



# Coláiste Bhríde

## Summer Newsletter 2016



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## ***Wicklow Garda Youth Awards***

The inaugural Wicklow Garda Youth Awards took place in The Park Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy on Saturday, 9th January. Community groups, clubs and schools were invited to nominate young people who stand out and there were three categories of prizes. Congratulations to An Garda Síochána for taking this initiative. Chief Superintendent, Pat Mangan, complimented all involved and in particular commended, Garda Emma Skinner, JLO in the Bray area for organising the event. The compere for the evening, Declan Meehan, East Coast Radio, put all award recipients through their paces and added a great sense of camaraderie to the occasion.

The award categories were as follows: Individual awards, group awards and special achievement awards. Coláiste Bhríde was proud to have two award winners. Our individual award winner, Aimee Walsh, 6th year student, has demonstrated a true sense of volunteerism, commitment and initiative since she started in 1st year. Her commitment to school events, tuck shop, senior prefect, Meitheal leader and school musical choreographer only touch the tip of the ice-berg for this young lady. Harry Winterbotham 5th year, received a special achievement award for his bravery against the odds. Since a young child he has battled with numerous serious operations and now he makes every effort to "take life as it is" on a day to day basis. Despite his impaired vision he remains positive and active. His real love is horses and he told Declan, that he "made a few bob over Christmas!" It was a very special occasion for so many people in Wicklow, for us as a school and of course the Walsh and Winterbotham families.



*Recipients of the Wicklow Garda Youth Awards  
Aimee Walsh and Harry Winterbotham*

## ***Certified Irish Angus 2014 Finals***



*Tommy, Úna and Pádraig at the final of the Irish Angus Beef Competition in Croke Park in March*

On the 16th March the five finalist schools participating since 2014 in the Certified Irish Angus Beef school Ag Science competition met in Croke Park to await the announcement of the overall winner and runner up of this two year competition. Sacred Heart Secondary School Clonakilty was announced as overall winners with CBS Thurles as runner up. Coláiste Bhríde Carnew received recognition for their excellent use of social media as a tool to raise awareness of carbon footprint. This competition which began its journey in

Transition Year brought teaching and learning outside of the classroom and created a platform for pupils to be innovative self-directed learners. This experience involved many educational outings and opportunities for the pupils to develop their social and presentation skills. All three Coláiste Bhríde pupils, Úna Sinnott, Padraig Doyle and Tommy McGing enjoyed immensely participating in this competition and benefitted from monetary gain from the profit of their calves, not forgetting the college scholarship won with their BT Young Scientist Senior Category win.



*Great support for the group on final day.*

## ***Green Schools***



*Some Green Schools Committee Members at the Green Schools Expo in the RDS*

This year the Green Schools Committee began working towards its seventh green flag entitled 'Global Citizenship and Energy'. The students have been collating information on the different cultures within the school and have been creating innovative ways that these cultures can be integrated into the school environment. The students have taken a particular interest in reducing the energy needed to maintain the iPads charge in school. They have been thinking of ways to reduce the iPads daily

consumption of energy by reducing brightness etc. The students attended a workshop before Christmas in Maynooth which focused on sustainability around the world and the UN sustainable goals. They also attended the Green Schools Expo in the RDS in January. Finally in April the committee along with 4 Elm completed a workshop relating to the environment and energy sustainability. We are hopeful to have our seventh flag by the end of 2017!



*Chelsea Kearney at the Green Schools Expo*

## *From the 'Field of Dreams' to Donnybrook!*



*Coláiste Bhríde putting pressure in the scrum*

© Adrian Crawley Photography

For quite some time, the Coláiste Bhríde rugby team have named their training pitch 'The Field of Dreams'. A sloping, stoney pitch which often bears the very convincing evidence that many a farm animal also calls it their home! This is where the targets were set for the 2015-16 season, and a focused determination pursued, that this season should be about turning dreams into a reality.

A long campaign followed, which certainly came with its fair share of blood, sweat and tears. Every single game had a purpose. To build towards the unbelievable eleventh game of the season. To venture into Leinster's rugby home, Donnybrook, and bring some rugby silverware back to Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew for the very first time.

The first round of the Anne McInerney Cup, previously known as the Leinster Development Cup was against Scoil Chonglais, Baltinglass.

The competition for places on the starting fifteen was strong and this was evident in a convincing win, as all players did their best to show what they were capable of. The next round was against Presentation De La Salle, Bagenalstown. 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 in their efforts.

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.

Árdscoil Tríonóide, Athy were the quarter final opponents. Wet and windy conditions made spreading the ball wide difficult 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 semi-final against Moyne Community School,

Co. Longford. This victory also gave passage into the McMullen Cup competition which was another important milestone.

CBS Nass 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



*Seamus Tomkins feeding the Carnew scrum*

© Adrian Crawley Photography



*Mark Hoare lifting the Anne McInerney Cup*

came back and nearly equalised 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 was new territory once again for any Coláiste Bhríde rugby team!

The semi-final of the Anne McInerney Cup, involved a long journey to Longford R.F.C to play Moyne Community School on their home pitch. To travel such distance and putting in a solid performance against a strong team on their home ground was a great achievement in itself. The long bus journey home to Wicklow was thankfully a joyous one, yet a respectful appreciation of the fact there was no silverware to mark the occasion was enough to keep the feet firmly on the ground.

With a break in games, the journey to Templeogue College to play the home side in the Vinnie Murray Plate semi-final proved to be another useful game in preparation for the all-important eleventh game. This match was the result of the defeat against Wilson's College in the first round of the Vinnie Murray Cup. Again, a competitive match throughout, and it was only until the last few plays of the match that the

game was out of the Wicklow side's reach. The following Friday, the 12th of February was the day of the eleventh game. The Anne McInerney Cup Final. 3pm, Donnybrook and Ardee Community School were the respectful opponents.

On the day, an electric atmosphere within the stadium was fuelled further with a hectic opening to the match, as Ardee crossed the try line in the third minute, taking a 5 – 0 lead. The Carnew side held strong, and was rewarded with a try later in the half, making it 5 – 5 at half time. The strength and depth in the Carnew

squad proved pivotal during the entire second half, as tired and injured bodies had to be replaced. The continued pressure by the CB Carnew side finally broke through the Ardee defence and scored a further two tries and a conversion without reply, to be victorious on a 17 – 8 scoreline. The team spirit, sheer determination and commitment this group of players have shown to each other has undoubtedly been the strength of this side. To see them lift the Anne McInerney Cup at Donnybrook was a real moment to treasure!

Finally, a sincere thank you to Gorey R. F. C for its continued support and use of the club grounds for our home matches, and also to Michael Bolger, our Leinster Rugby CCRO for all his help, hard work and commitment with the team over the course of the season. Now it's back to the 'Field of Dreams' in the effort of turning more dreams into reality.



*The ecstatic winning team in Donnybrook*

## Junior Rugby



*Tadhg O'Neill in the line out*

After a long postponement in matches in the Leinster Junior Development Shield due to bad weather both before and after Christmas, the competition resumed with our quarter final game Vs Coláiste Chill Mhantáin. A very depleted sixteen man Jnr. rugby squad travelled to Wicklow

to play C.C.M. in Wicklow Rugby Club. With the day bright but very blustery and cold it was set for an interesting game of rugby. Carnew took first blood with an opening try which was converted by captain Jim Sharry but Coláiste Chill Mhantáin did not take long to come back with a try of their own. The C.B. continuous pressure throughout the game paid dividend and were able to produce a few more unconverted tries to finish the game 32-10.

This win took us to the semi-final which was played in Gorey RFC on Wednesday, 13th April vs Malahide Community School. Malahide was a big athletic team and put it up to the Carnew outfit from the kick off. There was nothing in it at half time with a score of 8-7 in favour of Coláiste Bhríde. After the recommencement, hard tackles on big running forwards were evident. But Coláiste Bhríde began to get the upper hand as the pack mauled their way towards the Malahide line time and again. This game was disciplined and purposeful and an all round team effort, very well controlled by out half Cillian Tomkins and lead by Jim Sharry, Cpt..

With great excitement our sights were set on Donnybrook and the final against the Patrician Secondary School, Newbridge. The game was set for Wednesday 27th April on the 1st pitch at the home of Leinster Rugby. We knew that the Patricians would have a strong athletic team. They did not disappoint and by half time, even though we played against the wind

and were able to keep play in and around their twenty two we still went to the break 5-10 down. Hard tackling and some very good forward play with great ball carrying from Cpt. Jim Sharry, Dylan Sawyer and Frank Kavanagh saw C.B. get back in the game with a penalty try which was converted and at 38mins we led 12-10.

