



MCS... MOST ENTERPRISING SCHOOL IN WESTMEATH

Mini Company is a key element of both First Year and TY at MCS. Entrepreneurship has never been more important to the Irish economy and Mini Company provides students with the opportunity to set up their own business. Students take their business from the idea stage, through market research to production, selling, record keeping and management.

In December 2017 a trade fair was held in the school gym. All Mini Company groups set up their stands and displayed their products/ services. Staff, students and parents were invited to the event and had the opportunity to purchase the items on display. The day was a huge success for all involved. Three groups were chosen by the Westmeath County Enterprise Board to represent the School at the County Finals which were held in Golden Island Shopping Centre on Friday 9th of March 2018.

The groups chosen to represent our school at Junior level included:

- “*Play and Display*” who produced and sold wooden plaques to display medals for a variety of sports. *Members of this group included:* Conor Treacy, Ava Hallissy, Leah Hallissy, Adam Daly and Ronan Murray.
- “*Little Pip*” under ownership of sole trader Emma Dickson produced and sold dog bandanas in a variety of colours and sizes.
- “*Seasonal Frames*” under ownership of sole trader Daniel O’Brien produced and sold personalised frames for all occasions.

The groups chosen to represent us at Senior level included:

- “*Aon Scéal*” who produced and sold a published book with Irish stories translated to English to make learning Irish fun and enjoyable. *Members of this group included:* Saoirse Ripley, Jack O’Donovan, Sinéad Kelly, Niamh Kelly and Jamie Ravenhill.
- “*Ultimate Organisers*” who produced and sold high quality locker organisers. *Members of this*

group included: Makayla Heavin, Annalise Peredo, Aaliyah Farrell, Kirsty McCarthy and Magda Szklanna.

- “*The Sum of It*” - These students created a maths board game designed to benefit primary school children between the ages of 6 and 10 to learn maths in a fun, stimulating and innovative way. *The members of the group included:* Carol Seery, Niamh Lynch, Muirín Donohoe and Holly Barden.

The County Final was a very successful day for MCS. All three groups at Junior level won a prize on the day with first prize going to “*Little Pip*”. Runner-up prize went to “*Play and Display*” and Most Innovative Product going to “*Seasonal Frames*”. At Senior level first prize went to “*Aon Scéal*” and runner-up prize went to “*Ultimate Organisers*”. The school also won “*Most Enterprising School*” which was a huge achievement.

Well done to all involved.



Ava Hallissy, Leah Hallissy, Ronan Murray, Adam Daly and Conor Treacy - Play and Display.



Emma Dickson - Little Pip.



Ms P Smyth, L Doyle and C Kelly receive Most Enterprising Schools Award.



Daniel O'Brien - Seasonal Frames.



Jamie Ravenhill, Niamh Kelly, Sinead Kelly, Saoirse Ripley and Jack O'Donovan - Aon Scéal.



Ultimate Organisers receive their award - Aaliyah Farrell, Magda Szklanna, Kirsty McCarthy, Annalise Peredo and Makayla Heavin.

To go where no can has gone before....

Meet our team aiming for national success in the European CanSat competition... The team consists of: David Healy, David Murtagh, Joe Murtagh, Mark Sheridan, Colm Shortall, Evan Fogarty, Abbi Mills Kenna and Orlaigh McDonnell.

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, 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. Hence, the name CanSat. This work simulates the work being done by European Space Agency (ESA) in regards to real satellites.

Some of the team have attended workshops at the AIT where they have received great support from Paul Mulvey, retired Mechatronics lecturer. One of the goals of the CanSat project is to encourage others to take interest in Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM). Thus, the team have been making presentations to First Year classes. They are also doing a parachute building workshop with students in Rosemount

Primary School.

The students participate in a supervised launch where the CanSats are deployed from a rocket at an altitude of a four hundred meters. They must give a presentation about their work to a group of judges, where they are assessed in terms of technical achievement, educational value and outreach to encourage interest in Science and Technology.

