



Clonkeen Chronicle

Summer 08

Parents Council

Clonkeen has had a ball of a year. What with the 1st year's ball in the hall, the Past Pupils jamboree in Swords and the 6th year's Graduation Mass. After what was a very eventful year for the college focus will squarely be on the 3rd & 6th year students as they sit their Junior and Leaving Certificates. The parents Council wish the boys every success.

The parents Council were also concentrating their efforts during the year and the highlight must have been the Christmas Pantomime. A great many thanks to Ciara Phelan for pulling off another outstanding show that I'm sure most parents attending extremely enjoyed, such was the talent on display. Thanks to all Parents Councillors and parents who helped out with all the chores over the 3 nights and the matinee.

Parents Council also organised another very successful careers night for our students in February, and many thanks to Bridget McKeever, Damian O'Hora and all the past pupils, now parents themselves, who gave of their time manning the 39 exhibition desks. Bridget and Annemarie Healy will be retiring from our Council this summer after many years of hard work and enthusiasm. We wish them a very happy retirement!!

It would be remiss of the Parents Council NOT to mention Principal Neil O' Toole's retirement and to pay him the honour of our greatest respect and sincere thanks for his enormous contribution to the school, and particularly his engagement with the Parents Council and the Students Council, and teachers in creating the kind of educational environment we all want for our students. We would like to welcome the new Principal Dom Twomey, and look forward to continuing our long-standing relationship with him. Have a ball this summer, weather permitting, and we'll see you all in the new term.

Mick Dolan (Chair Parents Council)

2008 Past Pupils Golf Classic

The organisers are buzzing the network as usual, given the popularity of this event it would be wise to get your application in early using the contact form on the school website (www.clonkeencollege.ie) or one of these three contacts:

Maurice (087-2580049) Ray (086-8138110) Paula (086-8939360)

Venue - Druids Glen

Date - Friday 12th September

Time - 11:00 AM Shotgun Start
Format - 4 Person Team Scramble

Foreword June 2008.

Another busy and eventful year in the life of Clonkeen College draws to a close. As ever it was marked by the industry and interest of the various groups and individuals who, year after year, ensure that the school is more than the sum of its parts.

Firstly I wish to thank and congratulate the teachers and other school staff for their commitment, hard work, expertise and pastoral concern for the students in their care. Their team spirit and genuine warmth towards all who enter here makes this one of the most rewarding work environments imaginable and gives school life the richness of texture which has always been its trademark.

The Parent Council, which had its numbers greatly increased this year by enthusiastic "debutant(ess)", was active on all fronts, ably abetted by the Social Committee. The breadth of their activities stretched from the Pantomime to First Year Social with the very successful Careers Night catering for the more "serious" side of things.

In all of these activities they call on the ever-willing members of the Student Council and have the pleasure every year of being impressed, if not indeed over-awed, by the quality and qualities of the young men they encounter. We, the staff, share their delight in being associated with such fine young people. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved for your support and your commit-

ment to ensuring that Clonkeen College is a school to be proud of.

I hope everyone who was present shares my view that this year's Graduation Mass was a wonderful coming together of our community, to give expression to the values of the school and to celebrate the success of our latest group of Sixth Year students on com-



pleting their course of studies. Best wishes to them and to our Junior Certificate boys in June and congratulations to everyone involved in organising the Mass, at which Fr. Kieran Dunne delivered an inspirational homily once again.

The coming year marks a new beginning for the school as it will be led by a new Principal and Deputy Principal. The appointment of Mr Dom Twomey as Principal ensures huge drive, enthusiasm and energy for the task and also guarantees the continuation of the

"traditions" of the school, which he played a large part in establishing and to which he is totally committed. On my own behalf I proffer my heartfelt thanks to all the people who have made my time here so happy and so fulfilling.

Board of Management

It's been a busy year for the Board and the coming year is shaping up to be equally as active with our building project progressing smoothly. We are currently at stage 3 which is very exciting and the light at the end of the tunnel is approaching. The plans which are displayed in the school signify the fantastic benefits the students and staff will enjoy on completion and it's upwards and onwards from here. The voluntary contribution which so many parents willingly contributed is a valuable and necessary source of income. We would like to thank everyone and look forward to your support next year.

Now that our 6th years have graduated and the heads are in the books we would like to congratulate them on their successes to date. We hope they have enjoyed their years in Clonkeen and in coming time will look back on their school days with fond memories. The student council, parent council, social committee and third world support group have had a hugely successful year. The Board would like to thank them for the amazing contribution they have made to the school community.

