

HOLY ROSARY COLLEGE, MOUNTBELLEW

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2017

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TWO MUSICALS IN 2016!



HRC staged two very successful musicals in 2016, *The Sound of Music* in March, to coincide with the official opening of the new school and *Hairspray*

in November. All performances were thoroughly enjoyed by capacity audiences and by the 200 students who took part in the shows. Thanks to staff, parents,

sponsors and the local community who enabled our students to have wonderful experiences and memories which will last them a lifetime.



Eoin is pictured receiving the Gold Medal from Taoiseach Enda Kenny and his scholarship cheque from Mr Martin Naughton.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR EOIN

Congratulations to Eoin Corcoran, Head Boy 2015-2016, who was awarded the Naughton Foundation Scholarship, worth €30,000, as a result of his excellent results in Leaving Cert 2016. The scholarship is awarded to students who excel in Chemistry, Physics, Higher Level Maths, Construction Studies and Design Communications Graphics (DCG) in Leaving Cert and who then go on to study either Science, Technology or Engineering at third level. Eoin is currently studying Engineering in NUI Galway.



BUSINESS AWARDS

Our TY and LC1 students who received A's in Higher Level Business Studies in Junior Cert 2016 were honoured at an awards ceremony in NUI Galway. The students pictured with their business teachers, Ms McGrath and Mrs Larkin are Brian Hansberry, Alannah Keane, Daniel Walsh, Leah Donoghue, Sarah Fahey, Ailish Ryan, Chloe Miskell and Kate Screene.

JUNIOR CERT EXAMS SUCCESS AND NATIONAL AWARD

Congratulations to all Transition Year and Leaving Cert 1 students who achieved wonderful results in their Junior Cert exams.



LEFT: Sarah Fahey & Kevin Traynor who got the best Junior Cert results. RIGHT: Kevin, pictured with his teacher, Mr Geraghty, secured 3rd place in Ireland in Materials Technology Wood Junior Cert Higher Level. Congratulations to Kevin, his parents and Mr Geraghty.



ABERDEEN ANGUS BEEF SCHOOLS COMPETITION

Brian Hansberry, Aoife Healy and Saoirse Loftus, under the direction of Mr. James Stephens, entered the Certified Aberdeen Angus Beef Schools Competition and having worked very hard were delighted to qualify for the final which will be held in Croke Park in March. The overall winning team will be presented with 5 Angus-cross calves which they will raise through to slaughter. The students and Mr Stephens visited the farm of Eamonn Cheevers where they are pictured with Aberdeen Angus cattle and even helped feed them! We wish the students and Mr Stephens all the best in the All-Ireland Final.



JOHN PAUL 11 AWARDS

Last November, 18 senior students were presented with the John Paul 11 Awards by Archbishop Michael Neary in Knock. To qualify for this award, the students were invited to reflect on their journey of faith and to embark on various tasks to help the local community. Some of the students worked as volunteers at Knock during the summer holidays, while others learned sign language, helped out in the local Tigers Club or joined a teen choir. All of the students were involved in promoting Catholic Schools Week in HRC with some delivering the "thought for the day" to the student body. The group is photographed at the ceremony with Archbishop Michael Neary and co-ordinator of the awards in HRC, Mrs Anna Geraghty.

BR. MICHAEL BURKE



The entire school community was shocked last August by the untimely death of the chairperson of our Board of Management, Br. Michael Burke.

Br. Michael was very interested in and always supported all activities in our school and was particularly involved in our recent building project. We extend our sincere sympathies to the Franciscan Community and to Br. Michael's family. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION 2016/17

All parents are encouraged to be involved in the Parents Association and to attend the events and talks organised for them.

Chairperson: Shane Keane
Vice Chairperson: Vincent Conway
Secretary: Majella Laheen
Assistant Secretary: Fiona Newell

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2016-19

Chairperson: Lil Bruen
Parents' Reps: Colette Fallon, Mike Russell
Teachers' Reps: David Harkin, Nikki Hynes
Ceist Reps: Sr Margaret, Rosaleen Crowe O'Neill and Vincent Flynn
Secretary to the Board: Maureen Walsh



HRC SCHOOL LOTTO

A huge thank you to all who have joined our School Development Lotto and to the parents who run it so efficiently. To date the jackpot hasn't been won and now stands at €13,500. The lotto provides the school with much needed finance for the continued development of facilities for our students. If you haven't already joined the Lotto, please consider doing so and contact Anne on 09096-79222.



