



Email: info@moatecs.com • Website: www.moatecs.com

MoateCS@moatecs.com • Moate Community School

## Huge interest in BT Young Scientists among Moate students!

There is huge interest this year in BT Young Scientists among the students in Moate Community School, despite current COVID restrictions. Since their return to school at the end of August, the students have been brainstorming ideas and preparing their project proposals with the support of their Science teachers Ms Mairead Cusack, Ms Irene O'Sullivan and Ms Margaret Mandal.

Thirteen projects were submitted for the 1st October deadline, ranging across the categories: Social & Behavioural, Biological & Ecological, Chemical & Physical and Technology. Competition is high for a place in the virtual exhibition which takes place in January. Students will be informed whether their project is accepted after mid-term break.

### FOUR JUNIOR PROJECTS FROM SECOND YEAR STUDENTS:

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 Shelam: *Ironing out the Water Quality Issues on Irish Pig Farms.*

### NINE SENIOR GROUPS FROM TRANSITION YEAR STUDENTS:

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.*

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.*

Anna Cornally and Rebecca Finlay: *Investigating the effect of drainage on the biodiversity of bog pool macroinvertebrate populations.*

Kate Rohan, Mya Curtin and Cora Farrell: *A statistical analysis of public attitudes towards people living in direct provision.*

## From the Principal...

*"Ni neart go cur le chéile"*

*There's no strength without unity*



Our school motto rings through more clearly than ever as we reflect on the time since we returned to school on August 28th, 2020. It has been hugely challenging to organise and coordinate this task and its success is due in no small way to the strength of the united work of students, staff and parents. I wish to thank everyone involved for your contribution in making our school safe and I hope that you enjoy a well-deserved midterm break.



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.*



TY's BTYS Group.

Annie Duffy, Leah Hallissy, Ava Hallissy, Áine Maxwell, Kaytlin Flynn, Anna Cornally, Conall Mandal, Joyce Conway, Labhaoise Foley Mya Curtin, Daragh Lowry, Laura Conlon, Rebecca Finlay, Abby Mullins, Cora Farrell, Chloe Murphy, Megan Carroll, Absent from photo Kate Rohan, Emer Killian, Tara Hamilton & Áine Egan.



BTYS Juniors Group.

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

# MCS Student secures prestigious UCD Scholarship

Recent graduate Emma Kelly from Rosemount has successfully secured the UCD Ad Astra Scholarship, one of 16 in the country. A well-rounded individual, Emma excels in many different endeavours such as music where she was lead in the school orchestra and she is an accomplished sportswoman in both GAA and rugby. In 5th Year she represented the school and Athlone Rotary Club in Strasbourg as part of their Youth Leadership Programme.

The Ad Astra scholarship programme recruits exceptional students and provides them with additional mentoring and diverse opportunities to continue their proven record of academic excellence. Scholars pursue their studies in a variety of disciplines such as Medicine, Actuary and Financial Maths, Psychology, Business, Science, Law and Engineering. Emma is studying Engineering with a view to specialising in the

biomedical field in future. Ad Astra will provide her with a programme of workshops and seminars by academics, distinguished alumni and guest speakers throughout the year to develop her academic and personal potential as well as affording her opportunities to network.

As part of this scholarship programme she will receive €3,000; this is tenable for the duration of her undergraduate studies. At MCS we have no doubt that Emma will excel in this programme. Congratulations and well done.



Left: Emma Kelly

## ENTERPRISE AT MCS 2020

Mini Company is a key element of first year, second year and Transition Year at Moate Community School. Entrepreneurship has never been more important to the Irish economy and Mini Company provides students with the opportunity to set up their own business. Students take their business from the idea stage, through market research to production, selling, record keeping and management.

Last eight groups were chosen to represent the School at the County Finals which were held in Golden Island Shopping Centre on Thursday 12th March 2020. The County Final was a very successful day for Moate Community School. Our school was selected at both Junior and Intermediate levels to represent Westmeath in the All-Ireland Final in April. Those Junior Category winning group was 'Cosy Covers', ran by Ellen Raleigh, Lauren Finan, Skyla Looney, Kacey Mulvihill and Áine Broderick. The Intermediate winning group was 'TLC', ran by Lois David, Susan Dignan and Ava Kinahan.

