

SOLAS



**St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork.
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Celebration of Excellence at Solas Awards 2011

Mr. Dan Collins, Academic Administration and Student Affairs Manager at Cork Institute of Technology was guest of honour at this year's Solas Awards ceremony which took place on May 25th. The ceremony, perhaps the most important event in the college calendar, celebrates students' success throughout the school year in academic life, on the playing field and for their involvement in various co-curricular activities.

Amongst the winners were Daniel Morrissey, Fifth Year, who received the Principal's Award and Cian O' Leary who won the award for Sixth Year Pupil of the Year.

Over one hundred students were nominated in various categories which included academic excellence, humanities and technology and the programme of events included various musical performances. The Dr. Steele Community Award was presented by Dr. Steele to Mr. Jimmy Daly, Principal of Scoil Oilibhéir who is retiring this year after twenty eight years of dedicated service to the community of Ballyvolane/Dublin Hill. Dr. Steele commended Mr. Daly on his outstanding service to the community, of his willingness to share his many talents and of his excellence in educational leadership. The audience expressed their heartfelt appreciation of the Scoil Oilibhéir Principal in a prolonged standing ovation. The school's Deputy Principal, Ms. Phil Burns, is also retiring shortly and Mr. Ahern thanked her for her contribution and presented her with a bouquet of flowers to mark the occasion.

[...see also p10-12](#)

Gardiner Opens State of the Art Gym

On Friday 13th of May, St. Aidan's Community College welcomed well respected Na Piarasigh and Cork Hurler, John Gardiner, to officially, open the newly installed state of the art Gymnasium in the school's P.E hall.

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Comhgairdeas Donna – Duais Uí Loinsigh

Bhuaigh Donna Ó Néill Duais Uí Loinsigh le déanaí. D'eagraigh Comhar na Múinteoirí Gaeilge i gCorcaigh an comórtas seo. Bhí ar na hiarrthóirí leabharharc as Gaeilge a dhearthú. Bhí an comórtas ar oscailt do dhaltá go dtí an Teastas Soisearach. Chuir 422 dalta isteach ar an gcomórtas. Roghnaigh na moltóirí 5 bhuaiteoirí.

Congratulations to Donna in Class Ciarán in First Year. She won the Lynch Prize for her beautiful bookmark in Irish. Donna, her parents and her teacher Miss Caffrey were invited to the Vienna Woods Hotel for the official presentation. Donna was one of 5 winners out of 422 entrants who received a prize on the night.

Maith thú a Dhonna!

Ms. Caffrey

A Word From The Principal

As another academic year draws to a close I would like to pay tribute to the students, staff and parents of St Aidan's. It has been another outstanding year in the life of the college. From our leaving certificate graduates heading off to various third level colleges throughout the country and abroad, to our TY student, Andrew Horgan, heading to China and from our students helping out in Lourdes to our young sports stars journeying to the United States to participate in the World Scholar Athletic Games, we pride ourselves on being a school that actively engages with the needs of our students in these challenging times. St

Aidan's is a diverse community which places a strong emphasis on the world community and allows each person to develop and express their own strengths and gifts. As a school we will always endeavour to bring out the best in our pupils and this edition of Solas reflects the success of St Aidan's in allowing our students, staff and parents to let their light shine.

Mr. L Ahern



Parents' Council News

On behalf of the Parents' Council I would like to thank all of our sponsors for donating all the wonderful prizes in our recent Easter raffle and to offer congratulations to all our winners. The monies raised from the raffle are ploughed back into our school. Over the months we have been able to purchase 5 new gas cookers for the domestic science room and we have been

able to upgrade and refurbish the demo room. Once again we thank you for your continued support, without which none of this valuable work would ever have been completed.

Have a good and safe summer holidays.

Valerie O'Connor, Chairperson



Aidan's Innovative Teaching & Learning



Teachers in St. Aidan's are continuously exploring ways to engage students and to meet their individual needs. This year a number of staff worked on a project run by Co Cork VEC, with Barrie Bennett, a well known Canadian professor of Education. Through this project the teachers examined the type of instructional

strategies that work best in their classrooms. Professor Bennett encourages all teachers to continue to build on their repertoire of instructional tools and to be aware of when it is best to integrate these tools and strategies in their work. Used on a school wide basis, this approach has a powerful, positive effect on student achievement.

In each of the past terms in St. Aidan's a training session for teachers in their subject departments looked to identify strategies, skills and tools that might best suit their subject area. Co-operative learning plays a big part in the work of Professor Bennett. Students, working together on tasks, develop life skills that are

necessary beyond the walls of the classroom. Co-operative learning allows students to think constructively, to solve problems creatively, to participate fully and to make responsible decisions. Working together co-operatively encourages the students to become more engaged in their own learning and less dependent on the teacher.

Being a more independent, engaged learner leads to better student achievement. This project will continue over the coming years in St. Aidan's and will help to ensure that the highest quality of teaching and learning is fostered in the college

Ms. M. Quane, Acting Deputy Principal

Wo Ai Shanghai!



Wo ai Shanghai!! This short Chinese sentence translates as “I love Shanghai”, and after spending two amazing weeks exploring the most populous city in China, I can honestly say, without a doubt in my mind, that I do love Shanghai.

Travelling, thanks to the Confucius Institute, I embarked on an incredible journey and, on the morning of 28th April, my heart soared as flight EI 723 departed from Irish soil.

