



news from ceist... 01 February 2016

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

Catholic Schools Week 2016

The theme of Catholic Schools Week this year is ***"Catholic Schools: Challenged to Proclaim God's Mercy"***.

Catholic schools are challenged to proclaim God's mercy in myriad ways. Not least within the religious education classroom, where teachers open the minds and hearts of students to God.

This privilege is a clear example of responding to the Christian 'challenge' to witness Christ in daily life. This year's resource for Catholic Schools Week is a response to that challenge. It offers different opportunities to explore God's mercy with the whole school community.

Pope Francis encourages all of us to reflect on our way of being in the world and to consider how we might reduce our environmental impact. Responding to this call, CSW 2016 resources are available free to download online.

[MORE >](#)



CEIST News

CEIST All-Ireland Bake Off

We are fast approaching the final date for submission of entries for the national final which is **Friday, 8th February, 2016**.

All entries must be submitted on the official entry form which have been sent to all schools who registered for the Bake Off. Each entry must include a photograph. The Bake Offs will be held in March during the week beginning March 7 and is hosted by Ardara na Tríonóide, Athy. The exact date will be finalised shortly.

Follow us on Twitter [@ceistbakoff](#) and contact us on [E-Mail](mailto:Email).



CEIST Finance Sub-Committee Training Seminars

Now that the newly configured Boards of Management have been installed and that it is likely that all Boards have convened their inaugural meetings, the Board of CEIST is holding a series of regionally located seminars on the financial responsibilities of the Board of Management's Finance Sub-Committees.

It is our wish to assist and inform all Finance Sub-Committees of their obligations in relation to financial best practice.

To this end the Trustees invite the members of each CEIST School Board of Management's Finance Sub-Committee to attend one of the following seminars.

[MORE >](#)

Competition

Show Racism the Red Card Creative Competition

Show Racism the Red Card Competition concludes in May with an awards showcase of entries at the AVIVA stadium on 11th May. An exhibition of entries will then be compiled and tour the country.

Schools who submit entries will be able to access 2 tickets for an Ireland Senior Soccer International in 2016.

Schools who register to participate will receive the SRTRC DVD education pack for free.

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Don't Forget

RE Support Days

As mentioned in last month's e-news CEIST plan to hold a support day in two different venues for RE Teachers of CEIST Schools in the Spring of 2016.

The seminars will be held in **St. Patrick's College, Thurles on February 8th** and on **Wednesday, February 10th in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone**.

If you would like to attend please [email](mailto:Email) the CEIST office. Click [here](#) to download flyer.



Education Matters

WorldWide Global Schools - Project Support Grants

WorldWide Global Schools (WWGS) is an Irish Aid programme for development education in post primary schools.

WWGS will open a 'Grant Call' from 2nd March 2016 to support schools undertaking projects which integrate a global justice and development dimension though curricular and extracurricular activities.

The deadline for applications is 8th April next.

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News from CEIST Schools

Coláiste an Chroí Naofa Students Promote The Core Values of CEIST

This year as part of our religious education programme our third year students (Coláiste an Chroí Naofa, Carriga na bhFear, Co. Cork) are promoting the core values of CEIST.

These values are intended to support and nourish the lives of the people who are at the heart of our schools - students, staff and parents.

[MORE >](#)



Eureka Secondary School Turn the Sod on New School!

Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath was very pleased to announce the official sod-turning for the commencement of work at the site of their new school on the Cavan road.

It was conducted by the Minister of State, Mr. Damien English, T.D. at 10.00 am on Friday 29th January 2016.

Click [here to view tweets with photos](#) of the ceremony from Eureka and [here for photos](#) of how new school will look!



Pictured above at the ceremony were Gerry McGuill (CEIST), Caroline O'Reilly (Principal), Dr. Marie Griffin (CEIST) and Tom Loughnane (Chairperson of Mercy Coolock & past CEIST School Co-ordinator for Eureka).

Latest News from St. Joseph's Secondary School Rush

Students in St. Joseph's Secondary School, Rush, Co. Dublin have certainly been very pro-active.

The school shared with CEIST news of their NCAD Access Ten Programme and also of TY students presenting the Jigsaw Mental Health Awareness Talk to first year students in the school.

[MORE >](#)



St Joseph's Tulla Win Munster Colleges 'A' Camogie Title

St. Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla, Co. Clare Senior Camogie team made history in Limerick on Saturday 9th January beating another CEIST school, Presentation Thurles in the Munster Colleges 'A' camogie final.

In the 48 years this competition has been running, this was St Joseph's first time winning it.

Congratulations to the girls and their coaches on this historic win.



Mercy girls scoop top award for initiative to combat flushing

Students from Mercy Secondary School in Galway City have won a top award for raising awareness of environmental problems caused by flushing wet wipes down the toilet.

The students' project, entitled **'Wet Wipe Hype Project'** came about following a beach clean-up they carried out two years ago – they discovered a huge number of wet wipes tangled up in seaweed.

[MORE >](#)



History made as Our Lady's Castleblayney Girls Achieve Double Success on GAA Fields

Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney made history on Thursday 28th January in Crossmaglen when the U16 Girls Gaelic team captured the U16 Ulster B Title for the first time.

This meant the U 16 Girls followed in the footsteps of the Senior Girls Ulster Success earlier in January and ensured the second piece of silverware at provincial level for the school in 2016.

[MORE >](#)



Abbey Theatre Visits Presentation College Athenry!

As part of the Presentation College Athenry 1916 Centenary Commemoration programme, the Abbey Theatre visited their First Year students on Wednesday, 13th January with a special monologue performance of Me, Mollser by Ail White.

The play introduced the students to a strong willed and passionate young woman coping with consumption against the backdrop of the 1913 Lock-Out and the Easter Rising.

[MORE >](#)



Latest News from Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna

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

Mary Immaculate Secondary School students enjoyed great success in the BT Young Scientist and Technology competition, where John Sims mentored the students for the 27th year!

The students also enjoyed wins in the Community Games regional Art Exhibition and found time to raise funds for the Irish Cancer Society!

