

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

May 2018



Clonkeen College on Sports Day 2018

Foreword

We have come to the end of yet another busy year at Clonkeen College. While the 2017/2018 school year has brought with it a mixture of highs and lows, we hope that it will be remembered for the successes and achievements accomplished by our students and staff.

The year began with great excitement as we moved into the wonderful new facilities in our new extension. We welcomed one hundred and sixteen new 1st Year students to our school, making history as we had never before opened our doors to such a large 1st Year cohort. In autumn, we showed our state-of-the-art school to prospective families at

our annual Open Night and celebrated the achievements of those students from the class of 2017 who had been awarded Entrance Scholarships at UCD and TCD. We were also delighted to learn that past-pupil Ned Quirke and his teacher Ms Egan had been recognised by the Institute of Biology for achieving the highest mark in the country in the Leaving Certificate Biology Exam in 2017.

Our academic successes were paralleled by our extra-curricular accomplishments. Clonkeen College was awarded the Health Promotions Flag at the end of October, recognising the fantastic work which has been done over the course of the last

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two years, by our Health Promotions Team, to make Clonkeen a Healthy School. We are immensely proud of this achievement. Promoting positive mental and physical health continued throughout the year with guest speakers giving workshops in a wide range of health-related areas and our PE Department organising another excellent week of activity during Active Week 2018.

2017/2018 also saw success in debating, AILO and Aerprize, while our Green Schools Committee and TWSG continued their efforts. We were again afforded the opportunity to read the work of our students in another fantastic edition of The Anthology. School tours were enjoyed by many students who took in the sights of Amsterdam, Belfast, Manchester and Connemara. The highlight of the calendar, this year, was undoubtedly the first Clonkeen Musical in six years, Bugsy Malone, which was a resounding success. Congratulations again, to all involved.

The year was also marked by the continued effort of the whole school to prevent our playing field being sold. We held a wide range of fundraisers across the year selling car bumper stickers, organising clothes collections, holding a Christmas Jumper Day, an Easter Raffle and much more. In March, we had a fantastic turnout from everyone in the school community as we protested at Dáil Eireann, against

ERST's efforts to dissolve our Board of Management. We are indebted to the members of our Board of Management who have worked tirelessly in their campaign to secure the playing field for the school's use.

In April, we celebrated 50 years of Clonkeen College, at a magnificent Gala Dinner at the Clayton Burlington Hotel. It was a momentous occasion. As we look to the future, we hope that the school will continue to grow and develop over the next fifty years.

As the year draws to a close, we bid farewell to the Class of 2018. We are honoured to have been part of their six years here at Clonkeen College and we wish them the very best of luck both in their upcoming exams and on their future paths. The Class of 2018 will be remembered for their good humour, respectfulness, co-operation, participation in all aspects of school life and for their love of sport, and their commitment to sport in Clonkeen College.

2017/2018 has been another remarkable year for Clonkeen College. While the last nine months have been filled with successes in all areas of school life, it is marked also by our deep sadness at the untimely death of our colleague Micheál Gormley. We continue to remember the huge contribution

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Micheál made to life at Clonkeen. He is missed not only by his colleagues but by the whole student body and the wider school community.

Finally, we recognise the outstanding behaviour, spirit and enthusiasm shown by our students in all aspects of school life. We wish our 3rd and 6th Years very best wishes in their State Examinations. Yet again we would like to recognise the enormous contribution of our teaching staff who have facilitated and guided our boys to aim high and achieve in all their endeavours. They have also given freely of their time to ensure that the packed extra-curricular and co-curricular programmes continue to run and enrich school life. Lastly, we must thank our caretakers, administrative staff, SNAs, Parents' Association and Board of Management for their support and huge contribution to the school throughout the year.

To conclude, we hope you all enjoy reading our final edition of the newsletter for 2017/2018. Each term a different group of Transition Year students has worked hard to ensure that Clonkeen's news is brought to the whole school community. We have all enjoyed working together on this project.

Finally, we would like to wish all students, staff and their families a safe, happy and healthy summer. We look forward to another year together in 2018/2019.

Dr Brian Kennedy—Museum Director and Art Historian

Mr J Byrne

Brian was the second of four Kennedy brothers to attend Clonkeen College. After his Leaving Certificate in 1979 Brian went on to UCD where he studied both art history



and history. He received B.A. (1982), M.A. (1985) and Ph.D (1989). After his doctorate Brian had a varied career - he worked in the Department of Education, the European Commission in Brussels, the Chester Beatty Library, the Government Publications Office and the Department of Finance.

