



MOATE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Newslink

OCTOBER 2019

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FIRST YEAR BONDING DAY

September has been a very busy month, in particular for the newest members of our school community, namely our First Year students. These students have settled in very well to school life and seem to be coping with the transition to secondary school and all the new challenges and opportunities this brings.

On Monday 23rd September First Years and some of their teachers travelled to *Jump Lanes* in Liffey Valley, Dublin, for the customary bonding day. This is a great

opportunity for all to relax, have some fun and get to know each other a little better. On arrival students were subdivided into five smaller groups and for the following two hours enjoyed the activities on offer. They certainly are an energetic bunch and no challenge was too much! After refuelling on pizza it was time for some retail therapy before heading back to school. We would like to wish all our First Year students all the very best for the year ahead.



First Year students enjoy bonding trip to Jump Zone.

BT YOUNG SCIENTISTS

Best of luck to the eight groups who have entered the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. This year students are developing innovative techniques to solve a range of problems including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preventing fertiliser run off and improving the taste of goat's milk.



Back row, l-r:
Ellie Keavney,
Rachael McCann,
James O'Brien,
Emma Keenan,
Megan Clinton,
Aoife Murray,
Sharon Seery,
Hannah Malone.
Front row:
Emily Korzeniewski,
Cliona McCormack,
Niamh Collins,
Emily Rae.

From the Principal...

September 2019 brought many changes to MCS as we said farewell to the class of 2019 and wished them well in their future endeavours and we warmly welcomed 145 new enthusiastic First Year students. We are delighted to welcome our new staff members Emer Gaffey, Marian Condon, Mary Fitzsimons and Carol Price 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 MCS and Moate Business College, which is another sign of our reputation as a high quality educational establishment.



This has been a very busy term with the School Musical 'Grease' taking to the stage from Tuesday 22nd – Friday 25th October. Continuing our Musical heritage the show demonstrates the school's immense spirit of teamwork and commitment and the remarkable talents of the students involved. My heartfelt thanks to the school community involved in this wonderful production.

Students are involved in various sporting competitions including Football, Hurling, Basketball, Athletics, Soccer, Horse Riding and I wish them well. As a school we continue with 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.

Transition Year GAA Future Leaders

MCS is now embarking on a new programme in Transition Year called "Future Leaders Transition Year Programme".

The "Future Leaders Transition Year Programme" is a joint initiative from the GAA and the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST). It is a cross-curricular programme comprising of a series of modules designed to encourage maturity, initiative, responsibility and leadership skills in pupils. The programme gives pupils the knowledge and skills to support all roles required in the effective staging of Gaelic Games. As part of the programme pupils are challenged to organise and run a GAA Super Games Blitz or set up a Super Games Centre for younger students and/or support coaching of younger players in their school or community.



Students are responding well to the programme and are looking forward to developing and practicing leadership skills that can be used both inside and outside school. Watch this space...

Transition Years making energy balls as part of their Nutrition Module.

ANGUS BEEF COMPETITION

At the National Ploughing Championships in Co. Carlow MCS Irish Angus Group (Sarah Murray, Conor O'Brien, Lorna Eagney and Christopher Kerrigan) took home five Irish Angus calves. These calves were won during TY after competing in the "Certified Irish Angus Beef School Competition". The calves will be raised on Sarah Murray's family farm for the next fourteen months. The group will be heading to Amsterdam in February to see meat processing. They will also be visiting local farmers to get their advice on how to rear the calves. In March of 2021 there will be an extra €2,000 up for grabs for whichever school becomes the overall winner of this brilliant competition.



Christopher Kerrigan, Lorna Eagney, Miriam O'Callaghan, Sarah Murray and Conor O'Brien.

COMPUTER SCIENCE WORKSHOPS AT AIT

TY students James Daly, Ethan Ross and Patryk Wojczyk have been attending the Coding and Computer Science Workshops 'Code4TY' at the Athlone IT, organised by Enda Fallon, head of Engineering and Paul Mulvey, semi-retired lecturer at the AIT.

