



MOATE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

# Newslink

CHRISTMAS 2018

## SciFest National Final

Following their success at the Regional Final of SciFest in Athlone IT, Emma Kelly and Brian Conlon were among 37 projects selected to complete in the SciFest National Final in the Marino Conference Centre in Dublin on the 9th of November.

Brian and Emma's project 'Ireland's Burning Problem' initially studied the ecological impact of gorse fires on peatland habitats and the link between the change in peat physical properties and plant composition of bog lands. The students carried out a number of surveys on three sites divided into burnt and unburnt plots. Their findings concluded that the extreme heat of the fires had a drastic effect on the properties of the peat and that each plant species had a specific response to this change. In particular the fires negatively impacted the population of the bog-building sphagnum species across all three bogs.

After being awarded the Abbott Runner-up Best Project award last April, the students were keen to develop a solution to this ever-growing problem. They investigated the ability of a number of soil additives at promoting the growth of sphagnum moss by reducing pH and promoting soil flocculation and sphagnum budding. Using their research they developed a pellet to aid bog regeneration following gorse fires.

On the day, the students discussed their findings on this topical issue with the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment Richard Bruton. After impressing the judges, Brian and Emma were awarded the Life Sciences Award for their project. They now plan to test the effectiveness of the pellet at promoting sphagnum regeneration on local burned bog lands.



Brian Conlon and Emma Kelly at SciFest.



Minister Richard Bruton with Brian and Emma at SciFest.

## Moate Business College offers ERASMUS+ Opportunity to former MCS students

A number of students from the Leaving Certificate Class 2018 of MCS are now attending Moate Business College in order to advance their education. Six of these students have now been chosen to take part in the ERASMUS+ programme which has been very successfully operated by Moate Business College for a number of years. ERASMUS+ is a European funded programme that allows students in further education to travel to and work in a European country in order to improve and develop the individual's personal, social and professional skills. Students work in

a variety of work placement settings including State Penitential Services, Hospitals, Small Industries and Art Centres. This year Lorcan Daly, Chloe Butler, Mary Harkin, Anna Parker, James Bracken and Peter Fielding are among the students who have been successful in receiving a place on the programme and will travel to one of our partner locations which include Romania, Spain, Italy and Lithuania, for three weeks to complete their work placement. Well done to all on their great achievement.

## From the Principal...

On behalf of the Management and Staff of Moate Community School, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. It has been another very busy term and I hope that this Newslink

Christmas edition continues to give you some impressive insight into the wide variety of activities in which we are involved and the opportunities available to every student.

As we approach the end of another great year, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the progress and development of each student in our care. I look forward to meeting you in the New Year and to continue working with you to ensure the best possible education for your children.

Nollaig Shona agus atbhliain faoi mhaise dibh go leir.



## Danny Sammon

Well done to past pupil Danny Sammon who was nominated for an award for his Leaving Certificate Engineering Project submitted at ordinary level at the Engineering Technology Teachers' Association (E.T.T.A.) Annual Conference in the Mullingar Park Hotel on 24th of November 2018.

Being nominated at national level in itself is a huge honour and at the conference Danny won 3rd place and received his award which was a marvellous achievement. Danny's project was also on display at the conference along with other award winners.



Mr J. Shaughnessy, Danny Sammon and Mr F. Walsh.

# Entrance Scholarships to UCD

Academic high achievers and past pupils of MCS, Eryk Wisniewski and Dearbhla O'Reilly, were presented with Entrance Scholarship Awards on Wednesday 13th November. These prestigious awards are given to students who achieve 560 or more points in their Leaving Certificate. Dearbhla is studying Medicine and Eryk Actuarial & Financial Maths. We wish both Eryk and Dearbhla every success in their studies and chosen careers.



Eryk Wisniewski and Dearbhla O'Reilly with the registrar from UCD.

## "Inspiring" performance by Iontas Choir at Sligo Choral Festival

Our "Iontas Choir" participated in the Sligo International Choral festival on Friday 16th November. They performed two pieces: *Cantique de Jean Racine* and *Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel*. Eight choirs competed in the four part mixed Choir Category and Iontas were thrilled to be awarded second place with a fantastic score of 92. One of the adjudicators on the day was Veronica McCarron (Britain's Got Talent - Kilkenny Choir), she described the performance of "Daniel" as being the performance of the day and critiqued the overall performance as being "Inspiring".

