

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

February / March 2016

1916 Commemoration



On the final day of term, Wednesday 16th March, we were joined by members of the Board of Management and Parents' Association, past members of staff and a number of local dignitaries for our 1916 Commemoration. Mr Melly opened the ceremony addressing those gathered in both Irish and English, commending all the work that had been done in preparation for the event. He went on to call on all gathered to reflect on the past as we forge the future Ireland for both ourselves and the generations to come.

Eric Donnelly and Caolán Moore (both 5th Year) then spoke about the background to the proclamation and the leaders who signed it. They presented the portraits of the seven leaders painted by Robert Bass (5th Year), Christian Simons (5th Year), Carl Cullen (TY), Conor León (TY), Cónan Scanlan (TY), Johnnie Bell (TY) and Killian Farrelly (TY). A number of other paintings commemorating the 1916 Rising were also displayed on the podium. These were painted by Ned Quirke (5th Year), Cormac Spain (TY) and Seán Keenan (TY).

We were then treated to a reading of the Proclamation of Independence. One student from each of the six years in the school read a part of the document, starting with 1st Year Eoin O'Carroll, then Shaweiz Chaudhary from 2nd Year and Seán Nolan, 3rd Year. Transition Year student Adam Mohan followed, then Adam Waldron for 5th Year and finally 6th Year student Rob Behan.

W.B. Yeats' poem *Easter 1916* was read by 3rd Year students, Finn McGrath, David Farrelly, Mark Brophy and Seán Hussey. Conor M. Murphy (6th Year) then approached the podium with the oldest (Dylan Watts, 6th Year) and youngest student (Kyle Noctor, 1st Year) in the school. Conor delivered a speech explaining the history of the tricolour, before Dylan and Kyle raised the flag. Our official tricolour had been collected at a special ceremony at Croke Park on 7th March by outgoing Student Council Chairperson, Conor M. Murphy (6th Year) and newly elected Student Council Chairperson, Ned Quirke (5th Year).

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Mock Exams

Congratulations to all our 3rd and 6th Year student on their excellent results in the recent trial exams. Best wishes to them all in their final preparations for their Junior and Leaving Certificate Exams in June.

General Election Debate



On 23rd February general election candidates from the area visited the school to take part in a debated chaired by Olivia O'Leary. Members of the debating club, 5th and 6th Years attended the debate which focused on economics and education.

It was a very interesting experience for all our first time voters. A big thank-you to Olivia O'Leary and all the candidates. Congratulations to Mary Mitchell-O'Connor, Maria Bailey and Richard Boyd-Barrett who were successful at the polling stations. Thank-you to Mr. Traynor and TY student Killian Farrelly who organised the debate.

Parent-Teacher Reading Group

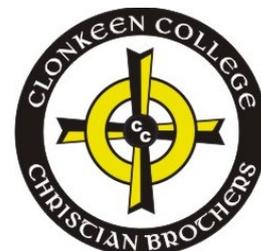
As part of our ongoing work toward achieving the Well Read National Award and our continued efforts to promote literacy initiatives in the whole school community, Ms Healy has set up Clonkeen College's first Parent-Teacher Reading Group. The group meets once per term to chat, in the informal setting of either a parent or teacher's home, about books they have been reading. There have been two meetings so far this year and already this initiative has become a resounding success. The next evening is scheduled for after the Easter Holidays. We welcome all parents and teachers who would like to join the group. Details will be posted on the school's Twitter feed or alternatively Ms Healy can be contacted at the school for information.

Debating

Well done to Mark Brophy and Finn McGrath (both 3rd Year) who represented Clonkeen College at the MACE National Debating Finals. The two boys did us proud on the day facing stiff competition in a field of about 60 debaters in their category. Congratulations to Mark who managed to secure a top ten placing on the day.



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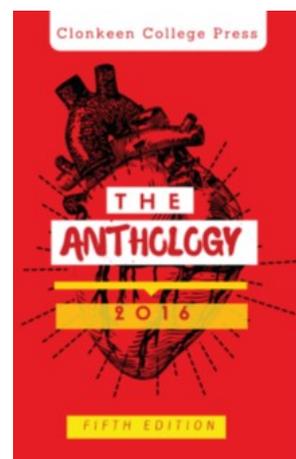
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DLR Student Enterprise Awards

Two Clonkeen College based initiatives have been recognised at the recent Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Student Enterprise Awards. Congratulations to Transition Year students Johnnie Bell, Jack Manning and Eamonn Flannery founders of JC-Learn who were awarded 1st place and to 2nd place, ROC Protection set up by Cormac Spain, Carl Cullen, Ross Byrne and Oisín Murray (also all TY). Good luck to all involved in the next stage of the competition.



