

CEIST is the trustee body for the voluntary secondary schools of the Daughters of Charity, the Presentation Sisters, the Sisters of the Christian Retreat, the Sisters of Mercy and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

**Feature**

**CEIST Student Leadership Conference 2016**

The second CEIST Student Leadership Conference took place on Tuesday March 15th in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra. The event was a great success with 80 of our schools sending representatives from their student body.

As the Conference also coincided with Proclamation Day it was fitting that the 1916 Rising was marked in this centenary year.

The afternoon session involved a presentation on leadership by the youngest member of the present 32nd Dail, Mr. Jack Chambers TD. The debutant took questions from a packed auditorium.



[MORE](#)

**CEIST News**

**CEIST Bake Off Final**

There was a large turnout on Friday 4th March for the final of the CEIST Bake Off which took place in Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Athy.

Following the success of last year's inaugural event it was decided to run the competition again.

[MORE](#)

**Risking Faith in Schools...**

Marino Institute of Education invite all to join in conversation with Dr. Rowan Williams on May 31st 2016 from 9.00 - 12.30.

RSVP to [Mal.Ralbh@mie.ie](mailto:Mal.Ralbh@mie.ie)

Click [here](#) to download flyer.

**Diploma in Catholic Education**

The Diploma in Catholic Education (DCE) represents a partnership between St Patrick's College, Maynooth and the University of Notre Dame (USA).

The DCE is a one-year programme that is structured around three pillars: **Community, Professionalism and Spirituality**.

Click [here](#) for more information and to download application form.

**MA in Applied Spirituality**

The leading international MA in Applied Spirituality will start on Aug 15th at Milltown Park, Dublin, Ireland.

It will start with a week in August (15-19) and will be followed by 3-day block delivery each month.

Early applications are advised. For more info, please contact Michael O'Sullivan, SJ by e-mailing [sjiremos@gmail.com](mailto:sjiremos@gmail.com)

**Mindfulness Practice in Schools Conference 2016**

The 2nd Mindfulness Practice in Schools Conference 2016 will take place on Saturday April 16th. The aim of the conference is to support the practice of Mindfulness in schools and the development of a Mindful culture throughout schools.

It is for school leaders who wish to lead Mindfulness practice, for teachers who are practicing Mindfulness with their students and for others who may wish to begin the practice of Mindfulness.

Click [here](#) to download flyer.

**Follow CEIST on Twitter**

Check out the latest news snippets and resources shared via our [Twitter account](#) and subscribe to our CEIST school twitter list.

**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 email to [woods@ceist.ie](mailto:woods@ceist.ie)

**News from CEIST Schools**

**New Building Officially Opened at Holy Rosary College Mountbellew**

Holy Rosary College Mountbellew celebrated its 50th Anniversary on Friday 4th March with the official opening of a €6 million extension.

The school invited all past pupils, parents, local community, past staff members, representatives from CEIST and anyone who had an association with the school to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

[MORE](#)

**News from Presentation College Athenry**

Presentation College Athenry, Co. Galway had their 'Health Promotion Week' which commenced on the 29th February and it got off to a great start with a visit from "The Raw Food Coach" Yvonne O'Shaughnessy to the school.

A number of guest speakers were invited to the school and Principal, Cathal Moore, presented prizes to the winners of the school's Health Promotion Week Poster Competition.

[MORE](#)

**St. Joseph's Castlebar Students Participate in European Youth Parliament Discussion**

Congrats to 5th Year students Erica McMorrow and Ciara Murphy who were chosen to represent St. Joseph's Secondary School, Castlebar, at the National Session of the European Youth Parliament that took place in Cork on the 19th - 22nd March.

[MORE](#)

**Student News Updates from Coláiste Muire, Ennis**

Mile Bulochas to teacher Niamh O'Regan for sharing the following very interesting news items from her school, Coláiste Muire, Ennis, Co. Clare.

The varied news from Coláiste Muire shows wonderful innovation and hard work from the students.

[MORE](#)

**Ardscuil Mhuire Ballinasloe Proclamation Day Flag Raising Ceremony**

Chiara Lohan, teacher in Ardscuil Mhuire, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway kindly shared the following news on her school celebrating Proclamation Day on the 15th March.

Ardscuil Mhuire, Ballinasloe celebrated Proclamation Day by holding a ceremony in the school. This was followed by a raising of the tri-colour which they received at the ceremony in Croke Park hosted by the Thomas Meagher Foundation earlier this month.

[MORE](#)

**Eureka Secondary School Kells and 1916 Family Connections**

Mary Mullaghy, teacher in Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath has kindly shared her news article detailing students in the school who have family connections with people who were involved in the 1916 Rising!

[MORE](#)

**Latest Student News from Mary Immaculate Lisdoonvarna**

John Sims, teacher in Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare has shared lots of interesting news from his school.

CEIST was delighted to have eight of their students at our recent student leadership conference and like most schools they went to great efforts to celebrate Proclamation day.

[MORE](#)

**Scoil Mhuire Carrick-on-Suir All Ireland 'A' Champions!**



The Senior Football girls team from Scoil Mhuire, Carrick-on-Suir won the Lidl Post Primary Schools Grade A All Ireland Football title on March 7th defeating Colaiste Iosagain of Stillorgan, Dublin.

It was a day filled with anticipation, excitement and ultimately, elation for the team and all their supporters.

[MORE](#)

**Ard Scoil na nDéise 25th Anniversary**

On Friday January 29th January we were very honoured that Most Reverend Bishop Cullinan came to St. Mary's Parish Church to celebrate Mass for our Feast Day and 25th Anniversary.

We were joined on the day by Mercy and Presentation Sisters, Catherine McCormack from the CEIST Trust, members of staff and Board of Management of 1990, members of the present Board of Management and Parents' Council, all our students and present staff, some parents and other family members.

[MORE](#)

**St Joseph's Rush participates in 4th Cycle Against Suicide Student Leaders' Congress**

Pupils of St Joseph's Rush were afforded a unique opportunity to attend a special daylong event hosted by Cycle Against Suicide, on Thursday, January 14th, 2016 at the RDS Dublin, to promote positive mental health in schools and communities across the island of Ireland.

[MORE](#)

**Scoil Bhríde Tuam Annual Spring Recital**



Scoil Bhríde, Mercy Secondary School, Tuam held their annual Spring recital on Thursday night, 10th March. Scoil Bhríde have the largest school orchestra in the country with 199 girls taking part!

The Mercy has a lengthy strong musical tradition with the school orchestra being over 100 years old! Well done to all involved.

**St. Brigid's Killarney Scoop Top Award!**

The County Final of the Kerry County Council Annual Student Enterprise Awards was held on Friday 4th March in the Institute of Technology, Tralee.

St. Brigid's Secondary School, Killarney won the most Enterprising School Award for its work in fostering entrepreneurship within the school and was presented with the Cantillon Perpetual Cup.

[MORE](#)

**Pres Ballingarry Students Perfect Pitch Secures Funding for Senior Citizen's Trip**

Congratulations to Young Social Innovator (YSI) reps from Presentation Secondary School, Ballingarry, Thurles, Co. Tipperary who did a fantastic pitch on Thursday 25th February at the Young Social Innovators Den.

