

HOLY ROSARY COLLEGE, MOUNTBELLEW

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2018

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The Mock Trial Team about to compete in New York

HRC TAKES ON THE WORLD

In November, fifteen of our Leaving Cert 1 students travelled to New York to take part in the Empire Mock Trials Competition. As Transition Year (TY) students, they had studied the Public Access to Law module and then entered the Mock Trials Competition held in the Criminal Courts of Justice in Dublin. Their hard work, legal knowledge and ability really impressed the judges and they deservedly were crowned All-Ireland winners. In preparation for the World Finals

and under the guidance of Mrs Carroll, the students spent the summer working on a very intricate case based on American law. In New York, they competed against schools from the USA and from around the world. They were honoured to receive the very prestigious Peter Meyer Spirit of the Empire Award, an award presented to the school that "exhibits outstanding civility and professionalism". We are extremely proud of these very hardworking, talented

students and wish them well in their studies. Many of them are contemplating a career in law as a result of their experience with the Mock Trials Competition and they are looking forward to helping the present TY students in their preparation for the Irish Mock Trials Competition. We thank their parents for their support of the team and for their commitment to fundraising for the event. We also thank our staff who supported them in so many ways.

WELL DONE TO EXAM STUDENTS

Congratulations to our very hardworking Leaving Cert class of 2017 on their wonderful results. The vast majority have opted for further education, mostly in Ireland with some attending college overseas. Some have chosen the apprenticeship route which is a very welcome development indeed. Beth Muldoon (Actuarial Maths, DCU), Joseph Silke (Bachelor of Arts, Mary Immaculate, Limerick), Anna Traynor (Maths and Science, UCD), Gerard Warde (Veterinary Medicine, UCD) were awarded scholarships, based on the Leaving Cert results, by their respective colleges. Congratulations also to all our Junior Cert students who achieved great results and especially to Jack Flattery and Áine Healy who had the best overall results in Junior Cert 2017.



Ms Burke with Patrick McWalter, Siobhán Callander and Rhiannon Shaw after they had received their Leaving Cert results.



HPAT BURSARY

Leaving Certificate student, Michelle McDonagh was awarded a HPAT bursary by MED Entry for outstanding academic success and extra-curricular involvement. Michelle will use this bursary to study for the upcoming HPAT exam which must be taken by students intending to study medicine in college.



ZEMINAR A LIFE CHANGING DAY

Following on the success of the first Zeminar: a Life Changing Day in 2016, a group of TY and LC1 students, accompanied by Mrs Quinn, Mrs Spelman and Mr Stephens, attended ZEMINAR in October last. This is Ireland's most inclusive summit on mental health for Generation Z. Among the speakers who encouraged the students to take care of their mental health with easy to follow tips was Niamh Fitzpatrick, sister of Capt. Dara Fitzpatrick. Dara was the captain of a Coast Guard helicopter, Rescue 116, which came down in the sea off northwest Mayo with the loss of all on board. As well as attending talks, students had an opportunity to gather information from various volunteering groups and also to sing in front of a captive audience!



ST. JARLATH'S CREDIT UNION

Karen Walsh and Daniel Curley, LC 2017, received bursaries valued at €1000 each from St Jarlath's Credit Union to help defray costs of their first year in third level education. We are very grateful to the Credit Union manager, Mick Culkeen and his staff for their support of our school over the last two years.



BUSINESS AWARDS FROM NUIG

Aoife Duffy, Áine Healy, Colum MacDonncha, Ruth Gavin, Jack Flattery, Erin Shaw, Colman Monaghan and Mary Conroy received Grade A in Junior Cert Higher Level Business 2017 and were honoured at a ceremony in NUI Galway in October. They are seen here with their Business Studies teachers, Mrs Larkin and Ms McGrath.

FR PÁDRAIG, RIP

It was with deep regret that we learned of the unexpected death of Canon Pádraig O'Connor P.P. Mountbellew/Moylough. Fr Padraig, as he was known to all, was a wonderful friend to HRC and his deep faith, easy going manner, wit, loyalty, understanding and care are truly missed by us all. The turnout of our students for a guard of honour was evidence of his popularity among them and to quote a parishioner "We are all so lucky to have had Fr Pádraig in our lives". Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.





