

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

September 2016



Principal's Foreword

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all our students and staff to Clonkeen College for a new academic year.

Congratulations to our Leaving Certificate students of 2016 on their excellent results. On behalf of everyone associated with Clonkeen College, I would like to wish them all the very best in their futures. Also, well done to our Junior Certificate class of 2016 on the fantastic results from the Junior Certificate. Well done to all the teachers who guided, advised and taught either, or both, of these state examination year groups.

There have been exciting building project developments during the summer holidays of 2016. The existing school has had most of its refurbishment works completed. In addition to the works of the summer of 2015, new doors have been fitted to all classrooms and all rooms have been redecorated. The corridors and offices have also

been refurbished. The school yard has been resurfaced and the new bicycle shelters have been installed.

In addition to the works to the existing building, the contractors handed over three new science laboratories to the school; a new physics laboratory, a new chemistry laboratory and a new biology laboratory. The old science laboratories have been converted into classrooms and a multi-media room.

It is hoped that, over the coming months, the school will take control of the new reception, foyer and a new Design Communication Graphics (DCG) room. In the meantime, the school is busy resolving many issues that inevitably arise during a major building project.

Finally, I would like to thank all our students and their parents for their patience and co-operation

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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during the building project. The efforts of students to walk or cycle to school and the efforts of parents to avoid driving in Meadowvale in the mornings or afternoons are very much appreciated. Hopefully, everybody will agree that inconveniences caused by the building project will be well worth it in the end, as we look forward to opening a wonderful new school in 2017.

Edward Melly (Principal)



Welcome Back

Welcome back to all our returning students, staff and their families! We hope all the incoming 1st Years will soon settle into Clonkeen College and that they will find their coming years fulfilling, productive and happy. We would also like to welcome back Mr McMenemy, who returns from career break, and Mr Benson and Ms Evers-Nolan, who join our staff this year. We wish Mr Traynor a good year ahead as he takes up a career break and we say goodbye and extend our best wishes to Ms Brennan, who has taken up a position in Dunshaughlin.

Death of Brother Loftus

It is with great sadness that we bring news of the death of Brother John Loftus, who passed away at the end of August. Brother Loftus spent many years teaching at Clonkeen College, where he was known for his caring and compassionate nature. He had a keen interest in sport and was heavily involved in extra-curricular activities, most notably in track and field athletics.

Brother Loftus chose to leave teaching in advance of the usual retirement age in order to pursue training in addiction counselling. He dedicated the remainder of his life to helping those suffering addiction working with the Aiséirí Treatment Centre in Wexford. We extend our sympathies to Brother Loftus's family and friends.

State Examinations

The Class of 2016 received their **Leaving Certificate** results on 17th August. As always, the results reflected the excellent work put in by the students and the support they received both at home and at school. We are immensely proud of their achievements and send them our warmest congratulations and best wishes in the years to come.

Junior Certificate results day arrived for our Transition Year students on September 14th. All their

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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hard work paid off as students again received excellent results. Congratulations to all students, their parents and teachers. Special congratulations to Finn McGrath (D3) who achieved an impressive nine As.



We hope that the great results, both at Leaving and Junior Certificate, will inspire our current 6th Years and 3rd Years as they prepare for their own exams.

Design Communication Graphics

(DCG)

TY students are the first students in Clonkeen College to study Design Communication Graphics (DCG). This technological subject is taught by Mr Benson.

At junior cycle DCG is known as Technical Graphics (TG). Both TG and DCG develop problem solving, spatial visualisation and creative thinking skills by analysing and solving problems in two and three dimensional graphics. DCG employs a variety of media including computer-aided design using the SolidWorks programme.

TY students are currently being introduced to technical drawing skills while studying areas such as freehand sketching, perspective projection and 3D modelling in SolidWorks. It is hoped that the school may be in a position to offer TG at junior cycle and DCG at senior cycle for the 2017/2018 academic year.



Music Group

Clonkeen College Music Group meets every Friday at 1:15 p.m. in S2. All musicians are welcome! Instruments can be stored in the S Block office on Friday mornings. Please contact Ms Fulton or Mr McGloughlin for further information.