As everyone is aware, our inspiring principal Neil O'Toole is looking forward to spending more time on the golf course. He has been a member of staff for the last 35 years, 7 of which have been in the role of principal. His continued commitment and pure dedication to Clonkeen is inspirational to all of us and is evident throughout the school. His drive, energy, encouragement and enthusiasm produced an environment which the Board are very proud of. We would like to thank him most sincerely and hope he enjoys his well deserved rest with his family and friends.

Our newly appointed principal Mr. Dom Twomey has been a member of staff for many years and is ready for the challenge in his new role. We would like to wish him every success. The appointment of deputy principal is in progress.

Finally we would like to thank our wonderful staff for their commitment to the students. We realise many hours of personal time is given without complaint.

We hope everyone has a happy and safe summer.

Paula McCarthy

Ethiopia Easter 08

On the 15th of March 3 students from the college (Conor McCarthy, Stephen Byrne and Conor Horgan-Gaul) travelled to Ethiopia with Ms Hough. They traveled as part of a group of 31 people from across Ireland as part of the Self Help Program. The group included 14 students and 13 teachers as well as 4 members of a film crew who were making a documentary on the trip which is to be aired on the 26th of May at 11:30. A previous group from the college figured in a report, on the opening of a major water project, on the Ethiopian National Channel.

In Ethiopia the group was based in Addis Abba and from there traveled by bus around the country. They visited primary and secondary schools, libraries, women's groups, credit co-ops water pumps, irrigation systems and the biggest coffee plantation in the country.

Some of the images they saw were extremely touching and at times difficult to take in, most notably in the schools where poverty was very evident. The one thing that struck them and indeed any of those who have visited the country from the school was the positive outlook the people have on life.

What really struck them was the difference even a small amount of funding can make. They saw how farmers in Sodo have quadrupled their productivity with the introduction of an irrigation pump.

It was in their own words "a truly amazing experience" and one that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. The boys are extremely thankful to their teachers Mr McGauley and Ms Hough for their work in making the trip such a success, but we must remember the work the boys themselves have done in raising funds and an awareness of issues in the developing world. They are the real heroes in this story. It is not so long since we were the third world of Europe and outside investment helped bring us to where we are today.

THIRD WORLD SUPPORT GROUP ANNUAL REPORT

The Third World Support Group consists of a group of students and a teacher whose whole purpose is to alleviate poverty in the Third World. We endeavour to do this through helping people to help themselves for example through the provision of wells and schools.

We help EPEC a charity established by Ms Agnes Daly a former teacher in the college who now works in Ethiopia.

The Group also helps Self-Help. This County Carlow based charity works in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda, Malawi and Kenya.

A recent development is the provision of funds by Irish Aid for two teachers from Clonkeen to travel out to Kenya later on this year to visit a very impoverished school in Gilgil which is located in the Great Rift Valley. One of the aims of this visit is to prioritise the areas which need the most urgent attention. This school

which Mr. McGauley and Mr. Patsy Toland the Self-Help Director have seen first hand, has been described as the worst they have ever encountered. This is a long term project which our group is most enthusiastic about supporting.

The Third World Support Group comprises students from 4th and 5th year and is chaired by Mr McGauley

The group has raised almost €35,000.00 this year from a variety of activities, Raffles, Non Uniform Days, a Table Quiz, Street Collections, Personal Donations, A Christmas Fast, Bag Packing, a concert, a donation from the 1st Year social night and of course the "Women's" Mini Marathon. The biggest fund raisers were the Christmas Fast and the Table Quiz organised by Ms McEvoy.

This has been a highly successful year for the group. Mr. McGauley, Ms. McEvoy and Barry O'Shaughnessy (student)

travelled to Ethiopia at Christmas to visit projects undertaken by EPEC.

At Easter Ms Hough (teacher), Conor McCarthy, Conor Horgan-Gaul and Stephen Byrne (students) travelled to Ethiopia as part of a group organised by Self-Help. The group were accompanied by a film crew and their trip will be documented on RTE television on 26th May.

On a final note we would hope to be in a position to send two students to accompany the teachers on their trip to Kenya. This will cost approximately €1,500 per student. Any assistance you can provide towards the students' costs would be much appreciated.

The Third World Support Group would like to thank the Board of Management for all its support to date.

