



Coláiste Bhríde

Christmas Newsletter 2015



'High School Musical'

What a resounding success! Our school musical began with a matinée for primary schools and then ran for three nights, 10th, 11th and 12th December to an almost capacity audience in St. Brigid's Hall.

Our cast of sixty threw themselves wholeheartedly into the action and the stage was transformed to the whirlwind of teenage emotions, aspirations and young love at East Valley High. The thespians, the brainiacs and "the jocks" intrigue permeated the entire show. There was a sense of effervescence created by the music, singing and dancing that kept the show moving at pace. The talent of our young (and not so young!) cast left the audience reeling.

Congratulations to everyone involved – you were amazing! Special thanks to Ms Finlay, director; to Ms Glynn, musical director and to Aimee Walsh (6th year), choreographer.



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Outstanding Results by the Class of 2015

We congratulate all our 6th years, their parents and teachers and the whole school community on these results. Amongst the many highlights:

- Highest points 615
- 14 students (12%) attained over 500 points
- 39 students (33%) attained over 400 points
- Students who completed TY averaged 105 points more than those who did not do TY
- LCA students (14) all attained Distinction or Merit grades, result higher than 65%

The class of 2015 has produced great results both across the curriculum and as importantly in a mixed-ability school across the ability spectrum. We are very proud of our one hundred and thirty three students who completed their Leaving Certificate in 2015.

This year six students have been signed up to apprenticeships and we have two students who have joined the navy and army. Very positive times.

We encourage all students to be the best they can be, to extend themselves, to develop their own individual talents and personalities but also to positively bring out the best in those around them. The message is hard work linked to initiative pays off. Team work is a lifeline.

The class of 2015 lived up to, indeed, surpassed our very high expectations of them. We thank them for their leadership, the example they have given to the school and the high standards they have set. They have given so much to our school, to the arts and academics of course, but also across the sporting and pastoral fields.

Offers of college places from the CAO see our students accepted into all four NUI Colleges, Trinity College, DCU, UL and many IT's. Some will opt to start at PLC level and a positive trend, reflecting the upturn in our economy, is that to date four students have attained apprenticeships.

Well done class of 2015 – we are very proud of you as you should be of yourselves. You have passed on the baton, you have left a wonderful legacy.

We look forward to meeting you all again on 23rd January at your Leaving Certificate Presentation evening, The Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey. You will receive your L.C. certificate on the night. This will be a final farewell to our class of 2015 and we will celebrate it with family and friends.



Colm Murphy, Micheál Browne, Jack Murphy and Eoghan Mulholland collecting their results

Junior Cert Results 2015

The largest number of students ever in Coláiste Bhríde undertook the Junior Certificate exams last June. The Junior Certificate class were also the first group to employ the digital resources of learning due to the introduction of the iPad in September 2012. Students are very fortunate to avail of the broad and balanced curriculum through the wide range of subjects offered to students to maximise their learning potential. Students respectively excelled in all subjects which will in turn form a basis for them to enhance their learning opportunities for Leaving Cert.



*Emily Hadden, Laura Doherty
and Helen Hughes*

Scholars Awards



Mr. Finn and Andrew Hughes

Congratulations to all students who received UCD Entrance Scholars Awards on 19th November.

A very proud moment for so many Leaving Certificate students of 2015, their parents and their schools.

Professor Scott presented the award to our three recipients, Ronan Byrne, Andrew Hughes (in absentia) and Eoin O'Donnell.

He spoke about how in UCD that the student's experience is central to the college. Entrance scholarships, he said were about celebrating excellence and aptitude. He re-minded all present that the path of learning allows our scholars to bring their own interests and spontaneity and that all important sense of risk to their learning and what they do. One of the most important qualities, he said was "self-understanding".

What they study:

Ronan Byrne—Quantative Business, Economics and Finance

Eoin O'Donnell—Medicine

Andrew Hughes—Engineering

Well done to Andrew who had committed to the Freshers' Hurling semi-final which was on at the same time in Cork! His Mum and Dad attended the scholarship presentation in his absence.

Andrew Hughes was also the recipient of a Naughton Foundation Scholarship on Saturday, 26th September. He will receive €5000 per year over his four year course. Andrew was selected as the Wicklow recipient by the Naughton Family based on his academic and extra-curricular performances. Dr. Martin Naughton is the founder of the Glen Dimplex company which specialises in domestic technology and owns many famous brands including Morphy Richards, Belling and LEC.

Their family foundation supports many educational initiatives mainly in the areas of science and technology.

We wish Andrew, Ronan and Eoin well in their studies!



*Ronan Byrne and Eoin O'Donnell with
Professor Scott, UCD*

BUBBLE BANK



Official launch of Bubble Bank with Henry Shefflin

Over forty transition year students applied for positions in the Bank of Ireland School Bank Programme back in October this year. After two days of interviews, fourteen students were successfully chosen to run the school bank. Derek Tobin (Manager in Bank of Ireland, Carnew) and Antoinette Troy (Regional second level Co-ordinator) told of the difficult task it was to pick only fourteen people from such an impressive group of students. The team decided on the name 'Bubble Bank'.

Henry Shefflin, former Kilkenny hurler, visited Coláiste Bhríde to officially open the bank on Friday 6th November. There was great excitement as he met with the team, staff and students. Students from 1st, 2nd, 3rd and TY had an opportunity to open up an account with Bank of Ireland and meet Henry Shefflin. He spoke about how he had to work hard at school and sport to get where he is today. He said he was average in school and average at hurling at the start but hard work and commitment paid off. He encouraged students to do the same.

Over sixty accounts were opened on the day and a further fourteen more to date.

The bank is open every Friday at lunch time in the social area. Well done to the Bubble Bank team of

Gráinne Hughes, Emily Hadden, Leah Sankaran, Helen Hughes, Laura Doherty, Diego Molamphy, Megan O'Reilly, Aoife Mooney, Abbie Mooney, Bill Nolan, Grace O'Sullivan, Kealan Ó Tiarnaigh, Denise Osborne and James Tyrrell.



Mr. Holly with Henry Shefflin



Róisín Kennedy taking a 'selfie' with Henry Shefflin



Students and staff pose with Henry Shefflin

TY Mini Companies in Rathwood

The Transition Year mini companies attended the Rathwood Christmas fair on Thursday, 3rd December. The weather was cold however our students stayed positive and made substantial sales as the night went on! Their professional stalls and displays were a highlight of the night!

Mr Callanan and his folk band also added to the atmosphere on the night. We would like to thank James Keogh and Rathwood for this brilliant opportunity again this year!

Congratulations to "The Fairy Doors" and "Book Creations" who were chosen by Rathwood to sell their products in the store up until Christmas.



