



Sean & Shane with their awards!

TY students Seán Pettit and Shane Seery from MCS came first place in the Intermediate Chemical, Physical and Mathematical Sciences category at the BT Young Scientists & Technology Exhibition with their project 'Not "Mush-room" for Turf anymore!' They also won the Teagasc Special Award and received glass trophies for both.

The students have been investigating if Spent Mushroom Compost (SMC) can be used as a viable fuel and compare its efficiency to other fuels available on the Irish market. They made a copper combustion box to enclose and burn the SMC and record its increasing temperatures.

## MCS TY STUDENTS WIN PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS AT THE BT YOUNG SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION

Sean and Shane are delighted with their achievements with this project and are investigating how they can progress with the SMC as a business opportunity.

The students' project was one of the six projects chosen for the BT Business Bootcamp at UCD. They attended the 5-day workshops and seminars at the beginning of March, where they experienced first-hand the world of technology, commercialisation and entrepreneurship. On the last day they pitched their business model to a boardroom of 'Dragons-Den' judges.

### Visit to Teagasc Oak Park Research Centre in Carlow

Following on from their Teagasc award at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition, Seán and Shane, along with their teachers Ms. Margaret Mandal and Ms. Irene O'Sullivan visited the Oak Park Research Centre in Carlow.

The students and teachers met with Professor Gerry Boyle, Director of Teagasc and Dr. Lance

O'Brien, Head of Strategy and International Relations, for lunch in the Boardroom.

Well done also to Colin Doyle who also qualified to present at the BT Young Scientists exhibition having researched 'Hoof-Wall Separation Disease in Connemara Ponies.'

## From the Principal...

MCS continues to go from strength to strength. Since Christmas we have had the opportunity to meet our incoming First Years for September 2015 at Open Day, Taster Camp and Sports Day. Their interest in our school is reflected in the strong enrolment numbers for next year. The positive partnership that exists between staff, students and parents is the driving force behind the continued success of our school. Mar a deir mana na scoile "Ni neart go cur le cheile."

## Westmeath Student Enterprise Final 2015

Over 200 secondary school students showcased their business acumen and innovation at Golden Island Shopping Centre, Athlone, in early March as they competed in the Westmeath Student Enterprise competition. The overall prize of first place in the Senior category went to Niamh Murray from MCS. Niamh's Company 'Once Upon A Rhyme' is a social enterprise. Hand drawn images were designed and then printed on t-shirts and hoodies for sale to the general public. The company idea is based on putting a twist on traditional nursery rhymes and making them contemporary and funny for both children and adults.

All profits from the sale of Once Upon A Rhyme's range of t-shirts and hoodies will be donated to Temple Street Children's Hospital. She also won the prize for

'Best Social Media' on the day. Niamh will represent Westmeath in the National Finals of the Student Enterprise Awards to be held in Croke Park on April 22nd.

Our Junior Category were also successful on the day by winning the Best Display award. *Glitzy Glazz* consists of 5 First Year students - Annalise Peredo, Makayla Heavin, Moya Grouden, Rachel Hughes and Magda Szklanna. The girls made seasonal glass candle holders with designs such as *Mum & Dad*, *Grandma*, *Baby's 1st Christmas* and *Happy Christmas* which were among the most popular designs. The 5 girls worked extremely hard on developing their product and selling it and were deserving winners of the Best Display on the day.



Niamh Murray, TY Moate CS, receives her overall award at the Westmeath Student Enterprise Final.



Moate CS at Westmeath Student Enterprise Final, Lauren Lawlor, Caitlin Dunne, Kayleigh Adamson, Kayleigh Donohue and Niamh O'Reilly.

# CHANGE FOR CHARITY

Students and staff of MCS launched the 'Change for Charity' campaign in our school in January. Students are encouraged to donate unwanted 1 and 2 cent coins in any of the collection points located in classrooms or in the central unit outside the school office. This fun and easy way of getting rid of loose change will benefit six main charities: St. Vincent de Paul, An Gáisce, Irish Autism Action, the Irish Heart Foundation, St. Francis' Hospice, Harold's Cross and the Blackrock Hospices in Dublin. This nationwide fundraising campaign has obtained support from celebrities such as Keith Duffy, Paul Scholes, Mario Rosenstock and Mary Kennedy, in addition to huge support from members of the public all across the country. TY students who are participating in the An Gáisce bronze award in MCS are working hard to get everyone involved in this fundraising project.



