



# SOLAS

St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork,  
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Tel: 021-4309598 Fax: 021-4303274 Email: aidanscork@eircom.net www: <http://homepage.tinet.ie/staidans>

LEAVING CERT CLASS OF 2005 BIODH BHUR SOLAS AG TAITNEAMH



## A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As once again we draw near to the end of another school year it is time to reflect on and celebrate an excellent year at St Aidan's. I am constantly drawn back to the motto of our school "bíodh bhur solas ag taitneamh" - let your light shine because this epitomises the ethos and spirit of our school. It is reflected in our examination results, in our sporting achievements, in our musical endeavours and in our involvement in the local community. The pages of this magazine bear testimony to the wonderful work that has taken place in St. Aidan's during the year. Our theme for the school year has been INVOLVEMENT; involvement in our studies, in our sporting tradition, in our culture and in our community.

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## Expanding Horizons at Aidan's

It has been said that one will never discover new horizons if one is afraid to lose sight of the shore and this past year has truly been a time of expanding horizons at St. Aidan's with no less than three international tours taking place thus far in 2005. Additionally, to further emphasise Ireland's European connection, this year our staff was joined by two members from overseas.

The first of the school tours involved fifty-one First and Second Year students who travelled to France in February. Paris in the Springtime was truly a sight to behold and the trip involved visits to all of the city's attractions including the Eiffel Tower, The Champs Elysees, The Louvre, The Cathedral of Notre Dame, Disneyland and even a night time boat trip on the Seine. For many of the students this was their first trip abroad and, judging by their reactions on arriving home, it will not be their last.

In April a group of Fourth Year students made a trip, again to Paris, and, again, all found the experience truly memorable. In the same month a group of twenty students -all members of the college's girls

basketball club- travelled to Wales where they participated in an outdoor activities weekend. Since September we have enjoyed the company of Jeff Smyth, a research student from the University of Hull, U.K. who was undertaking a study on comparisons between the Irish and English education systems. Jeff's participation in college life was remarkable and he became extremely popular with many of the students.

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PHOTO: Left: Amanda & Keara at the Louvre



## MR. LIAM FRENCH AN APPRECIATION

The late Mr. Liam French was associated with St. Aidan's Community College from its very inception. He was a member of the first Board of Management and was originally nominated for membership by Bishop Michael Murphy, on the recommendation of Fr. William Dineen, then Parish Priest of the Parish of Blackpool/The Glen. This was Mr. French's own parish. He was deeply involved in a variety of activities, including, in particular, the Blackpool Community Services Centre.

At the time of his first nomination to the Board in 1983, Mr. French had recently retired as CEO of the Cork Harbour Commissioners. In that position, he had played a central role in the development of the Port of Cork. He brought, therefore, to the Board a wealth of managerial and administrative experience and it was in the light of this that his fellow-members on the Board repeatedly elected him their Chair.

The son and brother of Lords Mayor of the City of Cork, Mr. French was passionately

committed to the city. He was proud of the people from whom he sprang and was delighted to assist the College in every way to challenge and help the pupils - his neighbours' children and grand-children - deliver their best in every facet of school activity. He had himself made the most of his talents and his opportunities and was most anxious that St. Aidan's would guide the young people of the locality to do likewise.

Mr. French believed strongly that people should be empowered and facilitated to take charge of, and responsibility for, their own affairs. He was, therefore, a very strong advocate and defender of the role of the Board of Management, in general, and, in particular, of the role of parents and teachers there-on. He was always ready, especially in his time as Chair, to remind Diocese and Committee alike of the right and duty of the Board to manage the school and of their corresponding obligation to let the Board do precisely that. In this respect, Mr. French helped enlarge people's understanding of the Board of Management of a designated community college such as St. Aidan's. He was a rock of sense and strength to those appointed to lead

the college community, not least when, for whatever reason, the clouds gathered temporarily around the Board and/or the College. Mr. French was a man of exceptional integrity and honesty. He thought before he spoke and, when he spoke, he told it as it was. He was a man of very deep religious faith, who lived that faith in every aspect of his life, including in his long relationship with St. Aidan's. Muintir Aodáin, the entire family of St. Aidan's, is in his debt. Go gcúiti Dia leis a shaothar linn. Leaba i measc na naomh go raibh aige.