In Shanghai, I, along with fourteen other students stayed at Yanchang Campus, one of three campuses attached to Shanghai University. We participated in informative, but also frequently entertaining, language and cultural lessons each day. We also experienced lessons in the Chinese art of calligraphy and attended enjoyable early morning Tai Chi classes.

Although the educational aspect of the trip was hugely insightful, the highlights of the fantastic trip were undoubtedly the many wonderful activities we took part in beyond the gates of the homely campus. One

noteworthy example from the numerous awe inspiring experiences was the unforgettable Hong Pu River Cruise.

Cruising along the tranquil river, we gazed wide eyed at the symbolic Pu Dong skyline and legendary Pearl Tower, gob-smacked by the glamour and magnitude of the dazzling city.

The beauty and serenity of the event allowed me to realise the enormity of the journey I had undertaken, and, for the first time while in Shanghai, I felt as if there was nowhere else in the world I would rather be. The fun didn't end there though.

Standing approximately 447.96 meters above ground, the Shanghai World Financial Centre Observatory is the highest of its kind. We Irish students were given the chance to visit the one hundredth floor of the magnificent structure from where we observed the astonishing cityscape.

Having seen the updated, modern side of the city, we felt a desire to embrace a slice of genuine Chinese culture, and to do so, we

paid a visit to two uniquely charming villages, Zhujiajiao, and Suzhou. Zhujiajiao, nicknamed the Venice of the East, consisted of narrow, cobbled streets and scenic river canals, while Suzhou prided itself on vibrant Chinese gardens. Both settings offered a taste of what traditional life in China was really like.

Speaking of taste, the group stooped to the embarrassing low of ordering McDonalds on a regular basis, (yes, Chinese MacDonald's deliver), due to lack of palatable food in Shanghai. Dishes of abnormal looking foods frequently found themselves to my dinner table, and, on one occasion, I had the pleasure of feasting my eyes upon a chicken's claw. Needless to say, I didn't gain any unwanted weight on this particular trip.

I'll never forget those two weeks in Shanghai. I'll never forget the great friends I made in the process, and the great times we shared together. In the meantime, my mission is to find a way of getting back there.

**Andrew Horgan TY,
Class Cliona**

Confucius Institute Collaboration

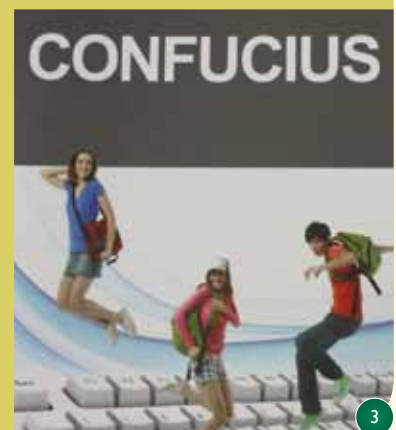
It was on September 21st 2010 that I had my very first contact with the St. Aidan's Transition Year students. I clearly remember their curious eyes and smiling faces when they, perhaps for the first time, saw an Asian female teacher standing in the classroom. After a short introduction, I let them ask questions about whatever they were interested in about China. By answering these colourful and exotic questions, I felt deeply the big cultural differences between the east and the west and this was the official start of my journey with the TY students of St. Aidan's.

The TY Chinese module is 6 weeks per each class group, therefore, I try my best to present something different and new every time, and to make the Chinese class more interesting and fun. Activities include Chinese paper-cutting, Chinese calligraphy, Tai Chi, Chinese songs, Chinese movies and so on. I have to admit that they often surprise me with their strong interest and enthusiasm towards the Chinese culture and their great speed of learning new things.

While sometimes some students can be a little “over-active” during class, I still very much enjoy teaching them. They are very nice and very smart. I wish every student a bright and splendid future!

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to TY Coordinator Mr. O'Brien, whose hard work is really supportive and helpful to my Chinese teaching at St. Aidan's.

**Wu Shan, Instructor,
UCC Confucius Institute of Asian Studies**



Transition Year Developments



At the end of Transition Year 2010 all TY students were asked to provide feedback about the TY Programme. The college staff and the parents of the incoming Transition Year students were also consulted and a number of major changes to the programme were introduced as follows.

- One class of career guidance per class per week.
- A six week study skills seminar was introduced for each class
- Additional field trips in Geography.
- A sports science and recreation module
- Mini-company
- Life coaching and addiction studies.
- A greater emphasis on classes in Information Technology
- A retreat in Scala for all students.
- A second week of work experience.
- Christmas and Summer exams

The year was broken up into 5 modules with assessments and rewards being offered at the end of each module. All of the above were in addition to the substantial changes made to TY in the previous year, which included the introduction of:

- Effective Communication with the Social and Health Education Project,
- Drama with the Gaiety School of Acting.
- Chinese Language and Culture with the UCC Confucius Institute.

The long established series of guest speakers, First Aid, Drive for Life, Careers Exhibition, AXA Roadsafe Roadshow and Public Access to Law also were all part of the overall comprehensive TY programme.

