

GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Welcome to the Ballyhaunis Community School Yearbook 2016. The challenge of chronicling the year's events of a busy school such as ours is a daunting task but I'm sure you will all agree that the production team have excelled themselves in this regard. This work is carried out by both students and

staff and reflects the wonderful spirit of co-operation that exists within the school.

These are terrifically exciting times for BCS. Work on the extension and refurbishment of the school began in earnest in January. It is expected that work will be completed sometime late in 2017. We will at that stage have a state of the art building which will be in keeping with the standards of excellence in teaching and learning that have become synonymous with the school over the years.

Although teaching and learning are the most important functions within the school, BCS would be a much poorer place were it not for the range of extra and co-curricular activities on offer to our students. Many of these activities hone skills and characteristics that may not be cultivated through merely academic pursuits. The promotion of these activities is an affirmation of our Mission Statement which commits us to the holistic development of all our students. On my own behalf and on behalf of the Board of Management of the school I wish to thank all teachers and the increasing number of local volunteers who assist us in fulfilling this commitment.

The school musical is a very public display of the talents and creativity of our school community. The school has a very proud record of excellent musicals which was continued in spectacular fashion last November with the staging of "Popstars – The 90's Musical". Over 3 sold out nights we were transported back to the 1990's, the era of shiny tracksuits and terrible haircuts, through the energy and enthusiasm of our excellent cast. The whole event created a real "feel good" atmosphere around the school which raised everyone's spirits on those long winter's nights. As always with an event such as this it was a whole school effort and I wish to thank and congratulate all involved. A special word however for both Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Henry who were the creative forces behind the whole production.

Of course 1916 is the centenary of the Easter Rising that led to the establishment of the Irish Republic. It crossed my mind during the year that if the signatories of the proclamation were to return and visit our school in 2016 they would surely approve of the unity and respect that exists in our school as we strive to meet the challenge issued in the famous document of "cherishing all of the children of the nation equally". To mark the occasion the whole school came to a standstill on Tuesday 15th March as we recognised "Proclamation Day" where we had a wonderful afternoon filled with poetry, dance, music and which

culminated in the raising of the tricolour. It was a great celebration of all things Irish and I don't think I was alone in feeling immensely proud of both my school and my country going home that evening.

Since the publication of last year's Yearbook the school has lost the services of two very loyal and committed personnel. It came as a great surprise to the whole community when Ms. Moran informed us of her decision to retire. Ms. Moran made a huge contribution to the school for over two decades and particularly during her tenure as DP. She was steadfast in her commitment to ensuring the best possible outcomes for all students irrespective of ability and she can justifiably be proud of her achievements in this regard. On a personal level I wish to thank her for her support during the two years we worked together as Principal and Deputy Principal.

The summer of 2015 also saw Mr. Paddy Kelly draw the curtain on his distinguished service to BCS. Paddy is a man of great integrity and huge loyalty who gained legendary status over the years among both students and staff. Again he was a great support to me as I found my feet in the role as Principal and I wish to thank him sincerely for that. We wish them both well and fuller tributes are to be found within.

I also wish to acknowledge the contribution of the school's new DP, Ms. Majella Morrison, since her arrival last September. Ms. Morrison has a wonderful work ethic and has achieved a huge amount in a few short months. Ms. Moran was not an easy act to follow but Ms. Morrison has done more than just stamp her identity on the role. I am certain that Ms. Morrison will continue to make a significant contribution to the growth and development of the school for many years to come.

I would like to take the opportunity 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 Mr. Noone and Mr. Ginty for their work in compiling this excellent 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, of 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.

STAFF 2015 - 2016



Back Row: Mr. Eoghan Collins, Mr. Paul Ryan, Mr. Seán Larkin, Mr. Colin Quinn, Mr. Pádraig Shannon, Mr. Micheál Ginty, Mr. Raymond Wooley

Third row: Ms. Carmel Cox, Mrs. Patricia Hargaden-Whyte, Ms. Orla Phillips, Mrs. Bernadine Waldron, Mr. Gearoid Keane, Mr. Seán McHugh, Mr. Michael Murray, Mrs. Olive Lyons, Mr. Patrick Noone

Second row: Mrs. Carmel Stakem, Mrs. Josephine Loftus, Ms. Nicola Nolan, Mrs. Claire Kelly, Ms. Sinéad Healy, Ms. Claire Caulfield, Mrs. Gillian Madden, Mrs. Áine Fallon, Ms. Genny Murray, Ms. Orla Macken, Ms. Vivenne Cuddy, Mr. Patrick McGarry

Front row: Ms. Caitriona Leonard, Ms. Mary Mooney, Mrs. Sharon Mulroy, Ms. Majella Morrison, Mr. David McDonagh, Mrs. Bernie Osgood, Mrs. Siobhán Devine, Mrs. Anna Henry

Missing from photo: Mrs. Aoife Keane, Ms. Catherine Monaghan, Ms. Eadaoin Flynn, Mrs. Geraldine Cunniffe, Ms. Mairéad Conway, Mrs. Ann Marie O'Reilly, Ms. Geraldine O'Loughlin, Ms. Anne Grogan, Ms. Ann Varden, Mrs. Eva Brogan, Mrs. Caitriona Murphy

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



Mrs. Justina Lyons



Mrs. Patricia Gaughan.



Mrs. Sharon Gibbons.

STAFF NEWS

This academic year saw the retirement of Ms. Concepta Moran. The school would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication over the years. 2015 also saw the retirement of Paddy Kelly. The school would also like to thank Paddy for all of his hard work. Further tributes to both follow. We would like to welcome Ms. Majella Morrison as the new Deputy Principal at Ballyhaunis Community School. We wish her the best of luck in the role.

Congratulations to Ms. Claire Caulfield and fiancée Noel who were engaged recently. Congratulations to Ms. Nicola Nolan who was also engaged and is due to wed this summer. Best of luck to Nicola and Derek in their future together.

Congratulations to Mrs. Áine Fallon on the birth of baby boy Michael. Congratulations to Ms. Ann Varden on the birth of baby girl Síne. Congratulations to Mrs. Anne Grogan on the birth of baby boy Odhrán. Congratulations to Ms. Mairéad Conway on the birth of baby boy Michael. Congratulations to Mrs. Catriona Murphy on the birth of baby girl Niamh. Congratulations to Mrs. Geraldine Cunniffe on the birth of baby girl Mary.



Pictured are Ms Majella Morrison and David McDonagh



Pictured is Ms Majella Morrison

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A TRIBUTE TO CONCEPTA MORAN

MR. DAVID MCDONAGH

Tributes can be difficult to construct. Essentially you are attempting to sum up a person's life or career in a few short words and it is nigh on impossible to do them justice in such a fashion. Add into the mix a person who eschews such platitudes in her own life and would be aghast at the notion of a tribute and you have a very difficult assignment. So Concepta if you are reading this, my apologies but the occasion could not pass without recognising your immense contribution to BCS for over two decades.

Concepta arrived in BCS in 1993 as a teacher of Maths with a background in Special Educational Needs. Concepta was a teacher of considerable talent and insisted on high standards and ensured that all students were afforded the opportunity to fulfil their potential whatever their ability level. When she moved into the role of Deputy Principal in 1999 and assumed the responsibility of timetabling she brought the very same values to this pivotal role. Resource hours were always properly distributed and the student's interests were paramount in her thinking. In more recent years as teacher allocations came under increased stress due to severe cutbacks Concepta's skills were truly tested but she was never found wanting. Each year she produced a timetable which invariably ran smoothly but it was always a timetable that protected the more vulnerable students. I have no doubt in my mind that many students graduated from BCS during her time as DP having achieved positive outcomes that can be directly related to Concepta's commitment to serving all students irrespective of ability. This is a profound legacy and it is one that Concepta can justifiably be proud of.



Pictured are Student Council members Claudia Glavey and Padraic Duffy making a presentation to Ms. Concepta Moran on behalf of the student body to mark the occasion of her retirement as Deputy Principal of BCS.

Concepta's organisational skills and attention to detail are second to none. A large bustling school such as BCS requires a huge amount of regulating and one must have their finger firmly on the pulse. I must confess that Concepta made it look very easy. Everything was anticipated, problems were solved before they arose and the school operated like clockwork. Teachers trusted her and they were allowed to go about the most important business in any school, teaching and learning, safe in the knowledge that all extra and co-curricular activities were catered for and everything would be as it should be.

Concepta has a terrific facility to absorb and retain information. Though not from the area, she built up an encyclopaedic knowledge of Ballyhaunis, its hinterlands and its peoples. She used this information wisely and compassionately. Her position as DP allowed her to be privy to information about families that may be having some issues or difficulties. I know at first hand of interventions that Concepta made to assist these people to ensure that people were cared for and they were looked after. These acts of kindness and generosity were done in a way that didn't attract any attention and Concepta would have it no other way.

Concepta possesses an irreverent sense of humour which brightened up even the most arduous day. Renowned for speaking her mind she had a quick wit that often defused a stressful day or occasion. She never took herself too seriously and was always quick to find humour in a situation. This was an invaluable gift in what is a highly pressurised role and it allowed her to operate at a high level for her 15 years as DP.

When I took up the role of Principal in the summer of 2013 Concepta was an invaluable support to me. As outlined above she had a comprehensive range of tasks but she was never too busy to offer advice and her judgement was rarely off the mark. I would like to take the opportunity to thank her for her support and to wish her the very best of health and happiness in the years to come and I have no doubt that with Concepta's fondness for travelling and touring it will be a very active retirement!



MR. PADDY KELLY - A TRIBUTE

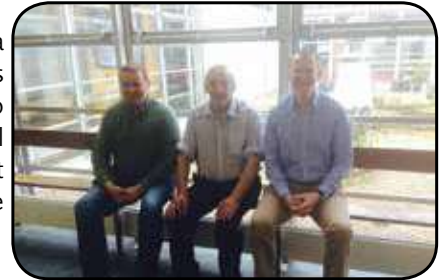
DAVID MCDONAGH



The summer of 2015 brought to a close Paddy Kelly's 38 year association with Ballyhaunis Community School. He had also served for some years as caretaker in the Vocational School in the town prior to his appointment to BCS. It would be fair to say that Paddy gained legendary status among both students and staff over the years. His unique way of communicating and his facility for calling "a spade a spade" ensured that he livened up many a dull winter's morning for many.

On my arrival into the school back in October 2001 I quickly realised that Paddy was an important man to get to know. Assisted by the equally legendary Con Boyle, any issues in relation to classrooms were quickly attended to, quietly and efficiently. I recognised immediately the immense contribution Paddy made to ensure that the school ran smoothly and effectively. However, it was not until my appointment as Principal in the summer of 2013 that I came to fully realise the level of Paddy's commitment. You never had to worry about the school being open on time irrespective of the weather and he was always on hand to facilitate teachers who wished to access the premises at weekends or during holiday times.

One particular event sticks in my mind above all others. It was the summer of 2013 and a plumber had been engaged to address some issues that were arising in the school but his arrival coincided with one of Paddy's days off. Nonetheless Paddy called in around 10.30 to assist if required. However the plumber didn't arrive until 1p.m. As I pulled out of the school that afternoon after four o'clock, Paddy was still on site ensuring that everything was as it should be – all this on his day off! This was done without quibble and it highlights for me the incredible dedication and loyalty Paddy brought to his work.



When Paddy called into me that last evening in July of 2015 there was a real sense of an "end of an era" about it all. However Paddy can take great pride in the manner in which he conducted himself over the years and his outstanding service. On my own behalf and on behalf of all my predecessors I would like to thank him for that and wish him and his wife Mary many years of health and happiness in retirement.



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A WORD FROM OUR SCHOOL CHAPLAIN –

ORLA MACKEN **MS. MACKEN**

This school year had a very different feel to it. By the end of September Ms. Moran, our deputy principal and colleague had retired. She ensured we were all well and truly settled into the new school year with everything in place before she took leave from BCS. I want to take this opportunity to wish Ms. Moran every good wish for this new chapter in her life. Ms. Moran was held in high regard by the school community – everybody knew where they stood and if you weren't where you were supposed to be then there would be questions to answer! The students insisted on marking Ms. Moran's retirement despite her wish to keep her departure low-key. Members of the Student's Council presented her with a beautiful painting that I'm sure will take pride of place in her home. On my own behalf I want to thank Ms. Moran for her support of my role – she always gave me a listening ear and even though she may not have always agreed with my 'creative notions' we always reached a consensus. She was direct, to the point and her experience allowed her to have valuable foresight in challenging situations. Ms. Moran had a particular interest in Special Education having trained and worked in this area, this gave her a great understanding and empathy towards students who struggled with school. This was our common ground and over the years I believe we supported many students to make it through their years at BCS. I am in no doubt Ms. Moran is settling into this new phase in her life. I want to wish her many, many years of health and happiness to enjoy lots of adventures and sightseeing!



We also said goodbye to Paddy Kelly this year. Paddy has been so much a part of the school community for over 40 years. He has given great service to the school – you still expect to meet Paddy on the corridors and see his familiar face and hear his 'colourful sayings' in the shop. Paddy will forever be etched in the memory of staff and students for many years to come. I would like to wish Paddy well with many long and happy years to spend in his retirement.

I have to pinch myself that we have come to the end of another school year. Time seems to slip by in the blink of an eye. This year was filled with plenty of activities on stage and off, in the classroom and outside! We welcomed Ms. Morrison to the school community at the end of September and with her arrival a new chapter in BCS' history begins. As this year draws to a close, we are aware that there have been many changes including the much anticipated start of the school extension and refurbishment, the fabric of our school community is constantly changing but one thing I hope that remains is the sense of spirit and goodwill in our school. I pray that this will continue to live on. Let each of us endeavor to nurture this spirit.

This last term brings with it examination fever with practicals and summer tests, 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.

I will sign off with some inspiring words...

Have a lovely summer!

O. Macken



'Words to live by'

*Don't undermine your worth by comparing yourself to others.
It is because you are different that each of you is special.*

*Don't set your goals by what other people deem important.
Only you know what is best for you.*

Don't take for granted the things closest to your heart. Cling to them as you



*Don't give up when you still have something left to give,
Nothing is really over . . . till the moment you stop trying.*

*Don't be afraid to admit that you are less than perfect.
It is this fragile thread that binds us together.*

*Don't be afraid to encounter risks.
It is by taking chances, that we learn to be brave.*

*Don't dismiss your dreams.
To be without dreams is to be without hope; to be without hope is to be without purpose.*

Don't run through life so fast that you forget not only where you've been, but where you are going.

Life is not a race, but a journey to be savored every step of the way.

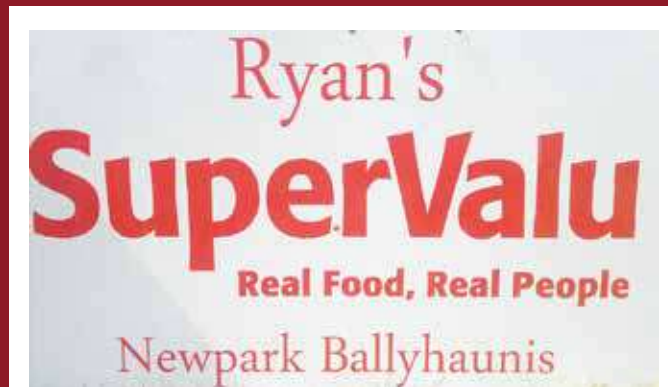
BCS CONSTRUCTION PROJECT



An Taoiseach Enda Kenny turns the sod on the extension and refurbishment of Ballyhaunis Community School to allow construction to commence. Construction is now well underway and we all look forward to seeing the development of the project.



New building artist impression



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CLASS 1A



Back Row: Dylan Lyons, Patrick Mannion, Simon McDonagh, Shane Flanagan, Diarmuid Phillips, Jamie Allen, Joel Grennan, Sarah Keane-Higgins

Middle Row: Leah Fallon, Aoife Doherty, Dearbhla Glavey, Megan Henry, Ruth Henry, Laura Madden, Leah Johnston, Roísín Murphy, Dominic Parr

Front Row: Hala Kezze, Eliska Victhová, Janna Maaz, Sally Maaz, Darren Groarke, Daniel Fagan, Oisín Duffy, Conor Morley, Henry Concannon. Missing from photo: Simi Akinsulire, Mohamad Jafar.

CLASS 1B



Back Row: Niall Flanagan, Nathan McGarry, Daniel Murray, James Doyle, Emmet Flanagan, Ruairí Delaney

Middle Row: Hannah Waldron, Tamara Squire Keane, Laura Godfrey, Gabriella Cervenak, Rida Naseer, Anna Cunnane, Rona Hosty

Front Row: Dean Lyons, Stephen Cannon, Conor Kinnarney, Maham Asif, Eilis Duffy, Méabh Delaney

Missing from photo: Brianna Casey, Teresa Cleary, Tommy Cleary, Zeeshan Khan, Angela Killeen, Modesta Kucinskaite, Tom Mahlis, Peter Maughan, Emily Sharman

CLASS 1C



Back row: James McDonagh, Caitlin Coll, Aaron Keaveney, Daniel Hill, Stephen Dooney, Jack Deegan, Declan Henry, Ethan Conneely, Dylan Caulfield

Middle Row: Bothina Kazzeh, Kamile Pasukeviciute, Barbara McDonagh, Pedro Pirghasemi, Wiktor Siemionkowski, Jack Grealy, Nathan Colleran, Thomas Keane

Front Row: Adel Habib, Erin Raleigh, Suhaib Bouh, Dara Rattigan, Peter Morris, Kieran O'Gara, Salwa Rahmani, Rey Benkhelifa.

Missing from photo: Leanne Cornwall

CLASS 1D



Back Row: Cian Walsh, Jakob Jurak, Aoibheann Crawley, Kate Delaney, Tara Cullen, Hannah Tener, Claire Fleming, Gloria Matundu.

Middle row: Aidan Cooper, Jason Reinhardt, Merlin Pearson, Mohammad Kezze, Kate Mannion, Anna Tigue, Tamzin Whelan-Manning

Front Row: Courtney Clifford, Opeyemi Fabunmi, Mohammad Ibrahim, Conal Hession, Joshua Webb, Kevin Durkan, Callum Casey, Jack Harrington

Missing from photo: Patrick Daly, Owen McDonagh, Miradie Kabongo, Ali Rahimtoroghi, Rabia Zaheb

1ST YEAR SOCCER

Our 1st year boys had three games in the Connaught league this year. We drew 2-2 against St. Marys Galway but were defeated by both St. Gerald's Castlebar and Presentation Headford in what proved to be a very strong group. All the lads tried their best and for many it was their first experience playing competitive soccer and no doubt we will come back stronger next season. Best for the BCS lads this season were Callum Casey, Joshua Webb, Diarmuid Phillips and captain Jason Reinhard.



First year soccer squad:

Back Row: Jason Reinhardt, Daniel Fagen, Jack Degan, Nathan McGarry, Simon McDonagh, Callum Casey, Jamie Allen, Dylan Lyons, Aaron Keavney, Daniel Murray

Front Row: Dean Lyons, Jack Harrington, Diarmuid Phillips, Conal Hession, Joshua Webb, Kevin Durkan, Dara Ratigan, Suhaib Bouh, Conor Morley

1ST YEAR BASKETBALL

DECLAN HENRY AND CONAL HESSION

The first year boys had a very successful year and have showed great promise for the future.

Our first game was against a strong St Clare's Comprehensive, Manorhamilton which we won by just three points. Our second game was against a very experienced St Nathy's, Ballaghadereen which we lost 15-8. The third game we played was against St Coleman's Claremorris which we won 21-14. This victory ensured that we qualified for the Regional Semi-final in which we played a seasoned Davitt College side. Despite their strength our boys rallied as a team and came out winners in a tight game.

The season was going very well for us at the time but we still needed some training so we decided to get Liam McHale in. He is a legendary Irish basketball player and Mayo Footballer. The training during the Easter Break was good and helped us a lot. After that, we had the Regional final against St Gerald's, Castlebar.

They were a very strong side and unfortunately we lost. Getting through to the Regional Finals meant representing the North West Region in the All Ireland playoffs. We faced strong teams in ballymahon from Galway, Kildare and Longford. We travelled down on a Sunday, which was tiring. We had come on a lot as a team and did well, but lost narrowly and did not get through. It was great for our first year team to have come this far and the team has gained a lot of experience, which will prove invaluable for next season!



First year basketball Regional Finalists:

Back row: Cian Walsh, Diarmuid Phillips, Daniel Murray, Jason Reinhardt, Daniel Hill, Declan Henry, Nathan Colleran, Nathan McGarry, Aaron Keavney

Front row: Dara Ratigan, Darren Groarke, Conor Morley, Oisín Duffy, Conal Hession, Joshua Webb, Daniel Fagan, Dean Lyons, Thomas Keane



1ST YEAR BONDING DAY

Friday, November 6th marked the 1st year bonding day at Esker Youth Village in Athenry, Co. Galway. It was a lovely opportunity for the students to take some time out of their 1st year at BCS to get to know each other and to create memories with their new peer group. As well as lots of inspirational input from Lizzie and her team we also had time for tag rugby, golf and hide and seek in the woods! The day concluded with a talent show where many of our 1st years got to display their singing, dancing, juggling, magic tricks and a rendition of the Periodic table in record time! Many thanks to Mr. Ryan, Ms. Niland, Ms. Hardigan Whyte and Ms. Macken for accompanying the students on the day.



FIRST YEAR 'Meet & Greet'

Our senior mentors facilitated a 'Meet and Greet' evening for all incoming 1st years last May. The students organised lots of games for the students to help them get to know each other and ease their fears about making the transition in our school. Well done - a great evening of fun was enjoyed by all.