These very physical games take their toll and with Harry Molloy already having been replaced due to a knee injury C.B. were being stretched and only possessed substitutes in the forward positions. Tired and broken bodies were beginning to buckle under pressure and the Patricians smelled blood running in two more tries which were converted. But there was still some fight left in the Carnew lads and they drove forward a final time with the big ball carriers, Paddy Doyle scoring under the posts. Jim Sharry converted for the last play of the game with a finishing score, Coláiste Bhríde 19 Patricians 24. As can be imagined everybody was disappointed but some very good lessons were learned. The experience of playing a final in Donnybrook will stand to all players and everyone is now fully aware what is needed to win a final at this level. With both the Snr. and Jnr. teams making finals in all Leinster competitions rugby looks bright in Coláiste Bhríde. Players were further encouraged by the fact that on Awards Day we presented not only the player of the year award but for the first time, Snr. player of the year, Jnr. player of the year and most improved player of the year. Congratulations to Stanley Hadden (Snr. player of the year), James Rothwell (Jnr. player of the year); David Bailey (most improved player of the year)



*The junior rugby team in Donnybrook*

## Senior Hurling 2015/2016



Senior Hurling team 2016 with Mr. Callanan

This year our senior hurlers started as defenders of the South Leinster Schools title from last year. The squad was in an interim period this year with the departure last year of many of our most influential players and a number of over-age players. Unfortunately after fighting bravely to defend our hard-fought title, a lack of depth and experience in the squad left holes in our game which our opponents exploited.

Later in the year we retained, for the tenth consecutive year, the Wicklow Schools title on a freezing April afternoon against Avondale Community College.

As always at this time of year we unwillingly say goodbye to our 6th year hurlers captain Joe Gardiner, James Smyth, Justin House, Vinny Murphy, Séamus Mulhall, Pat Kenny, Oisín Furlong, Tommy McGing, Thomas Furlong and Adam Doyle, who once again have served faithfully as role models and mentors for the younger team members and did the school proud year in, year out. So we wait with high hopes to see the next group coming through build on their legacy.

## Handball

It was a great term for our Coláiste Bhríde handball team. Three students out of the handball team competed in Leinster Post Primary Schools 40 x 20 games shortly after Christmas. Ciara Jordan made it through to the semi-final of the under 19 girls singles game. She scored some excellent points against Wexford Presentation but was unfortunate on the day. Ciarán Power played some excellent games this term in the under 15 boys singles. He was very unlucky in his last game against Wexford CBS which went to an extremely close tie breaker game. Clíodhna O'Connell competed in the under 16 girls singles game where she made it through to the Leinster semi-final against Grennan College, Kilkenny. She gathered up some great points on the day but was unfortunate that Kilkenny took the title. Well done to the team this year.



Ciara Jordan, Daniel Curry and Ciarán Power

## Under 14 Hurling



Under 14 hurling team 2016 with Mr. Morris and Mr. Nolan

The under 14 hurling team did extremely well this year, making the South Leinster final. The team managed to beat Bridgetown VC, Callan CBS and Clane CS en route to the final. The final was played in the Centre of Excellence in Ferns against a very strong Wexford CBS team who were deserving of their victory on the day. The players, consisting of first and second year students, did themselves and the school proud. Hurling in the school is in a very good place, with this team being the fourth to reach the South Leinster Final in the last two years.

## ***Athletics***

In April, the Athletics team took part in Greystones' Charlesland "track and field" event. Students competed in the 100 meters and 400 meters races, the javelin and the long jump.

Despite not bringing any medals home this time, our athletes embraced the great atmosphere on the day. They came home more experienced and determined to keep training hard for the future.



*Athletes James Farrelly and Vlad McCrea*

## ***Sports day***

The sun shone brightly on our 1st years as they truly entered into the spirit of Sports Day on Wednesday 18th May. Without a doubt these young people represent all that is positive in our school, such energy, positivity, competitiveness,



*Lots of smiling faces after a wonderful sports day*

teamship and dedication is commendable and admirable. Huge thanks to the PE dept. for their planning and dedication in organising one of the definite highlights of a most enjoyable 1st year.



*1st years enjoying their sports day*

## ***Gym Club***

Coláiste Bhríde Gym Club is a group of dedicated trainers who come together once a week to work out in the school gym. The regulars come from a variety of sporting backgrounds from dance to rugby to GAA or athletics. What they all share in common is a love of pushing themselves beyond their physical comfort zone to become better, faster, stronger and more flexible in each of their respective sporting disciplines. Over the course of this year the school invested in a selection of new equipment which have allowed us to further enlarge the range of exercises and training at our disposal. This year the club says goodbye to Brandon Earle who has been a stalwart regular. His work ethic and dedication will be missed.



*Coláiste Bhríde Gym Club members*





Some fantastic news - Coláiste Bhríde is the 'National Interschools Showjumping League Champions 2015/2016'.

Securing the title involved travelling at weekends to many different venues around the country, throughout the year. The [equestrianinterschools.com](http://equestrianinterschools.com) showjumping league is a hotly contested competition and going into the final in Mullingar on Sunday, 17th April in fourth position we did not anticipate victory. A tough track of showjumps, built to maximum height saw a lot of teams knocked out from the jump off. Coláiste Bhríde had luck on its side and not only got into the jump off but also took fourth place. The value of 'points and a half' available at the final became very evident to Coláiste Bhríde. The points achieved from the day's results boosted Coláiste Bhríde into pole position in the league by 1 point! A wonderfully exciting day for all involved. This achievement was made possible by not only the students

who travelled on the day of the final to compete but to those who competed all year at various legs of the league.

On the 12th of March 2016 Coláiste Bhríde hosted the All Ireland Interschools Hunter Trials Championships, in Lisgarvan House, Ballon, Co. Carlow. This was a huge undertaking but with the tremendous support from parents and volunteers this event proved a great success. Five hundred and five entries from schools all over Ireland; including Donegal, Clare, Cork, Limerick; took part. Coláiste De Lacy, Ashbourne were the winners of the teams of three competition while brother and sister, Christine and Andy O'Donnell, from Loreto Secondary School and CBS Kilkenny took the title in the senior individual and junior individual competition respectively.



*Adam Hadden at the All Ireland Schools Hunter Trials in Ballon, Co. Carlow*



*Thomas Furlong at the All Ireland Schools Hunter Trials in Lisgarvan House*

The students ended the year with a trip to the yard of well known race horse trainer, Willie Mullins, where they met some of the stable stars such as Annie Power and viewed the facilities that play a part in the successes of Willie Mullins. From there they travelled to Dublin to the Mounted Gardaí who put on an amazing display of elegance and discipline for our group. You never know, witnessing this demonstration could lead to a future career policing on horse-back for some Coláiste Bhríde equestrian students!

## Hockey

The hockey teams that participated in the league this year consisted of a first and second year team. Both teams showed tremendous team work and skills over the season. The ladies were committed to training throughout the season and played to the best of their ability in every game.

Some of the ladies have been training with the South East Development programme at weekends to improve their skill level. The two teams played against the following schools in the league: Loreto Kilkenny, Kilkenny College and St. Leo's College Carlow. The 2nd year team had a great win over Loreto Kilkenny in the freezing winter weather earlier in the year.



*Coláiste Bhríde Hockey Team*

## Ladies Football

Well done to our Junior Ladies side who capped off the year with an emphatic win in the County Final at the beginning of May against St.David's Greystones ending on a scoreline of 11-11 to 2-0. All the hard work during the year paid off. The girls showed great enthusiasm during the year and were always willing to put the shoulder to the wheel when things were getting tough. They enjoyed some great wins throughout the year with a big win against Coláiste Chill Mhantáin in the quarter final finishing on a scoreline of 15-13 to 4-4. The team also impressed in the semi-final where they encountered St.Mary's Arklow and maintained a good lead from start to finish with a scoreline of 10-10 to 0-10. They now look forward to a great season in September.



*The winning Ladies Football team.*

## Tom Murphy



*Tom Murphy at a recent training camp with Everton F.C.*

During the summer 2015, Tom Murphy, 3rd year, trained with Everton Football Clubs under 21 team while they were on tour in Ireland. Tom impressed during these training sessions and was invited back to Everton Football Club throughout the year to train and play matches against the likes of Stoke City FC, West Brom. FC and the prestigious Manchester United FC. While in Everton Football Club Tom experienced the life of being a professional footballer from training full time to the education side of it.

Tom also had the opportunity to represent his country in an International double header against Turkey in Dublin in April. He trained with the squad for the week leading up to the games and played against Turkey. Reports suggest Tom had a very good game.