## BATTLE OF WITS QUIZ

On Tuesday 13th November, four TY students represented our school in the Battle of Wits Quiz. The quiz is organised by the County Council. The four students were Irene Murphy, Therese McCormack, John Horan and Oisín Murray. The team practised wide ranging general knowledge questions and represented themselves very well at the County Final held in Mullingar. Well done to all involved.

## Huge response to Annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Each year our school contributes to the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal, which aims to give African, Syrian and Eastern European children a Christmas to remember. Some members of the Student Care Team first gave a talk and presentation to each class reminding them of how privileged we are in Ireland, and

why it's so important to give the gift of joy and hope to someone less fortunate. Staff and students donated over one hundred Christmas shoeboxes to Team Hope, meaning over one hundred less privileged boys and girls will receive a gift this Christmas that they otherwise would not have.



## Emma Kelly wins Rotary Youth Leadership Development Competition Regional Final

Congratulations to Fifth Year student Emma Kelly who represented Rotary Club Athlone in Limerick on Friday, November 16th.

Emma initially applied for this competition at school and competed against sixteen other senior students to become school champion. She then took part in the area competition beating off stiff competition from students in the Athlone schools.

In the Regional Final Emma competed against students from Counties Clare, Galway, Limerick, Laois and Offaly for the coveted prize of a trip to the Euroscola in February, 2019. As part of this amazing opportunity Emma will also visit Dáil Éireann and Stormont in Belfast before embarking on the trip to Strasbourg. Twenty four students representing Rotary Clubs around Ireland are afforded this wonderful opportunity



Tom Mulligan President of Rotary Club Athlone, Regional final host and President of Limerick Thomond Rotary, John Kelly and Emma Kelly.

from a group of over 3,000 students nationwide who applied to compete in this extracurricular endeavour.

## Concern Debates

Our Debate Team have had a very successful run so far in the Concern Debates competition. They are pictured after beating the Mercy Secondary School, Kilbeggan in an unanimous verdict on Monday 11th November. The motion of the debate was 'Nike should be applauded for standing with Colin Kaepernick' which was defeated by our team.



Emer Counihan, 6th Year, Deborah Fakeye, 6th Year, Séan O'Flaherty, 6th Year and David Healy 5th Year).

## Aoife Collins wins World Championship Medal at Unified World Championships

First Year Aoife Collins was recently chosen by her coach Martin Ward of Na Fianna Kickboxing Club to travel to Italy to represent Ireland in the Unified World Championships. The competition lasted 5 days with the finals taking place on Sunday 3rd November. Aoife made it into three finals against fighters from Italy, France and Ireland. She came home with one gold and two silver. Congratulations to Aoife, and continued success in the future.



## Fifth Year LCVP visit-out to Athlone Extrusions

On Tuesday 13th November twenty Fifth Year LCVP students had the opportunity to visit Athlone Extrusions. The students were given a talk by Kenny O'Brien, Plant Manager on the history of the factory which started in 1971. The students were brought on an extensive plant tour and shown the process from beginning to end. It was an extremely enjoyable visit to a thriving business which is one of Ireland's biggest exporters and all of the students learned so much about health and safety in the workplace, production and selling raw materials worldwide.



*Fifth Year students visit Athlone Extrusions.*

## MCS HOSTS COLLEGE & CAREER EXPO

On Thursday 15th November MCS hosted a College and Career Expo for our senior students and those in neighbouring schools who wished to attend. Third level institutions representing both Higher and Further Education were invited to attend on the night.

The university sector was represented by Maynooth University, DCU, UCD and NUIG. Institutes of Technology in attendance included Athlone IT, GMIT, DIT, Tallaght and Blanchardstown, Letterkenny IT and Sligo IT. The Agricultural Colleges were represented by Ballyhaise, Gurteen and Mountbellow and afforded students the opportunity to discuss higher and further education prospects within this invaluable sector to the Irish economy. Other notable participants were St. Angela's College, Sligo and Shannon College of Hotel Management, an affiliate of NUIG.

