools in due course.

**RE Resources**

Check out our latest [RE Resources](#) uploaded to the website that were kindly shared with CEIST.

**Follow CEIST on Twitter**


Check out the latest news snippets and resources shared via our [Twitter account](#).

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

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

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

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




## School Profiles on The Irish Catholic Newspaper

The Irish Catholic Newspaper plan to profile an ethos feature from a CEIST school each month.

Check out the following articles they have featured to date from [Coláiste Iosaigín Portlarrington](#), [Mount St Michael Secondary School, Rosscarbery](#), and [Artiscoil Mhuire, Corbally](#).

If you have an interesting feature that you would like included please email [brown@ceist.ie](mailto:brown@ceist.ie) for further details.



## CEIST Video

CEIST has created a video which outlines the background and workings of the Trust.

We worked with a selection of CEIST schools in the making of the video and are very grateful to all for their help and support.

Click [here](#) to view.




## CEIST All-Ireland Bake Off 2015

Following on from the success of last year, the CEIST All Ireland Bake Off has now been launched and notification has been sent out to all schools to register for this year's competition.

Odium's with Catherine Leyden from TV3 continue to sponsor this All-Ireland competition and this year's winners will be featured on the morning show, Ireland AM.

This year the competition has been extended to include a Junior and a Senior section to give scope to a wider group of bakers.

[MORE >](#)



## Be Winter Ready

It is that time of year again when it is very important to "Be Winter Ready".

The website [www.winterready.ie](http://www.winterready.ie) provides guidance under various headings, one of which is "Schools".

Click [here](#) to download leaflet.




## Arklow Bids Farewell to the Mercy Sisters

The Parish of Arklow bade a fond farewell to the Mercy Sisters at a Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday September 26th celebrated by Canon Cosgrove with Frs. Michael and Binnoy as concelebrants.

Music was provided by the girls of St. Mary's College, Arklow under the batons of Mr. John Bonner and Ms. Christine Steele.

Readings were delivered by the Principal and Deputy Principal of St. Mary's College while the Prayers of the Faithful were said by a number of past pupils.

[MORE >](#)




## Coláiste Muire Ballymote Opening School Mass

On a beautiful sunny day on Thursday 1st October Coláiste Muire, Ballymote, Co. Sligo, staff, students and parents celebrated their opening school Mass in the school gym.

It was a great honour to have his Excellency, the most Reverend Fr. Charles John Brown (Papal Nuncio of Ireland) to celebrate the Mass.

The central theme of the Mass was 'Friendship' as the Mass took place during 'Friendship Week' (an annual week of awareness around the value of friendships and relationships).

[MORE >](#)




## Coláiste Bride Enniscorthy Opening Year Mass and Exhibition Celebration

Delving into the archives of our school we realised what remarkable women spearheaded, against all the odds, the education in the town..... The commitment to house a museum that would honour the dedication of the Mercy Sisters eventually led to 'Mercy Education.....The Journey' launched on September 24th 2015.

Being "Mercy Day", the 24th seemed to be an ideal day to officially unveil our exhibition. The afternoon began with the opening of the year Mass during which we welcomed our incoming first years.

[MORE >](#)



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Congratulations to students from St Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk, Co. Louth who won awards in the John Hooper Medal for Statistics Competition.

The students were presented with their awards at a ceremony on Thursday 15th October in the Clock Tower, DES Marlborough Street, Dublin.

St Vincent's won the top award in the [John Hooper Medal for Statistics Competition](#) and 3 of their students also received Highly Commended Awards!!

[MORE >](#)



## Maynooth University Entrance Scholarship and Awards 2015

A number of students from CEIST schools were awarded Entrance Scholarships/Awards by Maynooth University at a ceremony held there recently.

The Entrance Award is awarded to students admitted with between 525 points and 545 points and the full value is €500.

The Entrance Scholarship is awarded to students admitted with 550 points or more and the full value of the award is €1000.

[MORE >](#)




## Presentation Secondary School Waterford Academic Awards 2015

Awards Night at Presentation Secondary School took place on Tuesday 20th October 2015. Awards were presented by Mayor of Waterford City and County, Councillor John Cummins.

Head Girl, Beth Carlton, extended a warm welcome to the Mayor and thanked him for his visit.

Awards Night provides an opportunity for the school to recognise achievements both inside and outside the classroom.

[MORE >](#)




## St Joseph's Navan Students Receive Entrance Scholarships

The Principal of St. Joseph's Secondary School, Navan, Ms. Mary Mulligan was delighted to share good news of students who received entrance scholarships.

Congratulations to Eimer Finn, Eimer O'Shea and Aoife Kealy on receiving the scholarships.

[MORE >](#)




## St. Leo's College Students Eve and Alicia Making the Headlines!


Congratulations to students Eve McGlinchey and Alicia Premkumar from St. Leo's College, Carlow who were the recipients of some major awards recently. Eve was awarded an excellence in STEM award and also received the prestigious accolade of the Spirit of Selfest award.

Alicia won 3rd prize overall in the Student Competition, which is a unique competition which aims to encourage young people to think and create products for the future. Over 800 entries were received for the 2015 competition with only 24 finalists selected for their artwork, creativity and vision.

[MORE >](#)




## Mercy Secondary School Tuam Raise Funds for Syrian Refugee Crisis



Pictured above are 5th Year students along with their teachers Sr Teresa, Ms Hyland, Ms Gallagher and Acting Deputy Principal Ms Kilroy from Scoil Bhride, Mercy Secondary School, Tuam, Co. Galway.

The students held a stay awake vigil on Friday 6th November in aid of the Syrian Refugee Crisis and raised €1,100 for the worthy cause. Well done to all involved for this great work.




## Presentation Thurles Scoop Top Award in Prestigious Cookery Competition

Presentation Secondary School, Thurles scooped the top award at A Taste of Ballyhoura Country Festival Cookery Competition held recently.

Led by their Home Economics teacher Mrs. Maura Carroll the Transition Year students qualified for the final held in Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock, Co Limerick and fought off stiff competition from John the Baptist Community School, Hospital, Co. Limerick along with CEIST Schools St. Mary's Secondary School, Charleville and St. Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh to become the outright winners.

[MORE >](#)




## A Peer-To-Peer Welcome


Coláiste Iosaigín, Portlarrington Students Sharon O'Neill and Alison Bryan were featured in the Irish Catholic Newspaper recently where they described organising a welcome Mass for first years.

Secondary schools are certainly busy places and Coláiste Iosaigín in Portlarrington, Co. Laois is no different. Since September, 210 first year students have been busy settling into new routines, finding their way around our school, discovering new subjects and joining up to different extra-curricular activities.

[MORE >](#)




## Latest News from Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna



John Sims, teacher in Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna has kindly shared the latest news snippets from the school.


[MORE >](#)



## Our Lady's Castleblayney is Ambassador School

[Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney](#), Co. Monaghan and their hard-working Amber Flag Committee got just recognition and acknowledgement of their efforts in the area of promoting positive mental health when the school was named as an Ambassador School by the [Cycle Against Suicide](#) group. Click [here](#) to view other news from the school.


