

# BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL



2010 Connaught Junior Ladies Champions

*Yearbook 2015*



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## GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Welcome to the Ballyhaunis Community School Yearbook 2015. The production team was once again charged with the almost impossible task of capturing a flavour of what life was like for students and staff in the past academic year. I believe you will find that they have been very successful and have compiled a wonderful chronicle of the months gone by and we hope you enjoy leafing through the pages.

As usual the school has been an incredibly busy place in the year just past. In mid December the school received the very welcome news that the proposed extension & refurbishment of the school would be going to construction in 2015. It is a tremendously exciting time for the school and indeed for the town of Ballyhaunis and the surrounding hinterland. When completed we will hopefully have a school building that will be on par with the excellent teaching and learning that have become the hallmarks of students experience in Ballyhaunis Community School.

We had just returned from our Christmas holidays when the school got notification of a Whole School Evaluation. As I expected all connected with the school rose to the occasion and the level of effort displayed by all concerned left me, once again, tremendously proud to be associated with this great school. At the time of going to print the final report is not yet available but we await its publication feeling certain that it will affirm the good practice that has become synonymous with the school while also outlining a blueprint for further improvements in the years to come.

The past year also saw the school lose one of its most loyal and committed servants with the passing of Mr. Eddie Thornton last June. Mr. Thornton was of course the first principal of the school when it was founded back in 1977. No other person did more to establish

the school's reputation as one of the most progressive and innovative educational establishments in the country. Although retired for almost sixteen years now his influence is still felt as the standards he set for the school remain a constant challenge for the present staff as we seek to maintain the legacy he left us. To his wife Maureen, son Eamonn and daughters Fiona, Emer, Clodagh & Roisin we once again extend our deepest sympathies.

As you browse through the pages I'm sure you will be impressed by the many achievements attained by our students this year. Our Mission Statement commits us to the holistic development of all students in our care and it is something we take very seriously. I want to congratulate all the students involved for their achievements and express my sincere gratitude to all the teachers involved who gave so freely of their time.

I would like to thank our generous sponsors. It is a challenging time for all businesses and we sincerely appreciate their support and I would ask our readers to support them where and when possible. I want to pay tribute to Ms. Macken, Ms. Mannix, Ms. Osgood 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. We wish them health and happiness in whatever path they ultimately find themselves on and hope the values they acquired here sustain them in whatever challenges they may face in the years ahead.

**Mr David McDonagh, Principal.**



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## STAFF 2014 - 2015



**Back row:** Mrs. Carmel Shannon, Ms. Antoinette Lennon, Mrs. Anne Grogan, Mrs. Siobhán Devine, Mr. Padraic Shannon, Mr. Seán McHugh, Mr. Ray Woolley, Mrs. Siobhán Mannix, Mrs. Aisling O' Brien.

**Middle row:** Mrs. Patricia Hargaden-Whyte, Mrs. Josephine Loftus, Mrs. Claire Kelly, Mrs. Carmel Stakem, Mr. Colin Quinn, Ms. Orla Phillips, Mrs. Áine Fallon, Ms. Orla Macken, Ms. Ann Varden, Mrs. Gillian Madden, Mrs. Eva Brogan, Mr. Michael Murray.

**Front row:** Mr. Pat McGarry, Ms. Genny Murray, Mrs. Anna Henry, Ms. Mary Mooney, Mrs. Sharon Mulroy, Ms. Concepta Moran, Mr. David McDonagh, Ms. Claire Caulfield, Mrs. Bernie Osgood-Daly, Mrs. Caitriona Murphy.

**Missing from Photo:** Mrs. Olive Lyons, Ms. Catherine Monaghan, Ms. Éadaoin Flynn, Mrs. Geraldine Cunneiffe, Ms. Mairéad Conway, Mrs. Ann Marie O' Reilly, Ms. Geraldine O' Loughlin, Mrs. Bernadine Waldron, Mr. Patrick Noone, Ms. Colleen Hayes, Mrs. Aoife Keane.

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



Mrs. Justina Lyons & Mrs. Sharon Gibbons.



Mrs. Patricia Gaughan.



## STAFF NEWS

The school year 2014-2015 welcomed many new teachers and staff. Ms. Carmel Shannon, Mrs. Ursula Cloonan, along with the return of Mrs. Claire Kelly and Mr. Seán Larkin to the teaching staff. Mr. Johnny Griffin was also welcomed as Sports Co-ordinator.

Summer 2014 also marked the retirement of Mrs. Bernie Lyons. The entire school community wish to thank her for her dedication to Ballyhaunis Community School over the years.

We would like to congratulate Mrs. Aishling O'Brien and Mrs. Carmel Stakem on their weddings over the past year.

Congratulations to Mrs. Ann Marie O'Reilly on the birth of her son Ben.



Pictured are Aishling & Alan O'Brien on the occasion of their wedding.



Pictured are Carmel & Gary Stakem on the occasion of their wedding.

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# A TRIBUTE TO EDDIE THORNTON

**DAVID MCDONAGH**

Eddie Thornton who died in June 2014 was Principal of Ballyhaunis Community School from its foundation in 1977 until his retirement in 1999. He had previously been Principal of Ballyhaunis Vocational School. He had a friendly, outgoing, full of life personality. He had a deep respect for others. He was always courteous, kind and caring. He had a most positive and personal interest and influence on the lives of students in Ballyhaunis over a span of about 30 years. He valued other peoples opinions and was committed to unity and harmony. His contribution to education in Ballyhaunis can never be understated. This can only be understood in the context of developments around 1970. The Sisters of Mercy had given great service to Post Primary education for girls for many years. Ballyhaunis Vocational School offered Post Primary education since 1941, the only avenue available for boys in 1961. In 1967 free Post Primary education and free transport was provided by the Dept. of Education. This brought about an explosion in student numbers. The managements of the three schools recognised the new needs. Planning at local level led to some sharing of facilities. This led to the new Community School in 1977 with Eddie as Principal. It was a daunting task not only to see the amalgamation but also the assimilation of the ethos and traditions established over the years by three separate schools. It took courage and trust for staffs to deal with misgivings and fears. It was new territory. Community Schools were a new concept in education and were very much in their infancy. Ballyhaunis was the first and only one in Mayo for many years afterwards. There was no blue print. It involved merging of systems and new curricula to meet a business and technological age. Students were now offered a wide choice of subjects, freedom of movement within grades suitable for their abilities and a very flexible class system. Naturally, this was not achieved by any one person. It involved all the staff but Eddie's role was pivotal. He and Fr. Francis McMyler had vision and gave great leadership. He recognised and harnessed the staffs various talents, encouraged and trusted them, fostered integration and a climate of team work and a responsibility which gave them a sense of ownership and pride in the new beginning. Focus was student centred giving them the opportunity to achieve their full potential academically and personally through class structures, pastoral care, year head systems and extra curricular activities. Success was recognised in the Irish Times in 1995 when its education correspondent listed Ballyhaunis Community School as one of the prime second level schools in Ireland. Eddie was a "hands on" Principal, involving himself in every aspect of school life. He never shirked his responsibilities. He had high standards for himself and expected the same from others. Every school and institution naturally involves with changing needs but many of the basic structures remain intact to the present day. This surely is a testament to Eddie's contribution to education in Ballyhaunis and I hope it will be remembered.



Pictured are: Mr. Pat McHugh, Mr. Eddie Thornton, Mr. Jarlath Fahy, Mr. David McDonagh.

## REMEMBERING A MAN OF VISION

**PAT MCHUGH, PRINCIPAL BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL, 2004-2013.**

They say that John F Kennedy had it, and Bill Clinton and Barak Obama, Pope John Paul and Tony Blair were two others mentioned. They are supposed to have that invisible quality they call Presence, when they enter a room people know instinctively that somebody of charm and charisma is in their midst. I never met any of those people but I did know one man who oozed charm, charisma and certainly had Presence. I speak of the late Eddie Thornton who was my Principal and colleague for many years. I first met Eddie in 1985 when he was already the highly regarded and respected Principal of Ballyhaunis Community School. He is still the longest serving Principal and someone who is spoken of with respect and affection by former students, teachers and those whose lives he touched. Eddie was a very imposing man physically, tall, handsome, slim with a thick stock of wavy hair who was always immaculately dressed, crisp shirt, matching tie, smart suit, Eddie always looked the part and he could take his part in any company and still not 'lose the common touch', everyone noticed when Eddie Thornton entered a room. I recall the chatter and nervous laughter prior to staff meetings but there would be silence when 'Mr Thornton' as we always referred to him, entered the staff room. He was fair and patient and everyone got their say but you had to have your case or argument reasoned out or else you would soon find that he had moved on to the next item on the agenda. In the same way I often saw him walk into the assembly area and with one clap of his hands the students would move to class while more of us could be clapping for five minutes before we would get a response. He was respected by all but no one feared him because Eddie had an innate sense of fairness and everyone knew that he was a good listener and your case would get a fair hearing. I knew little of Eddie Thornton outside of school but I know he was an accomplished golfer and a keen angler. Indeed I understand in his later years he enjoyed nothing more than a few hours on the banks of the Moy. Years after he retired his former colleague Principals would enquire after his wellbeing and would always emphasise the esteem they held him in. They would speak of the broad perspective and wise counsel he would offer at Principal's meetings and conferences. In his long term in charge of BCS he had seen a lot of Ministers and Department staff come and go and could offer sound advice to officials at any level. He was very proud of Ballyhaunis Community School and at our very last meeting he spoke fondly of the ease with which the three staffs gelled together with common purpose coming as they did from three different traditions, Eddie was far too modest to take any credit for that meeting of minds but everyone knew that he was the driving force through the strength of his personality whereby he created a common ethos that all felt a part of. He was a man of vision who could see the bigger picture and who led by example, the school community could see that and respected his qualities. There is an iconic photograph of the first four Principals of Ballyhaunis Community School which was organised by Fr. Stephen Farragher in May of 2013 just before I retired. Eddie was unwell at the time but readily agreed to pose with the three of us possibly because in his own mind he knew that he may not have much time left. When the time came about a year later there was one last opportunity to pay respect to the man who had spearheaded second level education in the greater Ballyhaunis area for over thirty years in total. The throng of people who consoled his beloved Maureen and his family was testament to the high esteem Eddie Thornton was held in fifteen years after he had retired. May his gentle soul rest in everlasting peace.



## RETIREMENT - TOM WALDRON

Much loved bus driver Tom Waldron retired this year. Tom has delivered students safely to and from school since 1980 until his recent retirement. Amongst his many passengers during his 35 year career were present teachers Mr McHugh and Ms Caulfield. Everyone at BCS would like to wish Tom a peaceful and enjoyable retirement.



## BERNIE LYONS TRIBUTE

DAVID MCDONAGH



Bernie Lyons served as a Special Needs Assistant in the school for over a decade. In that time Bernie provided care and attention to a number of students who otherwise may not have coped with the rigours of day to day life in BCS. However it was the manner in which Bernie provided that care and attention that ensured she was an important member of the team here in the school. Bernie was patient, encouraging and took a genuine interest in all in her care. The students well being was always foremost in her thoughts and she made every effort to ensure that each student's potential was realised. Bernie always approached her work in good humour and good spirits and was popular with both students and staff alike. She always conducted herself in a highly professional manner and indeed had all the qualities one would wish for in a SNA; caring yet firm, supportive and always the soul of discretion. On behalf of the whole school community I would like to thank Bernie for her commitment and her loyalty over the years and wish her many years of health and happiness in the next chapter in her life.

## BERNIE LYONS TRIBUTE

COLLEEN HAYES & OLIVE LYONS

Bernie Lyons joined the staff as an SNA in 2003 and spent 10 years with us in that capacity. Bernie quickly settled into her role. She was involved with working with some of our most vulnerable students during her tenure here. She went about her duties in a quiet, calm and dignified manner. She integrated well with students and staff alike. Being a parent of students in the school Bernie saw things from all aspects. She was generous with her time and flexible in her approach to her work. She assisted any student or member of staff who requested her help.

Cutbacks in education led to the reduction of SNA provision to schools and consequently we no longer had a job for Bernie. We wish Bernie and Liam a long, happy and healthy future together.

## RETIREMENT FUNCTION - PAT MCHUGH



Pictured is Ms. Antoinette Lennon making a presentation to Mrs. Noreen McHugh.



Pictured are Mr. David McDonagh, Mrs. Noreen McHugh, Mr. Pat McHugh and Mr. Jarlath Fahy.



Pictured is Mrs. Siobhán Devine making a presentation to Mr. Pat McHugh.



Pictured are: Mr. David McDonagh, Mr. Jarlath Fahy, Mrs. Justina Lyons, Mr. Pat McHugh.



Pictured are: Mr. Aiden Kelly, Mr. Patsy Noone, Mr. Matt O'Dwyer, Mr. Vincent Healy.

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS LIAM LYONS

## Ballyhaunis Intermediate Team Visits BCS

2014 turned out to be a year that will go down in history for the Ballyhaunis Senior Footballers. From a very mixed campaign in 2013, 2014 ended with Ballyhaunis being back at the top table of football in Mayo with the year ending with them as Mayo Intermediate champions. This was the first time Ballyhaunis had won it 26 years. The year started with a new manager, Tomás Morley, a former Kiltimagh player, coming in and bringing his new ideas and beliefs. With some early victories in games against Ballaghderreen and Kiltimagh players began to get a winning mentality back and some belief in themselves. This carried on with some good league form where there were victories over teams such as Islandeady and Swinford. These victories gave the team some momentum going into championship only to be brought crashing back down to earth in the first round losing a home game to Mayo Gaels. The implications of losing this game meant that Ballyhaunis had to win their remaining two games to qualify for a county quarter final spot and to at least win one to avoid going into the dreaded relegation play offs. This situation was even more difficult when you look at the fact that the two teams that were left were Burrishroole and Tourmakeady, the two teams that were seen as the strongest teams in the group. It was these two remaining group games that probably stood to the team later on in the year.

The first game was against Burrishroole at home, a seasoned team who had gotten to the Intermediate final 3 times in the previous 5 years. After a tough battle, a real championship game Ballyhaunis were victorious by one point. This meant that the final group game against Tourmakeady was a winner takes all. Tourmakeady is always a tough place to go and try and get a victory. They are tough Gaeltacht men on and off the pitch and this proved to be the case for this game. With some hard hits going in it wasn't a place for the faint hearted, as they game was coming to a close there was nothing in it, only for Ballyhaunis to pop up with a late winner which sent them on their way to the county quarter finals. This quarter final had an extra dimension when the draw was made, Ballyhaunis were drawn to play Kiltimagh, Tomás Morley's old club. On the day Ballyhaunis proved far too strong for the opposition and ran out easy winners. This led them on their way to the county semi – final. This semi-final also had another dimension to it as Ballyhaunis were drawn to play The Neale. Three weeks previous The Neale had given Ballyhaunis a ten point hammering in the league so a lot of soul searching needed to be done for this. In the semi-final however, with a full team out Ballyhaunis totally turned the tables and were victorious by 14 points. This led the way to the county final against the Noel Connelly, who had just been appointed joint Mayo manager, managed Hollymount – Carramore, who had been many peoples team to win the championship all year. Ballyhaunis were total underdogs going to this game. This however was a tag the Ballyhaunis team would relish and on a wet and windy day in October in McHale Park, Ballyhaunis upset the odds and were victorious by one point to make them "The Mayo Intermediate Football Champions of 2014". This was a magnificent journey for everyone involved in Ballyhaunis GAA. From a starting point where the main aim was to put some pride back in the jersey to end up as county champions was a wonderful season. The players would like to thank everyone for their support all year. Every player on the panel of 2014 has gone through the doors of Ballyhaunis Community School. Morgan Lyons was a student up until last June, Keith Higgins the current Mayo captain was a student until 2003. Two stalwarts, Declan Doyle and Fergal Kelly can be found smiling from the walls in many photos too, maybe even before Morgan was born!! With BCS drawing students from both sides of the border, it's easy to see why it has a proud footballing tradition. Michael Glaveys, Éire Óg, Aghamore and Ballyhaunis are all proud clubs but are also feeder clubs to the BCS nursery and it is here that under the guidance of Hugh Rudden, Vinny Healy, Matt O'Dwyer, Jarlath Fahy, Micheal Murren, Aidan Kelly and current Principal David McDonagh to name a few that many players have blossomed. The skills picked up in BCS have been carried further afield than the school pitch and all the clubs have benefited as a result.



Eight members of the victorious Ballyhaunis Intermediate team who are Past Pupils of BCS visited the school on Oct. 8th, 2014 with the Sweeney Cup. Liam Lyons (capt), Tadgh Morley, Stephen Hoban, Isaac Carroll, Conor Freeley, Paul Jordan, Brian Hunt, & Eoghan Collins.





## BUSINESS AWARDS



### NUIG AND BSTAI Junior Certificate Business Studies Award Winners 2014

Mrs. Loftus, Hamza Azhar, Shauna Murray, Ms. Conway.

## OPEN EVENING - JAN 29TH 2015

**ORLA MACKEN**

Our annual open evening took place on Thursday, January 29th, 2015. 6th class students and their parents were invited to the school to visit the classrooms, meet the teachers and see the facilities and everything the school has to offer. 4th year students played a huge part 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, they also served some light refreshments for everyone at the end of the evening. These 4th year students carried out their duties exceptionally and they are truly a credit to themselves and the school.

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. There was a fantastic display of extra-curricular activities in the assembly area as well as the unveiling of the plans and design of the School Re-development. A huge thanks to Ciaran Grogan for organising and delivering the display boards for the evening. Many thanks and well done to each subject department for showcasing their subject on the night and also to the Home Economics department who facilitated the refreshments being served. Finally a word of thanks to the Open Evening Committee: Mrs. C. Murphy, Mrs. A. Grogan, Mr. P. Noone, Ms. C. Flannery and Mrs. G. Madden.





## CREDIT UNION COMPETITION



Mahammad Gulzar and Kamil Maliszewski went on to the next stage and were winners at chapter level.



**Left to right:** Sarah Cleary, Mahammad Gulzar, Roisin Cassidy, Casey Clarke, Alannah Dennehy, Aaron Peake, Kamil Maliszewski and Emer Kiely. (Absent from photo Jamie McGowan).

**Congratulations to the above students from Ballyhaunis Community School as they were all prize winners in this year's Credit Union Art Competition.**

## SCHOOL EXTENSION



A selection of artist impression images of the new school build which is on schedule to commence this summer. Exciting times ahead at BCS.



# A WORD FROM MS. MACKEN - SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

ORLA MACKEN



As many of you are aware this year I went back to college to complete a diploma at NUIG. I really enjoyed my experience as a college student and I am now a firm believer that college is wasted on the young!!

It was such a wonderful feeling walking through the fabulous campus at NUIG, attending lectures, discussing Piaget theories on education over coffee with my new college friends – that feeling of being a carefree student only lasted though until the assignments piled on and the deadlines loomed.

Although it was challenging to balance school, college and home life it was such a worthwhile experience and one I am delighted to have completed. I hope to put all the knowledge I have gained

into practice in the years ahead. Education is a life long journey – for our Leaving Certs who are approaching their graduation from school, remember your journey of learning has only just begun.

As this school year draws to a close the 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.

This has been a great year of learning for me so I have chosen the poem by Maya Angelou to sum up this journey.

