



# Clonkeen Chronicle

## Summer 2009

### Foreword June 2009.

It is hard to believe that a whole year has flown by so quickly for our school community. 2008/09 was a year of achievement for Clonkeen College in so many ways. Our victories in hurling, football, public speaking and debating were noteworthy this year and all of the students and mentors involved deserve so much praise for accomplishing their goals.

However, the year was also one of considerable academic and social advancement and development for our students. The many social justice and charity projects and activities clearly demonstrated that our school is a caring community, actively engaged in bringing about a better future for us all. Indeed, 2008/09 was marked by the industry and interest of the various groups and individuals who ensure that the school is considerably more than the sum of its parts.

On a personal level for Mr. Barry and me, this has been our first year in our new management roles. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who helped make it such a memorable and rewarding one for us.

To begin with, I wish to thank and congratulate the 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 was again active on a number of different fronts. Their activities stretched from the Pantomime to the First Year Social with a whole host of other

praise-worthy projects and activities in between. I would like to thank them all, in particular, Ms. Angela Condon for her exemplary leadership of the Parent Council.

In many if not all of these activities, the Parent Council have of course called on the ever-willing members of the Student Council to assist them. As a manager, I have had the pleasure of being impressed, if not indeed over-awed, by the quality and characteristics of the young men on this Student Council. We are genuinely delighted to be associated with such fine young people.

I hope everyone who was present shares my view that this year's Graduation Mass was a wonderful coming together of our school community. It was truly an expression of the values which we hold dearly and a celebration of the success of our latest group of Sixth Year students on completing 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.

Finally, I look forward to starting on the works that are planned for over the Summer months. School buildings and grounds, like homes and gardens, need to be continually tended to, maintained and developed to ensure that they retain and develop their value and continue to serve their purpose. God bless the work!

Dom Twomey (Principal)

### ENCOUNTER PROGRAMME.

The following students have been selected as the eight student leaders for the inaugural Clonkeen College Leaving Certificate *Encounter Retreat*:

Denis Dowling, Eoin Campbell

Patrick McRedmond, Conor O' Regan, Ben Nugent, Chris Campbell, Darragh O' Loughlin, Shane Dawson, In the event that any of the above are unable to participate or attend for any reason, the following students will act as substitutes:

First Sub: Cillian Casey, Second Sub: David Nolan

The Encounter Experience is a well-structured, peer-led program that encourages participants to share their stories in small and large groups which help encourage openness and participation. The Encounter Experience emphasizes "Listening to one another with Respect" so that all gain insight and understanding into one's own life journey and that of others. Through the sharing process, the participants will indeed experience the "encounter of personal transformation".

The Encounter Experience Program is a two and a half day experience away from a school setting, in a residential centre/retreat centre close by. A maximum number for the Encounter Experience is 40 participants in addition to the peer leaders and directors. The Encounter Experience Program is for senior students only.

Each group has a peer leader and an adult assistant. In the course of the Encounter the participants, in a very caring and supportive environment, are able to listen to real life experiences from their peer leaders which will in turn inspire the participants to share their own stories.

### Past Pupils Golf Classic

It is that time of the year again where we are organizing what is now the 11<sup>th</sup> Past Pupils Golf Outing. It is once again being held in Druids Glen on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. It is a shotgun start at 11 am with an entry fee of €600 per team. All monies raised go towards the development of the school.

For further places and to reserve a place contact Paula Fry on 086.89.39.60

### Irish Mathematical Olympiad

As a participant in a previous Irish Mathematical Olympiad I thought it appropriate that I should write a few words to congratulate Colin Egan (5<sup>th</sup>) on being selected to represent Ireland in the International Mathematics Olympiad, to be held in Germany during the summer. Colin has been named 5<sup>th</sup> of 6 on the team which is an extraordinary achievement.

Colin has participated in the

Irish Olympiads for the last 3 years and has attended numerous Saturday morning maths lectures on the run up to each Olympiad, showing his determination. Colin's place on the team is something Clonkeen College and his teachers should be very proud of. I wish him all the best in Germany this summer

Eoghan Harney (6<sup>th</sup>)

## Clonkeen College Debating Society

David Nolan bestowed huge honour on the school this year with his magnificent performance in the prestigious *AIB Trinity College Phil Speaks Initiative*. David was chosen to debate in the All – Ireland semi-final, held in the renowned Debating Chamber in Trinity College itself, in opposition to the motion “That This House believes there is no such thing as a legitimate war”. When the adjudicators returned their results, it was official: Dave would be debating in the final. This effectively ranks David as one of the top eight debaters in the country, although a stoic performance in the final was not enough to earn a first place finish.

