



MOATE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Newslink

CHRISTMAS 2017

Adam Kelly receives major award at National Final of SciFest

Second Year MCS student, Adam Kelly, won the ISTA Health Sciences Award at the National Final of SciFest held in the Marino Conference Centre in Dublin on 10th November. Adam's project "Can Beet Beat Other Feeds?" was one of 42 projects exhibited at the event which was organised by Science Foundation Ireland.

In his project, Adam investigated whether there would be a difference in weight gain if cattle were fed beet or maize ration. After feeding his own weanlings either beet or maize or barley, Adam found that in fact beet was more successful in supporting weight gain.

In the Regional Final of SciFest at the AIT in May, Adam won the *Science Foundation Ireland Best Project Award*, as well as the *Junior Life Sciences Individual category award* and an *Animal Health and Production Award*.

SciFest provides students with the opportunity to present and display their projects and encourages a love of science, maths and technology. Our students have benefited hugely from their involvement in the programme, developing key skills in communication as well as scientific investigations.



Adam Kelly with Mary Mullaghy ISTA.

From the Principal...

On behalf of the staff and myself, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. It has been a very busy term in Moate Community School and I hope that this particular edition continues to give you some impression of the wide variety of activities in which we are involved and the opportunities available to every student. We always strive to encourage each student to reach their full potential and we look forward to working with you in 2018. Nollaig Shona agus atbhliain faoi mhaise dibh go leir.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

We are delighted to announce we have been accepted for the Leaving Certificate Computer Science pilot course, commencing with Fifth Years in September 2018.

Deborah wins Rotary Youth Leadership Development Regional Final

On Wednesday November 15th, 2017 Deborah Fakeye, a Fifth Year student competed in the Regional Final of the Rotary Youth Development Competition held in Thurles. She was accompanied by Patrick Deavy, a Rotarian from Athlone Club and Josephine Meehan, School Guidance Counsellor.

Deborah competed against students from schools in the midlands, west and south-west in a gruelling interview process. The adjudicators were from outside of Rotary and represented various professional walks of life. They were looking for students who

embodied youth leadership and determination to succeed at school and in future life experiences. Deborah represented Athlone Rotary Club and MCS to excellent effect and as a winner will join 23 other youth leaders from around the country on a trip of a lifetime to the European Parliament in Strasbourg at Euroscola in February 2018. She will also have the opportunity to travel to Belfast and Dublin as part of this initiative to meet with political and business leaders.



Josephine Meehan, Deborah Fakeye and Patrick Deavy.

Entrance Scholarships

Congratulations to **Aine Hamm** (below left) and **Hannah Simpson** (below right), who received Entrance Exhibition Awards in Trinity College Dublin for High Performance in Leaving Certificate Exams 2017. We wish them both the best of luck in their studies.



Congratulations to **Orla Clavin** on receiving an Entrance Scholarship to Maynooth University in recognition of her high achievement in Leaving Certificate Exams 2017. We wish Orla the very best of luck in her studies.



Congratulations to **Alan Henson** on receipt of The All-Ireland Scholarship in a special ceremony held at the University of Limerick. The scholarship recognises high achievement in the Leaving Certificate and is funded by a trust set up by well-known businessman and philanthropist J.P. McManus. We extend best wishes to Alan in his future.



Congratulations also to **Alex David** who received an Academic Scholarship from The Institute of Technology Carlow. We wish Alex every success in his studies.



CAMOGIE BLITZ

On Wednesday 8th November our First and Second Year Camogie players took part in a Camogie Blitz held in St Loman's GAA grounds Mullingar. Our girls played four teams on the day, Scoil Mhuire, St Joseph's Rochfortbridge, St Finians and Mercy Kilbeggan. Well done to all involved.

St. Brigid's Credit Union Quiz for MCS Students

On Friday 20th October our school participated in the local round of the Credit Union Quiz. The competition for second level students is a new initiative and an extension of the Primary School Quiz which takes place on an annual basis. Twelve teams from three local schools MCS, Ard Scoil Chiaráin Naofa, Clara and Presentation School, Killina took part as these are all located in the Credit

Union Common Bond.

Our school was represented by four teams on the night and our team comprising of Aoife Murray, Fionn Lyons, Conor Heavin and Doireann Coffey took first place and went on to represent both the Credit Union and MCS in the next phase of the competition. Well done to all involved.



Mark Molloy and Josephine Meehan (Teachers), Conor Heavin, Doireann Coffey, Fionn Lyons, Aoife Murray, John Nestor (Chairman of St Brigid's CU).

