

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

February 2015

Transition Year News

Youth for Decent Work Awards

Mr. D. Traynor

Congratulations to Transition Year students, Robert Bass, Rory Fitzpatrick, Eoin Kennedy and Oisín Monks for being awarded 'Most Creative / Original Video' in the Irish Congress of Trade Union's Youth for Decent Work Awards.



They had their video shown in the Savoy Cinema in front of an audience of a few hundred people at the awards ceremony and were one of three runners up for the overall award which carried a prize of a trip to New York for the winning team. The team won a one day filmmaking workshop in The Digital Film School for themselves and ten other classmates. You can see their award-winning video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRzBpJ3aFNs&list=PLnpVwFaql7e6QHUsqgIFfS_I8kwkY_CS5

YSI Graffiti Removal Project

Adam Waldron & Daniel Flatman

Students taking part in the Young Social Innovators class in Transition Year are required to carry out a project. One of the two projects that has been undertaken by the current YSI class is a Graffiti Removal Project.

The Graffiti Removal Project focuses on graffiti in the Cabinteely area. Initial investigation identified the areas in the community where graffiti was present. During this phase of the project students found over 150 graffiti tags in one small area of Cabinteely. The group decided to focus on this particular area and wrote to Dun Laoghaire & Rathdown County Council requesting permission and resources to clean up this area. Having succeeded in getting the backing of the local council those working on the Graffiti Removal Project have now started the process of removing as much of the graffiti as possible.

D3 Tourism Trip

Having recently completed projects on Ireland's National Monuments, as part of their Tourism module, students from D3 visited St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Book of Kells at Trinity College. Students found the visits both enjoyable and informative. Thank-you to their teacher Ms. O'Keeffe who organised the visits and accompanied them on the day.

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TY Civics Trip to Belgium

Mr. D. Traynor

On the Thursday before the mid-term break, eight Transition Year students, Mr. Mc Loughlin and Mr. Traynor set off to Brussels for a four day civics trip to Belgium taking in the institutions of the European Union, the touristic sights of Brussels, Ghent and Bruges as well as the historical battlefields of World War I in and around the city of Ypres.

On the Thursday and Friday of our trip, as well as taking a walking tour of Brussels' main sights, we visited various EU institutions. At the European Commission, past pupil, Brian Synnott (Class of 1988), Communications Advisor to the EU Commissioner from Malta, was very kind to show us around the EU Commission headquarters and talk to us about his career trajectory to date in the European sphere.



At the European Parliament, we were given a presentation on the role it plays in drafting EU legislation. We were then met by the staffs of Dublin MEPs, Lynn Boylan and Nessa Childers

who talked to us about the work of MEPs and their staffs. We also were hosted at the offices of the government's Permanent Representation of Ireland in the European Union.

On Saturday, we visited the medieval towns of Ghent and Bruges.



In Bruges, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, we hired bicycles and cycled around the perimeter of the beautiful city which is surrounded by ramparts, remnants of a medieval wall and a moat.

Visiting the World War I battlefields in Flanders on Sunday was a fitting end to our civics trip to help us understand how far Europe has come in 100 years. As well as visiting the city of Ypres, its famous 'In Flanders Fields Museum' and iconic Menin Gate, we visited Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world. All in all, an action-packed and enlightening four days.

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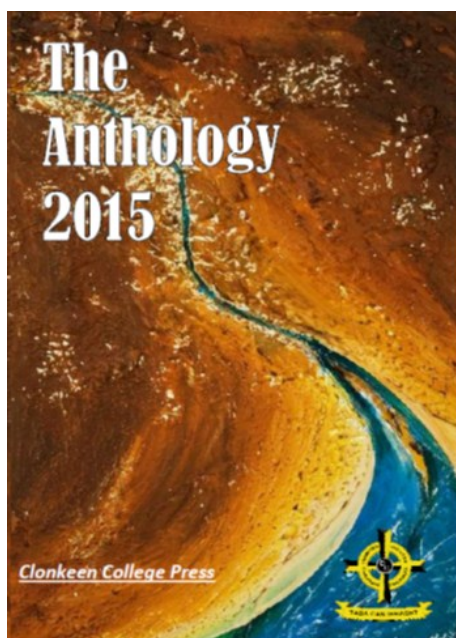
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The Anthology 2015

Mr. J. Toomey

THE ANTHOLOGY 2015 is now on sale. This project has been running for four years now and is part of the Transition Year Creative Writing module. Each year the Creative Writing students are responsible for setting up the Clonkeen College Press. The Press then publishes a collection of students' short stories, poetry and biographies. THE ANTHOLOGY 2015 features writing from the students taking the Creative Writing module as well as writing submitted from other students across the school.