There was great surprise when it was announced that one of the 18 ambassadors representing Ireland at the International round of the European Youth Parliament next year would be from Clonkeen. Niall Murphy will have the chance to attend the session in either Helsinki or Norway. Given that Niall, Colin Egan and Colin O’Shaughnessy represented Leinster in the National finals and Clonkeen at the regional conference, it is safe to say that EYP resolutions have been heavily influenced by Clonkeen students this year. Finally, well done to all involved in the first *Clonkeen College Annual Debating Competition*. Four second years from Clonkeen (Tom Toner, Ben Corbett, Carl Wallace and Darragh Cullen) pitted their wits against four second years from Saint Joseph’s of Cluny. Unfortunately, Cluny shined it on the day, however well done to Ben Corbett, who was given the award of “Best Speaker” of the day. Ben’s success rounded off an eventful and successful year of debating. Here’s to the next one!

## Gaisce

18 people set off on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, to fulfill their Gaisce duties by going on a supervised trip as part of the wick-low way. Among them were Mr. Daly, Mr. Boyle and Eoin Cambell from 5<sup>th</sup> year. The walk started outside the gates of Marley Park and the weather was fine. After the first few Km of hill walking and a lot of panting we began to get used to it. We arrived at Knocknaree hostel at 5 o’clock and got in just before the rain.

Endless credit is due to Ms Gibson who organized the trip, bought all our food, cleaned up and made our lunches for the next day, with a little help from us. Poker was played, T.V. watched and everyone realized they couldn’t beat Mr. Boyle at pool. Mr. Barry also made a surprise visit, looks like we weren’t in the middle of nowhere after all.

The following day we started the second part of the journey in the rain. The mist got so heavy that we couldn’t pass over Djouce Mountain and we had to take an alternative route.

All participants were happy to have gone on the walk as it finished our last task for Gaisce.

Eoin Keenan

## Golf

Here are the results of the golf competitions which took place during May played at Old Conna Golf Club

### **The Billy Noonan Perpetual Trophy Senior 2009.**

Winner Alex Keeney, Runner up Conor McCarthy

### **The Neil O’Toole perpetual Trophy junior 2009**

Winner Jamie Keenan, Runner up Danny O’Hara

Both Neil O’Toole and I wish to express our gratitude to the B.O.M. for allowing our names to be put forward for the above perpetual trophies. We both see it as a great honour which we accept with gratitude.

### **Results for the Golf championship**

Overall winner (handicap 8) nett 66 Jamie Keenan

Best Gross (handicap 12) nett 70 Shane O’Rourke

Category 1 Handicap 18 and lower: 1<sup>st</sup> Colm Condon (h/p 13) Nett 74, 2<sup>nd</sup> Conor McCarthy (h/p 11) Nett 76, 3<sup>rd</sup> Alex Keeney (h/p 15) Nett 78.

Category 2 Handicap 19 plus and non G.U.I.: 1<sup>st</sup> Niall O’Dowd (h/p 28) Nett 69, 2<sup>nd</sup> Karl Schute(h/p 28) Nett 73, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mark O’grady (h/p 26) Nett 77, 4<sup>th</sup> Sean Lehane (h/p 28) Nett 78)

Best front 9, Aaron O’Flaherty (h/p 22) on last 6, Best Back 9 Danny O’Hara (h/p 21) and special award Scott Mahony (h/p 28)

Once again we would like to thank the following parents for all their effort. Without their help and commitment it simply would not be possible, so thank you to Paula McCarthy, Angela Condon and Catherine Keenan.

We would also like to thank Old Conna Golf Club for allowing us to use their facilities. Over the past number of years the club has been very supportive.

**B. Noonan**

## CD Project 2009

Once again Clonkeen College witnessed the talents of some wonderful musicians. Since last October a group of around twenty students dedicated a lot of their Thursday afternoons to writing and recording a CD which **\*SOLD OUT\*** after the concert last week.

It was mainly First, Second and Third years involved this year. It was really impressive to see them perform so well at the concert and many of their fellow students were 'blown away' by the level of their talent and songwriting skills. It was really great to see these students work away at their music in workshop situations.

A big thanks must go to Kellan Scott in Transition Year who showed great dedication and enthusiasm as Sound Engineer throughout the entire project. Also a big thank you to Joseph Clarke in First Year who designed the sleeve and organised the replication of the CDs. Thanks also to Eoin Campbell who mixed the sound on the day of the concert. Also thanks to students from the Third World Group and The Student Council who gave of their time on the day.