Conor McCarthy

Time to say goodbye

After 6 years anywhere you might expect to become attached to a place, but I think all of this year's 6th years will be a bit sad to go. We have been very lucky to have the tremendous support of all the teachers, staff, fellow students and the greater school community that we have had during our time in Clonkeen, and for that I know we are all grateful. It is so difficult to sum up the 6 years that have flown by, so I won't. All that I can say that it has been a pleasure to have been a part of such a close-knit community that is increasingly becoming a rarity. When we first walked into the school on our first day we were asked by Mr. O'Toole to learn, to be happy and to contribute. I can safely say that every student in 6th year has done that in his own way and I think that this is due in no small part to Mr. O'Toole's hands-on approach and his willingness to always be there for the students.

On behalf of the Class of 2008 I would like to thank him for his exceptional services to the school and wish Mr. Twomey every success as incoming principal.

Slán go fóil agus ádh mór i bhur scrudaithe! **Tom Clarke**

Music

Well done to all the lads in the TY Music group. They put together a really excellent album with plenty of variety. It was great to work with these students who were very often prepared to stay for long periods after school to work on their songs and music. Particular thanks must go to Marcus Dalton for his commitment to the whole project. A big thanks must also go to Eoin Campbell and Adam Lynch for their commitment. It was decided this year to only publish a limited edition of this album. There are some copies left but not many.

It was great to see students learn something about the whole recording process and in the end each musician mixed and supervised their own work. It was also great to witness the courage of students who performed on the day of the concert which was in aid of Third World Support.

Finally thanks to Mr McCauley and The Third World Support Group for their assistance in organising the promotion of the concert. Altogether over €1,000 was raised which will go towards the funding of various projects.

J Clarke

Track and Field athletics

Training for the 2008 season began in April in preparation for the Edmund Rice games in April and the east Leinsters and Leinster finals in May. Athletes preparing for track events trained with Bro. Kelly and Mr. Sheehy while the athletes for the field events trained with Mr. Brennan. The East Leinsters were held on the 6th and 7th of May in Irishtown stadium and Clonkeen had good success with medals going to students in nearly all categories.

East Leinster Minor Boys: 100 metres: Stephen Maher 3rd, Shot Putt: Adam Mooney 1st, Eoghan McKeever 2nd, Long Jump: Adam Mooney 2nd, High Jump: Mark Hayward 3rd, Relay: Lewis Richardson 1st, Adam Mooney, Eoghan McKeever, Stephen Maher, Marcus Kane

Junior Boys:

Shot: Kimji Cayabyab 3rd, Discus Kimji Cayabyab 2nd
U16 boys: Mile: Oran Colhoun 3rd, 400 metres:

Robert Maloney 3rd

U17 boys: 800m: Billy Crosbie 2nd, High jump: John Gill 2nd, relay: Philip Higgins 2nd Ronan Sheridan, James Lee, Robert Maloney

Leinster Finals: 21st May Santry Stadium Minor Boys: Long Jump: Adam Mooney, Relay: Marcus Kane, Adam Mooney, Eoghan McKeever, Stephen Maher, Mark Hayward Congratulations to all the Clonkeen athletes that participated in all the events in the Edmund Rice games, East Leinsters and Leinster Finals. Thanks also to Bro. Kelly and Mr Brennan for their efforts in coaching the lads.

Mr Sheehy

TRANSITION YEAR

At the recent awards ceremony Transition Year students were given certificates of participation, attendance and excellence. In addition most students were awarded certificates by outside bodies following courses in self-defence, sailing and canoeing. It was very satisfying to see a larger number of students than ever receiving the Gaisce President's Awards at bronze and silver level. Medals for the College Sports Day were also presented.

The following were the main award winners:

Students of the Year in each group – Niall Murphy, Des Cryan, Chris Campbell.

Academic Awards - Andrew Hume, Colin Egan, Robert Kennedy.

Leadership Awards - Colin O'Shaughnessy, Darragh O'Loughlin, Richard Shiggins, Chris Nolan, Sean O'Connor, Eoghan Aherne, David Brandon, Marcus Dalton, Lee

Walsh.

Attendance and Punctuality Certificates - Richard Shiggins, Donal White, David Brandon, Chris Nolan, Darragh O'Loughlin, Lee Walsh, Conor Murphy, Eoghan Aherne, Darren O'Toole.

