

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

News Update From CEIST Education Office

This is our first e-newsletter edition for 2011 and we would like to wish all members of the CEIST community a very happy new year and best wishes in your endeavours during 2011.

CEIST have a number of initiatives lined up for this year. [A day with Fr. Liam Lawton](#) is scheduled for early March and CEIST invites all of you to a day of Story, Song and Prayerful Optimism.

The CEIST Faith Development Team is holding their second [Holy Week Retreat](#) starting on the night of Palm Sunday 17th April 2011 and running until lunch time Tuesday 19th April 2011. All members of the CEIST community are very welcome to attend this retreat.

CEIST invites our School Board of Management Chairpersons to a Trustee support day on the 9th April and the venue will be announced on our next e-newsletter or shortly on the CEIST website. The CEIST Education Conference will be held in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone on the 29th and 30th of September 2011.

We look forward to working with you during the coming year. The CEIST office always welcomes your [feedback](#) and contributions i.e. new ideas, suggestions or news articles, photos, etc, for profiling via the CEIST website and members' area.



CEIST News



CEIST Schools Banking Arrangements

All schools should have received correspondence in the past few days in relation to a survey being carried out by the Trustees on banking arrangements.

The hope is that once the information is collected and analysed it may be possible to obtain better banking terms and arrangements. We would be grateful for return of the questionnaires by 4th March 2011.

Should any school require additional copies of the questionnaire please [login](#) to the 'CEIST Members' Area.

The forms can be found under the 'Resource Library' section.



CEIST Prayers for Chairs



CS-COP and Allianz Service Level Agreements

Many thanks to the BOM's who have made their commitment to supporting CS-COP with over 30% of schools having signed up and returned their Service Level Agreements, we appreciate your support. Our intention is to work closely with these schools in order to identify and deliver additional savings!

We will be in contact shortly to arrange meetings. For those schools who have yet to return their Allianz SLA, please do ASAP! Last year the average CEIST school insurance premium was reduced by €3,000 or on average 22%! To ensure your school's continued savings in 2011/12 and 2012/13 please return them to Educena. Should you require duplicates, please e-mail lbergin@educena.ie

Liam Bergin CEO

The Educena Foundation

Competition



CEIST Schools Young Scientists 2011 Award Winners

CEIST were delighted to profile on our website the achievements of some of our schools at the recent BT Young Scientists 2011 exhibition held in the RDS.

A record breaking 3,843 students attended this year's BT Young Scientist & Technology exhibition.

According to BT, a total of 1,735 projects were entered in the competition, while 520 projects were selected to take part in the finals.

[MORE](#)

Education Matters



Annual Catherine McAuley Lecture - 9th February 2011

The second Annual Catherine McAuley Lecture will take place on the 9th of February in St. Leo's College, Carlow in the Assembly Hall at 7.30 pm.

The lecture will be given by past pupil, Dr. Hannah McGee, Dean of the Royal College Of Surgeons, Dublin.

The lecture is entitled "The Importance Of Education". All are welcome. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

Faith-related Issues



Presentation Sisters Bicentenary Celebration

The Presentation Sisters first came to Carlow 200 years ago on 29th January 1811. To honour the bicentenary, a special mass will be celebrated in Carlow Cathedral on Saturday, 29th January at 12 noon.

Sr. Cecelia Molloy has written music for the Mass, which will be sung by a choir of past-pupils of Scoil Mhuire gan Smál and Presentation Secondary School, Askea, Carlow and friends of the Sisters. All are welcome.

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The Directory is a tool for renewal of the Church writes Maeve Mahon

Maeve Mahon, who works in Faith Development Services in the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin and is also a member of the Board of CEIST, wrote the following article regarding the publication of the National Directory for Catechesis in Ireland.

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Monday January 24th saw the official launch of Catholic Schools Week 2011 which took place at the Edmund Rice International Heritage Centre at Mount Sion, Waterford with similar launch events taking place at Holy Cross College, Strabane and St. Josephs Secondary School, Derry.

The theme of this years event - 'Catholic Schools - Rooted in Jesus Christ' was inspired by the Pastoral Letter of Pope Benedict XVI.

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News from CEIST Schools



Young Scientist: First Prize for Presentation Miltown

Aoife Stephens, a Transition year student, in Presentation Secondary School, Miltown secured a first in the Young Scientist of the Year competition in RDS Dublin last week.

Aoife was awarded joint first prize in the Social and Behavioural Intermediate category for her project.

"It Just Clicks! Positive Reinforcement in Horses".