The Regional Final of this competition will take place on 20th March at the Athlone IT. Best of luck to the MCS CanSat team.



Back Row: David Murtagh, David Healy, Orlaigh McDonnell, Abbi Mills Kenna, Mark Sheridan. Front Row: Joe Murtagh, Colm Shortall, Evan Fogarty.

Iontas Choir

On Thursday the 8th of March, MCS Iontas choir travelled to Galway to perform at the ACCS Convention. This Convention is held annually for all Community and Comprehensive School Principals. Also in attendance were Inspectors and Department of Education representatives. The choir were invited to perform at the pre-dinner reception where they sang a repertoire of 5 pieces from different genres of music. Iontas is one of two choirs in MCS. It is comprised of 52 students, ranging in age from 12 to 17 years of age. The privilege of performing at the ACCS Convention

only adds to the many stand out moments which enhance the rich tapestry of our musical journey. Other stand out moments include participating in the Kiltimagh Choral Festival and Sligo Choral Convention where the choir placed 1st and 2nd respectively and also winning the last All Island School Choir Competition in 2014 which has led to many great opportunities for our choir such as singing at the 1916 Commemoration Mass in Collins Barracks and performing on RTE's "Afternoon Show". Iontas will now continue their preparation for many more exciting events such as the 150th celebration of St. Patrick's Church, Moate and our annual Summertime Proms which will be held in May.



MCS choir pictured with ACCS President Antoinette Ni Gearailt, ACCS Sec General John Irwin, ACCS Ass. Sec. General Aine O'Sullivan, Katherin Crossan (accomp.), Pat McKenna Principal Pobalscoil Neasain.

Thanks for your support...

Many thanks to all parents and students who have supported our Non Uniform Days this year. The proceeds go to help the invaluable work done by charitable organisations most of whom operate in our

local area. The supported charities this year were: First Light, supporting suddenly bereaved Parents and Families • Sycamore House • St. Vincent De Paul • Moovember charity event for Sophie • Irish Cancer Society • Midlands Simon Community • Malin 2 Mizen Cycle in aid of Cystic Fibrosis Ireland.

Well-Being Week

Well-Being Week took place from January 15th to 19th at MCS. The focus of this week was to highlight the significance of self-care, mental health and the importance of inclusion within our school. There were many activities offered throughout the week for students including class walks, meditation, bullying awareness education, offers on healthy foods in our canteen, workshops by Michael O'Sullivan and random acts of kindness. Hillary Keveney also visited staff to teach breathing and relaxation techniques. Each day our Chaplain Áine Feeley read a 'thought of the day' which created a positive start to each day. It was a very enjoyable week for our school community.



Fifth Year student Deborah Fakeye's trip to the European Parliament

Late last year, I was lucky enough to be one of 24 young leaders from around the country chosen to represent Ireland in the Rotary Youth Leadership Development Competition at Euroscola in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Getting to this stage was an extremely gruelling process - 3 rounds of tough interviews at a school stage, an area stage and finally the Regional Final which took place in Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

As part of the trip I first travelled to Belfast and met with the 23 other winners. We were divided into groups to work on topics to debate at Euroscola and I was team leader of my group, 'Environment and Sustainable Resources'. The next day we went to the European Commission Offices in Northern Ireland followed by a visit to City Hall in Belfast and a visit to Stormont. At Stormont, we had a Q&A session with 3 MLAs from various parties.

The morning of our Euroscola day began with an extensive security check at the extremely impressive Louise Weiss building of the Parliament. We were welcomed and given badges and programmes for the day. We had a Q&A session with French MEP, Édouard Martin. We, the mock MEPs, broke for lunch and played some EU based question games. Finally, we were split into multilingual working groups. Fierce debate ensued, with young people from over twenty EU countries. The smaller working groups were then escorted into the Chamber once again where we focused on our prepared topics, debated them and voted on their outcome. The report prepared by us will be debated by real MEPs in the Parliament.

