

# CLONKEEN COLLEGE



## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

February / March 2018

### Protest March



We had an excellent turn out for our march on Dáil Éireann on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Students, staff, parents and many representatives from the wider school community turned out in support of our march to highlight our whole school support for our Board of Management as the Minister for Education considers ERST's request to dissolve our Board of Management. It was wonderful to be joined by so many past-pupils, senators, local TDs and councillors.

We were delighted to receive the news that the Attorney General had decided that the decision on the future of our Board of Management will be examined following the court case. Legal proceedings are now under way in the High Court. We hope very much that all our efforts will result in a favourable outcome for the school and that we will be able to retain our fantastic playing field.

We would like to thank everyone who made this protest march possible and to all those who gave so freely of their time in support of our cause.

### Gala Dinner



A reminder to all that tickets are on sale for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala dinner which will take place in the Clayton Burlington Hotel on April 6<sup>th</sup>. We have already had a fantastic response to the event and hope that we will see lots of Clonkeen College alumni there on the night. Anyone who has not yet purchased a ticket but is interested in attending this fabulous event is asked to contact Ms Gibson at the school or at the following e-mail address: [emergibson@hotmail.com](mailto:emergibson@hotmail.com)

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### *Bugsy Malone: TY Musical*



From 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March, Clonkeen College put on a brilliant performance of the musical, Bugsy Malone. This was the first musical to be held in the school in six years. The production was the culmination of months of hard work from the cast, backstage crew, teachers, parents and other members of the wider school community.

On Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, we held a matinée performance for the local primary schools. We were delighted to be joined by teachers and students from 4<sup>th</sup> Class in Johnstown BNS, Hollypark and St Bridget's. We hope that they enjoyed the show. That final run-through under our belts, we were focused on our opening night. After months of careful planning and preparation it was time to show what we could do. Excitement and nerves abounded as make-up and hair were done and cast members rehearsed their lines one last time. Doors opened at 7 p.m. and by 7.30 p.m. the curtain rose to a full house.

The first notes of the theme music rang out as we all took our places and the show got under way with Bugsy (Nathan Tormey) delivering his opening monologue. Soon the audience were swaying in

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their seats to memorable dance numbers and songs such as: Fat Sam's Grand Slam, My Name is Tallulah and You Give a Little Love. Before long it was time for the interval and a little while later we were performing our final number. The opening night went off without a hitch.



With nerves settled following Thursday's performances, the shows on Friday and Saturday night brought the house down, with truly outstanding performances from all. Following the final curtain on Saturday night, Mr Melly addressed the audience and commended everyone involved on their hard work and all the effort that had been put into the show. We then presented gifts to the five teachers who brought this all together.

There are so many people who came together to make this wonderful show. We were delighted to be joined by girls from St Joseph of Cluny, Loreto Dalkey and Dominican College, Sion Hill who performed the female roles.

A huge thank-you goes to music students Ana Sheanon and Gemma O'Reilly from NUI Maynooth and to past-pupil Conor Kinsella who also joined us to perform with the orchestra. We must not forget the hard work put in behind the scenes and on the nights by various teachers, staff, members of the Parents' Association and Board of Management.



Finally, we would like to save the biggest thank-you for the teachers who made this possible: Mr O'Shaughnessy (Set Construction), Ms Healy (Art Director), Ms Shortall (Costumes and Props), Ms Dunlop (Producer) and Ms Fulton (Director). Without Ms Fulton's vision and effort bringing together the team, this musical wouldn't have happened. We had such a fantastic time at every stage of the production of the musical and we are so grateful to her for having given us this opportunity. We hope that Buggy Malone: The Musical will mark a new beginning in Clonkeen's creative future.

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### *AILO*

Round 1 of the All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad took place at Clonkeen College before the February midterm break. On our return to school, we were delighted to learn that all our students had performed very well and, in particular, that Finn Mc Grath (5<sup>th</sup> Year) had placed 48<sup>th</sup> in a field of over 1,300. Finn's top 100 finish meant that he was invited to represent our school in the national finals of this prestigious competition, in March.



The national finals took place at DIT Grangegorman on 13<sup>th</sup> March. The morning saw all the students take part in an individual round where they competed to secure a place on the team to represent Ireland at the International Linguistics Olympiad in Prague in July. Unfortunately, Finn didn't manage to make the Irish team. In the afternoon, the students were divided into teams

for a fun team competition. Following the competition, we were delighted to hear that Finn's team, the Swifties, has finished in second place. Congratulations to Finn on this wonderful achievement.