*Dr. F.J. Steele*

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Also this past year we have been joined by Ms. Elise Hardy, a French university student who joined the college's French department as a Teaching Assistant. Elise played a full and active role in improving our students appreciation of the language and culture of France. So, all in all, a busy year on the international front for Muintir Aodáin- the expanding community of teaching and learning that is St. Aidan's.



## FIRST YEARS 2004-2005

September got off to a flying start when a new bunch of fledgling First Years joined us- having made the successful transition from primary to secondary school. A coffee morning/awards ceremony was held for parents of First Years to recognise their children's achievements in subject areas. The first term to Christmas flew by and many of the students contributed to the St. Vincent de Paul Soccer Marathon both by raising money and taking part on the day.

Excitement levels were reaching new heights with the imminent school tour to Paris which proved to be an amazing adventure for many of our First Years. Although there have been many extra curricular activities the students were all the time diligently working to achieve high results. As a result, many students were presented with certificates of commendation and 'Student of the Week' awards. A selection of our First Year students were also nominated for Awards Night to recognise their achievements and efforts so far during their short time at St. Aidan's.

We, the First Year Tutors, would like to wish them well in the next five years and hope their enthusiasm rewards them with the success they deserve.

## Attendance Competition Winners

Class Aoife, and students with perfect attendance from class Aine and class Aodan, went to Trabolgan in late May. We set off after assembly and arrived there at ten o'clock. We then went to the sports hall where we played soccer and a short game of basketball, which had us all gasping for breath. We had a short walk to the Crazy Golf course where there were eight challenges. The playground was a lot of fun. There were swings, climbing frames, slides and spinning seats. Orienteering was next where the fastest team to navigate their way around Trabolgan were rewarded with ice-cream. After lunch, the arcade proved to be a popular choice. Then the swimming pool where there were waves galore and the slide. We were all very tired on the way home but had spent a great day in Trabolgan.

*M. Foley, Class Aoife*







## Aidan's Past Pupils Begin Teaching Careers

As part of the Higher Diploma in Education course at UCC students have to teach a number of classes in a secondary school as well as attend various lectures throughout the academic year. September 2004 saw us return to St. Aidan's to begin our careers as teachers.

As past pupils of St. Aidan's we were well aware of its methods, organisation and policies. We thought it would be best to practice our craft in familiar surroundings and we looked forward to coming back to a place that had given us such fond memories. We also realised that, as beginning teachers, we were a long way from being skilled tutors and were, therefore, in need of some guidance.

Returning to St. Aidan's allowed us to meet up with many of our former teachers. They were surprised and delighted to see us back and stressed that, if at any stage we needed help with anything, we were to call on them for assistance.

Teaching classes of up to thirty students for the first time has been daunting but also a very rewarding experience. We realise that you do not learn how to teach children from a textbook alone. The school gives us the opportunity as teachers starting out to gain first hand knowledge of the children we teach and St. Aidan's has given us this opportunity. We would like to thank the Principal, Mr. Ahern, our mentor, Fr. Shem and the rest of the staff of St. Aidan's for their help throughout the year.

*Caroline Crean, Peter James Coughlan & Mark Cronin.*

## Humourfit presents "The Bully Brady"

On Monday the 9th of May students were transfixed as the talented and successful script writer, actor and director of Humourfit, Michael O'Sullivan presented an astonishing one man performance. Not only was it informative, interesting, humorous and entertaining it also made the audience see the true effects of bullying.

Capturing the perspective of both the bully and the victim, Michael's performance as both showed that it is easy to be victim and bully simultaneously. This goes horrifically unrecognized in an everyday situation. Johnny (bully) made Peter's (victim) life hell and made him feel inferior. But, eventually, Peter builds up the courage to stand up to Johnny. Michael makes this solo piece a realistic drama and emphasizes that there are no fairytale endings in real life. Peter finally finds friends but still has to live everyday in fear of having to face up to that bully again.

Following the astonishing solo performance, to wind down the day, Michael produced a hilarious mime. This included a portrayal of a typical Friday in the life of a teenager at school. He also included a mime of a fluke goal scored by Arsenal against Manchester United. The comical expressions on Michael's face during the mime are what made the show most entertaining.

Once this amazing performance ended everyone left with one thing etched in their minds the unbelievable fact that bullies can be victims and victims can be bullies.

*Sarah Murray and Lena Hayes*



PHOTOS: This Page

Above: Past pupils currently completing their H.Dip

Above: Michael O'Sullivan presenting Humourfit.

Below Left: The Guckians with Dr. Steele at Awards Night.

