



# SOLAS

St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork,  
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## 'Bring Flowers of the Fairest'

Popularised in recent times by Gay Byrne, who played it on his radio programme year on year in May, the Canon Sidney McEwan rendition of this Marian hymn is still a great favourite in Ireland.

It reminds those amongst us of a certain age of May altars that brought life and colour to our classrooms and of May processions that, of course, took place in the always lovely weather of recollected youth.

More profoundly and more poignantly, perhaps, this moving hymn reminds us of times that, so far as we knew then, were simpler and, above all, more innocent in every way.

Nostalgia notwithstanding, there are, though, no golden ages. Rather must we work to make the Age in which Providence has set us as 'Golden' as it can be, for ourselves and for those in our care.

In this endeavour, we are ourselves, in a sense, both the material and the artists and we may work in the certainty that the Lord acts with and through us, with Mary, his Mother, Queen of the May, always there to say again "Do whatever he tells you" (cf. John, 2:5)

Beir bua agus beannacht!

*F. J. Steele, Principal, May 2003*

## LEAVING CERTIFICATE CLASS OF 2003 BÍODH BHUR SOLAS AG TAITHNEAMH

It is hard to believe that another year has passed and another Sixth Year group is about to leave us.

When I look at the present 6th Year pupils, it is difficult to remember the nervous and excited First Years who came to us all those years ago. In their place I see mature and responsible young adults ready to take on the world.

The Leaving Certificate is not an easy task. Many look forward to it, hoping to achieve their goals and ambitions. Many fear it and dread the pressure of exams. For all of the pupils in 6th Year, I feel credit must be given for the hard work and commitment needed to come this far and to take on the

challenge that the Leaving Certificate poses.

On behalf of the Sixth Year Pastoral team, Mr. Forde, Ms. Murphy and Ms. Queally, I would like to wish all of you the very best in the future. Bíodh bhur solas ag taitheamh.

*Ms. Dineen  
6th Year Tutor*

*Photo shows Leaving Certificate Class of 2003 pictured with Dr. Steele, Principal, Mr. John O' Brien, Deputy Principal, 6th Year Tutor, Ms. Dineen and 6th Year Class Tutors, Ms. Queally, Ms. Murphy and Mr. Forde.*





## ADULT EDUCATION

Many parents and adult members of the wider community have enjoyed a variety of courses and classes here in the college during this past year.

These have included Enneagram, Colourism, Interior Design, Family Communications, Gardening, Beginners Computers, ECDL, Food and Cookery, Conversational French, Mathematics and Leaving Certificate History.

Additionally, the Women's Group, which met every Wednesday morning, provided an excellent opportunity for meeting other parents for a chat over a cup of tea / coffee.

Congratulations to all adults who participated in any course over the past year and best wishes to the Leaving Certificate History class in their upcoming examination.

If you require details of proposed courses for the coming year please contact the college.

*Photo shows Leaving Certificate History class pictured with History teacher Mr. J. Cotter.*

## UCC Exam Revision Seminar

A group of Leaving Cert students took time out from their Easter Holidays in April to attend an Exam Revision seminar at UCC. The seminar provided expert advice on areas such as exam techniques, time management, procrastination, study planning and stress management. Some of the main tips given were as follows:

The whole point in having a study plan is to allow you to organise your study to get a lot

done in a concentrated period of time. Remember it's not necessarily how much time you spend studying, what's important is how effective that time actually is. Make a study plan which suits your schedule and stick rigidly to it.

For best results, set yourself SMART goals, ie. ones which are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timed. Ensure that you have a specific objective for each study period and that you review your progress regularly to ensure that you are keeping to your plan.

Avoid studying late at night - it's much more effective to study in the morning after a good night's sleep.

Whilst studying, take frequent breaks and exercise regularly to boost concentration levels. Make out a checklist of tasks to do for each subject and cross them off when completed. Finally, think positively at all times and try to relax on the day of the exam.

*Photo: 6th Year students Sean O' Flynn, Tom Neally, David Crowley and Paul O' Flynn.*



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Congratulations to all First Years who received commendations recently for their exceptional performance in assessments. Biodh bhur solas ag taitheamh.



