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Welcome to the Ballyhaunis Community School Yearbook 2017. 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 has been underway for well over a year now. It is expected that work will be completed in March 2018. We will then 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. The refurbishment works in the A Area has discommoded both students and staff since last October and I would like to congratulate everyone for going about their business with the minimum of fuss and in ensuring that disruptions were kept to a minimum.

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.

Since the publication of last year's Yearbook the school has lost the services of Ms. Siobhan Devine. Siobhan served as a Music and Irish teacher in the school for almost 40 years and made an indelible imprint on generations of students. Everybody associated with the school wishes her a long and happy retirement.

One of the highlights of the year was the success of our fundraiser "Who wants to be a Thousandaire". We were bowled over by the tremendous support we received from the local community. The money generated, over €40,000, will be used to enhance the facilities for students for many years to come. I particularly would like to thank our sponsors and advertisers who were so generous to us. A full list of those is contained within and I would ask everyone to support these businesses in the years ahead.

Another significant event during the year was our inaugural "Wellness Week". A committee comprised of both staff and students combined to put on a programme of events to promote wellbeing and resilience. I am happy to report it was a tremendous success with great feedback from students. We now hope to make it an annual event and this again underlines our commitment to the holistic development of all our students.

The last year has seen significant changes internationally. Brexit and the election of Donald Trump are, in my opinion, a direct result of distrust between established and new communities. I feel the world at large could learn some valuable lessons from the harmony that exists in BCS. This harmony is something to be valued and cherished and we must continue to ensure that it is nurtured and maintained for many years to come.

I want to pay tribute to Mr. Ginty and Ms. Glavey 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 thanks to Fr. Farragher who is responsible for most, if not all, of the pictures in the magazine.

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. D. McDonagh



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on her marriage to Derek
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NICOLA AND DEREK ON THEIR
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THE NICKY RACKARD CUP

SIOBHAN DEVINE TRIBUTE - PRINCIPAL

In late November 2015 I sat down with Ms. Devine to review what was then our recent show; "Popstars, The Musical."

I congratulated her on what was a wonderful success and I was struck by her energy and enthusiasm as we discussed the possibilities our newly refurbished school would afford us for our next musical some two years away at that stage. So as you can imagine it came as a great surprise to me when Siobhan told me in June of last year of her decision to retire. However as I thought about it, it seemed entirely appropriate. All great performers leave the stage at the height of their powers. The same can be said of great teachers.

The Music teacher in a school must be a hybrid of two elements; a teacher and a performer. It is essential that you both inform and inspire. Here in Ballyhaunis CS we are fortunate that we had the services of someone of Siobhan's talents for so long who more than ticked these two boxes. As an Irish and Music teacher Siobhan inspired and informed generations of students. Her gentle manner and infectious enthusiasm ensured Siobhan's popularity with both students and staff alike. Students naturally gravitated towards her as they saw in her someone that always had their interests foremost in her mind.

On a personal level Siobhan was a wonderful support to me when I assumed the role of Principal. Whether it was a quiet word of encouragement or some wise and insightful advice I always knew I had her full support. I also had numerous invitations to the Music Room to enjoy a musical interlude and to observe first-hand Siobhan's skills as a communicator and a teacher.

Siobhan's association with the school musical for so many years ensured countless generations of students have left BCS with wonderful memories that will last a lifetime. I have no doubt that Siobhan leaves with equally fond memories. I would like to wish her, her husband Michael, children Shane & Suzanne many years of health and happiness in her retirement.



Mr. D. McDonagh

SO LONG! FAREWELL! AUF WEIDERSEHEN! GOODBYE!

Last May when I learned that Siobhán Devine was retiring from B.C.S. I was sad for two reasons. Firstly, we were losing a dear colleague and friend, and secondly I realised that she was the last of the Old Brigade (i.e. teachers who were here before me) to leave.

In 1991, Siobhán quickly nabbed me and my fellow 'newbie' Pat McHugh to help out with the school musical. That year we staged 'Oklahoma!', and thus began our musical collaborations which would continue for the next 25 years. I can honestly say that Siobhán was the most patient, kind and enthusiastic person I ever worked with. During audition season I was Simon Cowell to her Louis Walsh. Siobhán always tried to include as many students as possible in our productions – and they loved her!! Her dedication was admirable. Siobhán spent many hours rehearsing after school; she regularly supplied cups of tea and biscuits to the 'leads', and several times she would drive some of them home. I would safely say that if Siobhán was paid for the overtime she put in between musicals, talent shows, masses, exams etc she would have more than enough to go on a luxurious world cruise – twice!!!

I would personally like to thank Siobhán for the effort she put into her teaching. She taught music to both of my children, and they both achieved very good grades. She even managed to persuade my son to sing in public – something that hasn't happened before or since!

Finally, I would like to say that we miss you, Siobhán. Your warmth, good humour and positivity were something we very much appreciated. We would like to wish you a happy and healthy retirement along with your family – Michael, Shane and Suzanne.

Anna Henry

SIOBHAN DEVINE'S RETIREMENT

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. SIOBHAN DEVINE

I had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Siobhan Devine for 16 years. I often thought that her surname should be spelled as 'Divine' because she is such a special person and has a very positive effect on people. She had this amazing ability to pull off the most creative and dramatic 'ideas' because she was "Mrs. Devine" which left me in awe of her can do spirit. Throughout my time working with Siobhan I never heard a harsh word being said from any student about her. Siobhan's personality, her passion for music and all things dramatic meant that she appealed to the creative side of our student body. In the lead up to audition time for our bi-annual musical the queues would begin to form from early October outside the music room in the hope of securing a role in the show. Siobhan had the amazing ability to bring the best out of all students – even the reluctant singers and dancers, encouraged by Mrs. Devine would shine on stage. She always got the balance right with many students treading the boards who would never contemplate a role purely because Mrs. Devine recognized their potential and capability.

Over the past 16 years we worked together on many 'gigs' including the annual Leaving Cert Graduation ceremony. Each year I would ask Siobhan to keep the Choir numbers to a minimum due to space constraints and each year the number grew bigger and bigger much to my exasperation! – we always managed to squeeze them all in!! Any Liturgy organized in the school was always much enhanced by the presence of Mrs. Devine and the choir. Lunchtimes in school was often a buzz with the sounds coming from the music cell or music room - this was thanks to Siobhan's encouragement as she instilled a love of music in all her students. Last May was the inaugural 'Awakening Concert' held in Breaffy Arena where 400 students from post-primary schools across the diocese came together to perform a fundraising concert in aid of Pieta House. This was the brain-child of former music students Siobhan and Maura McHugh – both of whom are music teachers and both attribute their love of music and teaching to Mrs. Devine.

This influence also extended to former past pupil and current music teacher– Ms. Grainne Glavey, who continues the music tradition here in BCS. On a personal note I have to say I miss Siobhan – her sense of fun and creativity was a healthy balance for my desire for everything to be orderly and perfect. We were a great team and I will cherish the memories we shared during our time working together – Siobhan never lost her enthusiasm or energy throughout her 40 years of teaching and I know she will continue to be a good friend to us here in the school having already made a return as 'celebrity judge' for our 1st year talent show as well as dedicating her musical talent to helping with the staging of the second 'Awakening Concert' this year.

I want to wish her many years of health and happiness to enjoy lots of adventures with her beloved Michael and her children Suzanne and Shane.

O. Macken

TRIBUTE TO SIOBHAN DEVINE TEACHER, COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND TO ALL



In September of 1980 a new teacher arrived at the Ballyhaunis Community School. I was there the first day she arrived and my first impressions were that she was a warm and kind person.

I have worked with Siobhan since that day and over the years I have seen her taking on many roles. Her primary role within the school was that of Music Teacher but to both students and staff alike she was far more than that. To students and staff she was a friend, immensely loyal and someone who could always be relied on. Siobhan was always interested in our families, our children and in our lives. She was on hand to celebrate with us in the good times and comfort us in the bad.

For me, Siobhan leaving represents the end of an era, the last of the original colleagues I have worked with and laughed with over the years.

Siobhan, you will be missed but your legacy will last forever.

Always with love and fond memories.

Justina

A WORD FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

PRAYERS FOR THE LEAVING CERT CLASS 2017



Sr. Martina and the sisters of Mercy in the Western Province have an active prayer group and each year they include the Leaving Cert

students of Ballyhaunis CS in their prayer intentions. Sr. Martina contacted the religion department as she does every year and asked if our students would like to be remembered in their prayers. Sr. Martina visited the students just before their mock exams and distributed a prayer card for each student to carry with them or to read before their exams. A sincere thanks to Sr. Martina and her fellow sisters for remembering them at this stressful and difficult time from the Leaving cert class of 2017.



THE UNKNOWN PRESENCE

Inspiring Words to guide us as we encounter difficult times.

When you are lost and the storm of life
Has washed you up on an unknown shore;
When the familiarity of place is taken from you
And the contours of time cease to be your guide;
Remember that I am home to you.

When you are wounded and the winds of life
Take all your security away from you;
When the rain of uncertainty drenches you
And a sudden frost stills your longing;
Remember that I am warmth for you.

When the setting sun bathes your soul
And the moon and the sea draw on your heart;
When the wild geese beckon to you
And the song of the seagull speaks to you;
Remember that I am the one who is calling you.

When the innocence of childhood returns to you,
and the freedom of belief creeps up on you;
When the forgiveness of nature takes hold of you,
and the light of dawn possesses you;
Remember that I your God am close to you.

Michael Conway

SACRED SPACE



A meaningful life is not about being rich, being popular, being highly educated or being perfect... It is about being strong and being able to share ourselves and touch the lives of others



I have to pinch myself that we have come to the end of yet another school year. Time seems to slip by in the blink of an eye. As this year draws to a close, we are aware that there have been many changes including the much anticipated school extension and refurbishment, the fabric of our school community is 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 endeavour to nurture this spirit.

This last term brings with it the usual examination fever with the practicals, summer tests and state exams. This year has been a busy and eventful one, and at this stage we all deserve the holidays until we meet again in the next academic year! For all the Junior and Leaving Cert students our thoughts and prayers are with you as you begin your state exams in June.

Orla Macken

A TRIBUTE TO MATT O'DWYER

REMEMBERING MATT



June 26th, 2016 will forever be etched in the hearts and minds of all who worked with and were friends with Matt O'Dwyer. His untimely passing was a huge shock to his beloved family, the wider Ballyhaunis Community and in particular to us here in BCS where Matt taught science until he retired in 2010. He played a master role in the development of the Community School as a member of the original staff back in 1977/78. I'm sure I speak for all the staff when I say that to have worked with Matt was a pleasure in the real sense of the word. Matt was regarded as an excellent teacher who had a gentle and respectful rapport with his students. He was very highly regarded by his teaching colleagues and by all the students he taught over the years.

Early in June the current staff decided to organize a reunion of our retired staff prior to the major renovations and building programme getting underway. Matt attended on that occasion and he was in great form, catching up with all his teaching colleagues and discussing the plans for the exciting building programme that was about to begin. It was such a shock to us all when we heard of Matt's sudden death just two weeks after this memorable evening.

Matt had a keen interest in sport both on and off the field. His interest was extensive and varied and he conveyed his love of Athletics, Golf and Soccer to the students of B.C.S with great passion and enthusiasm down through the years. He had a great relationship with the students he coached and he always got the best out of them. He will always be remembered by them with affection and admiration.

Matt was closely associated with the parish of Ballyhaunis and was a regular reader in the Church. He was deeply committed to the Christian ethos and this spirit also extended to our school community. Matt could always be counted on for assisting as a Eucharistic Minister on the occasion of our Leaving Cert Graduation ceremonies. He willingly agreed, on many occasions to speak to the Religion classes about his role in the local branch of St. Vincent De Paul where he dedicated many years of his time in a voluntary capacity.

He was always very supportive of my role as School Chaplain and often extended words of encouragement to me as I etched out my role as the first lay-chaplain in BCS. When my second son was born in 2007 Matt was very chuffed that I named him 'Matthew'! Each time we met after Matt retired he always enquired after Matthew and asked did we still call him by his full name and not the shorter version 'Matt'.

I am in no doubt that Matt is enjoying the heavenly rewards for his many years of kindness, compassion and understanding he characterised in his daily life.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

O. Macken



PAST AND PRESENT STAFF OF BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL AT THE REUNION EVENING, JUNE 8TH, 2016

FRONT ROW SEATED: AOIFE KEANE, MARY NEENAN, JIM HIGGINS, DAVID MCDONAGH, BRID WHYTE, CHRISTY RUANE, JUSTINA LYONS, TERESA LYNSKEY, SIOBHAN DEVINE

MIDDLE ROW: PATRICIA HARDIGAN WHYTE, ORLA PHILLIPS, ORLA MACKEN, EVA BROGAN, JARLATH FAHEY, CONCEPTA MORAN, SR. TERESINA DALY, AINE WHELAN, RENA BURKE, IMELDA MCGREAL, SR. JOAN FAHY, HELEN HURLEY, TOM GROGAN, SR. EVELYN FAHY, SR. MAURA CALLAGHAN, PEGGY EGAN, MARY FRANCIS CLEARY, JOHN CLEARY, MAJELLA MORRISON, FR. DES WALSH

BACK ROW: PATRICK NOONE, OLIVE LYONS, PAT MCHUGH, FR. JAMES O'GRADY, CHRIS PRATT, TERRY COLEMAN, AIDAN KELLY, VINNY HEALY, CAIT WEBB, MATT O'DWYER, MORGAN JENNINGS, CON BOYLE, EILEEN JENNINGS, HUGH RUDDEN, PATSY NOONE, EILEEN BYRNE

JUNE 2016



ORIGINAL STAFF OF BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL PRESENT AT THE REUNION EVENING, JUNE 2016

FRONT ROW SEATED: MARY NEENAN, JIM HIGGINS, TERESA LYNSKEY, BRID WHYTE, CHRISTY RUANE.

MIDDLE ROW: SR. TERESINA DALY, RENA BURKE, IMELDA MCGREAL, SR. JOAN FAHEY, HELEN HURLEY, AINE WHELAN, TOM GROGAN.

BACK ROW: JARLATH FAHEY, TERRY COLEMAN, CHRIS PRATT, AIDAN KELLY, VINNY HEALY, FR. DES FAHEY, MORGAN JENNINGS, MATT O'DWYER, HUGH RUDDEN, PATSY NOONE



STAFF PHOTO - 1977/78

BACK ROW: PAT HIGGINS, MICHAEL SMYTH, CHRIS PRATT, JOHN CLEARY, FR. MICHAEL LYONS, MICHAEL MURREN, AIDAN KELLY, VINCENT HEALY, FR. DES WALSH, MORGAN JENNINGS, ANTO O'MALLEY (RIP), MATT O'DWYER (RIP), MICHAEL GLYNN (RIP), HUGH RUDDEN

MIDDLE ROW: JARLATH FAHY, TERRY COLEMAN, SR. TERESINA DALY, RENE BURKE, IMELDA MCGREAL, SR. DOLORES BOWDEN, PATRICIA WALDRON (RIP), SR. JOAN FAHEY, HELEN HURLEY, AINE WHELAN, SR. ASSUMPTA FLANNERY (RIP), TOM GROGAN, RAY CHARLES, PATSY NOONE

FRONT ROW: SALLY HIGGINS, MARY NEENAN, MAURA GRIFFIN (RIP), JIM HIGGINS, TERESA LYNSKEY, EDDIT THORNTON (RIP), FR. FRANCIS MCMYLER (RIP), BRID WHYTE, MARY FREELEY (RIP), CHRISTY RUANE, SR. MARGURITE TOGHER

FIRST YEAR



1A **BACK ROW:** ORLAITH COFFEY, AROOJ AZHAR, COLIN COOPER, AUREDAS ARMONAVICIUS, HARPRETT SINGH, MAEVE DONNELLAN, NIAMH DUFFY, CLAIRE FLANAGAN
MIDDLE ROW: RAIF COSTELLO, SEÁN CAULFIELD, JAMES DUFFY, USHNA AHMAD, ZARA AKBAR, DARRAGH FLYNN, NATHAN DEE, MATTHEW FRAYNE, PÁIDI MURPHY
FRONT ROW: ROISÍN DENNING, LANABIESTY, HANNAH CLARKE, RACHEL CLEARY, LORNA DAVIS, VICTORIA BURCOVSCHI, HELENA CALA, DEIRBHLE BOLAND
ABSENT FROM PHOTO: LOUISE COX



1B **BACK ROW:** CARAGH KILCOYNE-BURKE, CAOIMHE HAGNEY, KYAH LEGG, JULIA GRABIASZ, MATTHEW LYNCH, JACK JENNINGS, CIARÁN KERRIGAN, OISÍN KELLY, SHANE GAVIN
MIDDLE ROW: JAMES LYONS, ERIN KILBRIDE, SABINA ILLICHOVA, KELAN HENRY, ÁINE GLYNN, ADAM KEANE
FRONT ROW: CIARA HOSTY, NAWEED JUGOO, EDWARD GROARKE, GRACE GREALLY, NIAMH GREALLY, LEAH GUILFOYLE, REBECCA LYONS, MARK GAVIN
ABSENT FROM PHOTO: LILLIAN KEANE, JESSICA HENRY, JAYKE BEAUCHANP



1C **BACK ROW:** SHANNON MILLER, MARK MULKEEN, SHAUN MORLEY, JACK MADDEN, CAOIMHE MORAN, NIAMH MANNION, ANNIE NAVEED
MIDDLE ROW: MUHAMEED NASEER , STEFAN KORA, BETH LLYOD, SARAH MORRIS, CHANTELE MAUGHAN, CHLOE MCDONAGH
FRONT ROW: MATTHEW O'REILLY, JOURDAN YAN, PEARCE MCDERMOTT, THOMAS MAUGHAN, REBECCA OSGOOD-DALY, CHLOE MULRENNAN, KAREN MORGAN, DOMINYKA MASELSKYTE
ABSENT; PADRAIC MCHUGH, PHILIP MORRIS, ERIN MURRAY, DENICKA COOPER STURDY, NATHAN NOONE



1D **BACK ROW:** CIAN ROGERS, DANIEL SHERIDAN, GUILHERME RODRIGUES, MIKEY REGAN, PRINCE OWUSA, KYM O'REILLY, ELLEN TENNER, KINZA TAHIR MAHMOOD
MIDDLE ROW: NIAL REGAN, UMAR TAYYAB, IGOR POSARIC, SEAN PEARSON, MEGAN RONANE, BERNADETTE STAUNTON
FRONT ROW: JAMES MCCORMACK, SHANE REIDY , MUJTABA REHMAN, JACK SULLIVAN, DANIEL REGAN, MASSA RAHMANI, GERALDINE MCDONAGH
ABSENT FROM PHOTO: RABIA ZARHEB, DANIEL MANNING, DAVID MISKOVIC, EILIS O'BRIEN, TENSIA LUNDOLO

FIRST YEAR BONDING DAY



Friday, September 30th marked a special day for the 1st year class of 2016/2017. Early that morning 1st years, their mentors and year heads all headed off to Esker Youth Village in Athenry, Co. Galway for a day of fun, games and getting know each other. After a turbulent start for one of the Buses and with many stops and starts along the way,



we finally reached Esker in good spirits thanks to the musical antics of Paidi Murphy and DJ Marina Carney! It was a lovely opportunity for the students to take some time out to get to know each other and to create memories with their new peer group and mentors. As well as lots of inspirational input from the team we also had time for tag rugby and hide and seek in the woods as well as Ceili dancing with the mentors. The day concluded with a talent show where many of our 1st years got to display their musical talents even some acrobats! Many thanks to Mrs. Mulroy, Mrs. Brogan and Ms. Macken for accompanying the students on the day.