HRC students with Mr Stephens and Dr Ronan O'Higgins, Course Director on their recent visit to the Aeronautical Engineering Department, UL

AERPRIZE 2018

Senior STEM students, Stephen Doran, Kevin Traynor, Kevin McCormack and Morgan Corcoran with the help of Mr Stephens have entered the very first Aerprize 2018 Competition which explores the role of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in aviation. The students are currently using their scientific skills to be in with a chance of winning the coveted prize of a sponsored seven week trip to California where the lucky students will be trained and receive their Private Pilot's Licence. Best of luck to all students involved, our aspiring pilots, aeronautical engineers and aviation experts of the future!



Geraldine Callander and Pauline Kilcommins on behalf of the Lotto Development Committee present a cheque for €12,500 to Mrs Walsh for school development

DEVELOPMENT LOTTO JACKPOT €18,600

A huge thank you to all who have joined our School Development Lotto and to the dedicated people who run it so efficiently. To date the jackpot hasn't been won and now stands at €18,600. The lotto provides us with much needed finance for the continued development of our facilities and enables us to provide our students with an excellent learning environment. If you or your friends would like to join the lotto, please contact us on 09096-79222.



BUSINESS STUDENTS SET UP PROFITABLE MINI-COMPANY

Senior Business students who set up a mini-company which they aptly named '4 Goodness Cakes'! are photographed with their Business teacher, Mrs Larkin. Brain storming, market research and visits from local entrepreneurs convinced the students that beautifully

packaged muffins and cup-cakes for the Christmas market would be a worthwhile initiative. The students gained valuable experience in the area of advertising, production, pricing and public relations and also made a healthy profit for themselves!



CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte!

A very warm welcome to the new teachers who joined us in September 2017. Chelsea O'Reilly (Science, Maths and IT), Leanne Griffin (Maths, CSPE and Spanish), past pupil Michael Crehan (Technology, Materials Technology Wood, Construction Studies and Design Communications Graphics), Patricia Forde (Maths, Science and PE), Aisling Browne (History, Geography and English), Emma Towey (English, History and SPHE) and Niamh Duignan (Maths and Science). All seven teachers have settled in very well and are contributing hugely to the academic and extra-curricular life of our school.



JOHN PAUL 11 AWARDS FOR HRC STUDENTS

The John Paul 11 Awards recognise "young people's commitment to faith and community". Fourteen of our senior students were presented with John Paul 11 Gold Awards by Archbishop Michael Neary in the Basilica in Knock. They were involved in the Awakening 2017, in activities which built social awareness and in promoting Catholic Schools Week in the school. They visited local

nursing homes and took part in the Peer 4 Peer course which is a practical programme on communication and decision making. They then delivered the programme to senior classes in the local primary schools. Well done to all the students who contributed so much to the life of their local communities! They are pictured above with their coordinators Sr Assumpta and Mrs Geraghty.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

We encourage all parents to play an active part in the education of their children, to be involved in the Parents Association and to attend the events and talks organised for them by the Parents Committee.

Parents Association Officers 2017/18

Chairperson: Tony Colleran
Vice-Chairperson: Martin Fleming
Secretary: Josephine Cummins
Assistant Secretary: Mary Hillhouse

STATE EXAMS COMMISSION (SEC) CHOOSES HRC TO PILOT SCIENCE TRIALS

HRC offers Agricultural Science, Applied Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics at senior cycle and we were delighted to have been chosen by the SEC as one of only 30 schools in the country to participate in Senior Science Trials. The trials looked at including a practical component of assessment at senior cycle which would enable students to demonstrate their practical skills and knowledge of their chosen Science subject. The results of the trials and the feedback of staff and students on the value of practical assessment will shape the new Senior Science syllabi which are expected to be rolled out from Sept 2019.