Congratulations to Tom who takes it in his stride and is focused on Junior Cert. exams now!

## Active Week 2016



All in all an excellent week was had by all. Huge congratulations should go to all the students and staff who participated so enthusiastically all week to make the event so successful.



Coláiste Bhríde's Active Week ran this year from the 9 - 13th May. It was an action packed week aimed at getting students more physically active but in a fun way. On Monday we had the Plank Challenge with a first year student, Leah O'Toole beating everyone (including some staff members) with a highly impressive time of 7'02! This was followed by Zumba classes later in the day. On Tuesday it was the Limbo challenge. Again the first years dominated the event taking all three medals with Dylan Molloy taking top spot.



In the afternoon we had a mixed Water Relay race involving leaking buckets and lots of water. Great fun was had by all with the 6th Yr team captained by Shonagh Mulligan victorious. On Wednesday a Fun Run/Walk was held for all 1st, 2nd & TY students. On Thursday the Students vs Teachers Tag Rugby match took place with the students winning that one 8 - 5. Friday saw Self Defence/Fitness classes with all 1st yr groups and another Students vs Teachers match. This time the activity was Badminton.



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP IN COLÁISTE BHRÍDE

## Senior Prefect Students

Our Senior Prefects have played a very important role in our school this year. They support, encourage and monitor our second year students throughout the year organising activities which involves all. Their continuous engagement, help and interaction with our second year students has greatly enhanced our pastoral care system. Their sense of teamwork and efficiency is very evident in their help given to all Parent/Pupil teacher meetings. All done in their own time. They play a vital role in our school.



## Newly Elected 1st Years to the Student Council

Congratulations to our newly elected 1st years to our Student Council. They will move straight to the council in 2nd year. We wish them every success for their future with the council. In total, thirteen 1st year students put themselves forward for election. Those elected were: Ainé Doyle, Aisling Somers, Emma Kinch, Thomas Kealy, Imogen Horton, Sophie Doyle



We also bid a sad farewell to our 6th years who are moving on this year. They are: Laura Kinsella, Hollie Kavanagh, Shonagh Mulligan, Elaine Lyons, Sinéad Foley, Nell Robinson Greene and Thomas Furlong. We thank them for their years of dedication and service. We wish them every success in their upcoming exams.

## Meitheal

This years Meitheal awards ceremony took place in the Ashdown Hotel in Gorey with twenty-two schools from Wicklow and Wexford in attendance. Our celebrations began in school where we enjoyed an afternoon tea before we departed for Gorey. Úna Sinnott and Ciarán Flood (Gorey C.S.) presented the awards ceremony. Úna was fantastic on stage very natural and personable. The Meitheal leaders were entertained first by various students acts from the schools in attendance and then received their certificates from our first year representatives Emma Kinch and Elizabeth O'Sullivan. The Meitheal leaders give up their time during the Summer to train as leaders, at the end of August to help induct the 1st years, at morning assemblies and at lunchtimes, when their peers are getting on with their own activities, the Meitheal leaders help to support the 1st years. This commitment is on top of their sporting and academic endeavours and these students give their time without asking anything in return. On behalf of the 1st years we would like to thank Meitheal leaders for their commitment and hard work this year.





*Student Council Members 2015 / 16*

### ***The Amber Flag***

**A**s part of our school wide mental health strategy, this year we participated in the Amber Flag programme. This is a national initiative aimed at schools, clubs and societies and aims to “promote and actively bring about a culture change in the promotion of positive mental health”. The flag is awarded by a group called Suicide Aware and the programme is in its third year.

In early September, a committee was formed and a schedule of events for the year decided. A positive mental health week which we called “Mind your Mind” week was run in early November. The week consisted of music at breaks, talks for parents and students with the week rounded off with our early morning “Rise & Shine” walk. We had over three hundred students, teachers and parents walk up Sliabh Bhuí at 6am on a beautiful November morning. At a designated point, we stopped and had a gratitude ceremony where students read uplifting poems and short stories. We then walked back to school accompanied by the local Gardaí where a breakfast feast was laid out for us. All breakfast

items had been donated by local businesses and we were overwhelmed by their generosity. It was a great success and we look forward to doing something even bigger and better next year. As part of our application for the Amber Flag, we were required to complete an audit of student support services within our school. It was only when we put it down on paper that we saw the vast number of services offered to our students here. We have access to a school counsellor, our pastoral care teams, our Éacht Suntasacht award system to name but a few. It is planned that the committee that was formed for the Amber Flag will continue working on improvements in this area for years to come.

At a ceremony in the Rochestown Park Hotel in Cork on Friday, May 13th approximately thirty-five schools, clubs and societies were presented with the Amber Flag. Retired rugby player Alan Quinlan presented each flag and then gave a moving speech where he talked about his own mental health struggles. As each school or organisation was called, the MC for the day called out the events undertaken to achieve the flag. We were especially commended for our 'Mind Your Mind' week and our 'Rise and Shine' walk. It also gave us some ideas for events for next year to keep the momentum going.

### ***Hike for Life***

**T**he “Hike for Life” is a KWETB initiative where all twenty-two schools come together to walk the “Spink” in Glendalough to highlight the importance of positive mental health in our schools. This is the third year of the walk which also has a fundraising element to support mental health services in Wicklow and Kildare. This year almost €10,000 was raised.

On Wednesday, 11th May, fourteen Coláiste Bhríde Students joined over three hundred students from across KWETB. The weather was perfect and everyone completed the walk in great spirits. We look forward to next year’s walk.



## ***Coláiste Bhríde at Harrogate International Music Festival***



*An outdoor concert in Ripley*

Coláiste Bhríde participated in the Harrogate Music Festival in March 2016 which hosted groups from Kenya, Germany, USA and Ireland in addition to many groups from the UK.

During the five day trip the band performed at various historic locations in the Harrogate area. This included an outdoor concert in the beautiful town of Ripley, well known for its Downton Abbey location.

They engaged in cultural activities in the City of York. The group visited York Minster, York Castle Museum and attended a concert in the impressive medieval Ripon Cathedral.

Wednesday, 30th March was undoubtedly, the highlight of the trip. All musicians enjoyed the opportunity to perform in the exquisite Royal Hall in the centre of Harrogate at the Grand Finale Concert. Our band, introduced by Mr. Pat Brennan and conducted by Ms Teresa Glynn performed four varied and wonderful pieces. The band's performance was slick and professional. The standard attained by these young musicians confirmed the merits of the hard work and dedication required for an occasion such as this. The concert concluded with a massed band performance involving a total of one hundred and seventy brass and wind musicians from the local Tewit Youth Band; the Catalina Foothills High School Band from Arizona and Coláiste Bhríde. The massed band performance of Finlandia by Sibelius was truly spectacular and a proud occasion for our students.

This tour adds to the already impressive international performance record of our school Concert Band which includes Finland; the Czech Republic and England. No doubt there are future international musical adventures in the pipeline

## ***Music Generation***

The Mermaid Theatre in Bray was the venue for a special end of year concert held on April 28th. This event was sponsored by Wicklow County Council, KWETB and by Music Generation, an organisation which is funded by U2, whose aim is to promote music in schools and communities. One hundred and ten musicians from Coláiste Bhríde performed on the night. The school choir and concert band performed a variety of music under the baton of Teresa Glynn. The highlight of the evening was the the performance of a composition by our TY students under the direction of renowned composer Neil Martin and music teacher Karen Johnson. Both Neil and Karen spent the school year working with the class. The result was a fifteen minute suite for choir, band and traditional group entitled 'Where Tomorrow Takes Us'. The theme of the piece was centered around the journey of a Syrian refugee attempting to find a home in Ireland. TY students from Coláiste Chill Mhantáin, Wicklow also performed an original composition under the direction of Brian Irvine entitled 'Songs from Room 42'.

Pat Brennan, a former staff member of the school acted as master of ceremonies for the night's events. The entire experience was very successful while at the same time highly educational.



*Group performance of Finlandia by Sibelius*

## **Midleton Choir Trip**

In May the school choir travelled to Midleton, Cork to perform in the annual Féile an tSamhraidh. The choir consisting of mostly junior students performed in the senior competition and acquitted themselves very well. As a result they were awarded third place. Adjudicator Carl Rochford praised the choir for their presentation, solid intonation and commitment to the music. Local musical director Lar Duffy acted as accompanist on the day. The school's next musical event is the ever popular Christmas concert which will be held in early December in All Saints Church, Carnew.