[MORE >](#)



Transition Years Transform Former Convent Gardens

Transition Year students from Presentation College Currylea, Tuam, Co. Galway undertook a project last year to completely transform the former convent garden in the school.

The following article which was featured in the Irish Catholic as part of their monthly school features of CEIST schools details the amount of great work carried out by the students.

[MORE >](#)



Calasactius College Oranmore a winner for sports!

Calasactius College, Oranmore, Co. Galway confirmed its position as one of the top schools for sports in the province after landing three senior Connacht titles in December, 2015.

[MORE >](#)



Recommended Reading

The Message of Mercy - Amalee Meehan

The **'Message of Mercy'** is a new book from author, Amalee Meehan, Faith Leadership & Governance Co-ordinator, CEIST.

The publication was launched on the 12th January in Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

Mercy has been the defining characteristic of Pope Francis' papacy – a papacy that has captured the hearts and minds of believers and non-believers alike.

[MORE >](#)



Reflecting CEIST Values

St Brigid's Day - 1st February

February 1st - marks the first day of spring, and is also known as Lá Fhéile Bríde, Saint Brigid's Feast Day.

Brigid is one of Ireland's patron saints and is often referred to as 'Brigit of Kildare' and was said to be the founder of several monasteries of nuns, including that of Kildare.

One of the most common traditions of the day is to make a Saint Brigid's Cross.

[MORE >](#)



Technical Tips

CESI Conference 2016

The annual conference of the Computers in Education Society of Ireland (CESI), Education, will take place in Dublin City University (DCU) on February 27th, 2016.

The theme for this year's conference is **"Our Digital Strategy – making IT matter"**.

The conference will be preceded by a TeachMeet event on the evening of February 26th at the Regency Hotel, Dublin 9.

[MORE >](#)



Play Your Part for a Better Internet!

Safer Internet Day 2016 will be celebrated on **Tuesday 9th February 2016**, with a theme of **'Play your part for a better internet'**.

Safer Internet Day promotes safer and more responsible use of online technology and mobile phones, especially among children and young people across the world.

[MORE >](#)



Resources for Catholic Schools Week 2016

05. JAN, 2016



Catholic Schools Week 2016
Sunday 31 January - Saturday 6 February

**Catholic Schools: Challenged to
Proclaim God's Mercy**



For information and resources see
www.catholicbishops.ie and www.catholicschools.ie

Catholic Schools Week is an all-Ireland annual event which invites Catholic schools to give expression in a special way to the ethos of Catholic education. It is a celebration of Catholic schools throughout Ireland, North and South which acknowledges the tremendous contribution that our Catholic primary and post-primary schools make not just to Irish society, but to the mission of the Church. Catholic Schools Week 2016 will take place from Sunday 31 January to Saturday 6 February 2016 on the theme "Catholic Schools: Challenged to Proclaim God's Mercy". It is hoped that this theme will help contextualise the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis from 8 December 2015 to 20 November 2016.

This year, for the first time, resources will not be mailed to schools, but are available for download here.

Primary School Resources for Download

[Primary School Flyer](#)

[Primary School Poster](#)

[Primary Notes for Teachers](#)

[Primary Irish Notes for Teachers](#)

[Primary – Grandparents Day](#)
[Primary – Grandparents Day Irish](#)

[Primary – Junior and Senior Infants](#)
[Primary – Junior and Senior Infants Irish](#)

[Primary – First and Second Class](#)
[Primary – First and Second Class Irish](#)

[Primary – Third and Fourth Class](#)
[Primary – Third and Fourth Class Irish](#)

[Primary – Fifth and Sixth Class](#)
[Primary – Fifth and Sixth Class Irish](#)

Post Primary School Resources for Download

[Post Primary Flyer](#)
[Poster for Post Primary Schools](#)

[Post Primary Junior Cycle Resources](#)
[Post Primary Junior Cycle Resources Irish](#)

[Post Primary Senior Cycle Resources](#)
[Post Primary Senior Cycle Resources Irish](#)

[Post Primary Board of Management Reflections](#)
[Post Primary Board of Management Reflections Irish](#)

Additional resources

[Celebrating Catholic Schools Week at Home](#)

Follow the Catholic Schools Week conversation on Twitter using the hashtag #CSW2016 or find the Catholic Schools Week Facebook page.

Launch of Catholic Schools Week 2016 and Mass

The official launch of Catholic Schools Week will take place on Monday 25 January in Mount Mercy College, Model Farm Road, Bishopstown, Co Cork. This will be the first time that a school in Cork will host the national launch of Catholic Schools Week. Representatives from twenty-five primary and secondary schools in the Cork city area will also be in attendance. Welcoming Catholic Schools Week 2016 Ms Padraigín Uí Riordáin, the principal of Mount Mercy College, said, "We are delighted to be chosen to launch this national celebration of Catholic education. We look forward to welcoming the wider Catholic community to our school in Cork for this special event. The words of Pope Francis 'Mercy is the spirit that awakens us' will inspire the community of Mount Mercy College to participate wholeheartedly in, and celebrate, this spiritually enriching occasion at a milestone in our school tradition, having just celebrated our Golden Jubilee."

Ms Ui Riordáin continued, "The upcoming Year of Mercy for the Universal Church, and the official launch of Catholic Schools Week, is an opportunity for us to focus on our traditions and at the same time to look forward with anticipation to our future, to the challenge of proclaiming God's mercy as we promote tolerance, respect and inclusiveness, whilst we explore the possibilities for all in our daily work and the many charities and causes which we support."

Mount Mercy College Cork has eight-hundred students with sixty staff. Mount Mercy College was founded in 1965 under the trusteeship of the Sisters of Mercy. Catherine McAuley founded the Religious Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy in 1831. Mercy education is committed to holistic development and to the achievement of the full potential of each student. It is a process informed and influenced by the teaching and example of Jesus Christ and is conducted in an atmosphere of care, respect and joy.

