

# CLONKEEN COLLEGE



## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*Prepared by Transition Year Students*

September 2015

### Welcome Back

Welcome back to all students, staff and their families of Clonkeen College. We hope everyone had an enjoyable summer break and that all are looking forward to the coming year. We welcome, in particular, our new 1<sup>st</sup> Years. We hope that they will have many happy, productive and fulfilling years with us.

We also wish a fond farewell to last year's 6<sup>th</sup> Years and Mr. Daly and Mr. Monnelly, both of whom have retired. We wish the class of 2015 all the best with their chosen paths and we hope that Mr. Daly and Mr. Monnelly will have long, healthy and happy retirements.

### Building Project

After many years of hard work and planning, by various Boards of Managements and Principals, we are delighted to announce that the school building project is finally in full swing.

Directly after the State Examinations, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2015, the contractors, Duggan Brothers, began this huge project at Clonkeen College. They started by demolishing the old lunch block, the foyer, the offices, the staffroom and the dressing rooms. During the school summer holidays they part completed works to the existing school. These works included rewiring, installing a new heating system, replacing most of the schools windows and the fitting of new ceilings.

The contractors are currently building the new extension. The extension will comprise of a new entrance, gym and dressing rooms, a library, offices, a Board Room, additional classrooms and

a Mod GLD Suite. It will also include new laboratories, a new Art room and rooms for DCG (Design Communication and Graphics) and Home Economics, which will allow us to broaden the range of subjects on offer at Clonkeen College. The school intends to convert the current gym into a fully operational canteen. The facade of the school will be revamped and the school will get a new yard with the surrounds of the school re-landscaped.

We anticipate that, by the start of the new academic school year 2016/2017, the builders will have completed all refurbishment work in the existing school. The remaining old windows will be replaced, new doors fitted, new floor coverings laid and all the toilet blocks refurbished. We are very hopeful that the entire extension and refurbishment works will be completed during autumn 2016. This work will result in Clonkeen College offering state of the art educational facilities which will greatly enhance the learning environment. We will, without doubt, be the envy of all other Voluntary Secondary Schools in Ireland.

In the meantime, we envisage that the project will continue unabated and without causing disruption to the ongoing teaching and learning in the school. On behalf of the School Management, I would like to thank all our parents and neighbours for supporting the school during the project. Most importantly, I want to thank all our staff and students for their cooperation throughout these transformative months and I look forward to providing everyone with more updates as the works progress.

Edward Melly (Principal)

*Don't forget to check out all the latest developments on the building project in videos produced by 5th Years Naoise O'Conluain and Ned Quirke, on our Twitter feed!*

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### Leaving Certificate Results

Congratulations to all of last year's 6<sup>th</sup> Years who received their Leaving Certificate results in August. Excellent results meant many happy faces all around and much celebration, following two years of hard work.



A particular mention has to go to Eoin McCrossan who achieved an impressive 6 A grades. We wish him and all our other graduates all the best with their chosen courses and career paths.

### Death of Mrs. Somers

It is with great sadness that we bring news of the death of Mrs. Mary Somers. Mrs. Somers came to Clonkeen in 1973 and was a huge presence within the school until her retirement in 2007. Mrs. Somers taught Maths and Irish and was the force behind the setting up of the pastoral care system in the school, along with her colleague Mr. Terry Dunne. Mrs. Somers was dutiful, caring, warm and welcoming to all who passed through the doors of Clonkeen College. We extend our deepest condolences to her husband Jim and her family.

### Transition Year News

#### *Junior Certificate Results*

A big congratulations to all TY Students who received their Junior Certificate results on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September. There were some really happy faces in the school hall on a memorable day for the students and their families.



A special mention must go to Killian Farrelly, Jack Manning and Jonathan Bell (pictured above) who each managed to each secure 11 A grades. These students put in a lot of work over the three years and really deserve these outstanding results.