FIRST YEAR META FIT

Leaving Cert Girls mentors organized Meta Fitness classes with Tracey Cunnane for all the first year girls in January – Well done to all involved.



THE BIG SKIP OFF 2016



Big Skip Off Finalists

Back Row : Hannah Tenner, Jakob Jurak, Darren Groarke, Niall Flannagan, Declan Henry, Joshua Webb, Aidan Cooper, Cian Walsh

Front Row: Megan Henry, Eilis Duffy, Salwa Rahmani, Kate Delaney



Big Skip off winners:

Darren Groarke and Megan Henry

FIRST YEAR CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Leaving Cert Mentors Claire Fahy, Michelle Lyons and Saoirse Caulfield organised a Festive Christmas Quiz for all 1st years on Tuesday, Dec. 22nd. Pictured are the winning teams



Winning Team: Leah Fallon, Laura Madden, Meabh Delaney, Roisin Murphy,



Second Place: Tamara Squire Keane, Leah Johnston, Kate Delaney, Laura Godfrey



Third place: Caitlin Coll, Bothina Kazzeh, Melin Pearson, Dara Rattigan

FIRST YEAR CAMÓGIE

First Year Girls Camogie team who were narrowly defeated by a single point in the final of the Girls blitz held in Castlebar in May.



Back Row: Sarah Keane-Higgins, Dearbhla Glavey, Hannah Tenner, Kate Mannion, Courtney Clifford, Laura Godfrey

Front Row: Angela Killeen, Megan Henry, Meabh Delaney, Aoife Doherty, Eilis Duffy, Aoibheann Crawley

FIRST YEAR GAMES AFTERNOON - SEPT. 2015

Leaving Cert mentors organized a games afternoon in September for all the new First Years. Well done to everyone involved and to Mr. Woolley & Ms. Macken for their help.



FIRST YEAR BOYS GAEILIC FOOTBALL - CONNAUGHT CHAMPIONS

LUKE MANNION

Mr. Collins, Mr. Ryan and Mr. McHugh were in charge of the first year boys Gaelic football team. The squad started training in October and had one training session a week. Their first outing was a blitz in The Centre Of Excellence where they got into the final. They played a very strong Ballinrobe side in the final. Good determination from Daniel Fagan and Simon McDonagh wasn't enough as the game finished Ballyhaunis: 3-3 Ballinrobe: 4-14. In the first league game they faced a well prepared St. Aloysius on a cold, windy day but in the end they came out victorious with a 1-10 to 2-2 win with strong performances from James McDonagh and Conal Hession. Their 3rd game was against a very strong Garbally College Ballinasloe in Ballinasloe when they recorded their 2nd loss of the season by a scoreline of 4-9 to 1-5. In their most recent and competitive game they came out with a win with good performances from Daniel Murray and Diarmuid Phillips playing a very strong side in Roscommon Community College where they came out victorious 5-4 to 6-4 win. Overall they had a successful season with several wins culminating in a fantastic victory in the Connacht League. The team defeated Abbey college, St Brigid's and Colaiste Eide from Galway city to ensure a place in the final. As would be expected the final against Colaiste Iognaid from Galway city was a very tough game but the Ballyhaunis boys fought hard and came out on top by the slender margin of 2 points, winning by a score of 1-8 to 2-3. Thanks to Mr. McHugh, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Collins and the two Transition Year students for their help throughout the year.



Back row l to r : Daniel Hill, Aaron Keaveny, Mohammad Ibrahim, Patrick Mannion, Shane Flanagan, Daniel Murray, Declan Henry, Simon McDonagh, Diarmuid Phillips, Henry Concannon, Jamie Allen, Owen McDonagh

Front Row l to r : James McDonagh, Jack Harrington, Dean Lyons, Jason Reinhard, Kevin Durkan, Joshua Webb, Conal Hession, Oisín Duffy, Dara Rattigan, Stephen Cannon, Nathan McGarry, Jack Greally.



FIRST YEAR GIRLS GAA

EMER FORDE AND HELEN GALLAGHER

The first year girls had a short year which consisted of a First Year Girls Gaelic Blitz held in Swinford in September. The girls had two teams on this day; the Ballyhaunis Cats and the Ballyhaunis Kittens. They had a successful and enjoyable day at this event, in which they won three out of their five games. Although this was the only outing for the girls this year, they continued to train throughout, with many of them competing with the U-14 Girls Gaelic team.

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS & THEIR MENTORS



Class Group 1A and their Leaving Cert Mentors:
Aisling O'Boyle, Sana Almas, Mudasir Rehman,
Piarais Caulfield, Alice Sesiuk, Chloe Naughton,
Lauren Gallagher, Meadhbh Glavey, Aoife
Mulrennan, Padraic Duffy, Aisling O'Gara,
Hamza Azhar.



Class Group 1B and their Leaving Cert Mentors:
Ibrahim Ashraf, John Cunnane, Faysal Kezze,
Callyn Murphy Jasmin Chong, Michaela
Kilkenny, Jenny Golden, Korina Meehan,
Amy Taylor, Cathal Carney, Oisín Coffey, Eoin
Morris.



Class group 1C and their Leaving Cert
Mentors: Michelle Lyons, Claire Fahy, Róisín Ní
Shuilleabhán, Chloe Greenwood, Oisín Henry,
Nadine Mangan, Emma Rowley April Sesiuk.



Class group 1D and their Leaving Cert Mentors:
Hillary Phillips, Claudia Glavey, Orla Cleary,
Saskia Kirrane Ciara Delaney, Aimee Regan,
Laura Mulkeen

Senior pupils not pictured who also volunteered for mentoring first years this year:

Brian Waldron, Cassie Niland, Abusafyan Ahmad, Matthew Grogan, Dalia Fleitikh, Tom Murphy and Caolan Regan.

FIRST YEAR TALENT SHOW

RÓISIN HUSSEY

The annual First year talent show was held in February this year. Excited First and Second year students gathered into the assembly area looking forward to see the talent on show. We had numerous different acts from singing, drumming, and rhythmic guitar to Arabic dancing. When the show was finished our judging panel, which was led by Mr. McHugh and accompanied by four TY students, had a very difficult decision to make. In the end, the judges chose Jack Deegan as the overall winner. Sarah Keane Higgins and 'The Seven Amigo's' were joint second with Declan Henry and Sally Maaz coming in joint third. A special thanks to Ms Devine and the Transition Year class for all their hard work in organising this event. The event was very much enjoyed by all who attended.



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the friends you've made;
the places you've visited*

Record your achievements, make a note of favourite films / books / music / people, sporting achievements write down your ambitions, make a Things To Do Before I Die list. Add photos, quotes & notes. Includes a map of the world, note where you have travelled. If you're too young to fill it in right now, someone else can start it for you, your first steps, first words, first day at school. The list is endless."

This is the description of The Story of My Life, the first year Student Enterprise Awards entry from last year. The brave souls who created this book were Merlin Pearson, Jason Reinhardt, Cian Walsh, Joshua Webb and Kevin Durkan. The diary won the school competition to represent BCS in the county final in Ballina. The diary has had great reception among both the family members of the team members and the inhabitants of Ballyhaunis. The idea was first conceived when Ballyhaunis Community School decided to enter the Student Enterprise Awards back in September of 2015. It was a great day in Ballina when we won the Junior area title. A big, big thanks to our teacher Ms. Bernie Osgood, our mentor Peter Hopkins and all at Ballyhaunis Community School. We would also like to thank our families and friends and all our customers. The diary has a powerful presence on social media with accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The company also has their product being sold on Amazon and Donedeal. Needless to say, the diary has sold very well, with over 200 copies being sold to date.

There was a book launch held in "The Shop" on Main Street, Ballyhaunis on the 23rd March and it was a great success with over 20 books being sold in one night. Keith Higgins and Cathal Cregg attended also The team were interviewed by Anne Cunnane from the Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce to discuss the business and to give us some advice. The company has also had great support from various celebrities such as Michael Duignan, Dessie Dolan, Padraic Joyce, Anthony Cunningham, Cathal Cregg, Ciaran Murphy, Damien Young, Kevin McStay, Padraig Harrington and Liam McHale to name but a few and from the Ballyhaunis business community, Michael Cummins, Stephen Farragher, John Prenty, Mid west radio, and Sinead Freye.

Padraig Harrington said; *"Best of luck to Jason and the Story of my Life team tomorrow. "*
Great to have the support of the Roscommon manager Kevin McStay.

'A super idea- and a nice book, best of luck to ye'

Yvonne Byrne, Mayo Footballer and BCS alum gave this testimony;

"The Story of my Life is a wonderful concept. The fact that it is in "real-time" makes it exceptional in this age of digital media! With space for 50 years of journaling it makes a wonderful gift & could also be beneficial, as a reference book, for anyone who may suffer memory difficulties in the future. I want to wish the lads all the best with their business & in Croke Park at the Student Enterprise Awards final in April."

The crescendo came on the 20th April when The Story of My Life went to Dublin to compete in the National Finals of the Enterprise Awards in Croke Park. There were many other companies of all shapes and sizes selling and providing all manner of products and services. The Story of My Life won the prestigious Best Intellectual Property Awareness Award in the Junior Category. We would like to thanks Mr. David McDonagh and Ms. Majella Morrison for all of their support through the duration of this project.



Back Row: Michael Duignan, Dessie Dolan, Padraic Joyce, Anthony Cunningham, Cathal Cregg, Ciaran Murphy and Damien Young.

Front row: Ms. Bernie Osgood, Kevin Durkan, Jason Reinhardt, Merlin Pearson, Cian Walsh

Missing from Photo: Joshua Webb



Pictured are Merlin Pearson, Cian Walsh, Joshua Webb, Jason Reinhardt and Kevin Durkan receiving their Best Intellectual Property Awareness Award at the National Enterprise award finals.



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FUNDRAISING

FESTIVE DAY ÁINE DUFFY

On the 17th of December the Transition Year students held a 'Festive Day'. This was to celebrate the Christmas Spirit throughout the school and to create a festive atmosphere. Everyone was encouraged to wear something Christmas orientated and we had many creative jumpers! Throughout the day there were many colourful, hilarious, and light up jumpers to be seen. Many people went all out and came in with Santa hats. Overall, the day was very enjoyable for both students and staff and it certainly succeeded in creating a festive atmosphere in the school.



CANDY CANE DAY ÁINE DUFFY

On the 19th of January, the class 3D organised a 'Candy Cane Day'. Candy Canes were available to buy at lunchtime, at a cost of €1. Students could anonymously send the Candy Canes to anybody they wished within the school, which created a great deal of excitement. These were delivered on the day by members of the 3D class. All proceeds were donated to the MSPCA.

GREEN DAY ÁINE DUFFY

On the 16th of March, the TY students organised a 'Green Day' in honour of St. Patrick's day. Every student in the school was asked to pay €2, and they could wear green clothing. We had many creative and colourful clothing choices, some people really got into the Irish spirit. The day was a very fun and enjoyable day for all students and teachers.

SHAVE OR DYE ÁINE DUFFY

Before the Easter break, a number of Transition Year students took part in the Today FM Shave or Dye. We had many different hair colours ranging from purple, to red, to green. It was a very enjoyable experience with each participant fundraising and getting people to sponsor them on the official sponsorship cards. An online donation page was also set up so that people could donate quickly and easily online. All money raised went directly to the Irish Cancer Society.

SACRED SPACE



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Memorial Award

Bank of Ireland

For small steps, for big steps, for life

CLASS 2A



Back Row: Soheab Arshad, Matthew Mullarkey, Fiona Crawley, Aaron Dee, Rachel Dillon, Lilian Ridley, Tara Coyne, Mary Carr

Middle Row: Sahar Arshad, Molly Curran, Clodagh Conway, Gráinne Delaney, Clodagh Byrne, Holly Browne, Aoife Carney, Winnie Allen, Gráinne Collins.

Front Row: Darren Nathan Maughan, Kyle Cooke, Daniel Coyne, Eimhin Conboy, Aoibhe Coggins, Gillian Donnellan, Gráinne Byrne
Missing from Photo: Egis Aravicius, Ali Sakkar

CLASS 2B



Back Row: Nadeeha Jugoo, Olivia Halas, Abdullah Noor, Michael Gotskowski, Shane Glynn, Amy Gildea, Sarah Gavin, Lorna Donnellan

Middle Row: Patricia Solovyova, Sarah Hopkova, Saim Gulzar, AJ Hamze, Damien Kilkenny, Ryan Keadin, Emma Graciova, Jasmin Glavey

Front Row: Megan Greenwood, Lauryn Golden, Fizzah Tahir, Ella Dunleavy, Lorna Gormely, Chantelle Glynn, Vanessa Henry, Niamh Fitzpatrick
Missing from Photo: Martin Hutman, Oisín Greally, Conor Keane, Darren Terence Maughan.

CLASS 2C



Back Row: Aleksandra Jonio, Roisin Kerrigan, Ciara Loftus, Laura O'Boyle, Jamie Lee McGowan, Dean McGarry, Armen Selgjakaj, Stephen Maughan, Ben Lynskey.

Middle Row: Winnie McDonagh, Stephanie Jennings, Houda Kezze, Pierce Nestor, Rafah Shawi, Kevin McHugh, Oliwa Klimczyk, Mila Macciukaite, Chloe Kirrane.

Front Row: Megan Morley, Ronan Moran, Ethan Keane, Nathan Coll, Aoibhinn Kelly, Amy Keane, Jennifer Lyons, Liam Lavin Missing from photo: Gabrielle McDonagh, Jack McGoldrick.

CLASS 2D



Back Row: **Matthew** Caulfield, Grace Omatayo, Clodagh Waldron, Luke Walsh, James Frayne, Jack Ronayne, Sinead Tarmey, Irtaza Rehman.

Middle Row: Rebecca Reynolds, Courtney Cooper-Sturdy, Niamh Smith, Anna Lyons, Áine Phillips, Niamh O'Neill, Laura Niland, Shauna Rogers, Sheena Roddy, Jenita McCormack

Front Row: Aisling Regan, Amy Waldron, Abdullah Sakkar, Tony Alyward, Ronan Swanick, Jacob Ubych, Haroon Shabbir, Matthew Walsh, Ibrahim Rahmani. Missing from photo: Martynas Pleckaitis.

2ND YEAR KNOCK RETREAT

BY SHEENA RODDY AND GRACE OMOTAYO 2D.

On Thursday the 4th of February we went on our religious retreat to Knock. It was a very enjoyable day and we learnt a lot of new information about Knock but more importantly about ourselves. We arrived in Knock at around 10 o'clock along with our RE teachers. We were brought into the prayer guidance centre, where we met two of our facilitators who were very friendly and nice. They asked us to do fun activities and group work which we really enjoyed. These activities helped us to feel closer to God and each other. A particularly meaningful activity was when we wrote private letters to thank God for our friends and families.

After the activities we went on a tour of the Knock Museum. Here we were given activities sheets and we had to walk around the museum to find certain answers and the best answered activity sheet won a prize. When we had all completed our activity sheets we were all taken for a tour of Knock and we saw the Golden Rose and Basilica. We were told all about the history of Knock and it was very interesting. We all really enjoyed this retreat. We learnt a lot about our religion and Knock and we had lots of fun while doing it. We highly recommend the day to next year's second year students!!!



2ND YEAR GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

Friday the 13th was certainly not an unlucky day for the second years of Ballyhaunis Community School. 105 students along with their geography teachers went on a trip to The Burren. We set off at the early hour of 7:30 am in high spirits at the thought of the day ahead; hoping the sun would make more than a cameo appearance. We arrived at the Aillwee Caves and there was great excitement as we could finally get off the bus. We got to see first-hand the formations of stalactites, stalagmites and pillars, that up to now we had only seen in our books. The tour was short and sweet and we took a few minutes to stretch our legs and have a snack or two; with ice-cream being the number one choice! We arrived at the Michael Cusack Centre. The tour was highly educational with a mix of history and geography. We were divided into two groups as we were treated to an expose on Michael Cusack and the history of the GAA followed by a 6km trek across the burren observing and learning about the unique features and flowers. Our enjoyment was certainly heightened by the appearance of the aforementioned SUN! Both teachers and students were delighted to be out of the classroom for the day! After the morning's activities, we had worked up an appetite and it was time for lunch. We enjoyed our lunch al fresco in the beautiful landscape of the burren. Lunch soon ended and we set off to Caherconnell where a bit of light entertainment was then had as we watched a sheep dog exposition and many of the budding farmers were trying to learn some new tricks to bring home with them! Our tour had ended and it was time for the journey home with our wonderful bus drivers from Geraghtys. We arrived back at the school at 6, pleasantly tired after our day's activities. A great day was had by both teachers and students. Thank you to the geography teachers who organised the tour; Ms. Stakem, Ms. Brogan, Ms. Varden and Ms. Cunniffe.



PANGAEA MATHS OLYMPICS

Pictured are second year students Gillian Donellan and Jack Ronayne holding their certificates as finalists in the Pangea Maths Olympics which was held in Trinity College in April. Congratulations to both who were selected from thousands of entrants.



POETRY CORNER

The Bog

The dreaded walk down the road,
Before we had gone I was already bored,
I was still complaining when we reached the
end of the lane,
Looking back now I was such a pain.

I hated the footing,
It was really off-putting,
by the end of the line,
I was ready for dinnertime.
By the end of the season,
Really was beaten,
but I didn't mind,
because the weather was fine.
I liked bringing turf home,
because I was never alone,
using the tractor and trailer,
money in the holiday fund for later.
Looking back now I had great times,
going back and forth up and down the lines,
one thing that never entered my mind,
was that I would become so bored,
taking that dreaded walk down the road.

Aaron Dee

Then and Now

"Dear come clean the kitchen"

My mother would say,
"NO" I would reply, for I wanted to play,
"Fine I'll do it myself" she would sigh,
This is what is like at five.

"Come and clean the kitchen now"
My mom always says,
"No way" I shout even though it's a mess,
"Do it or no phone" she shouts,
This is what it is like now.

"Mom buy me this now" I would say "sweetly",
"Of course, you've been good"
she says untruthfully,
I would grab it and smile,
Without any thought that she lies,
This is what it was like when I was five.

"Mom, can you buy me this please" I say sweetly,
"No you're not five anymore" she says truthfully,
I try and try but I know it's no use,
I sigh because I know she is telling the truth,
This is what it is like now.

Of course I knew this day would come,
Being the oldest is not much fun,
Now it is their turn to be the spoiled brats,
But their era will end I can assure that.
There is a then and a now and they
both always end,
When on our parents we can depend.

Anonymous

Wiggly Tooth

One day I had a wiggly tooth
that wouldn't do its work.
So I tied it to a doorknob
And I pulled it with a jerk.

But since that tooth is missing,
to tell the honest truth,
My mouth feels mighty lonesome
without that wiggly tooth.

"A mouth just like a picket fence"
That's what my mother said
"I see braces in your future
Better start saving ahead"

A year of prison and now for me
The torture is all done
But all around me for my friends
It has only just begun.

Anonymous

A time to learn

Growing up can be tough,
You'll definitely learn a lot of stuff.
You might grow two feet overnight,
Or your new shoes might be a bit too tight.

You might have different tastes in food and drink,
Or ask questions about the way you think.
You might make lots of brand new friends,
Or wear all the clothes that are in the trends.

You mightn't like all the things you did,
When you were a small innocent, kid.
You might be treated differently,
Because of your age and maturity.

But your family and friends will always be there,
Even if the mood you are in is quite rare.
But growing up is a part of life,
Even if it may cause you some strife!

Ciara Loftus

The Oldest

Being the oldest of two, I was
expected to protect,
And look after my younger brother,
But even after all the care I showed him,
He still told lots of tales to my mother.

The older we were,
The closer we got,
But of course there were still times,
He annoyed me a lot.

Secondary school came and went,
As a teenager, family did not mean so much,
Everyone was always far too busy
to care about Mum & Dad,
When you were with them, there was either
dead silence or the slamming of doors.

Now I'm in College, Sharing a room with
three girls I barely know,
Sitting in my dorm room now
gives my time to think,
About how much simpler life was at home.

Clodagh Conway

Shoes to Fill

Nick loved his dad,
The pair were very close,
Nick thought the world of him,
He would always brag and boast.

Nick wanted to be just like his father,
He was a lorry driver like no other,
He said he loved to come home,
To his caring son and mother.

The two often went on trips together,
Nick loved the purr of the truck,
In town the lights were always green,
Dad said it was the lorry's luck.

Nick's dad gave great advice,
About exams, girlfriends and life,
He thought he was an expert,
As he landed a lovely wife.

Dad had to go to hospital,
Nick was there day by day,
But Nick's heart was crushed,
As dad had passed away.

Nick was confused and scared,
The day his dad fell ill,
But when he passed on Nick knew,
The shoes he had to fill..

Dean McGarry

Last Class

Sixth class in Cloonfad,
Wasn't all that bad,
However I would never tell my dad,
How I was such a "Jack the lad".

Lunchtimes were spent ducking and diving,
Lazing in the river bank skiving,
Oh how that ball went zipping,
On top of that river "shining".

Daniel Coye

POETRY CORNER

Notch on the door

Every year by the door we stood up straight,
Tape measure out and we'd anxiously wait.
I'd hear my name called, jump to my feet,
socks and shoes off and in my bare feet.

What height I was I was about to find,
an inch this year I had in my mind.
The moment of truth is finally here,
two inches I shout, TWO INCHES this year!

Aaron Dee

Only Child

Long Ago I used to be wild,
when I was an only child,
If you could only imagine the things I did,
But back then I was only a kid.