Finally a big thanks to all of you who attended. You behaved extremely well and showed a great level of respect to your classmates who were performing on stage. Once again we gave any monies earned to The Third World Group -this amounted to around €650

**John Clarke**

## Transition Year School Trip 2009 – Krakow

After an early start at the airport the eager students had to endure a three hour delay due to mechanical failure of the plane. Some students looked very scared. But they were glad to hear upon arrival in Krakow that our guided tour of the Wawel Castle, cathedral and main market square was cut in half. We settled back into the hotel where all the lads went to bed nice and early!

On the second day we went on a guided tour

of the Wieliczka Salt Mines. The lads were very impressed at the depth of the mines, the extraordinary sculptures and the underground church. Some students got a blast of salt from licking the walls of the mines. The lads then spent time exploring the old town of Krakow in their free time. That evening we went to the indoor water-park and again home for an early night!!

On the third day we visited Auschwitz concentration camp which made a great impression on the group, bringing to life the horror

of World War II. That evening we went to a bowling alley where the lads enjoyed bowling, pool and arcade games. On the final day the lads enjoyed shopping in Krakow’s old town and the Galeria. For the final evening we went to a Polish Folk night where the lads enjoyed the dancing more than the food.

The lads were a pleasure to bring on a school trip and everyone had a great time. Thanks to all involved.

**A McBride**

## Stagecraft Senior Drama Festival

This was held this year in Cabinteely Community School. The festival was adjudicated by Deirdre Nolan, and the talent from Clonkeen was outstanding. In a close contest, the Best Actor Award went to Barry Lenehan, who starred in 'The Year of the Hiker'. Runner-up was Shane O'Regan from Transition year who appeared in 'One Last White Horse' by Dermot Bolger. Other awards were won by Daniel Baker (Best Supporting Actor - Intermediate), Daniel Hussey (Runner-Up Best Actor - Intermediate), Darragh Cullen (Comedy Award), with medals of excellence going to Kevin Mooney, Vincent Brown & Darragh Cullen. There were over 20 boys from Clonkeen involved in the festival on May 17th, and in addition to the solo awards mentioned, they won numerous group awards for their plays. The atmosphere was fantastic all day and as usual, the Clonkeen boys were a credit to their school. Well done to all!!

### Paul & Ciara.

### Ardeche 2009

Once again the outdoor pursuit adventure trip to the south of France was a great success. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> year that the school has visited the region and for some students it was their third visit.

The highlights were water polo, table traversing, the epic games of claps with the rugby ball, involving more than half the group, Ms Maguire conquering her fear of heights by falling through a hole in the safety net 50ft in the air (thankfully she only fell about 2 feet) and of course the routine activities of kayaking, caving, climbing, VTT, ledge walking, assault course and archery.

The weather was fantastic, (as you would expect), the chef got a standing ovation for the

food he produced and the instructors were very helpful. As always we had great fun trying to guess what they were really saying with their great mixture of broken English and shards/French. All in all it was a pretty deadly trip. **Cillian Casey**

*I am not sure if "deadly" is the most appropriate term, after all we did all get home safe. From an organizers point of view the trip was a dream. The boys were mature, co-operative and helpful at all times. Coming home through French emigration controls, I was taken aside and asked if I was in charge. When I admitted to the offence the Head of Emigration complimented me on the behaviour of the boys. It was exemplary. D. Ed*

*Don't forget to plan ahead for the school educational tours abroad, whether it be the outdoors or the city life which is of interest. The outdoor pursuit tour to the south of France is open to 2nd, TY and 5th year students with some places available to students in 3rd year who had been previously involved.*

*The City tours are open to TY students. The cost of the tours will be known early at the start of the year and rest assured we do our best to keep costs to a minimum without compromising on the quality of the tour. D. Ed*

## U-14 TOP TRAINERS

Every season we present all our Top Trainers a special trophy. This year we gave out 9 awards to those who trained the most since September. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Years were **Gavin Nolan, Marcus Kane, Carl Wallace** and **Daniel Hussey**. And our 1<sup>st</sup> Year winners were **Danny O'Hara, Conor O'Sullivan, Steven Byrne, Anthony Clarke** and **Jakub Puszc**. We saw Jakub 31 times in 32 sessions! Well done to all! Keep it up next year!

