

CLONKEEN COLLEGE



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by Transition Year Students

November / December 2016

Physics Teacher of the Year



Congratulations to Ms Máire Duffy, who is the recipient of the annual Institute of Physics, Teacher of Physics Award. This prestigious award honours and rewards the work, of individuals and teams, that contributes to the teaching and learning of physics. This year Ms Duffy was one of six teachers from the United Kingdom and Ireland, and the only Irish teacher, to be recognised for excellence in the teaching of Physics. The award, which is in its 30th year, has only ever been bestowed on seventeen Irish teachers. It is a great honour for Ms Duffy and her work here at Clonkeen College to be acknowledged in this way. Ms Duffy travelled to the Institute of Physics in London to receive her award at the end of November. We are immensely proud of her achievement.

CanSat

Hello everyone! Eight students from 4th to 6th Year have entered the CanSat competition, which is run by the European Space Education Resource Office (ESERO) on behalf of the European Space Agency (ESA), Cork Electronic Industries Association, and the Dublin Institute of Technology (for projects in this region of Ireland). The Clonkeen students participating in the competition are Alexander Cregan, Devon Keogh, Guy Keogh, Joe Clarke, Kevin Nolan, Lucas Carraher and Caolan Moore (support).



For the competition, we must build a mini-satellite inside a container the size of a soft-drinks can. The CanSat will be ejected from a rocket mid-flight and must collect and transmit data to an earth-based computer. We must ensure that the CanSat has a reliable power source and sensors to record the data accurately and program it to transmit the data while in-flight. The data will be both analysed and graphed as it is received. As the CanSat will need to land safely with minimal damage, we plan to equip it with a parachute to ensure a gentle landing.

The regional competition for Dublin will take place on 22nd March and the winners from each region will participate in the CanSat National Final on 27th and 28th April in Co. Laois. The National Winners will go on to represent Ireland in the European CanSat competition in June 2017.

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D3 Special Effects Workshop

On Monday 21st November TY students from D3 took part in a special effects make-up workshop led by a theatrical make-up specialist. Pupils were taught how to create a variety of effects such as bruises, grazes and scratches on their faces and hands. There was no shortage of enthusiastic volunteers. It was a unique and very enjoyable experience for all involved. A big thank you to the make-up artists and to Ms Mooney who organized the workshop.



Green Schools

The Green Schools Committee has started its work to build on last year's success when it earned out first Green Flag. Currently, battery boxes have been distributed to pupils and staff in the school. It is hoped that over the festive period all families will gather their used batteries in these boxes and return them to the school in the New Year so that they can be recycled in a safe and environmentally friendly way. The funds raised from the battery collection will go to the Laura Lynn Foundation.

Plans are under way to set up a Green Schools noticeboard in January, where the committee will display information on their progress and the initiatives being carried out in the school. Bin surveys will also start back up, so that the whole school can ensure that its progress in waste management is being maintained.



The committee meets weekly in Room 12 at 1:15 on Thursdays. We would love to see some new members join. All pupils (1st to 6th Year) who would like to become members of the Green Schools Committee are welcome. A big thank-you to Ms Evers-Nolan who has taken over as Green Schools Co-ordinator from Mr Traynor and Ms Brennan.

Christmas Fast

It's that time of year when we think of those in need, both at home and abroad. In addition to collecting for the St Vincent de Paul, the TWSG is carrying out the annual Christmas Fast. Sponsorship cards have been distributed to students in the school. The proceeds will go to school building in the developing world. We would encourage everyone to get involved in this worthy venture; without your help, nothing is possible.

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Science Week

Great fun was had by all classes this year during Science Week (13th – 20th November). Students got involved in class projects on science phenomena, mad scientists, science facts and science jokes. There were class quizzes and class demonstration days. Students became the teachers by demonstrating their favourite experiments to the class, including elephant toothpaste (reacting yeast, hydrogen peroxide and washing up liquid), sticking kebab sticks through balloons without bursting them and making test tubes disappear (using the fact that the refractive index of Pyrex and vegetable oil is the same i.e. they bend light by the same amount).