[MORE](#)



A Space for Learning

A Space for Learning, is an exhibition organised by the Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF), which focuses on the outdoors.

At Mercy College in Coolock, Dublin, the students worked with graduate architects Faela Guiden, Helen Kelly and Laura O'Brien.

The students and graduate architects transformed the school's interior courtyard into a space to eat, gather, learn and work.

[MORE](#)



St. Raphael's College Loughrea - School Feature of The Month

Our school feature for the month of February is St. Raphael's College, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

The school very kindly shared with us their recent news, events, achievements, etc.

If you would like to have your school profiled on the CEIST website, please [email](#) the CEIST office with your news and photos.

[MORE](#)



Presentation Secondary School Thurles Participation in Young Scientist 2011 Exhibition

The following is an account from Presentation Secondary School, Thurles on their participation in the recent BT Young Scientist Competition.

[MORE](#)



Young Scientists and Technology Award for Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew Students

Students Maria Regan and Hannah Kieley of Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew, Co. Galway came second out of 96 entries in the Intermediate Social and Behavioural category of the BT Young Scientists & Technology Exhibition held in the RDS recently.

Their project "Self esteem in Teenagers - fact or fiction?" involved the survey of 1,200 Irish students, 50 school counsellors and 200 French teenagers.

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Presentation De La Salle College Bagenalstown Major Award Winner at Young Scientist Exhibition

Fifth Year Student, James Doyle, of Presentation De La Salle College, Bagenalstown, Carlow was Runner Up to the Overall Winner in the Young Scientists Exhibition in Dublin recently.

His project "The Potential of Waste Materials from Hedgerow Cuttings as a Feasible Biomass Fuel" attracted huge national attention and brings great credit to James himself, his family and teacher Ms. Ronyane.

[MORE](#)



Ardscoil Mhuire Corbally School Musical

Ardscoil Mhuire, Corbally, Co. Limerick, held a very enjoyable School Musical recently in the Limerick Institute of Technology.

The school participated in a joint musical with St. Munchin's College, Limerick in what was a most impressive and enjoyable evening's entertainment for the large crowd that attended on Saturday 22nd January 2011.

[MORE](#)

Reflecting CEIST Values



Gaisce Silver Award for St. Leo's College Carlow Students

St. Leo's College students, Naomh O'Neill and Kayla Robinson, recently received the Gaisce Silver Award, which is one of the highest accolades awarded to young people from President Mary McAleese.

The St. Leo's girls applied tremendous effort and dedication in completing the Gaisce programme, with special praise also to teacher Ruth McHugh who gave great support to the students.

[MORE](#)



Presentation Secondary School Waterford Student Contribution To St. Vincent de Paul Charity

St. Vincent de Paul continues to provide the essential food items to those in our local communities who are literally on the breadline.

At Christmas however, they aim to do a bit more than that by ensuring that everyone gets the Christmas treats that we all love to have during the festive period.

Students of the Presentation Secondary School have been involved in contributing food for the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal for the past number of years.

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CEIST School Wins Major Award at Science Exhibition

Thursday 20th January 2011

Fifth Year Student, James Doyle, of Presentation De La Salle College, Bagenalstown, Carlow has come Runner Up to the Overall Winner in the Young Scientists Exhibition in Dublin recently.

His project *"The Potential of Waste Materials from Hedgerow Cuttings as a Feasible Biomass Fuel"* attracted huge national attention and brings great credit to James himself, his family and teacher Ms. Ronyane.

Hubert Fuller BT Young Scientist Judge wrote of James' project;

"You have presented a most impressive project! The evidence presented is compelling that hedgerow clippings, now considered as "waste" could be used to provide a new clean biofuel. This clearly written report is professionally presented and your display is outstanding. Well done".

The schools current school improvement programme under the overall theme of Promoting Ambition and Achievement is hugely boosted by this years success.

It follows success from last years exhibition when third year student Niamh Byrne and teacher Mr. Morrissey also won a major prize.



James is pictured above at the exhibition with his teacher Ms. Ronyane.



Pictured above The Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills, Ms. Mary Coughlan TD presenting runner up

award to James.



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Presentation Sisters Bicentenary Celebration

Tuesday 18th January 2011

The Presentation Sisters first came to Carlow 200 years ago on 29th January 1811. To honour the bicentenary, a special mass will be celebrated in Carlow Cathedral on Saturday, 29th January at 12 noon.

Sr. Cecelia Molloy has written music for the Mass, which will be sung by a choir of past-pupils of Scoil Mhuire gan Smál and Presentation Secondary School, Askea, Carlow and friends of the Sisters. All are welcome.