During this first period of his career Brian got married and worked on his biographical study *Alfred Chester Beatty and Ireland 1950-1968* (Glendale Press 1988). He became a widely known and respected figure in art history and museum directorship circles in Ireland and abroad. He was Assistant Director at the National Gallery of Ireland from 1989 to 1997. He was Chair of the Irish Association of Art Historians from 1996–97 and of the Council of Australian Art Museum Directors from 2001-03. In September 1997 he became Director of The National Gallery of Australia in Canberra.

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Becoming a joint Irish-Australian citizen in 2003, Brian's directorship of the Canberra Gallery was an energetic period of change and reconstruction. Besides government funding for rebuilding work, private donations enable Brian to make two notable acquisitions for the gallery's collection - David Hockney's *A Bigger Grand Canyon* and Lucian Freud's *After Cezanne*.

Brian and his family moved from Australia and he became Director of the Hood Museum of Art in 2005. The Hood Museum of Art is a museum in Hanover, New Hampshire, United States. Dating back to 1772, the museum is owned and operated by Dartmouth College. During his tenure, he implemented a series of large and small-scale exhibitions and oversaw the production of more than 20 publications to bring greater public attention to the museum's remarkable collections of the arts of America, Europe, African, Papua New Guinea and the Polar regions. At 70,000 objects, it is one of the largest collections in any American university.

In 2010, Brian moved to his current position as Director of the Toledo Museum of Art. This is an internationally known art museum located in Toledo, Ohio. Brian has expressed an interest in expanding the Museum's collection of contemporary art and art by indigenous peoples.

The college congratulates Brian on his very success-

ful career. It is wonderful that one of the world's leading museum directors is an alumnus of Clonkeen.

6th Year Graduation

The 6th Year Student-Teacher Meal took place on Monday, 21st 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 following night, Tuesday May 22nd May, all 6th Year students returned to the school, with their families for their Graduation Mass & Ceremony. Fr Arthur celebrated Mass while a number of 6th Year students provided music: Conor Leon, Eoghan Rafferty, David O'Riordan, Killian Farrelly and Alex Cooper. After mass, Mr Melly spoke about the Class of 2018 and their contribution to school life in Clonkeen College, before all students were presented with their certificates by Mr Michael Blanchfield, Chairperson of the Board of Management.

Sportsperson of the Year 2018 was then awarded to Eamonn Keating.



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Special awards were presented to Ned Quirke and Kevin Gannon (Class of 2017) who jointly received the most points in Clonkeen College in Leaving Certificate 2017.

Chairperson of the Student Council, Tadiwa Morowa, then delivered a speech taking us from the Class of 2018's first moments in Clonkeen College, through many memorable years to the present day. The final task for the night was to present the award to this year's Student of the Year. Congratulations to Cormac Spain who was chosen as Student of the Year 2018. The evening was brought to a close with some refreshments provided by the Parent's Association.



It was a beautiful evening that celebrated a fantastic group of students. Thank-you to all the staff (both teaching and non-teaching), parents and students who put in so much hard work to make it such a memorable evening. We wish the very best of luck to all our graduates in their Leaving Certificate Examinations!

Goodbye to Sam

We bid a fond farewell to Sam Gallagher (L1) who has completed five years with us. Sam was one of the first students to join us in our Moderate General Learning Disability (ModGLD) Class and the first to complete his full five years of second level education with us.



It has been a pleasure to work with Sam over the last five years and we know that Sam will be very much missed by his classmates, SNAs and those who have taught him during his time with us. We wish Sam the best of luck as he takes the next step in his education.



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State Examinations 2018

Best of luck to all our 3rd and 6th Year students as they make their final preparations ahead of their Junior and Leaving Certificate Exams, which start on June 6th.

Transition Year Round Up

Our Transition Years have enjoyed an action-packed end to their year. In the last week they have enjoyed Go Quest, paintballing and zip lining. This year's Transition Year Programme has placed a huge emphasis on staying active and leading an active life. In addition to their timetabled PE classes, every week students have engaged with different activities, learning new skills.