*Members of the folk group with GAA president Aogán Ó Fearghail*

## **Coláiste Bhríde Commemorate 2016 Winning National Title**

Coláiste Bhríde's folk band had huge success on Tuesday, 22nd March winning the GAA's national "Song to Commemorate 1916" competition. Their ballad entitled "The Last Gun Fired" beat off stiff competition from schools throughout the country to land the top prize! Four members of the group were on hand to travel to Croke Park to the presentation of prizes during the Easter holidays. They were thrilled to accept their prize which included a cash sum to invest in their group and also a chance to record their song for a commemorative CD to be published by the GAA. The folk group came together last September from the various musical strands within Coláiste Bhríde. They have performed at school events, Rathwood

and Kilkenny Castle.

The musicians in question are: Jacqui Whelan, Ciara Jordan, Roisin O'Keeffe, Josh McGrath, Paddy Doyle, Stephanie Hale, Vinny Murphy, PJ Barnes, Fiona Doyle and Mr Callanan.

A big congratulations to all members of this hugely talented group!



## **Trad Group**

The trad group made its annual trip to Scoil Aodán Naofa in March to entertain the primary school children there as part of their Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations. The musicians played a selection of pieces which served as an effective warm up to the céilí that followed.

The trad group also played a key role in Coláiste Bhríde's 1916 commemoration activities where they played The Foggy Dew, a traditional 1916 song and also played for the Irish Dancers.

The highlight of the term was the Music Generation concert which took place in the Mermaid Theatre in Bray. Here they joined forces with the concert band and choir to perform "Where Tomorrow Takes You" composed by Transition Years. It really was an entertaining evening and one the students will remember forever.

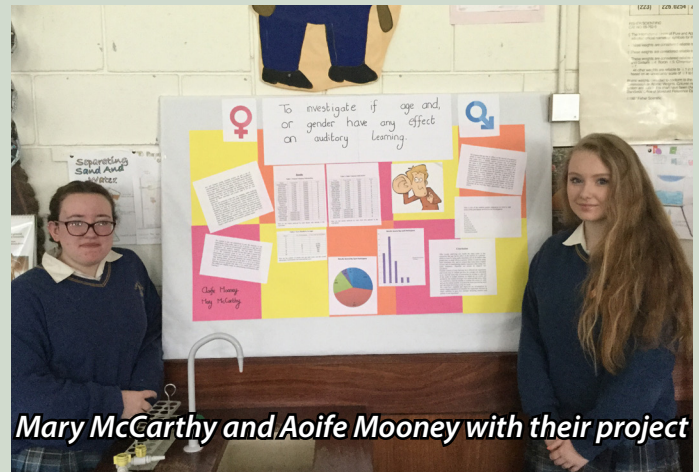


# COLÁISTE BHRÍDE YOUNG SCIENTIST

Coláiste Bhríde Carnew hosted its fifth annual Young Scientist Competition with forty-one projects from Transition Year pupils competing on the 14th March 2016. The competition encourages pupils to independently explore an idea, investigate it, develop a project and write a report to support their findings. Their report booklets, project display and their verbal presentation are all taken into account when they are judged. This competition encouraged many skills such as team work, communication, self directed learning and responsibility to name but a few. The two judges, Siobhain Fitzgerald (Biology and Science teacher) and Erin Murphy (experienced BT Young Scientist Mentor) were both extremely impressed by the high standards on the day and found it very challenging to pick the final winners.

The coveted title of OVERALL WINNER was awarded to Cathal Doyle and Dylan Walsh for their project titled *"How do you sleep?"*. Their project highlights the negative impact that excessive use of the smart phone or tablet use before bed has on a person's sleep cycle. Through a combination of research, experimentation and the use of technology the boys produced an excellent project that can help us all understand why it's so important to "power off" before bed time. Their expertise for their project and confident presentation style gave them the edge against the other groups.

Each class group that competed had a winner with 1st place in 4 Elm being awarded to Aisling Shannon, Aoife Byrne and Grace O' Sullivan with their project *"Does music help you study?"*, 1st place in 4 Oak Frankie Kavanagh, Ian Clancy and Sean Murphy with

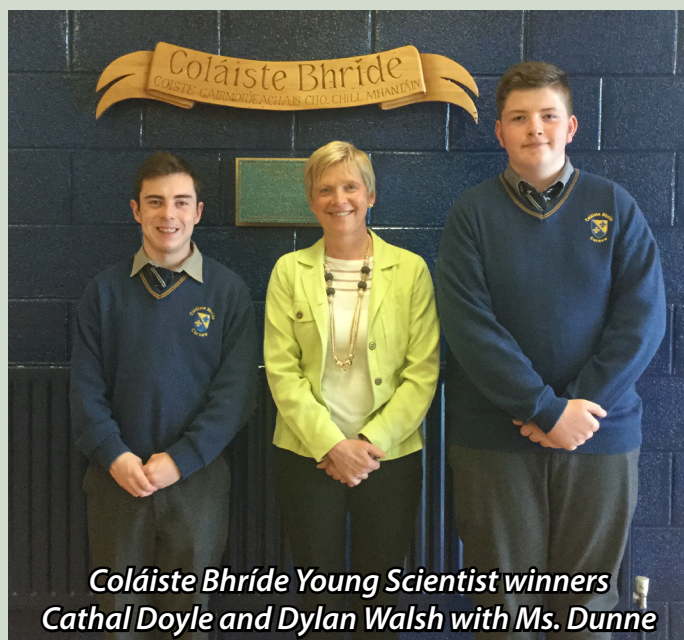


**Mary McCarthy and Aoife Mooney with their project**

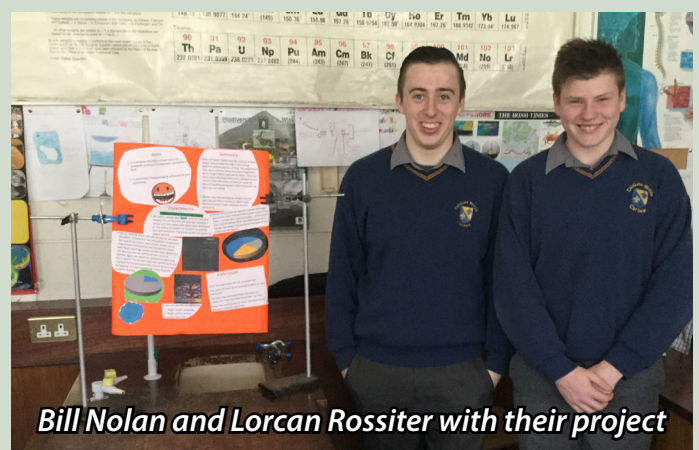
their project *"Football Boots"*, 1st Place in 4 Beech to Abbie Mooney, Eoin Donlon, John Branagan and Aisling Kinsella for their project *"To list the effect of e-cigarettes on the lungs"* and 1st place 4 Ash was awarded to Caoimhe Byrne and Jade Quigley with their project *"How does music affect mood, personality and memory?"*. Rachel Murtagh, Conor Furlong and John Lydon were awarded first place for their group 4 Beech/Ash with their project *"Are your wishes superstitious?"*.

A certificate of Highly Commended was awarded to the runner up projects. These included the projects *"Flavours"* by Megan O' Reilly, Denise Osborne and Katie Dabrowski, *"Long term effects of breastfeeding"* by Grainne Hughes, *"How does height affect performance in sport?"* by Chloe Levingstone and Aoife Keogh, *"Which Liquids fuel everyday athletes better, Lucozade or water?"* by Conor Mullholland, Diego Molamphy, Peter Mc Swinney and Jay Stafford and finally *"The colour of food"* by Bill Nolan and Lorcan Rossiter.

The aspirations of the Coláiste Bhríde Carnew Young Scientist competition are to motivate and nurture the young scientists of the future. It is evident that this event is succeeding in its aspirations with many successful entries in the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition.



**Coláiste Bhríde Young Scientist winners  
Cathal Doyle and Dylan Walsh with Ms. Dunne**



**Bill Nolan and Lorcan Rossiter with their project**





### **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.

### **Work Experience**

Our 5th year students completed two work experience placements this year. Our 6th year students attended their work placements every Friday. Three students were lucky enough to be offered a summer job! Disciplines included, childcare, special needs assistant, retail management, leisure and rec., mechanics and equine studies to name but a few.

### **Student Tasks**

5th year students completed an Enterprise Task where they got the opportunity to set up their own business and learn new entrepreneurial skills. They also completed a task in Construction Graphics under the expert watch of the Woodwork Department. The examiners on the day were very complimentary of our students and the excellent standard of their work. Well done to all concerned. Our Leaving Cert students had a really busy year with Tasks in ICT, Contemporary Issues and Practical Achievement.