We're delighted with the outcome and feel that the innovations have brought a freshness to the project and reinvented it. We are grateful for all the support the project has received and proud of all the work that our students have invested - writing, illustrating, editing, laying out the book, designing the cover and promoting the ANTHOLOGY 2016.



Anthology 2016

The ANTHOLOGY 2016 is currently at the printers and we are hoping to have it ready for distribution in the week after the Easter holidays. We had a last minute change to the cover forced upon us by technical issues beyond our control. But, thanks to Clifton Lewis, the new cover is just as great.

We will be very interested to see what our readers make of this year's new look ANTHOLOGY. The inclusion of illustrations by Clonkeen's artists pushed us to reimagine the formatting and appearance of the collection.

Next year we will be looking to build again on this year's success. With Clifton Lewis leaving Clonkeen this year, after producing the past three covers, we were left with vacancy in terms of cover design. But fortunately for Clonkeen College Press, 2nd Yr student, Roman Gyrin, has stepped into the breach and has already produced a cover for the ANTHOLOGY 2017. We're always delighted when students take the initiative in this manner, and while the ANTHOLOGY is largely a TY lead project, we welcome involvement from any interested students.

So, if you fancy yourself as a writer, an editor, a marketing and sales whizz, or whatever you feel might benefit the ANTHOLOGY project, please make yourself known to Mr Toomey.

Thanks again and we hope you enjoy this year's book – ANTHOLOGY 2016.

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3rd Year Theatre Visit

All 3rd Year English students visited The Helix on 10th March to attend a performance of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. It was an excellent production which really brought the play to life for them and will prove invaluable as they go into the final weeks of preparation for their Junior Certificate Exam.

Danish Exchange Project

On Monday and Tuesday, 14th and 15th March, a group of 31 5th Year students took part in an exchange project with 28 Danish secondary school students from the city of Århus in Denmark. They spent the day on Monday in Clonkeen exchanging lessons with our 5th Years in language and literature.



The 5th Years involved in the project taught them the basics of conversational Irish as well as giving them a lesson on James Joyce's 'The Dead' from his collection of short stories, 'Dubliners'. This culminated in a visit to the James Joyce Tower in Sandycove.

The Danish students taught our 5th Years the basics of conversational Danish using innovative classroom methods as well as giving them a lesson on the famous Danish author, Karen Blixen, using an extract from her most famous work, 'Out of Africa'.



On the second day of this exchange project, the students from Clonkeen and Århus met in the city centre where they split into groups to conduct an anthropological study on Irish culture. Each of the groups were given a different aspect of Irish culture to study such as music, sport, religion etc. and had to come up with interesting ways of carrying out this study. Such examples included a visit to Croke Park, St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Irish Film Institute to name but a few. The Danish students will have to complete a collaborative assignment upon their return to Denmark.

All in all, the Danish Exchange Project proved to be an enjoyable and culturally and educationally enriching experience for the Danish and Irish students involved. The links forged between the Clonkeen and Århus students will hopefully continue to provide a platform for educational and cultural exchange between our two schools into the future.

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Seachtain na Gaeilge

Mar is iondúil bhí seachtain gnóthach againn arís i mbliana le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge. Bíonn na scolairí anois ag tnúth go mór le dul amach ar an bpáirc chun an Poc Fada agus Cic Fada a dhéanamh agus bhí buaiteoirí den scoth againn arís i mbliana. Chomh maith leis sin bhí réimse leathan imeachtaí ar siúl againn sna ranganna, gach rud ó chomórtais ealaíne, biongó, stad an bhus, 'countdown' as Ghaeilge, amhránaíocht agus a lán eile.

