

Clonkeen Chronicle

Spring 2007

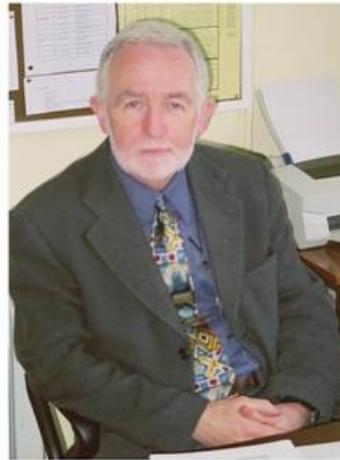
Principal's Foreword, March 2007.

As this newsletter goes to press our Leaving and Junior Certificate students have just finished their Mocks. The practice of dividing the exams before and after the Mid-Term break seems to lessen the fatigue factor for the boys. As ever it was good to see the sharpened focus these exams bring about and we were delighted with the boys' approach throughout. The exams serve as a useful benchmark and usually identify areas where improvements can be made before the official exams. It has been our experience in the past that most students make good use of the process and we have no doubt this year will be no exception.

The new Student Council has settled well into their new responsibilities. They have already been involved in drawing up new policies and are, of course, participating in the review of the Code of Behaviour with the teaching staff and Parent Council. I'd like to once again express my appreciation of the invaluable contribution of both councils to the school.

The school had a distinguished visitor on Monday, February 12th when Minister for Education, Mary Hanafin held a question and answer session with the Transition Years for over an hour. The boys certainly gained an insight into the day-to-day realities of a politician's life. I don't know if it enlarged or contracted their list of possible career options but we are very grateful to Minister Hanafin for her ongoing interest in, and contribution to, the development of the school.

Equally, as the rest of the newsletter will reveal, so many staff members and students are involved in a wide range of activities, from the various sports to drama, public speaking and chess, with significant achievements in many areas. Congratulations and best wishes to all on their involvement and enthusiasm.



Gaisce

This year there are a record 21 students striving to attain the Gaisce award. This is the award presented by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, to young people under the age of 25 who commit to achieving personal goals in the four areas of Community Involvement, Sport, Personal Skill (eg lifesaving) and Adventure Activity over a period of 9 months

This year past pupil Michael O'Connor, who achieved silver while attending Clonkeen College is set to achieve the Gaisce Gold Award

Congratulations to all involved.
Ms Gibson

(It is great to see the president's award programme going from strength to strength, with more and more students becoming involved. It has expanded beyond its beginnings in TY as students continue to work for silver and next year, who knows

perhaps gold. D. Ed.)

Student Council

A new year, out with the old and in with the new. Last year's Prefects stepped down after a successful year and allowed this year's Student Council members to step up to the role.

The Student Council term starts in January and runs until December.

This year's Student Council include; Barry O'Shaughnessy (Chairperson), Stephen Bird, (Secretary), Gareth Boyle, Thomas Clarke, David Tracy, Gavin Lyons, Phillip Ryan, Greg McNeill, Michael Breathnach, Ciaran Hickey, Eoin Gallagher, Peter Williams, Neill Kelly, Eoghan Shankey-Smith, Liam O'Dowd, Eoghan Dalton, Daniel Spillane, Sean Brophy.

This year's set of Council members, with the help and guidance of Mr. Noonan look set to do well with some new ideas already floating about. The first year

social organisations are already under way. Yes, it definitely looks set to be a busy but promising year, due to the amount of positive feedback the Council received after meeting with the classes for the first time before the mid-term.

