



Mentors on hand to welcome our new students

First Year students were treated to a very different “First Day”, thanks to hard work and dedication of our Mentors. Breaking with tradition, school books were expressly forbidden and day one classes were abandoned. Instead, a range of activities were prepared to encourage and facilitate the making of new friendships. Accompanied by their Mentors, students

participated in a series of events centred around art, sport, class games, and mentor presentations, to name but a few. Day 1 was a resounding success for all concerned. The Mentors, who had devoted so much time and hard work to the planning and organising of events, were richly rewarded by the excitement and enthusiasm of our new students.



*Smiles all around on their first day at MCS.
L to R: Kyle Moran, Jack Lappin, Peter McDonald, Colm Seery, Edel Stone.*

GAISCE VENTURE

On Friday the 7th of September, students from Fifth and Sixth Year completed the final component of their President's Award by participating in a venture organised by Birr Outdoor Education Centre in conjunction with Josephine Meehan, President Award Leader. The trip entailed staying overnight at the Centre and taking on the challenging hike in the Slieve Bloom mountains. Bronze students were required to do a 25km hike over 2 days, while those doing silver completed a 50km hike over 3 days in compliance with the rules of the Gaisce Award.

This time away from school was an opportunity for students to be with others, friends and acquaintances and to develop skills such as teamwork, organisation and leadership. Students used the evenings to participate in team activities led by the outdoor education team leaders. We are very grateful to all the staff at BOEC for their support and hospitality.

The Gaisce Venture is the culmination of an award that entails several components such as community involvement, development of a personal skill and enhancement of personal health and fitness. Students must engage in these three activities over a set period of time and upon completion of their record sheets they sign up for the venture. This year 31 students will receive their bronze award and 3 will receive silver awards at an official awards ceremony later in the school year.

From the Principal...

September 2018 has brought many changes to Moate Community School. We said farewell to the class of 2017 and wished them well in their future endeavours and we warmly welcomed our new enthusiastic First Year students. We are also delighted to



introduce our new staff members, Laura Sheehan, Áine Ní Raghallaigh, Jonathan Shaughnessy, Conor Lynch, Paddy Kelly, Clodagh Kelly, Grace Farrell, Aileen Brennan, Aoife Daly, Teresa Lynch, Jonathan Waldron and Mary Devery on board and we look forward to working with them in the year ahead.

We were delighted to receive great news on the proposed new extension to our school and we expect that this will proceed within the next 12 months. Watch this space!

We look forward to the year ahead confident that we will provide an educational experience for all that is second to none.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

AGM Parent Association will take place on Thursday, 8th November at 7.30pm in the School Lecture Hall.

We would greatly appreciate if you would join us and support your school.

'Iontas' Choir sing at Papal Mass in the Phoenix Park

On the 26th of August, fifty members of our Iontas Choir along with seven teachers from the Staff Choir, performed at the Papal Mass in the Phoenix Park. They were part of the Massed Choir which was made up of over 3,000 voices from across all 26 dioceses. Our choir was chosen to represent youth choirs from Ardagh/Clonmacnoise.

The Iontas Choir had been practising for the Mass since June. They met on average twice a month for three hour practice sessions. They also travelled up to the RDS, Dublin on the 28th of July to rehearse with choirs representing different parishes from all over Ireland. They sang a large repertoire of music. Some of the music had been especially commissioned for the occasion including pieces composed by Ephrem Feeley, brother of our own Ms Feeley!

FIRST YEAR'S BONDING TRIP TO JUMP ZONE TRAMPOLINE PARK, SANTRY

On Thursday 27th September our First Year Students headed to the Jump Zone Trampoline Park in Santry for the Annual First Year Bonding Trip. They were accompanied by their tutors and Year Head, Ms Keogh. On arrival all students were kitted out with special socks designed to improve balance and grip, and prevent falls and injuries. There were many exciting activities on offer, such as jumping into a foam pit, free-style trampoline jumping, dodge ball on trampolines, basketball on

trampolines and a game where students had to try push opponents off a beam using a long pole. After a physically demanding morning, all efforts were rewarded with a tasty lunch. Afterwards, the group descended on Liffey Valley for a bit of retail therapy on their way home.

This Annual Bonding Trip is a great opportunity for new students of MCS to make new friends and have fun at the same time in a relaxed and fun environment.



Fun at Jump Zone.

Geography Field Trip

Leaving Certificate Geography students are currently researching fluvial processes as part of their project work which is worth 20% of their final exam result. As part of this, students ventured on a fieldtrip to the Breensford River on Thursday 27th September to collect data and study the fluvial processes at work. Given that this river features a meander, students had to collect data to prove it is indeed a meander and that it is shaped by fluvial processes such as erosion, transportation and deposition. This involved calculating the river velocity, measuring the width and depth and completing an extensive bedload analysis. Students are now working on synthesising this data and compiling a report that will detail the geographical and fluvial findings of the outing.



Geography students taking part in field study.

COLM SHORTALL

Fifth Year student Colm Shortall who was the recipient of the 2018/2019 MCS Music Scholarship Award, achieved a high distinction in his Royal Irish Academy of Music Grade 5 singing exam under the guidance of his singing teacher at the school Mr. Ciarán Brady. We wish him well in his vocal studies this academic year.