Mr. C O'Brien, TY Coordinator



AXA Road Safety Road Show

The annual AXA Road Safety Road Show delivered a powerful message to the young people of Cork in relation to dangerous driving and the long term effects it can have. The Rochestown Park Hotel was the venue for the show which was aimed primarily at Transition Year students. With a backdrop of popular music and video clips, one by one,



various people began to tell stories of their experiences with road traffic accidents. Members of an Gardaí, the ambulance service, the fire brigade, a medical surgeon, a mother of an accident victim and a wheelchair bound victim of a single-car crash all shared their harrowing and poignant stories. All these gave the students a greater understanding and respect for driving and the dangers of speeding. Also, outside the hotel a replica of a crashed car was viewed by the students as they left the Road Show. One student commented "I found all the stories, especially the poor mother's one really thought-provoking". Overall, the show was a great success in raising awareness of reckless driving and leaving the students with something significant to think about.

Craig Butler, TY Class Cliona

TY: A Student's View

When you enter 4th Year you realize how different it is to other years. You get to experience subjects and extra curricular activities not included in Junior Cycle, for example, First Aid, Effective Communication, Acting, Sports and Recreation, Chinese and Public Access to Law. I am really enjoying the Chinese module because one gets to learn about the culture and how to communicate in Chinese. Chase Wu has come all the way from Beijing and is taking time every week to teach us everything she knows about China. It's great to be able to experience classes like these because most schools don't get the chance to experience these different subjects. We are very lucky to have these different opportunities.

Ciara Dineen, TY Class Cliona





Build a Bank Challenge

This year, St.Aidan's once again took part in the AIB "Build a Bank" challenge. Our aim was to attract customers and to make banking a more fun and enjoyable experience. During the year we held several events which included Christmas and New Year raffles, Game days and Movie days the purpose of which was to entice students to save with the school bank. Although unsuccessful in the regional finals of the AIB School Bank competition, the bank project has been a great opportunity for everyone involved and has given us great insights into banking and our future career choices. On behalf of the AIB School Bank's, "Big Bank Theory", I would like to thank everyone involved in the bank for ensuring that it was a great success.

Shane O'Riordan, Class Cliona

Coasteering

In May our class went to Garretstown beach to go coasteering. We were all very excited as we had never done this before. When we got there we met our instructors and we were all given wet suits, helmets and life jackets to wear. We jumped and dived off six different rocks into the sea and it was absolutely brilliant. It was very scary as the rocks were very high and there was a current in the water but everybody wanted to go again and again. The instructors then split us into two groups and challenged the two teams to build a human pyramid on the shore. It was a great day and it was definitely the highlight of Transition Year for me! **Claire Twohig, Class Cliona**



Beastful Pacific

Rumble beneath
Two plates as they meet
Clashing and colliding
No longer sliding
Pressure is mounting
Seconds are counting
Pressure released
A beast is unleashed
Launches rolling waves
In a thundering rage
Racing across the sea
A hungry beast
Approaching its feast
Reaches land
Causing havoc first hand
Swirling, twirling
Following and swallowing
Too late, no escape
They await their fate

As onwards it surges
A point soon emerges
So much pain
Suffered in vain
Nature's warning
It will happen again!

By Rebecca O'Leary,
Class Cliona.

Dedicated to the people affected
by the Japanese earthquake

TY Mini Company

The Transition Year Mini Company module was a great learning experience and gave us all a wonderful insight into the world of business. We were divided up into small groups and had six weeks to set up a mini business. We all had to apply for jobs such as Managing Director, Production Manager, Finance Manager, Sales and Advertising and Human Resources. We had to brainstorm and come up with the idea for our product or service and then had to produce, advertise and sell it. We also had to do market research and raise our own finance by selling shares and we had to decide on how much to charge for our product. There was some excellent ideas such as delivering chocolate love hearts and selling balance bands and water bottles to the sports people in our school. Great profits were made and, for me, the mini company was one of the most enjoyable modules of Transition Year.

Edel O'Connell, TY Class Cliona

Public Access to Law

On May 26th the law court came to Dublin Hill as Transition Year students from St. Aidan's participated in the Public Access to Law Programme. Two barristers facilitated the programme and covered such topics as the Irish legal system and the steps towards studying law at university. The sense of what it is like to be present in an Irish court of law was really brought to life when students acted out their own court scene. Students really enjoyed the course and found it to be very interesting and informative.

Ryan Lemass, TY Class Eoin



St. Aidan's Leaving Certificate Class of 2011

Class Aoife



Class Agata



Bíodh Bhur Solas Ag Taithneamh

Class Seosamh



Class Aodán



A Word From Ms. Kingston

It has been a great pleasure for me to be Sixth Year tutor and to have the opportunity of working with you over this past year. As a year group you were friendly, cooperative and always willing to help and you have blossomed into responsible and confident young adults. There have been many changes over the years through which you have grown and matured as a group. During this time you hopefully will have created a life-long bond with St. Aidan's.

As you come to the end of your time here in the college, a new future awaits. The skills, knowledge and experiences you have gained in this school will hopefully help and guide you for all of what may lie ahead. On behalf of the staff I would like to wish you every success in your Leaving Cert exams and wish you all very happy, healthy and successful lives.

Ms. Kingston,
Sixth Year Tutor

In 2005, when we arrived here on our first day proudly wearing our new school uniforms we had no idea of what challenges lay ahead of us, but with the help of our many wonderful teachers, we have made it through an eventful six years. For this I would like to offer my thanks. You have made our time here easier and have always been there when we needed help. Now that it is time for us to take on the dreaded Leaving Cert, I hope that we all achieve the goals that we have set out for ourselves. I also hope that we keep in touch with the many friends we have made here and continue to build on these friendships. On behalf of all of the class of 2011, I wish to thank Fr. Chris for helping us to organise the graduation mass and also to thank Mr. Ahern, Ms. Kingston and all the members of staff for their help, guidance and patience throughout the years.

