

Third Level Academic Awards for former students

In recent weeks several of our former students were awarded scholarships in recognition of their academic standard of excellence upon entry into various third level institutions. We are very proud of our students, and commend the commitment and many hours of hard work required to achieve their respective goals. At UCD five of our students received academic awards, **Fiona Broderick** who is currently studying Veterinary Medicine, **Euan McDonnell** who is studying Engineering, **Cillian Carroll** who is studying Science, **Fiona Fox** who is studying Physiotherapy and **Ciarán Maxwell** who is studying Economics and Finance. At Trinity College, Dublin former student **Ronan Murphy** who is studying Maths received an award

in recognition of his Leaving Certificate achievement while **Maria O'Donohue** was awarded a scholarship of Academic Excellence at NUIG. She is studying Commerce with Accounting. **Cian Fanning** and **Cillian Carroll** were awarded the JP McManus All-Island Scholarship in recognition of their Leaving Certificate points. Cian is studying Maths at Trinity College while Cillian is studying Science in UCD. These awards were presented in the University of Limerick where the guest of honour was former Ireland Rugby Coach Joe Schmidt. Congratulations also to **Lee Guinan Malone** who received an award at Athlone Institute of Technology. Lee is studying Athletic and Rehabilitation Therapy.



Cian Fanning



Ciarán Maxwell



Cillian Carroll



Euan McDonnell



Fiona Broderick



Fiona Fox



Lee Guinan



Maria O'Donohue



Ronan Murphy

From the Principal...

On behalf of the staff and myself, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Again, it has been a very busy term in Moate Community School and I hope that this Christmas Newslink continues to give you some impression of the wide variety of activities in which we are involved and the opportunities available to all students. We always strive to encourage each student to reach their full potential and we look forward to working with you in 2020.



Nollaig Shona agus atbhliain faoi mhaise dibh go leir.



Iontas Choir sings at National Missing Persons Day

Twenty two members of Iontas Choir travelled to Dublin on December 4th to sing at the National Missing Persons Day held in Kings Inn. The choir had been invited to sing at this event by the Department of Justice. Present at the event were the Garda Commissioner, Drew Harris and the Minister of State, David Stanton. It was an honour and privilege for the choir to perform at this national event. One of the songs performed was "Bring Him Home" during a slideshow of photos of missing people. The *Irish Times* described their performance as a "beautiful and haunting rendition of a poignant song". On December 8th, the choir performed with Athlone Choral Society in St. Mary's Church of Ireland. The choir performed four pieces on their own and then two with the Choral Society. The choir were delighted to be invited to perform at this event.

Go Grease Lightning!

Grease took to the stage at MCS from 22nd to 25th of October. The musicality of the student-body combined with the enthusiasm and energy of all those cast members and staff involved in the production of this story, guaranteed a show not to be missed. MCS is well renowned for its spirit of collegiality and creativity as was evident during show week and before. Audiences were wowed on all nights with Rydell High's spirited class of '59. Gum-chewing, hub-cap-stealing, hotrod-loving boys with D.A.s and leather jackets and their wise-cracking girls in teased curls, bobby sox, and pedal pushers-captured the look and sound of the 1950s, in a rollicking musical



Girls Chorus in perfect harmony!

that saluted the rock 'n' roll era. While hip Danny Zuke (Kenny Heffernan) and wholesome Sandy Dumbrowski (Therese McCormack) resolved the problems of their mutual attraction for each other, the gang sang and danced their way through such nostalgic scenes as the pyjama party, the prom, the burger palace, and the drive-in movie.

