

BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Yearbook 2014

CAULFIELDS - Gud 2 Go



Proud to support.

Supporting Ballyhaunis Community School
from the staff at AIB Claremorris.



**Ryan's SuperValu
Ballyhaunis**

T: 094 9630359

F: 094 9630617

**Email: ryanballyhaunis@supervalu.ie
ryansballyhaunis@supervalu.ie**

GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL



I believe it was a Chinese philosopher, Lao-Tzu, who first said that "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". That statement perfectly encapsulates my experiences of the last year. As I have already said on many occasions I am deeply honoured and humbled to be Principal of Ballyhaunis Community School. However, that is not to say that the prospect was not daunting. I must confess that for a number of days following my appointment I was in a type

of a daze, overwhelmed by the enormity of the role. It was at that stage that Lao-Tzu's words of wisdom occurred to me and they have sustained me throughout the year.

But like any great journey you need help along the way and I want to put on record my sincere thanks to the staff and students for their support throughout the year. I particularly want to pay tribute to my predecessor, Mr. Pat McHugh, for his guidance during the transition period. Being the true professional that he is Pat ensured everything was ship shape before he departed and I know for a fact the school retains a special place in his heart. A fuller tribute is to be found within. The past year contains many special moments and many highlights. In late September we were delighted to welcome back our past pupil David Kenny who was accompanied on that occasion by the Tom Markham cup, the All-Ireland Minor trophy. David turned in a Man of the Match performance on the day and it was fitting that we honoured him with

a whole school assembly on his return to the school. The Musical, "Back to the 80's" was a rip roaring success. Those few nights in late November will live long in the memory, not just for the cast and crew, but for the whole student body. It was a tremendous showcase for the school and it underlined the school's commitment to the holistic development of the students in our care. But away from these high profile events the school has daily highlights which gave me huge satisfaction on an ongoing basis. It could be something as simple as an act of kindness shown by one student to another or just watching as the students grow and develop as socially aware young people on the cusp of becoming active contributors to society. I want to pay tribute to Ms. Caulfield and particularly to Ms. Mooney for once again producing an outstanding publication. They were as always ably assisted by a terrific team of students who can also take great pride from being involved in such a wonderful project. A special mention for Fr. Farragher who is responsible for most, if not all, the pictures in the magazine. Fr. Farragher has become a great friend to the school and his expertise with a camera has added immeasurably to the tapestry of life in the school.

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to wish our students who will be sitting their State Exams in a few short weeks the very best. I would particularly like to extend my best wishes to our Leaving Certificate students who will be starting their own life journeys next year. My advice to them is not to be daunted by what lies ahead but to forge their own path, one small step at a time.

Mr McDonagh
Principal.

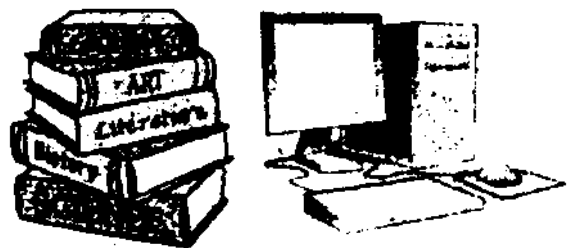


Miko Metals Limited,
Ballycurreen, Airport Road,
Cork, Ireland.

Telephone: (021) 4966907
Fax: (021) 4313653
Website: www.miko.ie
E-mail: sales@miko.ie

Company Registration Number 82502
VAT Registration Number IE 4627381U

TUAM BOOKSHOP & OFFICE SUPPLIES



VICAR STREET,
TUAM,
CO. GALWAY

Telephone: (093) 28907
Fax: (093) 28900

STAFF 2013 - 2014



Back Row (l. to r.): Mr. Colin Quinn, Ms. Josephine Loftus, Ms. Roisín Carty, Ms. Maggie Scahill, Ms. Carmel Flannery, Ms. Anne Grogan, Ms. Geraldine Finn, Mrs. Patricia Hargaden-Whyte, Mr. Padraig Shannon.

Front Row (l. to r.): Mr. Michael Murray, Ms. Eva Brogan, Ms. Antoinette Lennon, Ms. Mary Mooney, Ms. Sinead Donegan, Ms. Claire Caulfield, Mrs. Áine Fallon, Mr. Patrick McGarry.

Missing from photo: Mrs. Gillian Madden, Mrs. Siobhan Mannix and Ms. Ann Varden.



Back Row (l. to r.): Ms Concepta Moran, Mr Raymond Woolley, Mr. Patrick Noone, Ms Ann Marie O'Reilly, Mrs Siobhán Devine, Ms Eadaoin Flynn, Ms Aishling Comer, Ms Maireád Conway, Mr Séan McHugh, Mr David McDonagh.

Front Row: Ms. Bernie Osgood, Mrs. Aoife Keane, Ms. Colleen Hayes, Ms. Genny Murray, Mrs. Sharon Mulroy, Mrs. Anna Henry, Mr. Seán Larkin.

Missing from photo: Mrs. Caitriona Murphy.

STAFF 2013 - 2014



Mrs. Justina Lyons &
Mrs. Sharon Gibbons,
Administrative staff



Mrs. Patricia Gaughan -
Administrative Staff



Mrs. Bernie Lyons -
Special Needs Assistant



Ms. Orla McHugh - H.Dip Student



Staff Christmas Jumper Day



Mr. Colm Calufield- H. Dip. Student



Staff Christmas Jumper Day

STAFF NEWS

The school year of 2013-2014 welcomed many new teachers and staff through the doors of BCS - Ms. Roisín Carty, Ms. Sinead Donnegan, Ms. Maggie Scahill, Mr. Seán Larkin, Mr. Michael Lynch and Mrs. Catherine Ruane. We were deeply saddened to bid farewell to Mr. Pat McHugh, Mrs. Eileen Jennings and Mrs. Cáit Webb. On behalf of the entire school community we would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank them for their unwavering dedication to Ballyhaunis Community School. We wish them a long and happy retirement.

The beautiful summer of 2013 marked more wedding bells on the staff with Ms. Sinéad Donegan and Ms. Mary Mooney taking the matrimonial plunge! We wish Ms. Aishling Comer the very best for her upcoming wedding this summer.

Congratulations also to Mr. David McDonagh on the birth of his daughter Sadhbh, Mr. Patrick Noone on the birth of his daughter Anna, Mrs. Caitriona Murphy on the birth of her son Ronan Gus, Mrs. Gillian Madden on the birth of her son Darragh, Ms. Ann Varden on the birth of her daughter Méabh and Mrs. Mannix on the birth of her daughter Siún.



Anna Noone



Siún Mannix



Méabh Loughnane



Ronan Gus Murphy



Sadbh McDonagh



Aniar Solutions Ltd,
Technology House,
Castlebar,
Co Mayo,
Ireland



Tel +353(0)949048200
Fax. +353(0)949044999
E-Mail info@aniar.ie
Web www.aniar.ie
Company Reg 366640

RETIREMENT - PAT M^CHUGH

O.MACKEN



On May 22nd 2013 the whole school community gathered in the assembly area to pay tribute to Mr. Pat McHugh on the occasion of his retirement as principal of BCS. This was one of those occasions where the mood was tinged with happiness for Mr. McHugh as he embarked on a new phase in his life, but it was also a little sad because we were going to miss this man who had become like a father figure to many – students and staff.

Maria Waldron and Ciara Jordan represented the student body; they spoke about Mr McHugh as a principal who was always helpful, supportive and encouraging, he always gave sound guidance throughout his time in school. They expressed their sadness to see Mr. McHugh leave but wished him happiness and good health in his retirement.

The students presented a book of memories and good wishes signed by all the staff and students of our school. We hope it will be a memorable keepsake for Mr McHugh to treasure always. Labhaoise Cunnane sketched a portrait of Mr. McHugh and this was framed and also presented to Mr. McHugh. Mr McDonagh spoke about Mr McHugh's contribution to the development of education at BCS. Mr. McHugh thanked everyone and expressed his gratitude for the gifts and kind words. There aren't many occasions that you could hear a pin drop when every student is gathered together in the assembly area – this occasion was one of those!



TRIBUTE TO MR. PAT M^CHUGH

DAVID MCDONAGH

I think it is fair to say that Pat took us all by surprise when he announced his retirement. His experience, energy and capacity to deal with countless issues all at once meant that Pat was operating at the top of his game. We all believed and indeed hoped that he had many years left in the job. It says a lot about the man that he chose to retire given these circumstances. But Pat's pride in the school and his professional integrity meant that he wanted to leave at a time when the school was operating at a very high level and in an excellent position to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

There is no doubt that Pat left us with many fond memories of his time as Principal. Pat oozed calm and never got in a flap over anything no matter what crisis presented itself. This composure transmitted itself to the whole school body and ensured that Ballyhaunis Community School was a joy to attend for both students and staff. I cannot recall Pat raising his voice in anger over the years. Instead he exerted his authority by modeling good behavior and students behaved well for fear of disappointing him by falling below the high standards he set. This I believe was Pat's greatest attribute as Principal and contributed enormously to the happy ambience that pervaded through the school during his tenure.

Pat never took himself too seriously which also endeared him to all he encountered. He has a terrific sense of humour and a wonderful sense of mischief. Many a dreary morning was brightened by Pat's musings on the events of the day and observations on the world in general. It was this common touch and approachability that made Pat so popular with his staff and ensured that we too worked very hard to repay his faith in us and the support he provided.

Pat contributed hugely to the school for over two decades but particularly so in the nine years he spent at the helm. Pat ushered in a new technological era during this time. Classrooms were all equipped with computers and data projectors and Pat was always anxious that the school would remain at the cutting edge of educational developments. Pat's motivation for this was his desire to see all students, irrespective of ability, achieve their potential. The welfare of student's was always foremost in Pat's mind. He fostered an atmosphere around the school where student's could grow and flourish in a caring and considerate environment. He was consistently an advocate for students and this was indeed appreciated by the many students that passed through his hands during his tenure as principal and indeed before that as a teacher of English and Geography. The respect and admiration the student's had for Pat was evidenced by the genuine sadness expressed by many when they learned of his retirement. We had a memorable occasion late in May 2013 when we had a whole school assembly where the students made a presentation to Pat and their respect and fondness for Pat as Principal was clear for all to see.

Pat's popularity was not confined to the students but also extended to the wider school community. He was always available to parents and staff alike and he was generous with his time and his expertise and he always acted in the best interests of the school. He brought a tremendous amount of integrity and dignity to the role and he is indeed a tough act to follow. On behalf of the whole school community I wish him and his wife Noreen many years of health and happiness in his retirement.



THE FOUR PRINCIPALS

DAVID MCDONAGH

I must admit that I do a double take every time I look at the picture of "The Four Principals". Although I have been immersed in the role for a number of months now I still find it incongruous to be in a line up with such distinguished gentlemen. For many it is a nice piece of memorabilia but for me it is a constant reminder of the high standards associated with being Principal of Ballyhaunis Community School. Each man brought different approaches to the job but they are united in that they brought standards that were both admired and appreciated by everyone associated with the school and indeed the wider community. Interestingly, I have had the pleasure of serving under all my three predecessors. In the case of Mr. Thornton, it was only one day but I came away from that one day acutely aware that this was a man who was passionate about the school and its students. Mr. Fahy gave me the opportunity to become a member of staff here in the community school and for that I will be forever grateful. His pride and passion for the school was also very evident for all to see. Mr. McHugh was my principal for nine years and it was very obvious that being principal was more than just a job for him also. Each man casts a long shadow and the challenge for me is to build on the excellent foundation presented to me through their good work.



PAT MCHUGH- A gentleman and a friend.

ANNA HENRY

When I was asked to write this article I was honoured but a little daunted. I have heard many of Pat's speeches down through the years and as we all know they are very eloquent and articulate. However, knowing Pat as well as I do, I realised that he would prefer me to be honest and speak from the heart.

I started in B.C.S on a sunny day in September 1991(back in the old days we started in September). During the coffee break three gentlemen introduced themselves to me- Aidan Kelly, Micheál Smyth and Pat McHugh. I couldn't believe that it was Pat's first day, he looked so comfortable and everybody seemed to know him. Being a blow-in from North Mayo I wasn't to know that Pat was a local celebrity, aka a Fianna Fáil County Councillor. Both Pat and I were joining the English Department and we hit it off immediately.

We were soon approached by the vibrant, enthusiastic Siobhan Devine and asked to help with the school show. If the truth be told neither of us really knew what we were doing but we did it with great enthusiasm! On the nights of the show, Oklahoma, Pat and I had the very important role of prompters. It was so dark backstage we could hardly read the scripts. Thankfully the students were fantastic and our night vision wasn't tested. This foray into the musical world cemented our friendship. We lunched regularly in The Manor House and were often joined by Mary Reaney, Lorna Lavelle and Christy Ruane to name a few. When The Manor shut down we moved down town to Albertos. Unfortunately our lunch time changed to forty minutes and so our trips down town stopped.

Pat was a very relaxed man and I think he would like to be remembered as being an educator rather than a teacher. In 2004 Pat became Principal. What I admired most about Pat as a Principal was his relationship and understanding of the students. It was a given that he treated teachers and parents with respect but for me, his treatment of the students is what impressed me most. He always listened to them and treated them with kindness and respect. He was a paternal figure and the students all knew that his door was always open to them. Sound is a word I have heard students use to describe him and as all teachers know there is no higher compliment!

When Pat announced his retirement last year the staff and student body were saddened by the news. On a personal note I have to say that I miss seeing Pat around the school and I also miss popping into the office for a chat. However, I know that we will always stay in touch and on behalf of the staff I would like to wish Pat, Noreen, Paul, Robert and Emma long life and happiness in retirement.

CÁIT WEBB

DAVID MCDONAGH

Cait Webb served the school as a Supervisor for over 12 years. In that time she brought professionalism to the role that was both admirable and commendable. Cait was everything you could hope for in a Supervisor; firm, caring, discreet and remarkably intuitive. Cait could sense a problem brewing and intervene, thereby averting a more serious incident. She took a genuine interest in the students in her care and struck up a rapport with them which did much to foster the relaxed and happy atmosphere that pervades around our school. I would like to thank Cait for her contribution to the school during her time with us and wish her the very best in the next chapter of her life.

EILEEN JENNINGS

DAVID MCDONAGH

The summer of 2013 brought to an end Eileen Jennings's long association with the school. Eileen was a loyal and dedicated servant of the school and you always got the impression that it was more than just a job for Eileen; it was a labour of love. Eileen took great pride in her work and with Eileen on site you could be very confident the school would be spick and span, ready for whoever would walk through the doors. She contributed significantly to the caring environment around the school and always had a kind word for everyone, students and staff, on a daily basis. Eileen is blessed with terrific energy and I am confident that in her retirement many voluntary organisations will benefit from her time and zest for life. Our loss is their gain! On behalf of the whole school community I would like to thank Eileen for her commitment and her loyalty over the years and wish her many years of health and happiness in her retirement.



Cáit & Eileen

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose-

CLASS OF '88 REUNION

GARRY CLARKE

In early 2011 Karen Henry, Teresa Grady and myself decided that with the 25th anniversary of our leaving BCS and the Gathering coinciding, it would be interesting to see where the 100 odd students from 1988 ended up and to organise a reunion. It is hard to imagine things being worse than they are in the current recession but they were. In 1988 emigration from Ireland was 61,000 (last year it was 40,000) and unemployment was 16%. Many students left Ireland when they finished the Leaving Cert and we haven't seen them since. With the help of a dog-eared school yearbook and the magic of Facebook we quickly reached 40 people. This formed the basis of linking into the wider group and after a few months we had contacted around 90 classmates and set a date for August 2013. I think we were all initially nervous. Did we have anything in common with people we hadn't seen in 25 years. But helped by photos of the debs (Think Dirty Dancing /Fame) the ice was quickly broken and the years rolled back. The stories flowed and a lot of catching up was done. The consensus was that we haven't changed a bit. We even had teachers including Hugh Rudden and Aiden Kelly crashing who were treated like celebrities. By the end of the night 50 old and good friends wondered why we hadn't done it sooner.



PAST PUPIL - LONDON MANAGER

PAUL COGGINS

It was a great honour for me when Bernie Osgood asked me to write a piece for this year's Ballyhaunis Community School Yearbook.

Firstly, when I left Granlahan N.S. and arrived in the school, we as a class were privileged to be the first students in the new community school. That is something that we have pride in as a year and to be honest, my first thoughts would have been where is the pitch and when can we get out onto it to meet all the new lads and see how hard it was going to be to get on the squad.

My first football manager at the school was Mr. Michael Murren and he had a huge influence on me as a player and our team as a squad. He was top class. He didn't get overly hyped up either before or during the games but he had us focused on being the best we could be, and that is what was important and still is to this day in my opinion-all you can give is your best. We enjoyed many successes under Mr. Murren and I remember running or walking at speed (as running inside wasn't looked on as the smartest mode) to try and chat to him about upcoming training sessions, the next game or how we played the day before. I really enjoyed that time and will always savour it as a great part of my life.

Other teachers who influenced my time in sports at school were Mr. Patsy Noone, Mr. Aiden Kelly, Mr. Hugh Rudden, Mr. Jarlath Fahy and Ms. Aine Whelan- our PE teacher. Each of these individuals had different characteristics which had an influence on my life in both sport and business after school. They were all extremely positive people who were very adamant that talent was one thing, but if you didn't work hard with that talent, well the chances of being successful were greatly reduced and they were right as that holds today. My football career after school and obviously my club, Michael Glaveys, had a huge influence on me and it will always be my club. There are too many people to mention individually but they all played a part in our development and we enjoyed great success and I've learned from everything. We have a fine development and pitch in Ballinlough, which people of the parish put in place through hard work and uniting together as a team, that is something to be deeply proud of in our parish. One of my school mates Paul Earley is also a Glaveys man and we have stayed in touch- he is a fantastic ambassador for Glaveys and Ballyhaunis Community School and has given me invaluable advice to me over the years.

Sport has always been a major influence on my life and when I left Ireland in 1988 to come to London, it was great to get involved in the football scene here and meet so many great people from all corners of Ireland. That mix which is created through our national game is a big factor in helping you to get used to the reality of leaving home. Over 200,000 people have emigrated and sport, whether it is gaelic football, hurling and camogie plays a vital part in carrying on our traditions and values. All exiles are working hard to make sure that

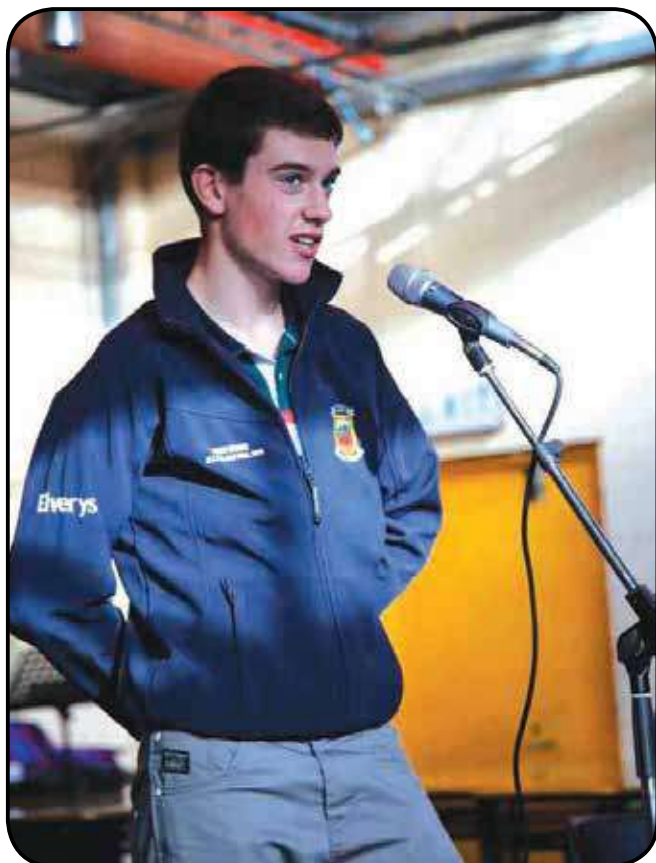
continues. I was lucky enough to meet a Donegal girl, Ann, and we have two boys- John Paul and Patrick. Our lifestyle is taken up quite a bit with football and the support I get from them helps hugely in being able to do the things I want to try and do and when I became the London manager four years ago. I believed we had the players both at senior and underage to give it our best shot at trying to achieve our goals which change all the time. We have worked hard at trying to facilitate the players to be the best that they can be and with huge commitment and ambition we were able to reach the Connaught Final last year and then to play in Croke Park against Mr. Rudden's County Cavan. It was a fantastic achievement and we succeeded because the lads worked hard and made huge sacrifices to try and achieve something that we believed could happen. I hope that it will help encourage any person in life, sport or business, that if you really want to achieve something and if you are willing to work hard, then all goals are achievable.

On that note we are always trying to continue developing and improving as a team. We have to move on and bring young players to the set up. Any person leaving Ireland should know that it is not the end of your time playing football, hurling, ladies football or camogie. When you have to emigrate, you can still compete in these sports at the highest level. I wish you all the best in Ballyhaunis Community School. It always was a great time in my life (too good at times) and I look back with the fondest of memories. I can only hope that you enjoy reading this article and I sincerely hope that my remarkable parents, Paul and Noreen Coggins in Altore, enjoy it also. Thanks again to Bernie for asking me to write this piece.



Class of '93 Reunion

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



David Kenny, Man of the Match in the All-Ireland Minor Final addresses the students in BCS.



Visit of David Kenny to BCS with the Tom Markham Cup.



David Kenny, Man of the Match in the All-Ireland Minor Final, is presented with a BCS school jersey by his former trainer Mr Ray Wooley & school principal, Mr David McDonagh.



l-r: Ray Wooley PE teacher and former trainer of David, Ms Concepta Moran (deputy-principal), David Kenny, & David McDonagh, (school principal), Sean McHugh (trainer).



l-r: Ray Wooley PE teacher and former trainer of David, Sean Kenny, David Kenny, & David McDonagh, (school principal).



David Kenny, Man of the Match in the All-Ireland Minor Final with members of the Senior & Junior football teams in BCS.