The group has also worked on becoming active citizens taking part in programmes such as Social Care and Young Social Innovators. In addition to this, students' knowledge in core areas from Junior Certificate has been broadened, preparing them for the challenges that lie ahead in the next two years.

A big thank-you to everyone who has developed the Transition Year Programme in the school and particularly to Transition Year Co-ordinator Ms Mooney who organised the many activities the students have enjoyed this year.

Gaisce Hike

The Transition Year students who took part in their Bronze Gaisce Award this year, successfully completed their Adventure Journey starting on Wednesday, 9th May and ending Thursday 10th. The students were accompanied by Mr O'Shaughnessy and Ms O'Keeffe, both experienced hillwalkers.

Following delivery by mini-bus to the start of the trail, the 30km hike started with a tough climb up to the summit of Djouce. Many of those who went on the hike agreed that hiking up the mountain was the hardest part of the trip as they combated steep trails, thick clouds and hurricane like winds at the summit. From there, they continued down past the beautiful views of Lough Tay and stopped for lunch. The group then hiked on to Lough Dan where they stayed for the night.

That evening, essential supplies were delivered to the students by Ms O'Rourke and Del. After a delicious meal of spaghetti bolognese, the students were allowed to swim in Lough Dan before

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enjoying a campfire under the stars. Everyone in the hostel slept well that night.



The journey resumed the next morning with much better weather conditions than the previous day. The sun was high in the sky and as the students hiked along Scarr mountain, they were treated with magnificent views of the Dublin and Wicklow area. They followed the Wicklow Way for the last stretch of the hike in good spirit. After a quick stop to eat some lunch, the group finished their journey in the village of Laragh. From there, the Transition Years and teachers were collected by a coach and brought back to the school.

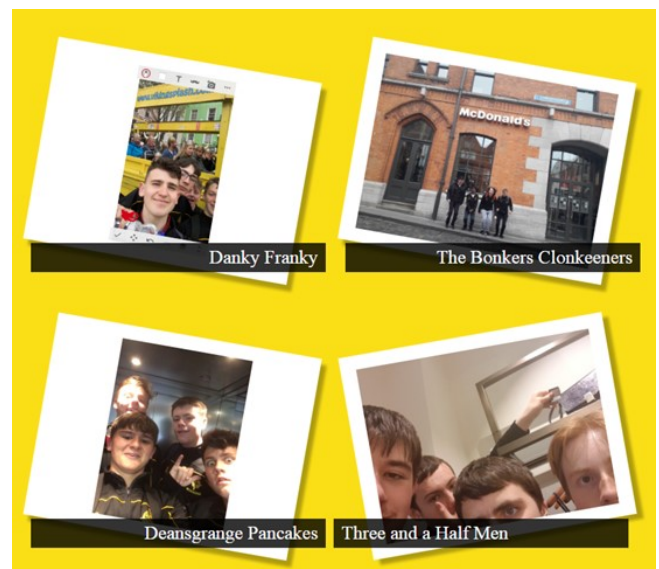
Congratulations to all the students who took part and a big thank—you to the teachers who organised and helped on the trip.

TY Adventure Day 2018

On 14th May, the Transition Years took part in the second ever Adventure Day. For this year's event, students were organised into 19 teams of four

students. With a special app designed for the day, students were able to log on to access the challenges (of which there were in excess of 70) and record their progress over the course of the day.

The teams were set free for the day, travelling all across the county to complete these challenges, submitting their photo evidence via the app. The better a team completed a challenge, the higher the points. The team with the most points won. Congratulations to 2018 champions David Farrelly, Tom O'Connor, Conor Finan, and Dylan Maher.



This was a fantastic day with great organisation and was one of the highlights of the year for many students. Thank-you to Mr O'Shaughnessy who developed the app and to all the Transition Year teachers and Ms Mooney who organised the day.

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Sports Day 2018

The annual Clonkeen College Sports Day took place on Friday 19th May, having been postponed a week earlier due to inclement weather. Under blue skies, students competed in a range of track and field and novelty events.



Of our 1st Year students, Conor McManus was notable on the day with a gold medals in the long jump and the 400m and a silver in the 1100m, before joining fellow 1st Years, Liam Dunne, Shane O'Sullivan and Vlad Oliverou to finish second in the 1st Year relay. Also of note in 1st Year was Eoin Farrelly who gave a great performance to come second in the 400m, 1st in the 1100m and secure bronze in the long jump.