Have a lovely summer!

**O. Macken**



## I've Learned...

*"I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.*

*I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.*

*I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life.*

*I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life.*

*I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.*

*I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw some things back.*

*I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.*

*I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.*

*I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.*

*I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.*

*I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."*



## CLASS 1A



**Back Row (l. to r.):** Fiona Crawley, Aoife Carney, Aidan Byrne, Moyosore Alao, Egis Aravicius, Aaron Dee, Mary Carr, Tara Coyne.

**Middle Row:** Darren Nathan Maughan, Kyle Cooke, Molly Curran, Gráinne Byrne, Rachel Dillon, Holly Browne, Eimhin Conboy, Daniel Coyne.

**Front Row:** Aoibhe Coggins, Gráinne Collins, Gráinne Delaney, Clodagh Conway, Brenda Chanza, Winnie Allen, Sahar Arshad, Gillian Donnellan.

**Missing from photo:** Ali Sakar, Clodagh Byrne, Soheab Arshad.

## CLASS 1B



**Back row (l. to r.):** Sarah Hopkova, Jasmin Glavey, Amy Gildea, Darren Maughan, Shane Glynn, Sarah Gavin, Lorna Donnellan.

**Middle Row:** Patricia Solovyova, Niamh Fitzpatrick, Olivia Halas, Vanessa Henry, Abdullah Noor, Damien Kilkenny, Megan Greenwood, Lauryn Golden, Ella Dunleavy, Emanuele Graciová.

**Front Row:** Lorna Gormley, Nadeeha Jugoo, Fizzah Tahir, Saim Gulzar, Ryan Keadin, Oisín Greally, Conor Keane, Martin Hutman, Michael Gostkowski.

**Missing from photo:** AJ Hamze, Chantelle Glynn.



## CLASS 1C



**Back row (l. to r.):** Rafa Shawi, Róisín Kerrigan, Kevin McHugh, Jack McGoldrick, Winnie McDonagh, Laura O'Boyle, Ronan Moran, Jamie McGowan.

**Middle Row:** Aleksandra Jonio, Ben Lynskey, Ciara Loftus, Aoibhinn Kelly, Gabriella McDonagh, Olivia Klimczyk, Jennifer Lyons, Mila Maciukaite, Stephanie Jennings.

**Front Row:** Houda Kezze, Nathan Coll, Stephen Maughan, Liam Lavin, Ethan Keane, Amy Keane, Chloe Kirrane, Megan Morley.

**Missing from photo:** Dean McGarry, Pierce Nestor.

## CLASS 1D



**Back row (l. to r.):** Ibrahim Rahmani, Martynas Pleckaitis, Luke Walsh, Jack Ronayne, James Frayne, Jacob Ubych, Matthew Caulfield, Irtaza Rehman.

**Middle Row:** Niamh Smith, Niamh O'Neill, Courtney Sturdy, Rebecca Reynolds, Grace Omotayo, Sinéad Tarmey, Áine Phillips, Shauna Rogers.

**Front Row:** Matthew Walsh, Tony Aylward, Ronan Swanick, Haroon Shabbir, Abdullah Sakkar, Amy Waldron, Laura Niland.

**Missing from photo:** Sheena Roddy, Jenita McCormach, Aisling Regan, Clodagh Waldron.

## FIRST YEAR MASS

O.MACKEN



Our annual 1st Year Mass was held on Wednesday, October 8th. This was a lovely occasion for all our new 1st years, their parents and their mentors. The theme of the celebration was 'New Beginnings'. Many of the students participated in the liturgy through readings, prayers, gifts and singing. There was a wonderful display of musical talent on the evening which really enhanced the liturgy. We are looking forward to seeing this talented group develop their gifts and talents over the next five years in our school. The students produced some lovely artwork which was on display on the night. The evening concluded with a cup of tea and many of the parents reminiscing on their time as students in BCS! The 1st year mass celebration could not happen without the assistance and dedication of many departments in the schools including Mrs. Devine for the beautiful Music, the 1st year Religion teachers, the Home Economics, Art and Woodwork departments. Well done to all involved.

## FIRST YEAR QUIZ

The first year quiz took place on the 8th of October. It was organised by Transition Year students with the intention of fundraising, while also enabling the first years bond with each other, and with their mentors who came along to help on the day. Mrs. Hargaden-Whyte and the Transition Years put together the quiz-ensuring there were various areas and topics to cater for all interests and aptitudes. Topics like sport, music, countries, and Science were included to name just a few. The event was a huge success with both Leaving Cert mentors and first years enjoying the quiz. Prizes were given to the top 3 teams which made taking part more exciting!

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS - FÍS FESTIVAL 2015

VANESSA HENRY AND ELLA DUNLEAVY

Last year we made a film in primary school which won an award at the FÍS Film Festival. We started to make the movie in September 2013. Our team consisted of myself, Ella Dunleavy, Gráinne Delaney, Molly Curran, Clodagh Conway, Liam Lavin, Oisín Greally, Ben Lynskey and 5th class. The movie was based on the Mayo minor and senior teams who were competing in the All-Ireland finals that year and was called "MIXED BLESSINGS". It took months of editing and filming along with other film-making skills before it was ready to send off to FÍS in June 2014. A few months later, we received word back that our movie was nominated for an award out of thousands of entries. We were very pleased that something had come out of our hard work. In November 2014 we headed off to The Helix in Dublin to the award ceremony. We took our seats and enjoyed watching parts of different movies. Many other schools were there, eagerly waiting to hear what they had won. Cameras filmed different schools as people watched worldwide online. Nomination after nomination walked onto the stage taking their award with pride. Finally, after anxiously waiting, Tooreen N.S were called out. Two of our students walked excitedly up to the stage. They were presented with THE LOCAL INTEREST AWARD. This was a big achievement for us and the teachers. Everyone had really enjoyed the experience of being mini movie-makers. The thing most people liked best was probably the food afterwards in McDonalds. It was what we had all been waiting for! We arrived back to our national school late that night and were greeted by our parents. There's no doubt that we will miss the film-making experience from primary school.



## FIRST YEAR CAMOGIE

This year the camogie girls in BCS were privileged to have past pupil Joey Ganley in to train them. Joey, a member of Tooreen Hurling Club, trained the girls regularly and helped develop their skills greatly. They thoroughly enjoyed it and are very grateful to Joey.

### CAMOGIE BLITZ

The annual Mayo Post-Primary schools camogie blitz took place in McHale park on the 29th April 2015. Thirteen first year girls represented Ballyhaunis Community School this year. BCS had tough opposition coming from Castlebar and Westport. Bcs took to the field for their first game against Davitt College Castlebar and sailed past this encounter however the next game would not be as easy. Westport were an older team and just got the edge of our girls. But luckily for us we had already qualified for the final. The girls took on St. Joes of Castlebar in a close final. At half time BCS were up but only by 4 points. After a nail biting finale BCS came out on top winning by a single point. After cheers and celebrations captain Grainne Delaney was presented with the cup by Fiona Hamilton (Mayo camogie chairperson). The girls would like to thank Ms. Varden, Mr. Griffin and TY students Danielle Coyne, Eleanor Harrison and Sean Kenny for all their help and support throughout the year.



**Back row: (l-r)** Eleanor Harrison, Shauna Rodgers, Sheena Roddy, Ella Dunleavy, Amy Gildea, Molly Curran, Ciara Loftus, Fiona Crawley, Grainne Byrne, Danielle Coyne.  
**Front row: (l-r)** Clodagh Waldron, Grainne Delaney, Sahar Arshad, Megan Morley, Vanessa Henry.  
**Missing from photo** Holly Browne.

Captain Gráinne Delaney being presented with the trophy by Fiona Hamilton (Mayo Camogie Chairperson).



# FIRST YEAR TALENT SHOW

ELLA DUNLEAVY

The 1st year talent show took place on the 5th of March 2015. We began auditioning before Christmas with judges consisting of Transition Years as well as Mrs. Devine-who gave us advice and helped us to improve our performance. A number of different acts entered the talent show. Some of these acts included pop singers and dancers, traditional musicians and dancers, as well as country and folk singers. We performed in front of first year, second year and Transition Year students. The overall winners were a group of six who sang and played the current pop song 'Riptide'. The group consisted of Eimhin Conboy, Stephanie Jennings, Amy Keane, Aoibhe Coggins, Clodagh Byrne and Chloe Kirrane. In joint second place came sean- nós dancer James Frayne and singer Jasmin Glavey. Finally, in joint third place came the duet performed by Ella Dunleavy, Lorna Gormley and contemporary dancer Abdullah Noor. We really enjoyed the experience and we most certainly developed our performing skills. A sincere thank you to the Transition Year students and to Mrs. Devine who organised the talent show. It was a very rewarding and memorable experience.



## FIRST YEARS & THEIR MENTORS

### *Christmas Lunch*



### *Lunchtime Activities*

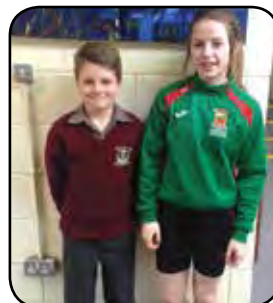




# THE BIG SKIP OFF

**NIAMH O'NEILL**

When Mrs. Mulroy told our class about the annual first year charity event we were all very excited. She explained how the aim of the event is to find the fastest boy and girl skipper in each first year class, and then the skippers would go "head to head" to find the fastest boy and girl skipper in the whole of first year! One week later in our Religion class, we held our own mini skip off to find the fastest skippers in our class. Representing 1D was myself, Niamh O'Neill and Ronan Swanick aka "Rocket Rodney". 1A was represented by Holly Browne aka "Jolly Holly". 1B was represented by Ella Dunleavy aka "Energetic Ella" and Conor Keane aka "Conor K the DJ". 1C was represented by "amazing" Amy Keane and "Priceless" Pierce Nestor. Money was collected, posters were designed and the excitement and tension started to build. We couldn't wait until the 20th of March – the date of "THE BIG SKIP OFF" At last the big day arrived. All the 1st years gathered in the assembly hall to cheer on the skippers that were representing their class. The stage doors opened and the two presenters, the sophisticated James Frayne and glamorous red head Sheena Roddy, introduced "The Big Skip Off". "Lets bring on the contestants" they said and Tony Alyward, our formidable doorman, opened the door to let the contestants on stage. The competition was very tight. The skipping rope spun at top speed and two winners emerged - Conor Keane and myself Niamh O'Neill took the top spots. Entertainment was provided by Abdullah aka The Disco King, and Lorna Gormley and Ella Dunleavy who sang beautifully. All the money raised goes to charity. A big thanks to all who helped especially our Religion teachers. Everyone had great fun and we look forward to lots more charity fundraisers during our time in B.C.S.



## FIRST YEAR BOYS GAA

The 1st year boy's played their first match of the year against Ballinrobe. They were very unlucky as they were narrowly defeated by 4 points. The lads continued to train hard at school with the help of Mr. McHugh and Mr. Griffin. They bounced back with a great win against Bellmullet which was a very compelling game and helped the boys progress to the Connacht quarter final. Ballyhaunis next played Ballinrobe in the league. Ballyhaunis' training was paying off as they were leading at half time 1-5 to 4 points. Ballinrobe then bounced back making the game level and with the last kick of the game won the game by a point. Ballyhaunis were then knocked out of the league but they still had the Connacht Cup. Ballyhaunis had to play Crossmolina in the quarter final. Ballyhaunis had a great start to first half keeping the score even 0-6 to 0-6 then in the second half Crossmolina converted their scoring opportunities and they won the game against Ballyhaunis. Ballyhaunis were very unlucky as they had most of the possession and couldn't convert their chances.



**Back Row:** Aidan Byrne, Matthew Walsh, Luke Walsh, Jack McGolderick, Jack Ronayne, Aaron Dee, Shane Glynn, Moyo Alao, Daniel Coyne, James Frayne, Ethan Keane.

**Front Row:** Ibrahim Rahamani, Eimhin Conboy, Damien Kilkenny, Darren Maughan, Liam Lavin, Nathan Coll, Ryan Keadin, Oisín Greally, Conor Keane, Pierce Nestor, Tony Aylward.

## CREATIVE WRITING

### A RAP FOR DAD

I spoke to my Dad and he said  
he's super proud of me.  
It means the world, he never once  
doubted me,  
and if I lose his faith it's like he  
puts it right back.  
A smile on my face what more  
could I really ask.  
That's why I'm working hard.  
That's why I won't quit.  
This might be rap to you but to  
me this is a precious gift.  
I'm learning everyday how to be a  
better person.  
I'm working on myself.  
I guess I'm soul searching, because if today  
was my last one I hope he remembers  
me as a good or great son.

*Abdullah Noor*



## FIRST YEAR GIRLS GAELIC FOOTBALL BLITZ

**RACHEL LYONS, ELEANOR HARRISON, GABY MURPHY, JESSICA CARROLL, MEGAN MORLEY**

The annual Mayo First Year Girls' Gaelic Football Blitz was held this year on Thursday, the 2nd of October in the Connacht Centre of Excellence, Began. A number of schools from around the county participated. The matches were 7 – a – side and lasted for ten minutes per half. The teams played three matches each, regardless of the results. The teachers were assisted by a number of Transition Year students from their respective schools. The TY students got the opportunity to develop their management and refereeing skills. With five teams, five managers, three referees and one photographer, Ballyhaunis Community School turned out in the greatest number of students. A truly enjoyable day was had by all. It was wonderful to see such a vast number of young girls enthusiastically playing Gaelic Football for their schools. It's fair to say that the future of Ladies' School Football in Mayo looks promising!

## FIRST YEAR GIRLS BASKETBALL

**RACHEL LYONS, ELEANOR HARRISON, GABY MURPHY, JESSICA CARROLL, MEGAN MORLEY**

This was the first year Ballyhaunis Community School had a first year girls Basketball team. The first year girls had a very big panel. The girls were very enthusiastic about getting to learn all the skills involved in the game. The girls trained at lunch time in the gym with Mr Woolley, with Stella O'Neill taking the girls on Friday afternoon. The girls first match was against Ballinrobe at home. The girls had an excellent win for their first match. It was a great learning experience with the referee explaining each decision taken. The girls second match was against St. Josephs, Castlebar, it resulted in an unfortunate loss but the girls kept their heads up and carried on with their training. The girls last match of the season was against Sacred Heart School, Westport. They were disappointed with their loss but they learned so much about the skill involved in the sport and they had so much fun along the way. The squad had a friendly match against each other with an official referee. This allowed all the girls on the panel to avail of the opportunity to play with an official referee. They are looking forward to building on their experiences next year.



**Back Row:** Gabrielle McDonagh, Tara Coyne, Nadeeha Jugoo, Sarah Hopkova, Amy Gildea, Lorna Donnellan, Grace Omotayo, Laura Niland, Molly Curran, Clodagh Conway.

**Front Row:** Sahar Arshad, Megan Morley, Ciara Loftus, Mary Carr, Jasmin Glavey, Niamh Smith, Niamh O'Neill, Brenda Chanza, Shauna Rogers, Róisín Kerrigan.

## FIRST YEAR BOYS SOCCER

The 1st Year boys Soccer team played 4 league games this season. We had two great victories in our home fixtures, defeating Gortnor Abbey, Crossmolina 4-0 and defeating St. Enda's, Galway 2-1. However we were beaten in our two away games versus Headford and Oranmore and unfortunately we missed out on a spot in the knock-out stages of the competition. However it was an enjoyable season with a great group of players and importantly lots of lads got their first opportunity to represent the school in competitive football both at home and away. Best performers throughout the season were Shane Glynn, Pierce Nestor, Liam Lavin and captain Dean McGarry.



**Back Row:** Jack McGoldrick, Jack Ronayne, Shane Glynn, Dean McGarry, Aidan Byrne, Aaron Dee, Ryan Keadin, Daniel Coyne. **Front Row:** Soheab Arshad, Conor Keane, Oisín Greally, Tony Aylward, Ethan Keane, Liam Lavin, Pierce Neator. **Missing from photo:** Ibrahim Rahmani.



## FIRST YEAR STUDENTS & THEIR MENTORS



Class group 1A with their Leaving Cert Mentors and Ms. Macken and Ms. Varden Mentor Co-ordinators.



Class group 1B with their Leaving Cert Mentors and Mrs. Grogan (Tutor) and Ms. Varden (Mentor Co-ordinator).



Class group 1C with their Leaving Cert Mentors and Mrs. Brogan (Tutor) and Mr. McGarry (Yearhead).



Class group 1D with their Leaving Cert Mentors and Ms. Lennon (Tutor) and Ms. Mooney (Yearhead).



**GRANDMOTHER'S GRAVE**

We drove up to the small white cottage,  
 And mother got out of our car,  
 And slowly walked to the door,  
 As I followed her inside.  
 There she was sitting in her chair,  
 Her arms were filled with knitting,  
 She looked surprised up at my mum,  
 And gave her a great big hug.  
 My grandmother a sweet old lady, at age of 93,  
 Got up and served us tea and cakes,  
 As she and mother spoke.  
 My grandmother called me over,  
 While mum was in the loo,  
 And she gave me a golden necklace,  
 With an envelope for me,  
 It was addressed to me in 2003,  
 And I asked if I could open it, She replied "not until you're 21,"  
 Mum came back and said it was time to go,  
 And gave grandmother a hug and kiss,  
 While tears were in her eyes.  
 The next week poor old granny died,  
 And I couldn't even say good-bye.  
 Today I am 21, and I opened up my letter,  
 And there inside was a sweet old letter, and a load of cash  
 And the letter clearly states,  
 "the money is for a trip to Ireland, To visit your family waiting for you,  
 And your poor old grandma's grave"

*Roisín Kerrigan*

**CREATIVE WRITING****FRIENDSHIP IS KEY**

Why can't you see  
 Beyond my face  
 And look into  
 A deeper place.

It's those who judge me quick you'll find  
 Are the people who are blind.  
 It really could be a lovely place,  
 If people looked beyond the face.

I wish someone could see  
 All the pain I endure  
 But they would never say to me  
 "I'd like to hear some more"

I wish I could be "cool"  
 But how can there be a way?  
 I am only just a fool  
 Because they just stay away.

*Sinead Tarmey*

**SACRED SPACE****TALENTED YOUTH PROGRAMME DCU**

Congratulations to three of our talented students, Cathal Hosty (3rd Year), Roisin Cassidy (2nd Year), and Rachel Lyons (Transition Year) who have been accepted into the prestigious Centre for Talented Youth in Ireland summer programme in Dublin City University. These students are among the top five percent of the population with exceptional academic ability who were admitted to the programme for talented youths. Their achievements ensure that they can participate in a wide range of third level courses at Dublin City University during the summer months.



## CLASS 2A



**Back Row:** Zainulabidin Azhar, Niall Coffey, Sadhbh Cox, Ausrius Armonavicius, Celia Conroy, Aoife Conway, Sarah Cleary.

**Middle Row:** Thomas Coffey, Oisín Boland, Muhammad Saim Asif, Patrick Caulfield, Neil Carney, Róisín Cassidy, Jack Clooney.