Because I was an only child I got away with
murder, I caused so much trouble and nobody
cared, they didn't think I'd go any further,
Until one day when my mom looked
around and I wasn't in her sight,
But once she looked up all she could
see was me swinging from the light.

I know you're all thinking this isn't true,
But trust my mom was hoping that too,
The embarrassment I caused that day in the shop,
Made all the trust come to a stop.

Until at the age of 5 I got a fright,
The news I had been dreading all my life... For,
It was not going to be an only child no more,
Soon my younger sister was born,
This really did leave me torn,
Originally this was not my intention.
But she soon enough gave all the attention.

We soon enough became best friends,
She also drove people around the bend,
She soon was the one swinging from the light,
It was then her turn to get the fright.
When we thought there could be no more,
Another sister came at the door.

Anonymous

Be Yourself

When I was a child, no-one told me,
How difficult growing up
could possibly be.
Sometimes, Maybe I don't
want to fit in,
I like to be myself, is it a sin?

Growing up no-one
wants to stand out,
They go with the crowd
what's all that about?
We were all created to be
who we are,
If we copy others we won't get far.

We all tend to conform to the
expectations of others,
Mostly our friends, fathers
and mothers.
When we grow up whom
will there be,
To only conform to it will
alone be me.

We need to start now and
let our true selves out,
Trust me you'll feel a lot better
that I can't doubt.
If there's anything from this
poem you can take,
Stay true to yourself
and don't be a fake.

Gráinne Collins

Fun Times

Growing up is such fun,
When you playing with everyone.
At school, sport or at your house,
Or when you're watching Mickey Mouse.

Cousins at nanas who with I did play,
Anything, especially on a sunny day.
Or snowball fights when it snowed outside,
We'd keep going until someone cried.

My childhood was the best it could be,
With my friends and family.
But just 'cause we're older we
don't think its lame,
We go outside to play a game.

Grainne Delaney

The Blame

When I was younger
I would get away with murder
But I would never be in bother
All thanks to my older brother

I'd break things
I'd smash them
(Not on purpose but still)
There was no need to panic
Because I've got my brother Phil

I'd blame him
I'd shame him
My parents being so clueless

He might shove me
But he'll cover me
My good old brother Phil

I've never told him how much
he means to me
But I should because he's the best
Thank god that I've got my
good old brother Phil.

Megan Greenwood

The Female Athlete

We work so hard to play the game,
Morning, noon and night we train,
Just like the boys we dream the dream,
All we want to do is win for our team.

Most times it is hard to be a girl in sport,
We try and try for more support,
We work and play just as hard
yet, our efforts are sometimes
met with disregard.

All we ask is some fair play
and a little respect on our big match day.
Like all athletes our desires run deep
and in our sport our faith we keep.

When it comes to final judgement day,
All we want is to put up our hands and say,
We played the game we tried our best,
We have worked our hardest and
have earned our rest.

Holly Browne

CREATIVE WRITING

"The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." In this poem by William Ross Wallace motherhood is praised as the outstanding force for change in the world. My name is Eimhin Conboy and over the next few minutes I hope to share with you some shocking statistics and facts about our unequal society and its effect on worldwide issues. Women do not have equal access to, and control of resources, they do not have equal access to participation in political decision making and they do not have equality under law. Women have a self-sacrificial spirit that is willing to sacrifice time, strength and even their own health for the sake of their children. Women go hungry to feed their children; they are sleep deprived to ensure their children get sleep. 350,000 women die each year in child birth and from complications relating to child birth and 99% of these deaths are in the developing world.

Women work 2/3 of the worlds working hours and receive only 10% of the world's income. Globally only 20% of parliamentarians are women, thankfully this issue is being addressed, this is evident in our own country and on the 13th of December 2015 in Pakistan four female candidates were elected in the first ever election where females were allowed to stand. So, what can we do to further improve this imbalance in our society? Education and poverty are strongly linked. I believe the global issue of gender inequality is worsened by poverty and is one of the reasons why poverty continues. 60-80% of food production is done by women yet women have limited access to land. Equality in this area could reduce food shortages. Eradication of poverty should not be an impossible dream, but why then have we not realised the dream? The reason is because we continue to repeat the same mistakes in society over and over again. What are these mistakes and why do we keep repeating them? As I mentioned previously education and poverty are closely linked. Education is necessary to eradicate poverty. We need to empower women through education to fight for social change.

There are 2.2 billion children in the world. 1 billion or almost every second child exists in poverty. 121 million exist outside an education system. In countries such as Vietnam 1 million plus children are not in school because child labour is considered more worthwhile than education. Almost 1 billion people began the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their name. 1 in 7 people in the world suffer from starvation and an additional 1 in 3 are malnourished. Living in poverty denies people the basic rights and necessities associated with human dignity. Let us be the conscience of the world, we should not allow those who are weak and meek in life to become more invisible in death. Let us use a tiny percentage of what we spend globally to educate our children. Let our young girls become the educated voices of the future. Let gender in equality evaporate with poverty and perhaps we may yet believe that the "hand that rocks the cradle rules the world"

Eimhin Conboy

U14 GIRLS GAELIC

EMER FORDE AND HELEN GALLAGHER

The U-14 Girls had four matches in total this year. The first match of the year was against Swinford in Ballyhaunis pitch in October. The girls fought to the final whistle but were defeated by a score line of 6-9 to 5-5. Their next match was our local rivals St. Louis of Kiltimagh on a cold and windy day in Aghamore. The girls were in the lead until half time but St Louis managed to take control for the remainder of the match and defeated our girls by a disheartening two goals. Unfortunately the girls did not come out victorious in the rest of their matches but put a huge amount of effort, time and dedication in preparation for these matches. The girls are very thankful for the amount of time and commitment Ms Osgood has shown this team throughout the year.



Back Row L-R: Lorna Gormley, Dearbhla Glavey, Leah Johnston, Aislinn Regan, Sarah Gavin, Sahar Arshad, Grainne Byrne, Fiona Crawley, Amy Gildea, Clodagh Waldron, Mary Carr, Shauna Rogers, Niamh O'Neill.

Front Row L-R: Rachel Dillon, Aoibhinn Kelly, Aine Phillips, Anna Lyons, Aoibhe Coggins, Amy Keane, Niamh Smith, Grainne Delaney, Lorna Donnellan, Niamh Fitzpatrick.

2ND YEAR BOYS BASKETBALL **SEÁN FRAYNE**

The second year boys found themselves in a tough group with St Nathy, Ballaghadereen, Our Ladys, Belmullet and St. Clares Comprehensive in Manorhamilton. Their first outing was against St Clare's Comprehensive, Manorhamilton. The boys played well at times with Ibrahim Rahmani and Jack Ronayne standing out but the lack of training and court time was showing. Despite having the lions share of possession we were unable to convert our chances. The second game was against a very strong and well drilled St Nathys, Ballaghadereen. The lads played very well showing a huge improvement from the first game with Darren Maughan and Dean McGarry getting the bulk of the scores in this high scoring game. The lads lost this game 40-20. A performance like this one would have won the first game but St. Nathys proved too strong. The last game was cancelled at the last minute which was a shame as they were just starting to get going. The lads did themselves proud with the dedication and determination shown in both training sessions and in matches.



Back Row: Martynas Pleckaitis, Martin Hutman, Eoin McDonagh, Jacob, Ubych, Abdullah Noor, Michael Gostkowski, Ethan Keane, Damien Kilkenny, Matthew Mullarkey, Matthew, Caulfield, James Frayne, Luke Walsh
Front row: Egis Eravicius, Dean McGarry, Daniel Coyne, Ibrahim Rahmani, Jack Ronayne, Ronan Swanick, Soheab Arshad, Liam Lavin, Darren Maughan, Oisin Greal, Conor Keane

U15 BOYS SOCCER



The U-15s started their year with a disappointing loss to The Bish. The Match was played in Ballyhaunis school pitch kick off 11:15 am. Unfortunately the boys lost. The heavy loss does not reflect the effort and abilities of the boys today. Bish had a very strong midfield and attack that had three international players that Ballyhaunis was not able to compete with. Bish looked very strong and confident on the ball with some very skillful playmakers. It did not take long for them to take the lead but the Ballyhaunis boys kept their heads up and played strong through the match. In the second half the Ballyhaunis boys kept Bish's Goal scoring run to slight halt. Joe Murphy was denied a penalty. The team and management were happy with elements of the

performance. In particular the attitude, dedication and commitment of the players despite the scoreline. Unfortunately this was the only game the U-15s had this year.

2ND YEAR GIRLS BASKETBALL **ÁINE DUFFY**

This year there was great interest and enthusiasm in the 2nd year girls team as we had a huge panel of 35. Many of last years players were back again this year, but there were many new faces which was brilliant to see. Training began before Christmas and all the girls that came out always put in an excellent effort and their development and progression as players was evident after a few short weeks. Matches began in January against Mount St Michael Claremorris. The girls put up a brilliant display and it was a keenly contested game. Unfortunately, our finish let us down and so we were unable to put enough scores on the board. Our second match was against Ballinrobe CS in Ballinrobe. Again the passion the players showed during this match was fantastic but we were pipped at the post by our opposition. Our final match for the year was a challenge match. They came out victorious that day after a hard battle. All girls on the panel got game time and showed great drive and dedication. We hope to see all these girls back next year for the 3rd year league to keep their progression going. Special thanks to Ms Osgood for all her hard work with the team.

Pictured here are:

Back Row: Mary Carr, Lorna Gormley, Olivia Halice, Emma Graciová, Lauren Golden, Laura O'Boyle

Front row: Lorna Donnelan, Tara Coyne, Sahar Arshad, Megan Greenwood, Clodagh Conway, Sarah Hopkova, Gillian Donnelan, Róisín Kerrigan



AOIBHEANN GALLAGHER AND ORNA HESSION **1ST & 2ND YEAR HURLING**

The 1st and 2nd Year boys hurling team only had one outing this year, a blitz in the Centre of Excellence Began on Tuesday 1st March. The teams involved in this blitz were BCS, St Colman's College Claremorris, Rice College Westport, Summerhill College Sligo and St Gerald's Castlebar. Firstly, the lads played St Gerald's of Castlebar. From the start, we were on top and with fine play from both defenders and attackers the lads won the first match comprehensively. With no delay the lads launched into their second match, against Summerhill College Sligo. Bursting with confidence from their first win, they worked very well together and secured their second win of the game. The third match of the day was the much awaited battle against St Colman's Claremorris. Although Colman's were the best side Ballyhaunis had come up against so far, our lads once again pushed on to beat their neighbours. By this stage in the afternoon, not even gale force winds and rain could stop our lads as they took on their final opponents; Rice College, Westport. Ballyhaunis clocked up a huge score in the first 10 minutes of the match, but the weather became too stormy to play on and BCS were declared the victors. Although this was the only outing these lads had this year, they were very successful and proved that the combined forces of Tooreen and Ballyhaunis hurling clubs are a force to be reckoned with!



Back Row L-R: Damien Kilkenny, Soheab Arshad, Jack Deegan, Declan Henry, Dylan Caulfield, Ruairi Delaney, Thomas Keane, James Doyle, Daniel Hill, Shane Glynn, Jack Ronayne and Daniel Coyne.

Front row L-R: Daniel Fagan, Diarmuid Phillips, Eimhin Conboy, Dean Lyons, Ryan Keadin, Matthue Mullarkey, Conor Keane, Oisin Grealley, Liam Lavin, James Frayne, Conal Hession and Nathan Colleran.



LIAM HERR **JUVENILE BOYS FOOTBALL**

The juvenile boys football team managed by Mr. Ryan had an up and down season. The season kicked off with a game against Ballinrobe at the local GAA pitch in Ballyhaunis in October. The game ended in a win for Ballyhaunis. Next match for the lads was against Balla in Ballyhaunis. It was a dominant win for the team which was made easier after captain Joe Murphy was shown a fist by an opposing player which resulted in a red card for that player. Next match for the team was against Strokestown. This was another good opportunity to see everyone in action, and Mr. Ryan took full advantage of this by playing everyone on the panel. The match was hard fought with only a few lucky plays separating the two teams with Strokestown coming out on top.

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**For further information contact the PLC Coordinator Bernadine Waldron on 086 - 0341072
Office 094 96 30235**

AWAKENING 2016 O. MACKEN

Our students were invited to be part of the AWAKENING 2016 which took place in Breaffy Arena on Thursday, May 5th. 389 students from 12 post-primary schools took to the stage to perform at this concert of contemporary and church music. All the proceeds raised were donated to PIETA HOUSE. This event took place at the start of a very important weekend for Pieta House with the Darkness into Light walks taking place across the country. The young people were so impressive in so many ways and the 30 students from BCS were an absolute credit to themselves and our school and they helped to make AWAKENING a night no one will ever forget. Well done in particular to Ms. Siobhan Devine who prepared these students in learning the songs for the concert. It was with pride that Ms. Devine watched her former students Ms. Siobhan McHugh and Ms. Maura McHugh conduct the choir on the night and not forgetting former student Fr. John Kenny who was MC for the evening. It was a proud evening for Ballyhaunis CS present and past students.



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G. MADDEN

GREEN SCHOOLS



Each year the Green Schools committee has been working towards a cleaner and more environmentally friendly school. The Committee aims to educate both staff and students on specific environmental issues to encourage them to be more environmentally aware both in school and in their homes. This year's Green schools committee consists of Coordinator Ms. Eva Brogan, Transition Year students, two 5th Year students, Ms Madden, Ms. Caulfield, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Mulroy, Mr. Larkin, Mr. McGarry, the caretaking staff and Mr. McDonagh and Ms. Morrison.

The Green Schools committee undertook many projects this year, in particular, it was their aim to achieve the first Green Flag for the school for Litter and Waste Management. The committee drew up an Action Plan. The Action Plan included the introduction of new recycling stations which were constructed in the school by Transition Year students and Mr. Quinn.

Bottle tops were collected for reuse and a very impressive mural was created using these bottle tops by Ms. Lennon and her LCA class. Each class were made aware of what they should be recycling and composting. Everyone was encouraged and educated on reducing the amount of waste they produce and what can and cannot be reused safely.

This plan was a huge undertaking by all involved and culminated in the success of the project and the awarding of the Green Flag to the school. The flag is to be presented to the members of the committee at the end of May.



HEALTHY EATING IN BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

V. CUDDY

For young people to achieve their full potential, it is essential that they eat healthily. As well, healthy eating provides the building blocks for lifelong health and well-being. Adolescence is a time of physical growth and development – the most rapid since infancy. It requires adequate intake of energy and nutrients. Eating a nourishing breakfast and a healthy school lunch allows children to take full advantage of the education provided for them. In developing a Healthy Eating Policy, the school should address two key action areas: a) the whole-school context and (b) teaching and learning. This ensures that an action plan to develop a supportive whole-school environment is created and that consistent messages are provided through the curriculum. Step four of the policy development process (see below) provides details on how this can be achieved. Health education is not only about delivering information but also about developing the skills and confidence required to make healthy choices.



SUBJECT AREAS

The subject of healthy eating is addressed to varying degrees in many subject areas that offer a unique opportunity for teachers to influence young people in this regard. Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE), Home Economics, Biology, Science, and Physical Education (PE) are examples of subjects on the curriculum for post-primary schools that address aspects of diet, nutrition, physical activity and health.

INVOLVE THE WIDER COMMUNITY: this helps to provide support and expertise to the school and may help to generate heightened interest in healthy eating locally. Possible ways of involving the wider community are:

- **developing initiatives in partnership with local food businesses – for example, garage shops, shops and fast-food outlets**
- **involving the community dietitian and health-promotion personnel in informing the school policy**
- **inviting national food groups such as An Bord Bia to the school to offer their expertise**
- **participating in national youth projects – for example, Young Social Innovators or school business projects**

HELEN GALLAGHER

LISA REGAN NUTRITIONIST TALK

On the 8th of March, nutritionist Lisa Regan visited our school to talk to all girls involved in sports in the school. The talk took place in A7/B1 and was delivered to both Junior and Senior girls. Lisa explained to us the importance of maintaining a healthy and well balanced diet and also the different exercises that help keep our bodies in shape. She took it upon herself a number of years ago to develop a training regime every day to tone her body up and to also stick to a healthy diet. Her early morning training sessions can start as early as five am and last between one – two hours. She advised us on what exercises are best suited to teenage girls and how these exercises can help boost our performances during all sports we are involved in. Lisa is an online blogger on both Facebook and Instagram and posts daily photographs and videos of her training sessions. Her Facebook page can be found by searching 'Lucy on Henry Street' and her Instagram is 'LisaReganPR'.



CLASS 3A



Back Row: Muhammad Saim Asif, Zainulabidin Azhar, Patrick Caulfield, Aoife Conway, Sadhbh Cox, Alannah Dennehy.

Middle Row: Conal Caulfield, Nial Coffey, Arisa Selgiekaj, Melissa Selgiekaj, India Costello, Roisin Cassidy, Niamh Foody, Neil Carney.

Front Row: Jack Cloney, Dara Healy, Kasey Clarke, Gemma Foody, Aoife Davis, Thomas Coffey, Oisín Boland.

Missing from photo: Celia Conroy, Asmat Khan, Kiran Muqadas, Grace O'Gara

CLASS 3B



BackRow: Conor Fitzmaurice-Doyle, Alan Glynn, Ciaran Doherty, Barry Cribbin, Enda Crawley, Conor Flynn, Jack Coyne

Middle Row: Sinead Kiely, Jessica Klein, Christina Manning, Hannah Doyle, Juliane Gardiner, Michelle Grogan, Shauna Lyons, Derbhla Freeman, Jenny Gourlay.

Front Row: Colleen Manning, Sophie Flannery, Adela Illichova, Emma Heelan, Amy Greally, James Colleran, Cillian Costello.

Missing from photo: Aaron Forde, Adrianna Kelly

CLASS 3C



Back Row: Keevan Murphy, David Hession, Stephen Fallon, Anna Naszkierska, Cait Phillips, Gabriele Zininaite, Evelina Zinninaite, Roisin McLoughlin.

Middle Row: Eimear Murray, Amy Mulkeen, Erika Graciova, Siofra Murray, Jason Meehan, Patrick Carr, Kristyn O'Reilly, Alannah Nolan.

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

Missing from photo: Joseph Murphy

CLASS 3D



Back Row: Jason Reidy, Dylan Raleigh, Weronika Grabiasz, Niamh Ward, Noel Ward, John Reidy, Deividas Rutkauskas, Evan Godfrey.

Middle Row: Laura Regan, Loujain Bouh, Zeba Younas, Rebecca Vahey-Brennan, Roisin Ruane, Erin O'Reilly, Zineddin Rahmani.

Front Row: Lauren Walshe, Katie Ronayne, Ellen Phillips, Aislinn Tighe, Aran Rattigan.

Missing from photo: Ursula Brady, Deirbhile Finn-Richardson, Ethan Vahey-Owens.

A VISIT FROM MSPCA – 3D CSPE ACTION PROJECT

O. MACKEN

Well done to 3D on the completion of a very successful CSPE Action project. After much debate on what to do the students decided to invite a speaker from MSPCA (Mayo Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) to speak to the class on their rights and responsibilities on caring for animals. MSPCA is located in Pattens Park, in Ballyhaunis and some of the class actually volunteer there walking the dogs so it was an excellent choice for our action project. After the very informative presentation by volunteers Nessa and Christina and meeting rescue dog Buddy the students to organize a fundraising activity in raise for this very important local charity. The students came up with a novel idea of decorating and selling Christmas Candy canes with the MSPCA logo and providing a delivery service with special messages to staff and students. All of their hard work and effort paid off and they successfully raised €350 for this very worthwhile cause. The students wrote up their action project journal and they all commented that it was such a brilliant way of learning about rights and responsibilities. Well done to everyone in 3D.



CSPE VISIT TO THE MILITARY BARRACKS, Renmore, Galway.

KASEY CLARKE AND CELIA CONROY

3A and 3c joined forces in their CSPE Action Project and visited the Renmore Military Barracks in Galway on Tuesday, Nov. 17th, 2015. With permission from our parents and Mr. McDonagh we were all set for a day out in Galway. We were extremely lucky to get the chance to visit the barracks and hear about the life of a soldier. We also learned about the history of the barracks, the training, and the weapons they use and also about their overseas missions. We all agreed that becoming a soldier and being a soldier is a challenging but rewarding career choice. We also got to meet past pupil Jason Fahy and who knows maybe our visit to the barracks could put the army on another pupil's career list. The day was a huge success and an unforgettable experience. We would like to thank our CSPE teachers Ms. Murray and Ms. Macken for helping us to organise the trip and accompanying us on the day.



3C CSPE ACTION PROJECT

HANNAH DOYLE AND JESSICA KLEIN

For our CSPE Action Project, the 3B class decided to raise money and awareness for UNICEF'S work in relation to the refugee crisis. We contacted Vivian Parry, Public Relations Officer for UNICEF Ireland. She was extremely helpful and assisted us in organising an online workshop for the class. To raise funds for UNICEF'S work we decided to hold a bake sale in our school. Our bake sale was held on Friday 2nd of October and it was a huge success. We managed to raise a total of €192 for UNICEF. To raise awareness about the brilliant work that UNICEF does in countries affected by the refugee crisis we decided to design and put up posters all around our school. Through the online workshop we learned many heart breaking facts about the refugee crisis that made it impossible for us not to help in some way. For example, we discovered that a massive 50% of the refugee population are vulnerable children!! We also found out that 2million children have been forced to leave school in Syria! These shocking facts and statistics made our project more worthwhile as we felt that our work had helped a child just like us to receive the basic human needs and rights that they deserve. We would like to sincerely thank our teacher Mrs. Stakem for her valuable help and guidance throughout our project and everyone else who was involved!

