

SOLAS MAGAZINE

ST. AIDAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN HILL, CORK
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My Education, My Future



St Aidan's scooped all top prizes at the CIT art exhibition for the second year in a row! Congratulations to Paudie Cosgrave, 5th year, who won the overall senior prize. Chloe McCarthy, 2nd year, won the overall junior prize, while Aideen O'Keefe, 5th year, won the school category.

Students were required to make an artwork in response to the theme of 'My Education, My Future' and could use any media they wished. Students who took part made art from a wide range of media such as ceramics, painting, ink work, mixed media, 3D lino printing and film.

The standard was exceptionally high. Students who travelled to the exhibition saw fantastic work from the other participating schools and met lecturers in art from Crawford and CIT. An amazing day was had by all and well done to the students who took part!

UCC Plus Student Achievement Awards

Congratulations to our 2nd year students who attended the UCC Plus Student Achievement Awards. The awards acknowledged their endeavour and effort in Mathematics, European Languages, Gaelige and Science.

Parents and teachers were also invited to attend the evening which saw students receive medals and certificates in recognition of their hard work.

It was an enjoyable, inspiring and memorable evening.

Well done to Alison Power, Nicole Bolger, Jake Collins, Rebecca O'Donnell, Robyn Andrews, Peter Barrow, Jessica Ricken and Lauren Murphy.



Solas Awards 2015

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A Word from the Principal

As another school year draws to a close, it gives us time to reflect on the many great achievements of our students year. The success began with the excellent Leaving Certificate results achieved by our students, the majority of whom have continued on to 3rd level, followed on by the Junior Cert results in September which further emphasised the academic attainment of our students.

We had a visit from the Department of Education in November to evaluate our Transition Year Programme. The school was commended in the report in relation to the provision of core and optional subjects and modules stating it 'reflects a very well-balanced curriculum.' The report also stated: 'The range of co-curricular and complementary activities provided significantly enhance the students' experience of the programme.' The full report will be published by the Department of Education and will be available on the school website (www.staidanscork.ie) The links with outside agencies from the school were strengthened this year with the involvement of Junior Achievement Ireland who ran workshops for 1st years and TY's in relation to the value of education in setting people up for a good future. 'School to Work Days' were arranged where classes visited a variety of work places such as Mc Keeson,

Musgraves, AIB etc. to get an insight into future career opportunities. St Aidan's students have benefitted greatly this year from continued links with UCC and CIT in relation to visits for Open Days, Student Achievement Awards and Easter camps. A real opportunity for students to get an insight into their future college experience!

Students have represented the school well during the year in various competitions and events. The School Bank were very visible this year and won the Regional Finals in the 'AIB Build a Bank Challenge'. St Aidan's yet again scooped the top prizes in the CIT 'My Education My Future' Art competition.

The musical talents of St Aidan's students shone during the concerts at Christmas and Easter which were held in the school. Students have been busy also with trips to the Gaeltacht, Glen Resource Centre,

London and even Morocco! Those less fortunate have not been forgotten as students were involved in fundraising activities for SHARE, Greater Chernobyl Cause, Irish Pilgrimage Trust and Irish Cancer Society. Teachers and students also had a busy April doing their part by getting involved in litter collections during 'National Spring Clean'.

As we are currently preparing for another very productive school year, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the staff of St Aidan's Community College and to thank the students who along with the support of their parents have made 2014/15 such a productive year.

'Bíodh bhur solas ag taitneamh'
- S. Curley, Principal



Past Pupils welcome 2nd years to UCC

Class Brid and Class Colmcille recently attended a lecture given by Professor Tommie McCarthy, School of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, University College Cork, on 'The merits of 3rd Level Education'. Following this they were treated to a tour of the UCC campus by some of our past pupils.

Pictured are Class Brid and Class Colmcille with their teachers Ms. Crean and Ms. Scanlon along with past-pupils Daniel Keane, Jennifer Hosford and Leanne O'Sullivan.

Aidan's Amazing Artists



Aidan's Annual Visit Newgrange and Dublin galleries!

In November 2014, 35 senior art history students travelled to Co. Meath to see the fantastic neolithic site of Newgrange. The trip also took in the Bronze and Iron Age treasures of the National Museum and a guided tour of the National Galleries permanent collection.