Mrs MULHOLLAND RETIRES

Mrs Rosemary Mulholland retired from our teaching staff in August 2017 after many years of committed service to the students of Holy Rosary College. She taught Maths and Accounting mainly and earned the respect of the school community for her professionalism, fairness and care. Under her direction, students won many awards, most notably the European Young Consumer Competition in Brussels in 1995. We wish her a very long and happy retirement.



PDST WELLREAD AWARD

Last year, Ms Gibbons and four of her English students, Hannah Mulrooney, Sarah Geraghty, Emma Screene and Shauna Lally set up a Wellread Committee with the aim of promoting reading within the school and beyond. The committee organised many activities including a Book Review Competition in Mountbellew NS, Guess the Teacher Autobiography, and Art Competitions. As a result of the work of the committee HRC was chosen as one of only seventeen schools in Ireland to receive the PDST Wellread Award in Dublin in November. The committee has many more exciting reading-related activities planned for this school year including the MS Readathon, our own first year Readathon and a TY speed reading morning. Ms Gibbons and the girls are looking forward to welcoming the poet, Eilean Ní Chuilleanáin, to the school again this year!



BIENVENUE MADEMOISELLE CLAIRE!

Since her arrival last October, our popular French assistant Claire Atanian from Marseille has been making a great impression on our French students with her fun classes that use songs, games and videos to help improve oral and written work. Claire, who holds a Masters degree in teaching French as a second Language strongly believes in the importance of increasing awareness of French life and culture in her class, a key strand of the new Junior Cycle French course. Vive la France!



OUR MUCH APPRECIATED PREFECTS

Our prefects, photographed above, play a very important role in the life of HRC and in particular in the lives of first and second year students. They support first years and make the transition to HRC as smooth as possible while also helping them to integrate into the student

body. They also supervise at break times, organise extra-curricular events, run different clubs at lunchtime and help out on nights of the school musical. They are an integral part of the pastoral care system of the school and work closely with staff on a daily basis.



The cast and crew of Footloose pictured with Mrs Carroll, Ms Burke and Mrs Carr.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MUSICAL IN HRC!

In keeping with a long tradition of school shows in HRC, this year's TY students supported by the first year chorus and under the direction of Mrs Carroll, Ms Burke, Mrs Carr and Ms Vesey brought the musical 'Footloose' to packed houses over 4 performances. We are indebted to the many friends of HRC, who each year provide us with the sponsorship to put on shows of exceptional standard, shows that have given our students the opportunity to develop socially, personally and artistically and to grow in self-confidence and

self-esteem. We know that in years to come, the cast and crew will look back with happy memories and will cherish forever the friendships formed and the fun they had in bringing Footloose to capacity audiences. Thanks to all our dedicated staff who gave of their time and expertise so willingly so that our students could have an experience they will never forget. Thanks to our dedicated stage crew, parking attendants, fund raising committee and hair and make-up artists who ensured a smooth running of the show.



The group outside Auschwitz Concentration Camp

KRAKOW/AUSCHWITZ TRIP

In June 2017, the Leaving Cert 1 History students, accompanied by their teacher Mrs Carroll and by Mrs Spelman, visited Krakow in Poland. They visited Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration camp. This was a moving and emotional experience for students and staff

as they witnessed the place where approximately 1.1 million men, women and children were exterminated. The students also visited the Wieliczka salt mine which operated from the 13th century until 2007. The trip was described by one student as "life changing".

THE MANCHESTER MARTYRS CONNECTION

HRC hosted a conference "The Fenians, Colonel Kelly and the Manchester Martyrs" dedicated to the memory of Col Thomas Kelly, leader of the Fenians, who was born in Mountbellew. After escaping from a prison van in Manchester in 1867, Col Kelly, after a brief secret visit to his mother in Mountbellew, made his way to New York from which he never returned. Our students were very pleased to have been invited by Marie Mannion, Galway Heritage, to contribute to the commemoration. To mark the fact that Col Kelly was a

printer, second year History students under the direction of Ms Aisling Browne, designed and made a printing press similar to the one he used. Other students hosted the visitors in the morning, produced beautiful artwork, displayed research which they had carried out, made presentations on the Fenian Movement and recited "God Save Ireland". TY students, Ruth Lally, Aaron Quinn and Emmet Greaney composed and played a beautiful piece of music which they called "The Fenian Galop" to commemorate Colonel Kelly.