5th and 6th Year Physics students took to the yard at lunch time on Tuesday and Thursday for Physics busking. They drew in the crowds and dazzled (or should I say deafened!) the students with their home made potato canon, firenados, sucking eggs into milk bottles, spinning buckets of water without spilling a drop and even performing miracles by walking on liquids!(Non-Newtonian fluids).

The week ended with two teams from 6th Year taking part in the annual Irish Science Teachers Association Quiz in Trinity College. One team was in third place after the first half but unfortunately missed out on a winning place by the end of the night. Well done to Kevin Gannon, Ned Quirke, Maciej Nowak, Kenneth Lee, Marek Galus and Jim Kennedy for their participation!



Congratulations to Sean Nolan, Lucas Carragher and Ruairí Greene, and to their Science teacher Ms O'Rourke, who have had a project accepted to the 2017 BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. Their project title is: To test the presence of negativity bias in Irish secondary level students and what influences it. The exhibition takes place in the RDS from 11th to 14th January, 2017. It will be open to the public from the 12th, so come down and support the boys! We wish them the very best of luck!

Did you know??

1. There is enough DNA in an average person's body to stretch from the sun to Pluto and back — 17 times!

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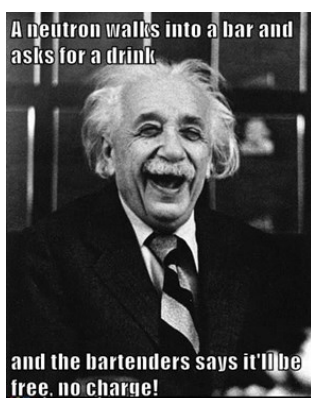
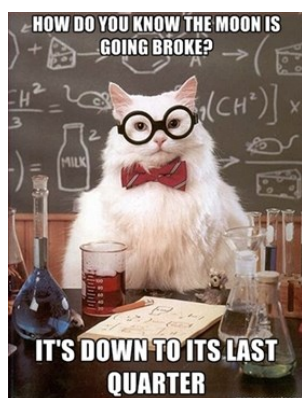
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2. The average human body carries ten times more bacterial cells than human cells!

3. It can take a photon 40,000 years to travel from the core of the sun to its surface, but only 8 minutes to travel the rest of the way to Earth!

4. At over 2000 kilometres long, the Great Barrier Reef is the largest living structure on Earth!

5. When Helium is cooled to almost absolute zero (-460°F or -273°C), the lowest temperature possible, it becomes a liquid with surprising properties: it flows against gravity and will start running up and over the lip of a glass container!



So long as they're not facing Magneto, am I right?



Health Promotions

The Health Promotions team has introduced a new initiative for 1st Years that will see merits awarded for positive behaviour. The merits recognise effort, in-class participation and homework. Teachers place coloured stickers in students' journals to indicate the awarding of a merit. At the end of term the student in each class who has achieved the most merits will receive a reward from Mr Melly.

TWSG

Clonkeen College Third World Support Group is delighted to announce the opening of a new primary school in Penagree, India. The school will accommodate 500 children from 5 to 14 years old and is the result of over two years of fundraising by the TWSG.



Mr Tom McGovern opened the school on behalf of Mr McGauley who was unable to travel to India. The TWSG would like to extend a big thank-you to everyone in the whole school community who have made this dream possible.

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Natalya Coyle Visit

Sky Sports Mentor Natalya Coyle met with L1, 2nd Year and Transition Year students during two recent visits to the school. Having struggled with learning difficulties throughout her time at school, Natalya found that sport helped to improve her focus and determination, which in turn helped her to overcome her difficulties. Natalya competed in the modern pentathlon in both the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games, before securing Ireland's first ever medal in the modern pentathlon in the American World Cup. Natalya has also returned to education, studying Business and Sociology at Trinity College Dublin.