Both groups competed at the virtual All-Ireland Final in April and 'Cosy Covers' was shortlisted and won 'The Most Commercially Viable Product'. This was a huge achievement for the group and showed their commitment and hard work throughout First Year. We are very proud of their achievement and hope to see them compete again in coming years.

Mini Company is an excellent opportunity for students to start thinking about their future career, it also helps students become more creative and increases their self-confidence. It helps students to learn valuable lessons from the experience of working as part of a team and also enhances their communication skills.

It is clear that there was a huge spirit of Enterprise this year in Moate Community School. This year we have Junior, Intermediate and Senior category mini company's getting ready to compete and continue our very successful school reputation in this competition.



Kacey Mulvihill, Skyla Looney, Lauren Finan and Ellen Raleigh with Teacher Ms. Lisa Doyle and Principal Mr. Tom Lowry. Missing from the photo is Áine Broderick.

## TY Bonding Trip

On Thursday, October 1st, the MCS Transition Year students went on their annual bonding trip to Lilliput Adventure Centre in Castletown Geoghegan. A group of 90 students left school at 9am and headed for Lilliput. We participated in a range of water/land based activities such as rock climbing, orienteering, kayaking, bog hopping and forest games like capture the flag and sniper.

We started off our day running through the fields and forests of Lilliput tracking down clues for our orienteering hunt. Then we went onto the rock climbing wall, where we climbed walls of various difficulties and heights. We then had a lovely lunch out in the sun overlooking the beautiful scenery of the lake.

After lunch, we headed out to the forest and played fun team building games such as capture the flag and sniper. These were very fun and got the whole class involved and working together. Next, we moved onto the water based activities. Firstly we got our life jackets on, paired up and hopped into our kayaks. We learned how to paddle and after practising this for a while, we had a paddling race which was very competitive and lots of fun. Following this we got into our old clothes and headed to the bog, where we jumped in bog holes and swam through murky water. We got great enjoyment out of this and weren't afraid to get dirty and mucky.

Overall we had a great time and we were delighted to have a trip away in these strange times. The instructors at Lilliput were very friendly and welcoming and said we were a credit to our school. This day helped us to make new friends and talk to people who weren't in our class. This proved to be a great bonding trip in having fun and also making new friends.

Article by Joyce Conway and Áine Maxwell.



Annie Duff, Cathal Guinan and Brendan McCormack

## MOATE TY STUDENTS AWARDED FOR THEIR PROJECTS AT SCIFEST, INCLUDING RUNNER-UP BEST PROJECT

Judging and awarding of the SciFest Regional Final was done virtually this year due to COVID restrictions. The event usually takes place in the Athlone Institute of Technology. Five groups of TY students submitted their projects and made videos of their main findings for the panel of judges.

With their project *'Dispel the Smell of Goat's Milk'*, Emily Ray and Sharon Seery won the Runner-up Best Project Award. The students will proceed to the National Final of SciFest this November.

Rachel McCann and Niamh Collins were given a Merit Award for their project *'Sitka vs Broadleaf: The Impact of Ireland's Forestry Plan on Biodiversity'*.

Emma Keenan and Hannah Malone received an Environmental Award for their project *'Does Seaweed contain the Solution to Ireland's Fertiliser Run-off Problem?'* Cliona McCormack and Emily Korzeniewski also received an Environmental Award for their project *'Effects of Dredging on the River Shannon'*.

Aoife Murray and Megan Clinton were awarded a Chemistry Prize for investigating *'Can Biochars Derived from Farm Waste Reduce Greenhouse Emissions from Irish Soils?'* As a result of this achievement, MCS was awarded the RSC School Chemistry Award.

Congratulations to all the students involved and their supporting teachers Ms Mairead Cusack and Ms Margaret Mandal.



Cliona McCormack & Emily Korzeniewski - Environmental Award.



Niamh Collins & Rachael McCann - Merit Award.



Emma Keenan & Hannah Malone - Environmental Award.



Aoife Murray & Megan Clinton - Chemistry Award.



Sharon Seery & Emily Ray - Best Runner-Up Project.

