



MOATE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Newslink



EASTER 2019

All-Ireland Champions!

On Friday 5th of April our U16 girls took on Coláiste Oiriall form Monaghan in the Lidl All-Ireland Post Primary School Junior B Final in Pearse Park, Co. Longford.

It was a highly anticipated event with huge local interest and support. After a lively and skilful performance, during which our girls dominated, the title went to Moate, thus making history, as the first All-Ireland win for Moate Community School. The final scoreline was an impressive 6-11 to 2-10.

The team were: Emma Quigley, Cliona McCormack, Ruth Martin, Chloe Moran, Maria Farrell, Roisin Killian, Holly Keenan, Áine Gaynor, Megan Clinton, Annie Heavin, Ava Cornally, Kacey Burslem-Rotheroe, Shannon Mulvihill, Aoife Dalton (Captain) and Hazel Kelly. Substitutes were: Áine Maxwell, Martina Heavin, Rebecca Finlay, Erin Pettit, Anna Sheerin, Joyce Conway and Saoirse McGuinness.

On accepting the Cup Captain Aoife Dalton deservedly praised the management team of Fidelma Quinn, Michelle Doyle, Patrice Smyth and Niall Daly without whose passion for the sport, never ending dedication and hard work, none of this would have been possible.



Let the celebrations begin!



Overjoyed Team Managers Michelle Doyle, Fidelma Quinn, Patrice Smyth and Niall Daly.



U16 All-Ireland Winning team. Back Row, L-R: Rebecca Finlay, Holly Keenan, Ruth Martin, Maria Farrell, Emma Quigley, Roisin Killian, Áine Gaynor, Ava Cornally, Shannon Mulvihill, Áine Maxwell, Martina Heavin. Front Row L-R: Hazel Kelly, Chloe Moran, Anna Sheerin, Megan Clinton, Aoife Dalton, Kacey Burslem-Rotheroe, Cliona McCormack, Joyce Conway, Saoirse McGuinness, Erin Pettit and Annie Heavin.

TY students unveil sensory area in school grounds

On the 2nd of April we welcomed Councillor Michael O'Brien to our school to open our outdoor sensory area, as well as Shaun Greville from the NCSE to unveil our new outdoor sensory area.

The main aim of the day, World Autism Day 2019, was to officially unveil our new outdoor sensory area. Shaun Greville gave an excellent presentation on what it would be like to have autism and Councillor Michael O'Brien followed this up with a few

words on the school's impressive actions towards an autism-friendly community. Our class wants people to realise that those who are different don't have to be hidden away, they don't have to isolate themselves from society, and that if they are given the



Moate CS TY students unveil sensory area.

opportunity to stand up and show the world what they have to offer, truly amazing things can happen. As P.T Barnum said, "No-one ever made a difference by being like everyone else".

Iontas Choir Success

On Friday the 1st of March our Iontas choir were Dublin bound to participate in the Interscholar Music Festival in Wesley College. The standard in this competition was extremely high with eight other choirs competing. The choir were pleased to take home second place in this four part mixed choral competition. Two days later the choir were off again to compete in The Arklow Music festival. The standard of competition in Arklow was once again of a high standard. The adjudicator, Dr. Albert Bradshaw, described the Iontas performance of their two pieces as that of international standard, having himself adjudicated in Australia, France and other countries across the world. The choir were named the winners of the four part mixed choir category. Iontas followed these triumphs with a second place in the The Feis Ceoil in Dublin on April 2nd.

Below: Iontas Choir.



Special Invitation by the Inspectorate of the Department of Education and Skills

On Tuesday the 26th of February, our Iontas choir were invited to perform at the Annual Convention of the Inspectorate of the Department of Education and Skills which was hosted in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone. The choir were honoured to become the first choir to be invited to perform at this prestigious conference. The invitation came as a result of an impressive performance by Iontas in Galway, March 2017, where they performed at the ACCS convention for Principals and Deputy Principals.

Iontas performed four pieces for the Inspectorate: *Adiemus*, *Northern Lights*, *Bring him Home* and *Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel* which received rapturous applause and a standing ovation.

The Minister for Education, Mr Joe McHugh, was also in attendance on the night. He took time out of his busy schedule to meet the students in the choir and compliment them on their performance. This was truly a prestigious and memorable occasion for Iontas.

