



MCS WELCOMES NEW TEACHING STAFF



Back row: Mark Molloy, Therese Kelly, Michelle Cassidy and Mark Lynch. Front row: Regina Kelly, Mairead Cusack and Audrey English.

Ciara wins St. Brigid's Credit Union Further Education Prize 2015

Ciara Moran received the St. Brigid's Credit Union Further Education Prize for 2015 and received €1,000 towards her University education; she is studying Veterinary Medicine at UCD. The award is in its second year and the prize is invaluable to students who are entering college for the first time. Any student living in the common bond of St. Brigid's Credit Union (Clara and Moate) is eligible to compete for this award; the process entails an initial application with several students selected for interview. The standard of application is particularly high and thus, selecting the award winner is challenging.

A presentation evening was held recently at St. Brigid's Credit Union, Clara. Chairman of the Credit Union, Mr. John Nestor, spoke to students about the award and he and Mr. Tom Fallon, Assistant Manager, presented students with their prizes. On the night another student from MCS, Arianne Dunne, won an I-pad which will be incredibly useful in college. Arianne is now studying History and English Literature at Trinity College, Dublin.



Mr Tom Fallon, Ciara Moran and Mr John Nestor.

From the Principal...

September 2015 brought many changes to Moate Community School: we said farewell to the class of 2015 and wished them well in their future endeavours; and we warmly welcomed 148 new, enthusiastic First Year students. We are delighted to welcome our new staff members: Michelle Cassidy, Regina Kelly, Mairead Cusack, Mark Lynch, Mark Molloy, Therese Kelly and Audrey English on board and we look forward to working with them in the year ahead.

This year has seen a huge increase in our student numbers, with over 1,300 full-time students attending Moate Community School and Moate Business College, which is another sign of our reputation as a high quality educational establishment.

Change is inevitable in life, but we continue our commitment to develop each student to their full potential. We look forward to the year ahead confident that we will provide an educational experience for all that is second to none. *Tom Lowry, Principal.*

JUNIOR CERT JOY

If you were to find yourself passing by the gates of MCS on Wednesday afternoon, September 9th, you might be alarmed by the sounds emanating from within. However, the whoops and cries heard in MCS that afternoon were celebratory as the 136 students of Junior Certificate 2014-15 received their results.

Results were excellent across the board with many students achieved beyond their own expectations, but not those of the management and teaching staff of the school who were delighted with the achievements of students at all levels. Once again, the results reflect the hardworking and motivational ethos of the school and its pupils. These 136 Junior Certificate students, now in Transition Year or 5th Year, have an excellent grounding in exam technique and self-discipline that can only benefit them at senior cycle and beyond.

As one Year ends another begins...

Here at MCS students are settling back into school after a somewhat dismal summer break and while the weather wasn't the best, Leaving Certificate students were beaming. Many of the class of 2015 are preparing to embrace third level education. Our students are taking their places in universities and Institutes of Technology across the country while two are pursuing their education in the UK. Others are continuing their education in Colleges of Further Education and as is the trend at MCS, many are opting to attend MBC who offer a variety of courses at Level 5 and 6.

We are very proud of the achievements of the class of 2015. They astutely chose third level courses in career areas where future employment prospects are positive. They paid attention to economic trends in fields such as law, science, business, construction, architecture and engineering. We have seen a strong

interest among our students in psychology, pharmacy, education, health, veterinary and mathematical sciences and these areas also offer them a variety of opportunities in the future.

It is also worth noting the success of the students at MBC who are also continuing third level education in colleges in the UK and Ireland. MBC has worked tirelessly in recent years to develop strong relations and concrete links with those third level institutions. Physiotherapy, nursing, social care, media, business, sport and leisure, art & design are some of the career paths pursued by graduates of MBC.

Finally congratulations to Ciara Moran who achieved full marks (625 points) in her exams; she will attend UCD to study veterinary medicine. We wish all of our graduates at MCS and MBC the very best of luck and happiness in college and in their futures.