TYs ENJOY LOUGH KEY FOREST PARK

The TY programme is varied and stimulating as evidenced by the fact that 78% of the Third Year cohort opt for TY. One of their outings this year was to Lough Key Forest Park where they enjoyed zip-lining, canopy walking and team challenges in Bodaburg.



Amy Somers and Patrick Dempsey got involved in the Science Magic Show

SCIENCE ACTION IN HRC

Science week is always a highlight of first term. Our students got involved in many enjoyable activities including a treasure hunt and a Science magic show presented by Laurie Ryan from the University of Limerick. This year we set up a science club for our junior girls. It runs once a week during lunchtime. The aim of the club is to encourage girls to take up STEM subjects at Senior Cycle. The girls undertake projects that involve physics and technology. They are

currently working on building a wooden doll's house/sweet shop. They will then wire it with lights and will run them off batteries and solar panels. Again this year we have a number of TY students working on projects for SciFest which takes place in Athlone on 25 April. We will run SciFest in School Competition among all the First Years. The winners of the different categories in HRC will then go forward to Athlone. Best of luck to all students involved.



MEITHEAL PROGRAMME

Meitheal is a Youth Leadership Programme designed to educate and empower young people in their schools. The students and leaders educate each other through leadership, action based activities, liturgy, reflection and evaluation. In August, our new 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 committee. This year, our Meitheal students, Alannah Keane, Kevin Traynor, Geri-Anna McNamee, Aoife Healy, and Ciara Geraghty under the direction of Ms Conroy, will focus on the wellbeing of Third Year students in the school. We are delighted to be one of only a few schools in Co. Galway to be involved in this extremely beneficial programme.

AWAKENING 18

TY students under the direction of music teacher, Mrs Alana Carr started rehearsals for Awakening 18, a gathering in Breaffy House of 400 TY students from the diocese of Tuam. Ms Edel Doherty is continuing the rehearsals at present and the students are learning religious and modern songs which promote positive mental health.



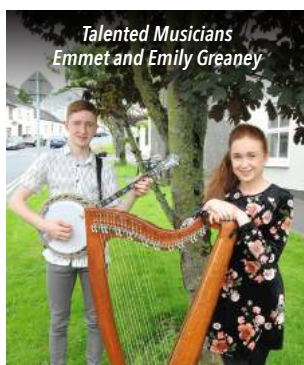
BIG SUPPORT FOR THE MERRY MILE

As in previous years most of our students either ran or walked a mile to raise money for local charities. Students, dressed in Christmas gear, completed the event and while it was all good cheer there was a competitive edge to it also. The First Year boys pictured above were delighted with their win.



MAKING MUSIC AND THEIR OWN GUITAR

Interest in music and design of musical instruments led TY students, Oisín Quinn and Donnacha Geraghty to investigate the possibility of making a guitar. As the photo shows they are well on the way to completion of a beautiful instrument made from ash. They follow in the footsteps of former students Eoin Corcoran who designed and made a beautiful harp and Albert Niland (very successful musical artist) who also designed and made a fabulously sounding electric guitar.



SUCCESS FOR MUSICIANS & DANCERS

HRC students had great success at the recent Galway Mimmers Festival 2018. Emmet Greaney won "Best Overall Musician" while his sister Emily, Katie McMahon, Eoin Lally, Glenn Forde, Nathan Conway and Aaron Quinn were judged to be the "Best Overall Dancers" at the festival. Emily, Emmet and the dancers are hugely talented and have won numerous competitions down through the years. Emmet is Connacht Fleadh Cheoil Banjo Champion 2017 while Emily is the current Connacht Fleadh Cheoil Harp Champion. She also took 2nd prize at the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil 2017 held in Ennis. Emily was the harpist with Lackagh music group which won first prize in Ennis. Well done to all these multi-talented students and to all our musicians who contribute so much to music in the school.