FIRST YEAR BOYS SOCCER



BACKROW: UMARTAYYAB, RAIF COSTELLO, JAMES DUFFY, GUILHERME RODRIGUES, CIAN ROGERS, PRINCE OWUSA, DARRAGH FLYNN, JACK JENNINGS, MATTHEW LYNCH, AURELIUS ARMONAVICIUS, OISIN KELLY, CIARAN KERRIGAN, JAMES LYONS, NIAL REGAN

FRONT ROW: KEELAN HENRY, IGOR POSARIC, EDDIE GROAKE, SEAN PEARSON, NATHAN DEE, MATTHEW FRENYE, PAIDI MURPHY, JACK MADDEN, JACK SULLIVAN, MIKEY REGAN, DANIEL REGAN, MATTHEW O REILLY

The first year soccer squad consisted of 26 players.

The first year boys had a great start to their soccer season winning their first match against Presentation College Headford. The game ended 3-1 with the triumphant Jack Madden scoring three goals giving him a hat-trick on his B.C.S debut. It took a strong team effort to win the game. Everyone put in their best efforts.

They went on to play Colaiste Bhaile Chlair in Claregalway. The lads were unfortunate to lose this match 7-1 but were looking ahead to the next game. They were trying everything that they had practiced in training on the pitch but were fighting the losing battle throughout this game.

Their next game was against St. Louis Kiltimagh in which they suffered a harsh loss. They were very unlucky with a 3-1 loss with Jack Madden getting the goal once again.

The lads were a great group throughout the first year of soccer. All of the lads have a bright future in soccer; we especially acknowledge the efforts of Jack Madden, Jack Sullivan and Prince Owusa.

Joe Murphy & Rebecca Vahey Brennan

LANA BIESTY - KARATE CHAMPION



Lana Biesty - is pictured after her Silver Medal win at the Karate International Tournament held in Berlin Germany last October. Lana a first year student has a number of titles and medals under belt. She has competed at National and International levels in Kata Karate. Well done Lana on your fantastic achievement to date - no doubt there will hear a lot more about Lana's success in her sport in the future.

FIRST YEAR BOYS BASKETBALL



BACK ROW: OISIN KELLY, MATTHEW LYNCH, SHAUN MORLEY, GUILHERME RODRIGUES, JACK JENNINGS, MARK MULKEEN, DANIEL REGAN

FRONT ROW: IGOR POSARIC, MATTHEW FRAYNE, JACK SULLIVAN, JACK MADDEN, MIKEY REGAN, NATHAN DEE

NOT FEATURED IN THIS PHOTO: PAIDI MURPHY, DARRAGH FLYNN, KELAN HENRY, EDDIE GROARKE, SHANE REIDY, CIAN ROGERS, SEAN PEARSON, SHANE GAVIN, COLIN COOPER, NIAL REGAN, MARK GAVIN, ADAM KEANE, AURELAS ARMONAVICIUS, DANIEL SHERIDAN, UMAR TAYYAB, RAIF COSTELLO, CIARAN KERRIGAN, JAMES LYONS, JORDAN GUAN TUAN TUM, STEFAN KORA, PEARCE MCDERMOTT, PADRAIG MCHUGH, NATHAN NOONE, MATTHEW O'REILLY, PRINCE OWUSU

playing Davitt College and Guilherme Rodrigues was a top player in this win 20 : 25. We were thrilled that we had won.., but we were upset we didn't go through to the next round.

I would like to thank all the people who helped organise the matches and took the score. I would like to give a special thanks to Mr. Ginty who trained us and gave us confidence as we played. Mr.Ginty tried his hardest to give everyone on the squad a game. We are already looking forward to Basketball next year.

We have had a good year with the 1st year boys Ballyhaunis Basketball team. We were very unlucky to not have a longer season as we put up some hard fights. In our first game we were very unlucky as we were beaten by St. Gerald's by a score line of 13 : 12. Jack Madden who was shining all season was the top scorer in this encounter scoring 6 points against them.

In our second game of the season, we were feeling confident and needed the win. Matthew Lynch stepped up to the mark and played a key role in the win against Ballinrobe C.S. and scored 6 crucial points which led us to the win 24 : 16.

Our third game was approaching and we were training hard but unfortunately we lost as St. Tiernans put up a good battle and won by a score of 30 : 36. Again Jack Madden was outstanding with a whopping 16 points but sadly that wasn't enough.

In our fourth game we didn't perform as good as we would have liked to. We were beaten by a score line of 30 : 66 against a very strong St Joseph's, Foxford. We knew we should have played a lot better and that for the next game we had to give it our all.

It was our final game and we were feeling the pressure, as we wanted to end the season with a bang. We were

Paidi Murphy and Matthew Frayne

FIRST YEAR GIRLS BASKETBALL



BACK ROW: YVONNE DUFFY, CLAIRE FLANAGAN, MAEVE DONNELLAN, MEGAN RONANE, NIAMH DUFFY, ANNIE NAVEED, CARAGH BURKE, ORLAITH COFFEY, AROOJ AZHAL, ERIN MURRAY, MS. CAULFIELD

FRONT ROW: RACHEL CLEARY, LANA BIESTY, HANNAH CLARKE, NIAMH GREALLY, ELLEN TENER, NIAMH MANNION, LORNA DAVIS

The First Year Girls basketball team had a successful year. We began training in January with the help of Ms Caulfield and Yvonne Duffy. This was many of the girls' first taste of playing basketball and learning the rules of the game. They worked hard over all of the training sessions and showed great commitment. We faced our first opponents, Ballinrobe Community School, on the 9th of February. Our girls came out triumphant with a final score of 23-12. This win gave the players great confidence to bring them through to their next game in Barnacarroil. The following week on the 15th of February the girls played Mount Saint Michaels in Barnacarroil Sports Hall. Our girls came out on top again with a full time score of 40-27. On the 2nd of March the girls defeated St. Tiernans College from Crossmolina at home and this qualified us for the Semi-Final in Castlebar. On the 6th of March in An Sportlann Castlebar the girls played St. Joseph's Secondary School of Castlebar. It was a tight game throughout but our girls put up a good fight and with a strong comeback in the



BACK ROW: LORNA DAVIS, LOUISE COX, ORLAITH COFFEY, ANNIE NAVEED, AROOJ AZHAR, MAEVE DONNELLAN, MEGAN RONANE, NIAMH MANNION

FRONT ROW: LANA BIESTY, RACHEL CLEARY, HANNAH CLARKE, ERIN MURRAY



BACK ROW: GRACE GREALLY, AINE GLYNN, NIAMH GREALLY, CLAIRE FLANAGAN, REBECCA LYONS, NIAMH DUFFY, CAOIMHE MORAN, USHNA AHMAD, CAOIMHE HAGNEY, MASSA RAHMAN, CARAGH BURKE, DEIRBHLE BOLAND

FRONT: NIAMH MANNION, ORLAITH COFFEY, ANNIE NAVEED, ERIN MURRAY, LANA BIESTY, RACHEL CLEARY, HANNAH CLARKE, LOUISE COX, MAEVE DONNELLAN, MEGAN RONANE, LORNA DAVIS, AROOJ AZHAR

3rd quarter we were triumphant once again with a full time score of 29-16. After this win the girls were now through to a Mayo-Galway Regional Finals Day. On the 16th of March we travelled to Glenamaddy to take part in two games against Ardscoil Mhuire Ballinasloe and St. Marys Secondary School of Ballina. Our first game was our semi final against Ardscoil Mhuire Ballinasloe which we won with a final score of 24-8 which got us through to a final later on in the day against St. Marys of Ballina. We put up a hard fight and it was a very tight game from start to finish with the final few minutes having everyone on the edge of their seats however sadly in the end we weren't successful and had suffered our first loss with a full time score of 33-29. The girls were awarded medals and were through to National Play Offs. On the 5th of April we played a "friendly" against the 1st year boy's basketball team with a final score of 39-23 to the girls. On the 25th of April the girls braved the early 6am start and travelled to Ennis to participate in Minor C Girls National Play Offs against three other teams. In our first game we were defeated by the hosting school Coláiste Muire Ennis. Sadly our next two games had the same outcome and we were defeated by Tullamore College and then Loreto Cavan. Although we didn't come away with a win the day was a great experience for the team and the girls really are a credit to themselves as they never gave up till the final whistle of each game and gave it everything they had. A very big thanks to Ms.Caulfield and Yvonne Duffy for all their hard work and effort throughout the year.

*By India Costello and
Eimear Murray*

FIRST YEAR TABLE QUIZ

The 5A LCVP Class, with the help of their teacher Mrs. Loftus and the Leaving Certificate Mentors, organised a table quiz for all first years on the 15th December. The money raised was donated to the local branch of the Saint Vincent de Paul. The winners of the table quiz were Sean Caulfield, Arooj Azhar, Matthew Frayne, Marina Carney (Mentor), Lana Biesty, Claire Flanagan. In second place were Eleanor Harrison (Mentor), James McCormack, Shane Reidy, Ellen Tener, Megan Ronane and Danielle Coyne (Mentor). In third place were Bernadette Staunton, Daniel Regan, Umar Tayyab, Eilis O'Brien, Thomas Doherty (Mentor) and Eoin Delaney (Mentor).



L-R: THE WINNERS OF THE TABLE QUIZ WERE SEAN CAULFIELD, AROOJ AZHAR, MATTHEW FRAYNE, MARINA CARNEY (MENTOR), LANA BIESTY, CLAIRE FLANAGAN



L-R: IN SECOND PLACE WERE ELEANOR HARRISON (MENTOR), JAMES MCCORMACK, SHANE REIDY, ELLEN TENER, MEGAN RONANE AND DANIELLE COYNE (MENTOR)



L-R: IN THIRD PLACE WERE BERNADETTE STAUNTON, DANIEL REGAN, UMAR TAYYAB, EILIS O'BRIEN, THOMAS DOHERTY (MENTOR) AND EOIN DELANEY (MENTOR)

FIRST YEARS AND THEIR MENTORS



FIRST YEAR CLASS 1A AND THEIR LEAVING CERT MENTORS: OLIVIA CLEARY, SHAHEEN ASHRAF, MARINA CARNEY, NIAMH FLANAGAN



FIRST YEAR CLASS 1B AND THEIR LEAVING CERT MENTORS: DYLAN HARRISON, REBECCA FINN, JOANNE COFFEY, GEORGIA PEAKE, JESSICA CARROLL, MEGAN MORLEY



FIRST YEAR CLASS 1C AND THEIR LEAVING CERT MENTORS: ZOHAB GULZAR, CAOIMHE COYLE, MOHAMMOD RAHMANI, COLM O'GARA, GRÁINNE ROBINSON, LAUREN CASEY



1D WITH THEIR LEAVING CERT MENTORS: MEGAN REGAN, MARY FLYNN, DANIELLE COYNE, EOGHAN DELANEY, ELEANOR HARRISON, LIAM FOODY, CHLOE RYAN, GABY MURPHY, THOMAS DOHERTY

SENIOR PUPILS NOT PICTURED WHO ALSO VOLUNTEERED FOR MENTORING FIRST YEARS THIS YEAR: MUNAZA MUNEEB, MICHAEL MCGARRY, COURTNEY MACEWAN, BENAS PAKONIS

MENTORS 2016 / 2017



The Peer mentoring programme in our school allows senior students to act as positive role models for 1st year students. The mentors play an important role in helping our 1st years to settle into our school community. This year's group did exactly this and much more, they were a pleasure to work with, they showed maturity, leadership and took their role very serious. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the mentors for giving of their time especially for the Mentor training day facilitated by Mr. Pat Murphy and for organising the 'Meet and Greet evening' last May.

This group of Mentors were successful in facilitating various activities during the 1st and 2nd terms for the first years including: Line Dancing, The Cube activities in the Gym, assisting the class tutors and yearheads, helping with organising lockers, breaktime and lunchtime supervision in the D as well as returning to school a day early to assist with the induction day and going with the 1st years to Esker Youth Village, Athenry on their 'Bonding Day' at the end of September.

Well done to the following students who were Mentors this year: Shaheen Ashraf, Olivia Cleary, Marina Carney, Michael McGarry, Munaza Muneer, Niamh Flanagan, Rebecca Finn, Megan Morley, Georgia Peake, Jessica Carroll, Joanne Coffey, Dylan Harrison, Courtney Macewan, Lauren Casey, Zohaib Gulzar, Colm O'Gara, Benas Pakonis, Grainne Robinson, Mohammad Rahmani, Caoimhe Coyle, Danielle Coyne, Mary Flynn, Eleanor Harrison, Gaby Murphy, Megan Regan, Chloe Ryan, Thomas Doherty, Eoin Delaney, Liam Foody.

O. Macken

FIRST YEAR TALENT SHOW



FIRST PLACE PRIZE PRESENTATION L-R: SIOBHAN DEVINE, BETH LLOYD (WINNER), JACK DEEGAN (PREVIOUS WINNER), MR. MCHUGH



PRESENTATION TO 2ND PLACED STUDENTS L-R: SIOBHAN DEVINE, KELAN HENRY (2ND PLACE), MR. MCHUGH



PRESENTATION TO 3RD PLACED STUDENTS L-R: SIOBHAN DEVINE, CIARAN KERRIGAN, RAIF COSTELLO (JOINT 3RD), MR. MCHUGH



JUDGES AND PRESENTERS
BACK ROW- L-R: PRESENTERS; GRACE O'GARA, OISÍN BOLAND.
FRONT ROW:-L-R: JUDGES; THOMAS COFFEY, MR. MCHUGH, SIOBHAN DEVINE AND DEIRBHILE FINN RICHARDSON

The annual First Year Talent Show was held on February 16th this year. There was an array of various talents from Irish dancing and singing to gymnastics. The adjudicating panel consisted of woodwork teacher Mr. McHugh, former music teacher Mrs. Devine, TY students Deirbhile Finn-Richardson and Thomas Coffey.

The "Gorthaganny Scanners" began the show with their version of "Hit the Diff" by Marty Mone. Next we had Hannah Clarke with her ukulele version of "This Town" by Niall Horan, quickly followed by Beth Lloyd and Niamh Duffy with their Sean Nos dancing. Next up was Ushna Ahmad with her version of Demi Lovato's "Heart Attack". Maeve Donnellan, Sarah Morris, Megan Ronane took to the stage alongside accompanist Niamh Duffy on piano with Lily Allens "Somewhere Only We Know." Kelan Henry followed on the tin whistle.

Next up we had Beth Lloyd singing "Let Her Go" by Passenger, followed by Eddie Groake, Shane Gavin and James Lyons (group name-ESJ) with their dancing. Erin Murray followed with "I see fire" by Ed Sheeran, quickly followed by Eilis O'Brien's version of "Heartbeat," a Marcus and Martinus favourite. Ciaran Kerrigan and Adam Keane really got the crowd going with "Can't Hold Us" by Macklemore- Mr. McHugh really enjoyed this! A unique performance by Padraic McHugh followed with his impressions. To end the first half of the show Raif Costello brought us "Castle On The Hill" accompanied by Ms. Glavey on keys.

During our interval Ms. Glavey's second year music class performed various songs such as "Walking On Sunshine" by Katrina And The Waves and Beyonce's 'Halo'. Also Denver Coyne performed his magic show which included juggling and spinning plates.

Erin Kilbride opened the second half with Lily Allen's "Somewhere Only We Know" accompanied by Kyah Legg on the piano. Next up was Ciaran Kerrigan with "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz. Lorna Davis was next with a haunting rendition of Beyonce's 'Ave Maria', quickly followed by Helena Cala with her gymnastics and dance. Next up was Kym O'Reilly singing an original called "Shine Tonight," quickly followed by Erin Kilbride with "Say You Won't Let Go" by James Arthur. Next up Sarah Morris with her gymnastics, followed by Zara with "1,000 years" by Christina Perri. To finish a terrific show with a terrific performance was Jack Sullivan, Paidi Murphy, Niall Regan and Darragh Flynn with the Irish rugby anthem "Ireland's Call."

The results were announced shortly after the performances were over. In first place was Beth Lloyd with her winning song "Let Her Go" by Passenger. In second place the very talented Kelan Henry with his jig and in third place was Ciaran Kerrigan with 'I'm Yours.' What a show we had! Overall thanks to the transition year class of '16/'17 and to Ms. Glavey for organising the whole event!!!

Thomas Coffey & Deirbhile Finn-Richardson

FIRST YEAR BOYS GAELIC



BACK ROW: NIALL REGAN, ADAM KEANE, KELAN HENRY, HASSAN NASEER, OISIN KELLY, GUILHERME RODRIGUES, MATTHEW LYNCH, SHANE GAVIN, MARK MULKEEN, SHAUN MORLEY, JACK JENNINGS, JAMES LYONS, CIAN ROGERS, PRINCE OWUSA, SEAN PEARSON, CIARAN KERRIGAN

FRONT ROW: PAUDI MURPHY, MARK GAVIN, JAMES DUFFY, DARRAGH FLYNN, DANIEL REGAN, JACK MADDEN, JACK SULLIVAN, NATHAN DEE, MATTHEW FRAYNE, MIKEY REGAN, SHANE REIDY, EDDIE GROARKE

In early September, teachers Mr. Ryan and Mr. McHugh assembled a panel of talented first year boys to represent our school in the Connacht GAA league.

After an unfortunate loss in their previous match, which put them out of the league, our first year boys gaelic team had a hard fight for victory over Glenamaddy on Monday 21st of November by a score line of 3 goals and 10 points to 3 goals and 5 points. B.C.S managed to get 1-10 to 0-2 up by half time. A late revival by Glenamaddy threatened the B.C.S team but the defence stayed firm and B.C.S claimed a well-earned victory. This result put the school back into the first year Connacht GAA league.

The first year boys then went on to represent our school in another match but to an unfortunate loss that put them out of the league. A great thanks to Mr. McHugh, Mr. Ryan, and all who were involved in helping the team progress to where they got to in the league.

FIRST YEAR CAMOGIE



On the 25th of April our first year girls took part in the Mayo Blitz in Began ran by Mayo Camogie Board. The girls had a fantastic victory running out convincing winners in the end against Westport. Well done to Ms Varden and the Camogie girls.

OPEN EVENING

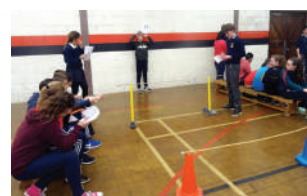
The First Year Open Evening took place on the 26th of January. An array of displays on all the schools facilities and achievements were put up throughout the school for the incoming first years to view. The 5th years who will become mentors to these incoming first years gave the first years guided tours of the school which allowed them to meet some of the teachers and get a brief look into the subjects they will be studying in September. The students and their parents were also informed about the improvements the current renovations will bring to our school. We look forward to seeing these first years around BCS in September!

By Katie Ronayne



THE CUBE

To welcome our new 1st year students to BCS we held our annual 'The Cube-BCS Style' on Friday afternoon. It was a thoroughly entertaining occasion and a great way for the students to get to know each other and make new friends. Many thanks to Mr Woolley, Ms Macken, 1st year Year-heads Ms Brogan & Ms Mulroy and the 1st year mentors for organising this event.



Soccer

From the moment I first touched that ball,
The look on my face said it all,
This is what I was born to do,
Growing up I continued to play everyone knew
Soccer wasn't ready for you.

Years passed and so did I,
Taking the ball to the final,
With a minute left and everyone looking upset,
BANG I hit it,
And luckily it exploded into the net!!

Mikey Regan.