**Front Row:** Aoife Davis, Grace O'Gara, India Costello, Gemma Foody, Kasey Clarke, Niamh Foody, Alannah Dennehy.

**Missing from photo:** Dara Healy, Conal Caulfield.

## CLASS 2B



**Back Row:** Sinéad Kiely, Jenny Gourlay, Enda Crawley, Aaron Forde, Conor Flynn, Julianne Gardiner.

**Middle Row:** Alan Glynn, Ciarán Doherty, Jack Coyne, Cillian Costello, Hannah Doyle, Conor Fitzmaurice-Doyle, Jessica Klein, Shauna Lyons.

**Front Row:** Adrianna Kelly, Amy Greally, Michelle Grogan, Emma Heelan, Derbhla Freeman, Sophie Flannery, Colleen Manning, Christina Manning.

**Missing from photo:** Adela Illichova, James Colleran, Barry Cribbin.



## CLASS 2C



**Back Row:** Gabriele Zininaite, Róisín McLoughlin, Evelina Zininaite, David Hession, Patrick Carr, Kevan Murphy.

**Middle Row:** Amy Mulkeen, Alannah Nolan, Siobhán McLoughlin, Kristyn O'Reilly, Eimear Murray, Siofra Murray, Anna Naszkierska, Cáit Phillips, Joe Murphy.

**Front Row:** Lauren Osgood-Daly, Ciara O'Grady, Emma Nolan, Shane McDermott, Dara Mulkeen, Christopher Metclafe.

**Missing from photo:** Jason Meehan, Jason Killeen.

## CLASS 2D



**Back Row:** Erin O'Reilly, Devidas Rutkauskas, Niamh Ward, Weronika Grabiasz, Noel Ward, Evan Godfrey, John Reidy.

**Middle Row:** Ursula Brady, Dylan Raleigh, Jason Reidy, Zineddin Rahmani, Aran Rattigan, Ethan Owens.

**Front Row:** Zeba Younas, Aislinn Tighe, Deirbhile Finn-Richardson, Lauren Walshe, Ellen Phillips, Katie Ronayne.

**Missing from photo:** Rebecca Vahey-Brennan, Róisín Ruane, Laura Regan.

## 2ND YEAR STUDENT RETREAT JULIANE GARDINER AND ADRIANNA KELLY

On the 4th March 2015 the 2A and 2B classes went on retreat to Knock. We were greeted at the Prayer Guidance Centre by Helen. She started off the session with a walking debate that was very enjoyable. Afterwards, we wrote a letter to God telling him how we feel and asking him for his guidance. This was another way of saying prayers to God. When we finished we folded up our letters and put them in to a sealed box that was going to be sent off and burnt. After a short break Helen handed each of us five slips of paper. She called out questions and we wrote our answers on the slips. Helen collected them and called out the answers. We wrote about the good and happy things that had happened during that week. Then we went to the museum where we were told about the history of Knock. We saw slideshows, pictures, statues and a little cottage representing the history of Knock. After our lunch break (and some fun!) we met another member of the team called Nicola. She told us an emotional story about bullying at school. Next, we broke up into groups. Each group was given a parable from the Bible to read and to act out in front of the large group. We finished with a prayer service. Helen brought in a wooden stand with three rows of candles. We each got to light a candle and sent a little message off to God. When we all had our candles lit the priest brought in the Lamb of God. We all knelt down and listened to Helen as she talked about how important God is to us and we said prayers to God. It was a very enjoyable day!

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT Student Enterprise Awards

This year the school decided to enter this national competition for the first time. The student enterprise awards is the flagship enterprise programme at post primary level with 17,000 students from all areas of the country involved each year. This is a practical programme that offers students the opportunity to take a business idea from concept stage through market research to production, selling, record keeping, management and finally composing a comprehensive report on the business. 38 students in Ballyhaunis CS began work on their enterprises in October 2014. And two groups 'Sila-lights' by Jack Cloney, a heavy duty light board for farm trailers that can be used on different trailers and 'Geo-collar' by Thomas Coffey, Dara Healy, Barry Cribbin, Oisín Coffey & Alan Glynn, an animal tracking device both won through to represent the school at the Mayo County Enterprise Awards. Both groups had to submit a comprehensive business plan incorporating finance, marketing, organisational layout, development and strategies. Sila-lights and Jack won the Mayo final, getting through to Represent Mayo in the national finals. geo-collar came second in Mayo. Jack Cloney (2nd year) won top prize for Intellectual Property Awareness the Intermediate Category at the Student Enterprise Awards national finals in Croke Park in April. Jack had identified a gap in the market for round bale trailer lights last Summer when working late one night with his dad on their farm in Carrick, Ballinlough. He noticed that when the trailer is loaded the rear tractor lights are covered, causing a hazard for both the driver and other road users. So when their Business Studies teacher Ms. Osgood invited students to attend lunchtime workshops for the Student Enterprise Awards in Mayo, Jack already had his idea for his enterprise. He came up with the name 'Sila-Lights', designed and constructed his product. Jack carried out market research with the help of the local farming community. Branding of the Enterprise was very important to Jack and so he designed the logo and used a distinctive green colour on the product, logo and all administration and marketing for 'Sila-lights'. Through the project Jack has been advised by Peter Hopkins (Moyvalley Resources), Ms. Osgood, Mr. McDonagh & his parents John & Celine Cloney, and he thanked them all after receiving his award. He also thanked Ms. Loftus & Mr. McGarry for their help throughout. Jack has had plenty of media attention with interviews on Today FMs Sunday Business Show, Mayo matters on Irish TV, Mid-West Radio and the Farmers Journal, he also was one of four of the 70 finalists chosen to front the press release of the Awards. It was Jack's attention to detail and hard work that earned him his prize of Intermediate Intellectual Property Awareness presented by the Irish Patents Office. In a statement they said "we are delighted to be involved again this year in the Student Enterprise Awards as we wish to encourage student entrepreneurs to reflect on the awareness of Intellectual Property (IP) and the value of IP rights when setting about developing a business idea and establishing and running a successful enterprise. We wish the students every success in the future." Jack has learned so much through this journey, starting off with 17,000 other students across the country it has been a 'real world' experience and as they say in Roscommon the best is yet to come.



Pictured are: Ms. Bernie Osgood (Teacher), Ms. Annette Maughan (Moyvalley Resources), Jack Cloney, Ms. Caitriona Lynn (Moyvalley Resources), Mr. David McDonagh (Principal).



Pictured are: Ms. Bernie Osgood (Teacher), Ms. Annette Maughan (Moyvalley Resources), Alan Glynn, Niall Coffey, Barry Cribbin, Dara Healy, Thomas Coffey, Mr. David McDonagh (Principal), Ms. Caitriona Lynn (Moyvalley Resources).



Jack Cloney receiving his national award Intellectual Property Awareness, in the Intermediate Category, at the Student Enterprise Awards National Finals in Croke Park, April 22nd 2015.



## SQUASH

**ALANNAH DENNEHY, GEMMA FOODY AND NIAMH FOODY**



After winning the Connacht final in 2014 we went onto the squash All-Ireland final. After winning our first game against Ballinrobe we got to the final match where we lost by five points to the Leinster champions and came runners up. We have been training hard since our defeat and it has paid off. We were victorious in the 2015 Connaughts held in Claremorris in April. We went to the All-Irelands for a consecutive year in a row in April, where we played against Munster, Ulster and Leinster. We were victorious against Ulster and faced tough opposition from Munster and Leinster. We are back in training already and looking forward to the challenges that present themselves next year.



Pictured are: Gemma Foody,  
Mr. David McDonagh, Alannah Dennehy,  
Niamh Foody.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

### Jessica Klein



Every year over 42,000 students take Royal Irish Academy of Music examinations out of which a few hundred are selected for a high achiever award. There are four provincial concerts for which recipients are invited to audition, leading to a gala concert in Dublin. Jessica achieved her award for receiving 57 marks out of a possible 60 in her selected pieces for the grade 5 exam in piano. The connacht concert took place in the Aula Maxima of National University of Ireland Galway in November 2014.

## U-14 GIRLS GAA

**ROISÍN RUANE, URSULA BRADY, LAUREN OSGOOD DALY, JESSICA KLEIN, NIAMH FOODY AND LAUREN WALSH**

The U-14 girls began training in late September with Ms. Mooney and Ms. Osgood. We started off the season with a strong win against St. Enda's in Galway, but unfortunately in our next game we were defeated by Strokestown. After this match we seemed to be on a winning streak and we proceeded to win every game—soon reaching the Connacht semi-final. Unfortunately we were defeated by a very worthy Swinford team. The girls all tried their best but it was not to be our day. We would like to thank our managers for all their commitment and dedication throughout the year. We would also like to thank Mr. Griffin and the Transition Year students for their invaluable contribution – they include Danielle Coyne, Bobby Douglas, Cian Ruane, Liam Foody, Joanne Coffey, Eleanor Harrison, Sive Duffy, Megan Morley, Brian O'Neill and Rachel Lyons. All the girls had a great year and made some brilliant memories together! For example, when Mr. Griffin was trying to show off his skills and fell over on to the ground!



**Back row:** Holly Browne, Sheena Roddy, Adrianna Kelly, Amy Mulkeen, Lorna Donnellan, Jessica Klein, Ursula Brady, Aoife Conway.  
**Front row:** Vanessa Henry, Gemma Foody, Niamh O'Neill, Lauren Walshe, Niamh Foody, Lauren Osgood-Daly, Ciara O'Grady.

## 2ND YEAR GIRLS BASKETBALL

**ROISÍN RUANE, URSULA BRADY, LAUREN OSGOOD DALY, JESSICA KLEIN, NIAMH FOODY AND LAUREN WALSH**

The 2nd year girls started their basketball season on the 4th of February 2015. Many of the girls were new to the game but with training sessions every week thanks to Yvonne Duffy coming into the school and Ms Osgood the girls improved immensely. All twenty girls were very committed to their basketball and were determined to do well in the competitions. Our first match was a success beating Ballinrobe with a score line of 15-12. The girl's second game was also another success but unfortunately the girls couldn't continue their winning streak in their third game against Claremorris. The season isn't over yet and the girls still have a chance of getting somewhere in their competitions this year.



**Back Row:** Amy Grealley, Anna Naszierska, Michelle Grogan, Shauna Lyons, Alannah Nolan, Ursula Brady, Aoife Conway, Hannah Doyle.

**Front Row:** Rebecca Vahey-Brennan, Siofra Murray, Lauren Walshe, India Costello, Lauren Osgood-Daly, Alannah Dennehy.



**Back Row:** Hannah Doyle, Michelle Grogan, Amy Grealley, Shauna Lyons, Anna Naszierska, Aoife Conway, Yvonne Duffy.

**Middle row:** Ms. Osgood-Daly.

**Front row:** Alannah Dennehy, Lauren Osgood-Daly, Lauren Walshe, Niamh Foody, Siofra Murray, Gemma Foody.

## JUVENILE BOYS GAA

The boys got off to a flying start when they comprehensively beat St.Louis of Kiltimagh in the first round of the Mayo League. They then played Gortnorabbey of Crossmolina in the semi final. Unfortunately the result didn't go the boys way but they put in a tremendous effort on the day! The first round of the Connacht league was against our old rivals St. Louis. Once again they beat them well. Then it was the long trip up to Summerhill in Sligo. The boys got off to a flying start and were up by a point at half time. The underfoot conditions did not suit our boys style of play and they ended up losing. Once again the boys put in a brilliant effort. Next up was Carrick-On-Shannon in the centre of excellence. The boys showed great character in the second half when they managed to retain their lead playing against a very strong wind. After this they were level on points with Carrick-On-Shannon in the league and a play-off with Carrick to see who would progress into the League Semi-Final. Once again the boys played tremendously with Captain Cormac Phillips leading by example and scoring 3-7 in a 'motm'(man of the match) display. They have yet still to play their League semi-final.



**Back Row:** David Hession, Conor Flynn, Joe Murphy, Muhammad Naseer, Cormac Phillips, Kevan Murphy, Shane McDermott, Dean McGarry, Evan Godfrey, Noel Ward, Aidan Byrne.

**Front Row:** Pierce Nestor, Ethan Owens, Jack Coyne, Patrick Caulfield, Neil Carney, Enda Crawley, Jason Meehan, Saim Asif, Barry Cribbin, Conor Fitzmaurice.

In the first round of the championship we played

St.Mary's in Belclare. This was an easy game for the boys and they won comprehensively. Next up was St.Nathy's of Ballaghadereen. This was a very physical game with both sides playing excellent football. Unfortunately the result did not go the lads way as St.Nathy's were the better team on the day as they took their chances unlike the BCS boys. This was a hard loss to take but the boys have plenty of positives to take from this year and still have a league semi-final to look forward to. On behalf of the lads, they would like to thank Mr.Griffin for his hard work throughout the year.



**8KM FUN RUN/WALK**

On behalf of 8km RUN WEST and Ballyhaunis Community School, we would like to thank the following businesses for their generous sponsorship:

All About You	Fahy Opticians	Tom & Marguerite Moran
Ballyhaunis Credit Union	Finns Shoe Shop	N.C.F
Ballyhaunis Foróige Club	Epic	Noel's Barber
Ballyhaunis GAA Club	Fordes Ltd	O'Hara's
Ballyhaunis Plant Hire	Gallagher's Bread	Pat the Baker
Beauty For You	Grace Wear	Phillip's Butchers
B-Nova	Hazelhill Timber	Phillip's Clothes & Shoes
Breege's Flower	Helens Launderette	Ray Lucey
Caulfields & Gud 2 Go	Heneghan's Furn	Ribbons
Collerans Pharmacy	Herr's Shop	Rochford Motors
Corrib Oil/Topaz	Hidden Treasures	Ryan's SuperValu
Cunningham's Londis Plus	J.G's Barbers	Sinead's Hair Salon
Curley's Pharmacy & Jewellers	Kathryn's Country Kitchen	Sparky's Discount Shop
D.N.A	Lyons's Bus Hire	Style by Noreen
Dees Newsround	Mc Garry's	Supermacs
Delaney's	Melissa Beauty Salon	The Gem
Dillon Leetch Solicitors	Michael Webb's Victualler	Val's Bistro
Divilly's Meats	Mikes Bike Sales & Repairs	Valerie's Hairdressers
Eddy Murphy Menswear	Murphy's Top Oil	Webb's West Meat

**8KM FUN RUN**

On the 28th of September 2014, Ballyhaunis Community School collaborated with the Mayo Athletics club in holding an 8km fun run in order to help raise money in developing and refurbishing the school. It was certainly a day out for all the community with students, teachers and people of the community taking part in the event. Students who collected money through sponsorship obtained free entry to the run and were entered into a draw for a laptop computer. The 8km fun run started and ended at the Rugby club in Ballyhaunis. It was a great opportunity for adults and students to become active and get fit. There was great enthusiasm among all the participants as the race commenced. Tea and sandwiches were provided to all contestants after the run-it was certainly appreciated! Huge crowds turned out with approximately 300 people participating in the run. It was very encouraging to see the amount of people that turned out for this worthy event and it was most reassuring that so many people were willing to help out the community. The weather held up and was stunning for the race which made it even more enjoyable. Once again John Byrne (Mayo AC) was the clear winner with a time of 27:41. Mr. McDonagh, the principal of Ballyhaunis Community School, was most pleased and said, "It was a brilliant day and a huge success, we hope to have many more days like this in years to come". The race was a huge success and was a most enjoyable experience for all. The school would like to thank everyone who participated in this run and to everyone who helped raise money!

**SCHOOL FOLK CHOIR**

**Back Row:** Aoife Davis, Laura Regan, Sarah Cleary, Niamh Ward, Alannah Nolan, Grace O'Gara.  
**Front Row:** Katie Ronayne, Cáit Phillips, Alannah Dennehy, Eimear Murray, Ellen Phillips, Jack Clooney.  
**Missing from photo:** Jessica Klein, Hannah Doyle, Michelle Grogan, Derbhla Freeman, Amy Grealley, Emma Heelan, Sinéad Kiely, Gemma Foody, Niamh Foody, Aoife Conway.

**LINENHALL ART WORKSHOP**

On Tuesday 24th March Ms. Lennon and her 2nd year Art class attended a number of art workshops in the linen hall art centre castlebar. The workshops included theatre lighting, exhibition visit and response and a visual art workshop. The students also met with the artist David Begley, whose work is currently exhibited at the Linen hall. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The staff at the Linen hall commended the students on their exemplary behaviour.



## CLASS 3A



**Back Row:** Piotr Cieslikowski, Jordan Burns, Alex Peter Adeyinka, Conor Coll, Meadhbh Caulfield, Colin Byrne, Christopher Bann, David Cunnane.

**Middle Row:** Denver Coyne, Rory Bowen, Jade Cunnane, Maja Cieslikowska, Lauren Casey, Caoimhe Coyle, Lindiwe Dhlamini-Knosi, Richard Boyle.

**Front Row:** Shaheen Ashraf, Elaine Collins, Olivia Cleary, Katelyn Concannon, Marina Carney, Thomas Doherty, Eoin Delaney.

**Missing from photo:** Edward Cleary.

## CLASS 3B



**Back Row:** Williams Ganley, Hmad Farooq, Dylan Harrison, Rebecca Finn, Galen O'Reilly, Kevin Heneghan, Mohammad Zohaib, Aaron Heelan.

**Middle Row:** Michael Freyne, Brendonas Graf, Evan Fitzmaurice, James Duggan, Mary Flynn, Saoirse Hagney, Liam Herr, Keith Forde.

**Front Row:** Áine Duffy, Ciara Flanagan, Helen Gallagher, Emer Forde, Shauna Fleming, Niamh Flanagan, Aoibheann Gallagher, Aibhinn Herr.



## CLASS 3C



**Back Row:** Muhammad Naseer, Darragh Kilkenny, John Madden, Conor Hunt, Evan Henry, John Kenny, Filip Hutman.

**Middle Row:** Mary McLoughlin, Róisín Lyons, Courtney MacEwan, Selina Mulkeen, Tasheen Tahir Mahmood, Cathal Hosty, David Mitrovic.

**Front Row:** Mounza Muneer, Fatima Mahmood Ul Hassan, Orna Hession, Róisín Hussey, Luke Mannion, Damien McGowan.

**Missing from photo:** James Keadin, Thomas Maughan.

## CLASS 3D



**Back Row:** Benas Pakonis, Stephen Staunton, Adam Webb, Joseph Wagacha, Dylan Ruane, Cormac Phillips, Jan Szebasta.

**Middle Row:** Colm O'Gara, Georgia Peake, Aoife Nolan, Chloe Ryan, Gráinne Robinson, Mohammod Zouhir Rahmani, Zouhir Rahmani, Conor Sloyan, Kevin Neenan.

**Front Row:** Megan Regan, Rachel Timony, Kara Niland, Laura O'Connell, Joicy Nunes, Lorcan Ronan.

## 3A CSPE ACTION PROJECT

Each class participates in a separate C.S.P.E action project which accounts for 60% of our Junior Cert result. When our class were preparing for our action project we decided to visit Dáil Éireann. This was related to the concept of Democracy. The class was divided into six committees-The Research Committee, The day of the Visit Committee, The Record of the Visit Committee, the Organising Committee, The Thank You Committee, The Finance Committee. As each committee planned their part and got to work we made excellent progress, and before we knew it we were ready to visit the Dáil. We were all so excited!