Tom Lowry, Colm Shortall and Maura Murray.



Ella Grennan, Lisa O'Brien and Blanca Pardo Sanz representing MCS at Golf.

Rotary Youth Leadership Competition

On Monday October 8th, 2018 the school round of the Rotary Youth Leadership Competition took place in MCS. Denise Dolan and William Noth, members of Athlone Rotary Club facilitated an introductory talk on Rotary competitions prior to this event. Fifteen students primarily from Fifth Year with the exception of one TY student embraced the challenge of the school interview to become MCS' 2018 representative in this competition. The interviews took place throughout the school day with students having to prepare their applications in advance. The standard of interviewee was very high and students were strongly complimented on their preparation for the interviews. Emma Kelly was selected to progress to the next round of the competition to be held in Athlone in late October. We wholeheartedly wish Emma much luck as she advances to represent MCS.



*Front row: Makayla Heavin, Annalise Peredo, Saoirse Ripley, Roisin Gill Fagan, Emma Kelly, Johnny Horan, Ciara Maxwell, Hannah O'Connor.
Back Row: William Noth, Jack Slevin, Aaron Keane, Abbi Mills McKenna, David Healy, Joe Murtagh, Teresa Browne, Karina Conteh and Denise Dolan.*

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

On the 27th of September, ten TY students and their teachers Mr Lee and Ms Prendergast, travelled to Lourdes with the Carmelite pilgrimage on what transpired to be the adventure of a lifetime.

The visit to the Grotto was truly spectacular. When one looks at all the candles there you realise that each candle represents a person who's going through something, whether it be mental or physical.

Our students travelled as helpers with six other schools from around Ireland, and spent five days in Lourdes. The group would like to thank everyone who helped with fundraising and organisation of the trip.



Back row, left to right: Yvonne Prendergast, Therese McCormack, Conor O'Brien, Michelle Flynn, Ruairi Casey, Francis Lee. Front row: Lauren Farrell, Sarah Murray, Johnny Horan, Ella Delaney, Lorna Eagney, Alannah Shortall.

BT YOUNG SCIENTISTS & TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION

This year's TY and Fifth Year students have submitted their project proposals to the first stage of judging for the competition. The students await the news if their projects will go through to the Exhibition in January. The following projects are included: Michelle Corcoran and Kirsty Lohan - *Cut the Chemicals out, UV will help the wash out*. Rebecca Simpson and Irene Murphy - *Spray your way to healthy play*. Luke Gavin and Jason McHugh Dolan - *A Study of Bovine Behavioural Response to Noise*. Gabriella Karciauskaitė and Elvira Gorelova Browne - *Ease the E number Problem*. Ella Coote and Wictoria Boguslaska - *Caring for the Well-being of Nursing Home residents*. Evan Kelly, Jordan Simpson, Luke Buckley - *The Great Balancing Act: Sports, Social Life, Sleep and Study*. Stephen Kelly and Christopher Kerrigan - *Fence Defence*. Oisín Murphy, Ruairi Casey and Jay Looney - *Purification to Save the Nation*. Emma Kelly and Brian Conlon - *Sphagnum Re-growth: The Solution to Ireland's Burning Problem*.



Back Row, L-R: Gabriella Karciauskaitė, Jordan Simpson, Wictoria Boguslaska, Luke Buckley, Rebecca Simpson, Evan Kelly, Stephen Kelly, Irene Murphy, Kirsty Lohan. Front Row: Elvira G Browne, Ella Coote, Christopher Kerrigan, Luke Gavin, Jason McHugh Dolan, Michelle Corcoran.

Founder of Pieta House and Presidential candidate, Joan Freeman visits MCS

On Monday the 8th of October, MCS was honoured to host a visit from presidential candidate and Senator Joan Freeman. The class of TY3 invited Joan to come in and speak with them and were delighted that she was available to do so. TY3 are completing their Young Social Innovators project, with their teacher Ms. Prendergast, on the topic of 'The Mental Health of Young People'. As they researched the admirable work of Pieta House and the Darkness into Light movement, they discovered it was the result of Joan's great work. This motivated them to make contact with her through her Facebook page. It was with great pleasure that Joan took the time from her busy schedule to come in and speak with all the TY students on the importance of looking after your mental health and also the work of Pieta House in relation to this.



TY3 pictured with Ms Prendergast and Joan Freeman.

SENSORY GARDEN

A new group of TY students take on the work of previous years' students in the Sensory Garden at Dún na Sí Amenity and Heritage Park. While the weather is favourable, groups of students are meeting with the young adults from St. Hilda's in the garden Monday and Thursday mornings. The main focus is on completion of the Water Feature, attaching over 200 glazed tiles which were designed and made by the group over the last two years. The development of the Sensory Garden is co-ordinated by Margaret Mandal. The students are also helping with the Butterfly Garden which the St. Hilda's gang have been developing with artist Rosemary Lantry. A camera has been erected in the garden to monitor activities in the area. Tiles at the front of the feature have been damaged and need to be replaced. The Sensory Garden is a wonderful amenity for locals and visitors of all ages to enjoy, but the group would like to urge parents to supervise their children in the park at all times.



