

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

January / February 2018

Micheál Gormley (1956—2018)



A Day with Micheál Gormley

By Jim Hedderman

December 22nd 2017, in the Mod GLD class (L1) in Clonkeen College, is a day I won't forget in a hurry.

Everyone was in the festive spirit, and none more so than Micheál. He had already performed several times at various events in the final week, running up to the Christmas break, but, as always, he still had the energy and enthusiasm for one final gig. Out came the Santa hats, chocolate treats and of course, Micheál's guitar. The stage was set for the annual L1 Christmas Sing-A-Long.

The rest of the school was busy with the final Christmas Exams, but in L1 the party was already underway. Hearing the commotion Mr McGloughlin, came out of his office and picked up his own guitar to join in the fun. Singing along to Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Fairytale of New York and many other favourites the boys had an afternoon to remember. Christmas had definitely come early in L1.

This was typical of Micheál. He will be sadly missed, as a true friend of all the Clonkeen College community.

Rest in Peace, dear friend,

Jim – friend and colleague.

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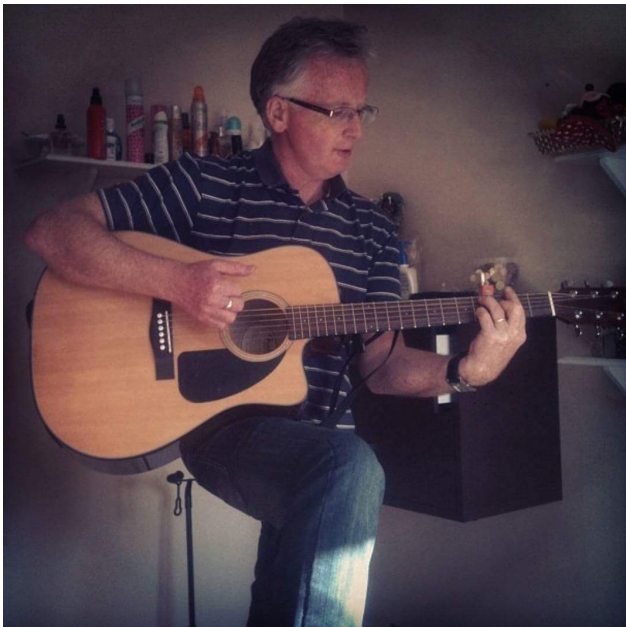
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Micheál Gormley RIP

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of our dear friend and colleague Micheál Gormley on January 26th. He will be deeply missed by us all.



In the years that Micheál worked with us, here in Clonkeen College, he impacted the lives of not only his colleagues but also the many students who passed through our doors. Along with Jim Hedderman, he was the go-to person for just about anything practical. No matter what the request Micheál would find a way to make it work – whether you needed a display board that didn't exist, a mop and bucket to clear up a mess or simply a drop of milk for your tea, he was

your man. He was always there for everyone, a smile on his face, ready to help.

For the students, Micheál was the person who would crack a joke or serenade them with a tune while they were navigating their way through the corridors and through school life. He was the first person they would turn to when they lost things, damaged things or broke things, and they did so knowing that help would be given without question. Micheál took a genuine interest in every student, knowing the majority of them by name and always putting a smile on their faces. As his daughter Orla said of him "The boys in Clonkeen were the sons he never had."

Micheál had a lifelong love of music. He always had his guitar tuned-up and ready to go, no matter what the occasion. He performed at everything from school musicals and concerts to staff events. Micheál had a talent that he was more than happy to share with everyone in the school community and we were very lucky to have experienced this wonderful man and his wonderful talent.

We offer our sincere condolences to his wife, Anne, his daughters Orla and Megan, to his extended family and to all his many friends.

May he Rest In Peace.

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New Year Message

In our first edition of 2018, we would like to wish everyone in the school community the best for the year ahead. We look forward to everything that 2018 will bring. Congratulations to the students and their teachers on their excellent results in the Christmas Exams and we hope that our 3rd and 6th Year students will be pleased with the results of their Mock Examinations.