BARRY FORDE

My metalwork teacher Mr.Noone entered my Junior Certificate class in a metalwork competition. I was awarded 1st place in the 'Junior Certificate Higher Level Young Engineer Competition' for 2013 in the Galway/Mayo region, organised by E.T.T.A. (Engineering Technology Teachers Association). I was presented with a certificate and medal in the McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris. This award was for my Junior Certificate Result. This result combines my project (Jeep), a 3-hour practice piece (mechanism) and a written exam. I was very proud of this award.

This award automatically entered me into the national competition organised again by E.T.T.A. The awards ceremony took place in the Monaghan Education Campus. There were many categories including Engineering, D.C.G. (Design and Communication Graphics), Technology, Materials Technology Metalwork and Technical Graphics. I was delighted to be awarded a Certificate of Distinction for My Junior Certificate Result. This was a great honour as only ten of these certificates are presented every year. I was proud to receive these awards, as it was an opportunity of a lifetime.



Pictured is: Ms. Conway (Teacher) and Barry Forde who was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for an outstanding achievement in Business Studies (Higher) in the Junior Certificate 2013 on 28th January 2014.

Pictured are: Mr. Patrick Noone (Metalwork Teacher), Barry Forde and Mr. McDonagh. Barry was awarded first place in the 'Junior Certificate Higher Level Young Engineer Competition' for 2013 in the Galway/Mayo region by the E.T.T.A.

OPEN EVENING – MONDAY JANUARY 30TH 2014

ORLA MACKEN

Our annual open evening was organized for Thursday, January 30th, 2014 where 6th class students and their parents were invited into the school to visit the classrooms, meet the teachers and see the facilities and everything the school has to offer. 4th year students had a huge role to play on this evening as they took on the role of senior mentors for the evening. They welcomed the students and parents, took them on a guided tour of the school to meet the teachers and see the facilities and served some light refreshments for everyone at the end of the evening. These students are truly a credit to themselves, their parents and the school. They did an excellent job on the night.

There was a lot of positive feedback about the open evening from parents who were delighted with the opportunity to see the classrooms and meet with the teachers who will be teaching their son/daughter over the coming years as well as take in the positive atmosphere of the school community through the many colourful displays.



Many thanks and well done to each subject department for all of their hard work in preparing their classrooms and showcasing their subject on the night. Many thanks also to the Home Economics department who facilitated the refreshments being served.

A WORD FROM MS. MACKEN - SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

ORLA MACKEN



The beginning of this school year had a different feel to it. During the summer of 2013 we bid farewell to Mr. Pat McHugh. Pat, your presence is missed. As well as being principal you were a colleague and friend, whom I knew I could always rely on. I fondly recall your common response to my many suggestions and requests "we'll think and pray about it!" In

addition Mrs Eileen Jennings, caretaking staff also retired, Eileen was replaced by Catherine Ruane who is a welcome addition to our staff. I would like to wish both Pat and Eileen well as they each begin a new chapter in their lives. In August Mr. David McDonagh became our principal and a new energy enveloped the school. Initially it takes time for everyone to adapt to change but as the end of the school year draws near school life continues as seamless as before. On a sad note during this year we heard of the passing of Mrs. Breege Moran a retired member of the caretaking staff. We pray and hope she has found her eternal reward.

We were lucky to have many inspirational visitors to the school to speak to the staff and students throughout the year including well known sportstars Colm 'Gooch' Cooper, David Kenny and Paul Earley. The consistent theme echoed by each speaker was the importance of having goals/dreams, being focused on what you want and working hard to get it. Each of us can take a lot from these words.

As the world reacted to the death of South African hero Nelson Mandela, on December 5th, 2013 at age 95, Barack Obama spoke of Mandela's legacy, 'it falls to us to forward the example that he set: to make decisions guided not by hate, but by love; to never discount the difference that one person can make'. This is a reminder to us all that each person within the walls of our school community has a worthy and valuable contribution to make that is not just limited to academic or extra curricular achievements. We are reminded of Mandela's own words... "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate; Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond our measure". During this school year many of our students challenged their greatest fear, set targets, achieved goals....from the musical stage, to the operation transformation 5km, Fancy dress soccer, participating in quiz teams, public speaking to name but a few events that students participated in, where fear was overcome with confidence and a 'can do' attitude.....For some of our students completing the year is the goal that is being fulfilled and for all of these successes we say well done!

During the Halloween mid-term myself, Ms. Comer, Mrs. Mulroy, Mr. Lynch and Ms. Hayes accompanied 53 students on the school tour to Italy. What an adventure we had! From exploring the ancient ruins of Rome to visiting St. Peter's Square, walking the ancient streets of Florence to sliding down the roller coasters in Rainbowland theme park. It was four fun filled days of glorious sunshine and fabulous Italian ice-cream! On a personal note it was my first visit to the Vatican City and the highlight of the trip for me was the opportunity to see the magnificent glory of the Sistine Chapel, it was breathtaking.

Another school year in BCS's history is drawing to a close, the fabric of the school community is constantly changing but one thing I hope that remains is the sense of spirit and goodwill in our school. I pray that this spirit will continue to live on. Let us all endeavour to nurture this spirit.

This last term brings with it examination fever with practicals and summer house exams, the Leaving Cert Graduation Ceremony, the 1st year tour, the school magazine, and the build up to the longed for Summer Holidays. This year has been a busy and eventful one, and at this stage we all deserve a much needed break until we meet again in late August. For all the Junior and Leaving Cert students our thoughts and prayers will be with you as you begin your state exams in June.

In signing off I leave you with a reflection entitled 'I Believe' – food for thought!

Have a lovely summer!

O. Macken

REFLECTION - I believe

I believe- that our background and circumstances may influence who we are, but we are responsible for who we become.

I believe- that no matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that.

I believe- that either you control your attitude or it controls you.

I believe- that heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.

I believe- that it isn't always enough to be forgiven by others. Sometimes you have to learn to forgive your self.

I believe- that maturity has more to do with what types of experiences you've had and what you've learned from them and less to do with how many birthdays you've celebrated.

I believe- that credentials on the wall do not make you a decent human being.

Author - Unknown



St. Peter's Square, Vatican City, Rome – Oct. 2013

Pictured (l-r) Aishling Comer, Sharon Mulroy, Michael Lynch, Colleen Hayes, Orla Macken.

CLASS 1A



Back Row (l. to r.): Patrick Caulfield, Sarah Cleary, Celia Conroy, Sadhbh Cox, Ausrius Armonavicius, Aoife Conway, Niall Coffey, Conal Caulfield.

Middle row (l. to r.): Neil Carney, Oisín Boland, Alannah Dennehy, India Costello, Aoife Davis, Sarah Dowdall, Grace O'Gara, Saim Asif, Zainulabidin Azhar.

Front row (l. to r.): Gemma Foody, Niamh Foody, Kasey Clarke, Roisin Cassidy, Thomas Coffey, Jack Clooney, Dara Healy.

CLASS 1B



Back row (l. to r.): Amy Greally, Shauna Lyons, Michelle Grogan, Aaron Forde, Hannah Doyle, Emma Heelan, Juliane Gardiner.

Middle row (l. to r.): Conor Fitzmaurice, Barry Cribbin, James Colleran, Ciaran Doherty, Conor Flynn, Sinead Kiely, Adrianna Kelly, Jessica Klein, Jennifer Gourlay.

Front row (l. to r.): Cillian Costello, Alan Glynn, Jack Coyne, Enda Crawley, Derbhla Freeman, Sophie Flannery, Adela Illichova.

CLASS 1C



Back row (l. to r.): Joe Murphy, David Hession, Anna Naszkierska, Cait Phillips, Gabriele Zininaite, Kristyn O'Reilly, Roisin McLoughlin, Alannah Nolan.

Middle row (l. to r.): Jason Meehan, Keevan Murphy, Patrick Carr, Christopher Metcalfe, Siofra Murray, Eimear Murray, Evelina Zininaite, Amy Mulkeen.

Front row (l. to r.): Shane McDermott, Jason Killeen, Dara Mulkeen, Lauren Osgood-Daly, Emma Nolan, Ciara O'Grady, Siobhan McLoughlin.

CLASS 1D



Back row (l. to r.): Rafah Shawi, Rebecca Vahey-Brennan, Weronika Grabiasz, Niamh Ward, Jason Reidy, Dylan Raleigh, John Reidy.

Middle row (l. to r.): Laura Regan, Ethan Vahey-Owens, Zineddin Rahmani, David Rutkauskas, Noel Ward, Evan Godfrey, Eoin O'Boyle, Roisin Ruane.

Front row (l. to r.): Deirbhile Finn-Richardson, Aislinn Tighe, Katie Ronayne, Lauren Walshe, Zeba Younas, Ellen Phillips, Ursala Brady. **Missing from Photo:** Aran Rattigan.

FIRST YEAR MERIT AWARDS

The 1st Year Merit Awards ceremony took place on Friday, April 11th, 2014. All first years' homework journals were been monitored throughout the school year by the class tutors and yearheads. Students received their awards based on having their journals fully completed, signed nightly with no notes from teachers and kept neat and tidy. The categories were Gold, Silver and Bronze – with a special prize of an Easter Egg for all students who received a gold award. Well done to all first year recipients and keep up the excellent work.



Gold Awards



Silver Awards



Bronze Awards

1ST YEAR MASS

1st Year Mass was held to mark the beginning of their time in Ballyhaunis Community School last October 2013. All first years, their parents and their senior mentors were in attendance.

The theme of the celebration was 'Light up the World - Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!
- Catherine of Siena



JESSICA KLEIN, AMY MULKEEN, AISLINN TIGHE

FIS is a film project for primary schools. Each school has to choose a topic for their film. We chose our local area. It took us two weeks to make and we got help from our teacher. The story behind the film is about a tall dark mysterious stranger who came to the dances in Tooreen dance hall in the late 50's. Some believe he was the devil but that is up to you to decide for yourself.

When we found out that we were shortlisted everyone was delighted. So on the 6th of November the 5th and 6th class of 2013 went to the Helix theatre. It was like an Oscars for children. Our film 'A Puff of Smoke' received the award for cinematography. Eoghan McDermot from the voice of presented the award.

The students all wrote, edited, directed, starred in and produced the film so everyone was very proud when we won the award. The students from this school who took part were – Jessica Klein, Amy Mulkeen, Aislinn Tighe, Hannah Doyle, Roisin Cassidy, James Collieran and Ciaran Doherty.

FIRST YEAR TALENT SHOW**THOMAS COFFEY AND JACK CLOONEY**

In October 2013 Ms Devine our music teacher told us the 1A's that there might be a talent show, in the New Year for first years.



Little did we know that that would come true! Before the February mid-term the auditions were held. We told Ms Devine what song we would be singing and she got us the backing track. We were all feeling nervous as we went into the music room for the auditions. The judges were Katie Moran and Sorcha McNamara (who did a fabulous job). We all had a great time and nearly all of us got through.

On Friday, the 21st of March the long anticipated talent show had arrived. It would be held during second and third classes. The contestants made their way to the music room to get ready. Second year art students designed posters and put posters up on the

wall. The adjudicators were Mr Quinn, Carol Freely, Katie Moran and Katie McKay (once again all did a great job). The first years and a few second years sat excitedly in the assembly area. Mr McDonagh opened the talent show and up popped the Caulfield cousins Conal and Patrick hosted the talent show with a few jokes along the way! First up was the very talented Niall Coffey who played "Grace Don't Wait" by The Coranas. Second up was the next Nathan Carter Jack Clooney who sang "Wagon Wheel" accompanied by the talented Evan Fitzmaurice. Next was the "onsie girls" Roisin Cassidy and Sarah Cleary who sang "Somewhere Only We Know" by Lily Allen with Eimear Murray playing on her guitar. Along came Aoife Davis who sang ROAR by Katy Perry. Then another group dressed in onsies with consisted of Niamh and Gemma Foody, Allannah Dennehy, India Costello, Aoife Conway, Roisin Cassidy, Sarah Cleary and Eimear Murray who sang a song with cups! This song was called the "Cup Song" which featured in the well known film "Pitch Perfect". Next up was Mr Happy Man Thomas Coffey, he sang "Happy" by Pharrell Williams. The amazing Jessica Klein played "Sontina in C". Other acts included Lauren Osgood Daly who played Eibhinn Gheal. She was accompanied by Orna Hession 2nd year student on the flute and Ms Devine. Alannah Nolan played and sang the song "Skyscraper" and Aran Rattigan played when the rain song begins on the piano. The winner was Niall Coffey, in second was Lauren Osgood Daly, in joint third was the onsie girls and Thomas Coffey and Jack Clooney in fourth place. Guest appearances were Rachel Lyons, Liam Foody, Ciara Delaney and bands such as the way and dilvers army.

On behalf of the first years we would like to thank Ms Devine, Mr. McDonagh, Ms. Moran and all the staff who organised the very special event, including Ms. Scahill who took the photos. The talent show helped to build our confidence in performing in front of an audience. We hope that another one will be held next year for the first years so they can experience how much fun we had on that special day on the 21st of March!!!



Back Row (From l. to r.): Aoife Conway, Sarah Cleary, Evan Fitzmaurice, Niall Coffey, Jessica Klein, Adrianna Kelly.

Front Row (from l. to r.): Thomas Coffey, Jack Clooney, Dara Healy, Niamh Foody, Roisin Cassidy, Damien McGowan.

1ST YEAR SKIP OFF

The big skip off was organised by the religion teachers for the first year students. It happened on the 11th of April 2014. A girl and a boy representing each class had to skip for a minute and the fastest male and female were crowned King and Queen. This was a charity event which raised over €80 and all the money was donated to Trócaire.



Skip off winners

1ST YEAR SCHOOL CHOIR



Back Row (from l. to r.): Sarah Cleary, Juliane Gardiner, Niall Coffey, Aoife Conway, Cait Phillips, Sinead Kiely, Emma Heelan.

Middle Row (from l. to r.): David Hession, Conal Caulfield, Dara Healy, Jason Meehan, Roisin Cassidy, Derbhla Freeman, Adrianna Kelly, Eimear Murray, Grace O'Gara.

Front Row (from l. to r.): Joe Murphy, Jason Killeen, Shane McDermott, Aran Rattigan, Kasey Clarke, Niamh Foody, Thomas Coffey, Jack Clooney.

MEET AND GREET EVENING – MAY 2013

O. MACKEN

As part of the Induction programme for incoming first years to our school, we invite them to visit the school and meet the other first years who will be in their yeargroup in September. The incoming first years also get to meet the Senior Mentors and take part in fun activities and games. Students participated in CUBE like games organised by the Senior Mentors and Mr Woolley. Mr. McHugh presented prizes to the top scorers at the end of the evening.



GIRLS U-14 GAA

CHLOE RYAN, MARINA CARNEY AND ÁINE DUFFY

This year the U14 girls Gaelic team performed extremely well in the schools league. We started of the season with a strong win against Castlereagh and our winning streak continued with another impressive defeat over Strokestown. We proceeded to play St. Nathys but unfortunately lost both times, home and away, by a small margin. But our determination only grew as we went on to play Ballygar away. It was a close call, but it wasn't our day as we lost by only one point. This ended our footballing season.

We would like to thank the following TY student for all their dedication throughout the year – Padraic Duffy, Oisín Henry, Claudia Glavey, Sarah Behan and also the two fourth year students, Shelia Brady and Aoife Lilly. We would also like to thank Ms Osgood and Ms Mooney for their continuous dedication and commitment towards our team. Finally we would like to thank Mr. McDonagh and Ms. Moran for allowing us to partake in our beloved sport.



Back Row L-R: Amy Mulkeen, Rebecca Vahey-Brennan, Siofra Murray, Emma Heelan, Niamh Ward, Cáit Phillips.

Middle Row L-R: Ciara O'grady, Roisin Ruane, Kasey Clarke, Niamh Foody, Gemma Foody, Alannah Dennehey, Ursula Brady.

Front Row L-R: Adrianna Kelly, Katie Royane, Lauren Walshe, Aoife Conway, Laura Regan, Deirbhile Finn-Richardson, Lauren Osgood-Daly.



Back Row L-R: Kara Niland, Shauna Lyons, Chloe Ryan, Marina Carney, Shauna Fleming, Roisin Hussey.

Middle Row L-R: Aislinn Tighe, Niamh Flanagan, India Costello, Roisin Cassidy, Áine Duffy, Aoife Nolan.

Front Row L-R: Ciara Flanagan, Lauren Casey, Aoife Conway, Emer Forde, Orna Hession.



Colm 'Gooch' Cooper visited BCS this year. He is AIB's Youth Ambassador supporting students involved in the Build a Bank competition by visiting schools to give students participating in the competition football skills. He is pictured with the 1s U-14's girls GAA panel.

SQUASH

Gemma and Niamh Foody, 1st year students, took up squash two years ago. In 2013 both girls were selected for the Connaught Under-15 team which lost in the All-Ireland final to Leinster. In the 2014 Connaught championship the girls were on either side of the draw. They both won their matches and played for the Connaught title. Gemma won a very close final 3-2. The twins and Alannah Dennehey represented B.C.S. in the All-Ireland school squash final in April. They came a very close second to Leinster. Gemma and Niamh were forced to become opponents when they played each other in the Mayo Squash final, also held in April. All three girls have very promising sporting futures ahead of them.



All-Ireland Squash Champions

1ST YEAR BOYS GAELIC

OISÍN COFFEY AND PIARAIS CAULFIELD

The First Year Boys footballers took part in the First Year B league and the Mayo Championship.

The first match, we took on Gortnor Abbey from Crossmolina in the Mayo championship. It was an eventful game, and Gortnor Abbey won on a scoreline of 5-9 to 3-6. In our first match of the Connaught League during the month of October, we faced Carrick on Shannon and put on a brilliant display of football on the day, but not getting the win to get us going well at the start of the league.

Our second match of the league was Roscommon CBS, the match was at home but it was not to influence the outcome of the match. Once again a superb display of football by the First Year boys but they just came up short towards the end of the match.

Our third match of the league was against St. Patrick's of Tubbercurry at home once again. The match was fought well throughout the game, but once again we just came short of the victory.

The First Year Boys final match was against St. Louis of Kiltimagh. This time the lads produced a fine performance from the start, which showed in the result of the game. Ballyhaunis were dominant for the majority of the game with some brilliant scores from our forwards. The First years came out the better of the two teams for the final game of the league with a brilliant display of football for the whole game. Overall it has been a great year for the First Year Boys and we hope to see them on school teams throughout their time here at BCS.



Back Row: Kevan Murphy, Ausrius Armonavicius, Jason Killeen, Oisín Boland, Conor Flynn, Christopher Matcalfe, Aaron Forde, James Colleran, Jack Coyne, David Hession, Ethan Owens, Jason Meehan, Alan Glynn, Evan Godfrey, Ciaran Doherty, Conal Caulfield, Noel Ward.

Front Row: Dara Healy, Cillian Costello, Barry Cribbin, Conor Fitzmaurice, Dylan Raleigh, Dara Mulkeen, Neil Carney, Enda Crawley, Patrick Caulfield, Jason Reidy, Eoin O'Boyle, Shane McDermott.

1ST YEAR BOYS SOCCER

JAMES REYNOLDS AND CATHAL CARNEY

The 1st year boys soccer team started their season against Athenry at home with a 1-0 win against a very strong Athenry team.

The lads tried to step up another level against a very structured Rice College team who were proven to be strong for the Ballyhaunis lads losing 4-0 on our home grounds. Their final league encounter was against our rivals St. Louis of Kiltimagh. It was a very tight match for both teams, Ballyhaunis put a lot of hard work into the game but unfortunately came out the wrong side of a 3-2 loss. The 1st years showed a lot of potential this season but unfortunately they did not qualify from their group. There were many positives to take out from this season as they played well as a team and hopefully get more success next season. On the behalf of the team they would like to thank Mr. Noone for managing and training the team for the season and his assistants James Reynolds and Cathal Carney for their hard work and dedication throughout the season.



Back Row: David Hession, Zineddin Rahmani, Conor Flynn, Jack Coyne, Ethan Owens, Evan Godfrey, Noel Ward.

Front row: Jason Meehan, Shane McDermott, Kevan Murphy, Ciaran Doherty, Enda Crawley, Conal Caulfield, Joe Murphy.

1ST YEAR GIRLS BASKETBALL

AIMEE REGAN

This year the first year girls had a basketball team for the first time in nine years. The girls were determined to make this a good year for basketball. The girl's first match was against Ballinrobe. The match ended in a draw and went into extra time. The tension was evident between the two teams during extra time. Unfortunately the girls didn't win their first match but they were proud of how well they played. Since that match the first year girls basketball has improved majorly. The girl's second match was against Davitt's College from Castlebar. The first year girls won this match. Winning this match gave the girls a massive confidence boost for the rest of their games throughout the year. After their win against Davitt's College the girls were pretty excited about their next match which was against Sacred Heart of Westport. The girls had high hopes for winning against Westport. The girls won this match against Westport. Thier final match of the year was against St. Joseph's from Castlebar. Sadly they didnt win but the girls should be very proud of themselves. They have had a brilliant year. The girls would like to thank Ms. Osgood and Yvonne Duffy for all the training and support they have given the girls all year.



Back Row L-R: Rebecca Vahey-Brennan, Michelle Grogan, Shauna Lyons, Roisin McLoughlinn, Amy Grealley, Ellen Phillips, Gemma Foody, Sadbh Cox, Lauren Osgood-Daly, Ursula Brady, Ciara O'Grady.

Front Row L-R: Aoife Davis, India Costello, Alannah Nolan, Deirbhile Finn-Richardson, Laura Regan, Siofra Murray, Lauren Walshe, Anna Naszkierska.

1ST YEAR BOYS BASKETBALL

TOMMY FOLLIARD & STEPHEN COLLINS

For the first time in 9 years, BCS entered a 1st year boy's basketball team in the Mayo League. This year the boys were coached by Mr. Caulfield. The team played in a total of 3 matches throughout the season. We played against the following schools: Our Lady's School Bellmullet, St Brendan's College and Coolagh Post Primary. Our opponents proved to be too big and too strong of a challenge this year. However, our lads show a lot of promise and potential for the up and coming years. On behalf of all the players who took part during the year, we would like to thanks Mr. Caulfield for guiding the players throughout the season.



Back Row L-R: Dylan Raleigh, Jason Reidy, John Costello, Barry Cribbin, Aaron Forde, Deividas Rutkauskas, Evan Godfrey, Dara Mulkeen, Eoin O,Boyle.

Front row: Christopher Metcalfe, James Colleran, Jason Kileen, Zineddin Rahmani, Ethan Owens, Aran Rattigan, Conor Fitzmaurice-Doyle, Zainulabidin Azhar, Saim Asif.