FIRST YEARS "GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

On Thursday 1st October, all First Years had the opportunity to go on a trip together. The purpose of this trip was to reward students for their positive transition to secondary school and also to allow them to get to know each other better. At 9am approximately 150 students and 6 teachers boarded buses and headed to Mullingar. Kingdom of Sports, Rock 'n' Bowl and Belvedere House were the destinations. Great fun was had by all at Kingdom of Sports and great skill was shown in the different areas. Rock 'n' Bowl offered a bit of relaxation and of course some well deserved food platters! For many the highlight of the day was orienteering in the beautiful grounds at Belvedere House. Some of the clues proved difficult to find and the nettles were a sore subject! We were blessed with great weather on the day and no-one got lost, which was a definite plus!! A great day was had by all.



Moate CS First Year students enjoy their annual bonding day.

SAM MAGUIRE CUP VISITS MOATE CS



Moate CS teachers Niall Daly, Des Dolan, Peter Tormey, Kieran Martin, Tom Lowry and Paul Browne (Maryland GAA).

Connacht Short-Course Swimming C'ships

Tuam, Galway - October 17th-19th 2015

Brian Scully (15) had great success at the Connacht swimming championships at the weekend. His wins included the following:

Gold medal: 200m Breaststroke Seniors.

Bronze medal: 400m Freestyle Senior (16-18years).

Bronze medal: 50m Breaststroke Seniors (16 and up) and 50m Freestyle Senior 4th place.

Brian has now qualified for short course nationals in Lisburn in December and holds the title for Connacht Senior Champion of 16 years and up. These wins were further celebrated given the fact that all swims were personal bests. Well done Brian!

"European Languages Day" 2015

All language students united again this year at MCS to provide what was truly a wonderful celebration of cultures.

Spanish, French and Irish students worked hard to provide a rich tapestry of culture in the form of posters, banner and flags and music.

Language, art, history, geography and festivals, were just a few of the many cultural aspects promoted in this celebration.

Students prepared traditional cuisine for all to sample and enjoy.

The day was a wonderful success and a clear indication that cultural awareness is thriving at Moate Community School.



Steven Hardiman and Theresa Browne.

Moate Community School Students focussing on their Study Skills!

On the 12th and 13th of October, Third Year and Sixth Year Students in Moate Community School attended Study Skills Workshops. The students enjoyed finding out what type of a learner they are, Visual, Audio or Active. They were provided with advice on timetabling their studies, mind maps and survival techniques for exams. The workshops were given by Geraldine Glennon of Study Smart, Mullingar. Parents also attended a Presentation on Study Skills on Monday evening where they were provided with a synopsis of the workshops and tips on how they can help their sons or daughters with their studies and support them with the stresses of the Junior and Leaving Certificate Exams. Feedback from the students and parents was very positive, having gained valuable tips to help them in developing lifelong learning skills.

GAISCE VENTURE 2015

On September 11th and 12th last 40 students from 5th and 6th Year completed the final element of the Bronze Gaisce Award. The adventure component entailed an over-night stay at Birr Outdoor Education Centre in Co. Offaly and a laborious 25km hike in the Slieve Bloom Mountains. The weather was atrocious on the first day and students returned from the hike saturated. Yanni, head instructor at the centre took the group to Birr Leisure Centre where they gladly availed of the pool, sauna and steam room to relax

after the day's hiking and to prepare for the next day's activities. Fortunately the weather improved and the students' experience was much more pleasant than the previous day, they persevered nonetheless.

Students who participated in the Gaisce Award had to complete 3 other elements prior to the adventure. They participated in community-based activities, developed a new skill with most students developing their skills in ICT or music. They also engaged in a personal health activity and since many of this particular group are sporty they chose to play sport either at school or as part of their local clubs. The award generally takes students 6 months to complete and is a great addition to one's CV.



Moate CS Gaisce participants.

Every Can Counts for MCS students at Electric Picnic!

Students from MCS Adelina Hmelevska, Gormlaih Mandal and Roisin Hamm were great ambassadors for recycling and reusing aluminium cans at the Electric Picnic recently. They were invited by Karen Mahon of *Every Can Counts* to help out at their stand and showcase their Mediva Dress. *Every Can Counts* is the programme that's getting people recycling at work and on the go.