Shannon Porter and 'The Fairy Doors' company in Rathwood



Fantastic displays at the TY Market Day

TY Market Day

Transition Year market day took place on Tuesday, 17th of November. Market day gives students a chance to sell their products to other students but more importantly it is also the first round of judging in the young entrepreneurs competition. Judges James Keogh of Rathwood and Fiona Redmond of Amber Springs and Ashdown Park hotels were very impressed with the displays of the forty-four companies on show. They also commented that the standard of products was very high and that it will be hard to pick the overall winners. Round two will involve submitting a Business Plan to the judges in January, who will then select the top twelve companies to interview before choosing the top four who will represent the school at the county finals in March.

We wish to thank the judges for their dedication and time in judging this year's competition. We would also like to say well done to all students on their efforts to date.

Ms Lambert, Ms. Hughes and Mr Finn.



Peter McSwiney, Conor Mulholland and Diego Molamphy during TY Market Day

Firstly, well done to the 2015 Leaving Cert students who excelled in their Leaving Cert examinations. This year saw 2015 Leaving Certs establish themselves in courses such as health sciences, nursing, medicine, business, teaching, sciences, biotechnology and engineering. An increased number of students were fortunate to secure apprenticeships – a great sign of a recovering economy. This is a great achievement to all concerned.

Our current Leaving Cert students began the year with an Induction Day. The Super Generation Study Skills gave a very impressive seminar to students on effective study techniques for their busy year ahead; Marc Mulligan gave a seminar on 'Outside the Box' and a team from Elvery's gave a seminar on fitness techniques to energise study to reach their potential. In mid-September, Leaving Cert students visited The Irish Times Higher Options Exhibition in the RDS to investigate colleges both at home and abroad and to explore their many options.

The 'Careers Evening' was held on October 9th. Twenty five colleges and some forty former students of Coláiste Bhríde met, tutored, inspired and gave very sound advice to our existing 5th and 6th year students. There was also a Garda and FÁS talk on the night. It was rewarding to see former students, who have excelled in a wide variety of fields returning to the school and giving their time.

Fifty senior cycle students travelled to the University of Limerick open day on October 17th. UL is proving to be a popular choice for many of our students as its campus is nestled in the suburbs of Limerick city and has an excellent academic record and top class facilities.

TY's had an experiential learning day at DCU on November 20th. Students were very impressed with the campus and the courses of study available.

3rd Years sat their DATS on November 30th. After Christmas, 3rd years will be making important decisions on their Senior Cycle options. All 3rd years have received information on subject and programme selection. A lot of thinking and investigating needs to be done in order to make the right decision.



Erika Dagge, Joshua McGrath, Síofra Doyle and Christine Byrne



Aisling Shannon enjoying the TY Baltinglass trip

Baltinglass Induction Day

The first outing of the year for our Transition Year students was when one hundred and one of them headed to Baltinglass Outdoor Centre in September for an action packed day. In glorious sunshine, students participated in archery, canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing, the zip line and orienteering. A great team building and bonding experience was had by all.

Academic Choices

At the beginning of their Transition Year Programme all students engaged in an in-house induction session. During this day, students made choices from a myriad of modules and long courses. Academic choices were explained and carefully selected. For these academic choices, students benefit greatly from having an extra year to work at their core subjects in preparation for their Leaving Certificate examinations.



TY Gaisce walkers on Morriscastle Beach, Co. Wexford

Gaisce

All TY students are currently engaged in their Gaisce activities from Physical Recreation, Community Involvement and Personal Skill. All are expected to receive their bronze Gaisce awards in May 2016.

Awareness Day

Students travelled to Castletown, Co Laois. All participated in reflection, meditation and discussion. Students immersed themselves fully into the experience and a very meaningful and enlightening day was had by all.

TY Modules

We have moved into our second semester of modules to include Dance, Swimming, Equestrian and Gym Club. Students are participating in YSI, Sage, Junk Kouture, Italian, Music, Woodwork, Home Economics, Drama, Road Safety and Programming & Coding

ECDL

Students are working their way through their ECDL modules and sitting all examinations.

First Aid

Two of our class groups will complete their First Aid module by Christmas. Students learned how to deal with cuts and grazes, scalds and burns and life threatening conditions requiring CPR. Another small group of TY students are involved in a CPR course on Wednesday afternoons from 2 - 4 p.m.

Dev Ed Workshop

Students travelled to the Parish Centre in Carlow to participate in Dev Ed workshops with their peers from CBS, Presentation College and St Leo's College Carlow. Education officers from Trocaire, Concern, Amnesty International and Worldwide Global Schools facilitated rotating workshops. Topics explored included: hunger in the world of plenty, gender equality, poverty, torture and sustainable development. Staff and students from each school found the collaboration to be greatly beneficial, a model to be fostered into the future.



Careers Open Day in DCU

All TY students attended the Open Day in DCU this year. Students attended lectures, lab demonstrations and campus activities. DCU was a popular destination for the Leaving Cert students of 2015.

Work Experience

Plans are in place for placements this February. Students are engaging in a myriad of different disciplines. We wish all of our students well as they make their entry into the world of work.

Two of our students were accepted onto the Trinity College physics programme for Transition year students. Another lucky student has been selected to participate in the mini med programme in the Royal College of Surgeons

Aware Workshop

We welcomed a guest speaker from Aware into our classrooms to discuss issues around mental health. Very informative discussions ensued and students found the presentation very beneficial.



Open Evening

All TY students presented their mini-companies at our Open Evening in November. A wonderful selection of goods and services went on display with many excellent professional presentations. We commend the entrepreneurial endeavours of each group of students. Lots of learning is happening

as students launch their companies. They worked very hard in preparation for their Market Day in November. Many thanks to everyone for supporting our students.

James Keogh from Rathwood and Fiona Redmond from the Redmond group of hotel obliged us yet again to judge our mini companies. Some companies were selected to exhibit on 3rd December in the Rathwood Christmas Craft Fair.



TY Drama

Our TY production will be staged in St Brigid's Hall on 28th January 2016. A most entertaining evening is promised. Watch this space for further details.

Psycho Spaghetti

All TY students attend the highly commended Psycho Spaghetti with Ger Carey. This hilarious two hour show took the form of a voyage of exploration into the workings of the teenage psyche, providing a much appreciated moment of comic relief. With virtually all topics up for discussion Carey had the place in hysterics with his observations on the stereotypical differences between teenage boys and teenage girls. Carey urged students to embrace these precious teenage years.

Transition Year Programme 2016/17

Ms Byrne and Mrs Lee would like to remind all 3rd year students and their parents that our Senior Cycle Information Evening is scheduled for Wednesday, 20th January 2016. Attendance is imperative to ensure informed choices for all students entering our senior cycle in September 2016

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION



Climate Justice
Schools Programme



Development Education
Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew

Development Education



Emily Hadden at the Dev Ed Zoom event in NUIM

This has been a busy and progressive term in relation to Dev Ed in Coláiste Bhríde. As part of the Development Education Zoom Event 2015, our Transition years facilitated five parallel workshops with their peers from CBS Carlow to an audience of Postgraduate Masters in Education (PME2) trainee teachers from Maynooth University in November. The Seven Oaks Hotel Carlow was our venue.

