

# CLONKEEN COLLEGE



## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*Prepared by Transition Year Students*

September 2017



### *Principal's Foreword*

As the 2017/2018 academic year begins, I would like to welcome back all our staff, students and their families to Clonkeen College. To those joining us for the first time, I hope that you will enjoy your time with us and will feel fulfilled by the many wonderful opportunities that Clonkeen College has to offer to you. We bid a fond farewell to the Class of 2017 and to the members of staff who will not be joining us for this academic year. We congratulate the Class of 2017 and their teachers on their outstanding results in the Leaving Certificate and wish them the very best in their chosen paths. We thank the teachers who have left us for all their hard work and commitment to their students and we wish them continued success in their new positions.

I would like to commend our Transition Year students on their excellent Junior Certificate results. The first group of students from Clonkeen College to be examined under the new Junior Cycle Specification, they have forged the way for those who will follow, as the full Junior Cycle Award is rolled out over the coming years. This group of students and their teachers not only met the challenges of the new specification but excelled and for this we applaud them. I would like to thank all teachers for their work with the Junior Certificate class.

The start of this academic year is an exciting time as we move into our new extension. Over the summer break the builders handed over all remaining areas to the school and we are now in the final

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stages of fitting out rooms. I would like to extend a big thank-you to the staff, students, families and neighbours of the school who have worked with and supported this development at every turn. I am absolutely delighted with the state-of-the-art facilities we now have at Clonkeen College.

Finally, I come to the matter of the school playing field. I was deeply saddened in May by the Christian Brothers' decision to sell a large portion of the school's playing field to a property developer. In the period since then, I have been overwhelmed by the huge support from the entire Clonkeen Community; our Board of Management (BOM), Parents Association (PA), Clonkeen Action Group, current pupils and their families, current staff, past staff, Clonkeen alumni, past Clonkeen principals, past Board members, neighbours and the wider community here in Meadowvale. I would like to thank these people for their continued efforts attending meetings, lobbying politicians and donating to our fundraising to finance the upcoming legal action.

It is regrettable that individuals are forced to take the personal risk involved in taking a legal action against the Congregation of Christian Brothers so that the school can defend the

facilities of our students. Yet, this is the situation with which we are faced at Clonkeen College. We will forever be indebted to this brave group of people who initiated legal proceedings and put the needs of current and future pupils of Clonkeen to the fore, understanding the devastating impact that the loss of such a huge portion of our playing field would have on daily life here at Clonkeen College.

All that said, I want to reassure everyone that our campaign to retain our playing field will have no impact on the wonderful education that we provide to our students in Clonkeen College. In fact, we are looking forward to celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary later this academic year. We hope that this celebration will provide us with the opportunity to showcase our wonderful newly refurbished and extended school. We are also looking forward to our school musical, *Bugsy Malone*, which we intend to perform in March 2018. So, along with all the other exciting school activities, we have lots to look forward to in the year ahead....

*Edward Melly*

*Please note that if you feel you are in a position to help with our efforts to protect our playing field, please contact Mr Howley at the school.*

*Thank-you!*

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### *Welcome Back*

Welcome back to all our students, staff and their families! We hope you all have enjoyed a relaxing summer and that you are looking forward to the year ahead. We hope that our new 1<sup>st</sup> Years are settling in well and that they will have many wonderful and productive years here at Clonkeen College.

We would like to welcome all our new teachers; Ms Connaughton (Technical Graphics and DCG), Ms Lemass (Home Economics and Science), Ms Nolan (Learning Support), Ms Reynolds (Maths and Science), Ms Shortall (Maths) and Ms Mulville (English and History). We say goodbye and extend our best wishes to Ms Kelly, Ms Evers-Nolan, Ms O'Carroll and Mr Benson who are not returning to Clonkeen this year. We thank them for all their hard work and hope that they will enjoy every success in their new positions.

### *State Examinations*

Congratulations to the Class of 2017 who received their Leaving Certificate Results on 16<sup>th</sup> August. Their excellent results reflect the commitment of this group of students to their studies. We would like to thank them for their

contribution to school life over their six years at Clonkeen College and we look forward to hearing about the many successes that they will have in the years to come. We hope that they will remember their time at Clonkeen fondly.



