



MOATE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

# Newslink



EASTER 2016

## “STRICTLY MOATE”

“What a spectacle” and “one of the most enjoyable nights ever” were among the comments made after Moate Community School and Moate All-Whites GAA Club took to the stage for “Strictly Moate”, which took place in the Radisson Hotel on Saturday and Sunday last, March 12th and 13th. Sponsored by Buckley’s SuperValu and St. Brigid’s Credit Union, fifteen couples from across the wider community participated in this memorable event, which was organised to raise funds for the development and maintenance of our fully floodlit All-Weather pitch here in the school. It demonstrated the collaboration of school and club and highlighted true community spirit at work. My sincere thanks to all our sponsors, dancers, organising committee and to everyone who assisted with dance practices, advertising, hairdressing, make

up, flowers, booklet and ticket sales. My appreciation also goes to the Radisson Hotel and to Kevin Rowe Events. May I wish everyone a happy St. Patrick’s Day and enjoyable Easter break.

*Tom Lowry, Principal.*



*Above: Jill Fannin and Tom Lowry.  
Left: Thomas Browne and Lisa Keenaghan.*



*All the participants of “Strictly Moate”.*



## TY IN KRAKOW POLAND

Seventy Transition Year students along with nine of their teachers recently visited Krakow, Poland. The city was described as "beautiful and cold" and students explored on a guided walking tour of the city. Visits included the Main Square, Wawel Cathedral, St. Mary's Basilica and Krakow Cloth Hall. A trip to Wodny Waterpark was an extra highlight. Saturday saw a drive to Auschwitz Concentration Camp followed by Kosciuszko

Mound which has a spectacular view of the entire city of Krakow. The local Ice Hockey rink and two hours of ice skating provided much in the way of laughter. A visit to Wieliczka Salt Mine and Krakow Zoo were also highlights of the trip. On the final day students explored Schindler's Museum and got a guided and interactive tour. A very memorable tour was had by all and fond memories are now safely stored away.



Students and staff in Krakow Poland on the Transition Year tour that included visits to historic sites, ice-skating in addition to culture-sampling. A great trip was had by all!

## BTYS Young Scientists

Pictured are this year's entrants at the BT Young Scientist in Dublin. Projects were highly commended and students were praised for their project work.



Back row (left-right): Callum Dunne, Ciaran Geoghegan, Dylan Lowry, Dearbhla Duigan, Irene Shortall, Mairead McCormack, Margaret Mandal. Front row: Cathal O'Brien, Nicole McKenna, Anna Parker, Kate McLoughlin and Colin Doyle. Graham Turner and Eoin Shortall are absent from the picture.

## Junk Kouture 2016



Pictured are the Regional Finalists of the Junk Kouture competition.

## 6th Year English students meet 'Big Maggie'...!

Leaving Cert students recently saw John B Keane's 'Big Maggie' at the Gaiety Theatre as part of their English studies. The play charts the journey of larger than life Maggie Polplin (played by Aisling O'Sullivan) as she tries to affirm her place as a woman in rural Ireland. It was an excellent evening's theatre and students were amazed and enthralled by Maggie's fierce tongue and killer dialogue. A great evening was had by all!

## YOUTH CONNECT VIDEO:

## Congratulations to team Vision Quest

The aim of this competition was to have fun scripting, storyboarding, filming and editing a 3 minute film about *Decent Work*. Students were asked to consider the importance of a safe and healthy workplace in the context of the *Decent Work* framework, what it means to students and workers and its importance to wider society. As youth connect is funded by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, films must portray an understanding of the role for trade unions in achieving *Decent Work* and helping to keep our workplaces safe and healthy for everyone. Moate Community School's team 'Vision Quest' concentrated on the issue of mental health in the workplace. Team members Niamh Murray, Claire Heffernan, Ciarán Lynam and Sean Rooney put together an incredibly creative short film. 98 schools submitted films into the competition and Moate CS's Vision Quest were shortlisted for the 'Best Acting' category, they were also amongst the final 3 in the 'People's Choice' Award and in the overall category they were among the final 3 films selected and received a highly commended award. Their film 'Meet John' can be viewed on YouTube.



Sean Rooney, Niamh Murray, Claire Heffernan & Ciarán Lynam.



## PREPARING FOR THIRD LEVEL

Every year at MCS the Guidance Department endeavour to help students prepare for third level options by organising guest speakers from the world of work and third level institutions. Guest speakers came to school from Athlone Institute of Technology, Sligo Institute of Technology, Maynooth University, St. Angela's College, Sligo, UCD, University of Limerick and Dr. Laura Galligan from the State Pathology Office. Each year these guests provide students with a wealth of information relating to their college and future career prospects. Students and parents also received a talk courtesy of Kay Mitchell, Student Liaison Officer at Maynooth University. Students also attended career and college events at Banagher College and the annual NUIG local information evening held in Athlone. College Open Days are proving popular among the Leaving Certificate class as the actively seek information and guidance pertaining to specific college courses of interest.



*Students attending a DCU talk.*

## MCS School Bank 2016

Moate Community School are delighted to introduce our team of bank officials who run the school bank for 2016. Our school bankers include:

**Branch Manager:** Mairead McCormack

**Sales & Marketing Manager:** Ciara Johnston & Lucy Dolan-Egan

**Operations and Audit Specialist:** Áine Healy & Dearbhla O'Reilly

**Digital Customer Advisor:** Lauren Allen & Nicole McKenna

Congratulations to all involved.