Missing from photo: Noel Warde, Ausrius Armonavicius.

FIRST YEAR GIRLS CAMOGIE

ADRIANNA KELLY, SIOBHÁN MCLOUGHLIN, ALANNAH NOLAN, ALANNAH DENNEHY & CÁIT PHILLIPS

On Tuesday the 15th of October 2013 our first year girls took part in the first ever Mayo Camogie Blitz. We had a great Army of girls leaving the school, many playing for the first time with little or no experience. The School was represented by two teams (Ballyhaunis Red and Ballyhaunis Green). The red team were the first to play in the most challenging match of the day against a Castlebar team with much more experience which was stated to us by their manager. The Ballyhaunis girls fought with determination and spirit and the hard work payed off with ballyhaunis coming away with a glorious win!

The Green team were in action next against the Sacred Heart School of Westport. The Green team like the Red team battled tremendously in a tightly fought match which went to the very end with Westport getting a late goal and snatched the game out of the grasp of the Ballyhaunis outfit. The Green team took to the field again against Davit college and again fought hard with brilliant attacking play which got the girls the win they deserved. There was some brilliant play from all the team. The Red team also played the second outfit from Davit College who were much weaker than them and Ballyhaunis strolled through the match and came out with a very convincing win.

The semi-final was next and due to the fantastic play by both Ballyhaunis teams, the two teams found themselves facing each other. It was a very well fought game and the

skill rate was very high. The Red team came out on top and it is fair to say it was due to the players having a little more experience due to playing club camogie. The green team fought to the bitter end losing out by only a few points.

The Red team then progressed to the final against the previously tipped favourites Castlebar. Castlebar were out for revenge after losing the first game but Ballyhaunis had gained more experience throughout the day. The Ballyhaunis team proved far too strong for Castlebar and came out with the Victory and the Trophy! There is a very promising future for camogie in Ballyhaunis. The Players would like to thank Ms. Flannery for taking time out to bring them to the Blitz! Well done to all the girls for the great effort they put in!



Back Row: Hannah Doyle, Gemma Foody, Rebecca Vahey, Jessica Klien, Aislinn Tighe, India Costello

Middle Row: Amy Mulkeen, Adriana Kelly, Soibhan McLoughlin, Allannah Nolan, Cait Phillips, Ms. Flannery.

Front row: Lauren Walshe, Niamh Foody, Laura Regan, Aoife Conway, Roisin Cassidy, Allannah Dennehy, Ciara O'Grady.

CREATIVE WRITING

Music

Music travels all around my body
Now I can say it's living right through me,
Listening to music puts me in a good mood,
It makes me want to stand up and groove.

Music can make me forget all of my pain,
It brings out the sun when I can only see the rain,
I put on my headphones and play my songs,
I could listen to them all day long.

Music takes me to another place,
Higher than the sky and far away from the space,
Music can teach you many lessons,
Like stand up for your rights and all the good reasons,
I know there's people who think the same way,
Because they know music lives in us everyday.

Juliane Gardiner

Trapped in a lift Shaft

Deep, Dark, trapped like a rat,
Lift rising, heart pounding, no way out
Hands slipping, legs kicking, struggling
to keep a grip
Blood pounding, fingers burning, will I live?

Gasping for breath in the cruel hands of death,
Head whirling, gears turning, lift coming up
Steadying my breath, force my head to start thinking
Methodically turning this way and that
And then I see it, a small chink of light.
This is my chance my last hope of light.

Summoning the last of my strength
I concentrate on my goal, is this now or nothing.
The adrenaline surges through my blood
Like it's injected.

Surfing its wave my body is washed to
Salty by the last surge of my screaming muscle.
I turned back to glance.....
Safety at last.

Jessica Klein.

CREATIVE WRITING

The Lift Shaft

Climbing the ladder step by step
Looking above me the ladder ended
Oh no I cried there's no rung left.

Desperation filled me mind what could I do?
The next ladders ten metres above me
Suddenly I had a flicker of hope.
It was mad I know worth a go
To climb the first lift cable next to me.

I reached out and took hold of the nearest cable

I tried my best to bare the pain of the woven
steel cablecutting through my hands,
Blood dripping everywhere the pain intolerable.

Beneath me I heard an ominous sound,
The lift gears whirring into life.
There was no way I could reach the ladder In time

Reaching up in desperation my hand grabbed
hold of a concrete sill.

With my last breath I hauled myself up,
Just in time before the lift passed me by
Thank god I cried Thank God again.
I'm Safe from that lethal lift.

Ciaran Doherty

1ST YEAR HALLOWEEN QUIZ

Transition Years with Ms. Caulfield organised a Halloween themed Table Quiz for 1st years and their Senior mentors to mark their first 9 weeks in BCS - It was a great fun filled afternoon with lots of special guests including Paddy Pumpkin, Bob, Marley, Ted the Horse to name but a few... Well done T.Y.'s



B1 Winners

Oisin Boland, Patrick Carr, Dara Mulkeen, Enda Crawley, Alan Glynn with their mentors Sean McDermott and Ciara Jordan... Well done guys.



B4 Winners

Niamh Ward, Katie Ronayne, Jason Reidy, James Colleran, Cillian Costello with their mentors Caoimhe Henry and Ryan Kilbane... well done guys.



B5 Winners -

Aoife Davis, Aoife Conway, Dara Healy, Niall Coffey, Jack Coyne with their mentors Michael Waldron and Yvonne Davy.... Well done guys.



CLASS 2A



Back row (l. to r.): Colin Byrne, Christopher Bann, Jordan Burns, Denver Coyne, Conor Coll, Maedhbh Caulfield.

Middle row (l. to r.): Rory Bowen, Eoin Delaney, David Cunnane, Olivia Cleary, Lauren Casey, Thomas Doherty, Richard Boyle.

Front row (l. to r.): Alex Adeyinka, Caoimhe Coyle, Jade Cunnane, Elaine Collins, Marina Carney, Katelyn Concannon, Shaheen Ashraf, Edward Cleary.

Missing from Photo: Maja Cieslikowska, Piotr Cieslikowski, Lindwe Dhlamini-Knosi.

CLASS 2B



Back row (l. to r.): Bredonas Graf, Williams Ganley, James Duggan, Kevin Heneghan, Muhammad Gulzar, Aaron Heelan.

Middle row (l. to r.): Evan Fitzmaurice, Rebecca Finn, Liam Herr, Keith Forde, Saoirse Hagney, Michael Freyne, Dylan Harrison.

Front row (l. to r.): Niamh Flanagan, Ciara Flanagan, Emer Forde, Helen Gallagher, Aine Duffy, Shauna Fleming, Aoibheann Gallagher, Aibhinn Herr.

Missing in Photo: Mary Flynn, Patrick Forde, Thomas Sweeney.

CLASS 2C



Back row (l. to r.): Andrew Hickey, Thomas Maughan, Conor Hunt, Harrie Kemp, Selina Mulkeen, John Kenny, Evan Henry.

Middle row (l. to r.): Damien McGowan, John Madden, Courtney Macewan, Mary McLoughlin, Roisin Lyons, Mounza Muneer, James Keadin, Darragh Kilkenny.

Front row (l. to r.): David Mitrovic, Cathal Hosty, Fatima Mahmood Ul Hassan, Roisin Hussey, Orna Hession, Luke Mannion, Muhammad Naseer, Tahseen Tahir Mahmood.

Missing from Photo: Filip Hutman.

CLASS 2D



Back row (l. to r.): Colm O'Gara, Joseph Wagacha, Benas Pakonis, Cormac Phillips, Conor Sloyan, Adam Webb, Dylan Ruane.

Middle row (l. to r.): Rachel Timoney, Joicy Nunes, Megan Regan, Kara Niland, Laura O'Connell, Gráinne Robinson, Chloe Ryan, Georgia Peake.

Front row (l. to r.): Stephen Staunton, Mohammad Rahmani, Zouhir Rahmani, Kevin Neenan, Lorcan Ronan, Jan Szebesta.

Missing from Photo: Aoife Nolan, Bukhosi Utete.

1ST YEAR SKIP OFF 2013

ORNA HESSION AND ÁINE DUFFY

Every year, the first years plan a Skip off to raise money for a charity. Two representatives from each class group (a boy and a girl) are chosen and asked to skip as many times as they can in a minute. This year, we had great competition amongst the classes but eventually we found the eight finalists. Lauren and Thomas from 1A, Áine and Williams from 1B, Orna and Evan from 1C, Chantal and Joseph from 1D were our finalists. Unfortunately, due to a very busy year, the final had to take place in the following September. All present Second years attended and great fun was had by all. Orna Hession and Thomas Doherty emerged victorious and were presented with their very own homemade crowns! On behalf of all involved, we would like to thank all our religion teachers; Ms. Murphy, Ms. Flynn, Ms. Mulroy and Ms. Philips for all their hard work in organising this event.



2nd year skip off

1ST YEAR TOUR

ÁINE DUFFY

Our first year tour was one of the highlights of the year. It was very enjoyable and all the activities were really fun.

We went to Westport House with 100 students and four teachers all piled into two buses. When we arrived we were all divided into our class groups and sent to different activities such as archery, zip-wire, laser clay pigeon shooting and combat games. The teachers were even joining in in some games! Half way through our active day, we got a chance to sit in the grounds to eat our lunch, or in some cases to roll down hills!

I think the whole year greatly enjoyed the day free from school, especially when our stressful tests were just over and the summer holidays were fast approaching. It was a great opportunity for our year to get to know each other and work together as teams.

Thanks to Ms. O' Loughlin, Mr. Mc Donagh, Mr. Shannon, Ms. Fallon and Ms. Macken for organising and accompanying us on our first year tour. A fantastic day was definitely had by all!

GIRLS GAELIC LEAGUE

DERVLA PHILLIPS & SHEILA BRADY

This is the first year we've had a Girls Gaelic league in the school and it was a huge success. Over 80 girls from 1st year to 4th years participated in this league. Everyone was divided up into teams – Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, London and Roscommon. Over 5 weeks in March/April all the teams competed against each other to try and reach the final. On the 7th of April the final was held in wet conditions. Galway and Mayo battled it out for the title. The game got very intense in the second half as both teams fought hard and it went down to the wire. Galway came out with the win with a score of 9-7 to Mayo's 7-9. The Galway winning team was Sheila Brady (captain), Rachel Lyons, Korina Meehan, Roisin Hussey, Chloe Ryan, Meadhbh Caulfield, Lauren Walsh, Laura Regan, Kasey Clarke, Aoibhinn Herr, Alannah Nolan, Jessica Klein, Dervla Phillips, Emer Kiely, Orna Hession, Mariana Carney, Lauren Casey, Helen Gallagher, and Michaela Kilkenny. The winning team was presented with their winning medals by Paul Earley at the Sports Awards.

Thanks to Mrs. Grogan for organising the event and also to the other teachers who helped out, Ms. Macken, Ms. Mooney and Ms. Osgood.

U-14 CAMOGIE

DANIELLE COYNE

Last May, eight people from B.C.S were asked to play camogie for Mayo. We were managed by Peter Cassidy. We had our first blitz in June in Galway. We played all the county teams from Connacht. Mayo was very successful on the day. On the 14th of September, we travelled to Dublin to play other county teams. We were very successful and managed to get to the semi-final, which we lost to Wicklow. The following day, we went to Croke Park to watch the All Ireland Camogie Final. At half time the Mayo team were involved in a parade on the pitch. It was a very enjoyable weekend. Overall, playing for Mayo was a great experience.



Back Row (from l. to r.): Aislinn Tighe, Danielle Coyne, Gráinne Robinson, Amy Mulkeen.

Fron Row (from l. to r.): Jessica Klein, Laura Mulkeen.

BASKETBALL REBIRTH IN BALLYHAUNIS

ÁINE AND YVONNE DUFFY

On the 20th March 1982, Ray Charles led the cadet's ladies basketball team to All Ireland glory. This was the first all-Ireland title to come to the community school and has not been reclaimed since.

Ray Charles was a past teacher and renowned coach, one to be admired and remember fondly by players but feared by opposition. His commitment, dedication and skilled coaching techniques kept Ballyhaunis Community School highly rated and respected in basketball for many years. Ray Charles retired ten years ago, bringing the basketball reign to its end... until now!

Yvonne (Jennings) Duffy, a past pupil and player on the All Ireland winning team, willingly took on the role of 2nd year girls coach this year, bringing the love of basketball in Ballyhaunis back to life. She was joined by Ms Caulfield and Ms Osgood and together they successfully brought their team to the regional finals.

Having won their league, the Ballyhaunis team beat Ballinrobe, Westport, Davitt College (Castlebar), St. Josephs (Castlebar) and Mount Saint Michaels (Claremorris). Great credit is due to then girls for their consistent intense training every Thursday after school. Their attitude, dedication and willingness to learn aided greatly to their successful year. Reaching the regional finals and playing at such a high level surpassed everyone's expectations. We look forward to our upcoming year as cadets and aim to do the school proud.

2ND YEAR GIRLS BASKETBALL

ORLA CLEARY

2014 was a very successful year for the 2nd year Girls basketball team. It had been 9 years since BCS was represented in the Mayo League.

The girl's first game was against Ballinrobe Community School. The girls played exceptionally well, scoring the first four points of the match and staying ahead throughout the entire game. This was an excellent start to the campaign and a great boost to their confidence. The girls continued their winning streak beating Sacred Heart (Westport), Davitt College (Castlebar), St Joseph's (Castlebar) and Mount Saint Michael's (Claremorris). The girls topped their league and reached the Regional finals.

Great credit is due to the girls consistent training every Thursday evening after school. Their attitude, dedication and willingness to learn aided greatly to their successful year. Reaching the regional finals and playing at such a high level surpassed everyone's expectations.

The girls would like to thank Ms. Caulfield and Yvonne Duffy for their support and dedication throughout the year. Yvonne is a past pupil and was a player on the BCS All Ireland winning basketball team of 1982.

The girls look forward to the upcoming year as cadets and aim to do the school proud.



Back Row: Kara Niland, Shauna Fleming, Aibhinn Herr, Niamh Flanagan, Roisin Lyons, Lindiwe Dhalmini-Knosi.

Middle Row: Megan Regan, Rebecca Finn, Áine Duffy, Caoimhe Coyle, Mary McLoughlin.

Front Row: Orna Hession, Emer Forde, Lauren Casey, Helen Gallagher, Laura O'Connell, Ciara Flanagan.

Missing from Photo: Courtney MacEwan.

2ND YEAR BOYS BASKETBALL

BARRY FORDE

The second year boys Basketball started training in late November for the long and challenging season ahead. The first match in the North-West Boys 2nd Year League took place in Ballyhaunis on Friday the 24th January against Our Lady's Secondary School Belmullet. This first match set the standard for the year with a 22 – 18 win to Ballyhaunis. Joseph Wagacha scored eight points throughout the match establishing himself as the top scorer. A few weeks later the second match took place at home again, to St. Brendan's College on Wednesday the 26th February. This match was ever better than before, no one could believe the professionalism of everyone on the team. The match ended with a score of 24 – 18 to Ballyhaunis.

Cooran Riverstown, Co.Sligo was the next team to be played on Thursday 6th March. This match marked a full team effort and undoubtedly it was one of the most enjoyable matches to watch. Kevin Heneghan scored two three point shots and therefore was the top scorer for the match. This team effort was rewarded with a four point win (20 – 16). To bring the already great year to a close, the Ballyhaunis second year boys had only two more matches to win to claim the title as Winners of The North-West Boys 2nd Year League. On Friday 28th March they were very successful in both of these challenges- winning both matches against Ballinode (18-11) and Grange PPS (28-18). These victories were well deserved and everyone involved should be very proud.

Finally, there is one person that needs to be thanked. The second year boys basketball team has progressed so well in the league due to their dedicated coach Gerry Glavey. He put so much effort into both the training and all of the preparations for the matches. It is deeply appreciated. There is no doubt that the second year boys basketball team have had a great year and they have many more victories to come in the future.



Back Row: Dylan Harrison, John Madden, Alex Adeyinka, Williams Ganley, Patrick Forde, Cormac Phillips, Evan Henry, Filip Hutman, Gerry Glavey.

Front Row: Kevin Heneghan, Zouhir Rahmani, David Cunnane, Joseph Wagacha, Brendonas Graf, Damian McGowan, Luke Mannion, Mohammad Naseer.

2ND YEAR GIRLS SOCCER

PADRAIG DUFFY & OISÍN HENRY

Training began in early September for the first and second year girls. This was all thanks to the dedicated and passionate Ms Flannery, who brought soccer for girls to a new level in school. We trained together, through the storm, whatever weather, cold or warm at least once a week. The girls were soon ready to play a few matches, against a number of first year boys. Results improved drastically the more we trained. In early November, we had our first challenge game against Castlerea down in Castlerea. We started off the season in style, with a whopping 5-0 victory, Gemma Foody netting an impressive hat-trick and taking home the match ball. This gave the girls great confidence for the rest of the season. Our league began after Christmas with a home game against St Marys of Roscommon. We were up against a very good team and luck was against us all day as we picked up a few pre match injuries. Unfortunately, this game ended in defeat. However, our girls bounced back and trained twice as hard. Our next league game was against Summerhill, another very strong side. Our girls gave it their all, a performance of true heart and soul. However, we lost the game 3-2, Niamh Foody with two poacher goals. This qualified us into a shield quarter-final.



Back Row: Caoimhe Coyle, Katie Ronayne, Dearbhla Finn-Richardson, Adrianna Kelly, Alannah Dennehy, Laura O'Connell, Aoife Conway, Olivia Cleary, Aine Duffy, Marina Carney, Chloe Ryan, Roisin Hussey, Oisín Henry, Padraic Duffy.

Front Row: Orna Hession, Alannah Nolan, Lauren Osgood-Daly, Laura Regan, Grainne Robinson, Katelyn Concannon, Niamh Foody, Lauren Walshe, Gemma Foody.

U-15 BOYS SOCCER

HILLARY PHILLIPS, JAMES REYNOLDS & CATHAL CARNEY

The U-15 Boys Soccer Team had an outstanding but unlucky year of football in 2013/2014. The U-15 Boys' season kicked off on the 07 / 11 /13. The lads began the season with an impressive win over Rice College, defeating them 8-2. The second game of the Connaught "A" School Soccer League against St.Endas of Galway was an action-pact game, with the team winning by a narrow margin of 3-2 on our home grounds. Their next encounter was against Davitt College, where they had a brilliant victory of 9-1. The U-15 lads had their final match of the Connaught Soccer League against The Bish. It was a tight match, but in the end the boys lost 3-1, unfortunately knocking them out of the league, on goal difference. Each lad played the matches to their full-ability, proving their potential for the up-coming years. We would like to thank Mr.Noone for the hard work and dedication he devoted to his team, and also to the lads who participated with this team throughout the year.



Back Row: David Cunnane, Damien McGowan, John Madden, Joseph Wagacha, Christopher Bann, Eoin Delaney, Conor Flynn.

Middle Row: Michael Freyne, Williams Ganley, Mohammad Zouhir Rahmani, Cormac Phillips, Michael McGarry, Dylan Ruane, Enda Crawley.

Front Row: Liam Herr, Zouhir Rahmani, Kevin Neenan, Conor Hunt, Luke Mannion, Gary Higgins, Bobby Douglas.

JUNIOR BOYS GAELIC

ROISÍN NÍ SHUILLEABHÁIN

This year our Junior Boy's football team achieved some great success under the leadership and guidance of Mr. Woolley. Our first match of the year was against Swinford, on the 19th of September, which kicked off the first round of the Collieran Cup. We witnessed some ground breaking football and came home after smashing our competition by 12 goals and 9 points. It was a radical start to the year. Our next steps on victory road led us to Ballinrobe on the 7th of October. We came home looking confident for the final of the Collieran Cup. On the 14th of October, we showed great skill and determination tapping in goal after goal to beat Balla, 10:12 to 6 points. Our winning streak didn't end there. On the 13th of November, we played St. Nathy's who soon realised our forwards were not to be trifled with, as we won 6:12 to 2 points. Our luck then began to fade. On the 2nd of December we played St. Louis's of Kiltimagh and unfortunately drew. This was only the start of our troubles. Our positive spirits began to diminish when we played Headford in the League's Connacht Semi – Final. Headford narrowly won by 5 points. The sad end to our football career came on the 10th of February. Our first and last match of 2014 was against the Bish in the Championship and although tremendous effort was shown, we came home second best. The undeniable positives that have come from this year of Junior Boy's Football are that many young junior players have found valuable experience while playing more physical senior level Football. It has been a mixed year, but we are all thankful for the help of Mr. Woolley and indebted to all members for the dedication they have shown to the school and their teammates.



Back Row (L-R) Darragh Crawley, Tom Murphy, Brian Morley, Robert McCormack, Michael McGarry, Aidan Henry, Liam Cregg, Bobby Douglas.

Middle Row: Patrick Keadin, Stephen Collins, Tiernan Murphy, Cian Ruane, Sean Kenny, Damian Egan, Cathal Carney, Sean Carrick, Pdraig Duffy.

OUR SCHOOL GARDEN

CHLOE RYAN AND GRÁINNE ROBINSON

Our school garden has been looked after by different C.S.P.E Classes over the past few years. In September of this year the 2D class took it over from 3C. We were very enthusiastic about our new responsibility. We decorated the garden for many occasions such as Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day and for the graduation. We organised fundraiser event to raise money for our decorations. Our first challenge was decorating it for Halloween. We spent a busy morning carving out twenty pumpkins to transform the garden into a spooky display. Ms Lennon's art classes helped us out with window decorations and so a dreary November wasn't so dull looking at the colourful display. We continued our year decorating for Christmas and Valentines Day. We also helped create an atmosphere for the Musical and the open night as we had twinkling lights shining and heart shaped candles lit. As funding is low we organised many very successful bake sales and we are currently organising an Easter raffle to fund for the graduation mass at the end of the school year.

JUNIOR HURLING

This year has been a very successful year for the school in the hurling department. The junior team clinched the Mayo college's championship final for the first time with a four point win over Rice College of Westport in the splendid surface of Connect Centre 3G astropark in Began. It was a great team effort by all the boys who showed a lot of determination and desire in the final to win.

On their way to the final the Ballyhaunis boys won comfortable against St. Gerald's of Castlebar and St. Murdeachs of Ballina. In both games the boys showed off their excellent ball skills and accuracy in front of goal, clocking up a lot of scores. After they had beaten both of them teams they faced a tough test against Rice College in the final and deservedly won the shield!

