

# CLONKEEN COLLEGE



## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*Prepared by Transition Year Students*

May 2016



### *Principal's Foreword*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many contributors to our newsletter throughout the past academic year. Special thanks, to Ms. Dunne and her TY classes for the outstanding standard of production of all the newsletters.

There have been many highlights over the past nine months for Clonkeen College. The year got off to a fantastic start with exceptional Junior Certificate results. Clonkeen College became Senior Dublin C Division champions in Gaelic Football, South Dublin U15 Soccer champions, and we achieved successes in Debating, Chess, Basketball, Hurling, awarding of our Gaelbhratach, entrepreneurship awards and many other achievements in extra-curricular activities. Then there was our Open Evening, our 1916 Centenary Commemoration

celebrations and, a wonderfully competitive and fun-filled Sports Day. The year drew to a close with an unforgettable 6<sup>th</sup> Year Graduation Ceremony in the school hall.

These events were made all the more memorable by the outstanding behaviour, spirit and enthusiasm of all our students. The enormous contribution by the teaching staff in facilitating students to achieve to their maximum, as well as organising the multitude of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities for our students, cannot be overstated. I also wish to thank the caretakers, administrative staff, SNAs, Parent's Association and Board of Management for their support and huge contribution to the school throughout the year.

All the while, the school is being transformed by

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a major Building Project that is due for completion in early 2017. This project began in June 2015 with initial refurbishment works to the existing school. Almost all the existing school has now had new windows fitted. A new heating system has been installed and the school has been rewired. There are new ceilings and light fixtures. Most rooms have had new window surrounds and roller blinds fitted.

The new two-storey school extension is up to roof level. The three new Science laboratories, Library, Art room, Home Economics room, Design Communications Graphics (DCG) room, Lecture theaters, Oratory, Offices, Staff room, Gym and Changing rooms are clearly discernible with much of the first fixing of services completed. The single-storey Moderate General Learning Disability (ModGLD) Unit is also up to roof level. The next phase of works to the extension will see the construction of the roof. After that, the works will concentrate on the second fixing and the completion of the interior of the new school extension.

Over the summer months, the contractors intend to complete the fitting of all new windows and fit new floor coverings to the existing school. There will be new doors fitted to all classrooms. The existing school will also be repainted and redecorated. The final phase of works will see the existing school and new school extension become one structure. This phase will also involve the completion of new car parking facilities and a total re-landscaping of the surrounding school grounds.

So, busy but very exciting times lie ahead. I hope that you will continue to keep up to date with our Building Project and all the latest developments in Clonkeen College, via our Twitter feed and up-

coming newsletters. In the meantime, enjoy our final edition of the newsletter for 2015/2016 and I look forward to giving you further updates at the start of the 2016/2017 academic school year. Have a great summer.

Edward Melly (Principal)

### Transition Year Exhibition of Work

Ben Hickey

The annual Transition Year Exhibition of Work takes place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May. This is a fantastic opportunity for TY students to show off the hard work they've done across a diverse range of subject areas and for their families to gain an insight into the excellent array of activities and courses being offered to TY students at Clonkeen College. Small teams of students will manage each of the individual subject area stands, where they will speak to visiting family members about the work they have done in each module.

### State Examinations

Sam Smith

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Years will sit their Junior and Leaving Certificate Examinations from Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> June. It is the culmination of years of study and hard work, which we hope will pay off.

For our Leaving Certificate Students this will be the end of their time with us at Clonkeen. We extend our very best wishes to them in all their future endeavours.

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### 6<sup>th</sup> Year Graduation

The 6<sup>th</sup> Year Student-Teacher Meal took place on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, in the hall. It was a lovely opportunity for students and their teachers to sit down together to enjoy a meal and conversation in a relaxed setting. The meal was followed by the presentation of the medals from Sports Day to the 6<sup>th</sup> Years. Well done to all our medal winners!



The following night, Tuesday May 24<sup>th</sup>, all 6<sup>th</sup> Year students returned to the school, with their families for their Graduation Mass & Ceremony. Fr Arthur celebrated Mass while music was provided by the choir, with musicians Conor Flanney, Conor R. Murphy and Lewis Murphy and teachers Ms Fulton, Ms Gibson and Mr McGloughlin. After Mass, all students were presented with their certificates by Mr Michael Blanchfield, Chairperson of the Board of Management. Special awards were presented to James Moffat (U18 Gaelic Football Captain) and Jamie Broderick (U19 Soccer Captain) and to Dylan Watts and Shane Hanney who both represented Ireland in under-age soccer. Congratulations to James Moffat who was awarded Sportsman of the Year and to Conor M. Murphy who was awarded Student of the Year.