A Mass will be broadcast by RTÉ on Sunday 31 January to celebrate both Catholic Schools Week and the new *Grow in Love* religious education programme for primary schools. Students from Mount Mercy College, Cork, as well as pupils from Saint Pius X primary school in Templeogue, Dublin, will participate in this special liturgy to mark the beginning of Catholic Schools Week across Ireland. This Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Brendan Kelly, Bishop of Achonry and chair of the Bishops' Council for Education.



News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

Month

Year

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

CEIST Finance Sub-Committee Training Seminars

Thursday 21st January 2016

Now that the newly configured Boards of Management have been installed and that it is likely that all Boards have convened their inaugural meetings, the Board of CEIST is holding a series of regionally located seminars on the financial responsibilities of the Board of Management's Finance Sub-Committees.

In recent years, the Trustees have become increasingly concerned at the escalation in numbers of Boards of Management having difficulty fulfilling their obligation in matters of finance.

It is our wish to assist and inform all Finance Sub-Committees of their obligations in relation to financial best practice.

While the Articles of Management set out the obligations of the Board of Management regarding roles, responsibilities, overall governance and best practice, Article 15(d) specifically sets out the requirement to set up a sub-committee on Finance.

To this end the Trustees invite the members of each CEIST School Board of Management's Finance Sub-Committee to attend one of the following seminars:

Mallow	Kilkenny	Limerick	Claremorris	Dublin
Springfort Hall Hotel Mallow Co. Cork	Newpark Hotel Castlecomer Road Kilkenny	Room T213, Tara Building, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, South Circular Road, Limerick.	McWilliam Park Hotel, Kilcoman Road, Claremorris, Co. Mayo	City North Hotel & Conference Centre, Gormanston, Co. Meath.
Monday 1 st February	Tuesday 2 nd February	Thursday 4 th February	Monday 8 th February	Tuesday 9 th February.
7.00pm – 9.00pm Tea/Coffee & Sandwiches served from 6.30	7.00pm – 9.00pm Tea/Coffee & Sandwiches served from 6.30	7.00pm – 9.00pm Tea/Coffee & Sandwiches served from 6.30	7.00pm – 9.00pm Tea/Coffee & Sandwiches served from 6.30	7.00pm – 9.00pm Tea/Coffee & Sandwiches served from 6.30

The Trustees would view your attendance at this seminar as being essential as this is going to be a particularly important and informative meeting.



News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

Month

Year

SEARCH

Events

CEIST Annual Conference

E-News

Monthly School Feature

Show Racism the Red Card Creative Competition

Thursday 28th January 2016

Show Racism the Red Card Competition concludes in May with an awards showcase of entries at the AVIVA stadium on 11th May. An exhibition of entries will then be compiled and tour the country.

Schools who submit entries will be able to access 2 tickets for an Ireland Senior Soccer International in 2016.

Schools who register to participate will receive the SRTRC DVD education pack for free.

The advantages of participation in this competition include:

- tackling racism in education
- opportunity to promote collaborative learning
- promote teamwork
- opportunity for young people to be creative
- to have a positive impact in the community
- to have works on display in our 'One Race Exhibition' ; <http://www.theredcard.ie/news/?p=2124>
- enhance the reputation of the school
- great prizes and fun event to conclude the competition

Getting involved is simple. Register on www.theredcard.ie/competition.php

Click [here](#) to download Flyer.



News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)



WORLDWISE GLOBAL SCHOOLS – PROJECT SUPPORT GRANTS

Wednesday 20th January 2016



WorldWise Global Schools (WWGS) is an Irish Aid programme for development education in post primary schools.

The initiative aims to contribute to increased knowledge and understanding of global justice issues and increased engagement and action by students as active global citizens.

WWGS will open a 'Grant Call' from 2nd March 2016 to support schools undertaking projects which integrate a global justice and development dimension through curricular and extracurricular activities.

The deadline for applications is 8th April next. Examples of the type of projects that may be funded include: teacher capacity building; student activities (such as debates, seminars, exhibitions, research etc.); curriculum development; networking activities and partnership activities between the global north and south.

Details of grant application guidelines are available on the WWGS website: <http://www.worldwiseschools.ie>



News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category
 --- Select ---

Month Year
 Any Any

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

Coláiste an Chroí Naofa Students Promote The Core Values of CEIST

Thursday 7th January 2016

This year as part of our religious education programme our third year students (Coláiste an Chroí Naofa, Carraig na bhFear, Co. Cork) are promoting the core values of CEIST.

These values are intended to support and nourish the lives of the people who are at the heart of our schools - students, staff and parents.

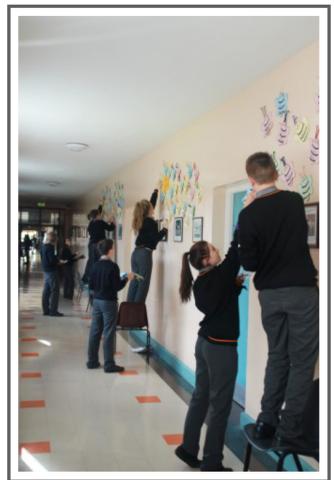
This project, completed by class 3.1, celebrates the first of Ceist's five values; Spiritual and Human Development. The butterfly's transformation from a caterpillar represents the Spiritual Journey which we experience together as a school community. The flower is adorned with 'butterfly themed' inspirational quotes.

Every day, this school community is growing and blossoming; spiritually as well as in every other way.

"If nothing changed, there'd be no butterflies."

The class of 3.2 aimed to show that we, as the community of Colaiste an Chroí Naofa, respect the unique and intrinsic value of every person by creating the 'Wall of Happiness'.

The wall contains the 'How Fabulous' Board, which acknowledges the achievements of our students and also encourages student body to take an active role in supporting each other. It is updated regularly. They also wanted to make the members of our school community smile so created a poster of different things that make them happy.....smiles all around!



After much brainstorming class 3.3 decided to promote the values of 'Showing Respect for Every Person' and 'Creating Community' In order to show each student that their presence within our community is valued and to welcome new members to Colaiste an Choi Naofa they created a 'beehive'. Every student and staff member is represented by a bee and 'bee themed' inspirational quotes and welcome messages were hung along our main corridor.

