



# SOLAS

St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork,  
Newsletter Issue 6 Autumn 2000

## Tosach maith, leath na h-oibre



A good start is half the battle. The sean-fhocal got it right. To do any job well, you must go at it well from the start. There has been a good start to 2000-2001 in St. Aidans. There has been a lot of co-operation to make that happen. A lot of people have done a lot of work, at home and at school, to help it happen. We are grateful to them all. The best we can give them is to go on working together throughout the year to complete the good work we have started. Sometimes, especially when things go wrong, we try to console ourselves by telling ourselves its all down to chance. Sometimes it is. Quite often, however, its not. Its down to choice. Its down to our own choices whether we do the right thing or not. At the start of the 2000-2001 school year, lets accept that, very often, it is not our chances but our choices that make the difference; lets accept that, very often, it is our choices that make our chances. Let's promise ourselves and each other that, this year, our light will shine and our choices will help make sure it does. Go raibh cabhair Dé libh uile í rith na bliana agus go n-éirí go geal libh.

Dr. F. J. Steele.

## My six years in St. Aidan's

I arrived in St. Aidans in 1994 from Scoil Olibhéir. In first year I made plenty of new friends. It was a memorable year for me, particularly because I got involved in the musical "The Sound of Music", which was staged in the Firkin Crane by the school. To my surprise I landed a part as one of the Von Trapp children, and spent many enjoyable evenings rehearsing with all those involved. It took us two months to prepare the musical and it ran on stage for nearly a week. It was a huge success.

The beginning of second year was marked by one of my greatest musical achievements. I managed to get a place in the Junior National Youth Orchestra of Ireland that year. I remained in the orchestra throughout my time in St. Aidan's, and in my sixth year I moved a step up to the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland. Over the years with the orchestra I have played in Ireland,

Denmark, Germany, England and Holland. In fourth year I devoted a lot of my time to my music and it really benefitted me. I entered many competitions and was highly commended in the Senior Concerto Competition at the Cork School of Music as well as winning the Advanced Violin Competition at Feis Maitiú. During that year I also achieved a Scholarship Grade 8 in Violin from the Cork School of Music and my Grade 5 Piano.

The highlight of my last year in St. Aidan's was the Millennium Concert. (and of course the Leaving Cert.) It was fitting



that I ended my days in St. Aidan,s as I had begun them: on the stage of the Firkin Crane. The concert was a huge success and a memorable occasion for all those involved. The exams in June went well for me and the results in August got me the course I wanted in U.C.C.

I was the last person to leave St. Aidan's in June. I finished my Leaving Cert. After sitting the Applied Maths exam on my own, up in the gym hall on the last day. I left the school that day with many memories of the six years of my life which had passed me by. I now look forward to the future in U.C.C. where I have begun studying for a degree in Microelectronic Engineering and a diploma in Music Performance.

Keith O' Donoghue

## A Teachers Perspective.

Keith O' Donoghue epitomises the concept of a well behaved, multi-talented student, always willing to get involved, to meet any challenge head on and to go for the best, whether in the co-curricular area of school life or in his pursuit of academic excellence in exams.

While being blessed with exceptional musical talents, his willingness to help others is always admirable. This was especially evident during The Millennium Concert where he performed on the violin and with the rock band "The Elements", arranged music and was one of the key personnel in the recording and production of the C.D., using his I.T. skills. Always committed to academic excellence, he achieved outstanding Leaving Cert. results in August 2000. We congratulate him and wish him every success in the future.



## A Leaving Cert. for two generations!



Back row: (L to R) Ms. M. Dineen (teacher), Laura Jestin, Paul Kelleher, Dr. F. J. Steele, Debbie Hegarty, Mary Rose Howell & Brenda O' Donoghue (Home School Liaison Officer)  
Front row: (L to R) Claire Jestin, Mary Kelleher, Sheila Hegarty & Ena Howell.



Some members of the Adult Leaving Cert. Class 2000 pictured with Ms. E. O' Reilly, Dr. F. J. Steele, Ms. Brenda O' Donoghue & Fr. Shem Furlong - missing from the photograph is Ms. Margaret Gorucu, Home Economics Teacher.

## HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON

Congratulations to all the parents who sat their Leaving Certificate exams in June 2000. Once again you can be proud of your achievements and of the wonderful example that you are setting for the younger generations. No doubt the stress of study was felt in every home, however in four homes in the area the stress must have been particularly high, as mother and son/daughter prepared for their exams together. A learning experience for all, mothers understood the challenge posed by the exams and family understood the importance of lifelong learning to all generations.

Classes in Leaving Certificate Business and Irish, and Junior Certificate Maths commenced on Monday 18th September. Congratulations and best wishes to all those who took up the challenge. On a less academic note, the Women's Group continues to meet every Wednesday morning from 10.30a.m. to 12.00 noon. Activities for this term include Personal Development, Women's Health, Art and Christmas Flower Arranging, please come along any Wednesday morning. A Computer Course for Beginners will commence on Tuesday 3rd October at 7.15p.m. If you would like further information, please contact;

Brenda O' Donoghue at 4307486.

## A Word of guidance!

Imagine spending six years in school without spending six minutes on reflecting what it is all in aid of? Without some degree of career planning a student is likely to be unenthusiastic and lacking the will to work hard at school. As an additional help to students, to help them to help themselves, the Careers Project Competition has started across the school. Prizes for the best class project, year project and school project are on offer. Closing date is October 17th. Ask your child how the project is coming along! Career options 2000, a voluntary initiative by the Institute of Guidance Counsellors, is taking place in Rochestown Park on October 17th/18th. It is a one stop shop of career advice and literature, 100 stands essential for the discerning student. All Leaving Cert. Students will attend, and this year we are taking fourth year students, given that they will subsequently have to choose their subjects going into fifth year. In the light of their experience of Career Options 2000, we hope they may be able to make more informed choices

Mr. D. Kingston  
Career Guidance Counsellor.

## Transition from student to teacher!

It is ironic how both of us have progressed from primary school, right through college, and now we have returned to our Alma Mater, as teachers. Now we realise how difficult life can be at the opposite side of the proverbial desk. Oh how strange to imagine how we were once the eager, smiling, enthusiastic faces now sitting before us. Now it is our turn to be the bearers of authority and discipline, and to implement these procedures in the very same classrooms we sat in. This makes us familiar with "the tricks of the trade", not only have we heard the excuses before, we invented them. Great to be back,

Ms. N. Lynch  
Ms. O. McCarthy.





## Learning by the Sea.

The sun was shining, the sand was golden and the sea was glistening as we worked by the waters edge. No it wasn't an episode from Baywatch but the scene for our Geography field trip to Garretstown. Fifty students went on the trip, accompanied by Ms. I. Clarke and Ms. O. McCarthy, and armed with a packed lunch and geographical instruments (not buckets and spades).

The purpose of this excursion was to study the coast line for evidence of coastal deposition, which is a topic on our Leaving Cert. course. We observed and recorded data, which will be compiled into a field work report, which accounts for 25% of our Leaving Cert. grade. Such was the motivation behind the zealous efforts of all the groups as we completed a sediment analysis, measured long-shore drift and drew a beach cross-profile by using clinometers and ranging poles.

This was hard work requiring great attention to detail, but we had a great laugh as well, which proves that learning can also be fun!

Caroline Crean  
Aoibhín Kelleher



## The Canadian Mathematics Competition.

The 2000 Cayley Contest was written by a total of approximately 38,000 students from over 1,700 schools across Canada, as well as many schools from such countries as China, Turkey, the Phillipines, Trinidad, Hong Kong, Bermuda, Switzerland, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, U.S.A. Belgium. The University of Waterloo are delighted to award the students who excelled in the Cayley Contest with a Certificate of Distinction.

The students who received the Certificate of Distinction in St. Aidan's are;

Alan Gregory - Class Deaglán, Donal Óg O' Donovan - Class Breandán, Eoin Caffrey - Class Éibhlís,  
Cara-Jan O' Callaghan - Class Deaglán.

Alan Gregory, who achieved a very high score of 112 received the "School Champions Medal".

At St. Aidan's the competition is run as part of the fourth year programme. This gives our students an insight into different approaches to problem solving.