The talented cast of characters were Kenny Heffernan as *Danny*, Colm Shortall as *Kenickie*, Michael Murphy as *Sonny*, James Costello as *Doody*, Cathal Moran as *Rodger*, Johnny Horan as *Eugene*, Ciarán Daly as *Vince Fontanie*, John Brady as *Johnny Casino*, Oisín Johnston and Sean Murray-Gaffey as *Teen Angels*, Therese McCormack as *Sandy*, Hazel Hughes as *Rizzo*, Doireann Coffey as *Marty*, Annalise Peredo as *Frenchy*, Cara Greville as *Jan*, Sarah Murphy as *Patty*, Saoirse Ripley as *Cha Cha*, Orlaith McDonnell as *Ms. Lynch* and Alanna Shortall and Holly Keenan as *Pink Ladies*.



Michael Murphy, Sean Murray-Gaffey, Colm Shortall, Oisín Johnston, James Costello and Conor Moran!

First Year Trip to Ericsson Athlone

On the week of the 2nd December, our 1st year students went to Ericsson in Athlone where they experienced first-hand a day in the life of a Software Engineer. Over the course of the week, the First Years participated in a Hackathon where they learned all about coding. The group received tuition on HTML and CSS. With this knowledge, they created their own websites and presented them to a panel of judges. The talented staff of Ericsson were very informative and gave the group a thorough overview about Ericsson as well as a full tour of the facility. Many thanks to Ericsson for an excellent well-structured programme which was of great benefit to all our students.



Áine Broderick, Luran Finan, Sarah McCormack and Skyla Looney.



Roisin Slevin, Sophia O'Shaughnessy, Cody Parker and Hagan Niall.

MCS GAISCE VENTURE 2019

On the weekend of October 18th and 19th twenty nine of our Fifth Year students embarked on the final component of their Bronze President Award. This entailed a one night stay at Birr Outdoor Education Centre and a 25km hike in the Slieve Bloom Mountains which was completed over two days. The first day of hiking presented a big challenge for the students as the terrain was fairly beaten up after the rain that fell in the days and weeks prior to the event. Gianni, the centre's outdoor team leader with his colleagues Lorraine and Marty guided the students on the hike. Students were literally bogged down in marshy ground and returned to the centre soaking wet and cold. Fortunately for them Bill, the centre's chef had cooked a hearty chicken curry, a lovely meal to warm the students up in preparation for team-building games outside later that evening. The rest of the night afforded students ample time to rejuvenate in preparation for second day of hiking. On day two the guides, Marty and Eamon took

the students on a more manageable and kinder hike to complete their awards.

Gaisce meaning great 'feat' awards students who commit to contributing to the local community. It promotes physical and mental well-being and actively encourages students to develop a new skill. At MCS students who complete these three elements of the award will then sign up with their President (Gaisce) Award Leaders Josephine Meehan and Eoin Manning to complete the final part of the award, the adventure. This is traditionally done in conjunction with Birr Outdoor Education Centre. In conclusion, the students would like to thank Mary and Deirdre in the office for facilitating the adventure, Bill for the wonderful home-cooked meals and the guides whose job it was to plan the hikes for our students in the mountains. Even though they were tired and weary upon return there were no regrets and thus, students will look forward to receiving their bronze Gaisce awards at the school's Annual Awards Night in May 2020.



Students participating in Gaisce Venture.

Feachtas – Tráth na gCeist

Is eagraíocht Gaeilge é Feachtas a bhfuil d'aidhm aige an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i measc daoine óga. Gach bliain eagraíonn siad an comórtas seo chun an deis a thabhairt do dhaoine óga a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid taobh amuigh den seomra ranga ag ócáid taitneamhach spraoitúil. Ghlac foirne ó na scoileanna áitiúla páirt sa chraobhreigiúnach sa chomórtas I Móta ar an gcúigiú lá de mhí na Shamhna. D'éirigh le hochtar ó Phobalscoil Mhóta áit a bhaint amach sa chraobhchomórtas Náisiúnta I dTráth na gCeist Feachtas a bheidh ar siúl i mBaile Átha Cliath I mí na Márta. Bhain Philip King, Seán Treacy, Sive Brady agus Faith Cuffe an dara háit amach agus bhuaigh Conor O'Brien, Ruairí Casey, Aisling Murphy agus Sarah Treacy an chéad duais sa chomórtas. Comhghairdeas leis na scoláirí a ghlac páirt ann, táimid fíor-bhródúil as an éacht seo. Mar a deirtear, 'Ní neart go cur le chéile!'



