



## news from ceist...

07 April 2017

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 2017

The third annual CEIST Student Leadership Conference took place on Tuesday 14th March 2017.

We were delighted that students from 76 of our 107 schools were represented at the event which took place again in the DCU Institute of Education, Drumcondra formerly known as St. Patrick's College.

The day began at 10am when students were addressed by the Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, who kindly called in to launch proceedings.

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### CEIST News

#### Religious education is a lived subject

The following is an article from the Irish Catholic by Aoife Kehoe, student in Colaiste Bride, Enniscorthy.

Aoife has written about the benefits of studying Religious Education.

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#### April Religious Education Resources

The following resources were very kindly shared by Anna Maloney, Post Primary Diocesan Advisor, Dublin Archdiocese.

#### Prayer for Holy Week

With this [Prayer](#) for Holy Week, we wish the CEIST community every blessing as we journey towards the Risen Christ of Easter Sunday.

#### CEIST Schools Bake Off 2017

There was a great attendance on Friday 10th March, 2017 for the final of the CEIST Bake Off which took place in Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Athy, Co. Kildare.

This was the 3rd year running of the event and with the volume of interest and large amount of entries it was decided to run a Junior and Senior Competition again for 2017.

From the initial entries seven finalists were selected for each category by Catherine Leyden of Odlums.

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### News from CEIST Schools

#### St Joseph's Secondary School Tulla Win Model E.U. Council Debate

Congratulations to St Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla, Co. Clare students on their great win in the Model E.U. Council debate in Dublin Castle on Friday March 10th.

The following is a report taken from the school website on their great achievement.

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#### Cnoc Mhuire Granard's Spirit of Mercy Award

The Spirit of Mercy Award was introduced in Cnoc Mhuire, Granard, Co. Longford 6 years ago to celebrate the ideals of founding Sister Catherine McAuley.

It rewards students who contribute to the spiritual, emotional and caring aspects of life at home and in school.

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#### Buaiteoirí - An Chraobh Náisiúnta de Chomórtas Fiontraíochta na Scoileanna Iarbhuíochais

Táimid ar fad thar a bheith bhródúil as grúpa ón Idirbhliain agus as a múinteoir Mairéad Uí Dhiollúin, atá tar éis an chéad duais a fháil sa chraobh náisiúnta de Chomórtas Fiontraíochta na Scoileanna Iarbhuíochais.

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#### Our Lady's College Galway - A Get Going - Get Rowing Success Story

Our Lady's College Galway, has engaged with Get Going... Get Rowing from the very start in Connacht and grown from strength to strength ever since.

A hugely supportive and cooperative relationship was forged with Galway Rowing Club and, together, both the programme and the club have worked hand in hand with the school to the point of the school now affiliating as a club with Rowing Ireland.

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#### Pope John Paul II Awards - Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School Drimnagh

Since last year Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Drimnagh through the RE team of Mr. Jenkins and Ms. Irwin, have had over 80 of its present 4th and 5th year students participating in the Dublin Dioceses' Pope John Paul II Awards.

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#### St. Brigid's Killarney Stay Mellow With Yellow

THERE was a host of golden daffodils along the corridors and in the classrooms of St Brigid's Presentation Secondary School, Killarney, Co. Kerry last Friday 23rd March where the staff and students held their annual Daffodil Day fundraiser in aid of the Irish Cancer Society.

Yellow was the theme of the day to raise awareness of the worthy cause and students and staff wore their most vibrant sunshine-like attire with prizes for the best dressed.

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#### CEIST Schools Enjoy Great Success on the GAA Fields!

CEIST schools have made the headlines for Gaelic Football recently with some noteworthy achievements.

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#### Calasanz College Oranmore Book Launch

Calasanz College, Oranmore, Co. Galway is delighted to announce the launch of a collection of short stories and art work, created by the students, in their fifth edition of 'The Book'.

The launch of 'The Book' is a highlight in the Calasanz College calendar and we would be delighted if you could join us for the evening.

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#### Latest News from Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney

The following student news was kindly shared by school Principal, Eddie Kelly.

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#### Latest Student News from Ard Scoil na nDéise Dungarvan

Jennifer O'Keefe, Principal in Ard Scoil na nDéise, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford has shared all the latest student news from her school.

[MORE >](#)

#### News from Coláiste Muire, Ennis

Niamh O'Regan, TY Co-ordinator in [Coláiste Muire, Ennis, Co. Clare](#) has kindly shared the following student news from her school.

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#### Bishop Buckley's visit to St Aloysius Cork

We had the pleasure of a visit by Bishop Buckley on Ash Wednesday to St Aloysius Secondary School, Sharmán Crawford Street, Cork.

Bishop Buckley distributed Ashes to the students and also blessed our newly refurbished home economics kitchen.

[MORE >](#)

#### Scoil Bhríde, Mercy Secondary School, Tuam Easter Service

[Scoil Bhríde, Mercy Secondary School](#), Tuam, Co. Galway held their Easter Service on the 4th April, 2017.

The school remembered in a special way the Tuam mother and baby home and all of the people who are hurting by the loss of others such as the London terrorist attack and the tragedy at Black Sod.

[MORE >](#)

#### The Harty and Croke Cup - An Unforgettable Journey

The following is an account from School Principal, Patricia Higgins, Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore, Co. Tipperary our Hurling Journey this year.

As we bask in the warm afterglow of our epic victory over hurling giants, St. Kieran's College at Semple Stadium on March 25th, the scale of the achievement gradually begins to sink in

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#### Presentation De La Salle College Bagenalstown Win All Ireland Basketball Title!

Congratulations to Presentation De La Salle College, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow on winning the All Ireland Girls U19 B League Basketball title on March 2nd in Tallaght.

This is a fantastic achievement for the girls, well done to all involved in the school!

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#### Latest News from St Joseph's Secondary School, Spanish Point

St Joseph's Secondary School, Spanish Point, Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare has kindly shared their latest student news and photos.

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#### Latest Student News from Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna

John Sims, Deputy Principal, Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna has kindly shared the following school student news.

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## CEIST Student Leadership Conference 2017

Thursday 16th March 2017

The third annual CEIST Student Leadership Conference took place on Tuesday last, 14th March 2017.

We were delighted that students from 76 of our 107 schools were represented at the event which took place again in the DCU Institute of Education, Drumcondra formerly known as St. Patrick's College.

The day began at 10 am when students were addressed by the Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, who kindly called in to launch proceedings.

Nicole Turner a second year pupil in our CEIST school in Portarlinton, Co. Laois and our youngest Paralympian then spoke to the Conference about how she has shown leadership in her own field of swimming.



Nicole pictured above with Justin Brown, School Co-ordinator CEIST and Dr. Marie Griffin, CEO, CEIST represented Ireland at the Paralympics in Rio last year and combines a gruelling training schedule with her school work.

Nicole's ended her address reminding her fellow students of her motto - Dream it, Believe it, Achieve it.

In the second part of the day students were divided up into workshops where they heard students from other CEIST schools make presentations on how they had shown leadership in their own schools.



Pictured above are students from Presentation Secondary School, Waterford with Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, Dr. Gareth Byrne, Senior Lecturer DCU Institute of Education and Director of Mater Dei Centre of Catholic Education, Ruth Gallen, Deputy Principal, Presentation Secondary School, Waterford, Dr. Marie Griffin, CEO, CEIST and Orla Bolger, Teacher, Presentation Secondary School, Waterford.

Later and in the context of Pope Francis message the students explored the theme of 'Caring for our common home' and the impact of climate change on our world.

After lunch the students were addressed by the Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton, who spoke to them about the challenges of being a leader today and how as future leaders they would have to make difficult decisions.

The Minister allowed time for some questions and students asked him about the teaching of Irish in schools as well as the funding of Third Level and student fees.



Pictured above are students from Coláiste Íosagáin, Portarlinton, Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise, St Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk, Scoil Dara, Kilcock and St. Joseph's College, Lucan.

To conclude the day students were treated to a spectacular performance of dance by Amy and Mollyanna from St. Joseph's College, Lucan.

Dr. Gareth Byrne, Senior Lecturer DCU Institute of Education and Director of Mater Dei Centre of Catholic Education led the scattering prayer and the 260 student leaders from our CEIST schools across Ireland returned home after a busy but hopefully enjoyable day.



Pictured above are students from Scoil Bhríde, Mercy Secondary School, Tuam at the CEIST Student Leadership Conference.



Pictured above (LtoR) Bernard Keeley, Chairperson, CEIST Board of Directors, Dr. Amalee Meehan, School Co-ordinator, CEIST, Justin Brown, School Co-ordinator, CEIST, Minister for Education & Skills, Richard Bruton, Dr. Marie Griffin, CEO, CEIST, Catherine McCormack, School Co-ordinator, CEIST, John Woods, ICS Manager, CEIST and Rosemary Greene, Office Secretary, CEIST.

## Student Leadership Conference Photo Gallery

Click [here](#) to view photo gallery from the CEIST Student Leadership Conference 2017.