50th Anniversary Past Pupil Gala Dinner

A reminder, to all, that tickets are on sale for our 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner which will take place in the Clayton Burlington Hotel on April 6th. We have already had a fantastic response to the event and hope that we will see lots of Clonkeen College alumni there on the night. Anyone who has not yet purchased a ticket but is interested in attending this fabulous event is asked to contact Ms Gibson at the school or at the following e-mail address: emergibson@hotmail.com



Clonkeen Clothes Recycling

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who generously gave up their Saturday morning, on January 27th, to come out in support of the Clonkeen College Clothes Recycling campaign. Over 200 bags of clothing were donated which will raise over €1,000 for the Save the Playing Field Fund. Well done to Ms Egan and all involved.



Chess

Clonkeen College Chess Team have finished top of their group in the Leinster Schools' League. They secured a 3-2 win in their recent match against Coláiste Eoin, with Eoin Farrelly's 3-2 win in the deciding game. They will now advance to the Leinster semi-final, the details of which will be announced shortly.

L1 News

Sam Gallagher

At the moment I am learning to travel on public transport on my own. I will be able to travel around Dublin independently. I feel proud.

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Student Council

On January 22nd, twenty-four students representing students across the six years in Clonkeen College held the first official meeting of our new Student Council. Following the hard work of the previous Student Council, the organisation and election of the Student Council has undergone significant change. Previously only students from 5th and 6th Year sat on a council whose term lasted for one calendar year from January to December. Now, there are four representatives from each year group, who sit from the start of the academic year in September, for one year. The current group of representatives will form the Student Council until the end of this academic year, with elections to take place again in September.

We would like to congratulate the following students who were elected to the student council and who have recently participated in Student Council training:

1st Year

Ire Guidoriagao, Lewis Fennell,
Conor Lowry, Hammad Alajme

2nd Year

Eoin Manning, Salmaan Bari,
Fionnan Kelly, Oscar Singleton

3rd Year

Jack Kelly, Daniel Blake
Jude O'Neill, Alex Bishop

Transition Year

Hammad Ul Haque, Charles Brian Bueno,
Ryan O'Connor, Dylan Maher

5th Year

Allencris JRR (PRO), Mark Brophy (Chairperson),
Ciaran Haverty (Treasurer),
Finn McGrath (Secretary)

6th Year

Tadiwa Marowa, Conor Stokes,
Jack Manning, Carl Cullen.

On previous Student Councils the representatives also took on the role of Senior Prefects. With the restructuring of the council this matter was also reviewed, with the decision reached to choose a number of students from 5th Year who would join the 5th and 6th Year councillors in the role of Senior Prefect. Congratulations to the following 5th Years who have been selected as *Senior Prefects*:

Sean Miyachi, Conor Hall, Ben O'Dowd,
Ronnie O'Connor, Ruairi Greene,
Jamie Blake-Holmes, Donal Healy, Kevin Quinn

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As we bid farewell to the outgoing Student Council we would like to thank them for all their hard work over the course of the last year. In addition to reviewing and reorganising of the Student Council, the outgoing council were also responsible for the completion of the setting up of a 6th Year Common Room (a plan initiated by the previous council), the organisation of a coffee morning that raised €1,000 for the Laura Lynn Foundation and negotiating the use of the playing field by students at lunchtime.

Musical

With less than a month to go, final preparations are underway for our musical, Buggy Malone. Ms Fulton and past-pupil Seán McManus have been putting our actors through their paces at rehearsals while Ms Healy, Mr O'Shaughnessy and a group of Transition Year students have got set construction and design underway.



Ms Shortall has organised all the costumes and props that have been so generously donated. Initial costume fittings have also taken place. The orchestra are working hard perfecting the score for the big night. Ms Dunlop is heading up programme design and has produced tickets for the musical which are now on sale at the school. They are priced at €10 each. The production will take place at 7.30 p.m. on March 8th, 9th and 10th.