PDST WELLREAD

This year we are participating in the PDST Wellread National Award. This initiative aims to promote and encourage reading, both at school and at home. Thanks to donations of books by students and parents, book banks have been set up in the Assembly Hall and in the staff room. A Reading Wall has been created where students can recommend books for others to read. All teachers are now displaying, on their classroom door, the cover of the book they are currently reading. There are also Supplementary Reading Lists outside classrooms, so students can do some extra reading for their subjects. Students also visit St Mary's Primary School, Mountbellew where they are running a book review competition. Students and staff are looking forward to meeting the poet, Eilean Ni Chuilleanáin when she visits the school in March. Students in HRC have been participating in the MS Readathon for many years and this year is no different. Teachers always encourage their students to do some extra reading while at the same time raising money for MS Ireland.

GIRLS DESIGN BEST APP



Azzura Cosentino, Elaine Ryan and Lauren King won Best App award in NUI. Their app aims to encourage girls to study science, technology and engineering at second and third level. Well done girls on a great achievement!

MRS. CAROLAN RETIRES

Mrs. Mary Carolan retired from our teaching staff in August 2016 after 34 years committed service to the students of Holy Rosary College. She was a most dedicated teacher and year head and earned the respect of staff, parents and students alike for her hard work, consistency and fairness. Mary taught French, English and Spanish and instilled in her students a love of the language and culture of France and Spain. She organised student exchanges and accompanied many students on school tours. We wish Mary a long and happy retirement.



Mary with former principals Paddy Boyle, John Fahey, Sr Dympna and current Principal, Maureen Walsh.

LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES

Students partake in the many activities during break times. The astro turf proves particularly popular with students who take part in competitions organised by the Sports Prefects while the gym provides opportunities for basketball and badminton. Other students have joined the book club, play chess, take part in quizzes, watch educational DVDs in the library or join the many music groups that provide entertainment in the Assembly Hall.



HEALTHY SCHOOLS FLAG

HRC has become one of the few schools in County Galway to be presented with the Health Promoting Schools' Flag. The flag presented by the HSE, was an acknowledgment of work done to improve the health of the whole school community. Over the last 4 years, the school developed an action plan

to address the nutritional needs of our students by raising awareness of healthy eating and providing healthier food options in the canteen. We wish to acknowledge the co-operation of the staff of Get Fresh who operate the canteen and who have been most supportive of this initiative.

MEMORABLE TRIP TO AUSCHWITZ

Last June, Leaving Cert History students, accompanied by Ms Connolly, Mrs Spelman and Ms Burke went on a History tour to Krakow. They enjoyed a full programme which included a walking tour of the beautiful city of Krakow, a visit to the Wieliczka Salt Mines and a visit to the Schindler Museum. The students' tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau was with a guide who had documented many Auschwitz survivors' experiences. Her information about the camp and its prisoners provided the students and teachers with a heart-wrenching insight into this terrible period of history. The students were very appreciative of their teachers for affording them a once in a life-time opportunity and one which brought the History curriculum to life. The students and teachers described their trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau as "a life changing experience" and one they will never forget.





OUR SCHOOL'S GOT TALENT... AND LOTS OF IT!

Ms Burke's Music Club at lunchtime is particularly popular with first years. The students are busy preparing for Our School's Got Talent Show which will be held in April. This eagerly awaited concert gives our students an opportunity to showcase their talent, build confidence and raise money for a local charity. The impromptu

lunchtime music sessions in the Assembly Hall are always very well attended and especially so during Friendship Week when musicians performed every day much to the appreciation of students and staff. The weekly trad sessions on Friday are also very popular especially when Mr Quinn and Mr Collins display their musical talents!



BUSINESS STUDENTS KEEP US WARM AT CHRISTMAS!

Senior Business students, under the direction of their teacher, Mrs Larkin, set up a mini company which this year produced a Christmas themed product, 3 jars in the shape of a snowman filled with marshmallows, delicious chocolate and mini chocolate eggs. The students established the company having

first done research among staff and students. They successfully negotiated a grant from the school and sold shares to fellow students. Having ascertained that the Winter Warmer was a viable product they proceeded to make a healthy profit while providing students and staff with delicious Christmas presents!

NEASA McHUGH, SUCCESSFUL AUTHOR

Congratulations to Neasa McHugh whose short story "Atrophy" was shortlisted for the very prestigious *Over the Edge* New Writer Award. Neasa has been writing for many years and we are delighted to see her talent as a writer being recognised.