The students received €850 to bring senior citizens from the parish on a mystery tour in May.

[MORE](#)

**Sacred Heart Secondary School Drogheda School News**

Congratulations to Sacred Heart Drogheda Transition Year 'Chitty Chitty Bank Bank' as they have qualified for the National A.I.B. Build a Bank Challenge which will take place on 21st April, 2016.

Thanks to Fiona Cairns who has shared other academic and sporting achievements from the students.

[MORE](#)

**St. Mary's Mallow at the Green Schools Expo**

On Thursday 25th February the Green Schools Committee from St. Mary's Secondary School, Mallow attended the first ever Green Schools Expo in the RDS in Dublin.

Twelve primary and twelve secondary schools from all over Ireland were selected to showcase the work of their Green Schools Committees and St. Mary's was one of the selected schools.

[MORE](#)

**Our Lady of Mercy College Beaumont Student Achievements**

Congratulations to Fiona Boyle, LC 2015 who received an Academic Scholarship from DCU based on her excellent Leaving Certificate results.

Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont went Back to the Eighties in style on March 2nd and 3rd with their school show!

[MORE](#)

**Reflecting CEIST Values**

**Monthly School Feature - Presentation Secondary School Wexford**

The Irish Catholic Newspaper is publishing an ethos feature of a different CEIST school each month. The latest school featured was Presentation Secondary School Wexford.

If you would like to profile your school with the Irish Catholic and also feature on our website, then please e-mail [jbrown@ceist.ie](mailto:jbrown@ceist.ie) or contact the CEIST office.

We would be delighted to profile your school with our CEIST community.

[MORE](#)

# News & Events

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## CEIST Student Leadership Conference 2016

Wednesday 23rd March 2016

The second CEIST Student Leadership Conference took place on Tuesday March 15th in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra.

The event was a great success with 80 of our schools sending representatives from their student body.

As the Conference also coincided with Proclamation Day it was fitting that the 1916 Rising was marked in this centenary year.



Pictured above are students from Presentation Thurles with Marie Grffin, CEO, CEIST and Professor Daire Keogh, President, St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra.

Presentation Thurles enacted the signing and reading of the Proclamation at the commencement of the Student Conference.

At the end of the day each student also received a copy of the Proclamation.

After the opening liturgy and dramatization the students went into workshops where they heard presentations from students who had displayed leadership in their own schools. They also explored the concept of being a leader in a Catholic school.

After lunch the students returned to the main lecture theatre where they heard the youngest TD elected to this Dail speak about his own leadership journey.

Amongst other things Jack Chambers, a TD for Dublin West told students to stay focused and determined and not distracted by the negative views from others who may not wish them to succeed.



Pictured above Jack Chambers T.D. with the CEIST Team.

Earlier in the day the students received a surprise visit from former Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, who dropped into the workshops to say hello and commend them on their commitment to leadership in their own schools.

CEIST would like to thank all the schools who nominated students to attend the Conference as well as the students who attended and presented on the day.

We look forward to another successful conference in 2017.



Pictured above are the excellent Eureka Secondary School Kells Band who entertained all at the conference.

## Image Gallery

Click [here](#) to view all photos from our student conference.



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## CEIST Bake Off Final

Monday 7th March 2016

There was a large turnout on Friday 4th March for the final of the CEIST Bake Off which took place in Ardscoil na Tríonoide, Athy.

Following the success of last year's inaugural event it was decided to run the competition again.

Due to the increased interest and large amount of entries it was decided to run a Junior and Senior Competition. From the initial entries seven finalists were selected for each category by Catherine Leyden of Odiums. The finalists were as follows:

### Junior Category

Student	Teacher	School
Ebony Onalimi	Ms. Finlay	Scoil Christ Ri, Portlaoise.
Alannah Dunne	Ms. O'Brien	Presentation College, Athenry, Co. Galway
Athea Ring	Ms. Brophy	Rockford Manor, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
Pataire Crawford	Ms. Diskin	Scoil Bhride, Mercy Secondary School, Tuam.
Aoife Duggan	Ms. McGrath	Coláiste Muire, Ennis, Co. Claire
Aoife Walsh	Ms. Byrne	Scoil Mhuire, Greenhills, Carrick on Suir, Co. Tipperary
Aisling Grehan	Ms. Byrne	Scoil Mhuire, Greenhills, Carrick on Suir, Co. Tipperary

### Senior Category

Student	Teacher	School
Mikaela Finegan	Mrs. Hargadon	St. Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk, Co. Louth
Rosie Culligan	Mrs. Hargadon	St. Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk, Co. Louth
Ailbhe King	Ms. Cooper	Ardscoil na Tríonoide, Athy, Co. Kildare
Megan Hartigan	Ms. Burke	St. Mary's Secondary School, Charleville, Co. Cork.
Lauren Cawley	Ms. Ginley	St. Mary's Secondary School, Ballina, Co. Mayo
Maryanne Sheehan	Ms. Hartnett	Presentation Secondary School, Wexford Town.
Adi Canty	Ms. Whelan	Presentation Secondary School, Listowel, Co. Kerry

Following a busy morning of baking the following students emerged victorious;

### Junior Category

Pataire Crawford	Scoil Bhride, Mercy Tuam	First Place
Ebony Onalimi	Scoil Christ Ri, Portlaoise	Second Place
Anthea Ring	Rockford Manor, Blackrock	Third Place

### Senior Category

Lauren Cawley	St. Mary's Secondary School, Ballina	First Place
Maryanne Sheehan	Presentation Wexford	Second Place
Mikaela Finnegan	St. Vincent's Dundalk	Third Place

Speaking at the presentation of prizes Catherine Leyden of Odiums spoke of the high quality of entries and the impressive skills of all students who baked on the day.

CEIST were represented at the prize giving by Justin Brown, Faith Leadership and Governance Co-ordinator.

He complimented the organisers of the competition Margaret Cambie McEvoy and Jacqueline Cooper of Ardscoil na Tríonoide, Athy. He also spoke of the importance of the competition in enhancing the CEIST Charter values of Creating Community and Achieving Quality in Teaching and Learning.

He also acknowledged the commitment of the teachers and parents who accompanied the students to the competition.

In his address the Principal of Ardscoil na Tríonoide Johnny McCormack welcome everyone to the school and highlighted the talents of all the students who baked on the morning. He spoke of his hope that next year might see a boy reaching the final of the competition as up to this point all the finalists have been girls.

CEIST would like to acknowledge the contributions of all involved in organising the Bake Off as well as the teachers and students who entered the competition and Odiums who generously sponsors the competition.



Pictured above Aoife Duggan from Coláiste Muire Ennis with her teacher Ms. Máire McGrath and her Mam.



Pictured above are Catherine Leyden of Odiums with Pataire Crawford, Ebony Onalimi and Lauren Cawley.