2A **BACK ROW:** JAMIE ALLEN, CONOR MORLEY, HENRY CONCANNON, OISÍN DUFFY, SIMON MCDONAGH, DIARMUID PHILLIPS, SHANE FLANAGAN, PATRICK MANNION
MIDDLE ROW: JOEL GRENNAN, DANIEL FAGAN, DARREN GROARKE, DYLAN LYONS, TAMZIN WHELAN-MANNING, MEGAN HENRY, SARAH KEANE-HIGGINS, DOMINIC PARR
FRONT ROW: LEAH FALLON, AOIFE DOHERTY, ROISIN MURPHY, MEGAN HENRY, DEARBHLA GLAVEY, LAURA MADDEN, LEAH JOHNSTON, HALA KEZZE, ELISKA VICTHOVA
ABSENT FROM PHOTO: SARA ALTHOBHANEY, JANNA MAAZ, SALLY MAAZ



2B **BACK ROW:** NATHAN MCGARRY, ZEESHAN KHAN, NIALL FLANAGAN, PETER MAUGHAN, JAMES DOYLE, RUAIRI DELANEY, EMMETT FLANAGAN, HANNAH WALDRON
MIDDLE ROW: TAMARA SQUIRE KEANE, LAURA GODFREY, EILIS DUFFY, MEABH DELANEY, ANNA CUNNANE, CONOR KINNARNEY, RONA HOSTY, RIDA NASEER, GABRIELLA CERVENAK
FRONT ROW: STEPHEN CANNON, MAHAM ASIF, EMILY SHARMAN, DEAN LYONS, KIRAN MUQADAS, ANGELA KILLEEN, TOM MAHLIS
ABSENT FROM PHOTO: BRIANNA CASEY, TERESA CLEARY, TOMMY CLEARY, EILIS KENNEDY, MODESTA KUCINSKAITE, DANIEL MURRAY

SECOND YEAR



2C
BACK ROW: DYLAN CAULFIELD, DANIEL HILL, DECLAN HENRY, JACK DEEGAN, STEPHEN DOONEY, AARON KEAVENEY
MIDDLE ROW: CAITLIN COLL, KIERAN O'GARA, THOMAS KEANE, JOY ABIOSE, WIKTOR SIEMIONKOWSKI, NATHAN COLLERAN, ETHAN CONNEELY
FRONT ROW: SALWA RAHMANI, ERIN RALEIGH, PETER MORRIS, DARA RATTIGAN, REY BENKHELIFA, ADEL HABIB, JACK GREALLY
ABSENT FROM PHOTO: LEANNE CORNWALL, BOTHINA KAZZEH, KAMILE PASUKEVICIUTE, BARBARA MCDONAGH, JAMES MCDONAGH, PEDRO PIRGHASEMI



2D
BACK ROW: KATE DELANEY, CLAIRE FLEMING, ANNA TIGUE, AOIBHEANN CRAWLEY, JACOB JURAK, OWEN MCDONAGH, MOHAMAD KEZZE
MIDDLE ROW: MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM, COURTNEY CLIFFORD, HANNAH TENER, KATE MANNION, MIRADIE KABONGO, CALLUM CASEY, JASON REINHARDT, LENA KUDIMATI, CIAN WALSH
FRONT ROW: JACK HARRINGTON, AIDAN COOPER, JOSHUA WEBB, CONAL HESSION, MERLIN PEARSON, KEVIN DURKAN, OPEYEMI FABUNMI
ABSENT FROM PHOTO: TARA CULLEN, PATRICK DALY, MICHEÁL O DINEEN

SECOND YEAR BOYS BASKETBALL



BACK ROW: CIAN WALSH, NATHAN MCGARRY, JASON REINHARDT, OISIN DUFFY, HENRY CONCANNON, CONOR MORLEY, DECLAN HENRY, DANIEL HILL, MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM, SHAUN MORLEY

FRONT ROW: DEAN LYONS, CONAL HESSON, DANIEL FAGAN, DARA RATTIGAN, JOSHUA WEBB, DIARMUID PHILLIPS, DANIEL MURRAY, JACK MADDEN

This made it a 'must-win' game. The boys realised the importance of this game and overcame a tough challenge against a strong team. Strong performances from Henry Concannon and Joshua Webb were key in securing the victory.

Our next game was on the 15th March against a formidable Davitt College in Castlebar. The team were very focused on the job ahead and from the off, tore into the game. At the interval the team lead on a score of 9-2 and managed to finish out the game even through the loss of Daniel Fagan. Daniel was unfortunately taken out of the game after picking up 54 fouls. Daniel Hill was key in ensuring a place in the regional semi-final.

The regional semi-final brought about a very intensely fought contest against Sligo Grammar School. The private school were very well drilled and had skilled players in all positions. Our lads put up a great fight and were well in the game at half time with the score being 16-9. With a bit of ground to make up in the second half the lads battled hard and managed to get within 4 points with about two minutes to go. Unfortunately this was as close as the contest got as it ended with a scoreline of 36 points to a respectable 32 points. There were some very strong individual performances from the lads with best coming from Declan Henry. It was a great performance with Ballyhaunis making it a closer contest than expected. A special thanks to Mr Ginty for his outstanding effort with the squad throughout the year.

By Joshua Webb and Conor Morley

AWAKENING 2017



"Awakening" began in the Archdiocese last year with over 300 teenagers coming together on stage to sing a selection of church and contemporary music in Breaffy Arena, near Castlebar. After a successful pilot year, this year marked its second year where over 425 teenagers within the Archdiocese of Tuam took part. The aim of the concert was to bring together the voices of over 425 young people, to enjoy a day full of music and singing, and to raise funds for the wonderful charity 'Pieta House'.

Practice began last February in BCS under the direction and co-ordination of the music teacher Ms. Glavey. We rehearsed songs such as "Beautiful Day" by U2, "Rule

the World" by Take That, and uplifting hymns such as "Still" and "10,000 reasons". The months of preparation paid off in what could only be described as a breath-taking performance by the students of the Archdiocese. Along with the choir conductor Ms. Siobhán Shaughnessy and MC for the evening Fr. John Kenny, the students of BCS helped to make "Awakening 2017" a night that will never be forgotten.

By Cáit Phillips - 5th Year

U14 GIRLS GAA



BACK ROW: TAMARA SQUIRE, ANNA TIGUE, HANNAH TENNER, LEAH JOHNSTON, KATE DELANEY, COURTNEY CLIFFORD, LAURA MADDEN, LAURA GODFREY, TARA CULLEN, AOIBHEANN CRAWLEY
FRONT ROW: RIDA NASEER, MEABH DELANEY, ELISKA VITCHOVA, KATE MANNION, ELIS DUFFY, MEGAN HENRY, DEARBHLA GLAVEY, AOIFE DOHERTY

MISSING FROM PHOTO: HANNAH CLARKE, RACHEL CLEARY, ELIZABETH LLOYD, LILIAN KEANE, NIAMH DUFFY, MAEVE DONELLAN, CLAIRE FLANAGAN, LORNA DAVIS, CLAIRE FLEMING, NIAMH GREALLY, REBECCA LYONS, ERIN MURRAY, LEAH GUILFOYLE, MEGAN RONAYNE, ROISIN DEMPSEY, REBECCA OSGOOD, NIAMH MANNION, JESSICA HENRY, BERNADETTE STAUNTON, CAOIMHE MORAN, ORLAITH COFFEY, SARAH KEANE HIGGINS, AROOJ AZHAR, ANNIE NAVEED, ELLEN TENNER

TRAINER: MS MOONEY

The under 14 girls began training in late September with Ms. Mooney and the help of the TYs. We started off the season in early October with a match against Scoil Muire & Padraig, Swinford, at their home pitch. Unfortunately we were defeated. Then we played a home game against St. Josephs Secondary School, Foxford. We had a better result this time; we won by five goals and two points. Our third match of the year was in November against St. Josephs Secondary School, Castlebar. We were on a winning streak. We came up against Swinford again but this time victory was ours - we won by a goal and five points. At this stage of the competition we were fighting for a place in the quarter final. We played Clifden Secondary School in Clonbur and thankfully our determination paid off. We won the game - the final score was 5-5 to 0-6. The quarter final was in March and we came up against St. Enda's Secondary School, Salthill. We played in Began but unfortunately we were defeated by this strong Galway side. Even though our football season was over we were very proud to have reached the quarter final. We would like to thank all the TYs and the referees for all their help and support. Last, but certainly not least we would like to sincerely thank Ms. Mooney for all her work behind the scenes. All the girls had a great year and we made brilliant memories that we will treasure. We can't wait for next year!!!

GREEN SCHOOLS

This year has been an exciting and rewarding year for the BCS Green Schools Programme. Our school has achieved its first ever Green Flag for our attention to litter and waste management. We would like to thank all students who were involved in the recycling rota as well as those who disposed of their litter in the correct manner. Without this we could not have achieved our Green Flag.

A bin rota has been put in place to assist with managing and sorting the litter. Each day at 1:50pm two different students from 1st, 2nd and 5th year, sort the bins in their allocated areas. This year the overseeing of the bins was taken over by TY students Jack Cloney and Oisín Boland as part of their Gáisce programme. Their role is to distribute rubber gloves and educate students on the appropriate management of the litter.

The Green Schools also exhibited at the Global Goals Day in the school on April 4th. The Green Schools go under Goal 12 Responsible Consumption & Production

By Jack Cloney and Oisín Boland



CAROL SERVICE



A Carol Service for the members of the Active Retired Group took place in Clare Court Centre on Wednesday, November 23rd.

Many thanks to Ms. Glavey, Ms. Coyne, Ms. Macken, TY's and students from the school choir who went along to sing and help get everyone into the Christmas spirit. A lovely afternoon was enjoyed by all.

UKULELE CLUB



Every Thursday we make our way to the music room for the newly founded Ukulele Club.

At the club, we spend breaktime learning chords and songs on the ukulele.

We learned a song especially for the closing ceremony of Wellness Week. We played the song "3 little birds" by Bob Marley.

Some students bring in their own instruments on Thursday, others use the set in the school (Pictured.) It's great fun! We really enjoy it!

*Caitlin Coll & Kieran O'Gara
(2C)*

AFRICAN DRUMMING WORKSHOP



CADET BOYS BASKETBALL



BACK ROW: ZAIN AZHAR, ABDULLAH NOOR, MARTYNAS PLECKTAS, DANIEL COYNE, JACK MCGOLDRICK, IBRAHIM RAHMANI, JAMES FRAYNE, DANNY HILL

MIDDLE ROW: JAKUB UBYCH, MARTIN HUTMAN, DARREN MAUGHAN, JOSHUA WEBB, DECLAN HENRY, MATTHEU MULLARKY

FRONT ROW: JAMES MCDONAGH, ETHAN KEANE, DEAN MCGARRY, LIAM LAVIN, SOHAIB ARSHAD, AJ HAMZE, JACK RONAYNE

It was a good year for the Cadet boys basketball team. Despite losing to 2 strong teams in St. Gerards, Castlebar and St. Brendans, Belmullet the boys came out fighting in their other league games beating Ballinrobe 39 – 6 with a great performance from Dean McGarry in particular and then beating Davitt College, Castlebar 26- 18 with Darren Maughan putting in a great performance. This was also our first year to enter the cup and we hosted a strong Dublin team, St. Josephs, Fairview losing narrowly after a hard fought contest. The lads showed great fighting spirit in all the games this year and can be proud of the way they represented BCS.

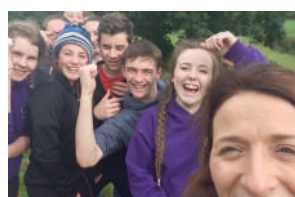
RETREATS

2ND YEAR RETREAT KNOCK SHRINE

The Youth Ministry team facilitated the 2nd year students Retreat day in Knock. 2A and 2B went on Jan 31st and 2C and 2D went on Feb. 1st. During the retreat students were given an opportunity to reflect on themselves and their lives in light of their faith and so that they can make more informed decisions when faced with the choices life presents.

Part of the retreat day experience was the tour of the Museum and listening to the story of Knock Shrine. Some of the students had the opportunity to make St. Bridget's crosses at the Museum as part of Lá le Bride celebrations.

The informal part of the day - the visit to the local chipper and the long walks around Knock during lunch-break all added to make the day a fun filled and enjoyable experience for all. Thanks to Ms. Macken and Ms. Phillips for accompanying the students.



3RD YEAR RETREAT BALLINTUBBER ABBEY

On September 21st and 22nd the third year students visited Ballintubber Abbey for their annual retreat. This retreat to Ballintubber Abbey has become a highlight of the third year calendar. Students left bright and early in the morning and when we arrived we were impressed by the beautiful setting of Ballintubber Abbey. We were ushered into the warmth and comfort of the Abbey by Fr. Fahey, he gave us a short summary of the history of the Abbey. The retreat began with an exercise designed to help us discover our inner selves! We were put on the spot, but everyone grew in confidence as we spoke aloud. We were all asked to unravel an imaginary mask that we put on to hide our true personalities in order to fit in with our peers. We also discussed the evolution of man and how each and every one of us is unique. After lunch we took part in the Tohar walk. The Tohar walk is a pilgrim walk from Ballintubber Abbey to the peak of Croagh Patrick. Thankfully, we only walked 2 miles of it. But those two miles were unforgettable! Dressed in water-proof gear and our wellies we waded through muddy fields. The walk really strengthened friendships and made our year group even closer. After the walk, we had a brief discussion on how fun, friendship and God can transform us. It was an enlightening experience and really made us think about ourselves and our relationships with others and with God. We all truly enjoyed our retreat and it was more than worthwhile. Many thanks to Ms. Macken, Ms. Cuddy, Mrs. Mulroy and Ms. Murphy for accompanying us over the two days.



BCS ON TOUR WITH THE BOYS IN GREEN





3A **BACK ROW:** TARA COYNE, LILIAN RIDLEY, MARY CARR, FIONA CRAWLEY, AARON DEE, EGIS ARAVICIUS, SAHAR ARSHAD , ALI SAKKAR
MIDDLE ROW: DARRENNATHAN MAUGHAN, AOIFE CARNEY, CLODAGH BYRNE, HOLLY BROWNE, MATTHUE MULLARKEY, MOLLY CURRAN, GRÁINNE COLLINS, EIMHÍN CONBOY
FRONT ROW: GRÁINNE BYRNE, GILLIAN DONNELLAN, GRÁINNE DELANEY, SOHEAB ARSHAD , CLODAGH CONWAY, WINNIE ALLEN, AOIBHE COGGINS, KYLE COOKE
ABSENT FROM PHOTO: DANIEL COYNE, RACHEL DILLON



3B **BACK ROW:** JASMIN GLAVEY, OLIVIA HALAS, ABDULLAH NOOR, MARTIN HUTMAN, MICHAEL GOSTKOWSKI, DAMIEN KILKENNY, SHANE GLYNN, MEGAN GREENWOOD, LORNA DONNELLAN
MIDDLE ROW: CHANTELE GLYNN, PATRICIA SOLOVOVA, SARAH GAVIN, FIZZAH TAHIR, NADEEHA JUGOO, SARAH HOPKOVA, EMANUELE GRACIOVA, SAIM GULZAR, AJ HAMZE
FRONT ROW: OISÍN GREALLY, LAURYN GOLDEN, LORNA GORMLEY, ELLA DUNLEAVY, VANESSA HENRY, AMY GILDEA, NIAMH FITZPATRICK, CONOR KEANE, RYAN KEADIN
ABSENT FROM PHOTO: DARREN TERENCE MAUGHAN

THIRD YEAR



3C **BACKROW:** WINNIEMCDONAGH, ROISINKERRIGAN, JACKMCGOLDRICK, DEANMCGARRY, KEVINMCHUGH, BENLYNSKEY, CIARALOFTUS, LAURA O'BOYLE, RAFAH SHAWI
MIDDLE ROW: AMY KEANE, AOIBHINN KELLY, HOUDA KEZZE, ALEKSANDRA JONIO, JAMIE MCGOWAN, RONAN MORAN, AISTIS ASADAUSKAS
FRONT ROW: CHLOE KIRrane, JENNIFER LYONS, STEPHANIE JENNINGS, MILA MACIUKAITE, LIAM LAVIN, ETHAN KEANE, NATHAN COLL
ABSENT FROM PHOTO: OLIVIA KLIMCZYK, STEPHEN MAUGHAN, GABRIELLE MCDONAGH, MEGAN MORLEY, ARMEN SELGJEKJ



3D **BACKROW:** JACOB UBYCH, MARTYNAS PLECKAITIS, JACK RONAYNE, JAMES FRAYNE, SINEAD TARMEY, SHEENA RODDY, ANNA LYONS, CLODAGH WALDRON
MIDDLE ROW: HAROON SHABBIR, MATTHEW WALSH, LUKE WALSH, RONAN SWANICK, NIAMH O'NEILL, ÁINE PHILLIPS, REBECCA REYNOLDS, IRTAZA REHMAN
FRONT ROW: ABDULLAH SAKKAR, IBRAHIM RAHMAMI, NIAMH SMITH, LAURA NILAND, COURTNEY STURDY, AMY WALDRON, AISLING REGAN, SHAUNA ROGERS
ABSENT FROM PHOTO: TONY AYLWARD, JENITA MCCORMACK, MATTHEW CAULFIELD, GRACE OMOTAYO

DUN UÍ MHAOILÍOSA MILITARY BARRACKS - 3A & 3C

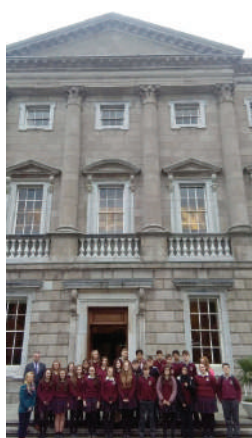
Our CSPE action project visit to Dun Uí Mhaoilíosa military barracks Renmore took place on September 28th 2016. 3A and 3C with their teachers set off to experience a day in the life of an Irish soldier. After we had studied the concept of law in our CSPE class we were eager to see their work first hand and were delighted to get the opportunity to go. When we arrived we were greeted with full military honours by Sergeant Mick Loughnane and his fellow soldiers. Our tour commenced in the artillery room, where we were shown a demonstration on how the weapons worked and it was surprising to find out how dangerous the weapons that the Irish army use are. We were given an insight into the harsh training undertaken by new recruits of the Irish army. We saw how even though military life can be challenging they find time to socialise and play a range of sports together and in competitions against other barracks. On route to the museum we were lucky to witness one of the daily parades performed in the marching square. It was an honour to see the artefacts in the museum which showcased the deep history surrounding the barracks. The museum had artefacts from World War 1 to present day. To end a truly unforgettable day, we were treated by the military staff to refreshments in the NCO's mess. We thanked the soldiers for their kind welcome and members of our class presented them with a token gift and card. It was a very memorable day and we would highly recommend it to future CSPE classes. Thanks to Ms. Varden and Ms. Caulfield for helping us in organising the trip.



THE DAIL AND NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF IRELAND - 3B

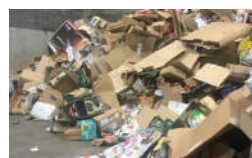
The 3B CSPE class went on a trip to the Dail and National History Museum of Ireland on the 18th of October 2016. The trip was organised to facilitate the completion of their CSPE action project. Michael Fitzmaurice, kindly welcomed the class and our teachers, Ms. Murphy and Mr. Ryan to Leinster house and organised our very enjoyable and informative tour of the two houses-the Dail and the Seanad.

We were privileged to enter the viewing gallery, where we watched the TD's debate different issues. We were amazed at the beauty of the two houses and at the high security present at the house. It was a great day out but also possibly a once in a life time trip for our class and teachers. Who knows there might be some potential Politician's in the making from our 3B class in future Irish governments. A big thank you to Michael Fitzmaurice - Independent Politician for Roscommon and South Leitrim.



RATHROEEN WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE BALLINA - 3D

3D went to visit Rathroeen Waste Recycling centre in Ballina on November 17th 2016. It was to facilitate the completion of the CSPE action project. Our tour guide Michael Hegarty was excellent and we cannot thank him enough. He was clear and informative and we now are confident enough to say we are excellent Stewards for our earth and have a new appreciation and knowledge in regard to recycling. Thank you to Michael Hegarty and our teacher Ms. Murphy.



JUNIOR CERTIFICATE

METALWORK PROJECTS



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Congratulations to 3rd Year student Niamh O'Neill who together with her Irish Team mates received 4th place medals at the International Combined Games in Athlone. This is another fantastic step in her athletics career and everyone at BCS is very proud of her achievements.