I gconáí áfach is é an Tráth na gCeist mór-imeacht na seachtaine. Bhí an 5ú agus 6ú bliain in iomaíocht ar maidin agus an 2ra agus 3ú bliain trathnóna. Bhí lá den scoth againn agus ba mhaith linn comhghairdeachas a ghlacadh le gach duine a bhuaigh agus ar gach duine a thóg páirt sna himeachtaí.



Is iontach an rud í an Ghaeilge a chloisteáil go hoscailte agus go bródúil i measc ár scolairí. Guímid go mbeidh Cáisc den scoth agaibh ar fad.

An Coiste Gaelbhrtach

Tá an Coiste Gaelbhrtach ag glacadh páirte i gcomórtas raidió atá á eagrú ag Raidió na Gaeltachta. 'Guth na gCeannairí' is ainm dár gclár.



Is clár cainte é ina gcuirtear seisear de phríomhcharachtair Éirí Amach na Cásca faoi agallamh ag an láithreoir beomhar, Peadar Ó Muirí. Is iad Séamus Ó Conghaile, Éamonn Ceannt, An Chuntaois Markievicz, Pádraig MacPiarais, Sean MacDiarmada agus Éamonn DeValera na haíonna atá ag Peadar ar an lá seo, go gairid i ndiaidh an Luain chinniúnaigh sin. Pléitear saolta agus cúlra na gcarachtar féin agus déantar machnamh ar an Éirí Amach.

Tá píosa ceoil againn freisin chomh maith le giota ón bhForógra chun atmaisféar fíor-Ghaelach a chruthú! Rinneadh taifead den chlár i stiúideo Fhoras na Gaeilge ar an 10ú Márta agus táimid ag fanacht anois ar thorthaí an chomórtais - €1000 an duais atá le buachaint! Ádh mór do gach duine!

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TY Horticulture Airfield Visit

Matthew O'Dwyer

Ms Brennan's Horticulture class went to 'Airfield Farm and Gardens' in Dundrum for a tour of the grounds and to learn more about food production.

While visiting the farm area we saw a Jersey cow being milked. As an experiment we tasted the milk that had been pasteurised on the farm and compared it to shop bought milk so that we could taste the difference between them. Although, they were quite similar in taste, the one from the farm was creamier. We then saw horses, pigs, sheep and goats and we got to feed the goats and chickens too.



During our visit we also saw their crops in the food gardens, including cabbage, celery, onions, rhubarb and salads. The food served in the restaurant is all produced on the ground at Airfield.

TY Belfast Trip

Conor Stokes

All Transition Year students travelled to Belfast to spend two days in the city on March 8th as part of our Civics & Citizenship module. The first afternoon, we went on a guided walking tour of Belfast learning about the city and its history. We visited many of the city's historic monuments during the informative tour, before going back to our hostel. That night we had a relaxing evening with some of the group going bowling while other ice-skated.



The next morning, we visited Belfast City Hall. We learned about the history of the building and the city council within it. This was followed by a bus tour of key areas affected by the troubles such as the Falls Road, the Shankill Road, the Peace Walls and the International Wall. That afternoon we went on a tour of Crumlin Road Gaol where we learned about its operations and its prisoners.

We had a very interesting and enjoyable two days in Belfast. A big thank you to Mr Traynor, Mr O'Shaughnessy, Mr Davis, Mr Faherty and Mr Brennan who accompanied us.

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Clonkeen Active Week

Clonkeen College's 2nd Annual Active Week takes place April 4th-8th. After last year's huge success, this year's schedule is bigger and better and students will be challenged to get even more involved!

The primary focus of Clonkeen College is to get staff, students and additional stakeholders' active in a variety of manifestations, promoting investment, ownership, belonging and competence inside and outside the classroom for physical activity and well-being. CCAW will celebrate and highlight the effort staff and students give to physical activity, extra-curricular activities and active learning methodologies in our school.

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

Events this year include Tag Rugby, Cricket, Yoga, Strength and Conditioning, Soccer, GAA, Flag Football, Spikeball, Volleyball, Tennis, Fencing, Zumba, Cycling, Mile Challenge and Calisthenics, alongside a variety of novel events such as Welly Toss, Tug of War, King of the Bench, Slow Bicycle Race, and Puc Fada and a couple of more surprises along the way.

Once again, the teachers will go head to head with the students to see who comes out on top at the end of the week in a number of staff versus student events.

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.