Moate CS Change for Charity.

## Moate CS Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week took place in Moate Community School from January 26th to 30th. During this time SPHE teachers focused on the issue of bullying and discussed ways of avoiding participation in acts of bullying and ways of dealing with the issue. Michael O'Sullivan from Humour Fit Ireland visited the school and provided both informative and entertaining workshops for First, TY and Fifth Year students. First Year pupils also took part in a poster competition and we are delighted to congratulate the following winners: Ciara Egan, Chloe Farrell and Katelynn Kelly.



L-R: Ciara Maxwell, Chloe Farrell and Principal Tom Lowry.

## Moate CS TY student Eleanor Guinan wins Maynooth University Model Parliament

MCS participated in this competition organised by the University's Law Department on Monday February 23, 2015 for the first time. TY students Eleanor Guinan, Amy Hughes and Gerard Hackett were the school's representatives. The girls were part of the opposition; they were charged with opposing the motion that the voting age be reduced to 16 years. Gerard was an independent and could choose to debate for or against the motion. In the end he sided with the government party in support of the motion.

The next stage of the competition required the students to write a 500 word argument in favour of, or in opposition to the motion and these papers were sent to the University. These essays were utilised by the parliamentary leaders in their respective speeches and a prize was awarded to the student who presented the best written argument.

The Model Parliament competition was chaired by the Leas Ceann Comhairle, Michael Kitt TD. The competitors were required to give a 2 minute speech validating their respective arguments for or against the motion. It was evident that the students themselves worked tirelessly in preparation for the competition as they knew their arguments and spoke convincingly and with authority. They used excellent facial and body language in support of their points of view and engaged the competitors, audience and most importantly the adjudicator. In the end Eleanor was chosen as the overall winner of the speaking competition. Congratulations to all three students on their success.



Eleanor Guinan being presented with her prize by Leas Ceann Comhairle Michael Kitt.

## CONSTRUCTION STUDIES

On Thursday 8th January MCS Leaving Cert construction studies students attended workshops organised by the School of Engineering at Athlone Institute of Technology. These workshops covered many areas, such as concrete testing, interactive building information modelling, renewable energy technologies, thermal energy performance of building materials and water quality and treatment processes. This was a very valuable experience for all concerned and many thanks to AIT Engineering Dept. for organising the workshops.



LC Construction Studies students at AIT.

## MCS Students attain SAFE PASS certificate

The Solas Safe Pass Health and Safety Awareness Training Programme ensures that, all workers in construction will have a basic knowledge of health and safety, and be able to work on-site without being a risk to themselves or others. From a health and safety perspective, construction workers are bound by law to hold a valid Safe Pass card.

The following students completed the course on Wednesday the 14th of January 2015 and passed the relevant assessment to attain the 'Safe Pass' certificate. William Higgins, Cathal Geoghegan, Derek Shortall, Ross Daly, Kieran McManus, Shane Molloy, Ross Young, Michael O'Connor, Cathal Daly, Aaron Cleary, Conor Monaghan and Paul Costello. The course was run in the school and taught by Maurice Gunning from ETS Services.



## FEET FIRST FRIDAY

MCS is currently working on the Green-Schools travel programme. On Friday, March 20th they launched their first sustainable travel initiative - *Feet First Friday*. On this day pupils were encouraged to walk to/from school from their homes or from identified Park n' Stride locations around the town. Walking reduces harmful vehicle emissions. It is important that we reduce our carbon dioxide emission because climate change is a major environmental problem which impacts on natural and human systems on all continents. By taking part in the Feet First Friday event MCS is reducing its climate change impacts thus taking care of our environment.



## MCS HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOL

MCS in partnership with the Health Service Executive has made a commitment to develop as a Health Promoting School.

Following on from the results of a school survey MCS launched a *'Couch to 5k initiative'* in early January which also coincided with MBC student Alan Mullen's campaign on RTÉ's Operation Transformation.

The 'Couch to 5K initiative' proved to be very successful and enjoyable for all those involved. On average 200 students and a large number of staff completed a 3K walk during lunchtime two days per week.