Our students presented several active methodologies addressing the complex issues of gender equality, conflict resolution and stereotyping. They had plenty of advice and demonstrations for their trainee teachers around best practice

in the classroom. An extraordinary opportunity for our young students. A productive meeting of minds around Development Education and learning and teaching. Two days later, our Dev Ed team presented similar workshops in Maynooth University. The audience was PME1 students and they were very enthusiastic about our students' ideas. "It was quite unbelievable to be 15/16 years of age and presenting to college students like a lecturer, not many people can say they've had that experience," quote from Mary McCarthy.

Climate Change Weekend

On Thursday 26th November, Leah Sankaran, Nicole Doyle, Katie Goland, Natalia Márquez and I travelled to Maynooth University for the Trócaire Climate Change Challenge weekend. It was an amazing and eye opening four days for us Transition Year students, full of debates, games, great fun and lots of new friends. The most memorable part of the weekend for me was the refugee simulation. This consisted of each group having to complete a number of testing challenges before they had to bribe and pay their way through the boarder and continuing on to the refugee camp. This was a setup of three tents one for people who were granted asylum, another for those in isolation and the last for people who were going to be deported. But all together we had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

By Gráinne Hughes



Gráinne Hughes and Leah Sankaran during Climate Change Weekend



Gráinne, Leah, Katie, Natalia and Nicole at the Climate Change Weekend in NUIM



Leah Sankaran and Bill Nolan at the Dev Ed Zoom event in NUIM

Baltinglass Outdoor Pursuits Centre

Our 5th year Applied students really enjoyed a few fun filled days involving themselves in a myriad of activities. They participated in archery, kayaking, abseiling and orienteering. Many commented that they would return again to the centre.

Practical Achievement Tasks

This task affords student the opportunity to choose an activity which interests them. Some took up boxing, car mechanics and panel beating skills whilst others engaged in learning about nail art and beauty treatments.

Examinations

Well done to our Applied students on successfully completing all their recent Christmas examinations in English, Irish, Social Studies, Woodwork, Leisure & Rec, Maths and ICT. We wish our 5th year students the very best in their interview for their General Ed Task anchored in Leisure & Recreation this February. Students must now complete tasks in Graphic Construction and Vocational Preparation & Guidance which will be examined in May 2015.

6th Year Tasks

We wish our 6th years well as they put the finishing touches to their Tasks in ICT, Personal Reflection, Practical Achievement and Contemporary Issues. All tasks are scheduled to be examined in February.

Work Experience

The emphasis of vocational education within the LCA programme is becoming palpable in these difficult times. Fortunately, both the LCA2 and LCA1, on their own initiative, have secured valuable work placements. LCA2 students continue to work each Friday. Placements range from agriculture, catering, retail and early childhood education. LCA1 students got their first taster of the world of work in October. Coláiste Bhríde is indebted to the professional people of the area for taking on students and helping them to focus on the demands of the world of work.

Thoughts from some of the Cast



Josh McGrath on stage during High School Musical

It truly was a life changing experience, and one I will never ever ever forget, thanks to all these amazing people. *Josh McGrath (Zeke)*

It was the start of something new, auditions held back in March and we started rehearsing in September. High School Musical has thoroughly been the greatest experience of my school life. Having given everything to this cause for the last four months, we all have a heavy heart leaving this shared experience behind us. Even with differences we all grew to become great friends with one another! *Robbie Brooks (Chad)*

High School Musical has been the highlight of my whole school experience. Unbreakable bonds were made. I learned so many new things and I know I'll carry the experience with me out of school and into the future. I will always highly recommend it to any upcoming students as it's honestly so beneficial in many ways. I've become so close to fellow students and also, teachers. It has brought out the best in me and I'll cherish the amazing memories and friendships made forever. *Jenny Larkin (Taylor)*



'The Jocks' being mentored by Chad (Robbie Brooks)

STUDENT LEADERSHIP IN COLÁISTE BHRÍDE

Senior Prefects 2015/2016



This year's senior prefects have settled in very well to their new leadership roles. The leadership training for these students took place at the end of August and was conducted in conjunction with one other KWETB secondary school. Senior prefects provide an important liaison between students, teachers and school management. Their position demonstrates leadership, teamwork and responsibility that reflects the ethos of the school at all times. We wish our senior prefects well in their highly respected role for the rest of the academic year.

Meitheal

Meitheal is a mentoring system between 6th year and 1st year students and it enables senior students to influence the happiness and wellbeing of 1st years. This scheme has been running successfully for a number of years in Coláiste Bhríde and continues to go from strength to strength with the high calibre of senior students we have in the school. It is a credit to their parents that we have such a great community of volunteerism in the school. Volunteering is a great way of connecting with your community, learning new skills and gaining valuable work experience. This year our sixteen Meitheal leaders are continuing this tradition and are making a positive contribution to the progress of the 1st year group. Since the beginning of the year they have been involved in a wide range of activities to help the first years integrate into our school. On behalf of the 1st years I would like to thank our Meitheal leaders for their on-going hard work and commitment.



Meitheal activities at lunchtime

Student Council

It has been a very busy first term for the Student Council. The year started with 3rd and 5th year elections which were carried out using online voting for the first time. By the end of September, our full thirty student council was in place. Our first full meeting took place at the end of September, where we discussed our upcoming projects for the year and voted in our officers. Laura Kinsella of 6th year was elected chairperson, with Hollie Kavanagh elected vice chairperson. Our immediate project was the attainment of the Amber flag



"Rise and Shine" Breakfast

for the school. This is a flag awarded to recognise efforts to support positive mental health. As part of our application, the school has to organise a number of events. We chose to hold an early morning walk and came up with the name '*Rise and Shine*'. We chose to hold the walk on Friday, 13th November to round off our positive mental health week which we chose to call '*Mind your Mind*' week. The week was a great success, with positive quotes of the day read at assembly each morning and music played at breaks. After much planning and organisation, the Rise and Shine walk was also a great success. We had approx three hundred students, parents and teachers walk from Askamore up to Sliabh Buí and then back to school. We had a Garda escort and it was an amazing site to see so many students make such a great effort so early in the morning.

At a chosen spot on Sliabh Buí, we had a brief gratitude ceremony where a number of students read some poems and short stories focusing on the good in our lives. It was a truly breathtaking experience. There was a lovely atmosphere on the morning and the weather conditions were ideal. As part of the morning, breakfast was provided on arrival back at school for all who walked. Many local companies were extremely generous in donating items for the breakfast and it was a lovely way to end the morning.



