

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

April 2018

Clonkeen College Gala Dinner 2018



Ms E Gibson

On Friday 6th April, Clonkeen College celebrated its 50th Anniversary in style with a Gala Dinner at the Clayton Burlington Hotel. It was a tremendous occasion. This was the fourth event of this kind, and we were sincerely grateful to all those past pupils who returned to support the school again. Endeavours were made since October last to invite as many past pupils as possible to join us for this celebration. Nearly 400 attended, including past principals and past BOM members. We even had a past pupil from our first Leaving Cert group of 1972. It was a most enjoyable evening. Old friends gathered, old class photos were viewed and stories regaled.

It was a home-grown event start to finish. The ballroom was transformed, decorated beautifully in black and gold. Dermot Malone (LC 1987) created an incredibly stage and set with his wondrously talented graphics work. Alan Rowlette (LC 2000) kindly volunteered his professional services and manoeuvred discretely among the throngs as our photographer for the evening. Barry Lenihan (LC 2010) entertained the room throughout, as our Master of Ceremonies.

The formalities opened with a pre-dinner welcoming speech delivered by Ms Gibson, who gave a brief history of the school and thanked the countless people involved in organising the event and

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the many who were assisting on the day itself. Our guests weren't short of entertainment during the meal. Between courses a building works video created by Naoise Ó Conluain (LC 2017) showed our alumni the incredible transformation Clonkeen College has undergone in the last three years. Naoise, while a student in the school, filmed at the same time every week, recording the progress of our massive €12 million building project. Barry Lenihan interviewed our Cuala All-Ireland Club Champions past pupils David Treacy (LC 2008), Oisín Gough (LC 2007), Ryan de Felice (LC 2016) and Stephen Butler (LC 2006), in what was a lively and entertaining exchange.

Mr Melly, our principal, then delivered a wonderful speech, before our after-dinner guest speaker, John Aldridge, took to the stage. We were delighted to be joined by such an incredibly talented legend of Irish sport and enjoyed the video footage of his best moments on the big screen as he arrived on stage. At the end of his chat with Barry, he auctioned signed photos of the famous heated moment he had with referee Mustafa Fahmy at the 1994 World Cup.

The evening also included a raffle with fantastic prizes up for grabs, including a weekend in Clontarf Castle, overnight stays in many hotels, cases of wine and many more. All the prizes were very

generously donated by our alumni.

It was an immensely enjoyable occasion for all there. It was a proud and momentous day for the school and her history. Chomhghairdeas agus lá breithe shona duit Coláiste Chluain Chaoin! Long may your legacy continue!

Student Council Cake Sale

Clonkeen College Student Council held a Cake Sale on April 20th in aid of the Alzheimer Society of Ireland.



Thank you to staff, students and their families who donated a fantastic array of delicious treats. Over eight hundred euro was raised selling cakes, teas and coffees for this worthwhile cause. Well done to the Student Council and to our Student Council Liaison teacher Ms O'Keeffe on a fantastic fundraising effort. Ms O'Keeffe and Student Council Representatives Mark Brophy and Ciarán Haverty presented the Alzheimer Society with a cheque for €843.89 on April 27th.

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Leaving Certificate

Our 6th Year students have recently completed their oral exams in French, Irish and other external languages. The exams took place over the course of the first two weeks after the Easter Holidays. Those studying Music also sat their Music practical exam at this time. Our Art students finished their 10-week project on April 20th and sat their Life Drawing exam on April 27th. Finally, the LCVP exam was held on Wednesday, May 2nd. Well done to all our 6th Years and to their teachers who have helped them prepare for these exams. We hope that the 6th Years will have further success in the written exams in June.

Junior Cycle Information Night

An information night for parents of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year students was held in the school on Thursday, 26th April. We would like to thank the many parents who attended this event and Ms Egan and Ms Healy who organised the evening. Parents will find lots of useful information relating to the new Junior Cycle Award on the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment website: www.ncca.ie. Any parent who has questions relating to the new Junior Cycle Programme is asked to contact either the class teacher of a particular subject or either of the above-mentioned teachers.

Green Schools Committee

The Green Schools Committee are working towards their Energy Flag over the next year. This week the Green Schools Committee organised an "Energy Awareness Week" to raise awareness of energy consumption. On Monday, students learned about energy consumption on a local, national and global level.