Owen Dunne,
6th Year, Class Aodán



Graduation night for the Class of 2011 took place on Thursday the 19th of May. Mass began at 7:30 and the main area was packed to capacity. Tomas O'Neill began proceedings by welcoming parents, staff and of course his fellow students. 'Love shine a light' was sung by our choir, led by Miss Williamson, reminding us of our school motto 'Bíodh bhur solas ag taitheamh-let your light shine'. Fr Chris began the mass by telling all gathered that the theme of the night is taking flight and how excited and honoured he felt to be celebrating this most important night with so many fine young students of St Aidan's and their Parents. The Liturgy of the word began with Alison Dowling and Ronan Horgan doing the readings and, in between, Laura Power sang that beautiful Psalm, 'Eagles Wings', again underlining the theme of taking flight. The Gospel was Jesus washing his disciples' feet from St. John. There were three characters. The Narrator was Eoin Feeney. Jesus was played by Sherelle O' Callaghan and St Peter was played by John Hosford. The theme of service and equality came out strongly in this beautiful Gospel. Next came the prayers of the faithful read by Aisling Noonan, Ceili Blake, Sean O' Sullivan, Megan Murphy, Alan McAuliffe, Katie McCarthy, Rebecca O Leary and Danae O' Driscoll.

Dean O Doherty was the fire starter for the offertory gifts. Vaidas Kerseys and Megan O' Flynn brought bread and wine to the altar, Ronan Jestin and Calvin Healy brought a basketball and a hurley to the altar, Evan Barry and Evan O' Connor presented school journals and Margaret McCarthy brought a school jumper. Craig Forde and James Mulcahy who had done outstanding wood projects for their leaving cert brought them to the altar and Ciara Harrington and Kayleigh Fitzgerald both brought musical instruments. Lastly, Rian Lane brought a lighted candle representing our motto.

Ms. Williamson gave a lovely rendition of Flowers of the May for Communion. The choir sang out 'this little light of mine', again reminding us of our motto. Kayleigh Blake and Miss Lee and all the art helpers were thanked for the lovely banner of the phoenix, which hung over the altar for the mass. Ethan Carol did a great job on the power point presentation. Sixth year tutor Miss Marguerite Kingston was the over all co-ordinator of the night and was thanked by all for making it such a wonderful occasion for all.

Fr. Chris





Stephanie Shines at Trinity

In December, Stephanie Callanan, Leaving Certificate 2010 Class Ciara, and now a student of Human Nutrition and Dietetics in Trinity College Dublin returned to St. Aidan's to speak to students and to offer advice on career planning. Here's what she had to say:

I have many great memories of St. Aidan's including the 4th Year skiing trip to Italy and captaining the school camogie team to the U16 Munster Championship. However, getting the results of my Leaving Cert with all my friends was the best memory by far just because I did really well and because of the relief we all felt when it was finally over.

I put Human Nutrition and Dietetics down on my CAO form because it was the closest course to Medicine, which is what I had hoped for. Human Nutrition and Dietetics is a four year long course jointly run by Trinity College and DIT but the degree is awarded by Trinity. We have many different modules, mostly science based, but we also do maths, communications and have the option of doing French. After graduating, students on the course will receive a BSc in Dietetics enabling them to work as dieticians in hospitals, communities, sports related areas and in their own practices both in Ireland and abroad.

In the future I hope to do an MSc and a PhD. There are many different areas I could pursue a career in as a dietician but it is the areas of sports and medicine that most appeal to me. I have always been very interested in oncology and would love the chance to work with cancer patients in a hospital setting. I also have a great interest in sport and it would be amazing to work with a professional sporting team. One thing of which I am certain is that there is a slim chance I will stay in Ireland after I graduate, given the current economic situation and the numerous opportunities elsewhere.

My advice for fifth and sixth year students is: Study! If you study bit by bit it is so much easier than leaving the work pile up all year and trying to learn it all at the last minute. Start with your favourite subject to get you motivated and then move on to the ones you find more difficult. Always take breaks in between subjects and do not spend more than an hour on each subject per day. It is also important to know what way you learn! Some can read pages and pages of material and remember it all but pictures or saying it back to yourself might work for you.

Also, ensure that you apply for every grant available!! There is a VEC grant for which almost all students can apply and this money can be very useful for paying registration fees etc. for next year. There is also an Access Programme which can help students get into courses at reduced points.

Finally, talk to someone who has already done the Leaving Certificate. They can give some useful hints and tips for exams, timing and the CAO process.

Well done Stephanie on your magnificent achievement and for being a source of inspiration for our students. That you may continue to excel at your studies and to let your light shine

Chantelle takes Laptop Prize

Congratulations to Chantelle Mc Mahon, Leaving Cert Class of 2010, on winning a state of the art laptop in our website/past pupils section competition. All past pupils are invited to log on to www.staidancork.ie and register their details.



PHOTOS: 1. U.S. Forensic Scientist Kathlynn Caffrey visits St. Aidan's and speaks to leaving cert students.

2. Past pupil Oleg Syrotyuk, Leaving Cert Class of 2010 returned to offer advice on careers in the naval service



Past pupils Gerard Maher and Alan O' Mahony who received their Masters Degrees in BIS in December at the Winter conferring Ceremony at UCC. Well done gentlemen, you have done yourselves and your school proud! Best wishes for the future.