## Aidan's Leads the Way in Computer Competence

Thirty-six students of the Leaving Cert class of 2002/2003 were recently presented with the ECDL, the internationally recognised certificate in Information Technology. This marks another highly successful year for St. Aidan's in the development of

computer competence. Five modules of the ECDL syllabus are covered as part of Transition Year with the remaining two being covered in Fifth Year. Students have the option of registering and completing the seven examinations.

Since 1998, over 350 people, comprised of 4th, 5th and 6th year students, along with members of the wider community, have successfully completed the ECDL. Additionally, in the past 2 years, over 40 employees of Cork County Council and over 20 members of the staff of the college have attained the ECDL at St Aidan's.

The co-ordinator of all aspects of the course is Mr J Buckley, Head of Computer Science. Please contact the college for details of upcoming courses.

*Photo shows 6th Year Students receiving their ECDL certificates pictured with Dr. Steele, Mr. Buckley and Ms. Queally.*



## Humourfit

Humourfit Theatre Company's annual visit occurred on March 12th. Each year the group delights us with dramas and skits and this visit was no exception. Their act was divided into three segments-two plays and one mime.

The first play depicted a disgruntled young girl confronting a guilt-ridden dealer who had inflicted the ravages of drugs upon her younger cousin. The second sketch was a thought-provoking portrayal of how an anorexic teenager fought to conceal her eating disorder from the people closest to her. The troupe finished with a satirical mime illustrating a boy's journey from the womb to that ever-



important first kiss!

The performance succeeded ingeniously in entertaining us whilst forcing us to ponder topical subjects. Overall, the visit was a huge success and we look forward to their return next year.

Photo (top) shows students enthralled with the performance and (bottom) 2nd Years pictured with the Humourfit Team.

*Jennifer Kenneally, Laura O' Regan,  
Class Benedict*



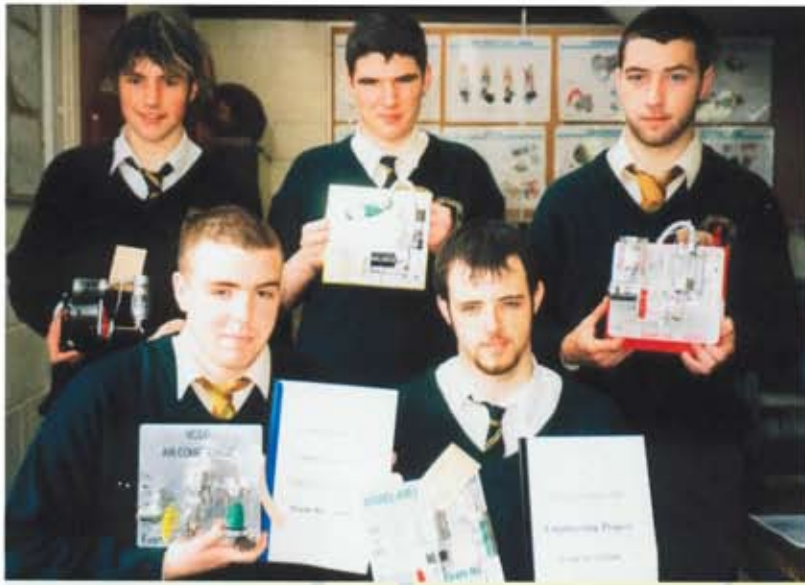
## Presidential Reflections

As President of the Students Council, I have represented the pupils of the school in all official functions over the past year, which have included the College Prize Giving Ceremony and our annual Civics Day, where local T.D.'s came and addressed the pupils and also participated in a questions-and-answers session. The day was a huge success and I was happy to be a part of it.

I, along with the two other presidential nominees, visited the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. John Kelleher, in his offices in the City Hall in October. I signed the visitor's book and was given an official tour. All in all, it was a hugely enjoyable year and I was very happy to represent you, the pupils of St. Aidan's.

*Eoin Cullinane, Class Daivi*





## PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Project work is an integral part of academic daily life in St. Aidan's. Many of the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate subjects are partly project based and, additionally, in Transition Year, most subjects involve the research and completion of a major project, in many cases on a topic chosen by the students themselves.

We offer our congratulations to Jennifer Kenneally, Class Benedict, overall winner of the Transition Year Project. Jennifer's project on Global Warming, was recorded on CD and presented as a PowerPoint presentation (see photos below). Here's how Jennifer concluded her research article.