[MORE >](#)



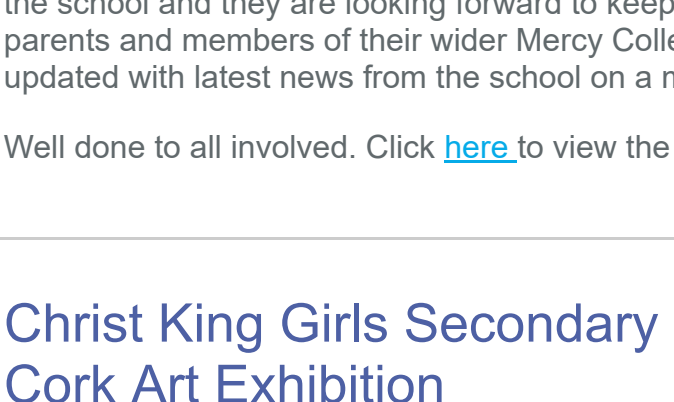
## Mercy College Coolock

Mercy College Coolock, Dublin 15 has introduced an ezine to the school and they are looking forward to keeping staff, parents and members of their wider Mercy College Community updated with latest news from the school on a monthly basis.

Well done to all involved. Click [here](#) to view the first edition.



## Christ King Girls Secondary School Cork Art Exhibition



Christ King Girls Secondary School, Cork City is Celebrating 50 Years in Education this Year.

They recently held an Art Exhibition to celebrate this special year in Douglas Court Shopping Centre Cork.

Click [Here](#) to view more images from the Exhibition.





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## Official Launch of Galway's Newest School

Wednesday 25th November 2015

Galway's newest secondary school was officially celebrated at a launch in the Radisson on Monday, 23rd November, 2015.

Our Lady's College Galway will officially open its doors in September 2016.

The school's motto '**Excellence Together**' sums up the intention of the new institution, which promises a new and strong future for girls' post primary Catholic education in Galway City centre. It represents the union of two great Galway schools; Presentation Secondary School and Mercy Newtownsmith.

In attendance to celebrate the union were the new school's patron, CEIST (Catholic Education an Irish Schools Trust), the Boards of Management of Presentation Secondary School and Mercy Newtownsmith, Mayor of Galway Frank Fahy, TDs, members of Galway City Council and members of the school community.



A combined choir from both schools opened the event to a packed ballroom, with over 300 members of the community in attendance.

Parent representatives spoke of the trust they had that the new school would provide the best possible education for their daughters.

Students spoke of their excitement in continuing their schooldays with existing friends and in making new ones.



Pictured above at the launch (LtoR) Councillor Mary Hoade, Mr. Pat McHugh, Sr. Margaret Farrell, RSM and Sr. Canice Hanrahan, RSM.

Galway Mayor, Frank Fahy said it was great to see such a fantastic crowd and spoke of the "wonderful union of these two great Galway institutions. The schools are working very well together already and it's very positive for Galway education".

The new school will cater for over five hundred girls and will allow for a broader curriculum and new programme options. Both schools are already cooperating closely in terms of the enhanced provision.

Dr Marie Griffin, CEO of CEIST said "As patron of Our Lady's College, CEIST is very proud to be launching this new girls' Catholic voluntary secondary school in Galway city centre. The enhanced facility on the Presentation site will offer the opportunity to further develop the teaching, learning and holistic education of students into the future".



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

The interim Board of Management for Our Lady's College consists of parents, teachers and Trustee nominees, with Dr Pauline Logue of GMIT as Chairperson.

Our Lady's College will be located on the Presentation site, based on surveys carried out to determine the most suitable location.

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

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



Pictured above at the launch are the members of the interim Board of Management for Our Lady's College Galway.



Pictured above L to R, Sr. Riona McHugh, Sr. Margaret O' Brien (Shantalla), Sr. Mary Kenny (Shantalla) Back: Sr. Kathleen Fahy (Presentation Road), Sr. Anne Fox (Presentation Road) and Sr. Bernie Breathnach (hidden)(Presentation Road).

## Photo Gallery

Click [here](#) to view more photos from the Launch.





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## Educating Today and Tomorrow: A renewing passion

Monday 23rd November 2015

Last week, Wednesday to Saturday, I attended the world Congress on Catholic education organised by the Vatican to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Gravissimum Educationes*. The papers and details of the conference are available [HERE](#).

On Saturday, Pope Francis addressed over 7,000 delegates at the Conference. He answered a number of questions from educators working in difficult situations around the world. He made the following points (as I understood from the translation!):

- To educate in the Christian manner, we must educate young people in the fullness of their humanity (there was much emphasis on holistic education).
- We cannot educate within the walls of exclusivity.
- We must be open to transcendence so that the Lord can manifest Himself in the work. We must make room for dialogue to let Christ in.
- We must take risks, particularly in informal education. Pope Francis cited the example of teaching a child to walk – it's slow and they might fall over but they have to keep going.
- We must teach young people in the languages of thinking, doing and feeling.
- "We all have a place".
- A real school must teach ideas, habits and values.



Pictured above CEIST CEO, Dr. Marie Griffin, meeting Bishop Brendan Kelly, retired Bishop of Kerry Dr Bill Murphy and Bishop Brendan Leahy at the Catholic school conference.

## Young People Attending Catholic Schools and Universities

There has been an extraordinary growth in the number of young people worldwide attending Catholic schools and Universities. In 2012, nearly 19 million students attended Catholic secondary schools, a growth from 8.6m in 1971.

The challenge for Catholic universities, primary and secondary schools is to redefine, for current circumstances and to meet the many challenges of today, how they are to be present and serve. It was apparent, from examples cited, that schools around the world are facing many challenges, as we are ourselves.

However, there is a great commitment to Catholic education and a huge community of dedicated educators to which you all belong.

Belated good wishes to all our Presentation schools for Presentation day last Saturday.

## School Session (Part II)

Click [here](#) to view further information and resources from the congress.



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## CEIST All-Ireland Bake Off 2015

Tuesday 10th November 2015



Following on from the success of last year, the CEIST All Ireland Bake Off has now been launched and notification has been sent out to all schools to register for this year's competition.

Odlum's with Catherine Leyden from TV3 continue to sponsor this All-Ireland competition and this year's winners will be featured on the morning show, Ireland AM.

This year the competition has been extended to include a Junior and a Senior section to give scope to a wider group of bakers.

The junior section is an open competition to encourage younger students to develop their creativity and skills.

Cakes for the senior section must reflect the chosen theme for this year's competition - **“Our wonderful Irish heritage”**.

The cake can reflect school, local or national heritage and must use fondant icing as part of the cake decoration.

Tweet us [@ceistbakeoff](#) to keep up with what is happening.

The bake off will take place during the week of the **7th of March** and is **hosted by Árdscoil na Tríonóide, Athy**.

Entry forms will be forwarded to schools who return the registration postcard to **Árdscoil na Tríonóide by 5th December, 2015**.