The boys would like to thank Mr. Woolley for training them this season.



Hurling presentation to Pj Burke



Back Row (L-R) Mr Woolley, Connor Macewan, PJ Burke, Cormac Phillips, Tiernan Murphy, Calum Gardiner, Sean Herr, Gary Higgins, Dylan Niland. **Front Row:** Dylan Ruane, Mohammad Zohaib Gulzar, Eoin Delaney, Kevin Neenan, Jack Coyne, David Cunnane, Michael Freyne.

GIRLS ATHLETICS TEAM



2ND YEAR RETREAT



MAEDHBH CAULFIELD

The second year retreat to knock took place in February 2014. As we arrived in knock we were lead to the family resource centre where we were greeted by two members of staff, Helen and Nicola. We sat in a circle of chairs in a big dimly lit room and Helen told us about her past experiences with bullies and teenage struggles, she then gave us out activity sheets and we had to act out parables we returned to school just before the bell rang to end the day. It was an unforgettable experience and the whole year had a great time.

CLASS 3A



Back row (l. to r.): Sean Herr, Robert Douglas, Jason Cullinane, Calum Gardiner, Darren Coyne, Stefan Fortig, Ibrahim Ashraf.

Middle Row (l. to r.): Derbhla Cregg Phillips, Lauren Gallagher, Patrick Jamesn Burke, Diamuid Duffy, Geger Ali Ahmed, Liam Foody, Abusafyan Ahmad, Hamza Azhar, Abigail Adams.

Front Row (l. to r.): Ciara Delaney, Chloe Greenwood, Jennifer Golden, Jasmine Chong, Sive Duffy, Joanne Coffey, Sana Almas, Danielle Coyne, Jessica Carroll.

Missing from photo: Claire Fahy, Jennifer Cleary, Eileen Maughan.

CLASS 3B



Back row (l. to r.): Stephen Morley, Brian Morley, Connor Macewan, Michael McGarry, Seán Kenny, Faysal Kezze, Martin McDonagh, Gary Higgins.

Middle Row (l. to r.): Oisín Lloyd, Karam Kezzeh, Nadine Mangan, Michaela Kilkenny, Korina Meehan, Rachel Lyons, Diamuid Keane, Glenn Lynch Murray, Tiernan Murphy

Front Row (l. to r.): Robert Lilly, Katie Henry, Gemma Lily, Eleanor Harrison, Saskia Kirrane, Barbara McDonagh, Ellie McDonagh, Seán Mannion

Missing from Photo: Emma Lyons, Michelle Lyons.

CLASS 3C



Back row (l. to r.): Eammon Phillips, Callyn Murphy-Maitland, Mudasir Rehman, Adam Hickey, Eoin Morris, Dylan Niland, Brian O'Neill, Peace Omotayo, Cian Ruane.

Middle row (l. to r.): Michael Tigue, Brendan Waldron, Caolan Regan, Cassandra Niland, Aisling O'Boyle, Jordan Squire, Aoife Mulrennan, Shauna Murray.

Front row (l. to r.): William Walsh, Chloe Naughton, Megan Morley, Amy Taylor, Aisling O'Gara, Laura Mulkeen, Gabrielle Murphy. Missing from Photo: Jade Lawrence Crosby, Ellen Maughan, Patrick Niland, Dylan Noonan, Annalise Sweeney.

3C CSPE PROJECT AOIFE MULRENNAN & SHAUNA MURRAY

On the 19th of November 2013 we held our C.S.P.E action project which is worth 60% of our Junior Certificate exam. As a class group we decided to focus on the concept of law. We discussed our options and decided to invite guest-speakers from the Gardaí and the Juvenile Liaison Officer in our region to explain how they enforce the law in their daily lives. Our action project required a lot of organisation. We had 12 different committees involved in making the day a success. Thankfully, the day ran smoothly and our guest-speakers spent the whole afternoon answering our questions. Afterwards, we all enjoyed some light refreshments and spoke informally with the Gardaí. We all felt that this really broke down the barrier between us, as young people and the Gardaí. Overall it was a huge success!!! We found the afternoon to be very enjoyable and informative. We would highly recommend to future Junior Certificate C.S.P.E classes to consider inviting the Gardaí and Juvenile Liaison Officer to speak to their class as it was a very beneficial experience for all involved!



3RD YEAR CHARITY SOCCER TOURNAMENT JORDAN SQUIRE

Every year 3rd year students take part in a soccer tournament for local charities. This year our 3c class organised with a penalty shootout, which was won by 3c. Our scorers were Adam Hickey, Aoife Mulrennan, Cian Ruane, Dylan Nyland, Eamonn Phillips, Michael Tigue and William Walsh. The scorers for 3A were Diarmuid Duffy, Geger Ali and PJ Burke. 3B scorers were Tiernan Murphy, Brian Morley and Eleanor Harrison. As the winners of the penalty shootout was 3C they then got a bye to the final. The semi-final was played by 3A and 3B. As much as we would like to say it was a close game.... We cant. Liam foody and his 3a team were distraught when they lost to Nadine Mangan's 3B team 4-0. In the first half 3A put up a good fight but the were no match for Sean Kenny and Gary Higgins who each scored an amazing goal. In the second half Gary scored another fantastic goal along with Glen Lynch bringing the final score of the match to 4-0. Towards the end of the game the referee caused controversy by giving Tiernan Murphy a red card. The final between 3B and 3C took place on the 10th of april with everyone in fancy dress. The match commenced with 3C's William Walsh scoring a sudden goal. On the day, the teams were well matched. Competition was intense as each goal was followed by another from the opposing team. The final score was 5-5 with the 3C strikers being William Walsh scoring two goals followed closely by Eamonn Phillips also scoring 2 and Brian O Neill who scored the final goal of the match. The 3B goal scorers were Gary Higgins who scored two followed by Michael McGarry, Tiernan Murphy and Brian Morley each scoring one. The 5-all result was a fair reflection of the competitiveness shown on the day. The tournament winner is to be settled by a penalty shootout (which 3c will win!!) in the last term. We would like to say a big Thank you to Mr Larkin who refereed both games, to Mr Woolley for organising the penalty shootout, to the Religion Teachers who organised the teams, to the class teachers who supervised and last but by no means least to Ms Macken for the fab photographs.



3B CSPE ACTION PROJECT

For our Action Project, which is worth 60% of our overall C.S.P.E grade, we decided to organise a visit to an Irish prison, namely Castlereagh prison. We were very lucky to have such a unique opportunity and so were eager to make the most of it. The class was divided into 5 committees – Organising, Research, Day-Of-The-Visit, Record of the Visit and Thank-You – and each student was given a special task. On the 21st of October, we travelled to Castlereagh prison. We were all very excited. After going through metal detectors, we were met by our host prison officer. We were shown numerous sections of the prison, such as the 'Grove', the control room, the Isolation Unit and the prison cells. Throughout the tour, the prison officer answered all of our questions as well as giving us additional information, most memorably, examples of how seemingly harmless objects such as toilet brushes and toothbrushes can be used as lethal weapons. Overall, we thoroughly enjoyed the entire experience. We learned a huge amount of information about the Irish prison system and gained an insight into life in prison. We would like to thank our C.S.P.E teacher, Miss Mooney for her guidance and support in carrying out our Action Project and making it a success.



3A CSPE ACTION PROJECT

CLAIRE FAHEY AND BOBBY DOUGLAS

For our CSPE Action Project we organised an interview with MSPCA. We choose this because of our close connection with Marian Beasty and her animal shelter just out the road.

We also held a DVD day for all 3rd years to raise money for this worthy organisation. We watched 'Pitch Perfect' and each student had to pay 2 euro each. We gave a donation of 150 euro to MSPCA.



We really enjoyed the visit by Chris and her two dog's Buddy and Megs. We learned some interesting information like the MSPCA has over 200 volunteers, they have a no kill policy and that unneutered cats have over 200 kittens a year

We really enjoyed the experience and learned a lot about the rights and responsibilities of animals. We would also like to thank Mr Larkin for all his hard work and help!

3RD YEAR RETREAT TO BALLINTUBBER ABBEY

CHLOE NAUGHTON

After the much enjoyed famous retreat to Knock in 2nd year, I think it is safe to say we were all excited for the 3rd year retreat to Ballintubber Abbey. We left bright and early, with raincoats and wellies at the ready. When we arrived, we were brought into the church, where we were delighted to be offered tea. We were told some information about the history of the Abbey, before we were given exercises to do, explaining the "the real us". This was challenging for most of us as we were put on the spot, but everyone grew in confidence as we spoke aloud.

After lunch, we took part in the Tohar Walk, but we were relieved to find out, it was only two miles of it! We soon forgot the length of the walk when we got halfway anyway, because the highly popular "mud fight" broke out! After the walk we returned to the retreat room and had another brief discussion. The atmosphere didn't die down on the bus journey home either, but we were all exhausted. Overall the retreat was highly enjoyable and I can safely say future 3rd years will agree.



NA BRÍDEOGA U-16 + JUNIOR REPORT **ELEANOR HARRISON & CIARA DELANEY**

U16 – The U16s had an enjoyable year and were just pipped at the post in the cup final of the North Board Final. Junior – 2013 will be remembered as this year the club won their first Connacht title. On the 26th October, the team took to the field to play Athleague. Na Brideoga had an all round twenty-four players that day. As the final whistle blew, there were scenes of tremendous joy. Members of the team that are currently in the school are, Róna Burke, Aoife Lilly, Eleanor Harrison, Ashling Lynskey, Labhaoise Cunnane, Riona Joyce, Sarah Feeney and Ciara Delaney. Past members of the school include Lisa O'Connell, Sharon Lynskey, Niamh Cunnane, Charlotte Donne, Maria Coyne, Aoife Cassidy, Noreen Cassidy, Ashling Tarpey and Yvonne Byrne (All-Star winner). 2013 was an all round excellent year for the club and let's hope 2014 will be as rewarding.



Back Row (from l. to r.): Aoife Lilly, Róna Joyce, Labhaoise Cunnane, Aisling Lynskey, Shannon Keadin, Emer Kiely.

Middle Row (from l. to r.): Gráinne Robinson, Eleanor Harrison, Rachel Lyons, Danielle Coyne, Hannah Doyle, Aoife Nolan, Laura Mulkeen.

Front Row (from l. to r.): Ciara Delaney, Megan Morley, Roisin Cassidy, Aislinn Tighe, Jessica Klein, Amy Mulkeen.

BALLYHAUNIS RUGBY **JOHN COSTELLO**

Past BCS Pupils and long time rugby players John Costello and Martin Finnegan took on the U17 squad this year at Ballyhaunis Rugby Club. A fairly dedicated wide variety group of players began training in September last and have been participating in the division 2 Connacht league for the Winter Season. A good start was made with a home win vs South Sligo followed by another win against fellow league contenders, Sligo North. Two defeats followed in the form of a friendly against division 1 champs Creggs and the eventual winners of Division 2, Ballina. All games were well fought with everyone getting a run out and a place in the play offs guaranteed. The Cup draw is a tall order away to Westport and Castlebar in the playoff to come. There have been good numbers at training on Wednesday nights and a huge interest has risen in the game at this age group due to the successes of the Provincial and National Teams.



Back Row (from l. to r.): Martin Mulkeen, Thomas Connell, Ryan Convey Darragh Hunt, Martin McDonagh, Daragh Crawley, Jason Cullinane, James Cribbin, Sean Tarmey, Oisín Coffey and Cormac Reidy.

Front Row L-R: Peace Omotayo, Brian O'Neill, Conor Hunt, Williams Ganelly, Mikey Freyne, Eamonn Phillips and Cillian Costello.

Missing from Photo: Sean Sutton, Piarais Caufield, Sean Carrick, Stephen Towie, Cormac Philips, Conor Sloyan, Tommy Folliard, Damien Egan, Joseph Lyons, Thomas Coll and Conor Coll.

3RD YEAR CHRISTMAS CAKES

Look what our talented 3rd year Home Economics students baked and decorated for Christmas – Joanne Coffey, Michelle Lyons, Claire Fahy, Sive Duffy, Jessica Carroll, Megan Morley.

Wow..what a display.

Well done to the 3rd years and their teacher Ms. Sinead Donegan.



Claire Fahy



Jessica Carroll



Joanne Coffey



Megan Morley



Nadine Mangan



Sive Duffy

JUVENILE BOYS FOOTBALL

The Juvenile boy's football team started out their campaign in September under the guidance of manager Mr. Lynch and Transition Year students Oisín Henry and James Lyons. The opening game took place in Islandeady, the first round of the Mayo League; the lads faced a strong Belmullet side and lost out by a solitary point. The Ballyhaunis team struggled during their Connacht League campaign losing their matches to strong St. Nathy's and St. Attractas team. However, they didn't lose faith and on the back of some good training sessions the lads travelled to Kiltimagh in high spirits for the first round of the Championship. Unfortunately they were defeated by a highly skilled St. Louis side.



Fortunately the team had a second chance to keep their Championship hopes alive as they went straight into the qualifiers where they faced Carrick-on-Shannon. Again the team were very unfortunate to concede a last-gasp point which ultimately knocked them out of the competition and ended their year of Juvenile Football. Although the team weren't victorious, they thoroughly enjoyed the year and would like to thank Mr. Lynch for his continued support and encouragement throughout the year.

Back Row (L-R) Cormac Phillips, Dylan Ruane, Lorcan Ronan, Williams Ganley, Eoin Delaney, Evan Fitzmaurice, Thomas Sweeney.

Middle Row: Eoin O'Boyle, Evan Godfrey, Luke Mannion, Joseph Wagacha, John Madden, Mohammad Rahmani, David Hession.

Front Row: Andrew Hickey, Shane McDermott, Conor Sloyan, David Cunnane, Jack Coyne, Ethan Owens, Muhammad Naseer, Zouhir Rahmani, Patrick Forde.

BOYS ATHLETICS TEAM



Back Row: Brian O'Neill, Alex Adeyinka, Darren Coyne, Dylan Niland, Martin Mulkeen, Sean Carrick.

Front Row: Patrick Caulfield, Williams Ganley, David Cunnane, Jack Coyne, Enda Crawley, David Rutkauskas.

B. OSGOOD. ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS WEEK

Organ Donor Awareness week was held on 18th -21st of March. Students were informed about the facts pertaining to organ donation and the effects of such an important decision on the lives of many patients and their families. Over 600 people remain on waiting lists, including children and young people like our students. Over 200 donor cards and information leaflets were distributed over the week. Thank you to the teachers in the Religion Department for their support.

Pictured are Stacey Hayden (artist who designed ODAW poster), Róna Burke and Joseph Lyons.



BCS MUSICAL - Back to the 80's



We really did have the "time of our lives"; When BCS was brought "Back to the 80's". Our musical was a story about American teenagers high school lives in the electric 80's! The storyline was based on the life of "Corey Palmer", and his struggles and daily endeavours in high school, which were being re-lived in his late thirties. The then seventeen year old Corey is crazy about Tiffany Houston, who is too busy mooning over Michael Feldman the "hottest guy in school". Meanwhile the two teachers in the school (Mr. Cocker and Ms. Brannigan) portray their heated relationship in and out of the classroom.

The rehearsals began down in the Parochial Hall in the town, where dances were learnt scenes were set and rivalry for dance partners began! Most rehearsals for the cast took place took place after school where unforgettable memories were made and friendships were formed. The dress rehearsal came as a big shock as reality hit when the mics arrived and finally it was SHOW TIME!!! Tensions were high and the excitement was building, as the musical drew closer. The preparations on the nights of the musical

were unforgettable doing ridiculous make-up and tan,

especially on the lads was absolutely priceless! All the characters stood out and showed their individual personalities through their characters. Huey and Fergal, aswell as many others added comedy to the musical, with Fergal's nerdy demeanour and huey's Michael Jackson impressions with his crotch grabbing and high-pitched "HEHE'S" and "OW's".

The "Kiss Scene" was the most memorable part for many reasons. The big kiss was a major talking point for the viewers and the cast, along with Matthews's lightsaber making a quick exit!! The craic was most definitely had back-stage during the live shows, when a lively performance of "Jump On It" took place in the boys dressing room! Ms. McHugh miming "total eclipse of the Heart" was also a huge highlight for everyone!

There were also many memorable quotes which we will never forget – "Wax on Wax off", "May the force be with you", "What about all my Milli Vanilli tapes?", "Quiet please", which are still being quoted around BCS!

We were all under the direction of the amazing Mrs Henry and the amazing Mrs Devine and with the assistance of Hazel Mclynn of 'Artscope' and student teacher Ms. McHugh. We can't thank them enough. After working hard singing, dancing and acting our way through the weeks until our performance we really did live up to our promise by delivering unforgettable and fantastic shows. Well done to the cast and crew aswell as the management and staff of BCS. It is an experience none of us will ever forget!

BCS MUSICAL BACK TO THE 80S



A DAY IN THE LIFE



BCS ARTWORK



TRANSITION YEAR



TRANSITION YEAR



Back Row (l. to r.): Sean Tarmey, Cian Henry, Barry Forde, Tom Murphy, James Reynolds, Oisín Coffey, Cathal Carney, Padraic Duffy.

Middle Row (l. to r.): Brian Waldron, John Cunnane, Oisín Hnery, James Lyons, Tommy Folliard, Stephen Collins, Matthew Grogan.

Front Row (l. to r.): Claudia Glavey, Hillary Phillips, Roisin Ní Shuilleabháin, Sarah Behan, Emma Rowley, Meadhbh Glavey, Aimee Regan, Orla Cleary.

Missing from Photo: Piarais Caulfield.

THE SCHOOL BLOG

ROISÍN NÍ SHUILLEABHÁIN

This year our school blog will be celebrating its third birthday! It is a forum which provides teachers, students and parents with relevant information regarding extra-curricular activities such as match updates, events which have taken place in the past such as "Back to the 80's", the school musical held in November, T.Y. News such as the dedicated page for "The Hardy Bucks Bank" (a bank run by students for the students) as well as other information about the school. Mrs. Waldron is the patron of the Blog, with the assistance of myself and other T.Y students. Check us out online at:

<http://ballyhauniscs.scoilnet.ie>

TY GARDEN



TY GREAT IRISH BAKE OFF

The T.Y. Great Irish Bake Off raised 160 euro for Temple Street. Pictured are the T.Y. students, with Ms. Osgood and Ms. Keane, presenting the cheque to Una Duffy-staff member of Temple Street, and past pupil of B.C.S.



TY ARTICLE

ROISIN NI SHUILLEABHAIN, SARAH BEHAN, EMMA ROWLEY AND CLAUDIA GLAVEY

First Day: Our first day in T.Y, started off in Mrs. Henry's room, E4. Everyone felt excited and anxious for the year ahead. After the paperwork was settled, we were put into random teams and sent on our way down town and around the school for a treasure hunt. There were a few stragglers but we all got back in time, eventually, for our first T.Y class.

Killary, where memories were made! We set off on a Wednesday morning, with more food than clothes packed and with Meadhbh's guitar on board, "no word of a lie". With the lads free styling in the back of the bus, we eventually arrived in Westport with rumbling tummies for some long awaited FOOD. After Mrs. Henry chased us out of the hair dye shop, we hopped back on the bus and swiftly took off. Mrs. Henry, with a puzzled expression on her face, we soon realised that Duffy, Lyons and Tom had been left behind, probably conquering Westport in search of love. Upon arrival in Killary, the battle for the best bed in the rooms began. The trunks soon overflowed with sweets and we all headed outside for a kick about. We started off with the famous Bog Challenge, and as we waded our way through mud, finding shoes on the way and losing our own, the complaining started, especially from the girls! We were thankful for the hot showers back at base, with mysterious underwear flying back and forth between the two changing rooms. The dinners weren't too appetising, but the male leaders company compensated for the poor food. When the night time came everyone was in high spirits, swapping rooms and building forts. The mornings after the nights before were the worst, with broken door handles, painted faces and an unappealing breakfast. Evenings became interesting, with the camp fire glowing on our faces, munching on smores while making wish lists, watching Hillary and Sarah falling about in the dark and everyone singing along to the lads playing the guitar. The nights always left us with stronger friendships and lots of laughter. On the bus home Claudia remembered getting rid of all the wild cats jumping up the walls and eating Mr. Woolley's brownies. New couples were formed and love was certainly in the air. As we all slumped on the couch back at home, barely able to blink, we knew the last three days were well spent especially because they were Carlton's last with us!

Our first fundraiser was Jersey Day for the All-Ireland final, followed by the First Year Quiz. Piarais, the Pumpkin, with Tarmey and Tommy, are champion horses, added to the craic on the day. The movie evening for 1st years kicked off the Christmas Holidays with a bang and we ended down in Supervalu, singing carols cluelessly. Three Bakes Sales were next on our agenda and thankfully we didn't food poison anyone! The Hardy Bucks Bank with the help of T.Y's organised the Valentine's Day Fundraiser. When the 14th of February came, the bank team were running around like mini-cupids. Tráth na nGeist, our Irish Quiz, challenged our Irish skills, never mind that of the First Years! Mrs. Keane tested our culinary skills, yet again, for The Great Bake Off for Temple Street in March and Stephen proved that his brownies are the best... Sorry Piarais! Those late night bakes just didn't make the cut in the end! Shave or dye, our fundraiser for Roscommon Hospice, was our biggest fundraiser of the year and everyone loved our multicoloured hair!

