

SOLAS MAGAZINE

ST. AIDAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN HILL, CORK
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CONGRATULATIONS
CHAMPIONS!



All-Ireland U19 Basketball Champions

St Aidan's Community College captured the U19 All Ireland title in sensational fashion defeating Portmarnock Community School on the buzzer. It was the final 2 minutes of the game when St Aidan's displayed their absolute determination to be crowned All-Ireland champions.

This victory came about as a result of a twelve match unbeaten run stretching back to October and superb displays from the team, Jessica Lane, Marie Canning, Amy Connolly, Kaitlyn Long, Aisling Connolly, Leanne O' Sullivan, Jodie Forde, Aisling O'Connor and Eibhlis Murphy.

Eibhlis Murphy was awarded most valuable player for her outstanding play on both ends of the court with trojan work in defence, contributing 15 points to the St Aidan's tally. This was St Aidan's first ever win in an All-Ireland final. The team coaches Ms Marion

Scanlon and Mrs Helen McCarthy are pictured here with the team.

The team and the coaches would like to sincerely thank all those who supported them in their journey to becoming All Ireland Champions. Many thanks to Tom Kelleher, Damian Wallace, Atrium Centre Blackpool, O'Neills sportswear, Northside Glass, Declan Guckian and Declan Bracken.

Also pictured is winner of the most valuable player award, Eibhlis Murphy.

-Ms M. Scanlon and Mrs H. McCarthy



Dr. Keith O'Donoghue, Past Pupil, Inspirational At Solas Awards.

It's an honour and a pleasure to be guest speaker at tonight's Awards Ceremony here in St. Aidan's.

I have fond memories of this school and coming back on a happy occasion like tonight is something I am delighted to do.

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A Word from the Principal

As the school year 2012/13 draws to a close I would like to acknowledge the work that has been carried out in St Aidan's this year. So much has been accomplished by our students!

The Green schools committee has taken off this year and has been involved in promoting an awareness of litter and recycling among students. The Schools Business Partnership programme has forged strong links with IBM and has provided excellent training in career opportunities for our Transition year students. A very well organised health week was arranged for students with activities and speakers on both mental and physical health. The new logo for the St Vincent de Paul Youth for Justice Project has been designed by a student in St Aidan's.

Career opportunities and college placements have been explored with visits to CIT and UCC by groups of 4th, 5th and 6th years. The Solas awards have commended the achievements of our students from academic to pastoral and sporting. The students in St Aidan's have been actively working to help those less fortunate than themselves with a range of fundraising events for Trócaire, Share and Daffodil Day to name but a few! Our Hurling team reached the Munster final and our girls Under 19 won the All Ireland basketball title, putting St Aidan's firmly on the sporting map.

I would like to send a good luck wish to our Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate students who will be sitting their written examinations in June. I'm sure the hard work and dedication of these students will be reflected in their results.

I would like to thank the parents who have been supportive of their children's education and the students who have worked so hard this year. We are looking forward to another productive year. A final word of thanks goes to the hardworking and dedicated staff of St Aidan's. I would like to wish everyone a peaceful break for the summer holidays.

- S. Curley, Principal

“Follow Your Dreams and Let Your Light Shine” Dr. Keith O'Donoghue, past pupil, inspires students at annual Solas Awards Ceremony

It's an honour and a pleasure to be guest speaker at tonight's Awards Ceremony here in St. Aidan's. I have fond memories of this school and coming back on a happy occasion like tonight is something I am delighted to do.

Congratulations to those of you who received awards this evening. It's always nice to be recognised for your hard work and perseverance and a lot of credit goes to you and your families for being here on a night as special as this.

It seems like only yesterday I was sitting where you are now, a few weeks away from my Leaving Cert wondering what the future would hold. When I graduated from here in the year 2000, the internet was something you had to dial into, most people didn't have a mobile phone, never mind a smartphone and a tablet was something you took for a headache! I was spending my days studying and playing music whenever I could get away with it! However, it was a time for decisions about life, where I wanted to go, what I wanted to be.

My advice to you is to find and follow what you love doing. I was lucky enough in my years here to experience and try lots of different things. I appeared in a school musical in my first year which sparked an interest in drama which followed me right through my college years. I played music in many a school concert and even got a chance to produce my first CD as a sixth year student for the School's Millenium Concert. In the end an interest in Maths and Physics, nurtured inside these walls, led me on the path to my chosen career as an Engineer. I realized here that it was something I was good at it, I loved studying it above all other subjects and so decided Electrical Engineering was something I would pursue.

The benefit of doing something you love is that you'll end up working that little bit harder at it, you'll enjoy putting in the extra bit of effort, and you'll meet like-minded people who enjoy the same things you do. With that little extra bit of effort and work I was lucky enough to get more opportunities to continue doing what I loved most. In my final year of college I was offered the chance to do a Masters. Then the opportunity of a lifetime came along when six months

later I had an offer of a full four year scholarship to the University of California studying circuit design with two of the top professors in the world. Nine years after leaving this school I have a Ph.D degree signed by the Governor of California Mr. Arnold Schwarzenegger!

I came back here to Cork to work in an American company, Cypress Semiconductor. I spent three years there working on touch-screen technology for consumer electronics and last summer I moved to another American company, Analog Device's and I am currently working on microchips for radio frequency applications in the industrial, medical and consumer area. Every day brings something new and every day I'm glad for the opportunities that brought me to where I am today.

Make the most of every opportunity; give it a shot, if things don't work out there's always another opportunity waiting around the corner. My time here in St. Aidan's ignited many interests which are still with me to this day. The wonderful teachers I met along the way who gave me so many opportunities through their own hard work and dedication deserve a lot of thanks. You might not appreciate it now but looking back, you'll see how invaluable your time was here and how you were allowed to grow, allowed to be the best you could be and given the tools which prepared you for the world outside these walls.

