



news from ceist...

20 December 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



Beannachtaí na Nollag

On behalf of everyone here in the CEIST office, I would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

I also want to thank you for all the work you have done this year on behalf of the students in our CEIST schools.

2017 will bring plenty of new challenges but I hope it also brings you happiness and good health.

Every good wish,

Dr. Marie Griffin.



CEIST News



Principal Regional Network Meetings

CEIST held five Principal Regional Network Meetings during November and December and were delighted with the attendance at the meetings.

The seminars provided a great opportunity for networking amongst CEIST school Principals and we thank all for giving up some of their valuable time to attend the meetings.

We are very grateful to Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Mercy College Sligo, Coláiste an Chroí Naofa, Carraig na bhFear and Coláiste Muire Ennis for hosting the meetings in their schools.

Coláiste Bríde Enniscorthy E-Newsletter

Click [here](#) to view the latest edition of the Coláiste Bríde Digital News Update.

Energy Wise

Click [here](#) to view the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland School Ezine for December 2016.

Advent

Check out the following [Advent resources](#) kindly shared by Anna Maloney, Post Primary Diocesan Advisor, Dublin Archdiocese.

CEIST Reflection Day

Click [here](#) to download the CEIST Reflection Day Booklet for Senior Students.

Thank You!

Thank You to all who contributed to our website and e-news articles throughout the year and for copying CEIST on your tweets.

Follow CEIST on Twitter

Make sure to follow [CEIST on Twitter](#) for the latest news snippets from the Trust and our schools.

Don't Forget



CEIST Bake-Off

Preparations for the third All-Ireland CEIST Bake-Off are now underway for the week of March 6, 2017.

Currently, many schools are running their own bake-off to choose entrants for the All-Ireland Final in Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Athy.

To enter, simply submit a photo of your chosen entrants' cake along with the entry form.

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CESI Conference 2017

The 2017 annual conference of the Computers in Education Society of Ireland (CESI) will take place on Saturday 4th March at the St. Patrick's Campus of Dublin City University.

The theme for this year's conference is **"Making Connections: transformation through technology and teamwork"**.

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News from CEIST Schools



Christmas in The Mercy

[Scoil Bhríde](#), Mercy Secondary School, Tuam, Co. Galway, students are doing great work for their community.

Christmas hampers were prepared by each class for St Vincent de Paul that will go to families less well off.

Also Scoil Bhríde 5th and 6th years dressed up and went to the local nursing home on the 16th December to bring some cheer to all that are there!

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Sockmas in St. Brigid's Secondary School Killarney

The Student Council Of St. Brigid's Secondary School Killarney organised SOCKMAS on the 7th December 2016 in aid of Temple Street Children's Hospital.

Students and staff embraced SOCKMAS to the full and wore fluffy socks, slippers or Christmas socks/slippers in school.

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Coláiste Bríde Enniscorthy Mental Health Initiative

Students from Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy, were delighted to be joined by Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People, Helen McEntee TD, for the launch of their new mental health awareness booklet and website [www.iamworthit.ie](#).

The CEO of CEIST, Dr. Marie Griffin, was also in attendance at the launch and presented Coláiste Bríde with an Amber Flag in recognition of the student council's outstanding work in promoting positive mental health.

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Presentation College Athenry TY Students Assist Team Hope

Over 100 shoe boxes were collected by Presentation College Athenry TY students and were delivered to the sorting centre in Galway where students assisted in carrying out quality control checks on donated items before packing the boxes securely for their journey overseas to those less fortunate.

The students helped ensure so many children receive a gift of hope this Christmas.

Well done to all involved.

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National Science Award for St. Joseph's Castlebar Students

A 2nd year science class in St Joseph's Secondary School, Castlebar, Co. Mayo have been announced as the overall winners in the National Saffron Science Competition for 2016.

This year, entrants were asked to create a 3 minute video around the question 'How science and technology can make managing transportation safer?'

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Official Opening at Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore

The official opening of the extended and refurbished school building by Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Richard Bruton, on 25th November 2016 was an occasion of immense pride and satisfaction for the Principal and school community at Our Lady's.

The ceremony marked the culmination of over a decade of painstaking planning, detailed preparation and careful execution by those involved in the multi-million-euro project.

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Our Lady's College Greenhills Past Students Receive Scholar Awards in UCD

On Wednesday 16th November a hush fell over the gathering in UCD's O'Reilly Hall as the dignitaries entered the hall.

The academics took the stage and welcomed the new entrance scholars to the university.

All the students gathered were being recognised for their high academic achievement in the Leaving Certificate in June 2016.