CINQUAINS

ROMEO

Romeo
Loves Juliet
Banished from Verona
After he kills Tybalt
Dies

By Lauryn Golden

LION

Lion,
Held captive,
Don't blame us,
We understand your
rightful, Rage.

Martynas Pleckaitis

JULIET

Juliet
She's thirteen
Falls in love
Gets married to Romeo
Dies

By Lauryn Golden

Now is the time

Now is the time,
To show my skill,
I must now rise and shine,
To make the score 7 nil.

Thousands in the stand,
Cheering our team on,
We were all born with a hurl in our hand,
Because that's where we belong.

To hear the final whistle blow,
After a tough hard game,
A moment that will never go,

The feeling was just insane.

Never give up,
Always try your best,
You will eventually achieve the cup,
Proudly wearing your team crest.

So camogie is my favourite sport,
Forever more,
This will never change,
In my whole entire life.

By Hannah Tener

CADET LADIES BASKETBALL



JUNIOR AND SENIOR

On the 17th of November 2016 the senior basketball team took part in a blitz with Mount St. Michael of Claremorris and St. Josephs of Charlestown. Sadly our ladies suffered a hard defeat by Claremorris and Charlestown.

The junior girl's basketball team played Mount St. Michaels of Claremorris on the 20th of December 2016 and put up a hard front but sadly were defeated with a final score of 35-20.

Huge thanks to Yvonne Duffy who assisted with the coaching of both teams alongside manager Ms. Macken.



JUNIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL

BACK ROW: CIARA LOFTUS, SAHAR ASHRAH, NIAMH O'NEILL, MEGAN GREENWOOD, LAURYN GOLDEN, LAURA O'BOYLE, ANNA LYONS
FRONT ROW: SARAH HOPKOVA, MOLLY CURRAN, LORNA DONNELLAN, AMY KEANE, LORNA GORMLEY, MARY CARR



SENIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

BACK ROW: AINE DUFFY, AOIFE CONWAY, HANNAH DOYLE, ALANNAH NOLAN, SHAUNA LYONS, INDIA COSTELLO
FRONT ROW: AIBHINN HERR, LAUREN CASEY, HELEN GALLAGHER, MICHELLE GROGAN

CAMOGIE

JUNIOR AND SENIOR

On Tuesday 27th of September 2016, the schools Junior and senior camogie teams participated in matches in Began in the centre of excellence. The junior team was captained by Grainne Delaney and were victorious in their matches against Westport and Louisburg and won the County Schools Junior cup. The senior girls won their match against a strong Westport opposition by a large margin and they also won the County Schools Senior Title. It was a good year for girl's camogie. The day was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to coach Ms Varden and parents Geraldine Delaney and Clare Delaney who helped us on the day.



JUNIOR CAMOGIE

BACK: CARAGH KILCOYNE BURKE, AOIFE DORTHEY, ERIN MURRAY, HANNAH TENNER, AOIBHINN CRAWLEY, LILLIAN KEANE, VANESSA HENRY, DEARBHLA GLAVEY

FRONT: EILIS DUFFY, MEGAN HENRY, MEADBH DELANEY, AMY GILDEA, GRAINNE DELANEY, NIAMH GREALLY, CAOIMHE MORAN



JUNIOR CAMOGIE - ABOVE RIGHT

BACK: JESSICA KLIEN, LAUREN WALSH, LAURE O'CONNELL, HANNAH DOYLE, MEGAN MORLEY, AMY MULKEEN, SIVE DUFFY

FRONT: ROISIN CASSIDY, GRAINNE ROBINSON, DANIELLE COYNE, ELENOR HARRISON, RACHEL LYONS, ORNA HESSON

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE

HOME ECONOMICS PRACTICALS



JUNIOR



ABOVE LEFT: LIAM LAVIN JUNIOR HURLING CAPTAIN AND MR DAVID MCDONAGH BALLYHAUNIS CS PRINCIPAL RECEIVING A NEW SET OF JERSEYS FROM SUPERMACS MANAGEMENT DINAL SWARIS AND RIJIV RUHOMAR



ABOVE RIGHT: **BACK:** SHANE REIDY, SHANE GAVIN, SHANE GLYNN, JACK DEEGAN, JACK RONAYNE, DECLAN HENRY, SHAUN MORLEY, THOMAS KEANE, DANNY HILL, JAMES DOYLE, MARK MULKEEN, DIARMUID PHILLIPS, DANIEL COYNE, JAMES FRAYNE

FRONT: EDDIE GROARKE, CONOR KEANE, KEVIN DURKAN, OISIN GREALLY, RYAN KEADIN, LIAM LAVIN, JAMES MCDONAGH, CONAL HESSON, ZEESHAN KHAN, EIMHIN CONBOY, SOHEAB ARSHAD, STEPHEN CANNON, MATTHUE MULLARKEY

The season for the junior hurlers commenced early on the 20th of September with a successful blitz in the Centre of Excellence. The lads played heroically and won all three of their matches.

The team had a long rest over the winter months until the 14th of February when their next blitz in the Centre of Excellence took place. This blitz took place during the mocks so the team were lacking their crucial third year players. They still played tremendously winning their first match and narrowly losing their second match.

The lads were now through to the Mayo Semi Final on the 13th of March. The team brought their "A game" and played a truly monumental game winning 7:11 to 5:1. Next up was the final played in Ballyvary against Westport. Although playing phenomenally the lads were unlucky to lose what was a superb match by just a late injury time free.

Overall the season was highly successful for the junior hurlers who showed great skill and dedication all year long none of which would have been possible without the encouraging support from coach, Mr. Ryan. Well done to all involved throughout the year.

TABLE TENNIS

ALL-IRELAND

Congratulations to our U-13 Girls Table-Tennis team who followed up on their Connaught Title by finishing a fantastic 3rd place in the recent All-Ireland Finals. Well done to team members, Helena Cala, Arooj Azhar, Emily Sharman, Kyah Legg, Mirady Kabongo, Deirbhile Boland, Roisin Denning and their coach Mr Ryan.



CONNAUGHT



Congratulations to all of our students who competed at the Connaught Table-Tennis Championships held in Breaffy House Hotel. Our U-13 girls team of Helena Cala, Arooj Azhar, Emily Sharman, Kyah Legg, Mirady Kabonogo, Deirbhile Boland and Rachel Denning led the way by winning the Connaught Title. We had plenty of success on the day bringing home medals in all categories. Well done to all involved. Special thanks to Mr Ryan and Mr Quinn who coached the teams throughout the year.

GLOBAL GOALS DAY

On the 4th of April, the Transition Year students, together with the help of Ms. Murray held 'Global Goals Day' in the study hall. In the weeks building up to the event, we all spent time deciding on our topics and organising our stalls. We also decided to include other attractions such as a 'Global Goals Wheel', a food stall, a mini gardening workshop and a comments board. Each member of the TY class spent a lot of time preparing each of these elements to ensure the Global Goals Day was as interesting, engaging and informative as possible for the people who visited the event. We assigned four people the job of being group mentors for the day. These mentors had to make sure their groups got to spend 3-4 minutes at each of our stalls within the thirty minutes provided for each class. After much deliberation, we chose first and second years to attend our showcase. We made out a timetable for each of the classes, which was then emailed to all the teachers and we were officially ready to go.

When the morning of the 4th of April arrived, each member of TY began setting up as soon as they arrived in the school. Due to a parent teacher meeting the evening before, the study hall had been cleared of all tables and this made it much easier for us to begin laying out our stalls. In total, we had eight presentation tables on show. These tables included Gender Equality, Good Health and Well-Being, Zero Hunger, No Poverty, Food Waste and 'What to do with Leftovers'. Each of these tables were presented by a different member of the TY class. Each member of first and second year got to listen in on the presentations at each table. Along with this, we had the four 'interactive' stalls. Christopher and Sophie took charge of the Global Goal Wheel. At this stall, a member of each class who attended our showcase got to spin the wheel and whichever goal the wheel's arrow landed on was the goal Sophie and Christopher had to talk about and this brought a new

way of learning about the 17 different goals to our event.

Our second interactive stall was the Food Stall. Rebecca and Roisín were in charge of this stall and spent the morning preparing food that they later distributed to all the students who attended. These foods included banana buns, chicken skewers and smoothies which were all made from foods that would otherwise have been wasted. Our third interactive stall was the mini gardening workshop fronted by Patrick, Oisín, Niall and Thomas. They gave a five minute gardening workshop to each group and allowed some members to get hands on experience - sowing bulbs and watering the plants on display. Finally, just before the classes left, each member of the first and second year classes got an opportunity to comment on what they thought about the Global Goals Day showcase. Eimear and James then took each comment and stuck it up on a comments board. Some of these comments were later chosen and drawn onto a large canvas to make a big graffiti board which now serves as a memoir of our Global Goals Day.

Upon arrival in the study hall, each member of first and second year received a 'Quiz Sheet' which included thirteen questions-each linked with one of the stalls or tables on show. Whoever filled out the Quiz Sheet correctly in each class was entered into a draw for an Easter egg at the end of the showcase. All in all, Global Goals Day was a great success and a massive part of our promotion of the 17 Global Goals. Because of all our work this year in Education Development, we also achieved the schools very first Global Passport from World Wide Schools. On behalf of the Transition Year class, I would like to thank Gerry Glavey for all his help with setting up and I would like to particularly thank Ms. Murray for all her help and support in organising this day.

By Katie Ronayne





BCS CONSTRUCTION & REFURBISHMENT

These are terrifically exciting times for BCS. Work on the extension and refurbishment of the school has been underway for well over a year now. It is expected that work will be completed in March 2018. We will then 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. The refurbishment works in the A Area has discommoded both students and staff since last October and I would like to congratulate everyone for going about their business with the minimum of fuss and in ensuring that disruptions were kept to a minimum.



THOUSANDAIRE FUNDRAISER

One of the highlights of the year was the success of our fundraiser "Who wants to be a Thousandaire". We were bowled over by the tremendous support we received from the local community. The money generated, over €40,000, will be used to enhance the facilities for students for many years to come. I would like thank Pallas Marketing for their professionalism and hard work throughout this process. I particularly would like to thank our sponsors and advertisers who were so generous to us. A full list of those is contained within and I would ask everyone to support these businesses in the years ahead.

David McDonagh





BCS FLYING THE FLAG FOR MENTAL HEALTH



"Mental illness shouldn't have a black cloud put over it...people who suffer from mental illness will emerge from it much stronger" (B.C.S Student)
The Amber Flag project was created by the charity "Suicide Aware". This initiative encourages schools and all organisations working with young people to promote and actively bring about a culture of change in attitudes towards positive mental health.

Ballyhaunis Community School launched their Amber Flag campaign last autumn. A student committee was assembled with the help of co-ordinating teachers, Ms. Orla Phillips and Ms. Vivian Cuddy. The committee quickly established their aims: to promote positive mental health, to deepen students' understanding of mental health, and to create a sense of belonging for all. "What is special about this initiative is that it is about students identifying their needs in relation to mental health and taking steps to address them. Most of our committee is composed of students drawn from each of the different years. At our first meeting the student members identified what they saw as the significant challenges to student mental health. These were: not fitting in, poor body image, exam stress, coping with rejection, anxiety, bullying and navigating social media. Helping students work through these challenges is the goal of our project" (Ms. O Phillips)

Since last November the Amber Flag Project has quickly gathered momentum. A committed focus group of students and teachers have worked tirelessly over the last number of months organising exciting and worthwhile projects. The Amber Flag Noticeboard was created and is used to educate and update the student body on the work of the Amber Flag committee and all upcoming events. Furthermore, a poster competition was organised whereby all students were invited to create a motif with an uplifting image and motto. The winning entry was designed by fifth year student Colleen Manning and is now on display in all areas of BCS to encourage positivity among the school community".

The pinnacle of this year's work took place the week of March 6th. "Wellness Week" launched by Andy Moran. We are delighted that Andy was part of our week, he feels passionately about physical and mental well-being; "Sport and exercise is to me the single most important aspect in modern society.....it creates a platform for young people to deal with stressful situations. These experiences can be called upon when dealing with stressful situations in the real world"





This exciting workshop based week gave an opportunity to all students to participate and engage in various wellness activities. Dance and fitness workshops include Humourfit, laughter and bodywork yoga, zumba, social dancing, hip-hop and self-defence. There was also art and music workshops. Additionally there was a variety of guest speakers; Peadar Gardiner and Niall Dunne spoke to students in relation to self-esteem and self-respect. Tom Coleman and Ann Caulfield also presented workshops to students in the areas of body image and managing stress. Jeremy Pagden spoke to students about internet and cyberbullying. He also presented an evening talk to parents and the wider community regarding this topic.



All of various aspects of the Amber Flag initiative would not be possible without funding from Catherine Mc Closkey of South West Mayo Development Company through the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme. The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2015- 2017 is funded by the Irish Government and co-funded by the European Social Fund and includes a special allocation under the Youth Employment Initiative.



The School's first "Wellness Week" was regarded by all as a huge success. It was evident through the level of participation and engagement that all students really enjoyed and benefited from this week.

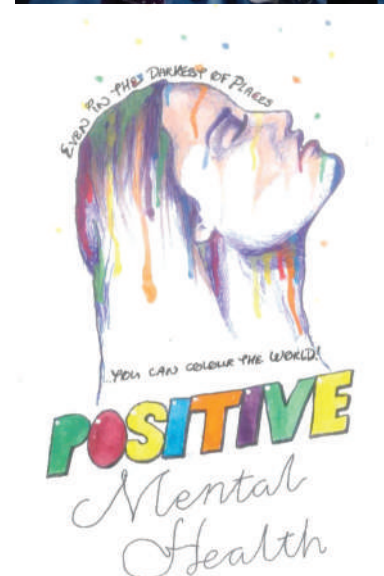
Our aim was to ensure that all students got a chance to take a step away from the classroom, study and books. We wanted students to take a little time for themselves, to experience new activities and gain new insights.

To be awarded our Amber Flag we had to complete 3 goals:

1. We designed a school motif to promote positive mental health.
2. An Amber Flag noticeboard was created.
3. Wellness Week



We hope that this years "Wellness Week" marks the first of many in the life of the school.



HUG YOUR PLUG

Four Transition Year students- Michelle Grogan, Ellen Phillips, Katie Ronayne and Shauna Lyons entered the Student Enterprise Awards 2016/2017. We created a product called 'Hug Your Plug'. It is a product that prevents your Apple iPhone charger from breaking -available for only €3.99.

In October, our group began discussing our ideas in our business class and eventually we decided on a product that prevented the breakage of Apple charging leads. How and why did we come up with this? Firstly, we began to realise that technology is a huge part of life nowadays. Everywhere you look; people are on their phones, ipads and laptops no matter where you go! All four members of 'Hug Your Plug' own iPhones, and we have all encountered the problem of our charger breaking. We wanted to create a product that would be useful, necessary and definitely a solution to this growing problem. To make sure our unique product was definitely going to be a success, we surveyed many people and the statistics and results we concluded with, were hugely positive. Our product was going to be a success.

Immediately after this, we started our business plan for the competition. This had to be filled with statistics, results and valuable information about our product. Indeed, the business plan was the most difficult part of our project; however we worked hard and updated it continuously. Our product production was enjoyable, except some parts of our product were difficult to source! We began selling our product in Ballyhaunis Community School, in 'The Shop' Ballyhaunis. We are grateful that they accommodated us and supported us. We also sell 'Hug Your Plug' on our Facebook page. Our business immediately started to grow, and we sold many 'Hug Your Plug' products. We put posters up all around the local area, and around our school to promote our product. Social Media was a huge part of our project too. We promoted our product on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter. We also visited Midwest Radio, and discussed 'Hug Your Plug' live with Tommy Marren! It was a brilliant experience.

We went to the Mayo Student Enterprise Finals on the 2nd of March 2017. We had a brilliant day, promoting our product and speaking to the judges. We won 3rd prize in the Senior Category! In conclusion, we are still currently selling our 'Hug Your Plug' products in 'The Shop' in Ballyhaunis, and on our Facebook page! We really enjoyed the whole experience of running a mini company and were grateful for this opportunity in Transition Year. We would like to thank Ms. Osgood for all her help.

By Ellen Phillips



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARDS

This year the school decided to enter the Student Enterprise Awards programme again for the third time. Each year over 22,000 students all over Ireland get to find out what it's really like to be their own boss and run their own business by taking part in the Student Enterprise Programme. This is a practical programme that offers students the opportunity to take a business idea from concept stage through market research to production, selling, record keeping, management and finally composing a comprehensive report on the business. All 24 Transition Year students took part this year and were mentored by Peter Hopkins and James Gaughan of Moy Valley Enterprise Ballina, and Ms Osgood Student Enterprise co-ordinator in the school. 11 business ideas were selected to go through to the North Mayo Finals including Hug Your Plug, Wooden Wonders and 7th Heaven Bakes.

The Wooden Wonders Team consisted of 4 TY students, Jack Cloney, Oisín Boland, Thomas Coffey and Patrick Carr. Their company specialized in making candleholders and other wooden products such as clocks. Their products are made from logs and other wooden materials like mahogany, some Irish hardwoods and manufactured materials like veneers.

ISTA SENIOR SCIENCE QUIZ



Cathal Hosty, Eleanor Harrison and Rachel Lyons who narrowly lost out by 1 single point on winning the Regional Finals and qualifying for the National Finals of the ISTA Senior Science Quiz. Well done to all other participants and many thanks to Mr Murray and Mrs Mannix for travelling with the teams.

ECO AWARENESS DAY BCS BASICS



Last November, some of the TY students attended the Conference on the effects of climate change in Knock House Hotel. The TY students learnt about

the effects that Global Warming has on disadvantaged communities in parts of Africa. The TY's were informed about the life changing developments that the Sisters of Mercy brought to these communities. Empowering talks and conferences like this allowed the TY students to fulfill their hours for the John Paul II Award. Thanks to Fr. Stephen and Ms. Phillips for accompanying us on the day.



Well done to the whole TY class who collaborated to create a first year survival guide. Special thanks to Ms. Mooney for organising the group and to Oisín Boland who brought it all together.

FIRST AID



This year's Transition Year class recently completed the fetal level 5 Occupational First Aid and Defibrillator Course.

Gerry and Michael came into the school to help us develop our first aid skills. On Wednesday the 21st and Thursday the 22nd of September we took part in a two day course. Firstly on Wednesday Gerry and Michael showed us a power point which portrayed to us how to deal with illnesses, injuries, CPR and how to use a defibrillator. We found it very interesting and informative. On the Thursday, we took part in practical work which included CPR and use of the defibrillator. We also learnt how to properly bandage an injury. Our class feel that this is important as we are assigned to a school sports team. We will be in charge of the first aid and match reports of all the school teams. On Thursday evening we took a short answer question examination which was sent up to Dublin to be corrected. Our results will decide if we are to achieve Pass, Merit or Distinction. Overall, this course was extremely enjoyable. All students found it very informative and effective as we will all find ourselves in a situation that involves first aid skills in the future. We thank Gerry and Michael for their help, co operation and assistance throughout the course.

PSYCHO SPAGHETTI



On 10th of October, Ms. Mooney brought our TY class to the annual TY Psycho Spaghetti show. The comic genius, Ger Carey, preformed the comedy show for us in Breafty House. With all the topics of the show totally relevant to the life of a

teenager such as social media, our melodramatic love lives and our school life, we all spent the entire duration of the show splitting our sides with laughter. It was really nice to be able to do something that wasn't school related for a change. I really enjoyed the day and I think it's a must-see for future TY's. A big thank you to Ms Mooney for bringing us to the event.

By Katie Ronayne.