### **Career Guidance**

What a rollercoaster since Christmas! It's decisions and choices all the way. A new year means new beginnings and the 6th, 3rd and TY students made important life choices. CAO applications were submitted and 3rd and TY students made important decisions about their Leaving Cert. when they picked their 5th year subjects. Not forgetting our incoming 1st year students who will join us in August – an information night was held for 6th class pupils and their parents in January. We look forward to working with our new 1st years and wish them every personal and educational success here in Coláiste Bhríde.

Synergy Risk Management facilitated a Safe Pass course for eighteen students on 11th May. It was a fantastic opportunity for students as it will enable them to secure summer employment in industrial and construction settings.

We are forever indebted to local employers and business people who take on our TY, LCA and LCVP students for their work experience programmes. Students experienced a wide and diverse range of work placements including education, health, pharmaceutical companies, medical, business, administration and defence. Some TY students were fortunate to secure work experience placements on the mini-med programme with the Royal College of Surgeons, the Bar Society of Ireland and Trinity College Physics Week.

5th year students had information talks from University of Limerick, Carlow IT and UCAS. Enniscorthy College of Further Education met with the Leaving Certificate Applied students.

Now, it is all about change of mind, flying the coop and realising dreams for our 6th year students. May you all sail on the sea of ambition and land on the shores of success. We look forward to hearing great things about you all in the years to come.



# FOREIGN EXCHANGE

## *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



*French Exchange students*

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.

This year we also piloted a new programme that brought a smaller number of French students to our school to stay with families for a more extended period of time. This opportunity increases the level of immersion in the studied culture and language and affords students four weeks of authentic life as a student in school and in a home. The return trip sends our students to France for 3-4 weeks during their TY year, thereby helping them to build a solid platform for their Leaving Certificate French course.

## *Unser Schüleraustausch – Our German Exchange Carnew / Sehnde*

The German Department is delighted to announce that the first stage of its German Exchange will take place once again in October. Twenty German students, along with their leaders, will arrive on 23rd October to spend a week with their Irish host families. In turn, our Irish students will travel to Sehnde, Hannover on 26th February 2017. Thank you most sincerely to students, host families and staff for taking part in such a meaningful exchange. Our exchange has proved to be a great success.



*Deutschmobil visit to Coláiste Bhríde*

## *Deutschmobil*

1st, 5th and 6th years were treated to a visit from the Deutschmobil last February. The Goethe Institute facilitated fun and interactive workshops which everyone enjoyed. With lots of little prizes as incentives, pupils were more than willing to participate in the fun and games. The Deutschmobil will definitely be back!



*Our visiting French Students*

## Senior Bishop's Medal Competition Winners

Bishop Michael Burrows visited our school recently to present prizes to two of our senior students who participated in this year's competition. This essay writing competition rewards students who have an awareness of political, social and religious issues as well as a clear appreciation of structure and language.

The 5th and 6th year students present were treated to sound advice about essay writing in general. Bishop Michael spoke passionately about the importance of 'Clarity, simplicity and a bit of elegance'.

Zara Martin (6th Year) won joint second place for her original short story. Write a short story with the opening words '*As the Bishop rose to address the Confirmation candidates, I inevitably expected to hear the usual dose of irrelevant and pious verbiage*'. Bishop Burrows complimented Zara's writing style and her wisdom beyond her years. He summed up her essay as 'brilliant'.

Stephanie Hale (6th Year) was presented with joint third place for her personal essay which explored the term 'ethos'. '*What does the much used word 'ethos' actually mean when applied to the atmosphere particularly of a school or place of education? Illustrate and discuss from your own experience*'. Bishop Burrows complimented Stephanie on her exploration of the term and her insights. It was an experience that will enrich their own writing skills for the Leaving Certificate and beyond. We look forward to participating in next year's competition.



Senior Bishop's Medal competition winners with Bishop Michael Burrows, Ms. Dunne and Ms. Stack



Higher Level Maths Quiz participants

## LC Maths Quiz

On Friday, 29th January, sixteen of our enthusiastic Leaving Certificate higher level Maths students travelled to the Wexford regional round of the IMTA Team Maths Quiz 2016, which was hosted by Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy. Team Maths is a table quiz for teams of up to four students, with questions based on the Leaving Certificate Higher Level Maths syllabus. There was a record turnout from schools across Wexford and South Wicklow, with twenty-two teams participating. Our four teams performed very well despite some very challenging questions, and were within four points of the winners at the conclusion of the quiz. Well done to Hannah Byrne, Stanley Hadden, Aimee Walsh, Oisín Furlong, Killian Lambert, Keith Fanning, Danny Antcliffe, Aoife Travers, Úna Sinnott, Shauna Murphy, Shona Mulligan, Elaine Lyons, Aoife Kavanagh, Caoimhe Hodgins, Stephanie Hale and Elaine Casey for giving up their Friday evening in the middle of their mock exams to participate in the quiz.



Higher Level Maths Quiz team of Killian Lambert, Keith Fanning, Shauna Murphy and Elaine Casey

## **Environmental Debates**

Our 2nd year debaters claimed a second title this year by winning the Wicklow Co. Council Environmental Debates final. They successfully carried the motion that **"The pay by weight bin charges will lead to best practice in waste management"** against Coláiste Chill Mhantáin. Rachel Sheil, Caoimhe Coady and Sarah Kenny spoke magnificently without notes and successfully "wheeled" the adjudicators around to their side of the argument in a closely matched encounter. They really were remarkable for their young years and did our school proud.



**The Concern debate team - Anne-Marie Doyle, Alex Dudzik, Emer-Rose Kealy and Jacqui Whelan**



**Our 2nd year debaters with Ms. Gahan**

## **Concern Debates**

Our Concern debate team made up of 5th year students were undefeated throughout the competition. They successfully argued on topics ranging from **"Young people should be trusted to vote at sixteen."** to **"HIV and AIDS will be eradicated in our lifetime"**. They successfully fought off other local competition including Creagh College, Gorey and Gaelcholáiste na Mara, Arklow. The team had built on their experience from the previous years competition and have matured into extremely accomplished public speakers and debaters. Despite their success and unbeaten run, a complex weighted marking scheme prevented them from progressing to the finals of the competition. The girls represented the school with absolute distinction and will no doubt find the skills they have developed over the course of this competition invaluable in the future.

## **YSI**

A very energetic and enthusiastic YSI group, having explored many topics, decided to focus on the area of sexism. While they researched the topic in many countries and were upset by the level of sexism in other countries they ultimately decided to look at sexism amongst Irish teenagers. The main focus was on sexist language used everyday by young people and how in many regards it is now common place and unchallenged.

They worked with The Youth Council of Ireland and participated in a workshop by Hate Speech Ireland. They are devising a module for use with junior cycle SPHE called Sexism Is Not Sexy! The module includes a recording made by the TY students themselves as well as role plays and drama. These students were delighted to represent their school in the national final YSI showcase in Citywest on 10th May.



**YSI group at the showcase in Citywest**

## Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí seachtain den scoth againn arís i mbliana chun Seachtain na Gaeilge a chéiliúradh. Bhí cluichí boird éagsúla againn agus bhain na daltaí an-taitneamh as. D'imir muid Cé Hé? agus Biongó trí Ghaeilge. Bhí Cóisir Tae ag roinnt ranganna freisin. Tháinig an banna cáiliúil **Seo Linn** ar cuairt chun na scoile i rith na seachtaine. B'ambasadóirí Sheachtain na Gaeilge 2016 iad agus tháinig siad chun na scoile mar chuid de na himeachtaí. Chan siad 'Óró sé do Bheatha Abhaile' agus amhrán nua leo, "Music Makers".



Ceardlann na hIdirbhliana

## Caith Amach É

Bhí maidin den scoth againn sa scoil chomh maith nuair a tháinig High Rock Productions ar cuairt chun na scoile chun a seó Caith Amach É a chur ós comhair lucht na hArdteistiméireachta. Chabhraigh an seó go mór leo agus iad ag ullmhú don Bhéaltrial. Cuireadh an-bhéim ar na fiche Sraith Pictiúr atá mar chuid lárnach den scrúdú. Bhain gach éinne an-taitneamh as an seó agus as na ceardalainne chomh maith.



Daltaí ón Idirbhliain leis an ngrúpa Seo Linn

## TY Irish Workshop

**S**céal, a new Irish language workshop delivered by High Rock Productions, came to Coláiste Bhríde to work with our Transition Year students. It is designed to build students' confidence in spoken Irish and to improve key skills of presentation and teamwork and hopefully the students benefited from this experience. The facilitators took students in groups of up to thirty six students. The workshop began with a comic performance based on a famous story. This was followed by a series of speaking activities to build students' confidence in spoken Irish and to get them working in groups to develop a script for the story. The workshop finished with students presenting a version of the story themselves. They provided all the props, sound effects, and special effects to ensure the students had a hilarious, creative experience working in Irish.

