

CLONKEEN CHRONICLE

PRINCIPAL'S FOREWORD

AUTUMN 2009

Principal's Foreword.

The first Clonkeen Chronicle of the year affords me the opportunity to reflect on what has been a very busy and fulfilling start to the academic year 2009/2010. It also allows me to consider the many layers that make up the living fabric of our school. There is a wide range of school activities to consider, and all of them reflect well on the people involved, and it would only be right for me to express my sincere thanks to one and all; staff, parents, members of the wider school community, past pupils and, of course, our current students. In particular, it's wonderful to see so many members of the teaching

staff giving of their time and so many of our boys enthusiastically enjoying the opportunities offered.

I would like to offer a special welcome to our first years. Each of you brings your unique and special gifts to Clonkeen College. I simply ask four things of you:

1. Be happy.
2. Contribute something back to the school.
3. Mature.
4. Fulfil your potential.

As with the First Years, the teaching staff and I also have the refreshing and renewing challenge of furthering the development of each distinct year group as they move up the school,

growing all the while from boys to young men.

Well done to all our students in continuing the Clonkeen tradition of high performance in the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate examinations. We wish you well as you now set sail away from your old *alma mater*! Never forget that you are always very welcome to drop back for a chat, a cup of tea and a nice serving of nostalgic reminiscences!

The Encounter Programme

And Clonkeen College.

On Thursday 5th November, 2009, eight Leaving Certificate students and two teachers, Mr. Clem McGauley and Mr. Damien O' Hora, left Clonkeen College bound for Vancouver, Canada. The purpose of this trip was for the students to train as leaders in the inaugural Clonkeen College *Encounter Programme*.

The *Encounter Programme* is a student-led event under the supervision of teachers where the participants share their personal stories in a safe, caring and supportive environment which is very respectful of their emotional and psychological age.

The following Leaving Certificate students were selected as the eight student leaders for the *Encounter Programme*:

Denis Dowling, Cillian Casey, Patrick McRedmond, Conor O' Regan, Ben Nugent, Chris Campbell, Darragh O' Loughlin, Shane Dawson.

A Fond Farewell to Mr. Ciarán Collins.

Along with our departing sixth years, we must unfortunately say goodbye to our valued colleague and friend, Mr. Ciarán Collins, who has decided to return to his *alma mater* Hamilton High School, Bandon, Co. Cork. Obviously, the lure of life in Cork was just too strong for this Corkman! What a contribution though that he made to our College over his years here with us! An excellent Irish and English teacher, Ciarán also worked tirelessly to promote hurling within the College. He also served on the outgoing Board of Management for the last three

years. We will never forget him and we hope that he, too, will remember us fondly.

Junior and Leaving Certificate Results.

Congratulations to our Junior and Leaving Certificate students on their excellent results.

Six students, Andrew Boyle, Stephen Cleary, Killian Farrell, Eoghan Harney, Ronan Mahony and Rory O' Driscoll deserve particular congratulations on being selected as the recipients of seven various Third level scholarships for their outstanding Leaving Certificate results.

All these scholarships are awarded for high performance in the 2009 Leaving Certificate. Congratulations again to all the recipients and indeed to all the strong performing class of 2009.

The JP McManus All Ireland Scholarships.

Four students, Stephen Cleary, Killian Farrell, Ronan Mahony and Andrew Boyle will be awarded J.P. McManus All Ireland Scholarships at a ceremony in Limerick on Saturday, November 21st for their outstanding Leaving Certificate results. Killian is reading Engineering in UCD, Andrew is studying Physiotherapy in UCD while Stephen is pursuing Film Studies in the IADT in Dún Laoghaire. Ronan is studying Finance and Actuarial in UCD.

The JP McManus Scholarships began in 2008 when Mr. McManus donated € 24 million to the scheme that provides for 120 scholarships to non-fee paying school students entering Third Level education. The scheme provides scholarships to the value of €6750 per annum. Our tally of 4 scholarships out of a nationwide (32 county) total of 120, is a reflection of the truly effective work being conducted by our outstanding teachers and students.