First place in Feachtas Irish Table Quiz.

Mini-Company 2019

There is a huge spirit of Enterprise in MCS this year with Mini Companies from First, Second and Transition Year. Every student participating has worked very hard and are busy marketing and selling their products. The school market day was held on Thursday 28th November in the school gym at lunchtime. All students in the school, teachers and parents were invited in on the day. Each Mini Company set up a stall and sold a variety of products. The students had very high quality products and we look forward to the County Final in March where we will compete at a very high level at the Junior, Intermediate and Senior categories. Well done to all the students involved.



Cody Parker, TJ Turley, Jack O'Brien and Daniel Lynam.

Movie Magic Workshop

Lights...Camera... Action!

TY students recently took part in a full day film and editing workshop. From shooting and producing their own scenes to presenting the news in front of the Green Screen, students richly enjoyed their 'Movie Magic' experience. Next stop, Hollywood. Oscar nominations surely await!

TY Students who participated in Movie Magic Workshop.



DOUBLE TROUBLE: SENIOR & U16 LEINSTER A FINALS FOR LADIES GAELIC...

SENIOR LADIES

MCS's Senior Ladies Football team have had a very successful year so far in the Leinster Senior A Championship campaign. They came out of their group winning all three games thus advancing to the semi-finals where they again gained the upper hand against strong opposition and are now in the senior A Leinster Final.

Our girls had the ideal start to their championship campaign when they defeated Loretto, Wexford in Ballylinen on the 14th of October. The final score line showed 4-10 to 1-11.

The second round of their campaign took place in gale force wind conditions against St. Joseph's Secondary School, Rochfortbridge in the Rochfortbridge GAA grounds. We managed to keep the home side completely scoreless for the entire first half, heading into half time on a score line of 4-10 to no score. Our sharpshooting forwards kept the scoreboard moving throughout the match and the final score line was 6-11 to 1-4.

The third and final round was a home game against Scoil Críost Rí, Portlaoise which provided a tight, tense match where our girls battled hard to come out winners. The final scoreline of 3-8 to 2-10 meant the MCS girls won by a point to come out top of their table and straight into the Leinster semi-final.

We then advanced to the Leinster semi-final which took place on the 5th of December against Eureka S.S., Kells in Kinnegad. MCS had a slow first half, however following and excellent display of skill and leadership we emerged with a 5 point win, 8-9 to 5-7.

MCS Senior Ladies now face Scoil Críost Rí of Portlaoise in the Leinster A final which is due to take place before Christmas.

Panel: Emma Quigley, Roisín Killian, Therese Geoghegan, Chloe Moran, Ruth Martin, Emma Kelly, Maria Farrell, Roisín Ennis, Sinéad Robbins, Annie Heavin, Áine Gaynor, Ailbhe Sheridan, Ava Cornally, Aoife Dalton, Shannon Mulvihill, Kacey Burslem Rotheroe, Cliona McCormack, Megan Clinton, Hazel Kelly, Anna Sheeran, Holly Keenan, Therese Robbins.

U16 LADIES

The MCS U16 Ladies Football team have to date an unbroken winning streak in the Leinster A Championship. After beating Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise on a scoreline of 4-10 to 3-11 in a qualifying match they advanced to a Leinster semi-final where they took on Ballymahon. Both sides gave fantastic displays of both attack and defense during a very tense game, however it was to be Moate's day with a 6-12 to 3-11 victory.

The U16 ladies now advance to a Leinster A Final where they look forward to taking on Loretto, Navan and hopefully keeping their success streak intact.