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## CEIST Schools Bake Off 2017

Monday 20th March 2017

There was a great attendance on Friday 10th March, 2017 for the final of the CEIST Bake Off which took place in Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Athy, Co. Kildare.

This was the 3rd year running of the event and with the volume of interest and large amount of entries it was decided to run a Junior and Senior Competition again for 2017.

From the initial entries seven finalists were selected for each category by Catherine Leyden of Odlums. The finalists were as follows:

### Junior Category

- Sorcha Fogarty - Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore, Co. Tipperary
- Emma Sheehan - Colaiste an Chroí Naofa, Carraig na bhFear, Co.Cork
- Emer Ruddin - Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan
- Ebony Onalimi - Scoil Christí, Borris Rd, Portlaoise, Co. Laois
- Danielle Sanderson - Convent of Mercy, Convent Rd, Roscommon
- Niamh Johnson - Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Rathstewart, Athy, Co. Kildare
- Grainne Julian - Scoil Mhuire agus Padraig, Swinford, Co. Mayo

### Senior Category

- Aoife Vaughan - St. Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla, Co. Clare
- Sinead McWeeney - Meán Scoil Mhuire, Convent Rd, Longford, Co. Longford
- Sinead Meaney - Presentation Secondary School, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork
- Aisling Grehan - Scoil Mhuire, Greenhill, Carrick on Suir, Tipperary
- Breena Grogan - St. Anne's Secondary School, Rosanna Road, Tipperary Town, Co. Tipperary
- Ava Hovendon - Presentation College Athenry, Athenry, Co. Galway
- Michaela Welby - Presentation College Currylea, Tuam, Co. Galway

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

### Junior Category Result

1st - Grainne Julian, Scoil Mhuire agus Padraig, Swinford, Co. Mayo

2nd - Sorcha Fogarty, Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore, Co. Tipperary

3rd - Danielle Sanderson, Convent of Mercy, Convent Rd, Roscommon



Pictured above are the winners of the Junior Category with Catherine Leyden of Odlums.

### Senior Category Result

1st - Aisling Grehan, Scoil Mhuire, Greenhill, Carrick on Suir, Tipperary

2nd - Ava Hovendon, Presentation College Athenry, Athenry, Co. Galway

3rd - Michaela Welby, Presentation College Currylea, Tuam, Co. Galway



Pictured above are the winning seniors from the Bake Off final.

Speaking at the presentation of prizes Catherine Leyden of Odlums 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 Dr. Marie Griffin, CEO, CEIST.

Dr. Griffin complimented the organisers of the competition Margaret Cambie McEvoy and Jacqueline Cooper of Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Athy.

Dr. Griffin also spoke of the importance of the competition in enhancing the CEIST Charter values of Creating Community and Achieving Quality in Teaching and Learning.

She also acknowledged the commitment of the teachers and parents who accompanied the students to this years competition.

In his address the Principal of Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Johnny McCormack, welcomed everyone to the school and highlighted the talents of all the students who baked on the morning.

CEIST would like to acknowledge the contributions of all involved in organising the 2017 Bake Off as well as the teachers and students who entered the competition and Odlums who generously sponsor the competition.

## Three Generations of Catholic Education



Pictured above is Ava Hovendon from [Presentation College Athenry](#), in the presence of her grandmother, her mother AnnMarie (former student of Ard Scoil na Tríonóide, Athy, Co. Kildare) and 2 cousins who are both currently attending Ard Scoil na Tríonóide, Athy, Co. Kildare.

Ava was awarded second prize in the Senior Category, National Final, Ceist Bake Off.



Mother Nature is the theme of her cake. Pictured above the perfect example of a Laudato Sii in the form of a cake, guided by her teacher Mary Joyce.

## Photo Gallery from the CEIST Bake Off Final 2017

Click [here](#) to view more photos from the CEIST Bake Off Final 2017.

# Our Lady's College Galway – A Get Going...Get Rowing Success Story

Monday 3rd April 2017

The below video is an excellent example of how a school, Our Lady's College Galway, has engaged with Get Going... Get Rowing from the very start in Connacht and grown from strength to strength ever since.

The video is primarily about "Showing Racism the Red Card" as part of a national campaign to stamp out racism, but it also has some great footage of the students rowing. A hugely supportive and cooperative relationship was forged with Galway Rowing Club and, together, both the programme and the club have worked hand in hand with the school to the point of the school now affiliating as a club with Rowing Ireland.

All the girls in the video completed the Get Going... Get Rowing programme, some as TY coaches, others as indoors winners at UL Blitzit and the girls shown rowing at St. Michael's Head are all a product of the "Breakfast Row" project that was initiated last year to engage the girls with the water experience before school on Friday mornings from March to the end of school term. They are now the racing 8+ shown in the video and are competing at Commercial and Neptune Regattas this weekend, 1st & 2nd April.

Our Lady's College is Galway's newest secondary school and is a merger of two great Galway institutions, the Presentation and the Mercy School. Catering for more than 500 girls, the new school's motto is 'Excellence Together'. Both schools were fully engaged from the start with Get Going... Get Rowing in Galway in 2014 and since their recent merger into one school, Our Lady's College Galway, the school has grown from strength to strength in terms of rowing development.

The programme has catered for 1st/2nd and TY years every year for the past 3 years from both schools. The programme was embraced by both schools and both PE Teachers at the time, Michelle Muldoon (Mercy) and Orla Madden (Presentation) were huge enthusiasts of the programme and happily walked the girls down on a weekly basis to NUIG Boat Club for indoor rowing sessions in the hail, rain and snow throughout the school year.

The programme took particular traction since a "Breakfast Morning Row" project was commenced last March to fully engage the girls with the sport of rowing and to set down a clear pathway to joining a club. This meant getting a cohort of girls down to the water before school time on a Friday morning at 7am with the school organising a hot breakfast for the girls once they were off the water just before class time. The Breakfast Row project was instigated by Get Going... Get Rowing's Connacht Development Officer, Jen Cunningham who felt the transition and retention to club would be greatly boosted by this project.

This would not have been possible without the support of the two School Principals at the time (Cliona Ní Neill; Presentation School and Brendan Lydon; Mercy School), and without the support and backing of the local Galway Rowing Club (Rory O'Brien; Captain, Mike Gaffney and Owen Diviney).

The Mercy School was instrumental in agreeing to facilitate this project and the Principal kindly arranged to have breakfast ready from the school canteen and set aside for the girls just before class. Subsequently, the majority of these girls kept the "Breakfast Morning Row" up throughout their Junior Cert Exams that summer and have grown from strength to strength and remain training regularly together as a crew now competing this weekend at Neptune and Commercial Regattas and rowing out of GRC.

Special mention must go to the tireless efforts of Charlotte Bennett who is the Rowing Coordinator in Our Lady's College Galway and who has added extra momentum and endless support to the success of Our Lady's College as the newest rowing school in Galway.

Get Going...Get Rowing co-ordinator in Connacht, Jen Cunningham, says it is the biggest success story coming out of the programme in Connacht to date.

Link to YouTube video

<https://youtu.be/wYmRH4vIH20>



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## Religious education is a 'lived' subject

Monday 27th March 2017

The following is an article from the Irish Catholic by Aoife Kehoe, student in Colaiste Bride, Enniscorthy. Aoife has written about the benefits of studying Religious Education.

Religion is an exam subject I experience outside the classroom.



Religious education as an exam subject was first examined in 2008. In 2016, 1320 students throughout Ireland sat the exam.

The curriculum presents ten topics from which students must study four. In my class we studied four divergent and truly engaging themes.

Namely:

1. The search for meaning and values, which examines philosophical and religious answers to the question of the meaning of life.
2. Christianity, origins and contemporary expression. This section profiles the early Christian movement and its influence on contemporary Christian identity.
3. World religions – explores two major religious traditions, ie: Islam and Judaism.
4. Religion and gender – seeks to provide an understanding of the role gender plays in people's religious experience.

Students are also required to complete a research project. My research involved profiling a theologian and a scientist's perspective on climate change.

I've been asked to reflect on my experience of leaving cert exam religion, and notwithstanding my concerns regarding the exam in three month's time my experience has been overwhelmingly positive.

Many commentators on the educational system in Ireland criticise its limitation in terms of the need for rote learning and the lack of opportunities for students to engage in critical thinking. These criticisms cannot be levelled at leaving cert religion. In the search for meaning and values section of the course, I have experienced twenty three opinionated and vocal young women grapple with deep philosophical questions originally posed by famous philosophers.

Here are just samples..... How do we know we exist? (Aristotle).....Can one trust one's sense's? (Plato).....What's the definition of justice? (Socrates) .....Can we prove God's existence? (Aquinas).

I can't proclaim that any of the above questions have been decisively answered by my classmates or indeed by our teacher Mr Kehoe, however it has been a most rewarding and challenging adventure to engage in such a deep reflection on questions that are central to humanities existence.