Well done to all involved and a big thank you to all the teachers who helped them out.





News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

Month

Year

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

Mercy girls scoop top award for initiative to combat flushing

Tuesday 5th January 2016



Students from the Mercy Secondary School in Galway City have won a top award for raising awareness of environmental problems caused by flushing wet wipes down the toilet.

The students' project, entitled 'Wet Wipe Hype Project' came about following a beach clean-up they carried out two years ago – they discovered a huge number of wet wipes tangled up in seaweed.

Their 'Ocean Hero Award' coincides with the launch of a nationwide 'Think Before You Flush' campaign to halt the problem of sanitary products being thrown down the toilet.

Becky Finn Britton, Coastal Programmes Officer with An Taisce said: "The campaign through education and awareness aims to prevent items like wet wipes clogging our wastewater network and cotton bud sticks washing up on our beaches.

"Every day, people flush thousands of sanitary items such as baby wipes and cotton bud sticks down the toilet instead of simply putting them in the bin. Other items that are frequently flushed down the toilet include cigarette butts and plasters.

"In a study of over 1,000 Irish people, 3 in 10 admitted to flushing such items down the toilet. Of these, 58% admitted to flushing baby wipes down the toilet; 40% facial wipes; 26% cotton bud sticks; 24% tampons and 21% cigarette butts.

"More than half of those who flush these items down the toilet did so simply due to a lack of knowledge," she said. The students in the Mercy carried out an awareness survey based on the flushing habits of students in the school.

They found that 51% of students regularly flushed wet wipes down the toilet and 55% did not know the results of flushing wet wipes.

These results led to the development of awareness workshops to be given to students by students.

A follow-up survey revealed 87% of students who attended the workshop agreed to stop flushing the wipes.

The students carried out a further study of the beach which was initially cleaned.

They found an average 60 wet wipes washed up per square metre, equivalent to one standard pack of wipes.

This resulted in the commencement of a social and local media campaign highlighting the issue.

The students also visited a local primary school to inform them about the issue and filmed an awareness video clip for Clean Coasts. Sean Corrigan of sponsors Irish Water said: "Irish Water is prioritising investment in improving wastewater treatment in areas around the country that have been without proper wastewater treatment for many years.

"We are fortunate to have such a magnificent coastline in Ireland and a really high quality marine environment and the investment we are making in the coming years will ensure this is protected."



News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Any

Year

Any

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

Latest News from St. Joseph's Secondary School Rush

Thursday 28th January 2016

NCAD Access Ten Programme



NCAD Access Ten is an access programme for DEIS schools. It is now in its tenth year and we are proud to say that four of our students have been chosen to be the poster people for this special anniversary.

St Joseph's Secondary School, Rush, Co. Dublin has developed a symbiotic relationship with NCAD, in that the college has now taken on CFES as an initiative in their college.

Students involved in this programme are offered numerous advantages. Firstly they get access days to the college and are eligible for a scholarship in June for a 3 week portfolio course. They also have access to a reduced application points on the portfolio.

As part of the Access Ten programme, NCAD offers shadowing days, where students from St Joseph's spend 2 days with NCAD students, offer six mentor days in the school and have digital workshops with 2nd and 3rd year students in the college.

We are the only school in North County Dublin involved as an access school.

There are currently six past pupils of St Joseph's studying in NCAD but these four students; Jade Carrick, Tara Callan, Sophie Kennedy Skipton, Weronika Ginzl, were the first students in St Joseph's to complete the Access Programme.

St Joseph's Students deliver Mental Health Talk to 1st Years

TY Students in St Joseph's School were trained in presenting the Jigsaw Mental Health Awareness Talk to their peers.

Last week, they delivered the talk to a group of first year students. It was very well received by the students and the TY students were very capable and confident in dealing with this difficult issue.

Jigsaw is an organisation that offers free counselling services to young people.

As part of the national Jigsaw network supported by Headstrong the National Centre for Youth Mental Health, Jigsaw North Fingal aims to make sure that young people's voices are heard and that they get the right support, where and when they need it.



TY students pictured: Finbar Harford, Andrea Carey, Claudia Joyce, Emmet Butterly.

News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

Month

Year

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

Latest News from Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney

Monday 11th January 2016

The following news of student achievements was kindly shared by school Principal, Eddie Kelly of Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.

Our Lady's group 'Spraoi' will represent Ireland

Huge congratulations and celebrations were the order of the day in Our Lady's when staff & students received the news that traditional group, Spraoi, has been chosen to represent Ireland in the Llangollen International Eisteddfod next July. After weeks of preparation & rehearsal, the CD was sent off and submitted to the very rigorous selection process involving groups from all over the world.

So it was with great delight that the news was received that Spraoi will be performing in the following three categories: Instrumental Ensemble, Cultural Showcase & the Open Floor Dance.

Every summer since 1947 Llangollen has staged the International Eisteddfod, one of the world's most inspirational cultural festivals.

Each year around 4,000 performers and as many as 50,000 visitors from every country in the world converge on the beautiful small Welsh town and its International Pavilion; to sing and dance in a unique combination of competition, performance, and international peace and friendship.

Having competed on two previous occasions and successfully returned home with high honours and accolades, Music teacher, Ms Cara Murray is really looking forward to this amazing experience but says "there is lots of practising & rehearsing to be done!"

A big congratulation to her and all her students, exciting times ahead!



Pictured above is the traditional group, 'Spraoi' in Our Lady's who have been chosen to represent Ireland in the Llangollen International Eisteddfod next July. Also pictured is Music teacher, Ms Cara Murray.

Our Lady's Qualify for the Ulster Final

**Our Lady's Castleblayney 2-10
Coláiste Oiriall 2.08**

Our Lady's Castleblayney qualified for their fourth Ulster Senior Final in five years following a narrow two point victory over Coláiste Oiriall in the Peace link Clones on the 12th December.