Intended to foster an interest in creative writing, to be an outlet for students who enjoy writing, and provide the students with practical experience of editing, producing and marketing in the world of books, the project invites contribution from students with a wide range of interests and abilities. The project has been tremendously successful in past years and this year's publication promises to be as strong as ever.

In order for the project to be sustainable there is a need to secure advance sales each year. This allows us to know how many copies to have printed and avoid losing money. THE ANTHOLOGY 2015 will cost €7 and will be distributed in April.

If you are interested in supporting this project and in reading the creative efforts of students from Clonkeen College you can order a copy of THE ANTHOLOGY 2015. In order to ensure you get your copy you will need to fill out an order slip and include your €7 before Friday 20th March. The order slips are available for download on the school website or by request from the school.

Many thanks for all your support, John Toomey
(Supervising Teacher)

TWSG News

We are currently in the process of organising our annual raffle. We would like to thank all parents and local business people who contributed prizes to the raffle. Among the many prizes on offer this year we have a €200 cash prize, a Huawei smartphone and an Irish Rugby Jersey signed by all members of the 2013 team.

In the coming weeks we will be asking students from all years to take books of tickets to sell on behalf of this very worthy cause. At the moment we are hoping to fund the construction of a three room school in Ethiopia. Other ongoing projects include a microfinance initiative in Northern Uganda and a school refurbishment in Ethiopia. We hope that our raffle will continue to have the great response it has had in previous years.

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Sky Sports Athlete Mentor

Visits Third Years

Mr. D. Howley

As part of its "Living for Sport" schools initiative which was launched recently in Ireland, 3rd Year pupils were visited by Kerry Senior Footballer Darran O' Sullivan on February 24th. The aim of the initiative is to use sports stars and sports skills to improve the lives of young people, encouraging and promoting engagement in physical activity inside and outside of school.

Darran has won four All Irelands and captained Kerry to victory in 2009 at the age of 22. He has also represented Ireland in the International Rules Series. He spoke about growing up as a kid in London; how his obsession with soccer led to him being signed by QPR; and how at 12 he moved to Kerry with his family where he began to play Gaelic Football.



Darran spoke about struggling with the sport at the beginning and how it took time for him to become confident in participation and make new friends.

He encouraged pupils to challenge themselves and try activities they may not have previously participated in. He emphasised the "Six Keys to Success" that were needed to allow this to happen: mental toughness; hunger to achieve; people skills; sports and life knowledge; breaking barriers; and planning for success. Students were asked a number of questions and contributed to the presentation.

It is hoped that the 3rd Years will rise to the challenge and demonstrate the ownership and responsibility necessary to do so in the coming weeks before Darran returns for a second visit on Monday March 23rd to see how things are going. 3rd Year students have now been challenged with taking on board Darran's advice and seizing the initiative for themselves by engaging in a consultation and negotiation with Mr. Howley regarding the implementation of innovative sports and activities going forward.

Clonkeen Active Week

Mr. D. Howley

After a number of weeks planning and organisation, the PE Department is delighted to announce initial details of the upcoming Clonkeen Active Week. The primary focus of Clonkeen College Active Week (CCAW) is to get staff, students and additional stakeholders' active in a variety of ways, promoting investment, ownership, belonging and competence inside and outside the classroom for physical activity and well-being. Details of the week have been posted in each classroom and on a number of notice boards.

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Clonkeen Active Week contd.

CCAWE will celebrate and highlight the effort staff and students give to physical activity, extra-curricular activities and active learning methodologies in our school.

The week itself will be centred on focus events, whole school events, in-class and extra-curricular activities. Every staff member and pupil will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities, inside and outside the classroom. This week will serve as a medium for education, a basis for healthy living and well-being, a vehicle for social inclusion and celebrating all things positive and great about being part of Clonkeen College.

Already, a number of organisations will be visiting the school and supporting activities during the week. These include:

Loughlinstown Leisure Centre
Soar Foundation
Special Olympics
Sky Sports Living for Sports Project
Elvery's Power Team
Road Safety Authority
David Gillick
IRFU
FAI
Pembroke Fencing Club
Astra Olympic Handball
Dublin Youth Ultimate Frisbee

It is also hoped that students themselves will rise to the challenge and organise class/group activities independently or with the help of staff where possible.



Everyone in the school is invited to get involved in the active week in whatever form they so wish. This can be through the numerous events and workshops that will be organised during the week, through your own subject and class time, before school, lunchtime or after school. Furthermore, the school's recently launched twitter account (@ClonkeenSchool) will be used to promote the week online, providing pupils, staff, parents and others with regular updates about events in the school alongside the hashtag **#WeAreClonkeen**.

If you have an idea you would like to organise and implement or suggest feel free to talk to any member of the PE Department.

