

# SOLAS MAGAZINE

ST AIDAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE,  
DUBLIN HILL, CORK  
NEWSLETTER ISSUE 30,  
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## St. Aidan's Mental Health Awareness A Head of all the rest

The art of filmmaking is a powerful tool as it provides the viewer with a window to another world and connects to personal experiences and emotions.

When Ms. Fitzgerald, Mr. Murphy and Ms. Egan told us about UTV and the HSE's Mental Health advertisement campaign #thelittlethings, we knew it was important to make an advertisement that would have an impact on people.

Needless to say, we were elated to learn that our film had been chosen as the best one! Schools from all over Ireland entered the competition and we are so proud that our advertisement was selected.

We travelled to UTV Ireland in Dublin and we were warmly welcomed by the staff and the crew. We were given a guided tour of the studio and then sat down to discuss the whole filming process. We travelled around the city filming in

different locations and learning all of the techniques used to create the magic we see on television every day.

The advertisement will be broadcast next year as part of UTV Ireland and the HSE's #thelittlethings campaign and we are extremely proud to have been part of it. It was an amazing experience that we will never forget.

We would like to thank Ms. Fitzgerald, Mr. Murphy and Ms. Egan for all their help and encouragement in the creation of the advertisement.

**Jack Kiely, James O' Mahony, Jake Ricken and Morgan McCarthy**



## The Magic of Science

Our neighbours from Scoil Oilibheir, are seen here enjoying one of the recent 'Magic of Science' shows which were presented by Mr P Harrington, St. Aidan's Science department.



## SHARE

5th Year students Nicole Cashman and Olivia Forde have been selected as this year's representatives on the SHARE Student Executive. We thank them for their commitment and wish them both well in the busy weeks ahead, planning the Christmas fast and collection.

SHARE continues to remind us what Christmas really means - being generous and taking care of the poor and vulnerable in our society.

*Merry Christmas*

*from the pupils  
and staff at  
St. Aidan's CC.*



## Rewarding Excellence

Junior and Senior rewards trips will take place to acknowledge the academic work of our students. Junior pupils will spend a day at the Glen Resource Centre and the Senior trip will head to West Cork Secrets Adventure Centre. Students with the best Christmas Exam results will also enjoy these days out. Vouchers will also be presented to the top four students in each class. Students are seen here receiving shopping vouchers for their hard work and results in monthly exams.



## Academic Awards



## Student Council

The first Student Council meeting was held on Wed 7 October. Two Maors, elected by the students in each class during September, met with Ms. Curley and Ms. Quane to discuss the format for the operation of the student council for the year.

The members of the council now meet monthly to discuss relevant issues with the students in their class. Keri O'Leary, Yr 6 and Niamh Long, Yr 3 were elected at the first meeting to be President and Vice-President of the council. The operation of the student council in St. Aidan's is very important to help students realise their voice and their potential. Students in each class are encouraged to meet with their Maor, if there are issues they want discussed at the student council forum.

Congratulations to Rebecca Lynch, Eimear Crowley, Quintain Noonan, Owen Forde and E.J Albino who received outstanding results in their Junior Certificate.

Our Leaving Cert 'higher flyers' are James Hayes studying Applied Physics in UCC, Conor Dunphy studying Business Information Systems in UCC, Nicole Kenneally studying Early Years in UCC, April Walsh studying Speech and Language Therapy in UCC and Katie O' Callaghan studying Biological and Chemical Sciences in UCC and Edvinas Jablonskis studying Engineering (not in picture).

The students are pictured here with our Deputy Principal, Ms Quane, at our recent Open Night.

## St. Aidan's Prestigious Partnership with Global Engineering Group

St. Aidan's Community College Dublin Hill is one of four schools in Ireland to be chosen for an exciting educational four-year student support programme in partnership with DPS, the global engineering and project management group.

The launch of the programme took place on Tues September 15th in St. Aidan's and the large attendance included students, parents, management and staff of DPS and representatives from CIT Student Support and UCC Access Services.

Speaking at the launch, DPS Director Michael Mulhall said: "Over the next 4 years DPS will provide significant financial investment in the participating schools. This will enable the schools to provide additional supports in oral language preparation, motivational workshops, personal development and mentoring, college visits and study related trips, site visits to pharmaceutical companies and student bursaries."

Mr Michael Mulhall is seen here at the launch with Mrs T Ryan, Sheila Mc Govern UCC, Adam Ryan and Janice Mc Garry, DPS.





## Camogie Stars

Past-pupils Jennifer Hosford, Lauren Callanan, Leanne O'Sullivan, Senior All Ireland Camogie panellists, pictured here with the O'Duffy Cup and Deputy- Principal Margaret Quane and PE Teacher Jill Delaney on Open Night.