Her visit with L1 and TY focused on sport as a means to aid integration. TY students look at how we can include those with additional needs in the mainstream setting through sport. Natalya helped students to understand how PE modules might be adapted or modified so as to provide an inclusive environment for all students. It was an excellent experience for all students involved. A big thank you to Mr Howley who organised the visit.

Futsal

On November 18th, our 1st Year Futsal team were crowned Dublin Futsal Champions. Unbeaten in the finals, they became champions having lost only one match in their seventeen encounters.



The boys progressed to the Leinster Futsal finals which were held at Gormanstown College on November 23rd. Here, they face tough competition from the other county champions. They played with grit and determination but unfortunately didn't progress in the competition. Well done to the team and their coaches, Mr Faherty and Mr O'Shaughnessy, on their excellent performance in the competition.

U16 Hurling

Clonkeen College U16 Hurling Team played Maynooth Post Primary in the Quarter Final of the Dublin 'C' Championships. It was an extremely close match between two skilled teams. Clonkeen fought hard and put in a great performance but were unlucky to end the match two points behind Maynooth. It has been a great season of hurling from the team, many of whom we hope to see represent Clonkeen College again in the future. Commiserations to the players and their coaches Mr Bennett and Mr O'Brien.

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U18 Hurling

A great performance again but Clonkeen narrowly missed out on a 2nd Dublin Senior title this calendar year. The hurlers did us all proud with two great performances in a week: an excellent semi-final win on the Tuesday over St. Declans CBS, before succumbing to a 3-15 to 3-12 defeat against a very good St. Fintan's High School at a freezing cold Abbottstown on the last Friday in November.



St Fintan's got off to a lightning start, racking up 3-02 in the first 11 minutes, leaving the score at 3-02 to 0-02. No fault to the back line, with Cormac Spain continuing his fine form in goal as he had shown the previous Tuesday. The third goal was the last he'd let in. In a master-stroke from Messrs O'Brien and Bennett, Cian Rellis was pulled back from full-forward to left-half back – a position he also graced with distinction in the semi-final. This allowed the Kennedy twins, Jim and Eoin, to line up closer together on the half-back line with James Murphy sweeping in behind them. Now get by us! Game on!

Our full-back line cleaned up anything that may have got through in the subsequent 45 minutes: Cathal Gillen, was majestic at full-back, ably supported by Eamonn Keating and the ruthless Robert Bass. We took over in midfield with Rory McMahon and Greg Sheehan dominating proceedings.

Our five forwards now found the space to dominate the match. Cormac Quinn, whose frees had kept us in touch, continued in that vein. On the wings, Emmet Murphy and Craig Finn raided with purpose for the hour. The latter's two brilliant points from the left helping us to reduce a 13-point deficit to just five. Kevin Kirwan began to dominate his area and his two goals and one more from Finn, following savage work from Rory Fitzpatrick, had us level with seven minutes to go. To Fintan's credit they came back at us and their centre forward scored two immense points from play and another from a free to leave three between us. In true Clonkeen spirit, this group again tried to peg back the score board and with the last puck of the game, the exceptional Liam Murphy went for the jugular but sadly his shot grazed the post.

Huge congratulations to the team and their coaches Mr Bennett and Mr O'Brien on making it through to the final and on their fantastic performance in the final and in all their matches since October.



Squad:

Cal Doran, Evan Savage, Mike Donnelly, Jack McCarthy, Liam Murphy, Macdara O'Midheach, Adam Coulter, Eamonn Keating, Kevin Kirwan, Eoghan Rafferty, Cormac Spain, Robert Bass, Conor Downes, Craig Finn, Rory Fitzpatrick, Kevin Gannon, Cathal Gillen, Jack Keating, Eoin Kennedy, Jim Kennedy, Rory McMahon, Emmett Murphy, James Murphy, Cormac Quinn, Cian Rellis, Greg Sheehan.