Barry O'Shaughnessy
(Chairperson, Student Council)

International Maths Olympiad

Having scored nearly full marks in the preliminary Prism Test, Eoghan Harney (TY) and Colin Egan (3rd year) were invited to attend a series of Maths lectures in UCD. Both students attended. They sat a very challenging exam at the end of the lecture series and have been informed that they have qualified for the next phase of the National Training Programme. We commend them for their enthusiasm and commitment

M Somers (organizing teacher)

First place in Ireland

Congratulations to **Padraig Lambe** from last year's 6th year on achieving first place in Ireland in Leaving Certificate Honours History. He also gained full marks in this, the first year of the new Leaving Cert. Course. He will be awarded the Deirdre Clancy medal in appreciation of his achievement. Well done also to his teacher Mr. J Keogh.

Padraig is now studying French and English in Trinity, subjects in which he also achieved A1 in the Leaving.

This is the second time in 3 years that a student from Clonkeen has achieved full marks and first place in Ireland. Two years ago it was **Daragh Kirk** in Economics.

Let the tradition continue.

The Third World Support Group

The Christmas period is the busiest time for the Third World Support Group.

In early December His Excellency, Mr Zeruhin Retta, Ambassador for Ethiopia, along with Ms Mary Hanafin launched our charity calendar in aid of EPEC.

Two street collections were organized to benefit EPEC and self help. Together these raised €3,000.

The Christmas fast also generated much needed funds for EPEC. Thus far both the Christmas fast and the charity calendar have raised €8,000 for EPEC

The Group also collected twenty hampers in aid of St Vincent de Paul and assisted in a street collection in Blackrock which raised over €4,000

On behalf of the Third World Support Group I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for all your generosity during the last few months. Your kindness has made all the difference

Mile Buiochas
C McGauley

St Andrew's One Act Drama Festival

Clonkeen College took part in St Andrew's College Drama Festival for the first time this year with very positive results. We came runner-up in the competition, just losing out to St Andrew's College, but beating off stiff competition from 5 other schools

We were also awarded runner-up Best Actor which went to Andrew Boyle for his sincere and believable performance as his character "Alexander".

An acting merit award also went to Tom McGovern for his portrayal of the young "Sacha".

As awards were scarce we did very well to come away on a par with the winners St Andrew's College who also received 3 awards.

The adjudicators Dr Pat Burke and Biddy White Lennon who are both very experienced commented on our production, Every Good Boy Deserves Favour by Tom Stoppard, as being "brave" and "challenging".

The play is set during the Cold War in a State Hospital where a dissident was locked up with a real "lunatic" who be-



lieved himself to be in charge of an Orchestra. This play poses many questions as to who is sane and who is mad and the thin line between both.

It was first performed with a full orchestra so we had about thirty musicians. We were assisted by Chris O'Sullivan ex pupil who enhanced our production with his skills on the keyboard and was backed up by recorded sounds operated by Conor Horgan Gaul. After many weeks of rehearsal we performed on the 14th Feb 2007, the full team gave a fantastic performance. The hard work and commitment paid off.

Hats off to St Andrew's College for creating a friendly atmosphere throughout the Festival which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

Congratulations to all.

The Team: Fiona Lester; Chris O'Sullivan; Conor Horgan Gaul; Kevin Murray; Andrew Boyle; Chris Day; Frank Ryan; Gary Carvill; Tom McGovern; Jordan Williams; Mark Malone; Eoghan Hughes; Adam Hogan.

Fiona Lester

(Fiona now has the title of official drama queen to the college, long may she reign D. Ed)

(Photo: Mary Hanafin with the cast at rehearsals in the school)

Public Speaking

Well done to Clonkeen's public speaking competitors who came so close to this year's final of the annual 'Mental Health Public Speaking Competition' Barry O'Shaughnessy. Liam O'Dowd and James Heron did themselves and the school proud as they walked away as the 'Eastern Regional Finalists' holding a trophy for the school and a medal each. The competition was very close on the night and even though they didn't go through to the final they were absolutely brilliant.

Well done lads!

Mrs McEvoy & Mrs Lester

Ardeche 2007

Once again a brave group of students will make the long trek to the Ardeche region in the south of France for a week of outdoor pursuits. This year there are 26 students from 2nd, TY and 5th year. For some of the students it will be their third time in the region.