The route saw staff and students leave from the Astro Turf car park, make their way through Moate Business College and complete one or two laps of the beautiful Midland Amenity Park. Each day the group worked on picking up the pace with the ultimate goal of completing a 5K walk.

On Tuesday the 27th of January students involved in the initiative were invited to a talk by Alan Mullen where he gave a very honest and sincere account of his experience on the show and the challenges he has faced throughout his life.



*MCS Operation Transformation.*

## Moate CS fly to Paris!!!

On Friday 6th February 84 excited and very enthusiastic TY and 5th Year students along with their teachers departed Moate and headed for Paris. Over the course of a very busy and fun-filled weekend the group visited many of the cultural sites in this most beautiful city. Included on the itinerary was a bus tour of the city, a visit to the world famous Louvre Museum, the Sacre Coeur and the artistic Montmartre area, as well as a cruise on the Seine, with a beautiful view of the Eiffel Tower. The group also visited Disneyland Paris where they spent many hours on the thrilling rollercoasters available and then experienced Aquaboulevard, the largest urban indoor water park in Europe! On Monday night, all students and teachers returned to Moate, exhausted but happy after what proved to be a very enjoyable experience.



*Moate CS inside the changing rooms at the Stade de France.*

## Success for MCS First Year Girls Basketball

On 28th of January MCS First Year girl's basketball team played St. Joseph's Secondary School, Rochfortbridge in their second match this year. Moate put in a powerful performance to defeat their opponents by 23 points. The two teams showed great integrity and support towards one and other after the match.

**Final Score:** MCS (31-8) St. Joseph's, Rochfortbridge.

**MCS Team:** Katie Shine, Niamh Lynch, Therese Geoghegan (6), Therese Browne (2), Fiona Fox (7), Ailbhe Sheridan, Therese Robbins (2), Hannah Lynam, Shannon Coyne (2), Emma Kelly (6), Emma Farrell (2), Leah Quigley (2), Therese Robbins (2).



*Moate CS First Year girls Basketball team.*

## MCS First Year enrolment remains strong!!!

MCS staff and students were delighted to welcome 6th class students and their parents to the Annual Open Day/Night in January. The current enrolment for the incoming First Year students remains strong. Incoming students have participated in the annual taster programme in the school, which aims to ease the transition of students from primary school to the secondary school setting. The sports day for all 6th class students took place on Saturday, March 7th.

## MCS Choir achievements honoured with Civic Reception



*Moate CS competition Choir perform on RTÉ's TODAY show in January.*

In January the "All Island" winning MCS choir were awarded a Civic Reception by Westmeath County Council at its offices in Mullingar to acknowledge the enormity of their success in the *"All Island School Choir Competition"* last November. This ceremony is the highest level of award a County Council can bestow. The win at Belfast's Titanic Centre saw MCS make history as the first Community School to win the prestigious All Island title.

In addition it was announced that Moate will now receive a Composer in Residence, a scheme to help further nurture the musical accomplishment of

students in the school.

Chief Executive Officer of Westmeath County Council Mr. Pat Gallagher made the announcement that the scheme is to operate at MCS, in conjunction with Westmeath County Council and Offaly and Westmeath Music Generation.

The scheme will mean that a selected composer will oversee a number of workshops at the school. Westmeath's Arts Officer Miriam Mulrennan has been working closely with MCS to help get the initiative established. It will open doors to levels of music accomplishment that would not otherwise be possible.



## Connaught Cross Country Championships

On Tuesday 24th February 18 athletes from MCS travelled to Sligo Racecourse for the Connaught Cross County Championships in cold, breezy and mucky conditions.

The first race of the day was the Minor Girls. Moate CS's Niamh O'Reilly dominated second position for the entire race and scooped the silver medal. The minor girls team Miriam Gomez, Maria Diez, Sarah Gillivan, Therese Hamm, Grace Shimmons all finished strongly and can be very proud to have reached the Connaught finals on their first time entering the competition. Glenn Carolan in the Minor boys and Bryan Scully in the Junior Boys races were very strong contenders. MCS young intermediate boys team made up of Charlie Parker, Ben Cox, Cialan Dollard and Lorcan Daly will certainly be ones to watch next year.