Crawford College of Art Open Day

During CIT Open day, a number of 5th and 6th year students met in Crawford College of Art and Design to take a tour of the campus and facilities. Past pupil Aaron Bevan met us to give us a private tour of the college, and paid particular attention to portfolios and student work.



LCA 1 and Year 1 get crafty

LCA 1 Class Aoife visited Craftyhands studio in Midleton and spent a morning working with a local artist on a piece of pottery.

Following this, students organised a workshop for 1st year class Saoirse, where they taught them clay techniques and skills. Class Saoirse and Aoife were delighted to be able to make some new buddies from their workshop!

Well done class Aoife and keep up the good work.

Project Articulate

This year St.Aidan's were lucky to be selected as one of nine pilot schools to take part in Project Articulate, a competition in which senior students select their favorite artist and produce a ten minute presentation on their work.

Congratulations to Stephen O'Connell who won third prize at this competition.

Halloween Costume Competition

Congratulations to all who took part. The imagination and creativity of students made this a fun and exciting event.



St. Aidan's Build a Bank Winners

St. Aidan's bank, Banchorman: The Legend of Burgundy Banking, scooped the top award for Best Digital Bank in the AIB Build a Bank Munster finals. The bank team excelled at running their bank by embracing Digital Media in their day to day operations and marketing campaigns.

The team operate a bank weekly in school and have been involved in developing a business plan, branding their Bank and sourcing new customers through creative marketing campaigns. The students have also raised funds for many local charities as part of their outreach programme.

The bank team branded their bank on the hit comedy movie Anchorman based on the life of TV anchorman Ron Burgundy.



Congratulations to our school bank team Jack Kiely, Luke Thompson, James O'Mahony, Ava Hayes, Julia Pawlak, Holly O'Connor and Olivia Forde pictured here with Ms Mc Donnell.



Technology Rocks with Scientific Sue

In January, forty nine students from St. Aidan's visited UCC to attend the annual Physics Tyndall Lecture. This year's topic was entitled 'Technology Rocks' and was delivered by Sue Mc Grath, also known as 'Scientific Sue'.

In a dynamic, innovative and interactive show she explored the topics of Light, Sound, Electricity, Magnetism and Electromagnetism.

Many former students from St. Aidan's have gone on to pursue highly rewarding and lucrative careers in the hi-tech areas of physics and engineering and job prospects continue to remain very strong in the area of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) – subjects on which St. Aidan's continues to lay great emphasis in its extensive curriculum.



UCC NEWS

Our association with the UCC+ Plus programme has been further expanded this year and includes several benefits to St. Aidan's including honours master revision classes in Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, extra after-school tuition across a range of subjects and free weekend study facilities in UCC.

Several speakers from different departments within UCC visited St. Aidan's this year and delivered presentations on various courses including BIS, Business and Law and Arts and Celtic Studies. Representatives from UCC delivered talks on the UCC HEAR programme in November and a large number of parents were in attendance.

Congratulations to Kate O'Brien, Olivia Forde, Nicole Cashman, Julie Cat and Maya Ni Ghallachoir who secured a place on the One Day Law Academy in UCC which took place in February.

Well done to five of our 1st year students who took part in the very successful two-day UCC camp earlier this year.

Congratulations to TY students Megan Scollard, Jack Kiely, Nicole Cashman, Alex Smith who secured a place on the UCC BIS Week which took place in February.

Past pupil Daniel Keane, pictured here, is now studying a Masters in BIS in UCC and has been an excellent contact person for our students.

Congratulations also to the following students, pictured here, who secured a place on the UCC Plus Easter Week Programme: Maya Ni Ghallachoir, Eabha Atkinson, Saoirse O Driscoll, Jake Ricken, Oliver Szamak, Damian Coleman, Adam Ryan, Jesse Ryan and Colm O'Connell.