## "The Greatest Cancer survival story of our time"

TY students were lucky enough to listen to the admirable and inspirational person that is Liam Ryan, a Horseleap native who was diagnosed with cancer in 2002 after a suspected sinus infection. It was thought that he had contracted a stage four head and neck tumour. His chances of living were limited but somehow he managed to survive not once but five times, where setbacks such as meningitis left him in a life or death situation once again.

His strength and endurance he showed throughout his talk opened the eyes of our school community. His ability to openly talk about his disease and the effects it had on not only him but his family and friends was both admirable and astonishing. Liam decided that he would account his journey, so that in the future he wouldn't forget any details along the way, and also would have the ability to share his story with others. His book "*Cancer 4 Me 5*" was published in 2012 and has inspired readers not only in Ireland, but all around the world. Moate Community School wish him recovery and continued success in the future.



*Liam with students...*

## Three projects from Transition Year students at Moate Community School have been submitted for the ECO-UNESCO'S YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST COMPETITION

Eoin Shortall, Callum Dunne, Andrew Niall and Ben Hogan are involved in a project on the '**Development of bird habitats for native and migrant birds on Irish Farms**'. This project aims to raise awareness of the ways in which farmers can increase the populations of endangered birds on their farms. This team surveyed the species of birds found on several types of local farms for 12 weeks. They made bird boxes to sell to local farmers which are specifically designed for species such as the Barn Owl and Kestrel which they which were absent or lacking in the survey. They plan to present their findings at Teagasc and Birdwatch Ireland meetings. They will also carry out a poster competition at An Grianán Primary School to teach the young students about these very important endangered birds.

### Stimulating our Senses in Dun na Sí Amenity Park

Transition Year students Mairead McCormack, Cathal Byrne, Michael Killian, James Fitzmaurice and Rachel Keane are working on ideas for the Sensory Garden in the Dun na Sí Amenity Park. The park is a beautiful area and the students are enjoying developing a new area which will entice locals and tourists to the Moate area.



*Pictured with their birdboxes: Ben Hogan, Andrew Niall, Eoin Shortall & Callum Dunne.*

### Focus on Recycling Plastics

Students Sara Galan, Javier Carrillo, Sandra Martin and Laura Gonzalez are working on a project to raise awareness of recycling plastics. The students are investigating the possibilities of making money for the school in collecting and recycling various types of plastics e.g. bottle caps. The next phase of this project is presentation to the judges at Leinster ECO-Dens in Dublin in April. MCS wishes the students every success with their projects.



## ENGINEERING MEETS SCIENCE – Prof. Fergal O'Brien from Rosemount visits MCS

On Thursday 11th February 2016, Professor Fergal O'Brien from The Royal College of Surgeons Ireland came to visit Transition Year students. He works in the area of Bioengineering, which is where Science meets Medicine. Prof. O'Brien is the Head of Tissue Engineering Research Group in RCSI. This is one of the largest Tissue Engineering research groups in Ireland. They have discovered a way of regenerating bone and cartilage after a trauma or fracture. Chondrocoll is a layered scaffold used in the repair of the cartilage and regeneration, with great advances

in both animal and human health care. This development was featured on RTE's Science Squad! He also talked about how they have been working with a beer company investigating how glass bottles can be replaced with plastic and a new graphene based material.

All Transition Year students were very interested in the talk. Some students commented that the talk was an eye-opener into new areas to study in college and possibly would go forward in the field of Bioengineering.



## MBC ART OPEN DAY

Moate Business College held its Art Open Day with the focus of inviting prospective students to have a look around the 'working' art studios, speak to present students and tutors and view the large selection of work on display. Students from a large number of schools came to visit the studios and were given tours and talks on the content of the art courses currently offered in the college.

At MBC there are two primary art courses on offer: one on a full-time basis over one year and the other on a part-time basis over two years. Both offer full

level 5 QQI Certificates in Art. Each course is tailored to meet individual student needs with the main aim to complete an art portfolio of the highest standard for Third Level college entry.

The Art Department at Moate Business College prides itself on being one of the most successful Art courses in Further Education in the country with its exceptional student success rates being a testament to this and is currently accepting applications for both courses in Art.



*Above: L-R - Art Students  
Padraig Plunkett, William Ennis,  
Lauren Matthew, Kelley Larkin.*

*Left: L-R - Daniel Stacey,  
Patrycja Makowska, Gemma  
McCormack, Amy Garvey.*

## BADMINTON

Two teams from Moate CS travelled to Dublin to compete in the Leinster Finals. The boy's team was competing in Division 3 and it consisted of: Kevin Cuffe, Paul Sheridan, Damien Byrne and Sean McCabe. The girls were competing in Division 2 and players were: Mary Harkin, Amy Gavin-Mangan, Aisling McCormack and Micaela Dunne. The boys came up against three strong teams in St Peter's, Dundalk but Moate won the match 5-1. The girls won two singles matches and lost two and then matched the boys in the doubles again winning one and losing the other...The result was in Moate's favour and for the first time we became Leinster Champions. Well done to all involved with special mention to Ms. Nestor and Mr. Flynn for their guidance and leadership.

## GIRLS REPRESENT LEINSTER

Rachel Keane and Amy Gavin Mangan were selected to represent Leinster in the Lidl Post Primary Schools' competition. Leinster won the Shield Final.



## IRISH WORKSHOP

Sixth Year students took part in an Irish workshop delivered by the company 'Caith Amach É' in a lively, enjoyable and energetic manner. The workshop was based on the 20 picture sequence studied by students as part of their Leaving Certificate Irish Oral exam. The first part of the workshop involved the picture sequences being acted out through song, mime and dialogue. This was then followed by the students being divided into groups where they were encouraged to practice their vocabulary for the Oral exam.