Below Right: Annual Awards Ceremony

Opposite Page

Centre: First Year Group

Bottom: Attendance Competition winners at Trabolgan

## Annual Solas Awards Ceremony: The Dr. Steele Community Award



I first heard this man's name mentioned by Fr. James at mass over two years ago before I became Principal. It was in relation to storing ice cream for the HB Ice Cream Day in aid of Downs Syndrome Ireland, a charity very close to my own heart. Since then I have heard his name mentioned in many conversations in various parts of the city and the context has always been that of "giving". He has been a tremendous support to us at St. Aidan's and when the Awards Committee met at the school to decide on nominations for the community award the unanimous verdict was that of Decky Guckian.

Our most difficult task was getting him to attend the ceremony, because he is a man who shuns the limelight, yet so many organisations benefit from his family's generosity.

We at St. Aidan's would sincerely like to thank Decky and the Guckian family for their support to St. Aidan's. Mile buiochas.

*Mr. L. Ahern, Principal*





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However none of this would be possible without the commitment of the students and also the commitment of a very dedicated staff who give so freely of their time both during and after school. As a staff we believe in the development of the whole child and seek to develop the various talents they have, whether they be academic, musical or sporting.

Our success in this locality is reflected in the fact that we have 110 students enrolled in first year 2005. My thanks to the parents who have entrusted their children's education to St. Aidan's. I welcome our incoming First Years who are about to embark on their second level education and also to the thirty students transferring to St. Aidan's from Farranferries College. It is great to have you with us.

My thoughts also go to our students sitting the state examinations and, in particular, to the Leaving Certificate classes of 2005, many of whom have been together since Junior Infants. For them it is a time both of challenge and of change. It is our hope at St. Aidan's that we have suitably prepared these students for the transition from school to the wider world. Our best wishes go with them for the future.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff of our local primary school for their support, our parent's council who work so hard for the school, Fr. James & Fr. Vincent, the parents and, in particular, you, the students, who make St. Aidan's the community that it is.

*Mr. L. Ahern, Principal, May 2005*



PHOTOS. Above: Cork North Central T.D.s at the annual Civic Day. Below Left: Cookery Demonstration. Below: Jeff Smyth

## Home School Community Liasion

**M**y name is Joe Cotter and I am the Home School Co-ordinator here in St. Aidan's. The main aim of my job is, firstly, to help to develop parents as the prime educators in their child's life and, secondly, to develop parent-teacher relationships so that the school becomes a place where all young people can reach their potential. Basically my work is focused around the following tasks:

**Home Visitation:** which helps to build trust between home and school and identifies and responds to the learning and leisure needs of parents.

**Setting up of Local Committee:** The purpose of the Local Committee is to identify school-related issues at community level that impact on learning.

**Facilitating Parents Visiting Parents:** Policies drawn up by parents and teachers are explained and concerns in relation to homework, punctuality, uniform and books are worked through.

**Running Educational and Leisure Courses:** e.g., Adult Leaving Certificate English; FETAC Level 1 Computers and Kinesiology.

**Involvement in Transfer Programmes** between primary and secondary school.

**Developing Programmes:** e.g., Maths for Fun and Literacy.

**Networking:** of various statutory and voluntary bodies.

St. Aidan's is very fortunate to have its own Parents' Room where parents are very welcome to drop in to have a chat or to avail of our occasional courses. If you want to find out more about these services, please do call in or ring me at 021 4309598.

## St Aidan's Parents Association

**T**he summer holidays are near and we have come to the end of another year. The Parents Executive met monthly over the past year and the Council met every two months. We discussed issues concerning the parents and voiced our opinions when we needed to. We organised fundraising events to raise money for the school library. We had bag packing in Dunnes Stores, Blackpool, which involved pupils from the school. We held a Cookery Demonstration in the school on Thursday 19th May and it was an excellent night of fun and laughter. A lot of hard work went into organising the event and thanks are due, particularly to Rose Lomasney for her input. The Parents Association are also getting involved in the committees set up by the school to introduce a health policy and critical incident policy.

I wish to thank all the parents who were involved in and worked on the Parents Executive and Council this year. We look forward to the new year and especially to new parents joining the association at our A.G.M.