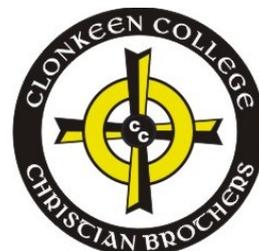
One of the outcomes of CCAW will be the promotion of the school. A number of school and local media organisations will be invited to report on the activities that occur during the week. In doing so, we can provide Clonkeen College with a platform with which to promote itself in the local area, something which is already being done with the involvement of additional stakeholders.

Furthermore, the school's 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 #TGIClonkeen. It is hoped that the school can reach over 500 followers by the end of the week.

Remember to bring your gear in everyday just in case there is an activity in which you would like to participate. Are you ready?

#TGIClonkeen

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U14 Hurling

Our U14 Hurling team had an emphatic win over Oatlands College on 25th February. It was an excellent match for Clonkeen with several players showing their skill. Notable on the day were Cal Doran (B1), David O'Dowd (B1) and Harry Gunning (B3).

Luck was not on our side, however, when we faced Templeogue College on 7th March. Going into the game with five of our starting panel unable to play we faced an uphill struggle from the start. The boys put in a determined performance throughout but were no match for the Templeogue side.

We will face Blackrock College in a must-win encounter after the Easter break. A win in this match would help us to make it through to the next stage of the competition on score difference. Best of luck to the boys and their coaches Mr Bennett and Mr O'Brien.

U15 Soccer

Our U15 Soccer Team faced local rivals St. Benildus College at Wayside in the South Dublin Final on February 10th. Both sides failed to capitalise on chances in the first half, Dylan Wildes (B1) being incredibly unlucky not to find the back of the net for Clonkeen with one of his attempts. Clonkeen came back strong in the second half and opened scoring with two goals in quick succession, one from Oran Maloney (B1) and the other from Cal Doran (B1). St. Benildus put us under severe pressure in the dying minutes of the game but our defences held solid, denying them any chance of a comeback.



At the final whistle Clonkeen were champions on a scoreline of 2-0. Congratulations to the team, their captain Dylan Davis, who had an excellent match, and to their coaches Mr Faherty and Mr Cassidy.

U18 Gaelic Football

Despite a comfortable-looking 16-point win in the **Dublin SFC (U-18) "C" Final**, first mention must go to goalkeeper **Oscar Puszcz**, who followed in his brother's footsteps in starring in a Clonkeen Dublin title win at O'Toole Park. Whereas **Jakub** scored the deciding point in the 2009 First Year success it was at the other end where **Oscar** broke Lucan CBS's hearts, pulling out three top class saves midway through the first half to put paid to any comeback that might have been on the cards. A 10-minute opening blitz saw us register 3-2 without reply: **Eoin Kennedy** and **Jamie Broderick** did the goal-scoring damage, combining with the other inside forwards, **James Moffatt** and **Seán McDonald** to open up Lucan at will. **Cormac Quinn** at centre-forward and **Broderick eile, Ross**, on the left ensured that our opponents found it difficult to both get on the ball and to move it out of their own half.

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It was a given that a team of Lucan's quality would eventually get some sort of foothold. This is when **Oscar Puszcz** and his backs prevented any comeback. At full-back **Jack Keating** was dominant, winning duels and spring boarding many attacks with long passes to his wing-backs **Rory Fitzpatrick** and **Kevin Gannon**. **Liam Flatman** was on hand to sweep up from centre-back: he constantly moved defence into attack with ease, combining with **James Murphy** and **Ronan Hayes** at centrefield. Lucan were strong on the right wing in the first-half, but they got no joy with **Kevin Gannon** and **David O'Driscoll** behind him at corner-back. They constantly broke up attack after attack, launching offensives of our own. We limited our opponents to two scores in what was a consummate defensive display.

In the second-half as Lucan tried vainly to find some openings by varying their attacks, they found no space with **Rory Fitzpatrick** and **Greg Sheehan** on the other wing. They were comfortably able to cover for **Jack Keating** as he came out with the ball to combine with the three half-backs and a deep-lying **James Moffatt** to launch more passing movements in what turned out to be an exhibition of forward play, launched invariably by **Liam Flatman** at centre-back. The 2-4 added in the second period was kept at that by last-ditch defending and net minding from Lucan.