THE BALLYHAUNIS BOI'S



BACK ROW: MR. MCDONAGH, KEITH HIGGINS, ANNE CUNNANE, CIARAN GAVIN, REBECCA VAHEY BREANNAN, PATRICK CARR, ANN MARIE BEIRNE, DENISE CLANCY
FRONT ROW: KRISTYN O'REILLY, AOIFE DAVIS, OISIN BOLAND, LAUREN OSGOOD, MS. OSGOOD, THOMAS COFFEY, GRACE O'GARA, ROISIN RUAINÉ, JACK CLONEY

Banking nowadays is becoming simpler each day, which is why nine Transition Year students and I established and ran our very own school bank called "The Ballyhaunis Boi's" in conjunction with the Ballyhaunis Branch of Bank of Ireland. Last January, our Business teacher Ms. Osgood informed us that the Bank will decide on the school Bank positions by a process of an interview. When we got our positions it was straight down to work, we worked closely with the Bank Manager Ann Marie Beirne and Ciaran Gavin, to organise a date for the launch of the school bank. On the 28th of March, we had the launch of our school bank. This day was a huge success for everyone involved. On the day we invited Mayo All Star Keith Higgins as our guest of honour, Anne Cunnane from the Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce, Fr. Stephen Farragher who was our photographer for the day.

We held our official launch of the bank in the main

assembly area with registration of school bank accounts in the computer room. When opening the account with our school bank students had to have five euros and for students under the age of 14 they were required to have a paternal consent form. As a result of signing up for a school bank account, all students were automatically entered into a raffle for tickets to an Ireland soccer match or a Connacht Rugby Match. Our opening launch of the school bank was a great success; we registered 110 students with school bank accounts in the first day of opening the school bank. In the weeks that followed the launch, we opened the school bank every week for all students to have an enjoyable and worthwhile experience of banking.

On Wednesday 26th of April, the Ballyhaunis Branch of Bank of Ireland celebrated 142 years of banking in Ballyhaunis and the Bank's first year since the refurbishment of the bank. For this special occasion all of the community of Ballyhaunis were invited to join in the festivities. There were many guests at this event including Dara Calleary TD, Anne Cunnane CEO of Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce and the County Bank Manager Alan Durcan. The Bank of Ireland presented cheques to Ballyhaunis Golf Club and the Irish Kidney Association of €400. With the school bank being such a huge success the Bank presented our own school with a cheque of €1000. This was a very enjoyable day for all involved. Sincere thanks to everyone in the Ballyhaunis Branch of Bank of Ireland for all their support. Thanks to Ms. Osgood for facilitating this worthwhile programme.

Broken love

When I first seen you,
 I stopped and stared,
 Because the way you looked at me
 Was beyond compare.

We walked together
 Your hand in mine
 Never thinking
 That we would run out of time
 I was scared to love you
 I don't know why
 But I never wanted to say goodbye.

As the ice cold tears ran down my face,
 As your hand wasn't in mine,

As we walked out separate ways,
 We realised we had run out of time.

I saw you in the street today,
 I felt really bad,
 I just thought that you should know
 You were the best I ever had.

I hope you can forgive me,
 We have been a mess,
 But I always have believed
 that our broken love was the best.

By Kym O Reilly

FUNDRAISING IN TY

GREEN DAY

On Thursday 16th March our TY held a "Green Day". Every student was asked to wear green clothes to school in celebration of St. Patrick's Day and to bring in €2 to help raise money for Western Care. Well done to the school for raising over €500 for such a great and worthy cause.

CANDY CANES

In the two weeks leading up to Christmas, our TY class sold Candy Canes in the assembly area at lunch time. A candy cane was sold for €1 and each student could send a personalised message with the Candy cane. The Candy Canes were then delivered on the last week of school before the Christmas break. This fundraiser was a huge success, we raised €235 for MSPCA. Eavan Caulfield one of the local volunteers accepted the cheque on behalf of MSPCA.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL FUNDRAISER

On the 15th and 16th of December, a mix of Music students from all year groups and Ms. Glavey gathered at the Bank of Ireland in Ballyhaunis and Ryan's SuperValu. The students sang Christmas Carols to raise funds for Saint Vincent de Paul. The Music students and Ms. Glavey presented Eavan Caulfield volunteers with Saint Vincent de Paul with a cheque for €600. All donations were greatly appreciated.

MSPCA FOOD APPEAL

Before the Christmas break, our TY class launched a Cat food appeal where we asked students to bring in a tin of cat food. All proceeds were donated to MSPCA.

Lauren Osgood - Daly & Patrick Carr



LIFE'S A VIDEO GAME

life's a video game you can win or lose,
you can play fair or you can brake the rules.
If it gets too hard you can end the game,
or you can make it work through all the pain.
If you work hard you will be a success,
if you don't you'll be full of regrets.
You can learn strategy as you play,
and improve your skill day by day.
You can make excuse of how you've been cheated,
or can keep on trying until you beat it.
So get inside the game that's what it is all about.
Once you get in, there's no way getting out.
Once you see from all your same,
you'll realize that life's a video game.
When you wanna quit from all your pain,
too bad there's no button that says "NEW GAME".

By Igor Posaric

My one and only

You're everything my heart desires
Pink, fluffy and sweet
The softest thing I have ever felt
Something I would die to eat

I'm not a liar
When I say my heart's desire,
is the only thing,
that makes my life complete

In my mouth you melt
Like something i have never felt
Your my one and only
My beautiful cotton candy.

By Kinza



GAISCE PRESIDENTS AWARD

This year the President's Award Gaisce was introduced to our TY class which was assisted by our President Award Leader (PAL) Ms Morrison.

The Gaisce Award is a prestigious award, it's a direct challenge from the President of Ireland to young people aged 15 – 25. There are three levels of Gaisce: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Every participant starts with the bronze award. Eighteen TY students took part in the Gaisce award this year.

We started the Bronze Award in October and it takes a minimum of six months to complete. In order to receive this award you must meet the following criteria. Firstly there's Community Involvement where the participant volunteers with a charity or a community group. Then the Personal Skill challenge is where you develop a skill like learning a language or a musical instrument. Physical Recreation requires the participant to become more active with a sport or exercise. Each of the three areas has to be completed for an hour each week for thirteen weeks.

However you must continue on with one of the three for an additional 13 weeks. Lastly the Adventure Journey for the Bronze award is where the participant has to cycle 100km or walk 25km and they must complete this over two days and one night. Many of us will be receiving the Bronze award in May while others will receive the award in October. We hope to continue with the Gaisce award and hopefully complete our silver award next year. This has been one of the many great achievements of Transition Year and we would like to thank Ms Morrison for facilitating this prestigious award.



Patrick Carr

TY WORK EXPERIENCE

MED CAMP

On the 27th, 28th and 29th of March, myself and Aislinn Tighe attended the T.Y. Med Camp in Breaffy House. The three day camp is run annually by Dr. Paul O'Grady, an orthopedic surgeon in the west of Ireland. The three days consisted of talks given by dozens of different specialised doctors and surgeons. Some specialised nurses, such as scrub nurses, also spoke. We got an opportunity to speak to current third year med students and also to practise some more hands-on tasks such as stitching and applying plaster casts. One clear highlight for us was the live ultrasound of a pregnant woman which was carried out by an obstetrician for us. He projected the scan up onto a projector screen and talked us through the ultrasound.

I would highly recommend this course to anyone who has an interest in any aspect of healthcare – not just medicine! It allowed me and Aislinn to learn about all the different variations in healthcare.

By Katie Ronayne.

LAW SOCIETY OF IRELAND

In February, I spent four days at the Law Society of Ireland in Blackhall Place, Dublin. The Law Society ran a "Solicitors of the Future" Transition Year programme where forty five students from all around Ireland got the chance to see what life is like as a solicitor. Day One consisted of an introduction into the concept of law, we also learnt about how legal rights are protected by law and how the Irish constitution works. Many solicitors talked about their different legal career paths and some law students talked about their course and what's involved. Day Two involved more solicitors talking about what they do on a daily basis; we also got to sit in on a lecture about landlord and Tenant Law with a class of law students. Day Three, we were brought to the Criminal Courts of Justice where we met the Barrister, DPP Solicitor and the Judge. While here, I got the chance to sit in on a murder trial, this was a fantastic experience, and it was a real eye opener to what goes on within the courts during major trials. In the afternoon we all visited various law firms, I got the opportunity to visit McCann Fitzgerald, we were given a guided tour of the firm and we were told about the different areas of the firm and what they do.

The final day we were giving a talk by Solicitors who worked in areas of Social Media, Wills and Probate and Employment Law. This excellent programme was concluded with a final presentation in the President's Hall where newly graduated Solicitors graduate. I was very grateful to have the opportunity to attend such a worthwhile programme as it has helped me in my decision making for what career I would like to pursue in the future.

Patrick Carr

PEER 4 PEER

Peer 4 Peer is a programme provided by the Tuam Youth Ministry where Siobhan Bradley and Yvonne Horkan provided a two day training course to our TY class. This programme allowed us as TY students to teach and educate sixth class students from primary school about four essential modules which are required for the sacrament of Confirmation.

These modules are;

1. Communication skills
2. Friendship
3. Decision Making & Internet Safety and
4. Misuse and Abuse of Alcohol and Smoking



Every module was taught over a 1 hour period for four consecutive Wednesday mornings during our Religion class. Overall this was a fantastic experience firstly to be put in the shoes of a teacher and secondly to develop our leadership, time management, public speaking and our organisational skills. It was a great opportunity to act as a responsible role model for kids. The feedback from this programme was excellent both from the students and their teachers.

Team Aghamore: Oisín Boland, Róisín Ruane, Rebecca Vahey Brennan, Katie Ronayne.

Team Tooreen: Aislinn Tighe, James Colleran, Grace O'Gara.

Team Carrick: Patrick Carr, Thomas Coffey, Jack Cloney, Lauren Osgood - Daly.

Team Scoil Íosa: Aoife Conway, Shauna Lyons, Deirbhile Finn Richardson, India Costello, Aoife Davis, Eimear Murray, Michelle Grogan, Ellen Phillips.

We want to thank Siobhan Bradley and Yvonne Horkan from the Tuam Youth Ministry. Thanks to all the local national schools: Scoil Íosa NS, Carrick NS, Aghamore NS and Tooreen NS and to their sixth class teachers and Principals for allowing us to deliver this programme to their schools. Finally, we would like to thank Ms. Murphy and Ms. Macken for providing the transport. We hope this Peer 4 Peer programme was as beneficial to us as it was to the primary school pupils.

TY SHOWCASE DAY IN KNOCK



On Monday, March 13th our T.Y. students went to Knock to join with other TY students from schools in the Tuam Diocese to present and display the variety of projects being undertaken in T.Y. religion classes in the schools of the Tuam Diocese. The Day was organized to highlight the connection between parishes and our schools. Archbishop Michael Neary attended and visited all of the stands to get an understanding of how the students are putting their faith in practice in their parishes. Patrick Carr and Aoife Davis gave an audiovisual presentation on behalf of the class about what happens in T.Y. class in our school – Kristyn O'Reilly ably assisted them on technical support on the day. Patrick, Aoife Kristyn and Christopher Metcalfe put a lot of effort into putting the powerpoint together with video clips from the various placements facilitators and some comments from the experiences of the members of the TY class. They did a wonderful job and really explained what the community care programme at BCS is all about. The presentation and the collage of photos on display highlighted the amount of activities our TY students have been involved in throughout the year through the Community Care programme. Niall Coffey TY student added another dimension to the day, Niall alongside band mates Liam Foody, Evan Fitzmaurice and Joe Murphy provided the music on the day. They set the tone for the day by ensuring all the TY students from the various schools got to experience a live rock band as they arrived – the atmosphere was electric! Well done to all involved in a very successful day.



O. Macken



For our TY religion class this year we were given the opportunity to put our faith into action, where every Wednesday morning from nine o'clock till eleven o'clock we volunteer at nine local placements in our community. For instance we volunteer at the Friary Family resource Centre. Our role is to provide computer lessons for beginners with the senior citizens. Here we had great fun showing them how to send an email, how to skype, shop online, book a flight and some were very eager to go on Facebook. It is here that we also experienced helping out in a fun playschool. At the Meals on Wheels Service in Brickens, we helped prepare the food for the daily delivery of hot dinners and desserts to elderly people living alone. The ladies in the kitchen were so friendly and thankful for us peeling the mountains of apples and potatoes. The Ballyhaunis branch of the MSPCA is another placement we attend. Here we walk the rescue dogs; we help with cleaning out the kennels, supplying fresh food and water for all the animals. We also learn about the responsibilities which come with owning an animal.

Our class was very lucky to work with the service users in the Ballyhaunis branch of Western Care. We played board games, perform music, have art and craft time but we all enjoyed the cuppa and the chat the most. At Scoil Iosa, the local primary school, we assist with the literacy programme, helping the children with their reading skills. Over the five weeks we can really see the improvement in their reading skills and we feel like professional teachers! At Clare Court – a retirement village for the elderly we help out with the daily jobs of maintenance. This includes watering plants, brushing paths, walking dogs. The duration of each placement was six weeks and after each six weeks every TY student moved to a different placement. The feedback from all the placement facilitators was outstanding. The Community Care programme was a crucial experience of Transition Year for all of us and this whole experience opened our eyes to all the fantastic voluntarily work that is done in our local community and often it isn't acknowledged enough.

Finally, we are all thrilled that we were given this opportunity to help others in our community. Thanks to all the facilitators of all the different placements. A big thank you to Ms. Macken and Ms. Murphy for providing transport each week and organising the Community Care Programme.

Patrick Carr

Love For Gaelic

Work hard and never give up,
Always focus and never lose focus,
Work together as a team,
And you will succeed

Always respect players and referees,
And they will have respect for you,
Gaelic is my true love,
And I will never give up!

By Megan Ronane

The Love of my Life

My love of farming started when I
was three,
It all began with my grandad James P.
With my shiny red wellies and my
shiny red nose
We soldiered together through the
frost and the snow.

My first trip to the ploughing was an
eye opener for me
With tractors and machinery I was
filled with glee.
When September comes round and
the ploughing is

On, you won't see me for dust for a
day or two,
I'm spending my money on lots of
farm gear – woohoo!!

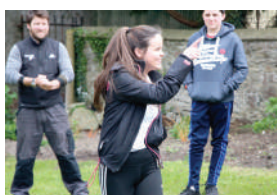
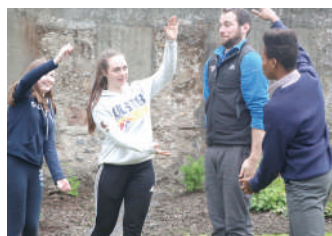
Contracting and farming is my future
dream
Massey Ferguson, Deutz, Case and
John Deere.

I'll be flat to the mat with jobs galore,
There'll be black smoke and gear
grinding,
And beacons in full glow.

By James McCormack

TIDY TOWNS

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME - VENTURE OUT



From the beginning of March, 24 TY and Fifth Year students attended this programme after school every Thursday evening at the Prochoacial Hall in Ballyhaunis for an hour and a half. The Environmental Youth Leadership Programme was delivered by Barry Dillon from Venture Out in conjunction with Mayo County Council and Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns. This was a ten week programme where we learned about the importance of care for the environment and the role we have as young stewards of our community. As well as learning about the environment, we developed our leadership, communication and teamwork skills. This programme allowed us to fulfil our John Paul II Social Hours and our Gaisce Criteria. However the main objective of this programme was to get involved with our local Tidy Towns Committee. The group agreed on four actions to undertake as a result of completing the programme

1. Develop a poster campaign to suggest tips for fellow students and the general public on how best to protect and promote the environment in Ballyhaunis.
2. Deliver an educational workshop to all 1st year student about their role as stewards of our environment.
3. Students will get involved in a Green Schools campaign from September .
4. The group will also undertake a local project in Ballyhaunis town with the Tidy Towns committee.

Many thanks to Sharon Cameron Environmental Officer, Mayo County Council who secured funding to the run the programme. Barry Dillon for his enthusiasm

and for making learning about the environment fun. Mary Donnelly from Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns, Ms. Macken for introducing the idea to us in the school and organising the venue and to Fr. Stephen for recording some of our adventures at the training sessions. It was a worthwhile project to be involved in it truly opened our eyes to the need to be more mindful of everything around us.

BADMINTON



BACK: ARAN RATTIGAN, ZOHAI BULZAR, MICHAEL FREYNE, BARRY CRIBBIN, HAMAD FAROOQ, TAHSEEN TAHIR, JAMES FRAYNE, SEAN FRAYNE, UNEEB NASEER

FRONT: DARA RATTIGAN, KYLE COOKE, IBRAHIM RAHMANI, CONOR KEANE, DANNY HILL, JAMES DOYLE, DECLAN HENRY, DANIEL COYNE, NATHAN COLL, MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM



LEFT TO RIGHT: ZAIN AZHAR, SEAN FRAYNE, SAIM ASIF, MICHAEL FREYNE

Badminton continues to be a popular sport in BCS, with weekly training taking place every Monday evening with Mr. Shannon.

On Friday, March 24th, Under 19 and Under 16 boys travelled to the Connacht Boys Badminton C Division tournament in Galway.

Three teams competed at each age group, with all players putting in a super effort. The Under 19A team had particular success, winning their Quarter Final and Semi Final matches. Unfortunately, they tied three games all in the Final against Dunmore C, with Dunmore taking the match on points difference (by one point!).

The Under 19B team also performed well, winning their Quarter final but being defeated by the Dunmore team which went on to win the tournament.

Thanks to Ms. Cuddy who helped with training earlier in the year - providing extra sessions on Thursdays after school.

ANNIVERSARY MASS

On Thursday the 6th of October, the BCS Folk Choir and the Transition Year class took part in the Western Care 50th Anniversary Mass held in Knock Basilica. Ms Glavey was given the list of songs we needed to learn to participate in the mass and we began practising a couple of weeks in advance. The week before the big celebration Ms. Macken organised for Annette Griffin and John Staunton – world renowned singers to come to the school to rehearse with us. This was a huge honour for us to have two fantastic musicians and singers visit us in the school.

On the day of the celebration, Mass was con-celebrated by Archbishop Michael Neary along with a number of other priests. A large number of employees, service users and their families and volunteers of Western Care were in attendance. One of the founding members of Western Care Johnny Mee was also there. Mike Finnerty the sports editor with The Mayo News spoke about the wonderful role Western Care has played in his family and the support they have provided to his sister Michelle who attends Cairde Crann Mor, one of the training centre attached to Western Care.

For us students it was a huge honour for to be the choir at such an important occasion for Western Care. Our Folk Choir took part in the singing aspect of the mass, the members of TY who were not involved in the choir helped out as stewards, guiding the public to seating and helped set up the Rest and Care Centre. Some members of our choir also took part in the mass by playing instruments such as the harp, guitar, flute and concertina. At the end of the mass, the choir took part in a song along with the members of Western Care. This song was full of interactive actions which we all did along with the service users. This was particularly enjoyed by all involved!

Once the mass was over, we all continued our celebrations with Western Care in the Rest and Care Centre. With refreshments, a dance floor and live music, the party spirit was buzzing through the centre. It wasn't long before the dance floor gradually became full of BCS students and Western Care service users who were dancing along to the country-western music that echoed through the hall. Everyone who attended this 50th Anniversary Celebration had an extremely enjoyable time during every aspect of the day and it certainly paved way for the Transition Year classes further involvement with Western Care throughout the remainder of the year.

Thanks to Ms. Glavey, Ms. Murphy and Ms. Macken for accompanying us on the day.

By Katie Ronayne.



SENIOR BOYS SOCCER

2016/2017

Sadly the Senior Boys soccer team was not as successful as we hoped this year. They got off to a rocky start losing their first match to St Mary's College. Although the lads put up a good fight, they sadly came out at the losing end with a score of 4-2 to St Mary's.

They next played The Bish, and with good teamwork the lads pulled through and won the game with a score of 1-0. The lads pulled together and were successful in both attack and defence, and kept the opponents from scoring. The last match of the year, the lads played St. Muredach's College, Ballina. After a very tight match, and despite their attempts to end the year on a high note, the team drew 2-2.