Parent-Teacher Reading Group

The Parent-Teacher Reading Group, which was set up as part of our ongoing work towards promoting literacy initiatives and achieving the Well Read National Award, will meet on November 24th. The group meets once per term to chat, in the informal setting of either a parent or teacher's home, about books they have been reading. We welcome all parents and teachers. Ms Healy can be contacted at the school for further information

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

September 2016

1st Year Buddies

During the first week of the new term, the Clonkeen Buddy programme was introduced. Each 1st Year student had the opportunity to meet their TY Buddy for the first time during a 1st Year PE class, where the groups took part in team building exercises. Not only did the 1st Years get to know their new buddies but the activity also helped 1st Years to get to know each other. It is hoped that this initiative will aid their transition from primary school to secondary school.



First Aid

Transition Year students in D3 took part in a First Aid course delivered by the Red Cross on September 8th and 15th. During the two-day course, students worked towards a qualification in Practical First Aid (PFA). The course covered many different situations in which students might find themselves and took them through many practical skills from making slings, to how to treat shock and carry out effective CPR.

The students were also educated in primary and secondary assessment of a scene; learning the importance of simple actions such as talking to a person in distress or taking note of time and changes in the condition of the patient.

Manchester United Trip

The annual Manchester United trip for 2nd Year students took place the weekend of 9th/10th September this year. The students had the good fortune to attend one of the most anticipated matches of the Premier League season – the Manchester Derby.

The group of 56 students and 5 teachers departed from the school at 6:15 a.m. on Friday morning, boarding the coach for Dublin Port to catch the ferry to Holyhead. The long drive to Manchester was no hardship for the boys as everyone was in high spirits. The first order of business was the tour of Old Trafford, the famous stadium known as "The Theatre of Dreams". The tour was followed by a trip to the Trafford Centre for dinner and shopping.

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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September 2016



Saturday began with a lovely breakfast in Ashton, before the group went across town for a tour of the Etihad Stadium, Manchester City's home ground. This was a highlight for Shane Russell and Eoin Doyle - the two lone City fans on the trip. After that, the boys went back across to Old Trafford in time to soak up the pre-match atmosphere before the 12:30 kick-off. The match was a real cracker, the atmosphere was incredible, as is expected at a Derby match. City won 2-1 after a gripping game that was unpredictable right until the final whistle.



The game was followed by a trip to the Imperial War Museum, and then a walk through Media City in Salford on what was a beautiful evening. Then there was a final return to the Trafford Centre for shopping and a bite to eat.

The journey home began on Sunday morning with the boys still buzzing after their fantastic day. On the way back to Holyhead they stopped in Llanfair-pwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch, the village with the longest name in Wales. The trip home on the boat was lovely, with many of the boys watching Tarzan in the cinema on board the ship.

Everyone had a fantastic time. The students did themselves and the school proud with their commendable behaviour. A huge thank you to the teachers who organised the trip and accompanied the boys; Mr McGauley, Ms Murray, Ms Brougham, Mr Lynch and Mr O'Shaughnessy.

TWSG Uganda Trip

Killian Farrelly

Although it is a much overused cliché, it is only fair to describe the Third World Support Group (TWSG) trip to Uganda, as a life-changing experience. After years of contributing to the group through fundraising and helping to organise events, it was a huge achievement when Klent Nervez (6th Year) and I were selected to go on the June 2016 trip to Uganda. Over the course of the last two years, Clonkeen College TWSG has invested €20,000 in an agriculture project in two villages near Gulu, in northern Uganda. During our stay in Uganda we visited the project site and saw for ourselves the positive impact that it has had on the lives of the local people.

On our arrival at the village, we were greeted by women in bright dresses singing and clapping for us in their native language. After speeches, there

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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was an exchange of gifts where we received a beautiful African harp, a carved wooden figurine, a stuffed otter and two live chickens! Hearing first-hand how the villagers' lives have been improved gave us tremendous insight into how the money we raise during long hours collecting small donations and bag-packing makes such a difference to people's lives.



Travelling through Uganda, we saw native animals, birds and insects. Our knowledge of the country's landscape and wildlife was greatly enhanced during a visit to a wildlife park. We were also lucky enough to hike up Murchison Falls and to visit the Equator and the source of the Nile.



Everything about the country, the huge economic divides, beautiful scenery and friendly people was an experience completely different to any ideas Klent and I had had about the region before the trip. Coming from a rich country like Ireland, it was a huge eye-opener for us. Most importantly the visit really strengthened our belief that the work we do, as part of the TSWG, makes a difference to the communities with whom we work.