There will be a special photographic display in Carlow County Library, formerly the Presentation Convent, for the week before and the week after the bicentenary celebration.

A DVD has been made in honour of the occasion - containing all the photos from the display and more - and it can be yours for a minimum donation of €5.

As all proceeds will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul in Carlow, it is hoped people will avail of this unique opportunity and give generously.

The DVD will be available for purchase at the photographic display and on the day of the bicentenary.



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The Directory is a tool for renewal of the Church writes Maeve Mahon

Tuesday 18th January 2011

Maeve Mahon has written the following article regarding the publication of the National Directory for Catechesis in Ireland.

"The publication of a National Directory for Catechesis in Ireland has been a long time coming and it is a truly significant moment in the life of the Irish Church. However, the significance of this particular document will only be fully understood and realised if there is a real and strategic commitment to its implementation.

At its launch last Wednesday, Archbishop Martin likened *Share the Good News* to a "time bomb" being thrown not just into the Catechetical community but into the whole Church. Many of those present probably welcomed the analogy or at least the possibility that such an explosion might cause profound changes in the way that the work of catechesis and evangelisation is managed and undertaken in the Irish context.

My own initial response was and indeed continues to be to embrace the notion of something that would give us the opportunity to begin to completely re-imagine the way we work in this area. I began to think of cleared ground and fresh soil in which to plant seeds and begin again the task of re-engaging with people who seek to know God and wish to be able to confidently articulate what they believe and why they believe it.

I found myself imagining the rich harvest that a real commitment to resource and support parish based catechesis and faith development for young people and adults would bring to our parish communities.

Consider the possibilities that would be opened up by having qualified and professional people working together with those in ordained ministry to build anew the reign of God. These and many other suggestions form only a small part of the very rich tapestry that Dr. Gareth Byrne has woven together in this document that offers us a renewed vision of what it truly means to be people of God, who together live, share and are the Good News.

Having had some time to further reflect, it occurs to me that a time bomb is usually planted by those who seek to have control over where and when it explodes. It is the members of the Episcopal Conference who have published this document and who have shepherded it through the long and arduous process to its publication and for this they deserve much credit.

I hope that they have the courage to push the button and enable all of us to ensure that this book does not sit on a shelf and gather dust but rather becomes a tool for renewal of the Church in Ireland".

Maeve Mahon Works in Faith Development Services in the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. Maeve is also a member of the Board of CEIST.

(Article courtesy of the Irish Catholic).

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Catholic Schools Week Launch

Thursday 27th January 2011

Monday January 24th saw the official launch of Catholic Schools Week 2011 which took place at the Edmund Rice International Heritage Centre at Mount Sion, Waterford with similar launch events taking place at Holy Cross College, Strabane and St. Josephs Secondary School, Derry.

The theme of this years event – *'Catholic Schools – Rooted in Jesus Christ'* was inspired by the Pastoral Letter of Pope Benedict XVI.

The idea of Catholic Schools week is to raise awareness of the national treasure our Catholic schools are, and to remind us that our schools are linked in a unique way to the incarnation, life, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

As Pope Benedict put it: – 'Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and his goodness, and shelter the flame of faith in your hearts'.

A number of addresses given at the launch of Catholic Schools Week are available on www.catholicbishops.ie and offer valuable food for thought. The address by Bishops Brendan Kelly and Donal McKeown make for particularly rewarding reading.

Catholic Schools Week 2011 begins on Sunday 30 January and concludes on Saturday February 5th. A special feature of this year's event is the invitation to second level students, individually or in group, to make a presentation of their school highlighting the following:

- The history of the school
- The achievements of staff and pupils
- The patron saint of the school.

All presentations will seek to show how the entire school community puts faith into action. A prize will be given for the presentation judged to capture best the identity and life of the Catholic school.

Photos from the Launch



Ned Prendergast, Director of Faith Development, CEIST, planting seeds for Catholic Schools that bear witness to their values

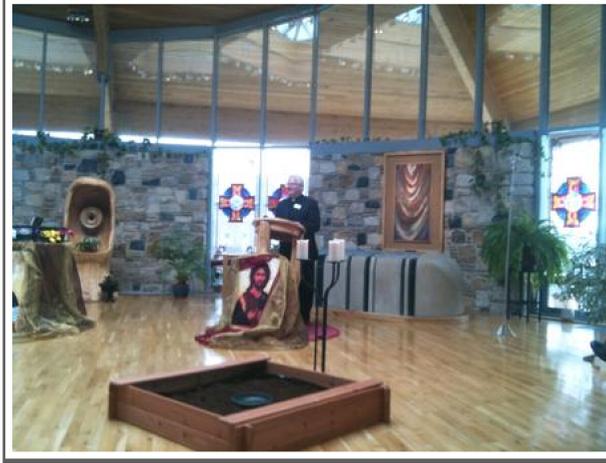
rooted in Jesus Christ.