"Rise and Shine" walk back to school



Student Council members 2015/16

Other projects the council is currently working on:

- The Xmas Factor
- Designing a student council logo and flag
- Spelling Bee will take place after midterm in February
- Marking the 100th anniversary of 1916 with a sale of pins and some supporting events in March
- Participate in the KWETB *Hike for Life* in May and support fundraising activities for this.

In recent years we have organised a "*Wear Something That Makes You Happy*" Day with proceeds going to Pieta House. We are fortunate to have so many driven and focused students on the council who are always looking at ways to improve school life for everyone.

Katherine Conroy and Fintan Smith represented Coláiste Bhríde student council at a recent regional forum in Trinity College, Dublin. At the meeting, students from over sixty schools discussed events and issues affecting young people today. At the end of the day, students were encouraged to put themselves forward for regional council, which Katherine promptly did and she was delighted to be elected. She will be attending regional meetings and we look forward to following her progress.

2015/2016 Student Council: Thomas May, Cora Tyrrell, Adam Bailey, Rachel Sheil, Pierre Woods, James O'Keeffe, Tara Kinsella, Rita Doyle, Katherine Conroy, Fintan Smith, Leah Cullen, Alayna Tobin, Gráinne Hughes, John Branagan, Nicole Doyle, Richard O'Toole, Emer Rose Kealy, Jonathan Behan, Maria Byrne, Rachel O'Keeffe, Finlay Power, Niamh Doyle, Pauric Lawlor, Laura Kinsella, Holly Kavanagh, Shonagh Mulligan, Elaine Lyons, Sinéad Foley, Nell Robinson Greene, Tom Furlong.

Officers Chairperson: Laura Kinsella, Vice Chairperson: Holly Kavanagh, Secretary: Cora Tyrrell, Treasurer: Niamh Doyle.



Sunrise on Sliabh Buí

The Senior Rugby Team Breaking New Ground



Coláiste Bhríde Senior Rugby team

The Coláiste Bhríde senior rugby team is approaching the Christmas break in anticipation of two Leinster semi-finals and a well-deserved place in the Vinnie Murray Cup. Training and preparations for the season started in early September. These sessions highlighted the strong team spirit, talent and experience amongst the squad which gave a solid platform for the Leinster Development Cup.

The first round of this competition was against Scoil Chonglais, Baltinglass at Carlow R.F.C. The competition for places on the starting fifteen was strong and this was evident in a convincing win of 57 -12, as all players did their best to show what they were capable of. The next round was the following week against Presentation De La Salle, Bagenalstown, again away at Carlow R.F.C. This proved to be a tougher match against a physically strong team but the Carnew players were determined to secure a quarter final place and were victorious with a scoreline of 29 - 14. The quarter final of the Senior Leinster Development Cup was next.

With a couple of weeks before this game, momentum was maintained with a 'friendly' match against CBS Wexford at Wexford R.F.C. This was a great test and an extremely tough match against a team that plays in a higher division. Under wet and windy conditions there wasn't much separating the two teams, and Coláiste Bhríde managed to score a converted try in the last minute of the match to win 12 - 10.

Árdscoil na Tríonóide, Athy were the quarter final opponents at Gorey R.F.C. Again, wet and windy conditions made spreading the ball wide difficult



Seamus Tomkins and the Carnew back line spreading the ball wide

and by keeping the ball close amongst the forwards, it was not until late in the second half that Coláiste Bhríde managed to put the game away with a win of 24 - 5, and a place in the Leinster Development Cup semi-final against Moyne, Co. Longford. This is the furthest any Coláiste Bhríde senior rugby team has ever reached, but the victory also gave passage to the McMullen Cup competition which was another milestone.

CBS Naas were the opponents in the first round of the McMullen Cup and although conceding a penalty and coming under pressure in the early stages of the game, the strong team performance by the Coláiste Bhríde players was enough to earn a victory of 12 - 3 at Gorey R.F.C. In early December, the squad travelled to Newpark Comprehensive School, Blackrock to play in the next round of the McMullen Cup. It was clear from the first few minutes that this

was going to be a very long afternoon as a strong Newpark side broke away with an early try. This was a roller coaster of a match with Coláiste Bhríde fighting back and taking the lead before Newpark came back and nearly equalised



Joe Gardiner reaching high in the line out

with the last kick of the game. Nevertheless, the sheer determination and commitment of the Coláiste Bhríde team was great to witness and were worthy winners on a scoreline of 17 – 15.

This victory was not only rewarded with a place in the McMullen Cup semi-final against CBS St Mary's Enniscorthy, but also a place in the Vinnie Murray Cup, which is the third time this team has broken new ground this year! This determined squad of players are eagerly looking forward to the next stages of their season. The junior team has also been training and preparing for their Leinster Shield campaign and had a convincing win against St David's, Greystones before Christmas. They are also looking forward to their next match which will be against CBS New Ross in the Leinster Shield.



Coláiste Bhríde Golf team

School Golf

Senior Golf v Gorey CS: Josh McGrath and Cian Hadden started off well but we couldn't keep up with the pressure from the Gorey lads, they stayed fighting though winning 16 and 18 but lost to very low handicap golfers. Ryan Nolan and Dan Curry battled hard but were ultimately unable to keep up with their opponents, but a great day was had. This Gorey team came second in Leinster last year and so provided tough first round opposition. Our Junior golfers also played a challenge match against Gorey CS and fared very well winning by 1&1/2 to 1/2.

On the 22nd of October, School Junior Golf Match against Gorey Community School. Played in Courtown G.C. The Coláiste Bhríde Team consisted of Oscar McGrath & John Young (match 1) and Cormac Redmond & Eoin Young (match 2).

On a beautiful sunny morning in Courtown Golf Club, the junior match (13 hole competition) followed the

senior match. Match 1 was very tight throughout the entire round. The two pairings were very well matched with never more than one hole between them, until Carnew found themselves 2 down after 8; but the pairing dug deep with two pars to win the next two holes to bring the match back to all-square. With holes 11 and 12 halved it came down to the tough final hole. Both Carnew lads showed their determination and blew their opposition away with both paring the final hole to take their victory. In match 2, Cormac and Eoin got off to a great start and were 3 up after the 7th hole. The Gorey lads then fought back and turned the match around. They came back to all-square after 12. They met their match coming up 13 where all 4 lads played shot for shot and the match finished in the fairest way possible; a halved hole resulting in a halved match. Overall the Carnew lads won 1&1/2 to a 1/2. Both matches were played in a very sporting manner. Many thanks go to Mary and the staff in Courtown and the golf department in Gorey Community School for food.

By Oscar McGrath



Coláiste Bhríde Hockey team

Hockey

This year Coláiste Bhríde put forward a 1st and 2nd year team into the league. The ladies train every Monday in the gym from 4.15 – 5.15p.m. There are fourteen 1st year students and seventeen second year students. We are hopeful that an Inter team will be established after Christmas comprising of 4th, 5th and 6th year students.