## Turas Surfála

**M**ar chuid de Sheachtain na Gaeilge, chuaigh daltaí na hIdirbhliana go dtí Trá Mhór, áit gur bhain siad an-taitneamh as a bheith ag surfáil. Chuaigh siad ar shiúlóid eiceolaíochta freisin. Bhí lá iontach acu go léir.



Turas surfála i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge

# OUR 1916 COMMEMORATIONS



*Dramatisation of the writing of the Proclamation*

A busy schedule of activities took place in Coláiste Bhríde with a week of activities commemorating the one hundred year anniversary of 1916 Easter Rising. Various departments worked together to get the most from this week; the History department, the trad group and the Student Council. Ms Finlay's drama expertise was also drafted in.

On Monday, 14th March, the week kicked off with music at breaks in the social area. Student Council members acted as DJs and took requests. Only Irish music could be chosen so students were treated to a diverse mix from the Coronas to Olé Olé Olé. Students were able to buy commemorative pins. Faces were painted and students proudly wore the tricolour. An impressive display of 1916 timelines and key dates were created by TY classes.

Throughout the few days, there were intermittent announcements over the intercom alerting students to breaking news from that day one hundred years ago. Alanna Davidson excelled in this role and created the desired effect of

confusion and questioning among students. The week ended with our whole school event in the gym which was months in the planning. Students were ushered to the gym by the sound of an air raid siren accompanied by uniformed soldiers who made sure everyone moved quickly. The dramatisation of the writing of the proclamation which was brought to life by John Brannagan, Richard O'Toole, Mike Fenlon, Keith Crosby, Frankie Kavanagh, James McSwiney, Josh McGrath and Keith Crosby was outstanding. Accompanied by the trad group playing 'Foggy Dew', Josh McGrath read the proclamation.

An afternoon of music and dance kicked off with Paddy Whelan giving a rousing rendition of 'Willie McBride'. The folk group gave a spine tingling performance of their now all Ireland winning song 'When the last gun's fired'. Hollie Kavanagh, vice-chairperson of the Student Council, then presented the Irish Flag to Ms Dunne.

Students had been encouraged to dress up as their favourite Irish person (living or dead) and Laura Kinsella, chairperson on the Student Council presented the prizes to the winning students. Kyle Nolan in 6th year 3rd place with his leprechaun costume. Megan Tallon from 5th year took 2nd place in her handmade Guinness costume. The deserving winners on the day were Aoife and Ciara Breen from 3rd year who went to great efforts with their Jedward costumes.

There was also a fundraising aspect to the week and in total over €1,150 was raised which will go to Pieta House and also to support Development Education (Dev Ed) and mental health services in Co. Wicklow.



*TY students who re-enacted key events*



*The school community commemorating 1916*

## Coláiste Bhríde Digi-Draw

The Coláiste Bhríde Digi-Draw took place in the school at a Parents' Council meeting on Tuesday, 19th April.

The draw was exceptionally well supported and the Parents' Council would like to thank everyone most sincerely. With lines costing €5, the prospect of winning an iPad, a mini-iPad a blue tooth speaker or iTunes vouchers kept motivation and hopes high. Winners on the night were: 1st prize, an iPad- Sandra Leonard, Coolgreany; 2nd prize, a mini iPad- Charles Redmond, Carnew; 3rd blue tooth speaker-Patricia Fogarty, Shillelagh; 4th iTunes vouchers- Jane Doyle, Tinahely; 5th iTunes vouchers Anne Byrne, Aughrim.

The Digi-Draw marked the beginning of a new two year term for our very active Parents' Council with Trevor Mathews as chairperson, Marty Winterbotham as secretary and Anne Mulhall as treasurer. They are already preparing for their annual Golf Classic in Coollattin on Friday, 10th June. If you play golf or can support our Classic we would love to hear from you. Timesheet online at [coollattinolfclub.com](http://coollattinolfclub.com) or contact 086-3971922. We would like to thank our major sponsors for this year: Ashdown Park Hotel, Amber Springs Hotel, Candy's Carnew and Corrells.

Don't forget to check our school website ([cbcarnew.ie](http://cbcarnew.ie)) for updates on our Parents' Council.



**AMBER SPRINGS**

HOTEL AND HEALTH SPA

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## Junk Kouture

What a magnificent occasion on Thursday, 15th April at the 3 Arena! The grand finale of this year's Bank of Ireland Junkkoutue saw eighty outfits on the catwalk. Judges, Louis Walsh, Vogue Williams, Rob Condon, Tracey Fahey, Lorna McGee had an unenviable task!

Throughout the performances the atmosphere was electric and the mainly young audience enjoyed every moment! They had a real treat in store when "Hometown" performed just before announcing the winners.

Congratulations to St. Kevin's College Dunlavin whose amazing outfit "*A Tribute to Ziggy Stardust*" won the Eastern region award. Orla Bass from Coláiste Bhríde Carnew with her stunning "*Smash It*" costume was named as one of the top three in the Eastern region and she also claimed "best overall performance" on the night. Quite a feat considering Louis Walsh was the judge for this!!!!

Congratulations to the overall winner who was from Our Lady's Bower, Athlone. This stunning outfit called "*Jewel of Nylon*" was crocheted from old tights and nylons!



*Orla Bass on stage during the Junk Kouture final*

# TRANSITION YEAR NEWS

Our Transition Year Programme is going from strength to strength since its inception in 2001 with one hundred and four students having completed the programme this year. We have a multitude of modules and extra-curricular activities which ensures a diversity of experiences for our students.



*TY Law Module students visit Portlaoise prison*

## **Law Module**

This year two barristers facilitated workshops for our TY students. The aim of the workshop was to provide students with an understanding and insight into the legal and judicial systems in Ireland. Students got to participate in a mock trial at the end of their law workshop. In doing so they got an insight into the career of practicing barrister. Some of our students participated in a 10 week law module and have visited Portlaoise prison to see the prison service in action.

## **TY ESS Trip**

All Transition Year students travelled to Dublin on Friday, 22nd of April as part of their ESS course focusing on Irish history. The four groups had a very interesting walking tour of Dublin, paying particular attention to some of the key events and landmarks during the 1916 Easter Rising. These included the GPO, Henry St and Moore St to only name a few. The second element of the trip was a visit to Glasnevin cemetery which was again extremely worthwhile,



*TY ESS students in Glasnevin Cemetery*

with entertaining and interesting guides showing us around. A dramatic re-enactment of Pádraig Pearse's speech at the grave of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa during his funeral on August 1st, 1915 was great to experience - a speech that proved to be a significant element in the lead-up to the Easter Rising. Other graves visited included those of Eamon de Valera, Charles Stewart Parnell, Daniel O'Connell and Michael Collins.



*Students on stage during TY Drama night*

## **Work Experience**

One hundred and four innovative enterprising and ambitious TY students undertook a work placement.

## **Drama**

January last saw another extremely successful TY Drama night. This course, which is definitely the highlight of the year for a large number of TY students, once again produced three highly entertaining One Act shows. This year's offerings were: Friends, directed by Gina O'Reilly; This is a Test, directed by Ellie Willoughby and 10 Things I Hate About You, directed by Sinéad Finlay. A great night's entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed by a full house.

## **ECDL**

Our students are all offered the opportunity to complete their European Computer Driving Licence.

## **Mini-Companies**

Another year of creative and innovative business ideas. Our four school winners participated in the Co. Wicklow Enterprise Awards and "Book Creations" came home with a prize for the most innovative idea. It was a great achievement for all





*Emily Hadden and Emma Poole with their Mini-company display*

those who participated in a field of stiff competition. Our mini companies included *"Heavenly Herbs"* by Emma Poole and Emily Hadden, *"Enchanted Fairy Doors"* by Casey Bannon, Ann Marie Lyons and Shannon Porter. *"Luscious Lips"* by Emily Harper and Sarah Cullinan and *"Book Creations"* by Nathan Barnes and Orla Bass. We would like to express our gratitude to Ms Fiona Redmond of the Redmond Hotel Group and Mr James Keogh of Rathwood for mentoring our students and for adjudicating our school finals.