They will try their hand at canoeing, climbing, abseiling (a 250 drop!), Mountain Biking, hill walking, caving all of this in the spectacular river gorges of the Chassazac river in glorious sunshine. A big plus is the exposure to French.

One to look forward to

O.Daly

Transition Year

TY Tourism

During the second term Transition Year students visited the wonderful 8th Century illuminated manuscript "The Book Of Kells" and the long room in Trinity College. They also visited the historic "Kilmainham Jail" which gives a good insight into Irish history. The final visit was to the state apartments in Dublin Castle -home to many viceroys.

Students gain an awareness and an appreciation of our heritage from these visits.

M O'Keeffe (TY tourism co-ordinator)

TRANSITION YEAR NEWS

Transition year students have just completed their second period of work experience. This brings the year's total to four weeks spent in a wide variety of

working environments. Highlights of last term included a group visit to Aras an Uachtarain and a talk in the college by the Minister for Education and Science.

One of the transition year classes received an invitation from the President to visit Aras an Uachtarain. The occasion was the presentation of credentials by three newly-appointed ambassadors from Qatar, Brunei and Cyprus. The students were seated in the reception room as the formal ceremony took place. Afterwards they witnessed an inspection of a guard of honour by each ambassador. The President greeted the group and spoke to each of the students. Afterwards, we shared refreshments with officers and soldiers of the honour guard. It was a great honour to be invited and all the students found the President to be a gracious and friendly lady.

The Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin TD, had requested the opportunity to speak to all the transition year students. On the afternoon of her visit she spoke about a typical week in the life of a deputy and minister. Students afterwards had a large number of questions and Minister Hanafin spent some time answering them all. Again, it was a great honour for the boys to be visited and addressed in this way by a government minister.

During the upcoming Easter break, students from TY will be taking part in two trips away. Some TY students will form part of a venture trip to the Ardeche region of France and 36 TY students will travel to Venice and Lake Garda. Reports on these trips will be posted in the next newsletter.

J Byrne (TY co-ordinator)

U-14/FIRST YEAR GAELIC FOOTBALL

We rounded off our **U-14 Dublin** campaign in November against **Portmarnock Community School** with a quarter-final defeat. A 5-point margin didn't reflect a match that was close and dogged, played in poor, windy conditions. But, as ever, the Clonkeen lads were excellent, battling right to the end. Indeed that end came too soon considering the amount of stoppages there were in the game. As a finale to the season we chose an **U-14 All-Star** team from the **Top 15 Trainers**. The following will get their awards in May:

Ciarán McCarthy [S2]

Seán O'Connor [S1]
Michael Whelan [R.3]

Niall O'Dowd [S3]
Olan Coyle [R.1]

Conor Lehane [S3]
Andrew Lynch [R.3]

Oran Colhoun [R.1]

Adam Hudson [R.1]

Michael Curtin (Capt.) [R.3]
Joe O'Sullivan [R.3]

Daragh Mooney [R.2]
Colin Brock [R.3]

Luke Foy [S.1]
Cian Taylor [S.1]

This team played a challenge against **Oatlands College** in January, who despite being a division lower than us were still their section's champions. This provided us with a springboard for the First Year season. We added some new blood in the 2nd half of that game and gave the future Leinster "C" champions a beating in that 30-minute period. Well done to all – we hope to chose a **First Year All-Star** team in May. The following will also get **Certificates** for their commitment to the **U-14 Panel** this year: **Cian Aherne, Ben Errity, Stephen Moroney, Denis Vavasour**, (all S1), **Seán Galligan, Scott Mahony, Robert Maloney, Paul Moffatt, Dean O'Donnell** (all S2), **Jamie Keenan, Mark O'Grady** (both S3) and **Niall Carvill, Aaron Byrne** (both R.1), **Shane Errity, Brian Lavelle, Jame Lee** (all R.2), **Dylan Delaney, Aaron Leonard, Jack Nicholls and Eric Redmond** (all R.3). Well done to all and good luck to those moving on to U-16 level next year.