*Patricia Sabhani (Chairperson)*

## Jeff's Farewell

**W**ell what an exciting and personally rewarding year it has turned out to be! Little did I know when I turned up on the first day of the new school year in St. Aidan's that it would prove to be such an enjoyable and hospitable environment to work in. For someone like myself, who had only recently completed a year working in a large school in England, it came as something of a culture shock, and a huge surprise, to discover how friendly everyone was to me, with everyone displaying a genuine interest and keen curiosity about my reasons for spending an extended period of time in the school. I found it such a welcoming contrast that both staff and students of St. Aidan's were confident enough to talk freely to me in a completely frank and open manner, and many were unusually articulate in expressing their appreciation of what makes St. Aidan's special, although some also sought me out to inform me about their particular pet hates in school. But, in all



cases, everyone was incredibly helpful and supportive and were only too willing to respond to stupid questions put by a complete stranger with a funny accent! Spending a year away from home could have easily have turned into a very isolating experience, as the physical separation from family and friends leaves a gaping hole in one's personal life. But my sojourn at St. Aidan's in Cork has been massively affected in an entirely positive way by the patient good humour of the student population, and the immense kindness and generosity shown by the staff, both giving selflessly of their own time, and going out of their way to make me feel part of the school community. I return to England with some wonderful memories of my time at St. Aidan's and a lasting fondness for the young people who attend the school. Oh!, and if you were one of those who inquired which was the best school I had worked in, yes, St. Aidan's is definitely the best!

*Jeff Smyth returned to Hull, UK in May to complete his doctoral thesis on comparisons between the Irish and English systems of Education at Second Level.*



# GRADUATION 2005



## Leaving Certificate Class of 2005

The time has come to say farewell to our Sixth Year students. It is hard to believe that six years have passed since we first met and now they have grown from nervous First Years to mature responsible adults.

I must give each and every one of them credit for their hard work and dedication especially during this past year.

On behalf of the Sixth Year Tutors Ms. Henegan O' Sullivan, Ms. Cotter and Mr. Doyle I would like to wish each and every one well both in their forthcoming examinations and in the future.

*Ms. M. Kingston - 6th Year Tutor*



### PHOTOS

Leaving Certificate Classes of 2005 pictured with Mr. L.Ahern-Principal, Mr. J.O'Brien-Deputy Principal, Ms M.Kingston -Year Head, Fr. Shem Furlong - College Chaplain, Ms K. Cotter, Ms. M. Heneghan O'Sullivan & Mr. J. Doyle - 6th Year Class Tutors.

## Music Marathon

Following the success of last year's Music Marathon this popular event was again hosted this year. The event took place on Wednesday 25th May and entertainment of the highest calibre was provided by the college's many musicians and singers. All proceeds went towards the further development of St. Aidan's Music Club and all your support was very much appreciated.

*Ms. N. Mc Donnell*



## Final Reflections

I remember coming into the school in First Year, young, immature and everyone was a stranger. Everyday became a new challenge. Without the help of teachers and new found friends, where would we be? We certainly wouldn't be preparing for an agonisingly close Leaving Cert in a couple of weeks time. So much learning, so little time! Most of us can't wait to be gone but, then again, most of us have enjoyed our time here. From co-curricular to sporting achievements, in our six years here we have grown and excelled in individual areas. What have we gained?, a greater knowledge, a maturity brought through

years of respect and fairness, yes, all this and more. And by 'more' I mean the individuals - those we've met along the way. From classmates to teachers, and our principals. All of this combined to ensure that, when this school is long forgotten by my classmates and I, funny moments and kind-hearted people will still echo within our consciousness and for that we are grateful - and I'm not even mentioning the education! Teachers and others involved have helped and watched us grow from immature and childish First Years to.... slightly less immature and childish Sixth Years ready for the outside world.

*Conor Meldrum, Class Agata.*



## Second Years Explore Cork

We went on a number of trips during the year. On the first trip we went to the Mardyke Arena to climb the climbing wall and we also played soccer. It was a great way of getting to know each other in the class. We also went

to Collins' Barracks, where the sergeant showed us photographs of Tom Barret's funeral. Tom Barret was my friend Dayne's Uncle. He was killed in the Lebanon. We also went to Luigi Malone's restaurant. We also had a tour of the Women's Jail.

*Damien O'Donovan (Class Carthach)*



## Transition Year 2004-2005 Classes: Ailbhe, Barra & Eanna

Transition Year is typically seen as an easy year for students who, supposedly, spend the year doing very little, having studied diligently for the Junior Certificate. However here in St. Aidan's our teachers made certain that Fourth Year has been far from dull.