The ladies have had one match to date against St. Leo's College Carlow.

They were unfortunately beaten, but showed great skill and determination.

Under 16 Hurling



U16 Hurlers get some tips from Henry Shefflin

The under 16 hurling team reached the South Leinster final where they lost out to PDLS Bagenalstown, after extra time. The team did extremely well to get to the final, having beaten Grennan College, Thomastown and Wexford CBS en route. The team had led in the final until the last minute of normal time, when Bagenalstown levelled the game with a free. The team eventually lost out on a scoreline of 2-13 to 1-12. This group of players trained very hard and with over thirty panel members, hurling is definitely going in the right direction in the school.

Under 16 Football

With two wins from two for Coláiste Bhríde, the possibility of getting out of the group stage remains a very achievable goal at this stage. After battling back with four goals to turn around a three point deficit at half time in the first game, both desire and footballing quality was clearly evident throughout the team. A final group game against Árdcoil na Tríonoide, Athy will decide our fate. Although travelling away will prove challenging there's no doubt with the fighting spirit shown to date there is a real chance of upsetting the group favourites. With many players involved eligible for next year the future looks bright. The commitment of the players to both training and matches has been unquestionable throughout.



Coláiste bhríde U16 Football team

First Year football

As we look forward to Christmas the 1st years await their second match in the Wicklow county championship. They have been training since September and all these training sessions paid off after a win in their first championship match where they played Scoil Clongais, Baltinglass. They won the game on a score line of 5-12 to 3-3 putting in a very strong team performance. The team were due to play the second round on 7th December however weather conditions led to the cancellation of the match. Instead they will play on Monday, 14th December against St Kevin's Dunlavin and it will take place in Carnew GAA pitch.



Coláiste Bhríde U14 Football team

Under 14 Football

The under 14's had a disappointing end to their season after exiting the competition on score difference. In their first game they were comfortably beaten by St. Kevin's Dunlavin and left the field knowing that they had under performed. In their following games they didn't make the same mistake and they beat both FCJ Bunclody and Enniscorthy CBS quite well. Unfortunately it was the Dunlavin game that cost us a place in the quarter final. A hard lesson was learnt but these players show great promise for the future.

Ladies Football

Our Junior football team has enjoyed a great season to date. They have been improving all year and have qualified for the quarter final of the Post Primary Leinster football competition. Some impressive displays along the way have helped this young side grow in confidence with big wins against Creagh College and a home win against Bridgetown Vocational College. With the quarter final due to be played in the new year, the Coláiste Bhríde ladies will be focusing on this game and working hard in preparation for it.

Our Senior team enjoyed a bright start to the year with great wins at home to Bridgetown Vocational College and away to Creagh College, Gorey. Unfortunately the run of wins came to an abrupt end against a more

experienced Presentation De La Salle College. The future looks bright however as many junior ladies played a vital role during the season.



First Year Camogie Blitz winners

Camogie

Our first year camogie team brought home the shield, after a great victory at a 1st year blitz. Our junior team has played two matches to date. Their first game they lost to Callan after a valiant performance. They picked themselves up for their second game which was a home game against Grennan College. This was a true battle but the girls dug deep and pulled it out of the bag to obtain the win. They are now awaiting their third round against New Ross in which they are hoping to win to secure a place in the quarter final! The senior girls have played two games, the first against Ramsgrange and the second against Loreto College proving too strong for either opposition. The girls are straight into the semi final as a result of winning both group games.

Handball



Clíodhna O'Connell and Lauren Flanagan

Great start to the year for the Coláiste Bhríde handball team with students progressing to either the final or semi final stage of the Leinster Post Primary Schools competition in the 60 x 30 alley. Ciarán Power successfully made it all the way through to the final in the U15 boys singles but was unfortunate on the day in the final against Grennan College, Kilkenny.

Clíodhna O'Connell and Lauren Flanagan advanced to the final in the U16 girls doubles after some challenging games but were unfortunate in the final against Coláiste Chiarain, Leixlip. Daniel Curry made it to the semi final of the U19 boys singles but was unlucky on the day in a neck and neck semi final against Castlecomer Community School. Ciara Jordan progressed to the final in the U19 girls singles but was unfortunate in a challenging game against Grennan College, Kilkenny. The handball students are training hard and looking forward to competing in the Leinster Post Primary Schools competition in the 40 x 20 handball alley after Christmas.



Ciara Jordan, Daniel Curry and Ciarán Power

Senior Football

The reigning Wicklow "A" Champions were aiming to complete a historic three in a row for the school. The team prepared very well by playing Enniscorthy C.B.S. at home and away and with injured players coming back to full fitness was in a strong position for the Wicklow Championship.

We played Gaelcholaiste na Mara, Arklow in the county semi final in a bid to reach our seventh final in a row. Unfortunately, on the day we didn't get the rub of the green needed to see us through to another final. The team gave an unbelievable display of skill, determination and effort, but ran out of momentum in the last five minutes. Gaelcholáiste na Mara is through to the second final in a row and are warm favourites to lift the title. Captains on the day were Joe Gardiner and William Conroy.

The team is currently preparing for the Leinster Championship where they face Portarlington at home on the 15th December. They are an excellent group of players to work with and giving incredible service to Coláiste Bhríde football. This year's defeat was their first in six years.



Senior Football team 2015 / 16

Soccer

The year to date has been another successful period of building for Coláiste Bhríde's soccer teams.

The senior soccer team was involved in a tough group with St. Brendan's College Bray, St David's School Greystones and Presentation College Bray, but managed to qualify from the group with a win and a draw.

They played Wexford CBS in the QF of the league in a very wet and windy Wexford town at the beginning of December and led 1-0 all the way to midway through the second half where CBS equalised which brought the game into extra time. Wexford scored again in the first period of extra time and although Coláiste Bhríde tried hard to bring it to penalties we just couldn't find the equaliser.

The schools U17 team is currently preparing for their QF clash with Kilcoole. They have two wins and a loss in their three group games in the league which gave them second place in the group and a passage into the QF's. They look forward with confidence to this game, and with a good mix of youth and experience they should do very well this season.

The other competition in which Coláiste Bhríde is involved is the U15 league. The U15 team had a loss in their opening group game and with a very young team it will be a year of development and learning curve for them.

We would like to thank the various clubs and people who support the development of soccer in our school and have done for the past number of years. The use of Coolafancy Community field and Shillelagh United have been enormous benefit to us not to mention the facilities at Carnew Celtic without which we could not run Coláiste Bhríde soccer.



Coláiste Bhríde U17 Soccer team

Gym Club

With a great gym facility in the school the gym club caters for all levels of fitness. We see a range of students attending, some are involved in team sports and others that just enjoy the buzz of the gym session to keep up a healthy lifestyle. During the session the students work through a circuit that works on a range of muscles throughout the body. The student's willingness to push themselves and help others around them complete the exercises to the best of their ability is admirable.