3RD YEAR RETREAT TO BALLINTUBBER ABBEY

On the 20th and 21st of January 2016 we went to Ballintubber Abbey on our annual retreat. We set off in great form, looking forward to a day away from the books and talk of upcoming mock exams. When we arrived we were pleasantly surprised when we were offered tea and biscuits. Our facilitators included Fr Frank Fahey instantly put us at ease and we knew from the beginning that this was going to be a brilliant day.

We then spent our morning meditating and reflecting on ourselves through various exercises. Fr Fahey made the morning very enjoyable as he was amusing yet inspiring. The topics such as "Masks" self belief and our faith were all relevant to teenager life today and we all got involved in discussion.

After this we began the famous "Togher" walk. This is where the real fun began and the mud fight happened! By the end of the walk we were all saturated but after a quick outfit change we were soon back to normal. Overall we thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Ballintubber Abbey, we will never forget the experience and we look forward to more retreats in the future! The experience was enjoyable and enlightening. Thank you to our chaplain and RE teachers for organising this day for us.



JUNIOR CHOIR



Back Row L-R: Aoibhe Coggins, Grainne Byrne, Jasmin Glavey, Clodagh Waldron, Amy Gildea, Aine Phillips, Sinead Tarmey.

Middle row L-R: Ella Dunleavy, Eimhin Conboy, Nathan Coll, Aaron Dee, Tamsin Wheelan-Manning, Amy Waldron

Front row L-R: Molly Curran, Grainne Collins, Mila Maciukaite, Chloe Kirrane, Jennifer Lyons, Amy Keane, Clodagh Byrne, Lorna Gormley, Gillian Donnellan

JUNIOR SCIENCE QUIZ



Students who participated in the Regional finals of the ISTA Junior Science Quiz in GMIT Galway on Thursday April 28th with one team finishing 3rd. Pictured are finalists:

Back row: Hannah Doyle, Michelle Grogan, Ciaran Doherty, Alan Glynn, Aran Rattigan, Neil Carney

Front row: Roisin Cassidy, Amy Greally, Cait Phillips, Katie Ronayne, Aislinn Tighe, Jessica Klein
And the team finishing 3rd were Alan Glynn, Aislinn Tighe and Aran Rattigan

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING AT BROOKVALE MANOR NURSING HOME

Brookvale Nursing Home Christmas Carol Service on Thursday, Dec. 17th 2016

Many thanks to Mrs. Devine, Ms. Macken, TY's and students from the school choir who went to Brookvale Nursing Home to sing at the annual Christmas Carol Service on Thursday, Dec. 17th 2016. A lovely afternoon where students helped to spread some christmas cheer among the residents .



U-16 BOYS SOCCER

Training for the U-16 boys soccer began after the Christmas holidays. Mr Noone was the coach. They had one training session every week. The first match was on 25th of February, played in Milebush Park, Castlebar against St. Louis of Kiltimagh. This match was a Connacht quarter final and meant that if they lost they were out of the competition. St. Louis went 1-0 up at half time. But Ballyhaunis started

to play well, and a backpass by the St. Louis defender to their goalkeeper and Joe Murphy applied good pressure resulting in the keeper kicking it off him and ended up in the back of the net. Ballyhaunis dominated the ball and created good chances but they could not convert. Ten minutes from the end, St. Louis went 2-1 up from a quick counter attack. Ballyhaunis never got back into the game from there. They ended up scoring two more goals to put the game to bed. The game finished 4-1. Players who played well were Stephen Fallon in midfield and Enda Crawley and Jack Coyne both at centre back. Jason Meehan came on and also played really well on the left wing. It was a dissappointing result and meant that Ballyhaunis were out of the competition.



Back Row L-R: Mr Noone, AJ Hamze, Soheab Arshad, Evan Godfrey, Patrick Caulfield, Conor Flynn, Neil Carney, Keevan Murphy, Jack Coyne, Enda Crawley, Shane Glynn, Jason Meehan, Noel Ward.

Front Row L-R : Armen Selgjakaj, Sean Frayne, Conor Hunt, Pierce Nestor, David Hession, Dean McGarry, Joe Murphy, Stephen Fallon, Conor Keane, Ethan Keane, David Cunnane.

JUNIOR GIRLS CAMOGIE 2015/16

Back Row L-R : Hannah Tenner, Róisín Cassidy, Amy Mulkeen, Hannah Doyle, Amy Gildea, Clodagh Waldron, Sinead Kiely, Molly Curran, Aoibheann Crawley, Vanessa Henry.

Front Row L-R: Aoife Doherty, Megan Henry, Derbhla Glavey, Jessica Klein, Grainne Delaney, Meabh Delaney, Ella Dunleavy, Eilis Duffy



U-17 CONNACHT SQUASH CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to Gemma Foody, Alannah Dennehy and Niamh Foody winners of the Connaught Schools Squash U-17 championships.



JUNIOR HURLING AOIBHEANN GALLAGHER AND ORNA HESSION

The Junior boys hurling team had a brief but successful year this year, with only two days out in total but concluded in them being crowned Mayo Post Primary Junior Hurling champions. Their first day out was a trip to St Colman's College on Tuesday 8th March for two games against St Colman's College and Rice College Westport. Firstly, the lads played the hosts St Colman's College. This Junior panel consisted of players from first, second, and third years but no matter the age or size of our lads they played out of their skins to earn their first win of the day. The final score in this match was Ballyhaunis CS 2-14, St Colman's College Claremorris 0-4. The lads had no break but dived straight into their second and final match of the day, against St Gerald's College Castlebar. The formation of the Ballyhaunis team may have been different, but their work rate was just the same as the lads started off the game at a serious pace. This game wasn't as competitive as the first, as the skill and determination of the Ballyhaunis team was too much for St Gerald's. The Ballyhaunis defence stayed strong throughout the first half, leaving the half time score Ballyhaunis CS 3-2, St Gerald's College Castlebar 0-0. A strong team started the second half for Ballyhaunis as scores came quick and fast from all angles. The lads worked extremely well together from start to finish with great discipline throughout. The lads won the game by a considerable amount and now advanced to the final where they would take on Rice College Westport in the County Junior Hurling Final. The Junior Hurling Final took place in The Centre of Excellence Began on the 16th March against Rice College Westport. This was undoubtedly the lads greatest challenge as Rice College Westport were matched well with Ballyhaunis CS in terms of skill, speed and accuracy. The two teams were neck and neck throughout, and at half time there was only 2 points between the teams, with Ballyhaunis CS scoring 3-5 and Rice College Westport scoring 1-9. The second half was extremely tense as scores were taken in turn from both teams. The third years on the Ballyhaunis team showed great leadership and inspired the whole team to a well-earned victory. The final score in the game was Ballyhaunis 4-10, Rice College Westport 2-12. The cup was presented to the captain Jack Coyne who lead the team brilliantly throughout each game. Thanks to Mr Woolley and Mr Collins for training and encouraging this team to play to their full potential and achieve great things!



Back row: Evan Godfrey, Jack Deegan, Kevin Murphy, Declan Henry, Enda Crawley, Stephan Fallon, Jack Coyne, Daniel Hill, James Frayne, Patrick Caulfield, Jack Ronayne, Ciaran Doherty
Front row: Dara Healy, Eimhin Conboy, Thomas Keane, Diarmuid Phillips, Conor Keane, Conal Hession, Liam Lavin, Ryan Keadin, Jack Grealy, David Hession

BADMINTON 2015/16

It has been a busy year on the badminton courts this year in BCS, with training taking place every Wednesday evening after school with Mr. Shannon. Trials were held at Under 14, Under 16 and Under 19 levels to establish competition squads and from there, teams were selected to compete in the Connacht schools C Division Tournaments in Galway. Two Under 19 boys teams competed in their tournament in January, while at Under 16 level, three boys teams and one girls team played their matches in March. Huge interest has been shown at Under 14 level, with four boys teams and two girls teams looking forward to their tournament after Easter. Mr. Woolley organised a Badminton Killer competition in P.E. where the winning boy and girl from each class qualify to play in a Junior School and Senior School final. The Junior Badminton Killer champions are Josua Webb (class 1C) and Amy Mulkean (class 3C), while the Senior Badminton Killers have yet to be identified. Well done to all involved.



U-16 Girls - Gemma Foody, Allannah Dennehy, Ciara O'Grady, Kasey Clarke



U-19 Boys Squad. Left to right: Abusafyan Ahmad, Muhammad Uneeb Nazeer, Mohammad Zohaib Gulzar, Ibrahim Ashraf, Hamza Muhammad Azhar, Hmad Farooq, Imran Siddique, Liam Foody



U-16 Boys A - Aran Rattigan, Conal Caulfield, Michael Gostkowski, Kyle Cook



U-16 Boys B - Saim Asif, Soheab Arshad, James Colleran, Joe Murphy



U-16 Boys C - Uneeb Naseer, Zain Azhar, Killian Costello, James Frayne



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SEÁN FRAYNE AND EVAN HENRY **TABLE TENNIS REPORT**

Table tennis has really taken off in BCS in its first year thanks to the great work undertaken by Mr Ryan. For the first time ever there was a table tennis tournament in school. It was a huge success with over 70 participants. The winner was Seán Frayne with Pedro 2nd and Conor Hunt 3rd. Best performing junior student was Declan Henry, best performing senior student was Isaac Oladipupo and best performing girl Anna Tighe. This was the first tournament for the players in the newly established club.

The school entered an u13 Girls team in the Connacht Championships in which they steamrolled to victory beating Claregalway in the final. The team consisted of Anna Tighe (C), Opi Fabunmi, Gloria Matundu, Angela Killeen, Emily Sharmen and Sally Maaz. The girls progressed to the All-Ireland final in which they came up against Deansrath Community College. The girls narrowly lost out to the very strong Leinster Champions who had many more years of experience playing table tennis.

The Inaugural Centenary Cup was played in March. This is where the first years of BCS played the first years of Claregalway. This cup was named in honour of the 100th anniversary of the 1916 rising. In order to make the panel for the tournament students had to write an essay on the life of Thomas J Clarke, which incorporated the anniversary of the 1916 Rising with table tennis. A successful day was had with over 70 students participating, unfortunately Claregalway were victorious on the day and took the Centenary Cup on its maiden voyage.



Centenary Cup



Ask All Ireland Tournament



Top performers in the whole school tournament



Centenary Cup



Ask All Ireland Tournament

JUNIOR BOYS FOOTBALL

The Junior lads competed in a blitz in the Centre Of Excellence on the 21st of September where they played Kiltimagh and Foxford. They took on Kiltimagh in the first game which ended in a draw, 2-7 to 2-7. They showed great character with scores coming from Stephen Fallon, Patrick Caulfield and also a goal each from Cormac Phillips and Ethan Owens. Great play in defence from Jack Coyne and the half back line. They took on Foxford in the second game. Ballyhaunis enjoyed early possession which led to the first three points and an early goal from David Cunnane. The game was evenly fought in the first half. As Foxford pulled back the score and brought it level at half time. In the second half Ballyhaunis remained dominant in the midfield with Enda Crawley and David Cunnane. However, the great defending from the back line was not enough to maintain the lead as Foxford got a few easy goals. The game finished with a score of 6-4 to 4-7. A disappointing league campaign led to two losses in the league against Athenry and Strokestown and as a result they were knocked out. The lads showed great heart and did the school proud.



Back Row: Patrick Caulfield, Enda Crawley, John Madden, Cormac Phillips, Dylan Ruane, David Cunnane, Conor Flynn, Jack Coyne

Front Row: Stephen Fallon, Joseph Murphy, Neil Carney, Williams Ganley, Ethan Owens, David Hession, Conor Sloyan

SCÓR NA NÓG 2016 ÁINE DUFFY

Aghamore GAA club has a very long and successful tradition of competing in Scór Na nÓg. Our club enters groups in a variety of categories like the solo singing, set dancing, ballad group and question time. In 2013 we were lucky enough to have 2 groups qualify for the All Ireland, our set dancers and our ballad group. That year, the ballad group came out victorious while the set dancers lost out by a small margin, but this defeat only inspired them and drove them on. With only one replacement of the 2013 set, David Hession taking the place of Davóg Frayne, the group work tirelessly and reaped the benefits of their work and dedication by qualifying for the Connaughts in 2014 and eventually taking the All Ireland title in 2015.

Unfortunately, due to age restrictions, we lost three of our eight All Ireland winners; Eleanor Harrison, Thomas Doherty and Rachel Lyons. Eager to fill gaps and begin training, we recruited three new, young replacements from younger sets; Eimhin Conboy, Beth Lloyd and Niamh Duffy. They joined the five current champions; Seán Frayne, Orna Hession, James Frayne, Áine Duffy and David Hession. They were not afraid to take on the task and the team practiced hard continuously and bonded together, resulting in victories at Club, East Mayo and Mayo Scór before they earned a place at the Connacht Scór Final in Claremorris Town Hall. We came up against stiff oppositions from our Galway rivals Abbeyknockmoy and polished St. Dominic's team. Being it our first year together in this group, we were the underdogs on the day so when we heard our name being announced as Connacht Champions, we were all equally surprised and taken aback.



The celebrations were short lived as preparations began the night after our victory. Although we had won at Connaught, we as a group knew we were far off the All Ireland level and had immense work to do if we were to retain our title. Practices took place daily without fail, whether it was morning, noon or night. Everyone put in a huge effort and we continued to make improvements right up until the 29th of January where we travelled to the INEC in Killarney. Fundraisers were held for our trip to Killarney and we would like to thank everyone that helped out, especially from Ballyhaunis Community School who, as well as raised funds, gave us a brilliant send off at the First Year Open Night. All set dancers are present and future students of BCS and we really felt the support of the school behind us, especially from Ms Devine and the music department. We made our way to the GlenEagle, fully kitted in



our new tracksuits, sponsored by the club for the occasion. We relaxed the night before the competition in the hotel, going for a swim as a team and having an earlyish night.

We woke up bright and early on the 30th of January as we had a busy schedule ahead. We had sound checks and stage practices early in the day and we were on a tight timetable. Set dancing was the final competition of the day and we were the closing act. Hair and makeup was completed before the competition started so we were able to watch the beginning of the show before we were ready to go on.

Our time came to show the Judges all our hard work as we danced onto the huge stage. Thankfully we left it all onstage and gave the performance of a lifetime. Then the wait began. We anxiously sat through all the of the results before finally it came to us. Kerry was our main opposition as they were older and more experienced than us. Finally the Fear and Tí gave the results, 'Although they can't win it at football, they sure can with set dancing! Buaiteoirí Scór Na nÓg 2016 as Contae.. Mhaigh Eo!' The place erupted with cheers. We had retained our title! We rushed up on stage as Seán and James Frayne claimed the cup once more. It was particularly special as we had two brothers, two sisters and two first cousins in the set.

We celebrated our victory that night in the hotel and returned to Aghamore the following day as All Ireland Champions. A big thank you to all our family and friends who joined us for the celebrations. Special mention must go to Gráinne Kelly-Frayne who worked tirelessly as our teacher and devoted her time to get us up to such a high standard. None of this would be possible in our club without her expertise and dedication. A big thank you to her from the whole set.

AOIBHEANN GALLAGHER 5KM RUN

The annual Ballyhaunis Community School 5k run was once again a very successful event. There was a great community effort involved. The students showed great enthusiasm towards the run and there was a great turnout. Congrats to Joseph Wagatcha who again won the 5k well clear of the rest of the field. We would like to thank everyone involved especially Mr Wooley, the LCAs and the transition year students.



MULTI-CULTURAL DAY MOHAMMAD Z RAHMANI

The 19th of October 2015 was the day our annual Multi-Cultural Day took place. This was a very special day in our school as it was attended by An Taoiseach Mr Enda Kenny. Representatives from 28 different nationalities set up their displays in A7/B1 to celebrate the variety of different cultures that we have here in Ballyhaunis Community School. There was a carnival atmosphere of music, food and sport, Mr Kenny visited each table tasting the food, listening to stories and asking questions about the different cultures. He spent some time at the Syrian table and was sympathetic to the plight of Syria at the moment. It was also a remarkable event since An Taoiseach Mr Kenny opened our 'Imagine Garden'. The Imagine Garden was designed and completed by a number of students in conjunction with Ms Murray, Ms Lennon and a local artist, Mr Tommy Casby to celebrate the diversity which exists in our school. Mr Kenny also turned the sod on the new school refurbishment project. After cutting the ribbon to open the garden and visiting the various different display tables, Mr Kenny gave a speech to the students and staff of the school. He commended the school for its values of embracing diversity and sharing of culture. I also gave a speech to explain the meaning of this garden and why we designed it. The garden symbolises our efforts to show how working together can transform and make a difference. As we worked on the garden we shared stories from our native countries. We learned about the importance of weather in everyone's life, which is why we decided on the sun-shape as a symbol of the global importance of climate change. Our sculpture of the hands around the world in the centre of the garden is a symbol of active citizenship and the name of our garden "Imagine" is our wish for a world without war or inequality. A world where everybody would have the same chance in life. Last year's garden project was supported through funding by World Wise Global Schools and The Creative Engagement Programme. We hope to continue with the development education project next year. This day turned out to be an unforgettable event. I was proud to represent my native country Syria and the school in this event.



Welcoming An Taoiseach

Pictured : Ellen Phillips, Lauren Osgood, Ms. Sinead Healy, Mr. Enda Kenny, Mr. John O'Mahony, Mr. John Cribbin and Mr. David McDonagh.

MADRID SCHOOL TOUR

On Saturday the 24th of October, during the Midterm Break our School tour began. We departed the school car park at 1am. When we got to Dublin Airport we had some food and departed at 6:15am. When we arrived in Madrid we went straight to the Parque Warner theme park. It was a very enjoyable experience and everybody had great fun. Later that evening we ate at Museo Del Jamon. Then we arrived at the Hotel Mediodia where we would stay for the duration of our school tour. We started off the second day with a 3 hour guided walking tour of the city of Madrid. It was very interesting and we learned a lot from it. Later that night we went to the Vicente Calderon Stadium to watch Atletico Madrid play Valencia. It was an exciting game with Atletico winning 2-1. It had a great atmosphere and everyone enjoyed it. On the third day we went on a day excursion to Alcazar Fortress Toledo. It was very interesting and everyone had a great time. That evening we ate at Restaurante Reine Sofia. For our last night we went bowling. On the last day we went on a tour of the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. After that we went to Moda shopping centre. Everyone was looking forward to this and rushed into the shopping centre as soon as we got there. We then went back to the hotel to pack our stuff. We departed Madrid airport at 20:40pm and arrived at Dublin airport at 22:20pm. We got the bus back to Ballyhaunis where we arrived at 1:30am. Everyone was tired and glad to be home. We all enjoyed the tour and would like to thank Mr McGarry, Mr Larkin, Mr Ryan, Mrs Madden and Ms Caulfield for bringing us and putting up with us for the four days.



MULTI-CULTURAL DAY



POPSTARS THE 90S MUSICAL

AOIBEANN GALLAGHER, ORNA HESSION
AND RÓISÍN HUSSY



BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

proudly presents

POPSTARS

THE 90'S MUSICAL

in the School Auditorium

Thurs. Fri. & Sat.
**Nov. 19th, 20th
& 21st 2015**

Tickets: Adults: €10

Students/OAP's: €8

Curtains up 7.30pm sharp

T: 094 9630235

W: ballyhauniscs.ie



This year the senior students of BCS got the opportunity to showcase their talent when we performed the hilarious comedy "Popstars the 90's". It's boyband vs girlband in this hilarious new musical produced by David Spicer. Packed with pop smash hits from the 90's, songs like "Hit me baby one more time" by Britney Spears and "Saturday Night" by Whigfield all made an appearance and got everybody up on their feet. This production was a team effort and it required endless hours of rehearsals from both teachers, students and cast members. Auditions were held in the school music room both during and after school. After much deliberation the lead roles were assigned. Now there was no turning back... Lines were learnt, songs were practised and dance moves were perfected in the weeks that followed. Chorus groups were chosen, dance partners were matched up and that's when the craic really began! Mrs Devine was all hands on deck with afterschool practices to perfect our voices. During rehearsals friendships were consolidated, strong bonds were formed and even some "sparks flew".... The weekend before the musical was an over whelming one, as most of the cast have never set foot on the big stage before. We spent all day Saturday perfecting our voices with our second and third year pit choir who provided harmonies for the three nights our musical was showcased. The highly anticipated dress rehearsal finally arrived on Sunday and at 3 o'clock everyone arrived at the school dressed in character! The dress rehearsal went relatively well but we all realised that we had to pull up our socks to make this musical a success! We showcased our production on the 19th, 20th and 21st of November for three nights only. All nerves were completely forgotten about and the shows were a huge

success. There wasn't a spare seat left in Ballyhaunis on these three nights. We got a brilliant response from the audience every night and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the production! We would like to thank the backstage crew, and everyone who helped to produce this musical. We would especially like to thank our music teacher Mrs. Devine, Director Mrs. Henry and choreographer Hazel Llyod without their encouragement, drive and deification this musical would not have been a success!