UCD Scholarships

Andrew Boyle will be awarded the UCD Sports Scholarship. Andrew's sport of choice is rugby. To his immense credit, he played for the Irish Youth team in two consecutive European Championships, the first in Toulon, in southern France and the second in Milan, Italy. Meanwhile, Rory O'Driscoll will receive the UCD College of Business and Law Scholarship. He is reading Business and Legal in UCD. These two awards will be presented on November 20th in the O' Reilly Hall in UCD.

TCD Scholarship.

Finally, Eoghan Harney will receive the Trinity College Dublin Entrance Exhibition Award for 2009 for his outstanding results in the Leaving Certificate. Eoghan is studying Theoretical Physics which really plays to his strengths.

Past Pupils Golf Outing 2009

Once again we had a very successful day in September. The golf outing was held in the Druids Glen Golf Club, it was a lovely day and the food and entertainment after was enjoyed by everyone. We had 104 players and the prizes went to:- 1st Prize-Dermot McCarthy (Retail Integrations), 2nd Prize -Zurich - Life Assurance 3rd Prize -Cullen & Bohan There was a lot of sponsors, considering the year that was in it. We were delighted to raise some more funds for the School. It was great to have support from the past pupils of the School. Next year's golf outing is to be announced. If interested in putting in a team please contact

Paula Fry @086.61.79.000.

Paula Fry

Gaisce: The President's Award

Congratulations to over 20 students from the present 5th year who received their Bronze Gaisce Award in May 2009. Students from the same group are due to receive their Silver award in the coming weeks.

It's an exciting time for past pupil Chris Corrigan (L.C. 2005). Chris received the silver Award while attending Clonkeen College and endeavoured to strive for gold afterwards. His gold project has been submitted this week and he awaits the results of whether he will achieve the gold medal, which the president Mary McAleese will present in March 2010. Well done to Chris for all his efforts and achievements in all areas of the award (community involvement, sport, personal skill and adventure). The award takes 2 years to complete and we are confident he will be the second Clonkeen student to achieve the gold in conjunction with the College. Good luck Chris

E Gibson

New Clonkeen College Board of Management.

This year sees a new Board of Management begin its term of office. Each term of office lasts for three years. The level of personal, as well as completely voluntary, commitment required to serve on the Board of any school is considerable and Clonkeen College is no exception.

Great credit is due to our own Chairman, Mr Maurice Hedderman, who is continuing for a fourth term, and to Ms Paula McCarthy, Mr David Megan, and Mr Michael Sally who are each continuing for a second term. Michael and David are both past pupils who have been very supportive of recent developments in the school. Paula, a former Chairperson of the Parent Council, has given great service to the school over the past eight years.

A warm welcome is due to the new board members; Ms Grainne McGovern, Ms Siobhan Mooney, Mr Gerry Killion and Mr Andrew McBride. They have a very busy schedule ahead as they undertake their new duties. Finally, we bid farewell to our outgoing Board members, Ms Mary Ryan, Mr David Doody, Mr John Flynn and Mr Ciaran Collins, who have given tremen-

Graduation Ball.

The Leaving Certificate class of 2009, looking suitably dashing and accompanied by glamorous young ladies, thoroughly enjoyed their Graduation Ball on

dous service over the last three years.

Debating Society

First of all, a very warm welcome to all new members of the debating society! We are now taking first years, and they are fast becoming the most talented and enthusiastic members, putting the rest of us to shame! The society is always seeking new members and ALL are welcome to join, so if your interested in getting involved, come along to one of our debates (as advertised on the walls around the school) and talk to one of the sixth years organising the debate.

The year started interestingly when the 6th years squared off against the 3rd years in a debate on the future of Dublin zoo. Though **Ben Corbett**, **Tom Toner** and **Carl Wallace** made a brilliant case, they were narrowly defeated by the men with the experience, after a vote by the 1st and 2nd years.