When we arrived at Leinster House we were greeted by T.D John O'Mahony. He was very friendly and most helpful in answering all of our questions. We noted the historic nature of the building. The tour was very worthwhile, it was deeply informative and enjoyable. We spent time in both the Seanad and the Dáil gallery witnessing our democratic government in action. The leaders questions marked a lively debate. It was fascinating to see our country's parliament in action.

At the closing stage of our project we were very proud of all we accomplished and we concluded that it certainly was a gripping adventure. It was deeply engaging and we were very active participants in the learning process- we decided on this project from the very outset. It marked an opportunity to get away from the books and to learn first-hand information for ourselves. We learned so much information about the concept of Democracy and the workings of our country. In truth, we would love to go again and accordingly, we would strongly recommend this project to future C.S.P.E classes. Who knows-some of us may even be sitting in Leinster House in the not too distant future!!! On behalf of our class and our teacher, Ms. Mooney, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. John O' Mahony for being so accommodating and supportive. Finally, we would like to thank Ms. Mooney for all her help and guidance throughout.

Pictured are Rory Bowen, Christopher Bann and Meadhbh Caulfield making a presentation to Mr. John O Mahony (T.D.) on the occasion of their visit to the Dáil.



## 3B CSPE ACTION PROJECT

**AOIBHEANN GALLAGHER AND SAOIRSE HAGNEY**

On Wednesday 15th of October, our C.S.P.E class 3B and our teacher Ms Varden had the pleasure of a visit from Mayo Society for the Prevention of cruelty to Animals. We decided as a class group to invite the M.S.P.C.A to B.C.S as they are a locally run organisation and we had an avid interest in the charity. We decided to base our Junior Certificate Action Project on the Rights of Animals and the Responsibility Adults have for taking care of their animals. It was a very enjoyable and informative talk and it was made all the more interesting when the guest speakers took along their four legged special rescue dog Meg. On behalf of 3B and Ms Varden we would like to extend our gratitude to M.S.P.C.A for taking the time out of their busy schedule to come and visit us.



## 3C CSPE ACTION PROJECT

**CONOR HUNT, EVAN HENRY, ORNA HESSON AND ROISIN HUSSEY**

On October 3rd 2014 our 3C class held our CSPE Action Project. This action project is worth 60% of our Junior Certificate mark and we decided to focus on the concept of Law. As a class group, we decided to invite a guest speaker from the Gardaí, Nicola Dolan and Juvenile Liaison Officer John McCallion. They explained what their jobs entailed and how they ensure our communities are kept safe. We had 9 committees organising the day ensuring that everything ran smoothly. The guest speaker answered all of our questions and afterwards we enjoyed some light refreshments. Overall, our Action Project was a huge success. We really enjoyed the experience and we learnt a lot from the guest speakers. We would highly recommend to all Junior Certificate CSPE classes to consider inviting the Gardaí and the Juvenile Liaison Officer to speak to their class as it was a brilliant experience for all involved!





## CHLOE RYAN AND GRÁINNE ROBINSON **3D CSPE ACTION PROJECT**

On the 7/10/14 Ms Murray's 3D C.S.P.E class held their action project, which was based on the concept of law. We contacted the barracks in Renmore and arranged with Captain Shane Quinlan a date and time of when an army officer, Paul Togher, would come in and speak to our class. Paul was given a warm welcome by our class where he was met by the welcome committee at the door. We had the room arranged so we could all see the army officer during his talk. He informed us about the different kinds of law and how they follow it. He explained the different training programmes to becoming an army officer. After the officers talk, the refreshments committee had drinks and sweets set up for our class and tea and biscuits for the army officer as he answered questions from the students about everyday life as an officer. A second year student brought in imitation army weapons to show our class and the officer on the day of our talk. We thoroughly enjoyed the speech and would gladly organise another event like this. On behalf of 3D we would like to thank Ms. Murray for all of her help during our action project.

## **3RD YEAR RELIGION RETREAT IN BALLINTUBBER ABBEY**



Retreats are usually about praying, talking about god and possibly a mass. This is fine and we assumed our retreat in Ballintubber would be much the same and it was. Only better! On the 17th and 18th of November 2014, the 3rd year students were pleasantly surprised by the experience that we had on our retreat to Ballintubber Abbey. Upon arrival, we were offered tea and coffee. This was a good start to our day and we were very thankful. For our first activity, we discussed the different types of masks that people wear in public to disguise how they truly feel. These masks include the "hard man" or the "glikeen". It made us all realise how important it is to stay true to ourselves and talk about our problems rather than to hide them. This topic was very meaningful and relevant to teenagers in today's world. Next, we talked about

the creation of the world using a 24hr clock. At first, the world was destroying itself through volcanic eruptions and tidal waves.

Then, the Ice Age descended and the earth was frozen. After this, the era of the dinosaurs and finally, about 10 seconds before midnight, we humans were created. This means that we've been here such a short time and we've achieved some remarkable



things. The challenge for all of us is to keep doing the impossible. None of us ever expected to discuss science on a religion retreat. It was really interesting and a good way of explaining the creation of the world. We learned so much about our planet and what our role as humans should be. The most relaxing part of the retreat was the meditation. During this time we lit candles and prayed to God, to help us to take off our masks and reveal our true selves to the world. After this meditation, we were asked to take small, sharp stones with us for lunch and for a very special activity afterwards! We walked 2 miles of the famous Togher Walk. This is when the muck fight happened! We all got saturated in mud from jumping into bog holes and flinging dirt at each other. Who would think throwing mud could be such fun? Upon our return to the Abbey, we replaced the small, sharp stones with smooth stones to symbolise that, after completing the walk, we had become better people and were absolved of our sins.



To conclude, we all agreed that the retreat to Ballintubber Abbey was a roaring success and definitely one that we will never forget for all the right reasons!

# CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING AT BROOKVALE MANOR NURSING HOME

O.MACKEN

3B, TY's and 4th and a sprinkling of Leaving Certs joined together for some Christmas Carol Singing at Brookvale Manor Nursing Home on December



18th. The students were also joined by the service users from Western Care. Mrs. Murphy and her 3B Religion class began with a prayer service which really set the tone for the afternoon and reminded us all what Christmas is all about. This was followed by the students singing and performing the traditional Christmas Carols as well as a few modern Christmas songs also.

The audience were treated to a display of Irish Dancing

and Sean Nós Dancing thanks to Áine Duffy and Kelly Donegan. There was a lovely festive atmosphere in Brookvale and the residences and care team really enjoyed the efforts of the students. A sincere thanks to Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Murphy for co-ordinating the afternoon. Well done to all the students who got involved. It was such a lovely afternoon and I know the residence of the Nursing Home were so happy to see the young people make the effort to visit and sing for them before Christmas.



## 3RD YEAR GIRLS BASKETBALL

The 3rd year girls decided to continue with basketball after a very successful year in 2nd year. Unfortunately they lost a few players from last year but they were still ready and fighting fit for the season ahead. They started brilliantly with the girls beating Sacred Heart School (Westport) which made the season ahead very promising. The girls then went on to beat Ballinrobe Community School and then beat Davitt College (Castlebar) in a very tight match. Unfortunately they were beaten by St. Joseph's (Castlebar) and they were also beaten in their last match by Mount St. Michael's (Claremorris).

The girls didn't reach the top of the league but they still did themselves proud with the dedication and determination shown in both training sessions and in matches. But they also wouldn't have done as well as they did without their great trainers Ms. Caulfield and Yvonne Duffy. The girls will be back in action again next year where they will move up to senior basketball and hopefully will get a few new members to join the team.



**Back Row:** Kara Niland, Róisín Lyons, Megan Regan, Shauna Fleming, Emer Forde, Lauren Casey, Rebecca Finn, Lindiwe Dhlamini-Knosi.

**Front Row:** Áine Duffy, Laura O'Connell, Aibhinn Herr, Helen Gallagher, Orna Hession.



## U-16 BOYS BASKETBALL

The U16 Boys Basketball team had another very productive year under manager Mr. Woolley. This was only their second year in the competition and in stepping up to the 'C' division, the standard increased. The boys performed exceptionally well and it came right down to the last game where they just missed out on a place in the knockout stages due to a one point loss to St. Gerald's of Castlebar. The boys started their year off by training at break time every day. They set up a league which would be played at break time among themselves to get games under their belt to match lads that would be playing with a club. The lads had their first game against Davitt College of Castlebar. They did their very best, but due to a few key players not playing they eventually succumbed to defeat on a score line of 18 points to 36 points. The lads bounced back in their second game with a fantastic victory over Sligo Grammar with a score line of 42-21. Unfortunately the boys just fell short at the final hurdle against a very strong St. Gerald's outfit. It was a great game but when the referee blew the whistle for the final time it was a bitter disappointment, with St. Gerald's eventually winning by a one point margin on a score line of 27 points to 28. Even though the season ultimately ended in disappointment, a lot of positives can be taken for next year. **Panel:** Alex Adenynten, Joseph Wagacha, Thomas Maughan, Williams Ganley, David Cunnane, David Rutkacvskas, Bobby Douglas, Dylan Harrison, Jan Szebesta, Evan Fitzmaurice, Brendonas Graf, Philip Hutman.

**Back Row:** Bobby Douglas, Evan Fitzmaurice, Brendonas Graf, David Cunnane, Thomas Maughan, Dylan Harrison, John Madden, Rory Bowen, Benas Pakonis.

**Front row:** David Rutkacvskas, Filip Hutman, Alex Adenynten, Joseph Wagacha, Williams Ganley, Zouhir Rahmani, Mohammad Zouhir Rahmani, Luke Mannion, Jan Szebesta.



## U-15 BOYS SOCCER

The U-15 boys Soccer team played 3 league games this season. In our first game we defeated St. Enda's (Galway City) by a scoreline of 3-1. We drew our second game 2-2 at home versus Kiltimagh. In our final game we were missing a few key players through injury and were defeated in a penalty shoot-out against St. Joseph's College (The Bish). Unfortunately this defeat meant we did not progress through to the knock-out stages of the competition. The whole squad performed to the best of their ability this season but just fell short in the end. Special mention goes to Patrick Caulfield, Joseph Murphy and captain David Hession who were our stand-out players throughout the campaign.

## This is Ours POP UP STUDENT CURATED ART EXHIBITION

There was a brilliant atmosphere in the Friary in Ballyhaunis on the 14th of April, at the pop up Art Exhibition, curated by the fourth year Art students from Ballyhaunis Community School. Students had the opportunity to work with Mayo Artist Will O'Kane to curate an exhibition of work from the Mayo County Council (MCC) Collection. This partnership project was initiated by MCC Arts Service working with Ballyhaunis Community School and Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre, and was part of Mayo Arts Service' Excel 15 – Youth Arts Programme. The students designed and sent out invitations for the exhibition and there was a fantastic turn out. Local artists were present, a range of enthusiastic students attended including primary school children from Scoil Iosa and secondary students from St. Louis's Kiltimagh. There was great support from Ballyhaunis Community School at the exhibition, where Principal David Mc Donagh, as well as Vice Principal Concepta Moran, School Board Members, teachers and fellow students attended. As well as the feast of art on display there was a variety of very tempting food on display, Miss Lennon and her art students prepared a great array of food. Thanks to Ursula Cloonan (Home Economics teacher) and her students who baked and decorated buns for the event. Artist Will O'Kane launched the exhibition and speeches were also given by Assistant Arts Officer Orlagh Heverin, fourth year Art students from Ballyhaunis Community College, Sana Almas and Abigail Adams. Overall the event was very successful and enjoyed by all.



## U-15 GIRLS SOCCER

SHAUNA MURRAY AND JESSICA CARROLL



**Back Row:** Áine Phillips, Sarah Hopkova, Niamh O'Neill, Sheena Roddy, Niamh Smith, Niamh Foody, Adrianna Kelly, Aoife Conway, Rebecca Vahy Brennan, Shauna Rogers, Alannah Dennahy, Fiona Crawley, Lorna Donnellan, Olivia Klimczyk, Kasey Clarke, Sarah Gavin, Gráinne Collins, Jade Cunnane, Laura Niland, Caoimhe Coyle, Georgia Peake.

**Front Row:** Amy Keane, Mila Maciukaite, Aoibhe Coggins, Sahar Arshad, Winnie McDonagh, Vanessa Henry, Lauren Walshe, Gemma Foody, Clodagh Waldron, Aoife Davis, Meadhbh Caulfield.

2015 marked the second year of a girl's soccer team in BCS for quite some time. The girls were managed by Ms. Flannery, with the help of Mr. Griffin. Despite having to wait until March for the first match of the league, the girls began indoor training during the winter months. These early trainings proved beneficial when they headed to Galway to play Merlin College in the middle of March. The Ballyhaunis girls were evidently the superior side. They dominated from the outset with a goal in the opening minute from Gemma Foody. This marked the first of 4 goals for Gemma, all in the first half. The half time score was 5-0 to Ballyhaunis, the other goal coming from Gemma's twin, Niamh. Numerous changes were made at half time but the girls maintained their lead and created many opportunities. This showed clearly the depth they have in their squad. The game finished on an impressive scoreline of 10-0 to BCS. Second half goals came from Jade Cunnane, Winnie McDonagh, Alannah Dennehy, Kasey Clarke and Rebecca Vahey Brennan. The girls put on a great display of football and were worthy victors. The u15 soccer league is likely to continue until the end of the school year. The future looks very positive for this young team.

## JUNIOR BOYS GAA

SHAUNA MURRAY AND JESSICA CARROLL



**Back Row:** Eamonn Phillips, Seán Kenny, Conor Sloyan, Callyn Murphy, John Madden, Tiernan Murphy, Calum Gardiner, Bobby Douglas, Andrew Hickey, Michael McGarry, Peace Omotayo, Evan Fitzmaurice, Darren Coyne, Eoin Morris, Patrick Forde.

**Front Row:** Michael Freyne, Luke Mannion, Muhammad Naseer, Williams Ganley, Dylan Ruane, Cormac Phillips, Gary Higgins, David Cunnane, Kevin Neenan, Brian O'Neill, Cian Ruane, Diarmuid Duffy.

This year, the Junior Boys team were left in the reliable hands of Mr Hugh Rudden and Mr Johnny Griffin! Their first test was in mid-September where they faced Foxford Secondary School in the first round of the Colleran Cup. Ballyhaunis lead throughout the entire game and finished with a score of 5-12 to Foxford's 6-2. The lads sailed through to the Colleran Cup Final where they battled with St. Louis Community School of Kiltimagh for the title. The final took place on the 13th of October and it is fair to say that it was a riveting game! Ballyhaunis trailed by 3 points at half time. St. Louis maintained their very narrow lead for the most part of the second half, despite tremendous efforts from our lads. However, determination and a bit of luck changed all. A high ball into the Ballyhaunis full forward line, in the crucial closing minutes resulted in the ball being punched into the back of the net! This was followed by another point for the Ballyhaunis team as Kiltimagh failed to carry the ball down the opposite end of the playing field. The final whistle blew and the BCS team jumped with joy as they managed a 2 point victory over our local rivals. It was a very hard fought for and deserving win. The BCS Junior lads secured the Colleran Cup for the third year in a row. Their league campaign got off to a positive start with a convincing 3-17 to 2-6 victory over Ballinrobe, only to be beaten by St. Nathys in the next round. They faced St. Louis again knowing that a win would be great, but they needed to win by a margin of 10 points to qualify. They got their win but unfortunately failed to qualify. This was the end of the league of them. Much like the league, championship didn't take them far. They were victorious in their first game against St. Clare's of Manorhamilton but were later defeated by Ballinrobe. This put an end to the 2015 Junior Boys Gaelic Football campaign. They displayed many brilliant performances throughout the year and finished the year with one piece of much deserved silverware.



## JUNIOR GIRLS GAA

This was the first year that Ballyhaunis entered a Junior Girls team and therefore we were entered in the Connacht group C division. Mrs. O'Brien took on the roll as manager over this talented ladies team. As time went on we soon found out what an excellent bunch of players these ladies were, with them cruising through the group stages at their ease with a twenty point average win. Our first game of the season was in Ballyhaunis against Santa Maria, Louisburg. Even though it was the girls first time playing with each other we beat them 5-13 to 3-4. We got a bye in round 2 of the Championship. In round 3 of the competition we got another home draw to Davitt college of Castlebar and again, we were able to overpower against the opposition beating them on a score line of 10-18 to 2-5. In round 4, our next opponents were a long bus journey away to the beautiful Achill Island. The long journey didn't affect the ladies performance as they finished the game convincing winners on a cricket score line of 10-18 to a single point. Colaiste Muire, Tourmakeady, was our next victims as we annihilated them on their home ground 10-15 to 0-2. The group stages were now over and all throughout we were solid at the back and lethal at the front with massive score lines in each game! Next was the preliminary round in Sligo against a strong Leitrim side, St Clare's of Manorhamilton. Again the win was comprehensive and our ladies progressed forward to the quarter finals against St. Brendan's, Belmullet. This again was another neutral venue in Ballina Stephenites, once again the girls attitude towards the game was most impressive. From throw in the goals started pouring in for the BCS ladies with our forwards slaughtering the opponents defence. The semi -final was a great match up against our local rivals Dunmore CS. The game was in the Centre of Excellence and Ballyhaunis were about to face their toughest game yet. With tired bodies and a dislocated finger by the end of the game, BCS were victorious, beating them 6-3 to 4 points in an immense game of football. The final date was set for 27th of April down in Ballyheane. The girls played Santa Maria and were victorious with a score line of 2-13 to 2-5. The match was played in very blustery and challenging conditions and the girls were faced with their stiffest challenge of the season having already beaten them in a previous round. Santa Maria started very brightly with 1-2 to no score in the opening five minutes. However BCS girls soon got into their stride and inspired by their classy captain Cassie Niland, who settled their nerves with a quick fire goal and point, the girls soon got to grips with their opposition. BCS notched a few more scores and went in at half time with the narrowest of a one point lead. With the wind in the second half it was time for BCS to shine and play some great attacking football, and finished out the match by far the stronger with a final score line of 2-13 to 2-5. This Connaught Final win was a well-deserved win as the girls had trained hard all year long and this was definitely the payoff for all their hard work.

A special thanks goes to Mrs O'Brien and Mr Griffin along with Seán Kenny and Eamonn Phillips for all their tireless work throughout the year with this talented bunch of girls.



Pictured are two sisters- Cara Niland (who was player of the match in the Connaught Final) and Cassie Niland (who was the captain of the Junior Girls throughout the year).



**Back row:** Áine Duffy, Cassie Niland, Adrianna Kelly, Aoife Conway, Marina Carney, Niamh Foody, Shauna Murray, Roisín Hussey, Olivia Cleary, Kara Niland, Laura O' Connell, Derbhla Phillips, Eleanor Harrison, Orna Hession, Mrs. O'Brien (Trainer).

**Front row:** Grainne Robinson, Chloe Ryan, Katelyn Concannon, Sive Duffy, Gemma Foody, Emer Forde, Lauren Casey, Megan Morley, Rachel Lyons.

**Missing from photo:** Danielle Coyne, Shauna Fleming.

## SCÓR NA NÓG 2015

Aghamore G.A.A. Club has a long tradition of competing in Scór Na nÓg. 2015 marked the 25-year anniversary of Aghamore winning the All-Ireland Set Dancing Competition. Our journey began two years ago when we first came together as a dancing group. The team consisted of Áine Duffy, Eleanor Harrison, Orna Hession, Rachel Lyons, Thomas Doherty and Seán, James and Davóg Frayne (sons of dancing teacher, Gráinne Kelly-Frayne). We made it all the way to the All-Ireland Scór na nÓg Final which was held in Derry. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in our bid for All-Ireland glory. Nevertheless, we were determined to compete again. As it is an u-17 competition, Davóg was too old to return to the group the following year so David Hession replaced him.