Barcelona: In the early hours of the 1st of May we hoped on to Geraghtys bus towards Dublin. Here is where the snapchat stories began, with the lads singing 'I don't feel like dancing' and the whole bus joining in, even seanie was enjoying himself at this stage. When we arrived at the airport Tarmey headed for his rasher sandwich, Coffey, James and Cathal would settle for nothing less than a breakfast buffet and the rest of us were happy with burger king. With full stomachs and Claudia on her happy pills we could go wrong. Before we knew it we landed in Sunny Salou with our swimming togs on messing in the pool. That night Seanie Larkin showed us a thing or two at bowling and the lads were no match for him, After the arcade we headed back to the hotel and we realised we had some Spanish company and in Emma's words ` Tá bhuilluil an-té!!!. However, she and Roisín scared off the boys with their major dance skills at the disco, that night under the watchful eye of Mr. Larkin we are proud to say that our own T.Y boys mingled particularly well with the Spanish birds. We were all in bed at 12 o'clock or that's what Seanie Larkin and Mrs. H thought! Barcelona city was our next stop on the trip and John and Cathal bought interesting bottle openers for their Dads. We saw Nou Camp, La Sagrada Família to name but a few and we all got a laugh at the lads bartering skills in the street markets-'How much for this?'. That evening we walked to the beach and came back to shave Coffey and Padraic's muscular legs and to what they thought cleansed and moisturised their skin. The next morning their legs were a shade or two darker!!! On the third day we went to Port Aventura with some people more nervous than others. A brave few went on Shamballa and Dragons Khan! We all felt that Marco Polo was there since he was mentioned so much...MARCO...POLO! Tommy...Folliard!! We were spoiled for choice with the amount of places we could eat and, and our true Irish side shone-'it's too expensive'. We will all remember the chanting match between the girls and lads on the giant swinging boat ride and Roisín, Claw, Matty G, Emma and Ois the Bush sang 'I'll take you to the candy shop' before they went on Furious Baco., Room 108 and room 109 were passing some flattering jocks around that night!!! Batman, aka Matty G, took to the roof while the lads playing poker and some rooms earwigging. Those nights as well as all our nights were memorable. We went up to Mount Serrat on the final day on a wobbly cable car with an unbelievable view. While we waited for the cable car everybody went crazy for the Spanish ice-cream and by the time we were done they had no more. When we went shopping our famous bartering skills resurfaced and we never saw Stephen and Brian run so fast after their jerseys!!! Yet again food was our number one priority and we all had a laugh when Cathal proposed with a romantic rose to Mr. Larkin. When we arrived at the airport, after going to every wrong terminal, we could all hear Emma scream when she found some interesting souvenirs in her bag-'I love Barcelona'. John played Duck, Duck Goose with some unaware passengers on the plane and Seánie Larkin got a surprise birthday announcement. We were all happy to come home to our Mammies good Irish dinner. 'Dance, I'll take you there, disco, disco, disco!!!'

T.Y. Life! Transition Year, or what it has been perceived to be, is not a doss! We do a lot more than people think. We're all

in charge of sports teams in the school and by now Mr. Woolley is probably sick of seeing us! We did a big clean up with Mrs. Brogan for the Green Schools, where no black bags were spared, thanks a bunch Gerry! We got down and dirty with Ms. Comer, planting Daffodils, as well as dropping eggs off the roof and making 'lighthouses' for science. As you can see from our canvases around the school, we aren't just pretty faces but Picasso's at heart, thanks Mrs. Lennon for the art...Casual rhyme. As well as being arty, our musical talents truly shone this year! Jamming at break and chilling in the cell, left us humming the tunes, #YOLOSWAG! The Chill Room, where forts were built, by master craftsmen Matty G, Brian, Hildawg and Tommy, also saw some sumo wrestling, compliments of Cian and Oisín Henry! We headed off to the T.F with Ms. Mooney to see, literally, the one and only Psycho Spaghetti. Eugene Lavin gave us a GAA course which we will certainly not forget any time soon. Amy showed us all up when we went horse riding and Róisín and Cláudia's selfies with Mr. Woolley and the horses were really funny! We helped Mr. Woolley and Mrs. Flannery with the after school circuits, where our DJ Reynolds and Ois, got people ready to 'Eat, Sleep, Exercise, Repeat'! The circuits prepared half the school for the 5km Run, where Reynolds and Oisín dragged the Boom Box up and down the road playing the tunes as Brian cycled on his broken bicycle, it was 'UNREAL'! Tracy Cunnane, thought us all a thing or two about self- defence and now all the girls know how to

bring the boys to their knees! Through European Studies, with Ms. Phillips, we met Fr. Kieran Waldron, who told us all about Ballyhaunis, past and present. We also met Garda McHugh, as well as Stephen Bourke from SWAG Mayo, who both gave us interesting presentations about Road Safety and LGBT. Our trip to Arigna Mines with the fourth years as part of geography was enjoyed by everyone and the blackout didn't scare any of us! Dilver's Army did our class proud this year as Meadhbh, Oisín and Padraic got to the semi-final of Our School's Got Talent. This year we organised the Girls Gaelic League which members of the class managed. This year T.Y's proved to be the strongest soccer team in the Five-a-side soccer league, James game plan and everyone's team work led them to victory!

T.Y has definitely been one of the best years of our young lives, we have done so much in such a short amount of time, and we've made new friends, met new people and learnt so many different things. We have memories that will last us a lifetime... But first let me take a selfie! #YOLOSWEG

4TH YEAR & TY QUIZ TEAMS



Back Row (l. to r.): Cian Henry, Tom Murphy, Oisín Henry, James Lyons.

Middle Row (l. to r.): Mrs. Henry, Padraic Duffy, Róisín Ní Shuilleabháin, Sarah Behan.

Front Row (l. to r.): Joseph Lyons, Stephen Nolan, James Lyons, Mark Phillips.

Missing from Photo: Piarais Caulfield.

2ND YEAR FASHION SHOW

GRÁINNE ROBINSON AND CHLOE RYAN.

2nd Years organise a 'Celebrity Fashion Show' - with all proceeds being donated to Pieta House. Well done everyone.



On the 30th of April 2014 Ballyhaunis Community School became an unexpected hotspot for international celebrities. They had flown in from California, Miami, Tokyo and even Castlereagh. All willing to show us how talented, beautiful and fantastic they all were. Being celebrities, of course they all wanted to be the centre of attention and they were in need of an audience. Therefore first and second year students were more than happy to watch our celebrities strut their stuff on stage. Our hosts Michael Freyne as Gok Wan and Rachel Timoney as Jennifer Lawrence wowed the crowd with their presenting skills. Chloe Ryan opened the show as the legendary Tina Turner and treated the crowd to an incredible performance of "Rolling on The River".

This was followed by Keith Forde as the one and only Father Jack and Áine Duffy as Mrs. Doyle. Then we had Madonna, brilliantly portrayed by Gráinne Robinson. Damien McGowan effortlessly transformed into the suave, cool Mr. James Bond. Damien, we reckon you will have no problem with the girls after that performance !!!! This superhero was followed by two heroines- Marina Carney as Cat woman and Olivia Cleary as Superwoman. The show was closed with Rebecca Finn as Katie Taylor – what a knock out she was! And finally Cormac Phillips as the one and only Ming Flanagan.

Now the thank you's! A special thanks to our religion teachers especially Mrs Mulroy who helped us to put on this fundraising event. Thanks to Colm O'Gara and Kevin Neenan -our own personal DJ's. Their choice of music was brilliant and really contributed to the overall atmosphere. Thank you to Joicy Nunes, Laura O'Connell and Aoife Nolan our personal stylists. And finally to Padraic Duffy T.Y who insured the perfect timing to each celebrity as they entered the stage. Padraic you looked totaaly menacing as a bouncer. ! No one would mess with you! The event was a great success and we hope it will become an annual event. All money raised goes to charity so second year students can feel virtuous as well as brilliant!



The Celebrity Fashion Show Cast & Crew with Mrs. S. Mulroy (Fashion show producer)

Back (l-r) Padraig Duffy (Celebrity Bouncer), Aoife Nolan, Laura O'Connell (Wardrobe & Props), Chloe Ryan (Tina Turner), Grainne Robinson (Madonna), Marina Carney (Catwoman), Olivia Cleary (Superwoman), Rachel Timoney (Presenter), Aine Duffy, (Mrs Doyle), Rebecca Finn (Katie Taylor), Mrs. S. Mulroy (Fashion Show producer). **Front (l-r)** Colm O'Gara (Sound Technician), Damien McGowan (James Bond), Kevin Neenan (Sound Technician), Michael Freyne (Gok Wan), Cormac Phillips (Ming Flanagan), Keith Forde (Fr. Jack Hackett).

THE HARDY BUCKS BANK

This year, once again, BCS Transition Years took part in the AIB Build a Bank Challenge. This challenge involves opening and operating a bank within the school to enable students to bank safely and quickly with people they know and trust. Interviews were held in October to find six elite students to form a bank and operate it successfully in the school. The six bankers were Oisín Coffey (Bank Manager), Roisín Ní Shuilleabháin (Assistant Manager), Stephen Collins (Financial Controller), Claudia Glavey (Sales & Marketing Executive), as well as, Barry Forde and Emma Rowley who were both our Customer Service Representatives. Our first task was to come up with our bank's name. We chose 'The Hardy Bucks Bank' because we felt that many students in our school work hard in part time jobs and their hard earned money deserved a safe savings environment. Our slogan is 'The Hardy Bucks Bank for Your Hard Earned Bucks'. Our goal was then to have a successful launch day with incentives to entice new customers to save their money with us. We greatly appreciate the sponsorship we have received since opening the bank including a School Jersey donated by the school itself, sponsorship also from Gud 2 Go, Phillip's Menswear, Coscutter's (The Gym), Ribbin's Main street, Colleran's Pharmacy, Curley's Pharmacy, Finn's Footwear, Ryan's Supervalu, Newsround, J.G's Barber, Cold Call and Forde Bros. Without this sponsorship we would be unable to conduct weekly spot prizes for our bank's members.

Our launch day was a resounding success as Colm Cooper opened our bank. His presence was felt by all throughout the school and the hum and excitement did not just last one day but the whole week. He graciously signed autographs, but his signature most securely rests on our school jersey which has been used by 'The Hardy Bucks Bank' for promotions. It will be raffled off at the end of the year to one of our lucky customers. He gave private training sessions to first and second year boys and girls in the evening, which thoroughly enjoyed the experience. His wise words for the bank members steered us in the right direction and we greatly appreciate his advice. We are in debt to Mr. Cooper as gave our bank the lift off it needed and deserved. After our Launch day, we decided that Tuesday's at 1.30pm was the appropriate time to open the bank each week. We meet



Student Officers L to R: Ailish Marren, Kenneth Boyle
Teacher: Bernadine Waldron
Students: Claudia Glavey., Roisín Ní Shuilleabháin, Emma Rowley,
 An AIB Bank Official, Barry Forde, Oisín Coffey
AIB Bank Official: Barry Naughton

every second day and discuss all aspects of the bank including our future ideas, past initiatives that worked and how to stick to our ethos. We ran many promotions this year. Our first being the Movie Evening for first year students in December, which raised 66.20 for our local St. Vincent de Paul. We also ran a loyalty scheme for our customers, which entitles them to a 3 voucher for Gud 2 Go if they saved with us five times. We gave away spot prizes each week on a Thursday. We scripted and directed a video with two popular T.Y. students, Claudia Glavey and James Lyons, which went viral on Facebook with over one thousand

views in five hours! We are extremely proud of this video. Our Facebook and Twitter accounts are updated regularly and inform students about our promotions and other relevant information. We have created an Android App as well as a QR code which directs students to our Facebook account. We also have a page on the School Blog.

Our most successful promotion was on Valentine's Day. 'Who would you give your last Rolo too?' beckoned in many a student's mind across the coming weeks to Valentine's Day. Students were able to send anonymous Rolo's and Roses to their Valentine very cheaply. The response throughout the school was astonishing. A portion of the profits went to the renovation of the School's garden and the rest to the T.Y fund. Both are in the bank's minds worthy causes to support. On the 3rd of March we embarked on a journey to the Radisson Blu in Sligo for the Regional Finals of the Build a Bank Challenge. We had an exciting day and through the interviews we showed the judges the effort we have put in to our bank. They saw our efforts and awarded us The Best Technology Bank. We are extremely proud of this Award. Unfortunately we did not qualify for the Nation Finals but we came home 100 euro richer and with a smile on our faces! It has been a great experience for us and we thank all bank members for their loyalty and support! We would also like to thank Mrs. Waldron, Kenneth and Eilis, our student officers for their help and guidance throughout the process.

The Hardy Bucks Bank *'For Your Hard earned bucks'*

TY COMMUNITY CARE

O. MACKEN



The T.Y. Community Care programme has been running successfully for the past four years. This is religion class with a difference. Instead of listening to stories about others putting their faith into action, this is exactly what our T.Y. students do every week. Every Wednesday morning from 9 until 11 the students go out into the local community. This year's group of students volunteered in the following placements:

- Scoil Iosa Primary School- helping with the Literacy and Numeracy programme
- Rita Landon Play school.
- Lohan Park Group Home- Meals on Wheels.
- MSPCA-Mayo Society to prevent cruelty to animals.
- Friary Creche / Play School
- Computer Training - with the over 55's
- OLSE – Charity Shop

Each placement is 6 weeks in duration so the students have plenty of variety throughout the course of the school year. The feedback from the placements is very complimentary towards the students. Students are reported to be respectful, well mannered and caring within the role they carry out. The Community Care programme is an invaluable experience for the T.Y. students – it gives them a great insight into the world of volunteering and how rewarding working in a care environment can be. I would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. S. Larkin and Mrs. A. Henry in providing transport to and from the placements each week and also to Mr. Larkin for his assistance with the administration of the programme. Without this team effort it would not be possible to run the programme each year. Well done to the T.Y. students for embracing the challenge and for attending each of their placements with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. Our TY's put the concepts of social justice, care and concern for all into action. Well done.



GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

MRS. BROGAN

The Green Schools Committee is still very busy in B.C.S. We are working to reduce the amount of litter in the school and to increase the amount of material being recycled. This again is proving very successful with the amount of rubbish going to landfill being recycled all the time.



We are continuing the composting programme with all organic waste in

the school being processed. This includes all waste from the home economics department and kitchen.

This year we enhanced the outside of the school by planting shrubs and daffodils. This was done under the watchful eye of Ms Comer our science teacher. This was our first opportunity to use our own homemade compost.

We would again remind all students to check the recycling rotas and to make a special effort to keep their areas clean and tidy and well done to everybody for their effort this year.



CAROL SERVICE

MEADHBH GLAVEY & PADRAIC DUFFY.

On The 22nd of December 2013, the Transition Year students set up inside the door of Ryan's Supervalu, Ballyhaunis. A lot of preparation was put into this Carol Service and we are very grateful to Ms. Phillips and Mrs. Devine for helping us to organise the event. We printed off a list of Christmas songs into a booklet and every Transition Year student present sang to their hearts desire! This paid off as we made a total of 186 for the very worthy cause of Western Care Ballyhaunis. The head of Western Care, Carmel Brady, came down to our school, along with some of the members of Western Care. We made the presentation to them and they were very grateful to the money we raised for them. This money is going towards them getting a wheelchair accessible bus. This was a very enjoyable day out and we are very thankful to all the people who supported us and to Willie Ryan of Supervalu for letting us use his premises.



SHAVE OR DYE

AIMEE REGAN

This year the TY's decided to take part in Shave or Dye to raise money for The Mayo Roscommon Hospice. Hairdressers around Ballyhaunis kindly agreed to dye our hair free of charge. Members of the class decided to go for very vibrant colours while others decided to go for more subtle hues. The Shave or Dye caused great excitement throughout the class. Each person taking part in Shave or Dye was given a sponsorship card. It was our responsibility to raise as much money as we could by getting people to sponsor us. We all came up with our own individual target of how much money we wanted to raise. This was a very successful fundraiser over all. The TY's who took part in Shave or Dye had a really good time participating. The TY's would like to thank J.G's Barbers, Valerie's hair salon, Style It by Noreen and LA Hair. The TY's would also like to thank Ms. Phillips for organising the whole fundraiser.

ARIGNA 2014**JAMES REYNOLDS AND OISIN COFFEY**

On the 1st of April 2014 the Transition Year students and the 4th year Geography class travelled to the Arigna Mines. We left the school at 9:15am and arrived in Arigna at 11:30am. When we arrived at Arigna we began a guided tour of the mines, the tours are all given by ex-miners. Our tour guide began by showing us the sacred heart picture on the way into the mines. Every morning the miners stopped at this and said a prayer. He then told us that many boys began working in the mines at 14 years old. When he first began working in the mines he worked as a drawer. A drawer used to push and pull carts full of freshly cut coal to and from the miners

who were mining it out. After 8 or 9 years of working in the job he moved on to cutting out the coal. The coal was cut out by using an air powered pick. The miners would lie on their sides holding the pick above their heads and dig out the coal. The tunnels the miners were working in were only 20 inches high, because there were huge amounts of rock over their head they had to support the tunnels from collapsing on top of them while they are inside. To do this the miners would put timber poles in the tunnels to keep them protected. The miners had to work with very little light, the only source of light they had was a carbide lamp attached to their hard hat. The miners were paid per tonne of coal mined and each miner was expected to mine 8 tonnes a day. The day was divided into a late shift and an early shift. The early shift was the mining out of the coal and the late shift was the removing of the rock on top of the area of coal removed on the early shift. The rock was removed by using an explosive called gelignite. Working in the mines was very hard work and it is clear to see that all the men who worked in the mines earned their money by doing it the hard way. We would like to thank Mrs. Brogan and Ms. Macken for bringing us on the trip.



4th Year / TY Geography Field Trip to the Arigna Coal Mines with Mrs. Brogan and Ms. Macken.



All ready for the guided tour....many thanks to Leo for a very informative guided tour of the Mine.

SEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE 2014

"Tír gan teanga tír gan anam"

Bhaineamar ard-taitneamh as Seachtain na Gaeilge 2014! Bhí an-spórt again idir an 1 – 17 Márta. Mile buíochas do gach éinne a ghlac pháirt sna h-imeachtaí éagsúla. I measc na h-imeachtaí bhí tráth na gceist, cluiche biongo chomh maith le comórtas na bpostaeirí.

Comhgairdeachas libh go léir agus leanaigí ar aghaidh ag labhairt Gaeilge!

**GOLF**

Back Row (from l. to .r.): Oisín Henry, Cian Henry, James Lyons, Andrew Hickey, Colm O'Gara.
Front Row: Jason Meehan, Liam Herr, Evan Henry, Liam Foody.

SCÓR na nÓG

MEADHBH GLAVEY

It was the end of an era for myself, Sinéad Niland, Michaela Durkin, Deirdre Durkin and Mairéad Mooney as we no longer were eligible to take part in the Scór Na nÓg G.A.A. based competition. However, our victory last year inspired five new girls to form their own Ballad Group to try and retain that name that brought envy to many of the faces of our former competitors, 'An Ballad Grúpa Achádh Mór'. This group was made up of Roisín Cassidy, Jessica Klein, Amy Mulkeen, Hannah Doyle and Siobhán Mooney. These five young girls made it to the county final, which was held in Beaffy G.A.A. grounds. To their shock, for the 8th year in a row, an Aghamore Ballad Group was named County Champions! – 'An comórtas eile, an Ballad Grúpa, tá na bunteoirí.... Achádh Mór!' The set dancers followed in shining glory winning their second consecutive County Title. The Aghamore set dancers had a goal from September 2013 to get back to that All Ireland Final, which they took part in last year. With Davóg Frayne being too old to take part in this year's competition it was up to David Hession to fill his set dancing shoes and replace Davóg in the set. The very talented music group consisting of Orna Hession and Eleanor Harrison also made the Mayo County Final but were pipped at the post by the Castlebar Grúpa Ceoil. Onto the Connacht Final which was held in the T.F. Castlebar. With representation from the set dancers and the Ballad Group, we were all guns blazing! With strong performances by both competitors the results were finally in. Unfortunately it wasn't to be Aghamore's day as neither group qualified for the All Ireland Final.

Aghamore has made a strong reputation for themselves in Scór Na nóg. This is only the beginning for our new Ballad Group. It took us years for our chance at provincial glory but we finally got there and we know these groups will do the same. As for our Set Dancers, they've had a taste of an All Ireland Final and there's no doubt that they will get there again and bring home more silverware for the red and white!



From left to right: David Hession, Thomas Doherty, Jessica Klein, Hannah Doyle, Eleanor Harrison, Rachel Lyons, Roisín Cassidy, Amy Mulkeen.

TEMPLE STREET

MEADHBH GLAVEY

My name is Meadhbh Glavey and I am a Transition Year student. For my work experience this year I went to Temple Street Children's Hospital. I did three days of work experience in Temple Street just before the Christmas holidays. Una Duffy is a past pupil of the school. She is a nurse in St. Patrick's Ward, which is the baby ward. Una was my mentor for the three days I spent there, so St. Patrick's Ward was the ward I was in. I will never, ever, forget the experiences I had in that ward and in the other wards around the hospital. It really opened my eyes to the struggles some families have on a daily basis - coming to see their son or daughter and it made me appreciate how blessed I am not to be sick in hospital. I didn't have many hands-on jobs while in the hospital as the nurses were dealing with sick children. But, I did have the task of using the nebulizer on a 13 week old baby. I held the mask over the baby's mouth and these two big blue eyes looking up at me, almost saying, 'why are you doing this to me? Please stop!'

On the first day it was quite emotional. There were very small premature babies lying in their cots in the ward and they were quite ill - which was very sad to see. I thought that it would be hard to see a child so sick but in fact it was much harder to see the parents so distraught. There was one stage where an 18 month old baby had to go to a separate room with the doctors to get tested for meningitis. I was told to go with them to help out any way I could and to experience the 'not too thrilling' side of nursing. This test involved having to inject a needle into the patient's spine to release some fluid, which would later be checked for any trace of meningitis. This was the most heartbreaking thing I've ever witnessed. The child was in serious discomfort and was trying with all her strength to stop the doctor injecting the needle, but she was held down by the assisting doctor. The child wasn't the problem, it was the heartbroken parents who had to leave the room as their child was yelling with the pain of it all. The look on the father's face I will never forget. I almost felt his pain. I found that a lot of the time it was the parents that needed

the looking after. They needed the reassurance that their baby was going to be ok. They needed the tissues! On the second day Una brought me on a tour of the hospital. I was brought to the different wards - this included brand new and refurbished wards. We suddenly walked into a ward that didn't quite feel the same as the others. Something was different about this ward. As I looked around I began to see the difference in the children from this ward to the previous wards. These children were very, very sick. I was in fact in the brain tumour ward. The sad thing about this is that the children seemed very happy and content. There was some walking around holding Mammy and Daddy's hands, some fast asleep in bed with their parents at their bedside and some sitting up in the bed talking with doctors. This is real life and this is happening to some children out there and this made my whole experience very surreal and emotional. Over the course of the three days I constantly got this over-powering feeling to help those sick children. I wanted to do something, anything, to help them and at that moment it made me realise that this job is the job I'm meant to undertake as a career. Work experience as a part of Transition Year is an excellent opportunity to branch out into different areas and see which one suits you the best. Doing my work experience in Temple Street made me realise that nursing is what I'm meant to do. Once you get a better idea, it makes the task of choosing your subjects for your Leaving Cert a lot easier. It was a lovely time of year to be in the hospital as there was a great buzz around the place. Jedward and the Dublin Senior Football team arrived in with the Sam Maguire at one stage and there was great excitement!