The all-Monaghan clash was eagerly anticipated and a large attendance watched an enthralling contest which was keenly contested throughout. The form guide suggested a close encounter with Coláiste Oiriall who comprehensively defeated a highly fancied St Paul's Bessbrook in the group stages, adding to this they had won Ulster titles at Senior and U/16 C level in 2015. Castleblayney for their part were backboned by four Ulster Colleges All Stars and have become a major force at Ulster Colleges at both A & B levels in recent years.

Three times Ulster All Star, Muireann Atkinson opened the Blayney girls account with a well taken score in the opening minutes and her duel with O' Neill Shamrocks club mate Hannah McSkeane was to prove the contest of the game. Aoife McBennett increased Our Lady's lead with a well taken goal, however the hugely impressive Caoimhe Ward responded for the Monaghan girls with a well taken goal.

Atkinson & McBennett added further scores from frees as aided by a strong breeze Our Lady's stretched their lead with scores from team captain Eimear Finnegan and full back Emma Kerr. Sorcha McCague increased Our Lady's lead with a well taken goal but on the stroke of half time the Monaghan town girls replied with a goal by Emma Clerkin. Our Lady's had an eight point cushion at the break but had to play the second half into a strong breeze.

Coláiste Oiriall dominated early proceedings of the second half with Emma Clerkin, Morgan Mc Kenna and Caoimhe Ward all narrowing the deficit with well taken scores from distance. With the lead now reduced to one point, injured Ulster All Star Celine Nally entered the fray hitting Our Lady's only score of the second half.

A combination of some wayward shooting and some heroic last ditch defending by Orlaith Maguire, Emma Kerr and the ever- dependable Sorcha Mc Donald ensured that Our Lady's defence was not breached in the closing stages.

Our Lady's ran out deserving two point winners to set up an Ulster final date with St Mary's Magherafelt on the 14th January in Garvaghy.



The Our Lady's team and scorers were Sorcha Mc Donald (O' Neill Shamrocks), Orlaith Maguire (Castleblayney), Emma Kerr 0.01 (O' Neill Shamrocks), Ashling Callan (Donaghmoynne), Megan Byrne (Doohamlet), Sarah Boyd (Lutton), Eimear Conlon (Aughnamullen), Andrea Duffy (Aughnamullen), Eimear Finnegan 0.01 (Donaghmoynne), Jennifer Duffy 0.01 (O' Neill Shamrocks), Niamh Kerr (O' Neill Shamrocks), Saoirse Boyd (Lutton), Aoife Mc Bennett 1.03 (St. Bridget's), Muireann Atkinson 0.03 (O' Neill Shamrocks), Sorcha Mc Cague 1.00 (O' Neill Shamrocks). Subs used Celine Nally 0.01 (Scotstown).



Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)



Abbey Theatre Visits Presentation College Athenry!

Tuesday 19th January 2016

As part of the Presentation College Athenry 1916 Centenary Commemoration programme, the Abbey Theatre visited their First Year students on Wednesday, 13th January with a special monologue performance of *Me, Mollser* by Ali White.

This compelling, funny and poignant play is based on the character of Mollser, a fifteen-year-old consumptive who appears in *The Plough and the Stars* by Sean O'Casey.

The play introduced the students to a strong willed and passionate young woman coping with consumption against the backdrop of the 1913 Lock-Out and the Easter Rising.





News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category
 --- Select ---

Month **Year**
 Any Any

SEARCH

Events

CEIST Annual Conference

E-News

Monthly School Feature



Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna

Saturday 30th January 2016

Community Games Art Success

Seven of our students from Mary Immaculate Art Department have taken first, second and third places within their age categories in the Community Games Regional Art Competition (Lisdoonvarna, Doolin, Killybegs and Killybegs).

The students are U14 girls Lisa Shannon and Eva Harrington (Doolin), U16 girls Laura Haugh and Wiyada Saporncharoen (Lisdoonvarna) and U16 boys Oisín Casasin Sheridan, Daniel Costello and Joseph Flanagan (Ballyvaughan).

All winners will receive a medal at an awards ceremony and fundraising table quiz on the 7th of February in the Pavillion Lisdoonvarna .

Three of the seven successful students are eligible to go forward to the Clare final on the 6th of February next in Ennis. They are Lisa Shannon, Laura Haugh and Wiyada Saporncharoen. The theme of the competition is Community Games Activities. The students will have to produce a piece of work depicting a community games event within a supervised time frame. Best of Luck Laura, Wiyada and Lisa and Come on the Banner!

Student Leaders' Congress 2016

The Student Leaders' Congress 2016 took place in the RDS Dublin on the 14th of January 2016. The theme of this year's Congress was 'Together We Can.' The aim of the Student Leaders' Congress is to promote positive mental health, help-seeking behaviour in young people, and the Cycle Against Suicide message that 'It's ok not to feel ok, and it's absolutely ok to ask for help'.

Community Garda, Deirdre Scanlon, was invited to attend this event as part of the Garda Síochána. Accompanying Deirdre were 10 transition year students from the north Clare area. As this event took place in Dublin the student had to leave at 5.30am from the Ennistymon garda station. They were also accompanied by a sergeant from Ennis. Aoife Doherty from Doolin represented Mary Immaculate Secondary School.

"I as a student really enjoyed this trip; the meeting was really informative, fun and enjoyable. I hadn't known about this event until I attend this meeting and I learnt a lot about the fundraiser Cycle Against Suicide. I got to hear life changing stories about people touched by suicide, either their heart-breaking stories or the stories about loved ones that these people have lost".



Pictured above student Aoife Doherty with Garda Deirdre Scanlon.

Transition Year 'Tractor Run' in aid of the Irish Cancer Society



The transition year students of Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna are holding a tractor run on the 20th of February in aid of the Irish Cancer Society. Registration starts at 11am in Ballyvaughan GAA pitch and the run starts at 12pm sharp. The entry fee is €15 per tractor. All tractors are welcome!