HRC E-TWINNED WITH EUROPEAN SCHOOLS

We are all very excited to be involved with the E-twinning community where HRC students work on projects with others in schools throughout Europe. Our students are working with schools in Italy and France on Classroom Based Activities and on Construction Studies Projects and are also working with schools in France, Luxembourg, Sweden, Czechoslovakia and Spain on Environmental projects.



STUDENTS FUNDRAISE FOR JIGSAW

The Transition Year Mental Health class aims to promote Wellbeing for all students in the school. They are focusing on the importance of a healthy body and a healthy mind. Earlier this year they ran a successful fundraising campaign for Jigsaw, Galway and promoted healthy eating as a core element of overall well-

being. They also raised €420 from a juicing initiative which they presented to Sinead O'Brien, Jigsaw Galway. Students also created a Wellbeing wall which colourfully highlights the different aspects of Wellbeing, provides contact information and a selection of positive motivational quotes.



Creative Writing winners with Ms Towey

TALENTED WRITERS AND POETS

There was an excellent response to the Creative Writing competitions held at Halloween and Christmas. Many Junior Cycle students submitted essays, short stories and poetry. Our creative writing competitions provide a platform for our budding young writers and poets

to express themselves and also afford students the opportunity to further develop their literacy skills. HRC is dedicated to encouraging hidden talent among our students. Well done to all who participated and to the winners pictured with English teacher and organiser, Ms Emma Towey.



FUNDRAISING FOR VDP

The Mountbellew branch of the Society of St Vincent de Paul is very close to the heart of the HRC community and during the year events were organised to raise funds for this very hard working organisation. We particularly appreciate

the fact that funds that are raised locally are used locally. Class 335 pictured with their teacher Mrs Feeney presented a cheque for €303 to the Mountbellew branch. The students raised the money as part of their CSPE project.



KRC MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Transition Year students, Mary Conroy, Catherine Connolly, Tess Daly and Lorna Mannion formed a Mental Health Committee and are organising a whole-school Wellbeing Week in March. They are creating positive promotional videos for students, will distribute wristbands promoting positive mental health and are organising dance workshops for first and second

year students. All these initiatives will encourage co-operation, good relationships and the importance of physical activity. The Committee will end the week with self-reflection sessions which will identify key areas of learning. The students hope, that through their work, HRC will be awarded the Amber Flag, which indicates a school where positive mental health is promoted.



FORMULA 1 TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE (F1 IN SCHOOLS)

TY students, Lorna Mannion, Colman Monaghan, Jack Flattery, Adam Doyle, Dereck Schmidt and Mary Conroy (missing from photo) are busy preparing for the F1 in Schools Challenge. They design, create and race a model Formula 1 car at a venue to be decided. Much of the design is done on computer with special design packages under the supervision of Technical Graphics teachers, Mr Kilgannon and Mr Crehan. Best wishes to the students in a very difficult and challenging competition.



YEAR HEADS CARE FOR STUDENTS

The Year Head structure is an integral part of the Pastoral care system in the school. Year Heads, Mrs Larkin, Ms Henson, Mrs Robinson, Ms Vesey and Mr Geraghty play a very important role in the lives of our students. They meet regularly with their year group, give advice on study skills and monitor the students' general wellbeing and their academic progress.

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Gaisce, the President's Award is a self-development programme that encourages young people to find their passion, get active and make a difference in their community. It allows students to apply for the only civilian medal available to Irish citizens. Every year a number of Transition Year students apply for their Bronze Gaisce Medal having completed three areas of accomplishment, Community Involvement, Physical Recreation and Personal Skill.



Mr Harkin who promotes and organises Gaisce in HRC is pictured with recent recipients of the awards, Ruth Gavin, Matthew Geraghty, Michaela Finnerty and Dean Connell.



Winners, organisers and teachers who were involved in Maths week in HRC

MATHS WEEK

Maths Week promotes, awareness, appreciation and understanding of Maths through a huge variety of events

and activities. HRC students took part in Maths Challenges, Puzzles and Trails and really enjoyed and benefited from the

many activities organized by the Maths department. Teachers and students agree that the week was a huge success.