When I returned to school after the Christmas holidays I was mad to fundraise for Temple Street. I had such a tremendous time up there that I just wanted to give something back. The school have been fundraising for Temple Street for several years and this year we joined in with the whole country and took part in the 'Great Irish Bake Off for Temple Street'. All Transition Year students were involved and we baked our way to making €180.28! We would like to thank all the students and teachers who supported this great cause and we'd also like to thank Mrs. Keane and Mrs Osgood for helping us to organise it. I am very grateful to Una and all the staff of St. Patrick's Ward for being so welcoming and so friendly. Overall my experience was outstanding and one that I will never forget any time soon!

OUR SCHOOL'S GOT TALENT

MEADHBH GLAVEY

It all started off back in February when two groups from our school decided to enter in the Our School's Got Talent Competition. There was a group consisting of 5 second years who were known as 'The Way'. Áine Duffy, Evan Fitzmaurice, Williams Ganley, Orna Hession and Damien McGowan made up this group. Then there was our group known as 'Dilvers Army' (long story). In this group there was myself, Padraic Duffy, Oisín Coffey and Damien McGowan who were managed superbly by Cathal (Dilver) Carney. Our journey began in the Árd Rí in Tuam. We embraced this first round, not knowing that this was the beginning of an amazing adventure for both groups! Little did we expect that we would both qualify for the regional final! The regional final was held in Claremorris Town Hall on the 22nd of March. Both bands were practising hard all week and had come up with new material for the regional final. 'The Way' performed a mash up of Timber and Counting Stars. Evan and Williams were on lead guitar and vocals, Damien on the drums, Áine on the keyboard and also singing as a vocalist. Finally, Orna completed the group by bringing a hint of Trad by breaking into the 'Horseshlips', much to the crowds delight! Meanwhile, 'Dilvers Army' opened the show with a bang! We performed our own version of the hit single 'Riptide' by Vance Joy. Again, much to the crowd's delight! We waited nervously on stage as the results were to be announced. The standard was extremely high and we were quite nervous. Suddenly, the host announced... Dilvers Army!!! And shortly afterwards... The Way!!! Again, both acts were through and this time to an All Ireland Quarter Final!!!

This time we had to make our way to the Park Hotel in Mullingar. We practised hard in my cabin at my house for hours after school and many the cuppa tae was brought out by Mammy Glavey. This round was held on the following Sunday, March 30th. With only a week to prepare both groups stuck to the same songs they'd performed in the final. A 25 seater bus was full and off we went from the school, early on the Sunday afternoon. Both groups performed very well that night in Mullingar. The main man himself, Mr. McGowan, stole the show on the drums and both groups rolled onto the next round and this time to an All Ireland semi-final in Limerick on Sunday the 6th of April. The bus journey on the way home was mental! The songs and chants were roared from Mullingar to Ballyhaunis and not a voice was left among us on the next day. During the week the excitement began to fill the school and students and teachers were very supportive. This time we went bigger and better. More tea was made and more practice was put in. Again, both groups decided to stick to the same songs and perfect them for the semi-final. The second years were hard at work making posters and this time a 33 seater bus was ordered. Unfortunately Mrs. Devine (The Deviner) was unable to make it to Limerick but thankfully we had Ms. McHugh to come with us. Both groups were buzzing! We've never been so excited and so nervous for something at the same time! A lot of effort was put into outfits and both groups went all out!! 'The Way', in their blue and white theme and 'Dilvers Army', in our black and white theme. Hair and makeup complete and we were ready to go. 'The Way' performed the best of their ability and did the school proud. We performed our best ever! We made the most of the opportunity. Unfortunately it wasn't meant to be for either group. A total of 5 acts went through to the televised All Ireland final out of the 26 that performed. However, we had a blast! Both groups enjoyed every moment of it. We would like to thank first and foremost, Mrs. Devine. She has been a legend to say the least. We would have never entered if it wasn't for her so, thank you. We would also like to thank Mr. McDonagh and all the teachers and students for their constant support during our time in the competition. Finally to Ms. McHugh for coming with us to Limerick. Overall, this was an incredible experience and truly the start of something great!



Band '**Da Way**': Williams Ganley, Damien McGowan, Evan Fitzmaurice, Áine Duffy, Orna Hession.



Band '**Dilvers Army**': Padraic Duffy, Oisín Coffey, Meadhbh Glavey, Damien McGowan.



U-17 BOYS SOCCER

EMMA ROWLEY AND JAMES REYNOLDS

The U17 boys soccer team started training back in September with the first match being held against Davitt Collage with Ballyhaunis beating Davitt Collage 1-0. The league continued when the boys came up against CBS on our home turf. The boys played an impressive game and won the match 8-3. The next match was played against St Marys in Castlebar. This was by far one of the most memorable games as the boys came back from a 2-0 deficit scoring two goals in the last ten minutes taking the game into extra time in which a late goal was scored to win the match. The final match was played against Athenry which was played on their home grounds who won the game 3-2, this was a very disappointing result for the boys, which unfortunately knocked them out of the league. We would like to thank Mr. Noone for his dedication to the team and also to the team members who dedicated their time to training.



Back Row: Tom Murphy, Cathal Carney, James Lyons, Liam Cregg, Robert Naughton, Radek Cervenak.

Middle Row: Niall Dunleavy, Tiernan Murphy, Cian Ruane, Stephen Collins, Michael McGarry, Brian Morley, Martin Mulkeen, Shane Cribbin, Darragh Crawley.

Front Row: Azad Ali, Patrick Keadin, Conor Hunt, Eamonn Phillips, Gary Higgins, Sean Kenny, Robert McCormack.

5K RUN



TOP BOY AND GIRL TO FINISH!

Pictured are: Mr. Woolley (P.E Teacher), Kelly Donegan, Joseph Wagacha, Mr. McDonagh (principal).



TOP 5 TO FINISH!

Pictured are: Mr. Woolley (P.E Teacher), Cian Ruane, Seán Kenny, Robert Lilly, Brian Morley, Joseph Wagacha, Mr. McDonagh (principal).



TOP 5 JUNIOR GIRLS:

Pictured are: Kara Niland, Aine Duffy, Cassandra Niland, Ellen Phillips, Amy Grealley.



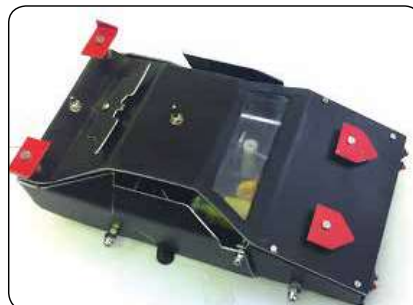
TOP 5 JUNIOR BOYS:

Pictured are: Brian Morley, Cian Ruane, Robert Lilly, Seán Kenny, Joseph Wagacha.



STAFF WHO COMPLETED THE 5K

METALWORK PROJECTS



CLASS 4A



Back row (l. to r.): Damien Egan, Daragh Crawley, Mark Phillips, Cormac Reidy, Muhammad Younas, Seán Sutton, Michael Hill.

Middle Row (l. to r.): Adrian Boyle, James Cribbln, Leanne Henry, Aoife Lilly, Jahangeer Javaid, Fraz Ahmad, Seán Carrick.

Front Row (l. to r.) Huma Arshad, Maura Forde, Grace Worden, Kaitlyn Clarke, Laura Lavin, Ríona Kearney, Sheila Brady, Rebecca Walsh.

Missing from Photo: Demi Greally, Mohammad Gulzar.

CLASS 4B



Back row (l. to r.): David Webb, Mohammed Shawi, Daniel Greally, Davóg Frayne, Robert McCormack, James Lyons.

Middle row (l. to r.): Aaron Peake, Rebecca Bowen, Amy Giblin, Róisín Byrne, Anna Doherty, Conor Lenihan.

Front row (l. to r.): Lynette Duffy, Katiherine Moran, Anna Khromova, Sarah Skeffington, Katie McKay, Aoife Murray, Hayley Conroy.

Missing from Photo: Radek Cervenek, Seán Ruane, Heather Sankey.

CLASS 4C



Back row (l. to r.): Joseph Lyons, Shane Crinnigan, Niall Robinson, Darragh Hunt, Brendan Morrissey, Killian Brehony, Colm Ronan, Mazhar Tayyab.

Middle row (l. to r.): Danil Spicyn, Evan Coyne, Lewis Gourley, Emer Kiely, Lucy Moss, Shannon Keadin, Niall Dunleavy, Shane Cribbin.

Front row (l. to r.): Tayba Muneer, Ciara Mulkeen, Serena McLoughlin, Shauna Russell, Carol Freeley, Sinéad Horan.

Missing from Photo: Martin Mulkeen.

CLASS 4D



Back row (l. to r.): Aiden Henry, Cathal Brady, Thomas Coll, Stephen Nolan, Radoslaw Grzedinski.

Middle Row (l. to r.): Emer Daniel-Dempsey, Claire O'Gara, John Cassidy, Kevin Tighe, Martin Mulkeen, Azad Ali Ahmed, Chloe McNulty.

Front Row (l. to r.): Kamil Maliszewski, Roisín Fitzmaurice, Aoife Nolan, Dervla Phillips, Aisling Lynskey, Kelly Donegan, Catherine Quinn.

Missing from photo: Liam Cregg, Aleksandras Graciovass.

ACHILL

We were just settling into the new school calendar when it was that time of year again... the eagerly anticipated trip to Achill! As we all awaited Mr. McDonagh's speech we were all brimming with excitement! We all piled our bags into the back of the bus and we were ready for off! Although judging by the size of the bags people were planning on staying a month rather than two days!!

We were not long into the journey when the chanting began much to the delight of Ms. Comer whose name was popular in all the songs! We soon arrived at Achill Adventure Centre and the war for the 'best' rooms began! We were divided into our groups and the activities began. Throughout the two days we cliff dived, mountain boarded, surfed the

Atlantic waves and trekked through mountain. We all had a great craic, ever if we weren't all pro's!

After the activities we wound down with cup of tea and a game of mafia. We went outside to take each other on in a competitive game of tug-o-war before having a sing song of 'Green and Red of Mayo' which was loud enough to wake the whole island!

Ofcourse as always, the rules were there to be broken, and break them we did! Carol and Damien couldnt resist breaking out and meeting each other for a 'chat'. While during the night Joe was victim of a 'smack cam'.

On Friday morning we all departed for home after having a great two days full of memories and bodies full of jellyfish stings! On behalf of the year, we would like to thank Ms. Comer and Mr. Murray for putting up with us!



4TH YEAR RETREAT TO KNOCK

CIARA MULKEEN AND REBECCA WALSH

On the 28th of February a group of fourth year students, along with students from other schools, travelled to Knock to attend a Diocesan Youth celebration hosted by the Youth Ministry. The day consisted of music, talks and mass. The theme of the day was 'Trust, Surrender, Believe, and Receive'.

On arrival we were embraced by an electric atmosphere of music by a group called Elation Ministries. They brought the place to life and had everyone on their feet. We were also given talks by a series of guest speakers which included Trish O'Brien, Marion Carroll, Fr John and an MS sufferer who was cured after visiting Knock. The day was concluded by mass officiated by Fr Richard Gibbons. A great day was enjoyed by all of us.

We would like to thank Mrs. Fallon and Ms. Macken who accompanied us on our retreat to Knock.



4TH YEAR FANCY DRESS SPONSORED WALK

This is the 12th year of the Henry Madden Tanzania Fund Sponsored Walk. It has become a tradition in the school that 4th year students fundraise and participate in the walk for this very worth charity. Pictured are our present Leaving Certs who completed the walk last May, 2013.

Thanks to Mrs. Fallon, Mrs Mulroy, Ms. Flynn and Ms. Phillips for organising the annual event.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Albert Schweitzer leadership for life course

The Leadership programme recognises the innate leadership capabilities and potential in young people and gives them an opportunity to develop their skills and attributes in a fun and encouraging environment. The programme is for young people aged 15-18 who have demonstrated good leadership abilities and aspire to being leaders in the future. The programme aims to enable young people to develop the skills, inspiration, vision, confidence and action plans to be effective leaders and empower young people to make a positive difference to their society through the practice of effective leadership.

The Albert Schweitzer Leadership for Life Programme uses group work and individual reflection as well as practical projects to develop and expand leadership skills. Young people learn to look beyond themselves, at their communities and wider society when setting their leadership goals. Throughout the course of the programme, young people learn the core concepts of leadership and gain skills such as communication, teamwork, problem solving, critical thinking, self awareness etc. The programme recognises the innate leadership capabilities and potential in young people and gives them an opportunity to develop their skills and attributes in a fun and encouraging environment.

The programme comprises of Module 1 and Module 2 which can be completed annually at the Albert Schweitzer Leadership for Life Conference in National University of Ireland Maynooth.

An additional Module 3 awards young people who complete all three modules with an NUI Galway accredited Foundation Certificate in Youth Leadership and Community Action.

Young people attend from U.S.A., U.K., Nigeria, Korea, Palestine, India and Russia. The conference is held over 5 days and includes workshops, inspirational guest speakers and lots of extracurricular activities such as a sports evening, quiz night, cultural talent show etc..

Maria Waldron, Ria Dunleavy, Ashling Lynskey are in the process of completing the final year and will be graduating from NUIG in October of 2014.

Erika Webb, Katie McKay, Claudia Glavey have completed module one of the course to date.

KANGAROO MATHS CONTEST

Congratulations to John Cassidy (4th Year) and Sarah Creighton (Leaving cert) who were invited to participate in the 2014 Kangourou Sans Frontieres Irlande Competition (Kangaroo Maths). Both John and Sarah were invited to participate in this competition due to their outstanding Junior Certificate Maths results. This contest is participated in by students from approximately 50 countries worldwide.

ATHLETICS

SEÁN CARRICK

Being an athlete is hard work. It requires a strict diet, training several times per week, keeping your body healthy by going for runs and stretching everyday. But the most important thing is having a lot of heart and dedication because without it you're not going to get very far. There are some good things



about being an athlete- going to competitions and competing, meeting new people, getting fit and healthy and of course winning medals.

My greatest achievement in athletics was being selected for the Connaght Athletics Squad for the last 3 years in the long jump and the 100 metre race. I've also been representing my province for the last few years in the All Irelands Tailtean Games (which is for the top three athletes from each province in a certain event) has to be the greatest moment for me. Also becoming the first mayo man in 15 years to jump over 6 metres in the long jump is quite remarkable! I am still looking for my first All Ireland medal but I know if I keep working hard that this year could be my year!





U-19 BOYS SOCCER

JAMES REYNOLDS AND CATHAL CARNEY

The U19 boys soccer season kicked off with the first game of the season seeing them coming up against Garbally in Ballinasloe. Unfortunately the lads lost 4-1 against strong opposition. The second game they played was at home against Gortnor Abbey which the Ballyhaunis lads won on a scoreline of 6-2. The lads dominated from start to finish with an excellent team performance. There is still one more game to be played in the league and if they win they are through to a Connaught semi-final. Hopefully the lads can reach the final as they have a very strong and hardworking team. We wish them the best of luck for the rest of the soccer season. The lads would like to thank Mr.Noone for his management of the team.

Back Row: Tom Murphy, Cathal Carney, James Lyons, Liam Cregg, Niall Robinson, Joe Lyons, Robert McCormack.

Middle Row: Niall Dunleavy, Jason Coyne, Shawn Groarke, Stephen Collins, Sean Sutton, Cian Caulfield, Waqas Rehman, Stephen Nolan, Liam Duffy.

Front Row: Azad Ali, Patrick Keadin, Darragh Hunt, Morgan Lyons, David Frayne, Sean Burke.



Mr. Aidan Geraghty 'Geraghty's Travel' presented a set of T-shirts to BCS Badminton squad. Also in the photo: Mr. Padraic Shannon, Badminton Coach, Sheila Brady representing the Ladies team and Muhammad Ahmed representing the boys team and Mr. David McDonagh.

BADMINTON



BADMINTON GIRLS TEAM

Abigail Adams, Barbara Vitchova, Aleksandra Pawlak, Sheila Brady with Coach Mr Shannon.



JERSEY DAY



PAUL EARLY VISIT

B. OSGOOD

Thursday 10th April 2014 was a very special day in the history of Ballyhaunis Community School. Mr. McDonagh welcomed our Special of Honour and past pupil Paul Earley with words that his late father Peadar had written in the 1980 BCS yearbook speaks of Ballyhaunis Community School as a school that is 'blessed in that it can boast of as fine a group of dedicated teachers as one could wish to have. The achievements of the pupils prove the efficiency of the teachers from the head teacher down, and the excellent relationship that exists between teachers and pupils helps in no small way to generate a spirit of co-operation and loyalty.' He also goes on to say 'the emphasis on sporting activities in the school is very welcome indeed, for many people do not appear to realize the importance of games and athletics in the life of the young.' Peadar was the Principal of Gorthaganny National School and most notably a founder member of the Michael Glavey GAA Club. Indeed the club pitch is called the Peadar Earley Memorial Pitch. Mr McDonagh told a packed assembly area of over 500 students and teachers that we were so proud to have Paul Earley back in the school with us, such a prominent member of GAA world and Irish society. He went on to give a profile of Paul's journey. He started in the brand new Ballyhaunis Community School in 1977. Paul was an excellent scholar and an outstanding sportsman. His leadership and motivational skills were impressive even at this very young age. Paul immersed himself in school in every aspect of school life. In the musical 'The Boyfriend' he played one of the leads part of 'the Honorable Tony Brockhurst', produced by Ms. Higgins (AKA Siobhan Devine) along side Roisin Ni Shuilleabhain's Mum, Patricia McGarry and Roisin and Evan Fitzmaurice's dad Martin.

Paul played on the senior soccer team that reached a Connacht final in 1981, beaten 3-2 by Moneenageesha, Galway. He played Gaelic football in Ballyhaunis alongside his great friend at midfield and club mate Andrew Morgan and London manager Paul Coggins and good friend Declan Phillips. They won the Mayo and Connacht along with many other titles. Paul was also captain of the schools basketball team. They contested the County final in 1981.

He won an intermediate county medal with Michael Glaveys in 1985. He played for his native county Roscommon from 1982 to 1994 including Roscommon's 1990 and 1991 Connacht Championship winning teams.

Paul Earley was the first player recruited from Ireland to play a VFL match in 1984. He was named as a full-forward in the 1985 GAA All Stars team along side GAA greats Kevin McStay, Willie Joe Padden, Dermot Flanagan (Mayo) Páidí Ó Sé, Pat Spillane, Jack O'Shea (Kerry) and Barney Rock (Dublin). In the 1987 International Rules series, Paul played and represented Ireland under the management of Eugene Magee.

Paul has managed both Allenwood and Celbridge, and his native county Roscommon. He has also worked as a commentator for Setanta Sports and TV3.

On 4 February 2013, Earley was announced as the new manager of Ireland. His tenure with Ireland was a roaring

success - he is most noted for leading the country to record-breaking victories over Australia to win the 2013 International Rules Series title. He will be hoping to continue in this victorious manner when Ireland travel down under in Autumn 2014 to take on Australia on their home soil. Paul then presented awards in the following sports; basketball, badminton, squash, soccer, Gaelic Football, hurling, camogie, athletics and indoor soccer.

Paul then addressed the audience. He thanked the school most sincerely for the invitation to be involved with this most important occasion, the Schools Sports Awards Presentation. He said a lot of what he has achieved can be traced back to the friends, loyalties and work ethic that was nurtured in him in Ballyhaunis Community School. In particular he noted Mr. Michael 'Hawley' Murren, Hugh Rudden, Aidan Kelly, Patsy Noone, Jarlath Fahey and John Cleary, as having a profound influence on his sporting and professional careers. He loved all sports, basketball, soccer and Gaelic Football, he joked remembering Mrs. Freeley saying to him in English that 'you would do very well in English if you could be in a class or two!' he emphasized that he believed all young people should be involved in a variety of sports as each complement each other, and as you grow up one usually shines through and you combine previously learned skills to perfect your main sport.

On reflecting on the year gone by and the success of the Ireland team in the International Series and capturing the Cormac MacNallen trophy, he told of how he contacted four Mayo players Colm Boyle, Lee Keegan, Kevin McLoughlin and Aidan O'Shea just days after suffering their second defeat in an All-Ireland Final in a row. He said it was a testament to the character these players that when they were hurting, they were devastated after letting another final go they had no hesitation in accepting a chance to play for their country and alongside players that had beaten them a few days earlier. Paul stated that skill alone is never enough to succeed in sport or indeed life that you need to focus and work hard. Paul shared with us a dressing room memory where the team were all very young and the manager came in and spoke to them as a group, he asked each of them 'Why do you play football?' the first lad replied 'I want to be with my friends', next said, 'I want to score goals', 'I want to have the craic', Paul said his answer was 'I like playing'; then came the last player in the room to speak, it was the captain. 'I play because I want to be the best I can be'. Paul thought himself 'that's the answer I should have given' - he told the students no matter what you are working at you owe it to yourself to try to be the best you can be, in school, in work in sport. And from that point on he always strived to be the best he could be. Paul concluded his speech by stating the three rules he lives his life by

- 1. To write down your goals.**
- 2. Focus on you can must do to achieve these goals.**
- 3. Work hard.**

Paul Earley left a palpable impression on our students and staff that day. Thank you for coming back.

Thank you to all of the sports team managers Mr. Shannon, Mr. Woolley, Ms. Flannery, Ms. Caulfield, Mr. P. Noone, Mr. G. Glavey, Ms. Mooney, Ms. Grogan, Ms. Macken, Mr. McHugh, Mr. Larkin.

SPORTS PRESENTATIONS



POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARDS

O. MACKEN

20 Students from BCS received their JP II awards at a ceremony held in Tuam Cathedral on Nov. 5th. The Awards were presented to the students by Archbishop Michael Neary and Peter O'Connell who is the 33rd Irish person to climb Mount Everest.