5th Year

Congratulations to all who won awards for Leadership, Academic Achievement and certificates for Attendance and Punctuality. Everyone should enjoy the summer and come back prepared and ready in September for 6th Year. A McBride

6th Years

Clonkeen College wishes the present 6th Years the very best of luck in the Leaving Cert. and in their future endeavours. They were a great bunch of senior students and led the school by example. The following awards were given out on the night of the Graduation Mass on Tuesday May 20th.

C. Collins (6th year tutor)

Awards were presented for Leadership, social concern, academic and for attendance and punctuality

Leadership: Stephen Bird Michael Breathnach Thomas Clarke Eoghan Dalton Eoin Gallagher Robert Gibbons Barry O'Shaughnessy Eoghan Shankey-Smith David Treacy Neil Kelly Liam O'Dowd Gareth Boyle

Social Concern: Greg Carroll Nicholas Hall Fionn O'Brien Barry O'Shaughnessy Peter Williams

Academic: Gareth Boyle Shane Cryan Eoin Gallagher Ciarán Hickey Ciarán Loughlin Seán Brophy Stephen Bird David Greene

Attendance and punctuality: Stephen Bird Seán Brophy David Greene Ben Grehan Daragh Lyons Seán O'Driscoll Gareth Boyle Eoin Gallagher Greg McNeill Brian O'Riordan Kevin Scally Nicholas Hall Eoghan Shankey-Smith

Sportsman of the year: David Treacy **Student of the year:** Barry O'Shaughnessy

U-14 and FIRST YEAR GAELIC FOOTBALL

After putting up a good fight against **Coláiste Eoin and Oatlands** in the **First Year Dublin Championship**, our attentions turned to our annual **Class League**. After the round-robin phase **S3** emerged victorious over **S2**. Those who flew the flag for the Champions were: **Emmet Deeney, Anthony Higgins, Shane Irwin, Joseph Labastida, Andrew Lenny, Jack Mannion, David Murphy, Gavin Nolan, Alex O'Neill and Shane Whelan**. **S2** were represented by **Seán Gibney, Ciarán McDermott, Aaron McDonnell, Aaron Murphy, Corry Nicholls, Aidan Quinn, Shane Sexton, Tom Toner and Carl Wallace**. **S1** could only muster 7 players, but they each performed heroically before going down in the semi-final to **S2**. They were **Daibhid Corish, Daniel Hussey, Eoghan McKeever, Adam Mooney, Daniel Nolan, Cian O'Hannigan and Seán Toner**.

FIRST YEAR CLASSLEAGUE 2008 Semi-Final:

S2, 4-7; S1, 2-4

Final: S3, 4-4; S2, 2-3.

As always those who participated in the **U-14 and First Year Gaelic Football** earned certificates relating to their degree of **Commitment to Training** since September. All those mentioned above received **Certificates** at their **Awards' Ceremonies**. So did the following: **S1 – Cory Slater; S2 – Scott Curtis, Seán Dunne and Aaron O'Flaherty; R.1 – Ben Errity, Like Foy, Ryan Matthews, Cormac McDermott, Stephen Moroney, Conor Swords, Cian Taylor and Denis Vavasour; R.2 – Jack Butler, Jack Clinton, Scott Mahony, Ciarán McCarthy, Paul Moffatt, Dean O'Donnell and Cian O'Hara; R.3 – Brian Allen, Jamie Keenan, Conor Lehane and Conor McLoughlin; R.5 – Brian Lavelle; R.6 – Michael Curtin.**

Trophies were also presented to the winners and runners-up of the highly successful **U-14 League** run off in the first term. Like the **U-14 League**, the recipients of the **All-Stars** awards were covered in our autumn newsletter.

And finally to the special **Top Trainer** awards. We give these out to those who show the most exceptional commitment. This year we awarded **4 Top Trainer Prizes: Ciarán McDermott (S2), Ciarán McCarthy (R.2), Conor Lehane (R.3)** and, for the third consecutive year, **Michael Curtin (R.6)**. Well done to the **Top Trainers**, and to all who made an effort this year. **Second Years!** Be ready for **September 2nd** when it all starts again!! **Pauline Murray and Jim Lynch (managers)**

1st Year Under 13 Football

The 1st Year Dublin Football League began after Easter. We beat Collinstown Park 3-2 away. If the truth be told we should have scored a few more. Goals came from Carl Wallace(2) and Sean Toner. Other notable performances came from Shane Sexton, Ciaran McDermott and Ryan O'Daly. The 1st Year's then played a home game against a much fancied St.Benildus side. We took a one nil lead before half time following a super cross by Aaron O'Flaherty finished by Aaron Murphy. In the second half the whole team played the better football with big performances from Shawn DeWyspe-laere, Sean Toner, Carl Wallace, Aaron O'Flaherty, Carl Wallace and Shane Whelan. The game finished up 1 nil, a deserved home win.