Religious education is a "lived" subject; it does not exist in a vacuum or within the confines of a textbook. It is a subject that I experience on a daily basis in the world beyond the classroom. My classmates often comment on how relevant the information we learn in class is to the world that surrounds us. Issues that arise in the media are often explored in our class.

We've learned the meaning of concepts such as Atheism, Agnosticism and Secularism. It is quite stimulating to then listen to a debate on radio or TV about the need for the Catholic Church to divest its role in education in Ireland or to read articles in newspapers about the need for pubs to be allowed to open on Good Friday.

In early 2016 Pope Francis in a book entitled "The name of God is mercy", spoke about the need for Christians to treat homosexuals with dignity and mercy. These comments received a significant amount of attention on social media as well as in mainstream media. The attention given to the Pope's statement made me realize how valuable religious education is, since we had spent a number of classes learning about the Catholic Church's response to contemporary social issues.

Had I not chose to study religious education as an exam subject I believe my interest or understanding of many current affair issues would be diminished.

On a more personal level the opportunity to learn in some depth about Jesus and his message has strengthened my faith. I have learnt a great deal about Jesus, the person and his message of love, inclusiveness and compassion. In Luke's gospel Jesus shared a meal with Zaccheus, the greedy tax collector.

In Mark's gospel we witness his compassion towards the man with leprosy and in the gospel of John he treated the women at the well with dignity and respect. These were all excluded and marginalised people. A good catholic education challenges us to reflect on the contemporary world in light of the Gospel.

Therefore, Jesus's actions challenged me to treat all people with respect. His actions challenge me to be aware of the marginalised in today's world. His loving commitment to society's most vulnerable urges me to examine my attitude towards homeless people, to extend compassion to Syrian refugees and indeed travellers who are often on the margins of society.

In this secular society the values espoused by religion are often presented in a negative light. At best religious belief and practice is seen as irrelevant, at worst religion is presented as a dark force which restricts human freedom. To be fair some criticism of organised religion is justified and warranted. However, my studying of religion for leaving cert has reaffirmed for me the positive contribution religion can have on society.

I have learnt about the work of people like venerable Catherine McCauley and Fr. Peter McVerry have made enormous contributions to the lives of Irish people. Catherine McCauley's personal sacrifice and total commitment to the needs of teenage girls throughout the world is truly inspirational. Her vision, determination and her Christian faith are testament to the positive impact religious faith can have in the present and the future.

Fr. Peter McVerry's work with the homeless and his critique of materialistic and consumerist society highlights how relevant the Christian message still is in a secular Ireland.

In conclusion the opportunity to study a subject that has given me such a broad understanding of the world around me has been most rewarding. I have learned to appreciate the many wonderful rituals and customs associated with the Islamic faith. I have developed skills of reflection when I reflect on the ministry of Jesus Christ and the impact his message can have on my life.

I have grown to respect the many philosophers and the deep thinkers who have sought to make sense of and give meaning to humanities shared existence.

Martin Luther King Junior believed "The goal of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically."

I believe leaving cert religion fulfils this goal. My hope is that my leaving cert examiner believes it too.

**By: Aoife Kehoe, 6th Year student, Coláiste Brides, Enniscorthy, Co.Wexford.**

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## St Joseph's Secondary School Tulla win Model E.U. Council debate

Monday 20th March 2017

Congratulations to St Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla, Co. Clare students on their great win in the Model E.U. Council debate in Dublin Castle on Friday March 10th.

The following is a report taken from the school website on their great achievement,



Despite a very early start to the day (6.30 !) a group of dedicated T.Y. students, their teacher Ms. Glynn and Barbara Kelly and our debating trio of Megan Olley, Michael Fitzgerald and Ethan Delaney made the long trip up to Dublin to compete in the Model E.U. Council debate in Dublin castle. The debate took place on Friday, 10 March 2017 in the Printworks in Dublin Castle and Transition, Fifth and Sixth Year students from 28 schools competed in the event. Each school was tasked with representing one of the 28 European Union Member States.

St. Joseph's had been assigned the country of Greece for the purposes of the debate and we were delighted to speak to the Greek ambassador over breakfast. She kindly presented us with some Greek memorabilia and spoke warmly of her visits to Clare. She also warned that she was expecting a win as last year's previous winners had also been representing Greece! We assured her we would do our best.



As Gerry Kiely, Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland said: "This debate is to get our young people thinking about the big issues that will affect their lives. It's to show them how politics works in the EU which is so important in decisions about Trade. Decisions about their futures are made in Dublin, Brussels and further afield, and it's critical that our youth understand what is going on in this area and how decisions are arrived at." We were delighted to take part in such a fantastic event.

The theme of the 2017 debate was EU trade policy and in preparation our team had put a lot of effort into researching international trade deals and the implications for Greece's citizens and economy. Equipped with weeks of research our team presented their views on international trade agreements and the importance of maintaining high ethical standards and ensuring that Greece economy did not suffer as a result of an EU agreement. One of our key focuses was on the importance of maintaining the status of 'Products of Designated Origin' within any future trade agreements. A failure to do so would have had a negative on Greece's Feta cheese industry.

The debate was chaired by Mairéad Lavery of the Irish Farmer's Journal. Despite opposition and derision from other countries Greece remained true to its ideals and eloquently expressed why we must protect the livelihoods of ordinary citizens. After a particularly tense stand-off with Spain our team received an outburst of applause – a signal of what was to come!

When Lynn Boylan MEP announced the winning and runner-up teams and presented the Prizes and we were incredibly proud and happy to be announced winners of this prestigious competition- an incredible achievement considering the scale of the event.

St. Joseph's have been invited to bring 24 pupils and their class teacher to Strasbourg in France to take part in the European Parliament's Euroscola project in September. This project allows students from the EU's 28 Member States to work together for a day, just as the MEPs would in the European Parliament. The team speakers also received a goody bag with an I pad mini. We are all incredibly excited about this fantastic opportunity. An enormous THANK YOU to Ms. Glynn, without her support and enthusiasm, we would not have achieved our win. **Photos courtesy of Maxwell Photography**





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## Cnoc Mhuire Granard's Spirit of Mercy Award

Friday 24th March 2017

The Spirit of Mercy Award was introduced in Cnoc Mhuire, Granard, Co. Longford 6 years ago to celebrate the ideals of founding Sister Catherine McAuley.

It rewards students who contribute to the spiritual, emotional and caring aspects of life at home and in school.

It challenges students to develop their own faith, to have a sensitivity to those who have special needs and develop a sense of justice which will identify them as leaders among their peers.

Students are invited to apply to be selected for the award. On receipt of their application, students are invited to an interview and from this interview, a winner is chosen.



Pictured above Sr. Maeve Brady (far right), with the selection team - Jimmy Donohoe, Frances Monahan, Anton McGabhann, Úna Tierney and Helen Reynolds. Students - Olivia Brennan, Amy McKeon and Megan Sheridan with last year's winner Siobhan Hynes.



Pictured above Sr. Maeve presenting the award to winner, 5th Year Student, Kirsty Kenny, students shortlisted for this award and Principal Moira Mahon.

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## Buaiteoirí - An Chraobh Náisiúnta de Chomórtas Fiontraíochta na Scoileanna Iarbhunoideachais

Wednesday 22nd March 2017



Táimid ar fad thar a bheith bhródúil as grúpa ón Idirbhliain agus as a múinteoir Mairéad Uí Dhiolluin, atá tar éis an chéad duais a fháil sa chraobh náisiúnta de Chomórtas Fiontraíochta na Scoileanna Iarbhunoideachais.

Is mór an éacht é seo. Is iad Údaras na Gaeltachta agus Junior Achievements Ireland (JAI) a d'eagraigh an ócáid. Ghlac níos mó na 500 daltaí idirbhliana páirt sa chomórtas seo ó iarscoileanna Ghaeltachta ar fud na tíre.

Bhí trí tógra ag an rang idirbhliana don chomórtas réigiúnach. Roghnaíodh "Cothú Cinnte" ag an mbabhta seo a bhí ar bun i Seanscoil Shailearna ar 1/3/17 le dul ar aghaidh go dtí an Craobh Náisiúnta. Ocht scoil ar fad a bhí sa Chraobh.

An smaoineadh a bhí taobh thiar do Chothú Cinnte ná tionscnamh ina raibh plátaí féin-deartha dhá tháirgeadh, le scríobhneoireacht as gaeilge a chuireann beathú sláintiúil chun cinn. Líadh Robertson, Aoife Nic Chormaic, Rebecca Ní Alluráin, Blanca Ní Dhonabháin, Máire Ní Fhríghíl, Elana Nic Fhlannacha agus Rosie Ní Dhúbhghaill na fiontraíthe a chur an chomhlacht seo le chéile, faoi stiúir Mairéad Uí Dhiollúin.

Ar an lá, bhí ar na cailíní seo seastán trádála a ullmhú, agallamh a dhéanamh leis na moltóirí maidir le gach gné den ghnó agus cur i láthair a dhéanamh ar an stáitse ós comhair lucht féachana. Bhí an caighdeán iontach ard ar fad agus ba mhaith linn comhghairdeachas ó chroí a dhéanamh leo.