The event also included representatives from Athlone Training Centre for those students pursuing apprenticeships in the future. Moate Business College, The National Learning Network, Allure College of Hair and Makeup, Tullamore, RBK Accountants, Abbott Diagnostics, Longford, Ericssons, Athlone, The Defence Forces, An Garda Síochána, Citizen's Information, Pieta House, St. Brigid's Credit Union, Rotary Club, Athlone and Midlands Physical Therapy also had stands at this event to promote themselves and the career areas

they wonderfully represent.

During the Expo talks took place for all interested parties in the Lecture Room. AIT's Aoife Walsh presented a talk to Leaving Certificate students and their parents on Access Programmes- HEAR and DARE. This was followed by a talk given by the Defence Forces on the apprenticeship opportunities within the force for successful applicants. The final presentation was given by An Garda Síochána with regard to the recruitment process and career opportunities within the force for trainee guards. Thank you to all involved.



*Margaret Brierty from DCU discussing Degree opportunities with Leaving Certificate student Barry Collins.*

## Comhairle na nÓg

On Tuesday 23rd October, 25 TY and 5th Year students, supervised by Ms Norris, attended the Westmeath Comhairle na nÓg AGM in the Bloomfield House Hotel. This was organised by Westmeath Comhairle and all Secondary Schools in the county sent representatives on the day. Overall 200 young people were in attendance. The day consisted of workshops, speeches and activities involving all aspects of Comhairle. Comhairle is the Westmeath Youth Council. It's slogan is "Young Voices Local Issues". Each of the 26 counties has its own Comhairle which addresses the issues that young people are facing in their local areas. It was a very productive day and it was a great way to meet new people and discuss similar topics of interest to young people in our county. Our school currently has nine representatives on Comhairle and more students signed up at the AGM.



*TY and Fifth Year students attending Comhairle na nÓg.*

## Students receive Pope John Paul II Award

On the 21st October seventeen of our Fifth Year students received the Pope John Paul II Award. After completing community and parish volunteer work throughout TY, students were awarded in St Mel's Cathedral, Longford. The ceremony was hosted by the Pope John Paul II Awards Committee and Bishop Francis Duffy presented the awards and certificates.

Our own student, Annalise Peredo gave a thoughtful reflection on her experience of completing the award and what she gained from it. After the presentation of medals all students and their families were invited to have refreshments in the underground crypt of St. Mel's Cathedral.

The Gold, Silver and Bronze awards are given based

on the number of hours of work the student completed in the course of the year. The students partook in various community activities including weekly visits to the Nursing Home and working in Dun Na Sí's Sensory Garden with young adults from St. Hilda's school. Students were also required to complete parish involvement with many being Minister of the Eucharist, members of the Parish Choir or helping to maintain the church. A number of students assisted second class pupils from a neighbouring primary school in preparation for their First Holy Communion. The award allowed students move outside of their comfort zone and get actively involved in their parish and community.



*Fifth Year award recipients with Bishop Francis, Ms. Feeley, Ms. Prendergast & Mr. Lowry.*

## 5th Year visit out to Arrabawn

On the 21st of November 5th Year LCVP students travelled to Arrabawn Dairies in Kilconnell outside Ballinasloe to complete part of their Leaving Certificate course. Arrabawn met with two groups on the day, one in a morning session and one in an afternoon session. The staff of Arrabawn were very informative and gave the group a thorough overview of how a successful business operates and functions and also a tour of the factory. The tour showed students first-hand how the milk arrives from the farm, goes through the plant, is cartooned, dated and stored before it is shipped freshly to the retailers.



*Fifth Year visit to Arrabawn Dairies.*



## FIRST YEAR GIRLS BLITZ

On December 5th our First Year girls made their trip to Edenderry to participate in their first competitive matches of the year.

The girls got off to a very good start, winning their first game with no scores conceded. Then with a good first half in the second game, they unluckily lost to Maynooth. In their final group game they were unfortunate to be defeated despite it being a very competitive game. The girls worked very hard and enjoyed participating in the blitz.

It is clear to see that there is a lot of football talent within our First Year squad and we expect great things to come in the coming year.

## SCIENCE WEEK

*Science Week, November 11th – 18th, was celebrated with a number of exciting events.*

### DAILY SCIENCE

A Daily Science Question and a Science Fact of the Day were posted.