Let me finish by saying, find that spark of interest, find something which lights up your imagination and follow it with passion, a bit of hard work and perseverance. If you do, you'll be surprised what opportunities will come your way.

Congratulations to all of you again and enjoy the rest of the evening.
Dr. Keith O'Donoghue

Congratulations to our Solas Award Winners 2013



Solas Award Winners 2013

Exceptional Co-Curricular:
U19 Basketball Team

Best Class Award:
Class Eanna

Setanta Sports Awards

Female Junior:
Jodie Forde

Female Senior:
Leanne O' Sullivan

Male Junior:
Sean Fitzgerald

Male Senior:
Gavin Duggan

Edward Pope Memorial:
Brian Goulding

Pupil Endeavour Junior Cycle:
Daniella Minyo

Senior Cycle:
Anthony O'Callaghan

Technological:
Colin Meaney

Business Studies:
Conor Sheehan

Home Economics:
Chelsea O' Connor

Maths:
Aaron Singh Kang

French:
April Walsh

Spanish:
James Collins

Science:
Oliver Szamak

Humanities:
Aisling Sheehan

Music:
Gary Leahy

Art:
Cian Manning

Gaeilge:
Claire Twohig

Exceptional Pastoral Achievement:
Amy Connolly

JCSP:
Eoghan Mc Carthy-Coade

LCA:
Mary Mc Carthy

Student of the Year

1st Year:
Eoin Forde

2nd Year:
Megan Scollard

3rd Year:
Grace O'Shea

4th Year:
Kelly O'Donovan

5th Year:
Jessica Lane

6th Year:
Jill Manning

IBM Award:
Katie O'Connell

IBM TY Portfolio Award: Erica Cronin

Junior Academic:
Nollaig O' Donnell

Senior Academic:
Andrew Horgan

Best Junior Certificate 2012:
Katie O' Callaghan

Best Leaving Certificate 2012:
Adam Noone

Principal's Award:
Edel O' Connell

“The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer.”– *Mahatma Gandhi*

Daffodil Day 2013

St Aidan's Community College was a hive of activity during the week leading up to the Irish Cancer Society's annual Daffodil Day.

Daffodils were sold by a diligent bunch of fundraisers outside local shops, in local shopping centres and at the school gate! Well done to all involved for raising €2,120 euro for such a worthy cause!



Fasting for Trócaire



St. Aidan's Community College continues its efforts to raise awareness of the plight of people less fortunate than ourselves. Early in March, qualified Education Officers from Trócaire visited our school to speak to students. They use active and engaging methodologies to enable students to explore complex global issues such as human rights and climate change, in an open learning environment.

As a result, almost 50 students decided to take up the challenge of the Trócaire 24 hour Fast in order to raise money for people living in poverty overseas. This Lent, the focus country was India, and students sponsorship goes to the village of Jhilligoan in the north east of the country. The money raised through the fast directly helps the people to transform their lives by building a new school, safer roads, and providing a village pump to bring clean drinking water to the village.

Through local community organisations, Trócaire supports people in changing their lives and transforming their community. St. Aidan's Community College is proud to support this worthwhile work. Over €900 has been raised to date. Well done to those students who have looked beyond their own and have taken action to make a difference and help others in need.
- Mr. K Murphy

Trócaire works in partnership with people, families and local community organisations. These families want to be able to provide for themselves and to live a dignified life where basic needs are met and human rights realised. Families want to have control over their own lives and the decisions affecting them.

Picture:

Simon Raggett and Cathal Kenny (Class Ailbhe), Robbie Thompson (Class Lucás), Adam O'Keeffe and Seaghán McCarthy (Class Marcus) Una, Trócaire Education Officer Mr. Kevin Murphy, School Chaplain, St. Aidan's Community College



Fun Walk for Mercy Hospital



Fun Walk for Charity

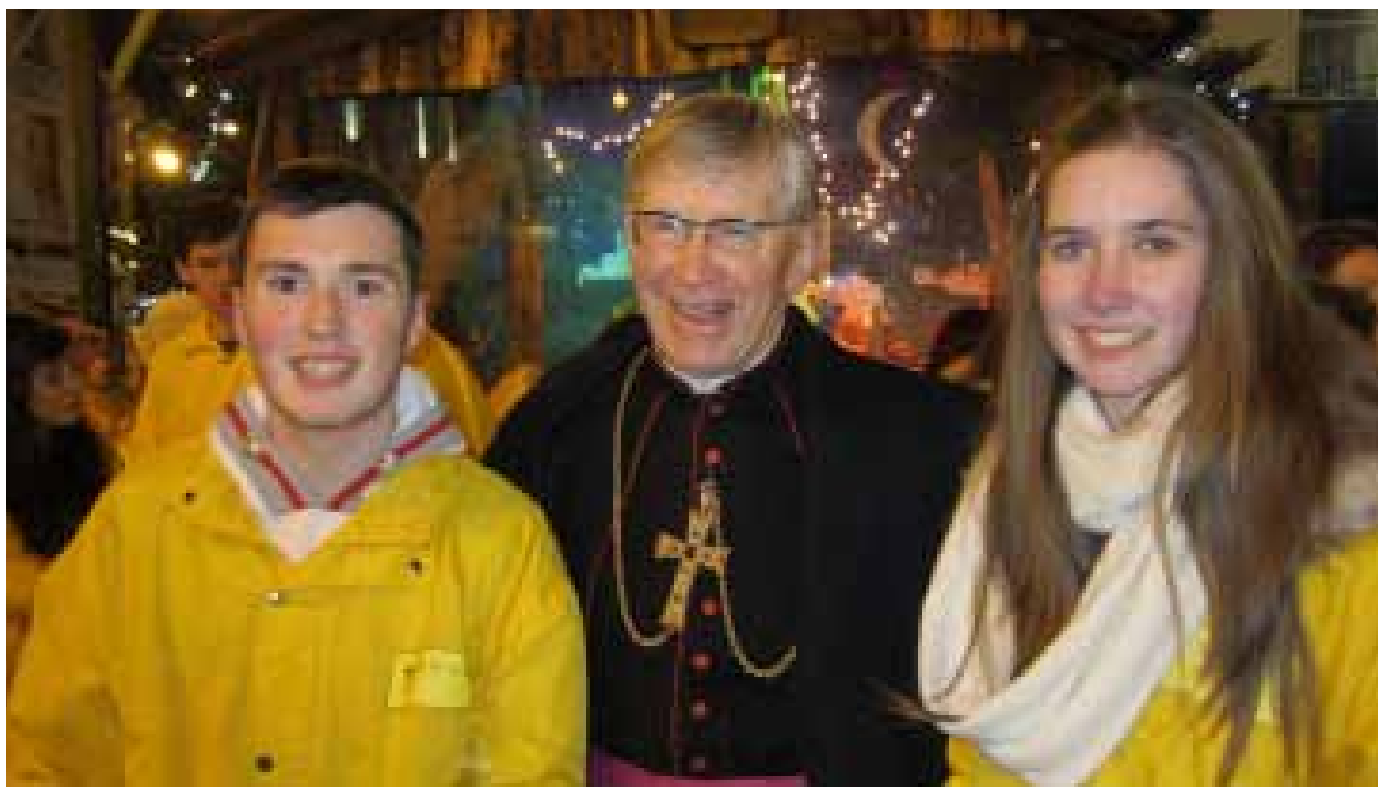
Transition year students took part in a sponsored charity walk to raise funds for the Mercy Hospital Children's Leukaemia Unit. An enthusiastic and energetic group of students were accompanied by their mascot and teachers, Mrs McCarthy and Mr Coughlan.