We started our year as usual in the Aghamore Clubhouse, followed by Breaffy for Club and County Scór respectively. Our first challenge came at Connacht Scór in Claremorris Town Hall. We defeated our Galway rivals Abbeyknockmoy and a strong Elphin team to be crowned Connacht Champions for the second time. Our victory was ensued by daily practices to reach the standard required at All-Ireland level. On the 13th of February, we travelled to the CityWest hotel in Dublin, where the competition would take place the next day. There was a buzz about the place and we took part in the festivities by dancing to the live music of a team from Donegal. However, we still had the task at hand and so ensured to get a good night's rest in anticipation of the next day.

We rose early for our soundcheck and the practice with the musicians. We eyed up the competition, teams from Clare, Derry and Louth. We welcomed the bus full of supporters which had travelled up that morning. The competition kicked off at 3pm. The set dancing was the last competition of the day. At 6pm it was finally time for us to perform. Needless to say we were incredibly nervous but very excited. As soon as we set foot on stage we were met by a massive roar from our supporters in the audience. We were delighted with our performance and were content in the knowledge that we had left it all on stage. After the judges had time to deliberate, the results were announced. We waited with baited breath as the fear an tí came to the Set Dancing results. "Agus na buaiteoirí as....Contae Mhaigh Eo!". We were the 2015 Scór na nÓg Set Dancing Champions! We were guided on to the stage again to accept our medals and the trophy from Liam O'Neill, President of the G.A.A. We ran back down to greet our families and friends who were in floods of tears of joy.



**Back Row:** (L-R) Sean Frayne, James Frayne, Grainne Kelly-Frayne (Dancing Teacher), David Hession and Thomas Doherty.  
**Front row:** (L-R) Eleanor Harrison, Áine Duffy, Orna Hession and Rachel Lyons.

After dozens of photos we managed to get back on to the bus for the long journey home. It was midnight by the time we returned but the locals of Aghamore turned out in great numbers to welcome us home to Moran's Pub. We were greeted with numerous bonfires and raucous applause and cheering. We would like to thank Gráinne Kelly-Frayne for all her hard work, Aghamore G.A.A club and to all the supporters who joined us on our journey. It was a day to remember and a title which we will cherish forever.

## TOOREEN U-16S



**Pictured is the Tooreen U-16 squad who won the Connacht 'A' Hurling Championship.**

Included are BCS pupils: John Cassidy (Captain), Seán Kenny, Brian Morley, Bobby Douglas, Michael Freyne, Eoin Delaney, Dylan Niland, Conor Hunt, Shane Crinnigan, Darragh Crawley, PJ Burke, James Frayne, Ciarán Doherty.

## GOLF

### CIAN HENRY, OISÍN HENRY AND EVAN HENRY

The school competed in two competitions this year. The Tony Kearney cup, which is the Senior Schools competition in Connacht, was played on a blustery day in Ballina. Despite the inclement weather conditions, we managed to come fifth, which is a great result considering all of the team is eligible next year. Oisín was the only player to drive the infamous par 4 11th and received a prize. The junior school team, which competed in the Charlie McGoldrick cup, finishing a respectable 4th. Congratulations to Evan Henry who made the Connacht under 15 team, who competed in the interprovincial championships in Kildare. Also a huge thanks to Mr. Woolley for organising transport to the competitions.



## DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

Diversity and Multiculturalism has always been celebrated in Ballyhaunis Community School.

In the past we have held Multicultural Celebrations where for a few hours our school became a carnival of different cultures. Universal themes of music, food, sport and traditions provided rich discussions and valuable interaction. These festivals involved the whole staff, student body, some parents, members of our community in Ballyhaunis and the local media. Some subjects in particular C.S.P.E. utilised our unique resource and students on an informal basis shared stories from their native countries bringing to life case-studies in textbooks and creating inter-cultural learning. In March 2014 we applied for funding from WorldWide Global Schools to start a Development Education project which would build on past multicultural events and provide a more formal ongoing focus on diversity and our connection to the world around us. We were granted some funding for workshops where students from different cultures would work together to create a multicultural garden in the overgrown courtyard overlooked by our central assembly area. We also got further funding from The Creative Engagement Project programme.

Irish Aid's WorldWide Global Schools Programme supports post-primary schools who want to engage in Development Education. The main aim of the programme is that it will increase knowledge and understanding of global justice issues and increase engagement and action by students as active global students. A voluntary group of twenty nine students representing fourteen different cultures meet regularly to share their culture and discuss human rights and the importance of basic needs. The group are currently speaking to C.S.P.E. classes in an effort to give an insight into different cultures and to highlight how connected we all really are. We have installed a permanent Development Education Board near the school bookshop overlooking the garden and aim to have a two-monthly display from different countries within our group. The students have sole responsibility for this board. We also aim to have five important rights from the UDHR displayed at all times. This is already in progress.

Another idea the students had was to announce 'A Fact of the Fortnight' linked to these themes. This again is in progress and is student led with one member of the group announcing the fact over the intercom system in the school and displaying this fact along a central corridor. The garden space which we have named Imagine has already been transformed to reflect students aim at finding a common link. The ground has been cleared and students have worked together under the guidance of our artist in residence (Tommy Casby) to create a sun shape symbolic of the importance of weather in everybody's life. Interesting discussions took place on the importance of weather for growth and agriculture as well as the obvious frustration at the Irish rain and the appreciation of some students of Ireland's more temperate climate. This has definitely increased curiosity among the whole school community. Our next step in the Imagine space is already in progress. The installation of a sculpture incorporating the globe and plaster casts of the students own hands symbolise global links and interdependence rather than pointing out differences. We are looking forward to ending the year by celebrating the formal opening of our 'Imagine' garden with an intercultural festival. The group would like to thank the caretakers and the LCA students for all their hard work and help in creating this garden space. We look forward to building on this project every year.

## 5KM WALK

This year the annual 5k walk/run was held on the 24th of March. The event was organized by Mr. Wooley and Mr. Griffin, along with the help of the transition year students. 1st to 4th year students, along with a number of teachers took part. The run started at Delaney's Hardware and finished back at the community school. The first person home was 3rd year student Joseph Wagacha. This is Joseph's second year winning the title. He finished in a record time of 17 minutes 40 seconds. Oisín Henry came second in 19:42 and Padraic Duffy came third in 19:45. Ellen Phillips was the first female to cross the line in a superb time of 22 minutes and 24 seconds. The first teacher home was Ms. Flannery in a time of 21 minutes 12 seconds. In total over 400 students took part. The event was a huge success and we look forward to many more in the future. Special thanks to everyone who helped organize this fantastic day.





### Top Runners in the BCS 5km 2015

**Back row;** Rachel Lyons, Calum Gardiner, Cassie Niland, Oisín Henry, Padraic Duffy, Darren Coyne, Laura Mulkeen, Sarah Behan.

**Middle row:** Mr. Ray Woolley, Shauna Fleming, Amy Grealley, Ellen Phillips, Alex Adeyinka, Joseph-Daniel Wagacha, John Madden, Dean McGarry, Enda Crawley, Barry Cribbin, Chloe Ryan, Mr. David McDonagh.

**Front row:** Niamh Foody, Orna Hession, Aaron Dee, Shane Glynn, Ethan Owens, Mary Carr, Grace Omatayo, Amy Keane, Lorna Gormley.



### Top 3 1st Year Girls

Mr. David McDonagh, Amy Keane, Mary Carr, Grace Omatayo, Lorna Gormley, Mr. Ray Woolley.



### Top 3 1st Year Boys

Mr. David McDonagh, Shane Glynn, Dean McGarry, Aaron Dee, Mr. Ray Woolley.



### Top 3 2nd Year Girls

Mr. David McDonagh, Niamh Foody, Ellen Phillips, Amy Grealley, Mr. Ray Woolley.



### Top 3 2nd Year Boys

Mr. David McDonagh, Enda Crawley, Ethan Owens, Barry Cribbin, Mr. Ray Woolley.



### Top 3 3rd Year Girls

Mr. David McDonagh, Chloe Ryan, Orna Hession, Shauna Fleming, Mr. Ray Woolley.



### Top 3 3rd Year Boys

Mr. David McDonagh, John Madden, Alex Adeyinka, Joseph-Daniel Wagacha, Mr. Ray Woolley.



### Top 3 4th Year Girls

Mr. David McDonagh, Sarah Behan, Cassie Niland, Laura Mulkeen, Mr. Ray Woolley.



### Top 3 4th Year Boys

Mr. David McDonagh, Padraic Duffy, Oisín Henry, Darren Coyne, Mr. Ray Woolley.



### Top T.Y. Boy & Girl

Mr. David McDonagh, Calum Gardiner, Rachel Lyons, Mr Ray Woolley.



### 1st Male & Female Student

Mr. David McDonagh, Ellen Phillips, Joseph-Daniel-Wagacha, Mr. Ray Woolley.



## ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS WEEK

Organ Donor awareness week took place from the 23rd-27th of March in our school and it was organised by Ms. Osgood. During this week Ms. Osgood talked to Transition Years and also to all seniors in their religion classes about organ donating in Ireland and about the organ donor cards.

### STUDENT COUNCIL



Shauna Murray, Derbhla Phillips, Rachel Lyons, Ms. Osgood

**Back Row:** Cathal Carney, April Sesiuk, Laura O'Brien, Killian Brehony, Cormac Reidy, Steven Nolan, Meadhbh Glavey, Lynette Duffy.

**Middle Row:** Padraic Duffy, Carol Freeley, Aibhinn Herr, Róisín Hussey, Áine Phillips, Winnie McDonagh, Gráinne Collins, Dara Mulkeen, Emma Nolan, Jessica Klein.

**Front Row:** Aaron Rattigan, Dara Healy, Ella Dunleavy, Amy Keane, Holly Browne, Martin Hutman, Luke Walsh, Lauren Walshe.

**Missing from photo:** Shauna Murray, Patrick Keadin, Ryan Kilbane.

## BALLYHAUNIS R.F.C.

The Ballyhaunis Rugby Club continues to go from strength to strength as more youngsters join every year this shows the growing interest in rugby in Ireland. This year our underage teams did well in their respective leagues. The minis trained on Saturday mornings and have competed in a number of blitzes. The under 14s managed by Rob Duffy train on a Thursday night. The u16 had a very good season so far winning 6 out of 8 games in the Connacht league while they still have to play Galwegians in the Connacht cup semi-final captained by 3rd year student Michael Freyne. The seniors season is half way through with them competing in J1B in the Connacht league and the Connacht Junior Cup.



**Back row:** Daniel Hill, Neil Carney, Darragh Healy, Enda Crawley, Cillian Costello, Zachary Quinn, Jack Ronayne, Jack Deegan.

**Front row:** James McDonagh, Aidan Cooper, Nathan Coll, Matthew Walsh, William Cunnane, Daniel Coyne, Jack McDonald.



**Back row:** Seán Tarmey, Tiernan Murphy, Cian Ruane, Seán Kenny, Conor Coll, Dylan Ruane, Cormac Phillips, Patrick Forde, Thomas Coll, Eamonn Phillips, Piarais Caulfield, Cormac Reidy.

**Middle row:** Seán Carrick, Brian O'Neill, Williams Ganley, Joe Murphy, Brendonas Graf, David Cunnane, Jack Coyne, Conor Sloyan, Barry Cribbin, Enda Crawley, Seán Sutton, Tommy Folliard, Martin Mulkeen.

**Front row:** Neil Carney, David Hession, Luke Walshe, Nathan Coll, Jack Ronayne, Darragh Healy, Matthew Walshe, Patrick Caulfield, Aran Rattigan, Conor Hunt, Michael Freyne, Dylan Harrison.

**Missing from Photo:** Cillian Costello, Ronan Swanick, Darragh Hunt, Darragh Crawley, Bobby Douglas, Daniel Coyne, Cathal Brady, Oisín Coffey, Jason Cullinane, Joseph Lyons.

## BADMINTON

Badminton training commenced in September with all students being offered opportunities to practise their skills. Trials took place in October to select boys and girls teams at under 14, under 16 and under 19 levels. Team training has continued every Monday at lunchtime under the supervision of Mr Shannon who has been admirably assisted by Transition Year students Liam Foody, Katie Henry and Micheal McGarry throughout the year. Unfortunately we were unable to attend the tournament in Galway Lawn Tennis club in March.

# TRANSITION YEAR

Well where to begin? When we were asked to do this job, we honestly didn't know what to write. This year has been amazing and to be fair, it's hard to sum it up in a few words. Suppose we could start right from the beginning. On our first day, we all gathered in the assembly area. Looking around, a lot of people sported a more 'grown up and mannerly' appeal. We gazed around admiring how the transition from maroon to navy jumpers altered everyone's appearance. We didn't know what to expect when Mrs. Henry mentioned the words 'Treasure Hunt'. We were separated into groups, and sent around the town on the hunt for 'clues'. Each group were eager to complete the hunt first, under the presumption there was a huge prize at stake. However, it turned out the prize was the 'pride of winning'. No one took it to heart as there was great humour and excitement shared by all. In addition to this, the prospect of a new year filled with challenges, new opportunities and sheer fun kept spirits high.

The end of September was soon upon us, and it was time to pack our bags and get set for Killary. Even writing this brings a huge grin to our faces. Just reminiscing on this event brings back some fond memories. At that stage of the year, we were still divided amongst our own friends and considered this trip to be the 'ultimate bonding session'. Each day promised a new challenge. Various tasks included gorge walking, pier jumping, canoeing, bog challenge, bungee swinging and laser tagging. Our evenings consisted of fun activities in the 'Dome' and mixing with the other schools. Our second night was very memorable indeed. We all gathered around a campfire not far from 'haunted grounds' and told ghost stories. It was dark, cold and dreary. The instructors recalled on many of their own 'spooky' experiences. We must admit even some of the lads (Tiernan) were slightly 'overwhelmed' by such stories. Brian O'Neill created a very dramatic episode when he stood up and insisted he heard something. He continued to stand and shout 'Come out you' into the dark, causing everyone to scatter for their lives! Three days in Killary were not long going at all! It's fair to say we all felt a little lonesome leaving but could consider ourselves lucky for such an enjoyable experience. Thanks to Ms. Flannery and Mrs. Henry for accompanying us on this trip.

Our next outing was more educational, it was the annual trip to Derrineumra Recycling Plant with Mrs. Brogan. We learnt all about W.E.E (Waste Electrical + Electronic Equipment). We took a spin to Croagh Patrick and climbed to the statue as it was such a wonderful day. We ended the day with a walk on Bertra Beach which we all enjoyed. Later on that month we headed to Castlebar with our English teacher Ms. Flannery, we attended a one man comedy show, 'Psycho Spaghetti' by Ger Carey. It's a show written specifically for teenagers showing what exactly is going on in our heads. We all had a great laugh and really enjoyed it. Christmas was soon upon us and we started organising events, raising money for charity. We held a 'Festive Day' and all the year groups wore different Christmas jumpers, including the teachers, the school was looking very colourful and feeling Christmassy. Throughout that week we held a candy cane stall during break, where students bought a candy for their 'special one' along with a note. During the Festive day the candy canes were given out by our very own 'Santy'. We also went Carol singing in Super Valu. We raised over 700 for Saint Vincent De Paul. We took a trip to the Nursing Home and had a Carol Service there too. It was brilliant seeing big smiles on their faces and it was great fun. Our P.E teacher, Mr. Woolley organised 2 weeks of Horse Riding lessons in Hanley's in Claremorris, one week before Christmas and our last when we came back after Christmas holidays. We also learned about the anatomy of the horse. It was the first time on a horse for majority of us, it was great craic!

January blues kicked in when we got back to school and had to do actual work for the first couple of weeks! It didn't last long though when the football season started up again and the rest got busy organising more events and planning our final few months of Transition Year. We had our first trip of 2015 attending the Road Safety Expedition in the Royal TF Castlebar. It was a tearful and graphic show but it was the sad reality. The mood was soon lightened when we finally got food after a long impatient wait all morning. For five Wednesdays through January and February we did a GAA Training Course with well known Mayo coach Eugene Lavin. It consisted of different activities and Gaelic football techniques. By week 5 we were all awarded certificates and soon we will be going to different primary schools in our locality to teach them Gaelic football and do fun games. After many months of preparation we finally got around to hosting the annual 'Transition Year Talent Show' for 1st and 2nd Years and as always was very entertaining. We had some very unique acts this year and were all stunned by their amazing talent! The standard was extremely high and our four judges found it very hard to pick a winner. Overall it was a great success and enjoyed by all. Shortly after this, the transition year students organised an "Irish Concert" for first and second year students for Seachtain na Gaeilge. It was a huge success and hopefully will be continued on for many more years.

Finally, it was May. The month Transition years had been waiting for since September! It was time for the end of year trip to Paris. To say we were excited would be an understatement. We left the school at 1 in the morning on the 6th of May full of excitement. We arrived in Dublin airport and we took off at half 6, landing in Paris at about 9 am. Although everyone was tired, we couldn't wait to begin the day. We had a basic tour of the city and then we did some shopping along the Avenue des Champs-Élysées. In the evening time we went on a boat tip along the Seine. It was amazing. The following day, we climbed the Arc de Triomphe. The views from the top were spectacular. That evening we went to aquaboulevard. It was one of the best places we visited, despite almost being refused at the door – shout out to Val for keeping us entertained! It's fair to say everyone enjoyed that so much more than they expected. The next morning was very exciting, we were off to Disneyland. It was the most magical place on earth and it definitely didn't disappoint. We then headed back to our hotel for our last night in Paris. I think we can all agree that the views from the hotel weren't as appealing as the other views on the trip ... On the final day, everyone was quite sad checking out of the hotel. Despite everyone's spirits being low, we were determined to make the day one we wouldn't forget! We spent the morning looking around the Louvre. After that we climbed Tour Montparnasse which was out of this world. The views were absolutely incredible. Finally what we had been dreading for all day. The time had come to head to the airport. We arrived in Dublin a few hours later, everyone was extremely exhausted and emotions were low. Thinking now that our holiday is over, Transition Year is coming to an end. Unfortunately we can't make TY last forever, but we will never forget the incredible memories. It's fair to say it was the best year of our lives and something we are thankful for.



# TRANSITION YEAR



**Back Row:** Eamonn Phillips, Michael McGarry, Séán Kenny, Calum Gardiner, Bobby Douglas, Cian Ruane.

**Middle Row:** Danielle Coyne, Shauna Murray, Katie Henry, Sive Duffy, Derbhla Phillips, Tiernan Murphy, Diarmuid Duffy.

**Front Row:** Gaby Murphy, Eleanor Harrison, Oisín Lloyd, Brian O'Neill, Liam Foody, Brendan Waldron, Rachel Lyons, Megan Morley.