Mr Blanchfield, Mr Melly and former Student Council Chairperson Conor M. Murphy addressed those gathered, before the evening was brought to a close with some refreshments provided by the Parents' Association.



Best of luck to all our graduates in their Leaving Certificate Examinations!

### School Concert

5<sup>th</sup> Year LCVP students organised the annual school concert in aid of Clonkeen College Third World Support Group (TWSG). This year the event was called C<sup>3</sup> and it was held on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. The concert showcased the fantastic musical talent we have here at Clonkeen College. The line-up included lots of familiar faces with Conor Flannery, Conor R. Murphy, Lewis Murphy, Conor Leon, Elvis Cooney, David O'Riordan, Joe Clarke, Conor Kinsella and Camryn Teehan. As always, the event was very well-supported by the whole school community. The show was a wonderful success and was very much enjoyed by all who attended. A big thank-you to Mr McGloughlin and all those involved in organising the concert.

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### Gaisce Hike

A large group of Transition Year students, accompanied by Ms O'Keeffe, Mr Traynor and Ms O'Rourke, undertook their Gaisce Hike on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May. Starting on Wednesday in drizzly conditions from Crone Wood near Enniskerry, the group hiked 20km along the Wicklow Way to Lough Dan Scouting Centre. They were joined by a number of teachers and Ms Gibson, who provided much needed sustenance in the form of her delicious spaghetti bolognaise.



The following day brought an improvement in weather conditions. With a much shorter route ahead of them, the group continued along the Wicklow Way to cover the remaining 7km to their destination, Laragh Village. Arriving in Laragh Village in the early afternoon, they were met by their coach which brought them back to the school. Although, the boys returned to school tired, they all agreed it had been a wonderful trip. Thanks to all involved in the organisation of the hike and to the three teachers who walked with the students.

### Art

Conor Hughes

Practical exams in Art took place during the first week in May for both Junior and Leaving Certificate students. Our Junior Cert Art students' exam focused on their Life Drawing and Still Life Observational Drawing Skills while the Leaving Certs sat a testing two-day exam. The first day involved creating 2D craft work while the second was a Still Life and Life Drawing exam.

Following the practical exams, the Art Department immediately got to work on the backdrop for the stage for C<sup>3</sup>, the concert organised by the 5<sup>th</sup> Year LCVP class in aid of Clonkeen College TWSG. They then painted and hung the banners for the 6<sup>th</sup> Year Graduation. The beautiful pieces all reflected the long hours spent creating them. Well done to Ms Healy, Ms Horan, Lee Whelan, Luke Monaghan, Greg Sheehan, Mark Dowling, Robert Bass, Christian Simmons and Ms. Healy's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year Art classes.

### Summer Exams

Siddeeq Lunat

Good luck to all our 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Years who will sit their Summer Exams from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June. This is a great opportunity to show all that has been learned throughout the year. We hope that all our students are happy with their results and that they enjoy a well-deserved break over the Summer Holidays after all their hard work this year!

#tadaganiarracht

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### Clonkeen's Thespian Alumni

Recently Hollywood actor **Aidan Quinn** mentioned on RTE his time at Clonkeen College in the 1970s. He was followed some years later by another Clonkeen boy, **Glen Quinn** (no relation to Aidan), who starred in American TV hit shows *Roseanne* and *Angel* but who died tragically early.

In recent years a new crop of past pupils have been making a name for themselves in the world of theatre and acting. Here we take a look at a few of them.

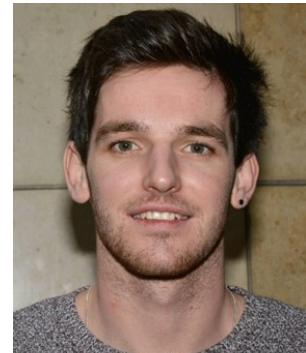
**Eoghan Carrick** (class of 2007) is an award winning theatre director and designer. He has a BA International in Drama and English from UCD (2007-11). Following a year as UCD Dramsoc Auditor (Artistic Director) and Irish Student Drama Association Co-Festival Director, he focused his attention on developing and touring new work with the We Get High On This Collective of which he is a founding member. As a designer, most recently he has worked with Sickle Moon, Fast Intent and We Get High. He is currently the Assistant Director with Corn Exchange Theatre Company. He has directed work at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Recent successes included assistant director of Opera Theatre Company's production of Puccini's *Suor Angelica* at the Peacock Theatre and director of a highly acclaimed production of Conor McPherson's *The Lime Tree Bower* at the Project. A really exciting venture for Eoghan is coming up in November 2016. He will be working as dramaturge for the Opera de Paris on a production of Benjamin Britten's opera *Owen Wingrave* to be staged at the Amphitheatre Bastille, the second auditorium of the famous Bastille Opera in the French capital.