Record Year for Progression to CIT

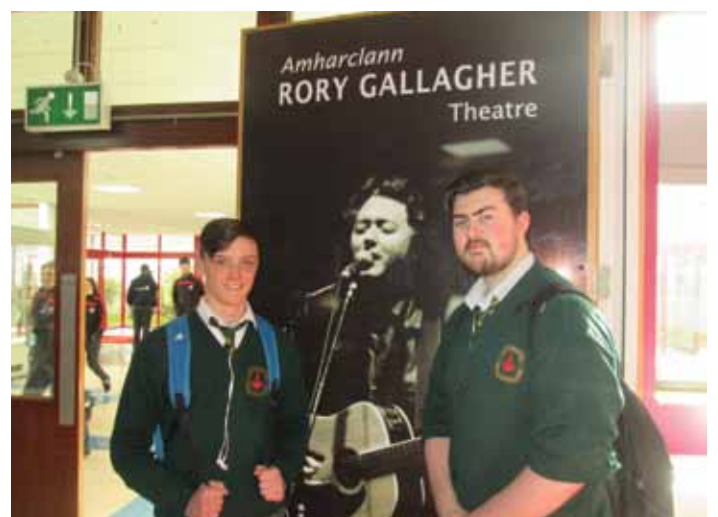
St. Aidan's links with CIT continues to grow from strength to strength with thirty-four of our Leaving Cert students offered places in CIT in this past year.

Various activities took place during the year which were aimed at raising awareness amongst our students of the top class courses available at the Institute, such as the Graffiti Theatre Company drama workshops.

Over 140 senior cycle students attended the CIT Open Day in November and in the same month ten TY students were awarded a week long placement in CIT in their chosen career area.

In March, 32 of our senior cycle students were offered the chance to become a CIT student for a day while in April our TY students got to experience the college on TY Open Day.

We wish to thank CIT Access Service for all their dedicated support throughout this past year. M. Forde



Careers Exhibition

In October 160 students from TY and Leaving Cert attended the Careers Exhibition in Cork which is highly beneficial for our students in seeing the range of career options available to them.

Aidan Lawton and Jason Hawthorne are pictured here investigating Pilot training options.



Schools Business Partnership

Through the Schools Business Partnership St. Aidan's is delighted to continue its links with Pharmaceutical Giant, Janssen Biologics.

Our TY students once again benefitted from a site visit to the Janssen facility in Ringaskiddy, a workshop on CV preparation and interview skills and practice interviews with Janssen HR personnel.

Many thanks to past pupil Liam O'Leary whose visit to St. Aidan's gave valuable insights into the huge range of careers available in the multinational/ pharmaceutical sector.



Chemistry Campers

As part of the UCC Plus Programme, the UCC Chemistry Department hosts the Annual Second Year Chemistry Camp the aims of which are to get hands on experience in performing chemistry experiments, using computers in experiment analysis and to gain an insight into the magic of chemistry.

Congratulations to the nine students who, due to their excellent science results were awarded places on the camp.



CIT Student Union President visits St. Aidan's

On April 30th, current CIT Student Union President and St. Aidan's past pupil Michael Linehan, class of 2010, returned to his alma mater.

We congratulate Michael on graduating with a first class honours degree in BIS and we would like to thank him for speaking to our 6th year students on his progression through CIT. He is now US bound, hoping to further his career



in the area of business start-up.

Michael is pictured here with 6th year students Adam O'Keeffe, Rebecca Lynam and Jordan Chan.

Congratulations to Jonathon Miloudi, Leaving Cert class of 2013, on his successful graduation from the Naval Service, pictured here with his sister Erika.



Congratulations Quintain

Archer Quintain Noonan is currently busy training for The Youth World Cup and has set his sights on the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2020. Quintain's motto is "stand taller than you think you are".

Well done Quintain!





Joyce Ren, Erika Miloudi and Menjie Liu, 2nd year, are seen here with some of our most popular titles.

BookHaven

The library in St.Aidan's is undoubtedly a haven for book lovers.

All Junior classes browse through the thousands of book titles weekly and the library is key in promoting many events such as our Literacy week in November, the annual World Book Day in March and our Open Night TY book and poetry displays in October.



Megan Meets...

I don't know many 16 year olds that can say they spent a week in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, met the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, and the American Ambassador to Ireland all in one week, and that's just naming a few.

Back in November I applied to take part in the Iveagh Scholars Programme and I was chosen as one of thirty from all over Ireland to participate. This programme was the first of its kind to allow students to spend a week in a government environment.

On the first day, we met with ambassadors in Iveagh House before moving on to visit Irish Aid and learning about their work in developing countries.

On Tuesday, we held a mock press conference and later I was selected to go to the U.S. Embassy where I met the U.S. Ambassador, Kevin O'Malley.

On Wednesday we travelled to Belfast where we met the Lord Mayor, went to an integrated secondary school, got a bus tour of the city and saw some of the many peace walls. To end the day we met with 'Young Influencers' and discussed what the Ireland of 2030 will be like.

