

MCS JUNK KOUTURE FINALISTS 2020

March 16th was regional day for JK 2020... that day seems like a lifetime ago as Coronavirus took over the world.

The Final was due to happen in May and as Moate had three dresses through to the Final there was great excitement on strutting their stuff in the 3Arena to an audience packed with screaming teenagers. But alas, as this was now not going to happen, a new plan was needed.

Our three dresses are: *"Burden of Privilege"*, Claire Conlon (model) and Hazel Kelly; *"Blinded by Perfection"*, Caoimhe Lowry (model), Grainne Geoghegan and Erin Hickey; *"Just My Impression"*, Cara Greville (model) and creator.

Junk Kouture decided that if the Final couldn't happen in the usual way, well then, a new and equally spectacular way was needed... this New Way would mean that each of the five regions would be filmed by RTÉ at a specular location, our location being Gloster House, Birr, the 300-year-old Georgian Country House.

So, on Tuesday November 24th, the three teams and their teacher headed to Gloster House for their time slot to be filmed by the RTÉ film crew. The new plan is to broadcast the Final on the RTÉ player before Christmas where the 80 finalists from the five regions will compete to be crowned Junk Kouture Winner 2020.

From the Principal...

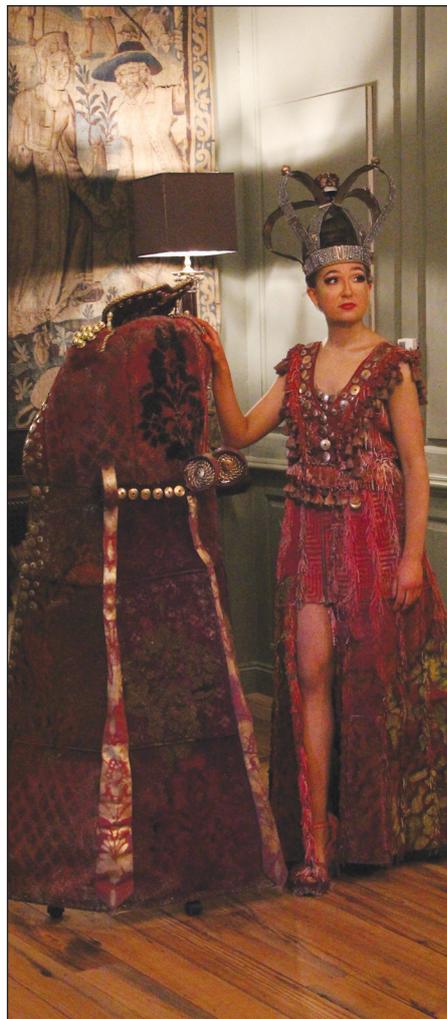
As we reach the end of a very unique year, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our students, staff and parents for your commitment and dedication to our school. It has been a significant achievement to operate and manage our school in such difficult circumstances and our success is due to the shared effort of all our school partners.



We wish you a safe and peaceful Christmas break and every good wish for 2021.



Caoimhe Lowry *"Blinded By Perfection"*



Claire Conlon *"Burden of Privilege"*



Cara Greville *"Just my Impression"*

Science Week at Moate Community School

Science Week took on a different approach this year with many of the activities taking place virtually. Students took part in quizzes using Microsoft Forms and Kahoot, along with Science Week Webinars, during the week of 9th to 13th November. All these activities are designed to stimulate the students' interest in Science, encouraging them to study the various science subjects and show their relevance to future careers in this area.

Daily Science Question and Science Fact

A Daily Science Question was posted each day, with questions on Space and Elements of the Periodic Table, for example, 'Which two metal elements are not grey in colour?' The winner each day was awarded a canteen voucher. Congratulations to each of the daily winners: Colin Healy, Ava Hallissy, Orna Dillon, Ronan Aspel and Patrick Uzozie.

A Science Fact of the Day was posted on the student plasma screen, including 'Frogs don't drink water because they absorb it through their skin'.

First Year Poster Competition

Biodiversity was the theme of the Science Week Poster Competition. Science students from each of the First Year classes created posters which were both artistic and informative. The standard was very high, proving difficult to choose an overall winner. Three winners were awarded a prize: Emily Pratlett, Cioná Lawless and Diya Govindaraju.

Science Fun Demos for First Years

The First Year Science students were wowed with some fun Science demonstrations, as teachers showed them the alluring properties of various materials; Vapourising Dry Ice, the erupting Iodine Snake, and the fast combustibility of Natural Gas.

Second Year Table Quizzes

All Second Year Science students took part in a Science Quiz on Kahoot during their Science classes. The winner from each class received a canteen voucher. Congratulations to the following winning students: Áine Macken, Eanna Maxwell, Dylan MacCormack, Cian Malone, Cody Broderick, Gordon Feery and Reuben Guinan. Questions tested their knowledge of physics, chemistry and biology from their JC Science Course well as some general Science questions.