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## Pope John Paul II Awards - Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School Drimnagh

Monday 6th March 2017

Since last year Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Drimnagh through the RE team of Mr. Jenkins and Ms. Irwin, have had over 80 of its present 4th and 5th year students participating in the Dublin Dioceses' Pope John Paul II Awards.

Our TY's are currently working towards their bronze and silver awards while our fifth years have already achieved bronze and silver. Two of our fifth years are now going for the Gold Award (Aaron Rock and Leah Maher) and you may see them around the church in the next little while.

The award was set up to give young adults a deeper understanding of their faith and that it requires an active response of caring and compassion for others, building the kingdom of God in their community.

They have to complete a number of hours volunteering in their parish and community along with some written reflections on the teachings of Jesus and what it means to be a baptised member of the Church.

We are delighted to say it has been a huge success for our school and lots of brilliant initiatives and charitable deeds have been undertaken by our students. We hope it will help shape their lives and that they feel a connection to their faith.

Some examples of works they have done include the Faith Friends programme where they act as mentors to the 6th class primary school kids in preparation for their confirmation.

They play games, read bible stories and teach the pupils about their faith. They have also taken on many charitable deeds including the Simon Fun Run, Concern 24 hour fast, Inner City Helping Homeless Clothes appeal. Next month we will have our annual pilgrimages with our TY's going to Glendalough and our 5th Years going to Knock.

We pray our students will find a place in their lives for the message of Jesus and that they can be a source of Salt & Light to others as they go forward.

We would like to thank Father Dave who has worked closely with us in guiding our students. We couldn't do it without him.

Michael Jenkins & Elizabeth Irwin.





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## St. Brigid's Stay Mellow With Yellow

Friday 31st March 2017

THERE was a host of golden daffodils along the corridors and in the classrooms of [St Brigid's Presentation Secondary School](#), Killarney, Co. Kerry last Friday 23rd March where the staff and students held their annual Daffodil Day fundraiser in aid of the Irish Cancer Society.

Yellow was the theme of the day to raise awareness of the worthy cause and students and staff wore their most vibrant sunshine-like attire with prizes for the best dressed.

The students were quite adventurous in their outfits and a fun-filled atmosphere prevailed all through the day.

The school also held a bake sale with mouth-watering pastries arriving from home, much to the delight of everybody.

Such was the quality of the sweet delights on offer that everything was sold – and consumed – by lunchtime.

Additionally, a raffle took place thanks to the support of sponsors who donated many prizes.

"None of this would be possible without the enthusiasm of the students, the sponsors and the staff," said St Brigid's PRO Vivienne Buckley.

"Many thanks to the students who were involved and who volunteered their time to support Daffodil Day.

The proceeds of the events will be presented to the Killarney branch of the Irish Cancer Society who do such wonderful work" she added.





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## CEIST Schools Enjoy Great Success on the GAA Fields!

Wednesday 29th March 2017

CEIST schools have made the headlines for Gaelic Football recently with some noteworthy achievements.

### Our Lady's Secondary School Templemore

[Our Lady's Secondary School](#), Templemore, Co. Tipperary had a fantastic win in the All Ireland Post-Primary Schools senior A hurling championship on Saturday 25th March in Semple Stadium, Thurles.



Our Lady's Templemore (pictured above after their great win) defeated St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny in a pulsating final on a scoreline of 3-13 to 3-11.

St. Kieran's were going for four in a row and it was the first All Ireland title since 1978 for Our Lady's who have now added the Croke cup to the Harty cup won earlier in the year!

### CEIST Schools Contest All Ireland Colleges 'C' Football Final

Two CEIST schools contested the All Ireland 'C' Colleges Football final on Sunday 26th March in Moate, Co. Westmeath.



Scoil Mhuire, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon (pictured above) defeated Presentation De La Salle College, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow (pictured below) on a scoreline of 1-14 to 2-9.



Congrats to Scoil Mhuire on their great win and commiserations to a gallant Presentation De La Salle College, Bagenalstown team who gave their all and great achievement to win Leinster and reach All Ireland final.

### Presentation Secondary School Thurles

Huge Congrats to the ladies on the Presentation Secondary School, Thurles, Co. Tipperary Senior Football team who beat Holy Faith Clontarf in the Lidl All Ireland Schools Final on Sunday in O'Moore Park, Portlaoise on a scoreline of 4-11 to 2-10.



Casey Hennessy is photographed above with her Player of the match award after scoring 2-4.



Pictured above the the girls from Presentation Secondary School, Thurles after winning the All Ireland.

The team was managed by Barry Ryan and Cian Treacy and congratulations to all on this great achievement.



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## Calasanctius College Oranmore Book Launch

Wednesday 5th April 2017



Calasanctius College, Oranmore, Co. Galway are delighted to announce the launch of a collection of short stories and art work, created by the students, in their fifth edition of 'The Book'.

The evening will include refreshments, music, readings and display of work.

The launch of 'The Book' is a highlight in the Calasanctius College calendar and we would be delighted if you could join us for the evening.

The collection will be launched by Cúirt on Tuesday the 25th of April in the Nano Nagle Hall in Calasanctius College at 7p.m.

### Other News

The following students news was kindly shared by Declan Duffy, TY Coordinator, [Calasanctius College](#), Oranmore, Co. Galway.

### RSA - 3 day Road Safety Event in Calasanctius College



Calasanctius College Oranmore Students received a presentation recently on Road Safety from RSA Education Officer, Catherine Flaherty.

They also got a chance to visit the Shuttle bus and roll-over car simulator.

### Calasanctius College Students To Visit Shanghai



Pictured above are Calasanctius TY Students looking forward to their Shanghai trip.



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## Latest News from Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney

Friday 24th March 2017

### Gringotts Bank opens at Our Lady's Castleblayney

Gringotts Bank was introduced in Our Lady's Secondary School on 17th January. The on-campus facility was established with a major drive to encourage the students to save for the future. This bank, for students, run by students was established under the guidance of Ms McHugh and Mr Connolly, with the assistance of student officer, Andrea Brady from the local AIB branch.

This wonderful opportunity to establish the school bank was offered to Transition Year students and such was the interest expressed by the students that interviews were held over the course of a day. Gabriele Bunyte, Sally Moloney, Ethan O'Gorman, Kate Denny, Ciaran McKearney and Leah Haughey were all successful in their efforts.

The management team decided to go with a Harry Potter theme and hence Gringotts Bank was founded. Over 160 students turned up at the opening of Gringotts Bank, which was conducted by former Monaghan footballer, Paul Finlay.

The Regional Finals took place on the 14th March in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan. Over 30 banks participated in the event, coming as far away as Donegal, Sligo and Belfast.

The event gave students a memorable experience with a real taster of the business world and a deeper understanding of the different roles and responsibilities assigned to each of them. Well done to the Gringotts team.



Pictured above at the Regional Finals of the AIB Build a Bank competition are members of the Gringotts Bank from Our Lady's Castleblayney, left to right, Ciaran McKearney, Ethan O'Gorman, Gabriele Bunyte, Leah Haughey & Sally Moloney. Missing from the photo is Kate Denny.

### Leon secures a Silver Medal in Ulster Schools Swimming Championship



Congrats to TY student at Our Lady's, Leon Campbell who won a silver medal in the 100m butterfly at the Ulster Schools Swimming Championship in Ballymena on Saturday March 18th.

### Our Lady's trip to Paris

Some forty students from Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, accompanied by six of their teachers, recently enjoyed a four day language trip to Paris.

Upon arrival in Paris, the group was met by a luxury coach. The students were then immediately immersed in the history and culture of this beautiful city as they enjoyed a panoramic tour of Paris. A tour guide filled everyone in on the finer details, as well as pointing out all the famous landmarks. The Champs de Mars provided the venue for lunch before the students visited the Eiffel Tower. There, they took the elevator to the third floor, where they enjoyed breathtaking views of the city. After their evening meal at a Parisian restaurant, the group enjoyed a relaxing cruise along the River Seine on the Bateau Mouche. The hotel, located in Disneyland, was a welcome sight on that night, after a long but satisfying day.

The second days programme began with a visit to Versailles. They visited the splendid Château and gardens of Louis xiv . The students enjoyed their lunch in the little town of Versailles, with many opting for the traditional crêpes. The group then made the short journey back to Paris to visit the Louvre museum. After visiting the Mona Lisa and other renowned works of art, it was on to the Latin Quarter and Notre Dame Cathedral. The students visited the Cathedral and enjoyed exploring the little cobbled streets of the Latin Quarter. After dinner they spent the evening swimming.

The third day saw the group join Mickey Mouse and Co. in Eurodisney. They visited both the Disneyland park and Walt Disney Studios. The group met up in the early evening to have dinner at Planet Hollywood. Then it was back to the parks to make the most of all attractions before closing time. The fantastic lighting and fireworks show at the closing of the park was, for many, the highlight of the trip. However, some would argue that seeing certain teachers, who claim to be adrenaline junkies, on the merry go round was the highlight. Before returning to the hotel for the night, purchases were made in the shops of Disney Village.