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Music News from Sacred Heart Secondary School Tullamore

The following are some updates from Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore, Music Department, which were kindly shared by Regina McCarty, Music Teacher and choir/orchestra conductor and teacher Siobhan Keogh.

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7 Scholarship Awards in 2016 for Our Lady's Castleblayney Students

Congratulations are extended to 7 past pupils of Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney who were awarded scholarships for 2016.

These prestigious Scholarships are awarded to students who have achieved excellence in their Leaving Cert results.

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Coláiste na Toirbhirte Bandon School Musical

Coláiste na Toirbhirte Bandon held a very enjoyable school musical recently and the following are some photos from the show.

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CEIST All-Ireland Bake-Off - Latest news

Thursday 8th December 2016

Sponsored by [Odlums](#)

Hosted by [Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Athy](#)

Preparations for the third All-Ireland [CEIST Bake-Off](#) are now underway for the week of March 6, 2017.

The competition has grown in interest and entries since its inception in 2014/2015.

From last year the scope has been expanded to include a junior and a senior competition.

The junior section is an open competition while the theme for the senior section this year is "Mother Nature".

Currently, many schools are running their own bake-off to choose entrants for the All-Ireland Final in Ardscoil na Tríonóide.

To enter, simply submit a photo of your chosen entrants' cake along with the entry form.



Pictured above are 2nd year students from Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Athy, Co. Kildare who baked and decorated mini Christmas cakes.

All schools have been notified and we have had a wonderful response from schools registering their interest in the competition.

Schools who have registered will be sent entry forms immediately after Christmas which must be returned to us by **Monday 6th February 2017**.

We are looking forward to welcoming the 2017 All-Ireland CEIST Bake-Off finalists to Athy in March 2017.



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2017: "Making Connections: transformation through technology and teamwork"



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4th March 2017 : DCU St. Patrick's Campus

[>> CONFERENCE TIMETABLE/PROGRAMME <<](#)

The 2017 annual **conference** of the Computers in Education Society of Ireland (CESI) will take place on **Saturday 4th March** at the **St. Patrick's Campus of Dublin City University**. The conference will be preceded by the now-traditional **TeachMeet CESI** event, which will be held on the evening of **Friday 3rd March** at the **Regency Hotel**, Dublin 9.

Conference Theme

The teachers of Ireland constantly seek to improve the teaching and learning experiences both in and outside of formal lessons through the integration of digital technologies. The recent (October 2016) ESRI report *Teaching and Learning in Second-Level Schools at the Advent of High-Speed Broadband*, for instance, outlines that school principals and teachers see a wide array of benefits of ICT on student learning. These include enhanced student participation and achievement, greater collaboration among students, meeting diverse student needs, and allowing greater differentiation and tailoring of approach. It also highlights the importance of "promoting collaboration, within and across schools and teachers" (p.140).

This idea of collaboration and connections with regard to digital technologies is also evident in a number of recent policy documents. For instance, the *Digital Strategy for Schools 2015-2020* outlines that "a number of education reform initiatives are underway to ensure our education system can meet the challenges of the 21st century [and that] this reform programme targets Early Years Education right through to higher education and further education and training" (p.15). Elsewhere, the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning's *Roadmap For Enhancement In A Digital World 2015-2017* recommends that a "multi-level approach to foster digital literacy, skills and confidence among students at all levels of education needs to be developed".

This important concept of making connections between the many participants, partners, players and pioneers at all levels of education (formal and informal) has been at the heart of CESI's mission since its inception in 1973 (for instance, the CESI Mailing List with its 1,600 members). To that end, we are delighted to announce that the theme for our annual conference in 2017 will be **Making Connections: transformation through technology and teamwork**. The conference will provide an opportunity for the sharing of approaches, of ideas that have worked and those that have failed – indeed some of the best learning comes from this – and for those that are 'works in progress'. Conversations around common interests, learning from each other, making connections with people we wouldn't otherwise meet – all are part of the wealth of this much anticipated annual event.

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.

TeachMeet CESI (#tmcesi)

The conference will be preceded by the now-traditional **TeachMeet CESI** event, which will be held on the evening of **Friday 3rd March** at the **Regency Hotel**, Dublin 9. The Call for Presenters for #tmcesi is now open and can be found at <http://www.cesi.ie/conference-2017-teachmeet/>. The **closing date for submissions** is **Friday 10th February 2017**.

Image: <https://pixabay.com/en/board-circuit-control-center-780323/> (CC0 Public Domain)



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Christmas in The Mercy

Monday 19th December 2016

[Scoil Bhríde](#), Mercy Secondary School, Tuam, Co. Galway, students are doing great work for their community.