The route is as follows: Ballyvaughan GAA pitch - Lisdoonvarna - Doolin - Fanore and back to Ballyvaughan Sea Front. Tea and sandwiches will be available on arrival back to Ballyvaughan. The event is sponsored by Hylands Burren Hotel and Kelleher Sign Graphics Ltd.

For anyone not driving but who would still like to support or watch the event there will be students with collection buckets for donations. They will be at each of the following locations at these approximate times as the tractors pass through: Ballyvaughan 12 noon, Lisdoonvarna 12:55, Doolin (Fitz's Cross) 13:20, Fanore 14:05 and return to Ballyvaughan Sea Front 14:55.

Please support our fundraising event as all proceeds are going to a great cause. Should you need any further information please call 087 9730545 or 087 9072700.

Creative writing workshop

TY students of Mary Immaculate Secondary School recently enjoyed a very productive two day creative writing workshop, facilitated by award winning author, editor and writer in residence for Hotel Doolin, Dave Landon. The students really enjoyed the workshop and all of the participants produced a vibrant and worthwhile piece of work. The author's approach to his work and to the students helped create an open and honest atmosphere where "it's ok to be yourself", thus building confidence for young people. There was lots of fun, laughter and enthusiasm in the sessions, all of which aided productivity. Dave was extremely impressed with the strong rapport that existed between teachers and students and felt that this greatly encouraged and fostered student creativity.

We thank Donal Minihane, Manager, Hotel Doolin for affording us this worthwhile opportunity.

"The Merchant of Venice,"

Third Year students also enjoyed a most commendable performance of "The Merchant of Venice," by Cyclone Repertory Company in the Lime tree Theatre, Limerick.

This interactive interpretation adopted a student friendly approach which had everyone's attention from start to finish. Acted in both modern and Elizabethan English, the play explored themes and character motivation and opened up healthy discussion between the cast and students. Student consensus was that this will greatly aid them in their forthcoming exams.

Football News

On Wednesday 20th January in Rathkeale, Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna scored a superb 4-12 to 1-6 win over Kenmare in their Munster Colleges Senior C Football Championship (Corn Sheain Uí Mhurchú) quarter final. They will now face the winners of Mallow or Mitchelstown in the Munster semi-final. They also face Kilmihil Community College in the quarter final of the Clare Cup.

BT Young Scientists success

Early January saw the participation of 18 students in the BT Young Scientist and Technology exhibition. This was the 27th year that John Sims had mentored students for the event. Two of the projects received awards. Ailisha Leneghan and Katie Thomas were awarded a best display award while Róisín O'Donoghue received a highly commended award for her project on changes in population in Clare and Kildare from 1901 to 1911. All of the students had put in an enormous amount of work into their research and were great ambassadors for their school.



Pictured above student Róisín O'Donoghue with President Higgins and his wife Sabina at the 2016 BT Young Scientist and Technology exhibition.



Pictured above Katie Thomas and Ailisha Leneghan with their award winning display at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition.



Students pictured above attending a Physics workshop in the first year laboratory at the University of Limerick in preparation for their Leaving Certificate Examination.



News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category
 --- Select ---

Month Year
 Any Any

SEARCH

Events

CEIST Annual Conference

E-News

Monthly School Feature



Transition Years Transform Former Convent Garden

Tuesday 12th January 2016

Our Garden

We chose The Power of Women as our theme for Transition Year 2015/2016. This theme was reflected in all our project and assignments. In the Build A Bank Challenge we introduced students to an influential woman every week. We selected these women from history, politics, law, fashion, and film. In our Fashion Show we attempted to recreate the styles inspired by fashion icons, female politicians and freedom fighters, past and present. It seemed natural, therefore, that we would attempt to create a permanent tribute to "The Power of Women" and we choose our garden project to do so.

When the Presentation Sisters vacated their home attached to our school, their garden became overgrown and unused. Our aim was to create a recreational area for the students of the school. We also wanted to create a lasting symbol of the creativity and talent that Transition Year had identified in all of us. Our school had recently lost some of its green space, due to development in the town, so we wanted to create a new escape place where students could experience peace and quiet and recharge their energies for the challenges of school life.



Pictured above some of the new colourful, innovative, imaginative garden features and seating that are transforming the former convent garden.

The most difficult problem we had to tackle was the removal of debris and weeds which had to be done before we could start planting. Every student in Transition Year equipped herself with a pair of gloves and a gardening tool and got to work, some of us even used our bare hands. In the battle between girls and weeds, the girls won. However, the woodlice and insects who crawled around to say hello scared some of us out of our rubber boots! In the end, the final clearing was undertaken by our parents and grandparents to whom we are very grateful.

We thought it would be a lovely idea to have a sculpture made to represent our theme, and to be a good permanent addition to our school. To this end, we invited Donnacha Cahill of Red Hill Sculptures to visit our school and discuss our ideas for the sculpture. After much discussion, some of it heated, and with a limited budget we opted for a steel figure of a woman mounted on a wooden plinth. We applied for and received a grant from the NAPD and raised the rest of the money through our Friday Cake Sales and our Christmas Pop-Up Shop. The day the sculpture arrived in our school, was one of the most memorable days in Transition Year as the finished product exceeded all our expectations. While waiting for the sculpture to be erected we stored it in our work room and every student seemed to visit it ten times a day!

We soon realised that no garden is complete without seating and again we were forced to think outside the box. We advertised in the local papers for wooden pallets which we soon discovered were not as plentiful as we thought. We eventually used our contacts and secured a load of pallets from Tuam Farm Supplies. The restoration of the pallets was back breaking work as they had to be sanded and sanded and sanded before we could paint them. The pallets were transformed into seating by Tuam Men's Shed. We then got old foam cushions from a local upholsterer which we covered with plastic table clothes and finally a comfortable seating area was born.

The most popular area of our garden is a wooden gazebo designed by us and built by Tuam Men's Shed with whom we formed a wonderful relationship and from whom we learned much about community and fun. We also invited some of our relatives who were carpenters to give their time and expertise and build bird houses for the garden, we then enjoyed painting them in bright colours.