Well done to the lads for their effort throughout the year. Special thanks to Mr McGarry for training and preparing the team for their matches.



WESTERN CARE



CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Wednesday the 14th, the TY's organised the annual Western Care Christmas party in the Parochial Hall in Ballyhaunis. We began our decorating at 1 o'clock and had the hall looking exceptionally festive with bunting, tinsel and fairy lights galore! Some of the TY's volunteered to dress up for the occasion. Five of the TY's dressed up as Santa, a penguin, a Christmas tree and Rudolph and Mrs. Claus! With the help of Ms Macken and Ms Murphy we filled a table with treats for the members



of Western Care and we wrapped some presents that Santa would later hand out. At 2 o'clock, the hall began to fill with both Western Care members and the Ballyhaunis school choir. We started the party with a variety of Christmas carols. Once we finished our singing, the speakers were turned on as Christmas classics began to echo through the hall. We all spent the next hour dancing with the members of Western Care. As the party concluded, everyone was visibly very disappointed as we were all having so much fun. Everyone who attended the party went home that evening with the feel good factor only a party with Western Care could give you. We would like to thank Ms Macken and Ms Murphy for all their help and Ms Glavey for providing the wonderful music.

JC RESULTS



Congratulations to Roisin Cassidy and Jessica Klein who each received 10 A grades in their recent Junior Certificate results. It is a fantastic achievement and we are very proud of them. They are pictured here alongside their year-heads Mrs Henry and Mrs Brogan. Well done also to all of our 3rd year JC students and their teachers for the outstanding results overall.



Congratulations to Roisin Cassidy, 5th year, who was recently selected as a finalist to compete in the Irish Science Olympiad. Roisin was selected from students all over the country, based on the excellent results she achieved in Science and Mathematics in her Junior Cert. Also pictured is her Science and Maths teachers Mr Murray and Mrs Grogan. Well done to all involved on this fantastic achievement.

LEAVING CERT GEOGRAPHY FIELD STUDY





MICHELLE GROGAN, AOIFE CONWAY, REBECCA VAHEY BRENNAN AND CASSIE NILAND, AT THE WOMEN'S SPORT SEMINAR WITH SPORTING STARS – CORA STAUNTON, JESSIE BARR, ELLEN KEANE, JACKIE HURLEY AND ANGELINA NUGENT.

In early February, Mr Woolley informed the TY PE class that our school had been chosen to take part in the Women's Sport Seminar. This was a seminar to promote Women's Sport and to encourage teenage girls to participate more in sport. Mayo Sports Partnership asked our school to compose a survey, gather the information and present a Power Point in front of the audience at the Seminar. Three Ty girls – Michelle Grogan, Rebecca Vahey Brennan and Aoife Conway, along with Cassie Niland conducted the survey in the school. This survey was made up of 15 questions that asked the girls about their sporting habits and their feelings towards physical activity. Every girl in the school from first to fifth year was surveyed.

Next, the four of us had to analyse the completed surveys. This took quite a bit of time but the answers we got from the girls were excellent. We were informed that two other schools were taking part in the Seminar – Ballinrobe Community School and St Josephs, Castlebar. We were told that each school should present their PowerPoint based on 5 questions – St Josephs got the first 5, we got the middle 5 and Ballinrobe got the last 5.

We spent the next few days putting together our Power Point and practising presenting with Mr Woolley and Ms Osgood. This was very good practise and we gained confidence for the day.

On the 9th of February, we headed off to GMIT in Castlebar for the Seminar. We were all anxious on the journey up and the moments before we went on stage. Luckily, we weren't the first speakers for the day.

Cora Staunton opened the day with a very inspiring talk. She told us that sport, mostly Gaelic football, has helped her through the hardest times in her life. She told us that sport to her is more than the competitions and trophies, but is about the friendships she has with her teammates and a moment to escape the hardships in life.

It was our turn next. Firstly St Joseph's presented their Power Point. When they finished, it was our turn. We nervously walked up on stage and stood in front of the crowd of over four hundred. We each presented two slides and got a great round of applause at the end. We came down from the stage relieved and excited to see the rest of the speakers. Ballinrobe presented their Power Point next and we all congratulated each other at the end.

Some of the shocking facts that we discovered in the surveys included:

Why are the girls in our school not exercising?

- Body Image
- Anxiety
- Lack of facilities in the community
- People judging them
- Not having enough time (Homework, Exams, Phone and Internet)
- Not enough PE classes (fifth years only receive one a week)

What Encourages the girls in our school to exercise?

- It's fun!
- Being fit and healthy
- Takes their minds off daily problems and relieves them of stress.
- The pressure to be slim and not getting fatter.

In an article written by Niall Moyna (operation Transformation) he discovered that:

- 82% of Transition Year students have the cardio vascular age of a 60 year old man.
- 62% are insulin resistant, which is one step away from developing type 2 diabetes.

Other speakers on the day included Jessie Barr, Ellen Keane and Jackie Hurley. They were all very motivational and inspiring. They all talked about how sport has changed their life and that keeping it on in their teenage years was one of the best decisions they have made. At the end of the day, the four of us left feeling encouraged and influenced to continue the sport that we take part in. All of us gained confidence in public speaking and we can take that skill into the future.

On behalf of the four of us, I'd like to thank Mr Woolley and Ms Osgood with all their help throughout the Seminar preparation.

By Michelle Grogan

BT YOUNG SCIENTIST EXHIBITION

On the 12th of January, our Transition Year class along with the Fifth Year Chemistry class visited the BT Young Scientist Exhibition in the RDS in Dublin. As part of our Transition Year Science course we entered a project for the BT Young Scientist Exhibition 2018. We decided as a class group that we would attend this prestigious exhibition to gain helpful ideas and advice. There were 550 projects on display in the Main Arena where the various projects were divided into four categories; Biological and Ecological Sciences, Chemical Physical & Mathematical Sciences, Social & Behavioral Sciences and Technology. There were so many different projects, however some were quite common, we saw that there was a deep interest in Food and Human Nutrition. Examples of such projects were; "Obesity" and "Do you understand Type 1 diabetes?" Our TY class was very much inspired by all the different projects and we all hope to exhibit projects of our own next year.

Along with the projects there were many Science and Technology shows and contests that were taking place in different areas of the RDS. The World of Robots which is Ireland's biggest open robotics contest which is presented by the Irish Robotics company, Mechatrons was there. Here, the robots had to complete various challenges such as maze solving, sumo, soccer, boxing, and rope climbing just to name a few! It was a fantastic experience to watch robots move the same way as us humans do, for some of us watching these robots was just a glimpse of the future! While in the BT Arena, there were many acts including the Titan the Robot and David Meade. We even got the opportunity to discover a 3D journey through space where we learned about our place in the universe and how we on Earth fit into the cosmic scale of everything. Again it was a great experience to listen and observe the amazing developments that have taken place in Science and Technology in Ireland today. A big thank you to Ms. O'Brien and Ms. Mannix for giving us the opportunity to visit the Young Scientist, as it really opened our eyes to new ideas for next year's Young Scientist Exhibition.

By Patrick Carr

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME



Pictured below are some images of our Transition Year students during their Youth Leadership Programme, delivered by Mayo Sports Partnership. The 4th class students from Scoil Iosa joined in for some fun activities as a part of the course. A big 'thank you' to all the students who took part and to their teacher (Mrs Fahy). Also thanks to Mayo Sports Partnership and their leaders Deirdre Donnelly and Anne Ronane. A fun successful day was had by all.



STUDENT COUNCIL



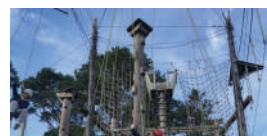
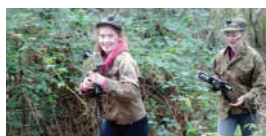
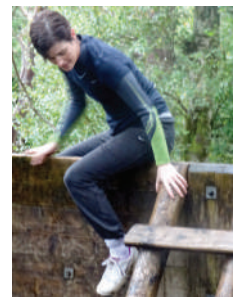
BACK ROW: THOMAS KEANE, ISAAC OLADIPUPO, DEAN MCGARRY, JAMES FRAYNE, ERIN MURRAY
MIDDLE ROW: AINE DUFFY, JESSICA KLEIN, JADE CUNNANE, DAMIEN MCGOWAN, ARAN RATTIGAN, OISIN BOLAND, ELEANOR HARRISON, GRAINNE ROBINSON
FRONT ROW: CIAN WALSH, EDDIE GROARKE, LANA BIESTY, HOLLY BROWNE, ELLA DUNLEAVY, NIAL REGAN
MISSING FROM PHOTO: CONAL CAULFIELD, LEAH FALLON, ROISIN MURPHY AND MARINA CARNEY

On the 28th of September 2016 the Transition Year class headed off to 'Killary Outdoor Adventure Centre', which promised to be a fun filled adventure. We set off early Wednesday morning and arrived in Killary not knowing what to expect from this trip. The minute we arrived we were plunged straight into action and headed straight to the Killary 'Turf Challenge', which is an obstacle course in a muddy bog. This was definitely one of the most enjoyable activities from our stay and also one of the most memorable parts of the trip. After this, we headed back to the centre where we spent the rest of the evening playing team building games with David, an instructor from the centre.

The following day was action packed where we participated in many activities such as gorge walking, laser combat, the 'Killary Challenge' and the terrifying bungee swing! Although the rain poured all day we still managed to enjoy ourselves but we were glad when we arrived back to the warm centre. We spent our last evening in Killary mixing with TY students from Bellmullet who were also staying in the centre. After this we spent the rest of the evening in the games room.

For our last day in Killary half of us went kayaking in Killary Fjord and the other half did rope climbing. Then we packed our bags and headed back to Ballyhaunis. It was an unforgettable experience, and the activities we enjoyed the most were definitely the 'turf challenge' and the games in the evening. The whole class will never forget this trip as many new friendships blossomed and memories were made over the 3 days we spent there.

By Shauna Lyons and Deirbhile Richardson



Our TY year began with the new Transition Year co-ordinator Mr. McGarry. Everyone was a little unsure about what was ahead, especially when we were all so used of how Ms Henry ran the TY programme. However, it wasn't long before we had all fallen in love with Mr McGarry and his ways. His American twang became a familiar sound to all our ears and we quickly became his 'TY Dorks'.

On the 21st and 22nd of September, our TY class took part in a Fetac level 5 first aid course. We completed the course over two days. We gained invaluable information about how to approach situations such as choking, broken bones and burns. One of the most important things we learned was how to use a defibrillator and how to carry out CPR to a patient with no heartbeat. We all knew this would be very beneficial in the future, however little did we know we'd be using it less than a half an hour later when Eimear decided to give us a first-hand encounter with fainting! Everyone in our class received a distinction in first aid at the end of the course.

On the 28th of September, all of the T.Y.'s headed off to Killary Adventure Centre. With over packed, heavy bags we all loaded the bus; excited for the activities that awaited us. After a long journey, we began to realise our phone signal was dwindling with every kilometre. Although we thought we'd never survive without internet to fuel our social media, it ended up making the trip all the more enjoyable. Upon arrival, we all dropped our bags off in our rooms, changed into our old clothes and began the ten minute trek down to the outdoor activity centre. We all put on the ice cold, sopping wetsuits and braved the infamous "turf challenge". This, I can only imagine, was the highlight of the trip. We then enjoyed dinner and began our first session of bonding exercises. This was the start of the bottle flipping craze that then took over our trip. Shauna became the ultimate champion, getting three in a row more times than anyone can remember and even flipping it with her eyes closed. At 10 that night, we all headed to bed. In our room however, Shauna's fear of a spider kept us up that little while longer!

The next day, after breakfast, we headed down to the outdoor activity centre for activities like gorge-walking, laser tag and the petrifying 'Big Swing'. With a general sense of fear for the inevitable drop we would all have to endure, we each faced it and ended up thoroughly enjoying it. That evening, after dinner, we took part in some more bonding games and exercises. We all went to bed that night disappointed that we would have to departure the following day. During breakfast on the last morning, we all gave a final rendition of 'Show Me The Way to Aran's Room' before departing Killary for BCS.

On the 12th of December, the TY's and LCA's all headed off to Galway accompanied by Ms Cuddy and Ms Murphy. Our day began in the Galway Skates ice rink. Equipped with woolly hats and warm coats we all eagerly but nervously braved the ice rink - some more nervous than others! As confidence grew, some of the more adventurous students drifted from the edge of the rink and began to pick up speed. The more fearful skaters took preference in clinging onto the walls as we skated avoiding the embarrassment an inevitable fall would cause. This fear didn't last long however and many came out of the rink slightly battered and bruised however all the falls were worth it for the fun that was had.

Once we left the rink, we embarked on a day of shopping in Galway. We spent the next two hours visiting the markets and strolling from shop to shop. Lots of us took the time to ride on the ferris wheel also. We arrived back in Ballyhaunis at 5 o'clock after a great day all round.

On the 9th of February, our T.Y. class attended a RSA (Road Safety Authority) 'Road Show' in Breaffy House, Castlebar. The 'Road Show', now on its third year, graphically tells the story of how a night out for two young drivers ended in tragedy and devastation. Our class of 24 only made up a tiny fraction of roughly one thousand TY students who attended the show. The show was a mixture of video clips and speakers. The video clips gave us an insight into the harsh consequences that come with the careless driving young people are notorious for. The speakers, on the other hand, were exceptionally heartfelt as they told the story of a young couple who had been in a crash. The speakers included a member of An Garda Síochána and a funeral director. They each shared their personal encounter with the accident with such raw emotion and made us feel as though we had all been through the night with them. We all left the show that afternoon with a newfound awareness of the road and I think this will stand by us all for many years to come.

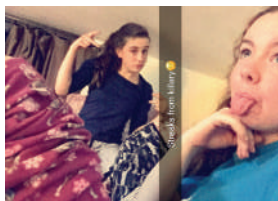
During February we were lucky enough to take part in two sessions of horseriding. Some of us faced our fears and some faced the floors – Aoife Conway clearly coming out of her experience horse riding a little worse for wear!

On the 3rd of May, our TY class attended the Student Enterprise All-Ireland finals in Croke Park. We spent some time walking around to each of the mini-company displays. However, the clear highlight of the day had nothing to do with Business. It was Grace's big karaoke debut with her own touching version of Kenny Rodger's 'The Gambler'.

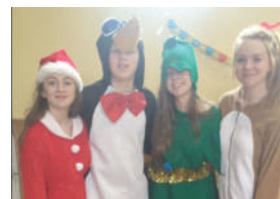
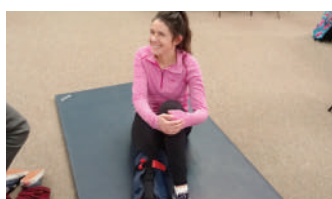
One of our final trips in TY was to the much anticipated Awakening Concert held in Breaffy House Sports Arena. We arrived, along with Ms Glavey, at 10:45am and spent the duration of the day rehearsing the songs, although some of us were a little bit more preoccupied with some of the solosit lads from Headford than they were with the music. The show went brilliantly and was one of the most memorable experiences of TY.

The TY's also went to Rome from the 10th to the 12th of May however sadly this didn't meet Mr. Ginty's infamous yearbook deadlines! I think it's safe to say we all absolutely loved Transition Year and are very upset for the year to be coming to an end!

By Katie Ronayne and India Costello.



BACK: KRISTYN O'REILLY, EIMEAR MURRAY, ELLEN PHILLIPS, DEIRBHILE FINN-RICHARDSON, ROISIN RUANE, OISIN BOLAND, REBECCA VAHEY-BRENNAN.
MIDDLE ROW: CHRISTOPHER METCALFE, SOPHIE FLANNERY, AOIFE DAVIS, JACK CLONEY, AOIFE CONWAY, NIAL COFFEY, PATRICK CARR
FRONT: KATIE RONAYNE, LAUREN OSGOOD-DALY, AISLINN TIGHE, GRACE O'GARA, THOMAS COFFEY.
ABSENT FROM PHOTO: JAMES COLLERAN, INDIA COSTELLO, ROISIN RUANE, MICHELLE GROGAN, SHAUNA LYONS



FRIARY MURAL

"THE FOUR SEASONS" MURAL

At the start of Transition Year, myself and three other T.Y. students: Eimear Murray, Kristyn O'Reilly, and Christopher Metcalfe were chosen as former Junior Cert Art students to transform an old, grey wall down at the Family Resource Centre into something more attractive for the centre's many visitors as part of our Community Care programme.

We met with Tracey McDermott at the Family Resource Centre early in September to decide what would be the most suitable theme for our mural. Seeing as this particular wall led into a community garden we decided with the help of Ms. Lennon and Ms. Macken to base our project on a tree in which the leaves would be divided into four quadrants, one to represent each season.

We had a slow start as the wall had to be power-washed and painted white before we could start any drawings not to mention some torrential rain hindering our productivity! The majority of our work took place on crisp winter mornings leading up to the Christmas holidays where we all worked very well together. However, our main set-back arose whenever we would leave as the dampness of the wall led to all of our hard work literally running down the drain! Tracey was very supportive throughout the whole process having a canopy produced to protect our mural as well as having hot cups of tea and biscuits ready for us whenever we would come inside to "defrost" our hands.

When the New Year came we had finally finished our mural after which we christened it "The Four Seasons". The whole project overall was very enjoyable and rewarding for me personally and could not have been completed without the help of Ms. Macken, Ms. Murphy, Ms. Lennon, Tracey McDermott and all down at the Family Resource Centre.

By: Aislinn Tighe



PURE MAGIC

When the artist started to sketch
The room fell silent,
Watching the artists hand.
The talent was clear, the way she bent
The lines to her command.
Pure magic.

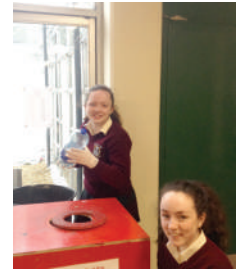
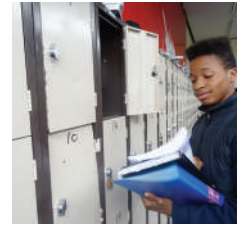
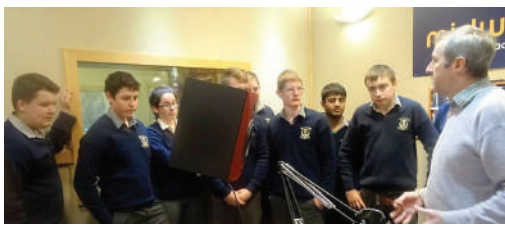
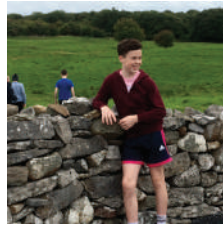
She gently sketched with ease
across the page,
Concentration in her eyes,
But the love of art was there,
No one could deny
In the smile on her face,
Her enthusiasm shone clear.
Pure magic.

I've worn that look,
So many times,
I know it off by heart.
I am the same
I wear it when
Somebody mentions art.
Pure magic.