### SCIENCE FUN DEMOS FOR FIRST YEARS

TY students prepared some exciting demos to show to First Year Students. The First Years were wowed by the erupting Iodine Snake, generating a Lava Lamp with materials found in the home, and others. Thanks to Lauren Farrell, Michaela Kearney O'Donnell, Darragh Counihan and Sara Murray for their help with these demos.

### SECOND YEAR TABLE QUIZZES

All Second Year Science students took part in Science Table Quizzes during their Science classes. Winning teams from the first round gathered for the Final at lunchtime. There was tight competition, and the winning team was announced after a tie-breaker question. Well done to Odhrán Grouden and Seán Caulwell who received Canteen Vouchers as their prize. Questions tested their knowledge of physics, chemistry and biology from their JC Science Course as well as some general science questions.

### SECOND YEAR STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SCIENCE WORKSHOPS IN AIT

Ms. Margaret Mandal brought 23 Second Year students to the AIT for Science Week Workshops. The students were enlightened with the many applications of Origami in Science such as tightly folding materials for medical stents and for solar panels to be transported into Space. They did some paper folding themselves, making some cubes of various dimensions.

### ISTA SENIOR SCIENCE QUIZ!

Congratulations to Ronan Murphy, Fiona Broderick and Nathan Farrelly who took first place in the Regional ISTA Senior Science Quiz at the AIT on Thurs. 16th Nov. This quiz is a very worthwhile and beneficial event for the students with questions from their Leaving Certificate Biology, Chemistry and Physics Courses. MCS was well represented at this Quiz with three teams competing. Well done to all. The MCS team went on to compete in the National Final in Trinity College Dublin on 24th Nov. where the enthusiastic students performed well with strong competition from the other teams. Well done to all.



*Ronan Murphy, Fiona Broderick and Nathan Farrelly who took first place in the Regional ISTA Senior Science Quiz at the AIT.*

## Moate Senior Boys Football

The Moate Senior Boys Football team have progressed to the second round of the Leinster Senior A Championship. MCS topped a group of 3 which was made up of Rochfordbridge and Good Counsel. The first group match v Rochfordbridge was played on the MCS school pitch. This was a fiercely contested battle. Aaron Nugent scored a whopping total off 8 points with goals from Roan Sweeney and Owen McCabe. MCS came out on top with a score

of 2-13 to 1-10.

In the second game, MCS travelled to Athy GAA Club, to take on Good Counsel Wexford. In difficult conditions, a late Roan Sweeney goal meant that Moate prevailed on a scoreline of 2-7 to 1-7.

The boys have been training hard with many morning sessions both indoor and outdoor for the last few weeks in preparation for the last 16 tie which will take place on the 19th January.



*Moate Community School Senior Boys Football team.*

## MCS Ladies Football

### FIRST EVER SENIOR A FINAL FOR SENIOR GIRLS

The MCS Senior Ladies team have made history reaching the first ever Senior A Leinster Final. Comprehensive wins over Rochfordbridge, Kells and Loreto Mullingar advanced them to the semi-final with a knock out game against Loreto Wexford on Tuesday 11th December. Having lost the U16 Leinster B final to the Wexford team 3 years ago, the girls set very much about settling the score this time around. A simply superb display with determination, skill, hunger and fitness in abundance resulted in the girls running out comprehensive winners on a score line of 6:10 to 2:5. There were great scenes in Stradbally with this superb panel making history in reaching their first ever Senior A final. Scoil Críost Rí, Portlaoise, the reigning championships provide the opposition for what is promised to be a cracker of a game in January.

### 16B LEINSTER FINAL

The Moate U16 ladies have progressed to the Leinster Final. Wins over Scoil Mhuire, Longford, Rochfordbridge and Edenderry meant that they topped there group. They went on to play Mercy Navan in the Leinster Semi Final. This was a thrilling game in which Moate were stretched to the maximum to come out on top. Losing by 9 points at one stage, the girls rallied and produced a stunning come back to eventually come out on top on a score-line of 6-10 to 3-13. They will now look forward to a Leinster final on December 14th against New Ross of Wexford. This panel boasts a wealth of experience with U14B and U14A titles with the school already and numerous players on the Senior winning panel this week. Having lost the last three U16 finals by the narrowest of margins at times, the girls will look to finally lift the U16B trophy this year.



*Moate Community School Senior Ladies Football team.*



*Moate Community School U16 Ladies Football team.*