Sean Treacy, Matthew Cox, Alannah Shortall and Lucy Evans.

Our students are investigating the habitats of the butterflies and their caterpillars. Eighteen per cent of the native species in Ireland are under threat of extinction. In developing the Butterfly Garden they hope to create awareness of their habitats and the variety of species in Ireland. They plan to document their activities and submit them as their ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalists project.

Ronan Murphy earns place on the roll of honour in the 31st Irish Maths Olympiad

Congratulations to Ronan Murphy, a 6th Year student who earned himself a place on the Roll of Honour in the 31st Irish Maths Olympiad on 12th May 2018. As a result, Ronan has become an official member of the Irish Maths Olympiad squad. Members of this squad are students who have shown potential to become a member of the Irish team at next year's International Maths Olympiad. These students will receive special training throughout the year by a group of dedicated University lecturers and professors from five Irish Universities. They will also have the opportunity to participate in international mathematical competitions which are organised in Ireland in coordination with partner countries. Best of luck Ronan.



Ronan Murphy and Ms Maura Murray.

EMER COUNIHAN

Emer Counihan is a 6th Year student of French in MCS. In May 2018, she entered a competition run by Language Learning International, a language travel agency, to win a two week home stay visit to Biarritz in the South West of France during the summer holidays. The prize included language classes every day, activities in the afternoon and accommodation with a French family. Over the course of her two week stay, Emer was totally immersed in the French language and culture. Classes ran from nine o'clock to one o'clock and also included trips and activities. This was the chance of a lifetime and Emer certainly made the most of the opportunity.



Emer Counihan.

Elaine Pidgeon selected to participate in Science Olympiad

Congratulations to Fifth Year student Elaine Pidgeon, who has been invited to participate in the National Olympiad competitions to select six students to represent Ireland at the International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) in Gaborone, Botswana in December 2018, and six students to represent Ireland at the European Union Science Olympiad (EUSO) in Almada, Portugal in May 2019.

Elaine was chosen to participate based on her excellent results in science in her Junior Certificate exams last year. Best of luck.



Mr Flanagan, Elaine Pidgeon and Mr Casey.

Moate Senior Boys Football

The Moate Senior Football team are currently training for the Leinster Senior 'A' Colleges Championship. Numbers training have been very high with over 38 players braving the early morning and after school sessions. The Leinster draw has recently taken place and we are in a group with St Mary's, Rochfortbridge and Good Counsel, Wexford.

Over the last few weeks, MCS have been competing in the Leinster League. In our first game, we lost out to a strong Marist side while in our second game, the boys were on the wrong end of a 2-12 to 2-11 score line against St Mel's, Longford. While this result was disappointing for the lads, they came away with great optimism from this game. Their last league game is against Athlone CC.

Over the next few weeks, the lads will train hard and get themselves into the best shape possible for the first round of championship. In this game they will play St Marys Rochfortbridge in the Moate CS school pitch on the 14th November. In the championship, two out of the three teams will qualify for the group.

MOATE U16 GIRLS BASKETBALL

The MCS under 16 girls basketball panel have been very busy training and playing matches over the first term. With over 25 players coming to training on a regular basis, competition for places has been fierce with only 12 players being able to tog on matchday. They have progressed to the knockout stages of the Midlands

basketball competition. In their first game, MCS produced an excellent battling display to beat Gallen CS on a scoreline of 26-14. MCS then went on to play Killina in their second group game where they narrowly lost out. The result has left the girls runners up in the group and they await their opponents in the quarter final.



Back row: Claire Conlon, Hazel Kelly, Kacey Burslem Rotheroe (Captain), Shannon Mulvihill, Aoife Murray, Amy Murphy. Front Row: Ciara Nugent, Aoife Dalton, Megan Clinton, Ava Cornally, Erin Pettit.

Megan Clinton selected to represent Connacht

Congratulations to Megan Clinton, a Third Year student in our school, who was selected to represent Connacht in the Irish Interprovincial U16 and U18 Hockey Tournament in Dublin from 21st to 23rd September 2018.



Mr Lowry and Megan Clinton.

TY Trip to Portlick

On Monday the 3rd of September our TY students headed to Glasson to Portlick Adventure Centre for a bonding day. This was to be the first outing of what will hopefully prove to be a very exciting and fun filled year for these students. Two buses packed with excited and enthusiastic TY students headed to the adventure centre. On arrival the students were divided into four groups and participated in a myriad of sporting activities including kayaking, archery, zip lining, waterslide, and other numerous outdoor pursuits. Throughout the day, the students worked together and got to know each other better. TY is a great opportunity to develop new skills and experience new activities, while making and cementing new friendships, in a more relaxed environment. The day proved to be a very rewarding and worthwhile experience for all involved, and the first of many such experiences this year. Thanks to all at Portlick Adventure Centre who facilitated the day, and to Mr. Lee, Mr. Kelly and Ms. Bracken who travelled with the students.



Aine O'Brien, Caoimhe McDonnell and Therese McCormack.