STUDENTS HAVE THEIR SAY

The Student Council is a representative structure set up under the Education Act 1998. It enables students to become involved in the affairs of the school. Membership of the Student Council in HRC is hotly contested and the members are very active and dedicated to the welfare of the student body. To date they have been involved in many

projects including manning the new microwaves to heat students' lunches, decorating the school for Christmas, organising a Christmas dinner for students and installing extra shelving for student folders. The students work closely with their co-ordinator, Mrs Gilmore and with the principal and deputy principal.



Mrs Quinn discusses career options with students while others carry out research

CAREER GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

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 information talks for students and parents as an integral part of the provision of Career Guidance at HRC. Our annual Third Level Options talk was very well attended by parents of LC2 students. This talk proved to be very valuable for parents and students as it enabled them to plan in advance which Open Days and Career Exhibitions they might need to attend during the year. It also directed parents to the key dates and procedures regarding CAO and UCAS applications.

The LC2 students were also brought to the Higher Options Career Exhibition in the RDS in September where they met with representatives from Irish, UK and

European colleges. The Senior Options Information talk for parents of Third Year and TY students which was held in December was equally well attended.

LC1 students were brought to Options West Career Exhibition in Salthill in October. This was organised by the Leaving Cert 1 LCVP students themselves and proved a huge success. The students met representatives from all the main Irish colleges and universities as well as representatives from SOLAS, the body that manages the Apprenticeship programme, and PLC colleges.

So far this year speakers from GMIT, NUIG, Athlone IT and SLIGO IT have made presentations to LC1 students. Similar presentations will be made by UL and Dublin Universities in the coming months.



NEW DEBATING CLUB

Last September a group of interested and motivated TY History students decided to start a debating society mentored by Mrs Costello. The group, under the excellent guidance of secretary, Lorna Mannion, has been

meeting and debating in the library during and after school. There are 23 members in all and they hope to enter a number of competitions under the novel name of "The Bourgeois Bois". The Dead Poets Society lives on in HRC!



GREEN SCHOOLS

Ms O'Reilly, Oisín Quinn, David Conway, Ella Gorman and Lauren Loftus formed the Green Schools committee and are focused on reducing school waste and litter. The committee aims to assess the students' knowledge of recycling and provides additional information where required. The students hope to increase awareness of the provisions already in place and improve on the current facilities with recycling stations being placed in the two main student communal areas and in the staffroom also.



GROW YOUR OWN

As part of their horticulture class, TY students under the direction of Mary O'Connor, are busy preparing the tunnel for spring planting. This year they are installing a heated propagation bench which they will use to germinate all their vegetable and flower seeds. They learn the importance of organic cultivation and will cultivate a wild flower section again this year. This module is proving very popular with students and the information and skills acquired will prove very useful to the students in later life.



MUSIC AS EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

Our lunchtime music sessions continue to offer students the opportunity to show-case their musical and singing talents. Our picture shows Mr Quinn with Donnacha Geraghty, Oisín Quinn, Ella Gorman and Gary Keaveney as they get tuned up for such a performance. Just before Christmas, TY students put

on a wonderful performance for the residents of Clonberne Nursing Home, entertaining them with songs from their musical 'Footloose' and with carols in keeping with the festive season. The newly formed teachers' choir really added to our Christmas carol service.

MICROSOFT OFFICE SPECIALIST QUALIFICATION

Great emphasis is placed on digital literacy for TY students. They study the Microsoft Office Specialist programme run by Prodigy Learning, a programme which allows the students to gain an internationally recognised qualification which is hugely important in third level or in the world of work. Students sit a range of exams

including Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, and Excel. They also have the opportunity to take extra modules in their own time at home. All exams are online and results are available immediately on completion of the test. To give students the opportunity to gain certification, students can repeat exams if previously unsuccessful.



Mrs Larkin oversees TY students, Celeste Raphael, Niamh Connaughton and Alana Costello as they sit their Microsoft Office Specialist exam.



Sr Assumpta, Mrs Geraghty and TY students prepare one of the Sacred Spaces in the school for Catholic Schools Week.