## *Global Warming*

**By Jennifer Kenneally  
Fourth Year**



As I researched my project it became painfully evident that "Global Warming" is a major problem in today's world. It also became clear that, instead of addressing this problem, governments are much more inclined to bury their heads under a sea of legal documents and extended deadlines. The agreements in relation to "Global Warming" that have been signed to date are a step in the right direction. However, we have been "stepping" in the right direction for far too long.

I understand that it is difficult for people to become motivated in solving a problem whose long-term effects they will never see. I was shocked by the amount of people in my survey that said that they knew exactly how to solve the problem but still did not make any effort. In my opinion, it won't matter how many "Earth Summits" or meetings we hold if people remain unwilling to change bad habits for the sake of the environment. Like so many other conundrums that face society, the panacea lies in changing attitudes - not constitutions.

We place too much emphasis on frivolous concerns and ignore the things that really matter. The modern avant-garde socialite is far more vexed with obtaining the latest "Manolo Blahniks" than with energy efficiency or preserving fossil fuels. Perhaps it is time for a new "age of enlightenment", except that, this time, we need to concentrate on environmental issues.

Our actions today will shape the world of tomorrow. Are flooding, drought, diseases and skin cancer really the legacy we wish to bequeath on our children?







## Poetic Tales

Congratulations to all the 2nd year English pupils on the production of their poetry collection "Poetic Tales". The booklet is beautifully illustrated by the pupils themselves. Here's a sample of their endeavours.

### A Limerick

There was a young girl from the Lee  
Who wanted to learn how to ski,  
So she went to Andorra,  
With her blind sister Nora,  
And they both ended up in a tree.  
*John Crean*



### Our Galaxy

Stars shoot past in streaks of light  
The fireworks in the night  
Mercury, Venus, the planet Mars  
Comets, moons, suns and stars  
Millions of speckles silver and white  
Twinkle and shimmer oh so bright  
I watch and wonder and realise  
The true reality of our size  
God made this galaxy to delight  
So take the time to see the night  
*Sarah Kelleher*

### The Stars

Thousands of miles up high  
Little lights flickering in the sky  
Shining down their light on earth  
It makes me think about what goes on  
When the moon and the stars are gone  
Where the stars are where they go  
I guess I'll never know  
*Kieran Hourihan*

### The Sun

The sun that's so round and yellow  
That shines so brightly in the sky  
Like the sun rising in the morning  
Like a little orange in the hand  
It makes me feel like waking up  
Like the great big yellow sun  
That's so round and yellow  
That shines until tomorrow  
*Christina Mc Carthy*

### The Ocean in Motion

I watch the ocean from the shore  
I wonder how much more I could adore  
The waves that splash  
That go by in a dash  
And along the bay they crash.  
Fish, sharks, dolphins and whales  
The great boats with their sails  
Merrily drifting across the sea  
Floating calmly  
I wish it could be me  
*Brian O Connor*

## PROJECT PHOTOS

Far Left 6th Year Engineering pupils with projects.  
Design of an Air Compressor - by Tom Neally, Class Beinean.  
Bernard Curtin and Mark Linehan preparing for Music practical.  
Centre(top): Jennifer Kenneally's CD project.  
(Bottom) Jennifer presenting her project on Power Point  
Right: 3rd Year Materials Technology Wood students with projects.  
Lucia Hallahan, Roy Costelloe, Maeve Horan, and Amanda Long display their Junior Cert Art projects.  
Middle - Wildlife scene by Maeve Horan.  
3rd Year Home Economics pupils display their projects.  
Donal Ryan displays his project which marks the Special Olympics  
Right: First Year Science students with teacher Ms. Healy take a Biology lesson in 'the great outdoors'.





## ALTRUISTIC AIDAN'S

On the 13th-14th of March pupils of St. Aidan's held a 24-hour fast in aid of the poverty stricken residents of Manta, Ecuador, and raised 4600 euros.

Father Ted Sheehan, a missionary priest working in the region, visited several classes to thank us for our fundraising efforts. He outlined the crippling hardships and appalling living conditions faced by our parishioners and explained how our donations will help to save lives.

His depictions of life in Ecuador were both horrifying and heartwarming as he told tales of communities uniting against extraordinary odds to create better futures for their children. His words left a lasting impression on all of us and we wish him luck in his final year in Manta.

