

Clonkeen Chronicle

Spring 2009

PRINCIPAL'S FOREWORD.

Greetings everyone from Mr Kevin Barry (Deputy Principal) and myself! It's hard to believe that we only have six weeks to go to the Easter holidays. As the old Latin idiom states; *Tempus Fugit*, or Time Flies!

There are so many things to comment upon. To begin with, let us congratulate the school's Mental Health Public Speaking Team of Colin O' Shaughnessy, Niall Murphy, Barry Lenihan and Colin Egan who recently won through to the Ireland Semi-finals of the competition to be held in Kildare. You have done yourselves, your families and your school proud; well done to you and your mentors, Ms. Lester and Mr. McMenemy! We are sure that your skills of public speaking have already transferred on to the other members of the recently formed *Clonkeen College Debating Society*, given the recent success of David Nolan in the Trinity College Dublin *Phil Speaks* competition.

Congratulations to Stephen Lehane who did so well at the BT Young Scientist & Technology competition. An interesting premise to his study, "*Do Gender and Age of a Teacher Change Students' Willingness to Learn*," certainly caught the eye of the judges and his hard work under the watchful eye of teacher, Ms Duffy, ensured success! Well done also to Jacob Brennan and Darragh Cullen for reaching the finals of the competition and representing the school with distinction.

Congratulations finally to the actors, helpers and mentors involved in the recent St. Andrew's One Act Drama Festival. Your performance on the night was magnificent and hugely entertaining! It was great to see the 'Cupids' (Niall Murphy, Saul Fidgeon and Conor Scanlan) win the Adjudicator's Award and Darragh Nolan pick up a Certificate of Merit Award. Congratulations to all concerned! Commiserations to our talented U-18 Gaelic Football team who were so unlucky to lose after extra-time in the Dublin final. Well done to all involved, from panel to mentors Mr. Sheehy and Mr. O' Reilly and even to our supporters, in what was a super school effort! Hopefully the U-16 Footballers, under the guidance of Mr. Brennan and Mr. Bennett, will go one better in their Final!

It was great to have Mr. Eoin Ryan MEP in to talk to the Senior school about European politics, history, education and the economy. He spoke with eloquent sincerity about the historical and ongoing need for a united and cooperative Europe. The question and answer session afterwards certainly put him to the pin of his

collar however as staff and students pitched in with some difficult questions which he did well to field.

The new Student Council, with Colin O' Shaughnessy as Chair and Niall Murphy as Secretary, are now up and running thanks to the hard work of Mr. Noonan and Mr. Daly. They are without doubt a competent and ambitious Council and we are looking forward to working with them in incorporating change where necessary and maintaining tradition where appropriate. Many thanks to Mr. Eoin Ryan MEP who recently presented the Council members with their Prefect Badges.

The downturn in the economy forms a difficult backdrop to the prospects of schools across the nation, and Clonkeen College is no different. It is certain that our staffing allocation will be reduced, and the overall funding from the State for our school, as for all other schools, will be significantly reduced. This means that class sizes will have to be increased, curricular choice will be reduced and specialised Programmes like Transition Year and LCVP as well as Special Education Provision will be adversely affected. Clonkeen College is not alone in this as it is something that all schools will have to address.

We would like to wish the very best to the two school project teams, under the guidance and care of Ms. McQuaid, Mr. McGauley and Mr. Barry, who will be heading to Kenya over the Easter. They are continuing a fine humanitarian tradition in the school which owes so much to Mr. McGauley's ongoing efforts.

We would also like to wish the Transition Year students all the best on their International Tour to Krakow, Poland. Mr. McBride and his team of teachers will, no doubt, have their hands full looking after forty five students! Also, the Clonkeen College Outdoor Pursuits International Tour to the Ardeche region in the south of France this Easter sees forty students travelling with Mr. Daly and four other teachers in what is the tenth school trip to the region.

Finally, we would like to end on a poignant note. Clonkeen College has lost a great friend in the recent bereavement of former school secretary Ms. Deirdre O' Malley. Her service to the school was immense. We wish her family, and the families of all who have recently been bereaved, our sincere condolences.