## U13 Soccer

After being knocked out by Benildus's College in the Cup before Christmas the 1<sup>st</sup> Years recovered to have a good run in the league. They beat Templeogue College 0-1 away in a tough game with notable performances from Neil Costello in goals, Andrew Murphy at centre-half, Sam Heffernan up front, and Liam Bermingham and Jack Doyle making big impressions as substitutes. The win against Templeogue set the U13s for another crack at Benildus in the league. In a hard fought game at home Clonkeen scored a last minute winner against the Leinster Cup Champions when Steven Byrne won the ball on the halfway line and went down the line and crossed the ball into the box for Seán Treacy to finish. Some of the football played, in the first half in particular, was excellent. Impressive performances came from Daniel Flynn-Fallon, Jeff Richardson and Niall Whelan in defence, and Thomas Carrigg and Jeff Vavasour up front. Crucial to winning the game was the central midfield combination of Ben MacEntee and Steven Byrne. A comfortable win over James's Street sent the U13s into the knockout stages, knocking Benildus's College out of the competition in the process.

In the knock-out stages the U13s beat St Laurence's 4-2 at home. In a difficult game with a few players missing through injury and absence, Chris Roche and Lee Harrington came in and had good games. This put the U13s into the semi-final where we met a very strong Lucan side. 3-0 down at half time we made a better game of it in the second half but lost 4-1. The Lucan side then went on to win the competition. The 1<sup>st</sup> Year squad showed a great attitude to training and due to their hard work improved greatly throughout the year.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Yr Soccer Squad:

S1: Jack Carrigg, Patryk Czajkowski, Jack Doyle, Sam Heffernan, Conor Hayes, Ben MacEntee, Daniel O'Hara, Jakub Puszc, Mark Richardson

S2: Tiarnán Doyle, Daniel Flynn-Fallon, Lee Harrington, Ross Miller, Jeff Richardson, Chris Roche, Niall Whelan

S3: Liam Bermingham, Steven Byrne, Neill Costello, Andrew Murphy, Dillon O'Neill, Seán Treacy, Karl Twomey, Jeff Vavasour

### Athletics

The first track and field athletics meeting of the year was held in Irishtown Stadium, on 22.4.09 for the C.B.S. sports. Clonkeen College performed very well overall coming home with 5 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze. Great performances from: Conor O'Sullivan shot S2 gold, Jeffrey Byrne, javelin S3 gold, Brian Fitzachery Javelin S3 gold, Steven Byrne 800 metres S3 bronze, Adam Mooney long jump R1 gold, Adam Mooney shot R1 gold, James Lee Shot TY silver, Dara Lavelle high jump R1 bronze. Frank Ryan, Billy Crosbie, Mark Byrne and Michael Shiggins won the silver in the Senior Medley Relay.

Well done to all those who brought home medals and to all those who represented the school on the day. The East Leinster Schools Track and field championship took place in Irishtown Stadium on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of May. Clonkeen College again had a good athletics team involved in these Championship with Br. Kelly having all athletes in excellent condition.

Clonkeen College has a real find this year in Jeffrey Byrne from S3 in the javelin who won the CBS javelin and was runner up in the East Leinster while he finished a respectable 5<sup>th</sup> in the Leinster finals.

Other results in the East Leinsters

Robert Maloney 3<sup>rd</sup> in the U-16 200m Final. We will be losing Robert as he takes up his new job with Liverpool FC. We would like to thank Robert for his outstanding commitment to the school and wish him all the best of luck. Kinji finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the discus and is a great prospect in both the shot and the discus. Thanks again to all Clonkeen athletes who performed very well thro'out the year.

**Mr. Sheehy, Br. Kelly**

## FIRST YEARS LIFT DUBLIN CROWN

We won our first Gaelic football title in 7 years by beating **St. Mac Dara's C.S.** in the **Tom Quinlan Shield** (Dublin 1<sup>st</sup> Year Championship) by 3 points on May 21<sup>st</sup> at O'Toole Park. It was a fitting end to a tremendous season: the **Seniors** and **U-16s** both having bravely fought their way to their respective finals. The former going down somewhat controversially in extra-time.

## HURLERS COMPLETE DOUBLE

**Indeed to top off the year, a lot of the First Years returned the following week to the same venue to emphatically claim the U-14 Dublin Hurling Championship under Ms Ryan's, Mr Collin's, Br. Kelly's and Mr. Bennett's stewardship. A great victory and a fine farewell to Mr. Collins, who has returned to Cork. He might get hurling going down there, who knows...?**

## MEN OF THE MATCH?

All of the panel of 28 played their part in our Championship victory. But on this day the wing play of **Colman Keane** at half back and **Justin Baniqued** at right-half forward stood out. From the first minute to the last, they were everywhere. **Colman** switched between both wing-back positions and **Justin** was seen right across the half-forward line. Both were at the centre of the action all the time. Great play lads!!