HUGS for CUH



Maeve O'Neill from the CUH Children's Unit was presented with a cheque for €1,000 by Transition Year students, who raised the money for the CUH HUGS appeal. Well done to the students who fundraised with such enthusiasm and passion to support such a worthy cause.

In SHARE We Care



In St. Aidan's we consciously strive to give our students the opportunity to get involved in issues of social justice and this year's representatives on the SHARE Student Executive were fifth year students Claire O'Connell and Gerard Donnelly.

Br. Martin Kenneally, Presentation Brothers Congregation Leader had high words of praise for Claire and Gerard's dedication and commitment to SHARE. Here Claire gives an account of her involvement.

I can honestly say that my involvement with SHARE has been life changing. I got a lot of benefit from being part of

the Executive, especially on my weekly visitations to my S.H.A.R.E resident. I really enjoyed this as it gave me the chance to meet new people and form a really close relationship with them. I consider myself very lucky with my resident as we grew really close and I will continue to stay in contact with him long after S.H.A.R.E finishes this year.

Our busiest time of the year was at Christmas, when we collected for hours on end in our "stylish" yellow jackets, in the freezing cold on the streets of Cork. It was challenging at times but well worth it.

Well done Claire and Gerard; you have done yourselves and your school proud!
- Mr. M Forde

Students at St. Aidan's Community College are saying goodbye to their textbooks and writing their own.

The school's History department is trialling the use of cloud and mobile information technology to develop students' research skills.

"Serious historians are rarely content with second-hand descriptions when primary sources are available and the internet provides a staggering amount of material. We can't afford to give everyone an iPad, so we have a Bring Your Own Device policy, and students share with their classmates," says Head of History, Colm Manley. "We use tablets, laptops and smart-phones, whatever is available. So far, laptops with their large screens seem to be perfect for group work, but many tablets have proven to be the ideal choice for students doing independent research. At the very least it promotes a positive use of devices that seem to get such negative press at other times. Hardware is always going to be an issue, not least because of the expense. It's a costly investment for parents, so the more use we make of these devices for the students' benefit the better."

And the textbooks? "Ideally students will start writing them, based on their own knowledge acquired first hand through research. It's hoped to extend the project to some of the Junior cycle classes." All Leaving Cert History students are



expected to write their own research study and examine documents from case studies. The rest of the course is generally taught through textbooks. However this method, which incorporates the idea of Self Organised Learning Environments, means that the information comes to students first-hand, in a form which is not easily forgotten. "The students have given a lot of input into how this learning can be made better. It's not just a matter of searching the internet - we use cloud storage so the teacher can mediate the material

for the students and make it available to everyone even when they go off-line." Sixth year students have so far responded favourably to the approach. "At the start I hated any research and found it frustrating, but I'm okay with it now," commented Shannon Madden. "It encourages independent thinking," says Richard O'Keefe. "It's certainly a more efficient method," added Zoe O'Connell. Fifth year students also chose to abandon the textbook in favour of the digital system.
-Mr C. Manley

Mathematics Department UCC Junior Enrichment Classes

We attended the Maths enrichment program at the Western Gate Building at U.C.C. This was a continuation from the Maths Circle group organised by Ms. Hough during 2011/12, when we were visited by Grainne Walsh, a fourth year Mathematical Science student.



Oliver Szamak, Nollaig O'Donnell, Holly O'Connor, Julia Pawlak, Maya Ni Ghallachoir and Kieran Humphries, pictured with Maths Teacher Ms. Hough.

Each Saturday we participated in the enrichment classes from 10.00a.m. to 11.30a.m. We received tuition from Dr. David Goulding (a former student at St. Aidan's), Dr Anca Mustata and Ciaran O'Connell from the U.C.C. Mathematical Science department.

We spent our time on different aspects of Maths and problem solving, both individually and in pairs or groups. The tutors also demonstrated different methodologies in approaching the final answers. During the year we took part in table quizzes and last April we competed in "The Purple Comet", an International Mathematics competition.

We found the experience of attending these classes very enlightening and the experience of working with the tutors and with students from other schools around Cork was fantastic. We all hope to return in the new term to continue with these enrichment classes.