MEITHEAL STUDENTS HELP THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



Meitheal is a school leadership training course for Transition Year students. In August, our 2016/17 Meitheal team was "commissioned" in a ceremony in Esker and in September, last year's team handed over responsibility for the programme to the new group. The present team of Evan Morris O'Toole, Andrea Delaney, Lauren King, Ciara Dolan, Ethan Roche and Dean Connell, photographed with the Meitheal coordinators, Mrs Conroy and Sr Assumpta, are focusing on the wellbeing of our third year students. They provide the Junior Cert students with study guidelines, information on general wellbeing and are available to help them cope with the pressures of exams. We are very lucky to have such dependable, conscientious and mature youth leaders among our student population.



CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte TO OUR NON-IRISH STUDENTS

This year, we are delighted to welcome students from Spain, Moldova, China and UK all of whom have settled in very well and who now take part in all school activities. They have formed lasting friendships with our students and with their host families. Hurling proved very popular with Lucas, Alvaro, Javier, Maria, Rodrigo and Miguel as this photo shows!

BALLINASLOE ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS TOURNAMENT

The Ballinasloe Entrepreneurial Skills Tournament (BEST) is a very prestigious competition to encourage entrepreneurial skills among second level students. Photo shows the finalists from HRC who represented the school in Ballinasloe. Dean Connell produced "Cybercard", a flashcard study app, Andrea Delaney designed and made "Educator Translator", an educational jigsaw for teaching Irish in primary schools, Mark Fitzpatrick developed "Write

'n Erase", a whiteboard marker with an eraser attached and Matthew Geraghty produced "Coeliad", an app of gluten free recipes. Dean Connell and Mark Fitzpatrick were joint runners-up in the competition and follow in the footsteps of Katie O'Sullivan, LC2, who won the competition in 2015 with her invention of 3-D clip-on lens. Congratulations to the young entrepreneurs and to their teacher Ms Burke.





ARCHITECTS IN SCHOOLS

Architects in Schools Programme is an initiative where TY students work with a professional architect on a project in relation to the use and design of buildings and space. This year, our TY students are working with Architect, Tracy Connaughton on a project using the theme of the Tiny House Movement. They research this concept and design a structure including a model that fits the brief.



WELLBEING WEEK IN HRC

Our first Wellbeing Awareness Week was held in January with talks on a variety of topics including healthy nutrition, self-care and a workshop on Beating the Blues delivered by Aware. Maria Walsh, 2014 Rose of Tralee and the "Pebble Fairy", Olivia Coffey spoke on the students' commitment to positive mental health. Dr Enda Murphy, renowned psychotherapist, author and contributor to the Sean O'Rourke programme will talk to senior students and parents in March on coping with anxiety, stress and depression.

CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF HOLY ROSARY

Current staff, retired staff and friends of HRC gathered on the 6th October to celebrate the feast of the Holy Rosary and to acknowledge the contribution of the Sisters of the Christian Retreat to education in Mountbellew and the surrounding areas. Mass was celebrated by the school chaplain, Fr John O'Gorman, at which we remembered, with sadness, the death of Br Michael Burke.

SHOE BOX APPEAL

For many years, Mr Eamon Quinn has encouraged students to donate items for the annual Shoe Box Appeal and this year, students, their families and members of the wider community donated generously once again. Since he first started organising the Appeal, Mr Quinn has sent over 1500 shoe boxes from HRC to children in Moldova, Romania, Armenia, Kosovo and South Africa. Long may the Shoe Box Appeal continue!



AUTISM COLLECTION

A group of Transition Year students, under the direction and encouragement of Sr Assumpta, collected €714 for the Autism Society of Ireland just before Christmas. Sr Assumpta and her dedicated

fundraisers collect for many different charities throughout the year and receive great support from our students, their families and from the wider community.



CAREER GUIDANCE SUPPORT

Our School Counsellor, Mrs Rose Quinn, supports all our students in numerous ways throughout the year. As well as individual counselling sessions, Mrs Quinn provides ongoing information talks for parents and students. The presentation on Third Level Options including the HEAR and DARE schemes was very well attended by LC1 and LC2 students and parents.

Mrs Quinn accompanied students to the Higher Options Career Exhibition in the RDS where there was an opportunity to meet representatives from colleges in the UK and Europe.

She also spoke to Third Year and TY students and parents on subject and programme options for senior cycle 2017. This talk supplemented research already done in class with the students by Mrs Quinn.