Although I had my reservations about Fourth year at first, in retrospect I feel that it was simply a wonderful opportunity to broaden my

horizons in both an academic and recreational manner.

Students all recognise and appreciate the boundless energy and enthusiasm displayed by our teachers. We thank them for helping us reap as many benefits as is possible from fourth year. The Fourth Year programme has given students a wealth of experiences and knowledge that cannot just be taught in the

classroom e.g. First aid, ECDL and Self Defence while also preparing for the Leaving Certificate in the respective subject classes.

On behalf of the fourth year classes I'd like to thank the staff of St. Aidans and especially Mr. Cremin (Transition Year Co-ordinator) for making transition year such a thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile experience.

*Fiona Crowe, Class Barra.*



Law and order broke down in St. Aidan's when students participated in the **Public Access to Law** course and held a mock trial! Thankfully the culprit - a.k.a Derek O'Toole wasn't sent to jail!

In April eight Fourth Years who will form the school's **Meitheal** team next year spent four days of learning through fun, leadership building activities in Scala, Bessboro, Blackrock in order to learn how to be of help

ing as it gave students a hands-on experience of the trials and tribulations of life at third level. As a **Transition Year Project** Ms. Hickey's French room was redecorated by class Barra who painted it a vibrant blue, white, red. Vive la France! Under the excellent tutelage of Mr. Buckley, Fourth Years have been studying for the **ECDL** (European Computers Driving Licence) and have become very proficient in the use of comput-



with incoming First Years. Meitheal involves fostering a nurturing and friendly environment for those in the school community. **Self Defence** instructor Pat Barry shared his expertise in self-defence and self-awareness. Six students had the opportunity to run an **AIB Bank School Branch**, the aim being to encourage students to save a little! Ten students spent a week in October attending lectures in **C.I.T.** The event was highly reward-

er programmes. **Department Day** was a boy free zone day when girls from Fourth Year discussed beauty routines and deportment with the lovely Claire Cullinane. Chemistry students paid a visit to the **Pfizer** factory in Ringaskiddy with Ms. Healy and Ms. Hughes to get an inside look at the pharmaceutical industry. Pfizer's were very welcoming even providing their visitors with a lovely lunch.

Students got a real adrenaline rush when they spent a day in October trying out exciting activities such as abseiling and body boarding in the **Kinsale Outdoor Educational Centre**. In March two Fourth Year students represented St. Aidan's in the **Model United Nations Conference** in U.C.C. debating the complex issue of nuclear proliferation. It was a day of thrills and spills when Ms. Hughes' **Health and Fitness** class tried their hands at ice skating at **Fota on Ice** with few managing to stay on their feet for long! Home Economics classes recently had to the opportunity to see life through the eyes of a working chef when they visited the kitchens in the **Cope Foundation** for a lovely lunch.

Fourth Years had the trivia books out during the year in preparation for both St. Angela's annual charity **Table Quiz** and also the **Scór** competition. At this year's awards night class **Barra** won the much-coveted best class award. Well done! Classes availed of the recent opportunity to participate in a **First Aid** course courtesy of St. John's Ambulance. This was a tremendous success. Fourth Years spent a couple of days this year acting as stewards in **Paire Uí Rinn** performing tasks such as managing the score boards and selling programmes. A drama group came to St. Aidan's and helped students with their **Career Choices** in a very entertaining and enjoyable manner.

Fourth Years took part in a one day **Drive For Life** course on safety on the roads. They even had the opportunity to take the driver theory test, all they need now are their licences! A group of 4th Years spent the day in town collecting for a very worthy cause, the **Schizophrenia Ireland Foundation Annual Flag Day** (A total of 2128 euro was raised by St. Aidan's students). Two guest speakers from the Cork branch of **Mna Feasa** gave a thought provoking talk about domestic abuse and violence in the home. Many students availed of the **Fás Safe Pass** course and found it very practical. They are now entitled to work on any building or industrial site during the summer holidays. Students spent the two weeks prior to Easter on **Work Experience** and had the chance to gain insight into the careers they may like to pursue after school.





## Transition Year Work Experience

My name is Fiona Crowe and I recently completed a valuable work experience placement in the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre in U.C.C. Whilst there I got a hands-on opportunity to see and experience life as a scientist.

I spent my first week with postgraduates in a microbiology laboratory. To my surprise I learned that, contrary to my expectation of a cold room where scientists worked in solitude, I instead found that there were lots of people coming in and going out during the day and there was a lot of teamwork between the scientists.