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Monday 2nd November 2015

The Parish of Arklow bade a fond farewell to the Mercy Sisters at a Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday September 26th celebrated by Canon Cosgrove with Frs. Michael and Binnoy as concelebrants.

Music was provided by the girls of St. Mary's College, Arklow under the batons of Mr. John Bonner and Ms. Christine Steele.

Readings were delivered by the Principal and Deputy Principal of St. Mary's College while the Prayers of the Faithful were said by a number of past pupils.

At the beginning of the Mass four children representing all the children of the town bore gifts to the altar symbolising education, visitation and care, prayer and of course music, areas in which the nuns had so unstintingly given service over a century and two score years.

There were tears of nostalgia as Sisters Sior and Maria Goretti, the last two nuns to serve in the town, brought forward the gifts of bread and wine one last time.

Earlier in his homily the PP spoke movingly of the dedicated, selfless work of all Mercy nuns and their contribution to society.

Before Mass concluded presentations were made to Srs Sior and Maria Goretti.

A plaque in appreciation of the education and ministry of the nuns was unveiled at the back of the church where it will remain in perpetuity as a reminder to all in Arklow of the debt of gratitude owed to the Mercy Congregation.

Many thanks to the Arklow Parish Newsletter and Jim Furlong, Chair of the Board of Management in St. Mary's College, Arklow, Co. Wicklow for kindly sharing this article and photographs with CEIST.



Pictured above Sr. Maria Goretti and Sr. Sior Cosgrove, former Principal of St. Mary's College at the farewell liturgy.



The plaque unveiled to acknowledge the contribution of the Sisters of Mercy to the Parish of Arklow.



Some of the large congregation greet Sr. Maria Goretti after the Mass in Arklow.





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## Coláiste Muire Ballymote Opening School Mass

Tuesday 3rd November 2015



On a beautiful sunny day on Thursday 1st October Coláiste Muire, Ballymote, Co. Sligo, staff, students and parents celebrated their opening school mass in the school gym.

It was a great honour to have his Excellency, the most Reverend Fr. Charles John Brown (Papal Nuncio of Ireland) to celebrate the mass.

The central theme of the mass was 'Friendship' as the mass took place during 'Friendship Week' (an annual week of awareness around the value of friendships and relationships).



The mass began with a procession with representatives from staff, students, parents, Board of Management and the local community to show the importance of the spirit of partnership within the school.

Bishop Brendan Kelly of Achonry, Fr. James McDonagh, Parish Priest Ballymote and Fr. Jim Finan concelebrated this very special occasion with us.

The forty strong student choir was directed by Ms. Rosario Heaney-McGreal and Mr. Charles O'Connor, while Ms. Fiona Keane led the liturgy of the Mass.

Fr. James McDonagh also played alongside his nephew Ronan (6th year) and the choir.



Principal, Mr. Peter Mahoney concluded with words of thanks and an invitation to tea which was beautifully catered for by Ms. Hilda Griffin and Ms. Kate Connelly.

His Excellency mingled with staff, students and parents afterwards and students delighted in conversations with him on topics such as school life, Junior Certificate results and the National Ploughing Championships.

A special thanks goes to Mr. John O'Dowd for his assistance in the planning of this most marvellous day for Coláiste Muire Ballymote.







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## Coláiste Bríde Enniscorthy Opening Year Mass and Exhibition Celebration

Thursday 1st October 2015

Nestling under historic Vinegar Hill, with spectacular views over the town of Enniscorthy and the rich Wexford farmland, Coláiste Bríde occupies an enviable location. Established in 1970, and christened by Sr. Rosari Haheesy, the first Principal, the school plays a vital role in the life of the town.

After the departure of the Mercy Sisters in 2010, we became conscious that our students had little or no knowledge of the history and rich tapestry of the schools past, a school that was started originally in 1858 by Mother Theresa Kelly who arrived into a town haunted by recent memories of famine and war.

The Sisters of Mercy, with meagre finds and depending on donations from local businesses set about the task of educating the young people of Enniscorthy, starting with a basic curriculum that included reading, writing, arithmetic and catechism.

Our 21st century computer literate students were amazed to discover that some of our past pupils used only pencils to write with, so that when the copy was finished, all the text could be erased and the book re-used!!

Delving into the archives of our school we realised what remarkable women spearheaded, against all the odds, the education in the town..... The commitment to house a museum that would honour the dedication of the Mercy Sisters eventually led to "Mercy Education.....The Journey" launched on September 24th 2015.

Being "Mercy Day", the 24th seemed to be an ideal day to officially unveil our exhibition. The afternoon began with the opening of the year mass during which we welcomed our incoming first years.

After the liturgy, which was attended by Bishop Denis Brennan we adjourned to the school library and there, along with invited guests, including our oldest past pupil, our Mercy Sisters and a representation from our school body, we held a short, but thought-provoking ceremony.

We listened to Bishop Brennan's memories of his time as chaplain in our school, revisited the CEIST chapter and paid tribute to the Mercy Sisters.

The display "Mercy Education .....The Journey" was launched with the symbolic lighting of the CEIST Candle.

The exhibition is on permanent display in Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy.

### Photos



Pictured above are Bishop Denis Brennan, Margot Kinsella, Past Pupil, student Claire Stacey, Deputy Principal Kiera O'Sullivan and Principal Tom Sheridan.



Students taking part in the welcoming ceremony for first years.



Pictured above Bishop Denis Brennan addresses the school gathering.



Celebration of the opening year mass in the school.