Pictured above Sr. Elizabeth Maxwell Co Chair Catholic Schools Partnership speaking at the Launch.



Pictured above a section of the guests at the launch of Catholic Schools Week.



Pictured above Monsignor Jim Cassin speaking at the launch.



Choir Singing at Catholic Schools Week Launch in Mount Sion, Waterford.

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Young Scientist: First Prize for Presentation Milltown

Monday 24th January 2011



Aoife Stephens, a Transition year student, in Presentation Secondary School Milltown secured a first in the Young Scientist of the Year competition in RDS Dublin last week. Aoife was awarded joint first prize in the Social and Behavioural intermediate category for her project:

“It Just Clicks! Positive Reinforcement in Horses”

Aoife’s project incorporated three related studies: In the first she trained groups of five horses using three different techniques and using video footage compared the efficiency and effectiveness within each of the training styles. The second study surveyed horse owners in Co. Kerry to identify training issues, techniques and their knowledge of Clicker Training.

Finally Aoife repeated an experiment, conducted previously by other scientists on animals, but never on horses, to see if she could teach two component behaviours in order to solve a problem.

Each of the four Judges were highly impressed with the quality of her work and particularly her depth of knowledge.

She was able to prove that Clicker Training was both more effective and efficient than other conventional styles.

There is no doubt but that her research will be of huge interest to many horse owners and trainers.

Denis Maguire her science teacher, acknowledged that Aoife is an exceptional student “She is extremely capable and self-motivated, her success is well deserved and indeed no surprise” he said.

On behalf of Presentation Secondary School, Mr Bonner, Principal, congratulated Aoife on her wonderful achievement acknowledging that it was a great honour for herself, her family and all associated with Presentation Secondary School, Milltown.

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A Space for Learning

Tuesday 4th January 2011

A Space for Learning, is an exhibition organised by the Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF), which focuses on the outdoors.

A Space for Learning started life when the foundation invited established architects and young graduates to work with transition-year students to come up with different ways of looking at schools. At the beginning of this year 120 architects were paired with 1,500 students in 90 schools across the country.

The results of their work have been published in a new book and 10 of the projects appear in the exhibition in the gallery at the National College of Art Design, in Dublin.

At Mercy College in Coolock, Dublin, the students worked with graduate architects Faela Guiden, Helen Kelly and Laura O'Brien. The students and graduate architects transformed the school's interior courtyard into a space to eat, gather, learn and work as shown in picture below.



Student Nayla Abdulla says that, until she took part in the

project, "architecture had always been about putting down a bunch of bricks together to fabricate some sort of establishment".

Another student, Christina Olwill, adds that "before the project I thought architecture was a load of boring businessmen turning up to work, sitting alone at a table and spending the day drawing. Now I think architecture can change the way we live and work".

St Mary's Secondary School, Mallow, students worked with Chora Design Studio and their work as well as Mercy College Coolock has also been published in the new book with projects being displayed in the exhibition in the gallery at the National College of Art Design, in Dublin.

What the students and their architect mentors have come up with throughout A Space for Learning reveals an unsurprising emphasis on the informal areas of the school: the places of recreation, gathering and play.

Perhaps what is more surprising is that this is in line with current thinking in international educational practice. Some experimental schools in Iceland have been designed around open spaces. Classrooms are glassed in, and the children learn the value of mentoring, responsibility and thinking outside the confines of a linear lesson plan.

In Ireland, Department of Education policy dictates that contracts can be awarded only to architects who have previously designed a school or completed projects of a particular size. This leaves any room for innovation "in the in-between spaces, in how they're brought together", says Maria Donoghue, one of the Space for Learning architects.

"Students experience schools in the spaces where they interact with their peers. It's not so much about the classroom itself."

Whether or not we are aware of it, architecture exerts an influence on how we feel, how we act, even how we are able to move from place to place. In a school it can change the experience from being taught to learning.

Federico Scoponi, an Italian architect who worked with Sandford Park School in Ranelagh, in Dublin, asked the students what they had learned from the project.

He was delighted with the response of one student who said: "The psychology of architecture and how spaces affect your life and environment."