On Tuesday, each tutor group participated in a quiz on energy. Well done to the energy experts in B1 who won the quiz!

For Wednesday, the committee organised a "Switch off the lights when it's bright!" day. This involved the lights being turned off across the school for the entire day. It was a great success and something the committee is hoping to do more often in the future. There are so many simple steps to reduce energy consumption in school and at home.

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On Friday, students participated in a riddles competition. Ten riddles on the topic of energy were placed around the school. Students had to locate the riddles and answer all ten. Congratulations to Conor Cronin (D1) who won a €30 voucher for Dundrum Town Centre and to Cal Coffey (D3) and Gabriel Tan (D2) who came second and third.



The Green Schools Committee would like to thank both students and staff who helped to raise awareness of energy consumption this week.

Science News

To mark Earth Day 2018 which took place on Sunday, 22nd April, Ms Duffy and Ms Egan's 1st and 2nd Year Science classes prepared posters highlighting the damage caused by microplastics

to the earth's oceans. Earth Day, which started in 1970, promotes education and action on important environmental concerns. This year's campaign focuses on ending plastic pollution in our oceans. Well done to Ms Duffy and Ms Egan and their classes on highlighting this critical issue.



Our budding scientists have continued taking part in various STEM challenges during their classes. Ms Egan's 2nd Year Science Class carried out experiments to help them understand the composition of blood. They used various food items to represent the different components in blood, "building"

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their own blood in graduated cylinders.



Meanwhile, all 2nd Year Science students have begun their first Classroom Based Assessment (CBA 1), which forms part of their Junior Cycle Award in Science. Their investigations cover a wide range of topics across the various disciplines. Some questions the groups are considering are: "How does wavelength affect the germination and growth of cress seeds?", "How do different mediums affect the force of a magnetic field?", "How are craters formed?", "How does the number of blades in a fan affect the time it takes for a fan to stop spinning?", "Which paint absorbs heat more quickly?", "What is the effect of heat on PH?", "What is the effect of weight on



speed?" and "What is the effect of voltage on the temperature of water?". We wish all our 2nd Years the best of luck in their CBAs and we hope that they enjoy carrying out their scientific investigations.



Salter's Festival of Chemistry

Ms Egan and 1st Year students, Jonah Lacey, Oscar Sun, Killian Crowe and Chris Cherian, joined approximately 80 students from 20 schools across the province of Leinster for an exciting day of scientific exploration at the Salters' Festival of Chemistry, which was held by the School of Chemistry, Trinity College Dublin on Saturday 21st April. The students took part in a variety of chemistry practicals, experiments and challenges. They had the opportunity to use their analytical chemistry skills in hands-on practical challenges in the morning, while later in the day they observed a number of

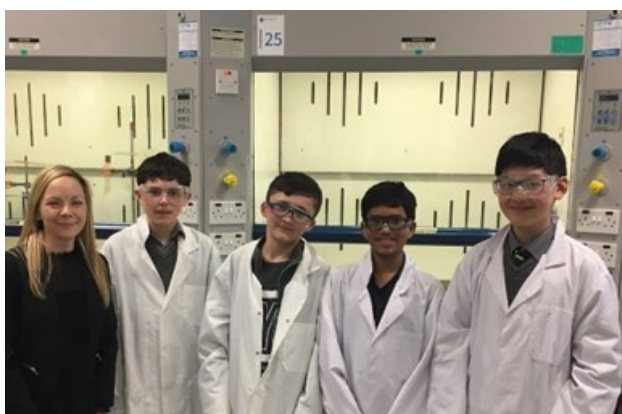
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loud and exciting demonstrations, during which Clonkeen's own Chris Cherian was called on to take part. Well done to all the students who represented Clonkeen very well and a big thank-you to Ms Egan for organising the visit and accompanying them on the day.



Pi Maths Quiz

The Irish Maths Teachers' Association Annual Pi Maths Quiz took place at on April 20th at Wesley College Dublin. Although our team, made up of

Matthew D'Arcy, Ayman Memon, Stephen Newport, Shane Russell and Eoghan O'Carroll competed well, they were unfortunate not to place on the night. They represented Clonkeen very well.



A big thank-you to Transition Year students David Farrelly and Conor Nolan who helped the team prepare for the competition. Congratulations to the winning team from Sandford Park School.