One of the highlights came on Thursday when I travelled to Áras an Uachtaráin to meet the President Michael D. Higgins. Later I met the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charlie Flanagan. Finally, we were given an insight into trade promotion and had to do a Dragons Den type presentation to promote our product.

On Friday, we took part in a role play session, covering different topics in the Department of Foreign Affairs. A feedback session followed and we finally got to meet the judges of the competition.

I had one of the best weeks of my life. It was an opportunity of a life time. I will never be able to forget the people I met and the things I've heard and seen this week.

Megan Scollard, Neasan TY

French Film Festival

The Gate Cinema in Cork hosted its annual French Film Festival in early March 2015. Accompanied by their teachers, Mr Leahy and Ms Fitzgerald, 5th year French students from St. Aidan's enjoyed a screening of the award winning French film "Les Intouchables".



Kangaroo Maths: Students leap to the challenge

Kangaroo Maths is an international online mathematical competition. According to the organisers, this test is not based on pure knowledge of formulas but working out problems logically.

This is St Aidan's second year taking part in the competition. We were one of the first schools in Ireland to participate in the exam and following the enthusiasm of our Maths students last year, we really looked forward to this year's exam.

Throughout the week of March 23rd, the computer room was busy with students from several year groups stepping up to this interesting and exciting challenge. Well done to all who participated.

Julia Pawlak Class Neasan



Maynooth and Islamic Cultural Centre visit

On Monday 16th March, TY religion students visited the Irish Islamic Cultural Centre in Clonskeagh, Co. Dublin. Following a short tour of the Mosque we had an interesting talk about the differences between our churches and the Islamic house of prayer.

From Clonskeagh, we travelled to Maynooth University Campus. We were given a tour the North and South Campus, parts of which are over 200 years old.

We really enjoyed our trip and we were delighted that we had the chance to visit Maynooth. Many of us had never heard of Maynooth University before so who knows, maybe some of us from St. Aidan's will be attending NUIM in the future. It's good to keep our options open!



**Kelly Murphy (Aonghus)
Hayley O'Connell
(Gobnait)**

Blackpool to the Front

History Lesson with Mark Cronin – Over 200,000 Irishmen fought in the First World War. 50,000 of them died. Nearly every street and laneway of Cork city had a soldier or sailor who died in the war. At least sixty-nine of them were from Blackpool.

To mark the centenary of the outbreak of the war, we invited local historian Mark Cronin to speak to senior history students. Mark, a native of Dublin Hill who studied history in UCC, is also a member of the Blackpool Historical Society and the Western Front Association. His book, Blackpool to the Front, documents the experience of the

hundreds from the locality who enlisted and fought to escape poverty or to defend 'the rights of small nations'.

Students were treated to a comprehensive and vivid presentation that set the context for Cork's industrial north-side in 1914.



As the "Decade of Centenaries" continues, history students will have further opportunities to investigate the impact of events on their localities.

Photo (L-R) Ms. Crean, Kate O'Brien, Glenn O'Donovan, Mark Cronin, Clarice O'Callaghan, Mr. Coughlan.

An Ghaeltacht

Fuair daltaí ón séú bliain deis chun dul go dtí an Ghaeltacht i mbliaana i Mí an Mhárta agus i Mí na Samhna. D'fhanamar le bean aitiúil in áit álainn i gCiarraí darb ainm Ceann Trá. Bhí na radharcanna thar insint scéil. Tar éis an turas fada, bhí rang againn láithreach ach bhí na ranganna go hiontach.

Bhí ceachtanna againn gach maidin agus arís tar éis lóin ach bhí siad den scoth agus taitneamhach freisin. D'fhoghlaimíomar a lán rudaí don scrúdú béil don Ardeistiméireacht a bheadh ar siúl i Mí Aibreáin. Taobh amuigh den ranganna, bhí a lán craic agus spraoi againn freisin.

Nuair bhí sos againn, chumar ag spaisteoireacht ar an trá deas. Chaitheamar na hoícheanta i dteach tabhairne Páidí Ó Sé ag imirt púil, ag seoladh téacsanna abhaile agus ag caint as Gaeilge. Chumar a luí timpeall a haon déag a chlog. Bhuel b'fhéidir!