Remembering Renske

Mrs Renske Hickey was the first Special Needs Assistant in St. Aidan's. I was very fortunate to have her as my SNA all through secondary school. I did not find the transition from primary to secondary the easiest but with Renske's support and positivity, I settled in no time.

We developed a bond and a friendship which helped me enormously in my studies. Renske was my friend, my teacher and my confidant. She would protect me in the corridors in case someone bumped into me and she always put my well-being first.

Because of my ill health I would often miss blocks of time from school. Renske would give up her own time to call to my home, to bring homework and notes from school. I looked forward to her visits and she always had a smile and a word of encouragement.

Renske was instrumental in my achievements, especially my Junior and Leaving Certificate exams. She taught me things that I could never read in a book. She showed me the beauty of life and nature and how art could be seen beyond just a picture, with its motifs and symbolism.

Renske's work as an SNA was not just her job, it was her vocation. She was diligent, dedicated and always went above and beyond the call of duty. She was a huge asset to St Aidan's, with her easy going manner and her many talents, natural flair and boundless energy.

Nothing was too much trouble and her enthusiasm was infectious. Renske was so unassuming and endeared herself to everyone she met.

Renske left behind a legacy that is tangible. We are all the richer for knowing her and for the privilege of having her in our lives. Renske was not just one in a million: she was one in the world.

- Elena Canty



St. Aidan's Adam wins Best Leaving Certificate Award

Past pupil Adam Noone, winner of the Best Leaving Certificate Award 2012 and now a student of Chemical and Biological sciences in UCC, returned to the school in March to give a presentation fifth and sixth year students on UCC and progression to third level.

Thanks Adam and wishing you continued success in your studies.

- Mr M. Forde

Romeo and Juliet cast meet Aidan's Students



Picture: Mercutio, played by John Duffy is seen here with Shauna O'Callaghan, Kieran Long, Nicole Meaney, Clodagh Varian, Filip Gusovski and Stephen Punch.

Head Waiter Raul meets Hotel and Catering Class



On Friday 10th May, Paula Cogan, marketing Manager of The River Lee Hotel, paid a visit to St. Aidan's Leaving Certificate Hotel Catering and Tourism Class who are preparing for their practical cookery exam.

Paula and the expert waiter Raul who accompanied her, explained the correct way to serve and present their dishes. Raul coached the students in plate service.

Ms. Kingston, Home Economics teacher, has been practicing the cookery tasks with the students and she is confident that they will excel in their upcoming exam. - Ms M. O'Connell

Leaving Cert 2013

It is hard to believe that it is that time of year again when we bid farewell to our Leaving Cert classes, Cliona, Eoin, Sean, Muireann and the Leaving Cert Applied Class, Class Antoin. You have been looking forward to this day for so long and it is now finally here.

You are entering a new phase in your lives and with this will come many changes, new challenges, new people to meet and new places to see. I hope that we in St. Aidan's have given you the confidence to meet these challenges. On behalf of the staff here in St. Aidan's, I would like to wish you every success in your exams and very happy, healthy and successful lives.

- Miss Kingston 6th Year Tutor.



Class Cliona



Class Eoin



LCA Class Antoin



Class Muireann



Class Sean



I would like to wish you every success in your exams and very happy, healthy and successful lives.



A First Class Year in St. Aidan's

As first year class representatives we were asked to look back on our school year and perhaps reflect on how it met our expectations of secondary school. Last May we walked through the corridors of St. Aidan's and met many of the teachers. The "Sixth Class goes to Secondary School Day" was a fantastic ice-breaker and put many of the fears we had about the challenges secondary school would bring to rest over the summer. When our first day arrived, we were in some way prepared.

The biggest challenge was having so many new teachers and new subjects to contend with. Moving between classes also seemed daunting but with the help of the senior pupils, the guidance of our teachers and the friendly atmosphere in St. Aidan's, it didn't take long for us to settle in.

The most exciting part of starting in St. Aidan's was having the opportunity to study so many subjects. The Home Economics kitchen, the Science labs, the Woodwork room, the Art room, the library and the huge sports hall, fulfilled all our expectations of a varied school day. The year has been a busy and challenging one, but in a positive way. The longer school day that we dreaded no longer looms large. Studying so many different subjects in one day keeps us busy and each day goes by quickly. The many new friends we made helped our transition to secondary school. New responsibilities help us to grow and mature.

The many opportunities that await us give us something to look forward to.

It's not all hard work! Our sports day was fun-filled. School trips, The Farm in Grenagh and the Michelstown Caves were exciting and educational! It is hard to believe that our first year is coming to an end. It has been a memorable journey. Our teachers and our parents have been there for us along the way and we would like to thank them for their support and help in making our first year in St. Aidan's, first class!

First Year Maors: Rory Murnane, Kelly Murray, Lauren Barrett, Mary O'Connor, Kelsey O'Sullivan, Michael O'Mahony, Garreth Blount and Adam O'Driscoll.

First Year Classes 2012/2013



Class Brid



Class Laserian



Class Tressan



Class Eugene

creative CORNER

It all started with a visit from Susan (St.Vincent de Paul) where she spoke in depth about how and where the organisation started and the work that they do. She then introduced a new branch for young people entitled 'Youth for Justice'.



She announced an exciting project where young people from different schools around Ireland would enter a competition to design a logo that would be used to represent the 'Youth for Justice' brand. St.Aidan's 5th year pupils were up for the challenge and after many hours of brainstorming and creative decision making they entered at least 20 different designs.

On Thursday the 3rd of May a group from the school went to the Silversprings Hotel to a St.Vincent de Paul presentation day.

As part of a collection of 20 different schools from around Cork, a well prepared St.Aidan's Meitheal group made an informative presentation on

all of the charitable work they had done throughout the year. Then following a nail biting speech from a well known graphic designer, the winner of the logo competition was announced and we were absolutely delighted to discover that our own Christopher O'Driscoll was the winner!