## St. Aidan's Basketball hits a new high as 3 teams win County Finals

This has been a term to remember for the basketball players of St. Aidan's, securing three County titles in one week. The u19 girls defeated Scoil Mhuire, Cork, Coláiste na Toirbhirte, Bandon, a very strong Kanturk and St. AIs. Carrigtohill en route to the final. St Aidan's u16 boys beat Kinsale 58- 45 in the Cork u16 B final this week while our u19 boys beat Spioraid Naomh, Bishopstown 39- 26 to secure three wins in County Finals for St. Aidan's. These teams have been dedicated, determined and focussed since the start of the season and have now qualified for the All Ireland play-offs in the new year

**U 19 Girls Team:** Kaitlyn Long, Kelly Murphy, Sarah O'Connell, Donna O'Neill, Jodie Forde, Eadaoin O'Keffee, Sophie Murphy, Nicole Bolger, Fawazzi Shabowale and Lydia Conway.  
**Coaches:** Marian Scanlon and Helen McCarthy

**U 16 Boys Team:** Jake Collins, Gareth Blount (both co captains) EJ Albino, Joel Quethy, Neil Nietes, Colm Blount, Josh Galvin, Eoin Mc Carthy, Patrick Dunne, David Aluko, Micheal Mc Elhinney, Christopher Bell.  
**Coach:** Ms Jodi Furlong

**U19 Boys Team:** Sean Fitzgearld, Stephen O' Connell (both co captains) Gareth Blount, Jake Collins, Jamie O' Donovan, EJ Albino, Alex Brady, Eoin O' Driscoll, Kyle Mc Mullan, Ryan Towler, Killian Kingston, Jamie O' Brien.  
**Coach:** Ms Jodi Furlong



# SHINING ON

Past Pupils live our college motto: "Let your light shine"

## Alan Corbett - Author and Artist

Alan is a talented comic book author and artist who kindly visited us on Monday the 16th of November to host a comic writing workshop for students. He spoke to his spellbound audience about the encouragement he received in St Aidan's from the school guidance counsellor and his art teacher in following his creative dreams.

Alan graduated from CIT with a B.A in graphic design in 2010 and an M.A in children's book illustration from the Cambridge school of art in 2012. His first book



"The Ghosts of Shandon" is hugely popular and we anxiously await the sequel, "The Vampire Kings of Munster".

We wish Alan continued success and thank him for taking time from his busy schedule to share his story with us.

Alan is seen here with LCA students during his recent visit.

## Stephen Mc Donnell - Cork Hurling Captain 2016



St.Aidan's also had a visit recently from Stephen McDonnell, captain of the Cork senior hurling team. As well achieving sporting success Stephen is also an athlete mentor for Sky Sports and a design engineer. At 6'2" Stephen is certainly

someone to look up to in more ways than one and we wish him and the Cork team every success for the campaign ahead.

Stephen is pictured here with TY students during his visit to the school.

## Jordan Reaches New Heights

Past pupil Jordan Blount is pictured here signing his letter of intent to accept a Division 1 basketball scholarship to the University of Illinois Chicago for the next 4 years!

Jordan played for St Aidan's and Neptune for 3 years before leaving home at the age of 15 to attend a basketball academy in the UK. After a stand out performance for Ireland in the U18 European Championships in August, Jordan accepted a full scholarship to Spire Institute in Ohio

which is one of the top Basketball prep schools in USA.

Since Jordan arrived in Spire he has had some fantastic college offers and now he has decided to accept a full division 1 scholarship from UIC where he will also study business for his



college degree.

We wish him the very best of luck with the UIC Flames and next season can't come quick enough for all of us here in St Aidan's so we can see Jordan start living his dream!

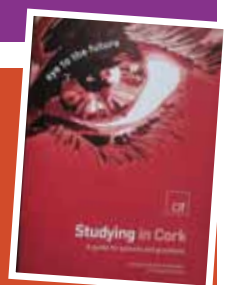


## Kieran Walsh - Senior Statistician, International Labour Organisation, Switzerland

A former student who is shining internationally is Kieran Walsh, a Senior Statistician with the International Labour Organisation in Geneva, Switzerland.

We are looking forward to Kieran visiting the school before Christmas.

**Congratulations** to past pupil Christopher O Driscoll, Leaving Certificate class of 2014 whose stencil work entitled 'Looking to the Future' was chosen for the cover of CIT's Access Service recent publication 'Studying in Cork - A Guide for Parents and Guardians'





# Letting Our Light Shine



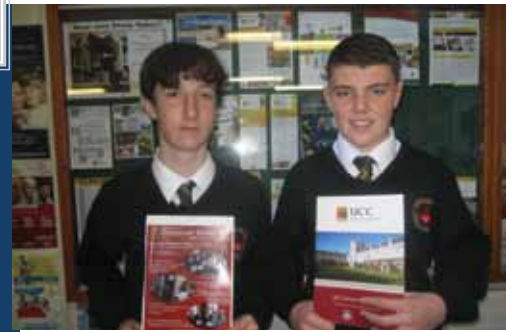


UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire  
University College Cork, Ireland

## UCC Munster Programming Training

Congratulations to TY students Evan Dunbar and Michael McElhinney on securing a place on UCC's Munster Programming Training. The course takes place on Saturday mornings and consists of a series of 25 formal and practical lectures which are delivered by faculty and research staff and offer training in computer programming, web design, flash animation, video and image production.