MCS Senior Science Quiz

Sixth Year students of the science subjects Biology, Chemistry and Physics



1st Year Poster Comp Winners Emily Pratlett, Cioná Lawless and Diya Govindaraju.



Cian Malone, one of Second Year Kahoot winners.



JP Taylor, one of Senior Biology Class Winners.



Kacey Burslem-Rotheroe winner of ISTA quiz (Chemistry).

took part in a Science Quiz, with questions relating to their Leaving Certificate course as well as some general Science questions. The winner from each class

received a Science themed mug. Adam T Kelly, Kirsty Lohan, Aoife Lynch, and Ava McHugh were winners in their respective Biology classes. Leanne McManus in the Physics Class and Kacey Burslem-Rotheroe in the Chemistry Class.

Well done to all the students who took part in the Science Week activities, and a big thank you to the Science teachers for organising the events.

CLIMATE CHANGE AMBASSADOR

A massive congratulations to Diya Govindaraju, one of our First Year students, who has just been selected as a Climate Change Ambassador in a recent prestigious national programme!

The Climate Ambassador programme is Ireland's first ever initiative to train and support individuals taking action on climate change. The programme is co-ordinated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce with support from the Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment. Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment. Denis Naughton, T.D., said that the programme will "play a significant part in how we as a country try to deal with climate change. Ireland is vulnerable to the effects of climate change and the impacts are serious: more storms, rising sea levels and changing weather".

An Taisce was inundated with applications this year so we are especially proud of Diya who has a keen interest in Climate Change. Diya is also a member of our Green Schools Committee and I have no doubt she will take her representative role very seriously to try to increase awareness of the causes of climate change and inform people as to what they can do to address the problems. A. O'Shea



BUDDING YOUNG SCIENTISTS FROM MCS PREPARE THEIR BTYS PROJECTS FOR THE JANUARY EXHIBITION

Four groups of Second Year students and seven groups of TY students from MCS will present their projects at this year's virtual BT Young Scientists and Technology Exhibition in January. The students are carrying out their investigations, preparing their report booklet and poster, as well as a Powerpoint presentation and a short video of their work. All the students have been working diligently, sharing time in the Prep Rooms to facilitate social distancing. MCS would like to wish them every success for the Exhibition.

Second Year Students' Projects:

Áine Broderick, Shana Brady and Lauren Finan: *Investigating the Effect of Diet on the Incidence of Laminitis among Connemara Ponies.*

Kian Brady & Reuben Guinan: *Superfoods and Diabetes.*

Niamh Kelly, Sarah McCormack & Skyla Looney: *Examining the Impact of Lockdown on the Irish Diet.*

Áine Macken & Mia Shellam: *Ironing out the Water Quality Issues on Irish Pig Farms.*

Transition Year Students' Projects:

Abby Mullins, Chloe Murphy and Megan Carroll: *Wool Saviour of our Sea.*

Conall Mandal & Daragh Lowry: *An App to Co-ordinate your Awareness and Knowledge of your Locality.*



Reuben Guinan, Kian Brady, Shana Brady, Niamh Kelly, Lauren Finan, Skyla Looney, Áine Broderick, Sarah McCormack, Mia Shellam and Áine Macken.

Áine Maxwell, Laura Conlon & Joyce Conway: *Stop Milk Spoilage. Start Seeing Changes.*

Ava Hallissy, Leah Hallissy and Annie Duffy: *The Future is Bright; Using Compost to Fuel Our Homes.*

Labhaoise Foley, Kaytlin Flynn and Emer Killian: *The Bird Feeder Infection Problem.*

Caitlin Blom and Rachel Bermingham: *Investigating the Effect of Music on the Addictiveness of Video Games.*

Tara Hamilton and Áine Egan: *A Statistical Analysis of the Effect from home on gender Stereotyping During Lockdown.*



Megan Carroll, Abby Mullins, Chloe Murphy, Áine Egan, Rachel Bermingham, Kaytlin Flynn, Caitlin Blom, Emer Killian, Tara Hamilton and Labhaoise Foley.



Ava Hallissy, Annie Duffy, Leah Hallissy, Laura Conlon, Joyce Conway, Áine Maxwell, Conall Mandal & Daragh Lowry.

Moate students awarded at the National Final of SciFest

Fifth Year students Emily Ray and Sharon Seery, with their project 'Dispel the Smell of Goat's Milk', reached the National Final of Scifest 2020. The competition took place virtually on 19th to 21st November. The students were awarded with Excellence in STEM trophies in recognition of their achievement. Emily and Sharon achieved the Best Runner-Up Project and at the Regional Final in May when they were in Transition Year.