Solas Award Winners 2011

Edward Pope Memorial: Leanne O'Sullivan
Pupil Endeavour-Junior Cycle: Aoife Cahalane

Pupil Endeavour-Senior Cycle: Jamie Butt
Technological: Craig Forde

Maths: Ronan Horgan

Languages; David Rea

Home Economics: Erica Dowling

Science: Áine O'Donnell

Humanities: Amy O'Connor

Music: Claire Twohig

Art: Kayleigh Fitzgerald

Gaeilge: Adam Noone

Exceptional Pastoral Achievement: Sophie Bullman

JCSP: Scott Fitzgerald

LCA: Alan McAuliffe

Student of the Year 1st Yr: Gavin Bracken

Student of the Year 2nd Yr: Sarah Costello

Student of the Year 3rd Yr: Colin Meaney

Student of the Year 4th Yr: Andrew Horgan

Student of the Year 5th Yr: David Murphy

Student of the Year 6th Yr: Cian O'Leary

Principal's Award: Daniel Morrissey

Junior Academic: Lauren Callanan

Senior Academic: Christopher McCormack

Best Junior Certificate 2009: Áine O'Donnell

Best Junior Certificate 2010: Andrew Horgan

Best Leaving Certificate 2009: Mike Taylor

Best Leaving Certificate 2010: Stephanie Callanan

Best LCA 2010: Derek O'Leary

Best Class Award: Class Doireann

Setanta Sports Award – Female Junior: Jennifer Hosford

Setanta Sports Award – Female Senior: Aisling O'Keeffe

Setanta Sports Award – Male Junior: Colin McCarthy

Setanta Sports Award – Male Senior: Roy Downey

Other winners on the night to receive awards were members of the Meitheal Team, the School Bank, the School Band, SHARE Volunteers and students who went on the IHCPT trip to Lourdes

Guest of Honour's Inspiring Words

The guest of honour at this year's Solas Awards Ceremony was Mr. Dan Collins, Academic and Student Affairs Manager, Cork Institute of Technology. Here follows selected extracts from his speech on the night



I am both honoured and delighted to have the opportunity to address you all this evening. I am humbled to attend such occasions and to hear of your wonderful achievements. I address you at a time when both our national and global economy is experiencing economic, political and social difficulties. While recognising this reality I want to move beyond it and address your futures because, whilst none of us can change the past, we can change the future and have some control over it. I would share three thoughts this evening which I hope, in time, may sustain and support you where ever your future may be.

Education has never been as important. Work hard here in St. Aidan's and consider further education. We have some of the finest further education colleges here in Cork city. We have a university that boasts a proud tradition and an Institute of Technology that is recognised as one of the best in its league. As you journey through your second level education, be aware that there is something for everyone in this life.

Secondly: I once read a quote; 'I am fifteen years old...somebody is trying to make me add up when all I want to do is multiply.' It can be frustrating when people want you to do one thing while you want to do something completely different. Express that frustration in a healthy way – a way in which others will listen

to, understand and appreciate. It is important to talk, because life has taught me that no matter how bad things appear to be, there is always hope and I have found that hope in talking. Talk to whoever you trust. Also, follow the leadership of your families, your teachers and the significant people in your lives.

Get involved in civil and political society. It is often in what is regarded as simplistic that people can make some of the greatest changes to the lives of others. Don't be afraid to dream. Trust yourselves; stand up for what you believe in and walk away when you know what is happening is wrong. Defend those who need defending and support those who need a friend. My one wish for you is that you believe in yourselves, seize life's opportunities but remain true to yourselves at all times.

To parents and guardians, let us support our young, remembering that what we may want for them and what they may want for themselves may not be the same. Support them in their dreams, hold them when they fall, back them in their plans and let them go when it is time to let them go.

Finally, Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple, noted how he was inspired by the quote 'if you live each day as if it was your last, someday you'll most certainly be right.' Our time on earth is indeed limited, therefore, don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by living with the results of other people's thinking. Listen to your own inner voice and most importantly, have the courage to follow your instinct, your head and your heart. Sincere best wishes and follow the dream!





Mr. Daly-Thank You For The Days

Mr. Daly thank you for all the days of the twenty eight years of your inspired service to this community. For your gentle sense of fun and for never failing to make us smile. For your wonderful part in our Millennium Concert. For initiating the visit of that most inspiring of guests - the poet Theo Dorgan-to our school. For all the Christmas Carol recitals in St. Oliver's and for so readily sharing your musical talents. For your excellence in educational leadership that has enriched the thousands of young lives of those who were blessed to be entrusted to your care.

For the countless, often hidden ways in which you have helped us over the years and for being a true friend of Muintearas Aodain. Mr. Daly, you will be missed but do know that, for you, their will always be a welcome here in St. Aidan's. Le gach dea-ghuí go mbeidh scor fada sona sláintiúil agat agus go leanfaidh do sholas ag taitheamh amach anseo.





Solas Awards
- 2011 -





Alan's Artistic Success

During April past pupil Alan Corbett accepted the art department's invitation to return to his alma mater and speak to students about his own artwork and successful career to date. Alan, who is currently working as an illustrator while furthering his studies in Art Education at Crawford College, kindly brought in some of his own illustrations and presented them to a group of aspiring first and fifth years. The students were astounded by his creative and talented work. Anyone who is interested in following Alan and viewing his illustrated book, which is soon to be released, can go to www.theravenswork.com

Ms. Tierney and Ms. Lee were delighted to welcome two past pupils back to the college recently. Erin Harrington and Richard Horgan, both of whom are studying art at St. John's Central College, have decided to take their work experience placements in St. Aidan's. We wish them both all the best in their future careers in art.