As a result of our two wins we topped the group. This meant a home draw against Chanel College in the quarter finals. Undoubtedly Chanel were the bigger, faster and more experienced side. Again we battled hard throughout the game, with goalkeeper Aidan Quinn making a great double save in the first half. Chanel had more possession but were failing to create many clear cut opportunities be-

cause of the excellent defending of the back four and the hard work and closing down throughout the team. In the end we conceded a scrappy goal from a corner. In saying that we had a great chance to level it before the end after some great work down the right by Gerard Hartigan. Unfortunately we missed a great chance along with another one on one in the first half. So that was it. Thank you to all the football players in first year who showed a great attitude towards training and in matches. Also a thank you to Conor O'Brien in 4th Year who worked alongside Mr.McBride in coaching and managing the team.

1st Year Football Team S1 - Shawn DeWyspe-laere, David Harris, Gerard Hartigan, Daniel Hussey, Eoghan McKeever, Ryan Murphy, Ryan O'Daly, Sean Toner. **S2** - Sean Gibney, Darragh Lavelle, Ciaran McDermott, Aaron Murphy, Corry Nicholls, Aaron O'Flaherty, Aidan Quinn, Shane Sexton, Carl Wallace. **S3** - Ryan Aherne, Jamie Gallagher, Adam Mulvaney, Alex O'Neill, Joe Pigot, Shane Whelan.

A McBride

ior Geography teachers compared it to the Burren with attitude. The adventure centre is nestled in a valley with a meandering river flanked by cliffs on both sides.

Accommodation consisted of Chalets, with a main centre for dining and recreation. The real reason we were here was for the activities, which consisted of caving, climbing, kayaking, biking, abseiling and archery to name but a few. The harder amongst us used the outdoor swimming pool. Everyone had their favourite activity, but I thought the caving was the 'biz'. Rory and Niall excelled at the rock climbing, Ian McKeever move over, some serious talent on the way up. Stephen White deserves praise for climbing outside his comfort zone.

Senior students who had returned for the third time, showed the newcomers the ropes so to speak, the good behaviour amongst the student was laudable. Conor, Cillian, Sean, Karl and Eoghan were a credit to the school and served as ambassadors for the good name of Clonkeen. In the village of Le Vans there is one octogenarian waiting for a lock of Karl's hair, but that's another secal.

I cannot recommend this trip highly enough for those with the spirit of adventure, and thanks to Mr.Daly for organising such an excellent trip.

K O'Donoghue (teacher and wild mountain man)

Golf News Competition results March to May

Junior match play at Glencullen Golf Club Winner Cian O'Hara Runner up Jamie Keenan, Cian wins on 1st play off hole. **Senior match play at Glencullen Golf Club** Winner James Lee, Runner up David Green, James Lee won by 3 and 1 **Golf Championship at Old Conna Golf Club** Overall winner David Green

G.U.I. Division 1 H/C 18 and under 1st Conor McCarthy 2nd Shane Errity 3rd Shane O'Rourke

G.U.I. Division 2 H/C 19 and over. 1st Cian O'Hara 2nd Ciaran Feeney 3rd Eoin McKeever **Non G.U.I. Division 3** John Murphy, Best front 9 Alex Keeny Best Back 9 Jamie Keenan

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for the time and effort given by the following parents. Paula McCarthy, Angela Condon, Catherine Keenan and Ian Dowling to the school golf throughout the year. Their support is invaluable.

Please note any student who wishes to be considered for golf competitions next year should submit 3 18 hole cards (signed) by Sept 8 2008. try and secure a G.U.I. H/C over the summer months.

Happy golfing **B Noonan.**

Ardeche Adventure A group of students and teachers journeyed to the Outdoor Adventure Centre in the Ardeche during Easter 2008. The first impression one gets of this region is a sense of déjà vu. One of the sen-

Congratulations to **Philip Knight** on representing the Leinster and Ireland Schools' under 18 football teams.