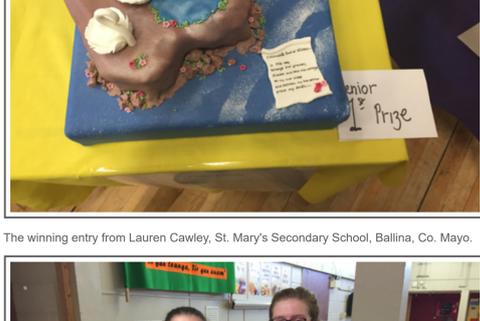
Ebony Onalimi pictured with her teacher Ms. Finlay and Sorcha Matthews winner of last years bake-off.



Pataire Crawford pictured with Scoil Bhride Mercy Tuam Deputy Principal, Claire Kilroy.



The winning entry from Lauren Cawley, St. Mary's Secondary School, Ballina, Co. Mayo.



Pictured above are two entrants from Scoil Mhuire, Carrick-on-Suir, Aoife Walsh and Aisling Grehan with their entries.



The winner of the Senior Category, Lauren Cawley, St. Mary's Secondary School, Ballina with her teacher Ms. Ginley.



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## New Building Officially Opened at Holy Rosary College Mountbellew

Monday 7th March 2016

Holy Rosary College Mountbellew celebrated its 50th Anniversary last Friday 4th March with the official opening of a €6 million extension.

The school invited all past pupils, parents, local community, past staff members, representatives from CEIST and anyone who had an association with the school to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

All who attended received a guided tour of the new school building, refreshments, music, photo displays and an opportunity of course to catch up with former classmates and teachers.

The opening ceremony was performed by former Principal, Sr. Dympna Stack, whose Congregation, The Sisters of the Christian Retreat, took over the school in September 1965. That year Sr. Dympna enrolled 27 boys who joined 52 girls in the former Dower House of the Grattan – Bellew estate, which had housed an all-girls school since 1944. Today HRC has over 560 students.

The new building includes specially designed rooms for Art, Music, Business and Religion, a Language / Multimedia Lab, two Woodwork / Construction Studies Rooms, four Science Labs, two Home Economics rooms, a Library, and six new general classrooms.

A new Sports Hall with Fitness Suite and Stage has also been built and outdoor sports facilities have been developed.

A large Assembly Hall with Canteen is a central feature of the new building, overlooking a courtyard garden with an Art installation by Athenry sculptor, Donnacha Cahill, funded by the Per Cent for Art Scheme.

The Design Team was OKM Architects, Sligo; Tobin Engineers, Galway; Heavey Kenny M&E Consultants, Galway and McCauls Quantity Surveyors, Sligo.

HRC is especially proud that so many of its former students were involved in the building project: the Main Contractor, Patrick Gardiner, MD of Coolsivna Construction, Mountbellew; Project Engineers, Aidan Doyle and Kerril Jones from Tobins, Galway; Electrical Contractor, Sean Gavin, Blocklaying Contractor, Aidan Mannion, Foundations Contractor, Colm Finnerty and Clerk of Works, John Crehan are all past pupils.

A history of Holy Rosary College 1965 – 2015 by former HRC teacher, Dr. Gabriel O'Connor was also launched on Friday and is available from the school office.

Since 2007, HRC is under the trusteeship of CEIST.

The extension and refurbishment of HRC was funded by the Government's Investment in Infrastructure and Jobs Programme 2013.

The new stage and outdoor sports facilities are being funded by the HRC Parents' Association.



At the official opening of the major extension and refurbishment at Holy Rosary College Mountbellew, Co. Galway on Friday 4th March were (left to right) Bernard Keeley, (Chairperson, CEIST), Liam Bergin, (Educena CEO), Marie Griffin, (CEIST CEO), Sr. Dympna Stack who founded the co-ed school 50 years ago, Maureen Walsh, School Principal, Archbishop Michael Neary, a former Chaplain at HRC and Paddy Boyle, former Principal of the school.



Pictured above are John Fahey (former Principal of the school), Maureen Walsh (current Principal), Sr. Dympna Stack and Paddy Boyle who are also former Principals of Holy Rosary College.

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## News from Presentation College Athenry

Monday 7th March 2016

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

### MEP visits Presentation College

As part of our school's EU Ambassador's Programme, regular visitor to Presentation College Athenry, Marian Harkin, MEP met with Mr. Cotter's EU Studies students and Ms. Tracey's Business Studies students when she arrived at the school on Friday 26th February.

Ms. Harkin, who is MEP for the Midlands North-West constituency, spoke passionately to students about many topical issues including EU border controls, the possibility of the UK leaving the EU and the EU's function in improving food quality.

EU Studies student, Mairead Miller presented Ms. Harkin with a hand made gift from Athenry in appreciation of her visit to the school.

After her presentation, Ms. Harkin met with our TY Enterprise students who have secured funding from Athenry Credit Union and will soon launch a savings scheme in the school.

Ms. Harkin, who is a supporter of Credit Unions said 'I am delighted to see the students becoming involved in their local Credit Union at such a young age.

This project will teach them about the need to manage their personal finances and will help them to develop their enterprise skills'.



Pictured above TY Enterprise students present Ms. Harkin with a Handmade gift from Athenry.jpeg

### Internet sensation RTE's Teresa launches 'Rainy Day Savings'



Following RTE's Teresa Mannion's news report during the storms that hit the West Coast of Ireland last December, Mr. Jason M. Cotter's Enterprise students were inspired to set up and name their mini company 'Rainy Day Savings'.

The students are using computer equipment, which was sponsored by the local Credit Union to offer an innovative savings scheme to students who have some spare cash, which they would like to save for their 'rainy days'.

When Teresa Mannion heard about the student project she was keen to meet with the students and give her support and on Friday, 26th February Teresa visited the students at Presentation College Athenry and officially launched their business.

Teresa said 'it is great to see students getting involved in enterprise and I wish them the very best with their business venture'.

The students will represent the school at the Local Enterprise Office (formerly City and County Enterprise Board) Student Business Awards this March.

### Health Promotion Week

Health Promotion Week got off to a great start on Monday 29th in Presentation College, Athenry with the visit of "The Raw Food Coach" Yvonne O' Shaughnessy to the school.

Tuesday was equally exciting with the line up of guest speakers. Dr. Francis Finucane - Consultant Endocrinologist in GUH addressed the 500 students in attendance at the school gym on Health, Nutrition and Healthy Living followed by a question and answer session. Claire Kerins - Specialist Cardiac Dietitian with Croi and author of the book "Healthy Ways" also took to the stage to present an informative talk about Healthy Eating, Food Labelling, Portion control, Exercise and much more.

In the afternoon PCA welcomed "The Friendly Farmer", Ronan Byrne to address another group of 500 students on the importance of good quality food. The day finished with a presentation from two well known inter-county GAA players Galway Football Captain, Gary O'Donnell and Galway Senior Hurler, Padraig Breheny who are teachers on the staff.

Together, they spoke to the students about Sport, Nutrition, Exercise, Physio and Hygiene. Chef Nigel Johnson of the LoughRea hotel gave cookery demonstrations to the Junior Cert's and Second Years who were very keen to try out the tasty dishes which he prepared.

In celebration of the many talented art students, the Principal, Cathal Moore, presented prizes to the winners of the school's Health Promotion Week Poster Competition.