During the week I learned about various processes like polymerase chain reaction (PCR) which is used to replicate a certain segment of DNA from bacteria such as E.Coli. Those in the laboratory were very patient in explaining the uses of electrophoresis gels and important practical work with the centrifuge and the autoclave.

I subsequently spent three days with Dr. Shomik in the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre where I learned about the important role bacteria have in relation to the digestive system. I even had the chance to grow my own sample of E.Coli! I was particularly interested in the research carried out in the A.P.C. as they attempt to find solutions to now common ailments such as Irritable Bowel Syndrome and Crohn's disease.

One of the most important things I learned was that science isn't always about brilliant breakthroughs but takes patience in preparing and later re-checking experiments as well as carrying out tedious tasks such as putting pipette tips boxes!

Overall, the experience gave me a great insight into scientific research as well as information and practical knowledge which I'm certain will stand to me when studying for the Leaving Certificate. The work experience programme confirmed for me that I would like to pursue a career in science and I am very grateful for the opportunity and the kindness shown to me by everyone I met.

*Fiona Crowe, Class Barra.*



I carried out my work experience at a local surveying firm. Land surveying is quite a detailed job. It involves a combination of computer skills and an interest in engineering. As a surveyor, you take the measurements of contour lines of a certain space and then place them back on a computer, where you design a map of that space. These designs are then sent to an architect who in turn designs a structure from that map. It is then sent back to the surveyor who checks everything before sending it off to the builders.

*Ivan Lomasney, Class Barra.*

My work experience was varied as I worked both in a solicitors and auctioneers office and in a Garda station. The work ranged from interesting to down right boring. The variety of work helped me focus my career sights more clearly. I found that participating actively in the work experience made it much more interesting and the time passed very quickly. My overall experience was positive and I look forward to taking my place in the workforce at a future date.

*Sarah Kelleher, Class Ailbhe*



### PHOTOS This Page

Above: Fioma Crowe during her work experience  
Left: Students receive their First Aid Certs.  
Below: Class Barra during Self Defence class  
Opposite Page  
Above: Class Barra  
Centre: Class Eanna  
Below: Class Ailbhe



## Successful Banking

Congratulations to Transition Year students Sarah Kelleher, Ivan Lomasney, Patrick Harris, Sarah Grainge, Michael O'Halloran and Melissa Gould on their suc-

cess in the **AIB Build a Bank Challenge**. The students were interviewed by AIB bank officials early in September and were selected to set up and run a school bank at St. Aidan's Community College. The stu-

dents will be rewarded for their efforts at a prize giving ceremony to be held on Thursday 26th May at the Carrigaline Court Hotel. Well done on your effort and hard work!

## Fourth Year Subject Choice

Students study the core subjects Irish, English, French, Maths and R.E. for the full year but options subjects are studied in modules to allow students get a flavour of different subject areas and thus a make better informed choice of subjects to be taken for the Leaving Certificate. History, Geography and Career Guidance classes are each taken for ten weeks. Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Health and Fitness modules are each taken for eight weeks.



# SCHOOLS TOURS-2005



## Junior Tour To Paris

Fifty-one students and nine teachers left Cork for Paris on a Thursday in late February, the highlight of the first day had to be the Eiffel Tower. Everyone braved the freezing conditions to explore the Parisian Landmark and all enjoyed the snowball fight before heading for Disneyland where Space Mountain proved very popular. The ride along the Seine was a relaxing way to end the evening. Saturday was another day packed full of activities with visits to the

Cite de Sciences, Notre Dame, the Arc De Triomphe and the Grevin Wax Museum. The Aquaboulevard surely will be remembered by everyone.

Sunday morning, before heading for the airport, we made our way to the Louvre to view, among other artistic masterpieces, the Mona Lisa. The group arrived back in Cork on Sunday with everyone feeling totally exhausted yet immensely enriched by their visit to Paris-one of the truly great cities of the world.