## BALLINTEER BLITZ

We also had a blitz at the end of April in Marlay Park, organised annually by **Ballinteer St. John's**. As we were shorn of our Dublin hurlers and **Conor** through injury (though he did co-mamage the side), this was an excellent opportunity for the newer players to Gaelic Football to represent Clonkeen. **Jazz Fell, Seán Mc Donagh, David Buckley, Anthony Clarke** and **Shreyash Pattanayak** all took their chance very well. We won 1 out of 3 matches, but importantly this was against local rivals, **Oatlands!** Well done, lads!

## Heroic Hurlers: Under 14 Hurling

Congratulations to all involved in Under 14 Hurling. Clonkeen College won the Dublin Championship final in a gripping match in O Toole Park on Wednesday, 27 May, 2009. The team were deserving victors having achieved some very convincing wins throughout the competition. The first match played by this superb side saw them easily defeat Oatlands College. We then went on to beat Old Bawn, Tallaght (12-14 to 1-10 with brilliant performances from all and especially David Corish who scored 5-2), Terenure College (16-13 to 3-5) and Blackrock College (7-14 to 5-4). These matches saw outstanding displays of skill from all players among them Gavin Nolan in goal, two wall like full-backs Kevin Killion and Conor O Sullivan, Jack Behan as centre-back flanked by Conor Hayes and Ciaran Mc Dermott, mid-fielders Andrew Murphy, Kyle Braine and a flexible Lee Harrington who stepped in on occasion. The scorelines prove excellent displays from all the forwards: Karl Schute, Liam Bermingham, Sean Treacy who worked tirelessly and got some brilliant scores, Carl Wallace who was a revelation and the two dangerous full forwards David Corish and Sean Gibney. Well done also to the super subs Aidan Quinn, Zohair Ansari, Tiernan Doyle, Anthony Clarke, John O Hara, Cian Hughes, David Buckley and Kenneth Fleming.

Clonkeen travelled to Liffey Gaels to play Lucan CBS in a very close semi-final. They were a much tougher opposition and led most of the match until great goals from David Corish and Carl Wallace finally put us ahead. Sean Treacy put the game away with a magnificent point in the final moments. The two players who really excelled on the day were Kevin Killion and Conor O Sullivan. They would have kept out any full forwards in the country.

And so the final against Lucan Community College. Clonkeen really showed they were worthy winners. Ahead by 7 points after 15 mins, scored by Sean Treacy, Carl Wallace, David Corish, Sean Gibney, David Corish really put the pressure on with two more goals. Lucan's No.6 was an excellent hurler and managed to get the ball into his forward line who got a vital goal just before half time. The wind and the hill gave Lucan an obvious advantage in the second half and they managed to level the score with quick goals all within the first 10 mins. Once again though Clonkeen proved their mettle and kept fighting. Vital scores from Sean Gibney and David Corish pushed Clonkeen well ahead again and a final goal from David really buried the game. Once again, we saw superb performances from the full forwards David Corish and Sean Gibney, Sean Treacy, Carl Wallace, Jack Behan, the midfielders Andrew Murphy and Kyle Braine, Conor Hayes, Ciaran McDermott, Lee Harrington, Full backs Kevin and Conor and especially Gavin Nolan. Well done also to Aidan Quinn who came on in the closing ten min.

David Corish our captain accepted the cup and graciously thanked the opposition who really put it up to us in the second half. So well done and congrats on a great season. Well done also to **Mr. Collins, Miss Ryan, Bro. Kelly and Mr. Bennett.**



With only a few days until we put down the pens and close the texts for the last time here in Clonkeen, myself and many of my year can be seen reflecting on our tenure in Clonkeen College. In particular I remember some of the important things that I have learned; to "always know your role" and what Rafa Benitez looks like, along with these important life lessons, I'll also remember another thing.

During my first year in Clonkeen, in 2003, while sitting in C.S.P.E. class I came across the idea that a school is a community, something I couldn't understand. To me school was the gap between MTV and Ready Steady Cook, nothing more and nothing less. However now I see that it is a community. That each per-

son, class and year is a major part of the school community and makes it what it is today. I'd like to think that if I've learned only one thing in my time here, all 1428 days (give or take), that this is it -Clonkeen College is a Community and we will always be a part of it.

I would like to thank all of the extended staff, past and present, for making our time in Clonkeen seemingly endless but always enjoyable.

Mark Malone.

*Remember, education is what is left when what all you have been taught has been forgotten*

*Thank you Mark for this last piece, Mark has been my right hand man helping with many editions of the Chronicle. D. Ed*