Trials started for the Leinster team when Philip was in 4th year. On selection for the Leinster squad, Philip was made captain. Leinster went on to win the under 18 Provincial tournament. From this Philip was selected for Irish Schools' trials. The squad was whittled down to 18 from 50. Philip played both left full and centre half. Ireland beat both Northern Ireland and Wales. This was followed by a draw against Scotland, allowing Ireland to retain the Celtic Cup.

In the final game Ireland beat England in the Stadium of Light, Sunderland 1 nil. as a result Ireland won the tournament outright for the first time in four years. Well done again to Philip and best of luck next year.

On Thursday the 8th of may **Ben Nugent** left Dublin Airport as part of a 4-man U.C.D table tennis team to the international youth cup in Hasselt (Belgium). Ben was offered a place on the team for the event, an offer he could not turn down.

The event got off to a great start for the Irish as U.C.D won all their matches against 6 teams from across Europe. Hopes were high but results did not come their way despite some great matches including one where Ben came back from 2 sets down to claim victory. Overall the team came 16th out of 116.

Ben coaches table tennis with community groups and was recently awarded his Bronze in the presidents awards.

Hurling : Leinster Colleges.

Two Clonkeen players featured prominently on the Dublin Colleges Senior Hurling team who captured the Leinster Colleges title. David Treacy, captain and leading scorer and Conor Gough, a strong addition to the forward line.

They played excellent hurling, defeating in turn, Kieran's Kilkenny, Good Counsel New Ross and easily in the final, Kilkenny CBS, a veritable who's who of Leinster colleges hurling.

They lost to Thutles CBS in the All-Ireland semi by two points, on their most disappointing outing of the season. Yet even so the Dublin team had their chances to make the final.

But well done to David and Conor and best wishes to Conor with the Dublin minors.

1st Year Basketball

This year, David Brandon (transition year) decided he would try to start a first year basketball team. David had been playing club basketball for many years but was unable to play in Clonkeen. For David the solution was simple -set up and coach a first year team to try and encourage basketball in the school. With the backing of the school management he went about starting a team and with the help of Barry O'Shaughnessy, Damian Crosbie and Mr Keogh trials were held and a team selected.

At the start it seemed that they were dropped in at the deep end when the team was entered into a competition in Colaiste Eoin without having a chance to train beforehand. They finished in second place; the team's confidence was soaring.

Training sessions were held at lunchtime and soon they were playing matches. Before they knew it they were in the semi-final against St. Michaels College.

After defeating St. Michaels they faced Pres Bray in the finals, who had just been crowned all Ireland champions. In an epic final Clonkeen was able to make a huge push towards the end of the match to put Pres under pressure but unfortunately Presenta-

tion's fast paced play was too much.

Emerging with a South Dublin silver medal was great for the lads and hopefully they can continue in this winning fashion in the years to come.

One student with a great idea and the enthusiasm to carry it through has brought about great change and given the junior students an opportunity to succeed in an area which was not possible before. David, Damian, Barry and Mr Keogh are to be commended for their work on behalf of the students. D. Ed.

CHESS

The **First Year Chess Competition** was the best in the school for over two decades with 32 players signing up for the end-of-year championship. 20 of the 24 qualifiers for the knock-out stages were able to take their positions at the boards: athletics and prior commitment knocking out **Adam Mooney, Stephen Maher, Darren Coughlan and Darragh Cullen**. Sorry lads, we'll do it earlier next year!!

Douglas Bell eliminated **Eoghan Mulholland**, but was the put out by **Ryan O'Daly**. **Nathaniel Carroll**, **Daniel Baker** and **Darragh Plunkett** beat **Corry Nicholls, Scott Curtis** and **Matthew Shannon** respectively. **Cian O'Hannigan** won two knock-out matches to get to the quarters, beating **Daniel Hussey** and **Aidan Quinn**. **Seán Gibney** beat **Tom Toner** who had in turn eliminated **Daniel Farrell**. **Aditya Chaturvedi** beat **Leo McMackin** and **Shane Sexton** to take his up his quarter-final slot against **Stephen Boylan**, who had knocked out **Mark McKenna**. **O'Daly** made it to the final beating **Carroll** and **Plunkett** (who had put out **Baker**). **Chaturvedi** and **O'Hannigan** made it through as the knock-out kings beating **Gibney** and **Boylan** respectively for their 3rd sudden-death win each! **Aditya** then made it to the final where **Ryan** beat him. **Darragh** beat **Cian** for 3rd place. **Ryan O'Daly** summed it up best, when accepting his winner's trophy from **Ms Murray**, by paying tribute to all who participated making it the biggest competition in the school this year! Well done Ryan and well done to all who took part.