Debating Society News

September was a very busy for the Clonkeen Debating Society, which yielded great success across the board. The first round of the Matheson Junior Debating National Mace took place on September 17th in Coláiste na hInse, Bettystown. Clonkeen College was represented by two teams. The first was the experienced combination of Ayman Memon (2nd Year) and David Farrelly (3rd Year), who performed admirably, securing a top-ten placing. The second team was made up of 1st Years Bhudhav Singh and Sam Newcombe, who on their debut, spoke confidently and with ease. We expect great things from these two new debaters in the years ahead!

The senior debaters also had their first competitions of the new school year in September. Killian Farrelly (5th Year) and Finn McGrath (TY) entered the International Competition for Young Debaters qualification round. They did extraordinarily well, making the final round in which they finished in second place. This secured their place in the finals of the prestigious competition which will be hosted by The Cambridge Union on April 29th 2017.

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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September 2016

Finally, the senior Leinster Schools Debating Competition hosted by Trinity College kicked off on September 27th, with two teams of TY students representing Clonkeen College – Mark Brophy and Ruairi Greene, and Sean Nolan and Lucas Carragher. Both teams did very well in what is a highly competitive competition, with the best debaters from across Leinster all taking part.

Leaving Cert. Geography Field Trip

Our 6th Year Geography students carried out the field work part of their Leaving Certificate preparations on Thursday 22nd September. Thank you to their teachers Mr Bennett and Mr Cassidy who organised the field study and accompanied the students on the day.



U16 Basketball

On Tuesday, 27th September our U 16 Basketball Team played their first league match against Gaelcholáiste na Mara in Arklow. The team built on their successes in the 1st and 2nd Year leagues last year, showing further improvements in their composure, discipline and organisation. They showed great skill against an inexperienced Arklow side, coming away with a victory 57-12. Top scorer on the day, for Clonkeen, was James Rooney (3rd Year). Congratulations to the team and their coach Ms Ní Chatháin on an excellent result.



U14 Gaelic Football

On 29th September, our U14 Gaelic Football team had their opening match of the group stages of their campaign. Going up against a team from St. MacDara's Community College who were physically superior, the boys faced a tough challenge. They put on an impressive display of skill and at times challenged their opponents, but were unfortunate to come away with a loss. The boys were disappointed with their loss but will take the lessons learned through to their next match against St. Columcille's Community School next Tuesday, October 4th. Commiserations to the team and to their coaches Mr Lynch and Ms Murray.

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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September 2016

U16 Hurling

Our U 16 Hurling Team had their first group stage match against Templeogue College on 18th September. We were very well represented by the team who worked hard against a team that was physically stronger than them. Our boys held strong in the face of adversity, constantly pushing forward in an attempt to add to our score. They showed great skill and team work but were unfortunate to come away with a loss. The final score was: Templeogue College 2-21, Clonkeen College 1-13. Commiserations to the team and their coaches Mr Bennett and Mr O'Brien. We wish them the best of luck in their remaining group matches.

U18 Hurling

Our U18 Hurling Team played their opening group game in the B Hurling League, against Lucan CBS, on 27th September. The boys put in an excellent team performance, showing the high skill level we have come to expect from this group of players. It would be impossible to single out any one player as man of the match, such was the level of their performance in their 2-16 to 1-14 victory over Lucan. The team is now guaranteed a semi-final place. Congratulations to the team and their coaches Mr O'Brien and Mr Bennett.

U17 Soccer

On 28th September our U 17 Soccer Team went up against local rival's St. Benildus College in a pre-season friendly. It was a thrilling encounter with the both sides putting in top level performances.

Man of the match for Clonkeen was 3rd Year Byron O'Gorman who netted two goals on his first appearance at U 17.

Unable to find the back of the net for a third time, Clonkeen College had to make do with a draw, the final score 2-2. The game also gave our coaches, Mr Cassidy and Mr Benson, the chance to try out a number of different combinations on the pitch, giving every man the opportunity to play and fight for his position in the starting eleven. It's back to training now for the team who will have to wait until mid-October for their first Cup match. Well done to the team and coaches, Mr Cassidy and Mr Benson, on an excellent match.

Dylan Watts

On 1st September, past-pupil Dylan Watts (Class of 2016), completed his transfer to join Premier League Champions, Leicester City. He started his football career with St Joseph's Boys in Sallynoggin (U16 Team) and then proceeded to play for St Kevin's Boys for a year before joining the UCD (U19s). At UCD he played on the Irish Schools side which won the Centenary Shield in 2015 before being promoted to the first team where he made appearances for UCD in both the Airtricity League and Europa League. Everyone at Clonkeen College wishes him the best of luck in his future career.