In this past year alone staff and pupils of St. Aidan's have raised over 9000 euros in aid of this worthy cause. Well done to all who have been involved in any way.

Photos: Mr. C O' Brien presenting a cheque to Fr. Sheehan (top). Residents of Manta at a medical centre receiving aid supplies (bottom).

*Jennifer Keneally, Laura O Regan*



## GOLD MEDAL DIPLOMA FOR KAREN

Congratulations to Karen McCarthy (Class Aine, 5th Year) on achieving a Gold Medal Diploma from the Victoria College of Music in London. Karen has studied Speech and Drama since Junior Infants. The hard work

and dedication of the last 13 years have paid off handsomely and Karen is now a qualified Speech and Drama Teacher.

Well done  
Karen.



## In Memory of Colin

On behalf of all at St. Aidan's, we extend our deepest sympathies to our colleague Christy Kelleher and to his wife and family on the death of Colin. Colin, a past pupil of the college, completed his Leaving Certificate in 1999.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam*

## Meitheal 2003 - Training in Leadership

Congratulations to Janice Ahern, Nigel Chan, Ciara Davis, Jill Dineen, Jennifer Keneally, Helena Kiely, Ian O Driscoll, Laura O' Regan and Bryan Wrenn for successfully gaining places on the Meitheal Mentoring Training Programme 2003.

Meitheal is a programme that trains students to act as mentors for First Year students for a year. The Meitheal Team from the Redemptorist Order in the Scala Community came to the school recently to hold interviews and to select for the training programme. The successful candidates will now join teams from other schools in Scala for training in leadership. There will be refresher-training days before and during the coming school year.

The team will be supported by Miss Scanlon, First Year Tutor and Ms. Pauline Hyde, Co-Ordinator, School Completion Programme.

*Photo shows Meitheal Trainees accompanied by Ms. Hyde.*





## Ecology Field Trip

On 29th April the 6th Year Biology Class went to Fota for an Ecology Trip, to learn about the techniques of ecological fieldwork and also about the wildlife found in a typical Irish Woodland. The day started in an interesting manner when the train from Cork to Fota magically turned itself into a bus! This was due to ongoing work on the rail line. The day became more interesting when it transpired that one of the Education Officers in Fota was sick, so we had to join another group for the day, namely, the 75 pupils from Loretto Fermoy! However, our boys, Michael, Damian, Paul, Jason and Colin, didn't mind as this gave a female to male ratio of 15 to 1!!

The first half of the day was given over to

a class on the theory part of the course, where topics such as animal competition, colouration and camouflage were covered. The practical aspects and techniques were covered in the woodland after lunch. It is a wonderful sight to see students display their natural hunting instincts in the struggle to capture woodlice, spiders, hoverflies and beetles. Decked out in hard hats, wellies and interesting camouflage clothing some of the Fermoy group had come especially prepared and everybody got on well, with the 'Famous Five' spending quite a while explaining theoretical ecology to some of the girls present. All in all, it proved to be an enjoyable and educational day.

*Photo: Laura Whelan, Laura O' Sullivan, Marie Ryan and Lisa Bulman take time out for a photo*



## TRABOLGAN TRIP

This year, an attendance competition was organised for all 1st year and 2nd year classes which required great commitment in attempting to achieve full attendance for the year.

The winning class from 1st year, Class Cainteach, along with 1st and 2nd year pupils who had full attendance, were rewarded with a trip to Trabolgan in early May. We participated in various activities, such as climbing, aeroball, swimming, crazy golf and orienteering. In all, 45 students travelled to Trabolgan and enjoyed a fantastic day out. We will have many fond memories of the day and high hopes of returning again. Many thanks to the teachers who generously gave up their time to accompany us on the trip.

*Amy Bowen Comer, Elaine O'Riordan. (Class Cainteach)*



## PHOTOS

Trabolgan trip pupils enjoying their day.

Right: Past Pupil Ms. Cliona Hegarty pictured with Transition Year Physics students. We wish Ms. Hegarty all the best in her future career and congratulate her on excellent teaching while completing her H. Dip in Education here in St. Aidan's.

Bottom Left: Cork senior footballer Brendan Jerh O' Sullivan pictured with Laura Whelan and Rhonda Dillane on his recent visit to the college.

Bottom right: Spraoi agus craic ag an gCeili.





# Blackpool Credit Union Limited



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