TOP THREE IN THE COUNTRY FOR MATHS TEAM

After winning the midlands region, our senior maths team travelled to Maynooth University to take part in the All-Ireland Final against the other 12 winning regions from around the country. The IMTA who organised this competition said that the standard this year was one of the highest they had seen in many years. After eight tough rounds of questioning we finished as joint runners up to Glenstall Abbey of Limerick who ran out winners. This was a fantastic achievement from the team and the members gained huge experience which will stand to them in their studies. The Moate members were: Maria O'Donoghoe, Fiona Broderick, Cian Fanning and Ronan Murphy.

Caith Amach É!

D'fhreastail níos mó ná seasca daltaí Ardeiste ar cheardlann bunaithe ar an scrúdú cainte Dé Máirt 26ú Feabhra a mhair dhá uair a chloig. Tá na leaids ó 'Caith Amach é' ag teacht chuig Pobalscoil Mhóta le roinnt blianta anuas agus mar is gnách bhí an ceardlann taitneamhach, beomhar agus oideachasúil. Aisteoirí is ea iad na leaids agus rinne siad piosa aisteoireachta bunaithe ar gach sraith pictiúr atá ar an gcúrsa Ardeiste. Sár-aisteoireacht lán le greann a bhí i gceist ar ndóigh. Chaith siad tamaill ag tabhairt moltaí agus comhairle do na scoláirí maidir leis an scrúdú béil ansin. Is rud maith é go raibh na daltaí ag foghlaim i tslí éadrom, difriúil ar ndóigh. Níl aon amhras ach gur bhain na daltaí taitneamh agus tairbhe as an gceardlann.

MCS YSI Speakout

On Friday 22nd of March, TY students attended the Young Social Innovators (YSI) Speak Out, in the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe. The Speak Out offered a platform for students to display the Social Issue projects they had been working on over the last school year, through the use of music, dance, drama and posters.

The projects from MCS covered a range of topics, from autism, to underage drinking and positive mental health. Over the past academic year, TY students have been busy researching and spreading awareness about their social issue.

The day was a great success for all involved, and especially for our TY3 class, whose performance earned them the *Most Creative & Passionate Performance* award. Well done to all the TY students and teachers involved.



TY students with their teachers at the YSI Speak Out.

The Art of Tradition

On Monday 25th February music students attended music workshops created by Dr. Martin Tourish of the band Altan in partnership with the National Concert Hall. This workshop brings to life the traditional music components of the Junior and Leaving Certificate courses through live performance, visuals and recordings. Martin Tourish, on piano accordion, was joined by harpist, singer and TV presenter Cormac de Barra along with renowned uilleann piper and concert flute player Éamonn Galdubh. Students commented that this was a fun way to learn about the harping tradition, ornamentation and styles, in traditional music.

A masterclass was also held with the traditional musicians in MCS where the students added to their own repertoires of ornamentation and tunes. Students attending the masterclass are as follows: Nicholas Hamm, Therese Hamm, Ava Kiernan, Euan McDonnell, Colm Shortall, Dara Shortall, Adam Kelly, Róisín O Hara, Seán Donnelly, Darragh Nally, Susan Duignan and Odhrán Grouden.



Traditional Music Workshop.

Junk Kouture 2019



Attire



Cow-Moo-Flage



Frames in Fame



Go With The Flow



Unfiltered

On Thursday March 7th eight outfits from MCS contested in the Western Regional Final of the Junk Kouture Competition.

An amazing five entries qualified for the Grand Final which is expected to take place in the 3Arena on May 2. The five qualifying entries are *Go With The Flow*, Therese

McCormack and Dean Rooney; *Cow-Moo-Flage*, Roisin Killian, Clodagh Claffey and Michelle Flynn; *Unfiltered*, Hazel Hughes, Johnny Horan and Sophie Kenny; *Attire*, Elvira Brown and Michelle Corcoran and *Frames In Fame*, Emma Hickey, Rebecca David and Harry Niall.

SELF HELP AFRICA EXHIBITION

Oisín Murphy, Ruiari Casey and Jay Looney travelled to Iveagh House to present their BT Young Scientist project at the Science for Development Showcase Event.