**Missing from photo:** Jessica Carroll, Diarmuid Keane, Joanne Coffey.





## TY COMMUNITY CARE

**O. MACKEN & C. MURPHY**



Every year the T.Y students have a wonderful opportunity to put their faith into action. Students do not have formal Religion class in TY, instead students go out into the local community and volunteer their time and skills. Every Wednesday morning from 9 until 11 the T.Y. students are placed in community based placements with the opportunity to experience five placements during the course of the school year. The placements include walking the dogs for the MSPCA, preparing meals for the meals on wheels service, providing one to one computer training for the Over 55's and so on. Each placement is 6 weeks in duration so students get to experience five community placements during the course of TY year. The feedback from the community placements is very complimentary towards the students. They are deemed 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 it is to give something back to your local area and to share the gifts and talents you have being blessed with.

We would like to say a big thank you to all the placements who agreed to be part of the programme. Without their support there would not be any Community Care Programme. This year the Transition Year 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 Play School
- Friary Office- one to one computer tutoring with the over 55's
- The Charity Shop
- Little Acorns Creche.

Well done to the T.Y. students from embracing the challenge and for attending each of their placements with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. Truly the students put the concepts of social justice, care and concern for all into action. Well done.



## ARIGNA MINES

**KEVIN NEENAN AND CHLOE RYAN**

On the 21st of November our 3D Geography class with a number of fourth years visited The Arigna Mines in Carrick-On-Shannon with our teacher Ms Brogan and Ms Grogan. We arrived at the mines and were shown a video of what life was like working in the mines. We were then brought down into the mines and shown firsthand experience of what the mining conditions were like.

A tour guide who was a former miner in Arigna brought us through the mines explaining the different stations along the mine shafts. He explained to us what a normal day in a mine was like. The experience gave us a realisation to just how hard people worked in these mines in the past. Our Geography class thoroughly enjoyed the day out.

## KNOCK COUNSELLING CENTRE

**DERBHLA PHILLIPS AND SIVE DUFFY**

On the 16th of March Transition Year students travelled to Knock Counselling Centre. They attended a workshop on Mental Health. In the centre we had a counsellor speaking to us about self esteem, confidence, depression etc. It was a very beneficial day for all students as we were educated about these issues. We were also taught the difference between a good self esteem and having confidence. Also, we were informed about various coping mechanisms. Everyone enjoyed the day.



## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

**DERBHLA PHILLIPS AND TIERNAN MURPHY**

Seven Transition Year students, as part of the AIB Build a Bank project, organised a Mental Health Awareness Week. This event was held in January. We called our bank the "BCS Lighthouse Bank". This name refers to the fact that we need to shine a light on mental illnesses including depression. On the 28th of January we invited Shane Cunningham, an impressionist, Mariah Butler, a former The Voice of Ireland contestant and Mayo goalkeeper Rob Hennelly to visit and meet with all senior students at a cost of €2 per student. Shane Cunningham entertained the students with his unique wit and sense of humour. Mariah Butler accompanied with past – pupil Niamh Cunnane sang for the audience. All of our guests spoke about how they have experienced both success and failure in the world of entertainment and sport. They stressed the importance of setting goals and picking yourself up when you fail. Rob Hennelly, Mayo senior goalkeeper and Mental Health ambassador spoke to the students on various aspects of mental health and his own experiences with failure and disappointments with the Mayo footballers. He constantly emphasised the need to make little of failure, while also learning from it. He spoke to the students about the importance of sport and how it contributes to both physical and mental wellbeing. Along with this, we held the official opening of our bank, in which Rob did the great honour of opening. This was a very successful week and all money raised is going towards the Donal Walsh 'Live Life' Foundation.



## GREEN SCHOOLS

**SIVE DUFFY AND BRENDAN WALDRON**

The Green Schools committee has been reformed again this year. The team is made up of Transition Year students and representatives of the Student Council. There are recycling centres in each area. This consists of two recycling bins and a waste bin. Posters were made making people aware of the contents that should be in each bin (e.g. Tetra packs and plastic drink bottles) and rotas were assigned to each area.

Every day after lunch two students organise the bins in their own area, this consists of making sure that waste is sorted properly, the recycling bins are then brought to the assembly area where it is emptied. Composting is also a big part of our green schools programme and this is most prominent in the Home Economics classes where any suitable waste such as vegetables and fruit peels, teabags etc. are emptied into a separate bin. This waste when fully decomposed is then used as a valuable soil conditioner and fertilizer in our school garden.

Since embarking on the Green School Programme the landfill bins have reduced dramatically and the recycling process has greatly improved. We hope to continue with this programme and to apply for the green flag.



## BCS LIGHTHOUSE BANK

JOANNE COFFEY

Six other Ty students and I, are participating in a banking competition across Ireland called the 'AIB Build a Bank Project'. The objective of this competition is to develop our technology and banking skills as well as to gain new AIB bank members.

In a world that seems to be spinning faster by the day, Mental Health is one of the most obvious casualties. In fact, 1 in 4 of us will suffer from mental difficulties at some stage in our life. In addition to this, suicide is the number one killer among 18-25 year old men. We are constantly bombarded with the devastating effects of road traffic collisions and dangerous driving but to much of my disbelief, more people die by suicide than on the roads. So as you can see for yourself, our country is faced with a huge struggle.

At our first meeting, we discovered that there was a close link between finance and mental health. We realised that most people nowadays suffer from mental health issues because they are surrounded by financial difficulties. As young people, we are often exposed to the harsh realities surrounding mental illness such as depression, anxiety, self harm and suicide and in raising awareness we believed we could support our peers and student body.

We named our bank the 'BCS Lighthouse Bank' as a lighthouse represents a glimmer of hope while offering support and direction. Our slogan is 'Shining a light on your future', as we aim to 'Shine a Light' on mental and financial difficulties. Our overall aim is to link financial stability to a positive mental future and develop a saving culture amongst teenagers. We also aim to raise mental health awareness in general, and encourage young people to speak out and find the resources in themselves to seek support.

We decided to donate all proceeds raised throughout various events to the 'Donal Walsh #LiveLife Foundation'. We choose this charity as Donal Walsh inspired us to make a difference, just like he did.

To date, we have achieved so much. We've raised so much awareness and organised a series of fun events. I will briefly talk you through them.

Regarding mental health, we organised a 'Hot Chocolate Day', kindly sponsored by Lidl Castlereagh, Ryan's Supervalu Ballyhaunis and Corrib Oil Ballyhaunis. We aimed to offer 'warmth and comfort' to those who were feeling 'down' and in need of a 'pick me up'.

For our 'Official Launch' we hugely incorporated our mental health concept. We invited impressionist Shane Cunningham, singer Mariah Butler (accompanied by Niamh Cunnane) and GPA ambassador and Mayo goalkeeper Rob Hennelly.

Students were treated to this line up of entertainment for almost two hours. Rob Hennelly emphasised how 'one small act of kindness or positivity can change someone's day'. He stated how 'social media is not used to its potential' regarding 'positivity promotion' and how 'we have the power to change that.' Shane and Mariah expressed importance of 'chasing your dream' and 'daring to stand out from the crowd.' They reflected on their own experiences and illustrated how 'you often have to fail in order to succeed.'

We hosted a 'Valentine Rolos' day in February and currently in the process of organising a 'Mickey Who' and 'Easter egg' competition. We also had a visit from A.I.B representative and All-Star G.A.A. player Colm 'The Gooch' Cooper. He imparted some invaluable advice for the A.I.B. competition, posed for photographs and took the Junior Girls G.A.A. team for a training session ahead of their Connaught final.









## FESTIVE DAY

**DERBHLA PHILLIPS AND TIERNAN MURPHY**

On the 17th of December Transition Year students held a 'Festive Day'. This was to celebrate and create a Christmas atmosphere in the school community. Everyone who wished could wear something Christmassy. Throughout the day there was a large variety of colour across the school from light – up Christmas jumpers to Santa hats. This day was enjoyed by both students and staff and certainly created a Christmas spirit within the school.



## CANDY CANES DAY

**DERBHLA PHILLIPS AND TIERNAN MURPHY**

On the 17th of December Transition Year students organised a 'Candy Canes Day'. Candy Canes were available to buy, at lunchtime, at a cost of €1. Students could send a candy cane to anybody they wished within the school. These were delivered on this day by Santa Claus and his Elves! All proceeds were donated to the Donal Walsh 'Live Life' Foundation.



## SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2015

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl idir an 1 – 17 Márta 2015. Bhí teanga agus cultúr na Gaeilge á cheiliúradh ar fud na hÉireann agus na cruinne. Ba mhór an ocaíd í freisin anseo i bpobalscoil Bhéal Átha hAmhnais.

Here at BCS many enjoyable events were organised by the teachers of the Irish Department, the Music teacher and Transition year students. Students from all years took part in a talent show. The acts varied from Irish Dancing to short recitations. Each act was introduced as Gaeilge. A big thank you to Mrs Devine and the Transition Year students who helped organise this. A wonderful time was had by all. Second Year students showed off their artistic skills in designing fantastic posters advertising the above event. First years designed posters as Gaeilge based on the theme Lá Fhéile Pádraig. Posters with various Seanfhocail on them were placed throughout the school. All students and staff enjoyed reading these. We would also like to thank Mrs. Frayne who gave so generously of her time. Students from second year and fourth year took part in a Sean-nós dancing afternoon directed by Mrs. Frayne. Go raibh maith agat. Is í an Ghaeilge an tseoid is luachmhaire atá againn. Is inti atá ár scéal féin le fáil agus is orainne atá a cúram. (The Irish language is our greatest treasure. In it we find our very own story as a people and we as its only guardians.)

Seachtain na Gaeilge – Croí na Teanga, It's you!  
"Is linne í an Ghaeilge".  
Go raibh maith agaibh.  
An Roinn Gaeilge.





## T.Y. MED CAMP

**SHAUNA MURRAY**

During the February mid-term, 3 Transition Year students – Eleanor Harrison, Rachel Lyons and Shauna Murray spent 3 days in Castlebar expanding their knowledge on a career in Medicine. The course was run by orthopaedic surgeon, Mr. Paul O'Grady. Throughout the 3 days, we heard from the professionals who have specialised in the various areas of Medicine, from an anaesthesiologist to a gynaecologist. We participated in practical sessions where we learned how to apply a cast and how to do suturing. We were also given insightful demonstrations by the emergency department. One very helpful aspect of the course was hearing from students currently studying medicine in NUI Galway. They informed us of the course content and all the opportunities that arise during the 6-7 year Medicine course, both social and academic. We are very grateful to have gotten the opportunity to attend such a course as it has helped us in our decision making for what career we would like to pursue. We would definitely encourage any upcoming Transition Year students to grab any opportunities of this sort that may arise for them.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

### Junior Cert Results



Congratulations to our two star Transition year students, Rachel Lyons and Shauna Murray, who received 10 A's in their recent Junior Certificate. It is a fantastic achievement for both students. Also pictured are the girls Year-Heads, Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Mulroy and Mr. McDonagh.

## T.Y. WORK EXPERIENCE - TRINITY

**ELEANOR HARRISON**

Work experience is a huge part of transition year and this year I was lucky enough to go to Trinity College Dublin. This work experience was overseen by the Pharmacy department in Trinity. It facilitated myself and three other students from different parts of Ireland for a one week placement.

I found the course online and applied. I had to write a covering letter explaining why I wanted to do this placement and also what subjects I would be choosing for my Leaving Cert, I also had to include my CV. I had previously done work experience in Coffey's Pharmacy in Kilkenny and really enjoyed it so I was really interested in this opportunity.

The placement started on Monday the 1st March 2015. The main objective of this placement was to allow the TY student to gain a sense of the nature of activities involved in undergraduate study at the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science at TCD. Throughout the week we attended undergraduate lectures and participated in laboratory based activities. We also got to go to the Bio-Chemistry research building and had a tour of the sports centre on the campus. It was a fantastic experience and really opened my eyes to the pharmaceutical industry.

## IREUSO

**RACHEL LYONS**

The Irish European Union Science Olympiad (IrEUSO) is an individual, subject based (biology, chemistry or physics) science competition for students who are sixteen years of age or younger on the December 31st prior to the competition. It is held annually in Dublin City University (DCU). The finalists are selected on the basis Junior Certificate Examination results. The State Examination Commission identifies the high achievers in Maths & Science in the Junior Certificate Examination.

I was one of the 300 students invited to take part in the IrEUSO on the 1st of November 2014. I chose to take part in the Biology competition. It was 3-hour university-standard written examination consisting of Multiple Choice Questions and a practical question.

The top three students in each subject receive gold medals, the next three silver medals and the next three bronze medals. The gold and silver medal winners (six in total) are invited to become members of the Irish delegation to represent Ireland at the EUSO in Austria. The bronze medal winners are on the reserve list. I was not one of the medal winners but I was 'Highly Commended' for finishing in the top 10.

# ACTION AID SPEECH WRITING COMPETITION

**RACHEL LYONS**

ActionAid is a global movement of people working together to further human rights and defeat poverty for all. ActionAid Ireland's women's rights programme, funded by Irish Aid, is being implemented in Malawi, Kenya, Vietnam and Nepal and is focused on ending violence against women and ensuring that women and girls can break the cycle of poverty and violence. ActionAid Ireland's Speech-Writing Competition was open to all secondary school students aged 14-17. There were three themes to choose from. I chose 'Education is fundamental to ending poverty and violence'. I was one of nine students from around the country selected for the final. We delivered our speeches in front of a panel of judges consisting of Sharon Ní Bheoláin, Tom Meagher and Rodney Rice. We were each presented with a certificate. The two winners will travel to Nepal to see ActionAid's women's rights programme first-hand.



## R.T.E. JOANNE COFFEY

This year Ballyhaunis Community School was selected on a lottery basis, to send two transition year students to RTÉ studios, Dublin. Fortunately, I was one of the lucky ones drawn from the hat, along with Danielle Coyne. We were the envy of every transition year student as we were granted an opportunity that some can only dream of. Work experience for a week with the National Broadcaster, RTÉ. Accommodation sorted, train tickets booked, bags packed and we were headed for Dublin. Gathered in reception, Danielle and I were two of eighteen transition year students selected from across the country. Most



students were from Leinster, sporting a thick Dublin accent. We soon learned we were the country outcasts from 'Ballyhaunis' with our thick "Mayo" accents. Regardless, everyone was so lovely and we really gelled as a group. Our first day was very enjoyable. We received a grand tour of everything from radio to the set of 'Fair City'. This was one of my favourite parts of the tour. I felt so deceived. The set was far smaller than portrayed on television. We were advised not to take photos as it could 'ruin it' for some viewers. Whoops.

The first day also consisted of a chat with Bláthnaigh Ní Chofaigh. To be honest, she never quite appealed to me as a presenter, however my thoughts changed. She said her job is not always promising and secure and insisted that she is always searching for her 'next big gig'. One thing I really noticed was her sense of normality. There was no 'airs or graces' about her. She spoke about her children, her experiences and failures and the sheer determination it took for her to get where she is. Wednesday was a huge eye opener for me. We were given an exclusive 'backstage' view of what it is like to be involved in radio. We were split up into teams, each team given the task to produce and present our own 'live' radio programme. We were also given a detailed tour of all the radio studios. We were brought into the studios of Rick O'Sheá, Colm Hayes and Ray D'Arcy. My favourite part was entering the 2fm studio of 'Nicky Byrne and Jenny Green.' We got to meet Nicky, get photos and watch him record a clip for the show and witness it going through the editing process.

Thursday morning brought more promises. It was the 'Technology Day'. Before lunch, we were exposed to the security system of RTÉ. After lunch, it was time to learn all about the News. Firstly we visited the weather room and met presenter Nuala Carey. We were given a tour of the newsroom and even got to sit at the news desk. We walked through the news offices, met some presenters and met the director of RTÉ's current affairs. He showed us a clip of the controversial 'Aras Attracta abuse' and spoke about the way in which RTÉ approached the case, their secret investigation, pulling together the documentary and their relationship with the HSE. He explained the challenges and risks they faced along the way and how they were dealt with. Soon our last day was upon us. Friday had come very soon and brought a sense of sadness yet anticipation along with it. It was the day of Television. We were exposed to the world behind the screen of sound, picture and editing and the extreme pressures attached to them. We had a look at all the various sets, such as the ones of Fair City, Prime Time, Two Tube, Sunday Sports and most importantly the Late Late Show. Suspense escalated all day as we tried to guess who would be on the Late Late Show. Someone said we might spot The Script or Noel Gallagher as they were 'supposed' guests. Did we spot them? Were they on the show? No. Nevertheless, we got to sit in the 'audience' through sound check and rehearsals. I didn't know the band but I must say they were pretty impressive.

We got an exclusive sneak peak of the running order and learned that Katie Taylor, Piers Morgan and Mary Berry would grace the stage in the hours to come. We were taken to the costume room where thousands upon thousands of garments are stored. Each day was full of surprises. Take the canteen for instance. You could be seated eating your lunch and suddenly Miriam O Callaghan strolls in. Or you could be sitting next to Ryan Tubridy or Sharon Ní Bheolláin. It was a weird situation at times but we soon got used to it. There were always members of Fair City to be seen also. My experience in RTÉ was amazing, and I am extremely grateful to be handed such an opportunity. Thank you to Mrs. Henry for making this opportunity available to Danielle and I.



# PLAYING AT THE WORLD ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL IN VIENNA

GABY MURPHY

I am in the Mayo Youth Orchestra, and I have been for the last four years. We have practices every Saturday and I play with people my own age from all over Mayo. Last July we were invited to Vienna where we performed at the 'One Future' World orchestra festival. This is an event that is held every year where different orchestra across the globe are asked to attend and play at concerts and events. We played in the Vienna Boys voice choir and also in the Golden Hall where the amazing New Year's concert is held every year. We also played at different events during our stay there. We were there along with youth orchestras from China and also a Latvian orchestra. It was an amazing experience just to get to Vienna never mind performing in the amazing venues. I was also recently picked to perform in the IAYO Festival Orchestra, an orchestra containing young musicians across Ireland. This orchestra was put together for the 20th Festivals of Youth Orchestras and we recently performed in the National Concert Hall. Being part of the Mayo Youth Orchestra has opened up great opportunities for me.



## HOME ECONOMICS T.Y. LIFE SKILLS



## TY. SELF IMAGE REPORT

Before the Easter holidays Mrs Lennon and the TY students attended a positive self-image workshop in the counselling centre in knock. It was the students themselves that decided the content of the workshop, prior to the visit. In a time where young people are overwhelmed with social media creating ever increasing pressures on young people there was a need to promote positive self-image and wellbeing.

The workshop also allowed the students the opportunity to become familiar with the counselling centre in knock, so if the time arises in the future they need to avail of its services it will not be a daunting prospect. The students thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Knock, and they feel it benefitted them.

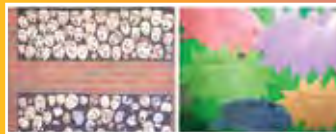
**BE**  
ALWAYS  
**YOURSELF**  
S



[illegible]



# BCS ARTWORK





## CLASS 4A



**Back row:** Aoife Mulrennan, Seán Tarmey, Jason Cullinane, Piarais Caulfield, Hamza Azhar, Padraic Duffy.

**Middle Row:** Aisling O'Gara, Aisling O'Boyle, Tommy Folliard, Paddy Niland, Brian Waldron, Mudasir Rehman, Karam Kezzeh.