With an astonished look and a shy walk he took to the stage to receive his prize of a plaque, a logo embellished t-shirt and a €1000 cheque.

His logo will now appear on all Youth for Justice stationery and on their website.

Well done Christopher!
- Ms A. Crowley
- Ms K. Murphy

St. Aidan's Christopher wins SVP National Logo Competition



Picture: Christopher O'Driscoll with Art teachers Ms A Crowley and Ms G Tierney

Leaving Cert Art Trip to Newgrange! A trip through Historical and Contemporary Ireland!

Starting early on a cold November Friday morning, 21 pupils and 2 art teachers set off for Newgrange where they had a guided visit of the world famous heritage site, studied the entrance stone and witnessed first hand how the chamber lights up during the winter solstice.



They spent the night in the local Newgrange lodge where everyone was entertained by a fashion show with a twist! The following day they travelled to Dublin's IMMA to be introduced to the work of Alice Maher. Her work left the pupils with a completely open mind to the creative processes and choices of a contemporary artist.

From here the pupils went on a treasure hunt in The National Museum of Ireland to find the beautiful historical pieces they

had so diligently studied in school, to help bring their art history experience to life. Of course a trip to Dublin would not be complete without a spot of shopping!

So with smiling faces and heavy shopping bags they returned to Cork on the Saturday evening. The teachers in question remarked on what a warm and friendly class travelled to Newgrange and how they would without hesitation take them on this artistic journey again.

- Ms G Tierney

Fifth year trip to Crawford Art Gallery



On March 14th 2013 the 5th year Art classes took a trip to the Crawford Art Gallery to attend the Harry Clarke exhibition.

We were all very excited to visit the exhibition as we had studied Harry Clarke beforehand. Harry Clarke created magnificent stained-glass windows and we were all so intrigued at how detailed and colourful his stained-glass windows were.

To see such breathtaking pieces of art with our own eyes was a privilege for us all. During our visit we also got the opportunity to witness other types of art such as paintings and sculptures from other famous artists such as Jack B. Yeats and Hamo Thornycroft. It was an amazing experience for all of us involved!

- Michael O'Sullivan

Congratulations Cian!

Congratulations to Cian Manning, pictured here with Art teacher, Ms. Tierney, winner of the Solas Art Award at the recent Solas Awards Ceremony.



Hello Barcelona!

It was a cold, wet and windy night as 32 students boarded the plane at Dublin airport destined for Barcelona with a promise of sun, culture, art, magic and a splash of fun!

They enjoyed visits to the Museum of Modern Art, the Picasso museum, and a guided tour of the famous Gothic Quarter, taking in the old Gothic and Romanesque Cathedrals and elaborate architecture!

In the evenings they took to the ice to show the Spanish what Corkonians are made of, had a go at bowling and even took part in an exciting magic show where they were enthralled by the different tricks including a spot of hypnotism!

Of course no trip to Barcelona is complete without a visit to PortAventura, and this was no exception. The pupils spent a fun filled day challenging each other (and their teachers) to a ride on the biggest and best roller coasters in Europe.

It was fantastic trip, one which all the students and their teachers enjoyed. A big thank you must be given to Ms. Tierney, Mr Lyons and Mr Breen who gave up some of their Easter break to accompany the students, and to the students for their exemplary behaviour!



Grenagh Farm welcomes Home Economics Students



On Tuesday the 18th of September, the Home Economics department went on a trip to the newly opened Farm in Grenagh. Ms O Connell and Ms Kingston travelled along with a group of First Year and Second Year students to learn about the production of food.

Mick Forde, the owner of the newly opened Farm showed our enthusiastic students pigs, sheep, ducks, hens, horses and how the milking machine works. There were fields of oats, barley and wheat and the pupils saw potatoes and sugar beet growing. By the end of the morning the students were well informed about farming and understood the production of many of the Irish foods.



Class Doireann Experience 'the Luck of the Leprechaun'

Fifth Year students from St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill recently went on a trip to Dublin to learn more about a somewhat neglected character in Irish mythology, the leprechaun.

The National Leprechaun Museum is the first ever attraction dedicated to Irish mythology and the students were taken on a journey into Irish and Celtic culture to discover what really lies behind the well-known tales of Irish cultural icons- leprechauns, rainbows and pots of gold!

The museum is structured like a story, with 12 chapters each transporting the students to the heart of Irish cultural identity and imagination. The group enjoyed the captivating, interactive

experiences - from the first ever sighting of leprechauns in the eight century, through to modern day representations of the leprechauns in film and popular culture.

A magical journey deep beneath the rocks of the Giant's Causeway, a trip to fairy hill and a real life leprechaun sized world all formed part of the experience at the museum. Students also visited Dublin's Four Courts as part of their tour of the Capital.

“You can Bank on St. Aidan’s...”



School Bank welcomes Colm Cooper

AIB National Youth Ambassador Colm Cooper, aka “the Gooch”, visited St. Aidan’s Community College, Dublin Hill to speak to the Transition Year students about “The AIB Build a Bank Challenge” programme.

When he was in the school he took the opportunity to coach both the boys and girls Transition Year teams. He spent over an hour with each of the teams working on football skills and practice drills. Hopefully this training will help the students in their upcoming matches. Colm also worked with students on the advantages of running a bank within their school.

Now in its 11th year, the “Build a Bank” programme has gone from strength to strength and St Aidan’s has been

involved with the programme for the past 9 years. It is a very rewarding and enriching experience both for teachers and students alike.

A team of six students set up and managed a school bank at St. Aidan’s. Students were involved in sourcing new customers, opening accounts, encouraging regular savings, exploring new ways to bank, while being creative with marketing ideas and introducing customers to products such as Phone & Internet Banking.