Panel: Emma Quigley, Áine Maxwell, Cliona McCormack, Chloe Moran, Joyce Conway, Holly Keenan, Rebecca Finlay, Áine Gaynor, Megan Clinton, Maria Farrell, Annie Heavin, Kacey Rotheroe, Shannon Mulvihill, Ava Cornally, Hannah Doolan, Claire Conlon, Saoirse McGuinness, Anna Cornally, Caoimhe Cassidy, Kaytlin Flynn, Laura Conlon, Hazel Kelly, Cara Greville, Halle Egan.



MCS Senior Ladies Football team.



MCS U16 Ladies Football team.

TY Students making a difference in their community

A fresh group of TY students have taken up the development and maintenance of the Sensory Garden in Dún Na Sí Amenity and Heritage Park. They meet with the young adults from St. Hilda's Services Moate each Friday morning. Depending on the weather, they either work in the garden or do activities in St Hilda's Center in Tuar Árd. The garden requires continuous weeding, pruning and planting which the students have been enjoying. As part of their community involvement in this project, the students helped out with 'The Halloween Spooktacular' as Zombies adding to the ghoulish atmosphere in Dún Na Sí. The development of the Sensory Garden is co-ordinated by Margaret Mandal (MCS).

The main focus this year is the design and construction of a Sensory Path. The students are investigating materials they can use along the path, considering colours, patterns, shapes, textures and sounds which will stimulate the senses. They hope this path will be particularly beneficial to people who have impaired senses or sensory processing disorders. The students are being supported by the staff and volunteers of the park in the construction of this path.



Darina Hanevy & Sharon Seery in the Garden.

TY TRIP

to Temple Accommodation Direct Provision Centre in Horseleap

Recently the class of TY1 made a visit to the Temple Accommodation Direct Provision Centre in Horseleap as part of their Young Social Innovators (YSI) project. The class are completing their YSI project on the situation of Asylum Seekers in Ireland. They are very thankful to the manageress Tanya Hennigan for the invitation and to the residents for hosting them so warmly. On arrival the class were greeted by three of the residents who were from Georgia, Zimbabwe and Afghanistan. Each one spoke English quite well and shared their story in an informative and interesting way.

The class learned that there are 115 people living in the Centre altogether. This includes 18 children who attend local primary and secondary schools. The TY students decided that it would be nice to bring Christmas gifts to them. They held a Bake Sale in their school and from the proceeds they purchased teddies, dolls, footballs and board games for the children. The class were brought on a tour of some of the facilities in the centre open to the residents; which included a shop, a small gym and a communal kitchen, toy room, living room and dining room. To finish off a great experience Roisín O'Hara and Emily Ray played some Irish music to provide them with a taste of our culture.

Overall from this worthwhile experience, the students learned that these Asylum Seekers are just normal people who want to escape the difficulties of their home country, to contribute to Ireland and work and ultimately to just live normal lives. When the class finish their research, they plan to give awareness talks in the school on this issue.

Awards Ceremony for Pope John Paul II

Seventeen of our students were recently presented with Pope John Paul II Awards by Bishop Francis Duffy in St. Mel's Cathedral Longford.

MCS was one of many schools who took part in this award, where students have the option to earn a bronze, silver, gold or the Papal Cross medal. The award requires students to take action in their community and parish by fulfilling anything from eight to twenty-six weeks of community work. The seventeen students who received the award were involved in a number of activities, from; taking part in Tidy Towns committees to visiting Nursing Homes and St. Hilda's in Athlone for their community aspect and, reading at Mass, travelling

to Lourdes with the Carmelites, singing in choirs and cleaning Churches for their Parish hours.