Students travelled to Options West Career Exhibition in Galway and met representatives from Irish colleges and universities as well as representatives from SOLAS (apprenticeships) and Post Leaving Cert (PLC) courses. They acquired information on apprenticeships, studying in Europe, nursing in UK as well as careers with An Garda Síochána.

Mrs Quinn has organised speakers from third level colleges including NUIG, AIT, GMIT, Sligo IT, UL and Dublin Universities to visit the school and meet with senior students. Paul McDonald, National Road Authority, will speak later in the term about exciting careers in the area of Engineering and Science. In collaboration with NUIG, Mrs Quinn has organized a "Transitioning to Third Level" information talk.

Parents and students are always encouraged to access www.qualifax.ie/calendarofevents/viewallevents



KEVIN ATTENDS MINIMED PROGRAMME IN ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Kevin Traynor was selected from hundreds of students nationally to attend the Minimed Transition Year Programme. The week-long programme took place in the RCSI and in Beaumont Hospital and gave Kevin the opportunity to experience what it is like to train and work as a doctor.

All sections of the programme were delivered by over 100 leading healthcare professionals with a variety of different topics covered including surgery, obstetrics, forensic medicine, paediatrics, emergency medicine, cardiology and anatomy. Kevin also attended a series of practical workshops on surgical training, tissue engineering, genetics, thrombosis and got to watch a tonsillectomy using virtual reality headsets. A great opportunity for a very talented student.

LAUREN JOINS PROJECTS ABROAD

Lauren King (LC1) has been involved in fundraising for many local charities since first year. Next June, Lauren will join Projects Abroad and will travel to Nepal where she will spend time painting schools and teaching English to under privileged children. As a volunteer with Projects Abroad, Lauren aims to give these children a better start in life and hopes to get a better understanding of how these children can be helped by people in Ireland. To fund her flights and vaccinations, Lauren will be doing a fundraising cycle and would appreciate any donations. You can support her by donating on www.ifundraise/laurensvolunteerwork.ie. We wish Lauren the best of luck in Nepal and highly commend her for all her fundraising activities to date.





OUR VERY ACTIVE STUDENT COUNCIL

The student council is a representative structure for students through which they become involved in the affairs of the school. The present council is particularly active and dedicated to the welfare of the students. To date they have been involved in many projects including manning the new

microwaves to heat students' lunches, organising student cards, decorating the Assembly Hall for Christmas, organising shelving for Leaving Cert folders, having a vegetarian option available in the canteen and getting drinking fountains installed. Well done to our very pro-active student council.

SCIENCE WEEK

Science Week, in November, emphasised to students the everyday nature of science and the wonder and awe associated with the wide range of Science subjects on offer in HRC. Students had an action packed week with a wide range of activities including a TY Science

Magic Show, informative talks on Bee Keeping and Birds of Prey, a whole school science quiz and computer coding classes. Students were truly immersed in the world of Science and thoroughly enjoyed a very successful week organised by the Science Department.



SPECTROSCOPY IN A SUITCASE

We were delighted to welcome a team of scientists from NUI Galway who presented a workshop on behalf of the Royal Society of Chemistry entitled Spectroscopy in a Suitcase. Spectroscopy is the study of the interaction between matter and electromagnetic radiation. Spectroscopy in a Suitcase gives secondary

students the chance to learn about spectroscopy through hands-on experience. As well as covering the principles of spectroscopic techniques, the activities use real-life contexts to demonstrate the applications of the techniques. We hope that this workshop has inspired the emerging scientists of HRC!



CHRISTMAS TABLE QUIZ

Staff and students finished the first term with a table quiz in the Assembly Hall. It was a fun event and one that is always very enjoyable. This year the funds raised went to local charities. Thanks to all who helped with this event. The photo above shows the overall winners: Kate Screene, Gabrielle Higgins, Thomas Smith and Paul O'Loughlin.



ENGLISH DISCUSSION GROUP

This term marks the start of an 'experimental' English discussion group for Leaving Cert students. It is a casual forum for chat about certain aspects of the Higher Level course, chaired by Ms Conroy in an informal setting at lunchtime once a week. Students can drop in and out as they wish, depending on the topic being discussed on a particular day. Photo shows some of the students who "dropped" in for a discussion on the character of Ophelia.



MERRY MILE

The majority of our students, many dressed in Christmas gear, ran or walked a mile in aid of the local branch of St Vincent de Paul. All the money raised was presented to representatives of the branch and was gratefully received. As with all runs/walks there was a competitive element to the day and our photo shows the First Year winners, Glen Kelly, Evan Dolan and Sean McDonagh.