School Bank Celebrate Success at Banking Finals

4th Year students Shauna Hegarty, Kelly O’ Donovan, Melissa O’Mahony, Evan Creagh, Sarah Dalton and Chloe Dunne were tremendously successful in running the school bank throughout the year. The bank runs in conjunction with AIB. Students participated in the regional finals in February as part of “The Build a Bank Challenge”, a nationwide competition involving 225 schools across the country. More recently the students took part in a local competition “Build On the Bank” with 17 schools from Cork City and County participating in the region.



The bank team came 2nd in this competition and attended a prize-giving ceremony at AIB Headquarters, South Mall where they were presented with a €300 O’Neill’s sports voucher for the school, a One4All gift voucher for each team member and a football signed by Colm Cooper, Kerry Footballer and AIB Youth Ambassador and Colm O’ Neill, Cork Footballer.

Their bank “Prize Bank” was adjudicated on project work submitted and students were marked on their sales, innovation, marketing strategies, creativity and learning outcomes.

Peter Finnegan, Rubicon Centre’s Case Manager, based at CIT was impressed by the high standard of the bank team’s Business Plan and BOB report.

The students learned so much from taking part in this competition and the skills they have acquired will stand to them in the future. Working as part of a team, setting and meeting deadlines, making decisions and reviewing strategies that worked well were all crucial to the success of the team. The support of their AIB Student Officer Mr. Shane O’ Donoughue and their teacher Ms. Mc Donnell helped them throughout the year and we are delighted their hard work and dedication paid off.

- Ms N.Mc Donnell



St.Aidan's Student Council News



To celebrate International Women's Day on Friday, March 13th 2013, three members of the Student Council Laura Breen, Chelsea O'Connor and April Walsh attended a talk followed by a questions and answers session at the City Hall, Cork.



Among the speakers were John Buttimer, Lord Mayor of Cork, Senator Deirdre Clune, Mary Smithwick Assistant News Editor and Political Editor with The Evening Echo and Gillian Keating First Female President of Cork Chamber of

Commerce. The speakers gave very interesting and varied accounts of their experiences in their chosen careers and encouraged every student in attendance to pursue their ideal careers and to maximize their potential. Lively discussions took place on women's rights, women in the workplace and women in politics and business.

- Ms E. Fitzgerald

"A modern progressive world needs equality"

Open Night Welcomes Pupils, New and Old!

St. Aidan's opened its doors to prospective students on the evening of October 25th last. A large attendance meant the school was a hive of activity with primary school students getting a taste of the wide range of subjects the school has to offer.

Many past pupils returned with their children and reminisced with staff on their schooldays. The science labs were, as always, fascinating in their displays. Departments such as Art and Home Economics also displayed the wonderful and original work created by students across all year groups. The PE hall was another favourite amongst visitors with indoor soccer and basketball matches in progress. The fully equipped gym was buzzing with activity as students demonstrated new equipment while the college's library offered a more relaxed environment as young readers and parents browsed through the latest books to arrive on the shelves.

The Students Council, the Careers Department and the school bank opened stands on the evening to answer questions from parents. The evening concluded with the school principal, Ms. S Curley addressing a large audience and engaging in a very informative question and answer session.



New Junior Cycle 2014

Big changes are afoot in the way the Junior Cycle is to be taught and assessed! Beginning in September 2014 there will be a phased replacement of the Junior Certificate examination and a different approach to assessment, starting with English for students entering post-primary education at that date!

Recent reports have highlighted the failure of Irish 15 years olds to develop the skills needed to learn, live and work in today's society and the new Junior Cycle aims to address this by encouraging students to become more active learners!

The staff of St. Aidan's will be in a strong position to successfully implement these changes as we are one of a select group of schools chosen to work with the Department of Education on the new system.

The new Junior Cycle will be based on continuous assessment and will potentially include the option of 'short courses' in areas as diverse as 'Chinese Language and Culture', 'Artistic Performance' and 'Digital Literacy Media'.

Students will explore their revised subjects guided by 6 'key skills' including 'Working With Others', 'Being Creative' and 'Staying Well!' Exciting times ahead!!!

- Mr P. Keenan



National Spring Clean Week



St Aidan's took a whole school approach to the annual "National Spring Clean Week" as various classes across the school took time out from class work and headed out with their litter pickers, bags and gloves to tidy up the areas around the school.

Local residents will already have noticed Transition Years cleaning litter in the Ballyvolane area throughout the year but with the arrival of spring an extra effort was made by all and over 100 green bags were collected.

Meanwhile our Eco Club members are still working hard on the 7 step programme to achieve the prestigious Green Flag.

Congratulations to our 2013 Eco-club members, 1st years Kelly Murray and Leona Dwyer, 2nd year Holly O'Connor, 3rd year Jason Daly, 4th years Glenn O'Donovan and Audrey O'Connor, 5th years Chelsea O'Conner and Eddie Fuller, 6th years Laura Breen, Shane O'Riordan and Gavin Duggan. Many thanks to Club leader Aisling Connolly, Deputy leader Eric Dooley and teacher Ms. S Flanagan.

- Ms S. Flanagan

Something New from Something Old Green Schools Project.



ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards is an All-Ireland environmental awards programme that recognises and rewards young people who raise environmental awareness and improve the environment.

WasteMatchers is proud to be a part of this, further encouraging young people to look at ways of reusing items that might otherwise be waste and creating an awareness around waste minimisation.

Transition year pupils made 'Bug Hotels' and 'Insect Inns' out of material that would generally have been destined to go to landfill. Materials included left over wood from the woodwork room, old slates, old paint, disused wallpaper, cardboard, paper etc.

As a class we learned about the importance of having bugs and insects in our gardens and how important they are to our food chains. We hope to encourage and attract biodiversity to our school's green areas and that our 'Bug Hotels' will provide homes for many of our mini-beasts.

Written by: Sarah Costello, Mary-Anne Long, Amy O' Connor, Weronika Hornowska and Eleanor Murnane

Sporty Corner...