**Front Row:** Jordan Squire, Chloe Naughton, Lauren Gallagher, Meadhbh Glavey, Sarah Behan, Sana Almas.

**Missing from photo:** Saoirse Caulfield, Alice Sesiuk.

## CLASS 4B



**Back row:** Ibrahim Ashraf, Faysal Kezze, Eoin Morris, John Cunnane, Callyn Murphy, Oisín Coffey.

**Middle Row:** Priviledge Noluntu Ncube, Jasmin Chong, Robert Lilly, PJ Burke, Michael Tigue, Cathal Carney, Seán Mannion.

**Front Row:** Laura O'Brien, Jenny Golden, Abigail Adams, Korina Meehan, Cassie Niland, Amy Taylor, Michaela Kilkenny.

**Missing from photo:** James Reynolds, Barbara McDonagh.



## CLASS 4C



**Back row:** Stefan Fortig, Seán Herr, Dylan Niland, Peace Omotayo.

**Middle Row:** Abusafyan Ahmad, Matthew Grogan, William Walsh, Oisín Henry, Darren Coyne.

**Front Row:** Chloe Greenwood, Róisín Ní Shuilleabhán, Nadine Mangan, Claire Fahy, Michelle Lyons.

**Missing from photo:** April Sesiuk, Adam Hickey, Dylan Noonan, Emma Rowley, Jade Crosby, Imran Siddique.

## CLASS 4D



**Back row:** Gary Higgins, Brian Morley, Tom Murphy, Cian Henry, Stephen Collins, Mohammed Waled Shawi.

**Middle Row:** Saskia Kirrane, Ciara Delaney, Caolan Regan, Adedayo Fabumni, Mohammed Walid Chawi, Barry Forde, Stephen Morley.

**Front Row:** Hillary Phillips, Aimee Regan, Gemma Lilly, Emma Lyons, Claudia Glavey, Dalia Fleitlikh, Laura Mulkeen.

**Missing from photo:** Orla Cleary, Caitlin O'Toole, Altaf Hussein.



## 4TH YEAR ACHILL TRIP MEADHBH GLAVEY

A bright and beaming Wednesday morning approached as sixty 4th year students were about to embark on the annual two day Achill adventure. Bags were packed (schoolbags weren't) and we headed off to the far west where friendship and memories were waiting to be made. Sixty students plus three teachers jam-packed the remote hostel in the heart of Achill. Our instructors came to welcome us and put us into our groups for our full 2 days of activities. We all took part in the activities such as mountain boarding, cliff jumping, surfing, to kayaking the Atlantic. The cliff jump was a highlight for many. That rush of adrenalin as we stepped off that 20m cliff was a very daunting thing for many. However, we were very grateful to be able to get such an opportunity. Back in the hostel after our day's activities we all took part in evening activities like treasure hunts and team games. The one thing we will never forget was the 3 hour walk we did on the last night. What started off as a 'quick walk, sure we'll only be gone for an hour', turned into a 3 hour, never ending journey. Yes, we got lost, very lost. However, it actually ended up being really good craic! Between the lads jumping out of bushes scaring the hell out of us all, fighting cousins (Cian and Oisín) and Mrs. O'Brien's '1 metre ban' on all couples, we certainly made the most out of it and thankfully got back to the hostel safely! Overall it was an incredible 2 days. We got to take part in activities some had never done before, friendships were made, relationships blossomed but there was a very tired sixty students returning to BCS on that Friday afternoon! Finally we'd like to thank Mr. McDonagh and Ms. Moran for allowing us to go and to Mr. Murray, Mrs. O'Brien and Ms. Caulfield for bringing us on the trip and most importantly for putting up with us! They really made the trip good craic for us and we all had a blast so thank you.



## 4TH YEAR RETREAT

**APRIL SESIUK, NADINE MANGAN AND ORLA CLEARY**

For our fourth year retreat, we took off to the big city of Knock. Fifty uniformed navy troops headed to the bus park at approximately 10.00am. Dudes on one bus and the dudettes on the other. We arrived at our destination at around 10.15am. Leaving no stragglers behind and walking in packs so as not to be intimidated (we got this) we entered the St. John's Rest and Care Centre. Around 200 heads turned in our direction. To get everybody up and motivated Ian Callan, our song bird for the day, played a few slamming biblical jams. It didn't matter what your religious background was - you didn't feel like you were being preached to. This made for a very comfortable atmosphere for the whole flock. "You are the most important person in the world!" emphasised the priest, Father John Harris. He told us that "if you want to make a world a better place, you're to take a look at yourself and make that change!" - The late Michael Jackson had also told us that. Next, Siobhan Bradley spoke to us about the John Paul II Awards and how everybody is welcome in the church no matter what. She told us many stories about the things she's done with her charity. Then it was time for lunch, time to feast at the local chipper! This was supposed to be the time for "mixing" with the other students. What really happened was...we all split up into our little squads while observing the opponents. The hour slipped by "time flies when you're having fun", and it was time to return to the Centre. We had a few more jams to get everybody pumped. Then it was time for Mass where Nadine gave a mighty rendition of one of the Prayers of the Faithful. The Retreat was a great opportunity to get away from books and the school for a day. It was a fabulous day over all and we all really enjoyed it. It left us with some thought-provoking messages such as "if you want to change the world don't wait for others to do it, do it yourself!"



## JOHN PAUL II AWARDS

O. MACKEN



20 Students from BCS received their John Paul II awards at the annual awards ceremony held in Tuam Cathedral on Nov. 13th, 2014. The Awards were presented to the students by Archbishop Michael Neary and the Galway Rose 2014, Nicola Corcoran.

The following students received awards:

**Gold Awards:** Sarah Behan, Catherine Quinn, Claudia Glavey, Aoife Nolan, Emer Kiely, Katie McKay Kevin-Austin Tighe, Leanne Henry, Matthew Grogan, Meadhbh Glavey, Oisín Coffey, Roisin Ní Shuilleabhain, Stephen Collins.

**Silver Awards:** John Cunnane, James Reynolds, Sarah Skeffington, Padraic Duffy.

**Bronze Awards:** Barry Forde, Róisín Byrne, Oisín Henry. The Awards Ceremony was a lovely occasion for the students, their families and their parish representatives. The completion of the Award involved students volunteering in their parishes and local communities. Well done everyone.

## U-17 BOYS SOCCER

SHAUNA MURRAY AND DANIELLE COYNE

This year, the U-17 soccer squad was left in the capable hands of the one and only, Mr.Noone with the help of Mr.Griffin and Michâel Murphy! The lads got the season off to a great start with a 3-1 victory over local rivals, St.Louis Community School of Kiltimagh! Their next battle was against Headford, which resulted in a 1-1 draw. The lads were now in a position where they would contest for a place in the Connacht Quarter Finals. They played Davitt College away in Castlebar. Despite the horrible winter weather conditions on the day, Mr.Noone and his squad came back to Ballyhaunis with a 4-2 victory and a spot in the Connacht quarter finals. They faced The Bish in what was a riveting quarter final. Both sides put up a gruelling contest with the game going to extra time. Unfortunately, Ballyhaunis lost out on a place in the Semi-Final due to a last minute goal. The game finished on a score of 4-3. The Bish then went on to win the All Ireland Final in a penalty shootout. Despite bringing home no silverware, the U-17 soccer squad put in tremendous effort throughout the year.



**Back row:** Brian Morley, Darragh Crawley, Michael McGarry, Liam Cregg, Calum Gardiner, Tom Murphy, Cian Ruane.

**Front row:** Niall Dunleavy, Tiernan Murphy, Cathal Carney, Conor Hunt.



**Back row:** Tiernan Murphy, Michael McGarry, Bobby Douglas, Liam Cregg, Darragh Crawley, Brian Morley.

**Front row:** Niall Dunleavy, Cathal Carney, Dylan Ruane, Tom Murphy, Gary Higgins.

## METALWORK PROJECTS



## D.C.G. PROJECTS



## CONSTRUCTION





## LEAVING CERTIFICATE 2015



Fraz Ahmad



Huma Arshad



Rebecca Bowen



Adrian Boyle



Cathal Brady



Sheila Brady



Killian Brehony



Roisin Byrne



Seán Carrick



John Cassidy



Radek Cervenak



Kaitlyn Clarke



Thomas Coll



Evan Coyne



Daragh Crawley



Thomas Connell



Liam Cregg



James Cribbin



Shane Cribbin



Shane Crinnigan



Kieran Crosby



Eimear Dempsey



Anna Doherty



Kelly Donegan



Lynette Duffy





**Niall Dunleavy**



**Damien Egan**



**Niall Fitzgerald**



**Róisín Fitzmaurice**



**Maura Forde**



**Davog Frayne**



**Carol Freeley**



**Amy Giblin**



**Lewis Gourlay**



**Aleksandras Graciovas**



**Daniel Greally**



**Radoslaw Grzedzinski**



**Zaid Gulzar**



**Aidan Henry**



**Leanne Henry**



**Michael Hill**



**Sinead Horan**



**Darragh Hunt**



**Jahangeer Javaid**



**Patrick Keadin**



**Shannon Keadin**



**Riona Kearney**



**Anna Khromova**



**Emer Kiely**



**Laura Lavin**





Conor Lenehan



Aoife Lilly



Ashling Lynskey



James Lyons



Joseph Lyons



Kamil Maliszewski



Chantelle McDonagh



Robert McCormack



Katie McKay



Serena McLoughlin



Sorcha McNamara



Chloe McNulty



Katie Moran



Davina Morris



Brendan Morrissey



Lucy Moss



Ciara Mulkeen



Martin Mulkeen



Tayba Muneer



Aoife Murray



Robert Naughton



Shona Niland



Aoife Nolan



Stephen Nolan



Claire O Gara





**Dervla Phillips**



**Mark Phillips**



**Catherine Quinn**



**Cormac Reidy**



**Niall Robinson**



**Colm Ronan**



**Seán Ruane**



**Jonathan Ryan**



**Heather Sankey**



**Sarah Skeffington**



**Danil Spicyn**



**Sean Sutton**



**Mazhar Tayyab**



**Kevin Tighe**



**Barbora Vichtova**



**Rebecca Walsh**



**Demi Walsh**



**David Webb**



**Grace Worden**



**Shoaib Younas**



## REPEAT LEAVING CERT STUDENTS



Seán Burke, Philip Fitzmaurice, David Regan, Leanne Heassion, Bazla Alam, Erika Webb.

**Missing from photo:** James Reidy, Rabeya Siddique, Kevin McNulty, Amy Mannion, Ryan Kilbane.

## O. MACKEN SENIOR MENTORS 2014/2015

The mentors play an important role in helping the 1st years to settle into our school community, this school year 45 senior students put themselves forward to be mentors to the in-coming 1st year group. This year's group were a pleasure to work with, they showed maturity, leadership and took their role very serious. 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, they facilitated 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 as well as meeting up for Lunch dates and hosting the Christmas lunch. The peer-mentoring programme in our school facilitates the senior students to be positive role models for 1st year students they did this and much more. I would like to wish the Mentors every success in their exams and in their future careers. I hope they will continue to volunteer in various organizations in the years ahead.

Well done to the following 5th year students who volunteered:

Huma Arshad, Mohammad Shoaib Younas, Rebecca Walsh, Fraz Ahmad, Sheila Brady, Kaitlyn Clarke, Cormac Reidy, Leanne Henry, Riona Kearney, Adrian Boyle, Darragh Crawley, Anna Khromova, Katie Moran, Lynette Duffy, Katie McKay, Anna Doherty, Aoife Murray, Rebecca Bowen, James Lyons, Davog Freyne, Tayba Muneer, Ciara Mulkeen, Jonathan Ryan, Serena McLoughlin, Mazhar Tayyab, Sinead Horan, Carol Freeley, Emer Kiely, Darragh Hunt, Shane Cribbin, Niall Dunleavy, Joseph Lyons, Roisin Fitzmaurice, Catherine Quinn, Dervla Phillips, Kevin Tighe, John Cassidy, Kelly Donegan, Aisling Lynskey, Aidan Henry, Shona Niland, Davina Morris, Chantal McDonagh.



**Back Row:** Jonathan Ryan, Mazhar Tayyab, Aidan Henry, Joseph Lyons, Adrian Boyle, Cormac Reidy, Darragh Crawley, John Cassidy, Dervla Phillips, Carol Freeley, Leanne Henry, Huma Arshad, Rebecca Bowen.

**Middle Row:** Róisín Fitzmaurice, Chantelle McDonagh, Katie McKay, Riona Kearney, Shane Cribbin, Kevin Tighe, Sinéad Horan, Serena McLoughlin, Ciara Mulkeen, Rebecca Walsh, Ashling Lynskey, Sheila Brady, Emer Kiely, Katie Moran.

**Front Row:** Shona Niland, Catherine Quinn, Kelly Donegan, Anna Doherty, Lynette Duffy, Kaitlyn Clarke, Tayba Muneer, Niall Dunleavy, James Lyons, Daniel Grealley, Darragh Hunt, Brendan Morrissey.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

### SEÁN CARRICK

Athletics is a huge part of my life. I train three times a week for Claremorris Athletics Club and by myself for two days. All this training is hard but is well worth it. My 2014 season was quite eventful, it was full of ups and downs. It was my final year representing Connaught in the Tailteann Games and the All-Irelands where I competed in the Long Jump and Triple Jump where I finished 8th in the Long Jump for the All-Irelands where I jumped 5.90m and 9th in Tailteann Games jumping 5.87m and I finished 6th in the All-Irelands for Triple Jump jumping 11.45m and 5th in the Tailteann Games jumping 11.92m. The Indoor season has just finished and it was a quite successful season. I won the Mayo and Connaught Championships for Long jump and Triple Jump and in the All-Irelands I finished 7th for the Long Jump, Jumping 6.03m a new Personal Best Jump and 5th in the Triple Jump jumping 12.06m also a New Personal Best Jump. Now that the Indoor season is finished all my attention and training will be focusing on the Outdoor season where I hopefully will claim my first All-Ireland Medal.



## SHEILA BRADY



Pictured is Sheila Brady, Leaving Cert student, representing the Connacht All-Stars Post-Primary School team for the second year in a row. Sheila was goalkeeper for this All-Ireland winning team.

## SHONA NILAND



Pictured is Shona Niland, LCA student, playing for the Mayo Senior Ladies Gaelic Football team.

## MACRA NA FEIRME QUIZ

The reigning champions of Mayo returned to the Welcome Inn, Castlebar looking to retain their title from 2014. Ballyhaunis Community School were victorious in both individual and group competitions of the Macra na Feirme Quiz in 2014. Macra na Feirme is an organisation for young people between the ages of 17 and 35 who are interested in Agriculture, Sports, Travel, Public Speaking and Performing Arts. Macra na Feirme was founded in 1944 by a group of 12 agricultural advisors, rural science teachers and farmers. For the last number of years they have been running a quiz for secondary school students in the Welcome Inn, Castlebar. Mrs. Henry assembled three of the most lethal quiz teams from Transition Year and 4th year to enter the quiz. After vigorous training and constantly learning useless facts such as 'Who invented the flushing toilet?' Ballyhaunis was finally ready to take on the rest of the County. Mark Phillips, Stephen Nolan, Joseph Lyons and James Lyons were given a heroes welcome as they re-entered the room which they had conquered the previous year. After numerous general knowledge, sports and picture rounds the quiz heated up. The team which had been victorious were again in the race for silverware as the boys from Ballyhaunis were joined leaders with St. Gerald's College Castlebar. As the finish approached the two teams were neck and neck as the quiz ended in a tie, there was going to be a tie-breaker round. All eyes were on the two teams as they battled it out to be crowned Macra na Feirme quiz champions 2015. The boys searched to the depths of their brains but provided unsuccessful as they lost by a single question. There was not going to be a fairytale story for Ballyhaunis this year. They achieved a creditable 2nd place and represented the school proudly. All the members of the quiz teams would like to thank Mrs. Henry for her efforts in arranging teams, questions and transport for the quiz.



**Back Row:** Piarais Caulfield, Oisín Henry, Stephen Collins, Cian Henry, Joseph Lyons.

**Front Row:** Padraic Duffy, James Lyons, Stephen Nolan, Thomas Coll, Daniel Greally, Sarah Behan, Mark Phillips.



## SENIOR LADIES GAA

The senior ladies football campaign began with a game away to Castlereagh in the month of October. The girls started off at pace and converted every move to scores. The girls' hopes were high leading into the second game against local rivals St Nathys. It was a tough match from start to finish and unfortunately Ballyhaunis lost by a kick of the game. The girls' hope remained high as they travelled to Louisburgh for the final to qualify for a Connacht quarter final. On the day all girls showed tremendous pride and spirit resulting in a phenomenal result bringing the girls to a Connacht quarter. The girls met with a strong Carrick on Shannon side. From the start conditions proved challenging with the girls having to put up with an icy pitch. On the day Carrick proved to be the better side by winning the match by a narrow 3 points. Sadly this ended the senior girls' football for the year.

Despite the persistence of our managers unfortunately no further matches could be arranged. On a positive note there is great talent shown within the junior girls coming through for next year, so the future for the BCS Ladies is looking positive. Thanks to Mrs. Grogan and Mr. Griffin for all their help in training and managing us throughout the year.



**Back Row:** Chloe Ryan, Shauna Murray, Katie McKay, Ashling Lynskey, Eleanor Harrison, Leanne Henry, Sheila Brady, Marina Carney, Dervla Phillips, Katelyn Concannon, Derbhla Phillips, Aoife Conway, Shona Niland, Sive Duffy.

**Front Row:** Jessica Carroll, Joanne Coffey, Danielle Coyne, Aoife Murray, Sarah Behan, Cassie Niland, Orna Hession, Rachel Lyons.

## SENIOR BOYS GAA

**BOBBY DOUGLAS AND DIARMUID DUFFY**

The senior lads had a disappointing year this year despite hard efforts from all the lads. They played three matches and lost all three of them. In each game they started poorly and took a while to get going. By the time the lads had started playing in each game it was too late. In each of their matches they played Balla at home and away and lost to a strong Curlough side in the first round of the Connacht championship- meaning they were knocked out of all competitions. Mr. Griffin helped out with this team although Mr. Woolley was the main teacher over this team. They were unlucky in the three games as they had strong opposition in each match.



**Back Row:** Brian O'Neill, Aidan Henry, John Cunnane, Michael McGarry, James Cribben, Liam Cregg, Robert McCormack, Robert Naughton, Mark Phillips.

**Front Row:** Conor Hunt, Stephen Collins, Cathal Carney, Padraic Duffy, Tom Murphy, Tiernan Murphy.

## SENIOR HURLERS MAKE HISTORY

The senior hurlers started off their season against Westport's Rice college in a Mayo post – primary final. Rice college came up trumps in a group of St. Colmans, St. Gerald's and St. Muiredach to face Ballyhaunis in a one sided affair on the 25th of November in the Centre of Excellence, Began. Ballyhaunis led from start to finish with an end score line of 6:18 to 1:03. For the first time in many years, Ballyhaunis entered a Senior Hurling team in the Connaught 'C' championship. After several weeks training, the team's first game was against St. Enda's of Galway on the 5th of November. Ballyhaunis had a comfortable win on a score line of 4:13 to 2:6. A storming performance by the midfielders aided by a strong defensive display saw Ballyhaunis through to the next round. The second round of the championship saw Ballyhaunis drawn against New Inn, a secondary school located in the heartland of Galway hurling. This was a rip – roaring match and Ballyhaunis matched their Galway counter parts with skill, agility and teamwork and came out on top on a scoreline of 4:12 to 2:10. Tuam stadium was the venue for the Connaught semi – final where Ballyhaunis were pitted against Ballygar Community School. At this stage Ballyhaunis had exceeded all expectations and continued on their march to the final by winning on a scoreline of 3:13 to 1:10.