HRC CELEBRATES CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week is an All-Ireland annual event during which Catholic schools give expression in a special way to the ethos of Catholic education. This year's theme for the week connects with the upcoming World Meeting of Families due to take place in Dublin in August. The week invites Catholic schools to reflect on and celebrate the relationship

that exists between home, school and parish with the theme "Catholic Schools: Called to be a Family of Families". In HRC, the students themselves are very involved in promoting Catholic Schools week. They decorate the Sacred Spaces, deliver readings and reflections, organise prayer services and run "Who wants to be a Catholic Millionaire?".



STUDENT BANKERS

We are very grateful to Bank of Ireland for its support of HRC. Our students continue to be involved in many initiatives run by Bank of Ireland (BoI) including the TY Academy, Junk Kouture and the School Bank Initiative. Our TY students were interested in setting up a school bank which would allow our students to open a bank account and to save on a regular basis. Having been interviewed by Alan Newell, Bank Youth

Co-ordinator, the following students will run the bank, with the help of BoI staff, for the current school year: Ruth Lally (Branch Manager) Colman Monaghan, (Assistant Manager), Orla Whyte, Aine Healy, Dereck Schmidt (Sales and Marketing Managers) Catherine Connolly, Karen Ward, Colum MacDonnacha (Operation and Audit Specialists) Martin Lohan, Tara O'Loughlin and Jack Coppinger (Customer Digi Advisors)

LIBRARY AT LUNCHTIME

The School Library is a tranquil haven where students can choose from the hundreds of books to read or can play board games at lunchtime. On a regular basis, table quizzes are held, mainly for First Years and are a very popular activity. Junior English classes have a reading day every week in the library and can borrow books from several different genre to take home. The beautiful murals, created by the TY students of 2016, enhance this lovely facility. Regular workshops, talks and meetings take place there also so it is well utilized by the school community.



TRANSITION YEAR HISTORY CLASS ACTIVITIES

Over the last few months TY History students have gone on a number of interesting and educational outings and engaged in some excellent research projects under the supervision of Mrs Costello. They travelled to NUIG where, under the excellent guidance of Dr Conor McNamara, they got an opportunity to explore the archival vaults of the college and learned about effective research methods. They attended the Galway Film Fleadh where they saw *Condemned to*

Remember "A powerful, timely and vital documentary that follows Irish Holocaust Survivor Tomi Reichental as he embarks on an epic journey across a Europe in turmoil". The students participated in an excellent question and answer session after the screening and agreed that it was a most thought-provoking and moving experience for them. December saw Jimmy Laffey of Galway Heritage give a very informative talk on Local History in the school library.

FRENCH BREAKFAST

In January all of our First Year French students enjoyed a French breakfast of chocolat chaud, pain au chocolat and croissants. Our French language assistant Claire made tasty homemade crepes for the students to sample. A little bit of France in HRC

FRENCH THEATRE

The annual visit of the French Theatre for Schools (FTFS) took place in February. Over 60 TY and LC1 students enjoyed an afternoon of fun and drama with this year's production of *Le Texte Perdu*. Some of our students even took to the stage and played a part in the theatre.



PUBLIC SPEAKING WITH ALAN DEVINE

TY students enjoyed full-day workshops with actor Alan Devine of Dramaclub and formerly of Fair City. The workshops focus on oral communication skills and building students' confidence in public speaking. Alan returned

a week later to hear the students present a speech on a topic of their choice. The students will again present their speeches to the staff and to their TY classmates during our Wellbeing Awareness Week in March.



TALENTED IRISH DANCER

First Year student, Josh Evason is an extremely talented Irish dancer having won numerous medals, trophies and certs at Connacht level and in the "Great Britains" last year. We wish him all the best as he prepares for the All-Irelands Finals in Killarney later this month.

ALL-IRELAND VISIT

On Friday, October 20th HRC welcomed our minor and senior All-Ireland Hurling Champions. There was great excitement in the gym as over 700 people gathered to welcome our heroes. A huge roar greeted the arrival of the players with the cups, but a special welcome was saved for our own past pupil Conor Fahey, midfielder on the minor side. Many thanks to the players who mingled with the students for photos and autographs for an hour afterwards.