We also have a bird bath as we are well aware that birds, like girls, take their grooming seriously.

In transforming the garden our aim was to combine the twin objectives of creating a lasting beauty and respecting the earth by recycling. As well as using recycled timber for the seating we decided to create four mosaics using leftover domestic tiles.

We choose four themes representing hope and permanence and designed our mosaics to give expression to these themes. In October and November 2015, Transition Year students arrived in school, laden down with dusty wall and floor tiles of various age, shape and colour.

For weeks the Transition Year block resounded to the sound of hammer on ceramic as be-goggled students prepared to turn broken tiles into works of art. The resultant mosaics having been grouted and varnished repeatedly were finally mounted on the front of the school where they now look out on the town in amused silence.

While looking for ideas for our garden, our reading and our online research, sixteen year old girls on pinterest and other gardening websites is unusual but many of us have continued to look at these sites and create imaginary gardens of water, plants and sculpture.

Finally, the garden came together and all that was left to do was to organise the unveiling. We invited everyone who had an impact on the creation of the garden including the Presentation Sisters and members of the Tuam Men's Shed. Once the ribbon was cut by a Transition Year student the garden was opened for viewing.

There was most definitely a sense of pride in seeing our project appreciated by others. We learned so much as a class through creating this green space. It was a clear insight into how hard work pays off. I would like to think we all took something meaningful away from the garden whether it was learning how to weed and plant or learning about the power of group work.

Fast forward six months and the garden is still enjoyed by the students in our school. Many students, on a fine day, like to eat their lunch there, or even just to take a walk around the area. I believe that the most important lesson learned from this experience is that working together people can re-imagine and re-design their environment.

The garden created by the Transition Year Students of 2015/2016 is a living testament to this fact and we hope it will inspire future Transition Years to take on even bigger and more daring projects.

Written by Presentation College Currylea , Tuam Transition Year Students 2015/2016.



Pictured above the new beautiful and innovative mosaics, which were made from broken tiles and grouting created by the Transition Years.



Some of the new colourful, innovative, imaginative garden features and seating that are transforming the former convent garden.



News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Any

Year

Any

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

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[Monthly School Feature](#)

Calasanctius College Oranmore a winner for sports!

Tuesday 5th January 2016

Calasanctius College confirmed its position as one of the top schools for sports in the province after landing three senior Connacht titles in December, 2015.

The U-19 girls' basketball team were crowned Western A league champions in December after defeating Kiltimagh in incredibly tough and close games.

It took extra time to separate the sides but in the end, Calasanctius had four points to spare over their Mayo rivals, and now progress to the All-Ireland play-offs.

The side is managed and coached by Joe Shields, who is assisted by past pupil Carol McCarthy and teacher Miriam Leane.



Pictured above the Calasanctius College U-19 girls' basketball team which secured the Western A leagues title. Back row, from left: Miriam Leane (teacher), Carol McCarthy (coach), Rebecca Hansberry, Ciara Walsh, Saoirse Kelly, Laoise Walsh, Maeve Cannon, Cora Ni Loinsigh (Principal), and Joe Shields (manager). Front: Sacra Mannion, Niamh Loughran, Rachel Hanniffy, and Fiona Kelly.

The school's senior boys' side completed the double on Tuesday by capturing their Western A title with an 88-36 win over another CEIST school, Presentation Secondary School, Athenry.

The side is captained by Irish U-18 international, Eoin Rockall, and team-mates Adam Cox and Stephen Commins are also on the Irish U-18 squad, while Conor Loughran is on the Irish U-16 squad.



The Calasanctius College U-19 boys basketball squad which claimed the Western A title in December. Back row, from left: Mary Rockall, Oisin Doyle, Conor Loughran, Adam Cox, John Burke and John Finn. Front: Jim Crowley, Stephen Commins, Eoin Rockall and James Fox.

Mary Rockall and John Finn have trained and managed this school team for the past five years and, with Tuesday's win, the side have secured the full set of league titles during their time in Calasanctius: First Year, Second Year, U-16 and now U-19.

The third senior Connacht title won by the school in December 2015 was the Connacht Senior B title, the Ward Cup, which they claimed by beating other CEIST school, Mercy College Sligo. It was the second hockey title claimed by the school, as the U-16 squad won the Howley Shield Connacht Title, beating Seamount of Kinvara.

Jamie Harrison



Former Calasanctius College student, singer/songwriter Jamie Harrison, paid a surprise visit to his former school in December for a pre-Christmas performance. He is pictured above with the school's Student Council, from left: Sam McCardle, Grainne O'Connor, Amy Duclaux, Sean Harkin, Adam Cox, Magdalena Givaldo, Jamie Harrison, Roisin Black (head girl), Sinead Harkin, Conor Gillespie and Bill Walsh.



News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

Month

Year

SEARCH

Events

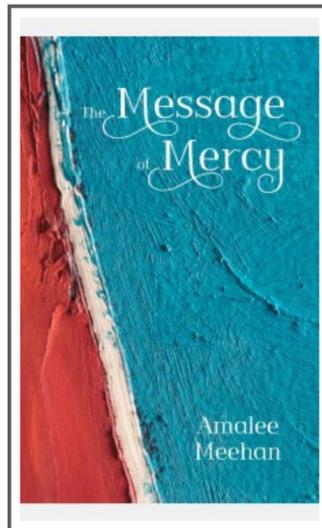
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[E-News](#)

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The Message of Mercy - Amalee Meehan

Wednesday 13th January 2016



The 'Message of Mercy' is a new book from author, Amalee Meehan, Faith Leadership & Governance Co-ordinator, CEIST.

The publication was launched on Thursday 12th January in Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

Mercy has been the defining characteristic of Pope Francis' papacy – a papacy that has captured the hearts and minds of believers and non-believers alike.

It's little wonder then that the Holy Father has announced 2016 as the Extraordinary Year of Mercy.

In The Message of Mercy, Amalee Meehan considers the subject of mercy, not only through a careful reading of relevant Scripture passages, but by exploring revealing extracts from literary classics and pertinent, sometimes surprising, examples from popular culture.