Our Junior Certificate Class received their results on 13<sup>th</sup> September. Again, the results were fantastic, recognising the effort that these students and their teachers have put in over the past three years. We hope that all the students are pleased with their results and that they are looking forward to the many opportunities they will have to expand their learning in Transition Year.



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### *Science on Stage Festival*



We were delighted to have Ms Máire Duffy represent both Clonkeen College and Ireland at the Science on Stage Festival in Debrecen, Hungary. She was a member of an eight-strong team from Ireland who took part in this year's event. They joined hundreds of other STEM teachers from across Europe at the festival, which takes place every two years. The festival provides STEM teachers from across Europe with the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences. Ms Duffy presented her project "Homemade Electroscopes".

Congratulations to Declan Cathcart and Robert Clarke, two members of the Irish team whose projects were highly commended. The team had a great experience and took home many interesting ideas. Ms Duffy and the rest of the team then presented their own experiments and

others from the festival at the Frontiers of Physics conference in University of Limerick in September. They will do so again at the Irish Science Teachers' conference in March.



### *Higher Options*

All 6<sup>th</sup> Year students, accompanied by Mr O'Hora, attended the Higher Options Exhibition at the RDS on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. The students had an opportunity to find out about different paths of study open to them, in addition to other further education and training programmes. It gave all students lots to think about as they consider their future paths.

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## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER *Junior Cycle Award*

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### *Junior Cycle Award*

With the new academic year, new Junior Cycle subject specifications are being rolled out in Irish, French and Art. These join those already underway in English, Science and Business Studies. Additionally, this year sees the start of the Wellbeing aspect of the Junior Cycle. For students in Clonkeen, this has meant an increase in the amount of time allocated to Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and the maintenance of our Physical Education (PE) and Civic Social and Political Education (CSPE) hours.

We are fully embracing the new Junior Cycle Framework in Clonkeen. Classroom Based Assessments (CBA) will take place later in the academic year in English for our current 3<sup>rd</sup> Year students and in English, Business and Science for our current 2<sup>nd</sup> students. Staff will undergo further Continuing Professional Development (CPD) later in the year which will, unfortunately, necessitate a small number of school closures. Parents and guardians will be notified directly of any planned closure as soon as we have been issued with the dates.

### *Transition Year Musical*

This year our Transition Year students will be putting on a performance of the musical *Bugsy Malone*. The musical is a gangster comedy loosely based around the exploits of gangs in Chicago and New York during Prohibition in the 1920s.

The group has been participating in music and drama classes and have learned some of the main songs like "We could Have Been Anything That We Wanted To Be" and "So You Want To Be A Boxer". They have learned some of the basics of acting, things like expressing emotion clearly through tone of voice and body language. In addition to this, the students have been taking inspiration from the 1976 film version.

Auditions took place on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> September and all roles have now been filled. The titular character, Bugsy, will be played by Nathan Tormey, while Andrew Byrne will support him in the role of Fat Sam. We will keep you up-to-date with the latest news from rehearsals and hope to see you all in attendance on opening night!

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### *Home Economics*

This year Home Economics has been included in subjects offered to 1<sup>st</sup> Year students in Clonkeen College. Here, new Home Economics teacher, Ms Lemass gives us a brief introduction to this subject.

### *So, what is Home Economics?*

When we hear the term, 'Home Economics' most of us think about cooking and sewing. Home Economics is about much more than this. Home Economics combines aspects of Science, Nutrition, Cooking, Parenting Skills and Finance. Students learn about the inter-relationships between diet, choice, health, family and home and the management of resources.

Home Economics teaches students not only what's in the food we eat every day; but also, how to plan and cook nutritious and economical meals; how to choose the best food for themselves and their family; the importance of good nutrition and health; and the role of the consumer in modern eating patterns.