*Mr.C. O'Brien*



## Transition Year Trip to Paris

Thirty-three bleary-eyed students along with three teachers departed from the school gates at 6am on a very wet Sunday morning, May 1st destined for Paris. Just a few hours later we were sitting in the hot sunshine in Jardin Des Tuilleries, a famous park at one end of the Champs Elysees. Our trip started with a guided tour of Paris taking in all the highlights including the famous Eiffel Tower, the Arc De Triomphe, and the Notre Dame Cathedral. Our group enjoyed a wide range of activities throughout the five days such as a visit to the Stade de France and even managed to get into the French Team's Jacuzzi! Both students and teachers shopped til' they dropped at the Marché aux Puces, one of the biggest flea markets in Europe. Included amongst other activities undertaken were ice skating, where Miss Downey was seen performing pirouettes, a disco night in the hotel, where Miss Hickey taught some fancy dance-moves, and plenty of climbing in the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe and the Sacré Coeur Cathedrale. The students enjoyed the famous Parisian haute-cuisine in a selection of Flunch restaurants. Finally, a day of thrills was had in Disneyland Paris where students got to meet celebrities such as Mickey Mouse and Winnie the Pooh. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the students were a credit to St. Aidan's. *Ms. G.Hickey*







## Visit to Wales

As dawn was breaking, on Friday 29th of April, twenty bleary-eyed students and two teachers headed off for a five-day visit to Wales. After a mammoth 13 hour journey, which included a slightly rocky ferry crossing, we landed in the heart of the Welsh countryside. The students involved were the girls from the basketball teams who have been highly dedicated to both training and matches throughout the year. The dedication continued during this trip with each and every student being extremely enthusiastic and willing to take part in every activity that was asked of them. The stu-

dents, and also their teachers Ms Guile and Ms Scanlon, threw themselves into various adventure activities (literally in some cases!). These activities including raft building (or rather raft-sinking), archery, zip-wire, high trapeze, quad-biking, abseiling, five mile canoeing, climbing and a very muddy challenge course. After a very good meal at dinner time, the students were off again for more activities which included a fashion show and also a chance to show off some excellent Irish dancing. The girls were a credit to their school and a great time was had by all.

*Ms.N.Guile*



## WORLD CLASS: PAST PUPILS DO US PROUD

The community of St. Aidan's wishes to offer its congratulations to two of its past pupils who are scaling the peaks of academic success on a world scale. Margaret Steele is currently studying for her Doctorate in the US and Keith O' Donoghue will commence his Doctorate, also in the US, in September.

Margaret was a member of the Class of '98. She went on to study at UCC where she completed, first, her BA in English and Philosophy (2001), then - after a year off study, working with a venture capital company - her MA in Philosophy (2003). She is currently studying for her Doctorate in Philosophy, specialising in the area of Phenomenology. In January-June, 2005, she was on an exchange studentship in Boston College, USA. In Autumn, 2005, she moves to Marquette University, a Jesuit university in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, where she has been offered a Teaching Assistantship in the Department of Philosophy for the 2005-

2006 academic year.

Keith, a member of the class of 2000, is currently completing his Masters degree in Microelectronic Engineering in UCC having completed a Bachelors degree in Electronic Engineering there in 2004. He has been offered a research scholarship to complete his PhD at the University of California, Davis, USA with one of the world's leading analogue integrated circuit design groups.

Keith returned to St. Aidan's in May to present an inspiring lecture to students of the college's Physics and Music departments in which he spoke of his own time in the college and of his various musical involvements over the years. He also gave valuable advice on career choices, study skills in the lead up to the Leaving Certificate and future career opportunities. Thanks to the wonder of modern information and communications technology the students were taken on a virtual tour of Davis College, California.

Both Margaret and Keith have very positive memories of St. Aidan's and of the many good friends made there and both readily acknowledge that the training given them in their years on Dublin Hill is the bed-rock of their own learning and teaching.

*Photo shows Keith on his recent visit to the college pictured with Fourth Year Physics student Liam Deasy.*





# AIDAN'S SPORTS PAGES



## SPORTS DAY

On Wednesday the 11th of May, the day arrived for the eagerly awaited Sports Day- the 2nd! After the initial success of St Aidan's first Sports Day last year, the time had come to see if we could match it, and that is just what the students and staff did! Approximately 400 students from all year groups joined together to make 20 teams. Each team participated in a large number of activities including basketball, soccer, hockey, table tennis, high jump, javelin, shot putt and various track events. The weather was kind to us, and staff and students worked together to make it an enjoyable day. With sheer determination many students excelled themselves and broke a number of school records. A huge 'well done' to everyone involved.

*Ms. N. Guile, PE Teacher.*



## Hurling Success

The highlight of the year was a great victory in the U-16 competition. Inspired by a true 'Man of the Match' performance by Stephen McDonnell, this team fought right to the end of extra time to beat a very tough Nagle Community College side. The much sought after trophy was lifted following the speech by our victorious captain Derek Moylan.