I wish to thank all of the Fourth Year pupils of 1999/2000 for their participation in the Cayley Contest. I wish to convey my appreciation to the teachers involved, Ms. Heneghan O' Sullivan, Ms. Owens and Mr. Forde, for their effort in preparing the students for the contest.

Ms. J. Hough.



Recipients of The Certificate of Distinction in the Cayley Maths Contest:  
(L to R) Donal Óg O' Donovan - Class Breandán, Cara-Jan O' Callaghan - Class Deaglán, Alan Gregory - Class Deaglán, Eoin Caffrey - Class Éibhlís.

### ECDL Night Classes.

St. Aidan's continues to provide community access to its modern computer facilities through its much sought after ECDL course. Enrolments this year stand at 66, with night classes running on Monday and Wednesday night.

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## 'A Sea-divided people: Myth or Reality'



This was a joint curricular project where the mutually common aspects of culture and heritage between St. Aidan's and The Bearsden Academy, located in Glasgow, Scotland, were explored.

A representative group, made up of students and staff from Bearsden Academy, visited St. Aidan's in November 1999. During their visit the group participated in lessons, took part in a concert, met with the pupils council and visited places of interest such as County Hall and Cobh Heritage Centre.

To maintain the partnership forged between the schools, a group from St. Aidan's comprising of Dr. Steele, Ms. E. O' Reilly, Fr. Shem Furlong and 10 students travelled to Scotland on Wednesday 21st June 2000. The pupils and staff from St. Aidan's participated in lessons in Maths, English, Computing, History, R.E., Art and Music.

Comparisons between the educational systems of both schools were discussed by Dr. Steele and Dr. Watt, Principal of Bearsden Academy.

A concert was staged by the students of Bearsden Academy, where a copy of the C.D. of the highly successful Millenium Concert, staged by St. Aidan's, was presented to the Music Department. This was in turn given to one of Bearsden's associated primary schools for a staff visit to a school in Australia.

The pupils and staff visited places of national interest, such as The Wallace Monument, Stirling Castle, Glasgow City Chambers and The Modern Art Centre.

St. Aidan's pupils attended and participated in the last day of Bearsden Academy's 5th and 6th Year Conference at St. Andrew's College.

Ms. E. O' Reilly

We regard the East-West project as an outstanding success. Staff and pupils and parents have all contributed. This work has been enhanced by a very good inter-schools working relationship. This relationship between the staff of St. Aidan's and Bearsden has been in existence due to their involvement in a Comenius European Project [1996-1999]

Photos: Staff of St. Aidan's and the Bearsden Academy visiting places of interest, such as the Wallace Monument and The Stirling Castle during their visit to Bearsden, Glasgow, in June 2000.



### Aims of the East-West Schools Programme.

The following aims have been actualised:

- to strengthen the growing bond between the two schools
- providing a better and fuller understanding of one another
- providing enhanced opportunities for pupils and staff.

We will continue to try our utmost to enhance the partnership formed.





## 'START-OF-YEAR MASS'



The Mass to mark the commencement of the 2000-2001 school year was celebrated in the College on Friday 29th September, 2000. In the middle of the hustle and bustle of a typical hectic school day teachers and pupils came together to worship God.

It is an education in itself to stop, from time to time in the middle of the daily round to give our whole attention to those things above and beyond the daily round that help us make sense of, and cope with, the daily round. It is an education in itself, for teachers and pupils alike, to do this together because it shows us just how effective we can be when we commit ourselves in mutual respect and support to the attainment of a goal.

Dr. F.J. Steele.  
Principal.



Friends are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly.

### Study skills-why bother?

Year after year Government reports tell us that the longer you stay at school the better your chance of avoiding getting stuck in low skilled employment with poor pay and bad working conditions in the future.

With so many college and job training courses now looking to school performance to select students, you will hardly need convincing on the importance of study and study methods.

Many of you reading this are involved in, or follow competitive sport. Can you imagine what the chances of success would be for a sports person who did not receive any instruction in their sport or did not follow a planned training schedule. Study is no different

Effective study is all about learning to learn as much as possible, with the least amount of effort, in the shortest period of time, with the most successful outcome. How you study is what matters. What you do during your study time can be more important than the amount of time you give to your work.

Thousands of students without too much thought resort to grinds as a way of improving their grades. Standing back and examining what you do when you study can be cost free and a more effective way of improving your study performance.