Scoponi writes in the book: "A 16-year-old boy who understands that the built environment and architecture have their own psychology, which affects our everyday life, is the first step towards a sustainable architecture."

And the dream of learning outside? It is actually an echo of the views of Margaret McMillan, the pioneering early-20th-century educator, who said: "Everything that can be taught outdoors cannot be taught indoors."

A Space for Learning is published by the Irish Architecture Foundation (architecture.foundation.ie, €12 including pp). The exhibition is at the NCAD Gallery, 100 Thomas St, Dublin 8, until January 29th, then touring nationwide.

(article and picture courtesy of Irish Times).

School Support

St. Raphael's College, Loughrea

Mission Statement

St. Raphael's College is a Catholic, co-educational school which aims to provide a Christian education designed to help each pupil achieve his/her potential. Administrators and teachers see themselves as supporting the parents who are the primary educators of their children. The broad education offered strives toward not only academic achievements, but the complete development of each pupil.

Vision Statement

The aim of St Raphael's College is to provide a Catholic education to help each pupil to reach his/her potential as a unique, worthwhile person. The school is a community where pupils, teachers and parents share the Christian vision and are guided by the principles of the Gospel. Administrators and teachers see themselves as supporting and supplementing the work of parents, the primary educators.

History and Ethos

St. Raphael's College was founded by the Clonfert Mercy Sisters in 1917. Up to 1974, the school provided secondary education for day girls and boarders from the local area and many different parts of the country.

In 1974 St. Raphael's amalgamated with St. Brendan's De la Salle boys school. Since 1974 St. Raphael's has provided Catholic secondary education to boys and girls from the Loughrea area.

CEIST (Catholic Education, an Irish Schools Trust) are the trustees of St. Raphael's College. The trustees delegate management of the school to a board of management which is responsible for the ethos and direction of the school.

St. Raphael's College is a Catholic school where Gospel values inform, direct and permeate every aspect of school life. The Christian values of respect and excellence are at the core of our school. Respect for self, those around us, our environment and for God combine with the Christ-like struggle to achieve excellence in everything we do.

School News

St. Raphael's College Winners of 2010 Business Student Quiz

The inaugural Business Student Quiz All-Ireland Final was held in the Tipperary Institute of Technology on Thursday 4th November 2011.

Fifteen victorious teams from the Regional Finals, together with their teachers and supporters made the trip to the Tipperary Institute to battle it out for the prestigious 2010 Business Student Quiz All - Ireland Final prize-winners title.

Taking learning out of the classroom, and adding an element of fun was the objective of the final with the top performing teams from Cork, Dublin, Donegal, Galway and the Mid-West tested on key Junior Certificate business fundamentals in addition to general knowledge.

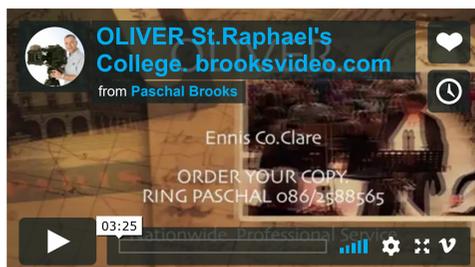
The coveted prize-winner's title, a plaque for display in their school and a generous cash prize courtesy of Ulster Bank was awarded to the winners, Cormac McGuinness, Daire Joyce, Sarah McMahon and Justin Cooney from St. Raphael's College, Loughrea.

The tension rose quickly on the day, as St. Raphael's College, Loughrea and Gort Community School went head-to-head in a tie breaker round for first place. The Loughrea team eventually emerged as victors, followed by Gort Community School and CBC, Cork in a close second and third place respectively.



Pictured above (front LtoR) are Cormac McGuinness, Daire Joyce, Sarah Monaghan and Justin Cooney who represented St. Raphael's College when they won the 2010 All-Ireland Business Student Quiz. They are pictured with Jenny Harrington, BSTAI, Dolores Finn-Kelly, teacher; Siobhan Meehan, Ulster Bank, Thurles (sponsor); Dan Hallissey, branch manager, John Kenehan, Tipperary Institute; Miriam Gleeson, teacher; and Conor Stakelum, Stakelum Thurles (sponsor).

"OLIVER THE MUSICAL"



SENIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL ALL IRELAND "A" CHAMPIONS

On Thursday January 20th, St. Raphael's senior girl's volleyball team captured the All Ireland "A" title in a most exciting game with Holy Family School, Newbridge.

The Newbridge girls made the better start, taking the first set comfortably. The St. Raphael's girls started nervously and made some uncharacteristic errors, while the Newbridge girls took full advantage.