Dom Twomey (Principal)

Kevin Barry (Deputy Principal)

Parent's Council

The recession, the economic downturn and the education cut backs may be in full swing, but the Parents Council are fighting back. Parents Council fund a number of activities in Clonkeen College over the course of the academic year. Parents Council organise and provide funding for the Christmas Panto, 1st year social, careers night, stress management workshops for 6th year exam students and we also contribute towards Student Council projects, Irish Aid and equipment etc needed for the school. We discuss and contribute to the development of Special Needs Policy, Positive Awards Pilot Scheme, Code of Behaviour updates, Health & fitness issues. We are not laying off members and in fact have taken on more volunteers this year. Welcome to George O'Hara, Bride Rafferty, Nicky White, Breeta Allen and Máire Costello who have swollen our ranks to an unprecedented 21 members. The volunteer spirit is very high among parents of Clonkeen students. Volunteers are unpaid, highly motivated and recession proof (i.e work long hours for no pay..). Our mission is "*to promote and contribute to the educational and general welfare interests of pupils in the school*" "Our motto. "*Parents Council, you can BANK on us*"

LCVP

We have really got into the spirit of enterprise and are currently planning our enterprise activity. We have also welcomed two visitors to the classroom – local entrepreneur Mr Myles Golden and retired Clonkeen teacher Mr. Terry Dunne. Both were very successful visits. **M. Ryan L.C.V.P. coordinator**

Public Speaking

Commiserations to our Mental Health Public Speaking team of Colin O' Shaughnessy, Barry Lenihan and Colin Egan who narrowly lost out to Colaiste Eoin Mullingar at the Semi-Final stage of the Nationals last Thursday night in Nass, County Kildare. Thanks again to their mentors Ms. Lester and Mr. McMenemy for all their hard work.

More inside on the leadup to the semi final D. Ed

Sailing Club

TY has been sailing for many years now as part of their outdoor pursuit programme. It is something which they have been very enthusiastic about but unfortunately it is difficult to keep involved in. For those that have the rewards have been great past students have sailed on the Asgard and have crewed boats in the med. For those that are interested in continuing or just getting a taste of the ocean life the school, in conjunction with the Irish National Sailing School, is organizing beginners and improvers courses after the Easter Break. Sessions would be from 4hr30 to 7.00 pm, for 5 weeks the cost being 100 for the 5 week course. All equipment provided. Check out their website www.inss.ie. While you are at it why not check out their offers for the Easter break. Good luck and happy sailing. There will be more information and an opportunity to sign up for the Clonkeen students group in the near future. Start saving.

Public Speaking

The Public Speaking team of Colin O'Saughnessy, Niall Murphy, Barry Lenihan and Colin Egan under the watchful eye of Fiona Lester and Brian McMenamy have progressed to the All-Ireland semi-finals of the mental health public speaking competition. After being crowned Champions of South Dublin in November, they have continued winning ways by being crowned champions of South Leinster last Thursday(26th). Having spoke about everything from the crazy cat lady in the Simpsons, to the awareness of suicide today, the team now travels to Naas for the semi-final this Thursday, where a supporters bus will be provided not only to carry those of you who want to go, but also our massive "Suicide Ladder" which was wonderfully created by Mr. O'Donoghue, Billy Crosbie and Darragh Byrne. Roll on Thursday!!

Barry Lenihan.

Young Scientist 2009

Well done to both Stephen Lehane (TY) and

Darragh Cullen and Jacob Brennan (R1) for getting through to the exhibition stage this year in the RDS. Both generated a lot of interest from both reporters and politicians!

Jacob and Darragh's project was on "Does advertising effect teenagers attitudes towards smoking". Their project even got a mention in a medical journal!!

Big congratulations to Stephen Lehane though, who came 3rd in the intermediate section in the Social and Behavioural category!!! We were all delighted for him and his achievement. (I'm still waiting on a cut of the prize money though J) His project was "Does age and gender of a teacher effect students willingness to learn?". Stephen was interviewed about his project for TTV on Rte 2 and even got a mention on the Lucy Kennedy show after the awards ceremony. He always gets a lot of attention!!

I hope to see lots more students participate next year and if you have any ideas for projects already come see me or your science teacher and we can get started for September applications.

M Duffy

Chess

Every Thursday after School a number of students battle it out! Not on the football pitch or the mud track but on the Chess Boards. Chess is a strategy game that tests the minds and wits of the players and ultimately it is a test of who can hold their nerve. The club is open to all to attend and a competition which will run until the end of the School Year is starting now. Two young talented players Eoin Brennan(S1) and Conor O Sullivan(S2) are the 2 Star players at the moment to beat and it remains to be seen who will get the better of them? A trophy and prize will be awarded at the end of the tournament to decide who is Clonkeen's Chess Champion. If you feel up to the challenge or just want to play for fun, pop on down to the Lunchroom on Thursdays or contact Mr Mc Laughlin for details.