To view a pictorial record of the event, click on the links below:

#### Prize Winners

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BziSpS7RepuCWDJ5WjRrQVRXT2c&usp=sharing>

"The Raw Food Coach" Yvonne O' Shaughnessy

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BziSpS7RepuCZ3pmdVlybkNPULk&usp=sharing>

Dr. Francis Finucane - Consultant Endocrinologist

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BziSpS7RepuCdmfOFFSVWw3dEE&usp=sharing>

Claire Kerins - Specialist Cardiac Dietitian

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BziSpS7RepuCangtMEpNVnBJOU0&usp=sharing>

"The Friendly Farmer" Ronan Byrne

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BziSpS7RepuCV041REZDeHVEV2M&usp=sharing>

Galway Football Captain, Gary O'Donnell & Galway Senior Hurler, Padraig Breheny

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BziSpS7RepuCd1U2ajlybU41ODQ&usp=sharing>

Chef Nigel Johnson of the LoughRea Hotel

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BziSpS7RepuCN3lyZFVFSzhOWUU&usp=sharing>

Event Speaker's presentations have been recorded and are available to download from our school's SoundCloud.

Click here to check it out: <https://soundcloud.com/presentation-college>

#### Other News

Click [here](#) to view our recent article on public meeting held in the school.



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## St. Joseph's Castlebar Students Participate in European Youth Parliament Discussion

Friday 18th March 2016

The following news was very kindly shared by teacher Caroline McGrath of [St. Joseph's Secondary School](#), Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

Congrats to 5th Year students Erica McMorrow and Ciara Murphy who were chosen to represent St. Joseph's Secondary School, Castlebar, at the National Session of the European Youth Parliament in Cork from 19th - 22 March.

The delegates will discuss many European issues over the weekend through groupwork and debate.

We wish them well and hope they enjoy the experience.



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## Latest News from Coláiste Muire, Ennis

Tuesday 22nd March 2016

Mile Bulochas to Niamh O'Regan for sharing the following very interesting news from her school, Coláiste Muire, Ennis, Co. Clare.

### Proclamation Day 2016 (Lá an Fhorógra 2016)



Coláiste Muire marked Proclamation Day with a ceremony that included the raising of the Irish flag and the reading of the 1916 Proclamation in Irish. Students performed for the rest of the school community in a moving concert of Irish songs, music, poetry and dance.

The Principal, Ms. Pound, spoke about the significance of the 1916 centenary, stating that in Coláiste Muire we promote values such as courage, integrity and independence which are central to the Irish Proclamation of Independence.

We are grateful for the sacrifices others made on our behalf and will endeavour to nurture appreciation for our shared Irish heritage.

Click [here](#) to view gallery of photos from the ceremony.

### University of Limerick Award – Microsemi Scholarship

Wiktorja Malika was recently awarded the prestigious Microsemi Scholarship. This Scholarship is awarded annually to the student achieving the highest points in first year undergraduate Engineering in UL. Wiktorja is currently studying Mechanical Engineering in UL.



Pictured above L-R, Denise McCoy, Director HR at Microsemi, Ronan Dillon, Director of Technology at Microsemi, Wiktorja Malika Winner, Don Barry President of UL.



Pictured above Ms Jean Pound, School Principal and Wiktorja Malika, Microsemi Recipient.

### Feile na hInse Scoraíocht Competition



Coláiste Muire won this competition in the Auburn Hotel Ennis on 5 March. It took place during Seachtain na Gaeilge.

### YSI Speakout



Three of our Transition Year classes participated in the Regional Speakout for YSI (Young Social Innovators), in the Lime Tree Theatre, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick on the 3rd March.

We have projects entered under the Health and Well Being section, the Mental Health section and the Human Rights / Equality section.

They are entitled, "Permanent Imprint – Think before you Ink", "Our Mental Health" and "We are Equal".

### Breakfast Club



Coláiste Muire launched a breakfast club on our return to school after Christmas.

Any student "running late for breakfast" is invited to come along for tea or coffee and toast.

Leaving Cert and TY students who are members of Young St Vincent de Paul in the school assist Ms. Browne and Ms. O'Regan each morning from 8.10am until 8.45. It has been a wonderful success to date!

Our annual TY School Sleepover took place on Friday 11 March. All proceeds raised this year are being donated to Young St. Vincent de Paul in Coláiste Muire.

### All Ireland TY Drama Festival



Coláiste Muire came second in the National Transition Year Drama final which took place in the Briery Gap, Macroom on Saturday 27th February.

They performed Top Girls by Carol Churchill.

Well done to Roisin Spriggs, Eanna O'Loughlin, Tess Griffin, Karen Mac Namara, Lisa Campbell and Shauna Greene.

### "Standing on the Bridge"

Our TY3 group participated in "Standing on the Bridge" in support of women worldwide to mark International Womens Day on Tuesday 8th March.

All teaching staff worn purple to school to mark the occasion.

### Kemmy Business School /BSTAI Junior Cert Business Studies Awards

Well done to Isobel Elger and Caoimhe Roughan who were both presented with awards on 9th March in University of Limerick for outstanding results in their Junior Cert Business Studies 2015.



They are pictured above with Dr. Fergal O'Brien, Assistant Dean Postgraduate Studies, Kemmy Business School, UL and Ms. Frances Browne, Business Studies teacher.

### Songschool



Songschool Workshops took place again this year for each of our four Transition Year classes in February.

The workshops offer students a first hand insight into life as a professional songwriter / musician and an overview of songwriting and the music business.

Students write, perform and record their own songs during each two day workshop.

### CEIST Student Leadership Conference 2016



Sinead McMahon and Fridaous Karimu are pictured above attending CEIST's second Student Leadership Conference in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra on Tuesday, March 15th.

Margaret Harrold, RE teacher accompanied the students.



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## Ardscuil Mhuire Ballinasloe Proclamation Day Flag Raising Ceremony

Friday 18th March 2016

Chiara Lohan, teacher in Ardscuil Mhuire, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway kindly shared the following news on her school celebrating Proclamation Day on the 15th March.

### Proclamation Day Celebration in Ardscuil Mhuire, Ballinasloe

Ardscuil Mhuire, Ballinasloe celebrated Proclamation Day by holding a ceremony in our school. This was followed by a raising of the tri-colour which we received at the ceremony in Croke Park hosted by the Thomas Meagher Foundation earlier this month.

The Ardscuil Mhuire, Ballinasloe Proclamation Day ceremony took place in our school gym.

The ceremony opened with an introduction to ceremony by Deputy- Principal Lillian Hynes.

This was followed by a reading of the W.B. Yeats poem 'Easter 1916'.

Seven 5th year and Leaving Cert students who had assumed the role of the seven signatories of the Proclamation each gave a short account of their role in the Rising.

Next up was a reading of the 1916 Proclamation by 'Padraig Pearse' (Megan Devlin Larson) followed by three students (Saoirse Ni Thuairsg, Shannon Dolan and Hannah Finn) who read out their re-imagined version of the original Proclamation entitled 'Proclamation for a New Generation'.

The events were interwoven with musical performances from our schools Trad Group.