Anuas ar sin, bhíomar ar scamall a naoi nuair a chloiseamar go mbeimis ag dul go dtí Ionad an Bhlascaóid Mhóir i nDún Chaoin. Scéal greannmhar, tar éis



an tsiúlóide an-fhada agus an-ghaofar thar na sléibhte, bhí an Ionad dúnta! Bhíomar préachta leis an bhfuacht agus bhí díoma an domhain orainn. Tháinig aoibh orainn nuair a chonaiceamar an tacsáí. Scéal greannmhar é anois, ach ní rabhamar ag gáire ag an am!

Deis iontach a bhí ann gan aon amhras. Ní hamháin gur tháinig feabhas ar ár

gcuid Gaeilge ach tháingamar abhaile le grá nua don teanga.

Le April Bhreathnach



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2015

A Chairde,

Bhí seachtain iontach againne i mbliaana ag céiliúradh na Gaolúinne i bPobalcholáiste Aodáin. Bhíomar ag amhránaíocht san urhalla agus bhí Tráth na gCeist beomhar againne sa halla leis. Is deas linn an craic agus an ceol agus an cur i bpáirt le chéile. B'éacht iontach e an bhliain so agus leanfar é an bhliain dár gcionn le cúnadh Dé...

An tUasal Rosboire agus an fhoireann TIR GAN TEANGA; TIR GAN ANAM





Congratulations to our Solas Award Winners 2015

Exceptional Co-Curricular:
School Bank

Best Class:
Class Colmcille,
2nd year

Junior Pupil Endeavour:
Sidney Uzik

Senior Pupil Endeavour:
Claire Cullinane

Exceptional Pastoral Achievement:
Ashleigh Wyse

Edward Pope Memorial:
Callum Simmons

French:
Mileyna Burke

English:
Andrew Grieves

Business:
Conor Dunphy

Home Economics: Erica Cronin

Technological:
Edvinas Jablonskis

Maths:
James Hayes

Irish:
Shauna O' Callaghan

History:
Mary Anne Long

Geography:
Jessica Ricken

Music:
Dylan Walsh

Science:
Katie O'Callaghan

Art:
Donna O Neill

Student of the Year
1st year: Shauna Lane
2nd year: Alison Power
3rd year: Owen Forde
4th year: Julia Pawlak

5th year:
Rebecca Kennedy

6th year:
Nicole Keneally

Junior Academic: Quintain Noonan

Senior Academic:
April Walsh

Best JC 2014:
Megan Scollard

Best LC 2014:
Conor Sheehan

Best LCA 2014:
Dean Rea

JCSP:
Kelly Murray

LCA:
Kyle Stevens

Sport Junior:
EJ Albino
& Nicole Bolger

Sport Senior:
Kelly O'Donovan
& Kyle Mc Namara

Principal's Award:
Grace O' Shea

Many thanks to our guest speaker and past pupil, Dr Donal Og O'Donovan

"Set your mind to something and go for it. If you really want something you won't take the easy options. Believe that you are capable. Well done on your award tonight, but don't stop there. Keep achieving and pushing yourself."

Top Leaving Certificate Students 2014

Congratulations to the students of 2014 whose achievements were recognised at our Open Night in October

**Conor Sheehan – 535 points,
Lauren Callanan – 505 points,
Aaron Kang – 515 points,
Ciara Murphy – 505 and
Aisling Sheehan – 495 points**



Class of 2014

Congratulations to students from the class of 2014 who are now studying at CIT.

Junior Certificate 2014

Congratulations to our top Junior Certificate students,

Megan Scollard, Oliver Smazak,
Julia Pawlak, Colm O'Connell and
Nollaig O'Donnell.

Well done!



Class of 2014

Congratulations to the class of 2014 who are now studying at UCC.
Back row: Marie Martin (Early Childhood Studies), Aaron Kang (Chemical Sciences), Lorna O'Connor (Arts), Colin Healy (Early Childhood Studies).
Front row: Ciara Murphy (Criminology), Christopher O'Driscoll (Arts), Chelsea O'Connor (Business Information Systems), Conor Sheehan (Commerce)



Daffodil Day 2015

Daffodil Day was celebrated at St. Aidan's Community College and Scoil Oilibheir on National Daffodil Day, Friday 27th March, 2015. A total of €1851.00 was raised and donated to the Irish Cancer Society.

A number of TY students, organised and co-ordinated by Mr. Breen, were involved in selling bunches of fresh daffodils, silk daffodils and pins in the local area.