Their project focussed on improving the taste and smell of goats' milk and make it more palatable.

The health benefits of goats' milk are well known; the reason for the lack of consumption is the milk's unpalatable nature. They considered the breed of goat, the goats' diet, cooling method and effect of additives. Congratulations to the students and their teacher Ms Cusack on their achievement.



Sharon Seery & Emily Ray with National Award.

CREDIT UNION ART COMPETITION

Winners of Moate Credit Union Art Competition Aimee Leonard and Méabh O'Shea. They created a piece of artwork under the theme "Friendship".



Principal Mr. Lowry, Aimee Leonard, Meabh O'Shea and Ms. Shine.

Geography Field Trip

Last month Leaving Certificate Geography students were finally able to undertake their Field Study which was previously delayed due to Covid 19 restrictions. Equipped with masks, gloves and hand sanitiser students packed waders, recording sheets and all the equipment necessary to study Fluvial Processes in the Breenford River.

Social Distancing Rules required that several trips were made to accommodate all Geography students.

Smaller groups insured that everyone was busy with all the tasks of measuring, recording and sketching the meander in the river.

Students had to establish that the meander was shaped by fluvial forces of erosion, transportation and deposition. This required measuring the velocity, sinuosity, width and depth of the river in addition to undertaking an extensive Bedload Analysis.

The students completed all the tasks successfully even though water level, current and volume were high, due to excessive rainfall in November.

The fieldwork component represents 20% of the Leaving Certificate Geography Examination and students are currently compiling the data, drawing conclusions from the results and evaluating the task.

Our picture shows Liam Farrell and Sean Malone battling the currents to measure the depth of the river.



Geography Field Trip, Liam Farrell & Sean Malone.

A Christmas Message

At this time of year we are all looking forward to Christmas. The Christmas tree is up, the lights are twinkling and we can hear the sound of Christmas carols being sung. We all have that sense of expectation. We are looking forward to holidays and meeting friends and family.

This year is that little bit different. We still hope to meet friends and family even though it may be on a smaller scale. We will still make it the most special time of the year and we will still carry the Christmas message with us, the sense of hope and new beginnings. This year this is especially so because of the year we have gone through.

It is so important to have hope, a sense that there is something more, and the sense of anticipation. We can all make a difference to somebody, it may be just a smile, a Christmas card in the post, a phone call, and all it takes is a simple gesture to make a difference to someone.

It was this sense that brought me to our Advent calendar idea this year... every day we had an Advent reflection over the intercom. It was just a simple story or a task to get across what the season really means. A student was chosen at random each day and got a gift from the calendar. These little things make a difference.

Normally at this time, we are busy organising our Carol Service but this year that is not possible. However, as school chaplain, I would like to take this time to wish you all a very Happy Christmas. I hope that you all find health and happiness and above all hope during this season and may you all receive the gift of friendship and love in all its forms over the Christmas time.

Áine Feeley



Moate Community School duo receive NUIG's Academic Excellence Awards 2020

Brian Conlon and Aaron Keane, former students, were awarded for their excellent Leaving Certificate results at NUIG. The scholarship scheme has been developed to support high achievers in growing their critical thinking, leadership, employability and professional skills. The University has a long history of excellence and achievement and this scholarship programme supports and enables the next generation of change makers.

Students awarded with this scholarship in 2020 receive €1,500 in recognition of their academic success and will be invited to join a high achiever development programme supported by the scholarship to grow their leadership capacity and to develop the skills they need to excel in their field of study.

A maximum of 10 scholarships are awarded to students pursuing studies in Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies, Engineering and Science, Business, Law and Public Policy and finally Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. Students do not apply for this scholarship,



Brian Conlon.



Aaron Keane.

the University chooses them in recognition of their academic excellence and future potential. Aaron is studying Medicine and Brian is studying Commerce, Global Experience. We, at MCS, are very proud of the boys and wish them the very best of luck in their studies and in life.

Sports Scholarships

Pictured are the recipients of the 2020 sports scholarships. Students from sixth class participated in a number of sports and fitness events, and based on these competitions students were selected for scholarships.



Principal Mr Lowry with Cara Stenson, Eva Fox, Tadhg Heavin & Ben Martin.

Music Scholarship

Congratulations to the recipients of our Music Scholarship for 2020/21 Niamh Heduvan and Fionn Campbell. Niamh has chosen to study voice with our vocal coach Ciarán Brady and Fionn has chosen to study trumpet with our brass and woodwind teacher Paul Hennessy. We wish them well in their music studies this year and look forward to hearing them perform in the near future.



Principal Mr. Lowry with Fionn Campbell and Niamh Heduvan.