## MOATE CS DRAMA

Moate CS TY Drama class took a trip on the river Shannon on Friday October 2nd. This trip was part of a documentary filming about famous river journeys of the world and students were asked to assume the role of 'river tourist', departing Athlone on a Viking Boat and journey to Clonmacnoise. The trip started in Athlone and as the pictures show, students could enjoy the scenery of the Shannon Callows as they sat on deck the Viking Boat. A film crew were also on-board and videoing was completed with a drone that accompanied the boat. Some students were also interviewed about the merits and scenery of such a river trip. The weather was bright and sunny and an enjoyable trip was had by all involved.



## Moate students continue to develop the Sensory Garden at Dún na Sí Amenity Park

MCS Transition Year students are continuing to develop and maintain the Sensory Garden in the Dún na Sí Amenity Park. The garden is a 'work in progress' in co-operation with the young adults from St. Hilda's Services, Moate.

With current COVID restrictions, the students can work safely on this project in the outdoors with social distancing. This group are involved on the project until the October midterm break, and will then hand over to a new group. These students are John Brady, Saoirse McGuinness, Sarah Hogg, Abbie Muldoon, Caitlin Finneran and Niamh Corcoran.

The group are designing a Wooden 'Mix & Match' puzzle to replace one of the existing features which has deteriorated with weathering. The students met virtually with the young adults from St. Hilda's in the form of a Zoom meeting and discussed their plans for the garden and the design of this puzzle.

The students plan a weekly trip to the park to work on their new feature, as well as some general garden maintenance.



Transition Year students with Ms. Mandal.

## MOATE CS TEACHER - A PUBLISHED AUTHOR

**Congratulations to Moate CS Home Economics teacher on becoming a published author.**

Home Economics teacher at Moate Community School, Ms. Fidelma Quinn has published a Teachers Planner/Resource book for Leaving Cert Home Economics (Social & Scientific). It was published by Folens and accompanies the 2020 Life Skills text book. It is intended to assist teachers in their teaching and planning and contains lesson plans, activities, methodologies and revision handouts for students.

*Right: Ms. Fidelma Quinn.*



## Leinster Champion

Congratulations to Moate Community School Second Year student Áine Shortall who was recently crowned Leinster Champion in Wexford Equestrian Centre. Best of luck to her in all her future competitions. Well done!

Congratulations also to Áine for another win at Cavan Equestrian Centre on her pony Ruby Brown.



## GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

This year is set to be a very busy year for our Green School's ambassadors. They have already proven to be dedicated, enthusiastic and thoughtful workers on our current theme of bio-diversity by making the school a greener and healthier place to be. Our aim this term is to plant native Irish trees and wild flowers in the school garden to increase plant and animal

life, increasing the number of bird boxes, and upcycling tins to make colourful planters. They will also connect with the local primary schools and businesses in the community to raise awareness of the importance of bio-diversity.

### Green Schools Committee Members 2020/2021

1. Diya Govindaraju
2. Ava Gahan
3. Maddie Hinde
4. Hannah Moran
5. Ciona Lawless
6. Niamh Heduvan
7. Kayleigh Magee
8. Shane Wade
9. Rachel O'Brien
10. Ella Grennan
11. Ava Hallissy
12. Leah Hallissy
13. Lucy Mitchell
14. Ryan Gahan
15. Jack Conroy
16. Conor Molloy



*Moate Community School Green Schools Committee.*

## HOCKEY

Congratulations to Megan Clinton, Fifth Year, who has made the U18 Connacht Hockey squad again this year.



## 1st Year Bonding Day

The First Years recently had a very eventful bonding day held around the school grounds and Dun na Sí. The event was co-ordinated by the sports department and TY future leaders class ensuring an action-packed day. The day was timetabled with many enjoyable events such as an inflatable obstacle course, team building, rounders, orienteering and soccer on our wonderful new astro turf pitch. Lunch was provided by the school and served with the help of deputy principals Mrs. Maura Murray and Mrs. Carmel McCormack, along with school principal Mr. Tom Lowry. This is a day where the First Years are rewarded for settling in seamlessly and to acknowledge a great start to life at Moate Community School. A big thank you to the TY's who helped facilitate the smooth running of the day.

*Dessie Dolan, Sports Co-ordinator.*