The Anthology 2018

On Tuesday, April 24th, Clonkeen College Press launch The Anthology 2018. This year's book brought together a collection of beautifully crafted poems and stories written by our very talented students, while the wonderful cover was created by Roman Gyrin and Tadhg O'Shea. Congratulations to Mr Toomey and his Creative Writing Class on yet another very successful project.

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Clonkeen College Active Week 2018

Clonkeen College Active Week (CCAW) took place from Monday 9th April to Friday 13th April this year. As always, the week was full of different events and activities for both the students and the teachers to enjoy.

The week began with the popular Student v Teacher event: King of the Bench. Open to teacher and students from 5th and 6th Year this year saw Mr McLaughlin attempt to retain his title. Unfortunately, he lost his crown in a shocking turn of events which saw 5th Year student Callum Fleming take the honours, followed by Mr Sheehy in second and Mr McLaughlin relegated to third. Rumours abound that Mr McLaughlin has already started to plan his big comeback for next year!

Also on Monday, 2nd Years participated in a workshop delivered by Lacrosse Ireland that taught them the basics of the game and how to play as a team. It took some practice, but eventually they were playing like professionals. After school, a team made up of 2nd Year and TY students took on the teachers in Volleyball. It was a tough match, the first held in our new Sports

Hall, that saw the students take victory.

On the second day of Active Week, Stephen Flynn, past pupil and fitness instructor visited the school to lead our 5th Years through a High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) session. Those not involved in the HIIT session had a yoga taster session in the hall.



Lunchtime on Tuesday, brought the Basketball and Caterpillar Challenges, while 1st Year students had a chance to show off their strength during a Tug-of-War taster in the afternoon.

Players and coaches from Cabinteely F.C. visited the school on Wednesday. Among the group were two of our 6th Year students, Kieran Butler and Aaron Byrne and PFAI Division Player of the Year for

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2017, Kieran Marty Waters. They worked with our 1st Year students in our new gym, helping them to develop their skills through a variety of drills. The coaches and players were more than happy to answer questions from our budding footballers. Our 1st Years thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Our 2nd Year students had a busy afternoon on Wednesday with Spikeball and Table Tennis on offer. Action for the 2nd Years continued on Thursday morning with a Frisbee workshop and co-operative games. Staff and students headed out to the playing field at lunchtime on Thursday to complete the annual Clonkeen Mile Challenge. Once again the turnout was great and the group succeeded in completing the distance of a marathon between them.

The Community Cycle, saw a large group don their helmets and cycle a route around the surrounding area, on Friday morning, led by Mr

Lynch and Mr O'Shaughnessy. At lunchtime, Pembroke Fencing Club came to the school to offer a Fencing taster. There was a great turnout from our junior years for this event which is always a favourite during Active Week.



The week finished on a high on Friday afternoon, with what is undeniably the highlight of Clonkeen Active Week: Drop Everything And Dance! Our junior classes were first to the floor of the old hall, followed in the second round by the seniors, with Mr Faherty leading both groups through various hits from "La Macarena" to "Cha Cha Slide" and "Rock The Boat".

The success of CCAW 2018 is undoubtedly down to the hard work and dedication of Mr Howley and the teams and coaches who gave freely of their time to support the initiative. Well done to all who participated in all the activities over the course of the week emphasising the importance of daily activity for our physical and mental well-being.

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B1 CSPE Action Project

Adam Parry

Before the Easter Holidays B1, and their teacher Ms Mulville, organised a raffle to raise money to help save Clonkeen's playing fields. They organised the raffle for their CSPE Action Project. The class raised €222 for the cause.

The top prizes went to:

1. One4All Voucher – Shane O' Sullivan – A2
2. iClothing Voucher – Garvan Molony – B2
3. Stay City Voucher – Jamie Brick – A1
4. Lindt Easter Egg - Ms. Cullen

B1 wish to thank iClothing, Staycity Aparthotels and Lindt & Sprungli for generously donating prizes and everyone in the school community for supporting the raffle.

Connemara Trip

The annual 1st Year trip to Recess, Connemara took place in April.



This year saw over fifty students, mostly from 1st Year but with a few returnees from 2nd Year, travel west. As always, the boys thoroughly enjoyed the action-filled trip, partaking in activities such as kayaking, rock climbing and hiking. The Connemara trip being phone-free meant evenings were spent playing cards, doing quizzes and other games.