Congratulations to **Colin Egan** and **Colin O'Shaughnessy**, who recently took part in the *Denny's Debating Competition* at UCD. The latter got through to the next round, after debating the topic of compulsory organ donation. Best of luck in the next round.

While yours truly had an abso-

Monday, October 5th last in the Old Darnley Hotel, Athboy, following a reception in the school hosted, as ever, by the Parent Council Social Committee. Mr. Twomey, Mr. Barry and

lute ball of a time at the International conference of the European Youth Parliament (EYP) in Helsinki recently, **Darragh Nolan** was also strutting his stuff at the Leinster regional conference of the EYP. While Darragh's aim at the moment is to be invited to the national conference, it is important to stress that EYP is not a competition per se, but rather an excellent opportunity for young people to have their say, while at the same time meeting new people and having the craic!

Finally, welcome back **Ms McEvoy!** She has been helping out the society recently, and herself and the current members will come to the fore next year when the sixth years step down.

Debating is clearly in safe hands so! **Niall Murphy**

The CD project

This year's music project will be starting very soon. This is where students get to write, record and perform their own songs and music. The main purpose is to make a CD album. In previous years we have sold a lot of CD's and raised around €650 for the third world Group. Listen out for further details.

J Clarke

several teachers attended the dinner and we would like to thank the students' organising committee for their kind invitations.

Panto

THE GINGERBREAD MAN

The delicious smell of baking has been wafting through the doors of Room 18 of late. Has Clonkeen College introduced Home Economics at last? Sadly, no. But the good news is that this year's Panto offering, 'The Gingerbread Man' is cooking nicely and should be perfectly done in time for the shows on Friday 4th December at 7.30pm and Saturday 5th December at 3 p m a n d 7 . 3 0 p m . This year sees Celebrity Chefs Ainsley and Harriet (Jamie Whitehouse & Ben Corbett) create the perfect Gingerbread Man, Dougal (Alex Jordan). The dynamic duo pit their wits against the evil biscuit maker Farrah Fox (jenny Moran)

and her sidekicks Jacob McVitie (Daniel Baker), Gary Baldy (Conor Scanlon) and Marietta (Kevin Mooney). The pair set off on a chase of epic proportions, joined by their triplet neices Kimberly, Mikado and Coconut Cream, a life-size Barbie doll and a cow called Belinda (Daniel Whitehouse). Along the way, they have a dance at Wesley, cross the East Link Bridge and produce their very own cookery show. In an explosive debut, Clonkeen's own Dennis Shankey-Smith steps ably into the narrator's shoes, and keeps the whole show moving along energetically. The show is produced and directed by local Drama Teacher Ciara Phelan, and Jean Igoe is choreographer & production

assistant. 'The Gingerbread Man' is the perfect remedy for the recession blues & a great way to kick off the Christmas Season. So come and support your school on 4th/5th December!!! Don't miss it.

Ciara Phelan

Tennis

Gareth O Carroll has the Clonkeen Tennis Club up and running in Meadowvale Tennis Club. He will be in school again shortly to announce details of membership for any students who would like to join up. This is a great way to learn and improve your Tennis Skills. Teams for the Leinster Summer Leagues will be chosen from the members of the club.

J Keogh / J Clarke

What's a "Muriel?"

On the art room wall there is a "Muriel" of tony Tiger with a speech bubble exclaiming "Be more visual". This certainly seems to be the motto adopted by those art students involved in enhancing the classrooms and corridors of Clonkeen College. The proposed plan is to visually improve the whole school. The proposed plan is to visually improve the whole school environment through art and a number of parallel projects.

A few years ago we started on the foyer, with a commissioned sculpture celebrating the millennium and acknowledge the enormous contribution made to education by the Christian Brothers throughout the world. A boxed stained glass depicting the life of Edmund Rice can also be seen in the entrance. So began the visual journey to improve the school building.