C McLoughlin

St Andrews One Act Drama Festival 2009

What a team we had this year. Cast and Crew were exceptional!

February 2009 was Clonkeen's 3rd year to enter St Andrews One Act Drama Festival. Our entry this year was a comedy, "Ruckus In The Garden", by David Farr. We had a cast of Cupids, lads and three fine looking girls, a.k.a. Barry Lenihan; Ronan Gough and Darragh Nolan (photos available).

Adjudicators commended us on our three dimensional approach to the Play and the clever and creative use of stagecraft. The play was greatly enhanced by set and costume design, by Colm Cleary (T.Y.), lights by Takho Tsang and sound by Marcus Dalton.

We won two awards – an Acting Merit for Darragh Nolan, who played "Tamsen" so convincingly, and the adjudicators award went to the "Cupids", Niall Murphy; Conor Scanlon and Saul Fidgeon, for their performance which was "disciplined and instrumental to the success of the production".

We all thoroughly enjoyed rehearsing and performing the Play and we had a very entertaining two nights of Drama in St Andrew's College. A big congratulations to

cast & crew. Many thanks also for the super support we got from Sandra; Theresa; Sean; Kevin; the art students and all the staff in Clonkeen.

The full Team – Colin O'Shaughnessy; Niall Murphy; Colin Egan; Barry Lenihan, Tadgh Garton, Ronan Gough; Conor Scanlon; Eoghan Keegan; Saul Fidgeon; Killian Casey; Chris Campbell; Darragh Nolan; Colm Cleary; Marcus Dalton; Takho Tsang and Fiona Lester.

A special thumbs up to all our Public Speaking Representatives, from T.Y. and 5th Year, who should be very proud of their achievements

Mental Health Ireland (All Ireland Semi Finalists) Poetry Aloud Denny Debates Phil Speaks Cambridge Debates and the newly founded Clonkeen College Debating Society (All Years).

Well done to a really committed and talented group of lads.

Fiona Lester

The CD Project

This year's CD project is well under way and there are some really excellent songs coming your way soon. This is the third such project and these are some of the most promising songs I have heard so far. Hopefully some instrumentals will be written as well. Students have been meeting once a fortnight in the gym and working for two to three hours in some cases. This is a great level of dedication considering that they also work on their original material at home. It isn't too late to become involved but there will be a cut-off point soon as we will have a lot of music and songs to consider for the final mixing of the album. Some students have been learning how to record and mix the music on the 8 track machine we have here in the school and *Kellan Scott* in TY is proving to be a very good sound engineer. So well done to all those involved so far as we move to once a week sessions from next week

J Clarke

Clonkeen College Debating Society

Sparks flew at the inaugural debate of the Clonkeen College Debating Society(CCDS), where it was agreed that the Irish language should not be a compulsory subject for the Leaving cert, (and thereby leaving certain staff members out of the job!!)

The 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th years who have joined the newly formed society are rearing to get stuck into the next debates on whether Cocaine should be legalised and whether Andy Reid should play in the Irish midfield.

A word of congratulations to David Nolan (5th year) who is through to the semi-finals of the prestigious "Phil Speaks" competition in Trinity College, and also to Colin Egan (5th year) who was unlucky (or so he says) to be knocked out in the quarter-finals of the "Denny Debating Competition" at UCD **Niall Murphy.**

Maths Olympiad

In November of 2006, I qualified for a maths course/ competition in UCD. I am now in my third year attending this course and it's great. It is a course focused on maths that is not covered in the Leaving Cert. It is aimed at bridging the gap between the maths that is taught in Irish secondary schools and that of secondary schools of other countries. I was one of three students in Clonkeen to be eligible for it this year, along with Eoghan Harney in sixth year and Denis Shankey-Smith in TY. This course is run in five colleges in Ireland- UL, UCC, NUI Maynooth, NUI Galway and UCD- with about 150 students in each college, cut down to thirty in February. I came first in the Leinster region test a few weeks ago. I feel that it has been a very worthwhile experience, with me learning about such subjects as combinatorics, modular congruences and number theory. I must now prepare for the test in May to find the top six students in Ireland, to compete internationally in Germany this July!

Colin Egan, 5th Year.

U 18 Gaelic Football Final vs St Mc Daras in Belfield 27.02.09

This game was billed as a classic and it did not disappoint the two sets of supporters that turned up to this game. Clonkeen and St McDaras met in the group stages with Clonkeen emerging victorious by 5 points.