On the last day the group visited the fabulous area of Montmartre. There were many tired legs on the climb to the Basilica of Sacré Coeur, although all agreed that the breathtaking views from the summit were well worth it. Some attended Sunday mass, en français, others got waylaid in the chocolate museum while other enjoyed the atmosphere of the Place de Tertre, with it's many artists. Then it was time for a bit of retail therapy and the group made its way to the newly redeveloped La Défense international shopping centre.

All too soon it was time to depart for Charles de Gaulle airport. The students and teachers take home many happy memories of their tour and the wonderful city of Paris.



Pictured on their recent language trip to Paris are forty students from Our Lady's who were accompanied by six of their teachers and visited the sights over their four day trip to this City of Culture.

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## Latest Student News from Ard Scoil na nDéise Dungarvan

Friday 10th March 2017

### Gaisce. The President's Award.



Every year, Transition Year students who participate in the Gaisce, Presidents award must complete community, physical and personal tasks, for an hour a week for 13 weeks we must also complete a 25-30k hike as an adventure. The hike this year took place on part of the Wicklow way in the Wicklow Mountains.

We left on the 1st of March at half past one from school and started our journey to Wicklow. We drove for about an hour and twenty minutes before reaching a pit stop at Paulstown. We had a fifteen minute break and set off for the rest of our journey to Wicklow. We travelled through very bumpy roads before reaching our destination – Knockree Youth Hostel in Enniskerry, County Wicklow.

Once we arrived at the youth hostel. We all got our key cards and went to our rooms to unpack and settle in. At half past six we had dinner which consisted of lasagne and chips. Afterwards everyone got read for the night hike.

After dinner we met up in a room and were told about the safety precautions for the night hike by the excellent adventure instructors. During the day it had been raining so the paths would have been muddy and slippery. After the briefing we finally set off on our night hike.

It was very dark outside apart from the torches that some people had. The first ten minutes were fine until we got to a really steep and muddy grass hill. It was very hard to go down and not slip but eventually we all made it down safe and sound! After a while we started to warm up a bit and we had a couple of stops for stretching and water breaks.

The night hike in total took about two and a half hours. Once we got back to the hostel there was a rush for the showers and we relaxed for about an hour or so before going to bed.

We woke up the next morning at 8am bright eyed and busy tailed, ready to take on the day ahead in high spirits. A hearty and nutritious breakfast was provided for us. Much needed fuel for the day ahead! We put on our hiking boots once again and gathered in the lounge to listen to our very kind and knowledgeable instructors, Danny, Michael and Rika as they prepared us for the day of hiking we had ahead.

We set out at 9am and did not return until 4! Although that is 6 hours it did not feel too long as we had plenty of stops and were taken aback by the beautiful scenery. As pleasant and as fun as the hike was, some parts of it were very challenging as the paths became very steep as we ascended. Our teachers and instructors kept the morale up for the duration of the hike although we nearly ran into a bit of mutiny as our instructors took us on an extra loop!

We made it back to the hostel very tired but also very proud and happy with our achievement. We had showers, relaxed and had some snacks. We had a lovely dinner at 6:30 pm. After dinner we relaxed some more until 8pm when we all gathered together and enjoyed a nice evening of games and watching a movie. We all went to bed at 11:30 pm very, very tired but yet feeling a sense of achievement.

The third day was definitely my favourite and I think everyone would agree. We woke at 8 am and had breakfast. Ms Troy, Ms Pickering and Ms Cashin checked everyone's room to make sure it was tidy and we had all of our belongings. After breakfast everyone packed their suitcases and we set off for a morning of fun activities which included low ropes, archery and grass sledding. Everyone was divided into three groups and each did an activity for forty minutes and then each group rotated.

My group started with grass sledding, each person sits in a red sled and your friend pushes you down a hill. It was raining that day so it was extra slippery and you went even faster. The low ropes consisted of two wires which you and another person would need to work together to get across the wires. These activities were so much fun. Our instructors were very nice to us.

When the activities were finished we changed out of our wet clothes and waited for our bus to come. When the bus arrived we set off home and stopped at Supermacs on the way home which was a really nice way to end the trip.

Gaisce was an amazing experience. It gives you an opportunity to have fun. The hike really helps you reflect. It gives you space from the real world and it helps you get in touch with nature. I would recommend Gaisce to every Transition year group.

### Careers Evening 2017

Recently here in Ard Scoil na nDéise we hosted a Careers Evening for students from 3rd to 6th year and their parents, as well as the Leaving Certificate boys from the CBS. The event was organised by our Parents Council, in conjunction with Mrs Gleeson, Career Guidance teacher, and Ms. Brosnan, Deputy Principal.

The format of the evening allowed students, and their parents, to speak individually with people from a range of over 30 careers and professions as well as colleges.

We are extremely grateful to the many local business people and professionals who gave so generously of their time to speak with our students. In addition to local expertise, we were also joined by representatives of An Garda Síochána, The Irish Army and the Irish Naval Service, various disciplines of nursing, teaching, childcare, psychology and social work to name but a few. All were kept extremely busy on the night as the students discussed subject choice, job descriptions and career prospects with the representatives.

The Colleges section of the event was extremely popular with students and in particular with parents. The range of Third Level and Post Leaving Certificate colleges represented on the night afforded students the opportunity to explore a very wide range of courses and career paths.

Our thanks to the representatives of University College Cork, The University of Limerick, Maynooth University, Cork Institute of Technology, Waterford Institute of Technology, Limerick Institute of Technology, Waterford College of Further Education and Coláiste Cathal Naofa, for their participation.

Feedback from students was extremely positive and many students reported that the conversations which they had with representatives on the night had opened their eyes to the vast range of options that are available beyond Leaving Certificate.

Chatting over refreshments after the event, the invited participants commented on the mature and well thought out questions which they had been asked and complimented the students on their levels of interest and engagement.

A huge thank you to all who made the evening possible and to the large number of students and parents who availed of the opportunity.



Pictured above Caroline Aherne and Roisin McComb of Eurofins.



Marie Quinn The Moorings Bar & Restaurant



Mr Tom Holmes Ballymount Accounting and Mr Michael Petit Jitterbeans



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## News from Coláiste Muire, Ennis

Tuesday 4th April 2017

Niamh O'Regan of Coláiste Muire Ennis has kindly shared the following student news from her school.

### CanSat Success!

Congratulations and very well done to our TY CanSat students who won the regional final of this competition on Friday 31 March in GMT.



A CanSat is a simulation of a real life satellite, contained within the volume of a 330ml soft-drink can. The students had to launch the CanSat which then needed a parachute to land safely. All the time students are collecting data ... measuring temperature, pressure, etc. and transmitting it to a laptop computer. A major part of the CanSat competition on Friday required the student teams to analyse and present their data and other work to an audience!

It is the first time our school has entered the competition and we had two teams participating.

Our "NASARR" team, comprising Robyn Maxwell, Amy Stanley, Niamh Ross, Roslyn Cuffe-Kelly, Shona Power & Ailbhe Cannon will now go on to represent Coláiste Muire at the national final in Birr on 27 April. The European final takes place in June in Lisbon.

### Visit to Zimmer Biomet

Zimmer Biomet is a worldwide leader in musculoskeletal health care and has been since their founding more than 80 years ago.

Today, their global team of more than 8,500 employees works to provide effective, creative solutions that support orthopaedic surgeons and clinicians to restore mobility and treat arthritis and traumatic injuries. Their joint replacement technologies and a wide range of related products and services make them valuable partners to health care providers in more than 100 countries.



30 of our Transition Year students (pictured above) had the opportunity to visit Zimmer Biomet's plant in Shannon on 22 March.

After an introductory lecture on Biomedical Engineering, students toured the plant, met with some of the engineering team and learned more about their day-to-day working lives.

### BOI Bond Trader Challenge

Two teams of four students from TY3 who run our school bank participated in the Bank of Ireland Bond Trader Challenge on 23 January. The competition was held in Thomond Suite, Thomond Park, Limerick.

The morning began with an overview of markets and trading by BOI Head of Pensions & Investments. Students then participated in the Bond Trader Challenge responding to real market scenarios and making decisions on how to manage their own bond portfolio.



One of our teams (Clara Ryan, Gemma Brady, Robyn Maxwell and Eimear Ni Choleáin) won the competition. Each student was presented with an iPad mini.

### My Adopted Soldier Trip 2017



Well done to Mary Tiernan TY2 (pictured above) who has been selected to represent our province in "My Adopted Soldier Trip 2017" with her short essay on 'Why I would like to represent my province and what World War One means to me'. This is a unique project which commemorates soldiers from the island of Ireland who died in WW1. She entered the competition as part of her History class.

Mary has been selected as one of 15 students from both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland who will join 15 students from Germany in a project and trip in June 2017 to remember soldiers from both sides who died in the Ypres region of Belgium in WW1.