TY French Film

All Transition Year students attended a screening of the Oscar-nominated "Ma Vie de Courgette" at the Mermaid Arts Centre in Bray on 12th January. The film tells the story



of nine-year-old Icare, nicknamed Courgette, who moves to a foster home and uses stop-motion to create a very different but very interesting film of teen life. The simple language used, meant that the story was more easily accessible to the students who really enjoyed the screening. A big thank-you to Ms O'Keeffe, Mr Lynch and Ms Connaughton who accompanied the students .

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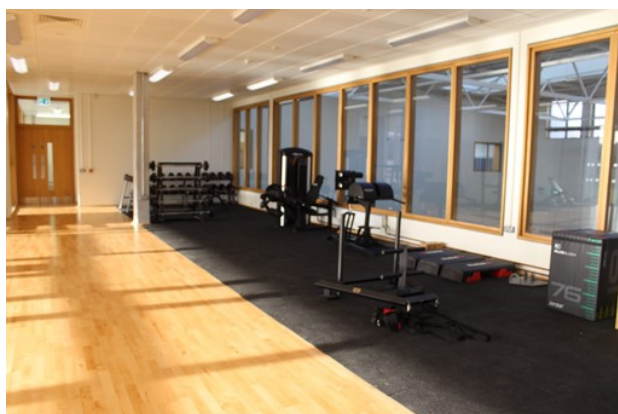
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New Gym

Our new state-of-the-art gym has recently been kitted out. We have a fantastic array of fitness machines available for both students and staff to use. We have a Smith machine, leg extension machine, hamstring developer, bench press, dumbbells, sandbags, a bike, a rower, ropes, plyometric boxes, steps, and a power rack. Each



of these is a high quality piece of equipment that we hope will enhance the training experience of all at Clonkeen College. The gym is not just for strength and conditioning but will also be used for rehabilitation and for extracurricular activities. It is hoped that the gym will be available for use by students from 3rd to 6th Year outside of class time.

Maths Quizzes

Ms M Duffy

This year we entered two teams into the Junior Problem Solving Competition for the first time.

The two teams comprised of TY students; Conor Keane, Conor Ring, Conor Nolan and David Farrelly and 3rd year students; Matthew D'Arcy, Shane Russell, Alexei Biarozkin and Stephen Hogan. The students enjoyed the challenging applied maths problems. Well done to the reigning champions Oatlands College.



The senior IMTA maths quiz this year was one of the most challenging in years! The questions would have caused most to break out into a cold sweat!! Our two teams included Johnnie Bell, Eamonn Flannery, Jack Manning, Oisin Murray, Joe Clarke, Killian Farrelly, Patrick Craddock and Alex Cooper. Congratulations to the girls in Mount Anville for taking home the trophy. We wish them the best of luck in the national finals.



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CanSat

The Clonkeen College CanSat Team consisting of 5th Year students Guy Keogh, Mike Donnelly, Lucas Carraher, Jamie Blake-Holmes, Allencris J.R.R. and Transition Year students Matthew Russell, Hammad Ul Haque and Jonathan Kearney have begun to make progress on the competition and, after three meetings, have all taken roles for the competition and they are as follows:

Coding: Guy Keogh and Matthew Russell

Soldering: Lucas Carraher and Jonathan Kearney

Casing: Allencris J.R.R.