A short prayer service opened the award-giving ceremony where students took part in readings and prayers and also gave their own, personal experiences of taking part in the award. Those who attended received certificates along with their medals. Our school was proud to be a first for the Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise with Michael Hunter receiving the Papal Cross. Following the Prayer Service and Awards Ceremony, there were refreshments in the crypt under the beautiful Cathedral. It was a lovely ceremony and the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Front row, L-R: Teacher Yvonne Prendergast, Michelle Corcoran, Kirsty Lohan, John Horan, Lauren Farrell, Mairead Martin, Ciara Egan & Sarah Murray. Back row: Sean Treacy, Michelle Flynn, Oisín Murphy, Darragh Counihan, Christina Cooper, Michael Hunter & Bishop Francis Duffy. Missing from picture are: Cathal Geoghegan, Katie Killane, Erin Pettit & Erin Allen O'Loughlin.

Science and more Science for Science Week 2019 at MCS

Science was the theme in MCS during Science Week, 11th-15th November, ranging from Science Magic, Science Quizzes and Science Shows. There was a Science Fact of the Day and an Element Quiz Question, with prizes for the winners. 'Climate Change' was the theme for the Poster Competition. The MCS National winners of the Angus Irish Angus Breeders Association held a 'Guess the Weight' of their winning calves competition and showed off their fast growing calves.

TY's introduced Science Experiments with First Years. TY students, once again, took over the First Year Science classes for the week. The students set to work by demonstrating many fascinating experiments they had prepared. These experiments included turning copper coins into silver and gold, making an iodine snake using Hydrogen Peroxide, and creating a dust explosion. It was a very enjoyable experience for all showing that Science really is fun!!

Second Year Table Quiz

TY students acted as Quizmasters for the Second Year Table Quiz. Teams of three students took part in the first round quizzes during their Science classes. The winning team from each class was then put forward to the final. Five teams took part in the Quiz Final at lunch time on Monday 18th November. Katie Molloy, Eimear Keenan and Aoife Guinan were the overall winners. Well done to all who took part.

ISTA Senior Cycle Science Quiz

On the 14th of November, three teams of Sixth Year Science students represented MCS in the Regional Final of the ISTA Senior Cycle Science Quiz in Athlone Institute of Technology.

The teams consisted of: Elaine Pidgeon, Hannah O'Connor and Teresa Browne, Emma Kelly, Niamh O'Reilly and David Murtagh and Julian Wisniewski, Brian Conlon and Aaron Keane.

The students answered questions over a range of topics across several areas of Science including Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

All groups performed very well and were a credit to the school. Julian, Brian and Aaron were awarded 3rd place and competed in the National Final in Trinity College Dublin.

Science Week Demonstrations

The TY Science team of James Costello, Caoimhe Lowry, Hazel Kelly, Kevin Seery, Ben O'Connell, Emma Hynes and Chloe Heavin carried out a number of experiments introducing 1st Year Science classes to Junior Cycle Chemistry and Physics. They demonstrated the features of chemical changes using simple reactions. They also illustrated the impact of concentration on reaction rates using an iodine clock reaction. Finally, they taught the First Years about forces using eggs. The students impressed the teachers with their excellent presentation skills as they introduced difficult topics in science in a fun engaging way.

Strong Women in Science Show in Tuar Ard

On Wednesday 13th November, 95 TY students and 80 First Year students participated in a fun, lively and fast-paced circus performance hosted by Tuar Ard. This workshop was supported by Westmeath County Council, Strongwomen in Science, the Institute of Physics and the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Jupiter's Trip to Birr Castle

It was a frosty sunny morning when First Year class group Jupiter set off to Birr Castle. The tour and workshop was delivered by Áine Flood of I-OFAR and Trinity College Dublin. The students were given a tour of the historic Great Leviathan Telescope, built in 1845 and the modern Irish Low-Frequency Array Radio Telescope, built in 2017. Then they went indoors for their Space Workshop where they focused on the enormity of Space, as well as discoveries and advancements in technology over the centuries. All activities organised by the energetic and enthusiastic Science Department at MCS were fun and stimulating proving Science is all part of our everyday life.