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SHAUNA MURRAY, JOANNE COFFEY AND CHLOE RYAN **1916 COMMEMORATIONS**

As part of the Ireland 1916 commemorative programme, schools across the nation celebrated the centenary of Easter 1916. 100 years ago heroic civilians sacrificed their lives for the independence we have today. Fortunately for us, we were born into a free and equal state. On the 15th of March 2016, we had the privilege to gather together as a school community to celebrate those who risked their lives for our freedom. We are so lucky to have a student body enriched with many talented traditional Irish entertainers who performed for us on the day. We had performances from the All Ireland winning Aghamore set dancers, and also Ellen Phillips, Lauren Osgood-Daly, Gaby Murphy and Eleanor Harrison who played a tune on our national instrument, the harp. Transition year students put together an insightful presentation on 'Ballyhaunis and the 1916 Rising', while 2 Leaving Certificate students, Laura Mulkeen and Eoin Morris recited the poem 'Easter 1916' by W.B Yeats. We were also joined by a local history enthusiast, Joe Byrne who gave a very enjoyable and informative talk on the rising. The class of 3B recited the Proclamation of the Irish Republic as read by Padraic Pearse on the steps of the G.P.O in 1916. This was followed by the new Proclamation of Ballyhaunis Community School. This was composed and read by the class of 2A. It was based on the original proclamation, but adapted to the ideals and values of 2016. Our celebrations continued with a brief history of our tricolour by Chloe Ryan. This was followed by the raising of the flag by two senior student council members Claudia Glavey and Padraic Duffy. Our commemorative afternoon came to a close with the entire school body rising and proudly singing our national anthem, 'Amhran na bhFiann'.

TRICOLOUR COLLECTION IN CROKE PARK

SHAUNA MURRAY, JOANNE COFFEY AND CHLOE RYAN

On the 7th of March the student council executive, Shauna Murray, Joanne Coffey and Chloe Ryan along with Ms Hayes and Ms Lyons, travelled to Dublin to be presented with copies of the National flag and the Proclamation at a special ceremony in Croke Park in advance of the Easter Rising centenary commemorations. All very excited, we arrived in Croke Park and took our seats in the Cusack Stand alongside pupils from every secondary school in the republic. This was the biggest public event to date to mark the centenary. Although it was typical Irish weather, the rain thankfully stayed away long enough, as the Irish army marched out into the centre of the pitch and opened the ceremony with a military salute. Ryan Tubridy hosted the show and introduced many guests. There was a reenactment of Thomas Francis Meagher's story on discovering the tricolor; there was a speech from the great granddaughter of Thomas Meagher along with traditional Irish music. The highlight of the ceremony was of course, the appearance of Michael D Higgins. The President gave a keynote address, telling attendees: "The Easter 1916 Rising can, in many ways, be described as a stunningly ambitious act of imagination. Today it is up to our young people to take charge of change and imagine what Ireland might yet become." Next was the presentation of the Tricolour and flag Committee. Our very own Shauna Murray was chosen, as chairperson of the student council to receive Ballyhaunis Community School's Irish flag. The hundreds of students formed two long lines. One line collected a copy of the Proclamation, while the other the national flag. The ceremony ended with Celtic music and a sign off from Ryan Tubridy followed with Amhrann Na bhFiann sang by the thousands within Croke Park. It was a great honour to be chosen as the three students to travel to Dublin to represent our school and be a part of the 1916 celebrations.

ON BEHALF OF THE 2A HISTORY CLASS:
MARY CARR AND GRÁINNE COLLINS

1916 PROCLAMATION

Our 2A history class wrote the Proclamation based on our hopes for the future generations. We were inspired by those who sacrificed their lives in the 1916 Rising. Everyone in our 2A history class contributed to our proclamation. We put all of our ideas together to form The Proclamation of Ballyhaunis Community School 2016. We wrote about different topics that were very important. One of the topics was Emigration. We lost our people to famine and now we are losing them because of the recession. We also wrote about Homelessness. Too many people in our society are living on our streets and it's up to us to change this. We want everyone to have a home and somewhere where they will feel safe. Health care is also important. We hope to end hospital waiting lists and provide everyone with quality healthcare. Education is another important topic. In Ireland we are lucky enough to have facilities like schools and colleges. We aim for every child to have a quality education. Equality is the last thing we talked about. The 1916 Proclamation was the first to include women. This has inspired us to make sure equality is in our everyday lives both at school and at home. We hope that our proclamation will inspire our future generations just as we were inspired by the leaders of the 1916 Rising.

TARA COYNE **DENIS FITZPATRICK 1900 – 1948**

Denis Fitzpatrick was born on 17th April 1900. He fought as part of the Four Courts Garrison in the 1916 Rising as a member of the 1st Battalion Dublin Brigade Irish Volunteers. His Commander was Commandant Ned Daly. After the surrender of the Four Courts Garrison Denis made his way to his sister's house nearby where he changed into civilian clothes. During the War of Independence Denis was an active volunteer. Between 1919-20 he formed and commanded an Irish Volunteer/IRA company in Sterlingshire, Scotland and ran an operation smuggling arms and explosives to the IRA in Dublin. On his return to Dublin he joined the IRA General Headquarters 1st Battalion Active Service Unit. He was involved in the killing of an unnamed spy and in an attack on a British vehicle in Marlborough Street. He was also part of the IRA unit that held the Dorset Street Fire Station during the attack on the Custom House on 25th May 1921. Following the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, Denis joined the National Army in February 1922, serving with the Dublin Guards. However, in March of that year, Denis left the National Army and joined the Anti-Treaty IRA forces and took part in the occupation of the Four Courts in April 1922. Shortly afterwards he was shot and wounded by a National Army Officer, whom he identified as Emmet Dalton. In July 1922 Denis was involved in an attempt by the anti-Treaty IRA forces to dig a tunnel into Mountjoy Prison. In August 1922 he was arrested and detained for five weeks by National Army forces. Following his release Denis attempted to join the National Army for intelligence purposes on behalf of the anti-Treaty IRA. However, he was arrested shortly afterwards and interned until the end of the Civil War. After his release, Denis went to the USA for a number of years. On his return he joined the Dublin Fire Brigade on 3rd March 1932. He rose rapidly through the ranks of the Brigade and served as Station Officer in Rathmines Fire Station. He died in April 1948 as a result of complications from the Civil War wound.

Denis is the great-grandfather of Tara (2nd Year) and Darren Coyne (6th Year)

THE PROCLAMATION OF **Ballyhaunis Community School**

TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

We the pupils of Ballyhaunis Community School are proud to stand here today in 2016 as citizens of the Republic of Ireland, we remember the past generations who sacrificed their lives and fought for our freedom. This bravery has inspired us at Ballyhaunis Community School to play our part in forming an equal Ireland for future generations. Even though we have achieved so much over the past 100 years, we still have a long way to go.

These are our aspirations for Ireland for the next century:

It is our wish that Ireland will stop losing its people to emigration, let us bring home our emigrants and work together to ensure that our country can provide everyone with the highest opportunity to reach their full potential.

We believe that everyone should have a place to call home, somewhere they can feel safe with a roof over their heads. We want homelessness to stop and to ensure that nobody is hungry.

We demand a better healthcare system in our country and pledge to end hospital waiting lists and provide quality care for everyone both young and old. We aspire to protect and cherish our elderly and ensure they feel valued in our society.

We as students believe that the children of Ireland deserve the best education possible, in this great nation that was once known as "The Land of Saints and Scholars". May we encourage talented people within our country to fulfil all their hopes and dreams.

We believe that everyone is equal – young and old, male and female, strong and weak, rich and poor regardless of race or religion. Everyone must be treated equally and given the same opportunities. We want everyone to be accepted and included in our society just the way they are, as we are all unique and individual.

We reach out to our fellow Irish people across the world and we ask you to unite with us in protecting and developing our Irish culture, language, dance and music, as we pass on these traditions to future generations.

We also feel a great responsibility in caring for the environment, we as Irelands stewards must help to stop climate change. All of us need to act now to protect our planet for future generations.

One hundred years ago, men, women and children of 1916 had many dreams of the future of our country. Their passion, determination, and love of country allowed them to take the first steps in the establishment of the great nation of Ireland that we know today. Thanks to their sacrifice we now can negotiate with other countries if we have a problem. We don't need to act through violence anymore.

We must abide by the legacy left behind by our ancestors and ensure that Ireland will be a place of peace, equality and justice for all.

Signed on behalf of the 2A history class 2016.

RACHEL DILLON

HOLLY BROWNE

AARON DEE

GRAINNE COLLINS

MOLLY CURRAN

TARA COYNE

FIONA CRAWLEY

GRAINNE BYRNE

EIMHIN CONBOY

AOIFE CARNEY

EGIS ARAVICIUS

WINNIE ALLEN

SOHEAB ARSHAD

SAHAR ARSHAD

CLODAGH BYRNE

AOIBHE COGGINS

GRAINNE DELANEY

GILLIAN DONNELLAN

DANIEL COYNE

LILLY RIDLEY

DARREN MAUGHAN

CLODAGH CONWAY

ALI SAKKAR

KYLE COOKE

MARY CARR

MATTHUE MULLARKEY



TRANSITION YEAR

Looking back on our eventful year, we made many memories, making TY a year we will never forget!

Our first day as TY students we all gathered in Mrs Henrys room (E4), where we started off the day with an enjoyable bonding activity by dressing up the lads in 'exotic' leaf costumes! The next anticipated event that we were extremely excited about was the traditional trip to Killary. This trip tested our bravery to participate in strenuous activities such as the famous bog challenge, cliff jumping, kayaking, gorge walking, big wall climb and the terrifying big swing! Some braved the big swing and some didn't... Our first night concluded with a 'successful' campfire and roasted marshmallows! The next two days were thoroughly 'smashing'... windows and all!! When we returned to school the following week, we got back into business with our community care placements and work experience, which we have enjoyed throughout the year. Throughout the year we took part in many activities and outings such as Psycho Spaghetti, our trip to knock airport, horse riding in Claremorris, a geography trip to the marble arch caves in Fermanagh, Glencar Waterfall and the intense and deeply emotional road safety talk in the Royal Theatre in Castlebar. We took part in both English and Irish debates with the help from Mrs Stakem, Ms Callaghan, Mrs Burke and Ms Healy. We organised fundraisers and events inside the school such as the bake sale, 1st year talent show, Christmas jumper day and the green day. We also assisted in introducing two healthy eating days per week which proved to be a big success.

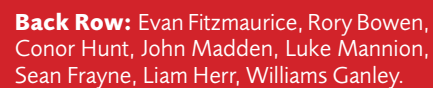
We made and painted new bins in conjunction with the Woodwork and Art departments to aid our campaign to receive the green flag. This was a huge undertaking by the whole TY group which required a lot of effort and commitment in order to reach our goal of receiving the green flag. Twelve TY students were on the Green Schools committee and met with the Green Schools inspector on her visit to our school. She was extremely impressed with the upkeep of the school and our positive changes to help keep the school a tidier place and so, awarded us the green flag! One of the most enjoyable events of TY for us was undoubtedly the school musical, 'Popstars-the 90's musical'. The TY students played a major role in both the preparation and the performance of this successful musical. The much loved chorus 'MC Hammer' (performed only by TY's) was one of the highlights of the show. We not only practised this routine on stage, but also held an exclusive performance in geography class, where we took on constructive criticism from our sub teacher! As well as this chorus, many of our fellow TY's played lead roles and did our year proud on all three nights! (Mmmm... yummy!) During the year we had visits from many interesting people. Deirdre 'DeeDee' Donnelly from Mayo Sports Partnership, who trained us to be sports leaders. The duration of this course was thirty three hours, which were spread out over a number of weeks. On our last week we invited students from Scoil Iosa primary school to test our newly acquired leadership skills. Throughout this we were examined by the sports partnership on how we handled and organised the children and games.

The next big outing was the trip we have been anticipating since the very start of the school year...Rome! We set off in the early hours of Tuesday morning to Dublin airport where we had a well deserved (and expensive!) breakfast. We departed Ireland at seven o'clock and touched down in Rome at eleven o'clock, Rome time. As soon as we stepped off the plane, the sun came beaming down on us, a big change from our usual Irish weather! We were greeted by our bus driver for the duration of our trip, Luigi! We bonded straight away with him that we now consider him part of our Ty Fam! He brought us straight into the Vatican City, where we had a quick bite to eat and a wander around before we set off to the Basilica. We made our way to the museum of the Sistine Chapel. Ms Henry gave us an informed tour of the museum through headpieces, but unfortunately some headpieces stopped working resulting in eight of us taking the wrong turn in the Sistine Chapel after seeing Michelangelo's famous Sistine Chapel! Thankfully we all became reunited outside the 'Holy Door' at St. Peter's Basilica...forty five minutes later!! We returned that night exhausted to our lovely Hotel Corallo. After a long day we were all looking forward to the evening meal, however it did not live up to expectations! We were served pasta with an unusual sauce, followed by chips and dry, hairy chicken. We returned to our rooms for a short time and then we all gathered together in Room 212 where we played "would you rather". At twelve o'clock we all returned to our rooms and we all had well needed sleep. The next morning we woke after a great sleep. Luigi collected us at half ten and we made our way to Rome City! We had our walking shoes on that day as all tours were on foot! We saw the Trevi Fountain, The Pantheon, The Roman Forum and final the Colosseum! Our tour guide was very interesting and everyone enjoyed the historical side of Rome. We then travelled to a nearby restaurant where we made our own pizza. This was a very enjoyable evening with delicious, homemade food and beautiful opera music...as they say, "When in Rome!". That evening when we returned to our hotel we gathered in the reception area as that was the only place we could get wifi! After 12 o'clock we returned to our rooms.

The next morning Luigi brought us to the theme park "Rainbow Magicland". There were mixed reviews from everyone with the rollercoaster's all very dramatic, but most people overcame their fears...even Shakira. We then ventured to the shopping Outlet nearby which was much more relaxing than Rainbow Magicland. We then left for the airport to catch our flight at eight o'clock. We landed in Ireland at 12 o'clock and returned to the Wild West! It was a very enjoyable trip and was a great way to finish the year! On the 30th May we had our Transition Year Graduation Mass in school. It was a lovely mass and it was well participated in by the entire class, making it a very special occasion for us all.

Looking back, Transition Year was a brilliant year that we will always remember. The opportunities that were made available to us allowed us to have a very successful and enjoyable year. We would like to thank our T.Y. co-ordinator Mrs. Henry and all our teachers for all their time and work helping us organise numerous events and trips throughout the year. The memories we made during Transition Year will always be treasured as it was one of the best years in school to date.

EMER FORDE, HELEN GALLAGHER AND ORNA HESSION



Middle Row: Michael Freyne, Evan Henry, Shauna Fleming, Helen Gallagher, Isaac, Roisin Hussey, Darragh Kilkenny, Orna Hession, David Cunnane.

Front Row: Aoife Nolan, Áine Duffy, Emer Forde, Aoibheann Gallagher, Aibhinn Herr, Jade Cunnane, Maedhbh Caulfield.



PEER FOR PEER

EVAN FITZMAURICE

The Peer Leadership programme is run in conjunction with the parish, the primary and post-primary school. This was the first year our school decided to offer the programme to TY students. The programme trains young people from Transition Year in Secondary Schools as leaders so that they in turn can facilitate the programme to the 5th/6th classes in the primary schools. The programme is delivered in four modules: 1. Communication skills; 2. Friendship; 3. Decision making – including mobile & internet safety and 4. Misuse and abuse of Alcohol and Smoking. Each module will be taught over approx. one hour per week for four weeks. Ms. Macken approached the class and asked if anyone would like to get involved in this project. 14 TY students opted to do the programme. This was a fantastic opportunity for us to develop our leadership, public speaking, time management, teamwork and organisational skills. It also placed us in a position of responsibility where we were encouraged to act as role model and guide for young people embarking on their teenage years. The following students took part in the programme:

Team Aghamore : Orna Hession, Emer Forde , John Madden, Roisin Hussey.

Team Tooreen : Helen Gallagher , Meadhbh Caulfield , Jade Cunnane, Aine Duffy.

Team Scoil Iosa : Aoife Nolan, Aoibheann Gallagher, Shauna Fleming, Aibhinn Herr, Evan Fitzmaurice, Rory Bowen.

We would like to take this opportunity to thanks Siobhan Bradley and Yvonne Horkan from the Tuam Diocese for providing the training, Aghamore, Tooreen and Scoil Iosa Primary schools and their 6th class teachers for allowing us to deliver the programme in their schools. We want to also thank Orna Hession's Mum and Ms. Macken for providing the transport! We hope that the learning from the various workshops will help to influence the 6th class pupils for the better as they get older.



TY Peer for Peer participants

COMMUNITY CARE

ORNA HESSION & AOIFE NOLAN



As Transition Year students, we are scheduled three classes every Wednesday morning for Religious Education. Instead of listening to stories about others putting their faith into action, that is exactly what we decided to do during our Religion class. We were automatically placed into community based placements with the opportunity to experience four placements throughout our T.Y year. These placements could be reading with children in Scoil Iosa, walking dogs for MSPCA or even peeling potatoes for Meals on Wheels service. All T.Y students participated in each placement for 6/8 weeks in duration so we had plenty of variety throughout the year. Looking back at our time spent at each placement, we thoroughly enjoyed them and always looked forward to our Wednesday mornings participating in our community! From the word go, our teachers encouraged us to be respectful, well mannered and caring with every role we carried out and we are positive we did that. The Community Care programme was a brilliant experience for us all and it gave us a great insight into the world of work, interacting and working with others.

This year, our Transition Year class volunteered in the following placements:

- Scoil Iosa Primary School- helping with the Literacy and Numeracy Programme.
- Rita Lunden Playschool.
- Lohan Park Group Home- Meals on Wheels.
- MSPCA- Mayo Society to Prevent Cruelty to Animals.
- Little Acorns Creche Bricks.
- Greenacres Montessori.
- The Enterprise Centre

We are all delighted that we embraced this challenge and attended each of our placements with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. A huge thanks to Mr. Larkin/Ms. Murphy and Ms. Macken for providing the transport each week.



PSYCHO SPAGHETTI ROÍSÍN HUSSY

On October 12th 2015 all the TY's headed off to Roscommon to see the much anticipated play Psycho Spaghetti. We had all heard great things about this play from past TY students and we were all very excited to go and see this play. It certainly did not disappoint! This one man show was absolutely hilarious . Psycho Spaghetti was just prefect for 15 to 18 year olds, we got every joke and the tears of laughter were rolling down our faces! Ger Carey's facial expressions and acting was absolutely superb! All together we had a fantastic day. We would highly recommend this play and we would like to thank our teacher Mrs. Mooney for bringing us to this brilliant play.



HORSE RIDING

Our Transition Year students attended Claremorris Equestrian Centre every Wednesday for a few weeks. It was the first time horse riding for nearly all the students and proved to be great fun and a very rewarding experience. Thanks to all the staff in the centre who were extremely helpful and supportive. A big thank you to Mr. Wooley for organising and accompanying Transition Years on these visits.



INTERNET SAFETY

EMER FORDE, HELEN GALLAGHER, AIBHINN HERR, EVAN HENRY, DARRAGH KILKENNY & EVAN FITZMAURICE.

Six TY students were chosen to attend an Internet Safety Ambassador Conference on the 5th January 2016, in the Department of Education in Dublin, with our I.T. teacher Ms Waldron. It was a three hour seminar in which we were trained to be Internet Safety Ambassadors for our school. We learned the importance of Internet Safety and how to portray this message in a world surrounded by technology.

We were also informed about a competition for all schools in Ireland to help raise awareness of Internet Safety in our school. When we returned back to school we began our project. We designed posters and placed them around the school to begin the campaign. We held a poster competition for all first years, as an initiative to use the internet wisely. This was very successful and well participated by the students. We also showed a documentary to a number of classes which showed the dangerous consequences of misusing the internet. These actions were held on the 9th of February 2016, which was International Internet Safety Day. We then entered our project into the online competition along with our "Safe Class Selfie". It was an online voting competition, so we encouraged all students and their families to support and vote for our project over the number of days it was running for. On the final day of voting we had the most votes which meant we had won the competition! The prize was a GoPro Camera. This amazing prize was kept in the school for school activities and trips, for example our trip to Rome. The school then funded an iPad in return for Internet Safety. We decided to raffle the iPad in the school and the money we raised then contributed to our TY trip. This project was very interesting and beneficial for all the students in our school.



TY Students L-R: Darragh Kilkenny, Aibhinn Herr, Evan Henry, Emer Forde, Evan Fitzmaurice, Helen Gallagher.

ARCHITECT - PADDY DUNNE

RÓISÍN HUSSY



This year the Transition year students were very lucky as they were accompanied by an Architect, Paddy Dunne in conjunction with our Tech Graphics class for 6 weeks. Paddy told us all about his career

and showed us incredible models of buildings he has made. As a project we were asked to design our dream building and to build a model of it. This was fantastic as you could let your imagination run wild! There were some brilliant projects from tree houses, bedrooms to football pitches. They took a lot of time and effort to complete but the end result was well worth it. We would like to thank Paddy for all his hard work and dedication to our projects and a special thank you to Mr. McGarry for organising this brilliant project for us.



JUNK KOUTURE

MAEDHBH CAULFIELD, JADE CUNNANE, AOIBHEANN GALLAGHER AND ÁINE DUFFY

Junk Kouture is a national contest which encourages young designers in second level education to create striking couture designs and impressive works of wearable art from everyday junk that would normally find its way into the bin. Junk Kouture aims to inspire and ignite passion in these teenagers while at the same time subtly educating them about the importance of recycling and reusing waste. Over the last five years, Junk Kouture has established itself as the premier recycled fashion competition for teenagers throughout Ireland and Northern Ireland.

This year, our TY class decided to partake in this year's Junk Kouture competition. We have many creative people in our class this year but the two main artists were Maedhbh Caulfield and Jade Cunnane. They designed a very unique and beautiful dress, originally based on the idea of Day of the Dead festival in Mexico, Día de Muertos. This festival incorporates the rose design in all of the festive clothing which was the basis of Maedhbh and Jades design, La Rosa.



Seeing as all the materials had to be either recycled or from a charity shop, acquiring the materials was not easy. Aoibheann Gallagher was nominated to be model for the dress as she had very striking features and had background in performance, due to her lead role in the musical. Áine Duffy volunteered to be makeup artist for the dress and so the team was finalised. Aoibheann bought a floor length prom dress in the charity shop so that we had a structure to build on. We decided to use aluminium plates as a material. We drew a leaf outline on the plates, cut them out and then used a pen to imprint the leaf design of the outline. Maedhbh and Jade then spray painted some leaves black and red and kept some silver. This task was a very long and tedious one and so all TY students were heavily involved.

After we had an estimate of 1000 leaves, we began tastefully sticking them onto the dress with a glue gun. The front part on the dress was cut into a short skirt at the front and then gradually went down to the back, followed by a train. The silver and black leaves were very well placed as they contrasted well together. We then stuck the red leaves on the underskirt so that it offered a bit of colour to the dress. Maedhbh and Jade then created two fabulous roses made out of Coke cans, which we placed on the hip of the dress and one was used as a headpiece.

The shoes were also a fabulous creation. Aoibheann bought platform shoes, with a thick heel so that she could walk the catwalk in them. With the help of many TYs such as David Cunnane, John Madden, Michael Freyne and Darragh Kilkenny, we stuck on square pieces of silver plates and red coke cans on the shoes, red was used for the heel and platform, silver was placed on the body of the shoe. As the

deadline for the competition drew near, we had a photo shoot of the Model, Aoibheann, wearing the dress with her hair and makeup done by Áine. We then uploaded the photos online to the Junk Kouture website with a description of the dress and dramatic and empowering design and thoughts behind it. We then waited anxiously for the results to come out and for the first time ever, Ballyhaunis qualified for the regional finals. Only 320 designs were chosen from 2000 so we were extremely delighted with our progress.

CREATIVE WRITING

My First Day of School

On the first day of September
I had a day to remember
It was my first day of school
And I didn't want to look like a fool.

I wanted to look my best
No different from the rest.
We had been waiting for this day,
That was once a long time away.

We were all nervous
As the teachers observed us.
We were split into classes
And some split from their friends.

The teachers told us all about the sports
And how we would be playing
at break on the courts.
The day in the end went quite fast
But I knew this memory would last.

Oisín Greally

Seeing as we were through to the finals we now had to create a routine for Aoibheann to do on the catwalk. Maedhbh picked the song 'Seven Nations Army' for Aoibheann to walk to, and Áine helped with the moves. The western regional finals took place on the 9th of March but the online voting, which compromised of 10% of the overall score, opened on the 22nd of February and closing on the 29th of February. We did quite well online but we did not come in the top five. On the day of the final, the team and their teacher, Ms Waldron, went to the TF in Castlebar for registration at 10 o'clock. We began hair and makeup at 12 and the dress rehearsal was at 2 on the stage. Finally after some last minute alterations, the dress and the model were ready for the catwalk. The show began at 7 o'clock and Aoibheann was the fifteenth act n stage. She gave a great performance and the dress looked fabulous up on the catwalk. There were 80 entries in the western region and only 18 entries got through. Unfortunately, the dress did not make it through to the All Ireland Final in the 3 Arena but it cannot be denied that this unique handmade dress really was one of a kind and the design of the dress was truly beautiful.

Credit is due to Ms Waldron for all her help and enthusiasm when the dress was being created and to all the people who helped in the creation of the dress. The hard work and dedication to the dress cannot be faltered either and so we would like to say a big congratulation to the team that designed the dress; Maedhbh Caulfield, Jade Cunnane, Aoibheann Gallagher and Áine Duffy. We hope that this will be the start of a new tradition in Ballyhaunis for future designers to take part in.

U 17 GIRLS SOCCER

CONOR HUNT AND SEÁN FRAYNE

The u17 ladies soccer team began training indoors during September despite their first game not being until November. They were trained by Mrs. Stakem, Mr. Keane and the Ty support of Conor Hunt and Seán Frayne. There was a talented bunch of players coming through as there had been strong u15 teams in place for the past two years. Ballyhaunis first league game was against local rivals St. Louis of Kiltimagh. The rivalry was evident as the game got off to flying start with both teams looking dangerous. The game ended 4-3 with our goals coming from Gemma Foody (2) and Shauna Fleming. This was a good competitive game for the girl's first outing and meant they gained a lot of experience. The girls now advanced to a Connacht Semi Final stage, against Presentation College Athenry. The match was due to be played in December however the match was delayed until the 27th of April. This gave the girls valuable time to improve their skills and work on their game plan. Eventually the highly anticipated match was upon us. The game started off at a frantic pace. The girls held much possession however they were finding it difficult to capitalize on their dominance. Gemma Foody and Fiona Crawley created some wonderful opportunities but they were narrowly missed. Unfortunately Athenry had more luck in front of goal than we did, catching us on the break on two occasions. The half time score was 2-0 to Athenry. Mrs Stakem gave the team a motivating speech at the interval, the girls came out all guns blazing for a big second half performance. Seven minutes in Gemma Foody got her foot onto a long ball to control it and in return calmly slotted the ball into the bottom right corner past the goalkeeper. Unfortunately this was to be our only goal in the game as Athenry pushed on to win 4-1. This score line was not a true representation of the game as Ballyhaunis created many other opportunities with Katelyn Concannon and Niamh Foody both coming very close. In the defence we had an extremely young backline with three second years, Sheena Roddy, Niamh O'Neill, Grainne Collins and the experienced Laura O'Connell. They battled hard for every ball, putting their bodies on the line on numerous occasions. The team fought right up until the final whistle with a good tempo to the game and some excellent passing movements. It was disappointing that the game was dragged out so long as we then were minus key players due to other commitments. There is a very young team that will certainly push on and compete at this level in the coming years.



Back Row L-R: Shauna Fleming, Shauna Rogers, Fiona Crawley, Niamh O'Neill, Sheena Roddy, Lindi Noksi, Grainne Collins, Oliwia Klinczyk, Mila Maciukaite, Ms. Flannery.

Middle Row L-R: Adrianna Kelly, Georgia Peake, Niamh Foody, Sahar Arshad.

Front Row L-R: Clodagh Waldron, Vanessa Henry, Niamh Smith, Gemma Foody, Aoife Conway, Laura O'Connell, Katelyn Concannon, Aoibheann Gallagher.

CADETS BASKETBALL

ÁINE DUFFY

The 2015/16 Basketball season kicked off with lots of enthusiasm and excitement for our newly formed cadet team. This team was a combination of last year's 2nd and 3rd year players. Due to age restrictions, many of our TY girls were unable to take part this year but this did not stop the progression of the team. Training began in September and matches were due to start in October so the girls were very enthusiastic and hard working during the training sessions. Our first match was against Ballinrobe and the cadets put up an excellent display, but unfortunately were defeated. This match was closely followed by another versus Mount Saint Michael's Claremorris. The skill and drive shown by the players had to be noted but the scores did not come, and so we lost out again. Our final outing for the season was a blitz organised by the TYs and Ms Caulfield held in the school. We invited Ballinrobe CS, Foxford CS and Davitt College. This blitz allowed all the overage girls to take part in the games. We all played three games with six minute quarters. Our girls came out victorious that day, after comprehensive wins against all the teams. Overall the season was a very enjoyable one and girls progressed and developed as Basketball players. We hope to continue this progression next year. Special thanks goes to all the TY girls for officiating our matches, the TY class on a whole for organising the blitz and running the shop during the day, and finally to Ms Caulfield and Yvonne Duffy for all their hard work with the Cadets for the season.



Back Row L-R: Amy Greally, India Costello, Alannah Nolan, Hannah Doyle, Michelle Grogan.

Front Row L-R: Helen Gallagher, Lauren Osgood-Daly, Orna Hession, Aine Duffy, Emer Forde, Aibhínn Herr, Shauna Fleming.

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2016 AOIBHEANN GALLAGHER

Bhí Seachtain na gaeilge ar siúl idir an 1-17 Márta 2016. Bhí teanga agus cultúr na Gaeilge á cheiliúradh ar fud na hÉireann agus na cruinne. Ba mhór an ócáid 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 (Ms.Devine) and the Transition Year students. Students from all years took part in Sean Nós dancing, and a great time was had by all. We would like to thank Mrs.Frayne who gave so generously of her time. We had a 'comórtas forgarí' which is a poster competition that all the first years got involved in and it was a great success. We also had poetry workshops in Gaeilge which were run by Collette nic Aodhe and greatly enjoyed by the students. The Transition Year students drew up posters highlighting some of the seanfhocails in the Irish language and these were placed in various places throughout the school. Go raibh míle maith agat.



Gael Linn Irish Debating Team

Helen Gallagher, Emer Forde and Aoibheann Gallagher from our Gael Linn Senior School Debating Team, receiving their certificates at a recent Secondary School debate which was hosted in Ballyhaunis Community School. Many thanks to Ms Healy and Ms Burke who put in tremendous effort in assisting the team.

TY MED CAMP AIBHINN HERR AND EMER FORDE

In February, Mrs. Henry informed our T.Y. class about the Transition Year Medical Camp which is held in Breaffy House Hotel from the 18th to the 20th of April. TY Med camp is a two and a half day course designed specifically for Transition Year Students interested in a career in Medicine. Five T.Y. students, Aibhinn Herr, Emer Forde, Shauna Fleming, Aine Duffy and Aoife Nolan, applied for this course. The programme covers a wide variety of topics including human anatomy, basic life support and resuscitation, ambulance orientation, fracture management and casting, history taking and clinical examinations surgery, obstetrics, pediatrics, orthopedics, psychiatry, emergency medicine, cardiology, respiratory disease, renal disease & family practice. This interactive programme gave us Transition Year students the opportunity to experience what it is like to train and work as a Doctor. We witnessed a live operation via video link to the operating theatre of an appendix being removed. This was a really enjoyable experience for us and we would recommend this course for future Transition Year students.

SPORTS LEADERSHIP AWARDS ÁINE DUFFY

The transition year students undertook a new programme introduced to Ireland this year in conjunction with Mayo Sports Partnership called the ASDA Sports Leadership Awards. This was a programme consisting of six modules completed over the course of 8 weeks. Each participant was given a booklet to complete, containing six sections on the different modules. They were sent away to the Sports Leaders UK to be assessed after we completed our training. We went through many different aspects of what it is to be a leader such as communication, organisation and confidence. It was all based around the idea of leading a team of a group of people in a sporting situation and how to manage certain difficulties and tasks. At the end of the programme, the 4th and 5th class of Scoil Iosa came into the school for a day of sports and games. We were split into four groups and an examiner came around and watched us carry out our leadership skills. We each had a game to lead with the group of kids and had to work collectively as a team so that everyone was able to lead and organise. Thankfully at the end of the day, the examiner told us that we all passed and she was extremely impressed with our leadership capabilities. We all found it a very beneficial course and gave us confidence in how to lead competently. We would like to say thank you to the Mayo Sports Partnership for allowing us to do this course and to Deirdre Donnelly for coaching us in the different modules.



ÁINE DUFFY **CONCERN DEBATING**

The Concern Debates are Concern's Worldwide flagship school initiative. It gives students the opportunity to research and debate issues that affect those living in the developing world. By taking part, students are afforded the opportunity to learn the valuable skills of research and debate. The Concern Debates have been running for over 30 years. Throughout the competition's history, more than 45,000 students have engaged in the debates. Around 120 schools participate annually. The aims of the concern debating competition is to:

- Promote a deeper awareness and understanding of global issues.
- Provide students with a public forum, to develop skills in research, presentation and debate.
- Encourage students and teachers to become lifelong advocates on issues relating to poverty, justice and human rights.

For the first time in the last 5 years, the school created a debating team. On this team were Rachel Lyons (captain), Aoibheann Gallagher, Roisín Hussey, Áine Duffy and Evan Henry. Also two students who contributed research and time to the team were Richard Boyle and Hmad Farooq. There were four debates in the league on a range of different topics. This debating took a lot of time and energy, especially for Rachel who was in 5th year. A lot of hard work and dedication was displayed by all members of the debating team. The first motion was 'Europe can well afford to open its borders to refugees'. This took place in our school against Ballinrobe Community School and we were proposing the motion. This debate was a heated one, considering it was only our first debate and so the result ended in a draw.



Our second debate was again a home venue and the topic for this one was 'Young People at the age of 16 should be trusted with the right to vote'. Unfortunately, we lost this debate but again great effort was shown on stage. Our third debating issue was 'HIV and AIDS will be eradicated in our lifetime'. This was a very interesting one to debate as we were opposed to the motion, however due to unforeseen circumstances, our opposition, Ballina, conceded and so we won the points. Our final debate was against St. Louis Kiltimagh, in their school and it was a crucial one as whoever won, would continue on to the next round. The topic for this was 'The Global Goals were doomed from the beginning' and so it was a very interesting topic to research and debate. The debate was extremely interesting and fun to partake in but it did not end in our favour. The judges were incredibly impressed with the research on both sides and the arguments put forward. They considered it to be one of the best debates they had seen so far in the competition. They were keen to highlight that they believed the Ballyhaunis will be very strong contenders in any future debating competitions.

In conclusion, the experience was very enjoyable and we have certainly learned a lot from our experience. This was a huge commitment from all students, teachers and adjudicators involved as all competitions took place outside of school hours. Special thanks must go to Ms. Stakem and Ms Callaghan as they gave up a lot of their free time to our school's debating team.

CREATIVE WRITING

My Sunday Night Chinese

Every Sunday I get a treat
And it involves something nice to eat
It kills the hunger and puts me at ease
My Sunday night treat is a Chinese

We wait in the queue which goes really slow
We wait and wait with nowhere else to go
Finally we order after what feels like an hour
Fried rice, prawn crackers or some sweet and sour

My Sunday night Chinese is what I do adore
And when I have finished I always want some more
My Sunday night Chinese is what I like to eat
My Sunday night Chinese is really quite the treat

Niamh O'Neill

BUSINESS AWARD

Pictured is: Emer Forde who received an A in Junior Certificate Honours Business Studies 2015. Here, she is presented with a Certificate of Achievement in NUI Galway on the 14th October 2015, by Dr. Keiran Conboy, the president of the BSTA and Academics from the Business Studies in NUIG and her business teacher Ms. Bernie Osgood.



TY KILLARY TRIP



TY TRIP TO ROME

On the 10th of May at 2 o'clock in the morning, sixteen of the TY class met Ms Henry and Ms Keane in the school car park ready to set off to Dublin to catch a plane to sunny Rome. The bus journey up was filled with excitement with tunes blaring and slightly off key singing... We arrived in Dublin before 5 o'clock and treated ourselves to a lovely breakfast, for ten euro might I add! There were a few suspicious characters in our midst and security took no chances. Fortunately we were all clear and managed to board the plane successfully. We had a very tired class group on the plane so majority of us slept (some with our eyes open) but there was a few fuelled with adrenaline that managed to stay awake and keep chatting and singing away to themselves. We landed in Rome just before eleven and were met with the hot sun. We ran through the airport and raced out to meet the newest member to our TY Fam, Luigi the bus driver. Luigi managed to bring us straight to the Vatican City, battling against the heat, tiredness and once again, our energetic singing. When we entered the Vatican, we had two hours to spare, so we all ran to the nearest restaurant and got ourselves some of the supposed delicious Italian cuisine but instead got scammed. We then all had an opportunity to buy our presents in the shops along the street. We met another new friend, Paddy O'Neill who was kind enough to try and sell us some bracelets while also complimenting Ms Keane who he mistook for Shakira.

After our shopping spree, we entered the museum where the Sistine Chapel was. We each got our own earpiece in order to hear our well informed tour guide, Ms Henry. We were introduced to many exciting things such as the flight of stairs before even beginning the tour! We began our search for the Sistine Chapel as we walked through corridors and rooms filled with beautiful and ornate paintings and statues until eventually; we entered the spectacular Sistine Chapel. All eyes went up and we were mesmerised by the breathtaking display that was above. Due to this amazing sight, some of our students got disorientated and took a wrong turn, bringing them back to the beginning of the tour instead of proceeding on to St Peters Basilica. After many confusing phone calls, we eventually established that the group had been split and so eight of our group had an extra tour of the city while the others had the chance to explore the beautiful basilica. Eventually the group was reunited and the eight wanderers had the opportunity to see the Pieta and all the other features of the Basilica while the group organised themselves through their saltiness and tiredness. We then journeyed to the bus stop, and waited a few minutes for Luigi to arrive and bring us to our hotel. That evening we arrived in Hotel Corallo after a long trip, through what looked like a shanty town in Mexico, and were split into our rooms. We were all famished at this stage and awaited our delectable dinner... pasta in a weird sauce followed by dry Hairy chicken with chips... As AVG would say 'Mmmm, yummy!' That night we all landed into one room and began with all the games of would you rather and truth or dare. Tension could be felt and a little bit of competition was evident especially with our twerking contest but we all returned to our beds that night delighted with life that we were all in Rome with our friends.

We awoke the next morning to a continental breakfast where we all filled up on bread rolls. The hotel were kind enough to supply us with a packed lunch for the day ahead, but we all decided it might be best if we treat ourselves to lunch in McDonalds where we were introduced to extra thin fries. Darragh also managed to drop his tray, spilling his drink everywhere before casually walking away pretending nothing happened. Luigi brought us straight into the heart of Rome where we began our venture toward the Colosseum. En Route we passed many famous landmarks including the Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon where we heard a fantastic singer on the street. Finally we made it to the Colosseum where we rested while we tried to find our tour guide. The tour guide brought us to the Roman Forum where we explored the ruins and died trying to walk up ramps up to the top of a hill. We then ventured back to the Colosseum and explore its interior before finally returning to the bus and heading to the restaurant where we were making our own personal pizzas. The chef there was very nice and we were also entertained by a fabulous opera singer, some

of us even joining in. There was glasses broken and olives tasted before we called it a night and headed out on the bus to find a shop. Eventually our mission succeeded and we all bought huge bottles of water for 35c, a bargain in our eyes.

When we returned to our hotel we began making friends with a group from France. Their balconies were just above ours so some of us spent ages testing out our French before getting their names on snapchat and following them on instagram. A few lads decided to test their masculinity as they let the girls do their makeup and they looked fabulous to say the least!

Our third and final day was a struggle due to our lack of sleep but we strived on. Luigi brought us to the theme park 'Rainbow Magicland'. Every tall building we passed was mistaken for a rollercoaster but eventually we arrived and were greeted by the theme parks very catchy theme tune. We all went on the biggest and fastest rollercoaster's, and even managed to drag Ms Keane on with us, 'I was afraid to ask her if she was okay in case I didn't get a response'. Sean Frayne also passed out for a brief period on the same rollercoaster 'Shock'. We had mixed reviews on the Hot Dogs as some were hot and some were very very cold. Ms Henry and Ms Keane sourced out an outlet shopping centre across the road and we all headed over and received discount cards because we were tourists. We visited Calvin Klein, Nike, Addidas, Lindt and Burger King just to name a few. And once we had all the shopping done, we returned to the theme park for one last Hurrah. We all then got on the bus and headed to the airport once again blaring the tunes of Taylor Swift. On our way to the airport we passed about ten Ferraris much to the boys delight. We all got some pizza in the airport and bought some last minute presents, including vital materials such as sleeping masks. We all boarded the plane, after some security issues once more, but we all landed safe and sound in Dublin. The bus journey home was a quiet one but peaceful and we were all glad to spend the night in our own beds that night. We would like to say a big thank you to Ms Henry and Ms Keane for coming on the trip with us and to everyone who helped us fundraise for the trip. It was certainly an experience we will never forget!



STUDENT COUNCIL PRESENTATION

CHLOE RYAN, SHAUNA MURRAY
AND JOANNE COFFEY

On a Tuesday evening in early February, the executive of the student council met with the board of management for the first time in the history of the school. This was a very important occasion as it gave the student council the opportunity to put their plans for the school year before the board. This gave the student council a sense of importance and unity with the other managing boards of the school. It was very important for the student council to have the backing of the board in order to thrive in the year ahead. Hopefully this will become an annual encounter.



Student Council presentation to Board of Management

Back Row L-R : Padraic Duffy, Connor MacEwan, Joanne Coffey, Chloe Ryan, Marina Carney, Darragh Kilkenny, Aoibheann Gallagher and Filip Hutman.

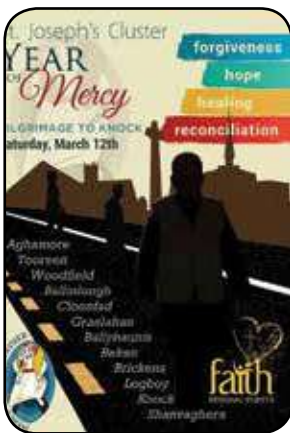
Middle Row L-R: Aoife Conway, Dara Mulkeen, Hannah Tener, Aran Rattigan, Aine Phillips, Winnie McDonagh, Conor Morley, Daniel Murray, Luke Walsh.

Front Row L-R: Dara Rattigan, Darren Groake, Martin Hutman, Jessica Klein, Amy Keane, Ella Dunleavy, Holly Browne, Emma Nolan.

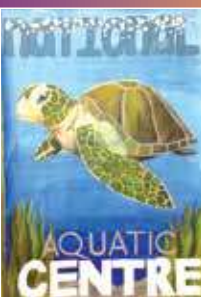
OUR YEAR OF MERCY PILGRIMAGE

SIVE DUFFY, MEGAN MORLEY
AND REBECCA FINN.