Christmas hampers were prepared by each class for St Vincent de Paul that will go to families less well off.

Also Scoil Bhríde 5th and 6th years dressed up and went to the local nursing home on the 16th December to bring some cheer to all that are there!

Well done to all.





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Coláiste Bríde Enniscorthy Mental Health Initiative

Tuesday 20th December 2016

Students from Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy, were delighted to be joined by Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People, Helen McEntee TD, for the launch of their new mental health awareness booklet and website www.iamworthit.ie.

The CEO of CEIST, Dr. Marie Griffin, was also in attendance at the launch and presented Coláiste Bríde with an Amber Flag in recognition of the student council's outstanding work in promoting positive mental health.

The launch was the culmination of a year of hard work from the Coláiste Bríde student council who deserve huge praise for their devotion and determination in relation to this project. This was echoed by Minister McEntee who told local radio that "the teachers and students should be rightly proud of their achievement".

The student council became aware that local mental health support information was not readily available for or specifically aimed at teenagers and vowed to take action to promote a greater awareness of mental health services available in Wexford.

As a result, they have produced "I am Worth it", a thirty- two page booklet promoting positive mental health and a supporting website which mirrors the booklet. The word Worth in the title "I am Worth it" stands for "Wexford Offers Reliable Teenage Help".

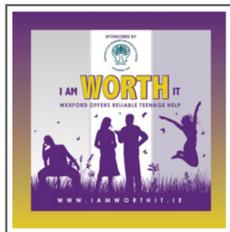
Apart from developing the booklet, the student council also held fundraisers and raised sponsorship to cover the cost of graphic design, printing and development of the website. The booklet is in the process of being distributed to 13,000 teenagers in every post primary school in Wexford.

The importance of this initiative has resulted in visits to the school from the local newspapers, South East Radio and Beat FM.

However, the visit of RTE to talk to the student council and the subsequent broadcast on the youth programme, News2Day, has brought national recognition for this wonderful achievement. <https://twitter.com/rtenews/status/809480707147841536>

There was a brilliant atmosphere in the school throughout the 'I am Worth it' positive mental health week that preceded the launch.

Whole-school activities such as drop-n-dance, sensory walks, skipping, meditation, yoga, knit-n-natter and suicide awareness talks brought mental health awareness to the fore and helped break down the taboo around talking about mental health.



Photos



Pictured above Dr. Marie Griffin presenting the school with the Amber Flag.



Student Emily Boyne addresses the crowd.



Pictured above Minister Helen McEntee with the student council.



Pictured above Minister Helen McEntee making her address to the large gathering.



Principal Kiera O'Sullivan addressing the crowd.



I am Worth it Website.



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Presentation College Athenry TY Students Assist Team Hope

Tuesday 29th November 2016

Jason Cotter has kindly shared the following news from [Presentation College Athenry](#).

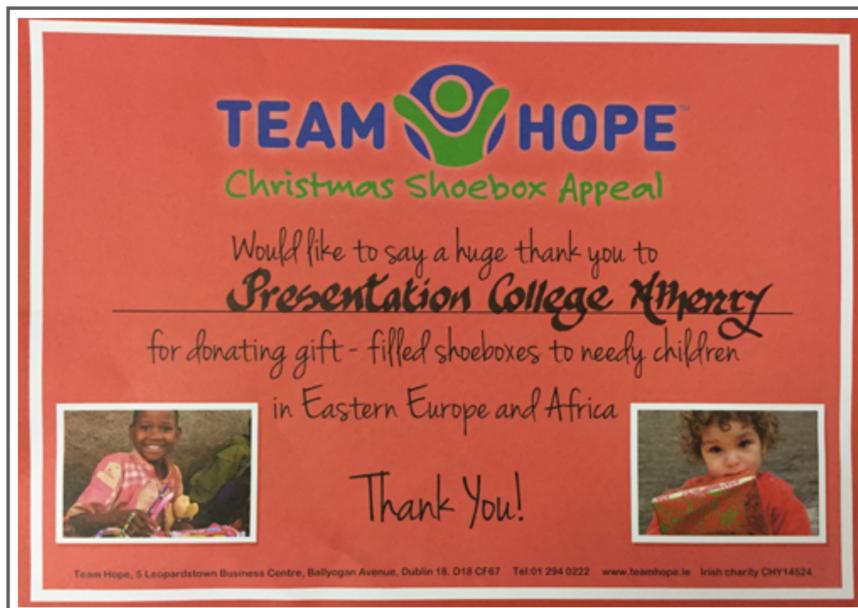
Team Hope News

We thank all of those who contributed to our Christmas Shoe Box Appeal this year.