The transition Year classrooms have now been totally transformed. T.Y. pupils now study against a backdrop of images from the surreal to the sublime. First years returned after Halloween to a display of magnificent art work decorating the corridors of the S-Block. A number of individual assignments can also be seen hanging, from James O'Farrell's painting depicting a roughish Albert Einstein outside the physics Laboratory to Mark Hughes and Eoghan Keegan's interpretation of the double helix outside the Biology Lab. Craig O'Heir's creative work can be seen in the stairwell.

Great credit is due to the following who gave their time and talent: Denis Shanky Smith, James O Farrell, Billy Crosbie, Eoghan Keegan, Matthew Richardson, Conor Horgan-Gaul, Eoghan Shanky-Smith, and Aaron Kinsella.

Fifth year students at the moment are working on large paintings for the classrooms on the first floor. Themes based on the work of Picasso's "Guernica" and Katsushika's Japanese prints are just a few of the ideas selected. A special

thanks to Adam Byrne-Hetherington, Stephen Lehane, Ivan and Ronan Sherri-dan, Adam Small, Saul Fidgeon, Oran Colloun, James lee, Damian Crosbie, Mark Hughes and Conor Scanlon. Watch the sheltered spaces for Damien and Ronans's artwork.

One cannot fail to be impressed by the large canvas on the stairwell donated to the school by Jason Dunne, this work is of an exceptionally high standard. A number of past pupils have also offered their artwork to adorn the walls of Clonkeen college. Robert Gaffney has agreed to be artist in residence to oversee a student self portrait module. Photographs, prints and paintings from the wider school community are always appreciated and contribute to the visual education of the pupils. What better way to pursue ones academic dreams than against a backdrop of artwork. Mr Sheehy the head coach is seeking a mural to brighten up the changing rooms. Sage words indeed from tony tiger.

K. O'Donoghue

Promoting Positive Behaviour in Clonkeen College

Last year we ran a pilot scheme with first year students to create and promote a more positive environment for teaching and learning. The overall objective was to focus on recognizing, endorsing and rewarding good behaviour within the three first year classes. Having had great results and feedback from last year, we are pleased to announce that the scheme has now been extended into second year. Good luck to the first and second years, keep up the great work and roll on the rewards!

J Egan

Third World Support Group

As ever, The Third World Support Group is hard at work fundraising to support our various causes. With only one collection so far this term, the recession is undoubtedly taking it's toll. Fortunately, the new Past Pupil's Group are providing great support; fundraising and helping us to organise the annual quiz night in Cuala, which promises to be another memorable night. This year it's on the 19th November, tickets will be on sale in the school very soon at €60 per table of four. Make a note on your calendar!

The Prefect-Teacher football match, which is held annually in

aid of Africa, has unfortunately been postponed due to the bad weather (not Mr. McBride's injury!). Hopefully it will take place as soon as possible; the prefects are anxious to inflict yet another defeat on the poor teachers.

Christmas promises to be another busy one for us; be sure to watch out for us singing Christmas carols in Blackrock and Dun Laoghaire all day on Christmas Eve. Shortly after that, Eoin Campbell and Tristan McCann will visit Thome Primary School in Gilgil, Kenya. We intend to redevelop this school over the next decade, our

current focus is on the appalling sanitation of the latrines at the school; many girls don't attend school because of the risk of disease from these filthy holes in the ground. We hope to raise the money to fix this problem as soon as possible. In September we sent out the first moneys to Thome, we played for a new drinking water system which will be invaluable to a village characterised by harsh weather. This is something that everyone agrees makes all the hard work worthwhile.

Colin O'Shaughnessy

European Youth Parliament

Each October, an invitation is sent to every school to take part in the regional session of the European Youth Parliament.

After attending the regionals and later the national conference (with Colin Egan and Colin O'Shaughnessy) I received word through the school that I would be heading to Helsinki as one of nine Irish delegates.