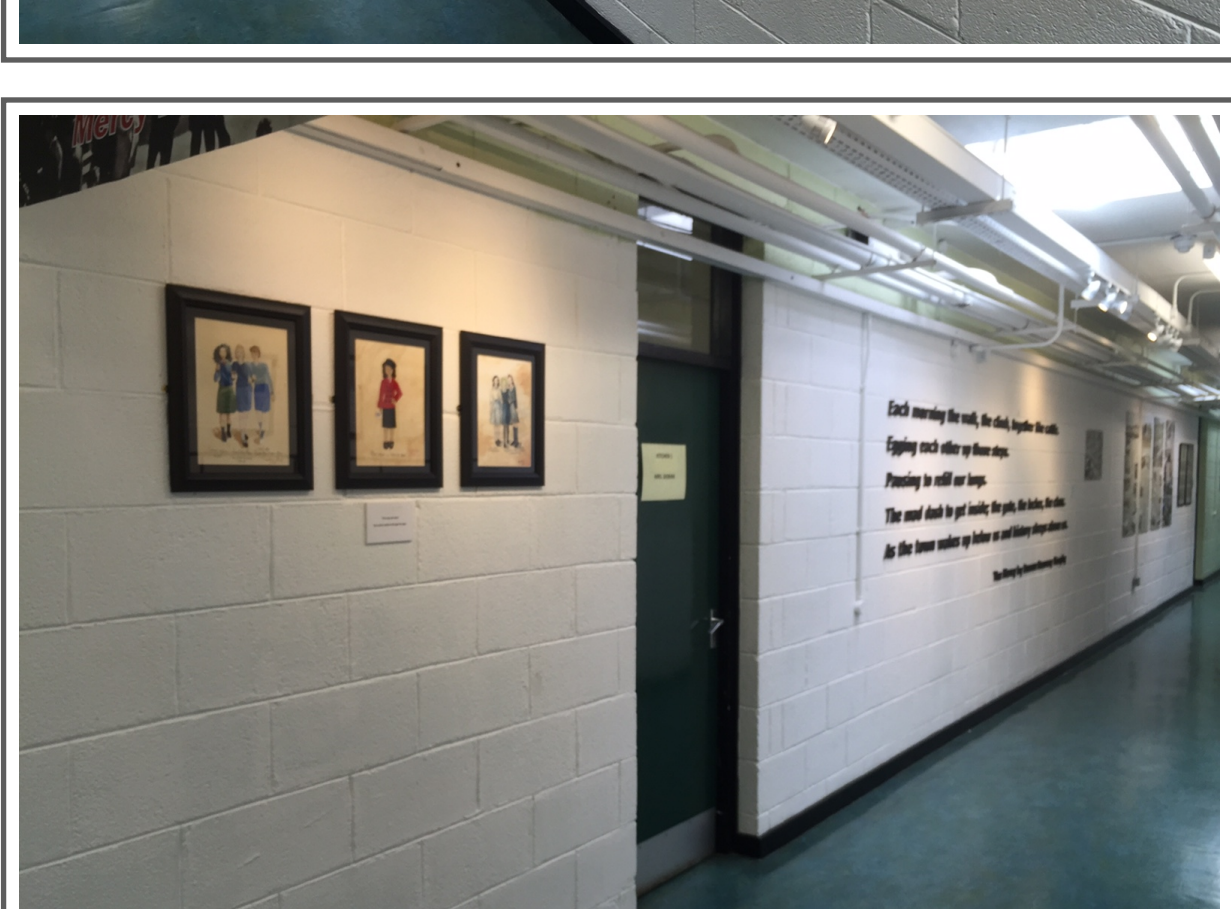
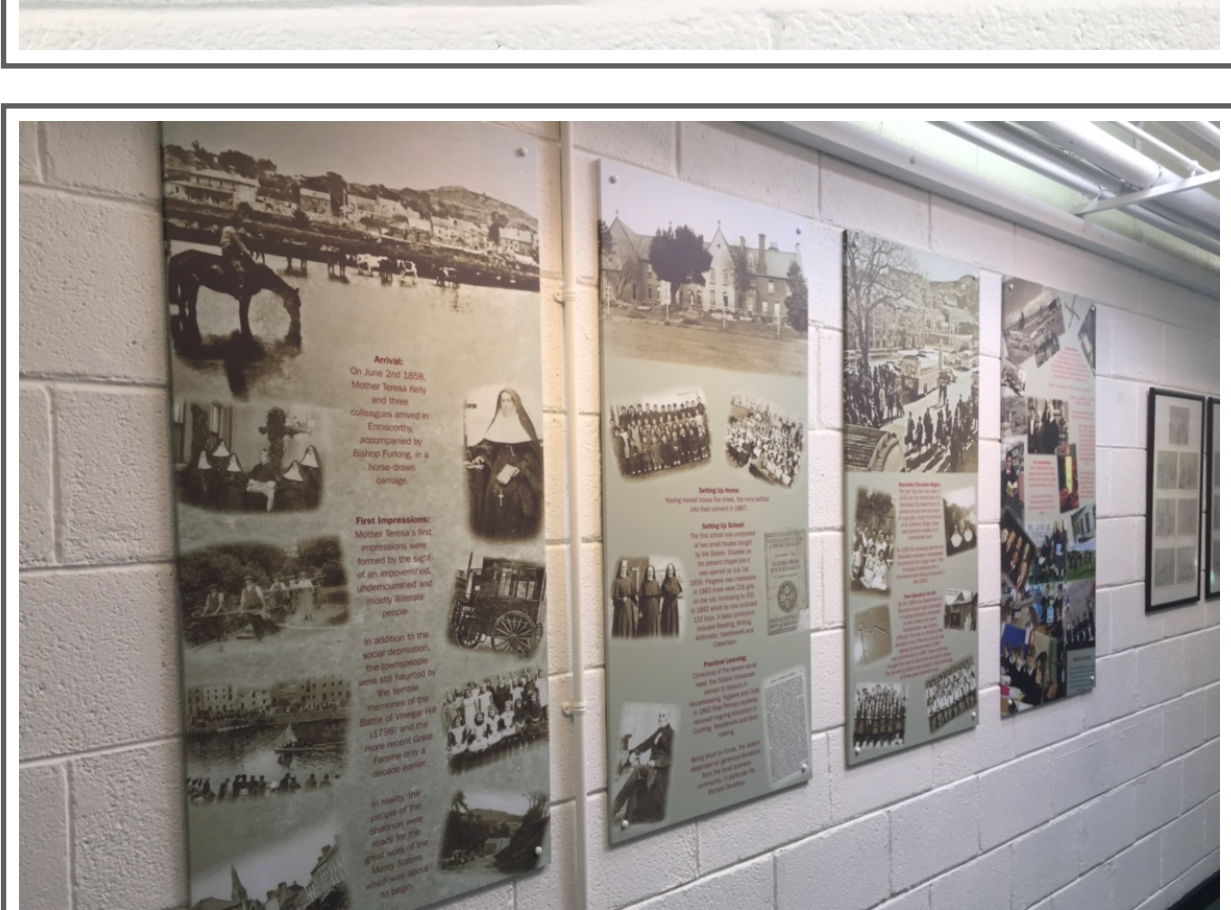