Over 100 shoe boxes were collected by our TY students and were delivered to the sorting centre in Galway where our students assisted in carrying out quality control checks on donated items before packing the boxes securely for their journey overseas to those less fortunate.

You have helped ensure so many children receive a gift of hope this Christmas.

Well done to all involved.





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National Science Award for St. Joseph's Castlebar Students

Friday 2nd December 2016



A 2nd science class in St Joseph's Secondary School, Castlebar, Co. Mayo have been announced as the overall winners in the National Saffron Science Competition for 2016.

This year, entrants were asked to create a 3 minute video around the question 'How science and technology can make managing transportation safer?'

The girls focused on the vulnerable road user, the pedestrian, and developed a prototype of lights embedded in the ground at pedestrian crossings, to enhance the safety of the pedestrian.

This competition aims to promote the practical application of science in secondary schools.

The panel of judges from ITS Ireland and eFlow, sponsors of the competition, praised the quality of research, innovation and production of the winning entry.

The forward thinking students who claimed first place have won an astounding prize of a 3 day class trip to the European Space Centre, Belgium in January 2017.



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Official Opening at Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore

Wednesday 30th November 2016

The official opening of the extended and refurbished school building by Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Richard Bruton, on 25th November 2016 was an occasion of immense pride and satisfaction for the Principal and school community at Our Lady's.

The ceremony marked the culmination of over a decade of painstaking planning, detailed preparation and careful execution by those involved in the multi-million-euro project.

The ceremony commenced with a blessing of the new extension by Archbishop, Dr. Kieran O'Reilly. During the ceremony Fr. Dominic Meehan and Fr. Joe Walsh blessed the new school logo which was designed by Mr. Shane Cody in collaboration with students and staff of Our Lady's.

The magnificent new school extension includes; three science laboratories, two woodwork rooms, two spacious new multi-media laboratories, an art room, a design and communication graphics room, an engineering room, a music room, a mathematics room, a social studies room, three classrooms and a fitness suite.

The new section also houses the school's administration block, a demonstration room and a spacious open-plan social area leading on to a large paved courtyard.

The completed school, designed to cater for 600 students, provides a thoroughly modern learning environment, equipped to the highest specification, with high speed broadband connectivity and wifi access throughout the school.

Addressing the large audience of students, staff and invited guests assembled in the school Gym for the opening ceremony,

Minister Bruton said he was delighted to be present on such a historic occasion for the school and for Templemore.

He expressed sincere gratitude to students and staff at Our Lady's for the wonderful welcome which he received.

He paid tribute to Ms. Higgins, Duggan Brothers Ltd, the Design Team and the entire school community, saying that the new school bore testimony to the vision, commitment and hard work of everyone involved.

In her address Ms Higgins expressed her delight that the finished project was such a great success.

She thanked the Contractor, Duggan Brothers Ltd and the Design Team (RKD Architects, Noel Lawlor Consulting Engineers, Hayes Higgins Partnership and Nollag Mac Namara), for their commitment to the project and for completing the extensive building to the highest standard.

The project was delivered on time and with maximum efficiency.

Ms Higgins paid special tribute to the Sisters of Mercy and the Christian Brothers whose commitment to education and investment in educational infrastructure over many years in Templemore had made the current development possible.

In conclusion, Ms Higgins thanked parents/guardians, students and staff of the school for their support and patience during a very busy couple of years.

(Article and photos kindly shared to CEIST by school Principal, Ms. Patricia Higgins).



Pictured above Archbishop, Dr. Kieran O'Reilly with Principal, Patricia Higgins and students and staff.



Blessing of the logo in Our Lady's Templemore.



Guard of Honour by students for the Minister Bruton.



Minister Bruton Addressing the large audience of students, staff and invited guests.





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Our Lady's College Greenhills Past Students Receive Scholar Awards in UCD

Friday 2nd December 2016

On Wednesday 16th November a hush fell over the gathering in UCD's O'Reilly Hall as the dignitaries entered the hall.

The academics took the stage and welcomed the new entrance scholars to the university.

All the students gathered were being recognised for their high academic achievement in the Leaving Certificate in June 2016.

The parents and school principals watched and applauded the students as they received their scholarship certificates.

Our Lady's College had three student scholars this year. They are Aine Kerrisk, Kate Shevlin and Megan Smith.