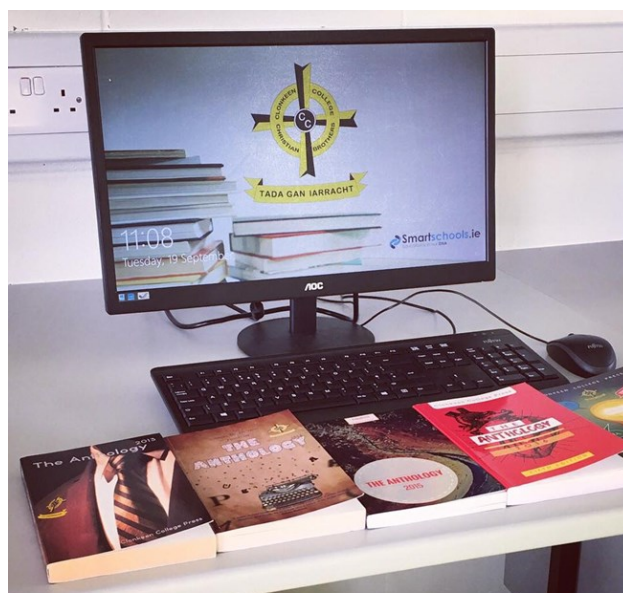
Home Economics develops the knowledge, understanding, skills and values necessary achieve optimal, healthy and sustainable living for every person as an individual, and as a member of families

and society. Junior Certificate students in Home Economics focus on three interconnected strands: Food, Health and Culinary Skills; Responsible Family Living; and, Textiles and Craft.

Home Economics delivers vital skills that enable students to lead effective lives as individuals and family members as well as members of the wider community.

### *Anthology 2018*

The Clonkeen College Press for 2017/2018 has recently been formed and will work to produce the 2018 edition of The Anthology. We wish the group every success with their publication and look forward to bringing you updates from the group as their work comes together.



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### *L1 News*

Over the summer period the new Moderate GLD Unit was completed and handed over to the school. Boxes were packed, artwork removed from the walls and treasured items carefully carried from the temporary accommodation and the move was on for everyone in L1. Students, teachers and the SNAs are now settling in well and we all are delighted with the new rooms.

The new year sees the arrival of two new students to join Sam, MacDara, Daragh and Mark. We would like to give a big welcome to Robert Sheridan and Luka O'Brien. We hope that they will be very happy during their time with us.

This year we've had visitors from Transition Year on Wednesdays. The Transition Year students, along with Ms Reynolds and Ms Nolan have been doing some fantastic artwork. We're all working on our art skills and will soon have lots of wonderful pieces to display on the walls of our new classroom.

### *Manchester United Trip*

A large group of 2<sup>nd</sup> Year students, accompanied by Mr McGauley, Ms Brougham, Ms Murray, Mr Lynch, Mr O'Shaughnessy and Mr Cassidy,

travelled to Manchester on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September for the annual 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Manchester Trip. The group had a very early start, departing from Meadowdale at 6:15 a.m. Arriving in Manchester in the late afternoon, the weekend's activities got underway with a visit to Old Trafford for a guided tour before shopping and dinner in the Trafford Centre. Despite much encouragement, Mr Lynch refused to give up his lifelong support for Arsenal and purchase a United jersey.



Sunday morning dawned and with it a tour of Manchester City's Etihad Stadium. The boys really enjoyed the stadium tour, particularly going the behind-the-scenes and getting to see the stadium from the point of view of a Premier League football player. From there they travelled across town to Old Trafford, where the boys visited the Manchester United shop ahead of the match. Clonkeen's Everton supporters kept a low profile in the throng of United fans, and remained notably quiet during United's 4-0 victory over the Toffees. Post-match the group returned to the Trafford Centre for dinner and bowling.

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The boys packed up and checked out of their hotel on Monday morning, ready for the return journey. They had a brief stop in Wales for lunch, before continuing onward to the ferry at Holyhead. All were tired on their arrival at Meadowvale that evening but everyone agreed that they had had a wonderful weekend. The teachers would like to commend the boys on their excellent behaviour throughout the weekend. A big thank-you must go to Mr McGauley, Ms Brougham, Ms Murray, Mr Lynch, Mr O'Shaughnessy and Mr Cassidy.



### *3<sup>rd</sup> Year Mosque Visit*

In order to prepare their Religion Journal, which counts for 20% of their Junior Certificate Religion grade, our 3<sup>rd</sup> Year students visited the Islamic Cultural Centre in Clonskeagh on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Understanding and appreciating world religions is a key aspect of the study of Religion at Junior Certificate Level.