Captain, Aisling O' Rourke rallied her troops and there was a significant improvement in the second set. A very closely fought set saw St. Raphael's even the score with some excellent play from the Loughrea girls. Aoife Cooney and M.V.P. Kate Bryan led the offensive with some outstanding points, while a series of excellent serves from Aoife Joyce and Rhona Mc Keigue kept St. Raphael's on the front foot.

From then on St. Raphael's took control of the game and completed a famous victory with a scoreline of three sets to one.

Coach Jennifer Moret deserves huge credit for having the girls in peak physical and mental condition and perfectly prepared for the final. The entire squad played their part in this success and share in the victory.



Pictured above All-Ireland A Volleyball Champions, **Back row;** left to right Kate Bryan (Winner of Most Valuable Player award), Megan O Connor, Ciara O'Rourke, Shauna Maher, Aoife Cooney.

Front Row; Laura Morgan, Nicola Daniels, Aisling O'Rourke (Captain), Rhona Mc Keigue, Aoife Joyce, Rebecca O'Malley.



Christian Response to HIV/AIDS

Since 2009 CEIST has been linking with Open Heart House, a centre in Dublin which challenges the social stigma associated with HIV/AIDS, while providing a compassionate and non-judgemental space for those affected by this condition.

Some time ago the staff and members of Open Heart House welcomed a group of teachers from CEIST schools to examine together ways in which HIV/AIDS might be approached from a fresh perspective in schools.

As a result of this meeting an interesting lesson module has been produced which explores a Christian response to the needs of those living with HIV/AIDS while also raising awareness of the practical realities of the spread of this virus.

We would like to express sincere thanks to Ms. Martina Keenan-Spain, of St. Raphael's College, Loughrea, for all her support in this project.

Martina is a member of the framework from which the module has been developed in consultation between the Staff and Members of Open Heart House and the Faith Development Team at CEIST. Martina has also written a powerful drama, entitled 'Full Circle', especially for the module.

This is a drama which will give students much food for thought as it unfolds, and a great deal of material for discussion.

We look forward to having the completed module available for use in schools shortly.

Click [here](#) to visit St. Raphael's College, Loughrea excellent website.

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Presentation Thurles Students Take Part in BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2011

Monday 17th January 2011

The following is an account from Presentation Secondary School, Thurles on their participation in the recent BT Young Scientist Competition.

This year saw the highest number of entries in the 47 year history of the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition, with 1,735 projects entered from 346 schools in Ireland.

It was a huge achievement to be accepted as only 520 projects took part in the exhibition. On Wednesday morning Presentation students, who were successfully accepted to present their results at the competition left Thurles for the RDS, Dublin. Anticipation and excitement levels were high. All the hard work was completed, projects were printed and displays looking their best.

The girls set up their stalls and the judging began almost immediately with one judgement on Wednesday and two on Thursday. The judges were suitably impressed with everyone and wrote more than a few encouraging comments in their project reports. On Thursday, the exhibition was opened to the public with the girls explaining and demonstrating their projects to the streams of people who attended. The atmosphere was electric! The girls were also joined by Second years, Transition years and family members that travelled from home to support them.

Some students were interviewed by RTE news, Ear to the Ground, 2FM and 'In Science' magazine also featured a project.

The projects presented at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition included:

Second Years

- Hot milk v cold milk: Which is best for us? - Yasmin Wahli
- Comparing the effect of the George Foreman grill with different cooking methods with regard to reducing fat content - Sinead Lawless, Jane Ann McKeivitt and Rachel McCormack
- Because we're worth it! But are we? – Alanna Moore, Roisin Hally and Laura Walsh

Transition Years

- Investigation and comparisons of different silage wrapping - Yvonne Mullins and Hazel Costigan
- Multi-vitamin supplements = thriving lambs – True or false? - Claire Shanahan, Tara O'Carroll and Aoife Sutton
- To investigate the jumping potential of horse – Laura Walsh and Sarah O'Brien
- Is breast best? A mums view – Orlaith Quigley, Sarah Jane O' Riordan and Alison Kelly

The prize-giving ceremony of Friday was eagerly anticipated. The results were excellent.

Four projects were highly commended: **Multi-vitamin supplements = thriving lambs – True or false?** - Claire Shanahan, Tara O' Carroll and Aoife Sutton; **To investigate the jumping potential of horse** – Laura Walsh and Sarah O'Brien; **Investigation and comparisons of different silage wrapping** - Yvonne Mullins and Hazel Costigan; **Because we're worth it! But are we?** – Alanna Moore, Roisin Hally and Laura Walsh. A visual display award was also won by: **To investigate the jumping potential of horse** – Laura Walsh and Sarah O'Brien.