*TY Awareness day in Carlow*

### **Dev Ed Workshops**

All of our TY students got the opportunity to participate in workshops on development issues with their peers from our network schools, CBS Carlow, St Leo's College, Presentation College and Creagh College. Issues discussed included Education & Child Labour, Climate Change, Hunger, Gender Equality, Fairtrade, Climate Justice, Water & Lent, Conflict and Sustainable Development. Workshops were facilitated by Trocaire, Concern, Worldwide Global Schools and Eco Unesco, Goal and Self Help Africa.

### **Build-a-Bank**

Well done to the Build-a-Bank team of Gráinne Hughes, Leah Sankaran, Grace O'Sullivan, Megan O'Reilly, Denise Osborne, Helen Hughes and Bill Nolan for so diligently running the Bank of Ireland School Bank for 2015-2016. A lot of students have successfully opened accounts and Bank Of Ireland sponsored the tickets for the Junk Kouture Final in The 3 Arena in April. They also sponsored an ipad for the Digi Draw and they will be sponsoring tickets for a Leinster rugby match in Aviva Stadium. Thanks to our students for being so successful in recruiting new account holders. We welcomed Henry Shefflin to our school for a hurling / coaching workshop. Thanks to Breda and Derek from Bank of Ireland Carnew for all their guidance and support.



*Students busy opening bank accounts*

### **TY Yearbook**

We congratulate Ms Gahan and her students for the wonderful job in the compilation of this year's yearbook which is on sale in school. It is a wonderful celebration and collection of student achievements. Well done to one and all.

### **Celebration Evening**

Congratulations to our TY students on their meaningful Celebration Evening in May. Students were rewarded for all the contributions which they made throughout their Transition Year. Portfolios of certificates, trophies and prizes were well deserved. Congratulations to all.

### **TY Trip to Lake Garda**

Fifty students and six teachers travelled to Lake Garda, Verona and Venice in June. It was a wonderful experience for all and a culmination of another very successful year for our Transition Year students.

## ***Ferns Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes***

This year interviews for 5th year students to volunteer for Lourdes took place before Christmas. Competition was strong especially among the ladies. Bridie O'Neill kindly helped to interview over thirty candidates. The four successful students were Sarah Bloor, Roisin Conroy, James Gregan & Martin Doyle. They embarked on fundraising over €2600 for their trip by collecting old copper coins, hosting a table quiz and a leg waxing night. Their trip took place from 17th-22nd May where they assisted pilgrims in many ways to make the most of their trip. They were joined by other 5th year students from all of the schools in the Ferns Diocese so many friendships were formed. In the evening they went to the hospital to entertain the pilgrims. All students felt privileged to be chosen for this special trip and feel they have matured in many ways. The students would like to thank everyone who has supported them in so many ways.



***A fantastic display during the model exhibition***

## ***Model Exhibition***

On Sunday, 7th February our seventh annual Model Exhibition was as successful as ever. Exhibitors came from Donegal, Fermanagh, Cavan, Offaly and other parts of Ireland. A great number of students exhibited on the day. We are very grateful to Richie Kimmons and Trevor Walshe who put our exhibition on the Irish Model calendar each year. Our school has benefitted financially for the past seven years as a result of this exhibition. Side show fundraisers included our tombola, cake stall, raffle, teas also help to boost the pot! This year €5000 was raised and this was divided between our school and Carnew First Responders.

Sincere thanks is due to our Parents' Assoc. who help us run this event. We owe a huge depth of gratitude to all parents and students who supported in so many ways. There is no doubt that our Model Exhibition is a real community effort as well as highlighting our school once again. Funds raised will go towards our all-weather pitch. Plans for the future that will be realised as we continue to work together. We have made approx. €15,000 in the past seven years from our Model Exhibition. Also, the last time we worked with the First Responders and shared the proceeds of the exhibition we were fortunate to get a defibrillator for our school. Since then thanks to Patricia McEvoy and her team so many students and staff members have been trained in using the machine.



***Model Exhibition 2016***



***Our four Lourdes volunteers***

## Youth Art Exhibition

The exhibition which was part of the Youth Café weekend opened on Sunday, 10th and continued until Sunday, 24th January at The Courthouse Tinahely. Local schools exhibited a wide range of artistic creations, evidence that there is a wealth of talent in the youth around us.

Coláiste Bhríde had a variety of works on display ranging from block printing, 3-dimensional pieces, paintings and fashion design.



*Ellen Walsh at the art exhibition in The Courthouse Tinahely*

## First Year Trip to Newgrange

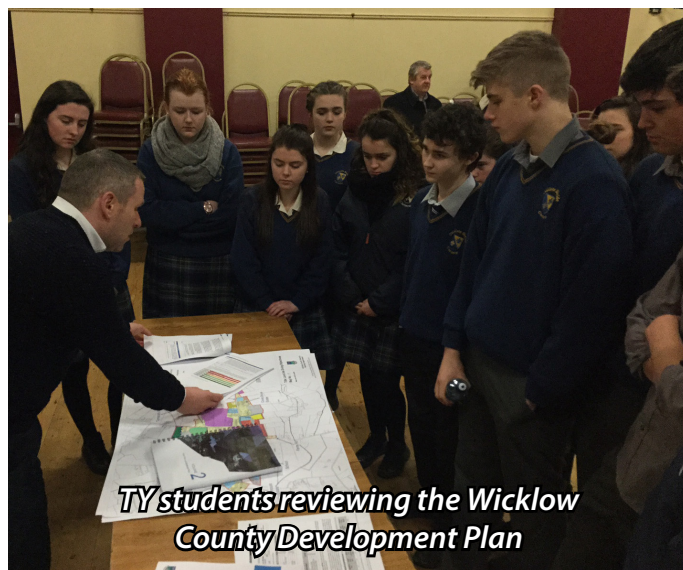
Forty first year History students enjoyed a tour to Newgrange on Tuesday, 2nd February. On their arrival they got an audio visual account of the solar alignments in the Boyne Valley. They were then bused out to the passage tomb where they had a guided tour both of the interior and exterior of the tomb. The winter solstice phenomenon was explained as well as the burial rituals of the time. The students finished up with a look at the various exhibitions displaying life at the time.



*1st years enjoying the trip to Newgrange*

## Wicklow County Development Plan

All Transition Year students got the opportunity to review the draft Wicklow County Development Plan for 2016 - 2022 at St Brigid's Hall in January. The plan was being finalised and the public were invited to give any feedback or submissions in regard to the draft beforehand. The sessions were carried out by four members of the County Council Planning Team and involved an overview of the plan, a closer study of the Carnew Town Plan and finally a discussion on various topics which included windmills, renewable energy, housing, flooding, infrastructure, local amenities, industry and heritage. It was an opportunity to raise awareness of such County Development Plans amongst our students and raise awareness in the importance of engaging in such public consultations which can have a direct impact on our lives and communities.



*TY students reviewing the Wicklow County Development Plan*

## Second Year Reflection Day

Second year students had a busy programme for their 'Reflection Day'! The theme for the half day programme was 'Identity, Belonging and Friendships,' and the content focused on the positive angle of the anti-bullying approach. The feedback from students was extremely encouraging; by all accounts they really enjoyed the day! Perhaps the best tribute to the team of facilitators was the resounding 'awhhh' from the group of students when they were told it was time to go home at the end of the day!

## ***Post Leaving Certificate***

Some of the PLC students and teachers at Coláiste Bhríde having their final briefing before completing the QQI level 5 programme in Business Administration.

They have had a very successful year with Distinctions and Merits being awarded. Some are progressing to Level 6 programmes in September and others already have offers of employment.

PLC courses can offer up to 400 points as an alternative method of entry into 3rd level education and successful completion may be a requirement to enrol on a level 6 QQI programme. The PLC Course is now enrolling for September 2016. Modules include: word processing, manual and computerised bookkeeping, spread sheet methods, desktop publishing, German, communications, work experience, databases and business administration. For further information please contact Debbie Furlong at 053 9426555/ 053 9426318.



*PLC students with Ms. Debbie Furlong and Ms. Anna Gahan*

## ***Gifted and Talented***

Twenty-seven of our 1st year students were nominated to sit their Scholastic Aptitude test in January as part of a 'Talent Search' conducted by Dublin City University. Top scorers are then invited by CTYI - Centre For Talented Youth of Ireland to take part in their Summer Academic Programme. This programme offers three-week residential courses at DCU in a variety of classes, such as Archaeology, World Geopolitics, Psychology, Medical Technology, Probability & Chaos Theory and Computer Applications. We wish our students well.