The workshops take place every Monday from 10am-1pm in the Engineering Building at AIT. Paul Mulvey is teaching how to code and the basics of Computer Science. At the moment, the students are beginning the construction of a mini computer which has the capability to measure temperature, light levels, carry out tasks

given to it and much more!

The course is designed to teach the basics of coding and how to solve problems using computers. These computers can be used in projects such as Scifest, Mini Company, CANSAT and BT Young Scientists. MCS offers classes in Computer Science in Fifth and Sixth Year as we are one of the first 60 schools to be chosen. The students hope to continue with Computer Science in Fifth Year and hope that these STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) workshops will give them a head start in the world of computers.



L-R: Patryk Wojczyk, Enda Fallon (AIT), Ethan Ross and James Daly

Ericsson Tech Day

MCS students Stephen Kelly and Christopher Kerrigan had the fortunate opportunity to attend *Tech Day* at Ericsson, Athlone on 12th September. The students presented their BT Young Scientists project *Fence Defence* to the staff on the campus. *Tech Day* is a day in which Ericsson engineers share their innovations, technology-expertise and knowledge with each other and their customers. The MCS students were enlightened with the developing technology and the future opportunities available to them on their doorstep.



Stephen Kelly & Christopher Kerrigan at Ericsson Tech Day.

HAMLET

A murdered father. A duplicitous king. A shallow mother. A broken son.

It could of course, be no other text than Shakespeare's masterpiece, *Hamlet*.

On October 17th, our Leaving Cert students, accompanied by their teachers, attended a production of *'Hamlet'* in the Mill Theatre, Dundrum. In a production that remained faithful to the text, students were treated to an absorbing performance that effectively brought both characters and themes to life. Having already studied the play in class, this was a richly enjoyable and educational day for all. Our students should now be the go-to experts on all things *Hamlet*. Leaving Cert English 2020, watch out!

Rotary Youth Leadership Development Competition 2019

This competition is promoted throughout the Rotary Clubs in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland to identify and recognise students with exemplary leadership skills based on their extra-curricular activities. It is also one of their longest running youth projects and this attests to its success over the years.

The school round of this competition recently took place at MCS following on from a meeting with prospective applicants. Those students who expressed their interest applied to take part in the school round of interviews which were conducted by two members of Athlone Rotary Club, Mr. Tom Mulligan and Mr. Paddy Deavy. Two students were selected from the interviews to go on and represent the school in the Club Round of the competition to be held in early November.

Johnny Horan and Michelle Flynn were selected to compete in the next round of the competition and we wish them well in their quest to follow in the footsteps of recent School, Club and Regional Champions, Emma Kelly and Deborah Fakye. Both girls travelled to the Euroscola in Strasbourg to participate in a variety of debates with students from all over Europe and it was a terrific experience for them, hence the desire for Johnny and Michelle to have this experience too.



JUNK KOUTURE LAUNCH

Junk Kouture is a fashion competition using recycled materials, which challenges young people to design, create and model high end couture from everyday junk. It takes in elements of fashion, design, engineering and environmental sustainability and transforms them into a creative contest. Junk Kouture 2020, the 10th year edition, was launched at the end of September and some of our last year's entrants were invited to attend. TY students are currently very busy designing and creating their entries for this year's competition. We wish them the best of luck.



MCS students take part in Junk Kouture launch.

U16/SENIOR LADIES FOOTBALL

2019 was a very hard act to follow with the school making history and winning their first ever All-Ireland title.

However, this year record numbers showed interest in representing their school in ladies football. Our girls have been put through their paces and have been training hard with MCS since September.

All players have been very successful with their clubs and counties and are now ready to display their skill for Moate Community School.

We look forward to what will be another successful year.



LOURDES 2019

Our journey began at 4:15am in the Carmelite Centre, Moate. As the fourteen of us gathered along with our teachers, Mr. Hatton and Ms. Costello, alongside local pilgrims to embark on the trip of a lifetime, the excitement was palpable—even at that early hour of the morning. We arrived at Knock Airport that morning still under the cover of darkness - but all of us were wide awake. The 2-hour delay of the flight did nothing to dampen our spirits and it was all systems go as soon as we arrived in Lourdes.