Mary will now be given the name of a soldier who died in Flanders from our province or country. She will have to carry out research on her soldier just like students did on the first trip to the Somme in 1915 which is archived on the website [www.myadoptedsoldier.com](http://www.myadoptedsoldier.com)

RTE will be filming aspects of the trip for a documentary.

Mary is our 3rd Transition Year student this year to win a competition involving travel to Europe. Roslyn Cuffe Kelly TY5 was one of 10 TY students who won a trip to the European Parliament on 8-10 December as part of the Meet Your MEP Programme for her essay entitled "Why the EU is important to me".



Hannah Kearne TY2 (pictured above) was selected as one of 24 district winners of Rotary's Youth Leadership Development Competition on Friday evening 18 November in Aithne. This competition focuses on leadership, citizenship and personal growth.

In February the 24 winners visited Belfast and met with local political and business leaders. They then travelled to the Houses of the Oireachtas in Dublin.

The highlight of the trip was debating a variety of motions in the European Parliament in Strasbourg at Euroscola!

### National Final Transition Year Drama Festival



We had considerable success at the final of this competition which was held in the Mullingar Arts Centre on 4th March. Coláiste Muire received 7 awards as follows:

- Interpretation of an Irish Play - Bog of Cats
- Special Performer - Roslyn Cuffe Kelly, Bog of Cats
- Best Costumes - Alice in Wonderland
- Best Producer - Bog of Cats
- 3 Runners Up Prizes - Alice in Wonderland, Importance of Being Earnest, By the Bog of Cats

### Paul Durcan Poetry Reading

Our Senior English students sat spellbound as the Poet Paul Durcan read his poetry in Glór on 3 March during the Ennis Bookclub Festival.

The poetry reading was organised as a special student event as Paul Durcan's poetry is on the Leaving Cert English course.

Students had an opportunity afterwards to ask questions and discuss his poems with the poet.

The reading brought the poetry to life and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



### LGFA Coaching, Refereeing & Event Management

This programme is organised by the Ladies Gaelic Football Association. 16 TY students completed day one of this programme on 7 March which involved training in the basics of Coaching, basics of Refereeing, Event Management, Event planning.

The second day of this programme to be held in the 3rd term will involve TY students organising an event for a number of local primary schools in the catchment area together with some of our 1st year students.

### Volleyball Success



Congratulations to the Senior Cup Volleyball team above who beat Presentation Kilkenny on 12 March in the All-Ireland Quarter Final 3 - 1.

The team will now face St. Mary's Naas in the semi final.

### Coláiste Muire Economics Students debate EU Trade Policy



Pictured above (front row) Shauna Greene, Carol Buckley and Emma O'Loughlin with (back, from left to right) Head of European Commission Representation in Ireland, Gerry Kieley, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Charlie Flanagan, Journalist for the Irish Farmers' Journal, Mairead Lavery; HE Mr Bernardo Futscher Pereira, Ambassador of Portugal; Ellen Jones, Teacher; Brian Hayes MEP and Executive Director of the European Movement Ireland, Noelle O'Connell at Dublin Castle on 20 March where they were debating the hot topic of EU trade policy at the 11th Model Council of the European Union.

### Industry Visit: VISTAKON, Limerick



38 TY students visited Johnson & Johnson Vision Care (operating as Vistakon Ireland) on 8 March as part of Engineers Week. Vistakon is the world's largest contact lenses manufacturer.

The purpose of such a visit is to showcase the exciting and diverse career opportunities that the engineering profession has to offer.

As a long-established multi-national in the mid-west, Vistakon works with local schools on an ongoing basis to foster upcoming talent and inspire the engineers of the future.

Our students had guided tours of the plant, met with some of the engineering team and learned more about their day-to-day working lives.

They also worked on 5 interactive activities under the guidance of a team of Engineers.

### LEO Enterprise Final, West County Hotel

We had great success at the finals of the Enterprise Competition held in the West County on 9 March. Coláiste Muire had 24 companies (of 109) showcasing on the day! Results as follows

**3rd Winners Overall - Memo Me**

**Best Business Plan - Safe Sips**

**Craft Category**

1st place: Memo Me

3rd place: Coco Naturel

**Tech Category**

1st place: PhoneFriend

**Retail Category**

2nd place: Pamper Hamper

### CEIST Student Leadership Conference



Mary Tiernan, Alanna Clohessy and Aishling Hehir TY2 (pictured above) represented our school in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra on 14 March.

Their presentation outlined how they have leadership in Coláiste Muire.

### Walk in My Shoes

Walk in My Shoes is a mental health education and awareness campaign of St. Patrick's Mental Health Services.

St. Patrick's Mental Health Services is Ireland's largest, independent, not-for-profit, mental health service provider in Ireland.

Each year, Walk in My Shoes runs a Transition Year Programme. The aim of the programme is to educate young people about mental health the stigma associated with mental health illness.

Mary Tiernan TY2 was (100 students nationally) selected to participate in the programme from 20-24 February.

### NUI Galway's SIMMED School Takes place annually in the University's School of Medicine and in the Nurses' Home in Galway University Hospital.

Going into its fourth year, SIMMED School is an innovative and unique programme for Transition Year students who are interested in exploring medicine as a career.

Students are immersed in the world of medicine over a four day programme, giving them a flavour of what life will be like as a doctor in a major teaching hospital.

Throughout the programme, students are part of a simulated medical team and get to carry out medical and surgical skills in the centre for simulation in Galway University Hospital, SIMWEST.

They hear the experiences of current students starting their journey in the School of Medicine and those of fully qualified doctors.

They also meet different professionals employed in a wide range of roles throughout the hospital, learn about common medical problems and discovered interesting facts about plastic surgery, orthopaedics, HIV, oncology, diabetes, asthma and many more topics.

Mary Tiernan TY2 and Roslyn Cuffe-Kelly TY5 were selected to participate in this programme during final two weeks of March.

### CIT Cork School of Music Transition Year Orchestra Project

Lucy Galvin TY 4 has been selected to participate in this programme from 3-7 April. This full-time Work Experience Week involves rehearsals, professional seminars, audition training and a final concert. Lucy was accepted on the basis of a video audition.

### Easter Camp to China

The Easter Camp Programme is a two-week programme in Shanghai. It is jointly organised by UCC Confucius Institute, Irish Institute of Chinese Studies (UCC) and Shanghai University and sponsored by the Headquarters of Confucius (Hanban).

It provides an opportunity for non-Chinese students in Irish second level schools (Transition Year students) to visit China and to learn its language and culture.

Brenna O'Keeffe and Niamh McHugh TY1 have been selected to participate in the Easter Camp from 7 - 20 April



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## Bishop Buckley's visit to St Aloysius Cork

Friday 3rd March 2017

We had the pleasure of a visit by Bishop Buckley on Ash Wednesday to St Aloysius Secondary School, Sharman Crawford Street, Cork.

Bishop Buckley distributed Ashes to the students and also blessed our newly refurbished home economics kitchen.

### Photos from the Visit



Students awaiting the arrival of Bishop Buckley.



Bishop and Fr Lyng blessing the newly refurbished home economics room.



Former Home economics teacher Ann O'Connell, Fr. John Lyng Board of management member, Sr. Hilary, Bishop, Ann Hester, Rebecca Aherne O'Loughlin and Richel Long Principal.



Aoife O'Reagan, Bishop, Rebecca Aherne O'Loughlin Head Girl.



Sinead Collins, Vanessa O'Donovan and Dayna Olliffe.



Ms. Lisa Carey and home economics students



Aoife O'Reagan, Principal, Richel Long, Bishop Buckley, Rebecca Aherne O'Loughlin and Fr. Lyng.



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## Scoil Bhríde, Mercy Secondary School, Tuam Easter Service

Tuesday 4th April 2017

Scoil Bhríde, Mercy Secondary School, Tuam, Co. Galway held their Easter Service on the 4th April, 2017.

The school remembered in a special way the Tuam mother and baby home and all of the people who are hurting by the loss of others such as the London terrorist attack and the tragedy at Black Sod.





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## The Harty and Croke Cup - An Unforgettable Journey

Monday 3rd April 2017

The following is an account from School Principal, Patricia Higgins, of [Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore, Co. Tipperary](#) great Hurling journey this year.

As we bask in the warm afterglow of our epic victory over hurling giants, St. Kieran's College at Semple Stadium on March 25th, the scale of the achievement gradually begins to sink in. St. Kieran's arrived in force for the final, their banner proclaiming "21 to 1 – mind the gap".

In truth, they needed to "mind the hunger". In a game that celebrated everything that is noble in sport, Our Lady's demonstrated that tradition, resources, and entitlement count for little when confronted with raw courage, exquisite skill and unwavering self-belief.

After a thrilling hour's hurling that brought players and supporters alike to the brink of exhaustion, the attendance of over 3,000 knew they had witnessed something extraordinary and looked on in rapt admiration as the Croke Cup was presented to the proud Captain, Paddy Cadell.