The Students are:

Ballyhaunis Parish: Niamh Murray, Erika Webb, Lisa Higgins, Grace Worden, Joseph Lyons, James Lyons, Carol Freeley, Aoife Murray, Mark Phillips

Bekan Parish: Yvonne Davy, Colm Ronan

Aghamore / Tooreen Parish: Aisling Lynskey, Lynette Duffy, Anna Doherty, Eric Hynes, Aine Coyne

Kiltullagh Parish: Sheila Brady, Edel Coffey

Kilmovee Parish : Dervla Phillips

Gortaganny Parish: Vicky Kelly



The completion of the Award involved students volunteering in their parishes and local communities. Well done to all.

BCS FAST FOR SYRIA & THE PHILIPPINES

R.E. TEACHERS

It began with a chat over coffee. Advent was approaching and we wondered how to challenge our students to live the Christmas message by making life better for other people. Several ideas emerged but we kept coming back to one – a fast for the people of Syria and the Philippines. We had all been moved by news reports of the havoc and suffering caused by the civil war in Syria and by Typhoon Haiyan. Further, some of our students have close family ties to people in Syria and our school had previously supported a SERVE project to the Philippines. We also thought that a twelve hour fast from food would challenge our students and give them an insight into what life was like for people who had no food.



Later we discussed the idea with the 3C class. Not only were they enthusiastic about the fast, they subsequently decided to donate 64 euros left over from their CSPE project with Ms. Murray. They also made some suggestions – it was decided that students could fast from food for twelve hours or alternatively fast from their phone or internet. Friday December 6th was designated the "Fast Day" and students throughout the school took home sponsorship

cards. Rumbling tummies and pale faces accompanied by good humour greeted us teachers, especially during 8th and 9th classes on Friday. But it was all worth it! Indeed, the response was astounding – students, from 1st Year to Leaving Cert. raised 2,100 euros for Syria and the Philippines. Such was the response that we decided to raffle off some sponsored prizes among those who did the fast - Jenny Gourlay won the top prize of fifty euros. Katie Ronayne and Cian Cunningham won prizes of ten euros each. Niall Coffey,



Grace O'Gara, Sarah Dowdall and Cormac Phillips won selection boxes. Thanks to our sponsor and to Mr. McDonagh who treated three students who each collected over fifty euros to lunch in the shop. Thanks also to the 3C class and to Ms. Murray for their donation to the fast challenge.

On 28th February, Lisa Smyth from Trócaire visited the school. Mr. McDonagh and the students who completed the fast presented her with the cheque for 2,100 euros and listened as she explained what the money would be used for. Many thanks to Lisa for her talk. Most of all, a very special thanks to the students who took on the fast challenge and to their neighbours, family and friends who supported them.

SCHOOL TOUR TO ITALY

SARAH CREIGHTON AND RIA MARIGLIANO

The 25th of October was a dark and dreary night, but amidst the darkness a group of enthusiastic students could be seen boarding a bus at Ballyhaunis Community School. Before long, the late night became early morning. We, the now sleep deprived students guided by a group of five teachers stumbled like zombies from the bus, once we arrived at Dublin airport. Before we knew it we were getting on a plane -or hobbling on in the case of the three boys on crutches (Morgan, Cian and James) - to Ciampino Airport, Rome. Despite it being late October the weather in Italy was even better than expected. The first thing we all did was sample some of the famous ice cream that we had all heard so much about. Oh how our taste buds tingled! (Sorry, that was cheesy... just like their pizza.) We were soon on our way to the Colosseum (or as our tour guide called it "The Colosseum-eh!"). We had all seen pictures of this world-renowned amphitheatre however being there in person is an experience we'll never forget. Once the guided tour was over the teachers allowed us some time to explore the city. Needless to say, we were all exhausted that night when we arrived at our hotel.

After a good night's sleep we were all ready to set off for a fun-filled day at Rainbow Magicland, a theme park just outside of Rome. Within the park there were multiple roller-coaster rides, water rides and a haunted house (which some of us took a little too seriously!). Once we had enough of the park we then ventured across an extremely busy road to a shopping precinct that was at least twice the size of Dundrum! After stuffing our pockets with as much chocolate as we could afford at the Lindt shop we returned to the hotel for our second and final night in Rome. It was also the final night that Morgan Lyons had a full head of hair...

After we had packed our suitcases and eaten breakfast (which included cereal and brownies) we boarded the bus for another long journey, to the Sistine Chapel this time. This meant of course, that we had to cover our shoulders and knees which didn't bode very well considering the heat we weren't accustomed to! The artwork in the museums really was beautiful. Once we entered the Sistine Chapel itself, the atmosphere changed completely. A crowd of people stood in silence admiring the ceiling including a few trying to sneak a photo! Just like the Colosseum, it couldn't be compared to any picture we had seen prior to the tour. Although the streets of Rome were constantly bustling with people the architecture and surroundings were superb. One minute we were walking through the thronged streets and the next thing we knew we were standing in St. Peter's square! Having taken a group photo in front of the Pope's balcony we were given some more time to look around by ourselves. The same sound could be heard around every corner which was an irritating squeak coming from small plastic whistles in the mouths of street sellers. We wanted to make the most of this freedom because there was a four hour bus journey to Florence ahead of us. We then said "arrivederci" to Rome and that all too familiar sound or so we thought... Less than five minutes into the bus ride our ears were met yet again with that irksome squeak. It turned out that half of our group had given business to those street sellers. Ms Comer soon put smacht on them!

At long last we arrived at our hotel in Florence. After "the last supper" we were ushered outside onto a terrace. Unlike the hotel in Rome, we weren't the only residents there so we had to go outside to talk. The majority of us fell into bed that night, but the party was just getting started for some (we all know who these were!). The following morning came all too quickly and we packed our bags one last time. Our final day in Italy consisted of a guided tour of Florence where we saw the buildings, statues and works of art. This was just as memorable as the tour of Rome but of course the thought that we would be leaving in just a few hours was at the back of our minds all morning.

Before we knew it we were on a plane at Pisa Airport waiting to take off for Dublin. As we got off the plane in the Emerald isle, the cold crisp air hit us like a slap across the face. We then set off on a long bus journey – yes another bus journey – back to Ballyhappiness. Although we were only there a mere four days it was easily one of the highlights of our time in BCS. Thank you to all the teachers who made the trip possible, especially Ms Macken who kindly took over from Mr McGary as tour co-ordinator. As they say in Italian: "Grazie per i ricordi" – Thank you for the memories.

SCHOOL TOUR



LEAVING CERTIFICATE 2014



Mantas Aguonis



Mohammed Ahmad



Bazla Alam



Hiba Arshad



Muhammad Bilal



Seán Burke



James Burke



Cyril Collins



Padraig Connolly



Jason Coyne



Áine Coyne



Sarah Creighton



Labhaoise Cunnane



Cian Cunningham



Yvonne Davy



Liam Duffy



Ria Dunleavy



Maise Donne



Michaela Durkin



Sarah Feeney



Eric Fitzgerald



Philip Fitzmaurice



Neil Folliard



Ronan Forde



David Frayne

LEAVING CERTIFICATE 2014



Brian Gavin



Jules Gossy



Shawn Groarke



Salecha Gulzar



Connor Hagney



Hannah Hardcastle



Stacey Hayden



Caoimhe Henry



Dean Henry



Leanne Hession



Lisa Higgins



Ciara Jordan



Faysal Kazzeh



Tommy Kearns



Lewis Kearsey



Joseph Kelly



Vicky Kelly



Ryan Kilbane



Kevin Kilbride



Declan Kilgarriff



Rosina Lukoseviciute



Calvin Lyons



Morgan Lyons



Tessa Lyons



Maryam Mahmood

LEAVING CERTIFICATE 2014



Darren Moloney



Andrew Manning



Amy Mannion



Ria Marigliano



Conor McCarrick



Daniel McDermott



Sean McDermott



Laoise McDermott



Rhona McGrath



Kevin McNulty



Sara Mitrovic



Lisa Morley



James Murphy



Ronan Murphy



Niamh Murray



Qasim Nazir



Rory Nestor



Cian O Boyle



Martin O Gara



Michael O Rourke



Andra Owusu



Aleksandra Pawlak



Ailish Phillips



David Regan



Waqas Rehman

LEAVING CERTIFICATE 2014



James Reidy



Duha Riyaz



Mark Ruane



Steven Ryan



Marlena Staszczuk



Mary Waldron



Maria Waldron



Michael Waldron



Erika Webb



Hamza Yousaf

LCA1 CLASS 2014



Back row (l. to r.): Niall Fitzgerald, Kieran Crosby, Thomas Connell, Fred Kemp.

Front row (l. to r.): Chantel McDonagh, Shona Niland.

Missing from Photo: Robert Naughton, Patrick Keadin, Conor Wallace, Zozan Ali, Davina Morris.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED

LCA CLASS 2014

LCA is a two year programme with assessment being completed regularly by key assignments and tasks. The great thing about this kind of assessment is that the results we get in these are contributing to our final Leaving Certificate Applied results. Another very valuable part of the programme is that we get to go on work experience every Friday with local organisations around the Ballyhaunis area. This is great because it gives us an opportunity to see different careers and whether or not we would like to work when we finish school in these areas.

Other activities that we have done through the year have been coffee mornings and an indoor soccer league. We also got the opportunity to show our acting skills by performing and writing our own script for a drama which we performed for Western Care. This was a very enjoyable experience for us all and a few budding actors emerged.

We also went on some trips during the year which included a visit to Chenacalo which is located outside Knock. This is a place where ex drug users stay and recover from their addictions. It was very interesting to hear their stories. As part of our English module we got the opportunity to attend a comedy show entitled "Psycho Spaghetti" in the travellers' friend in Castlebar. This was a brilliant show and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Overall this has been a great year and we would like to thank our teachers for helping us with our activities which we organised and for bringing us on trips.

We have learnt so much and developed a lot of skills throughout the year. We are looking forward to next year with enthusiasm and determination.

CREATIVE WRITING

Broken

Needles in my heart,
That's all I ever feel,
You were my paradise,
But for you it wasn't real.

I draw on those memories,
When you were my world,
But soon came the cruelties,
Day by day they unfurled.

My heart is now shattered,
I see the pieces on the floor,
How I wished they'd cut through
me,
Ending my life, I'd be no more.

I'd take with me no kisses,
Your spark igniting touch,
And reminisce of it in Heaven,
Of how I loved you so much.

I'd put my life at stake,
Take a bullet through my brain,
Darling, all to see you safe,
But wouldn't you do the same?

So those are worth nothing?
Has it all just come to dust?
As I sit here waiting for you,
From dawn until I see dusk.

So my love, I ask you,
Did it really mean nothing?
Were your cold embraces,
Signalling what you were to become?

I see my life flash before me,
All images, solely you,
As the gun points to your head,
Please tell me it isn't true.

My scream pierces the night,
As your body falls to the ground,
I refuse to believe what happened,
But echoes prove me wrong.

My life isn't great,
If that's what you want to know,
Every day I re-live that night,
Every day it tortures my soul.

Saleha Gulzar

The Dictatorial Republic

My cold chest awakens,
Warmed by spring's morning glow,
Leaping into action
While I remain station'ry.

I'd peered through trusted tunnels
Formed from my eyes.
One solitary sense:
All else long since cast aside
Like unwanted trash.

These couldn't possibly be my eyes.
...could they?
Blinded by smokescreen bearing their lies.
...would they?

They can.
They did.
Why? A few quid.
But how? This is a democracy!

Leaps and bounds reveal
Canons and rounds
Armed to goad us unknowingly.

My chest ablaze:
Our world to raze,

So here we stand, station'ry.

Tommy Kearns

SENIOR MENTORS

O. MACKEN

The mentors play an important role in helping the 1st years to settle into our school community, this school year 40 senior students were selected to be mentors to the 1st year group. This year's group were a pleasure to work with, they showed maturity, leadership and were very responsible in their role. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the mentors for giving of their free time especially for the Mentor training day facilitated by Peter Duffy and his team from Big brother Big Sister and for the 'Meet and Greet evening' last May. The Leaving Certs were extremely committed to their roll, coming back to school a day early to help with the Induction day for 1st years in August.

This group of Mentors were successful in facilitating various activities during the 1st and 2nd terms for the first years including lunch time activities, the Quiz afternoon, Assisting the class tutors, helping with organising lockers, lunchtime visits to the D and E areas throughout the year. The peer mentoring programme in our school allows senior students act as positive role models for 1st year students, they did this and much more. I hope that many of the mentors go on to become volunteers with Big Brother Big Sister in the future.

Well done to the following students who volunteered to be a mentor this year.

Michael Waldron, Caoimhe Henry, Michael O'Rourke, Stacey Hayden, Ria Marigliano, Ciara Jordan, Liam Duffy, Ria Dunleavy, Ailish Phillips, Lisa Higgins, Lisa Morley, Stephen Ryan, Sarah Feeney, Saleha Gulzar, Michaela Durkin, Ryan Kilbane, Jason Coyne, Niamh Murray, Laoise McDermott, Aine Coyne, Vicky Kelly, Hannah Hardcastle, Maria Waldron, Bazla Alam, Yvonne Davy, Leanne Hession, Tessa Lyons, Erika Webb, Andra Owusu, Sarah Creighton, Jules Gossy, Labhaoise Cunnane, Sean McDermott, Cyril Collins, Mary Waldron, Hiba Arshad, Duha Riyaz, Rory Nestor, Cian O'Boyle.



PLC CLASS



Front Row- (L-R) : Michaela Boland, Michael Naughton, Doreen Hynes, Ali Almas, Sheba Younas, Ailish O'Gara, Angela Lyttle, Ali Sakar.

Missing from photo- Fadia Kezze.

Ballyhaunis Community School PLC Course 2013/2014

Views from current course participants:

I can't but highly recommend this PLC course. Having recently completed my Leaving Certificate, I decided to take a year out to improve on my computer knowledge before going onto third level. For me, doing this course was a no-brainer. Think about it. Every aspect of modern day life involves using technology and computers. In today's society you need to be efficient in using computers no matter what job you do. This course offers you so much, covering all the Microsoft Office programmes, Marketing, Business Administration and you learn how to type properly, a much desirable skill if you decide to proceed on to third level. Certificates are issued which are recognised by employers worldwide; which significantly increase your chances of securing employment. Not only did this year improve my computer skills, but it gave me extra time to decide what career I want to pursue in life. It allows you to mature and become sure what course you would like to do in college. There's no need to rush into third level, all of that will be there waiting for you in the near future. These are just my views and experiences on the PLC course. Give it some serious consideration! You won't regret it.

Michael Naughton Leaving Certificate student 2013

I would strongly advise any student who has completed their Leaving Certificate and are unsure of what to do next to complete a PLC course. It will be the best nine months of their education career and they will learn so many valuable skills for life today.

I left secondary school after 5th year and went on to do a secretarial typing course on the old style typewriters. On completing this course I started my first full time employment where my typing skills were useful.

I was seeking employment when I heard about the Computers and Business PLC course on the local radio station Mid West radio. I did some research about the course and thought it would be interesting to learn about all the modules listed as I had never done any of them before. I thought about completing the course for the first week as I knew I was out of date with my computer skills and unsure about some of the modules. After careful consideration I finally contacted the course co-ordinator Ms Waldron. I gave her a brief history of my situation and she assured me completing this course would be an advantage in furthering my career.

I have now completed the course and I am delighted I have updated my computer skills and learned more about the business and marketing modules. I found some of the modules challenging but it was all worthwhile because the teachers were very helpful and understanding.

I know this course has helped me and I feel more confident now in my computer skills as I have learned a vast amount. In my future career I would love to become a writer and to succeed in this you need time and perseverance. In my opinion this would be the same for any student who wishes to complete this course.

Doreen Hynes - mature Student

Since leaving school in 2007 I started work almost immediately in a nursing home local to me. After seven years in this line of work I decided to follow a different career path. I began looking for work but because of the ongoing recession in Ireland I was unsuccessful in this venture. I found out by word of mouth about a course which I could avail of in the locality at Ballyhaunis Community School. This course was a Business Studies and ICT Skills with a FETAC/QQI Level 5 award. Also for a minimal cost I could avail of completing the ECDL which is the European Computer Driving Licence and internationally recognised computer qualification.

I promptly got in contact with the school and from there the administrator of the course, Mrs Waldron.

I had not been inside a classroom since I finished school in 2007 and although this was not too long ago, I was still nervous and lacking confidence about the idea of returning to the school environment. I got in contact with Mrs Waldron who from the start was extremely friendly and helpful. I relayed to her my worries about returning to school, however, I need not have worried one bit. Mrs Waldron immediately put my mind at ease. She talked to me about the course, the modules that would be covered and the duration of the course. I found it very easy to talk to Mrs Waldron, as I could ask her any questions I had relating to the course and she

always answered them.

On the first day of the course I met Mrs Waldron in the front hall of the school. From there I was shown to the first of the two computer classrooms I would be in mainly. I met the class and then Mrs Waldron proceeded to give us our course time table accompanied with a map of the layout of the school and the rooms we would be occupying for the duration of the course. After a brief discussion we began our first of many interesting lessons.

Throughout the first week, we met the next two teachers who would be teaching us the other modules in the course. Mrs Loftus, who taught us the business, side of the course and the typing skills along with work experience. Mrs Loftus was extremely helpful and encouraging and was always on hand if we needed anything. The next teacher I met was our communications teacher, Mrs Mulroy, who like both Mrs Waldron and Mrs Loftus, was extremely helpful, friendly and encouraging.

Each of these teachers never gave up on any of us and made sure that each one of us was given the same amount of attention, and also there to provide extra help to us if needed. I am typing this now in the rundown to the end of this course. From doing this course I have met a lot of new and lifelong friends. I have gained up to date skills and experiences which will not only benefit me in my future career, but also in my everyday life. At the start of this course I did not have much relevant knowhow in anything to do with computers, I could not touch type, which since learning I have often used and the time it saves is amazing. It is a skill I believe everyone should have. On top of everything I have also found that the confidence I was lacking at the beginning of this course is very much restored. I now have the knowledge to correctly and efficiently use a computer and the programs on the computer, without the past fear of breaking it!

To anyone interested in availing of this course or for those who would like to do it but are held back due to fear or lack of confidence, I strongly advise you to just go for it, you have nothing to lose, but so much to gain. Even to just speak to Mrs Waldron, who I can guarantee will put your mind at ease and help you out in every way possible.

In my opinion, this course has undoubtedly raised my chances of achieving my goal in finding work in a modern day office environment. Without all the friendly and encouraging staff in this establishment I would not have the skills and confidence to pursue my future career goals.

Angela Lyttle – Mature Student

For further information on this PLC course contact the Course Administrator Bernadine Waldron on 086 0341072.

SENIOR HURLING - CONNACHT BLITZ

JOHN CASSIDY

On the 26th March our senior hurling panel took part in the first Connaught Post-Primary 9-a-side blitz at the Connaught Centre of Excellence, Began. Our first group match was against Tourmakeady, C.S. A great team display was the reason for our comprehensive 6-10 : 0-3 victory, with 8 players scoring in the game. Our second group game was against the Holy Rosary School from Mountbellew. A solid performance against them saw us run out 1-10 : 2-3 winners. Our final group game was against New Inn Vocational School from Galway. The winners of this match would progress to the final of the competition and another fine game from Woolley's men saw a score line of 5-7:4-2 in favour of BCS. Our final was to be against another Galway side, St. Cuans from Castleblakeney. After a tough first half we were down by 2 goals. However, BCS bounced back with a heroic second half performance which included goals from Davóg Freyne, Seán Kenny and Morgan Lyons saw us draw level. Two late pointed frees from Davóg meant we secured a last gasp two point victory on a score line of 4-6:4-4. Panel: Brian Morley (1-9), Morgan Lyons (3-1), Mark Phillips (0-1), Cyril Collins (0-1), Bobby Douglas, Ryan Kilbane (0-4), Michael Waldron, James Lyons (2-2), Davóg Freyne (6-6), Adrian Boyle, Seán Kenny (3-4), Jason Coyne(C) (1-5), Aidan Henry. Manager: Mr Woolley.



Back (LtoR): Brian Morley, Morgan Lyons, Mark Phillips, Cyril Collins, Bobby Douglas, Ryan Kilbane, Michael Waldron, James Lyons, Mr Raymond Woolley.

Front (LtoR): Davog Freyne, Adrian Boyle, Sean Kenny, Jason Coyne, Aiden Henry & John Cassidy.

SENIOR BOYS GAA

MEADHBH GLAVEY & SEÁN TARMEY

The senior boys started off their league in early October. Their first game was against Rice College of Westport. Let's say that game didn't go according to plan and Ballyhaunis were defeated. Their second game of the league was on the 16th of October against Castlereagh. This was an excellent game played by our senior boys. They put up a tremendous fight and were winning the match up to a certain point. Unfortunately they lost it in the last five minutes and that was a disappointing one for the lads to take on board, but their manager Mr. Larkin drove them forward and they kept their heads held high for their next game against St. Nathy's. That game finished 2-11 to 3-12. Their next game was away to St. Nathy's. This was a very exciting game and again Ballyhaunis played brilliantly but it wasn't enough on the day. Nathy's drove forward and won the game 2-10 – 1-6. Their final game of the league was against St. Louis Community School. These were a very strong side and favourites to win the league. This match took place in the Centre of Excellence on the 20th of November. They put up a good fight but again Ballyhaunis were defeated on the day and they were out of the competition. They narrowly lost the Flanagan (Mayo) Cup to St Joseph's in Foxford on the 26/11/13.

The Championship started for the senior boys on the 20th of January 2014. Their first game was against Garbally College of Ballyforan. There were 3 black cards awarded to Ballyhaunis in this game and this changed the game completely. However, Ballyhaunis kept their cool and won the game 5-10 to 3-11. The second round of the Championship was against St. Joseph's College of Galway. This game was held on the 3rd of February. This was the tightest game of the Championship and Ballyhaunis narrowly won by a point - leaving the final score of 3-10 to 3-9. Ballyhaunis reached the Connaght quarter finals. Their quarter final was against Rice College on the 26th of February in the Centre of Excellence. Unfortunately the Championship title wasn't to be for our senior boys as they lost out on a final score of 3-11 to 1-9. Overall the Senior Boys Panel of 2013/2014 had a promising season. They had their ups and downs but they did themselves proud by reaching the Championship quarter finals. A big thank you to their manager Mr. Larkin who worked awfully hard with the boys throughout the year. He took a lot of time out of his own schedule to train the boys on a Saturday morning and after school.