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U19 Soccer

In a closely contested match against St Benildus, on 25th November, our U19 Soccer team came away with a 1-1 draw. It was a great game of soccer that saw Thomas Livingston put away a lovely shot to equalise with our opposition, and see us through to the quarter finals of the U19 Metropolitan League.

The quarter final was due to be played on 14th December, against Templeogue College, however, the game had to be rescheduled due to inclement weather on the day. It will now be played on Friday, January 13th.

In the Leinster Shield, the same team is due to face St Benildus in the New Year.

We wish the boys and their coaches Mr McBride and Mr Sheehy the best of luck in both matches.

1st Year Soccer

Our 1st Year Soccer team got their campaign off to a winning start with a 3-2 victory over Temple Carrig School, Greystones, on 30th November. The team continued their successful start with a win over Old Bawn Community School on 7th December.

It was a slow start for our 1st Years who left gaps in their defence and force our keeper, Rory O'Kane, to make some great saves. The team settled as the game progress and soon Clonkeen were showing their superior skill on all areas of the pitch. Nathan McGowan slotted the ball past the Old Bawn keep just before the half-time whistle to give Clonkeen the edge going into the break.

Clonkeen took control in the second half with Aaron Maher finding the back of the net with his first touch of the ball. Shortly afterwards Kai Singleton bagged two further goals, before Gavin Doyle added a fifth in the latter part of the match.

Congratulations to man of the match, Ben D'Arcy, the Clonkeen team and their coaches Mr Faherty and Mr O'Shaughnessy on a fantastic start to the season.

U15 Soccer

Following an unfortunate 2-1 loss to Tallaght, which saw them exit the Leinster Cup, earlier in the month, our U15 Soccer team bounced back in their league encounter against Templeogue College on 24th November, with a 3-1 victory.

The team then went on to play St. John's College, Ballyfermot on 6th December. Early into the game, St. John's took the lead with the opening goal of the match. Our boys composed themselves and stepped up to the plate. Oran Molony found the back of the net a few minutes later. Although we had plenty of possession throughout the first half, we failed to capitalise. The score at half time was 1 -1.

Ten minutes into the second half Oran Molony scored his second goal of the match, putting Clonkeen into the lead. St. John's responded putting us under pressure but victory was sealed for Clonkeen when Jude O'Neill slotted the ball in past the keeper taking the score to 3-1. Man of the match was Clonkeen's Daniel Murphy who played a fantastic match in defence.

Clonkeen remain unbeaten in the league and will progress to the South Dublin Final in the New Year. Huge congratulations to the team and to their coaches Mr Faherty and Mr O'Shaughnessy.

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International Soccer

TY student Jason Knight captained the Republic of Ireland U16 team to claim the Victory Shield for the first time in the tournament's history, in November. The competition, which sees sides from Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland go head to head, took place in Edinburgh from 29th October to 4th November.

The Irish side met with a tough Welsh opposition in their opening match, but played excellent football to come away with a 4-0 win. Having played a key role in the match, Jason was then rested for the second match, making way for others to get some important international experience. This was a very close match, with Northern Ireland, putting their southern counterparts under some serious pressure. It was not to be Northern Ireland's day, however, and the Republic of Ireland came away with a 2-1 win.

The Republic of Ireland's toughest challenge was yet to come as they were to face the undefeated hosts Scotland in the final match of the tournament. Jason was back in the team for this pivotal match. The first half was very tense with not many threats at goal. Ireland's first goal came in the 53rd minute when Jason played a beautiful over the top ball for the Irish striker to run in and grab an easy goal. We then took control of the game with two more goals in the 54th minute and the 61st minute. The 3-0 victory saw the Republic of Ireland bring the Victory Shield home to Dublin, for the first time ever.