The **First Year Class League** is up and running. The **February** fixtures saw **S2** beat **S1** with **S3's** clashes both ending in a draw. March's combats will see an increase in points for a win and bonus points for class turnout. **S2** are very impressive in this regard with a **panel of 15!** come on S1 and S3! The 3rd Round will be after Easter followed by the play-offs. TV rights still up for grabs. Before that in March, the **First Year Team** have 3 Group Matches in the **Dublin Championship**. Our rivals are **Coláiste Éanna, Coláiste Eoin** and **St.Benildus**. Quarter-Finals here we come!

Pauline Murray and Jim Lynch

Under 14 Hurling

Since February, the hurling season has really taken off thanks to indoor hurling and the Under 14 league

First years had their training session for the annual indoor hurling competition which is due to take place in Benildus College before easter. There was a great turnout from the 3 classes and further sessions will be announced.

The Under 14 league took off with the first match against Blackrock College on 13th Feb. Unfortunately for Clonkeen, many of our more experienced players were unavailable to play that day In spite of a spirited performance Blackrock had the edge and took the victory. Outstanding players on the day included Jamie Keenan (S3), Naoise Greene (S3), Niall O'Dowd (S3) Shane Errity and Greg Clarke (R2) and Nathan Timmons (R3)

On 1st March Clonkeen played host to Templeogue College. Keen to recover from the loss to Blackrock, Clonkeen were fired up for Victory. Great goals from Scott Mahony, Robert Maloney and Naoise Greene just were not enough and in spite of a determined and improved performance Templeogue College nabbed the win. The under 14 hurling panel: S1; Cormac McDermot, Cian Taylor, Adam McDonald and Ben Errity. S2; Sean Galligan, Adam Marrar, Cormac O'Neill, Tom O'Rourke, Robert Maloney, Jack Butler, Scott Mahoney, Kevin Roddy, Kevin Keenan. S3; Jack Cleary, Naoise Greene, Jamie Keenan, Conor Lehane, Conor McLoughlin, Niall O'Dowd, Jamie Costello, Cormac Spain, Mark O'Grady. R1; Darragh McGrath, Adam Hudson, Jason Mooney, R2; Shane Errity, Greg Clarke, Dylan Johnston. R3; Michael Curtin, Ronan Sheridan, Owen Keegan, Nathan Timmons.

(M. Ryan, C.Collins and F Hayes)

Under 14 Soccer

We are still there. After losing in our last match to arch rivals St.McDara's we have two matches to win to get through to the Leinster Semi finals. We play Collinstown on the 14th and if we win that match it is on to play Beneavin. Hopefully, everything goes well for us.

D. O'Hora G Monnelly

(this is the team that brought us to an all Ireland final last year just narrowly losing out in a closely fought match in Sligo. Jet lag may have been a deciding factor! D.Ed)

CHESS

The 5th Years got together in January for an intense set of trial matches spread over a few lunchtimes to select a 4-man team for the Scholastic Chess All-Ireland 2007. A well-run competition by 14 aficionados resulted in **Conor Daly, Stephen Hanley, Caolán O'Neill** and **Eoghan Shankey-Smith** coming through to play **Oatlands College**. Wins for **Conor** and **Eoghan** left us with a **2-2** draw. Our second outing saw us take on **Holy Child C.S.**, Sallynoggin. **Eoghan** maintained his winning habit, **Caolán** scored his first point for Clonkeen and **Stephen** contrived to salvage a remarkable ½ in a Houdini-like stalemate! Now known as "**One-King**" **Hanley**, his draw gave us the victory to put us into the 3rd Round. well done to all, and to **Mark Forsyth**, who stepped into the breach at the VERY last minute!

We hope to run a **5th Year, 2nd Year** and **1st Year** Competition before the year finishes.

J. Lynch

Athletics

The Cross country season has ended . Oran Colhoun (R3) won the East Leinster championship U-15 in the Phoenix Park. Unfortunately he was injured for the Finals in DCU, the 2nd year in a row he has been hit by injury before a final Rob Maloney (S2) also qualified for the Leinster finals in his first year running. Well done to him.

Richard Shiggins (R4) qualified for the final U-17 and ran well considering he is just over 15. Eoin Healy (6th year) and best hope of an All-Ireland medal was dogged by injury all season and never made the starting line for any race .

Well done to all who took part in Cross-Country and enjoyed themselves

Track and Field

The track and field athletics takes place after Easter. Training starts when weather improves. A school can only field 2 athletes in any event. An athlete can compete in 2 events plus relay. Age groups are the same as cross country.

Athletes needed for sprinting , jumping (high, long, triple) and throwing (shot, discus , javelin

If you are a talent ,discovered or undiscovered, contact Br .Kelly.

You may be the next David Gillick !

Br Kelly

Tennis

Spring has arrived and so has the tennis season. We all know that Denis is a menace with his "anyone for tennis?" but what about you? Clonkeen will soon set sail on its tennis odyssey –in search of gold. Contact Mr. Keogh for details. Players of superior ability are required.

Artistic Buzz

At the moment the Art room is a hive of creative activity. The senior and third years have returned from their mock examinations. The sixth year students are now fully focused on their Leaving Certificate. Outstanding art work has been produced throughout the year, in the area of graphic design Conor Lumsden, in three-dimension Shane Masterson, and in the observational drawing Daniel Wolfe, to mention but a few of the talented sixth years. Final touches are being added to college portfolios.

Fifth year students have completed low-relief plaques based on children's fairy tales. Finian Meade's approach was extremely inventive, Jordan William's and Paul Metcalfe's captured the design brief. Paul Doody's three dimensional piece based on a rat caught in a trap was artistically mature with that realistic wow factor. Is it real asked the first years??

The pressure is now on third year pupils to complete the Art, Craft, Design project, the May deadline is almost upon us. Pupils are busy referring to the checklist on painting, graphic design, three dimensional works and finally the craft option. A number of Transition Year students were involved in stage and prop designs for our recent in-house production under Conor Horgan Gaul's artistic direction.

Finally we wish success to those who entered the Texaco Art Competition and the students participating in the No Logo project.

K.O'Donoghue

Careers

Our exam classes have just finished their mocks. The 6th year students are now getting ready for their final exam, starting with their orals in March. During this time they will need all the support they can get. The 3rd year students will now focus a bit more on their first state exam. They too need support, especially in subjects they are finding difficult.

They also face the decision of doing Transition year or of going straight into 5th year. Mr Byrne has hosted a TY meeting so parents and students should be better informed. The vast majority of third year students avail of the Transition Year. Those few that don't will get advice from the careers office as to what subjects to select. Please contact Mr. O'Hora if you have any enquiries.

D O'Hora (careers office)

PR For PA

Thanks to all the creative efforts of last year's CD project the school now has a very modern PA system. The new system has already been put to use for the mock aural in Irish and French and the sound quality has to be heard to be believed. Once again a big thank you to all the musicians involved last year and of course to everyone who bought the tickets/CD. It's thanks to all of your efforts that this new sound system will prove

of great value and enjoyment down the coming years for concerts and pantos etc.

Mr Clarke

Under 18 gaelic football

On a horrific wet and windy day in St Vincents, Clonkeen were narrowly defeated by Ard Scoil Ris. Playing with the wind in the first half, Clonkeen marginally led, having had far too many wides. Through superb performances from Eoin Gallagher and Adam Cole, Ard Scoil Ris's star players were kept under wraps, until the dying moments of the match when they scored three successive points. In the end Clonkeen were very unlucky to go out.