**Shane O'Regan** (class of 2011) trained at the Gaiety School of Acting (2011-14). Shane started acting in numerous amateur productions with Arclight Theatre Group. Professionally he has appeared in the Gaiety School of Acting's productions of *Romeo and Juliet* and *Othello*. Other appearances include Sheridan's *The Critic*, directed by Lynn Parker for Rough Magic and Behan's *Borstal Boy*, directed by Conall Morrison at the Gaiety Theatre. Shane received high praise for his starring role in *Trainspotting* at Smock Alley Theatre in 2015/16. A revival is planned later in the summer of 2016.



**Adam Weaver** (class of 2009) first studied drama at the local Grainstore Youth Arts Centre. He went on to attend the Irish Film Academy to study acting. He successfully auditioned for the role of David Hennessy in TV3's popular soap drama *Red Rock* and has become something of pin-up boy for his legion of female fans.



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**Ian Toner** (class of 2007) is an up and coming young actor. Ian graduated from UCD. in 2010 with a degree in English with Film Studies. He trained at the Gaiety School of Acting. Well-known for his crazy hair-cut in the Chill Insurance Barber Ad, Ian played Tom in Noel Coward's *The Vortex* at the Gate Theatre and appeared in the *Charlie* mini-series on RTE. He made his debut at the Lyric Theatre, Belfast in the role of Bennett in the highly acclaimed production of new play *Punk Rock*. Recently Ian starred in *At The Ford* at the Dublin Theatre Festival 2015 in the Project and as Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet* at The Gate Theatre. On RTE he was Lieutenant Mick Malone in *Rebellion* and is currently appearing as JJ Hopkins in *An Klondike*, a TV mini-series for TG4.



Best wishes to Adam and to Eoghan, Ian and Shane. We are proud of them and hope their careers go from strength to strength.

### Student Golf Society

Paula McCarthy and Billy Noonan (Golf Co-ordinators)

Our Golf Society was set up 12 years ago to facilitate the growing interest in the sport among the students. We encourage students who have a reasonable knowledge of golf and its etiquette to participate. You don't need to be a Rory McIlroy!! Students with a GUI handicap will have their handicap converted to our society handicap.

Our competitions will not interfere in any way with their club competitions. Students who don't have a GUI handicap will be given a Clonkeen Society handicap. So whether you are a member of a club or not, we love to see as many students as possible out on the course.

Neil Toner 6<sup>th</sup> Year is our Society Captain this year. Neil has shown fantastic leadership skills and is a brilliant organiser. He has been a tremendous help and we really appreciate his active participation in the Society. He is a wonderful golfer and we hope he continues the sport when he leaves Clonkeen this year.

The Golf season kicked off in September when our Senior Team, Matthew Geary (Capt.), Eoin O'Connor, Tom Wallace, Morgan Curtis and Rory McMahon, played in the Irish Schools Senior Strokeplay Championship in Old Conna Golf Club 19 schools participated. This competition is played off scratch and our Clonkeen team had a fantastic score but narrowly missed out on qualifying. The team then took on St. Benildus, Blackrock College, St Andrews and Colaiste Eoin in the Leinster Inter Schools League Match Play. This was a terrific opportunity for the students to play various challenging courses including Greystones, Dun Laoghaire, Charlesland, Bray and Delgany.

The Junior Team, Tom Wallace (Capt.), Oisín O'Connor and Jamie Smith took on 22 other schools in the Irish Schools Junior Stroke Play Championship in Glen of the Downs Golf Club. This competition is played off a maximum of 15 handicap. Tom Wallace 3<sup>rd</sup> year and playing off 6, had the best overall score on the day. Leinster GUI are keeping a very close eye on this wonderful golfer.