Back Row: Mr Larkin, Niall Robinson, Tom Murphy, Sean Sutton, Ryan Kilbane, Aidan Henry, Brian Morley, John Cunnane, Mark Phillips, James Lyons, Robert McCormack, Cathal Carney, James Lyons, Morgan Lyons, David Frayne.

Front Row: Waqas Rehman, Michael Waldron, Stephen Collins, Liam Duffy, Stephen Nolan, Davóg Frayne, Rory Nestor, James Cribbin, Patrick Keadin, Jason Coyne.

SENIOR GIRLS GAA

ASHLING LYNSEKEY

The Senior Ladies football campaign began with a match against Swinford in the month of October. The Swinford ladies proved to be a strong side but our girls came out the better team in the end getting the team's first win with a score of 2-7 to 1-8. Unfortunately this winning streak didn't continue onto the following matches. The girls were narrowly beaten by both St.Nathys and Headford and sadly didn't get any further in the competition.

Despite the persistence of our managers unfortunately no further matches could be arranged. Towards the end of the year the girls took part in a football league within the school organised by the T.Y's including the under 14 girls as well. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved.

Although there was no silverware to be won, the team enjoyed the matches they participated in. We would like to sincerely thank Mrs.Grogan and Ms.Macken and also Tom Murphy and John Cunnane for their commitment to the team and their continued help in developing ladies football in the school.



Back Row: Korina Meehan, Meadhbh Glavey, Joanne Coffey, Katie McKay, Leanne Henry, Emer Kiely, Shannon Keadin, Hillary Phillips, Cassie Niland.

Middle Row: Aoife Mulrennan, Dearbhla Phillips, Jessica Carroll, Sarah Behan, Sheila Brady, Ashling Lynskey, Shona Niland, Sive Duffy, Eleanor Harrison.

Front Row: Danielle Coyne, Shauna Murray, Claire Fahy, Megan Morley, Rachel Lyons, Aoife Murray, Dervla Phillips.

U-19 BADMINTON

MATTHEW GROGAN

On Friday, January 31st, Ballyhaunis C.S. U-19 Badminton teams travelled to Galway for the annual Connacht Championship. Three teams were completing: a girls team consisting of Abigail Adams, Sheila Brady, Jasmine Casey, Barbara Vichtova and Aleksandra Pawlak; a boys 'A' team with Waqas Rehman, Qasim Nazir, Hamza Yussuf, Faisal Kazzah and Fraz Ahmed and a boys 'B' team which included Mohammed Ahmad, Bilal Amin, Mohammad Gulzar, Ashad Ali and Waleed Shawi.

The 'A' boys team met with very convincing opponents in the first round, and were soundly defeated by 6 games to 0, however they were able to secure two games in their playoff match against St. Colman's of Claremorris, losing 4 games to 2.

The 'B' boys team fared better on the day, winning their first round match 5-1 against Dunmore A. More success followed in round 2 (semi-final) when they defeated Dunmore C., again by 5 games to 1, securing a place in the final. However, the same Dunmore B team that dispatched our A team in round 1 proved to be the team of the day, overcoming our B team in the final by 6 games to 0. The lads were still happy to come home with runners-up medals.

Mr. Shannon was ably assisted with Badminton equipment during the year by Matthew Grogan in TY.



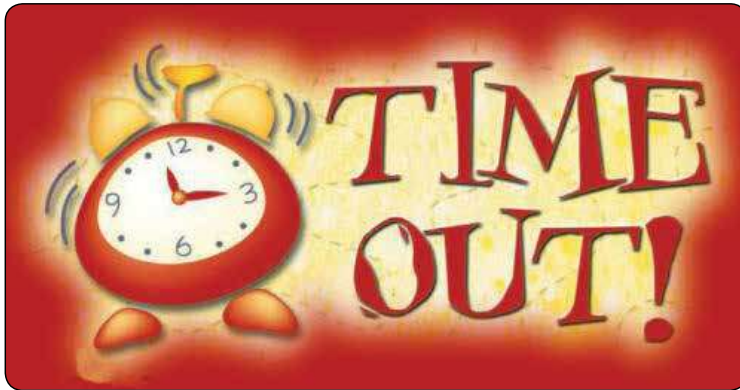
Faisal Kazzah, Qasim Nazir, Hamza Yussuf, Waqas Rehman with Coach Mr Shannon.



Mohammad Ahmad, Azad Ali, Waleed Shawi, Bilal Amin with Coach Mr Shannon.

5TH YEAR RETREAT

O. MACKEN



The Leaving Cert Retreat is now a well established rite of passage at the beginning of the leaving cert year in our school. Our students are privileged to be facilitated with a two day experience. A lot of thought and preparation goes into securing the speakers and organising the days. This year was no exception. Martin Kelly from Revive Addiction Services addressed the students on the topic of addiction. He stressed the importance of being true to oneself and not merely following the crowd.

After a tea break and lots of biscuits the much anticipated Fr. Benny McHale began the second part of the day. He captivated the students with his stories and jokes. He kept the students on the edge of their seats

with his discussion on topics such as prayer, living life, suicide and the danger of cults. Students can never get enough time with Fr. Benny – in their own words 'he's a legend'.

Day two began with Fr. Stephen Farragher and Fr. Richard Gibbons sharing their personal testimonies on their vocations to the priesthood. The students were very impressed with their honesty and commitment to the priesthood. The Questions and Answers session at the end brought lots of varied questions including: "Do you ever get lonely?", "Is the job well paid?"

After more tea and biscuits, Johnny McCarthy spoke about living with a long term illness – his message was a positive one: to embrace life, live it to the full and take care of each other. The day ended with the Mayo County Council Road Safety Presentation presented by Noel Gibbons.

Many thanks to each of our speakers over the two days, thanks also to the RE team Mrs. Mulroy, Mrs Fallon, Ms Phillips, Mr Larkin and Ms Flynn for helping to organise the retreat.



DEBS COMMITTEE



Back Row (l. to r.): Ronan Forde, Erika Webb, Michael Waldron, Seán Burke, Vicktoria Kelly, Mary Waldron.

Front Row (l. to r.): Stacy Hayden, Michaela Durkin, Conor Hagney, Maria Waldron.

DONAL WALSH

Donal Walsh - MOUNTAINS

I live in a part of the world that is surrounded by mountains. I can't turn my head without finding a bloody hill or mountain and I suppose those were Gods plans for me. To have me grow up around mountains and grow climbing a few too. And that's exactly what I've done, I may have grown up in body around them but I've fully grown and matured in mind climbing His mountains. He's had me fight cancer three times, face countless deaths and losses in my life, He's had my childhood dreams taken off me but at the end of the day He's made a man.

I am always called brave, heroic, kind, genuine, honourable and so many other kind compliments but I have to try explain to everyone why I seem to reject them. I have never fought for anyone but myself there fore I cannot be brave or heroic, I've only been kind because my religion has thought me so, what impact could I ever make on the world if I was fake or how could I ever be honourable if I was not honoured to be here.

I am me. There is no other way of putting it, little old Donal Walsh from Tralee, one body, one mind with a few other cobwebs and tales thrown in. I've climbed Gods mountains, faced many struggles for my life and dealt with so much loss. And as much as I'd love to go around to every fool on this planet and open there eyes to the mountains that surround them in life I can't. But maybe if I shout from mine they'll pay attention.

If I start to accept these compliments I'm afraid of what I'll become. Will I be braver than YE? Will I be kinder than YE? More genuine than YE? Or more honourable than YE? Better than YE? No. I can never accept that there is a YE. We are all the same, we are all given one body, one mind. The only difference for me is that I'm looking from the mountain.

Donal Walsh - HIS LEGACY

A few months left, he said. There it was I was given a timeline on the rest of my life. No choice, no say, no matter. It was given to me as easy as dinner. I couldn't believe it, that all I had was 16 years here and soon I began to pay attention to every detail that was going on in this town. I realised that I was fighting for my life for the third time in four years and this time I have no hope. Yet still I hear of young people committing suicide and I'm sorry but it makes me feel nothing but anger

I feel angry that these people choose to take their lives, to ruin their families and to leave behind a mess that no one can clean up. Yet I am here with no choice, trying as best I can to prepare my family and friends for what's about to come and leave as little a mess as possible. I know that most of these people could be going through financial despair and have other problems in life, but I am at the depths of despair and believe me there is a long way to go before you get to where I am. For these people no matter how bad life gets there are no reasons bad enough to make them do this, if they slept on it or looked for help they could find a solution and that they need to think of the consequences of what they are about to do.

So please as a 16 year old who has no say in his death sentence, who has no choice in the pain he is about to cause and who would take any chance at even a few more months on this planet, appreciate what you have, know that there are always other options and help is always there.

Donal Walsh



Pictured are members of Ballyhaunis Foróige Club presenting a cheque for 500 euro to Elma Walsh, mother of Donal Walsh R.I.P., for the 'Donal Walsh Livelife Fund' on 30 March 2014. In turn, she gave the Foróige club copies of the reflections 'Mountains' and 'Suicide Letter'.

POST LEAVING CERT 2013



Pictured are six past students of the Leaving Cert class of 2013 who were all on the 'All Ireland B Freshers Champions' team with the University of Limerick. They defeated Mary Immaculate College.

Back row: Conor Lyons, Gary Patterson, Fergal Boland, David Kenny.

Front row: Adrian Phillips, Conor Hussey.

KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE

O. MACKEN

E-Safety Seminar organized for all year groups took place on Jan 22nd last. A parents seminar was also held on this date. The E-Safety Seminar addressed how Cyber-bullying is perpetrated in schools and the effects it can have on young people. The seminar also looked at topics such as Digital Fingerprints (Future Reputations), Facebook & Social Networking, Blogging and Online Gaming. The key message from the seminar was the importance of awareness of the dangers and how to keep safe on-line by equipping students with the necessary information to help them make positive choices when using the internet. The parents' seminar gave an insight into how their children engage online and how best to keep them safe.



1ST YEAR LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES



SACRED SPACE



SHOE BOX APPEAL 2014

O. MACKEN



This year students and staff at BCS contributed 60 shoeboxes to the annual Team Hope Shoe Box Appeal. The boxes collected this year were sent to street children, orphans, kids in hospital, poor families, victims of war or other needy situations in Eastern Europe, and Africa. They are forgotten children - victims of war, disease or poverty, children living on the edge, in some of the poorest countries in the world. For families living on less than 1 a day, Christmas is just another ordinary day - nothing special, no Christmas tree, no presents, but the shoebox brings a little hope, a lot of laughter and smiles, and a practical expression of God's love at Christmas time, for children who have very little. Well done to all who contributed.



LCA WESTERN CARE CHRISTMAS PARTY

O. MACKEN

Last December the Leaving Cert Applied class continued the long tradition in our school of organising a Christmas party for the staff and service users of Western Care. Western Care is a voluntary organisation that supports people who have learning and associated disabilities. This year the LCA students decided to write, produce and perform their own play, namely Fat Tony's Bar. Much preparation went into organising and transforming A7/B1 into a theatre. The students organised refreshments and loads of goodies for our visitors. Our LCA students did the school proud. They were very welcoming and courteous to the staff and service users from Western Care who were very impressed. The students also made a presentation of 100 towards the Western Care services as part of their fundraising efforts. Congratulation to the LCA class and their teacher Ms. Genny Murray on a fantastic production.



LCA1 students raised €250 by organising a coffee morning in aid of Mayo Roscommon Hospice. The LCA class are pictured presenting the cheque to Cynthia Clappett CEO Mayo Roscommon Hospice, Ms. Eadaoin Flynn and Mr. David McDonagh.

SENIOR BOYS GAA



LEAVING CERT BLIND DATE

SARAH CREIGHTON AND RIA MARIGLIANO



On the 27th of March, the highly anticipated Leaving Cert fundraiser was held. After two gruelling weeks of script writing, the time finally came to showcase our "masterpiece". The first line-up of smoking hot bachelors and bachelorettes consisted of Lisa Higgins as Catherine Lynch impersonator "Shanicwa", Cyril Collins as fireman "Chuck Steel", Mikey O'Rourke as bodybuilder "Max Power" and Jason Coyne as the spunky "Melvin Seaman". The second line-up involved Liam Duffy as the successful "Dr. Dome-a-little", Stacey Hayden as secretary "Bustina Rhymes", Michaela Durkin as A.I. Farmer "Josephine McSlurry" and Erika Webb as eccentric "Regina Phalange". We also managed to persuade some teachers to feature in the final line-up; Mr. Caulfield as a woodwork teacher by day and superhero by



night, fighting crime on the streets of Ballyhaunis, Ms. Carty as a traditional Irish beure, Ms. Scahill as a raunchy disco-diva and Ms. Flannery as "Sporty Spice". The whole thing was a great success (well, kind of) and everyone enjoyed themselves (well, not really, no). Despite this, a lot of money was raised for a good cause and romance blossomed for the three happy couples! Finally, we would like to thank everyone involved, in particular the Leaving Cert Religion teachers.



PREDICT THE SCORE - RESULTS



Thank to all who supported the "Predict a score" in Support of the Ballyhaunis Community School GAA Club, for the recent All Ireland Football Final, and also thanks to all the students that sold lines.

First prize winner Chris Crawley.

Second prize winner Tom Crawley.

lines sold by Daragh Crawley, Fourth year Student.

Third Prize winner Vera Egan.

Line sold by Shane McDermott, First Year Student.

Top line Seller, Shane McDermott, wins a replica school Jersey.

L-R Mr. Sean McHugh, Darragh Crawley, Shane McDermott, Mr. David McDonagh, Mr. Ray Woolley.

YEARBOOK EDITOR

MARY MOONEY

As the yearbook venture gets under way each year I become more forcefully reminded of the vibrant community which typifies B.C.S. The school is a hive of activity and I sincerely hope that you enjoy delving into all aspects of our world. The school is most privileged to have the photographic expertise of Fr. Stephen Farragher for this task. On a personal note, I would like to express my profound gratitude to Fr. Farragher for his dedication, commitment and kindness throughout this 'journey'. He cares so deeply for the school and he has such a strong rapport with both staff and students alike. I would like to thank Mr. David McDonagh (principal), Ms. Concepta Moran (deputy-principal), the teaching staff and ancillary staff for their support and co-operation throughout. A very special word of thanks to Ms. Claire Caulfield, Ms. Orla Macken and Ms. Bernie Osgood for all their assistance in the collation of the yearbook material. I also want to take this opportunity to thank the yearbook committee-the T.Y. class- for their commitment to this worthy cause. I want to express the same gratitude to Matthew Grogan, Roisín Ní Suilleabháin, Aoife Murray and Aisling Lynskey for so generously giving of their time, their expertise and their patience in relation to the editing of photos. As always, the competence and professionalism of Berry Print has been astounding-I would like to personally thank Seán McCormack and Michelle for being such a pleasure to work with. Finally, I would like to wish both the Leaving Certs and the Junior Certs all the very best in their exams. The carefree days of summer are only around the corner!!

REPEAT LEAVING CERTS



Nicole McNamara, Aoife Devaney, Jasmine Casey, Riona Joyce, Edel Coffey, Lukasz Danilczuk, Emma Duffy, Gerard Freeley.

A PRAYER TO THE LEAVING CERT. CLASS

It's always nice to be thought of by others but for the Leaving Cert students in our school there is actually a religious order praying for them during this stressful exam year. Sr. Margaret and her fellow sisters of Mercy have an active prayer group and they have included Ballyhaunis Leaving Cert students in their intentions for the past number of years. They contacted the religion department and enquired if our students would like to be remembered in their prayers. The Leaving Cert students were delighted to be included in the prayer group's intentions. It was overwhelming for some students and they were very grateful as they feel it is a stressful and difficult time in their lives with many difficult decisions to make. A representative from the order, Sr. Margaret herself came to visit and meet with the students. She also distributed a prayer card for each student to carry with them or to read before their exams. A sincere thank you to Sr. Margaret and her fellow sisters from the Leaving cert class of 2014.



LEAVING CERT BABY PHOTOS



1. Ailish Phillips 2. Áine Coyne 3. Hannah Hardcastle 4. Jason Coyne 5. Jim Reidy 6. Yvonne Davy 7. Labhaoise Cunnane
8. Lisa Higgins 9. Leanne Hession 10. Maisie Donne 11. Sarah Feeney 12. Mary Waldron 13. Michael O'Rourke & Morgan Lyons
14. Morgan Lyons & Kevin Kilbride 15. Niamh Murray 16. Ria Dunleavy

Leaving Cert Oscars 2014

Personality of the year:	<i>Sarah Creighton Ciara Jordan</i>	<i>Conor Hagney Michael Waldron</i>
Drama Queen/King:	<i>Ria Marigliano Ailish Phillips</i>	<i>Ronan Murphy Kevin Kilbride</i>
Class Clown:	<i>arah Feeney Ciara Jordan</i>	<i>Brian Gavin Cyril Collins</i>
Sports Person:	<i>Vicky Kelly Maria Waldron</i>	<i>Morgan Lyons Jason Coyne</i>
Most Distinctive Laugh:	<i>Hannah Hardcastle Ria Marigliano</i>	<i>Steven Ryan Rory Nestor</i>
Smart arse:	<i>Laoise McDermott Sarah Creighton</i>	<i>Ronan Murphy Cyril Collins</i>
Flirt of the year:	<i>Ria Dunleavy Erika Webb</i>	<i>Cyril Collins Ryan Kilbane</i>
Hairdo:	<i>Andra Ailish Phillips</i>	<i>Mikey O'Rourke Sean Burke</i>
Babe:	<i>Ailish Phillips Maria Waldron</i>	<i>Declan Kilgariff Mikey O'Rourke</i>
Smiley;	<i>Labhaoise Cunnane Ria Marigliano</i>	<i>Cian O'Boyle Kevin Kilbride</i>
Legs 11:	<i>Ciara Jordan Niamh Murray</i>	<i>Jim Reidy David Regan</i>
First to be locked up:	<i>Stacey Hayden Andra</i>	<i>James Burke Brian Gavin</i>
Romeo & Juliet:	<i>Aine Coyne & Sean Burke. Laoise McDermot & Steven Ryan.</i>	

LEAVING CERT MEMORY LANE

CIARA JORDAN, JASON COYNE & LIAM DUFFY

They say that school days are the best days of our lives. From Westport House in first year to Rome in fifth year, we came, we saw, we conquered! We've shared the love on Bebo and believed in #13th. From first year food fights with the leaving certs to the battle of the egos on the senior football team, we've finally made it!

We entered this school as boys and girls and now leave as ladies and gentlemen. Well, most of us anyways... We first arrived as eager beavers, ready to tackle secondary school life, with José "The Special One" McGarry and Brogs as our trusting year heads to guide us through thick and thin. This was surely a recipe for success. Life - long friendships were formed and memories were made. Let's not forget the romances that blossomed at the first year fancy dress disco! Trips to Westport House, Dublin and the Burren strengthened bonds while Ronan Murphy took the meaning of the word "trip" a bit too far and ended up in the River Sillees!

Along came third year and the big JC soon rolled in. No not Jason Coyne, but the dreaded Junior Certificate and we soon put the heads down. 10 A's was written in the stars, well for some of us! Revision and cramming were on the cards as we prepared for the penultimate test. We were provided with entertainment in the form of the epic battle between David and Goliath a.k.a. Mr. McDonagh and Phillip Fitz. We renewed our faith and stayed calm with retreats to Ballintubber Abbey and the holy land of Knock.

While we endured the hardships of the Junior Cert, our future comrades in Transition Year were having the time of their lives organising cake sales galore and embarking on countless excursions. The TY trip to Barcelona was the pinnacle of the year. With highlights including, visits to the Nou Camp and Port Aventura. Everybody was truly heartbroken at the thoughts of leaving this paradise. You could even say they were drunk with sadness. If it wasn't for TY, we would not have to gotten to know this lovely bunch.

Fourth year came around presenting us with a new year and new opportunities. It wasn't long before we were strolling around in our navy jumpers, loving life as the new cool kids of the school. We blended together well, united as a year, ready to face new adventures such as Achill. Surfing, rock - climbing and kayaking were on the agenda as we made the most of this time away from the halls of academia.

The year was further enlightened by a spontaneous art and music trip to the beautiful city of Paris. In just three days, we managed to squeeze in an impressive amount of sight - seeing and fun from art galleries, musical performances and of course, Disneyland! This was surely a memorable start to the senior cycle

In regards to sport, the junior football team were blessed with the words of wisdom of one Hubert Rudden who once proclaimed, "Any man can go forwards or sideways. But, it takes a real man to go backwards". It was as if Jesus himself was preaching to his disciples.

The year ended on a high as the special one guided the senior soccer team to Connacht glory with a penalty shootout of epic proportions. José, satisfied with his title winning charges, resigned from his post, akin to that of Sir Alex Ferguson throwing the gauntlet down to David Moyes. In this case however, our David Moyes took the form of the new kid on the block, Patsy 'Spoonney' Noone, fresh from his own Connacht triumph with the U15 soccer team.

After a long hot summer, it was finally the beginning of the end. However, exam fears were soon quenched with a retreat to Fr. Benny. Just as we were adapting to LC life, we were frisked away to the Seven Hills of Rome. Tours of Rome and Florence proved memorable and we were brought for the ride of our lives at Rainbow Magicland theme park. We soon discovered why Rome wasn't built in a day as some of our own hard - workers decided to disappear for a while, returning somewhat merrier while others returned minus a head of hair. You know what they say, when in Rome...

Just home from Rome, we took a trip "back to the 80s". Hidden talents were discovered as our senior students commanded the stage where shapes were thrown and high notes were hit. As we captivated the audience for three nights in a row, memories were made and the craic was had.

After the dreaded mocks, the LC blind date offered us a brief respite as we approached the final furlong. Scripted and performed by our own LC students it was a great success. However, some things cannot be unseen, such as Michael Waldron in her dress.

We've lost a few soldiers along the way but their time here won't be forgotten. We've even had a few renegades from the senior football team, most notably, our very own Sean Burke. His head was truly gone as he was exiled from the hallowed grounds of BCS football, with Seany Larkin not wanting poison in the camp.

Now as Elvis is ready to leave the building, we take this time to reflect on all the good times we've had during our tenure here, not forgetting the teachers and parents who have helped us every step of the way. We're finally ready to step out into the big bad world. As we leave our childhood days behind and step forth into uncharted territory, we cannot know for certain what the future will hold. But as Eleanor Roosevelt once famously proclaimed: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams" - a statement which we will carry with us for the rest of our days.

LEAVING CERT MEMORY LANE