An unforgettable year began quietly with the predictable routine of training sessions in the school pitch interspersed with challenge games against carefully chosen opponents.

For Mr. Noel Fogarty, in his tenth year as Harty Coach and for Mr. Tom Byrnes, after a busy summer on his farm, the presence of six of Tipp's All Ireland winning minors on the Harty team and, in particular, Brian Mc Grath's decision to return to school must have added an extra note of urgency to the well-worn routine.

For Harty Cup enthusiasts in the school and in the Community, after just short of the biblical forty years wandering in the wilderness, any talk of a return to the Promised Land fell on doubting ears. How many times in the past had we heard that we were "in with a real chance this year"?

The qualifying games against one time greats, St. Flannan's and Bandon High School were tame affairs with neither opposition posing any threat to Our Lady's. Only the prospect of a quarter-final tie with near neighbours, and arch-rivals, Thurles C.B.S. could get the adrenalin flowing.

The outcome of this game was most pleasing from a Templemore point of view. The C.B.S. who looked impressive in their qualifying games were completely outclassed and finished ten points in arrears on a scoreline of 3 -14 to 1-10. The victory over Thurles was a triumph in itself. Of course we still wanted the Harty but at least the old enemy was conquered, and now we really began to believe!

The semi –final against Nenagh C.B.S. at Toomevara on January 28th brought out the crowds who were treated to a full blooded, tense contest made memorable by Andrew Ormond's sixteenth minute goal, some magic touches by Lyndon Fairbrother and the brilliant goalkeeping of Eoin Collins. The final score of 1-15 to 0-14 in favour of Templemore was greeted with relief by the team and their supporters.

The final against Coleman's of Fermoy was played at the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick on February 18th. Our cheerleaders, whose growing confidence matched that of their team, were in place early and were in full voice among the crowd of over 8,000 before the ball was thrown in.

It soon became clear that the game would provide some respite for the overwrought nerves of the Templemore parents and supporters. Coleman's were no match for us and the game petered out on a score line of 2-22 to 1-6 with Our Lady's capturing the elusive trophy for the first time in 39 years. Of course we would have loved a tighter game but that did not diminish the joy and relief felt all round as Paddy Cadell lifted the Harty Cup.

An All-Ireland appearance seemed unimportant on Saturday evening when the winning team returned to a rapturous welcome in Templemore. But as the days passed, tension began to grow again in anticipation of a semi-final showdown with Kilkenny C.B.S. one of the top two hurling schools in Kilkenny and Leinster.

They had only been narrowly defeated in the Leinster final by their neighbours, St. Kieran's. The semi- final played at O'Moore Park in Portlaoise was a thrilling contest where the true character of our team was revealed. The C.B.S. played with guts and self-belief, and while the three points that separated the sides in the end probably flattered the challengers, we were relieved to get over the game and make it to the final.

The final itself has been well described in print and other media. It is enough to say that the writers and commentators had to dig deep to find words to convey the full significance of what was achieved in the course of the 2016-2017 Harty and Croke campaigns by a skilful and dedicated group of players led by two passionate and energetic coaches.



Pictured above are the panel and mentors of Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore.

As a school community we are immensely proud of our team's achievement this year. We thank the panel and their managers, Mr. Byrne and Mr. Fogarty for the honour they have brought to the school.

We look forward to building on their success in all areas of school life in the coming years.

We are most grateful for the enthusiastic support we got from our own students and parents, and from the wider community who were behind us on every step of the exciting journey.

### All Ireland Final Croke Cup Photos





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### Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

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## Presentation De La Salle College Bagenalstown Win All Ireland Basketball Title!

Friday 3rd March 2017

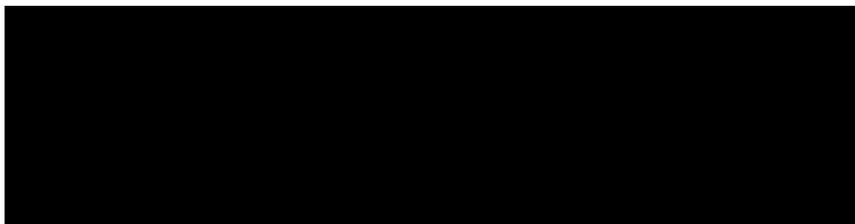
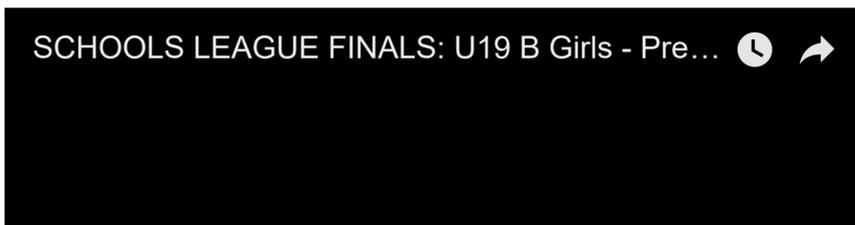
Congratulations to Presentation De La Salle College, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow on winning the All Ireland Girls U19 B League Basketball title on March 2nd in Tallaght.

This is a fantastic achievement for the girls, well done to all involved in the school!

**Final Scoreline:** Presentation DLS Bagenalstown (Carlow) 39-27 OLSPK (Belfast)



### School League Final (Full Video)



### Twitter School Hero's Welcome Video

[A hero's Welcome for the All Ireland U19 Girls Basketball Champions!](#)



# News & Events

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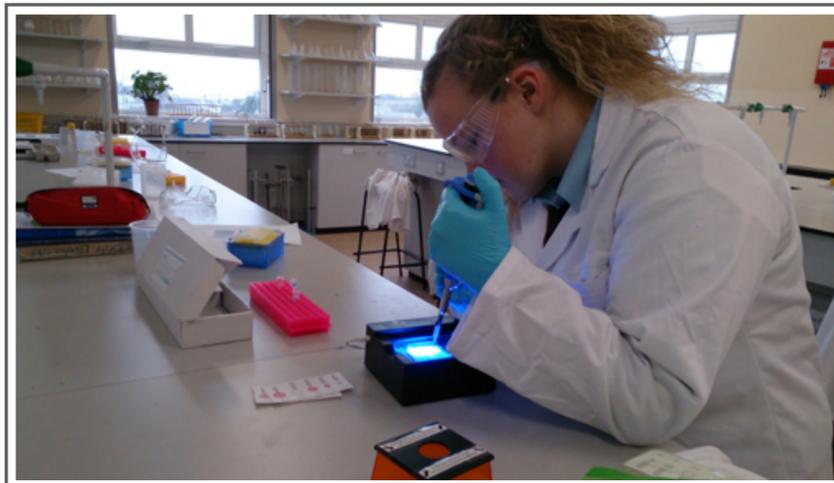
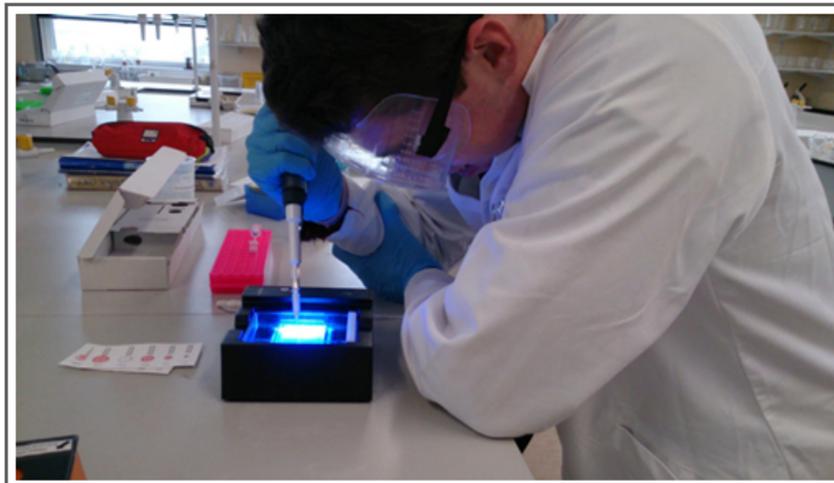
Monthly School Feature

## Latest News from St Joseph's Secondary School, Spanish Point

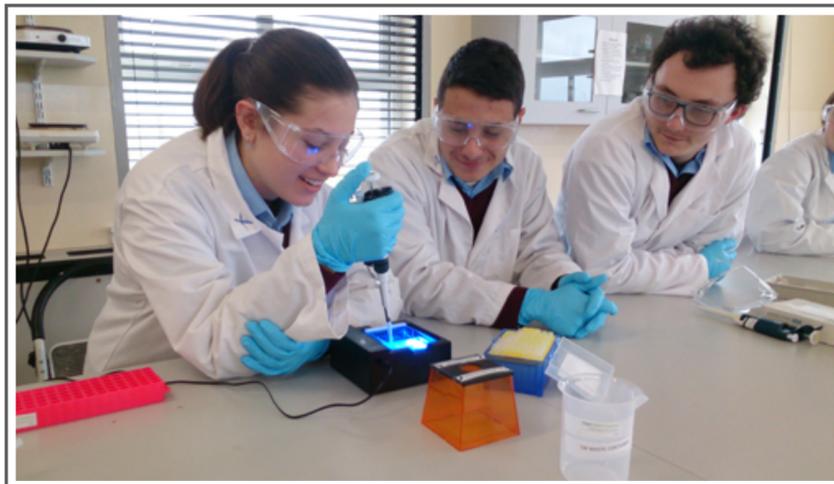
Wednesday 22nd March 2017

[St Joseph's Secondary School, Spanish Point, Mitown Malbay, Co. Clare](#) has kindly shared their latest student news and photos.