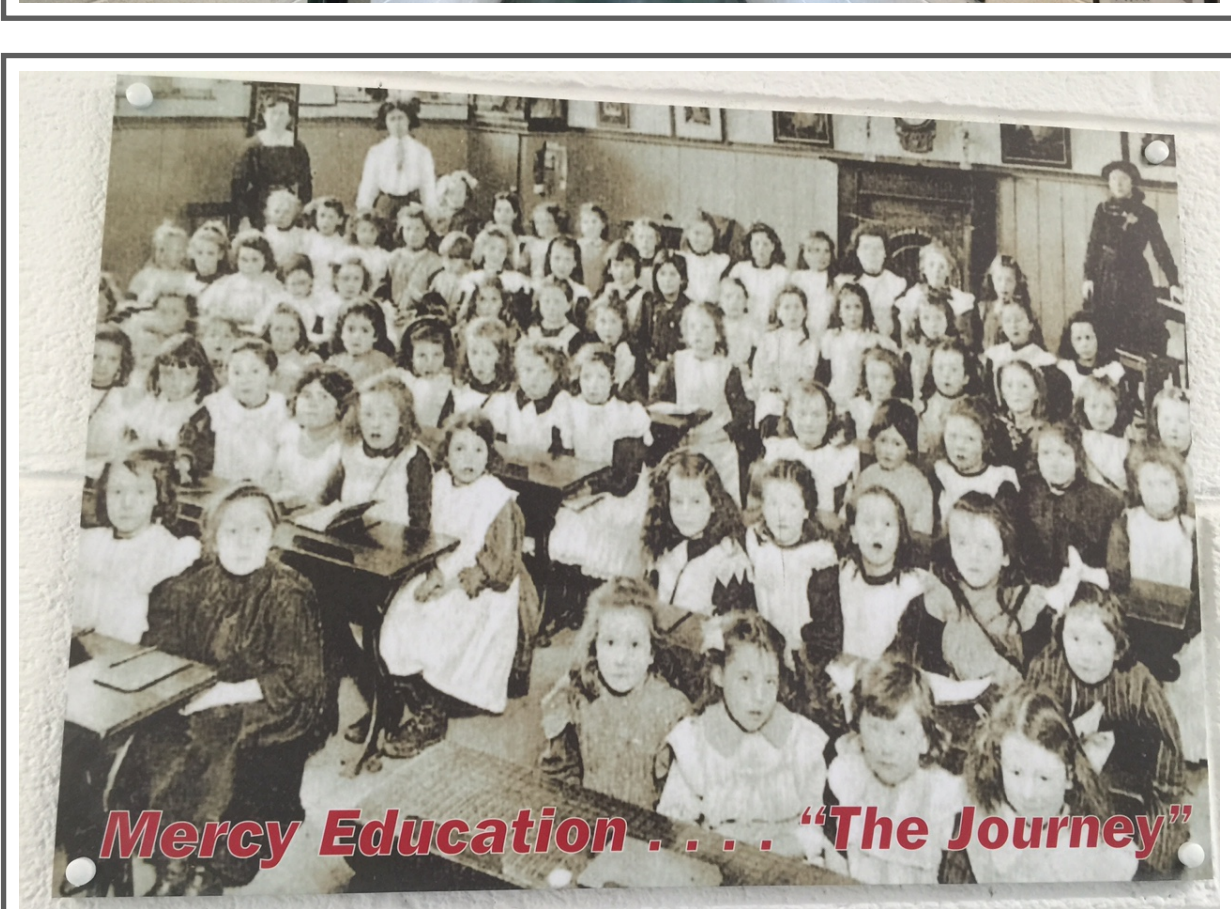
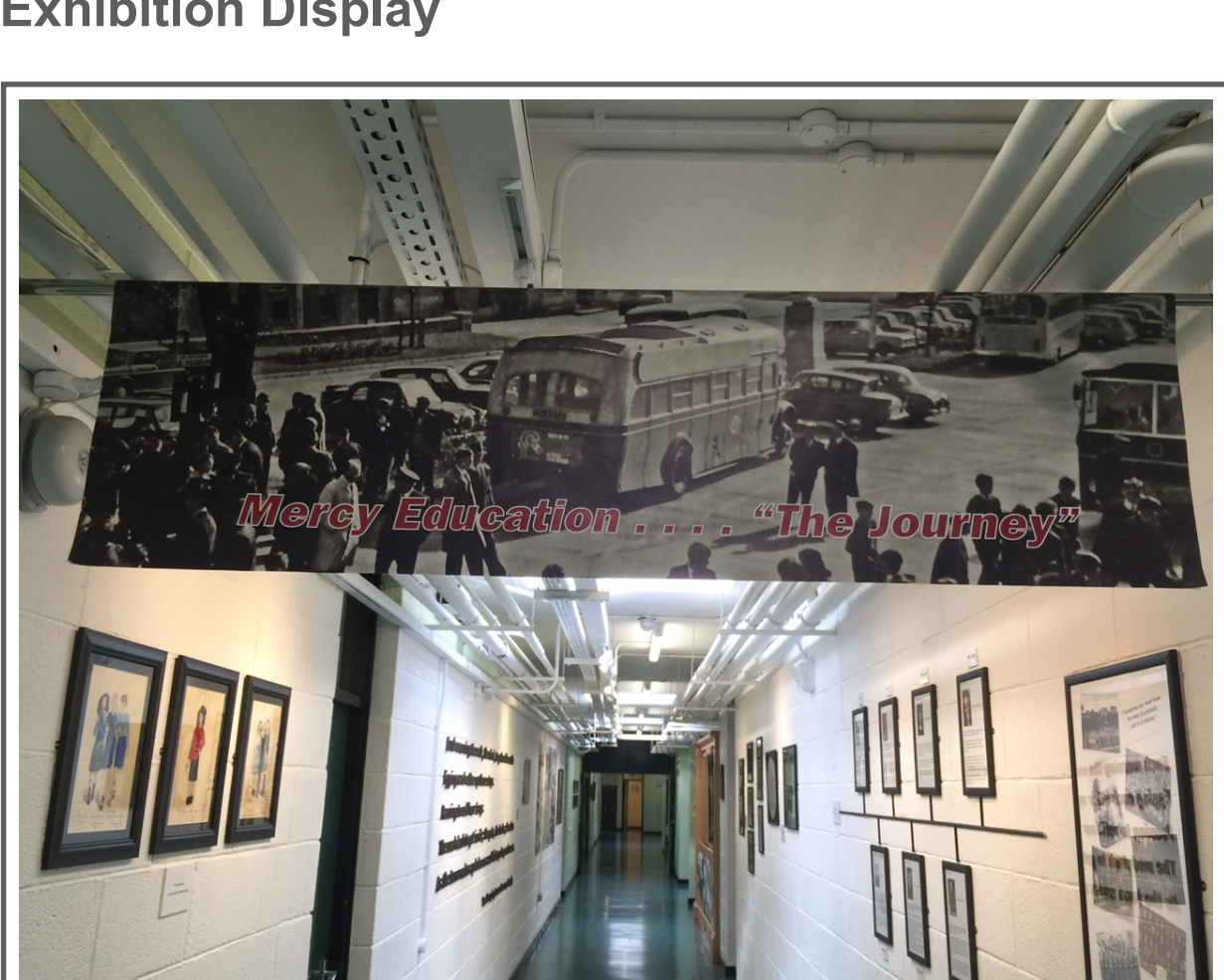