All three girls achieved wonderful grades in their Leaving Certificate exams and are now starting their college careers in UCD.

We are very proud of their achievements and wish them every success in their future studies and careers.

McManus All Ireland Scholarship Awards



Pictured above Megan Smith who received the McManus All Ireland Scholarship Awards on the 19th September.

On Saturday 19th November Megan Smith joined a very elite group of students who have won the McManus All Ireland scholarship.

This scholarship recognises excellence in academic achievement in the Leaving Certificate exams.

Paul O'Connell and Minister for Education and Skills were present at the awards ceremony.



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Music News from Sacred Heart Secondary School Tullamore

Wednesday 7th December 2016

The following are some updates from Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore, Music Department, which were kindly shared by Regina McCarty, Music Teacher and choir/orchestra conductor and teacher Siobhan Keogh.

National Youth Orchestra of Ireland



Congratulations to sisters Ellen and Clodagh Reilly (pictured above) who, following very competitive auditions, have been selected for the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland.

They will participate in an intensive week of rehearsals in January culminating in a performance in the National Concert Hall, Dublin.

Under the baton of Gearoid Grant the girls will perform repertoire from Brahms, Saint-Saens and Shostakovich.

This will be followed by a summer course specialising in repertoire from Ravel, Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev under the baton of American conductor Ilych Rivas. We wish Ellen and Clodagh all the best. Enjoy the experience!

Harvest Festival Broadcast



In September, to celebrate the Ploughing Championships coming to Tullamore, our Senior Choir (pictured above) performed in a live 'Harvest Festival' broadcast from St. Catherine's Church in Tullamore.

On this occasion some past choir and orchestra members performed with the girls.

DIOCESAN CAROL CONCERT



Recently our Junior and Senior Choir members performed at a concert in the Church of the Assumption, Tullamore.

Under the direction of Ms. Regina McCarthy and accompanied by Loreta Mackelaite the students entertained the congregation with such favourites as 'Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire', 'White Christmas' and 'Carol of the Bells', among others.

It was indeed a night to remember!



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Coláiste na Toirbhirte Bandon School Musical

Tuesday 13th December 2016

Coláiste na Toirbhirte Bandon held a very enjoyable school musical recently and the following are some photos from the show.





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Emma receives scholarship to DCU

Monday 12th December 2016

Congratulations are extended to Emma McShane, a recent past pupil of Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney who was awarded a scholarship to DCU.

The college award these prestigious Scholarships to students of St Patrick's Drumcondra who have achieved in excess of 570 points and bring with it a bursary of €1000.

Emma who is a daughter of Sean and Christina M Shane, Tullynamalroe, Loughmourne, Castleblayney, is studying Primary Teaching in St Patrick's Drumcondra DCU campus.

Emma's achievement brings the number of scholarships awarded to Our Lady's students for 2016 to seven.

Four students, Zoe Flack, Eoin McKearney, Andrew McMahon & Kavisha Yatagampitiya were awarded scholarships to UCD while Kavisha also received the prestigious JP McManus national scholarship.

Next up was Stephen McMahon who achieved an entrance scholarship to Trinity while Emma's award to DCU brings the total to 7 so far.

Sports scholarships for the year totalled 2 with Nadine Rice receiving a basketball scholarship to Limerick Institute of Technology while Micheal Bannigan secured an elite sports scholarship to DCU.

Speaking at the school during the week, Principal Mr Eddie Kelly 'as a school we are very proud of Emma's achievement, she was an excellent student and a fantastic role model for her peers and the younger students in the school and we wish her every success and happiness in her studies at third level.

We are justifiably proud of the Leaving Cert class of 2016 who notched up a total of 9 scholarships all of which were presented on the basis of excellence and high achievement in the academics and sport.

As a school we have consistently shown that we can achieve the necessary balance between the academics and extra-curricular with our students performing at a high standard in State Examinations while simultaneously performing at a very high level in their chosen areas of extra-curricular interest.

In recent years our high results in the State Examinations and university scholarships have been accompanied by national titles in the areas of music and science, regional and provincial titles in sport as well as various drama productions all of which enhances the educational experience offered at Our Lady's.

I would like to pay tribute to the outstanding work of our teachers who as well as providing our students with a top class education also go above and beyond the call of duty to give our students as many experiences and opportunities as possible outside the classroom.'



Pictured above at the presentation of Entrance Scholarships in DCU is Emma McShane who was the recipient of this prestigious scholarship, having achieved excellence in her Leaving Cert. She is pictured here with Principal of Our Lady's, Mr Eddie Kelly.'