A coffee morning for staff was organised by Ms. Kingston and an art display was co-ordinated by Ms. Lee and Ms. Tierney.



On Friday students who participated in a No Uniform Day, donated €2.00 each and were entered into a draw for Easter Eggs.

My sincere thanks to our various sponsors including the sponsors who donated the bunches of beautiful fresh daffodils, to the wonderful students who volunteered and to Ms. Curley our Principal and the staff for their co-operation and support in helping making our Daffodil Day a success.

Maeve Flavin Murphy



LCA students volunteer at Cork's Penny Dinners

Penny Dinners is one of Cork's oldest caring organisations whose primary aim is to provide a nourishing midday meal to those in need. There is always an open door and a warm welcome at Penny Dinners.

Two of our Leaving Certificate Applied students, Sarah Keane and Lorna Conway, experienced this welcoming atmosphere for themselves during their recent work experience.

Sarah and Lorna spent two weeks volunteering at Penny Dinners as part of their LCA work placement, an integral and valuable part of the LCA programme.

Both girls agreed that the work experience was challenging but the rewards that came from working in Penny Dinners meant that this work placement was invaluable and life-changing.

Many thanks to Katrina Twomey and the volunteers at Penny Dinners for their kindness and support.



SHARE

St. Aidan's is proud to be associated with SHARE and our students are delighted to be given the opportunity every year to take part in fund raising for such a worthy cause.

TY students are pictured here with SHARE ambassador Evan O'Brien (2nd from left) and Mr M Forde.

Well done to Clodagh Varian and Stephen Punch for their great work in representing St. Aidan's on the SHARE Executive

The Meitheal Team



The word "Meitheal" describes the old Irish tradition where people gathered together on neighbours farms to help save the crops. Needs in the community were identified and responded to in a practical way.

The Meitheal Youth leadership Programme follows on this tradition by teaching young people to identify needs in their school community and to use their own initiative and talents to respond to those needs.

The St. Aidan's Community College Meitheal Team had a very productive year. They recently completed a workshop entitled "Introduction to Homophobic Bullying" with Dave Roche from Cork Gay Project. The topics covered included, our use of language, respecting difference, embracing diversity and supporting a friend.

Many thanks to this year's Meitheal Team pictured here: Sean Fogarty, Gavin Huggins, Kaitlyn Long, Ciara Hurley, Danielle Newing, Kieran Long, Dean Cronin, Rebecca Kennedy, Dave Roche, Cork Gay Project and Kevin Murphy, School Chaplain.



St. Aidan's Music Club Strikes a Chord

St. Aidan's Music Club was set up this year to encourage students with different musical tastes and talents to come together and play music, improve their musical abilities, collaborate on song writing projects and have fun.

The students have shown real commitment and passion for music, even meeting twice during the Easter holidays. The future is bright for these budding stars!

Music Club members pictured here with Ms E Corbett: James O'Mahony, Julia Pawlak, Dylan Walsh, Dean Cronin, Anne-Marie, Nicole and Oliver Szamak.

Eva Corbett



A Strumming Success for Class Enda

Congratulations to Class Enda for their successful fundraising project this year which saw them purchase 5 new ukuleles for the music department.

Katie Hendrick, Rachel O Donovan, Katelyn Craven, Leona McCarthy and Sophie Cairns are pictured here enjoying their new ukuleles.



Class Marcus



Class Lucas



Leaving Certificate 2015

It has been a pleasure to work as year tutor to the Leaving Cert class of 2015. You are entering a new phase in your lives and with this will come many new challenges and many new places to see. I hope that we in St. Aidan's have given you the confidence and the skills to move into the world as independent and strong individuals.

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.

Ms Kingston, 6th year tutor



Class Ailbhe



Class Senan



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





Health Promoting Schools

St. Aidan's Community College established a 'Health Promoting Schools' team this February.

The HPS coordinator in the school, Ms T Egan, is now working with an established team of eight teachers and the Student Council on four key areas: Environment, Curriculum and Learning, Policy and Planning, and Partnerships.

To date the team has made developments in the areas of healthy eating, policy and environment and plan to work on partnerships in the coming summer term.

Green Schools: Students Spring into Action

Once again the arrival of Spring saw St. Aidan's students enthusiastically taking part in the 'National Spring Clean' event. Various class groups took time out with their litter picks, bags and gloves to tidy up the nearby surrounding areas. A huge effort was made by all with over 500 green bags filled.