The match started with both teams playing with a high intensity. St McDaras went into an early lead but Clonkeen responded with a massive score from Shane O'Rourke. Conor O'Brien then scored an inspirational Goal which was fitting for a final. Clonkeen went into half time two points down. Paul Moffet also had a good first half goal.

However with some strong words of advice from Mr Sheehy and Mr O'Reilly Clonkeen came charging out of the Blocks with two quick points from Rory Cole and Conor O'Brien. The game was now really in the melting pot. However McDaras pulled away with some good scores Clonkeen were 3 points down going into the last few minutes. Enter one Paul Moffat who scored an inspirational goal from 21 yards. The game finished level with the game now going into extra time.

Mc Daras started the first period of extra time with a goal and seemed to have the extra yard on the Clonkeen lads. Philip Nolan got a great solo point and he worked hard around the middle of the field. McDaras from here pulled away and eventually one by 5 points 3-15 to 3-10

While it was hard to lose a final the lads showed great dignity in defeat and they can be quite proud of themselves in their commitment to the team throughout the year. Half the team are playing in the U-16 final and will be playing with the senior team again next year while captain Conor O'Brien will also be back next year.

Thanks to Craig Lawlor, Kevin O'Shea, Andrew Boyle Shane O'Rourke, Barry McDonald, Frank Ryan, Gareth Fitzsimons, Paul Butler, Mairc Campbell, Greg Ellard, Colm Condon, Niall King, Robert Farrelly and Rory Cole who gave great service to Clonkeen over the years. We wish them all the best in their future careers.

Scorers Paul Moffat 2-3, Conor O'Brien 1-4, Philip Nolan, 0-1, Rory Cole 0-1, Shane O'Rourke 0-1. **Mr Sheehy and Mr O'Reilly (managers)**

U-16 Gaelic Football- Mr. Brennan and Mr. Bennett

Our under16 Gaelic footballers have reached the Dublin final in the up-coming weeks against the much-fancied Scoil Caitriona. They have made their way to the final unbeaten throughout after disposing of such quality teams as Blackrock, Mcdaragh's and Donahies and while they are up against a quality opposition in the final, Mr. Brennan and Mr. Bennett have both said that if our lads can play up to their considerable abilities, we are in with a strong chance. An impressive win over Lucan Community College in atrocious conditions, which was one of the finest team performances the two mentors have seen, was displayed. If this performance can be repeated and all are fit and well, Clonkeen will hopefully have the cup coming back to the school. All we can say is best of luck. **Mr. Brennan and Mr. Bennett**

U-14/First Year Gaelic Football

The 1st and 2nd Year League finished just before Christmas, luckily enough, seeing how the bad weather curtailed activity in January and February. Winners and runners-up will get their prizes in May along with the Top Trainer Awards and certificates. Training for the First Year team is now up and running. The Dublin Championship will start just after St. Patrick's Day. Our inter-class league will commence before Easter. **J. Lynch and P Murray**

Art

There is an artistic buzz in the air at the moment. A number of art competitions have been entered, including Texaco. A colourful graffiti backdrop has been added to the bicycle compound. Fifth year students have embarked on a mosaic to enhance the school shop. Keep those entries coming for our photography competition, there are some creative entries from the first years. Edmund Ryan (sixth year) executed a fine piece to add to the art collection on the stairwell. Thanks again to those pupils who made the backdrop props for our successful debating team. Finally our congratulations to Mark Maguire (past pupil) on his prestigious appointment to IMMA K. O'Donoghue (Director art services Clonkeen College)

Quizzes

Our annual **First Year Quiz** was held just before the Christmas exams with suitably seasonal questions and music. The top 3 teams were : 1st, **Kevin Killion, Cian Spain Farrell, Sam Heffernan and Jack Doyle (S1)** ; 2nd, **Dillon O'Neill, Robert Morton, Eoin Ó Cinnéide and Patrick Lehane (S3)** ; 3rd, **Jack Carrigg, Rory Dowling, Joseph O'Brien and Justin Baniqued**. Selection boxes were enjoyed by all winners! **S3** narrowly pipped **S2** to the team prize. Thanks to the 5th Years who helped out, including our 3rd place All-Ireland Concern sextet from last April. Who knows, maybe some of these 1st Years will follow in their footsteps?