In 2nd Year, Darragh Lynch shone with gold in the relay and high jump. Having secure 1st place in the high jump in 1st Year, Darragh now hopes to go for the treble in next year's event. Luke Thomas (3rd Year) won the 100m in a time of 11.37, faster than any other student over 100m on the day.

Records were smashed in Transition Year as Jack Moraghan took gold in the 400m, running the fastest time in 13 years, while Seán McGrane continued his previous form breaking the Shot Putt and Long Jump records. Ciarán Haverty (5th Year) claimed three gold medals (100m, relay and long jump) while in 6th Year Ciarán Glansford put in superb performances to win both the Shot Putt and Discus events.

As always, everyone thoroughly enjoyed Sports Day. A special thanks to the Parents' Association who organised the BBQ and fed many hungry mouths with delicious burgers across the day. With the weather absolutely perfect, the ice-cream van made a much-appreciated appearance while the 5th Year LCVP students had a most profitable day with their tuck shop.



Thank-you must go to the PE Department for organising such a fantastic day of events. Sports Day 2018 was another very successful and enjoyable day. It is unthinkable to consider what would become of this day were the playing field to be sold.

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Eureka Science Quiz

On 9th May, 3rd Year students, Sean O'Connell, Luke O'Conor and Dominic Checlowski took part in the Irish Science Teachers' Association Eureka Quiz. The boys prepared well and did well in the quiz, but were unfortunate not to finish among the top teams. Well done to the teams from Sandford Park and Blackrock College who were the winners on the night.



East Leinster Track & Field Championships

Over 40 Clonkeen athletes travelled to compete at the East Leinster Track and Field Championships on 30th April and 3rd May, at Morton Santry Stadium. We had a very successful first day with some notable performances by Seán Mc Grane who won gold medal in the U17 Shot Putt, improving on last year's silver medal. Although Seán qualified for the

Leinster Final, he was unable to compete due to injury. Other results included Jack Moraghan reaching the final of the U17 400m, Ciarán Haverty in the U19 100m final and Seán Mc Grane in the U17 100m final. The three were unfortunate to miss out on medal placings. There was success in the senior 4 x 400m relay with the team of Ciarán Haverty, Jack Moraghan, Seán McGrane and Jamie Blake Holmes taking home the bronze medal. An incredible performance saw A4 student Jakub Kryszczak, take the bronze medal in the high jump, following an eventful morning that saw him miss the bus and have to make his own way to Santry.

There was great turnout on the second day of the meet, with more students competing than the previous day. There was a great performance from Jack Moraghan, running a super race to finish in the silver medal position in the U17 800m, making it through to the Leinster Finals. Also notable on the second day was our U19 4 x 400m relay team who ran an excellent race.

Well done to all our athletes who competed over the course of the two days and to Mr Howley who accompanied the two groups.

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Jason Knight

Clonkeen's own Jason Knight, who plays with Derby County in England was part of the Irish U17 squad that were unfortunate to bow out of the European Championships in a quarter final defeat to The Netherlands.



Ireland U17s have had an amazing run in the Euros for the last two years, making it to the quarter finals each year. They faced The Netherlands in the quarter final this year in what was a very tight game. Netherlands took the lead after 62 mins with a goal from Van Gelderen and then just 2 mins late Troy Parrott equalized for Ireland to make it 1-1.

Former Clonkeen student Jason Knight had a superb performance on the day wearing the number six jersey. He played in central midfield and controlled the Irish team, keeping them in the game right until the final whistle. Later in the game Jason had a stinging shot on target and nearly got Ireland

ahead but it was a great save from the Netherlands' keeper.

The game finished and went straight into a Penalty Shootout. Irish keeper James Corcoran was cruelly sent off after allegedly stepping off his line before the penalty was taken, he received a second yellow and was sent off the pitch. Jason Knight took the 4th penalty for Ireland and slotted it home nicely but unfortunately Ireland lost the Penalty shootout 5-4 and were knocked out of the U17 Euros in very heart-breaking circumstances.

House Exams and Summer Holidays

As we arrive now at the end of the year, we wish all our 1st, 2nd and 5th Year students the best of luck in their Summer Exams. We hope they will all be pleased with their results.

We hope that everyone in the school community will have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer break and that all will return to school in September ready for the challenges of the next academic year.

