



# SOLAS

St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork

Newsletter Issue 1 Spring 1999

## OUR LIGHT SHINES

Everyone associated with St. Aidan's is delighted with the outstanding achievements of Joseph Carr and of Edel O'Herlihy of the class of '98 in winning Entrance Scholarships to the National University of Ireland, University College, Cork.

Committee's Medal by Co. Cork VEC in recognition of their success.

Joseph is now studying Science and Edel is studying Law and we wish them every congratulations and every success for the future. We congratulate also every single pupil who did the Leaving and Junior

## PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Cúis mór áthais dom sibh a fáiltiú go Pobalcholaiste Aodáin agus sinn réidh chun tosnú le chéile ar an achar seo de bhóthar an oideachais. Deirtear gur ar scáth a chéile a maharani na daoine. Is eol go maith dúinn, pé scéal e, gur ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann an baile agus an scoil, an tuismitheoir agus an múinteoir. Tá súil agam go mbeimid araon sásta agus ábalta tacaíochat a thabart dá chéile sna blianta atá romhainn. Ta suil agam, fresin, go mbeadh beannacht an Tiarna anuas orainn agus ar ndíandhicheall á dhéanamh againn a leas siúd a bhaint amach do na daoine óga atá curtha ag Dia faoinár gcúram.



To make partnership, between home and school, between parent, pupil and teacher, an effective reality in our schools is a continuing challenge to all involved in any way in Irish education. I hope that *Solas* will help all associated with *Muintearas Aodáin*, with the family of teaching and learning that is St. Aidan's Community College, work together in the crucial years ahead for the good of those whom Providence has entrusted to our care.



Ms. Miriam O Driscoll (Chairperson, Board of Management) Mr. Eamonn Stack (Chief Inspector, Dept. of Education and Science) Edel O' Herlihy, Dr. Steele (Principal), Joseph Carr.

These Scholarships are awarded on the basis of the Grades in the Leaving Certificate Examinations. Joseph got seven, and Edel got six, A Grades, all at Higher Level, in these examinations last June.

Only a small handful of candidates in the whole country get Grades of this standard. Indeed, there are only around fourteen Entrance Scholarships in all for all newcomers to UCC. To have two of these coming to St. Aidan's is a cause of just pride all round.

Both Joseph and Edel were awarded the

Certificate Examinations.

Experience shows us that there are always amongst us scores of pupils whose academic exploits do not reach the media but whose achievements are truly outstanding because they have come from hard work, sheer grit, and all-out determination.

We are privileged to celebrate these heroes and heroines throughout the school-year, by means of Letters of Commendation, and at Annual Prize-giving, by means of a range of awards to match talents and attainments of all kinds.

## COLLEGE HISTORY



St. Aidan's Community College was founded in 1983 to provide a comprehensive system of post-primary education for boys and girls. The college has the subjects and facilities to cater for all abilities and aspirations in a modern and well-resourced location.

It is governed by a Board of Management which includes representatives of the churches, Catholic and Church of Ireland, of the VEC, of the community, of teachers and of parents.

St. Aidan's is a community of teaching and learning in which parents and teachers do all in their power together in the light of the Gospel to provide those in their care with the best possible start in life, including especially the very high-

est academic qualifications of which each is capable. The pupil's personal, spiritual and moral development is of paramount importance. Each pupil is guided to foster all the virtues associated with hard work and good conduct and each is encouraged to face the future with pride, confidence and responsibility. The spirit of the College is enshrined in our Motto: "Bíodh bhur solas ag taitneamh" or "Let your light shine". The aim of the College is to ensure that the pupils nurture their own ideals whilst respecting the ideals of others and develop their own talents whilst respecting the talents of all. St. Aidan's strives to be a community where parent, teacher and pupil work together for the benefit of each other and the welfare of all.

## PARENTS ASSOCIATION



All parents of students attending St. Aidan's are invited to the AGM of the Parents' Association each September. At this meeting a Parents' Council then elects an Executive Committee and officers for the next twelve months.

The Executive Committee meets monthly and the Council meets on alternate months. The

Chairperson of the Association presides at meetings, attends official College functions e.g. Annual Awards

Ceremony, Graduation Ceremony, Open-Day etc. and assists in the co-ordination of activities. These include fundraising events such as an Annual Table Quiz and

Easter Raffle. The funds generated are used to help the Book Loan Scheme, which benefits all students.



## HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY & LIAISON SCHEME

The Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) Scheme is based on the principle of partnership between homes, schools and communities. The main aims of the scheme are:

- ◆ To work with the significant adults in the child's life.
- ◆ To improve the child's uptake of available educational opportunities.
- ◆ To encourage him/her to remain in the educational system for as long as possible.

Since November 1997, the following have been initiated by the HSCL Officer:

- ◆ Classes in Family Communication and Self-Esteem, Cookery, Beginners Computers, Image and

Style and Enneagram. These classes are organised in response to parents needs.

- ◆ The Women's Group meets in the Parents' Room each Wednesday. Their activities include classes on Positive Health, Flower Arranging and Reflexology.
- ◆ A group of adults is currently preparing for the Leaving Certificate Exam in English and History.
- ◆ The Parents' Room opened is open between 9.00am and 10.00am each weekday and tea/coffee is available. Parents are encouraged to come in to discuss their concerns. Some classes take place in the room and parents attending classes use the room as a meeting place during break times.

From my experience of the last nine years I have found the Parents Association a very worthwhile link between students, home and College. The Association is an ideal forum where parents can meet to discuss matters of common interest. I would encourage you to attend our AGM next September and to participate in the Parents' Association, which I believe will be of benefit to your child during his/her years at St. Aidan's.