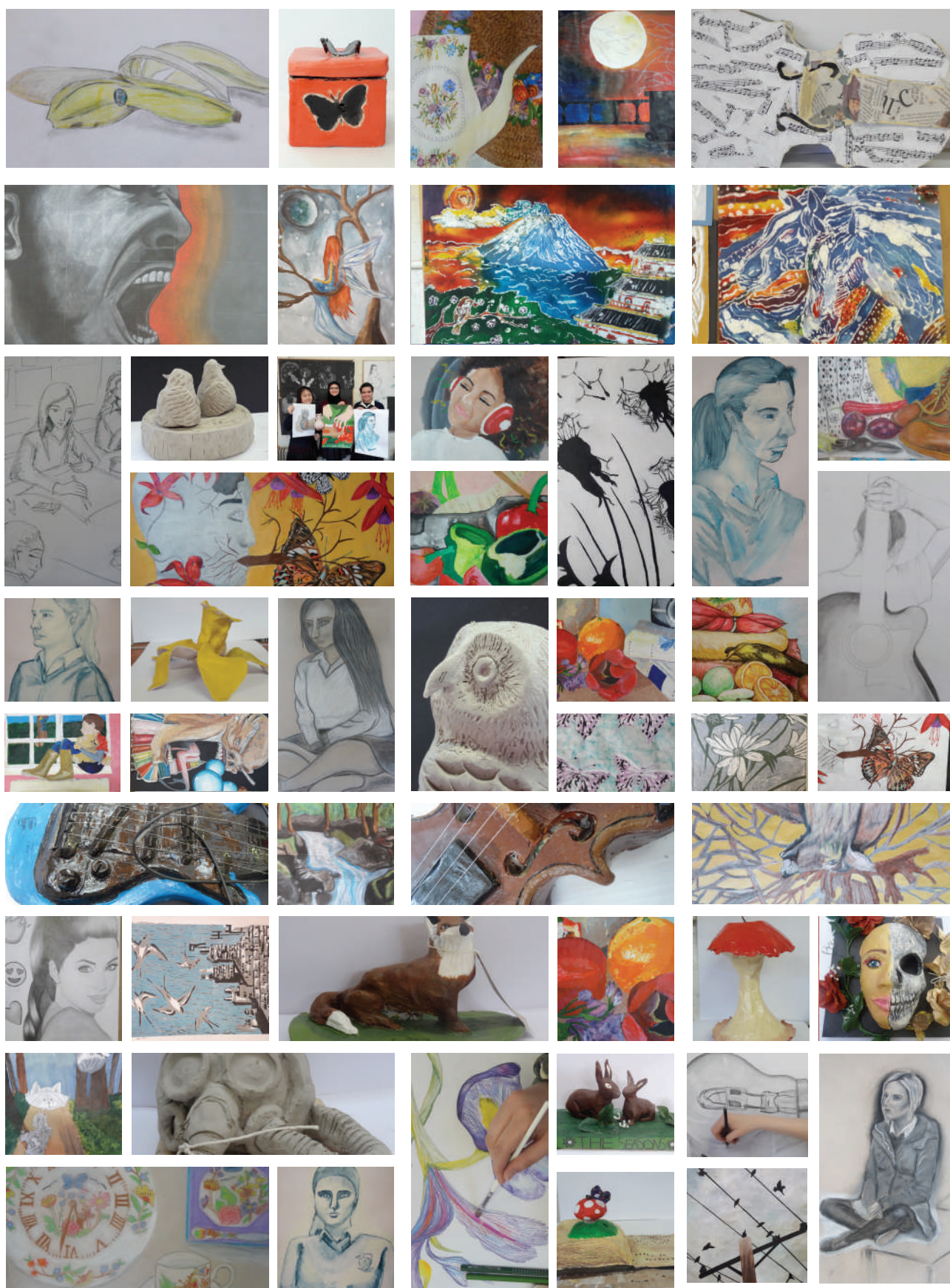
Art is my passion,
I love it so,
I cannot describe how free
I feel.
When inspiration comes,
And I start drawing,
The feeling's very real.
Pure magic.

*by Eilis
O'Brien*

A DAY IN THE LIFE



ARTWORK





5A **BACK ROW:** CONAL CAULFIELD, DAVID HESSON, CONOR HUNT, SEÁN FRAYNE, JOHN MADDEN, CILLIAN COSTELLO, WILLIAMS GANLEY, EVAN FITZMAURICE
MIDDLE ROW: ISSAC OLADIPUPO, NEIL CARNEY, BRIAN NCUBE, SHANE MCDERMOTT, ZINEDDIN RAHMANI, ZAINULABIDIN AZHAR, DARA HEALY, MICHAEL FREYNE
FRONT ROW: CELINE YAN, CRYSTAL YAN, COLLEEN MANNING, LAUREN WALSHE, AIBHINN HERR, SINEAD KIELY
ABSENT FROM PHOTO: JOE MURPHY, AOIFE NOLAN, ALBORENA ZHUKA



5B **BACK ROW:** MUHAMMAD ASIF, CONOR FITZMAURICE-DOYLE, KEEVAN MURPHY, LUKE MANNION, AARON FORDE, RORY BOWEN, JACK HIGGINS
MIDDLE ROW: URSULA BRADY, ROISÍN MCLOUGHLIN, CELIA CONROY, JADE CUNNANE, JASON REIDY, ETHAN VAHEY-OWENS
FRONT ROW: SIOBHAN MCLOUGHLIN, ADELA ILICHOVA, KASEY CLARKE, ADRIANNA KELLY, DARRAGH KILLKENNY
ABSENT FROM PHOTO: MAEDHBH CAULFIELD, DAVID CUNNANE, DYLAN RALEIGH, ASMAT KHAN

FIFTH YEAR



5C
BACK ROW: EVAN HENRY, BARRY CRIBBIN, ALANNAH DENNEHY, SIOFRA MURRAY, ANNA NASZKIERSKA, CÁIT PHILLIPS, NOEL WARDE, EVAN GODFREY
MIDDLE ROW: DEIVIDAS RUTKAUSKAS, ARAN RATTIGAN, ALAN GLYNN, AOIBHEANN GALLAGHER, ROISÍN HUSSEY, ÁINE DUFFY, AMY MULKEEN, WERONIKA GRABIASZ
FRONT ROW: HELEN GALLAGHER, AOIFE NOLAN, RAMA KUDIMATI, CIARA O'GRADY, ZEBE YOUNAS, CHRISTINA KYAN MANNING, SHAUNA FLEMING
ABSENT FROM PHOTO: ERIKA GRACIOVA, RAMA FADDAWI, LIAM HERR



5D
BACK ROW: DARA MULKEEN, PATRICK CAULFIELD, JOHN REIDY, CONOR FLYNN, CIARAN DOHERTY, JACK COYNE
MIDDLE ROW: ENDA CRAWLEY, AMY GREALLY, ROISIN CASSIDY, HANNAH DOYLE, ORNA HESSION, NIAMH FOODY, SADHBH COX, JASON MEEHAN
FRONT ROW: DERBHILA FREEMAN, EMMA HEELAN, JENNIFER GOURLAY, JESSICA KLEIN, EMER FORDE, GEMMA FOODY, ERIN O'REILLY
ABSENT FROM PHOTO: ALANNAH NOLAN, LAURA REGAN, NIAMH WARDE

FIFTH YEAR ACHILL TRIP

Last September, the 5th years went on the annual trip to Achill adventure centre accompanied by Mr Murray, Mr Noone, and Mrs Keane. This year's trip was an extra special year as the former junior cert students received their Junior Cert results in Achill. After an hour and a half travelling on the buses, we finally reached the adventure centre and were met by all the instructors. Straight away we were divided into our groups and our rooms and proceeded to do the activities which included surfing, coasting, kayaking, rock climbing and hill walking. After dinner the first night, the results were received. After returning from a bog walk to the beach we were surprised to see that Mr McDonagh had kindly treated us to pizza, chips and other treats. We continued with the activities for the next two days. Over the course of the trip, the adventure centre instructors kept us entertained with many different fun games. All the former TY's really bonded with the former junior certs and everyone got to know each other very well. It was a brilliant way to start the year and definitely a trip we will not forget. Many thanks to Mr Murray, Mr Noone and Mrs Keane for bringing us on the trip, to the school for providing us with the opportunity and to the instructors for making it so enjoyable.

Amy Mulkeen, Hannah Doyle, Roisin Cassidy, Derbhla Freeman & Lauren Walshe



FIFTH YEAR TABLE QUIZ



CHRISTINA MANNING, GEMMA FOODY, ALAN GLYNN, BARRY CRIBBIN



NEIL CARNEY, CONAL CAULFIELD, CIARÁN DOHERTY, RÓISÍN CASSIDY

The annual Mayo macra quiz took place in The tennis club in Castlebar on March 29th. Ballyhaunis was hoping to reclaim the shield for best overall school which it won at the inauguration quiz in 2014. Three teams of four students competed. Ballyhaunis reclaimed the shield and also had the first and second placed teams. We will hopefully go on to defend our title next year.

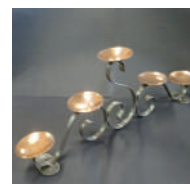


BACK: BARRY CRIBBIN, CIARÁN DOHERTY, JOE MURPHY, CONAL CAULFIELD, SEÁN FRAYNE, EVAN HENRY
FRONT: NEIL CARNEY, ALAN GLYNN, GEMMA FOODY, RÓISÍN CASSIDY, CHRISTINA MANNING, COLLEEN MANNING, AOIFE NOLAN

LCA METALWORK PROJECTS

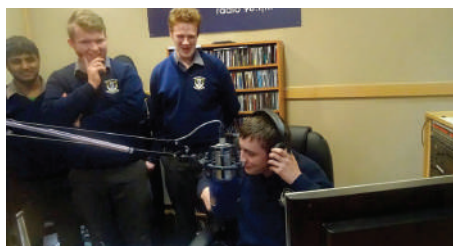


DENVER COYNE, STEPHEN STAUNTON, ADAM WEBB, KEVIN HENEGHAN, DAMIEN MCGOWAN, CASSIE NILAND, ALTAF HUSSAIN



LCA MIDWEST RADIO VISIT

Our LCA 2 class visited Midwest Radio as part of their English and Communication course. They were given a very informative and interesting tour by Gerry Glennon. We might have uncovered some DJ stars for the future!



On Thursday 17 November, 2016 at our Lady's Basilica, Knock, Archbishop Michael Neary gathered to celebrate and recognise the contribution of over 350 teenagers from all over the Archdiocese of Tuam at the annual presentation of the Pope John Paul II Award. Archbishop Michael welcomed the young people to the event, along with their families, friends, teachers, principals, chaplains, and representatives of the various parish and diocesan bodies including Mr. Mattie Harte, Athenry Parish Youth minister and special guest on the night and Ms. Siobhan Bradley, Diocesan Co-ordinator for the John Paul II Awards.

The completion of the Award involved students volunteering in their parishes and local communities. Our students were involved in a wide variety of activities including filling holy water bottles, church decoration at Christmas, Reading, singing in the Choir, Assisting with school liturgies, sacred space, mentoring, community care programme, Peer 4 Peer, fundraising activities, visiting the Nursing Home, volunteering at MSPCA, getting involved in VAKS in Knock last summer. A special acknowledgment to Áine Duffy who spoke at the Awards Ceremony. Aine along with students from other schools spoke about the role their faith plays in their young lives and just who are the people who really influence them. Aine shared very poignantly that it is in fact her mother who continues to inspire and challenge her to keep the faith. "My mother would be the person that would have influenced me the most. From a very young age, she has nurtured and developed my faith, encouraging me to explore and challenge my own beliefs and teaching me how to live out my potential as a person in the ways Jesus wants us to live. My mother has a very strong faith which has been tested many times but she always maintained her belief in God. I also, as any other person (particularly the youth) have questioned my faith but with my mother's help and guidance, I have been able to develop my belief in God and learn how to participate in my faith community". Aine's reflection was very moving and well received.

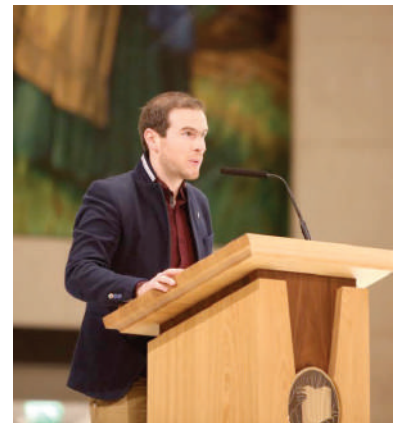
The following students received awards:

Papal Cross Award recipients: Megan Morley and Sive Duffy. Both girls had completed the Gold Award in 2015 and went on to complete the Papal cross award this year which is the highest award to be attained.

Gold Awards recipients: Shauna Fleming, Aine Duffy, Orna Hession, Roisin Hussey, Mary McLoughlin, Emer Forde, Aoibheann Gallagher, Elaine Collins, Aibhinn Herr, Evan Fitzmaurice, Olivia Cleary, Aoife Nolan, Megan Regan, Liam Foody, John Madden, Rebecca Finn, Helen Gallagher, Laura O'Connell, Marina Carney, Selina Mulkeen, Rachel Timoney.

Well done to all the students who entered into the spirit of the award programme.

O. Macken



JUNIOR BOYS GAELIC FOOTBALL

The Junior Boys started their season with a blitz in the Centre of Excellence, Began. They played two matches, their first against St. Louis Community School Kiltimagh which they lost to a stronger side. They then played St. Joseph's Secondary School of Foxford who they beat. This wasn't enough to get them to the final for this blitz.

Their next outing was against Glenamaddy Community School away. This was a very close match all the way through and ended in a draw. They next faced Holy Rosary College Mountbellew away. They were fourteen points down at half time but this narrowed down to a near loss of one point by the time the final whistle was blown. It is noteworthy that this major comeback was largely due to Enda Crawley scoring a record 2-11 in this game. Unfortunately that's where their season was cut short as they could not negotiate a fixture with St. Brigid's Vocational School of Loughrea, but still got the points for that game. A big thanks to Mr. Ryan for all his effort with us throughout the year!



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

EQUESTRIAN INTERSCHOOLS



Ballyhaunis Community School Fifth Year student Celia Conroy competed in the 2017 Equestrian Interschools competition at Hanleys equestrian centre in Claremorris on Sunday the 9th of April. She jumped Andy in the 1m open individuals and came 3rd. She also jumped Andy with St. Attracta's Secondary School in Tubbercurry as an amalgamated 1m open team of Ballyhaunis and St. Attracta's. This team came first. She also jumped Gabe with Tuam Presentation School. This team came fifth. Well done Celia on a great achievement.

ICE SKATING

TY & LCA



BACK: KEVIN HENEGHAN, JAMES KEADIN, DAMIEN MCGOWAN, CASSIE NILAND, CONOR MCEWAN, STEPHEN STAUNTON, ALTAF HUSSAIN, ADAM WEBB.

MIDDLE: CHRISTOPHER METCALFE, JAMES COLLERAN, OISIN BOLAND, PATRICK CARR, THOMAS COFFEY, JACK CLONEY, AOIFE CONWAY, SOPHIE FLANNERY, JULIE GARDINER, KRISTYN O'REILLY.

FRONT: ROISIN RUANE, GRACE O'GARA, SHAUNA LYONS, DEIRBHILE FINN RICHARDSON, REBECCA VAHEY-BRENNAN, MICHELLE GORGAN, INDIA COSTELLO, EIMEAR MURRAY, KATIE RONAYNE, ELLEN PHILLIPS, DENVER COYNE, AISLINN TIGHE

skated avoiding the embarrassment an inevitable fall would cause. This fear didn't last long however and many came out of the rink slightly battered and bruised however all the falls were worth it for the fun that was had.

Once we left the rink, we embarked on a day of shopping in Galway. We spent the next two hours visiting the markets and strolling from shop to shop. Lots of us took the time to ride on the Ferris Wheel also. We arrived back in Ballyhaunis at 5 o'clock after a great day all round.

By Katie Ronayne

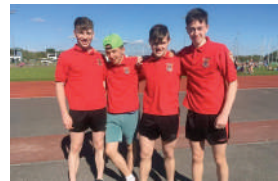
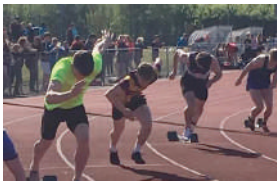
On the 12th of December, the TY's and LCA's all headed off to Galway accompanied by Ms Cuddy and Ms Murphy. Our day began in the Galway Skates ice rink. Equipped with woolly hats and warm coats we all eagerly but nervously braved the ice rink - some more nervous than others! As confidence grew, some of the more adventurous students drifted from the edge of the rink and began to pick up speed. The more fearful skaters took preference in clinging onto the walls as we



NIAMH O'NEILL RECEIVING A CHEQUE AS A BURSARY FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF HER ALREADY SUCCESSFUL ATHLETICS CAREER.

On the 2nd of May, 46 students along with Mr Woolley and Mr Ryan took part in the North Connaught Athletics Final held in Sligo IT. With entries in pretty much every event, Ballyhaunis was represented across the array of events being held. As usual, we were exceptionally lucky with the fabulous weather we received on the day. However, also as per usual, most of us weren't prepared for the weather and arrived back to Ballyhaunis that evening a lot redder than when we left! Our very own All-Ireland athlete, Niamh O'Neill, placed first in both of her events (long jump and 80m hurdles). Our relay teams also performed quite well as usual, the Junior boys team qualifying along with the inter girls team and senior boys team. Some of our athletes such as Leah Johnston and Patrick

Caufield qualified in two events which was a great achievement. In total we will have 25 athletes travelling to the Connaught finals on the 18th of May. A big thank you to Mr Woolley for helping the athletes to prepare for their events.



The Love of the Game

Running out of time
It's my chance to shine
Trying to score
I love nothing more
Trying out some skills
Looking for some thrills
Now is my chance
To go for a dance
Wanting a kiss
But then I miss
When the ball hits the net
That's when I'm at my best

By Jack Sullivan

THE BEST TEAM

City are the best
Better than United, better than all the rest
They are always banging
And never leave us hanging

The way they dribble and score
Make United go out the door
And even if we lose, they will always be the team I adore

By Guilherme Rodrigues

SPORTING ACTION



SENIOR LADIES GAELIC



BACK: ALANNAH NOLAN, MEGAN MORLEY, SHEENA RODDY, ANNA LYONS, ADRIANNA KELLY, JOANNE COFFEY, COURTNEY MULHALL, SHAUNA LYONS, AOIFE CONWAY, NIAMH FOODY, AMY MULKEEN, LAUREN WALSHE, REBECCA VAHEY BRENNAN, LAUREN OSGOOD, ROISIN HUSSEY, CASSIE NILAND
FRONT: CIARA O'GRADY, EMER FORDE, RACHEL LYONS, AINE DUFFY, KATELYN CONCANNON, SIOFRA MURRAY, MARINA CARNEY, CHLOE RYAN, SHAUNA FLEMING, ORNA HESSON, GEMMA FOODY.

Our senior training started in early September with Mrs Grogan. We had 3 games in total. Our opening game was against a strong Strokestown side which we lost on a score line of 1-10 to 3-11. Our next match was played in our home pitch against Ballinasloe, the girls put in a very good performance which resulted in a narrow one point victory. We proceeded to play Ballygar on a cold and wet day in Ballinlough. The girls fought hard and had another impressive win. Unfortunately, only one team went through from the group and we ended up coming second in the league. This ended our football season. The girls are very thankful for the amount of time and commitment Ms Grogan has shown the team throughout the year.