(Jason Knight. Back row. Third from left.)

Jason Knight is now set to play for Derby County in their development squad. Everyone in Clonkeen College is immensely proud of his achievements to date and we wish him all our very best wishes in his future footballing career.

Spikeball

Congratulations to our 1st Year Spikeball Team and coach Mr Howley who have qualified for the All Ireland Finals. All Ireland qualification was at stake for all competitors in the 1st and 2nd Year Spikeball Blitz hosted by Coláiste de hÍde in Tallaght. We were very well represented by all members of the teams who played some excellent spikeball. Congratulations to those who narrowly missed out on a place in the All Ireland Finals.



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Rugby

Just before the midterm break in October, Clonkeen's rugby players took part in a blitz at De la Salle Palmerston RFC's grounds in Kilternan. Facing teams from Oatlands, Marian College and Newpark Comprehensive it was a great experience for our teams as we develop the game in Clonkeen College. Well done to the team and their coach Mr Howley.



Cross Country

On 2nd December, a large team of athletes from Clonkeen College travelled to ALSAA in Santry to take part in the Edmund Rice Schools Trust Cross Country Competition.



With distances ranging from 1500m to 4000m, best on the day for Clonkeen were Seán Finn, Jack Moraghan, Byron O'Gorman and Seán Toner. A big thank you to coaches Mr Howley and Mr Sheehy.



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Tennis Achievement

Congratulations to Clonkeen students David Dunwoody, Robert Curley and Denis and Bogdan Ciuhat who represented Meadowvale Tennis Club to become Leinster U18 Champions. It is a fantastic achievement for all players involved. They will all represent Clonkeen College in the Schools' Tennis League.

U18 Gaelic Football

Following their historic win in the 'C' Championship last year our U18 Gaelic Football team progressed to the 'B' Championship this year. A fantastic group of players, they came out with commitment and determination in pre-season training, which they carried through into their first group stage match against Malahide Community School. The match, which was played on 28th November, was a home fixture for Clonkeen. Malahide fielded a strong team who were skilled in all areas of the pitch. Our boys showed great resolve, matching Malahide point for point. In the dying minutes, Malahide lead by one point, but thanks to Jack Keating's last minute equaliser we managed to secure a draw.

Going into their final group match, away against Portmarnock Community School on Wednesday, 30th December, the team knew they would need to win by a minimum of sixteen points if they were to remain in the competition. The boys dug deep and played some excellent football. Tight in defence and fierce in attack they won the match by an impressive twenty-one points. They await details of their quarter final match in the New Year.

Congratulations to the team and their coaches Mr Sheehy and Mr McBride.

1st Year Gaelic Football

Excellent start to our 1st Year Gaelic Football campaign with a successful Blitz in Abbottstown the day of the Hallowe'en break. Pitted against teams from Oatlands and Coláiste Eoin we comfortably won 3 matches going down in the fourth by 1 point. Great participation from the 1st Years – following on from their involvement in the U-14 Championship in September and October.

A1 – Calum Bennett, Gavin Doyle, Christian Dunne, Conor Dunne, Liam Georgieff, Fionnan Kelly, Luke Mulvaney, Conal Murphy and Matthew Ryan; **A2** – Niall Connaughton, Ben D'Arcy, Stephen Maginn, Oran Keane-O'Hagan, Sam Kinsella, Killian Lavelle, Eoin Manning, Robert O'Gorman and Rory O'Kane; **A3** – Eimhin Boylan, Billy Browne, Kevin Campbell, Harry Glynn, Eoin O'Carroll, Andrew O'Donovan and Darragh O'Dowd.

The 1st Year Gaelic Football season resumes after Christmas. Training in January. See you then!

Christmas Wishes

We would like to wish everyone in the Clonkeen College community "Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2017!". We look forward to seeing everyone well-rested and ready for the new term in January.

Merry
Christmas