*Elizabeth Caffrey*  
Chairperson Parents Association

Home Visits are a vital part of my job. These visits strengthen the bond between home and school. If you wish to meet with me in the school or in your home I can be contacted at 307486.

I hope to further develop the HSCL Scheme in a way which is appropriate to parents' needs and planned so as to best influence the young people in our care.

*Brenda O' Donoghue*  
HSCL Officer.

## PUPILS' COUNCIL PRESIDENT

### ADDRESS

**M**y name is Michelle Golden. I am in fifth year and I am President of St. Aidan's Community College Pupils' Council. The Pupils Council consists of two class representatives from each class. The Executive Committee is selected from within this group. The Executive Committee consists of twelve members and all year groups are represented. Each Executive member is eligible to run for the position of President. All college pupils are eligible



to vote in this election. As college President I am the first point of pupils contact and representation. I am responsible for representing the pupils council at all official functions.

**O**ne of the nicest occasions in the school year— a typical comment on St. Aidan's prize giving night held recently in the college.

Guest speaker was Mr. Eamonn Stack, Chief Inspector of the Dept. of Education and Science who commented on the 'inclusiveness and efficiency of the event'.



Parents, teachers and fellow students shared the pride of the prize winners whose moment in the spotlight was thoroughly deserved. The community award for

## AWARDS CEREMONY

this year was accepted by Fr. Alan O Leary, Dublin Hill on behalf of the priests who served the Blackpool parish since the college opened in 1983.

*St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork.*

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## ST. AIDAN'S GAINS ECDL ACCREDITATION

**S**t. Aidan's has become one of the first post primary schools in Cork to become an official test centre for the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL). The course is now being offered both in Fourth Year as part of the Transition Year program and also as a night class in which over fifty adults have enrolled thus allow-



ing community access to St. Aidan's ultra modern IT facilities at a reasonable cost. In the European Union it is estimated that some 60 million European workers should be competent in basic information technology (IT) skills. Most of these have had little IT training thus the workforce faces the largest ever challenge in adult education and retraining.

The ECDL addresses this challenge by defining a test of the competencies required to perform basic computer tasks and providing certification that is recognized

throughout Europe. It is fast becoming a standard of proficiency in Irish industry and has been adopted by numerous organizations. The course consists of seven modules, namely:

- ◆ Basic Concepts of IT
  - ◆ Using a Computer and Managing Files
  - ◆ Word Processing
  - ◆ Spreadsheets
  - ◆ Databases
  - ◆ Presentation/Drawing
  - ◆ Networks/Internet
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)



has now become an essential element of education. New technology is of vital importance to our national economy and is fast becoming an important medium for learning in all subject areas. New technologies are being constantly updated and it's no easy matter to keep schools equipped to current standards. Each year, St. Aidan's continues to make a significant investment in computer technology and is committed to providing ultra modern facilities capable of providing our students with a competitive edge towards a brighter future in this technological age.



**Visit our website:**

<http://ireland.iol.ie/~aidans/>

# ST. AIDAN'S EVENTS GUIDE

With over seven hundred students and over sixty teachers, the college is a hive of activity. Here's a snapshot of just some of the events that are on going.

AFC continues to go from strength to strength. Following impressive wins over Cobh and Thurles CBS The u-17 team were very unlucky



Members of St. Aidan's AFC with coach Mr. O Flynn

Things are in full swing on the **camogie** front, the college having four teams in training at present. A fine victory was achieved against Cashel in the Junior Colleges competition in December. Unfortunately the team was defeated by Ennis in the Munster Final. Things are also busy on the **basketball** front with four teams in competition. Our **hurling** club is presently experiencing a huge revival in interest and it's only a matter of time before the intensive training effort pays off. At present there are five teams in training. Following the outstanding achievements of the past two seasons **St. Aidan's**

to lose to Middleton in the Munster semi-final. The u 15s reached the quarter final of the Munster competition in which they were defeated by Thurles. The u13s were unlucky to go down to Mahon 2-1 in the first round of their competition. Our **Athletics** club have had some excellent performances so far this year. Timmy Murphy came second in both the South Munster and Munster Cross Country Championships. The team have qualified for the All Ireland Championships being held in early March in Co. Antrim. The team is Martin

Byrne(capt.), Timmy Murphy, Eric Skillington, David Buckley, David Dennehy, Paul O'Brien and Kevin Mc.Grath. The Minor boys team have also had some good performances and recently came fourth in the South Munster competition. A 12 hour **soccer marathon** organised by the pupils' council in December raised £2000 for St. Vincent de Paul. Congratulations to all involved for this admirable achievement. Following the success of this venture the Religion department hopes to run a third world awareness campaign in the Lenten season. Every Christmas the pupils' council organises a hamper collection for SVP and this year's proved to be the most successful to date with hundreds of pounds worth of goods being donated.

**Evening courses** are in full swing in the college at the moment. These include adult Leaving Certificate classes and Computers(ECDL)

**The Women's group** meet every Weds. Morn-

ing and various courses are on going. Congratulations and best wishes to our **Folk Group** (Pamela Mc. Sweeney, Deborah Linehan,Michelle Mc. Ill-wraith and Linda Buckley) and parent/teacher drama group both of whom have qualified for the county final of the **Scór** competition to be held shortly.

The college is now entering the final phase of **Comenius** – a project to foster European links in schools. The college is involved with schools in Scotland, Austria and Italy. A group of Scottish teachers visited the college in January.

The college hosted the **Examiner School Quiz** in December and the St. Aidan's team were unlucky not to qualify for the next round.

A number of trips to the **Gaeltacht** have been organised over the past year where students met with Maidhc Dainín Ó Sé—author of one of the present leaving certificate texts.



Members of the college music dept.