Ms Dunne leads the way during the Fun Run

Fun Run

On Wednesday, 23rd September the P.E. department hosted our annual fun run. Shortly after break time, lead by the energetic P.E. department, the first group of students was warmed up to the sound of pumping tunes and by about 11a.m. the last of the students had set off on the 4 km course around Carnew. A great sense of community was achieved as the students and teachers pounded the road to complete the loop.



Students enjoying the Fun Run

Equestrian Interschools 2015/2016

The 2015/2016 Equestrian Interschools calendar is as action packed as ever. A busy and successful start to the league and the dedication of our riders to travel to competitions, in all weather conditions, has placed us second in the league to date.

On Saturday, October 18th Coláiste Bhríde held a leg of the interschools showjumping league in Barnadown, Gorey. This was a very successful event with over two hundred riders, representing schools from around the country, competing on the day. Topping off a wonderful day, Coláiste Bhríde, after a hotly contested jump-off, came out victorious.

Coláiste Bhríde is also honoured to be host to the All Ireland Interschools Hunter Trials Championships on 12th March 2016. The venue for this event is Lisgarvan House, Ballon, Co. Carlow. Plans are already underway to make this a thoroughly enjoyable day for competitors, spectators and sponsors.

Well done to the parents of our students and the Shillelagh Hunt for yet again organising a successful fundraising ride out from 'The Gap', Ballythomas, on Sunday, 6th October. This event was well supported and proved a thoroughly enjoyable day for all. It is important to commend our students competing for being excellent ambassadors for Coláiste Bhríde. Commencing promptly in January 2015, the league sees approximately fifteen competitions taking us up to the final.

We are delighted to see many new members joining the equestrian interschools this year and look forward to seeing them flying the flag for Coláiste Bhríde in the coming years.

However, none of this would be possible without the support of the parents, who give of their weekends so willingly to drive the students to these competitions both near and far - A sincere thank you to you all.



Conor Dolan, John Branagan, Nicholas Colfer and Adam Hayes

Athletics

The athletics season got off to a great start this year with a very successful first event in Avondale House. In less than ideal conditions, the team completed a challenging 1500 metre course, securing both individual and team medals.

Our second event unfortunately coincided with in-house Christmas exams which resulted in a smaller than usual team travelling. The course started with a steep one mile climb, followed by a series of challenging smaller hills. Fifty students from across Wicklow started the course with our students finishing strongly.

Funding has recently been secured from our Parents' Association for a new set of jerseys and team hoodies which are currently at the design stage. We were also generously given funding for some new equipment which will be put straight into use. The team plan on having our new look kit by the start of January's track and field season. We are also delighted to have a number of first year students join the team this year. We welcome them and look forward to following their progress.



Liam Butler and Vlad McCrea



The winning Kavanagh team in Barnadown

Green Schools

At the end of the last school year the Green Schools committee in Coláiste Bhríde was very proud to announce that our school had acquired the sixth green flag entitled "Global Citizenship, Litter and Waste". The dedication and hard work of the Green Schools committee over the two years had paid off. Coláiste Bhríde is one of the few secondary schools in Ireland to achieve a flag to this level and this sixth green flag marked the twelfth year of the Green Schools programme in our school. Our Green Schools committee is very excited and enthusiastic about its new two year challenge in aiming to achieve the seventh green flag entitled "Global Citizenship and Energy". Our committee has already made great progress this year with weekly meetings discussing their goals and plans to achieve the seventh flag.

Aaron Smyth, Aoife O' Neill, Niall Bradley and Chelsea Kearney from our Green Schools committee attended a workshop recently in the Glenroyal Hotel in Maynooth. This workshop was based around global citizens impacting on climate change and the effect it has on both developing and developed countries. They discussed the benefits that saving energy and reducing carbon emission have on climate change. The students returned to school with lots of energy saving ideas and awareness techniques to implement in our school. The committee is in the process of generating a new Green Schools slogan for our seventh flag and designing a campaign to raise awareness of energy consumption and energy saving techniques which will be implemented in the new year.



Theatre Trips

Our 3rd year students attended a production of 'Romeo and Juliet' and a workshop in Smock Alley on Thursday, 26th November. The performance was very well received by our students, with Mercutio and the Nurse stealing the show! The group enjoyed the workshop which focused on aspects of stagecraft, text analysis and some group work. They were challenged to write the plot outline in a tweet (140 characters, 3 lines!). It was an excellent opportunity to see a live performance of their Junior Certificate play and proved to be a very useful tool in their revision and analysis of the text.

Our 5th year higher level students, were treated to a stunning performance of Shakespeare's greatest tragedy 'Hamlet' in Gorey Cinema on Tuesday, 17th November. The production was a recorded live performance from The National Theatre, The Barbican in London. Benedict Cumberbatch (BBC's Sherlock) was very convincing in the title role. It was a fresh and modern three hour production that held our attention right to the end. It also forms an essential part of the Leaving Certificate curriculum.



Business Quiz

Two teams from TY took part in a Business Studies quiz held in Coláiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole on Wednesday, 25th November. The quiz consisted of ten rounds with topics including business, music, general knowledge and sport. Both teams were in the top five at the half way point. Congratulations to the team of Grainne Hughes, Diego Molamphy, Kealan Ó Tiarnaigh and Emily

Hadden who came second in the night. The team of Megan O Reilly, Peter McSwiney, Ann Marie Lyons and Julie Mullens acquitted themselves excellently.



A scorpion from the national reptile zoo

Science Week

Science week took place this year from Nov 8th - 15th. To mark the event the national reptile zoo paid a visit to Coláiste Bhríde's 1st and 2nd year students. The visitors included a snapping turtle, an albino python, 'Rose' the tarantula, a scorpion, a four year old crocodile and a few lizards. The students spent time with the animals and the zoo keeper, learning about their natural environments, feeding habits etc. Dave the zoologist was kept very busy with questions as the students were captivated by their visitors, with some even brave enough to hold them!



Isabella Longden, Imogen Horton, Páraic Doyle and Owen Young during the reptile zoo visit

Megan Swart – Wicklow Rose 2015

The entire community of Coláiste Bhríde and Co. Wicklow was behind our Wicklow Rose, Megan Swart on Monday, 17th August, as she made her appearance on TV at the prestigious Rose of Tralee Festival.

It was indeed a momentous week for the youngest ever Rose, eighteen year old Megan, who on Wednesday, 12th received her Leaving Certificate results from principal, Mrs. Dunne and on Monday, 17th her CAO offer. To call it a whirlwind is to minimise the experience. Megan dealt with it all in her stride!