Many students cringe at the thought of a Study Plan. The whole point in having a study plan is that it can organise your study efforts so that you get a lot done in a concentrated period of time.

Its purpose is not to increase your workload but rather make



it more efficient and effective.

- Set your long term goal
- Draw up a weekly plan of action
- Draw up a daily plan of action
- Keep your plans specific and measurable-avoid vague statements e.g. "study history". Write down exactly what you want to know after the study session e.g. "what were the causes of WW 2." Give each study topic or subject a specific time allocation. Put yourself under a little pressure against the clock; after all this is what you do in an exam situation. Don't be tempted into always studying the subjects you like best first. Vary the order of subjects you will study. Break your study of each subject into 20/30/40 minute sessions.

For more help and information on study skills and techniques contact; Mrs. A. O'Donovan, St. Aidan's C.C.



## Transition Year Programme

Fourth Year was introduced at St. Aidan's in September, 1994. To ensure that all pupils gained the benefits of six years of post primary education.

### Aims

• **To provide a better chance for all our pupils.** The extra year brings extra maturity. Every pupil, at whatever level, deserves the advantages that come from being older, when decisions that have a crucial impact on life chances are being made.

• **To help pupils start again, catch up, aim higher.** When a pupil goes straight from the Junior Certificate to the Leaving Certificate programme, there's very little time to help those who've developed late or fallen behind. The extra year gives all involved a chance to sort out whatever needs sorting in the light of experience in the Junior Certificate programme without sacrificing part of the Leaving Certificate programme.

• **To help students become Autonomous Students.** Life-long learning is now a feature of modern life. In the extra year the

aim in every subject is to help pupils grasp both what to learn and how to learn, to become not just dependent pupils, but independent learners.

• **To encourage pupils to aim for a third-level qualification** Research on the matter can be summarised in this way: The more you learn, the more you earn. We live in a qualifications society. The extra year can help us all focus on the best qualifications possible, to look to the heights and to ensure that no one gets left behind.

### Content

• **Personal Education** is catered for in the programmes for Religious Education and for Physical Education. In RE the aim is to foster a faith based on conviction rather than on convention. In PE the aim is towards a personal understanding of healthy living.

• **Social Education** is catered for in programmes focusing on the nature and role of the Media and on the responsibilities of Marriage.

• **General Education** is catered for in the

continuing programmes in Irish, English, Mathematics, and French.

• **Orientation Education** is catered for in programmes in Computers and in Careers. By means of the European Computer Driving Licence programme, every pupil receives a good grounding in Information Technology and, by means of visitors from a range of companies, receives also a sense of the world of work. A particularly positive feature of the extra year is that it allows pupils to try out different areas of study before finally choosing option subjects and far fewer are stuck in Fifth and Sixth year with subjects they should never have chosen at all.

In conclusion the maturity gained from the extra year has a positive impact on Leaving Certificate results. This benefit should be there not just for the lucky few, but for all our children



Students pictured with their awards for outstanding achievement through the year.

### Basketball award winners 99/00

Bernie O' Mahony, class Éanna, received the "Most Improved Player" from the Senior team. Orla Murphy was selected as the "Most Valuable Player" for the 2nd consecutive year. Both players gave outstanding displays during the season and helped the Senior girls team to reach the County Final, where they were unlucky to be defeated by Colaiste Eóin, Youghal, by 1 point. Other award winners were, Cornelia Shortt - "Most Valuable Player" and Laura Whelan - "Most Improved Player"; both players on the Cadette team.



Second year girls basketball team: (L to R) Rachel O' Reilly, Sharon O' Rourke, Lyndsey Galway, Paula O'Doherty, Amy Duke, Anne-Marie Scannell, Sarah Woulfe, Helena Kiely & Laura Whelan.

This team had a fantastic season last year, and was also very unlucky to be defeated in the County Final.

Sarah Woulfe picked up the award for "Most Valuable Player", at her level, and Helena Kiely, who made great progress as a member of the 1st year girls team, was presented with the "Most Improved Player".