WELCOME SPONSORSHIP FOR MINOR CAMOGIE

Many thanks to Damien and Karen Mulrooney, Mountbellew, who provided much appreciated sponsorship for gear for the HRC minor camogie

team. We wish the team the very best of luck in their upcoming competitions and thank Karen and Damien for their generosity.



SCIFEST

For many years, students from HRC have been very successful in both the Young Scientist and Technology and Scifest Competitions. Thankfully that tradition continues and this year students have entered in the junior, intermediate and senior Scifest categories. Emily Stevenson, Dean Connell and Megan Miskell are busy working on their senior project as can be seen in the photograph.



HPAT BURSARY

Clara Doran (LC2) was awarded a HPAT bursary for outstanding academic success and extra-curricular involvement. Clara will use this bursary to study for the upcoming HPAT exam which must be taken by students intending to study medicine.



CREDIT UNION DONATION

Peter Fallon and Michael Ryan, Mountbellew/Tuam Credit Union, presented a cheque to Mrs Walsh to help defray the cost of school musical and the cost of training teams. A sincere thank you to the Credit Union and also to Mick Culkeen, Manager of the branch, for his support of the school over the last year.

NEW STAFF

A very warm welcome was afforded to the three new staff members who joined us in September. Ms Alana Burke (past pupil) teaches Music, French and English, Mr James Stephens (past pupil) teaches Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Biology and Science and Mr David Concannon teaches Irish and PE. All three teachers are contributing hugely to the academic and extra-curricular life of HRC and we hope they are very happy with us.



AWAKENING 17

Transition Year students, under the direction of Ms Alana Burke, are currently preparing to participate in Awakening 17, a gathering of over 400 TY students from the diocese of Tuam which will perform religious and modern songs

promoting positive mental health. The organisers of the event, which will be held in Breaffy House, Castlebar, hope to get the message across to young people that there is always someone there to listen to their concerns.



Ms Kilkenny, Mr Mannion and Mr Concannon chat with first years about the upcoming season.



MAKING HISTORY BY BEING BEST IN IRELAND!

Eoin Corcoran made history by securing first place in Ireland in both Construction Studies and DCG. He was presented with an award by the Engineering & Technology Teachers Association and is photographed above with his DCG teacher Mr Kilgannon. Eoin and his Construction Studies teacher, Mr Geraghty, will receive an award from the Techno Teachers Association in GMTI later this month. Congratulations to Eoin, his parents and his teachers.



MOCK TRIALS

Students in TY study many modules one of which is the Public Access to Law which gives them an insight into Irish law and in particular the court system. Students who take this module may then take part in

Mock Trials which are held in the Courts of Criminal Justice in Dublin. Photo shows this year's team who are already practising for the competition which will be held next term. We wish them well.



TECHNOLOGY PROVING POPULAR

To ensure that students have access to the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Maths) subjects, first year students in September 2016, were given the option of studying technology. The uptake was very high and students are now in the fully kitted new technology room and are really enjoying the subject.



RETIREMENT OF BUS DRIVER BOBBY MURRAY

Popular Bus Éireann school bus driver, Bobby Murray, retired after 11 years' service to students in the local area. Parents and students expressed their appreciation of Bobby's kindness, courtesy and the respect which he showed students and parents at all times. We wish him a long and happy retirement. The Photo above shows Bobby receiving a presentation from Mrs Walsh, Mr Tierney and Anne Mannion.



ART CLUB

A very successful Art Club is being run during lunchtime this year. Students, many of whom don't study art as a subject, are given an opportunity to enjoy art and to meet with senior art students. Photo above shows Ms Conlon with Art students, Tomás Bannerton, Shauna Keaveney and Sarah Bartle discussing pencil drawing with interested students.



PREFECTS

Our Leaving Cert prefects play a very important role in the life of HRC. They act as Cairde (friends) of our first year students and help to make the transition to second level as smooth as possible. They check in regularly with them and sort out any issues that may arise. Others have a similar role with second years while

others supervise students in the library at lunchtime, facilitate music sessions, organise sporting events, supervise the canteen area, promote PR in the school, run the Art Club and supervise the heating of lunches in the microwaves. A sincere thank you to all the prefects for their commitment to the students of HRC.

ALL-IRELAND MINOR FOOTBALL FINAL APPEARANCES

Six HRC students were involved in last year's Galway minor panel that reached the All-Ireland final in Croke Park in September. Liam Boyle played at corner back, Rory Cunningham came on as a substitute in the second half, while Billy Mannion, Jack Gavin, Chris Fahy and the injured John Daly were all on the panel.



SENIOR BOYS' FOOTBALL

This year's senior boys' football team competed in the A championship having won 3 in-a-row titles in the B grade. Unfortunately, the team was defeated by one point by Rice College, 1-5 to 0-9, in a pulsating game.

PHOTO ABOVE: Liam Boyle, supported by Oran O'Reilly, is chased by Rice College defenders



ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS

The Galway U-16 Camogie team won the All-Ireland title last season and we were very proud to have Katie Mannion and Kate Screene on that victorious team. The two players played pivotal roles with Kate lining out at centre-back and Katie at wing forward. Both girls gave superb displays in this historic victory.

PHOTO ABOVE: Katie Mannion and Kate Screene won the All-Ireland U-16 Camogie title with Galway.

JUNIOR HURLING

The junior hurling team, managed by Mr. McGrath, has had an excellent campaign to date. They have defeated Roscommon, Ballygar and New Inn and defeated Woodford in the championship semi-final. The team is looking forward to the upcoming final. County U-15 Michael Flynn is a key player.

SENIOR RUGBY

The Thursday evening training has been well attended and the IRFU coach, Peter O'Hara, has conducted very good sessions. After a defeat by Headford, HRC responded well to comprehensively defeat St. Endas and set up a showdown with Rice College for a qualifying berth. Brian McDonnell continues to play representative rugby with Connacht and leads this team with his fire-brand style of rugby.



HANDBALL

Orla Whyte and Sinead Healy reached the final of the Connacht Handball championship recently. Well done girls!

CONNACHT HURLING CHAMPIONS

The senior hurling team, under the tutelage of Mr. David Concannon and Mr. Cathal Mannion, have been producing a high scoring brand of hurling since September and met Ballyhaunis C.S. in the Connacht Final. HRC were victorious after a thrilling game and were crowned Connacht Champions on a score of 3-17 to 3-8. Conor Fahey, captain, is a player to watch and is currently on the Galway minor panel. Congratulations on a great win!

PHOTO: Conor Fahey, Captain, receives the cup after a hard fought game.



FIRST YEAR FOOTBALL

The first year football team is busily preparing for their championship tie against Ballinrobe C.S. which will take place in early February in Tuam Stadium. The team combines players from Mountbellew-Moylough, Menlough, Kilkerrin-Clonberne, Corofin, Monivea-Abbey, St. Brendan's and Caltra. The team trains under the guidance of Mr. O'hlarnáin every Monday and Thursday.

PHOTO: Cathal Laheen, supported by Robert Fahey against Roscommon CBS.

CROSS COUNTRY



Lydia Doyle and Jack Dempsey (above), two outstanding athletes, both represented Ireland last summer. Lydia who runs the hurdles, represented Ireland in the Celtic games in Swansea. The Irish team won overall. She also represented the Irish schools' team in the schools' internationals in Kent where once again Ireland were victorious. Jack had a very fruitful summer on the track also. He represented Irish schools in the international games in Kent. He finished a very creditable 2nd in the 200m and was 2nd in the relay. The Irish team won overall. Lydia and Jack both had a very successful year with their club. We are privileged to have two such high class athletes in HRC.

This year's South Connacht Cross Country event took place in the picturesque surroundings of Claddagh Park. A team of 16 athletes from HRC competed and each and every one gave their all.

Aoibheann Phelan, Megan Devaney, Aoibhinn Keane and Leah McManus qualified for the Connacht Final in Sligo.



JUNIOR LADIES' FOOTBALL

The junior ladies team qualified for the Connacht A final having remained undefeated in their games to date. They met Presentation Tuam but they underperformed on the day and were beaten by six points. Stars of this team include Aoife Thomson, Kate Screene, Chloe Miskell, Siobhan Fahy, Captain and Rachel Dowd. Kilkerrin-Clonberne's Chloe Miskell won the Connacht senior schools ladies Player of the Year in 2016.



Chloe Miskell being watched closely in the Connacht Final.

Johnathan Feehan gains possession for the Junior Rugby Cup team.

JUNIOR RUGBY

The junior team has performed very well in the pool stages of the junior cup. They have defeated St. Paul's, Oughterard 27-10, and Athenry Voc School 36-12 and were narrowly defeated by Oranmore in the final group game in a table-topping clash. They should still qualify for the knockout stages. Sean Gilmore, Desmond Mahon and Cathal Fleming are currently attending the Connacht Excellence Camps, represented Connacht in the game against Munster and were featured in the Irish Independent recently.