The whole school then proceeded outside to see the tri-colour being raised on our school flag pole and the events concluded with a whole school rendition of Amhran na bhFiann.



Staff and Students of Ardscuil Mhuire at the Proclamation Day Ceremony.



Students dressed as the signatories of the Proclamation -L-R: Megan Devlin Larson, Orla Dwyer, Katie Glynn).



Sean McHugh (school caretaker) raising the tri-colour aided by the signatories.



Megan Devlin Larson reads the 1916 Proclamation as Padraig Pearse.



Students reading their re-imagined 'Proclamation for a New Generation'. L - R: Saoirse Ni Thuairisg, Hannah Finn, Shannon Dolan.

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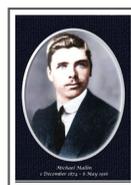
Monthly School Feature

## Eureka Secondary School Kells and 1916 Family Connections

Wednesday 23rd March 2016

Mary Mullaghy, teacher in Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath has very kindly shared the following very interesting news detailing students in the school who have connections with people who were involved in the 1916 Rising!

**1. Abigale Harcourt Thewlis (1st Year)** is the great great grand niece of **Michael Mallin**, a silk weaver and co-founder with Francis Sheehy-Skeffington of the Irish Socialist Party, who was second in command of the Irish Citizen Army under James Connolly in the Easter Rising of 1916.



He commanded the garrison at St. Stephen's Green in Dublin, with Constance Markievicz as his second in command. Mallin surrendered on Sunday, 30th April 1916 when ordered to do so by Connolly.

He was convicted by the ad hoc court martial and executed by firing squad on 8th May 1916.



Pictured above Abigail Harcourt Thewlis with her great great grand uncle and 1916 martyr Michael Mallin's sword and bayonet. Pictured on right is the 1916 artefacts courtesy of Mr. John Thewlis.

**2. Alannah Shine (2nd Year)** is the great great grand daughter of **Parick Shortis**. Patrick Shortis also lost his life in the fight for independence and was honoured by the North Kerry branch of Republican Sinn Fein. Patrick Shortis fought at the GPO in 1916 and was killed with the O'Rahilly on an assault on the Rotunda.

He is buried in the 1916 plot in St Paul's, Glasnevin. He was a native of Ballybunnion, County Kerry and was 26 years of age when he was killed.



Pictured above Alannah Shine and Patrick Shortis.

**3. Siobhán Byrne (3rd Year)** is the great great great grand daughter of 1916 proclamation signatree and socialist martyr **James Connolly**.



Student Siobhan Byrne with Proclamation and James Connolly.

**4. Mr. Martin Devine (teacher)** is the grandnephew of **Brian O'Higgins**. O Higgins, a Kilslyre native was an Irish Sinn Féin politician and a founding member of the organisation. He was President of Sinn Féin from 1931-1933. He took part in the 1916 Easter Rising and was present in the GPO during the rebellion.

He was elected unopposed as a Sinn Féin MP for Clare West at the 1918 general election. In January 1919, Sinn Féin MPs who had been elected in the Westminster elections of 1918 refused to recognise the Parliament and instead assembled in Dublin as a revolutionary parliament called Dáil Éireann. He was re-elected for anti-Treaty Sinn Fein at the 1921, 1922 and 1923 elections.



Pictured above are teachers Mr. Ronan Fahy and Mr. Martin Devine.

**5. Mr. Ronan Fahy's (teacher)** great great granduncle was **Frank Fahy**, a commandant in the Four Courts under Ned Daly during the 1916 Rising. He was sentenced to death but was released in Christmas 1916. He was first elected as the Sinn Féin MP for South Galway in 1918 but refused to take his seat in Westminster, instead opting for the new Dáil Éireann, which met in the Mansion House in Dublin in 1919.

He was returned as TD for Galway in 1921 but again did not take his seat owing to his opposition to the Treaty. He joined Fianna Fáil in 1926 and took his seat in the 5th Dáil on August 12 1927. When Fianna Fáil won the 1932 General Election, Mr Fahy was appointed Ceannt Comhairle and served in that post for the next 19 years - the longest serving Ceannt Comhairle in the history of the State. He was also a founder member of the Council of State.



Pictured above (LtoR) Brian O'Higgins and Frank Fahy.

**Siobhán Byrne (3rd year)** is the great great great granddaughter of **James Connolly**.

She received special invitations to Áras an Uachtaráin and Commemoration Ceremonies of 1916 Rising.



Siobhan is pictured above with her History Teacher Ms. McKenna.

## Image Gallery

Click [here](#) to view other images taken from Eureka Secondary Schools celebration of Proclamation Day on March 15th and there are more images on the school website [www.eurekasecondaryschool.ie](http://www.eurekasecondaryschool.ie)

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## Latest Student News from Mary Immaculate Lisdoonvarna

Wednesday 23rd March 2016

John Sims has kindly shared some interesting student news from his school, [Mary Immaculate Secondary School](#), Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare.

### CEIST Student Leadership Conference 2016



A group of eight students from Mary Immaculate Secondary School in Lisdoonvarna travelled to St Patricks College Drumcondra to take part in the second national Student Leadership Conference on the 15th of March. The focus on the day was the promotion of Youth leadership within our CEIST schools and for the future. The event began with a dramatisation to mark Proclamation Day by students from Presentation Secondary School, Thurles.

The Students spent the morning engaged with a variety of student workshops sessions. Themes like "Building student leadership" in CEIST schools and "Leadership in Catholic Schools" were developed and ideas were shared.

The afternoon session involved a presentation on leadership by the youngest member of the present 32nd Dáil, Mr. Jack Chambers TD. The debutant took questions from a packed auditorium.

The students that attended the conference were Eimear Thynne, Ellen O'Loughlin, Olivia Leneghan, Denis McMahon, Nicholas Dunne, Aaron O'Brien, Colm O'Brien and Darren Gray. They were accompanied by their religion teacher Shane Slattery.

### Féile na hInse



Comhgairdeas do na daltai ó Scoil Mhuire gan Smál i Lios Dúin Bhearna a ghlac páirt i bhFéile na hInse in Inis le déanaí. Bhuaigh an grúpa ceoil a gcomórtas ar an 5ú Márta. Bhí an moltóir an sásta leo agus dúradh go raibh draíocht ag baint lena gcuid ceoil! B'iad na daltai a bhí i gceist ná Ellen O'Loughlin, Éimear Thynne, Keith Dowling, Róisín O'Donoghue, Ellen King, Jane O'Loughlin, Kate Considine, Laura Haugh, Sarah Nagle, Aimeé Burke, Emma Kelly, Saoirse O'Brien, Sally King, Sarah McNamara, Aoife McNamara, Róisín McNamara, Órlaith Petty, Emma Healy, Aine Connole, Laura Griffey, Bláithnaid Marsh, Grace Cassidy. Comhgairdeas leo ar fad!

Ghlac Ciarán/Conor/Ava agus Jack páirt sa chomortas popghrúpa. Mhol an moltóir an glóir iontach a bhí ag Conor. Bhuaigh siad an dara áit.