As part of the John Paul II awards, we organised a prayer service in honour of the Year of Mercy. This project was part of our Papal Cross award. Firstly, we decided on a suitable theme, and proceeded to arrange the prayer service according to this. We chose prayers relevant to the theme of Mercy and allocated students from our school which had volunteered to read at our prayer service. We then, with the help of our music teacher, put together a collection of music that was sung by our school choir and other volunteers. We brainstormed ideas as to how we could make our prayer service unique and important to us, which is when we had the idea to use the letters of "Year Of Mercy" to spell out significant meanings for people to take into consideration during this special year of mercy. For this, we asked our woodwork teacher, Mr Quinn, for help as to how we would go about making the signs. Another idea we came up with was to use stones as a symbol of peoples burdens to carry with them during the pilgrimage to Knock, the significance of this was for the pilgrims to be able to leave their worries and troubles in the sacred space in Knock and for them to leave worry free and refreshed. In order to make these stones distinctive we painted red and silver crosses on the stones. Finally, we travelled to Knock the evening before the prayer service to set up the sacred space in the Blessed Sacrament chapel. We thoroughly enjoyed this project and feel we benefitted immensely from it. It was a great opportunity for us to have ownership of the prayer service and we got to chose the readings, music and the artwork and make it appealing to people our age. We would like to thank Fr. Farragher, Ms. Macken, Ms. Devine and Mr. Quinn for their help with making this project a success.



BCS ARTWORK



A DAY IN THE LIFE



CLASS 5A



Back Row: Cormac Phillips, Cian Ruane, Calum Gardiner, Michael McGarry, Joseph Wagacha, Jan Szebesta, Peter Buczak, John Kenny

Middle Row: Mika Barretto, Shaheen Ashraf, Munaza Muneer, Saoirse Hagney, Lindiwe Dhlamini-Knosi, Mary McLoughlin, Selina Mulkeen, Hamad Farooq

Front Row: Brian O'Neill, Olivia Cleary, Niamh Flanagan, Marina Carney, Courtney Mulhall-Gibbons, Diarmuid Duffy, Muhammad Naseer

Missing from photo: Saima Jan, Irfan Khan

CLASS 5B



Back Row: Courtney Macewan, Kara Niland, Awasha Bouh, Dylan Ruane, Tiernan Murphy, James Duggan, Bobby Douglas, Jack Flanagan.

Middle Row: Georgia Peake, Amira Otaqi, Jessica Carroll, Galen O'Reilly, Rebecca Finn, Conor Slovan, Brendonas Graf, Tahseen Tahir Mahmood.

Front Row: Mohammad Zouhir Rahmani, Cathal Hosty, Joanne Coffey, Megan Morley, Keith Forde, Jordan Burns, Dylan Harrison.

CLASS 5C



Back Row: Diarmuid Keane, Colm O'Gara, Benas Pakonis, Nevan Fannon, Patrick Forde, David Mitrovic, Mohammad Zohaib Gulzar, Aaron Heelan.

Middle Row: Derbhla Cregg Phillips, Ciara Flanagan, Richard Boyle, Zouhir Rahmani, Lorcan Ronan, Christopher Bann, Kevin Neenan.

Front Row: Ruhaa Shiha, Gráinne Robinson, Lauren Casey, Sive Duffy, Fatima Mahmood Ul Hassan, Rachel Timoney.

Missing from Photo: Filip Hutman, Laura O'Connell

CLASS 5D



Back Row: Eoin Delaney, Sean Kenny, Eamonn Phillips, Conor Coll, Oisín Llyod, Liam Foody, Seán Doyle.

Middle Row: Megan Regan, Caoimhe Coyle, Mary Flynn, Roisin Lyons, Gaby Murphy, Thomas Doherty, Piotr Cieslikowski, Katelyn Concannon.

Front Row: Maria Wiktorja Cieslikowski, Joicy Nunes, Shauna Murray, Eleanor Harrison, Danielle Coyne, Chloe Ryan, Rachel Lyons, Elaine Collins. Missing from Photo: Brendan Waldron.

GRÁINNE ROBINSON AND LAURA O'CONNELL **5TH ACHILL TRIP 2015**

On a weary Wednesday morning 45 students and two teachers set off for the annual trip to the windy island of Achill. We embarked on a three day adventure including activities such as cliff jumping, surfing, canoeing, kayaking and archery. Friendships and memories were waiting to be made. On arrival we were met by our instructors and split into groups and we were shown our rooms, then it was on to the first activity of the trip. There was never a dull moment, out in the water all day and out to the shed for evening activities and of course the annual beach walk. We participated in activities some of us had never done before and the craic was had for sure! We would like to thank Mr Murray and Mrs O'Brien for bringing us on the trip and also Mr McDonagh and Ms Morrison for allowing the trip. New friendships were made and 45 tired students returned to BCS that Friday evening!



CREATIVE WRITING

Homework

I walk in the door, just after four,
Throw my bag in the corner and shut the door.
Schools out for the weekend, and I've got a thirst,
But then I remember, homework comes first!!

I start with my maths, simple addition,
I look out the window, and see the boys going fishing.
Head back to the books, I move onto religion,
A five page essay from a theologian.

Next up is French, and I'm learning my vocabulary,
That I was supposed to have learned since the middle of
January.

Moving onto my English, and some guy
named Shakespeare,
Learning old English from a play called King Lear.

Finally I'm finished and free
For the weekend,
Until I remember that Monday is
Around the bend.

Anonymous

DIOCESAN DAY OUT FOR 5TH YEARS

The Diocesan Day out was a day in Knock for all 5th year students in the Tuam Archdiocese. The day was held on Friday, January 29th. The day consisted of talks, music, and little bit of prayer. Elation Ministries - a rock group, who really brought the day to life, provided music everyone was up on their feet enjoying the music. All enjoyed a great day. Ms. Cuddy and Ms Macken accompanied the group.



BANK OF IRELAND BOND TRADERS CHALLENGE:

Well done to the 5th Year and 6th Year students, who represented the school at the Bank of Ireland Bond Traders Challenge in Castlebar on 15th March, 2016. Two teams attended the event. The first team of Oisín Henry, Piarais Caulfield, Stephen Collins, Laura Mulkeen and Diarmuid Keane won the first round of the competition. The second team of Rachel Lyons, Danielle Coyne, Shauna Murray, Lauren Casey and Thomas Doherty won the eight round of the competition. They were accompanied to the competition by their teachers Josephine Loftus and Claire Kelly.



CLAREMORRIS OPEN EXHIBITION

Leaving Cert and 5th year Art students along with their Art teacher Ms. Antoinette Lennon, enjoyed their annual visit to Claremorris Open Exhibition. With the help of tour guide Lisa Fahy the students gained insight and understanding of contemporary Irish art. Art appreciation is an integral part of senior cycle Art both to heighten the student's awareness for the world around them and prepare them for Art History LC exams. For many students this was their first experience of a gallery, the trip was enjoyed by all.



CREATIVE WRITING

I'm not gonna lie

Growing up is hard,
I'm not gonna lie,
It's not a walk in the park,
More like running a mile.
Friends will come and go,
And sometimes you'll feel low,
You just gotta get up and go,
And then you'll begin to grow.
From primary to secondary,
School gets you ready,
To grow into a life with hope
Of happiness, health and prosperity.
Growing up is hard,
I'm not gonna lie,
But yet it is an experience
You will keep through your life.

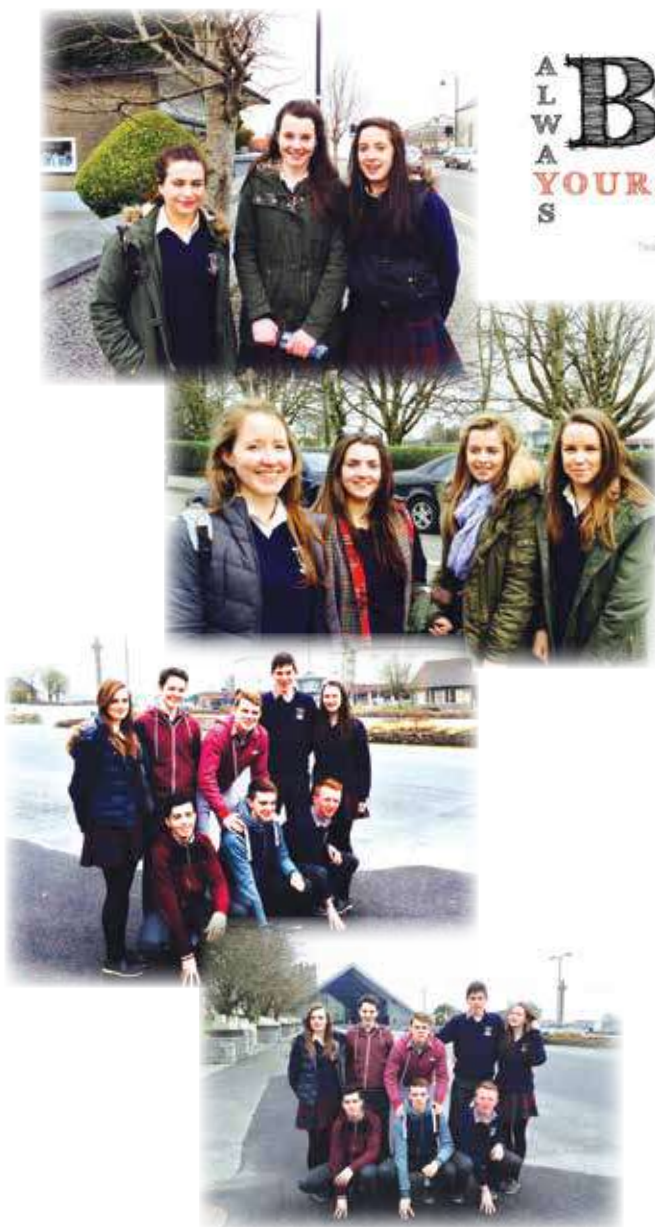
Tara Coyne

THIS IS OURS 2015 – 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 Íosa 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 Ec 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.

SELF-IMAGE WORKSHOP

Before the Easter holidays the Transition Year 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 well being. 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.



CREATIVE WRITING

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.
The world 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
'You can tell me some more.

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

Anonymous

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Biology Gold Medalist Winner

Cathal Hosty a 5th Year Student won a Gold medal at the IrEUSO competition which was held for the Junior Certificate Science and Mathematics 'A' grade students on the 24th of October 2015 at DCU.

The group was split into three subjects - Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Cathal entered the Biology exam and achieved the best marks for Biology out of the hundred pupils which sat the Biology exam. This was a fantastic achievement and a credit to his hard work and determination.



Pictured is 5th Year student Cathal Hosty being presented by Mr McDonagh with his Junior Certificate results. Cathal achieved a remarkable 10 Higher level A's and 1 Higher level B grade in his recent exams. These results place Cathal amongst the highest achievers in the country



Congratulations to Oisín Lloyd on the completion of this beautiful table which will be used at school liturgies. The attention to detail and the quality of the piece is testament to Oisín's ability and his enthusiasm for the project. Thank also to Mr. McHugh for his guidance on the project.

JOHN PAUL II AWARDS

O. MACKEN

20 Students from BCS received their John Paul II awards at the annual awards ceremony held in the newly refurbished Basilica in Knock on Nov. 26th 2015. The Awards were presented to the students by Archbishop Michael Neary.



The following students received awards:

Papal Cross Award recipients: Claudia Glavey and Meadhbh Glavey.

Gold Awards recipients : Joanne Coffey, Ciara Delaney, Michelle Lyons, Gabby Murphy, Chloe Naughton, Megan Morley, Sive Duffy, Chloe Greenwood, Claire Fahy, Shauna Murray, Eleanor Harrison, Laura Mulkeen, Lauren Gallagher, Danielle Coyne, Jenny Golden, Saskia Kirrane, Aoife Mulrennan, Derbhla Phillips.

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.



SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL REPORT

The Senior Basketball team was dealt a blow before the year even started losing two of their best players from the previous season. This was a year to try to build a new team and gain some valuable experience.

The first outing was against a very strong St. Gerald's team that we were no match for. A valiant effort in the last quarter gave us something to build on. Our next game was at home to another Castlebar team. Again we were up against it but a much improved performance saw a much more respectable scoreline. Despite these two losses to very strong teams some players were really starting to show their quality most notably, Deividas Rutkauskas and Imran Siddique with Joseph Wagacha forever showing his unbelievable athletic abilities even against very strong opposition.

This became extremely evident in strong performances against St. Nathys, Ballaghaderreen and ST. Josephs in Foxford where huge performances from all the squad but especially Imran Siddique (12 points) and Joseph Wagacha (18 points) saw us lose very narrowly in a game that we dominated for long periods. Another decent performance in our last game against Our Ladys, Belmullet saw another narrow defeat but again some really strong performances. All in all it was not a very successful year for the team but some strong talent did emerge with good signs for the future.

Back Row: Filip Hutman, Brendonas Graf, David Mitrovic, Hmad Farooq, Aban Ahmad

Middle row: Madasir Rehman, Saim Asif, Deividas Rutkauskas, Zouhir Rahmani, Joseph Wagacha, Peace Omotayo, Hamza Ashar

Front row: Conor Hunt, Sean Frayne, Darren Maughon



MAYO U21 ALL-IRELAND



Congratulations to the Mayo U-21's on being crowned All Ireland U21 champions! They defeated Cork by a scoreline of Mayo 5-07-Cork 1-14. Special mention to former BCS pupils David Kenny, Fergal Boland, Morgan Lyons & James Lyons who were part of the winning squad.

LEAVING CERT APPLIED



Back Row: Hussain Altaf Gul Shinwari, Stephen Staunton, Adam Webb, Kevin Heneghan, Denver Coyne, Connor Macewan.

Front Row: Tahira Gul Shinwari, Katie Henry, Cassie Niland, Damien McGowan, James Keadin.

LCA PLAY LCA STUDENTS

Our LCA class wrote a play called "The Squealing Pig", which we performed for Western Care on December 15th. The play was very exciting and involved magic, music, hypnotism and dancing. The play was set in a small pub called "The Squealing Pig" in Connemara. It begins with a scene in which old men are sitting at the bar talking amongst one another. Then a beautiful tour guide walked in asking the pub owner if he could arrange a variety night for a bus load of tourists. The pub owner and the men at the bar arranged a variety night. They arranged for "The Rock" and a magician "Houdini" to come and put on a performance for the tourists. When "Houdini" arrived early to set up his equipment, the farmers started making fun of him and eventually "Houdini" became very annoyed and hypnotised the farmers who became "chickens" every time they heard the word "Drink". When the bus load of tourists arrived to the pub to get a taste of Irish culture there was a lot of trouble. Elvis sang "All Shook Up" while the old men surprised everyone by jiving to the music. We had our own version of the River dance with Paudeen playing the bodhran. We all had fun participating in the play, making the props, singing and dancing. Our LCA class wrote the script and put everything together with the help of Ms. Murray. At the end of the play we all brought the audience out to dance and sing. They had great fun! Everyone "had a ball" and enjoyed having Western Care come to visit. We hope to put on another performance next Christmas and continue this important tradition.



LCA ART CLASS



The Leaving Cert Applied Art class received a Anti Litter Initiative grant from Mayo County Council, with this grant they decided to create an art work out of recycled waste. The students collected bottle tops from the whole school community over a number of weeks and transformed ,what we perceive as rubbish, into a beautiful wall mural. By completing this project the students hoped to encourage environmental awareness and remind students to be mindful about what they are throwing away and what can be recycled. Well done LCA's!



JUNIOR CERT METALWORK AWARDS

As part of the Junior Certificate course in metalwork, we were required to complete a practical task. Our project was to construct a self-propelled truck. We were very honoured to come first and second place in our Junior Cert metalwork projects. Kevin Heneghan came first place and Denver Coyne came second place in the Galway/Mayo region in the Junior Cert young engineer competition. On the 11th of December 2015 we were invited to a presentation night in the McWilliam Park hotel, Claremorris, together with our family and friends, where we received medals and certificates from the ETTA (Engineering Technology Teachers Association). There were teachers and students there from schools and colleges from all over Galway and Mayo. We were there with our metalwork teacher Mr. Noone. We were very happy and proud to be representing our school in such a prestigious event.



Pictured here are LCA students Kevin Heneghan and Denver Coyne who came 1st and 2nd in the Mayo/Galway region of the Junior Cert young engineer competition. Also pictured are their teachers Mr. Pat Noone, Mr. Patrick McGarry and Principal Mr. David McDonagh



WOOD TASK PROJECT

LCA Table made by LCA students as part of their LCA woodwork task

ATHLETICS

33 students from BCS travelled to Sligo for the North Connaught Athletics Finals. 19 students finished in the top 3 in their events giving them automatic qualification for the Connaught finals in Athlone on the 19th of this month. Notable performances from Amy Greally and Niamh O'Neill putting in very strong results. BCS wish all the students the best of luck in the finals.



CREATIVE WRITING

The Dentist

I went to the dentist,
Sat down on the chair,
Two teeth to extract
Sure I'd do that on a dare!

Before I knew it,
The needle went in,
And two seconds later,
The teeth were in the bin.

I got up from the chair,
And thought "Ah sure I'm fine!"
But soon realised
I could not walk a straight line!

The room it was spinning
And let there be no doubt
Within sixty seconds
I had passed out.

Anonymous

The Girl who refused to blend in

Her hair is short with spikes everywhere,
It's safer to stay away from the eye-stabbing hair.
With shoes so bright and the wrong coloured shirt,
The sight of her would make your eyes hurt

She refused to blend in and looks like the rest,
Standing out is what she did best.
She didn't care about what the school said,
Rolling her eyes at the comments made.

Speaking her opinion, showing no fear,
Ignoring the constant laughing and jeers.
At lunch she always played with the lads,
While the other girls did each other's plaits.

People tried to give her a new look,
Unfortunately their hairbrush got stuck.
The girl who refused to blend in,
Ended up being famous for her strong opinion.

Vanessa Henry

SPORTS ACTION



DCG PROJECTS



METALWORK PROJECTS



WOODWORK PROJECTS





Abigail Adams



Abusafyan Ahmad



Sana Almas



Ibrahim Ashraf



Muhammad Hamza Azhar



Sarah Behan



Patrick James Burke



Cathal Carney



Piarais Caulfield



Saoirse Caulfield



Mohammed Walid Chawi



Jasmin Chong



Orla Cleary



Oisín Coffey



Stephen Collins



Darren Coyne



Jason Cullinane



John Cunnane



Ciara Delaney



Padraic Duffy



Adedayo Abiodun Fabunmi



Claire Fahy



Dalia Fleitlikh



Tommy Folliard



Barry Forde



Stefan Fortig



Lauren Gallagher



Meadhbh Glavey



Claudia Glavey



Jenny Golden



Chloe Greenwood



Matthew Grogan



Oisín Henry



Cian Henry



Seán Herr



Garry Higgins



Faysal Kezze



Karam Kezzeh



Michaela Kilkenny



Saskia Kirrane



Robert Lilly



Gemma Lilly



Michelle Lyons



Emma Lyons



Nadine Mangan



Sean Mannion



Korina Meehan



Brian Morley



Stephen Morley



Eoin Morris



Laura Mulkeen



Aoife Mulrennan



Callyn Murphy-Maitland



Thomas Murphy



Chloe Naughton



Roisín Ní Shúilleabháin



Dylan Niland



Dylan Noonan



Aisling O Boyle



Aisling O Gara



Peace Omotayo



Caitlin O Toole



Hillary Phillips



Aimee Regan



Caolan Regan



Mudasir Rehman



James Reynolds



Emma Rowley



Alice Sesiuk



April Sesiuk



Walid Mohammad Shawl



Imran Siddque



Jordan Squire



Seán Tarmey



Amy Taylor



REPEAT LEAVING CERT 2016



Back Row: Darragh Hunt, Shane Crinnigan, Liam Cregg, John Cassidy.

Front Row: Kevin Austin Tighe, Robert McCormack, Sarah Skeffington

Missing from photo: Shauna Russell

FUNDRAISING

The students in 6A organised a fundraising event for Mayo Women's Support Services. In total 200 was raised and a cheque was presented to Trish Quigley on behalf of the Support Services. The service provides support, counselling and refuge for women and children living with domestic violence.

Pictured are: Lauren Gallagher, Jordan Squire, Trish Quigley (Support Worker, Mayo Women's Support Services) and Meadhbh Glavey.



O. MACKEN **SENIOR MENTORS 2014/2015**

The peer mentoring programme in our school allows senior students to act as positive role models for 1st year students, they did this and much more. The mentors play an important role in helping our 1st years to settle into our school community. This year's group were a pleasure to work with, they showed maturity, leadership and were very responsible in their role. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the mentors for giving of their free time especially for the Mentor training day facilitated by Peter Duffy and his team from Big brother Big Sister and for the 'Meet and Greet evening' last May. The Leaving Certs were extremely committed to their role. This group of Mentors were successful in facilitating various activities during the 1st and 2nd terms for the first years including Meta Fit for the Girls and an Indoor Soccer league during lunch time, the Quiz afternoon, Assisting the class tutors, helping with organising lockers, lunchtime visits to the D and E areas throughout the year.