Winners, organisers and teachers who were involved in Maths week in HRC



ALL IRELAND WINNERS

Kate Screene and Molly Mannion were key players in Galway's fabulous All Ireland minor final victory, when Galway defeated Kilkenny. The team defeated a hapless Clare in the final by 4-14 to 0-6. Both girls have been rewarded for their excellence with a place in the Galway senior panel in 2018.

RUGBY

The senior rugby team is currently in the middle of their Development Cup campaign. They have a crunch upcoming match against Athlone Community College. The team has been busily preparing under the guidance of Mr. Kilgannon and Peter O'Hara of Connacht Rugby. TY student, Micheál Mullins is proving to be an excellent coach and shows huge commitment to rugby in HRC and also at club level. Congratulations to Cathal Fleming on being selected to play for Connacht.

BASKETBALL IS BACK

Basketball made a welcome return to HRC this year. Under the guidance of teachers, Mrs Gavin and Ms Forde, the school has once again entered the West Division League in 1st and 2nd year for both boys and girls. It's great to finally be able to host basketball games in our own school sports hall. We were delighted to welcome back retired teacher Gerry Nihill to referee one of the matches.



David Kitt with some of his golf trophies

GALWAY SPORTS STARS

Two of our students received Galway Bay Sports Person of the Year Awards 2017. These awards recognize excellence in sporting endeavour in a range of sports. The two winners were Patrick Dempsey for Motor Sport and David Kitt for Golf. 15 year old TY student Patrick Dempsey from Corofin, became the youngest ever Ginetta Junior Ireland Champion. Meanwhile David achieved national fame in August when competing in the Irish Close Championship finishing second, losing only on the last hole.



Patrick Dempsey, youngest ever Ginetta Junior Ireland Champion



Thanks to Richard Coyle of Supervalu Mountbellew for Sponsorship of Jerseys.

HURLING

The senior team, Connacht champions last year, lost to Claregalway College in their first game 0-18 to 1-12. They got their campaign back on track with a good victory over Garbally College Ballinasloe, securing a quarter final berth. However, they were knocked out of the championship by a very strong Portumna team. The team performed well all year at a higher grade under the guidance of Mr Concannon and Mr Gibbons.

HRC'S KARATE CHAMPION

Congratulations to 2nd year student, Patricia McLoughlin, Kilkerrin. She is pictured here proudly displaying the medals she won in kata and kumogata at the European Championships held in the Netherlands. Patricia has been training with Faolchu Karate Club, Tuam for the last 5 years and is an excellent ambassador for the sport.



SUPER TOUCH BLITZES

The first and second year hurling teams took part in the super touch blitzes organised by Connacht GAA. These were a great experience for all the players who all got a chance to showcase their skills in a less competitive conditioned games format.

1st YEAR BOYS' FOOTBALL

The first year boys' football team has qualified for the League Final. To date, they have played six games winning five and will meet Claregalway College in the final. The highlight of the campaign to date was a last minute win against Calasanctius, Oranmore in the final group game. This team features players from Mountbellew-Moylough, Caltra, St. Brendan's, Corofin, Monivea-Abbey, Menlough, Killererin and Kilkerrin-Clonberne.

MAIREAD MEEHAN BLITZ

This Blitz took place in October in Kinvara and is in memory of our past pupil, Mairead and is one in which we are delighted to partake. HRC, Mairead Meehan Blitz, entered two teams in this year's blitz and competed very well. It was a great event for the students to socialise and was enjoyed by all.



CIAN, A BOXING STAR

First Year student, Cian Dolan, is gaining a formidable reputation as one of Ireland's up and coming boxers. Cian won the County, Connacht and All Ireland 37kg youth's title and also the prestigious Wexford Box Cup at 40kg. He also competed in Hull Box Cup in the U.K. finishing with a silver medal.



GOLF IN HRC

This year the school entered the Connacht schools junior and senior golf championships. They all competed very well with the juniors finishing fourth. 1st year student, Adam Challoner, had the honour of claiming the Connacht U12 championship in Loughrea in August. Meanwhile Emma Morrow won the best net score at the girls championships held in the Connacht Schools Girls Championships.