Voice our Concern

Voice Our Concern is a human rights education project enabling senior cycle students to learn about and discuss human rights in a creative, participatory and empowering way. This project aims to teach students about addressing difficult issues in our everyday lives through visual art. We began by exploring, through group photography, projects that encourage students to create their own visual art piece which explores human rights themes.

Throughout the project we discussed human rights issues on a global, national, community and personal level. Pupils explored how to take an issue and portray the message using photography and props in a classroom setting.

Additionally, Hillary Harmon, from Amnesty International visited the school and gave the students feedback on their work and discussed human rights with the pupils. The project then progressed to pupils deciding on an area of human rights they felt strongly about, and basing a self-influenced photography project around this. The project concluded with the work being displayed professionally in Amnesty's galleries in Dublin. St. Aidan's Community College was one of 18 schools in the country selected to display their work in Amnesty's headquarters in Dublin on Wednesday 23rd of March. Well done to all involved on this wonderful achievement.

Ms. G. Tierney

Tutankhamen for Eanna & Seadna!

On March 15th a group of 47 pupils and teachers from St. Aidan's Community College departed for the Tutankhamen Exhibition in the R.D.S Dublin. Our first stop was the Taylor art exhibition where students were treated to a guided tour of the various contemporary works of



art from renowned artist such as Louis le Broquey and Jack. B Yeats. Students showed a huge interest in the different types of painting, though a few eyebrows were raised when they saw the shopping basket display!

After a quick stop for ice cream it was time to see king Tut himself. Pupils were given Personal Audio devices to carry with them throughout the exhibition, and we watched

some films at the beginning. The exhibition was very dramatic with huge displays and life-sized mummies! Our students demonstrated a vast knowledge of all things Egyptian as they asked numerous questions about the different items. When everyone was sufficiently exhausted we were bid a fond

farewell and were pleased with the guides comments on the fact that our pupils were the best behaved they had seen so far! Many thanks to the kind 5th years who volunteered their time on the day, and a special thanks to staff, Mr. Keenan, Mr. Warren, Mrs. Hickey, Mrs. Forde and Ms. Lee for all the time and effort in organising this excellent trip!

Ms. G. Tierney



*Kayleigh Fitzgerald:
Solas Wards Art Winner*



Altruistic Aidans:

St. Aidan's has a strong and proud tradition of reaching out to help others. Our students, year after year, show a willingness to participate in various ways all of which are focussed on assisting those who are less fortunate than ourselves. SVP, Cork Simon, Downs Syndrome Ireland, Marymount, Arc House, The Irish Children's Pilgrimage Trust and SHARE are just some of the many organisations we worked with this past year.



Well done to Ciara Goggins, overall winner in the St. Aidan's journal cover design competition. Ciara's design will feature on the cover of next year's journal.

Meitheal:

The Meitheal team has worked hard to ensure that the First Years enjoyed their first year in secondary school and Katie, Shauna, Amy, Nicola, Niall, Adam, Aaron and I have had a great time working with them. We held many different events for them. In March, to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, we held a no uniform day, with the proceeds being donated to charity and we also held a games day. On behalf of the Meitheal team, I would like to thank the first years for being such a pleasure to work with. We hope you enjoyed the experience as much as we did. We would also like to say congratulations to the 2011/2012 Meitheal team.

Aine O' Donnell, Class Breandan



Check Mate!

The origins of chess are obscure, but we do know that since it was first played in northern India and Iran fifteen hundred years ago, it has spread around the world and become popular among people from all walks of life. This year a handful of first year students at St. Aidan's became a part of this great tradition when our Chess club was born.

Every Friday afternoon after school in Room B7, beginners were shown the basics of the game while more experienced players honed their skills and battled it out in a series of matches over the course of the year. Any new members - teachers, parents, students and staff - are welcome.
Mr. Colm Manley



Chait Rang Lucas deireadh seachtaine iontach i nGaelteacht Cheann Tra. D'fhoghlaim siad alán agus bhi craic agus spraoi acu. Beatha teanga i a leabhairt. **Ms. Scanlon**



Turas go Dti an Ghaeltacht!

On Tuesday 11th May classes Éanna and Barra visited the Gaeltacht of An Rinn, Co. Waterford. In Ring, we wrote postcards in Irish to send home to our families. The weather was lovely and we had a great time. We stopped at the beach in Ardmore on our way home. Some of the boys played football and the girls enjoyed playing badminton. The sun was shining and some of us took off our shoes and socks and went paddling. We got soaked but we had great fun. After we all dried off in the sun, we got back on the bus and headed home. We would like to thank Miss Scanlon and Miss Caffrey for bringing us to the Gaeltacht.

Mary McCarthy, Claire Meaney, Class Barra



Leaving Certificate Applied

As the school year comes to an end students of Rang Seosamh are preparing for state examinations and those of Rang Ciara are looking forward to a well earned break following a busy year. Within the past few weeks some students of Rang Seosamh have undertaken interviews for places in various Post Leaving Certificate Colleges, including St. John's Central College and Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa. Other students have been interviewed for apprenticeships. The year has been most engaging for students of both LCA classes. Many enjoyable and educational trips were undertaken, including visits to U.C.C., Cork Public Museum, Brackens Bakery, the Glen Resource Centre and to Fyffes. In conclusion, I would like to wish all students of Rang Seosamh well in the forthcoming Leaving Certificate examinations, and in whatever career they pursue thereafter.