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Weather went against us but we managed to get the in-house competitions underway. We held the 1<sup>st</sup> Year's stableford 12-hole competition at Dargle View course in Bray. The competition is held over two outings with a combined score. This is great fun and the boys get very competitive! Each grouping of three have a TY/5<sup>th</sup> Year mentor with them on the course to assist them if needed. Many thanks to the mentors, Adam Ledwidge-Downes, Morgan Curtis, Eoin Mogan, Adam Coulter, Jack Keating, Jack Browne and Daniel Flatman. They are super guys and we appreciate your guidance and patience. 1<sup>st</sup> Year results: 1. Neil Broderick 2. Eoin Cooney 3. Robert Roddy and Jake Keogh. Well done lads!



2<sup>nd</sup> Years played 18 holes stableford at Dargle View GC which is a qualifying round to play in the Neil O'Toole Perpetual Trophy and also for the Championship Outing in Old Conna. Again, many thanks to the mentors. The 2<sup>nd</sup> years are very keen and it was great to see so many golfers out.

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Years played 18 holes Stableford as their qualifying round in Delgany for the Billy Noonan Perpetual Trophy (Snr), Neil O'Toole Perpetual Trophy (Jnr) and also the Championship Outing. We had 30 golfers out, which was fantastic and we were delighted to see the 6<sup>th</sup> years taking a well-deserved break from their studies. There's huge competition here between the students, all wanting to take home the silver.



Results: Championship Overall Winner – Morgan Curtis (20) 38pts; Best Gross – Tom Wallace (6)

Snr Cat 1: 1<sup>st</sup> James Murphy (28) 34pts; 2<sup>nd</sup> Rory McMahon (22) 32pts; 3<sup>rd</sup> Matthew Geary (18) 31pts. Snr Cat 2: 1<sup>st</sup> Daniel Norlin (28) 39pts; 2<sup>nd</sup> Daniel McSherry (28) 38pts; 3<sup>rd</sup> Neil Toner (28) 36pts.

Jnr Cat 1: 1<sup>st</sup> Oisín O'Connor (23) 35pts; 2<sup>nd</sup> Neil Broderick (28) 31pts; 3<sup>rd</sup> James Manning (28) 24pts. Jnr Cat 2: 1<sup>st</sup> Ronnie O'Connor (28) 23pts; 2<sup>nd</sup> Byron O'Gorman (27) 22pts; 3<sup>rd</sup> Sean Hussey (28) 19pts.

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Billy Noonan Trophy: Cat 1: Winner – Morgan Curtis (19), Runner Up – James Murphy

Cat 2: Winner – Daniel Norlin (27), Runner Up – Daniel McSherry

Neil O'Toole Trophy: Cat 1: Winner – Oisin O'Connor (23), Runner Up – James Manning (28)

Cat 2: Winner – Byron O'Gorman (27), Runner Up – Sean Hussey(28)

Our new Captain for 2016/2017, Morgan Curtis 5<sup>th</sup> Year, has been announced. We know Morgan will be a fantastic and enthusiastic Captain. We hope he enjoys his new role we look forward to working well with him.

Congratulations to all 50 plus golfers who participated in the Golf Society this year. We would like to thank you for your exceptional behaviour shown at all times on the various courses we have played. Many thanks to the parents who have provided transport. This helps to keep costs down and affords the opportunity to play all over South Dublin/Wicklow. Finally, a special thanks to Mr Melly, Mr Brennan for all the running around and to Sandra, Theresa and Mary in the office for their patience.

Best of luck to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Years in their upcoming exams!

### Sports Day

Mr J Lynch

The luck was certainly with us on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> May when we had a beautiful sunny day from the first 1<sup>st</sup> Year's High Jump to Finn McGowan's TY record

in the same event: Ms Brougham and Ms Gibson really earn their corn on Sports' Day!

Clonkeen never looked better (check out Naoise, Luke and Ned's video and the TY documentary on our website). The track was 3 weeks in the making: a special thanks to Mr Sheehy, Mr Howley, Mr Hedderman and Mr Gormley and many students for their arduous and meticulous work. It was hard to believe that Mr McBride had to clear the swimming-pools that were the discus and shot circles a mere 18 hours before the first events got underway. The track and field were of Olympic standard. Well done to all!



On the day the Obstacle course and Novelty events were a big hit. Mr O'Shaughnessy, Mr Faherty and Mr Brennan worked fast in the morning to create our own funfair – it was absolutely brilliant. The Students' Council rowed in with their Soak-the-Teacher fundraiser. Which was absolutely brilliant too. Well, sort of. Last thanks on the set-up of Clonkeen Stadium must go to Ms Dunne and Mr Burgess, who heroically extended the Long Jump pit with some hard digging to encourage record-breaking and protect ankles.