**Back Row:** Bobby Douglas, Nicholas Frayne (trainer), James Lyons, Calum Gardiner, Shane Crinnigan, Aidan Henry, Cormac Phillips, Dylan Niland, Adrian Boyle, Seán Herr, Mark Phillips, Eamonn Phillips, Michael Freyne, Mr. Woolley (manager).

**Front Row:** Davog Frayne (trainer), John Cassidy, Niall Robinson, Tiernan Murphy, Brian Morley, Conor Hunt, Seán Kenny, PJ Burke, Eoin Delaney, Ryan Kilbane.

Training had now stepped up a gear under the watchful eye of Mr Wooley, Mr Griffin and Manager Nicholas Freyne as the team prepared for the 2015 Connaught Senior Hurling Final. The team were faced by Woodford Community College which is situated on the border of two strong hurling counties; Galway and Clare. This was a really close fought game and either side could have won. However, the teamwork, skill and determination of our boys, was enough to push Ballyhaunis past the winning post. When the final whistle blew Ballyhaunis emerged victorious on a scoreline of 1:08 to 0:09. Scenes of wild jubilation followed as

parents, teachers and supporters invaded the pitch to celebrate this fantastic win. All agreed that it was one of the finest wins ever recorded by a school team and the boys were justifiably proud of their historic win. The hurlers now prepared to contest an All – Ireland semi final and were drawn to play Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. Their team consisted of hurlers drawn from counties Galway, Roscommon, Limerick, Offaly, Laois, Kilkenny and Tipperary. It was a David vs. Goliath clash as the Mayo team faced a team drawn from the traditional hurling counties of Ireland. The Ballyhaunis lads fought tooth and nail for every ball and if heart and courage could win an All Ireland this team would now be champions. However, Roscrea's ability to take scores was the difference in the end and they were worthy winners on a scoreline of Roscrea: 0:15 BCS: 2:06. The entire school community is immensely proud of the achievement of our senior hurlers this year.



Pictured is Davog Frayne (captain) being presented with the cup by Adrian Hession (Mayo Hurling Co-ordinator at the County Final held in Began).

## LIKE FATHER-LIKE SON



Pictured are: Austin Kenny, Seán Kenny, Patsy Noone, Patrick Noone and Tommy Noone.



## MAYO MINOR HURLING



Pictured is the Mayo Minor Hurling squad which won the All-Ireland 'C' Championship. Included are past and present pupils: James Lyons (Captain), Seán Kenny, Davog Frayne, Mark Phillips, Adrian Boyle, Aidan Henry, Jason Coyne, Niall Robinson, Michael Waldron.

## DEBS COMMITTEE



**Back Row:** Darragh Hunt, Cormac Reidy, Shane Cribbin.

**Front Row:** Aoife Murray, Kelly Donegan, Katie McKay, Kaitlyn Clarke.

**Missing from photo:** Claire O'Gara.

## GRAD COMMITTEE



**Back Row:** Leanne Henry, Riona Kearney, Jonathan Ryan, Davog Frayne, Sheila Brady

**Front Row:** Emer Kiely, Ashling Lynskey, Kamil Maliszewski, Radek Cervenak.

## L.C.A. VISIT TO MIDWEST RADIO

On November 11th the LCA 2 class visited Midwest Radio. Gerry Glennon met us at the door and gave us an amazing insight into what happens in the station as he brought us on a very informative tour around the building. Students were brought into the 'Live-on-Air' Studio and given a real taste of what a radio presenter's job entails from preparing playlists to keeping listener's entertained all the while keeping a careful eye on the clock.

The class were then brought to studio 2 to practice what they had learned and some real talent for presenting was discovered. We were introduced to several presenters all busy preparing for their slot on the radio. At the heart of the station was the highly technical engine room which is a jungle of lights and switches. Gerry also told us about the station's new venture into T.V. and then we were invited into the boardroom for a highly entertaining question and answer session.

LCA wish to thank Midwest Radio and in particular Gerry Glennon for a very enjoyable and educational visit.



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# ATHLETICS





## CELEBRITY COUPLES GET WAXED

On the 26th of March 2015 a momentous occasion took place in B.C.S. with celebrities from Craggy Island, L.A., Smurfville and even the grave, coming together to take part in our annual charity fundraiser. In addition to our "celebs", ten brave volunteers were selected from Leaving Cert as well as three of our very own A list celebrities - Mr.Noone, Mr.Quinn and Mr.McGarry, all of whom offered up their lovely legs to get waxed!!! With an electric atmosphere descending on the assembly area and the excitement building, our two presenters, Stephen Nolan and Ashling Lynskey, took to the stage with a 'bang'...literally! The show got underway with some wise words from Ireland's best known celebrity Shaun the Sheep ... and Michael D. Higgins (played by Thomas Coll and Liam Cregg). Next up we were transported back to the 80's as Michael Jackson (Radek Cervanek) and John Travolta (James Lyons) took to the stage for an epic dance battle. As the infamous song Milkshake filled the assembly area, Mrs Doyle (Patrick Keadin) really did bring all the boys to the yard as she sat rather provocatively on stage! Pat Mustard (Robert Naughton) was not impressed by his lady's behaviour. Next up the West Family made a surprise appearance. Killian Brehony performed as Kim Kardashian with a scarily accurate portrayal! While Daniel did his best to convey Kanye's 1Q of 10 by pronouncing Laois as 'Louise' and Sligo as 'Sleego'. Finally all the way from Kerry, and out of retirement, we had Paul Galvin (Mark Phillips) and Papa Smurf (Damien Egan). Although Paul Galvin musn't have got the memo that the Gooch was in the previous day! Just out of anger management, they put their new found sense of serenity to the test. The waxing got under way and some lucky members of the audience were chosen 'randomly' to pull the dreaded strip. Following an intermission of light entertainment from Kelly Donegan, Erika Webb and Kaitlyn Clarke, we reached the epic finale – waxing the teachers. They all entered in a confident fashion, ready for action in their feminine dressing gowns! Once again students were chosen to perform the task of waxing. We really didn't want things to come to an end but Stephen and Ashling had no choice but to wrap up the show. Tears were shed, hair was lost but most importantly money was raised for a good cause, making a worthwhile experience for all involved. Thanks to all involved : Heather Sankey in the beauty department, Katie McKay in the costume department, Aoife Murray for the music. Also the script writers: Niall Robinson, Davóg Frayne, Ashling Lynskey, Stephen Nolan and Daniel Grealley. Thanks to Katie Moran, Katie McKay, Heather Sankey and Sarah Skeffington for selling the tickets. And, last but not least, thanks to our presenters Ashling Lynskey and Stephen Nolan who were brilliant on stage and to all our brave volunteers .



### Cast and Crew:

**Back I-r:** Aoife Nolan, Katie McKay, Niall Robinson, James Lyons, Mark Phillips, Damien Egan, Robert Naughton, Patrick Kedian, Stephen Nolan (Presenter), Davog Freyne, Kelly Donegan. **Front: I-r:** Aisling Lynskey (Presenter), Killian Brehony, Daniel Spicyn, Thomas Coll, Liam Cregg, Radek Cervenak.



### Cast and Crew:

**Back I-r:** James Lyons, Mark Phillips, Damien Egan, Robert Naughton, Patrick Kedian, Stephen Nolan (Presenter). **Front: I-r:** Aisling Lynskey (Presenter), Killian Brehony, Daniel Spicyn, Thomas Coll, Liam Cregg, Radek Cervenak.



Pictured are the Leaving Certs making a presentation to Henry Madden in aid of Tanzania.

## CLASS OF '94 - 20 YEAR REUNION

### BRENDAN KEARNS

Secondary school is a considerable part of every person's life. For some, that is a good thing, for others it is more challenging. For most it is a bit of both. The class of 1994 met up after 20 years on July 12th 2014. The last reunion was at Christmas 2004. Approximately 80 men & women from the year showed up at Val's. People travelled from the Philippines, New Zealand, USA, England and many other corners of the world. Conversation flowed easily, the music reminded those present of first discos in Gorthaganny, the parochial hall & of course Midas. However, a slow set was not played. Meeting up with class mates after 20 years is a good idea. Friendships that were made have remained strong, even in the absence of regular contact. Outside of the classroom, friendship and teamwork help to build character, that will stand to benefit students once they leave the safety net of BCS and move on to further education or employment. Students from the year who have passed away were remembered privately on the night. The class of 1994 plan to meet up again in 2019, 25 years after graduating from BCS. We wish the new teachers and staff continued success with the mission of the school. And delighted to hear of the imminent upgrade of the school building facilities and wish you all well in the future.



### Teachers

Well done to the brave teachers who got 'waxed' for Charity! : Mr. Noone, Mr. Quinn and Mr. McGarry .



## LEAVING CERT GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP



Leaving Cert Geography students carrying out their field study, a study of river erosion, on the River Silles in County Fermanagh.



## L.C.A. 2

It's hard to believe that we were here writing our LCA 2 yearbook article. LCA 1 was fast but LCA 2 has gone a bit too fast!!! This year we have been busy with task work and key assignments. In session we had three tasks social education, Practical Achievement and Graphics and Construction Studies Tasks. In Social Education we focussed on different issues that were important to us. Cannabis, animal rights, abortion, road safety, farm safety and suicide and depression.

We had put together a document on each of our topics and how it affects young people today. We put up posters around the school to raise awareness about the issues and completed an interview with an external examiner. We all learned a lot from each other through doing this task and because we could choose our own topics it made the work very interesting and enjoyable. The practical achievement task was a block of 12 weeks where we had to learn a new skill and be able to give evidence of the learned skills at the end of the process. Website design, crocheting, horse riding, banjo playing, up styling, guitar playing, steel Christmas tree manufacture, compressor construction were our chosen challenges. It was fun but hard work also. For the graphics and construction task our guidelines were to make a wooden child's educational toy. This was an interesting project as we all still love playing with our toys- especially Thomas!!! The designs we settled on were a jigsaw, hoopla, a puzzle, a duck on a

string, a hammer and peg set, building blocks, a shape finder and picture puzzle. It was great to design, plan, make, and decorate our own toys and of course play with them afterwards purely for research reasons of course!!! Since September we have gone on a few trips. We went to the Counselling centre in Knock where we heard firsthand about the effects of suicide and how people can find themselves in that position. We went to Turlough in Castlebar to visit the museum and into Castlebar afterwards for some fun. We went to the Traveller's Friend to attend the road safety seminar. This was a memorable day that we had and not for good reason as it is awful to see and hear how people can be so badly damaged following road traffic accidents. In October we joined with the TY's to go to a comedy show in the Castlebar Arts Centre with comedian Ger Carney. We also went to the MSPCA (Mayo Society for the Prevention of Cruelty) in Ballyhaunis. We hope to go on another trip before the year has finished. We are talking nice to our LCA Co-ordinator, Mr McGarry. LCA has been good craic. Everyone has got on really well in the last two years. We all are looking forward to graduating but will miss the fun in school. We all hope to do well in the future.





# REMINDER TO THE LEAVING CERT CLASS 2015

**O. MACKEN**

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 the sisters of Mercy, who have an active prayer group include the Leaving Cert students of Ballyhaunis CS in their prayer intentions and have done so for the past number of years. They contact the religion department each year and ask if our students would like to be remembered in their prayers. The Leaving Cert students are always delighted to be included in the prayer group's intentions. This is a stressful and difficult time in their lives with many difficult decisions to make, it is reassuring to know that they are being supported and prayed for at this time. Sr. Margaret sends a prayer card for each student to carry with them or to read before their exams. A sincere thanks to Sr. Margaret and her fellow sisters from the Leaving cert class of 2015.



## LEAVING CERT BABY PHOTOS



1. Daniel Greally & Oisín Henry, 2. Shane Cribbin, 3. Shona Niland, 4. Shannon & Patrick Keadin, 5. Serena McLoughlin
6. Niall Robinson, 7. Sarah Skeffington, 8. Niall Dunleavy, 9. Mark Philips, 10. Liam Cregg, 11. Leanne Henry,
12. James Lyons, 13. Daniel Greally, 14. John Cassidy, 15. Chantelle Maughan, 16. Ciara Mulkeen, 17. Kaitlyn Clarke,
18. Joseph Lyons, 19. Aidan Henry, 20. Ashling Lynskey, John Cassidy, Anna Doherty & Niall Robinson,
21. Dervla Philips, 22. James Cribbin, 23. Emer Kiely & Katie McKay, 24. Huma Arshad, 25. Darragh Hunt,
26. Ashling Lynskey, Eleanor Harrison, John Cassidy, Labhoise Cunnane & Darragh Hunt, 27. Emer Kiely,
28. Darragh Crawley.



# LEAVING CERT AWARDS



<b>Drama King/Queen:</b>	1).Carol Freeley, Liam Cregg 2).Rebecca Walsh, Daniel Grealley, Colm Ronan
<b>Babe of the Year:</b>	1). Katie McKay, Stephen Nolan 2). Emer Kiely, Shane Cribbin, Daniel Grealley
<b>Soundest:</b>	1).Sheila Brady, Cormac Reidy 2).Leanne Henry, Liam Cregg, Shane Cribbin
<b>Best Hair:</b>	1).Laura Lavin, Robert McCormack 2). Emer Kiely, Joseph Lyons
<b>Most Distinctive laugh:</b>	1). Ashling Lynskey, Colm Ronan 2). Róisín Byrne, Joseph Lyons
<b>Couple of the year:</b>	1). Leanne Henry and Darragh Hunt 2). Aoife Murray and Stephen Nolan
<b>Sportsperson:</b>	1). Sheila Brady, Davóg Frayne 2). Aoife Murray, James Lyons
<b>Chatterbox:</b>	1). Ashling Lynskey, Cormac Reidy 2). Kaitlyn Clarke, Kevin Tighe
<b>Best Smile:</b>	1). Emer Kiely, Niall Robinson, Shane Cribbin 2). Claire O'Gara, Alex Graciová, Darragh Hunt
<b>First to make a million:</b>	1). Katie Moran, Daniel Grealley 2). Aoife Murray, Seán Sutton
<b>Personality:</b>	1). Ashling Lynskey, Niall Robinson 2). Kelly Donegan, Cormac Reidy
<b>Rear of the year:</b>	1). Heather Sankey, Damien Egan 2). Riona Kearney, Davóg Frayne
<b>Class Clown:</b>	1). Ashling Lynskey, Liam Cregg 2). Kelly Donegan, Shane Crinnigan
<b>Biggest Flirt:</b>	1). Kelly Donegan, Shane Cribbin 2). Barbara Vichtova, Thomas Coll, Cormac Reidy
<b>Win lotto, lose ticket:</b>	1). Leanne Henry, Kevin Tighe 2). Rebecca Walsh, Maura Forde, Liam Cregg
<b>Hottest Teacher:</b>	1). Ms. Fallon, Mr. Larkin 2). Ms.Madden, Mr.McGarry
<b>Funniest Teacher:</b>	1). Mrs. O'Brien, Mr. McHugh 2). Ms. Fallon, Mr. Murray
<b>Nicest Teacher:</b>	1). Mrs. O'Brien, Mr.Quinn 2). Mrs. Hargaden-Whyte, Mr. McGarry

## 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. Bernie Osgood, Ms. Orla Macken and Ms. Siobhán Mannix 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. As always, the competence and professionalism of Berry Print has been astounding-I would like to personally thank Seán McCormack and his team for being such a pleasure to work with. I would particularly like to acknowledge the monumental work Michelle Murphy has invested in our publication. Finally, I would like to wish both the Leaving Certs and the Junior Certs all the very best in their exams.

## LEAVING CERT MEMORY LANE

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Our journey began in first year when Kaitlyn Clarke, Niall Dunleavy, Shane Cribbin were smaller than they were now. (hard to believe I know!!)

The pokes on Facebook lead to many new friendships and even some promising relationships. Though Leanne & Darragh are the only couple still going strong to this day. While others barely survived a week such as Oisín and Katie... Of course we can't forget the most romantic gesture of Riona's birthday gift of a spoon to Padraic!! Nevertheless, we all found our place in a big pond as the small fish. We left first year as powerful young adolescents proven by the strength of Anna Khromova and her champion welly throwing abilities. Westport house marked this departure and the end of the first of many years in BCS.

It wasn't long before the dreaded J.C. came along (not you John Cassidy) but the terror of the Junior Cert. The annual retreat to Ballintubber Abbey helped us relax before a year of 'serious study'. Roaming the muddy fields and jumping (some may have been pushed) into pools of mucky water on the pilgrimage walk was by far the most memorable. We were given many motivational speeches along the way and all the teachers had faith that we would emerge with 11 A's come June. Even Ms. Brogan (Brogz) believing her honours Irish class resembled "sods of turf". It wasn't all hard work though. By the time exams began the typical 'exam weather' was upon us and of course we had to enjoy it. Human pyramids were assembled and intense water fights were on going in the park down town.

While we were struggling away at the Junior Cert, the Transition Years were having the time of their lives! Rekindled friendships and relationships blossomed yet again but not everyone had found love. A young Colm Ronan, after having spent the previous year studying, was let on the loose on our first outing to Killary. The perfect opportunity landed when a 'herd' of women landed outside his window, and Colm being Colm, he took the opportunity to show off his 'muscles'. His plan soon fell through and so did he... along with the curtain pole!! The year was spent playing ping pong and the famous mafia. The year ended on a high with a trip to Liverpool. We were in safe hands with our tour guide Carol Freeley showing us famous sites like 'The London Eye' and 'Big Ben'....

The 'big dogs' from TY joined us in fourth year and we escaped to Achill island for a well needed bonding session. From our creative chants "we love you comer we do" to vicious fights for the 'best' room in the girls dorm and not forgetting the lads breakfast equipment like their George Foreman. It wasn't long before the divide between the two groups was eliminated as we enjoyed tea, chats, tense games of mafia and romantic strolls on the beach which would lead to midnight meetings. We returned with those almost permanent jelly fish stings and new bruises from those tiny windows which marked the beginning of our senior journey together. It wasn't long to wait for our next outing with the school tour to Italy in October. Full of mischief, shaving, passing out and sneaking out (with the help of Mr. Lynch and Ms. Hayes!) We then returned to B.C.S which had gone 'Back to the 80's'. Our musical was another memorable event which in we will never forget, especially our rendition of 'Jump on it'. Our 4th year in the school continued to be full of 'lolls' but now it was time to get serious with our Leaving Cert year creeping up on us.

We have now arrived in the final year of our time in B.C.S. We look back at our many fond memories from Westport to Italy; it's certainly been one hell of a journey!! Our last days are bitter sweet and no one wants to say goodbye. But now it's time to pack up our books and hang up our uniforms- our school days may be over but our future is just beginning!!! So thanks to B.C.S for the good times we have shared and good luck to the Leaving Cert class of 2015.



# LEAVING CERT MEMORY LANE