*Mr. F.Savage*

### PHOTOS

This Page

Sports Day 2005

Opposite Page

Above: Boys & Girls Basketball Teams

Below: U-16 Soccer team & U-18 warm-up

## Boys Basketball Report

The boys basketball teams had a tremendous year as they captured four trophies in three different grades. The First Year team was victorious in two competitions as they claimed the League Plate and the U.E.C. Tournament. The panel of twenty three contained quality players such as Kevin O' Brien, Shane O' Connor, Graham Hosford, Colin O' Driscoll and Anthony Keniry. It was also wonderful to witness Jason Molina, Gerald Sproul and Kevin O' Brien going on to join Neptune Basketball club. If the team maintains the commitment and dedication to the sport, they will definitely triumph in many competitions in the future.

The under 16 team produced some magnificent basketball as they claimed the County Championship. It was a superb achievement considering that Stephen Mc Carthy was the only player to have played the game prior to the start of the season. Roy Crowley, Jonathan O' Donovan, Danny O' Connor and Kieran McEnergy learned extremely quickly as they displayed a tremendous flair for

the sport. Stephen McCarthy was also selected for the Cork team in which he played an integral role in the Inter-regional Competition. He is currently regarded as being one of the bright talents in Cork juvenile basketball.

The under 18's bounced back following their heartbreaking defeat to Mallow last year in the County Final by securing the V.E.C. Competition. This victory was especially sweet for their Coach Ms. Kelleher as she has been involved with the team for the last two years. Jason O' Donoghue was the star of the team, dominating the majority of games from the point-guard position. This was not, however, a one-man show as David O' Leary, Ivan Lomasney, Brain Moylan and Kieran Drennan were outstanding throughout the year.

The popularity of basketball is rapidly growing within the school and hopefully next year the teams will be able to build on the success they enjoyed this year.

*Mr. P.J.Coughlan*



## Girls Basketball

This year three teams qualified for County Finals in their respective competitions. These achievements must be attributed to the dedication and hard work of the players and their coaches. Many medals were brought home and all players should be proud of their achievements. Our Senior Girls brought home gold medals and the V.E.C Cup following a fantastic display of skill and commitment by this talented bunch of players. The Cadette girls also had a good season, reaching the final of the V.E.C Cup Competition. Congratulations must also go to our Junior team who qualified for the county final and who can look forward with optimism to next season.

On behalf of all the girls we would like to thank Ms. Scanlon and Ms. Guile for giving up their time to coach us. We would also like to congratulate Sinead Mullane and Therese McEnery who won the Setanta Sports Awards in recognition of their mesmerising skills, their commitment and their leadership during the season. Finally, we hope that next year will bring us as much joy and happiness as this year's experience.

*Maria Kelleher & Debbie O'Brien (5th Year)*



## Aidan's Soccer

St. Aidan's A.F.C had a very successful year in the 2004/2005 competition. In the Munster Competitions, the northside school entered at First Year, U-14, U-16, U17.5 and U18. The U-18 team got to the Munster semi-final before being beaten (1-0) in high winds by a dogged St. Flannans (Ennis) side. The U-16 team also got to the Munster semi-final, being overcome 2-1 by St Brendan's, Killarney in a thriller. The U-14 team got to yet another Munster semi-final, losing to a physically strong Thurles side, whilst the First Years didn't quite make it past the group stages, losing on goal difference.

In the Cork Cup, the U-18's recently lost the final (3-1) to a very strong Douglas side in Turners Cross. The U-14 team lost to

Presentation College in the quarter final recently.

Overall, it's been a long but rewarding year for the boys of Ballyvolane. The coach would like to thank the players for their, at times, abnormal dedication to training. In particular, the seven players who finished the "frog-jumping" drill in the freezing cold water from one length of Garretstown beach to the other last December 21st deserve a mention. Thanks also to the Principal and Deputy Principal, the entire staff, office and caretaking staff included, and the parents, all who have been very understanding throughout the year. A special thank-you also to Mr. Donal Warren for his excellent ability as assistant coach and Colin of Cork City who managed to find time for some organisational drills in his capacity as F.A.I. Development Officer.

*Mr. Liam O'Flynn.*



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# Blackpool Credit Union Limited



5 Gt. William O' Brien Street,  
Blackpool,  
Cork.

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Fax 353+(21) 4505606



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