In the last qualifying match, Clonkeen bowed out to St Aidan's in a scrappy affair out in Whitehall.. Kevin Nolan was the star in the first half but was then unlucky to injure his ankle. Superb Clonkeen performances on the day came from, again Eoin Gallagher in defence and David Treacy in the forwards. Clonkeen had three penalties, two of which taken were by a composed Jordan Williams.

A magnificent run in the dying minutes from a still injured Kevin Nolan left him one on one with the keeper but in the end too many missed scoring opportunities proved costly for Clonkeen. **E Sheehy**

Golf

Junior Matchplay competition

The first round of this competition got underway I November at Dargle View Golf Club Bray. Twenty eight students took part from 1st, 2nd and 3rd year. Unfortunately the weather conditions were very difficult. All competitors completed their rounds which was an achievement in its own right. Eighteen players qualified for the second round. Shane Errity produced the best score of the day with 37 points (1st/2nd round played using Stableford Format)

The 2nd round was played at the same venue in February again in similar conditions. Eight players qualified for the quarter finals; Shane Errity, Jamie Keenan, Ciaran Freney, Ben Errity, Cian O'hara, Andrew Dowling, Scott Mahony, Adam Shorthall.

A big thanks to the 4th and 5th year students for supervising the matches. All did an excellent job. Well done.

The competition would not have run so smoothly without the assistance and support of the parents who gave up their time to be there on both days, namely: Angela Condon, Jan Dowling and Paula McCarthy. Thanks to all for your help. **B. Noonan**

Under 16 Soccer

The under 16 soccer team was expected to do well in 206/07 but somehow , through a combination of injury and disciplinary issues, conspired to implode. The U16's started the year promisingly, with 2 hard fought away victories followed by a couple of victories at home. In the middle of all this Garreth Fitzimons earned himself a call up to the Irish National Team, and all boded well

for the upcoming matches. However, injury deprived the team of key players for the home game, against Malahide, in the Cup, where a tough fixture was made impossible by the dismissal in the second half of two important players, and the team crashed out of the Cup. Hopes were still high for the league, after coasting through the league stages with three victories, but the suspension of the two players dismissed in the previous game was always going to make it difficult. Despite the return of some injured players for the knockout stages of the League the team went out of the League 0-4 at home. It was a very disappointing end for what most people agree is a very talented squad who haven't yet figured out how to function as a team. **M Brennan J Toomey**

Darren O'Dea – Young Hoop Superstar

Darren began his trade with Home Farm FC in North County Dublin. Since then he has come a long way. Darren left Clonkeen at the age of 16 and started his new life in Glasgow. Three years on he is wearing the green and white jersey in front of thousands, week in week out. On the 20th of February 2007 his dream came through playing in the 2nd round of the Champions league in a packed Celtic Park. Many thought he wouldn't cope but he proved the pundits wrong, marking the Italian International, Gilardino, for 90 minutes without giving him an opening. The future is bright for this Clonkeen Legend.

Tom McGovern TY

Young Scientist 2007

This year's competition saw two groups from second year make it to the final stage of the competition. It took place in the first week in January in the R.D.S.

The groups included: Robert Carr and Evan Burke with their project "Optical Illusions, Does it trick one side of the brain more than the other?" and Jamie Whitehouse, Marcus O'Byrne and Stephen Lehane with their project "Supertasters".

Both qualified for the final after sending in a one page proposal outlining what they intended to do in their project and why. Once accepted a lot of hard work and research followed. We were very grateful for the participation of students from both Clonkeen College and Rockford Manor.

Entering the R.D.S after the Christmas holidays was a great buzz. There were 500 finalist groups and individuals rushing around hanging up their projects and making new friends. All in all the week was long and tiring but the discos at the end of the day kept everyone going! The projects drew a lot of attention with people wanting to carry out the experiments and asking plenty of questions.

Both groups thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the "Supertasters" project got highly commended so the week ended on a high note. When asked if they would do it again both groups said yes!!

M Duffy -Co-ordinating teacher