Kelly and Oliver bring home Gold



Kelly O'Donovan

Kelly is a Transition Year student in St Aidan's Community College. She won a gold medal in Taekwon-Do at the recent World Cup competition in Brighton. Kelly has been involved in Taekwon Do since she was 7 years old and trains with Cork Taekwon Do in the North Monastery and her trainer Pat Barry.

Oliver McCarthy

Oliver is a second year student in St. Aidan's Community College. He recently came home with a gold medal from the European Schoolboy Boxing Championships in Anapa, Russia. He has been training with Brian Dillons club since he was 6 years old.

St Aidan's Community College is very proud of their achievements and the school community has congratulated them on their success. They are great role models for all students, showing that their hard work and commitment has led to their recent success.

Vocational Senior B County Champions

Congratulations to St.Aidan's Senior B hurlers who won the Vocational Schools Senior B County title. They beat Boherbue Comprehensive in challenging conditions which saw both teams battling the January elements.



Well done to coach Mr Walsh, team captain Gavin Duggan and the team, Sean Fitzgerald, Dale Bowen, Kenneth McCarthy Coade, James Maher, Eric O'Shea, Jonathan Horgan, Eric Healy, Michael O'Leary, Eoin O'Connell, John Walsh, Dalian Wall, Ronan Healy, Luke Forde, Aaron O'Brien and Dean Canty.

UCC+ Elite Soccer Camp



In October, five students travelled to UCC to participate in a one-day Elite Soccer Camp organised by UCC Sports Dept. and the UCC+ Office. Ryan Meaney, Micheal O' Sullivan, Stephen Waters, Jason Hawthorne and Ryan O Connor, earned their place on the camp based on their individual sporting achievements.

Many thanks to Ms. Sheila Mc Govern, UCC+ Officer and Mr. Greg Yelverton, UCC Sports Coordinator and past pupil of St. Aidan's for their invaluable support to our school during this past year.

- Mr M Forde

St. Aidan's Warm Welcome for Hurling Star



St. Aidan's Leaving Certificate students extended a warm welcome to Cork hurling star Lorcán Mc Loughlin who visited the school recently as part of the St. Aidan's/CIT linked schools programme.

Lorcán is currently studying for an MSc in Marketing Practice in CIT and has been a Cork Senior Hurler since 2010. Recently he has been involved in charity fundraising events for Suicide Awareness and Mallow General Hospital. Students greatly enjoyed and benefited from Lorcán's words of inspiration in which he drew on stories from his academic and sporting life and addressed areas such as motivation, stress, health and fitness and effective study.

“Books are a unique portable magic...”

– Stephen King



Library Staff

Many thanks to our library volunteers Callum Miloudi, Gavin Mc Sweeney and Dean Murphy, pictured here in the school library.

World Book Day Read-athon

To mark World Book Day in March, class Marcus in Transition Year took part in a full day read-athon. The school library facilitated the readathon by encouraging pupils to choose a book in advance of the day and by allowing pupils to change their books, where necessary during lunchtime.

Class Marcus are a very enthusiastic group of young readers who not only took great pleasure in reading for World Book Day but played their part in helping to purchase new stock for the library. Every pupil in St Aidan's is a member of the school library which boasts thousands of titles and is a guaranteed sanctuary for the keen reader. The library staff are always on hand to help and can assure members that there is a book here for everyone!

- Ms M Dineen



Ms Taylor goes back to school!



Having had many great memories of my time in St. Aidan's as a student, when I found out I had been accepted onto the Professional Diploma of Education course in UCC it was the first place I thought to apply for my teaching practice.

I was absolutely delighted to get a place in St. Aidan's for the school year and began in September. Returning to the school, and especially the staffroom, was daunting in the beginning. However the staff soon put my mind at ease with their warm welcome. It has been lovely to work with the teachers who taught me and the support and encouragement from all the staff has been invaluable to me this year. What I have found most comforting is that all the teachers still have their very approachable nature towards other staff members as well as their students and have been ready and willing to help me throughout the year.

Entering the classroom was the next big step, one which has been made so much easier thanks to the fantastic welcome from all the students. St. Aidan's has a strong tradition of welcoming back its past pupils as teachers, a tradition which I am proud to be part of. The students have been excellent in helping

me to achieve the goals of my teaching practice with their co-operation and willing participation in my classes. I feel that being a past pupil has helped me to engage with the students as I have previously been in their place and can relate to their current experiences.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year in St. Aidan's and I would like to sincerely thank all the staff and students, especially the Science Department, Ms. Curley and Ms. Quane for this rewarding experience and I look forward to continuing my career in teaching.

- Ms N Taylor

“The best way to predict the future is to create it.”

- Abraham Lincoln



UCC SPRING OPEN DAY

Seventy senior-cycle students visited UCC Spring Open Day which took place on April 19th. All enjoyed getting a feel for what life in UCC is about, walking around the beautiful campus, talking to staff and current students, and attending talks on degree courses and student life. The campus brimmed with a fantastic atmosphere resulting in a truly memorable day for all involved



AIDAN'S LINKS WITH UCC BIS - IT'S THE BUSINESS

A delegation from UCC Business Information Systems recently visited St. Aidan's. Dr. Fergal Carton, Lecturer, accompanied by past pupils Kevin Cunneen (BIS 4th Year) and Daniel Keane (BIS 3rd year) gave an interesting presentation on the many opportunities which the course offers. The BIS programme provides students with a coherent portfolio of business, management and consultancy skills, as well as enhancing their knowledge of IT concepts and core technical skills.

UCC+ HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS ROUTE

St. Aidan's further developed its links with UCC this past year through an expansion of the UCC+ Higher Education Access Programme. The benefits of the programme to our school are numerous and include entry to UCC courses on reduced points. Various support structures are put in place for students once they begin at UCC such as Saturday honours master classes in maths and the sciences

and access to the study facilities in the Boole library.