Students Claire Stacey and Noeleen Shannon present flowers to Sr. Elizabeth Breen, RSM.



Noeleen and Claire present flowers to teachers, Miriam Curtis and Stephanie Breen, who organised the event in the school.

### Exhibition Display







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St Vincent's won the top award in the [John Hooper Medal for Statistics Competition](#) and 3 of their students also received Highly Commended Awards!!

**Shannon and Rachel Ni Donnachadha** won the top award and students **Aoife O'Malley, Aoife McLoughlin** and **Ciara McLoughlin** were the Highly Commended Award winners, well done to all involved.



Pictured above Shannon and Rachel Ni Donnachadha with their teacher Mr. White. World Class Winners!



St Vincent's celebrate at the John Hooper Award's Ceremony.



Pictured above at the ceremony were Mercy Secondary School, Mounthawk students Rachel Maloney, Clodagh Harrington and Ciara McCarthy.



Pictured above Aisling Higgins, Aoife O'Carroll and Sinead Deasy students of Mercy Secondary School, Mounthawk, Tralee, Co. Kerry.





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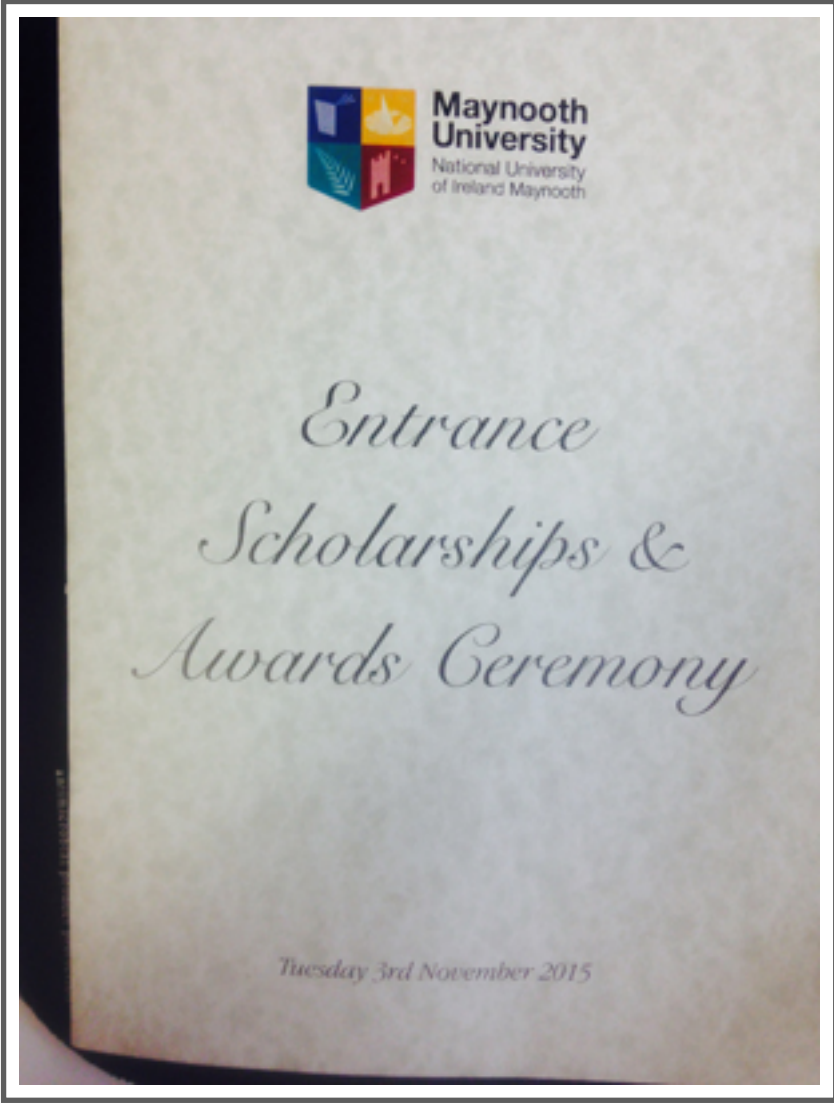
CEIST would like to congratulate the students and schools concerned.

Student	CEIST School
Conor Bracken – Science	Mercy Secondary School, Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath
Katie Brady – Arts	St. Vincent’s Secondary School, Dundalk, Co. Louth
Nicole Sherry – Arts	St. Vincent’s Secondary School, Dundalk, Co. Louth
Meabh Sloane – Arts	St. Vincent’s Secondary School, Dundalk, Co. Louth
Liam Burke – Arts	Calasanz College, Oranmore, Co. Galway.
Ciara Byrne – Science with Education	Scoil Dara, Kilcock
Cathal Coffey – Politics	Scoil Dara, Kilcock
Dervla Daly – Psychology	Sacred Heart School, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
Roisin Ryan – Music	Sacred Heart School, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
Laura Walsh – Science with Education	Sacred Heart School, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
Rebecca Cole – Biological and Biomedical Sciences	Ardscoll na Tríonóide, Athy, Co. Kildare.
Aoidean Delaney – International Finance and Economics	Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
Cara Fahey – Science with Education	Scoil Mhuire agus Padraig, Swinford, Co. Mayo.
Laura Halligan – Arts	Scoil Mhuire agus Padraig, Swinford, Co. Mayo
Rachel Foley – Froebel, Primary Education	Our Lady’s College, Drogheda, Co. Louth
Roisin Mc Guigan – European Studies	Our Lady’s College, Drogheda, Co. Louth
Seoighe Denieffe – Froebel – Primary Education	Presentation Secondary School, Loughboy, Kilkenny.
Dearbhla Finn – Froebel, Primary Education	Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath
Katie Greene – Science with Education	Coláiste Bride, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.
Daniel Harnett – Science	Mercy Secondary School. Ballymahon, Co. Longford
Claire Hogan – Science with Education	Presentation Secondary School, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Jennifer Kavanagh- Media Studies	St. Joseph’s College, Lucan, Co. Dublin.
Aoife Kealy – Arts	St. Joseph’s Convent of Mercy, Navo. Meath
Ella Kelly – Law and Arts	Coláiste Iosagáin, Portarlinton, Co. Laois
Laura Pearson - Psychology	Coláiste Iosagáin, Portarlinton, Co. Laois
Melanie Lyons – Arts	Meánscoil Mhuire, Convent of Mercy, Longford
Samantha Mc Hale – Froebel, Primary Education	Meánscoil Mhuire, Convent of Mercy, Longford
Nicole Mooney – Science with Education	Killina Presentation Secondary School, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
Jennifer O’Donovan - Arts	St. Mary’s College, Naas, Co. Kildare
Claire Louise Vickery - Anthropology	Scoil Mhuire, Trim, Co. Meath
Roisin Starr - Arts	St. Mary’s Secondary School, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
Emily O’ Regan - Science	St. Mary’s Secondary School, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
Karren Padden – Froebel – Primary Education	St. Mary’s Secondary School, Ballina, Co. Mayo

## Photos



Pictured above Helen O'Donnell, Principal of Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise, Aoidean Delaney (Receipient) , Professor Jim Walsh, Vice President for Strategy and Quality, NUIM.







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## Presentation Secondary School Waterford Awards Night 2015

Tuesday 24th November 2015

Awards Night at Presentation Secondary School took place on Tuesday 20th October 2015. Awards were presented by Mayor of Waterford City and County, Councillor John Cummins.

Head Girl, Beth Carton, extended a warm welcome to the Mayor and thanked him for his visit. The Mayor addressed the student body and encouraged them all to work their best to be the best possible version of themselves.

Awards Night provides an opportunity for the school to recognise achievements both inside and outside the classroom.

All recipients, along with their families and teachers, were congratulated by the Mayor and by the School Principal, Adrian Gibbs.