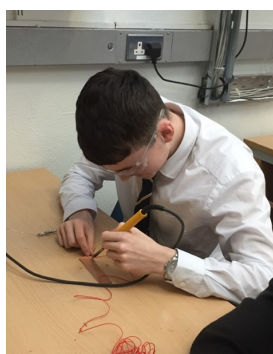
Parachute Design: Jamie Blake-Holmes

Outreach: Mike Donnelly

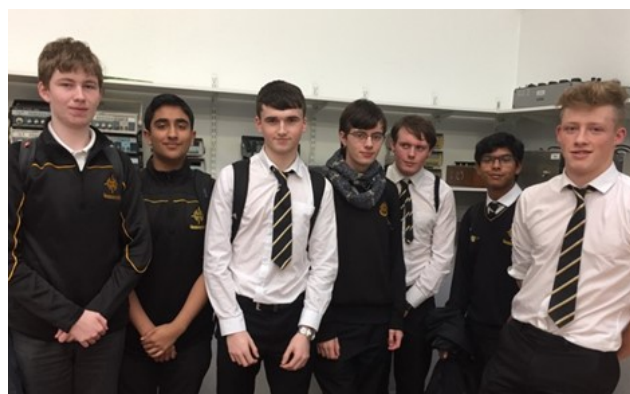
Support: Hammad Ul Haque

All our members have taken roles that suit them best and reflect what they find the most enjoyable. Some of our members previously had no experience in electronics

but have improved tremendously after a soldering workshop help at DIT in October 2017, with a few even having found a new favourite hobby!



At the moment, we are working on the parachute, the casing of the parachute, and connecting the sensors to the micro-computer. We have set up a website, cu_cannan.droppages.com to display our work as we progress. We hope to get a lot done over the mid-term so that we're ready well in advance of the competition!



The name of our team is a play on words from the Irish mythological hero Cú Chulainn, as some of his fame came from being able to throw objects both far and accurately, and always coming out victorious. We named our team Cú Cannan after him, with the word 'can' representing the fact that the casing is not allowed to be larger than the size of a standard drinks-can.

You can follow us on:

Twitter at @Cu_Cannan

Facebook on the Cú Cannan page

Instagram @cu_cannan

Our website at http://cu_cannan.droppages.com

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Mobile Planetarium

Shane O'Sullivan (A2)

On Friday 26th January, all 1st Years attended a mobile planetarium set up in the school hall by Exploration Dome. The planetarium was inside an inflated dome, with bright lights that projected images of the stars onto the walls.



We were mesmerised by the bright lights of fire and gas as we wondered about life in other parts of the universe. We learned about the different star constellations. It was fun to see the various stars whizz overhead. Following the presentation on the constellations we watched a film called "We Are Alien". The film was about how our civilisation discovered other planets in areas where life could exist. This area is called the Goldilocks Zone. It is a region of space where a

planet is just the right distance from its home star that it is neither too hot nor too cold for life to exist. We also learned about the effect that humans are having on our planet, particularly about the amount of light pollution generated and the amount of energy wasted by humans.

We all enjoyed the experience and found it informative and fun. I think it's really important to learn about space.

D3 Survival Skills Hike

D3 have recently been undertaking survival skills training. On January 11th, they had the opportunity to put what they had learned into practice when they completed a hike on Scarr in the Wicklow Mountains. The boys departed from school for Lough Dan Scouting Centre from where they set out on their hike.

Crossing varied terrain they summited the mountain from the Lough Dan side, before descending via a slightly different route. They used Trangia Cookers to prepare a meal for themselves during their outing. The group really enjoyed the experience. Thank-you to their teachers Mr O'Shaughnessy and Mr Brennan who taught them these excellent skills and who organised and accompanied them on their hike.

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Belfast Trip

Just before the school broke up for the Christmas Holidays all Transition Year students travelled for a two-day trip to Belfast. Departing on the Friday morning they travelled by coach, arriving in Belfast city centre in time for lunch. They spent the afternoon at the W5 Interactive Discovery Centre in the Titanic Quarter. The boys really enjoyed the opportunity to engage with the many different Science and Technology exhibits. The afternoon was completed by a walking tour which took the group to see the sights of the city centre, before dinner at the Victoria Square Shopping Centre. The group spent an enjoyable evening ice-skating and bowling before settling in to their accommodation for the night.