The **History** team of **Eoghan Carrigg, Eoghan Harney, Niall Murphy and Hugh O'Connor** finished 2nd in the Annual Inter-Schools table quiz, while the **French** team finished 7th in their equivalent. The team was **David Banahan, Abdul Marrar, Colin Egan and Andrew Hume**. **Colin** and **Niall** teamed up with 3rd Years **Seán Galligan and Ciarán McCarthy** to win the first round of the **Irish Examiner All-Ireland Quiz**. 2nd Round coming up shortly. Well done to **Cian Aherne, Eamonn Grehan, Alex Jordan and Jamie Keenan** who pushed **Seán** and **Ciarán** all the way for the two Junior spots on the team.

J Lynch.

Hurling Under-14

The Under 14 Hurling competition gets underway this week. Much is expected of this side thanks to a combination of an influx of experienced hurlers into 1st Year, welcome newcomers and the 2nd Years who have already played Under 16 this year. This team began their preparations for the competition back in December and hope to match this commitment with silverware in April. The team plays its first match on Monday – a challenge against our old rivals, Oatlands. Best of luck to all involved.

Lunchtime League will start up also in April. All hurlers (experienced and new) are welcome.

Tennis

Mr Keogh and Mr Clarke will be organising an in-house tournament to be held during the Summer Term. So listen out for further details.

J Keoght/J Clarke

Transition Year

The TY classes are currently on their second period of work experience. As usual, they are in a very wide variety of job placements. The facility to test a working environment is a valuable aid to students in selecting career choices over the next two years. It is often as valuable for a student to learn that he does not like a particular work placement as it is for the student who enjoys it.

The recent government attacks on education have had their effect on transition year. The grant of just over €60 per capitem has been withdrawn. This means that the budget available to TY has been reduced by several thousand euro. This will have implications for future years.

J Byrne (TY Coordinator)

Golf

This term, because of inclement weather the internal school competitions have not yet commenced. However there was the Leinster section of the Irish Schools Strokes play Championship. This took place at Beechpark Golf Club in mid January.

Despite the pressures of the Leaving Certificate and the approaching mock exams, we were represented by three courageous 6th year students, **Conor McCarthy (77)**, **Shane O'Rourke**, and **Colm Condon (89)**. The winning team had an aggregate score of 147. This was their last time representing the school and their commitment and enthusiasm for all things golf will be greatly missed. Over the years they have introduced many a junior to the game and have organized and overseen many an internal school competition. **B Noonan**.

(past pupil) on his prestigious appointment to IMMA K. O'Donoghue (Director art services Clonkeen College)

All the vowels.

Can you name a country that contains all the vowels a,e,i,o,u in its spelling. There are two.

Queue

You are in a queue. Half of the people in this queue are in front of you and one-third of them are behind you. How many people are in the queue? -There is only one possible answer.

Ardeche Easter 2009

Our First trip to the wilds of the Ardeche region in the south of France was 10 years ago. Clonkeen College was the first school to visit the Outdoor Pursuit Centre and have been the first school each year to start the season. The range of activities includes Climbing, Caving, Canoeing, Mountain Biking, Hill Walking, Orienteering, Archery and an Assault Course. For many of the students traveling this year it is a repeat visit and for them we will be able to arrange an "advanced" group taking the activities to a new level. The total cost is €650 a figure which has remained unchanged for the last 3 years. We feel this represents very good value as it covers all transport, activities, accommodation and meals for a week.

For those students traveling it is now time to bring in the last of the payments (€200) and make sure your passport is valid. Unless we are advised differently we assume the name on the school roll is the same as on the passport it is the parents responsibility to check.

For more information on the activities and the region check out www.ceven-aventure.com.

Rugby

Despite the strong Gaelic tradition in the school students of the College have excelled in a diversity of sports in their own time. You only have to look at the last few newsletters to see the achievements of students in the areas of downhill mountain biking, sailing, motocross and record breaking mountaineering. Rugby is no exception and we bask in the reflected Glory of present 6th year student Andrew Boyle who represents Ireland at international level. He is currently preparing for the U18 European Championship. The tournament this year takes place in the Cote D'Azur in the south of France over the Easter.

The team has been drawn against Russia in the first round, but the first real challenge will come in the semi-final where they are likely to face England. This year they hope to gain their revenge over France who beat them 12-5 in the final last year in a nail biting finish.

Recently Andrew had the privilege of captaining the U18 side in a round of challenge matches against U20 club sides and has been named one of four vice captains for the championship. As this is his last year at U18 level he hopes to end it on a high.