Oscar – wearing the emergency goalkeeper's hat from Ms Murray's car - was able to relieve any pressure by launching massive kick-outs to **James Moffat** and **Ronan Hayes**, who won great ball in the centre and continued to work tirelessly for the hour. They were the selfless fulcrum of the team.

In the last quarter, **Mr. Sheehy** and **Mr. McBride** were able to keep things fresh and energetic with **Craig Finn, Ronan Miyachi, Rory McMahon, Cathal Gillen** and **Jamie Prenter** joining the fray with no loss of quality to the team. The final score of **5-8 to 0-7** points is a testament to this.



As we know more than the 20 who played on the day contributed to the overall success. Training from before Hallowe'en - including sessions over the Christmas holidays and the February mid-term – was attended with big numbers and with great enthusiasm and hard-work. **Tom Kelly** and **Adam Ledwidge-Downes** were the epitome of this spirit. As was Daniel Flatman, injury keeping him out of the final 15. **Cormac Spain, Kevin Quinn** and **Liam Murphy** stepped up from the U-16s with ease. The rest of the lads from 5th and 6th Year all played their part: **Josh Breerton, Shane Casey, Conor Cullen, Eoin O'Connor** (all 6th Yr) and **Matthew Geary, Kevin Hynes** and **Liam McDermott** (all 5th).

Clonkeen College: Oscar Puszcz; Greg Sheehan, Jack Keating, David O'Driscoll; Rory Fitzpatrick, Liam Flatman, Kevin Gannon; James Murphy, Ronan Hayes (**1-0**); Jamie Broderick (**2-1**), Cormac Quinn (**0-4, 0-2 f.**), Ross Broderick; Seán McDonald (**0-2**), James Moffatt, Eoin Kennedy (**2-1**). Subs: Craig Finn; Ronan Miyachi; Cathal Gillen; Jamie Prenter; Rory McMahon.

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POSTSCRIPT: Leinster SFC (U-18) Gaelic Football Final 2016

Dunshaughlin C.C., 2-12; Clonkeen College, 0-11.

One week after the heroics of the Dublin Final we acquitted ourselves very well against an extremely strong Meath outfit. **Ronan Hayes** played with a broken bone in his foot, moving to full-forward but then returning manfully to centrefield. **Ronan Miyachi** was on instead of the injured Rory Fitzpatrick. We flew the Dublin and Clonkeen College flags proudly. And for the future our **U-16s, Kevin Quinn** and **Liam Murphy**, came on and performed brilliantly. Next year looks bright for the **Dublin Champions** as we launch our assault on the **Dublin "B" title** in Autumn! **Clonkeen Abú – Tada gan Iarracht!**

1st & 2nd Year Basketball

Congratulations to both our 1st and 2nd Year Basketball Teams and their coach Ms Ní Chatháin who have made it through to the league final. Their winning streak started on February 2nd against Stratford College Rathgar in matches played at UCD and continued with another win for each team against Kishoge Community School, Lucan on 26th February. This meant entry to the quarter finals for both teams.

The quarter final matches were played at Loughlinstown on 2nd March. The 1st Years faced Rosmini Community School, Drumcondra while the 2nd Years took on a side from Synge Street CBS. Our boys had two terrific matches, showing great discipline, constantly taking control of rebounds to ensure they kept possession.

Although both opposing schools fielded strong teams who profited on any opportunity afforded, Clonkeen asserted themselves on all parts of the court contributing to two exhilarating matches, which we were delighted to win.

Coláiste Dhúlaigh, Coolock were the opponents for both semi-final matches, which were played at Loughlinstown on 15th March. The 1st Years had an easy route to the final as Coláiste Dhúlaigh were unable to field a complete team. They did, however, play a short friendly game with Coláiste Dhúlaigh's 1st Years. They gained invaluable match experience in what was their most physical meet to date. They kept their composure and held strong to come through winners in the match.



The 2nd Year match was also incredibly physical. Like the 1st Years, the team had to stay calm and focused throughout. Yet again the 2nd Years displayed skill and discipline in their game. They took advantage of sloppy play from the opposition and maintained pace on the court throughout and so progressed to the final on a scoreline of 35-11.

We wish both teams and Ms Ní Chatháin the best in the final which will be played after the Easter Holidays.