The students worked the full school year collecting cans, designing and putting together their dress. There are over 20,000 can tops threaded together by pink and silver material just in the bodice. Can bottoms form the frill piece around the waist and a piece around the neck. The head piece consists of 2,000 can tops threaded together with ribbon.

The students and their Mediva dress won the ECO-Alu Art and Sustainability in Design Award sponsored by Alupro Ireland at the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards 2015 at the Mansion House in May. Alupro Ireland is a partnership with *Every Can Counts*.

Every Can Counts, helps to collect, recycle and reuse aluminium cans in schools, colleges, businesses and music festivals such as Electric Picnic using their green recycling bins. Every drinks can recycled cuts the carbon

footprint of the next can made, so every can recycled really does count.

The Mediva dress attracted great attention at the Electric Picnic and encouraged people to fill bags of empty cans to be recycled by *Every Can Counts*, as well as the students enjoying the music and art festival for the day!



Candy Warhol MC, with Moate CS students Roisin Hamm, Adelina Hmelevska & Gormlaih Mandal at Electric Picnic.

Geography Field Study

6th Year Geography students from Ms Seery's, Ms Farrell's and Ms Walsh's classes ventured out to the Breensford River in Ballykeeran on Monday 28th September to complete their field study investigation as part of their Leaving Cert Geography exam worth 20%.

The focus of the fieldwork was to study a feature of the Irish landscape formed by the processes of erosion and deposition. After choosing to study a meander as our feature formed by fluvial erosion and deposition, preparations were made for the day. Nearly 90 students participated on the day and the first group accompanied by Ms Farrell, Ms Walsh and Ms Seery left at 9.15am.

In using a study site along the Breensford River, we are as always very thankful to John, the Manager at Ballykeeran Tourist Caravan and Camping site, in allowing us to use the facilities. This site allowed us safe and easy access to carry out the different tasks associated with the fieldwork. These tasks included measuring the speed of the river along the meander, a bed load analysis, measuring the width and depth of the river's meander and calculating the sinuosity of the meander.

As there had been a lot of rain in the previous weeks, the river was quite deep in places and fast flowing making it difficult for some students who were unsteady on their feet. Overall the field trip was a great success and students and teachers enjoyed a productive day. The teachers Ms Seery, Ms Farrell and Ms Walsh would like to thank students for their participation.



Moate CS 6th Year students take samples on their geography field trip.

Students preparing projects for the BT Young Scientists Competition!

After last year's success at the BT Young Scientists and Technology Exhibition, the Transition Year students at MCS were inspired to follow in the footsteps of last year's competitors. This year MCS have entered 11 projects.

- Anna Parker and Kate McLoughlin are investigating how the drainage of bogs impact on the growth of Sphagnum Moss.
- Ben Cox, Cathal Byrne and Dearbhla O'Reilly are creating a cup that prevents the spiking of drinks in bars and nightclubs.
- Cathal O'Brien, Ciarán Geoghegan and Dylan Lowry are investigating a way to clean-up oil spills using peat or soils.
- Liam McLoughlin is examining self-talk and visualisation, and observing their effect on the performance of students in sport activities.
- Mairead McCormack and Nicole McKenna are evaluating whether setting academic targets improves student's exam results or disheartens them.
- Caroline Malynn, Rachel Keane and Nicola McCormack are going to investigate the use of social media, its addictiveness and how people use social media.
- Graham Turner is designing a science revision website and testing it on groups of 1st and

2nd Year students to see if it will benefit learning.

- Aisling McLoughlin and Sorcha Handy are measuring the effectiveness of phytoremediation to extract lead using plants from the Brassica family.
- Dearbhla Duignan and Irene Shortall are investigating the natural breakdown of plastic bottles by fungi in the environment and how it can be further stimulated.
- Eoin Shortall is surveying bird populations on various farmland habitats, comparing their numbers and how the introduction of Agri Environmental Schemes are impacting on bird populations.
- PJ McCormack and Michael Killian are evaluating alternatives like Birch and Cedar as alternatives to Ash to use as source wood for hurls.
- Colin Doyle is studying the sycamore seed, its internal chemicals and the detrimental effect the seeds can have the lifespan of horses.