Feachtas Table Quiz Competition

On Tuesday 14th of November our school hosted the annual Feachtas Tráth na gCeist. It was our first time to host the Irish quiz. The quiz consisted of six rounds, with ten questions in each round, based on various topics such as sport, music, politics and current affairs. The competition offers students the opportunity to use their skills in Irish in combination with their general knowledge. We had three teams entered, with one of the teams doing extremely well to come

in second place, after winning a very tough tie-breaker question. The successful team was made up of two Fifth Year students, Catherine Shimmons and Ciarán Maxwell and two 3rd year students, Kirsty Lohan and Michelle Corcoran. The team will now go on to represent MCS in the Tráth na gCeist Final which will take place in Dublin after Christmas.

Well done to everyone involved.



Kirsty Lohan, Michelle Corcoran, Ciaran Maxwell and Catherine Shimmons.

DEBATING

Our senior debaters shone in the first round of Concern Debates against Lanesboro Community School. The team are due to compete against Borrisokane in late January.



Deborah Fakeye, Sean O'Flaherty, Darcy Lawless and Emer Counihan (with teacher and mentor Jenny Coughlan).

MINI-COMPANY

There is a huge spirit of enterprise in MCS this year with fifty one mini companies in total, fifteen of these from TY and thirty six from First Year. On Wednesday the 5th December the school gym was transformed into a bustling market place. All fifty one companies constructed their stands and students, teachers and parents were invited in to browse and shop. Tara Walker from Westmeath County Enterprise was also in attendance on the day and she spoke to the students about their products.

Products included: Keyrings, silicone earphones, power banks and chargers, defib app, rulers with built in calculators, google cardboard, Irish and English storybook, football gloves, keyrings, wooden ornaments, second-hand books, pen holders, organic cosmetics and jewellery, medal holder, light switch cover, canvas pictures and lots more. Following the very successful market day there were 6 companies selected to represent MCS in the County Final in February. We would like to wish them the best of luck.



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



Muireann O'Donohoe, Carol Seery, Niamh Lynch and Holly Barden - The Sum of It.

TY JOURNALISM COURSE

On Thursday the 16th of November a group of twenty two TY students from our school participated in a journalism course organised by Tweakel. Tweakel are a website organisation that provides bespoke, modular, online, interactive video training which at the end of the day course helps you create your own radio station.

The course was given by Ian Doyle (a presenter on FM104) who instructed students on how to establish a radio station. Firstly, the group listened to online presentations on how radio stations worked and how to create an ad and a radio talk show. Students were then separated into groups of

3-4 and wrote skits for their own shows. Some of the subjects recorded were about Ireland's sporting defeats and wins over the previous week, competitions, current news and celebrity entertainment.

After a short lunch break, Tweakel brought in a portable recording studio where students recorded their own ads and talk show. The talk show and ad were recorded on camera, so teachers and students could watch them. It was a worthwhile day as students got to learn how to write articles on topics currently in the news and also how to present these topics.



TY students participate in journalism workshop.

Second Year Students attend Pre-SciFest at AIT

A group of Second Year Students from MCS attended the Pre SciFest event at the AIT. Adam Kelly presented his award winning project 'Can Beet beat other feeds?' to a group of students from midlands schools and took part in a Question and Answer session with Dr Don Faller (AIT). The students received a passionate talk from SciFest

founder Sheila Porter strongly encouraging them to take on Science Projects. This was followed by three more stimulating talks from a local Bee Keeper, Pottery Artist and Herbalist. The students found all the talks thoroughly engaging and armed them with lots of interesting project ideas. Many thanks to Chris MacCormack (AIT) for organising the event.



MCS Second Years with Ms Cusack, Ms Mandal & Seila Porter (SciFest).

College Awareness Week

During the week of November 20th to 24th College Awareness Week 2017 was celebrated in our school. The objective is to ensure students of all ages and from all backgrounds know the educational opportunities that are available to them and with that in mind our activities revolved around third level options at further and higher education, apprenticeships and so on.

Our week's activities sought to engage all students from First to Sixth Year. Junior students participated in a poster competition to create awareness for the relevance of this week from their perspectives. A vast display covered the walls and windows of the main corridor in school. All students embraced the daily quiz and talks were arranged for senior cycle students.

On Monday, Moate Business College came to school to speak with our students regarding Further Education and the many opportunities to access higher education opportunities, links with

employment, the Institutes of Technology and Universities here and in the UK.

On Wednesday Aaron Farrell, a Third Year student at Trinity College and past pupil came back to discuss his course in Deaf Studies, the relevance of sign language in modern Ireland and future job prospects and careers. He also spoke about his own goals after graduation.

On Thursday morning, Vincent Flynn from Mountbellow Agricultural College came to talk to students about further and higher education options for those interested in the agricultural sector.