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

Aoife Mulrennan, Piaras Caulfield, Padraic Duffy, Chloe Naughton, Aisling O'Boyle, Brian Waldron, Aisling O'Gara, Lauren Gallagher, Meadhbh Glavey, Mudasir Rehman, April Sesiuk, Alice Sesiuk Hamza Azhar, Sana Almas, Jenny Golden, Eoin Morris, Ibrahim Ashraf, Jasmin Chong, Korina Meehan, Faysal Kezze, Amy Taylor, Cassie Niland, John Cunnane, Michaela Kilkenny, Cathal Carney, Callyn Murphy, Oisín Coffey, Abusafyan Ahmad, Roisin Ni Shuilleabhán, Nadine Mangan, Emma Rowley, Claire Fahy, Matthew Grogan, Chloe Greenwood, Michelle Lyons, Oisín Henry, Laura Mulkeen, Aimee Regan, Dalia Fleitikh, Saskia Kirrane, Claudia Glavey, Hillary Phillips, Tom Murphy, Ciara Delaney, Caolan Regan.

AOIBHEANN GALLAGHER AND ORNA HESSON **SENIOR BOYS HURLING**

The Senior boys hurling team competed in the Mayo Post Primary Schools Hurling competition this year. They started off the season with their first match against neighbours St Colman's College Claremorris on 13th October in Ballyhaunis Gaa pitch. This was a very impressive first game for Ballyhaunis CS as reflected in the comprehensive scoreline of Ballyhaunis 5-19 to Colman's 0-8. They overcame Colman's with ease. The Ballyhaunis forwards displayed their skill and shooting accuracy as is evident in the final scoreline. This match however was not just won by the accurate forwards. The domineering backline kept Colman's far from our net, forcing them to take long range shots. Full with confidence from their first win against Colman's, the lads had their second match against St Gerald's Castlebar in Castlebar on Friday 23rd October. The lads once again came out victorious in this game by a considerable amount. The strength and skill level of this talented Ballyhaunis CS team was too much for the St Gerald's team as they struggled to stop the Ballyhaunis forwards shooting from all angles. Once again the formidable Ballyhaunis backline were in flying form, working together marvellously to keep St Gerald's final tally at its minimum.

Rice College Westport were Ballyhaunis' next opponents. This important decider took place in the Centre of Excellence Began on the 10th November. This was the Mayo Hurling Final, the team that came out on top would be through to the Connaught Post Primary Senior C Hurling Championship. Once again the lads didn't disappoint. Ballyhaunis controlled the match, and all worked together to clock up a tremendous final scoreline of Ballyhaunis 5-14, Rice College Westport 2-6. All of the lads performed magnificently on the day, and great link up play from the midfielders assured this comprehensive win for the hardworking Ballyhaunis team. This meant that Ballyhaunis were Mayo Post Primary Hurling Champions and therefore proceeded to the Connaught Post Primary Senior C Hurling Championship, a title they also won last year. Ballyhaunis Community School were in Group B for the Connaught Championship, and this group consisted of Mercy College Woodford, Seamount Kinvara, Coláiste an Chreagain Mountbellew and Presentation College Headford. As Mercy College Woodford, Seamount Kinvara and Coláiste an Chreagain Mountbellew all conceded their games against Ballyhaunis, the only team remaining in the group for Ballyhaunis to play was Presentation College Headford. This game took place in the Centre of Excellence Began on 26th November. This was a close game, with both teams very close in the first 20 minutes. Before half time, Ballyhaunis took the lead and at half time the score was Ballyhaunis 0-6, Headford 0-3. In the second half, Ballyhaunis took control and finished the game as eventual winners. It was a low scoring game, as Ballyhaunis found it hard to get scores throughout the game. The final score was Ballyhaunis 0-11, Headford 0-5.

Ballyhaunis now advanced to the Connaught Semi-Final, where they came up against the CBS Roscommon. This was undoubtedly Ballyhaunis' toughest encounter of the season, as Roscommon were quick and skilful. The Ballyhaunis team, from goalkeeper to full forward line, worked tirelessly but it was not to be for the lads on this particular day. CBS Roscommon were the eventual winners on the day, and progressed to win the Connaught Final, and since then have reached the All-Ireland Final. Overall, the lads had a very successful year and should be very proud of their efforts. A special thanks also to Nicholas Freyne, Mr Woolley and Mr Collins for taking the time to train the lads throughout the year. The Ballyhaunis CS Senior Hurling panel this year consisted of Bobby Douglas, John Cassidy, Dylan Niland, PJ Burke, Michael Freyne, Kevin Neenan, Calum Gardiner, Cormac Phillips, Eamonn Phillips, Brian Morley, Sean Kenny, Conor Keane, Liam Lavin, Ryan Keadin, Oisín Greally, Conor Hunt, Eoin Delaney, Brian O'Neill, Sean Frayne, James Frayne, Sean Herr, Shane Crinnigan, Ciaran Doherty, Uneeb Naseer, Liam Herr, David Cunnane, David Hession, Conor Sloyan and Eoin Morris.

Back Row L-R: Conor Sloyan, David Cunnane, Liam Herr, Uneeb Naseer, Ciaran Doherty, Dylan Niland, Shane Crinnigan, Cormac Phillips, James Frayne, Calum Gardiner, Bobby Douglas, Sean Herr, Sean Frayne, Michael Freyne, Nick Freyne, Mr. Woolley.

Front Row L-R: Brian Morley, Sean Kenny, Conor Keane, Liam Lavin, Ryan Keadin, Oisín Greally, Conor Hunt, PJ Burke, Eoin Delaney, Kevin Neenan, John Cassidy, Brian O'Neill, Eamonn Phillips, Tiernan Murphy



SENIOR LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL **CONOR HUNT AND DAVID CUNNANE**

Mrs. Comer took charge of the senior ladies Gaelic football team along with her transition year help in the form of Conor Hunt and David Cunnane. Unfortunately the league and Championship is combined for the girls which limits the amount of games that will be played. The team had numerous training sessions before the first game away to Sligo side Coola. Ballyhaunis started brightly in this game but struggled to put their dominance on the scoreboard. Meadhbh Glavey got the scoring underway closely followed by a point from Chloe Ryan and goals from Cassie Niland and Katelyn Concannon. Coola then hit their good patch with kicking three points. Ballyhaunis were thankful for Rachel Lyons heroic defending and safe goalkeeping of Courtney Mulhall. Orna Hession kicked a point to put Ballyhaunis 9 points up at half time. Ballyhaunis got off to a poor start when Coola hit the back of the net twice within ten minutes. Excellent defending from Shauna Fleming and Rachel Lyons prevented Coola from scoring again. Scores from Meadhbh, Cassie, Danielle, Orna and Kara gave Ballyhaunis some breathing space. However Coola got a goal and two points to draw the sides level with minutes remaining. Wing Back Áine Duffy scored an excellent point to give us the lead and Eleanor Harrison sealed the win with a free to give us the win on a scoreline of 4-10 to 4-08.



Back row L-R: Olivia Cleary, Rachel Lyons, Courtney Mulhall, Sive Duffy, Aibhinn Herr, Cassie Niland, Eleanor Harrison, Áine Duffy, Lauren Casey, Megan Morley, Kara Niland, Jessica Carroll and Shauna Fleming.

After an impressive win against Coola, the senior ladies were full of confidence when they took on St. Nathys. Ballyhaunis opened the scoring with a point from Kara Niland, this was followed by a St. Nathys goal and two more points from Ballyhaunis. St. Nathys rattled the net again with another goal closely after. Orna Hession responded with two fine points.

Front Row L-R: Conor Hunt, Orna Hession, Katelyn Concannon, Joanne Coffey, Danielle Coyne, Chloe Ryan, Emer Forde, Laura O'Connell, Helen Gallagher, Meadhbh Glavey and David Cunnane.

Ballyhaunis were lucky not to be more behind but thanks to the crossbar saving them on three occasions. Danielle Coyne drew the teams level with a point but Nathys then quickly scored two goals and two points to give them the lead. Ballyhaunis got the scoreboard going again with points from Eleanor Harrison and Sive Duffy. This was followed by a goal from Cassie and a Nathys goal. Ballyhaunis went in five points down at half time after a frustrating first half. The second half was more a possession game rather than a scoring game with both teams enjoying long spells with the ball. Ballyhaunis finally got a bit of luck as they were awarded a penalty which Cassie struck into the top right hand corner. Unfortunately this was to be Ballyhaunis' last score of the game. St Nathys finished the game with two points and a goal to win by a margin of eight points. This result meant that the girls could not qualify for the next round with a game remaining against Ballinasloe. Unfortunately the girls were defeated by a very strong Ballinasloe team in the last game. It was a disappointing year for the girls but they will look forward to the future with the majority of the team still eligible for senior next year.

SENIOR BOYS GAELIC FOOTBALL

This year the Senior boys were competing in the C division in Connaught. They had a strong panel and started off the year playing their first game in the Flanagan cup in the Centre of Excellence against Foxford. The first half score was Ballyhaunis 1-4 to Foxfords 0-1. Ballyhaunis' strong defence insured our lead throughout the game. The final score was Ballyhaunis 2-8 to Foxford 0-4. They then went on to play Belmullet, a strong opposition. The halftime score in this game was Belmullet 2-6 to Ballyhaunis 0-1. Ballyhaunis hit back in the second half scoring six points but unfortunately the Belmullet side was just too strong. The seniors didn't progress any further in the Flanagan cup. Then the lads faced some tough opposition for the remainder of the year. We had excellent displays of skill and teamwork from all the players in many of the matches. We came up against Garbally, Ballinasloe and performed quite well with the final scoreline reading 4-8 to 2-6. On the 5th of November we met Glenamaddy. Again this was a well contested game and both our defence and attack in this match was well worked. We came out victorious, 4-09 to 2-10. We came up against Castlereagh on the 7th October and had a fantastic performance once more. It was a tight game but we broke away in the second half and ended the game scoring 5-20 to 4-6.

our Senior Boys Gaelic team defeated St Enda's of Galway by a scoreline of 4:16 to 3:04. This resulted in them progressing to the Connacht semi final. Our final outing for the year was against Presentation College Athenry on the 12th of February. It was held in the Centre of Excellence and the lads had great support on the sideline. This game was an extremely intense and demanding game on all the players and we had many set backs due to injuries. Unfortunately, we were pipped at the post by Athenry, who won by 2-8 to 1-8. Well done to our lads who put up a great display. Special thanks goes to Mr Larkin and Mr Collins for their work with the team throughout the year and thanks to the lads themselves for their dedication and commitment for all the training sessions and matches in their season.



Back row L-R: Callyn Murphy, Michael McGarry, Oisín Henry, Darren Coyne, Cian Ruane, Robert McCormack, John Cunnane, Liam Cregg, Calum Gardiner, Piarais Caulfield, Dylan Ruane, Cormac Phillips, Bobby Douglas, Mr. Collins.

Front row L-R: Mr. Larkin, Diarmuid Duffy, David Cunnane, Eamonn Phillips, Tom Murphy, Tiernan Murphy, Sean Kenny, Kevin Neenan, Stephen Collins, Conor Hunt, Brian O'Neill.

U-19 BOYS SOCCER

Training for the U-19 boys soccer started in late October. Mr Noone was the coach. They had one training session a week. The first game of the year was against St. Louis of Kiltimagh played in Milebush Park, Castlebar on 27th of November. The boys were confident going into the game. The game didn't turn out how they thought it would, the game ending 3-2. A misfortunate back pass from Conor Hunt to goalkeeper who miss kicked the ball and ending up in the back of the Ballyhaunis net. The two goals from Ballyhaunis came from Gary Higgins and a free kick from Cathal Carney. The second game was against St. Jarlaths of Castlebar played in Celtic Park in Castlebar on the 7th of January. This game was a must win if Ballyhaunis wanted to qualify for the knockout stage of the Connacht Championships. Ballyhaunis played well for the majority of the game. The best chance was a Cathal Carney free kick which hit the cross bar. But a goal either side of half time ment St. Jarlaths went 2-0 up. 5 minutes after Michael McGarry made it 2-1. But another two goals for Jarlaths, one from a corner and another from a counter attack made it 4-1 to Jarlaths. It looked like a comeback was on when Ballyhaunis got two goals back from Sean Doyle and Gary Higgins made it 4-3, but it wasn't to be. It was a disappointing campaign from Ballyhaunis, but the lads put in a great effort and did themselves proud.



CONNACHT SOCCER

Pictured here are Cathal Carney, Brian Morley, Gary Higgins and teacher Mr P. Noone. Congratulations to the lads who represented Connaught in the interprovincial series.



SCIENCE QUIZ TEAM

Back Row L-R: Saskia Kirrane, Eoin Morris, Hamza Muhammad Azhar, Peace Omotayo.

Front Row L-R Laura Mulkeen, Chloe Greenwood, Ciara Delaney, Gemma Lily.

Leaving Certificate Science Quiz Team who took part in the Galway regional round of the 2015 ISTA Senior Science quiz as part of National Science Week on Thursday November 12th in GMT. (Absent from the photo – Cian Henry)



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Barry Forde & Sean Tarmey won top prize of €2,000 for winning the Strokestown Sculpture Competition sponsored by Investec.

1,000 went the to the School and the other €1,000 went to the two lads. Mr McGarry was the teacher involved!!



DEBS COMMITTEE

Back Row L-R: Darragh Hunt, Liam Cregg, Oisín Henry, Oisín Coffey.

Front Row L-R: Korina Meehan, Meadhbh Glavey, Padraic Duffy.



GRAD COMMITTEE

Back Row L-R: Orla Cleary, Aoife Mulrennan, Caolan Regan, Piarais Caulfield.

Front Row L-R: Michaela Kilkenny, April Sesiuk, Cathal Carney, Peace Omoyto.



GRAD 2016



LEAVING CERT BABY PHOTOS



1 - Stephen Collins, 2 - Stefan Foretig, 3 - Saskia Kirrane, 4 - Abi Adams, 5 - Maedbh Glavey & Padraic Duffy, 6 - Aisling O'Gara, 7 - Aisling O'Boyle & Jenny Golden, 8 - Sarah Behan & Claudia Glavey, 9 - Jordan Squire, 10 - Meadhb Glavey, 11 - John Cunnane, 12 - Michelle Lyons & Gary Higgins, 13 - Sana Almas, 14 - Darren Coyne, 15 - Jenny Golden, 16 - Fazal Kezze, 17 - Aisling O'Boyle, 18 - Barry Forde, 19 - Dylan Noonan, 20 - Eoin Morris, 21 - Barry Forde & Sean Tarney, 22- Chloe Greenwood

REMINDER TO THE LEAVING CERT CLASS 2016

O. MACKEN

This is a stressful and difficult time in our Leaving Cert students' lives with many difficult decisions to make –it is important to note you are not alone. 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. Sr. Margaret sends a prayer card for each student to carry with them or to read before their exams. A sincere thank you to Sr. Margaret and her fellow sisters from the Leaving cert class of 2016.



YEARBOOK EDITORS MESSAGE

M. GINTY

This is the first year Mr. Pat Noone and I have had as yearbook editors. We had big shoes to fill which is why it is taking two of us to fill what was a one person job. Ms. Mary Mooney has worked tirelessly over the last number of years to make sure the school has had a high standard publication for the yearbook. Thanks to Ms. Mooney for all of her effort through the last number of years and we can only hope that our publications will live up to the high standards set.

The first thank you then is to Ms. Mary Mooney as she passed on her wisdom to the yearbook committee and has helped make the transition as easy as possible. The biggest thank you has to go to Fr. Farragher. The time he gives up and the effort he puts in to ensure we have a high standard of photography in the yearbook is astounding. He has also given an enormous amount of guidance to the students and I along the way which is greatly appreciated. I would like to thank all members of the TY class and Mr. Noone for their incredible effort in ensuring this publication is a success. I would like to thank all of the staff and students who contributed in any way to the publication. I would particularly like to thank Mr. Patirick McGarry, Mrs. Orla Macken, Mr. David McDonagh, Ms. Majella Morrison, Ms. Carmel Stakem, Aíne Duffy, Aoibheann Gallagher, Orna Hession, Emer Forde, Helen Gallagher and Róisín Hussy. I would also like to thank Berry print for their hard work and professionalism in putting together this publication. Sean McCormack and Michelle Murphy deserve great praise for making this publication look so well. Finally, I would like to wish all the Junior Cert and Leaving Cert students the best in their exams in June.

CREATIVE WRITING

Life's Simplicities

My six year old self
Could be called childish
For the fairies and elves
Who only I could see

My six year old self
Is considered foolish
For my fears of monsters
And bees

My six year old self
Is thought to be naïve
For my dreams of being
A queen

My six year old self
Could be seen as someone bold
For being myself
Someone I am proud to be
What I wouldn't give
To be six once more
For being grown up is not
How I'd dreamt it to be before

The world was huge (ginormous in fact)
I could do anything, without a doubt
For isn't that what being a grown up
Is really truly about?

So I think to act as my six year old self
Things of such simplicity
Would make my life more like
How I had dreamt it to be

Written by Molly Curran

Leaving Certificate Awards

Romeo & Juliet

Hillary Phillips & John Cunnane

Rear of the year

Dalia Fleitlikh

Brian Waldron

Best hair

Hillary Phillips

Jason Cullinane

Legend of the year

Saoirse Caulfield

John Cunnane

Class clown

Korina Meehan

Dayo Adex

Most eccentric

Claudia Glavey

Faysal Kezze

Loudest

Korina Meehan

Peace Omotayo

Best musician

Claudia Glavey

Brian Waldron

Nerd of the year

Laura Mulkeen

Cian Henry

Dosser of the year

Nadine Mangan

Michael Tigue

Biggest transformation

Jenny Golden

Piarais Caulfield

First to make a million

Ciara Delaney

Barry Forde

Clutz of the year

Claire Fahey

Sassiest

Matthew Grogan

Jeremy Kyle guest

Jordan Squire

Oisin Coffey

Best brows

Jenny Golden

Michael Tigue

Most whipped

Meadhbh Glavey

Oisin Coffey

Boxer of the year

Michelle Lyons

Tommy Folliard

Teachers

Hottest

Ms Varden

Mr Shannon

Soundest

Ms Varden

Mr Noone

Funniest

Ms Fallon

Mr Mc Hugh

Sassiest

Ms Fallon

Mr Murray

LEAVING CERT MEMORY LANE

We have had many adventures during our five or six years in BCS from our First Year trip to Westport to our Leaving Cert holiday to Madrid.

We came into BCS with our squeaky clean uniforms, some of us drowning in them, with our big egos from primary school. Those egos were soon deflated by Ms. Mooney, as she would say "Shape up or ship out". All was going well as new friends were made until none other than Mitch Lyons showed us her hidden talent as she intended to, and I quote – "Box" our substitute teacher with a chair. Other masters of mischief roamed about as Faysal crossed paths with Ms. O'Loughlin. To quote the lady herself: "You may win the battle but you will never win the war".

Second Year came along and everyone grew taller. The lads and girls now joined together in the B Area as the trends of locker swimming and food fights began. Second Year also involved an evacuation from the B Area and an excuse to do even less work than usual for a day!

As Third Year loomed, working hard and studying was becoming a regular thing. We all came together to raise money for charity with a fancy dress soccer match which gave the lads a chance to let their feminine sides shine. During the year, we went on the much anticipated retreat to Ballintubber Abbey which was a brilliant day including an adventure which ended with us being covered in muck from head to toe.

Transition Year started off in Mrs. Henry's room E4. Our first trip was to Killary. We set off with more food than clothes. We started with the famous Bog Challenge and as we waded through mud, finding shoes on the way and losing our own. When the night came, everyone was in high spirits, swapping rooms and building forts. Those nights always left us with stronger friendships and lots of laughter. Our TY trip was to Barcelona. At the hotel we realised we had some Spanish company next door to our rooms and in the girls words "Tá buachailli ana té! The 'Back to the 80's' musical was another opportunity for us to display our many talents. From Fergal and his infamous CD dilemma to Matthew and his lethal lightsaber which flew off mid combat almost slicing off Leia's head off! TY was brilliant but all fun has to come to an end and it was soon time to enter the two year journey of the Leaving Cert. Fifth year began with new faces joining from TY (unfortunately James Lyons was nowhere to be seen; some say he traded BCS for the blazer life of Jarlaths). We went on the annual bonding trip to Achill. Here, friendships formed and romances blossomed in the ball alley. Mr. Murray and Ms. Comer took on the role of 'Mammy' enforcing a "1 metre ban" on all couples. Pot noodles were the only source of food for a whole two days and a one hour walk accidentally became a four hour stroll around the island. Later on in the year, Matthew was caught being his sassy self when he announced to Ms. Mooney "I'll know it for the Leaving Cert miss" – this was easier said than done.

And then all of a sudden, after our Grand Vaccances, we were finally the top dogs of the school (although some First Years were still taller than us). Sixth Year began with more study than ever and by October Mid-Term, we all deserved a well earned break. A group of us jetted off to Madrid. Antics were had from Oisín Coffey's hide and seek skills to Sean Herr and his infamous mochas. From being kicked out of hotel rooms to Brian having a salty attitude as a result of the warm weather, an unforgettable few days were had. Before we knew it preparations for "Popstars: The 90's" musical came upon us. The Backstreet Boys reunited for three nights only and Spice Girls brought girl power back to BCS. From dodgy tapes to piano improvisations, the show was a success. Mocks came and went with a horrendous honours maths paper, scarring the student population of BCS, but it was no match for our resident honours maths teachers Ms. Madden and Ms. Caulfield. Easter was a long few weeks of study as we prepared for our oral exams. The nerves affected some more than others as one student declared that in her shop she "sells unemployment". And so, that brings us up to now as we conclude our memories in BCS. Our years spent here were full of laughs and fun, ups and downs. Our time at BCS has been a whirlwind of adventures, from the day we started here as squeaky-clean First Years, to today, as we prepare to leave as young adults. Our time here will be forever etched in our memories.

LEAVING CERT MEMORY LANE