#### *TY Social Care Programme*

The Transition Year Social Care Programme is a programme whereby all Transition Year students carry out a community work placement every Tuesday afternoon. The programme is in its second year and has gone from strength to strength over this time, having started out last year as a modular

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subject which every Transition Year class did for one term, to this year becoming a yearlong programme for all Transition Year students.

Over the course of the year, students will undertake three separate placements; one in each of their Transition Year terms. They may choose from a broad range of placements such as teaching local adults how to use technology, running after-school programmes in local primary schools, volunteering in the DSPCA's animal shelter and many, many more.

The aim of the programme is to give students a broad experience of volunteering and the benefits it can have both for the volunteer and the people for whom the service is being provided. Watch this space throughout the year for first-hand accounts from Transition Year students of their experience on their Social Care placement.

### *Transition Year Sailing*

Since the start of September students from D1 have been participating in a sailing course with the INSS (Irish National Sailing School) at Dun Laoghaire Harbour, on Thursday afternoons.



The boys and their accompanying teachers, Mr. Howley and Mr. O'Shaughnessy really enjoyed their time with the INSS. We wish the students of D3 the best of luck as they start their sailing course in October and would like to say a big thank you to the INSS for a fantastic four weeks.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Year Ecology Field Study

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September, our 6<sup>th</sup> Year Biology Class carried out the Ecology Field Study element of their Leaving Certificate coursework at the Phoenix Park. They had the opportunity to put into practice many of the techniques they had studied in the classroom including using pooters and quadrants.



They then went into Dublin Zoo to look at the work the zoo does in providing homes as close as possible to their natural habitats for animals from all over the world.

A big thank-you to Ms. Egan who organised the visit and accompanied the students on the day.



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### Student Council News

Conor M. Murphy

Since our formation in February, the current Student Council has been working hard to represent the student body, bringing student issues to the fore. In the latter part of the last school year we were the first ever Clonkeen College Student Council to gain membership of the ISSU (Irish Second Level Students' Union). At this time we also attend a meeting of the Edmund Rice Schools' Student Councils. It was an invaluable opportunity to gain insight into the way Student Councils work in other schools.

Back at Clonkeen College we were involved in three policy reviews and we organised a sponsored walk to raise funds for new jerseys for the U15 Football Team. We were delighted to be involved in Clonkeen College's first ever Active Week. Sport and physical activity are key issues for us, so we were delighted to be able to bring some new ideas to the table for Sports Day.

Music has also been a priority for us. We were aware that there were many students in Clonkeen College who were interested in pursuing music to Junior and/or Leaving Certificate Level. We surveyed students on this matter and presented our findings to school management, who have now made classes in music available to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year students.

Our priorities in the coming months are to organise a Mental Health Awareness Week, set the wheels in motion to organise a school band and to promote the use of the Student Council Suggestion Box. As always, all ideas are welcome!

### C1 & C2 Mosque Visit

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September C1 and C2 visited the Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland in Clonskeagh as part of their Junior Certificate Religion studies. They met Dr. Ali Saleem who brought the two classes on a guided tour of the centre and prayer hall, where both students and teachers had to remove their footwear. Following the tour Dr. Saleem spoke to the group about the history of Islam, Islam in Ireland and the Islamic Sacred Text.



The visit ended with a Question and Answer session. The project carried out by students following their visit will count for 20% of their Junior Certificate Religion result. We would like to thank Ms. Mooney and Ms. Fulton who accompanied the students. Students in C3 will have their visit to the Islamic Cultural Centre on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> October.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Year Higher Options

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Years visited the RDS with Mr. O'Hara on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September to attend the Higher Options Exhibition. It was an excellent opportunity for students to discover more about the Third Level options and career paths open to them.