Pictured above are Academic Award recipients with Mayor Councillor John Cummins, Principal Adrian Gibbs and Peter Farrell from Lisduggan Credit Union, sponsors of the awards.

Business and Academic Awards were presented by Peter Farrell from Lisduggan District Credit Union. The Principal acknowledged the generous donation by LDCU to the school as part of its five year secondary schools' initiative.

Following the presentation of awards, the Principal Adrian Gibbs spoke about the commitment of the teaching and support staff ensures the best possible promotion of a holistic education.

Much of this work is done on a voluntary basis and he paid a particular compliment to the staff of Colaiste na Maighdine, who despite the effects of austerity, still continue to volunteer their time to extra-curricular activities and school planning.

Their absence of cynicism and their contribution to the life of the school is a real tribute to the Presentation ethos.

### Photo Gallery

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





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## St. Joseph's Navan Students Receive Entrance Scholarships

Tuesday 24th November 2015

The Principal of St. Joseph's Secondary School, Navan, Ms. Mary Mulligan was delighted to share good news on students who received entrance scholarships.



Congratulations to Eimer Finn (pictured above) who also achieved an Entrance Scholarship Award to UCD.

Following a round of auditions Eimer was awarded a Choral Scholar Award and is now singing with the prestigious UCD Choir. Eimer is also studying Agricultural Science in UCD.



Congratulations to Eimear O' Shea (pictured above) who achieved an Entrance Scholarship Award to UCD.

This award is given to students who achieve in excess of 560 points. Eimear is studying Agricultural Science in UCD.



Aoife Kealy (Pictured above) who sat her Leaving Certificate last June was recently awarded an Entrance Scholarship at Maynooth University.

She received the maximum award due to the fact that she had over 570 points in her Leaving Certificate.

Ms Mulligan attended the ceremony and Aoife's proud parents were also in attendance.

All in St. Joseph's congratulate Aoife and wish her well for her studies.





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## Two Students from St Leo's College Carlow win High Profile Awards

Monday 23rd November 2015

Congratulations to students Eve McGlinchey and Alicia Premkumar from St. Leo's College, Carlow who were the recipients of some major awards recently.

A TECHIE teen from St. Leo's College, Carlow has been ranked among the top young scientific minds in the country at SciFest 2015.

Eve McGlinchey (pictured on right), a second-year student from St Leo's College, Carlow was selected among the country's finest with her project Voice Controlled Homeautomation with Raspberry Pi technology and was awarded an excellence in STEM award.

Eve also received the prestigious accolade of the Spirit of SciFest award, which is awarded to young scientists for outstanding achievement in the field of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and which best illustrates the spirit of SciFest.

Eve's home automation network was developed to meet the needs of individuals with mobility challenges and uses voice recognition to activate devices. SciFest is an all-island science initiative which fosters active, collaborative and inquiry-based learning among second level students, with over 7, 200 students initially involved.

Eve was then one of 48 students who went on to exhibit their 27 STEM projects at the national final in the Marino Conference last week.



### Student Concept Competition



The Student Concept Competition is a unique competition which aims to encourage young people to think and create products for the future. Over 800 entries were received for the 2015 competition with only 24 finalists selected for their artwork, creativity and vision.

Alicia Premkumar, 1st year at St Leo's College Carlow, (Pictured above) was selected as one of the 24 finalists. Despite only being 12 years old, Alicia was invited to the awards ceremony in the George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Carlow.

Alicia was awarded 3rd prize in the competition for her winning entry. Her concept for the competition was the Breath Control Wristband and app. "It caters for adults and children who suffer from panic and anxiety attacks.

The user simply breaths into the watch face, which is equipped with a microphone sensor and heart rate monitor.

The wristband mimics the users breathing pattern, then slows down causing the user to slow down their breathing pattern and by calming the user down, will stop the attack" she says.





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## Presentation Thurles Scoop Top Award in Prestigious Cookery Competition

Tuesday 10th November 2015

Presentation Secondary School, Thurles scooped the top award at A Taste of Ballyhoura Country Festival Cookery Competition held recently.

Led by their Home Economics teacher Mrs. Maura Carroll the Transition Year students qualified for the final held in Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock, Co Limerick and fought off stiff competition from John the Baptist Community School, Hospital, Co. Limerick along with CEIST Schools St. Mary's Secondary School, Charleville and St. Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh to become the outright winners.

These schools were shortlisted for the final from an earlier round with nine schools competing initially including another team of Presentation TY students under the guidance of their teacher Mrs. Frida Dunne.

Each school brought together two teams of three cooks to present a main course and dessert dish using a range of food from within the locality of Thurles.

In a very close cook-off the Presentation Transition Years were awarded the Ballyhoura Schools Masterchef Competition first prize which included A Taste of Ballyhoura perpetual trophy, €1000 voucher presented by Musgraves towards the purchase of cookery equipment and €250 cash.

The judges were hugely impressed with the finished presentation, tastes and creativity shown by the Presentation students and commented on the good quality ingredients and food flavours of restaurant quality standards.

The Presentation are very grateful to the Tipperary local food producers for supplying all their ingredients to complete their top quality presentation.

Well done to all involved in the school on this great achievement and to the two CEIST schools St. Mary's Secondary School, Charleville and St. Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh.



Pictured above are TY students Moira McLoughlin, Aoife Hayes and Amy Shanahan.



Pictured above are TY Students Maeve Duggan, Sarah Fogarty and Tara Layden.



TY Students with their teacher (LtoR) Moira McLoughlin, Maeve Duggan, Tara Layden, Mrs. Maura Carroll, Aoife Hayes, Sarah Fogarty and Amy Shanahan.





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## A Peer-To-Peer Welcome

Monday 16th November 2015

Coláiste Íosagáin, Portarlington Students Sharon O'Neill and Alison Bryan describe organising a welcome Mass for first years.



Pictured above are group of happy students new to the school.

### Sharon O'Neill and Alison Bryan

Secondary schools are certainly busy places and Coláiste Íosagáin in Portarlington, Co. Laois is no different. Since September, 210 first year students have been busy settling into new routines, finding their way around our school, discovering new subjects and joining up to different extra- curricular activities.

Teachers, tutors and year heads have been helping them to feel like they are valued members of our school community. We, as fifth year students, wanted to play our part too. While we had a Mass to mark the opening of the school year, we wanted to do something specifically for the first years.

We are participating in the Pope John Paul II Awards programme. This is a faith-based programme which encourages us to use our skills in school and in the parish to achieve a bronze, silver or gold award. There are currently six students in fifth year taking part.

Some of our challenges are parish-based and some of our jobs are done in school time. We have just started this programme, so when the chance came to help out at the Mass we were pleased to be involved.

The first year Mass of welcome was scheduled to take place on Thursday, October 15. Fr Pat Hughes is our local priest and he is always around to help us organise religious services that take place throughout the year. He was very happy to have our input.

We decided to take a leading role in organising the readings, communion reflection and choir.