The Woodwork Department have been very busy producing wooden litter-picks and plant boxes to house our summer bedding. Bird boxes have also been created to enhance our local wildlife.

We all love the outdoors so we have brought the outdoors in with the delivery of fantastic new plants and containers.

A huge thank you to Patrick Kenny, 1st year class Saoirse, Dylan Keane and Mark Daly, 2nd year class Tomas, who painted the front wall of the school. They have made a huge impact on our school entrance gate by giving it a fresh coat of paint and planting lots of colourful flowers. Well done!

Our Eco- Club Members are still working hard the '7-steps' programme in order to achieve the prestigious Green Flag for our school. 2nd year Class Tomás are continuously working to highlight the need to cut down our waste in school and how to use the correct bins for our waste. We have red bins for general waste, green bins for recyclable waste and white bins for plastic bottles.

ECO CLUB MEMBERS 2015

1st year: Patrick Kenny, 2nd year: Mark Daly, 3rd year: Luke Howard, Nicole Cronin, TY: Class Neasán, 6th year: Glenn O' Donovan, April Walsh, Audrey O'Connor & Leon O' Dwyer

Eco Club Leader: Olivia Forde

We are not there yet but we are getting there! Watch this space!

**Ms. Flanagan
Green School Co-Ordinator**



Basketball going from Strength to Strength

Congratulations to our U16 and 2nd year boys teams who made it to the semi finals this year where they faced the basketball power houses of Mallow and Glanmire and were only a few baskets away from a securing a place in the finals.

Our Senior and First year teams reached the quarter finals of the Cork league and lost out narrowly to rivals Crosshaven and Christ Ri.

Well done also to our girls who have had a fantastic year and are already working hard in preparation for next year's leagues.

A big thank you to Ej Albino, Kyle McMullen and Ryan Towler, 3rd year, who have been helping out in training sessions with our first and second year teams and also congratulations to Garreth Blount who secured a gold medal with Cork at the U15 Inter-regionals this season.

Well done to all our players for their hard work, dedication and commitment. They all have been a pleasure to coach and we are looking forward to next season.

Ms. Furlong, Mr. Coughlan and Mrs Keniry





**Health
Week 2015**
**The Picture
of Health**



I, Robot

Second year students were given a challenge this year: work in a team to build and program a robot.

Our robot-building initiative began out of a desire to develop student interest in engineering, robotics, software and electronics. The challenge builds planning and sequencing skills, motor skills, logical thinking and problem-solving skills, collaborative learning skills and social communication skills. It also develops professional skills such as leadership, team work, autonomous learning and the management of an increasing amount of information in short periods of time.

It has been very popular in St. Aidan's thus far and we hope to extend the challenge in the coming years.

Our thanks to the students of Class Tomás for piloting the initiative.

*Colm Manley/John Doyle
Photo (L-R) Nathan Gleeson, Adam Brew and Adam Daly at work.*

Class Tomás making learning fun!



2015 School Tours



Morocco Trek 2015

Five TY students, Seán Bacon, Olivia Forde, Ava Hayes, James O'Mahony and Adam Ryan, along with Mr Duggan, students and teachers from St Vincent's and St Patrick's were given a unique and extraordinary opportunity to spend 8 days in Morocco where they trekked the High Atlas Mountains and helped to build a footpath in a village in Imlil, about 2 hours from Marrakech.



The trek was funded by The Tomar Trust in conjunction with The Asthma Society. The Tomar Trust donate money to schools in the north side of the city for various projects each year and the students and school wish to thank them for this unbelievable experience. The trek was then organised by Earth's Edge, a company that specialises in trips of this nature.

The chosen students completed projects on Marrakech, The Atlas Mountains and the local culture. They completed four training days trekking on the Galtee Mountains, summiting Galteemore and also learning cooking and camping skills. These skills were to prove essential on the trek. They also did numerous fundraising projects including bake sales and a sports blitz which raised money to ensure that the footpath in Imlil could be built.

The trip itself was an experience the students and I will never forget. After spending a night in Marrakech we set off for the village of Imlil deep in The Atlas Mountains. We set up camp and went on a day trek around the area. The scenery was like nothing that any of us had witnessed before and it was a great way to acclimatise to the days that lay ahead.