### Amgen Biotech Experience



St Joseph's Secondary School, Spanish Point, Sixth years Grace Cunningham and Diarmuid Meade using micropipettes during DNA profiling experiments as part of the Amgen Biotech Experience.



Spanish Point 5th years Marco Lai (Italy) & Sean McNamara (Ireland) watch as Jasmin Moor(Switzerland) loads DNA samples as part of DNA profiling experiment.



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## Latest Student News from Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna

Tuesday 28th March 2017

John Sims, Deputy Principal, Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna has kindly shared the following school news

### Certified Irish Angus Beef School Competition Finals



The Irish Angus Producer Group runs a school's competition for Transition Year students who will study Agricultural Science for their Leaving Certificate. After the entries are received students are interviewed by a panel of judges and 30 projects are selected to go forward to the finals in Croke Park.

This year Mary Immaculate Secondary School entered the competition for the first time and were successful in making it to the finals.

On March 15th 2017 five students from the school presented their project to a panel of judges in this years Certified Irish Angus Beef School Competition.

The students were interviewed by judges from the Farmers Journal, Kepac, ABP and Tesco. From this shortlist of entrants, five schools will be chosen to receive the 5 Angus cross calves. The successful students raise the calves for two years and record their progress over that period.

The 5 students involved are Killian Blood, Dara Kenneally, Niall Sweeney, Thomas Griffey and Thomas Hartigan. They are being mentored by their agricultural science teacher, John Sims. They were accompanied to the final by the Principal, Mr. O'Loughlin, and their teacher.

The five successful finalists will be announced in early April. We wish them the best of luck as they await the outcome of the judging.

### ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards



Two teams of young environmentalists were successful at making it into the semi-finals of the competition. This was held at NUI Galway on the 21st March. Representatives from both project groups had to present their project to a panel of judges who then questioned them on the project.

The first group presenting their project were second year students. Their project developed as a result of the school's participation in a B1 Young Scientist project on microplastics. The group decided to make people more aware of what happens to plastic once it gets into the environment. Their aim is to get people to cut down on the use of plastic, especially plastic bottles.

They highlighted their message by addressing a Clean Coast Ireland roadshow in Miltnow Malbay, having a poster campaign in the school and getting involved in two St. Patrick's Day parades.

The second group presenting their project were Transition Year students who have worked for the past six months with Grainne Barron, a researcher from NUI Galway. It is called Uisce Aille – Lisdoonvarna Integrated Catchment Management Project. It is described in a separate article below.

### Uisce Aille – Lisdoonvarna Integrated Catchment Management Project



In Ireland many of our rivers, lakes and groundwater systems are in good shape but quite a substantial amount are still at risk of pollution both now and in the future. It is very important to encourage local communities to participate in protecting and managing our water sources.

TY students have taken part in a water resource awareness program supported by Burren GeoparkLIFE and coordinated by Grainne Barron, a researcher from NUIG. The students have named the program Uisce Aille and have explored and mapped the natural and built environment underlying the Aille Catchment, using GIS (geographical information systems).

In simple terms, a catchment is the area of land contributing to a river, lake or other waterbody. Water is vital not just for our health, but for the health of our ecosystems, the community and local economies and so it is so essential to our wellbeing to know how it moves through the landscape, from the highest point and all along its route to the sea, be that through the ground or on land.

The students have entered their project - Uisce Aille - into the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA).

On Tuesday 21st March the students faced the judges at the semi-final ECO-Den in NUIG, and performed really well.

Results of the semi-finals will be out in the next few weeks! On Saturday 25th March the students presented their project to managers of Geoparks across Europe in the Pavilion in Lisdoonvarna unveiled their infographic poster showing the maps they have made of the Aille Catchment

The finals of the competition will be held in Dublin in May with approximately 80 projects making it to the finals. The finalists will be announced in April. Best of luck to both groups.

### St. Patrick's Day Parades

Mary Immaculate Secondary School had floats in 4 local parades over the last two weeks. The transition year students who were taking part in the Certified Irish Angus Beef School Competition had a float at the Fanora parade.



For the Kiltenera parade there were two floats: one from the second year Young Environmentalists and a second one based on Dylan Egan's young scientists project on producing fuel from rushes.

The young environmentalists also had a float in the Lisdoonvarna parade where they were awarded the runners-up prize.

Finally, the "rushes 2 fuel" float took part in the Doolin parade. A big thank you to all who helped with the different floats by providing trailers, calves and driving the floats.

Well done to all the students involved for their great efforts despite the bad weather.

### Success in Feile na hInse Art competition



There was success for the following art students in the recent Feile na hInse Art competition. From first year Wiktoria Wzobleska and Grace Howard won prizes and then at senior level, six fifth year students won awards.

They are Megan Moraghan, Richie Johnson, Ellen Dobbin Catto, Shauna Fanagan, Cait Ní Bhrain and Olivia McGann.

All winning students attended a prize giving ceremony on Wednesday 8th March in the Auburn Lodge Hotel. Congratulations to all.

### Feile na hInse



Comhghairdeas do na daltaí ó Scoil Mhuire gan Smál i Lios Dáin Bhearna a ghlac páirt i bhFeile na hInse in Inis le déanaí.

Bhuaigh an grúpa ceoil a gcomórtas ar an 4ú Márta. Bhí an moltóir an sásta leo agus dúradh go raibh draíocht ag baint lena gcuid ceoil!

B'iad na daltaí a bhí i gceist ná Keiith Dowling, Jane O'Loughlin, Laura Haugh, Aimeé Burke, Emma Kelly, Sally King, Aoife McNamara, Róisín McNamara, Órlaith Petty, Emma Healy, Laura Griffey, Bláithnaid Marsh, Caoimhe Burke, Lucy King.

Comhghairdeas leo ar fad!

### Wheelchair Basketball

Transition Years took part in Wheelchair Basketball introduction training on Thursday 23rd March in Ennistymon Community Centre.

There will be a second day to follow competing against other schools in a Clare Schools League.

### Certificate of Achievement



Congratulations to Isabelle Walsh, Ellen King and Dara Kenneally on receiving a Certificate of Achievement for their excellent results in Business Studies Junior Certificate 2016 from The Kemry Business School, University Limerick in conjunction with the Business Studies Teachers' Association of Ireland.

### CEIST - Student Leadership Conference 2017

Archbishop Diarmaid Martin opened the third annual Student Leadership Conference on Tuesday, March 14th in St Patricks College DCU.

Archbishop Martin addressed the students and blessed the gathering. Students who attended representing Mary Immaculate Secondary School were fifth years Róisín O'Donoghue, Niall McNamara and Tomás McCormack.

The Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton TD, was the keynote speaker in the afternoon.

It is a great affirmation for students that the Minister talked to them.

As always, though, the main work of the day took place in the workshops where students got an opportunity to interact and share ideas and activities.

The Student Leadership Conference - It is a highlight for all in CEIST.



### IASTA Agricultural Science Quiz

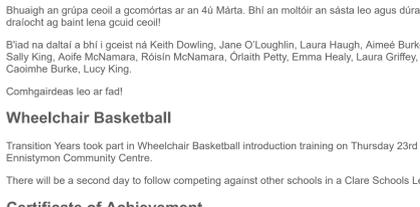
A team of four students took part in the Irish Agricultural Science Teachers Association quiz on the 23rd March.

This was an all-Ireland quiz which was held in Abbeyfeix.

The students were Scion Flanagan, Amy Costello, Róisín O'Donoghue and Niall McNamara.

Well done to the students who did very well in the quiz.

### Garda Transition Year Talk



Our Transition Year students attended a Garda Talk in the Community Centre Ennistymon recently. Gardai and detectives from the local area spoke to Transition Years of North and West Clare about Drugs, Road Traffic Offences, Alcohol Drinking and their lives on the force.

The Juvenile Liaison Officer was also present along with Deirdre Scanlon, our community Garda who coordinated events.

Trainee Gardai were also present and spoke to students about the possibility of the Gardai being a career option for students.

Our students also gave a short presentation on the day outlining the importance of the Gardai in our community.

It was a very worthwhile event and showcased the positive aspects of the Gardai in our community to our young people and future generation.

Fergus Crowe, a past pupil of Mary Immaculate, was one of the trainee Gardai present who is pictured here with our students at the event.