### *Gaisce*

Congratulations to 5<sup>th</sup> Year students, Guy Keogh and Jack O'Sullivan who received their Gaisce Bronze Awards in the school recently.



The award recognises the work that the boys put in over the course of Transition Year in a number of different areas.

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### *Aerprize*

Congratulations to 5<sup>th</sup> Year students Ciarán Haverty, Guy Keogh and Shane Murphy who have reached the final stages in Aerprize. Aerprize is a biennial competition, launched this year, open to Irish students in their final two years of secondary school. The winners of the competition will receive an all-expenses seven-week trip to Los Angeles, where they will train for their private pilot's licence with Angel City Flyers. Angel City Flyers was set up by Wexfordman Seosamh Somers.



To enter the competition, the boys had to make a five-minute video about one aspect of flying and upload it to YouTube and submit the link to Angel City Flyers. From the initial 500 entrants, 14 were selected to attend the interview stage, which took place at Atlantic Flight Training Academy (AFTA) in Cork on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March.



We were delighted to have three students make it to the final fourteen of the competition. Unfortunately, Guy was unable to attend the final, but Shane and Ciarán did us proud. The final consisted of aptitude tests, simulator assessments and a one-to-one interview with Seosamh Somers. We are now anxiously awaiting the final results which we expect after the Easter Holidays. Well done to the three students involved and to their teacher Ms Duffy.

### *CanSat*

Picking up from where we left off on our CanSat journey a metric tonne of exciting things have happened!

As you all know, our CanSat team, made up of Transition Year and 5<sup>th</sup> Year students, had decided on their roles and started work on their jobs, so now let's look at what everyone has done.

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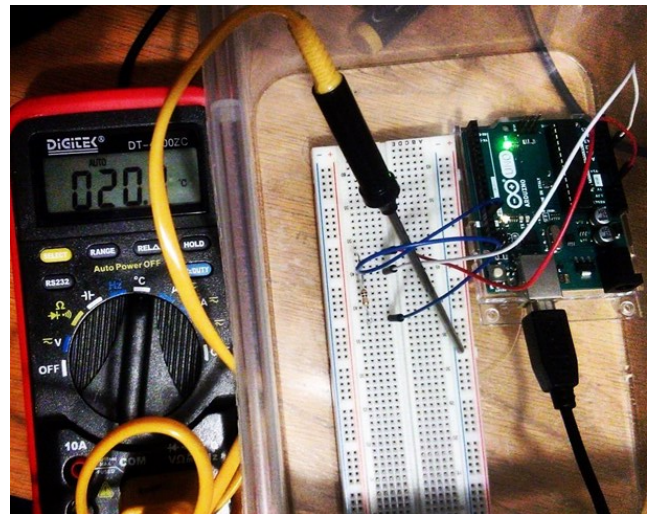
Guy Keogh and Matthew Russell, our boys in charge of programming and the technical aspects of our CanSat worked at break-neck speed to make sure that our equipment, namely the Arduino UNO and our sensors, were set-up properly and smoothly sending data back to our ground stations. Guy worked on a program in C++ to take the data collected and convert it into the numbers that are actually needed like temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), atmospheric pressure (millibars) and even altitude, velocity and acceleration. Guy



put our Arduino UNO with its sensors in a variety of places including, his fridge, under a running hairdryer and at various places along Killiney Hill to calibrate our sensors properly. The C++ was one of the most impressive aspects of our technology and perfectly complemented the other components.

Talking about complementary roles, none of the sensors would be able to stay attached to our

Arduino UNO without the stellar efforts of Lucas Carragher and his newly acquired, yet fantastic, soldering skills. Soldering is the process of applying



solder, a conductive metal, to the places where the components attach to our Arduino. This is done with an incredibly hot soldering iron, used to melt the solder before applying it to the sensors with pinpoint precision. Lucas put in many long days working on the soldering, especially nearer to the date of the competition, meticulously mending anything that needed it.

While this was ongoing, Jamie Blake-Holmes, our Parachute Designer, made up a hexagonal parachute in the Clonkeen colours to slow our CanSat's fall. Jamie, Lucas and Allencris tested the parachute's descent speed at Dalkey Quarry. Afterwards Jamie, having done the calculations, shortened the length of the parachute chords to give us a descent speed between 8-11 m/s.

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Allencris John Rubesh Rajan was our Can Designer and all-around assistant. Allencris chose to make our team's can using the school's 3D printer. He made up the models to print over the mid-term on a program called TinkerCAD at TinkerCAD.com, a super light and easy to use CAD program that was perfect for the CanSat competition. The final can was 115mm in height and 66mm in diameter making for a tight fit, however, with Mr O'Shaughnessy helping in the process and giving Allencris a quick run-down on how to use the printer, the final product was a strong, compact and surprisingly resilient can that suffered no damage in the final test. Of course, the strength was further increased by some advice given by the team's mentor in the competition, Mick McKeever, a lecturer at DIT. The can was printed in four separate pieces and though the team went through two different versions, parts from the first version and the second version were used in the final design. They were then helped along by shrinking plastic around the can and applying duct tape. Velcro-tape also proved to be incredibly helpful in keeping our can in one piece along with some glue.

Our progress and updates were constantly posted to the team's social media pages by our Outreach Manager, Mike Donnelly. Mike was the

brain behind all of the team's publicity, maintaining all our social media outlets:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Cucannan/>

Instagram: Cu\_Cannan

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/cu\\_cannan?lang=en](https://twitter.com/cu_cannan?lang=en)

Website: <http://cucannan.droppages.com/index.html>

The team's outreach was incredible, racking up many views, likes and shares, sometimes from



quite influential people and actual engineers like Lána Salmon, a PHD student at UCD. Mike also organised a visit to St. Anne's National School in Shankill, so that the team could show off their work and also get the children interested in Science with some cool experiments; most notably a rocket launch! Mike kept everyone updated at all times about everything that the team was doing and worked really hard to get the team recognition in the local community and beyond.

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The team participated in the Leinster CanSat competition on 15<sup>th</sup> March at DIT Grangegorman. After a gruelling day of testing and presenting their data, they were unfortunate not to make it through to the next round. Of the five teams taking part on the day, only one could go through and this time it was not Cu Cannan. Though the team was disappointed, it was without doubt an incredible experience that allowed us all to develop new skills from programming to soldering and parachute design.

The team would like to thank Ms Duffy for all her guidance and support throughout the competition, from accompanying to the various places we needed to go throughout the process to allowing us use of the physics lab. We would also like to thank our mentor Mick McKeever and all the organisations involved with the competition, specifically DIT, ESA and Blackrock Observatory. Finally, we would like to thank everyone who supported our team both in Clonkeen and beyond. We very much appreciate all the views, likes and shares our project received! Hopefully next year Clonkeen can shine even brighter in this competition.

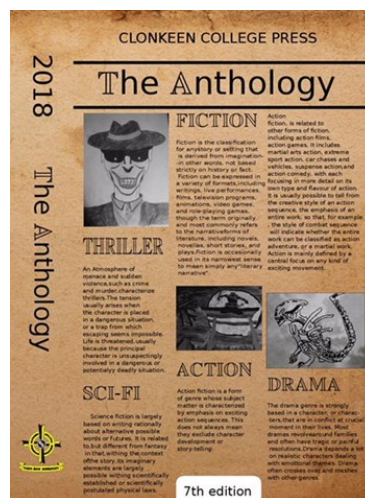
### YSI

Well done to the TY Young Social Innovators class who presented their work at the Royal Marine Ho-



tel in Dun Laoghaire on Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. A big thank-you to Ms O'Rourke their teacher who has guided them throughout the process and who accompanied them on the day.

### Anthology 2018



We would like to thank all those who submitted pieces to the Anthology 2018 and all to those who have pre-ordered a copy of the publication. Editing is now complete,

and the final manuscript has been sent to the publishers. We are now eagerly awaiting the delivery of the published book after the Easter Holidays.



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### *L1 Star Wars Screening*

On Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, the students in L1 hosted a screening of Star Wars: The Force Awakens for twenty-five 2<sup>nd</sup> Year students. This event was organised by the members of the L1 class as part of their Preparation for Work module as of their Level 2 Learning Programme (L2LP). The boys sold tickets to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Years during the week and then used the money collected to organise refreshments for their guests. Prior to the screening they set up the room and the refreshments for their event.



While the afternoon was a fantastic success and very much enjoyed by both the students in L1 and their guests from 2<sup>nd</sup> Year, it was also a great educational experience. The boys learned about all the different tasks involved in organising a school event. A big thank-you to their teachers and SNAs who supported them in achieving this goal.

### *Seachtain na Gaeilge 2018*

Thosaigh Seachtain na Gaeilge le cluichí difriúla sa rang, cosúil le biongó, stad an bhus srl. Ansin bhí an cic agus an puc fada againn! Bhain gach duine an-taitneamh as!