Once you have been to an international session, you are invited to the summer session and from there on you are one of the alumni. This means you can work at regionals, nationals and internationals across Europe for the next couple of years.

When you go to a session, your main aim is to draft a resolution, on a difficult issue of our day. The adrenalin of General Assembly, the satisfaction of drafting a good resolution, and discussing the major topics of our day are quite enticing. But it's the teambuilding, the new friends and the craic, the Eurovillage or the Euroconcert that truly do appeal to delegates.

Helsinki had all of that and more. The sense of camaraderie among all the delegates from different countries, the

way in which we all clicked together and (forgive the cliché) became united in our diversity, was truly amazing. Having dinner with the Norwegians, ending up in tears upon hearing the heart wrenching story of the Georgian in my room whose life had been torn apart by war, looking out onto the main cathedral; that truly is something very different and unique. Having my resolution passed (The EYP would have Iceland as a member of the EU) and making the last speech of the General Assembly was the icing on the cake. It was brilliant. I had a fantastic time. I am looking forward to Frankfurt already, and then, the journey begins! **Niall Murphy (6th year)**

International Mathematical Olympiad

Last May, Colin Egan qualified as one of six people to represent Ireland at the International Mathematical Olympiad, a challenging maths competition which was held this July in Bremen, Germany. It was a big event, being the 50th anniversary of the competition, with 565 competitors representing 104 countries. Colin was there for ten days, two of which were taken up

with maths exams, and the rest with preparation, ceremonies and sight-seeing. It was a particularly enjoyable experience, even if they didn't come away with medals, but they were still happy with our performance. Colin hopes to represent Ireland at the competition again next summer, all going well.

Great to see our students representing the country in such diverse areas. Well done. D. Ed

Chess

There have been a lot of friendly games played lately as the players have been honing their skills in preparation for competition time.

Two teams will be selected in the coming weeks to represent Clonkeen in the Leinster Schools League. The school tournament will also commence shortly with Eoin Brennan (R1), Clonkeen's current chess champion, aiming to hold onto his title.

The chess club runs every Monday from 4pm to 5pm, new players are always welcome.

C McLoughlin

BUSY "COMMUNICATING"

Clonkeen has an established reputation in terms of stage-work. On the 19th of October, nine lads altogether from 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th year competed in the prestigious "Poetry Aloud" competition in the National Library, accompanied by Mr. Byrne and Miss. Lester. Barry Lenihan won through to the semi-final round on the 4th of December where he will compete with schools from the 32 counties. Well done to all involved!

Congratulations also to Saul Fidgeon (5th), who has become one of the schools first playwrights with his script "Games". Watch this space....

Also, best wishes to Darragh Nolan, Michael Whelan, Stephen Lehane, Vincent Browne (5th years) and all involved in the Mental Health Public Speaking Team who are competing on the 12th of November.

Miss Lester will begin shortly in her efforts to try and maintain our proud record at the St. Andrew's One Act Drama Festival, whilst many of the lads from all years will be competing in the Cabinteely Drama Festival on the 21st of November. On this occasion, many of the lads will be competing against each other for rival drama groups...but all hoping to do something Clonkeen always does...win.

Barry Lenihan 6th Year

Dublin Senior Hurling Team.

For the first time ever, two Clonkeen College past pupils were members of the Dublin Senior Hurling team. Oisín Gough played at no. 4 while David Treacy played at no. 15. Dublin defeated Wexford in the Leinster Senior Inter-County Hurling Semi-Final and gave Kilkenny, the defending champions aiming for a four in a row of Senior All-Ireland titles, quite a match before losing out narrowly in the Leinster Final. Both Oisín and David put in outstanding performances on the day and throughout the campaign. David was rewarded for his impressive displays with an All-Star nomination, a terrific achievement in his debut season with the Senior team.

Dublin Minor Football Panel.