When Daithí Ó Sé probed the question about Megan's future she informed him that she got her course of choice, International Hospitality in Dublin Institute of Technology. Her experience in the Rose of Tralee will undoubtedly she said, "give me a sound start".

We wish Megan every success in the future!



Megan on stage with Daithí Ó Sé

Ferns Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Thirty five 5th year students this year were interviewed for a chance to become a youth volunteer to Lourdes in 2016. All students displayed a maturity beyond their years but unfortunately we could only pick two males and two females. The successful candidates were: Sarah Bloor, Rosin Conroy, James Gregan & Martin Doyle. They now begin the task of fundraising approximately €2500 before the trip next May. We wish them all the best in their endeavours.



French Exchange students in Glendalough

French Exchange

This year marks the third birthday of our French Exchange with the Lycée Victor Hugo in Château-Gontier in the west of France. Each October we welcome their teachers with their twenty four charges for a ten-day period. During their stay they are treated to trips to Glendalough, Croke Park, the Dunbrody, Waterford city, Wexford city and Dublin city as well as the addition of a cultural evening of traditional music and dance facilitated by the school trad band and musicians. Reports back from our visitors have been categorically positive.

During our stay in France each March our students are afforded unforgettable trips to the famous Mont St Michel, the seaside town of St Malo, chocolate factories and treasure hunts in Château-Gontier, breathtaking castles and bustling cities as well as the cafés, music, croissants, art, culture, passion and everything else that forms the beating heart of French life.

It is an action-packed ten days but of invaluable importance to our language students who get to see and experience the French culture from their text books brought to life.

Rome 2015

It's 2 a.m. on Wednesday, 27th May. Fifty two sleepy students, not forgetting seven equally tired teachers, rise from their beds to embark on the trip

to Rome they've all been waiting for. The bus park slowly but surely filled with parents bidding us farewell and too many suitcases to count. Passports checked and double checked we set off on the bus to Dublin airport.

As soon as we entered through the doors of the airport in Rome it was straight into shorts and t-shirts and ten layers of sun cream were applied. Excitement reached an all-time high as we piled into the bus driven by, the ever so lovely, Elvis the Italian bus driver. Such amazing sights to see! We hopped off the bus and went exploring. As we awaited to head to the Colosseum, the welcoming sun began to hide behind dark rain clouds. However, that didn't stop us from having a wonderful tour around the Colosseum learning about its rich history. The next day we walked through the ruined streets of Pompeii embracing the famous history of this place. The sight of the bodies conserved in ash was frightening yet fascinating to see how well they were preserved. It was scary to think that we were stood underneath the volcano that destroyed this city. Later in the day we made it to the top of that very volcano, Mount Vesuvius. A breath taking view surrounded us and we watched gentle puffs of smoke come from the not yet extinct volcano.

We all woke up bright-eyed and bushy tailed the following morning, eager to travel to the Rainbow Magic Land theme park. A great day was had by all! The final day arrived but there was still lots to see! We finished off our tour of Rome and visited the Vatican. Such a breathtaking place with a rich history. We were extremely lucky to have seen the Sistine Chapel and the beautiful art that surrounded us. The trip to Rome was an experience of a lifetime and something that we will never forget.

By Ellen Walsh, 5th year.



A beautiful sunny day on Mt. Vesuvius

Centre for Talented Youth of Ireland in DCU

Twenty nine of our 1st year students have been nominated to sit the Scholastic Aptitude Test in this years 'Talent Search' facilitated by Dublin City University. This is an outstanding opportunity which potentially enables students to participate in summer programmes in the university. Students would have a choice of studying a wide range of Science and Humanities subjects including Architecture, Computer Applications, Pharmacology, Linguistics and World Geopolitics. We congratulate our nominated students and wish them the very best as they prepare to sit this examination early next year. Please contact Mrs Eleanor Lee for further information.



*Some of the graduating PLC students
enjoying the celebrations*

Post Leaving Certificate Course

The hard work and commitment displayed by Kildare and Wicklow ETB students was celebrated by the presentation of QQI Awards (formally FETAC) to students from the Post Leaving Certificate course in Business Studies Level 5.

Speaking at the Ceremony Brenda Lynch, Adult Education Officer with KWETB, commended the dedication that students demonstrate by their commitment to continued education, whether it be over a year long full time programme or by completing individual component awards and "banking" these awards until they achieve a Major Award. The successful students this year have progressed into Higher Education and employment.

Concern Debates



*Anne-Marie Doyle, Alex
Dudzik, Emer-Rose Kealy
and Jacqui Whelan*

It has been a very successful year to date in the school as regards debating. Our Concern debate team made up of 5th year students has won both their opening debates in the competition. They have faced St Mary's, Arklow and Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy and successfully debated. The team would aspire to emulate the very successful run that they had last year when the team

reached the All Ireland Concern semi-final. They will have their second two debates early in the New Year. If they are successful in these, they will progress to the last sixteen teams that go forward to a knock out stage of the competition.

Junior Debating

Our junior debating teams have enjoyed great success in the first term. We started the County Wicklow Environmental Debates against Presentation College Bray when we successfully defeated the motion that "Our generation is smarter than previous generations in how we care for the environment". Congratulations to Rachel Sheil, Ciaran O'Keeffe and Sarah Kenny.

We entered two teams from our junior panel in the Carlow IT Debates competition this year. This was an all day competition. Well done to Caoimhe Coady and Sarah Kenny on their performance. The team of Alanna Davidson and Cora Tyrrell beat off all competition to win the event outright. They received a crystal trophy for the school and shared the prize money of €500. A remarkable achievement considering both girls are in 2nd year. We are looking forward to our next round of competitions in the new year.



*Alanna Davidson,
Ms Gahan and Cora Tyrrell*



Members of the Trad group during their recent recording session

Trad Music

Still reeling from the glory of becoming a YouTube sensation over the summer, the trad group returned to school ready to claim their prize. As winners of the Pure Music Project, they earned a full recording session in Temple Bar. On 31st August they checked into the Sun Studio where they were reunited with last year's 6th years.

They spent the day working on the song they wrote themselves 'We're throwing their lives away'. By the end of the day, the song was recorded and ready for distribution. It really was a fantastic experience for the students who got a great insight into music production.

studying technology based subjects, they are also of huge benefit to any discipline where logic, creativity and teamwork are important factors.