Well done girls on your achievements!

Student Photos at Young Scientists Exhibition



Pictured above are TY students Tara O'Carroll, Aoife Sutton and Claire Shanahan with Darragh McCullough presenter with Ear To The Ground. The girls will appear on Ear To The Ground on Tuesday January 25th to talk about their project-“Multi Vitamins=Thriving lambs?True or False.



Pictured above are second year students Roisin Hally, Laura Walsh and Alanna Moore at the Young Scientist Exhibition

with their project “Because we're worth it-but are we?”.



Pictured above are second year students Yvonne Mullins and Hazel Costigan at the Young Scientist Exhibition with

their project “Investigation and comparison of different silage wrappings”.



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Young Scientists and Technology Award for Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew Students!

Tuesday 18th January 2011

Students Maria Regan and Hannah Kielty of Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew, Co. Galway came second out of 96 entries in the Intermediate Social and Behavioural category of the BT Young Scientists & Technology Exhibition held in the RDS last week.

Their project “**Self esteem in Teenagers – fact or fiction?**” involved the survey of 1,200 Irish students, 50 school counsellors and 200 French teenagers.

Dr. Maeve Martin, a judge at the exhibition said the “piece of work was a credit to the young researchers, and was carried out in a most comprehensive and careful manner and that the implications of the work are of great importance and relevance”.

Maria and Hannah continue the proud tradition of HRC involvement in Young Scientist projects and they were helped in the presentation of their work by Edel Ryan who with Fiona Ryan were the group winners in the exhibition in 2008.



Pictured above are Martin Tierney, deputy principal pictured with Hannah Kielty, Maria Regan and Gerry Nihill, teacher

monitor.

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Young Scientist Awards 2011

Monday 17th January 2011

CEIST are delighted to announce the achievements of some of our schools at the recent BT Young Scientists 2011 exhibition held in the RDS.

[Coláiste Muire](#) in Crosshaven, Co. Cork won the best group award for their project on "DIY Wind Power: Portable Community Generators for the Third World". The students on the team were Thomas Cronin, Jeremy Barisch-Rooney and Dylan Cross.

The Individual Runner-up award went to student James Doyle of [Presentation de la Salle College](#), Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow (Pictured Below) for his project titled "The Potential of Waste Materials from Hedgerow Cuttings as a Feasible Biomass Fuel".



A record breaking 3,843 students attended this year's BT Young Scientist & Technology exhibition, it has been announced.

According to BT, a total of 1,735 projects were also entered in the competition, while 520 projects were selected to take part in the finals.

The Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills Mary Coughlan attended the event, alongside Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport Mary Hanafin and Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government John Gormley.

Commenting on the exhibition, which took place from January 12th to the 15th, the Tánaiste described the event as "hugely important".

"We're trying to encourage our young people into the sciences much more. I feel that competitions like this really enthuse young people and get them thinking," she said.

Ms Coughlan also praised the teachers, stating that they are very supportive of the students who enter.

Dublin student Alexander Amini from Castleknock College, Dublin was named as the overall winner of the competition, taking the prize for his project named Tennis Sensor Data Analysis.

Other CEIST Schools Award Winners

BIOLOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES

- John Clancy, [Mary Immaculate Secondary School](#), Lisdoonvarna, **Can Seed Dispersal Efficiency be Improved by Better Design?** (2nd in Junior Individual Category).
- Cathy McKeown, Lynda McGee, [St. Vincent's Secondary School](#), Dundalk, **Is DVD Training Good Enough? A Comparison of First Aid Training to DVD Training in CPR Application by Teenagers.** (3rd in Junior Group Category).
- David Sims, Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna, **Variations in the Gas Composition of the Bladders of *Ascophyllum Nodosum*.** (2nd Intermediate Individual).

CHEMICAL, PHYSICAL AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCE

- Rachel Begley, St. Vincent's Secondary School, **To Develop a Form of Test to Measure Magnesium Levels in Milk, as an Aid to Help Prevent Bovine Grass Tetany.** (1st Junior Individual Category).
- Niamh Cunningham, [Our Lady's College](#), Greenhills, Drogheda, **Physics of Taekwondo.** (3rd Junior Individual Category).
- Muireasa Carroll, Denise Hurley and Mairéad Kingston of [Sacred Heart Secondary School](#), Clonakilty, **An Investigation into Sea Lettuce Briquettes.** (1st Senior Group Category).