JUNK KOUTURE 2018

This Year MCS had eleven costumes that made it to the Regional Finals at the Helix in Dublin. Thursday 8th March started early as all the students involved left Moate at 8am.

The students familiarised themselves with The Helix and got ready for the big night ahead for them at DCU.

After a long day of rehearsals, it was time for hair and make-up with much nerves and excitement building.

Moate's first four entries performed in the first half and the remaining seven had their chance later. At 9.40pm the show was over but everyone had to wait patiently for the results... Finally, after much anticipation, we found out 4 of the Moate designs had gotten through to the Grand Final in the 3Arena on April 19th. Well done to all involved, especially to *Royal Tea* (Therese Geoghegan, Laura Sheridan, Ciara Egan), *What lies Beneath* (Arthur Finlay, Tina Geoghegan), *Flight of the Phoenix* (Therese Robbins, Emma Kelly, Aaron Keane) and *Misfits* (Niamh O'Reilly, Lisa O'Brien, Colm Shortall). We wish them the best of luck on the 19th April and to those whose JK journey ended at the Helix remember you were in a bunch of 80 picked from 500 so you should be very proud.



Niamh O'Reilly models Misfits.



Therese Geoghegan models Royal Tea.



Therese Robbins models Flight of the Phoenix.



Tina Geoghegan models What lies Beneath.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK IN MCS

Catholic Schools Week takes place every year during the last week of January. During this week we try to place some emphasis on the faith of the students in our school.

This year we held different events to mark Catholic Schools Week. In order to give the students a sense of parish some students went to 10am Mass. In doing this they met with some of the parishioners who go to Mass every morning. We had meditation in the school oratory on one of the other days.

Mr Manning's TY class had taken on a project of making St Brigid's crosses and putting them on a prayer card.

On Friday two class groups went to Mass and everyone was invited back to school for tea and cakes. The invitation was put into the parish newsletter the previous weekend. The Choir and the traditional music group performed. One of the Home Economics classes had baked scones that morning.

First Communion Preparation: Last year we initiated a programme in collaboration with the two primary schools and the parish that we would work with the 2nd class students. The 2nd class are involved in the *Do This in Memory* programme and have their Mass once a month. Before this takes place they come over to our school and we spend an hour exploring the theme for the month. Our TY students who are doing their *John Paul II Award* help out. This time goes towards the parish involvement part of the award.



Family Mass: This year we continued the work with parish and primary schools and we had Family Masses at different times during the year.

The first Mass we had was the blessing of the schoolbags in September, then we had Bambinelli Sunday before Christmas where the baby Jesus is blessed before we place him in our cribs. On March 11th we had a special Mass for Mother's Day.

In April, our parish is celebrating the 150 years anniversary of the building of St Patrick's. There will be a week of events. The week begins on 21st April walking in from the old church in Boggagh. Family Mass will be at 10am on Sunday morning. There will also be special evenings for healing, wedding anniversaries, remembrance and youth. Our Youth Evening will take place on Wednesday 25th and our School Choir and Orchestra will perform.

Students prepare for Regional Final of ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalists Awards with their Sensory Garden Project

A number of our TY students are continuing to work with the young adults from St Hilda's and RehabCare Tullamore on their project in the Sensory Garden. There are a couple of groups involved.

The group working with St Hilda's are in the garden on Thursday afternoons, assembling the Water Feature. At this stage, there are over 200 tiles designed and made by the group. The tiles feature sensory stimulating details from the park and the five senses. Ciara Maxwell, Karina Konte, Annalise Peredo, Sinead Kelly, Niamh Kelly, Colm Shortall and Saoirse Ripley are in this group.

A second group of TY students meets with young adults from RehabCare Tullamore

on Tuesday mornings. This group is doing general garden maintenance, preparing a wildflower garden and are designing a sensory feature with car and tractor tyres. The students involved in this group are Steven Falsey, Jake Nugent, Eoin McCormack and Michael Brown.