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There were some outstanding results to highlight. Seán McGrane won four gold medals in 2<sup>nd</sup> Year, including two records in the High Jump and the Shot Putt. Shane Murphy also broke the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year High Jump record on the way to bagging two titles overall and a relay gold. Shane also got a bronze in the 100m. Having lost two records to Seán and Shane, Finn McGowan then finished off the day with a 3<sup>rd</sup> Hugh Jump record, this time in TY.



Ciarán Haverty matched Seán with three sprint golds, including the relay, and picked up a fourth gold medal when the javelin was run the following week. Well done to Jack Moraghan and Kilian Flynn who won two titles each. Other multi-medallists in 2<sup>nd</sup> Year and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year were James Rooney, Brian Bueno, Byron O’Gorman, Seán Finn, David O’Dowd, Kevin Quinn, Luke O’Donnell, Joseph Bradley, Liam McCarthy, Jason Knight, Jamie Blake-Holmes and Peter Norlin. In 1<sup>st</sup> Year Sam Ó Catháin picked up three individual golds, a bronze and a relay silver; Jadron Olana won two golds; Joshua Kelly won a gold and a relay silver. Justin Cannon, Cillian Dunne, Rory Behan, Luke Thomas and Caolan Burns also won gold.

Alex Flynn finished second to Finn in the TY High Jump, but earned a record of his own in winning the 100m. He also doubled up to win the 400m. Great achievements all round. Our other double champions at senior level were Seán Cullen and Conor Forkin. It was brilliant to see such a big turnout from our 6<sup>th</sup> Years. It’s always a special occasion for their last Sports’ Day and they made it enjoyable through their enthusiastic participation. Being such a busy last term the LC Art Exam unfortunately fell on the same day – shades of Jack B. Yeats gold medal for painting at the 1924 Olympics? Maybe Ms Healy has ideas to include it in future Sports’ Days. Despite this, many of the Art students got to take part during their break, such was their determination not to miss out on the day.

The Students’ Council were superb with their behind-the-scenes organisation of the whole day. Well done lads on your commitment and passion. Ms Dunlop and Mr Traynor’s LCVP students provided both a Tuck Shop and a Smoothie Emporium which were big hits with all the students. And again this year the Parents’ Council took on the massive task of organising the barbecue: it was the ideal accompaniment for all the students and staff on such a beautiful day. Teddy’s Ice-Cream made their now annual appearance too. Thanks to Kathryn Connaughton and all the parents for their hard work with these two vital food groups!

A final thanks to Ms Murray, Mr Bennett, Mr O’Brien and all teachers for their help, organisation and hard work in the weeks leading up to the day and on the day itself. Without all this selfless work it just wouldn’t turn out to be the best day of the year—which it always is!

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### STAFF & STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015/2016

"Recording our radio show, 'Guth na gCeanneirí' in Raidió na Life studios in Dublin."

"The Easter Rising Commemoration was a very moving and pleasant highlight for me."

"U18 Hurling performance in the first game of the year. One of the best team performances I have seen from Clonkeen."

"A pizza day being organised."

"Seeing so many members of the school community taking part in physical activity during Active Week 2016"

"Visiting India to see how our new school was progressing and getting caught up in a 6.7 earthquake. What a shock."

"Parent-teacher book club – great success!"

"All students & staff were invited to sign our anti-bullying wall. The wall is full of signatures."

"The excellent standard of projects submitted to the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition by Clonkeen students."

"The Enterprise Project was a huge success in L1 this year! Sam, MacDara and Darragh loved making the scones and running their business."

"Football day—we didn't have this in primary school!"

"Seeing the new building take shape before our eyes! Every-day seemed to bring another change on the building site!"

"Clonkeen Healthy Schools Team looked at physical activity this year. The 1<sup>st</sup> Years enjoyed a fun term of Spikeball every Thursday to keep active."

"The success of our Spring Cleaning day."

"Representing Clonkeen College and Dun Loahgire-Rathdown LEO at the National Student Enterprise Finals in Croke Park."

"Receiving our Gaelbhreacha flag at the ceremony in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra in April."

"So many highlights in TY.. Kayaking, Berlin, the Anthology, Work Experience, Social Care, Thursday afternoons..."

Sports Day!  
Great day,  
great BBQ!"

"Winning U18 Gaelic Football Dublin Final. And the students' work rate and attitude throughout the year."

"The anti-bullying ambassadors training day in Rathdown School."

"Getting to the final in basketball."