We are proud to further our association with the college to which many of our Leaving Cert students progress each year. Thanks to all the UCC Plus programme personnel, in particular to Ms. Sheila McGovern for her invaluable help.



EXPERIENCE UCC TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAMME

Five transition year students proudly represented St. Aidan's in this year's Experience UCC TY Programme in which they got to study in UCC for one week. Here they detail their experiences.

I attended a week long Computer Science course in UCC in November. During the week I spent my time, learning about scratch programming, web design, robotics, game design and how to take apart and rebuild a computer. This programme helped me plan for my future career, by giving me an insight into what studying computers is really like. - Kieran Holmes.

My week in the UCC BIS department showed me that computing is really interesting, enjoyable and something I would like to do in the future. I found out about google glasses and how they work. I played a game called LightBot which showed my aptitude for programming. It was an amazing week. Thanks to all at UCC for opening my eyes to BIS and helping me in deciding my future career. - Weronika Hornowska

I attended the UCC Physics week in February as I am interested in pursuing a career in physics. I was based in the amazing and very modern Eureka Labs in the Kane building. I worked mainly with Dr. Denise Gabuzda who is a lecturer in Astrophysics. I learned about astrophysics, light waves and theoretical physics. I now know more than ever that I

want to study Physics at UCC. I am very grateful to the UCC Physics department for giving me this wonderful, fun and informative week. - Jack Murphy.

I attended the BIS course in UCC in February. The work environment was brilliant. I was working in the labs with superb computers at my fingertips. I would like to thank UCC and the BIS department for this great opportunity and invaluable experience. - Mary Anne Long



AIDAN'S AND CIT: A WINNING PARTNERSHIP

St. Aidan's joined the CIT Linked Schools Programme last year. This year the programme has evolved further with many new initiatives. These include CIT information sessions in St. Aidan's for parents and students, Leaving Cert laboratory sessions, Saturday revision days in biology and maths and communication workshops for Transition Year and Leaving Cert students. CIT is one of the top Institutes of Technology in Ireland and we look forward to further developing these links in the coming years. Thanks to all the CIT Access programme personnel in particular to Ms. Louise Bermingham, Ms. Elaine Dennehy and Ms. Deirdre Creedon.

CIT: A DAY IN THE LIFE.

In March, 33 leaving students travelled to CIT to participate in the 'Day in the Life of a CIT Student' programme. The event was organised by the CIT Access office and allowed students to visit specific departments to meet with staff and students.



AIDAN'S STUDENTS KEY ROLE IN NEW CIT INITIATIVE

Four students from St. Aidan's were recently invited to provide their expert views on the development of a new programme at CIT, set up to address the issue of student drop out at third level. Weronika Hornowska, Aaron Kang, Conor Sheehan and Kieran Holmes gave a PowerPoint presentation detailing their perspective on the problem and how it might be addressed. All were commended and thanked by Ms. Deirdre Creedon, Head of CIT Access Programme.



FÁS APPRENTICESHIPS:

Mr. Seamus O' Connell, FÁS Senior Training Advisor visited the college in April and gave a presentation on apprenticeship training. Over 70 senior cycle students attended and learned a great deal on a wide range of interesting opportunities available.



PLC COLLEGES OPEN DAY TOUR

St. Aidan's students got a great insight into life at Cork's three PLC colleges when 55 Leaving Certificate students took a tour of St. Johns Central College, Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa and Cork College of Commerce during February's Open Days. All 3 colleges offer a comprehensive range of courses, offering strong employment prospects as well as opportunities for progression to higher education colleges such as UCC and CIT.



AIDAN'S INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH CORK COLLEGE OF COMMERCE.

There are now hundreds of job opportunities available in Information Technology in Ireland.

However, many students who choose an IT course in third level drop out in their first year – mainly due to lack of knowledge of what a career in this area is really all about. To address this fact St. Aidan's teamed up with Cork College of Commerce to offer a workshop in Computing and IT on Fri 19th April. Many thanks to all at CCOC for facilitating the workshop especially Ms. Maura O Halloran, Head of Computing for her work in putting together such an innovative programme.

PHYSICS TYNDALL LECTURE AT UCC:

In January, St. Aidan's senior science students attended the annual Physics Tyndall Lecture. This year's topic was nuclear fusion and was delivered in a dynamic and insightful lecture by Dr. Melanie Windridge.



Many former students from St. Aidan's have gone on to pursue careers in the hi-tech areas of physics and engineering, areas in which St. Aidan's continues to lay great emphasis in its extensive curriculum.

AIDAN'S AND IBM: PARTNERSHIP IN INNOVATION

Thirty-two Transition Year students had several days to remember this past year thanks to their involvement in the IBM Schools Business Partnership programme. The programme includes a visit to the IBM



facility in Cork Airport Business Park, teamwork and presentation projects with IBM employees, CV workshops and practice interviews all of which proved to be a tremendous learning experience for the students. A special word of thanks to IBM team leader and St. Aidan's past pupil, Adrian O' Sullivan who presented the IBM awards at the Solas Award ceremony. Congratulations to Katie O'Callaghan who received the overall IBM student of the year and to runner up Erica Cronin.



IBM TY SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE

In further good news story for St. Aidan's the college received a donation of \$1500 (approx €1150) from IBM as recognition of its successful involvement in the Schools Business Partnership Programme and its links with the company over the past five years. The donation was used to fund a TY scholarship programme, the aim of which was to encourage students to develop their academic talents and to foster key skills in the areas of self directed learning, research, project work and presentation. Students were invited to compile a portfolio of projects completed during the year and the quality of entries submitted was extremely high. Congratulations to Amy O'Connor, April Walsh, Audrey O'Connor, Sarah Costello and Adam Sheehan.

- Mr. M Forde



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PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH ST.AIDAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE