

HOLY ROSARY COLLEGE, MOUNTBELLEW

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2016

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Students try out the new Astro Turf and Ball Wall

OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW SCHOOL IN MARCH

Construction work on our new extension and the refurbishment of the existing school is now complete, ahead of schedule thanks to the commitment, expertise and organisational skills of the architect, engineers, contractor and his team of workers. All classrooms are now fully operational and the students are settling in and enjoying a state of the art school. The extension includes a Sports Hall with Fitness Suite and stage, Assembly Hall with canteen, library, music room, IT room, refurbished

woodwork and technical drawing rooms, art room, four science labs, resource rooms and a language lab. The sports field has been developed and an AstroTurf pitch and Ball Wall have also been added. The official opening and celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of HRC will take place on Friday 4th March. The school will also be open on Saturday 5th, when we will welcome back past pupils, and Sunday 6th, when parents and friends of HRC can view the new facilities.

LEAVING CERT RESULTS

Congratulations to our very talented and hardworking Leaving Cert class of 2015 who all did extremely well in their exams and who now are either pursuing third level courses of their choice or have entered the world of work.

Based on their Leaving Cert results, Genevieve Callander was awarded a scholarship to NUI Galway while Keith Kelly, Ciarán Mannion, Róisín Mannion and Rónán Raftery were awarded scholarships to University College Dublin. Colm Mannion was awarded a high performance scholarship to University of Limerick.



Genevieve Callander is pictured receiving her award from Dr Jim Browne (President of NUI Galway).



L-R: Prof. Don Barry (President UL), Colm Mannion, Liam Sheedy (Bank of Ireland) and David Mahedy (Director of Sport, UL).



At the Entrance Scholars Award ceremony in UCD are (L-R) Rónán Raftery, Róisín Mannion, Keith Kelly, Ciarán Mannion.

AMY CLARKE RETURNS TO ADDRESS STUDENTS



Amy pictured with TY students, her parents Evelyn and Joe and mentor Teresa King

Past pupil, Amy Clarke is a keen athlete member of Mountbellew Tigers Special Olympics Club and has progressed to involvement in the Special Olympics Adult Leadership Programme (ALPS) in recent years. Having already attained Silver and Bronze in 2015 she completed the highest level achieving the Gold Award. The aim of the ALPS programme is to promote self confidence, social skills and to develop

public speaking ability. One of Amy's projects was to prepare and deliver 3 PowerPoint presentations. The theme of her talks was involvement in Drama particularly with the Blue Teapot Theatre in Galway where she is currently a student and with the Malthouse Players Mountbellew. We were delighted to welcome Amy back to address TY students and meet her former teachers.

DEVELOPMENT LOTTO

The Parents' Association is running the HRC Development Lotto which is providing much appreciated funding for the school. To date the jackpot hasn't been won but many lucky dips, holidays, meals and Christmas hampers have gone to members. If you wish to join the Lotto and help us continue the development of facilities in HRC, please contact the school office (090-9679222), Pauline Kilcommins, Mike Russell, Geraldine Callander or any member of the Parents' Association.

JUNIOR CERT BUSINESS AWARDS

Junior Cert 2015 students who got As in Higher Level Business Studies received their awards at a ceremony in the Bailey Allen Hall, NUI Galway. Congratulations to them, their parents and teachers, Mrs Mulholland and Ms Burke.



Dean Connell, Páidí O'Shea, Rory Cunningham, Michael Sharkey, Stephanie Mannion, Lydia Doyle and Marlene Minou-Coss with Business teacher Ms Burke.

JUNIOR CERT RESULTS

Junior Cert Results were excellent again this year with the vast majority of students taking subjects at higher level and achieving top grades.



For her excellent results in Science and Maths, Aoiheann Russell was selected to take part in the International Junior Maths and Science Olympiad in Dublin. Congratulations to Aoiheann, her parents and teachers.

CREDIT UNION QUIZ



Congratulations to Daniel Walsh, Colman Monaghan, Áine Healy and Ronan Lyons who represented HRC with distinction and finished second in the Junior Credit Union Quiz held in the Clybaun Hotel, Galway.

BUSINESS STUDENTS IN THE ALL-IRELAND FINAL



Junior Cert students Daniel Walsh, Megan Miskell, Aoife Healy and Brian Hansberry won the CIMA and BSTAI Business Quiz in NUI Galway and will now represent the region in the All-Ireland final in UL in April. They are pictured here with Business teacher Mrs Maura Larkin.

CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte TO SPANISH, FRENCH AND KOSOVAN STUDENTS



Céad Míle Fáilte to Pablo (Spain), Hubert (France) and Rafa (Spain) who have joined us in HRC. They are enjoying Transition Year, perfecting their English and even experiencing the odd game of hurling! Mirsad, Riad and Rrezart (Kosovo) will be with us long-term we hope!

PREFECTS AND CAIRDE



Our Prefects and Cairde play a very important role in the lives of our students. The prefects befriend the first year students and ensure that their transition to second level is as seamless as possible. They organise activities for them and ensure that they are settling in very well. The Cairde continue this care and support for second year students.

KAVANAGH POETRY AWARD FOR ÁINE



Second Year student, Áine Healy, was awarded a certificate of commendation in the Patrick Kavanagh All-Ireland Poetry competition. Áine's winning entry was entitled "Childhood" and she is pictured with her English teacher Mrs Robinson.



TV musicians with teacher Mr Eamonn Quinn entertain the audience with their rendition of "Dirty Old Town"

HRC's GOT TALENT!

As part of the celebrations to mark our 50th anniversary, a very entertaining "Our School's Got Talent" show, featuring staff and students past and present, was held in the new Assembly Hall in November. The proceeds of the night went to

"Mark's Wish to Walk" fund and to local deserving causes. We were delighted to welcome Mark Dolan, his Mam, Fidelma (past pupil) and Dad, Kevin to the show and to see how well Mark is now walking. The performers entertained the audience for 4 hours and our own very talented duo The Bad Boys came in for special commendation.

VISIT TO HAMBURG ON EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

A group of students who study German left Mountbellew on a cold Monday morning in November to travel on an exchange programme to Hamburg. The group spoke German, lived with German families, attended school and experienced daily life in Germany. The students enjoyed a week packed full of fun activities including ice skating, wall climbing, a treasure hunt and sightseeing in Hamburg. They also visited the tourist attractions, the enchanting Christmas markets dotted around the city and a huge winter funfair.



YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS (YSI)

YSI is a programme which makes young people more aware of social issues in their area and gives them the opportunity to improve these issues. This year, 14 TY students are focusing on the generation divide between second level students and the elderly in society. They are carrying out research on the relationship between students and their grandparents, spending time with elderly members

of the community and carrying out a poster campaign to promote learning from older members of the community. In March the students will attend a "speak out" event in Athlone and will share their experiences with other YSI groups. They are also knitting squares which will form blankets and caps for premature babies which will be distributed to Syrian refugees.

PAST PUPIL AND LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR VISITS



Paul is pictured with LC1 Business students, all looking very dapper in their "Woodbows by Paul"!

We welcomed local entrepreneur and past pupil, Paul Sweeney, to HRC in November. Paul gave an inspiring presentation to the senior Business classes on his new venture "Woodbows by Paul". During his final year of the Bachelor of Science Degree in Furniture Design and Manufacture, Paul won the top prize of €2,500 in the GMIT Student Innovation Awards 2015. His bow-ties which come in a range of hardwoods, complemented by textile design details were featured on RTE's Nationwide and at the RDS Craft Fair. He presented individualised bows to the Galway hurling teams for their banquets after the All-Ireland finals in September. Each bow tie is hand finished and stitched by Paul and is thus a product of true originality. We wish Paul continued success.

HEALTHY EATING POLICY

The Health Promoting Schools team in HRC has been working since 2013 to promote awareness of healthy eating among students and increase the availability of healthy food in the school. We are in the process of applying for a HSE Health Promoting Schools flag, an award that will recognise the emphasis the school places on supporting the work of parents by encouraging students to eat healthily and have a healthy lifestyle.



Students with Ms Conroy and Ms Breheny display the healthy options available in the canteen.

LC1'S MINI COMPANY



Each year Mrs Larkin's Leaving Cert 1 Business students set up a mini-company selling a product/service to students and the staff in HRC. This year's company is called HRSweets Ltd and the product is vintage sweets (old style sweets and old favourites) - available in paper cones or vintage bottles. The sweets, retailing at €3.50, will be available in March to coincide with the HRC50 celebrations. Stay tuned for further details!



The Meitheal Team, Niamh Burke, Nicola Conneely, Sarah Gavin, Clara Doran, Siobhan Callander and Laura Ryan pictured with Ms Conroy and Meitheal trainer Lizzie Harrison

HRC is proud to have six students from LC1 taking part in the first Meitheal programme to be run in the west of Ireland. Meitheal offers students training in leadership skills so that they have the confidence and competence to be leaders in their schools and to be proactive in promoting Anti-Bullying, Justice and Mental Health initiatives. In the course, the students focus on how the values of justice, compassion and humility can inform each activity they plan in school. The girls have been actively involved in organising various events within the school since their commissioning in Esker, including a Halloween quiz for first years and a survey on personal wellbeing among Junior Cert students in December. We are very grateful to the Sisters who gifted the training to the students to mark HRC 50.

PARISH PROJECTS

TY students who worked voluntarily in their parishes showcased their work at an exhibition in Knock in May. Activities that the students are involved in include helping in the local branch of Ability West and Tiger Club, visiting local nursing homes, carol singing, fundraising for charities and involvement in the local St Patrick's Day parade.

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE



In December, all first year French students and their teachers travelled to the Alliance Française in Dublin. Here, students took part in two workshops on French Phonetics and Francophone countries. At the end of the day, students watched a short French film. Everyone really enjoyed it and their French has greatly improved!



KATIE WINS BALLINASLOE ENTREPRENEUR SKILLS

Katie O'Sullivan won the Ballinasloe Entrepreneurial Skills Competition and a cheque for €1,000 with her business idea to create a pair of clip-on 3D lenses which fit over any pair of glasses. The lenses allow cinema-goers to watch 3D films without the hassle of stretching 3D glasses over their own. Well done Katie! Next stop Dragon's Den!

HRC COURTYARD ART PROJECT

In conjunction with the new building, HRC invited proposals from artists for an art commission funded by the "Per Cent for Art" Scheme. Following interviews, the commission was awarded to sculptor Donnacha Cahill from Athenry. Donnacha married the input of staff and students with the ideas and enthusiasm of the art students to create a truly beautiful courtyard with seating, sculpture and planting. The tree sculpture crafted by Donnacha symbolises the rootedness of the school in the Christian values of the Sisters of the Christian Retreat and also the contribution of different

subjects to the growth and development of our students. The sculptural seating tells the story of the journey of the Sisters from France to Mountbellew while plaques remember deceased members of the HRC community. Donnacha's enthusiasm, professionalism, creativity and craft inspired all who worked with him to develop their own creative thoughts and for this we are very grateful. The courtyard space is unique and personal to HRC and we hope it will bring laughter, relaxation and reflection to students and staff for many years to come. Buiochas ó chroí, Donnacha - máistir ar do cheird!

STUDENT COUNCIL



The Student Council is a representative body elected by the students through which they become involved in the affairs of the school and work with staff and school management for the benefit of the whole school community. The members of this year's council, pictured with their mentor Mrs Gilmore, are particularly active and at present are very involved in the preparation for the HRC 50 celebrations.

VISIT TO BANK OF IRELAND GLOBAL MARKETS



Fourteen senior business students who were involved in the running of the school bank last year were taken on a trip to the Bank of Ireland Global Markets, the largest trading centre in Ireland. The trip was sponsored by Bank of Ireland and the students were

accompanied by Carrina Laheen, Bank of Ireland Mountbellew and Geraldine Callander, Chairperson of the Parents Association. They met the dealers and learned how small changes in the world affect the financial markets. They also met the CEO Austin Jennings who described the group as the "most interactive, well behaved school group" he had ever met. They entered the Fit Bit competition and Shauna Keaveney was outright winner in a very tough business quiz. Well done Shauna.

HRC'S LEGAL EAGLES

Thirty TY students travelled to the Courts of Criminal Justice in Dublin to take part in the annual Mock Trials competition, organised by Public Access to Law. The students acted as solicitors, barristers, witnesses, members of the jury and as court reporters. The team was highly successful, losing out narrowly to last year's winners. Katie O'Sullivan was deemed "best legal reporter" on the day and received her award from barrister Mr Vincent P Martin. Another win for Katie!



Students pictured in the Court of Criminal Justice

A NEW SUBJECT IN HRC: TECHNOLOGY

HRC has always been to the fore in keeping up with developments in education and this year we are delighted to be introducing a new subject. Technology is being offered as an optional subject to first years from September 2016. In Technology, students use the design process to work through a task in order to arrive at a solution, which is usually in the form of an artefact or finished product. Students learn how to safely use the tools, materials and equipment necessary to make this product. They also learn how to use electronic components to build simple circuits for use in tasks and projects e.g. running mechanical toys.



FORMULA 1 (F1) CHALLENGE IN HRC!

Two Transition Year Teams "Furious 6" and "Burnout Racing" have qualified for the regional finals of the 2016 F1 in Schools Challenge organised by the Irish Computer Society. Each team has to design, manufacture and promote a model racing car which is then tested for performance in a wind tunnel. As well as the design of the car using 3D computer modelling, team members are responsible for generating sponsorship and advertising for their team. We are most grateful to Medtronic, Tobin Consulting Engineers, Heavey Kenny and Sean Gavin Electrical for their generous sponsorship of the students.

On the Field



SENIOR GAELIC FOOTBALL

This year's senior team is attempting to win three in a row Connacht B titles. They begin their campaign at the end of January in what will be a fiercely contested Connacht championship. Wins were recorded against St. Mary's Galway, Presentation Headford and St Aloysius Athlone. Many players remain from the successful teams of the past two years while Jack Gavin and Rory Cunningham are expected to add greatly to the experience of John Daly, Gerard Donohue and James Foley.



Leaving Certs at Connacht Championship launch.



PE class uses the new spin bikes in the fitness studio.

FIRST YEAR HURLING

A bunch of exceptional hurlers has entered HRC and have proven to be most competitive. To date they have notched up wins in the 1st year competition against Woodford and Roscommon CBS and have reached the semi-final. Under the guidance of Mr Tierney and Mr McGrath, this team has the potential to go further. Key players are garnered from local clubs: Pádraig Pearses, Mountbellew/Moylough, Skehana, Abbeyknockmoy and Ballygar.

SENIOR LADIES FOOTBALL

The senior girls have been performing exceptionally well this year and are so far undefeated in their campaign. They have recorded wins over Davitt College, St. Joseph's Castlebar, Strokestown, Foxford and Mount St Michael, Claremorris. They have reached the Connacht final and we wish them well as they strive to make it another memorable year for Ladies' Football in HRC. Claire Dunleavy, Chloe Miskell, Katie Fleming and Emma Flanagan won county and Connacht medals with their club Kilkerrin-Clonberne while Claire also won a "dream team award" for her excellence all year.



Senior Ladies football team with coaches Ms Holohan and Ms Breheny

JUNIOR LADIES FOOTBALL

The junior ladies' football team looks to continue on from the success of the Connacht final-winning u14 team from last year. To date they have defeated Strokestown and Carrick-on-Shannon and are now in the Connacht final.



FIVE-TIME ALL STAR Ms Niamh Kilkenny and Galway teammate Catherine Finnerty pictured with our first year camogie team

FIRST YEAR FOOTBALL

The 1st year footballers have played two games in their league campaign to date and while the results have gone against them they have performed very well and can look forward to a successful championship campaign.

MÁIREAD MEEHAN TOURNAMENT

Our 1st year camogie team thoroughly enjoyed the Mairead Meehan memorial tournament. This annual event is in memory of past pupil, Mairead, who passed away in 2007. She is fondly remembered by all in HRC and we are delighted to participate in this blitz every year.

HANDBALL

The growing popularity of handball and especially "one-wall" is clearly evidenced by the revived interest in the sport in HRC. The new sports hall will provide the perfect opportunity for all students to experience the game. The school will participate in the GAA One-Wall for Schools Initiative in 2016 and hope to get many more playing a fast paced, athletic, entertaining and exciting sport.

CONNACHT ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS

A number of school teams won Connacht Championships in Athlone last May. We were very successful in a lot of events but none more so than Shane Coyle who ran a stormer in capturing the 100m title and finishing second in the 200m sprints. Left: Shane Coyle and Lydia Doyle who won Galway Young Athlete of the year 2015.



JUNIOR RUGBY

The junior squad is busily preparing for their cup competition. Opposition is provided by Loughrea, Oughterard, Clifden and Ballygar. To date they have played 3 league games, with some good wins.

Left: Junior rugby team prior to their match against Clifden Community School

SENIOR CAMOGIE

After the great success of last year's Connacht title, the senior team is competing in the A grade this year. Despite the higher level of competition, the girls have been performing superbly, recording wins against Kinvara, Gort and Oranmore. We are very proud of Leaving Cert student, Catherine Finnerty, who played alongside HRC teacher Ms Niamh Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Camogie final in Croke Park in September.

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