The second day began with a bus tour around some of the main areas in Belfast affected by the Troubles. The group visited the different areas on both sides of the divide, seeing the murals and flags, the lines drawn between the Catholic and Protestant neighbourhoods. The final stop for the boys was the Crumlin Road Gaol where they learned about the troubled history of the Victorian Prison. Following their visit to the gaol the group boarded their coaches and set out on

their return to Dublin. All students thoroughly enjoyed the trip to Belfast and would like to thank their tutors and teachers who organised everything and accompanied them. A special thank-you to Mr O'Shaughnessy, Mr Brennan, Ms Lemass, Ms Connaughton and Mr Davis.

History Teachers Association Quiz

J Byrne

The annual table quiz for senior students of History recently took place in Tallaght Community School. Twenty schools participated in the 2018 event. Clonkeen College was represented by a team made up of 6th Year students Killian Farrelly, Conor Leon, Conor Stokes and Liam Bradley. The boys finished a very creditable fifth. Over the more than thirty years of its existence, the competition has been won by 19 different schools. Only three schools have ever won the competition more than once. Clonkeen has won it on three occasions. Well done to all!



The Clonkeen quizzers can be seen in deep discussion in the background—no time to smile for photos!

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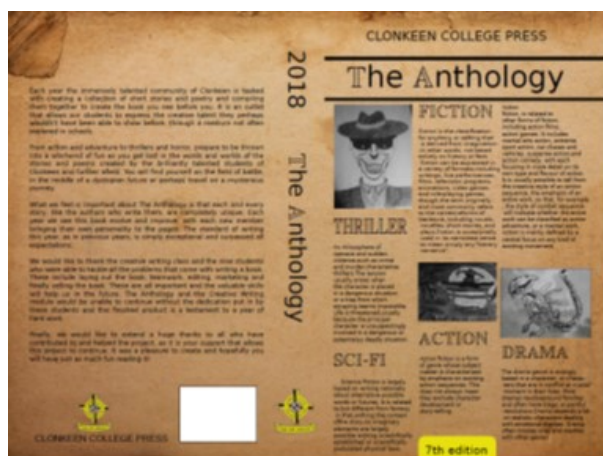
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Anthology 2018

Mr J Toomey

Clonkeen College Press 2017-18, as set up by the TY Creative Writing students, are now taking orders for ANTHOLOGY2018. This is the 7th year of this project and the publication of THE ANTHOLOGY 2018 is an opportunity to showcase the creative work of students from Clonkeen College. This year's ANTHOLOGY includes stories and poetry from students across the school, as well as some past pupils and an 'external submission' from a student in Crana College, Co. Donegal.



In order for the project to be viable we need to secure advance sales each year. This allows us to know how many copies to have printed and manage our costs. If you would be willing to support this ambitious project and are interested in reading the creative efforts of students from Clonkeen College, you will need to place your order before Friday 23rd February.

Payment slips can be obtained from the school or by downloading them from the school website - simply click on the CLONKEEN PRESS tab and you will see the option to download the form. The book will be published and distributed in April 2018. It costs €8.



You can also follow the work of Clonkeen College Press on:

Facebook: Clonkeen College Press

Twitter: @CLONKCOLLPRESS

Instagram: @clonkeencollegepress



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Dublin Simon Community

Stephen from Dublin Simon Community came in to talk to our Transition Year students on Tuesday 16th January. He spoke about the problem of homelessness in the community and in Dublin City Centre. The students learned about the many different reasons why people become homeless and the problems they face. Stephen outlined the various services provided by the Simon Community, which is a voluntary organi-



sation, that help people who find themselves in this situation and also prevent more people becoming homeless. He helped the boys to see what they could do as individuals to help tackle the problem of homelessness. It was a very inspiring talk that really brought the reality of this plight to the fore for the students. Thank-you to the Young Social Innovators class and their teacher Ms O'Rourke who organised the talk and to Stephen from the Simon Community for such an interesting talk.