Winning team of Ruth Berney, Rebecca Griffin, Aoife Yang and Celine Keating

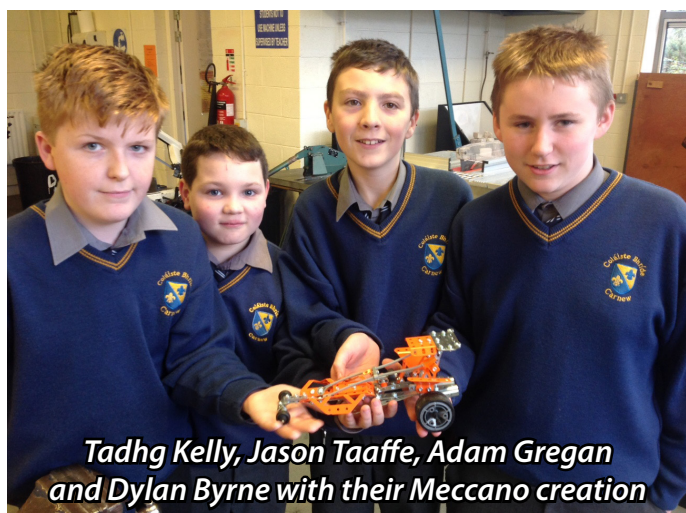
Maths Quiz

One hundred and five senior cycle higher level maths students participated in our school Maths Quiz on Friday, 9th October. This annual quiz is part of our "Maths Week", in conjunction with our numeracy initiative. The eight rounds of questions linked directly to the H.L. project maths L.C. syllabus. Students were challenged and the team effort created a real sense of achievement.

The winning team was : Ruth Berney, Rebecca Griffin, Celine Keating, Aoife Yang.

Joint second: Tara Dolan, Ciara Kavanagh, Danya Lancaster, Shonagh Mulligan and Conor Byrne, Nicole Fogarty, Stephanie Hale, Ciara Jordan.

3rd: Ann Marie Doyle, Finlay Power, Una Sinnott, James Stedmond. Congratulations to all!



Tadhg Kelly, Jason Taaffe, Adam Gregan and Dylan Byrne with their Meccano creation

Meccano Club

This year saw the start of our Meccano Club within the school which provides a great opportunity for students to learn by doing. The group convenes in the metalwork room, where students work in teams to build a variety of artefacts using basic tools and components, in a fun and collaborative environment. These activities enable the students to develop problem solving skills, critical thinking and a greater appreciation for design and how things work. The skills being developed not only benefit students

Homework Club

Homework club is a free service offered to first year students who may require some additional help to complete their homework. It takes place for fifty minutes, three days a week after school. First years are put into small groups and TY and 5th students are there to help them. Some TY students do this as part of their Gaisce award and other students simply volunteer so they can help others. The goal of the club is to create a quiet environment where students can get help straight away if needed. Students are then given weekly prizes and positive notes in their journals if their homework efforts improve.

Syrian Refugee Appeal

Both pupils and teachers alike showed an overwhelming support for the Syrian refugees. In conjunction with the charity 'The Jacket Off Your Back', they collected much needed toiletries for these men, women and children in need. The toiletries were organised and labelled into personal packs for the refugees and given to a volunteer from the charity. What an innovative and generous, yet simple gift to give the refugees - well done to all!



Presentation for the recent Syrian Refugee Appeal

St Vincent de Paul Food Appeal

This year again we ran a very successful food appeal for our local St. Vincent de Paul Society. On 8th December we presented twenty two full boxes of food and drinks and ten bags of potatoes to St. Vincent de Paul who create food hampers for local families for Christmas. In Coláiste Bhríde we are very proud of our charity work and the generosity of all is greatly appreciated.



Our 2015 St. Vincent de Paul Collection

Knitting Presentation to Crumlin

On Wednesday, 25th November a presentation of hats, mittens, booties, blankets and cardigans was made to ICU Crumlin in Carnew Day Care Centre. Contributions were made from the ladies in Carnew Community Care, Eileen Kinsella's knitting groups, students in Coláiste Bhríde and their families. We were delighted to have a very special guest on the day, Anna Osborne. Anna was a patient in Crumlin for the first few weeks of her life and her parents were delighted with all the knitted products that they received for Anna during their time in ICU.



Web Summit For Schools at the RDS

Web Summit For Schools 2015

Coláiste Bhríde was one of the lucky schools selected to attend the 2015 Web Summit in the RDS. Thirty seven students attended the evening session of talks on Tuesday, November 3rd. Upon entry into the venue, the students audibly gasped at the stage set up and lighting which were extremely impressive. The guest speakers touched on a variety of topics; from curing cancer to stamping out bullying in schools. Each speaker had one thing in common and that was the fact that each business came from one person's belief and passion. At all stages during the evening, students were encouraged to follow up on ideas and to 'prove their passion'. It was a very informative evening, and hopefully, when the event is back in Dublin in the future, there will be a CB student up on that stage inspiring others!

Wicklow Garda Youth Awards

Congratulations to Aimée Walsh and Harry Winterbotham who won an award in the Wicklow Garda Youth Awards. They were nominated for this award programme by our school. We are so proud of their achievement and look forward to the presentation of awards in January 2016.

STEERING OUR IRISH ANGUS PROJECT IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION



Úna with An Taoiseach,
Enda Kenny

It was quite surreal, putting our 'Final Report' together recently to conclude our team's participation in the *National Certified Irish Angus Beef School's Competition 2014*. We enjoyed our journey so much so, that it went by as quick as it all began! In saying that, it stretched out for three academic years, from our initial application in Spring of



Pádraig, Úna and Tommy at
the school Open Night

Transition Year, 2014 to the slaughtering of our Irish Angus Steers during the Winter of Sixth Year, 2015. Our involvement in the competition is something which each of us, (Una Sinnott, Pádraig Doyle and Tommy McGing), will treasure for the rest of our lives.

Our ability to scientifically prove that Irish Angus have a lower Carbon Footprint when compared to Continental breeds, saw us being crowned Senior Group Biological and Ecological Champions at the *BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2015*! We hit the public promotion scene hard following our achievement.

We featured on the *RTÉ 6:01* news, on the *RTÉ Radio One* show, *Country Wide*, in the *Farmers Journal* and the *Farming Independent*, as well as many local interviews in our county newspapers and radio stations. With special guest appearances from the UN president Mary Robinson, Beef baron Larry Goodman, RTE's Sharon Ni Bheolain, TD Andrew Doyle and Teagasc's Director, Dr. Gerry Boyle, we certainly experienced huge interest in our campaign.

Our final Irish Angus promotion was 'You can't spell AngUS without US', this initiative revolved around public interaction. Throughout the summer of 2015, we attended shows across the South East. We welcomed *IRISH TV* to our Irish Angus farm during the summer holidays and we featured on their show 'Wicklow Matters'.

From 250kilograms to 700kilograms, our famous five *Irish Angus* Steers saw their end during the early stages of December, 2015 in *ABP Waterford*. Now the competition is nearly at an end and the overall winners will be announced in March 2016. The Competition is fierce but it's appropriate to mention that we are all winners as it is, especially with each of us taking home a nice amount of profit to spend as we wish!



Target Weights Achieved

We would like to thank all those teachers, students, and parents who supported our project throughout its progression. Whether that was talking to us at a show or sharing our YouTube videos, we really appreciated each act of support! By Úna Sinnott



Perfect Grades

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