We found our feet within the first few hours and from there no one could stop us. The captivating town of Lourdes amazed us all and there was so much to take in. The group bonded quickly and soon enough we were all joking and laughing with each other.

The sense of community between all the Carmelite pilgrims and helpers from across the country was incredible. Six other schools from all over Ireland travelled with us and we got to know them as the week went on. As we talked to the pilgrims we were helping, we heard many heartbreakingly stories along the way. Our eyes were opened, and we saw our own lives in a whole new light, especially how lucky we truly are.

On the second last night at half twelve we made the journey down to the grotto alongside our two teachers. We collected holy water and held our own small prayer service. We sat at the Grotto, mesmerised and entranced by the magic and the peace before walking across the river to place our candles in the candle chapel. The night had such a profound effect on us that we walked back to our hotel in complete silence – each person lost in their own thoughts.

Bank of Ireland School Bank 2019

The school bank is up and running again in MCS with 5 students selected after an interview process. The successful candidates were tasked with the job of running the school bank. The five Transition Year students are: Aoife Murray, Hannah Doyle, Cathal Moran, Tobby Conteh, Riona Lawless.

This opportunity has given the candidates an excellent insight into the running of a financial institution. It has also provided them with skills and experience that will be invaluable to them in the future and will also help them in their future career choices. They have also had interview experience which will also be very beneficial in the years ahead.

Congratulations and well done to the team, their teacher Ms. Doyle and Bank of Ireland Representative Derek Glennon.



Derek Glennon, Aoife Murray, Hannah Doyle and Cathal Moran.



Derek Glennon, Riona Lawless, Tobby Conteh and Aoife Murray.

Although at the beginning of the trip, none of us knew what to expect, we were all very nicely surprised by the pilgrimage. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported us along the way with fundraising. We would also like to thank Mr. Lowry, Ms. Murray, Ms. McCormack and Ms. Feeley without whom the trip would not have been possible. Finally, a big thank you to Mr. Hatton and Ms. Costello, who guided us and were there to help us anytime we needed it.



Back Row, L-r: Mr J Hatton, Sean Conlon, Ben O'Connell, Claire Conlon, Aoife Murray, Emma Seery, James O'Brien, Eoghan Curran and Ms Costello.

Front Row: Darina Hanevy, Caoimhe Lowry, Cara Johnston, Matthew Hogg and Hazel Kelly.

FIRST YEAR HURLING BLITZ

Our First Year hurling team took part in a Hurling Blitz in the Centre of Excellence Portlaoise. Well done to all on a great performance.



First Year Hurling Team.

GRADUATION BALL 2019

This year's Graduation Ball took place on August 21st in the Boomfield House Hotel in Mullingar.



Colin Boland and Edel Stone.



Liam Farrell and Muireann Booth.

TY TRIP TO PORTLICK 2019

On Thursday the 5th of September TY students travelled to Portlick Adventure Centre in Glasson as a bonding day for students. This was the year group's first outing together where they had a fun-filled day of activities.

As three buses full of excited TY students arrived at the Adventure Centre, all the staff of the Centre greeted them with a warm welcome and were ready to kick-start an amazing day. Upon their arrival, students were divided into four groups and each group participated in a wide range of outdoor activities such as kayaking, waterslide, archery, laser-tag, zip-lining, rock-climbing and many other sporting pursuits. On top of all the activities, the students sat back and enjoyed some delicious lunch provided by the Adventure Centre after their busy day of activities.

Along with all the fun the students had, the activities allowed the students to get to know each other better, branch out into new friendships with different people within the year, and to work together as they developed new outdoor skills. The trip was a great way to introduce this group of students to the TY experience and it was agreed by all of the students that it was a worthwhile and enjoyable day out!

Thanks to all the staff in Portlick Adventure Centre, our TY students, supervised by Ms Bracken, Ms Smyth and Mr Daly, had an excellent day to what hopefully is the start of an excellent year!



TY students enjoy bonding day to Portlick.

New First Years