Ms. M. Downey, LCA Coordinator.

Here's what the students had to say on completion of LCA:

I feel excited about the future. The work experience showed me the real working world and will help me get into college. Alan McAuliffe

Overall, I think LCA has been a great choice because I can get a great result in my exams and the work experience was a good help in deciding my future career. Sean Bowen

Down the road I would like to be a manager in a hair salon and to run my own business in hairdressing. I feel confident because I will have my own business and also earn my own money. I think the LCA has really helped me for my future. Katie Mc Carthy

My 1st choice of career is youth work and for this I will study social studies in Colaiste Stiofain Naofa. I would then like to go on to CIT to continue my studies. I think the LCA helped me to prepare for college and to keep studying and to talk to people more. Stephen O Reilly.

BEOWULF:

Class Seadna take time out from their wonderfully dramatic production of Beowulf which they performed recently in the college. Well done to all involved. **Mr. S O' Brien**



Aidans IBM Partnership



Central to our country's emergence from our present economic difficulties are the employment opportunities presented by the international hi-tech areas of information and communications technology. To enable our students to succeed in such areas it is essential that we endeavour to develop within them a capacity for innovation and forward thinking, that we provide them with examples of global best

practice and that we seek ways in which to engage them with highly skilled professionals in the modern work environment. Through our school's connection with IBM in the School's Business Partnership Programme St. Aidan's has been presented with such remarkable opportunities. The collaboration has grown over the past three years and, to date, over one hundred students have participated in the programme. CV preparation, mock interviews, and a site visit to IBM's world class facility at Cork Airport Business Park were all included in this year's programme. Pictured below are Ms. Sinead Kinsella, IBM HR Manager and Ms. Diane Beckingham of the Schools business Partnership awarding the best interviewee certificates to Davoren Murphy, Craig Butler, Jill Manning and Edel O'Connell. Congratulations also to Andrew Horgan for winning the award for best IBM project. Many thanks to Ms. Beckingham for attending our Solas Awards ceremony and presenting the awards.



PHOTOS:

1. Shane O'Brien, Patrick Mc Auliffe and Alan Hosford checking out career options at UCC.
2. TY students at the annual Physics Tyndall lecture at UCC
3. Past Pupil Monique Foley, Leaving Cert Class of 2010 and now a student of Law and Criminology at the University of Manchester returns to offer advice (full report next issue).
4. Black Magic—student musicians extraordinaire!



Fota Ecology Trip

On May 17th the combined Leaving Cert Biology classes went to Fota Wildlife Park to complete the Ecology Field Work section of the LC Biology Syllabus. The weather was good so there was no need for rain gear, though Norma Jean and Eimear did have nice wellies! All enjoyed the day, with the possible exception of Paudie, who found some members of the woodland fauna a bit scary!!!





Aidan's Active School Week a Huge Success

St Aidan's Active School Week in May strived to encapsulate the many facets of healthy living. The week began with enlightening talks from the Irish Heart Foundation on diet and exercise and from Coisceim on depression and well-being. Tuesday's lunchtime activities including soccer, basketball and gym sessions. The PE Department also ran a 1st Year healthy lunch competition. Liam Deasy from the YHS spoke about health issues typical to young people and the services the clinic offered. On Wednesday over 400 students participated in Junior Sports Day which included team events and track and novelty events. On Thursday

we held the 1st St. Aidan's 5 km fun run and Garry Gould, a fifth year student, recorded the best time of 23.15 minutes. The week concluded with Senior Sports Day which had our traditional sports day as well as an alternative sport's day running parallel—the latter included activities such as pilates, gym sessions, zumba and hip-hop dancing and concluded with Dr. Eimear Enright (pictured above) a PE lecturer in the University of Limerick delivering a new element from the new Leaving Cert PE syllabus. Overall, the week was a tremendous success.



Adventure Activities

St Aidan's 1st and 2nd Year students recently took part in an orienteering competition in the Glen amenity park organised by the PE dept. Using maps and compasses, they had to find 20 controls placed around the park. The students darted up and down the park, climbing hills, crossing bridges, sliding down mounds, dashing through fields, searching for the coveted controls. All had an amazingly active day whilst developing life long adventure and survival skills. Meanwhile, in March, class Barra and Senan travelled to the University of Limerick's outdoor education centre to partake in adventure activities. The day's activities included kayaking, canoeing, archery and high ropes. This day afforded the students the opportunity to experience success and challenge in a fun environment and a great time was had by all. Ms. Delaney





USA Here We Come:

In June, twenty-five highly skilled athletes, musicians and scholars from St. Aidan's will fly to the U.S. to participate in the World Scholar Athletic Games in the University of Connecticut. See Solas Spring 2011 or www.staidancork.ie for full story. We wish you all the best and that it may be the trip of a lifetime.

Biodh bhur solas ag taitheamh

Sport Science And Recreation

A new module was introduced into our Transition Year programme this September called Sport Science and Recreation. With so many of our students having a huge background and interest in sport, it was felt that a subject was needed to cater for and develop this enthusiasm and encourage students to further their studies in the area of sport. As a result a six-week module was introduced and our students got the benefit of participating in the following activities: kick boxing, high ropes instruction in the Glen Resource Centre, surfing in Garretstown and Tramore, coastering in Garretstown (see p.5), gym and pool sessions in Churchfield Leisure Centre, fitness testing, sports nutrition seminars, spinning classes,

an assault course in Fermoy and lectures on further studies in sport.