No stranger to cross country Moates' Caoimhe Kelly ran with persistence and passion to finish in 9th position in the senior girl's category securing her a place in the All-Ireland finals.

Moate finished the day on a high with Paul Sheridan running with pride and determination to finish in 13th position qualifying for the All-

Ireland finals. He was followed soon afterwards by Robert Healy in 20th position just missing out in a place in the All-Ireland. Eoin Heavin can also be very proud of his performance in the race along with team mates Thomas Maguire and Conor Kelly.



Moate CS First Year student  
Niamh O'Reilly.

### ALLIRELAND CROSS COUNTRY FINAL

Niamh, Caoimhe and Paul participated in a very competitive All-Ireland final in Clongowes Wood College, Clane, Co. Kildare on 7th of March. All athletes performed very well on the day and represented our school with pride.

## Moate CS Sports Scholarship Awards

Following another successful taster programme, which culminated in our Annual Sports Day for incoming First Year students, there were six successful recipients of our sports scholarship award. Recipients are chosen based on their skill, fitness and attitude across a wide variety of sports.

The recipients are:

Rowan Sweeney (Mount Temple)  
Matthew Cox (Boher/Streamstown)  
Jack Keenan (Ard Na Grath)  
Aoife Dalton (Clara)  
Aimee Smyth (Ard Na Grath)  
Ruth Martin (Mount Temple)



Mr Tom Lowry, with Sports Scholarship Award Winners for incoming First Year students.

## SENIOR FOOTBALL VS NEWBRIDGE

On Friday the 9th of January, Moate's senior footballers took on Newbridge of Kildare in the second round of the Leinster championship in Newbridge in what were gale force winds.

The game began and Newbridge opened the scoring with two early points. It took Moate just under 10 minutes to get on the scoreboard with David Fleming pointing from a tight angle free. David Fox soon added another free to Moate's tally but not before Newbridge could add another point of their own. The Newbridge side scored 5 further points before gaining a crucial goal just before half time leaving the score at 1-8 to 0-2.

However Moate came out looking to make a comeback and they started well with a delivery from Fleming finding the unmarked midfielder Cathal

Daly in the box and he made no mistake scoring a much needed goal. This was followed by a Keith Malynn point. This along with a tremendous save by Mark Fallon from short range had the travelling Moate fans beginning to believe that they could come back. After 2 Newbridge points David Fox added a superb 50 yard free, which also brought about the sending off of Newbridge's centre forward for a second yellow card offence. Moate added further points through Fox, wing forward Billy Berry and centre back Darragh Healy. These were cancelled out by 3 Newbridge points and despite the introduction of Ruairi Cunningham, Moate couldn't force another goal, leaving the final score at 1-13 to 1-7 in favour of Newbridge.



Moate CS Senior Boys Football Team.

## Historic win for MCS U16 in North Leinster Junior 'A' Football Final

MCS produced a thoroughly impressive performance to out-thought and out-play St Pat's of Navan to capture the North Leinster "A" title for the first time at Dunganny in Meath on the 30th of January. The final score line read MCS 4-11, St. Pat's 1-9.

MCS were superb on the day and were highly motivated and clinical in front of the goal. A dominant period in the first half, during which they scored an unanswered 2-4, laid the platform for victory: Sean Pettit scored a terrific goal to get things started, before David Fleming tapped in the second and midfielder Daniel Heavin crashed home the third to complete a blistering 90 minute spell. It meant MCS led by 3-7 to 0-2 at half time and despite St. Pat's efforts to mount a comeback, Moate remained strong and compact throughout the second half, defending in an organised fashion to keep the Meath side at bay. **MCS Team** – Jordan Nugent, David Mullins, Ruairi Aspell, Charlie Parker, Sean Clinton, Ciarán Hartnett, Paul Gorman, Daniel Heavin (Captain), Jake Fannin, Harry Cornally, David Fleming, Pdraig Nestor, Sean Pettit. Substitutions made were Jack Bradbury Hughes for Fannin, Lorcan Daly for Pettit, Kevin O'Flaherty for Parker and Pdraig Geoghegan for Heavin.

The team went on to face a strong Good Counsel team from Wexford in the Leinster Semi-Final. Despite their valiant efforts it was not to be on the day. Our school are however very proud of the historic North Leinster 'A' title.



MCS U16 team 2014/2015.