In the boys section, Damian O' Donoghue, class Ában, was the "Most Valuable Player" on the U16 team, showing outstanding talent and great teamwork in the league games. Tony Buckley, class Bríd, had a very successful season. He proved his talent at the Cork Final in the Parochial Hall, against Blarney, with a fantastic run of scores. Trevor O' Connor, class Colmcille, has proven himself to be a very talented and dedicated player. He has shown considerable commitment to improving his basketball skills and is a valuable member of the team. For the coming season the boys will be competing at 1st year, 2nd year and U16 League levels. Girl's teams from 1st year, 2nd year, Cadette and Senior levels will represent the school for the coming year. Best of luck to all teams involved.

Ms. M. Scanlon, Ms. M. Dineen, Ms. D. Coughlan & Ms. E. O' Donoghue.





# Building for the future



This year major work is being done to enhance the profile of hurling and camogie in St. Aidans. A 13 strong development committee has been recruited among the student population. They have been working steadily at computerising player records, raising sponsorship and purchasing quality playing gear.

This year the G.A.A. have appointed a coach to assist in the coaching of our players and furthering the games in the school. Michael Mangan has again agreed to lend his help with our Harty team and we look forward to his motivational speeches. Mr. Savage, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. Flannery and Ms. Geary are also committed to the cause. A major encouragement is the role the students play in the coaching of one another. Declan Hourihan and Kenneth O'Brien's professionalism is to be praised.

Mixed fortunes so far this year for the St. Aidans hurlers. The Harty team started well with a win over Mayfield Community College in a challenge, but suffered a heavy defeat to Colaiste Chriost Ri in the first round of the Dr. O' Callaghan Cup. This is a young Harty team and foundations are being put in place for the future. I have no doubt that the experience these young lads will gain at this level will stand to them over the next two years.

Our meeting with last years rivals, Midleton, takes place on Wednesday 11th October in Carrigtwohill. We look forward to having a chance to avenge the result of last year.

Our U16 1/2 hurlers had impressive victories over Pallaskenry and Carrigaline in the Corn Iognaid Ris. We are now in the last 4 of the competition..

So all roads lead to Carrigtouhill on Wednesday 11th October for our Harty Cup clash with Midleton C.B.S.. Why not come along and lend the lads your support.

Mr. P Kelleher, Mr. F. Savage.

## St. Aidan's A.F.C. - Soccer News



St. Aidans U15 2000 Back row: (L to R) Colin Falvey, Barry Brady, Brian McEnerny, Shane O' Donoghue, Peter Cuthberth, Tim Dennehy, Diarmuid Dorris, Roy O' Donovan, Liam O' Flynn (Teacher). Front Row: (L to R) Steve Byrne, Kevin Murphy, Dean Buckley, Gary Dyer (C), Brian Lawless, Steve Monaghan, Eoin Hourihan & Kenneth Feehan. Missing from photo - Michael Buckley & Eoghan Geaney.

St. Aidan's A.F.C. had another successful year last year, reaching the Munster final and eventually losing out only on penalties to Nagle Community College. Our U-15 team conquered all before them but just stumbled at the final hurdle. Nagle eventually got to the All Ireland final, losing narrowly 2-1 to the Leinster representatives. Some of the team have had trials abroad, including Dean Buckley, Michael Buckley, Roy O' Donovan and Eoghan Geaney. This year's team is also very strong and hopefully will play with the same level of sportsmanship, discipline and fortitude displayed in the last number of years. With players like Kenneth O' Brien, Kevin Murray, Alan Kenniffick and Tim Dennehy involved, no doubt they will do the school proud, win, lose or draw.

Girls soccer is becoming very popular and St. Aidan's have been

making great strides in recent years here too. As always the commitment to training and behavior on match days is impeccable and St. Aidan's A.F.C. will continue to do the school proud.

A special word of thanks must go to Gary Dyer, an exemplary captain and a fine leader. Praise must be shared with Leeds A.F.C. and Rockmount A.F.C. for the fantastic work they do at underage level. A special mention to Blackpool Credit Union, our main sponsors. Thanks to all and sundry.

P.S. - Best of luck to Michael Buckley and Kenneth O' Brien, who go to represent the Munster U17 Schools team in Arklow on Wednesday 11th October.

Mr. L. O' Flynn.



# Blackpool Credit Union Limited



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## Opening Hours:

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Saturday:	9.15am - 12.00pm

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