### Flag presentation in Croke Park



On the 7th march 2016 four students from Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna travelled to Croke Park to attend the state flag presentation ceremony where second level schools were presented with an Irish flag and with a hand carved flag base and pole.

They also received a copy of the Proclamation in Irish and in English. The event was organised by the Thomas F. Meagher foundation. The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins inspected a Guard of Honour before addressing the 6,000 students and teachers that attended the event. Photos of the event can be seen at <http://tvmfoundation.ie/gallery>.

The Thomas F. Meagher foundation was partnered with the Department of an Taoiseach and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for this momentous ceremony. The foundation was set up in honour of Thomas Francis Meagher who first flew the Irish tricolour in 1848. The Thomas F. Meagher foundation aims to promote pride in and respect for the Irish flag and its true meaning for peace on this island.

The school was represented by 5th year history students Colm O'Brien, Myra McNamara, Niamh Reilly, Ben Kenneally and teacher John Sims.

### Proclamation Day

On 15th March schools throughout Ireland marked Proclamation day by raising the Irish flag and reading the Proclamation.

In Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna the Proclamation was read aloud by Dylan Egan and Eva Harrington.

The flag was raised by ex-army officer John Flaherty.

After the flag raising the school sang and played Amhrán na bhFiann with the help of Martin Conway another ex-army officer.



Pictured above students Dylan Egan and Eva Harrington reading the Proclamation.



The Irish Flag being raised by ex-army officer John Flaherty.

### Art News

Aoife Dowling (2nd year) was a winner in the Art section of Feile na hInse. This competition celebrates Artistic skill and endeavour through the promotion of the Irish language. Well done to Aoife.

Another second year Laura Haugh is the County winner of the Community Games ART Competition. She received her winning medal from the community games committee last week and is looking forward to her further participation at regional and national level. Congratulations Laura and best of luck for the next stage.

All second and first year students have participated in an anti-drug Art Competition run by the HSE. The aim of the project was to engage students in creating awareness towards the destruction caused by alcohol and drug addiction.



PICTURED ABOVE Laura Haugh receiving her medal from her Art teacher, Ms. Mona Hynes.

### BSTAI Certificate of Achievement



Congratulations to Eoin Burke on receiving a Certificate of Achievement for his excellent results in Business Studies Junior Certificate exam 2015 from The Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick in conjunction with the Business Studies Teachers' Association of Ireland on the 9th March 2016.



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## Scoil Mhuire Lidl Post Primary Schools Grade A All Ireland Champions!

Tuesday 8th March 2016

### Scoil Mhuire Carrick on Suir 4-16 Colaiste Iosagain Dublin 2-8



The Senior Football team from Scoil Mhuire, Carrick-on-Suir roared to victory in Nowlan Park on Monday the 7th of March 2016 against the formidable Colaiste Iosagain of Stillorgan, Dublin. It was a day filled with anticipation, excitement and ultimately, elation for the team and all their supporters. The team were well prepared and focused on the challenge that lay ahead due to the extensive training provided by their excellent management team of Annette o' Connell and Paul Shankey.

The match kicked off at 1pm to the rapturous cheers of supporters from Scoil Mhuire and Colaiste Iosagain, Stillorgan. Colaiste Iosagain presented a tough defence in the opening minutes with the Scoil Mhuire ladies struggling to break through.

The opening point for Scoil Mhuire came from captain Aoife Murray, showing the forwards that persistence and determination was the winning formula for this encounter. Colaiste Iosagain answered the opening scores of Scoil Mhuire quickly and there was a difference of only a few points for the first ten minutes. The Scoil Mhuire ladies kept the pressure on with Katie and Aoife Murray providing points from play and some frees.

The turning point came with a fantastic goal by Keeley Corbett Barry at the half way point in the first half. The supporters of Scoil Mhuire erupted into a cacophony of cheers. The girls settled into their stride and displayed their pace and support of each other more and more as the first half drew into its final minutes. They dominated possession with the Scoil Mhuire backs consistently moving the ball away from their own goal when Colaiste Iosagain moved in to the Scoil Mhuire half of the field.

Colaiste Iosagain made valiant attempts to score but were unlucky as the wind was against them and they could not achieve the same accuracy as the Scoil Mhuire ladies. When the half time whistle came Scoil Mhuire held an impressive lead of 1-07 to 0-03.

The second half began with both teams coming out determined to make their mark on the half. Colaiste Iosagain came out with a renewed determination scoring two goals and five points in quick succession. This presented a fresh challenge to the Scoil Mhuire ladies. They settled in to a rhythm once again and won back possession at crucial stages in the match.

The crucial saves by the fantastic goalie Cailin Power in goal and backs Kate Hahessey, Emily McCarthy and Halannah White kept the Scoil Mhuire lead safe when their fortunes could have easily turned. The incredible work by all players, the pace of mid fielders Kelly Ann Doyle and Emma Murray. The weather turned in the second half as the girls played in heavy rain.

The Scoil Mhuire girls never gave up and with the constant and unwavering support of their students, teachers, families and friends in the crowd encouraged the girls they rallied to score a number of points. The incredible goals by Geraldine Power and Beth Norris in the last fifteen minutes of the game meant ecstatic cheers and cries from the crowd and the assurance that victory would be coming to Carrick-on-Suir.

Colaiste Iosagain battled valiantly until the very last minute. By the time the final whistle blew the heavy rain had given way to warm sunshine with the final score at Scoil Mhuire 4-16 Colaiste Iosagain 2-08.

The pitch was swarmed by the elated Scoil Mhuire supporters congratulating their classmates, friends and teachers. Player of the match went to the deserving Geraldine Power who scored a very impressive 2-2.

For Scoil Mhuire and the wider Carrick-on-Suir community this will be a day that will not be forgotten and will be cherished by the players, their coaches and supporters for many years to come.

Congratulations and thank you to the players, Annette O' Connell and Paul Shankey for all their hard work and commitment over recent months and years to bring the Scoil Mhuire ladies from D division all the way to Senior A All Ireland Champions.



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## Ard Scoil na nDéise 25th Anniversary

Friday 5th February 2016

### Bishop Cullinan celebrates Mass for Ard Scoil na nDéise 25th Anniversary and Feast Day



Pictured above Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan photographed with the First Year students of Ard Scoil na nDéise in St. Mary's Parish Church on the occasion of the school Feast Day and 25th Anniversary Mass.

On Friday January 29th we were very honoured that Most Reverend Bishop Cullinan came to St. Mary's Parish Church to celebrate Mass for our Feast Day and 25th Anniversary.

We were joined on the day by Mercy and Presentation Sisters, Catherine McCormack from the CEIST trust, members of staff and Board of Management of 1990, members of the present Board of Management and Parents' Council, all our students and present staff, some parents and other family members.

Before Mass began Bishop Cullinan addressed the students and taught them the beautiful unaccompanied Taize chant "Oh Lord Hear My Prayer", creating a lovely prayerful atmosphere throughout the church.

Our Lady of Lourdes was chosen as the patron saint of the school when Ard Scoil na nDéise was set up, and each year students from Fifth Year travel to Lourdes as helpers on the Diocesan Pilgrimage.

Two of the students who travelled to Lourdes last summer told us about their experience in the Communion Reflection.

Under the leadership of Father Harris, Ms Cotter and the Religion teachers, the students had planned and prepared carefully for the Mass, and three of our students who are Ministers of the Eucharist gave out Holy Communion with Bishop Cullinan, Father Ryan and Father Egan.

Our very talented musicians from every year group, led by our Music teacher Ms Lucey, contributed hugely to the celebration, and the beautiful voices of our Senior choir and soloists made the congregation's experience of the Mass a truly special one.



Pictured above Back row, left to right: Father John Harris (School Chaplain), Ms Nicole Ferncombe (Secretary, Students' Council), Ms Sinéad O'Donnell (Cáirde Group representative), Ms Dorothy Hughes (Principal), Ms Joanne Brosnan (Deputy Principal), Ms Ellen Curran (Chairperson, Students' Council), Father William Ryan (Parish Priest, St. Mary's)

Front row, left to right: Sr Imelda Wickham (Presentation Sisters), Sr Mary Jo Sheehy (Mercy Sisters), Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan, Ms Angela Conway (Chairperson, Board of Management), Ms Catherine McCormack (CEIST Trust) photographed in St. Mary's Parish Church on the occasion of the school Feast Day and 25th Anniversary Mass. Absent from photo: Ms Anne Fogarty (Chairperson, Parents' Council).

After Mass Bishop Cullinan met students and parishioners outside the church, and then he kindly returned for photographs with the First Year students and some of the invited guests.

We are most grateful to Father John Harris, our School Chaplain, who worked so hard with us to ensure that everything was thoroughly prepared for this significant occasion.



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## St Joseph's Rush participates in 4th Cycle Against Suicide Student Leaders' Congress

Monday 14th March 2016



Stars of Irish broadcasting, sport, music, member of the Garda Síochána and PSNI came together with **Minister Jimmy Deenihan** to support this unique student event themed '**Together we can**'.

Pupils of St Joseph's Rush were afforded a unique opportunity to attend a special daylong event hosted by Cycle Against Suicide, on Thursday, January 14th, 2016 at the RDS Dublin, to promote positive mental health in schools and communities across the island of Ireland.

The Student Leaders' Congress, which saw 4,000 students from over 100 schools, was aptly themed '**Together we can**' (a theme selected by Cycle Against Suicide Student Leaders) and sought to remind students, that **it's ok not to feel ok; and it's absolutely ok to ask for help**.

Students of St Joseph's, not only participated in a carefully choreographed, high energy experience, but also showcased their own project work which they designed and created around the event's theme. The Congress demonstrates, in a very special way, the value to students of appreciating their own mental wellbeing.

Cycle Against Suicide module is run with Transition Year students. The aim of the module is to make students more aware about their mental health and to promote positive mental health among the general student population.

Link teacher Anne Kinsella said, "Our school was privileged to participate in this unique student experience hosted by Cycle Against Suicide and we were honoured to showcase our school's work at this national event.

The impact of this type of activity is far reaching, not just in our schools, but also in the community at large. The atmosphere in the RDS today has been phenomenal "



The Student Leaders' Congress seeks to highlight the importance of promoting positive mental health practices in schools and communities. There is also an opportunity for students to interact with mental health organisations exhibiting on the day thereby informing the students of all the different help and support available to them, if and when it is needed.

MC'd by former Rose of Tralee **Maria Walsh**, 2FMs **Louise Mc Sharry** and **Colm Hayes**, the event featured interviews and discussions with high profile Cycle Against Suicide ambassadors, including Cork camogie player **Ashling Thompson**, adventure athlete and professional speaker **Mark Pollock**, Irish Rugby star **Niamh Briggs**, and **Joanne O'Riordan** (No limbs, No Limits). Walking on Cars, Heathers, Jerry Fish, and The High Hopes Choir all provided entertainment for the 4,000 students present.

Cycle Against Suicide founder Jim Breen said: "We held our first ever Student event in March 2013 at RTE's studios. There were 40 student leaders in attendance that day. This year we have just filled the RDS with 4,000 students from more than 100 schools.

This is now the biggest youth mental health event of its kind in the world. Each year over the two weeks of our annual Cycle, we give presentations in schools, colleges and universities all around the island of Ireland and we witness how hugely responsive students are to the message that **it's ok not to feel ok; and it's absolutely ok to ask for help**.

Today is a very special event as it is tailored exclusively to young people and we are delighted to have such high profile guests in attendance to encourage our students to appreciate their mental wellbeing."

Web: [www.cycleagainstsuicide.com](http://www.cycleagainstsuicide.com)

Twitter: [@CASuicide](https://twitter.com/CASuicide)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CycleAgainstSuicide](https://www.facebook.com/CycleAgainstSuicide)



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## St. Brigid's Killarney Scoop Top Award!

Wednesday 9th March 2016



The County Final of the Kerry County Council Annual Student Enterprise Awards was held on Friday 4th March in the Institute of Technology, Tralee.

Outstanding participation levels saw 60 mini-businesses being set up by over 200 second level school students involved in the competition.

St. Brigid's Secondary School, Killarney won the most Enterprising School Award for its work in fostering entrepreneurship within the school and was presented with the Cantillon Perpetual Cup.

Well done to all the students involved and their business teachers, Ms. Aisling Coffey and Ms. Noreen McAuliffe.



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## Pres Ballingarry Students Perfect Pitch Secures Funding for Senior Citizen's Trip

Friday 26th February 2016

Congratulations to [Young Social Innovator](#) (YSI) reps from Presentation Secondary School, Ballingarry, Thurles, Co. Tipperary who did a fantastic pitch on Thursday 25th at the Young Social Innovators Den.

The students received €850 to bring senior citizens from the parish on a mystery tour in May.

After costing bus hire and restaurants the students calculated that €750 would cover costs for 30 seniors, the students and teacher Mrs Regan would cover their own costs.

The panel of three judges were so impressed with the student's pitch that they gave an extra €100 to cover student's costs.

Students will attend YSI "speak out" next week in Limerick and the whole school community, together with parents and Ballingarry's Senior Citizens are excited about this wonderful project and are wishing them well and are very proud of the students involved in this project.



Pictured above L-R are YSI Student Reps Caoimhe Ryan, Patrick Walton, Katie Cleere and Aidan Mullally.

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## Sacred Heart Secondary School Drogheda School News

Monday 7th March 2016

Fiona Cairns, [Sacred Heart Secondary School Drogheda](#) Public Relations Co-Ordinator, has kindly shared the following student news with CEIST.

### Regional Finalists A.I.B. Build a Bank Competition

Congratulations to our Transition Year 'Chitty Chitty Bank Bank' as they have qualified for the National A.I.B. Build a Bank Challenge which will take place on 21st April, 2016.



Pictured above Carenza Rock - Bank Manager, Bronagh James- Assistant Bank Manager, Gemma Corboy - Customer Services Representative, Aisling Haigney - Digital officer, Zoe Mohan - Sales and Marketing Executive and Abigail O'Neill - Financial Controller.

### Sacred Heart Under 16s Gaelic Leinster Champions!



On Friday, 26th February, our under 16s Gaelic Football Team travelled to Bray, County Wicklow to take part in the School Gaelic Leinster Finals. They travelled in a team of nearly 30 girls. The opposing team was a team from Loreto in Gorey, Co. Wexford. Our team consisted of girls from a variety of local Gaelic clubs.

The match got off to a great start with equal possession of the ball for both teams. The girls tackled well, and kept the score almost level for the duration of the first half, with only 1 point in it at half time: 1-4 to 1-5, but unfortunately the opposition were ahead.

The second half started off very well, as Sacred Heart scored a quick goal in the first few minutes. However the opposition equalised soon after, making it a very close game once again. After a long battle, it was the Sacred Heart team who came out on top and won the Leinster Final by a single point!

**Final Score: 4-5 to 3-7**

Our very own Laura Downey was also chosen as Player of the Match after she played an outstanding game. Scorers:

- Aoife Lenihan – 2pts
- Lana Devine – 1 pt
- Caoimhe McPeake – 1pt
- Alison Boyle – 1 goal
- Jill Kenny – 1 goal
- Deanna McGowan – 1pt 1 goal

Thank you to Shane Lennon, former Louth County Star and Development Coach, for coming to the Sacred Heart on Friday, 04 March, and presenting the team with their Leinster Under 16s Medals.

### Goal Schools Development Education Workshop



On the morning of the 3rd of February 2016, Louise Merrigan, a representative volunteer from GOAL, and her colleague Aliyah, a native Syrian who works with GOAL, gave an informative workshop on the topic of conflict in the Transition Year classes in The Sacred Heart School.

The Transition Years had previously attended a talk given by Louise before Christmas and had presented Louise with a cheque for €1,550 which was raised from our Jersey Day on 15th October, 2015 in aid of the Syrian Refugee Crisis. They expressed such an interest in the subject that they asked GOAL to return again.

The workshop began with an interesting brainstorm about conflict and how it can affect the lives of various groups of people within the country of conflict, Syria, and in other parts of the world. The girls got stuck in and began to discuss among themselves about how conflict can drastically change someone's life so quickly.

One of the most unique and intriguing experiences was hearing from Aliyah, a Syrian herself. She gave a vivid picture of life back home and how this conflict has changed lives so suddenly. The students were captivated as we see this issue posted on T.V, the internet and in newspapers, but to hear from someone who has experienced this conflict at first hand was definitely an eye opening experience. The girls became more clued in and more curious about the happenings in Syria, Then Louise showed a striking and emotive video.

The video displayed a drone flying over the once prosperous, atmospheric and lively city of Homs. Jaws dropped and heads shook at the images and sights the girls had just seen. A dormant, destroyed and ghost-like, fallen city filled the screen. After the siege of Homs, a busy city only fifteen minutes away from Aliyah's home town, countless lives and homes had been lost and the city left to rot. It was something like you would see in a horror film. Whispers filled the room and the girls discussed how something has to be done to stop this. It put everything the girls had heard about, read about and seen into perspective.

The next part of the workshop involved discussing conflict more close to home. We tend to forget that we too have experienced some conflict. Louise read out some headlines from "The Troubles" and to the students' surprise they sounded a lot like the headlines we read about today concerning various other conflict-filled parts of the world.

To finish the workshop the girls were separated into teams to place the most important needs during a conflict to the least important needs in a conflict in a descending line. This was an extremely difficult task to complete. When put into this position it's challenging to differentiate what you would class as a top priority need when there are so many basic rights and needs. Lastly, the girls discussed some ideas and projects in order to raise money for GOAL and to also raise more awareness about the Syrian Crisis.

"Overall, we had an enjoyable and eye-opening morning that drastically changed our views on the conflict in Syria and encouraged us to make others much more aware about this crisis that requires our urgent help. Thank you, Louise, Aliyah and our teacher, Ms. Austin."

Please follow this link to learn more about the wonderful work GOAL does to help communities around the world. Thank you.  
<https://www.goalglobal.org/>

### Sacred Heart School Drogheda - Digital Champions

The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources has developed a new initiative, The School Digital Champion programme, with the support of the Department of Education and Skills.

This initiative is in line with the National Digital Strategy and the recently launched Digital Strategy for Schools.

This optional programme will provide students with opportunities to engage with some of the leading technology companies, to be recognised for their skills and to showcase their digital achievements on a national platform.

Our School Digital Champions, Caoimhe Judge, Jill Kenny, Clara Moroney, Emily Costigan and Rebecca Connor, took part in a training day in Galway on Thursday, 4th February, 2016.

Workshops covered Web Design, App Development and Video Editing.

Students were accompanied by Mrs. Mitchell and Ms. L. Shanahan. A very informative day was enjoyed by all.



### Junior Certificate Business Studies Award for Excellence



Congratulations to four of our students, Rachel Milsom, Abby O'Neill, Caoimhe Judge and Orla Butler on receiving their Awards for Excellence in Junior Certificate Business Studies 2015.

Mrs. Ann Mitchell (Teacher) and Orla Butler (Student) accepted the award on behalf of the Sacred Heart School in recognition of the successful Junior Certificate results achieved.

The event took place on Tuesday 9th February at the N.U.I. Maynooth Presentation Ceremony for Excellence in Junior Certificate Business Studies 2015.

Our Principal, Ms Carroll, presented the girls with their awards during assembly on Monday, 29th February.

Congratulations also to the teachers in the Sacred Heart School's Business Department.

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## St. Mary's Mallow at the Green Schools Expo

Tuesday 1st March 2016



On Thursday 25th February the Green Schools Committee from St. Mary's Secondary School, Mallow attended the first ever Green Schools Expo in the RDS in Dublin.

Twelve primary and twelve secondary schools from all over Ireland were selected to showcase the work of their Green Schools Committees and St. Mary's were one of the selected schools.

The students at St. Mary's are working towards their Green Flag for Litter & Waste which they are hoping to obtain this school year.

As a result of their efforts, general waste in the school has been reduced by 33% and recycling in the school has increased by 17% in one year.

President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina paid the students of St. Mary's a visit at their stand at the Green Schools Expo.

President Higgins was highly impressed by the bin that the student made entirely out of plastic bottles as part of their campaign about the environmental impact of single-use plastic bottles.

(Thanks to Aisling O Connor, Green Schools Co-ordinator, St Mary's Mallow for sharing above article).



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## Our Lady of Mercy College Beaumont Student Achievements

Thursday 10th March 2016

School Principal, Ms. Rose Mary Lynch, kindly shared news of recent student achievements in the school.

### DCU Academic Scholarship



Fiona Boyle, LC 2015 receives an Academic Scholarship from DCU based on her excellent Leaving Certificate results.

She is pictured above with Prof. John Costello, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Health, Prof. Brian Mac Craith, DCU President and Ms. Rose Mary Lynch, School Principal.

### School Show



Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont went Back to the Eighties in style on March 2nd & 3rd.

TY students under the wonderful guidance of their teachers put on a wonderful show.

There was lots of talent on display in the high energy performance.

The students did themselves proud and the school thanks all those involved.