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES

- Aoife Stephens, [Presentation Secondary School, Miltown](#), Co. Kerry, **It Just Clicks! Positive Reinforcement in Horses.** (Joint 1st Intermediate Individual Category).
- Maria Regan and Hannah Kiely, [Holy Rosary College](#), Mountbellew, Galway, **Self-esteem in Teenagers - Fact or Fiction.** (2nd Intermediate Group Category).
- Marie Carhill, Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna, **Changes in the Occurrence of Surnames Since 1911 in Kildare and Clare.** (2nd Senior Individual).

FATHER TOM BURKE MEMORIAL BURSARY AWARD

- Marie Carhill, Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna, **Changes in the Occurrence of Surnames Since 1911 in Kildare and Clare.**

Other CEIST schools that made the newspaper headlines were [St Mary's Secondary School](#), Macroom, where student, Darina Lynch, developed a way to bring the common fresh-water sponge in from the wild and make it grow indoors. In another study, students from [St Aloysius Secondary School](#), Cork looked at whether listening to music could improve learning.

CEIST would like to congratulate the students above on their achievements and to all students from CEIST schools who participated in the competition.



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Ardsoil Mhuire Corbally School Participation in Joint Schools Musical

Monday 24th January 2011

Ardsoil Mhuire Corbally held a very enjoyable School Musical recently in the Limerick Institute of Technology.

The school participated in a joint musical with St. Munchin's College, Limerick in what was a most impressive and enjoyable evening's entertainment for the large crowd that attended on Saturday 22nd January 2011.

The CEO of CEIST, Anne Kelleher, attended the musical and noted "the two schools Transition Year students that were involved and the ease between them as well as their enjoyment was most palpable".

The joint schools musical was titled "*Back to the 80s*".

Photos from the Musical



Pictured above Principal of Ardsoil Mhuire Corbally, Collette McGrath, welcomes the audience to the show.





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St. Leo's College Carlow Students Win Gaisce Silver Award

Wednesday 26th January 2011

Two students, Naoimh O'Neill and Kayla Robinson who attend St. Leo's College Carlow were recently presented with the Gaisce Silver Award.

The Gaisce Silver Award is one of the highest accolades awarded to young people from the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese.

Naoimh and Kayla were among 175 students receiving the national award at a presentation ceremony in December 2010. They both travelled to Dublin for the Gaisce Silver Award presentation ceremony just before Christmas in the Edmund Burke, Theatre, Trinity College.

The St. Leo's students took part in several community projects, physical and personal skill activities and an adventurous hiking trip to Glendalough, which saw the girls walk an incredible 50km.

At the awards ceremony, the girls had the privilege of meeting Today FM broadcaster Ray D'Arcy, who presented the awards on behalf of Gaisce patron President Mary McAleese.

The two girls received a silver medal and miniature replica brooch for their outstanding achievement on completing the silver Gaisce programme.

Supporting the girls at the event was teacher Ruth McHugh, who also applied tremendous effort and dedication to the Gaisce programme.

Teaching and Learning for the 21st Century

St. Leo's college is one of several schools involved in a two-year old pilot programme called Teaching and Learning for the 21st Century.

Teams from schools across the Country attend workshops in Kilkenny Education Centre, under the guidance of NUI Maynooth.

The process is focusing on homework and aims to enhance practices in homework in a way which improves student confidence, learning outcomes and builds strategies for life.



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Presentation Secondary School Waterford Student Contribution to St. Vincent de Paul Charity

Tuesday 11th January 2011

St. Vincent de Paul aims to provide the essential food items to those in our local communities who are literally on the breadline.

At Christmas however, they aim to do a bit more than that by ensuring that everyone gets the Christmas treats that we all love to have during the festive period.

Students of the Presentation Secondary School have been involved in contributing food for the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal for the past number of years.



Pictured above are teachers, Lupita De Bháil and Karen Heffernan, with students from the Student Council and the Social

Justice Group.

This year, alarmed by the news that there has been a 100% increase in requests for assistance from the St. Vincent de Paul, the Students' Council and Presentation Social Justice Group decided to work even harder to ensure that those who are most in need in our community would not go without at Christmas time.

Together they co-ordinated and ran a successful two week campaign, encouraging staff and students alike to contribute food items to this very worthy and local cause.

Members of the Student Council and Social Justice Group also gave their time very generously on Saturday, 18th December in helping the St. Vincent de Paul pack food that has been contributed from across Waterford into hampers that were distributed and delivered in time for Christmas. Well done to all involved!