Conor O' Brien (6th Year) was a member of the Dublin Minor Football Panel this summer. The Dublin minors beat Louth, Laois, Offaly and finally Kildare after extra-time in a replay of the Leinster Final to clinch the Leinster title. Unfortunately Dublin later lost to Down in the All-Ireland semi-final. Well done though to Conor. Watch out for him on the school Senior football team when he recovers from his recent injury.

Br. Kelly

MANCHESTER UNITED TOUR 2009

On Saturday, 19th September, 49 students and 5 teachers met at the school at 6.30 a.m. to start the annual trip to Manchester. We took the ferry from Dublin Port and arrived at the 'Theatre of Dreams'-Old Trafford at 3 p.m. We had a limited tour of the stadium due to the early kick-off the following day. The Trafford Centre was our venue for evening meal and shopping and plenty of bargains were found.

Sunday was the highlight of our trip. We headed straight to Old Trafford to soak up the pre-match atmosphere and for some shopping in the Megastore. Man. City were the opponents and the atmosphere was electric. The match itself surpassed our wildest expectations as we were treated to a seven goal feast of football. Goals came from Rooney, Fletcher(2) and the best of all was saved for last when Michael Owen scored the winner in injury time. Manchester United won the match 4-3. After the match we visited the Imperial War museum where the lads had the opportunity to get a feel of life during war and the chance to view the city from the tower. We then travelled to the Trafford Centre for dinner and more shopping.

We returned home on Monday stopping off en route in the Welsh village with the longest name!

Looking forward to next year already!

C.McGauley, P.Murray, O.Brougham, J.Clarke, M.Brennan.

Golf The year started in Delgany Golf Club on the 11th September with a competition to choose a panel of players to represent the school at the various competitions throughout the year.

The results provided a panel comprising Jamie Keenan (1st), James Lee (2nd), Alex Keaney (3rd) and Cian O Hara.

Thanks to Paula McCarthy and Catherine Keenan for their continued support.

Inter schools Competition results:

The Irish Schools (Matchplay) Championship 2010 was held in the Hermitage Golf Club on the 25th of September. The school was represented on the day by Jamie Keenan, James Lee and Alex Keaney. The boys narrowly lost out to Gonzaga College but provided a good start to the season.

The next day out was the Irish Schools (Strokeplay) Championship at Clontarf Golf Club. Here we were ably represented by Alex Keaney, Ciaran Feeney and Jamie Keenan. The leading qualifier was St Fintans School with Clonkeen College once again well up in the running.

As we go to print, the third senior competition, the Leinster Inter Schools League Matchplay Trophy, is in progress. Despite a slow start with 2 games to go we are still in the running.

B. Noonan

U-14 GAELIC FOOTBALL

Our U-14 campaign came to halt in November when a very good **St. MacDara's** side defeated us by 12 points. The margin did not do justice however to our heroic efforts as we battled for the hour, matching our opponents stride for stride. It really was an excellent performance.

Special mention must go to our **2nd Years** who are moving on to U-16. The following have trained continuously since September '08, gaining **All-Star** awards last year, and have continued their dedication this year: **Eoin Brennan, Danny O'Hara, Daniel Flynn-Fallon, Conor O'Sullivan, Steven Byrne, Anthony Clarke, Neil Costello, Jordan Fidgeon** and **Shreyash Pattanayak**. Well done for setting such an example to the 1st Years.

Since September 7th we have had **13 training sessions** and a couple of internal trial matches with the players showing great dedication

We got straight into our U-14 League with nearly 50 players turning up for Matchday 1. This'll be part of our GAA 125 celebrations which will see a Jersey Day, a 1st Year Quiz and Medal Presentations for our successful teams from last May. The players will vote on their favourite GAA heroes, with prizes for the best stories from home about the legends of our games, past and present! More to follow!

Finally, well done **Conor O'Sullivan** on a fine speech at the end of our last match, where he passed the mantle onto the 1st Years urging them to go on and retain the **Tom Quinlan Shield** for Clonkeen. ! It's up to the 1st Years now! And there'll be plenty of more days for the 2nd Years!