Ms. Furlong



Boys Basketball Success

We had another successful basketball season this year with all four boys teams winning silver or bronze medals in the A division in Cork. This success also meant that our teams got the honour of representing Cork in the All-Ireland Playoff series in Galway, Tralee and Limerick at various stages of the year. At each tournament the boys played hard and were very unlucky not to progress to the next stage of the competitions. Basketball is going from strength to strength in the school and St. Aidan's has now become one of the top sporting schools in Cork. Congratulations to Jordan Blount (class Lucas) who represented Cork U14's and Roy Downey (class Brendan) who was named top Junior International Player of the Year.



Camogie:

Once again the girls had a successful season and displayed tremendous talent with great wins over Charleville, Mallow and Mercy Waterford. In the quarter finals the seniors faced a fierce Youghal side, but demonstrated exceptional defensive skills and excelled in attack, scoring ample points and goals. The girls comfortably progressed to the final but, unfortunately, Mount mercy's attack proved too strong. Well done to all the girls for their tremendous effort.

We wish to extend a fond farewell to Alison Dowling and Aisling Noonan who gave outstanding commitment and talent to St. Aidan's camogie over the past 6 years and also our warmest congratulations to Leanne O'Sullivan (pic opposite) and Jennifer Hosford both of whom have made the Cork county minor team. Well done girls.
Ms. Delaney



Girls Basketball:

This year was a mixed year for our under 14 girls' basketball teams. Drawn into a tough group comprising of Scoil Mhuire, Crosshaven Secondary School and Scoil Mhuire Kanturk, St Aidan's girls represented their school valiantly. Unfortunately, neither team progressed past the group stage but there were a lot of positives. Our first challenge was Scoil Mhuire girls and, although we lost both matches, we fought valiantly with our first years being beaten by a single point. In the second game we were given the points.

Finally we played a very experienced Scoil Mhuire Kanturk side in Neptune Stadium who proved too strong for the St Aidan's girls. Even though the results didn't always go our way the girls should be proud of the effort and we look forward to next season.



Gym Opening by Hurling Star (from page 1)

The opening of the fantastic facility, which will be hugely beneficial to all students attending the school, coincided with Sports Week at St. Aidan's. The gym includes a vast array of modern equipment including treadmills, a multi-gym and a rowing machine. Some of the students have already been lucky enough to take part in work out sessions at the new resource, and thus far, feedback has been extremely positive.

Students from all years gathered in the schools P.E hall, eagerly awaiting the coming of Cork Hero, and two-time All-Ireland winner, John Gardiner, and when the prolific hurler finally arrived, he was met with rapturous applause. Principal Mr. Ahern proudly greeted the hurling star and welcomed him to formally address the students. The Na Piarasigh man highlighted the importance of fitness and healthy living for people of all ages, especially teenagers, and was keen to stress how valuable this new facility could be. "You are the sports stars of the future," he declared.

Gardiner then officially opened the new gym by cutting the red ribbon and concluded by awarding medals to those who excelled in their particular disciplines in the St. Aidan's sport and health awareness week.

All in all, Sports Week proved to be an excellent and fun experience for both Junior and Senior Cycle students, and the opening of the school's new gym is a signal of intent that health and fitness will continue to remain high on the agenda at St. Aidan's.

Andrew Horgan, Class Cliona.



Aidan's Soccer

The First Year boy's soccer team had a mixed year. After being placed in a tough round-robin group with Mayfield and Ballincollig they were beaten by a very strong Mayfield team, despite strong performances from Jamie O'Donovan and Ewan Mc Guirk. The team performed excellently in the second game and narrowly lost out 3-2 to Ballincollig. Jordan O'Donovan led the side by example and performed strongly. Others to shine during the season included Darren O'Sullivan, Dylan Galvin and Evan Burke. Well done to all who proudly represented our college.
Mr. D. Duggan.

It was a highly successful year for our under 16 team. After exiting the Munster Cup at the hands of Limerick CBS, St Aidan's charged through the early rounds of the Cork Cup with high-scoring wins against Colaiste Choilm and Ballincollig Community School, culminating in a closely-contested semi-final against Cobh's Colaiste Mhuire in which the Cobh side triumphed in a penalty shoot-out. Despite our disappointment, our lads can all be very proud of themselves. Special mention must go to some outstanding players, namely; Darren Murphy, Corey Long, Danny Ahern, Adam Downey and Darren Mannix, Sean O'Callaghan and James Sheehan. All in all, a great sporting year!
Mr. P. Keenan

The under 18 soccer team's season came to a disappointing end when they lost the county semi-final 3-2 to a last minute goal against Spioraid Naoimh. However, morale in the team remains high as seven of this year's starting team will still be in the school next year. The skill, commitment and dedication were the highlights of the year's performances and with Cork City and Irish internationals involved the squad looks good for next year.
Mr. A. Lyons



The U14 soccer team were very unlucky to be knocked out after the 1st round in this competition. This meant that the team had only one match, which ended in a draw and which we were unfortunate to lose on penalties. Stand-out players included Kyle McNamara, Dylan O' Donovan, Mark O' Connell, Corey Crowley, and Jack O' Keffe who captained the team.
Ms. S. Mc Namara





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