When asked about the project, one of the students said on this 'For us as young people, we are delighted to have the opportunity to be able to meet and make friends with the pupils from St Hilda's in such a fun and relaxed environment.'

The students will be presenting their project to the judges at the ECO-DENs Regional Final in Dublin on March 21st.

BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition

Well done to our students who represented the school with great confidence and pride at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition at the RDS, Dublin, in January.

Congratulations to Therese Hamm and Jack O'Donovan who were awarded second place in the Biological and Ecological Sciences Category. In their project 'Fridge Freshness', the students designed a food storage container that works without electricity, which could be adapted for use in Third World countries. The students analysed the ripening and storage process of combinations of fruits and vegetables like apples, oranges, carrots and potatoes as well as dairy products.

Brian Conlon and Emma Kelly's project 'Ireland's Burning Problem' is a study of the ecological impact of gorse fires on the peatland habitat and the link between the change in peat physical properties and plant composition of the bog land. Their findings included that the extreme heat of the fires had a drastic effect on the properties of the peat and each plant species had a specific response to this change. The four students are continuing work on their projects for the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalists Awards. The Regional Finals of this competition take place on March 21st in Dublin.



Jack O'Donovan & Therese Hamm with rosette.



Emma Kelly & Brian Conlon with rosette.

Third successive heartbreak for Moate girls in Leinster Decider

It was third time unlucky for the our U16 girls as they suffered defeat for the third time in three years, this year losing out by a narrow margin to Eureka Kells in a bitter cold Lakepoint Park, Mullingar.

Moate started off promisingly, winning the throw in and putting the first points on the board through the ever reliable Aoife Dalton. However, this did not faze the Eureka girls who quickly replied with two points of their own. Moate's backs worked very hard to ensure Kells got nothing easy, with Hazel Kelly, Hazel Hughes and Therese Robbins winning a number of turn overs and provided their forwards with possession which Sinéad Robbins made count and equalised in the 16th minute. We quickly built on this momentum, with Áine Gaynor making a super carry and drew a free, which she quickly played forward to Dalton who found the back of the net, pushing our girls in front once more. Eureka Kells soon fought back and added another two points to their tally, pulling the teams closer. Ava Cornally fought hard to win back possession for Moate, setting up Gaynor on the attack resulting in a free which Gaynor converted. However, Eureka quickly attacked and despite Fiona Fox's efforts, they raised the green flag. Seconds later, the ball was back in Eureka's half, and despite Dalton's first effort rebounding off the crossbar, Niamh O'Reilly was on her toes and slapped the rebound past the Eureka goalie for their second goal. A harsh call was made against Ruth Martin in the dying minutes of the first half which left onlookers baffled as Eureka were awarded a penalty which they slotted past Fox to put them ahead 2-4 to 2-3.

Moate burst out of the blocks after the break, with Ennis scoring an excellent point within seconds of the restart to draw the teams level once again. Half time sub Clodagh McCormack (for Hazel Kelly) quickly made an impact, winning a turn over, and along with a tremendous save by Fox, resulted in a score by Sinéad Robbins after a super passage of team play. After some super defending by Aimee Smith, the tenacious Maria Farrell then slotted over a point, quickly followed by a free scored by Gaynor. Moate were now ahead by three points,

Eureka quickly put themselves back in front, scoring 1-1 without reply. Leah Quigley responded with a goal. Eureka found themselves behind once more, but they dug deep and scored 1-2 with only 7 minutes remaining in the decider. Quigley was then fouled in the square resulting in a penalty, however, Dalton's shot was saved, leaving Eureka ahead by 3 in the dying minutes of the game. Gaynor's free brought the margin to 2 points, and despite our final efforts, the final whistle was blown, leaving Moate with the all too familiar feeling of defeat.

Despite many of the panel members experiencing their third final loss in three years at the junior grade, there is no doubt that this bunch of girls can rise again as they have done the previous years to reach three finals, and with a strong U14 team coming quickly behind them, it won't be long until MCS find themselves in another Leinster final, which hopefully results in a different outcome.

MCS team: Fiona Fox, Hazel Kelly, Therese Robbins, Aimee Smith, Hazel Hughes, Ruth Martin, Roisin Killian, Roisin Ennis (C), Áine Gaynor, Maria Farrell, Leah Quigley, Sinéad Robbins, Ava Cornally, Aoife Dalton, Niamh O'Reilly, Erin Pettit, Rachel Butler, Clodagh McCormack, Caoimhe McDonnell, Ava McHugh, Cliona McCormack, Kacey Rotheroe, Emma Quigley, Shannon Mulvihill.



Player of the Match Roisin Ennis.

YSI

TY students have been taking innovative action on topics they feel passionately about. TY1 felt passionately about the area of drugs and TY3 felt underage drinking was a big issue.

TY1 have completed a survey to see what young people already know about drugs, following on from this two local community gardai Mary Lawless and Brian Keane visited to talk to the class about the increasing issue of drug use. This was a very worthwhile action and really helped the students see the issue from the garda perspective. The class group have also put up posters, created a Facebook page and in general created awareness to their friends and families. They plan to continue working on the area and creating more awareness of the social issue. The group are now preparing to present their project to the judges on the 15th March in the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe.

TY3 have carried out a survey on the area of underage drinking to find out how much young people know about the topic. They have also created a Facebook page, put up posters, and made presentations to younger class groups. The class felt that the same information delivered by students as opposed to teachers may be more effective. This group plan to organise a parent information evening delivered by drink aware to educate parents on how to talk to their children about the issue. The group also wish to invite our local community gardai in to discuss the issue with them.

TY students are currently involved in the Young Social Innovator national project for 2018. TY2 and TY4 decided to tackle the issues of mental health and suicide head on. As part of their social research the pupils', conducted a school survey, they placed information posters all around the school, awareness leaflets were created and distributed to students and information workshops were provided in class for Junior and Senior students.

Another part of their research involved linking with people who work in this area. The students welcomed two professionals to our school. The first speaker that visited the school was Mr. Eddie Ward (Suicide Prevention Officer for Westmeath/Longford).

The second visitor was Ms. Clare O'Brien, a representative from the 3Ts organisation. The 3Ts website 3ts.ie seeks to: raise awareness of the issue of suicide and self-harm, to lobby government to address the issue, and to raise funds to help prevent future deaths by suicide. Clare addressed the following topics: Anxiety, Depression and Stress.

It is important to be aware that these issues will not go away on their own when left untreated.

South Connacht Athletic Championships

Thirteen students from MCS ranging from First Year to TY were among hundreds of students who took part in the South Connacht Athletic Championship on the 23rd of February.

In their first outing wearing the green and navy singlets, Aaron Hoyer and Brendan McCormack were the first athletes from Moate to compete in this competition. Both athletes had a great run with Brendan McCormack qualifying for his first Connacht Championship.

Ava Cornally and Caoimhe Cassidy were the second group of athletes to take to the course. Throughout the whole race the pair stuck together in the leading group thus easily qualifying for the Connacht.

In the junior boys age group Cian Rainey had a great run, finishing in the top 15 behind some very strong competition. His hard work and strong sprint to the finish line payed off with him qualifying for the next round. Rian Kelly Murphy and Ethan Ross also had a great day finishing very strongly.

The last MCS athletes to run were the Intermediate boys including Philip King, Shane Boland, David Grenham, David Murtagh, Darragh Bolger and Troy Bradley. Philip King who is no stranger to cross country races led the charge and finished in the top four. David Murtagh, David Grenham, Darragh Bolger and Troy Bradley also qualified for the Connacht Championships as part of Moates Intermediate team.

We want to wish the best of luck to all our athletes who will run in the Connacht Championships on Thursday the 15th in Sligo.