Over the next four days we trekked together and the students took up certain roles every day such as group leader, navigator and cook. We set up camp in Tacheddirt, Matat, TiziOussem and again in Imlil each night after long, 9 and 10 hour arduous treks up to 2300m, some days in temperatures reaching 30-40 degrees. It was an extremely tough trek but we persevered, even with illness in some cases, carrying our clothes, tents, food, water and other necessities.

The day after the trekking was complete we visited a village in Imlil, met the locals, and learned how to cook some of the local food. We helped them to build the path that the students had raised money for. Again it was an extremely tough day's work in soaring temperatures but we really got stuck in and it was an experience that the students thoroughly enjoyed and savoured.

On the final day we returned to Marrakech, did some shopping in the local markets and experienced the local culture. Some of our students could teach the locals a thing or two about bartering!

Seán, Olivia, Ava, James and Adam along with the ten other students can be extremely proud of what they achieved in Morocco. This was a hugely difficult task for anybody to complete, let alone a 16-year-old student and what they managed to do, learn and take from this trek will stay with them for life. They proudly represented their schools and area and worked exceptionally well together from the first to the last minute of the journey. Well done to all involved!

Mr D. Duggan



Anti-Bullying Week 2015

This year the school ran a successful Anti-Bullying Week. We wish to create a safe and happy environment for all students and the anti-bullying lessons help students to understand how hurtful bullying can be.

Many students took part in a poster competition aimed at highlighting the need to “recognise, reject and report bullying” and the winning posters are displayed around the school.

The school has a detailed anti-bullying policy, listed on our website. We investigate, follow-up and record all instances of reported bullying behaviour. The anti-bullying week was a reminder to all students of how the procedures work and consequences for those who engage in bullying behaviour.

*Please don't make me go to school,
I hate them, they hate me too.
They push and kick and call me names
These bullies play the same old
games.*

*However much I try to fight
They never see what's truly right.
So this is it, my one last hope.*



*I'm very near the end of my rope.
I cannot cry, there's no more tears
That's all I've done for many years.
Today will be the very last day.
Please tell someone, I'm not ok.*

By Kelly Meaney

Lights, Camera, Action...

“My movie is born first in my head, dies on paper; is resuscitated by the living persons and real objects I use, which are killed on film but, placed in a certain order and projected on to a screen, come to life again like flowers in water.” - Robert Bresson, filmmaker.

Filmmaking is an art. An art with limitless possibilities that begs to be explored. It can bring people together, reduce us to tears and most importantly, it allows us to briefly escape everyday life.

Throughout this year, our class learned that the films we see on the silver screen don't just magically 'appear' for our enjoyment. Any film, no matter how long, takes a great deal of writing, re-writing, testing, sourcing and crafting.

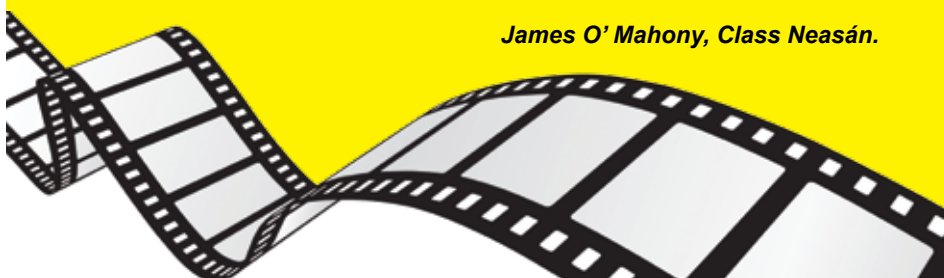
This year, we were visited by local director and filmmaker, Damian Mc Carthy (pictured here with Ms Lee) who broke everything down so simply: Film is about telling a story. It's about taking the audience away on a journey through visuals and sounds.



I am so grateful to have this experience in filmmaking and it is something I plan to pursue in my future because I know, even now, that I will never in a million years learn everything there is to learn about film and it will continue to excite me as much as it does now.

NEWSFLASH: James's and Jack's efforts have paid dividends with the acceptance of their short film into the Middleton Mid May Festival.

James O' Mahony, Class Neasán.



TY Poetry

Class Neasan's exploration of 'Found' poetry resulted in the Total Blackout Exhibition which was presented in the Library on Open Night.

The students were captivated by this novel and exciting way of creating poetry and “Under the Poetree” is their anthology of poems due for release in May, 2015.