The group's visit to the Islamic Cultural Centre allows all students to see the layout of the mosque and to learn about Islamic practices, pilgrimage sites and sacred texts. During the visit, the students were given the opportunity to speak with Dr Ali Selim and to ask him some questions they had prepared in class. Dr Selim explained many aspects of Islamic culture to the group, helping them to broaden their knowledge of Islam faith and providing them with all the knowledge they will need as they complete their Religion Journals.

Well done to all the students who behaved in a respectful and reverent manner throughout the visit. Thank-you to Ms Mooney who organised the visit and to Ms Mooney, Ms Dunlop and Mr Brennan who accompanied the students during their visit.



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### *Reading Club*

We are continuing our work this year towards the National Well-Read Award. Having set our sights on achieving the award during this academic year we will be making lots of use of our new library space. The library will host a Reading Club for students, starting when we return from our October mid-term break. We hope also to reconnect with parents and to also continue with the Parent-Teacher Reading group as we have done in other years.

### *Third World Support Group*

This year Clonkeen College Third World Support Group (TWSG) is working towards the construction of an eight-classroom school in Malawi. This is a huge undertaking and will require considerable fundraising. We hope that over the course of the year, you will support our efforts, as you have in previous years, and that we will be able to provide this invaluable resource for the children living through incredible poverty.

### *Kieran Butler*

In July 6<sup>th</sup> Year student, Kieran Butler signed for Irish First Division side Cabinteely FC. Kieran made



his first team debut, coming on as a substitute during Cabinteely's 1-0 win over Shelbourne FC in late July. Best of luck to Kieran and the team in their remaining matches of the season.

### *Gaelic Games*

Our GAA season for 2017/2018 got up and running in September with first matches for the Juvenile Footballers and Senior Hurlers. And our Junior Hurlers will soon be in action.

The U14 Gaelic Football is traditionally the first chance for our new students to take part in the various sports that Clonkeen has to offer and to represent the school. We've had no shortage of enthusiastic 1<sup>st</sup> Years involved in our training sessions. Our first two outings – a challenge against St. Benildus and a Dublin Championship match

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vs. St. MacDara's – resulted in losses. However, we managed to give game-time to a good number of players. We have three matches to play in October, starting with an away game vs. Drimnagh Castle. After Christmas, the First Years will have their own Dublin and Leinster Competitions.

The Senior Hurlers hope to go one better than last year when we narrowly lost out in the Dublin Final. An excellent 3-27 to 1-14 win against Oatlands augurs well for the coming season. Our Dublin stars, Kevin Kirwan and Liam Murphy, shone, as well as Cormac Spain and Cal Doran, who amassed a personal tally of 2-8. Well done lads! We hope to have the 1<sup>st</sup> Years in competition before Hallowe'en, with the U14s to follow after Christmas. The U16 Hurlers are up next in October.

Our Senior and Junior (U16) Footballers throw-in after Hallowe'en as well. The Senior Footballers hope to make it three Dublin titles in a row this season. Last season we reached three finals overall, with both our U16 Teams and 1<sup>st</sup> Year Footballers making the semi-final and quarter-final stages respectively.

The success continued after the schools' competitions finished with Clonkeen students excelling at club and county level. Geraldines and Cuala both won their Féile Divisions. Pictured are Matthew Ryan, Daniel Drohan, Euan Hall and Daniel Hughes



of Cuala and Gavin Doyle, Conor Dunne, Jamie Maguire and Niall Connaughton of Geraldines. Kevin Campbell was also a member of the Geraldines' team.



We had great success at Dublin level too. Pictured are Liam Murphy, Kevin Kirwan, Kevin Quinn and Liam Flatman who were all members of the Dublin U17 Hurling and Football teams. Liam Murphy and Kevin Kirwan went all the way to the inaugural All-Ireland Hurling Final at this grade, narrowly beaten by Cork. The two Liams also made it on to the Dublin Minor Hurling and Football teams, both making it to Croke Park but unfortunately falling at the semi-final stage. But great achievements by all four! Well done!