The students are anxiously awaiting BTs selection of the projects that will be exhibited at the RDS in Dublin in January (6th-9th).

Sorcha Handy and Mairead McCormack.



Aisling McLoughlin.



Cathal O'Brien & Dylan Lowry.

MOATE CS LADIES FOOTBALL

The Leinster Senior B Championship kicked off against Cross & Passion, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare on Tuesday, October 6th. The Moate CS ladies travelled to the Kildare GAA grounds on a wet and damp day. Clad in the new navy and pink gear, the Moate CS ladies were determined to make the debut of the jerseys a lucky one. Kilcullen started strong and scored two points in the first few minutes, Moate replied with scores from Leanne Slevin, Tara Hughes, Ailbhe Sheridan and Sarah McCormack. This game was a close and a tight contest with both teams exchanging scores and some fine goals rattling both nets twice. At the interval it was all square 2:5 each. After some stern words and a few changes the Moate ladies came out with a new vigour and purpose in the second half. Quick scores from Sarah McCormack, Tara Hughes and Mary Harkin. The girls also scored three excellent goals coming from Tara Hughes, Kelly-Lei Lowry and Roisín Ennis. It was very apparent that the fitness and sharpness of the Moate girls could not be matched by the Kildare ladies. As the game concluded with the impressive score of 5-10 to 4-06 to secure the first win of the championship.

There were some fine displays on the day with vice-captain, Emer Redmond making some fine saves. The defence worked hard throughout and were solid particularly in the second half with great work by Louise Ryan, Ciara Heavin, Nicola McCormack, Lisa King and Captain Lorna Flanagan. Amy Gavin Mangan worked tirelessly in mid field while up front there was no shortage of sharp shooters with Leanne Slevin, Tara Hughes, Sarah McCormack, Kelly Lei Lowry and the young but fearless Roisín Ennis and Ailbhe Sheridan all putting their names on the scoreboard. Next up the Moate Ladies travel to Portlaoise where they take on New Ross of Wexford. It was with delight and relief that the navy and pink jerseys secured their first comprehensive victory.

Team: E Redmond, L Ryan, L King, N McCormack, C Heavin, N Mullen, L Flanagan, A Gavin Mangan, Kelly Lei Lowry, T Hughes, L Slevin, R Ennis, R Gillivan, S McCormack, A Sheridan. **Subs:** AM Moran, M Harkin, J Coughlan, A Heffernan, A O'Connor, M O'Connor.



Moate CS Ladies Football Team.

U16 Girls' Basketball

On Thurs. 8th Oct. the U16 MCS girls' basketball team played Rochfortbridge. Moate were victorious on the day with a final score of 47-18. **Moate:** Mary Harkin (9), Eva Casado (4), Silvia Mendiluce (6), Laura Caballere (8), Fiona Fox (14), Roisín Ennis (5) and Paula Cons (11), Paula (7), Sandra Martin (15), Maria Morales (10), Ailbhe Sheridan (13) and Sarah Murphy (12).

U14 FOOTBALL – MCS V Marist College

Marist 3-17 Moate Community School 2-15

On Wed. the 7th Oct. MCS took on the Marist, in Moate. Both teams were well up for this local derby and it was a very lively start, with early scores from both teams. The teams were even until Richard Browne scored a well worked goal for MCS midway through the first half. Moate lead at the break by four points. Moate continued to lead in the second half until the final five minutes during which the Marist staged an impressive comeback scoring two late goals to win the game on a scoreline of 3-17 to Moates 2-15. In a very entertaining game there was good performances for Moate from Adam Donoghue, Aaron Keane, James Carey, Jack Keenan and Richard Browne.

TY Trip to Baysports

On the 18th of September eighty five transition year students headed to Lough Ree, beside the Hodson Bay Hotel to Baysports; an adventure waterpark. Students were equipped with wet suits and lifejackets and were teamed up in various groups. There was a host of activities on offer - canoeing, kayaking, inflatable waterpark and dragon boat racing. After four sessions on each of the programmes the students had a well-deserved break and had a bite to eat. The day's last activity was pier jumping which went down a treat.