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### 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Manchester Trip 2015

On Friday September 11<sup>th</sup>, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Years departed for Manchester accompanied by Mr. McGauley, Mr. Lynch, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, Ms. Murray and Ms. Brougham. They had an early sailing arriving in Holyhead for 11:30 where they immediately departed for Old Trafford. Following a much anticipated tour of Old Trafford the group set off for the Trafford Centre for some shopping and an evening meal.



Another early start on Saturday saw the boys take a tour of Manchester City's stadium, The Etihad, which was followed by a visit to the National Football Museum in the heart of Manchester. After another visit to the Trafford Centre for lunch and more shopping, they headed back to Old Trafford to visit the Superstore and soak up the pre-match atmosphere ahead of the Derby. The match ended with a 3-1 win over Liverpool thanks to goals from Daley Blind, Ander Herrera and Anthony Martial. The boys were all in high spirits after the match and the whole group celebrated over dinner.



It was one final early start for the group on Sunday morning, departing at 9.00 a.m. for Holyhead. In keeping with Clonkeen tradition, they stopped off en-route at the Welsh village with the longest name (Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogogoch) for a rest break and lunch. A smooth afternoon sailing saw the boys returned to Irish shores, before the group arrived back safe and sound at the school for 6 p.m.



A great time was had by all! Big thanks go out to Mr. McGauley, Mr. Lynch, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, Ms. Brougham and Ms. Murray who organised the trip and accompanied the students attending.



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### Senior Art: National Gallery Visit

Ms. L. Healy

5th and 6th Year Art students attended a guided tour of the Sean Scully Exhibition in the National Art Gallery on Thursday, 17th September. The National Gallery tend to exhibit only the work of artists who have passed away. Sean Scully exhibiting in the National Gallery is a rarity and quite monumental.

The exhibition was held to celebrate Scully's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Sean Scully is an Irish born artist who is globally recognised and receives acclaim all over the world. The work on show in the gallery was created in the 1980's and the 1990's and is abstract and linear, unlike his contemporaries, Lucien Freud and Francis Bacon both of whom are figurative painters. Scully was inspired by a trip to Morocco to turn to abstraction. He appreciates the linear quality of the landscapes in Ireland and in the vibrant cities he has visited across the world.

The space where the work is exhibited is dedicated completely to the display of Scully's work. It is a white light filled space with high ceilings which act as a perfect backdrop for the modern abstract artwork.

During the visit Students completed a worksheet on the exhibition and sketched two of the works. They then spent the afternoon in The Natural History Museum drawing the vast array of animals on display.

Many thanks to Ms. O'Rourke for accompanying us on the trip and to Sarah Montague for the guided tour.

### Sports News

#### *Basketball*

The U16 Basketball Team had a match against Greenhills College on Thursday last. Although the match ended in defeat for our boys, they put up a valiant fight and played an excellent match. Notable on the day for Clonkeen College was Shane Murphy (C2).

#### *Hurling*

Mr. T. Bennett

The hurling season is back in earnest with games being played by both our U16 and U18 teams.

Our senior hurlers opened their account with an excellent win against Drimnagh Castle S.C. on a scoreline 3-23 to 2-12. This was a superb performance of grit and determination. The first 20 minutes was as good a performance as we have seen from this group, where they were thoroughly economical in front of goal. However complacency did set in and Drimnagh were allowed back into the game when it really should have been out of sight.



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### *Hurling contd.*

The second half proved to be a different affair as Clonkeen imposed our work rate and efficiency on the game. We closed the game out from there on in.

On a more sombre note, James Murphy sustained bad injury with a fractured ankle, which will rule him out for some time to come. This is a massive loss to the team as James is one of our leaders both on and off the pitch. We have no doubt, though, that James will continue to lead and encourage his teammates from the sideline. It opens up the way for another player to stake their claim in what we hope will be a successful campaign for Clonkeen College. We wish James a speedy recovery.