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Sports News

1st Year Soccer

Clonkeen College v Drimnagh Castle SC

Our 1st Year Soccer Team had a convincing win against Drimnagh Castle Secondary School on Friday, 13th February. Outstanding player on the day for Clonkeen College was Cal Doran (A1). Their 5-1 victory sees them through to the final of the South Dublin League. The final will be played against St. Benildus College on 10th March. Congratulations and good luck to all players involved and their coaches Mr. O'Shaughnessy and Mr. Faherty.



U15 Soccer

Congratulations to our U15 Soccer Team who have progressed to the quarter final stage of the Leinster Champions League. They will face Coláiste Phádraig, Lucan on Tuesday, 3rd March. We wish all the players and their coaches Mr. Faherty and Mr. Cassidy all the best in the match.

Ireland Call Up for Shane Hanney

Congratulations to 5th Year student, Shane Hanney, who was selected as a member of the Irish U17 team to play Croatia in two international friendlies. Shane travelled with his teammates to Zagreb on Saturday 21st, February. Although the side played well they were unfortunate to lose both matches.

Populaire

As part of the annual IFI Schools' Programme, a screening of French film *Populaire* took place at the Pavilion Theatre in Dun Laoghaire on February 11th. Our 5th Year French students attended the showing along with their teachers Mr. Lynch, Ms. O'Keeffe, Ms. Dunne and Mr. Jose.

Othello

Leaving Certificate Higher Level English students attended a performance of Shakespeare's *Othello* at Smock Alley Theatre on 6th February accompanied by their teachers Mr. Byrne, Ms. Brougham and Ms. Dunne. The performance saw Clonkeen alumnus Shane O'Regan take to the stage in the roles of The Duke and Lodovico and was followed by a workshop where students worked in smaller groups. A very enjoyable day was had by all.



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Green Schools

Mr. D. Traynor



Clonkeen College set up its Green Schools Committee in September 2013 and since then has been working on achieving its first Green Flag for Litter and Waste Management. The committee has made a great impact on the school community, making Clonkeen a cleaner and greener learning environment. By ensuring that every bin in the school and in the yard is accompanied by a recycle bin and by educating both teachers and students on how to separate their waste, the committee has managed to reduce by one third the amount of waste the school sends to landfill.



The committee's target is to decrease this by another third. This is projected to make a saving of €1,000 in the school's waste bills.

The committee had its AGM in January to elect its committee for 2015. Chaired by 5th Year student, Clifton Lewis (pictured) and stewarded by teachers, Ms. Brennan and Mr. Traynor, the committee has worked tirelessly towards our Green Flag assessment by An Taisce which took place on Friday, 27th February. We got great feedback from our assessor, Dean Eaton and we now have our fingers crossed that we will be awarded the Green Flag in May this year.

C3 Chocolate Warehouse Visit



On Thursday, 28th February students from C3 along with their Geography & Business teacher Mr. Cassidy visited McCaffrey's Chocolate Warehouse in Walkinstown. Their visit focused on the factory system, looking particularly at inputs, processes and outputs. Their visit was rounded off by a short workshop where students had the opportunity to make some of their own chocolate designs.

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Student Council

Student Council elections took place recently in the school. We would like to congratulate the following 5th Year students who will form the Student Council for the coming year:

Conor M. Murphy (Chairperson)

Conor Spain (Vice-Chairperson)

Conor Wallace (Secretary)

Clifton Lewis (Vice-Secretary)

Michael Allen

Robert Behan

Ronan Brennan

Ross Broderick

Shane Casey

Conor Cullen

Jamie Hume

Seán McManus

Conor R. Murphy

Lewis Murphy

David O'Driscoll

Conor Priestly

Adam Teehan

Neil Toner

Brian Tracey



The new Student Council members took part in a training day at Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel in Killiney, on Thursday, 26th February, organised by Mr. Daly and Mr. Noonan. In the afternoon, students were addressed by Mr. Michael Blanchfield, Chairperson of the Board of Management and Mr. Melly. They then presented the new Student Council with their Student Council badges. We wish the Student Council all the best for the coming year.

Moderate GLD Group

Mr. P. McGloughlin

The video produced by the Transition Year's U.S.N. class which documents a day in the life of our students in the Moderate G.L.D. group is now up on the college website. Students are encouraged to watch and share this piece of film-making with the broader school community.

Link to video: <https://vimeo.com/109690736>



Furthermore, Tim Guidera (pictured) completed his second work experience with HMV Dundrum last week. Last year he was with Dunnes Stores. Well done Tim!

Thank-you!

A big thank-you to all the teachers and students who contributed articles to this month's newsletter. We hope that all our TYs are having an interesting and enjoyable experience on their work placements.