## UCC welcomes St. Aidan's 2nd year group

On November 17th 2015, 12 of our 2nd year students were treated to a memorable day in UCC as part of the ALIAS Literacy Project.

Following a tour of the Visitor's Centre and the George Boole Experience in the Boole Library, students designed learning tasks in areas such as Our Changing World and Popular Culture.

A workshop on Assessment and Testing in school

and lunch in the fabulous Westgate building concluded an amazing experience for Shauna Lane, Kelly Meaney, Adam Lawlor, Darren Healy Aaron O'Regan, Leah Struthers, Kayleigh Dunne, Killian Laing, Chloe Dalton, Joseph Dalton, Mark Keating and Quabaul Yahya.



## Success in BIS for Past Pupil Daniel Keane

St. Aidan's past pupil Daniel Keane completed the Leaving Cert in 2010 and was delighted to be offered a place in Business Information Systems (BIS) in UCC.

*During his time in college he was elected as the President of the BIS Society and was the Business & Law Representative in the Students' Union.*

*In third year he completed a placement with J.P. Morgan and finished his masters degree. Following this he started working in UCC on the Student Experience Programme and began lecturing 2nd year Accounting and Finance students.*

*Daniel has been an*



*exemplary role model and source of tremendous support to St. Aidan's. He has returned here on several occasions to encourage our students and has welcomed and guided us on our many trips to UCC Open Days. We wish him well in his future career.*

## Top Prize for Aidan's in UCC Engineering Competition

A team of five Transition Year students from St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork scooped first prize in the prestigious UCC Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Turbine Competition which was held on Dec 4th in UCC. They fought off stiff competition from 15 other Cork schools.

*The students now hope to further develop the project with a view to entering next year's BT Young Scientist Exhibition. Photo: Prof. Nabeel Riza, with the winning team members Jamie Huggins, Luke*

*Higginston, Evan Dunbar and Quintain Noonan. Absent from the photo is the fifth team member Jamie O'Brien*



## CIT News

Our association with CIT continues to grow and this year several activities are planned which aim to increase awareness of the superb range of courses available to our Leaving Cert students.

We wish to thank Ms. Louise O' Callaghan and Ms. Deirdre Creedon from the CIT Access Service for all their wonderful support and in particular for visiting St. Aidan's in November to present a talk on progression routes and to conduct interviews with all of our LCA students.

In November one hundred senior cycle students attended the CIT Open Day and in November ten TY students were awarded a week long

placement on the 'Exploring CIT Week' programme.



## Careers Exhibition

160 students from TY and Leaving Cert attended the Rochestown Park Careers Exhibition.

The event, one of the largest of its type in Ireland, proved to be highly beneficial for our students in seeing the range of career options available to them.



## 10 Years Unbroken School Attendance for Lee

Congratulations to Lee Donovan, 3rd year Class Ronan, who has 10 years unbroken school attendance. Lee's fantastic record was celebrated and acknowledged recently when he met with the Lord Mayor in the City Hall. Well done Lee!



## Blind Date with a Book

During our annual Literacy Week in November, Class Ronan in 3rd year organised a "Blind Date with a Book" event in the library. The first stage in organising this event involved students interviewing staff to find out what they enjoyed reading.

Students then chose a book for each teacher and presented it, wrapped and labelled, to their teachers during a fun and enjoyable morning in the school library.

Each morning we had Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) time and this year both teachers and students reached for their books.

Well done Class Ronan for organising this original and exciting event and many thanks to the staff for taking the time to review their books and giving feedback to the students.



## Maths Magic

Pictured above are Nicole Bolger, Claudia Burke, Quintain Noonan and Séan Bolger, higher level Maths students, along with Professor Blasco, guest Mathematician from Madrid who visited St. Aidan's during Maths week in conjunction with Cork Institute of Technology.

Our students were entertained and mesmerized by Professor Blasco's lecture on the everyday application of Maths.

## Gold Medal for Quintain

**Congratulations to Quintain Noonan, Transition Year,** on his fantastic achievement at the recent World Cup Stage One Archery held in Marrakesh, Morocco.

**Well done Quintain!**



## Music Club goes busking

The music club was invited to busk at the Shandon Street Festival by staff at the Firkin Crane following on from their appearance at the Kieran McCarthy Talent Show Competition. Photo shows our musicians with Councillor Michael Nugent who is also a past pupil of St. Aidan's deputising for the Lord Mayor on the day.



## Cork Schools Pitch and Putt

Congratulations to Ryan Towler, winner of the Cork Schools Pitch and Putt Championship held recently in Rafeen Creek, Fermoy.