This engaging and encouraging work calls on readers to question their own understanding of mercy – towards both themselves and others – and in so

doing foster a deeper, more fulfilling relationship with God.

Click [here](#) to purchase the book from Veritas.



News & Events

Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Any

Year

Any

SEARCH

Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)



St Brigid's Day 1st February

Monday 1st February 2016

Today, 1 February 2016, is the Feast of Saint Brigid, Abbess and Secondary Patron of Ireland. Saint Brigid is renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving and care of the sick.

"From the first day I set my mind on God I have never taken it away from God and I never will"

St. Brigid was born in approximately 450 A.D. Her story has been heavily embellished by the oral tradition and the passage of time, but the person of Brigid shines through the mists of time as an extraordinary woman who connects us today with our spiritual roots.

It is thought that she was the daughter of Dubthach, a chieftan of Leinster, and Broicech, who was possibly a slave and a Christian. She is said to have been inspired by the teaching of St. Patrick and to have been a young woman of extraordinary generosity and charity.



Brigid became famous for her holiness and was determined to enter religious life. In spite of her father's opposition she eventually took her vows before St. Mel of Armagh who also conferred her with abbatial powers which gave her the administrative powers of a bishop. The most famous of her monastic foundations was in Kildare. Here she established a double monastery which became a centre of prayer and learning renowned throughout Christian Europe.

The name Brigid traditionally connects her with the Celtic pagan goddess. However, while folklore may be behind some of the traditions associated with her, Brigid, the Abbess of Kildare, did exist and she provides a link between the ancient customs of Celtic spirituality and their absorption into the Christian tradition. Her feast day is celebrated on February 1, Imbolc, the first day of spring.

Perhaps her connectedness with the renewal of the earth, the signs of new growth, and the eternal cycle of new life may be a sign of hope, not only for our growing awareness of the need to care for the earth, but also for the renewal of our Christian faith and culture. For our consumer society Brigid's example provides a dramatic alternative! Her constant awareness of God in her life and in those she encountered, her compassion and her concern for the poor are all shining examples of living Christianity.

The life of Brigid is: "a portrait of a powerful leader, a healer, a spiritual guide, a prophetess for our time". (Sr. Mary Minehan CSB)

St. Brigid is a model and inspiration for all of us, working, in the words of our [CEIST Charter](#), towards: "a compassionate and just society inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ".

Resource for St. Brigid's Day

The CEIST Faith Leadership and Governance Team have compiled the following resource to celebrate the Feast of St. Brigid, click on link below to view.

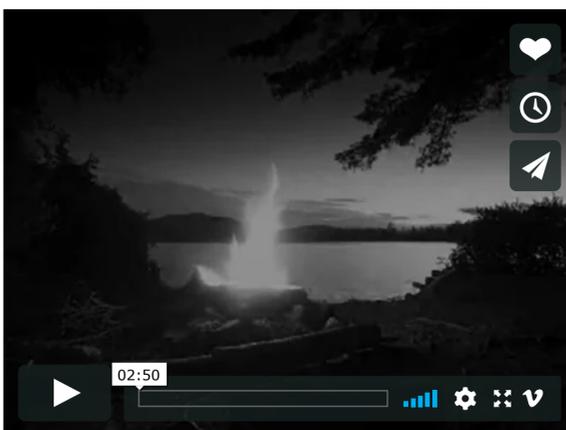
[Feast of St. Brigid.pdf](#)



Pictured above in the CEIST Office, La Fheile Bride vignette.



[How to make a St. Brigid's Cross](#) from [Kandle Team](#) on [Vimeo](#).



[Untitled](#) from [Kandle Team](#) on [Vimeo](#).

2016: "Our Digital Strategy - making IT matter"



27th February 2016 – Dublin City University

Pre-conference TeachMeet: 26th February – Regency Hotel, Dublin

On **Saturday 27th February** 2016 the Computers in Education Society of Ireland (CESI) will hold its annual conference. The venue for this year's conference is [Dublin City University \(DCU\)](#). The conference will be preceded by the now-traditional **TeachMeet CESI** event, which will be held on the evening of **Friday 26th February** at the [Regency Hotel](#), Dublin 9. To register for this year's conference or the pre-conference TeachMeet, please [click here](#).

Conference Theme

2015 saw the launch of Ireland's Digital Strategy for Schools which aims to "greatly enhance the learning experience and lifelong learning skills of all our students". The foreword to the strategy calls upon all teachers "to use ICT in the classroom to bring learning to life for students; to give learners the tools to collaborate and to examine engaging problems; to research and analyse information; and to use ICT resources to communicate their ideas and to share what they create with others beyond the walls of their classroom or school" (p. 4).

With this in mind, the theme for the 2016 CESI annual conference is "Our Digital Strategy – making IT matter". Ireland's Digital Strategy for Schools will be put into practice by the participants of this conference in the years to come. This year's event will focus upon our understanding of the importance of information technology in education, the potentials and problems that lie ahead in implementing the Digital Strategy for Schools, and the ways in which we can make a meaningful and magical curriculum for the learners in our care.

The CESI conference is a calendar highlight for those who are interested in integrating technology into their teaching and learning and this year promises to uphold the high standard that has been set by previous CESI events. The conference features a mix of presentations and hands-on workshops, high-profile keynote speakers, and opportunities to engage with educators from all levels of the Irish education system.

Call for Presenters

The CESI Conference 2016 Call for Presenters is now open. To submit a presentation or workshop proposal for this year's conference, please go to www.cesi.ie/conference-2016-call. The Call for Presenters will close on **1st January 2016**.

Key Dates & Timeline

- Monday 30th November 2015: registration opens
- Wednesday 2nd December 2015: Call for Presenters opens
- Friday 1st January 2016: Call for Presenters closes
- Friday 26th February 2016: TeachMeet CESI (Regency Hotel, Dublin 9)
- Saturday 27th February 2016: CESI Annual Conference (Dublin City University)

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