Bhí comórtas póstaeir as siúl sna ranganna freisin. Chomh maith leis sin, bhí céilí ag bliain a cúig les na cailíní idirbhliana Rockford Manor. Bhí an-chraic ag gach duine, agus táimid ag súil go mór leis an mbliain seo chugainn leis na gcaoilíní Rockford arís.

Agus ní Seachtain na Gaeilge é, gan Tráth na gCeist! Bhí sé ar siúl ag na ranganna sinsearach sa maidin Dé hAoine, agus bhí na ranganna sóiseareacha i lár an lae. Bhain gach duine an-sult as!

SEACHTAIN NA  
GAEILGE  
BAIN TRIAL AISTI SURPRISE YOURSELF!

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### *Engineering Week 24<sup>th</sup> Feb- 2<sup>nd</sup> March*

Ms M Duffy

2<sup>nd</sup> Year Science students and 5<sup>th</sup> Year Physics students took part in Engineering Week. They got to speak to space engineers in a live chat on "I'm an Engineer". They then had to vote on the best engineer. The engineers involved in the competition are currently working on Eirstat-1, Ireland's first satellite. This is a satellite owned and built by an Irish team, comprising of researchers and five spacetechnology companies that will launch a satellite called Educational Research Satellite-1, or EIRSAT-1 for short. It is led by UCD and Queen's University Belfast. The cube satellite (cubesat) will be launched from the International Space Station, where it will join a multitude of other objects in Earth's orbit.

Great fun was also had by our 2<sup>nd</sup> Year students building pasta bridges and then testing the strength of their structures with a 5 kg weight!!



Thankfully, no bridges were harmed in the experiment! There are, however, some very talented budding engineers in the school!!

### *Applied Maths Quiz*

This year's IAMTA quiz took place in Oatlands College on 5<sup>th</sup> March. We entered three teams which consisted of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Years.



**Team 1:** Oisín Murray, Patrick Craddock and Finn Mc Grath. **Team 2:** Joe Clarke, Alex Cooper and Ciarán Haverty. **Team 3:** Eamonn Flannery, Johnnie Bell and Allencris John Rubesh Rajan.

All teams did really well, with one coming joint 4<sup>th</sup>, but it was Oatlands College who won on the night. We wish them the very best of luck in the final round!!

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### *Amsterdam Trip*

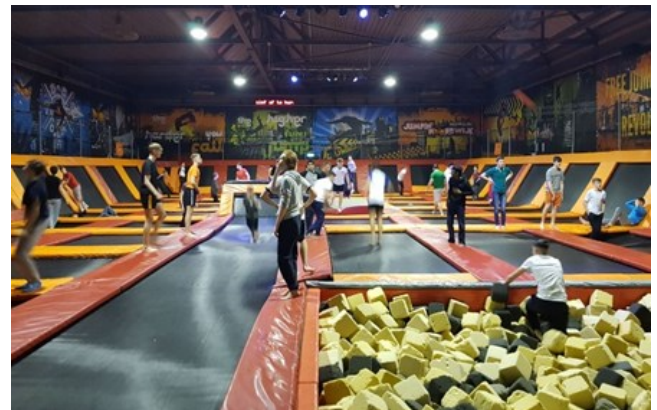
A group of fifty-six students, accompanied by five teachers, spent five fantastic days in Amsterdam over the February midterm break.



Bleary-eyed but excited the group met at Dublin Airport, just before 5 a.m. on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February, to make the short hop to their Dutch destination. Upon arrival, the group enjoyed an early lunch before welcoming their guide on board for a four-hour bus tour of the city. During this informative visit, they took in famous Amsterdam landmarks such as the Royal Palace, Weeping Tower and St Nicolas Church. Tired, but having thoroughly enjoyed their first day, the group checked into their hotel, where they dined before enjoying a walk on the beach before bed.



Tuesday, dawned and with it plans to visit two of Amsterdam's most well-known museums, the Van Gogh Museum in the morning and the Rijks Museum in the afternoon. Students had the opportunity to see many of Van Gogh's, Rembrandt's and Vermeer's masterpieces. The afternoon was rounded off by a Canal Boat Trip which allowed the group to explore the many canals that have led to Amsterdam becoming known as the "Venice of the North". After dining back at their hotel, the group then spent an enjoyable evening at Jumpin' Noordwijk Trampoline Park.



Following breakfast on Wednesday, the group boarded their coach to travel to Efteling, one of the oldest theme parks in the world which is located south of Amsterdam. They enjoyed a fantastic thrill-filled day and evening at the park.

Thursday brought a visit to Amsterdam Arena, home to soccer club Ajax. Our students had the opportunity to go behind the scenes and imagine

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what it is like to be a player in one of Europe's biggest teams.