The exhibition which was organised by Irish Aid and Self-Help Africa aimed to highlight the high standard of projects at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition which developed solutions to problems faced by those in developing countries.

The student's project developed a 'solar still' to remove pollutants from water supplies in areas where water treatment is not carried out. The students examined the efficiency of the still at removing heavy metals, bacteria and nitrates from water samples.

They got the opportunity to meet Tony Scott, the founder of BTYS, Ciaran Cannon, the foreign affairs minister, along with the CEO of Self-Help Africa Ray Jordan. Among the students assembled were past winners of the Science for Development award from BTYS.



Ruiari Casey, Jay Looney, Tony Scott, Oisín Murphy.

Moate TY's attend CANSAT Workshop in the AIT

The MCS CanSat team headed in to the Engineering Department in the AIT for their second workshop on Monday 4th February. The team consists of Melanie Arnold, Darragh Counihan, Luke Smyth and Irene Murphy.

The CanSat competition is a unique education project run by the European Space Education Resource Office (ESERO) Ireland in association with CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory. For the project, teams of students are tasked with building, designing and launching a mini satellite with sensors that is small enough to fit inside of a soft drinks can.

At the workshop, Kevin McDermot (AIT) discussed the team's progress to date. He was very impressed with the work they have done on their Primary mission which is to measure temperature and atmospheric pressure in a number of conditions and report their results. Paul Mulvey (AIT) made some suggestions on improvements to their parachute design. He also helped them with communication between their Arduino computer and their software programs on the laptop.

The students also explored their options for outreach. A very important part of the CanSat project is to inform others about their project and encourage other students of the interesting areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects.

Spectroscopy in a Suitcase Visit

On the 21st of January, the 5th and 6th year Chemistry students were given the opportunity to take part in the *Spectroscopy in a Suitcase* workshop provided by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

During the workshop, the students worked together to use their knowledge of analytical chemistry to

solve a murder. They prepared standard solutions of the suspected poison and used the UV Spectrometer to measure the levels of a compound in the victim's cup. They then studied data obtained from the IR Spectrometer to identify the murderer.

The workshop gave the students the opportunity to observe the analytical Chemistry equipment in action. It brought scientific principles to life. The workshop was organised in a fun and interactive way that made abstract theories easy to understand. As many students had never been in an industrial laboratory, the opportunity to partake in a workshop such as this one is an invaluable asset that will give the students an edge in the Leaving Certificate exam.



Sixth Year Chemistry class.

Success in Applied Maths Competition

Over 200 teams across the country competed in the Applied Maths Teacher Association Senior Applied Maths Competition. MCS were one of only two schools in the country that had two teams in the national finals which were held in Athlone Community College on Saturday March 23rd. One team consisting of Cian Fanning, Cillian

Carroll and Jack O'Donovan came first place in the regional finals and eight place in the National Finals. The second team consisting of Ronan Murphy, Euan McDonnell and Joe Murtagh came in second place in the regional finals and tenth place in the national final. Well done to all involved.



Jack O'Donovan, Cian Fanning, Cillian Carroll and Mr Lynch.



Joe Murtagh, Ronan Murphy, Euan McDonnell and Mr Lynch.

MCS Irish Angus Team Progress To Croke Park Exhibition

The MCS Irish Angus Team, who are now through to the national finals of the Irish Angus Beef Schools Competition, have been working hard at promoting Irish Angus both as a breed and as a product. The group consist of Sarah Murray, Lorna Eagney, Christopher Kerrigan and Conor O'Brien. The group have made a lot of progress towards (hopefully) bringing home 5 calves later this year. On Monday, 4th February, Colin Duffy, an Irish Angus breeder from Kilgarvin Angus, visited the school to talk to 5th year Agricultural Science students about the benefits of Irish Angus. He explained why Irish Angus is the way forward, both in the beef and dairy sectors. He touched on the breed's remarkably easy calving, their docility, how easy the animals flesh, and most importantly to the consumer, the superb taste. The class were very

impressed by what they learned about Irish Angus. The reason the meat tastes so good is because it has delicious natural marbling, which seeps down into the meat when it is being cooked.