Unfortunately, our U16 hurlers have suffered two losses at the start of the season. Struck by injuries to some of our star players we really have had to overcome the odds to even play these games. Despite this poor start to the season, the boys on the team have given spirited performances in their two matches and we hope that their luck will change in their upcoming matches. This is a very young team with only 4 members of the team not under age next year. The experience of these outings will no doubt be worth its weight in gold for their future endeavours.

### *Sports Round Up*

Last year we brought you news of a number of students who were experiencing sporting success outside of Clonkeen College.

The summer break has seen appearances in both the Europa League and the Airtricity League for Dylan Watts (6<sup>th</sup> Year) who plays with UCD AFC. There have also been outings in the Airtricity League for Shane Hanney (6<sup>th</sup> Year), playing for Shamrock Rovers FC first team and for Jamie and Ross Broderick (6<sup>th</sup> Year) with Cabinteely FC.



Dylan Watts, was part of the U19 Irish squad who faced Italy in a recent friendly. He has been named again, by head coach Paul Doolin, in the squad who will play two friendlies against the Ukraine as they continue their build up to the UEFA U19 Championships qualifying round which takes place in November.

Fellow 6<sup>th</sup> Year, Conor Lavelle, has been building on his success in last year's World Enduro Mountainbiking Series. He is currently placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Men's U21.



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### Green Schools Committee

Having had a very successful year last year with our Green Schools Committee culminating in the school receiving its first Green Flag for Litter and Waste, the Committee has hit the ground running on our next Green Flag which is for Energy while also maintaining the achievements made in the areas of Litter and Waste.

The first step to achieving the Green Flag for Energy involves reviewing the school's energy consumption over the past year. The Committee is currently undertaking this review and will then investigate ways this level of consumption can be reduced.

In the areas of Litter and Waste, the Committee is working on adapting the very successful action plan implemented last year to the demands of the changed school environment this year. While this poses challenges, it is nothing too challenging for the Committee's erstwhile members!

Monitoring of green and black bins in classrooms, labs and other areas of the school and yard has commenced. In addition, the Committee is in the process of rolling out an awareness campaign involving reviewed signage, a new Green Schools Committee noticeboard and intercom announcements to remind the school community of the pristine school environment we wish to maintain.

The Committee meets every Thursday at lunchtime in Room 18. All students are welcome to attend at any time and make sure to bring your lunch. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Gaelbhratach

Naoise Ó Conluain

Dé Luain, an 14ú de Mheán Fómhair, d'fhreastail triúr daltaí ar lá eolais eagraithe ag Gael Linn in Ostán Moran ag an mBó Dhearg. Chuaigh Naoise Ó Conluain ón gcúigiú bliain, Rob Behan agus Conor Wallace ón séú bliain le Ms Fulton. Bhí thart ar sheacht scoil eile ann, Coláiste Alexandra, Coláiste Gonzaga agus Pobalscoil Setanta san áireamh. D'fhoghlaim muid a lán rudaí nua faoin gcoiste agus a bhfuil i gceist. Tá smaointe nua againn anois agus ar ais i gColáiste Chluain Chaoimh bhí ár gcéad chrinniú againn dhá seachtain ó shin. Táimid ar bís chun dul ag obair ar son na Gaeilge sa scoil sa bliain amach romhainn. Mar sin, tar go dtí ár gcrúinuithe, bíonn siad ar siúl gach Luan i S3.

### TWSG News

Clonkeen College TWSG has remained active over the summer break carrying out a bag pack at SuperValu Kiliney. In September we undertook a second successful bag pack at this store. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the management, staff and customers of SuperValu Kiliney who have given such great support to our work.

We got our school-based fundraising off to a great start last week when we jointly organised the annual teacher-student football match with the Student Council. A closely fought match, on Friday afternoon, saw an eventual victory for the students with a score of 3-2 in their favour.

All monies raised through our fundraising activities go to support initiatives in the Third World. At present, we are continuing our work with the school building project in Ethiopia and our agricultural project in Uganda. We hope, in early 2016, to become involved in a project in India.