After lunch the group visited Anne Frank's House, seeing first hand the conditions in which she and her family lived while in hiding. It was a very moving experience for all. Thursday evening was spent at Duinrell Tiki Bad Pool. The boys relaxed, swimming and enjoying the many water slides on offer.



The final day of the trip got underway at the Nemo Science Centre, the largest science centre in the Netherlands. The centre offers students an interactive experience that allows them to engage with many different areas of science. A

relaxing lunch, followed by a spot of retail therapy rounded off the afternoon before the group travelled to the airport for their return flight to Dublin.

A fantastic time was had by all and the teachers commended the boys for their excellent behaviour throughout. A big thank-you must go to the teachers who organised the visit and accompanied the group: Mr Faherty, Mr O'Shaughnessy, Mr Brennan, Ms Dunlop and Ms O'Rourke.

### *TWSG News*

Fundraising continues apace to fund the opening of an eight-classroom school along with modern toilet facilities and teacher's accommodation in Malawi. Fundraising has been challenging this year and the projection completion date has fallen behind.

We managed to raise €1,000 from the annual Christmas Fast; €500 from a street collection and €850 from a non-uniform day. A collection outside Foxrock church yielded €3,725. A special thank-you to the boys who braved the snow and cold of that memorable weekend in order to raise funds.

As always, we would like to thank everyone in the school and in the wider community who support our fundraising and help us to help those who need these vital facilities.

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### *Green Schools*

The Green Schools Committee is continuing its work to achieve a second Green Flag for Clonkeen College. The group, lead by chairman Hammah Ul Haque, has devised an action plan with a view to monitoring energy consumption within the school. By surveying appliances in the school and monitoring their energy consumption it is hoped that a set of results will be established against which we will be able to measure future energy consumption. Work continues to spread awareness and to promote energy conservation within the school with the school's first Energy Week coming up after the Easter Holidays. continues their great work in their plan to achieve their second green flag for energy conservation.

We would like to thank Ms Reynolds, Ms Mulville and Ms Nolan for all their guidance and hard work. As always, all new members are welcome!



### *U16 Gaelic Football*

#### **Clonkeen College v Old Bawn C.S.**

Ms C Shortall

Huge congratulations are in order for Clonkeen College U16 Gaelic Football team who secured a place in the semi-final of the Dublin Schools Juvenile Football C Championship last week with a victory over Old Bawn Community School, Tallaght. The boys' performance was excellent, and they were rewarded with a well-deserved win. The score at the final whistle was an impressive 7- 9 to 3 - 7.

We wish the boys, and their coaches Mr Brennan and Ms Shortall, the best of luck in their semi- final match against St MacDara's Community School, Tempelogue.

**Team:** Donal Martin, Brian Kenny, Conor Ring, Evan Savage, Andrew Byrne, Conor Keane, David O' Dowd, Sean Walsh, Conor Hall, Jamie Crilly, Cal Doran, Oran Maloney, Cillian Dunne, Byron O' Gorman, Sean Finn, Euan Hall, Charlie Boyle, Jack Nugent, Jack Jenkins, Sean McGrane and Mark Smith.

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### *Soccer honours for past-pupil*

Congratulations to past-pupil Jason Knight on receiving FAI U16 Player of the Year 2018. While we miss Jason on our own pitches, we are delighted to hear of his success both with his club Derby County and with the Ireland U17 team.



Jason signed for Derby County on a three-year deal from Cabinteely. He has made fifteen appearances so far this year for his club, including a memorable outing against Manchester Utd U18s where he scored both of the goals in Derby's 2-0 victory. Such is Jason's success at club level that he has also had a call up to their U23 side and his managers at Derby have labelled him "captain material".

On the international front, Jason is a member of the Ireland U17 squad currently taking part in the UEFA Elite round. In this competition Ireland is in Group 3 with Macedonia, Poland and Georgia. The top two teams in the group will qualify for the 2018 UEFA U17 European Championships

which will take place in England in May. Jason and the Irish squad have already got their campaign off to a winning start with a 3-0 win over Macedonia in Poland this week. Their next matches are against Georgia (March 24<sup>th</sup>) and Poland (March 27<sup>th</sup>).



We wish Jason and his teammates the best in this tournament and we hope that Jason will have continued success with Derby County.

### *Easter Holidays*

We would like to wish all our students, staff and the families an enjoyable Easter Break. We hope everyone will return to school refreshed and ready for all the final term has to offer!

*Happy  
Easter*