TY Driving Workshop

Some of our Transition Year students enjoyed a day at the Leinster Driving School at the beginning of January. The boys had expected that it would be a day of driver theory but were delighted when they discovered that there was a practical side to the course too. On arrival the boys were split into two groups, with one group given a sample driver theory test. They completed the test and surprised the instructors with their knowledge of driver theory and road awareness. The group worked on improving their knowledge of driver theory before swapping with the other group to go outside for gain some practical experience. Leinster Driving



Campus has a road layout completely off any public road, meaning that all students were able to participate in the practical class with the excellent instructors. The whole group thoroughly enjoyed the trip to Leinster Driving School. A big thank-you to Ms Mooney who organised the visit and accompanied the students.

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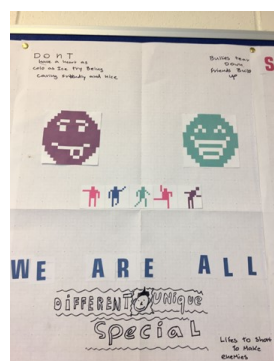
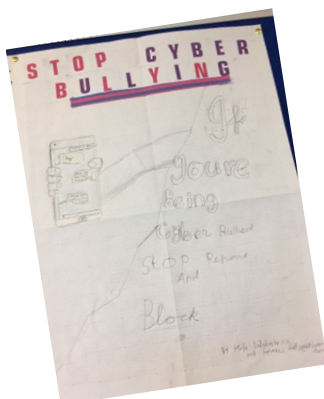
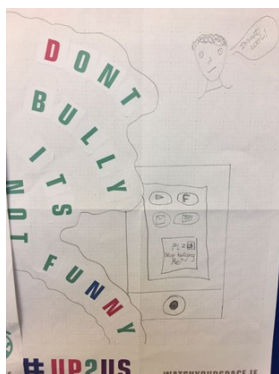
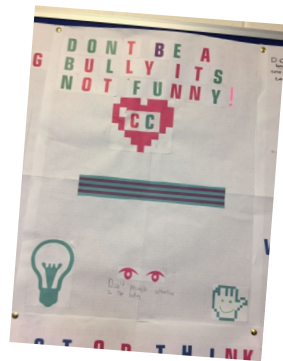
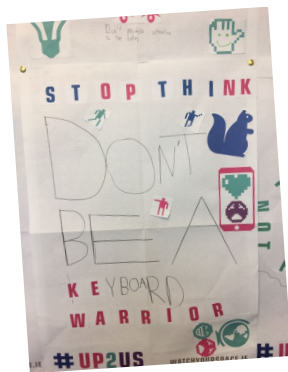
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Antibullying Ambassadors

Here are the winning posters from the Antibullying Ambassadors workshop that all 1st Year students took part in before the Christmas Holidays. The winners all received merits. Well done to all involved and to Ms Egan and the Antibullying Ambassadors who organised the event.



Live in HD from Clonkeen

Mr J Byrne

Many of you may have attended the Live in HD broadcasts in cinemas of opera matinees from New York's Metropolitan Opera House. But did you know there was a Clonkeen connection?



Robert Young, a past student of the college, and his American wife Julie Borchard are joint founders of BY Experience. This independent company is the leading global distributor of alternative content and events to cinema screens. It offers cultural, entertainment and educational producers the opportunity to reach audiences in an innovative, communal manner through satellite distribution of live high-definition digital events to over 3,000 cinemas and performing arts centres in more than 75 countries.

It was Robert and Julie who first suggested to the

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Metropolitan Opera board that it should augment its weekly radio broadcasts of Saturday matinees, on air since the 1930s, with live telecasts into cinemas. Since its formation in 2003, BY Experience has distributed over 250 unique events to cinema audiences globally, including the three leading series in cinemas, The Met: Live in HD (from 2005 to the present), National Theatre Live (ex-UK, from 2009 to the present), Bolshoi Ballet in Cinema (from 2014 to the present). Millions of tickets have been sold to date.

Robert and Julie live in central New York with their three children. Robert keeps in regular touch with the college and we are delighted he will be attending our upcoming Gala Dinner.