The teachers would like to commend all the students on their excellent behaviour throughout. A big 'thank-you' goes to Mr O'Shaughnessy and Mr Faherty who organised the trip and accompanied the students.

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L1 News

Students from L1 carried out part of their Caring for Animals module of their Level 2 Learning Programme on 26th April.



A big thank-you to Ms O'Rourke and Ms Ní Chatháin who very kindly brought their pooches to school for the boys to work with.

LCVP

Our 5th Year LCVP class visited the Chocolate Warehouse on 17th April as part of their summary report write up.



They looked at the entire production process and even had the opportunity to produce and package some of their own designs. The summary report is an important part of their LCVP Portfolio.



Back in the classroom, preparations are now underway for their enterprise projects which will run on Sports Day.

Manchester Trip

On the weekend of April 21st, a group of nineteen students travelled to Manchester, accompanied by Mr Lynch and Mr O'Shaughnessy.



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As with past Manchester Trips, the group visited both the Etihad Stadium and Old Trafford and enjoyed some shopping in the Trafford Centre. A highlight of this particular trip was meeting boxer Tyson Fury, also known as the Gypsy King, at the Trafford Centre. Although, he is known as one of boxing's bad-boys, Mr Fury was quite happy to pose for photos with the group.



The main event for the boys (and teachers!) was the Manchester United v Arsenal match on the Sunday afternoon. Although, Mr Lynch let the side down cheering for Arsenal from within the United stands, everyone very much enjoyed the match.



The students, of whom the majority are United

supporters, delighted in seeing their side win, with a late Marouane Fellaini header. Mr Lynch delighted in seeing Arsen Wenger on his final visit to Old Trafford as Arsenal manager.

A big 'thank-you' to the boys for their excellent behaviour throughout the trip and to Mr Lynch and Mr O'Shaughnessy who accompanied them to Manchester.

TWSG

Clonkeen College Third World Support Group (TWSG) has had a very successful year. In August, we will be opening an eight-classroom school, complete with modern toilet facilities and teacher accommodation in Malawi. The school is located in the impoverished Thondolo region of the country and will cater for five hundred pupils aged from four to sixteen years. Next year, with your support, we hope to construct another block of two classrooms, along with offices and playing facilities for the pupils.

This is the biggest project that the group has ever undertaken. We would like to thank everyone in the school community and the surrounding parishes for their continued generous support of our work

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Clonkeen Mace

Finn McGrath

On 14th April, Clonkeen College Debating Society hosted the first ever Clonkeen Mace. Twenty-three Junior Cycle students from six schools came to showcase their skills, some debating for the first time, others in preparation for the National Championships the following weekend.

A debating mace is a competition where the debaters are told the motion only 20 minutes before the debate starts. Each team of two must come up with a four minute speech, making for fast-paced debates which skip the statistics and get down to the core arguments of each side. What's more, there are three rounds in the day, before the top four teams advance to the final. Mace debating is the main focus of the debating society in Clonkeen.

On April 14th, the motions were very challenging, tackling a wide range of topics. The first round, "This the house believes that single-sex schools are better for education," seemed like a veritable softball compared to the second and third motions: "This house would make organ donation mandatory after death" and "This house would prioritise economic growth over the environment in third world countries."

The standard of competition was incredibly high, impressing all of the adjudicators. The scores were tallied, and the top four teams advancing to the final were announced: Belvedere College (A & B), Alexandra College and Sion Hill College. The motion was "This house believes internet access is a human right," a very topical issue, given recent controversies surrounding net neutrality and Cambridge Analytica. All four teams raised valid, sophisticated points. The internet's ability to promote democracy and educate people in the third world was weighed against the dangerous activities it harbours, while access to the internet was compared with other human rights. In the end, the first proposition team, Padraig Monaghan and Brian Kelleher from Belvedere College won out. Over-



all best speaker for the day went to Beth Doherty from Alexandra College. Congratulations must go to them for their outstanding performances.

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Well done also to the two Clonkeen teams who took part, Ayman Memon and Ire Guidoriagao, and Shane O'Sullivan and Zach Kenny-Ward.