In the 2nd Year Competition, **Cian Aherne** beat **Gavin Walsh**, with **Gavin Cunningham** taking third from **Ciarán McCarthy**. (**Jim Lynch**)

CONCERN ALL-IRELAND QUIZ – 3rd PLACE

Well done to the **Transition Year Team** of **Colin Egan, Ronan Gough, Barry Lenihan, Niall Murphy, David Nolan** and **Colin O'Shaughnessy** who narrowly missed out on All-Ireland glory with a sterling effort in the Final of the **Concern All-Ireland Table Quiz** at the Royal Dublin Hotel in April. Two questions separated the top 3 teams. The boys had battled through the highly competitive Dublin heat earlier in the month with only 5 on the team. The 5th Year team of **Paul Bennett, Killian Farrell, Ronan Holland, Seán Lehane, Zach Martin** and **Kevin O'Shea** just missed out on joining them in the Final. Well done to both teams. We'll go again next year.

Earning plaques for their successful run in the **All-Ireland Examiner "Pit Your Wits" Quiz** were 3rd Years **Darragh McGrath, Robert Browne, Darragh Nolan** and **Conor Scanlan** and 6th Years **Tom Clarke, Ciarán Hickey, John Murphy** and **Karl O'Sullivan**. We almost made it to the last 16. No mean feat in the biggest schools' quiz encompassing over 200 north and south of the border! We'll be looking for some of the Concern participants to step up to the mark next year for the Senior side now that we are losing our four 6th Years who supported the Quiz Team so well over the last two years. Well done lads.

Jim Lynch

TYO Rome Trip 2008

On Sunday 10th February 47 transition year students, 7 Classical Studies students from 5th year and 6 teachers – Mr Keogh, Mr Byrne, Ms Brougham, Ms Gibson and Mr Sheehy all led by Mr McBride took off for Ciampino Airport in Rome on the 12.15 flight.

Day one was spent travelling although we did manage a little sightseeing taking in the Trevi Fountain and the Via del Corso. We checked into the Hotel Lazio which was very centrally located in the Via Vicenza.

Our second day was jam-packed. In the morning we had a guided tour of the city. We visited the Colosseum, the Forum (the site of the murder of Julius Caesar) and Trajan's Column. After lunch we had a tour of the Pantheon, followed by a walk around the Piazza di Spagna and the Piazza Navona. That evening the group boarded a coach to Marino to go ice-skating, exhausting all.

Tuesday morning we had an early start to visit the Vatican Museums – so vast they were impossible to fully appreciate in our limited time. The boys were impressed with the Sistine Chapel and its spectacular ceiling. We then moved outside to view St Peter's Square and St Peter's Basilica – the largest Basilica in Christendom. In the afternoon the group had some free time to visit the shops on the Via Nazionale and the Piazza della Repubblica.

Day four was extremely memorable. The group were up early and on the coach by 7.30 am bound for Pompeii. What an incredible place to visit. Mt Vesuvius erupted in AD 79 burying the city and its residents under cinder, pumice and ash, thus preserving the ruins of the city with a magnificent completeness that has to be seen to be believed, our tour of Pompeii was enhanced by lovely blue skies and warm temperatures. We then travelled to Vesuvius itself (the only active volcano on the mainland of Europe), the road was certainly a challenge for the coach driver but the views of the Bay of Naples were spectacular.

Our final day dawned again to glorious weather, we packed and checked out of the hotel and were on our way. We stopped at the Castel Romano – outlet shopping centre for a few hours before proceeding to the airport to catch the 5 pm flight to Dublin.

Thanks to Mr Mc Bride for all his hard work.

O Brougham.

Gaisce

24 T.Y. students successfully completed the various activities for the Gaisce awards this year. 20 students received the Bronze Award and 4 received the Silver in transition year. Sean Lehane in 5th year also received the silver award. As usual students committed to spend time involved in a sport, a skill their individual communities and pursued an adventure. On the 15th May, 14 students headed off on a hill walking expedition from the school, led by Mr O'Donoghue, Mr Daly and Mr Sheehan to complete their adventure section for their award. They returned very tired but they had thoroughly enjoyed their day and are eager for a repeat performance next year. All students received their medals on the 16th May. Congratulations lads. **Ms Gibson**.