A visit to Athlone Extrusions for students interested in STEM courses brought an end to a busy week at Moate Community School. Kenny O'Brien, General Manager, James Murtagh, R&D Manager and Mark Hallinan, Technical Manager in the Colour Department led this tour of a very successful company which specialises in the fabrication of plastics.

LEINSTER U15 FAI CUP FIRST ROUND

We played St Farnan's of Kildare in the first round of the Cup at home in tough conditions on Monday November the 23rd. A great solo run and finish from Alfonso Valdes opened the scoring. Moate doubled their lead on the stroke of half time when Eoghan Rayleigh made a great run from midfield to be on the end of a fine low cross from Toby Conteh.

We started off the second half at a slower pace with St Farnan's battling hard to try and get back in the game. It wasn't until 20 minutes into the 2nd half when the hardworking Eoghan Curran won great ball in midfield and went onto put in a fabulous defence splitting pass to Eoghan Rayleigh who calmly placed the ball into the corner of the net for his second goal. Ten minutes before the end Liam Maxwell produced some excellent skill to beat two defenders and produce a shot which the St Farnan's keeper could only parry before Liam tapped in the rebound to seal a great win for the our lads.



U15 FAI team.

SENSORY GARDEN

TY students have been busy working on their project for the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards. Continuing on from previous years' projects, they have been working hard on further developing the Sensory Garden in the local Dún na Sí Amenity and Heritage Park. Our students are joined by the service users of St Hilda's. This group have been working on the project from the start of September, meeting up with the team every Monday for two hours. Throughout these weekly visits great bonds have been made.



Ciana, Carina, Saoirse, Sinead, Niamh & Saoirse with St Hilda's group.

First Year boys claim The Brother Hubert Cup

Our First Year boys won the Bother Hubert Cup on December 5th, defeating St Mary's Mullingar and making history for our school (Moate 5-11: St Mary's 5-8). The encounter against a very competitive St Marys CBS Mullingar was gripping from the outset. **Scorers:** Eoin Bracken: 1-1, Odhran Lawlor: 2-6, Dean O'Neill: 1-1, Ronan Murray: 1-0, Daragh

Lowry: 0-1, David O'Reilly: 0-2.

Team for Moate:

Sean Furey, Cian Rainey, Brian Carey, Conor Tracey, Cathal Guinan, Donal Shirley, Conor Molloy, David O'Reilly (C), Eoin Bracken, Ronan Murray, Daragh Lowry, Adam Daly, Dean O'Neill, Odhran Lawlor, Michael Okpaeye. Well done to all involved.



First Year Boys Football team.

Lidl PPS U16B Leinster Final awaits

On Monday the 20th of November our U16 girls kicked off their Leinster campaign with a heart stopping encounter at home to Edenderry. It turned out to be heartbreak for Edenderry who came so close but it was the Moate girls never say die attitude that resulted in victory. The semi-final against St. Leo's Carlow on Friday 15th December marked a historic victory with a convincing score of 5-15 to 2-2. Intensive preparation is now underway as the girls

now face Eureka Kells in the new year in the Leinster Final. **MCS Team:** Fiona Fox, Hazel Kelly, Therese Robbins, Aimee Smyth, Hazel Hughes, Ruth Martin, Roisin Killian, Aine Gaynor, Roisin Ennis, Sinead Robbins, Leah Quigley, Maria Farrell, Ava Cornally, Aoife Dalton, Niamh O'Reilly, Ava McHugh, Emma Quigley, Caoimhe McDonnell, Cliona McCormack, Rachel Butler, Kacey Rotheroe, Marina Heavin, Clodagh McCormack and Erin Pettit.



U16 Girls Football team.

Science is in the Air

To mark Science Week 2017, we hosted a number of science themed interactive workshops throughout the week. On Monday, Bridget Molloy from Intel visited to speak to the TY students on considering a career in STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths). She encouraged students to take science subjects at senior level and showed the importance of STEM careers in society and the amount of job opportunities available. On Wednesday, past and current BT Young Scientist / SciFest contestants from our school presented their projects to Second Year classes. These projects ranged from

combating the Varroa destructor mite to studying the ecological impact of a gorse fire on bog land habitats. Throughout the week there were science quizzes held for Second Year class groups. Transition Year students prepared and presented some fun physics and chemistry demos for the First Year science classes. The Regional Final for the ISTA science quiz took place on Thursday, 16th of November, in the AIT. Three teams of Sixth Year students took part.

The corridors in the school were lined with Science Posters with factual information about famous scientists' discoveries, the elements of the periodic table and interesting Science facts. Students and teachers engaged with all the activities for Science Week which were both fun and educational.