*Leaving Cert: English students with author Claire Keegan*

## ***An audience with Claire Keegan***

Our 6th year students were lucky enough to join forces with 6th years in Avondale Community College recently for a reading and talk by Claire Keegan. Claire is author of the superb novella 'Foster' which they have been studying for their comparative literature module. The story is set on a farm in Wexford, Shillelagh and Carnew Mart feature in the opening chapter. Claire read from her book and then took questions. She spoke passionately about reading and reminded us that we should read slowly, as reading is about an experience not an intelligence. She urged the students to 'Go close and deep into the trouble' when writing their own stories. We were reminded that everything interesting begins with one person in a place and that a reader must believe in the scene that they are reading. It was encouraging for the students to hear that everybody can write a story! According to Claire if a manuscript could sing, it's song would be 'You left me just when I needed you most!' It was a thoroughly enjoyable, insightful experience for our students. Thanks to the Parents' Association for supporting this literacy initiative.



*Mud run madness in Killarney*



### TY Killary 2016

On 4th April, ninety-nine students set off on what is always the highlight of TY in Coláiste Bhríde. Some students had packed for what seemed a round the world trip and, with two weighed down buses, they left for Killary. Once settled into their rooms which included plugging in a mini fridge, smuggling in a Gorge Foreman, the students got stuck into activities from the moment they arrived.

Students completed the mud run, gorge walking, cliff diving, laser shooting, big swing and high ropes just to name a few and they also completed (in the lashing rain and howling wind) their Gaisce walk.

The *“Michelin Man”* competition was held on one of the evenings. The teachers, after forcing fifty-two layers onto poor Ms Healy, came in 3rd place with Julie Mullins coming first after physically rolling her up the stairs in seventy-two layers of clothing. Miss Killary was held on the last night. After a catwalk, question round and talent show, the judges crowned Miss Killary 2016!! The week ended with all students sitting by the fire, watching a slideshow of all the photos they gathered during the week.

It's fair to say that friendships were made, fun was had and ninety-nine tired students crawled onto their buses and reluctantly headed home on Friday.

### PURE Drama

Ten students from Coláiste Bhríde performed the play *“Hourglass”* in The Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely. The six second years (Nicole Kelly, Emma Mooney, Cora Tyrrell, Alanna Davidson, Eve McGrath and Rebecca Barnes) and four Transition Year students (Kierran Godfrey, Aaron Naylor, Nicole Doyle and Richard O’Toole) wrote, produced, performed,

designed sets, music and costumes of the play in conjunction with the courthouse staff and the Pure Environmental Training Programme for teenagers. The aim of the production was to promote awareness about the long term effects of illegal dumping. They set their drama in the year 2116 to emphasise the consequences of our actions now. The group performed to all first and second years, local primary schools and members of the public through four performances over two days. It was a wonderful learning experience in drama production.

### Retirement

Congratulations to Lynn Deegan who has driven the school bus to Coláiste Bhríde (formerly Carnew Vocational School) since 1969. An amazing forty-seven years in total. Lynn is the longest serving Bus Eireann school bus driver which is not surprising. Lynn travelled the Shillelagh, Tinahely and Ballinglen routes for all of these years and it was a very proud moment on Friday, 27th May when a surprise celebration for this very worthy man took place in Coláiste Bhríde.

Lynn’s wife, Sadie and his six children, their partners and children joined with students (past and present), Bus Eireann representatives, school bus drivers and school staff in acknowledging this wonderful moment. Pat Brennan, retired deputy principal, was master of ceremonies. Deirdre, Lynn’s daughter, spoke of how proud they all were as a family and how punctuality was always important to Lynn. Barry Doran, Bus Eireann commended Lynn for his amazing track record saying that he had never missed a day driving the bus down through the years. Linda Dunne, principal, welcomed the past students who had come and she congratulated Lynn on his patience and kindness to all who travelled on his bus. Lynn himself was totally taken by surprise by the occasion. He spoke of how he always enjoyed what he did and wondered if Bus Éireann could locate his first payslip as his family never believed what he received back in 1969!

Lynn’s bus driving career will end after the State examinations in June.



# TY CELEBRATION NIGHT



*Spirit of TY Award Winner  
Gráinne Hughes*

Wednesday 25th May saw our TY students celebrate the busy year they had. Each student received their folder of certificates and 47 were presented with their President's Bronze Gaisce Award. The TY music class performed and their Pure Music Programme showed what wonderful talent can be unfolded when supported and guided. Special thanks to Mrs Byrne, Mrs Lee and the TY core team of teachers who ensure year on year that our TY programme is significant and all encompassing.

Special Awards on the night:

Corn na hidirbhliana:

- 4 Ash: Anne-Marie Lyons & Kealan Ó Tiarnaigh
- 4 Beech: Laura Doherty & Aoife Healy
- 4 Elm: Aoife Mooney & Julie Mullins
- 4 Oak: Rebekah Kenny & Denise Osborne

Spirit of TY Award: Gráinne Hughes

Student of the Year Award: Leah Sankaran



*TY Student of the Year  
Leah Sankaran*



# LEAVING CERT. GRADUATION NIGHT



*6 Elm with Mr. Tobin*



*6 Pine with Ms. Grant*

Our Leaving Certificate students celebrated their graduation evening with their parents and staff on Thursday, 26th May. It was a beautiful occasion with everyone aware of the sense of occasion. Students and staff had searched hard and worked on a theme that was very relevant to our LC students who depart from Coláiste Bhríde before the end of June.

This year's group chose the theme of "lock and key" emphasising the importance of unleashing potential in the future. There was wonderful music and singing throughout the evening. Elaine Casey gave the student address and acknowledged the strong bond that students had developed during their time in Coláiste Bhríde.

Rev. Ruth Elmes congratulated all students on what they had achieved so far. In reminding the graduating class of the God given potential they have locked within, she used the story of the little Jamaica ginger cake that saved a life, the man who failed when the chips were down and yet was trusted to build the church (St Peter) and how Jesus took ordinary bread and wine and made it memorable through the centuries.

Special thanks to 6th year class teachers was expressed and Mrs Dunne, principal, used the analogy of a pencil to describe the kind of people the LC class of 2016 are and might become. Both year head, Ms McGettrick and Ms Dunne said that this LC class would be missed and wished them every success and fulfilment in the years ahead.



*6 Oak with Ms. Fitzgerald*



*LCA 2 with Mrs. Lee*



*6 Beech with Ms. Healy*



*6 Ash with Ms. Moran*

# AWARDS DAY 2015/16

Coláiste Bhríde held its annual awards day on 25th May to acknowledge the many achievements of its students during the school year 2014-2015. Certificates and prizes were presented for excellence and success in academics, sports, debating, leadership, volunteerism, development education and other areas of success over the year. Ms. Dunne congratulated all students for their achievements in such a broad spectrum of involvement and encouraged them to set further goals for the next academic year. Certificates in Academic Excellence were presented to 1st years: Jade Shannon, Bree Greene, Patrick Kavanagh, James McGing, Conor Byrne, Liam Doyle Codd, Emma Murphy, Owen Young and Joseph Conroy and overall student of the year was Amanda Kidd. In 2nd year honours went to Tom Mordaunt, Caoimhe Coady, Rachel Sheil, Alex Byrne, Alanna Davidson and Emma Mooney with the student of the year medal going to Killian Byrne and Sarah Kenny. 3rd year academic achievement was recognised equally for Orla Kealy, Chris Callanan, Ciara Breen, Brandon Whittle, Roisin Byrne, Katie Butler, Orla Montague, Fiona Boland, Chloe Doyle, David Kemple, Tom Murphy, James O'Keeffe and Cliodhna O'Connell. Overall students of the year were announced as Sarah Mulhall and Aoife Breen. In 5th year, awards went to Ruth Berney, Maria Byrne, Ann Marie Doyle, Alex Dudzik, Nicole Fogarty, Charlotte Hale, Dayna Lancaster, Justyne Lawless, Rachel O'Keeffe and Shannon Whittle. Student of the year was Emer Rose Kealy. In 6th year the academic excellence of Aoife Kavanagh, Toby Barry and Stephanie Hale was rewarded and the student of the year was announced as Shona Mulligan.



Jim Sharry, junior Sports Person of the Year.



Junior Camogie player of the year Grace O'Halloran (joint award with Katie Smyth)



Junior Cert. Results 2015: Kealan Ó Tiarnaigh, highest Junior Cert result. (Highest female result: Megan O'Reilly)



Joint Senior Sports Persons of the Year: Úna Sinnott and Joe Gardiner (6th Year)



Rugby Players of the year Stanley Hadden, David Bailey and James Rothwell



1st to 6th year Students of the Year 2016



Coláiste Bhríde All-Star Hurling team 2016



Coláiste Bhríde All-Star Football team 2016