TWSG

The TWSG has been working hard to raise the €50,000 necessary to build an eight classroom school in Malawi.



Phase one was completed in January and we have received some photos of the completed block and toilet facilities. The building of the block of classrooms will begin in February.



Unfortunately, we are much depleted in the amount of money we have fundraised. Although we made €1,200 from a bag packing and €500 from a street collection these fall far below what we need to finish the school.



We appeal to everyone to support our upcoming fundraising initiatives. As always, our sincerest thanks for all the help you have given us. Working together we can complete this new school which will change the lives of so many.

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Rugby

The school Rugby Team has restarted training, which will take place once a week until Easter. The school is liaising with Leinster Community Development Officers in delivering qualified coaching to a number of students who have previous experience with rugby. It is expected that the school will field a team to compete in a blitz or a test game against another school prior to the Easter Holidays. We are looking to continue the development of Rugby at Clonkeen College, having already competed in a number of blitzes and test matches last year against other schools in the local area. This year's captain is 5th Year student Mark Brophy. Best of luck to Mr Howley, Mark and the team in the coming weeks.

U16 Gaelic Football

On Monday 22nd January, our U16 Gaelic Football Team played their last group stage match against St Colmcille's Community School, Knocklyon. Both teams knew that they were already guaranteed a place in the next round, but that the winner of this encounter would finish top of the group.

The ground conditions weren't the best following a night of heavy rain but both teams dug deep, giving outstanding performances. Cal

Doran was on target with a beautiful goal for Clonkeen, that completed outwitted the St Colmcille's keeper. However, the opposition stayed in contention throughout. At the final whistle the match ended in a draw 4-8 (St Colmcille's CS) to 3-11 (Clonkeen College), and both teams were left waiting to find out who would top the group and what teams they would face in the next round. Before long, news had come through that Clonkeen were top of the group and will face Old Bawn Community School in the next round. Congratulations to the team and to their coaches Mr Brennan and Ms Shortall on a fantastic start to the U16 campaign this year. We look forward to supporting the team in their match against Old Bawn.

1st Year Soccer

The 1st Year Soccer match, on 19th January, saw Clonkeen College go up against a very strong side from Tallaght Community School. The first half was marked by chances for both sides but it was Clonkeen who managed to secure a goal and went into the half-time break a goal up. The opposition responded well in the second half netting an equaliser and a penalty to give them the lead. That didn't stop the boys from Clonkeen, who pulled out all the stops to ensure that they got a late goal to end the match a draw on a score line of 2-2.

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They were very satisfied with the result and look forward to their next match. Well done to the boys and to their coaches Mr Faherty and Mr O'Shaughnessy and thank-you to Transition Year students Andrew Byrne and Oran Molony who have been working with the team and their coaches.

Cross-Country

On Thursday 25th January, we participated in the East Leinster Cross-Country at Avondale House in Co. Wicklow. The thirty-nine students from 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year represented the school very well. Fortunately, the weather was good for cross-country on the day making the runners run a very quick race. There were some notable performances from Joseph Villalong-Corr in the Minor race and Gavin Doyle in the Junior B race. Well done to both boys and thank-you to Mr Howley and Mr Sheehy who manage the athletics teams!

The next competition coming up is the Edmund Rice Track and Field Championships which will take place after Easter. This will be followed quickly by the East Leinster Track and Field Championship in Morton Stadium, Santry. Any student wishing to get involved in track and field

Midterm Break

We hope that all our students, staff and their families enjoy the midterm break. We look forward to hearing all about our Transition Year's trip to Amsterdam next week and their two-weeks work experience that will take place following the break. We hope our exam years will enjoy a much deserved rest following their Mock Exams and that they will return to school refreshed and ready to focus on their oral and practical exams which will take place in April and May.

We leave you with some photos of the Transition Year Home Economics Class with their tasty and beautifully decorated Valentine's Cupcakes.