Pauline Murray and Jim Lynch

U18 Gaelic Football The U18 Gaelic football team have played two challenge games in the build up to the first round match. The first match was played against Oatlands which ended in a 5 point defeat for Clonkeen however the team played very well in bad conditions. The second challenge match was played against Colaiste Eoin who are a very strong Division one team. This was a great test for Clonkeen and it was a challenge that the lads met head on despite missing several players Clonkeen ran Colaiste Eoin very close and at the end were only 4 points behind. Every Clonkeen man played great and it would be unfair to pick any one man out for attention. We play Chanel College in the first round so we are confident that we can go one better than last year

E. Sheehy, E. Kavanagh, M Brennan, J O Reilly, T Bennett (Management)

U18 Hurling The U18 hurling year was a quite one for Clonkeen in that we only played two games which both ended in defeat. However the lads showed great work ethic in both games and despite going several points down never gave up. We were very unlucky to have 3 of our best players out through injury. Most of the lads came up from the U16s so they will all be under age again next year and we will give it a right go.

Management (E. Sheehy, E Kavanagh, T Bennett, Br. Kelly, M. Ryan)

U16 Hurling: The u16 just missed out on the playoffs however we beat our rivals Oatlands in our first match on a scoreline of 2-18 to 1-7. Great performances in that match from all the lads 1-15. This match was followed by defeats to Templeogue College and St Colmcilles. Again like the u18s we were depleted with injuries to at least 7 players after the Oatlands match. This group of players are a very talented group and will have many great days ahead in the Clonkeen jersey.

Management (E. Sheehy, E, Kavanagh, T. Bennett, M Ryan, Br. Kelly)

U13 Soccer is not scheduled to officially kick-off until early December but already the 1st Years have been out training hard and making an impression on Mr McBride. After four rounds of training, with a few more to go before the first match squad is picked, and a fantastic turnout for each session, this years U13 team are nearly ready for competitive action.

So far there has been almost thirty players at each training session, sometimes more, and the commitment of our new first years has been evident in their willingness to train in some of the worst weather of the year. They have braved wind and rain, as well as the recent cold spell. It takes time to become familiar with all the new faces and to assess their ability, but more is known with each training session. Already we can see that this year's U13s have good ability and attitude. We expect that this will set up Clonkeen U13s to give a very good account of themselves over the course of the year.

J Toomey A McBride

U16 Soccer

There was an enormous turn-out for U16 Soccer this year, with over forty players turning up at training sessions. The attitude and commitment of the students to the school team has been outstanding and they and their teachers have given up countless lunchtimes to train. For many of the students who turned out it was maybe a year too early for them, with many still being U15, but their chance will come next year.

The League Since the difficult task of trimming down the squad to twenty-two players had been completed, and the games got under way, the team have grown and played better with each game. In the first League game Clonkeen drew 2-2 with a very strong Tallaght Community College team. Next up in the League was Moyle Park College, where we travelled away with almost half the team out injured or sick. We came away with a good 2-2 draw, with Aaron Murphy grabbing both goals, including a last minute equalizer. The final game in the League will bring us away and face to face with St Benildus College. It's expected to be a very difficult game but it will have to be won if we are to progress to the knock-out stages the League.

The Cup The first round of the Cup had us drawn against St Benildus College at home, who we still have to play in the League. In a very difficult and hard fought game Clonkeen U16s won 3-2 after extra-time. The second round of the Cup brought another home game, this time against Cabinteely Community School. After going 1-0 up early on Clonkeen took their eye off the game and conceded an equalizer that levelled the game at 1-1. That seemed to be the shock to the system that was required and in the end Clonkeen ran out 6-1 winners and progressed safely to the next round of the Cup. At present, Clonkeen U16s remain in both the League and the Cup, with a very tough, must-win final League game against St Benildus College in the coming weeks, and the eagerly awaited draw for the next round of the Cup still to come.

M. Brennan, S. Faherty J Toomey (managers)