The day would not have been possible without a number of people who helped to run the competition. Firstly, thanks to all the adjudicators; senior students from other schools, who gave up their Saturday to come and judge our competition. Special thanks to Alysia Cloake, our chief adjudicator, who not only gave great advice in the lead up to the competition but organised all the adjudication on the day and was chair adjudicator for the final. We must also recognise the incredible support given by Mr Toomey who guided us through preparations and came into the school on Saturday to allow the competition to take place. We would like to thank McGrath McGrane Solicitors who generously sponsored the trophies for the winners.

The final thank-you goes to the members of the debating society who came together to make the event run as smoothly as possible, filling the roles of Writing Motions (Lucas Carraher), Time Keeper (David Farrelly) and Tabs/Scorekeeper (Seán Nolan), while Mark Brophy spent his 18th birthday assisting in a variety of ways across the

day. Thanks also go to Killian Farrelly, who has been chairperson of Clonkeen College Debating Society for the last two years and has put in a lot of work in that time to allow us to realise our ambition of hosting a competition independently. Without the hard work and determination of all involved this event would not have been possible. We thank our competitors for the excellent standard of debating delivered on the day. We hope they enjoyed the experience and will join us again for what we hope will become an annual event on the debating calendar.

Clonkeen Alumnus is Distinguished

Australian Academic

Mr J Byrne

Jamie Shulmeister is a past pupil of Clonkeen College. He has a distinguished academic career. When he left us after his Leaving Certificate he gained a B.A. in Trinity College, an M.A. in Canada



and a PhD from the Australian National University. Jamie joined the University of Queensland in July 2009 from

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the University of Canterbury in New Zealand (on staff 2001-2009). He was previously at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (1994-2001) and before that was a Visiting Professor at the University of Southern California (1993-1994) and a post-doc at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand (1991-1993). He was Head of School in Geography Planning and Environmental Management from July 2009 until December 2014. He is now professor in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences in the University of Queensland.

Jamie lists his academic and research interests as follows: "1. Paleoclimatology: I focus on the Southern Hemisphere Westerlies and the Australian and Asian Monsoons. 2. Paleoecology: I use pollen, chironomids and other biological proxies to reconstruct environmental changes. My work is focussed mainly in Australia, New Zealand and China 3. Glacial Geology: I determine the nature and cause of glacial events from geochronology, geomorphology and sedimentology with projects in New Zealand, Tasmania and the Pacific NW of North America 4. Coastal Evolution: I have active projects on coastal evolution of high energy coasts and dunefields, with a current ARC Discovery grant on the Coolooloola Sand

Mass and Fraser Island in SE Queensland, Australia."

Jamie studied Geography at Clonkeen with Mr Michael Brennan. Both he and the college are immensely proud of Jamie's achievements.

Golf

Congratulations to 1st Year student James Kelly (A3) who won the Ulster U14 Boys' Open (Net Prize) on April 3rd at Ardglass Golf Club, Co Down. Well done on a fantastic game!



U16 Gaelic Football

Clonkeen College U16 Gaelic Football Team played St MacDara's Community College in the semi-final of the Dublin Championship on Friday 13th April. Managed by Mr Brennan and Ms Shortall the team performed well and showed some impressive skill. Unfortunately, despite their great showing and home advantage they failed to secure the win. Well done to the team and to their two coaches.

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Liam Flatman

We would like to congratulate current 6th Year student Liam Flatman on his recent appearance for the Kilmacud Crokes Senior Team. Liam



played in their Dublin Senior Football Championship opener, a win against Ballyboden St. Enda's. Liam is a seasoned Gaelic Football player with a number of appearances for the Dublin Minor Team under his belt, including their Leinster Championship success of 2017. Well done to Liam and we wish him and all at Kilmacud Crokes the best for the season ahead.

TY Mountain Biking

Students from Transition Year class D2 enjoyed two days' mountain biking in Ballinastoe Woods, on Thursday 19th and Thursday 26th April, with biking.ie.

Ballinastoe is located in the heart of the Wicklow Mountains, a thirty-minute drive from the



school. The students learned the basic skills of mountain biking before tackling beginner and intermediate trails. The course provided the students with an exhilarating experience while pushing many to the limits of their comfort zone. All Transition Year students have now completed this course with all agreed that it is a highlight on the TY calendar. A big 'thank-you' to Ms Mooney who organised the activity and to Mr Brennan and Mr O'Shaughnessy who accompanied the boys.