Gemma and Niamh Foody

SIXTH YEAR



Shaheen Ashraf



Christopher Bann



Jennifer Battle



Richard Boyle



Peter Buczak



Jordan Burns



Marina Carney



Jessica Carroll



Lauren Casey



Olivia Cleary



Maria Cieslikowska



Piotr Cieslikowski



Joanne Coffey



Conor Coll



Elaine Collins



Katelyn Concannon



Caoimhe Coyle



Danielle Coyne



Denver Coyne



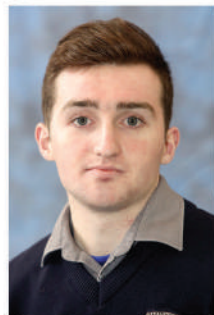
Eoin Delaney



Thomas Doherty



Robert Douglas



Sean Doyle



Diarmuid Duffy



Sive Duffy

SIXTH YEAR



James Duggan



Nevan Fannon



Hamad Farooq



Rebecca Finn



Ciara Flanagan



Niamh Flanagan



Mary Flynn



Liam Foody



Keith Forde



Patrick Forde



Calum Gardiner



Brendonas Graf



Zohaib Gulzar



Saoirse Hagney



Dylan Harrison



Eleanor Harrison



Aaron Heelan



Kevin Heneghan



Cathal Hosty



Altaf Hussain



Filip Hutman



James Keadin



Diarmuid Keane



John Kenny



Sean Kenny



Oisín Lloyd



Rachel Lyons



Roisín Lyons



Connor Macewan



Courtney Macewan



Fatima Mahmood



Michael McGarry



Damien McGowan



Mary McLoughlin



Megan Morley



Courtney Mulhall



Selina Mulkeen



Munaza Muneer



Gabrielle Murphy



Tiernan Murphy



Shauna Murray



Uneeb Naseer



Kevin Neenan



Cassandra Niland



Kara Niland



Joicy Nunes



Laura O Connell



Colm O Gara



Brian O'Neill



Galen O'Reilly

SIXTH YEAR



Amira Otaqi



Benas Pakonis



Georgia Peake



Cormac Phillips



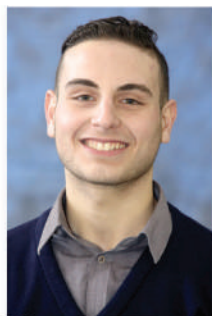
Derbhla Phillips



Eamonn Phillips



Zouhir Rahmani



Mohammad Rahmani



Megan Regan



Gráinne Robinson



Lorcan Ronan



Cian Ruane



Dylan Ruane



Chloe Ryan



Ruhaa Shiha



Conor Sloyan



Stephen Staunton



Jan Szebesta



Tahseen Tahir Mahmood



Tahira Gul Shinwari



Rachel Timoney



Brendan Waldron



Adam Webb

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...we'll do the rest!

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Post Leaving Certificate Program in Computers, Marketing and Business.

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Office at 094 96 30235

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Suitable for all ages and levels. If you are interested in refreshing existing skills or gaining new skills, returning to the work force or continuing to further education this is the opportunity for you. You can gain up to 400 CAO points and have your choice of third level course. Grant aid available to eligible students.

Courses

Major Award - FETAC Level 5 Business Studies incorporating ICT (5M2102) ☐

Modules:

Business Administration Skills	Word Processing	Spreadsheet Methods	Work Experience
Marketing Practice	Database Methods	Text Production	The Internet
Communications			

European Computer Driving Licence (IT qualification) ☐

Medical Card holders are exempt from these charges.

€200 course fee payable at the beginning of the course. A certification charge of €20 for a component certificate or €50 for an award certificate payable in March.

Advantages

- ✓ Ability to repeat a subject(s) at Leaving Certificate Level.
- ✓ Maintenance grants available to eligible students through the Student Online Grant Application System.
- ✓ Qualification enables entry into a range of third level courses - **400 points** can be achieved.
- ✓ No accommodation costs if you live locally.
- ✓ Flexible timetabling to enable parents manage childcare.
- ✓ Excellent ICT skill development for immediate entry to workforce or further study.

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

PAST PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS

WINNER OF THE 2017 HUNTS PURCHASE PRIZE



Congratulations to Sorcha McNamara who was honoured to receive The Hunts Purchase Prize from The Hunts Museum Limerick. Sorcha graduated from Ballyhaunis Community School in 2015 and is presently in her 2nd year at LIT where she is studying for a BA degree in Art and Design. LIT hold an annual collaborative project with the Hunts Museum, where the students are asked to submit artwork in response to the Museums eclectic collection.

Sorcha's entire collection was bought by the museum and will become part of the Museum's permanent collection and will be on display for the foreseeable future.

Sorcha's work was inspired by the limestone of the building itself, observing patterns and exploring into the properties of the mineral calcite.

All the staff at BCS wish to congratulate Sorcha on her success and wish her every success for the future.

EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FROM NUIG



Former BCS student Cian Henry is in receipt of an Excellence Scholarship Award from NUIG in recognition of his outstanding Leaving Certificate Results. Cian has gone on to study Engineering and is adapting well to the demands of College life. The school wishes to congratulate Cian, his family and his teachers on his wonderful achievement

SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL

FEATURING THE GAME OF THE DECADE!

Looking at the final league table didn't make good reading for BCS but finishing bottom did not give a true reflection of the competitiveness of the BCS team at this level. All four games were lost on narrow margins. Two of these games were epic encounters with only a single point separating the teams at the end.

The first game was against Ballinrobe CS. A slow start from Ballyhaunis saw them down 17-10 at half time. A strong fightback built on a hard working defence and a superb scoring performance from Deividas Rutkauskas (21 Points) saw them claw it back 26-26 at full time. That took the game to an extra period. In an end to end lung busting period Ballyhaunis were 1 point behind with seconds remaining and had 2 free throws to win or tie the match but unfortunately it wasn't converted leaving the team with undeserving loss.

Anyone who happened to be in the BCS gym on the day St. Coleman's came to play was treated to what can only be described as something that had all the hallmarks of a Hollywood scripted Basketball game. As was becoming a habit BCS got off to a slow start and were trailing at the end of the first quarter but as also was becoming habit BCS fought back to level things by half time. Both sides continued to trade blows with some strong defence as well as good scoring again most notably from Deividas Rutkauskas (21 Points). It was the last 8 seconds of this encounter where the true Hollywood drama began. Ballyhaunis had managed to get a slender 1 point lead and were defending strongly to see out the game but with 8 seconds left on the clock 2 free shots were given to St. Coleman's. The tension in the hall was palpable. The first shot was missed. The second shot dropped and everyone in the hall thought we are going to an extra period. No, the ref called an infringement and asked for the shot to be retaken. This was missed but the rebound fell kindly for a Coleman's man and he duly dispatched the rebound for them to lead by a point. Surely that was it. There were only 5 seconds left so there could not be another twist. A time out was called and a plan was hatched to draw a fowl. The fowl was drawn and BCS had 2 free throws of their own to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat with 3 seconds on the clock. The first shot was missed, the second missed and hung in the air for what seemed like an eternity but Deividas Rutkauskas pounced on the rebound with a truly magnificent leap. What happened next had to be seen to be believed. Deividas shot, the basketball rolled around the rim twice and then rested between the rim and the backboard. The ref blew for full time and again the BCS lads were undeservingly defeated. Mr. Wooley commented on this being the 'game of the decade' and for anyone who witnessed it I don't think they could disagree. The other 2 games were also lost on tight margins and the season ending with no win seemed harsh on a team that gave their all at all times and can hold their heads high as they left everything they had on the court.

Julie Gardiner and Christopher Metcalfe



BACK: SAIM ASIF, BRIAN NCUBE, BRENDONAS GRAF, EVAN FITZMAURICE, WILLIAMS GANLEY.
FRONT: FILIP HUTMAN, ZAIN AZHAR, SEAN FRAYNE, MOHAMMAD RAHMANI, DAVID MITROVIC, DEIVIDAS RUTKAUSKAS, BENAS PAKONIS, HMAD FAROOQ

SENIOR BOYS HURLING

The senior boys hurling team of Ballyhaunis Community School had a great year with many successful wins on the field.

They trained relentlessly, even meeting up throughout the Christmas holiday for some extra sessions.

The captain of the team was Calum Gardiner.

The boys played incredibly well during the year, winning all of their games except for one.

The boys won the county final beating Rice College in the final. They lost the Connaught final to a very strong Mountbellew team on a score line of 3-16 to 3-7.

Some of their matches included: Roscommon C.B.S. – 4-9 to 1-2, Rice College – 10-14 to 4-6, Ballygar – 1-15 to 2-9, New Inn – 1-17 to 0-15, Mountbellew – 3-7 to 3-16.

Well done to the lads and a big thanks to Mr. Wooley and Nicholas Freyne for his efforts during the year.



BACK: MR. WOOLLY, EOIN DELANEY, MICHAEL FREYNE, BOBBY DOUGLAS, SEAN KENNY, JOHN REIDY, CALUM GARDINER, ENDA CRAWLEY, KEVIN NEENAN, NICHOLAS FREYNE
FRONT: UNEEB NASEER, CIARÁN DOHERTY, LIAM LAVIN, SEAN FRAYNE, CORMAC PHILLIPS, TIERNAN MURPHY, EAMONN PHILLIPS
MISSING FROM PHOTO: JACK COYNE, CONOR HUNT, RYAN KEADIN, OISIN GREALLY, CONOR KEANE, BRIAN O'NEILL, JACK DEEGAN, JAMES FRAYNE, DECLAN HENRY, DANNY HILL, KEEVAN MURPHY, DARA HEALY

SENIOR BOYS GAEILIC



PICTURE TAKEN FROM THE CONNAUGHT SENIOR FOOTBALL SEMI-FINAL AT THE CONNAUGHT CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

BACK: MR. WOOLLEY (TRAINER), BRIAN O'NEILL, MICHAEL FREYNE, EOIN DELANEY, SEAN FRAYNE, JASON MEEHAN, LIAM HERR, ENDA CRAWLEY, NEVAN FANNON, CALUM GARDINER, BOBBY DOUGLAS, NEIL CARNEY, TIERNAN MURPHY, MICHAEL MCGARRY, PATRICK CAULFIELD, WILLIAMS GANLEY, MR. RYAN (TRAINER)

FRONT: KEEVAN MURPHY, ZOUHIR RAHMANI, DAVID CUNNANE, JACK HIGGINS, CORMAC PHILLIPS, DIARMUID DUFFY, DAVID HESSON, CONOR HUNT, JACK COYNE, SEAN KENNY, CIAN RUANE, DYLAN RUANE, EAMONN PHILLIPS, KEVIN NEENAN

This year was very successful for the Senior boys football in B.C.S. They started off their year with a blitz that was held in the Connaught Centre of Excellence in Began on the 14th of September 2016. They went on to win this by beating Louisburgh at a score of 5-10 to 2-14. This resulted in the lads winning the Flanagan Cup. Their next game was against Balla. The lads played extremely well and Balla struggled to match their high skill levels which lead to Ballyhaunis winning 9-14 to 3-08. From this game the lads went on to play Foxford who they successfully defeated at a score of 5-17 to 0-07. This success lead the lads to the knockout stages where their hard work was put to the test. The lads played Crossmolina in the Connaught Quarter Final. This was their first time this year playing on the astroturf which was a big change from the muddy school pitch that they were accustomed to training on. This however didn't affect their performance and they went on to win by a score of 5-09 to 4-02. They proceeded to beat Strokestown in the Connaught Semi-Final at a score of 1-09 to 0-07 which lead them to playing Glenamaddy in the Connaught Final.

After a hard fought match, Ballyhaunis came out on top with a score of 1-10 to 0-08. This was Ballyhaunis' first time winning a competitive Senior Schools Final in sixteen years. This was a huge achievement for both players and management and it was no doubt as a result of the huge commitment by everyone involved throughout the season. After winning six out of six games the lads then went on to compete in the Championship Quarter Final against St. Pauls Oughterad. St. Pauls were not equipped to handle an impressive Ballyhaunis side and B.C.S went on to win this game by a score of 1-10 to 0-05. Ballyhaunis now faced old rivals Glenamaddy in the Championship Semi-Final. This game was closely fought by both sides but thanks to the lads hard work and determination they beat Glenamaddy for the second time this year by a score of 2-14 to 3-07. Winning this game insured B.C.S a place in the Championship Final against Strokestown. The lads fought tirelessly but unfortunately Strokestown were the better team on the day. Although the lads were both disappointed and disheartened by the loss, Mr. Wooley and Mr. Ryan were quick to point out that this was the only loss they had all year, winning eight out of nine games they played. Both management and all the players should be extremely proud of their fantastic achievements this year. Well done to all involved!

By Aoife Conway - TY

YEARBOOK EDITORS MESSAGE

The yearbook can be a daunting task for all teachers and students involved. The task this year was made much easier because of the tireless efforts of the TY class. Their enthusiasm for work and ability to carry it out was a breath of fresh air for an editor. The task was also eased by the addition of Ms. Glavey to the team.

So, first of all I would like to thanks Ms. Glavey and the TY class for their efforts in getting this major school publication to print. Fr. Stephen Farragher is the next person I have to thank. The amount of time he gives up to come to the school and take and edit photos cannot be underestimated. It was not just the TY students, Ms. Glavey and I that made this publication possible. The input of a huge number of other staff and students must also be recognised. I would particularly like to thank, Mr. McGarry, Ms. Macken, Mr. McDonagh, Ms. Morrison, Ms. Fallon. I would also like to thank Berry Printing for their hard work and professionalism in putting together this publication. Sean McCormack and Laurie Concannon deserve great praise for making the publication look so well. Finally I would like to wish all Leaving and Junior Certificate students the best of luck in their exams.

M. Ginty



GRADUATION



BABY PHOTOS



1 – CONOR COLL, 2 – DANIELLE COYNE, 3 - DEARBHLA AND EAMONN PHILLIPS, 4 – SEAN KENNY, 5 – MOHAMMAD RAHMANI, RUHAA SHIHA, ZOUHIR RAHMANI, 6 – DIARMUID KEANE, 7 – HAMAD FAROOQ, 8 – LIAM FOODY AND DANIELLE COYNE, 9 - TIERNAN MURPHY, 10 - CIARA AND NIAMH FLANNAGAN, 11 – GABY MURPHY AND DANIELLE COYNE

LEAVING CERT AWARDS 2017

Soundest:

Conor Sloyan & Marina Carney

Drama King / Queen:

Brian O'Neill & Gaby Murphy

Class Clown:

Tiernan Murphy & Marina Carney

Sportsperson of the Year:

Michael McGarry & Sive Duffy

Musician of the Year:

Liam Foody & Courtney Mulhall Gibbons

Nerd of the Year:

Cathal Hosty & Rachel Lyons

Babe of the Year:

Eamonn Phillips & Shauna Murray

Rear of the Year:

Cormac Phillips & Jennifer Battle

Nicest Smile:

Sean Kenny & Gaby Murphy

Best Hair:

Tiernan Murphy & Marina Carney

Most likely to become Taoiseach:

James Duggan & Joanne Coffey

Win Lotto, lose ticket:

Johnny Kenny & Sive Duffy

Snapchatter of the Year:

Uneeb Nazeer & Rebecca Finn

Most likely not to return from the Debs:

Galen O'Reilly & Shauna Murray

Scanner of the Year:

Keith Forde & Ciara Flanagan

Couple of the Year:

Cormac Phillips & Grainne Robinson
Rebecca Finn & Sean Doyle

Teachers

Soudest:

Mr.Noone & Ms. Varden

Hottest:

Mr.Shannon & Ms.Clavey

Funniest:

Mr.Murray & Ms.Fallon

Best-dressed:

Mr.Murray & Ms.Clavey

Most likely to meet on a night out:

Mr.Woolley & Ms.O'Brien



MEMORY LANE 2017

It's been a memorable five, or for some six years in BCS. It's true to say that we are all ready and eager to embark on a new adventure and see what the world has to offer, but let us take a look back on some of the most memorable adventures during our time together.

We came into first year drowning in our uniforms and unaware what eyebrows were...which is quite an achievement in itself. It's hard to know where to begin. We were soon put in our places by the authoritative voice of Mrs O'Loughlin. "You might have won the battle but who won the war?" New romances were soon underway with a few cheeky kicks of a chair from Cormac to Gráinne which is still going strong.

Moving onto second year we were slowly climbing up the ranks. Coming back from football matches the second year girls camped out six to a cubicle avoiding a dreaded science test (apologies to our C area teachers). Lunch time battles became a regular occurrence as the scary seniors took away the devilment of our second year lads on the pitch. It is still unknown if they were playing kiss catch or football. As second year came to a close the dreaded words Junior Cert echoed in the back of our minds.

A love/hate relationship began between Mrs Brogan and her third year geography class. As she said herself "Get down the back where I won't have to look at you" or tried to take the quick escape from the planes flying above. Keith Forde took it upon himself to take extra safety precautions bringing a fire extinguisher into Ms McHugh's history class. Little did we know we could have done with this when Mr Murray decided to make third year science a little more "lit" than usual. The annual trip the Ballintubber Abbey was sure to be an enjoyable and mucky experience. When the JC finally came around we all crammed in some last minute study the night before in the hopes of getting the much appreciated A in CSPE.

While the third years had just begun to settle in with their study for the big JC, us TY's were off celebrating the results of ours. Amongst all the excitement Jess took the saying "jumping for joy" a little too literally and ended up clashing heads with the wall on the rush down the stairs of the gym. Not even a mild concussion could stop us gallivanting off to Cartown for one last time. It was soon time to put our JC days behind us and begin the journey of becoming mature and sophisticated Ty's, we did have navy jumpers after all! The much anticipated annual trip to Killary was soon upon us and so we packed our bags and set off. What better way to bond than dragging each other through mud and scaring the daylight out of one another with scary and slightly exaggerated stories by the campfire. However some people may have tried to get to know others too well and perhaps tested the boundaries of 'bonding'.

Without a doubt TY was jam packed with unforgettable memories. Sport was a huge outlet for us especially with the introduction of Johnny Griff, who led the junior girls to Connaught victory (with the vital help of Eamonn and Sean of course). Brendan got to show off his horse riding skills whether he wanted to or not when Sive let go of the reigns. We can't reminisce on TY without mentioning the BCS lighthouse bank, a slight cause of contention among the group but Sean couldn't complain when he got up close and personal to the 'Gooch' Cooper, some would say a little too close.

I'm sure we can agree that the highlight of the year was our trip to Paris. Here we got to see some of the most beautiful monuments in the world, however for some reason one particular view from our hotel room is always what springs to mind first. Let's just say we all learned a valuable lesson on that trip...always keep your curtains closed! Of course no trip would be complete without the typical game of truth or dare. So on our final night 24 of us crammed into one two bed room. While Brian and Eamonn took their friendship to the next level, Gaby and Cians took a turn for the worse. On our final day we lost ourselves in the breath taking artwork of the Louvre...Brian of course literally lost himself.

As fifth year dawned we were faced with new subjects, classes and teachers as we moved from junior cycle to senior cycle. Some of our year had left us to do TY and LCA however we were delighted to gain 24 new incredibly mature and wise students as the TY class of 2015 joined us.

We were just settling down to the reality of fifth year when we were off again, this time the wild Atlantic coast of Achill called. This was our first time together and it's fair to say Mr Murray and Ms Comer had their hands full.

We were back to school just getting into the swing of this studying lark and what came along but "Popstars the musical". The audition process allowed Eamonn and Sean to embrace their bromance as their rendition of Bruno Mars "You can count on me" brought the room to tears. Tiernan's rapping skills were brought to the fore, Shauna's dopey side shone through and Eleanor's true colours were brought to life. Even when the music failed Mrs Devine acted like a true professional and belted out "Saturday night" on the piano. Indeed our Saturday night in Gtown marked "the end of the road" of our showbiz careers. The following week in school was not so enjoyable and Benas was constantly reminded of his enjoyable weekend.

As a fun filled summer came to a close, it was time to buckle down to some serious work. Just as we were settling into a normal routine, they decided to close down the A-Area a place that was full of third year and TY memories – maybe an indication that it was time to put those times to the back of our minds and get down to the real world. While the girls were studying hard the lads were participating in any sport available to them – from GAA Connaught finals to badminton tournaments, the opportunities were endless.

With mocks looming and everyone checking twitter more often than usual. It took a lot of work and a few tears during maths paper 2 but we finally put them behind us. We sure celebrated in style. There was a high crime rate in Westport that night from kidnapping to arrests, who knew we had it in us.

The orals were soon upon us and the transition from French to Irish proved to be quite the task for some. After a much deserved Easter break, we were thrown into the deep end with four days to pull our entire graduation ceremony together. Of course with the help of Ms Macken and the religion department, everything ran smoothly. We headed off to Carrick for one last time before the dreaded LC.

And here we are, putting the final touches on our Leaving Cert memory lane. Our time here has consisted of some of the best years of our lives and we certainly won't forget them in a hurry.

Chloe Ryan, Eleanor Harrison, Shauna Murray, Grainne Robinson, Rachel Lyons, Danielle Coyne, Rachel Timoney, Gaby Murphy, Megan Morley, Rebecca Finn, Eamonn Phillips.

