

## **MCS Student wins Rotary Youth Leadership Development Regional Final**

On Wednesday November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Deborah Fakeye, a fifth year student at Moate Community School competed in the Regional Final of the Rotary Youth Development Competition held in Thurles. She was accompanied by Patrick Deavy, a Rotarian from Athlone Club and Josephine Meehan, School Guidance Counsellor.

Deborah competed against students from schools in the midlands, west and south-west in a gruelling interview process. The adjudicators were from outside of Rotary and represented various professional walks of life. They were looking for students who embodied youth leadership and determination to succeed at school and in future life experiences.



Deborah represented Athlone Rotary Club and Moate Community School to excellent effect and as a winner will join 23 other youth leaders from around the country on a trip of a lifetime to the European Parliament in Strasbourg at Euroscola in February 2018. She will also have the opportunity to travel to Belfast and Dublin as part of this initiative to meet with political and business leaders.

The Regional Final which was hosted by the local Rotary Club in Thurles was very well organised and the hosts provided all competitors and their support with a warm welcome and excellent hospitality. The kindness and support shown to the competitors throughout helped them to embrace the challenge wholeheartedly.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Athlone Rotary Club for the help and support Deborah received since winning the school round of this competition and in particular, thanks to Ciaran, Ivan, Tom, Patrick and Joanne whom we liaised with in the lead up to the final in Thurles. Your support and encouragement throughout meant so much to Deborah and to the other students who competed at school level.