### Readings

Other students involved in Meitheal were organising the opening procession and a service of light. We wanted to help the first years to choose the readings rather than doing it for them so we met with a small group of students to chat with them about the theme of the Mass which was 'new beginnings'.

We asked the advice of Sr Maureen who is the chaplain and coordinator for the Pope John Paul II Awards too. In the end the students chose a passage from Ephesians for the first reading. The psalm was sung and a reading from the Gospel of Mark was read by Fr Pat.

The artwork that decorated the walls was produced by all the first years during their religion classes. Each of the seven class groups designed a mural in the shape of seven jigsaw pieces using their hands. They are really lovely and the completed jigsaw is now hanging in our canteen for everyone to see.

We asked three students to read the reflection after Communion. This was a really lovely part of the Mass as all students were invited to close their eyes and reflect on their journey through life so far. Even though it was focused on the first years we found that we were able to think back to our time as new first years too. We realised we have come a long way since then!

The Communion reflection read at the first year Mass will be printed and placed on the religion noticeboard so that the first years can read back over it as often as they like.

The music department helped the choir to produce some lovely instrumental pieces and hymns which sent lovely music around the school building. The school choir has members from every year group in the school and we felt this was a nice way to show that the whole school supports the first years. After all, we all remember what it was like to be new in the school!

It can be easy for exams and timetables to take over our lives at certain times. Helping to organise this Mass was a very enjoyable way to help our new students. It served to remind us that making space for God in our lives is very rewarding.

We encouraged the first years to take time out and pray for themselves and each other. A simple service showed them how, even in the busiest of times, time for prayer in our community is so worthwhile.

All the students and teachers were very impressed with our actions. We are hoping to be students that the first years can look up to. If we show them that it is easy to find time for God then maybe they can become good examples for younger members of their families too.

What was nice was that the teachers, tutors and students were all there together. Unfortunately we didn't have the space to invite parents to come.

It was a simple but lovely experience and it wasn't difficult to organise. We were glad to help and it was nice that a lot of the first years came up to thank us when the Mass was over.

(Article courtesy of [The Irish Catholic](#)).





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## Latest News from Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna

Tuesday 3rd November 2015

### BSTAI/CIMA Business Quiz Success

Three teams selected from third year students from Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna entered the BSTAI/CIMA business quiz on Wednesday 7th October in Limerick Institute of Technology. Their teacher Anne-Keane-Egan organised and coached the teams. There were a total of 24 teams taking part in the competition and our teams came 1st, 4th and 10th. The team in first place goes forward to the All-Ireland Final to be held in Tipperary in February 2016.



The teams included: Muireann Leahy, Jessica Kelly, Arthur Collins, Dara Kenneally, Jane O'Loughlin, Melissa Roche, Lucy O'Growney, Lara Norrish, Conor Clancy, Tara Flanagan, Claire Reilly & Hannah O'Brien. Well done to all for their interest and involvement.

### Transition Year Show “Totally Over You”

The transition year students are currently in rehearsal for their production of the play “Totally Over You”. This will be performed in the school's main hall. The dates for performances have yet to be confirmed but are likely to be from 25th to the 28th November.

### Pope John Paul II Awards

5th and 6th year students participating in these awards are coming to the final stages in the submission of their work on parish and social involvement. We hope they will be successful in attaining their gold, silver and bronze awards. Their teachers Ms O'Doherty and Mr. Slattery are co-ordinating these entries. The Diocesan Youth Co-ordinator Maura Garrihy guided this project.

### Futsal Competition

1st Year Boys and girls took part in a Futsal Competition for local secondary schools. The competition was held in Ennistymon Community Centre on Thursday 22nd October. Our boys won the competition and now go forward to the next round in early November. Our girls team were narrowly beaten in the final against Spanish Point.

### Sponsored School Sleepover for First Years

For yet another year the school participated in the “schoolmates sponsored sleepover night” in aid of Focus Ireland for the homeless in Ireland. This took place on Friday 16th October. In order to make the experience more real the whole group slept in the school hall without any heating. The event was supervised by staff members: Ms. Hynes, Ms. Keane-Egan, Ms. Sally McNamara, Mr. Sims, Mr. Malone.

We are indebted to Ms. Christina Commene and Peer Mentors who volunteered their time; Seán Kelly, Rowan Johnson, Iseult Leahy, Neasa McCormack, Deirdre O'Connell, Suchadar White.

Sharing, bonding, fun and fundraising for a good cause was our main aim for hosting this event. Our thanks to all who sponsored the students and helped them to raise almost €1000 for Focus Ireland.



### Ennistymon Enterprise Town

Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna took part in the Bank of Ireland Ennistymon Enterprise Town exhibition which was held recently in the Community Centre in Ennistymon.

A number of students took part in the photographic competition with Dylan Egan winning second prize and Matthew Sheedy winning the third prize in the secondary schools section.



### Community and Sports Day

The school also had a stand at the community and sports day on the Saturday. The stand outlined the wide range of extra-curricular activities that are carried out in the school.

Accompanying Mr. Sims at the stand were three second year students, Aoife Dowling, Chloe Geraghty and Amy Woods, all of whom are participating in this year's BT Young Scientist competition.





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## Our Lady's Castleblayney is Ambassador School

Monday 19th October 2015

[Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney](#), Co. Monaghan and their hard-working Amber Flag Committee got just recognition and acknowledgement of their efforts in the area of promoting positive mental health when the school was named as an Ambassador School by the [Cycle Against Suicide](#) group.

At a function in Farmleigh House, Phoenix Park on September 11th attended by Jim Breen, founding member of the Cycle Against Suicide organisation, Our Lady's were named as an Ambassador School in **“recognition of the incredible work carried out in the school in the last academic year to promote positive mental health”**.

This work has been spearheaded by School Chaplain, Ms Grace Duffy, who along with the Amber Flag Committee in the school, has worked tirelessly in the promotion of positive mental health within the school. Activities by the group included organising a positive mental health week which focused on organising fun events for students and staff, fancy dress day, a colour run in the Faughs pitch and many more.

They also designed and put up posters around the school promoting the Simple Things campaign - they took part in a run to promote positive mental health in Phoenix Park and also in the Darkness to Light run in Monaghan in May.

As a result of their efforts last year the school was awarded the Amber Flag and great credit must go to the hard-working committee of **Joshua Kelly, Ciara Kelly, Romans Serskis, Ross Byrne, Amy Brohan, Noelle Duffy, Tate Donnelly, Torchia McQuaid, Elana McKenna, Ciara Lavery, Megan Cunningham & David Duffy**.

As we go to press they are at present organising Positive Mental Health Week in the school and central to their work is the promotion of the motto **'It's ok not to feel ok; and it's absolutely ok to ask for help'**.

Well done to these young people whose work of awareness-raising is a very important one.



Pictured with Jim Breen, founding member of Cycle Against Suicide, are Yasmin Hughes and Amy Brohan, representatives of the Amber Flag Committee in Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney on the occasion of the school being named as an Ambassador School in Farmleigh House Phoenix Park.