On Saturday the 9th February the students attended Carrick-On-Shannon mart, where there was an Irish Angus show and sales. The group spoke to Irish Angus breeders and the auctioneer, where we learned that the popularity of the Irish Angus breed is improving, particularly in the dairy herd due to their ease of calving, with only 1-2% calving difficulty. While in Carrick-On-Shannon, the students put up promotional posters, and distributed Irish Angus Producer Group membership packs to farmers, so the farmer can join the Producer Group without the hassle of downloading and printing forms online.

BUTTERFLY GARDEN - DÚN NA SÍ

The Sensory and Butterfly Garden in Dún Na Sí opened on Friday, February 1st. As part of a Young Environmentalist project TY students have been helping out in the sensory garden with the young adults of St. Hilda's Supports Services, Moate. People started to trickle in and Seán Treacy and Emily Niemi did tours around the garden. There are planters for each of the senses with different plants to touch, taste, see, smell and listen to. There is a water feature which TY students were involved in constructing and an area that will be filled with

butterflies and flowers.

The Mayor of Athlone, Frankie Keena, began the opening with a speech about the huge benefits of the Garden to the community and it was finished by the Chairman for Westmeath County Council, John Dolan. The event was attended by students from MCS and St Ciarán's Primary school, representatives from Moate Men's Shed, people from St Hilda's Services Athlone and many other people involved in the park.

JUNIOR SPORTS ACADEMY

The Under 14 Academy is currently running in the school and is proving a major success. This is a fitness programme available to all boys and girls under 14 for a five week programme and takes place every Thursday/Friday morning from 7.30 am to 8.30 am. After a tough session each player is rewarded with a substantial breakfast before class

commences at 9.00am. This has proven a hugely successful venture to date with over 130 boys and girls participating. Mr. Kelly, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Flanagan, Mr. Dolan Ms. Bracken and Ms. Kelly are the coaches involved in this sports programme. Each student who participated was presented with a sports top provided by Mr. Lowry.



U14 Junior Sports Academy.

South Connacht Championships

On Thursday 31st January, the Westmeath Schools Cross-Country Championships took place in Bushfield, Loughrea, Co. Galway. Fifteen students from MCS competed on the day. Rachel Higgins was the first athlete to compete in this competition running a great race and chasing down athletes right to the finish line. Conor Heavin & Ronan Murray were up next and ran a superb race both qualifying for their first Connacht Championships. Anthony Doyle, Luke Ray & Kian Egan were up next finishing in the top 30 despite the very strong competition. Leah & Ava Hallissy ran together in the junior girls category also finishing very strongly. Sarah Walshe was the only representative for the Inter Girls competition finishing very well also in the top 30. Ethan Ross, Shane Boland & Rian Kelly Murphy represented the Intermediate boys, in a competitive and fast paced race. The last MCS athletes to run were the senior boys including Philip King, David Murtagh & Adam Farrell. Philip King, who is no stranger to cross country races, led the charge throughout the entire race and finished in the top 4 with his fellow team mates not far behind. Conor Heavin successfully qualified for the All Ireland Schools Cross Country Championship and represented the school very proudly on Saturday 16th February in Clongowes Wood College Co. Kildare. This was a fantastic achievement. Well done to all students involved. Track and Field competitions begin in May and we look forward to seeing some more emerging talent in this area along with witnessing some more achievements of our stalwart athletes namely Aaron Keane and Philip King.



Right: Shane Boland, Ethan Ross and Rian Kelly Murphy.

Catholic Schools Week

Every year Catholic Schools Week is celebrated nationwide during the last week of January. It is a time when schools celebrate the gospel message and look at the different ways we can contribute and enhance the life of our school and parish.

This year, the Religion department organised various events to celebrate the week. Part of the theme was faith as inter-generational so we tried to incorporate activities with the primary school and with the parish as a whole.

On the Thursday of Catholic Schools Week, all TY students went over to the parish church for 10 o'clock Mass. The students provided music, did the readings and prayers of the faithful. After Mass all parishioners' were invited back to school for tea and chat. It was a great opportunity for our students to mingle and chat to the people who attend mass most days. The school String Ensemble and Traditional Irish group provided entertainment. There was a great atmosphere and a true sense of community. This is what parish is all about, young and old getting together, learning and getting to know one another.