"Allez les verts" D. Ed

Here is another student passionate about his life outside the school and is going to share his passion with the rest of us

Surfing in Ireland is far from the stereotypical blonde dudes sitting on the beach under clear blue skies, Its more like a rainy overcast day with a couple of freezing, ugly boggers legging it up the beach to their van after a surf in our far from tropical waters.

I surf mostly on the lesser ridden east coast

waves at spots like White Rock Maghermore Killiney to mention but a few. In Ireland to surf comfortably during the winter I use a 5 millimetre wetsuit booties hood and gloves with 1.5 mm thermals worn under the wetsuit.

However during the summer you can get by with a 3.5mm wetsuit and booties become opinionated. All that gear would set you back the best part of €300. A Board? Generally costing around €200-€500 depending on desired type and quality. If you keep your eyes open you can find some great second hand bargain deals.

Waves on the east coast are undoubtedly not as good as the world class west coast waves, but when Mother Nature co-operates the waves here can be brilliant fun just not as consistent.

The best conditions for a decent surf here are 2 or so days of strong (Around 35kmph) wind blowing any sort of easterly direction followed by a day of light winds or westerly winds. This is all very easy to follow online. I check this all daily in search of my next good surf.

When I see a time with potentially good surf I would check more frequently until I decide where the best conditions will be. Then I head out to the selected spot at the optimal time, kit up; ready myself for the paddle out back, often through wall after wall of white water! Once I am passed the white water I get myself into position to get in on a wave, Wait for a big set to come through chose a wave to go for and paddle frantically like a mad man until I feel that surge behind me upon which I jump to my feet(the timing of this manoeuvre is vital and can be perfected for years) and rush down the face of this wave into a bottom turn lining me up to glide along the line and hack in and out or drag my hand along the face. This feeling is unbelievable and makes getting up on a cold Tuesday morning jumping into the biting Irish Sea at 5am all worth it... **Greg Clarke**

Motocross

Though not publicly well known in Ireland, motocross is a very popular, exciting and high profile form of motorsport. In Ireland, various clubs run events at tracks around the country as far as Cork city and Donegal. A race will start with a line up of up to 40 riders, all positioned beside each other behind a backwards falling gate. After the gate drops, all of the riders have to funnel into the narrow first corner without being hit by anyone – easier said than done! Races run for a very long and demanding 15 to 35 minutes depending on the class and the championship. Riding a motocross bike is very different from the discipline of road biking or the high speed precision of MotoGP. You will often see riders dragging or planting their feet around corners in an effort to keep the bike rubber side down or hanging off the back, front and sides of the bike to coax more speed out of it down straights and over jumps. Riders are always moving, and are actually rarely on the seat as the footpegs are

where the majority of the weight is supported, even when riders appear to be sitting. Following in the wheel tracks of hard-charging past pupil Stuart Edmonds, who became the first rider from the Republic of Ireland to score world championship points earlier this year, Robert Lyons is currently Clonkeen College's only active participant in motocross. In 2008, Robert had his best year to date, finishing first in the Southern Youth Grasstrack Championship, a very close third in the Irish Youth Motocross Championship (north and south combined) and third in the Southern Youth Motocross Championship. He also had the opportunity to represent Ireland at a team event in England for the third time in as many years.

Robert has started his training for this year's season and despite a broken thumb, he is looking forward to the challenge of competing in the British Youth Motocross Championship, as well as the Irish Youth Motocross Championship, where he hopes to finish in the top three again.

Student Council

The eighteen new prefects have been decided on for 2009. The past few weeks have been spent learning the ropes and developing our priorities for the next year. The current Student Council is a group committed to be open to all suggestions, especially from our fellow students. To this end, Chris Campbell (who is in charge of P.R.) has organised the purchase of a letter box which will be put on the bottom floor near the Chemistry lab shortly. We encourage students to leave suggestions and problems in the box, anonymously if necessary, which the Council will take on board. Also, feel free to approach any prefect face-to-face in confidence for advice etc. In conjunction with Mr. Barry, the Student Council wish to promote the role of the Year Representatives (class reps.) in the school; giving them a more important role to play than in previous years. There are many aspects of school life that the Council has resolved to try and improve; from the mental health of the students to the upkeep of the classrooms. Top of our priorities, however, is to improve the toilet facilities in the school. With the help of last year's Student Council we are looking at the possibility of getting items such as electric hand-dryers and locks for the cubical doors. Every incoming Student Council has a reputation to live up to, but the level of enthusiasm among the current Council is terrific. I'm confident that this year we can set the bar even higher.

Colin O'Shaughnessy,
Chairperson, Student Council