



# SOLAS

St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork,  
Newsletter Issue 11 Summer 2002

## A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Around this time each year Christians throughout the world celebrate the death and Resurrection of Christ in a whole range of special ceremonies. One of the most impressive of those is the Liturgy of Light on Holy Saturday Night when the faithful gather in church in the late evening. The church is darkened at first. It is then gradually illuminated with candles. This symbolises the Light of Christ suffusing our fallen world.

Life is not always bright and breezy. Young and old, we pass from time to time through the valley of the shadow of death and circumstances can leave us disappointed, dispirited, depressed.

During the Easter Vigil, the Paschal Candle is lit first and all other candles in the church are lit one from another after that. Christ is our Light. We take our Light from him. From him we pass the Light from one to another. From him, too, we take our faith, our hope and our love and those as well we may

pass one to another.

When we are touched by any form of darkness, may we be there with and for each other and may we know that HE is always there with and for us all.

'D'aiséirigh an Tiartna go deimhin,  
Alleluia'  
'Solas Chríost...Buiochas le Dia'.

Dr. F. J. Steele  
Principal



*"Follow your dream .... take one step at a time and don't settle for less, just continue to climb"*

Leaving Certificate Class of 2002 pictured with Dr. F.J. Steele - Principal, Mr. J. O' Brien - Deputy Principal, Ms E. Flanagan - Year Head, Fr. Shem Furlong - College Chaplain, Ms M. Dineen, Mr. C. O' Brien, Ms B. Muldoon & Ms M. Queally - 6th Year Class Tutors



## A word of advice!

Most of our Leaving Certs. have applied for third level places through the C.A.O. so parents need to be aware of the following:

1. After May 1st applicants, may if desired, register a change of course choices online at [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) or by using the change of mind form which will be posted to all applicants in May. A statement of application record has also been posted out and students have been advised to check this for accuracy.
2. C.A.O. will offer places in August following receipt of the results of the Leaving Cert. All offers will be sent by post so it is important to be at the correspondence address at this time or if sunning yourself in the Costa Del Sol to have someone at home fully briefed on what to do.
3. Offers will be issued independently in respect of Degrees, Diplomas/Certs, General Nursing, Psychiatric Nursing and Mental Handicap Nursing. In effect some applicants may receive up to five offers of places simultaneously. However an applicant may have only one current acceptance in the entire C.A.O. system.
4. An offer will lapse unless accepted, either by post or online, by 5.15pm on the reply date set out in the offer notice.
5. Each applicant will be offered a place in the highest of their course preference to which they are entitled (if any). It is important to realise that when an applicant is offered a place, they are excluded from further consideration for any course that is lower in their order of preference than the one in which they have been offered a

place. This means that while an applicant may subsequently move up in their order of preference (if places become available due to withdrawals - Round 2) they will not be considered for a course that is a lower preference than that already offered. You can see from this how important it is to put the course you most want in at number 1 and what you least want at number 10 in the C.A.O. form.

6. Persons making enquiries to C.A.O. at the offer stage should present their queries in concise written form, quoting their application number. Every applicant will receive an enquiry form for this purpose.

Apart from C.A.O. courses, this city has a fine range of one or two year Post Leaving Cert. Programmes. College of Commerce, Stiofáin Naofa, Central College, Skerries are on your doorstep. Places are offered through interview and are worth checking out.

For those considering entering the job market, registering with FÁS is an obvious first step to take, apart from scanning the adverts and tuning into the grapevine.

A final word of encouragement for those who have worked for their exams, Gary Player, the famous golfer, when winning a Major was asked to what did he attribute his success. "Luck" he replied, the more I practised the luckier I got.

Mr. D. Kingston  
Guidance Counsellor

### *If you're not in you can't win*

It was a particular pleasure to present Certificates for Unbroken Attendance in 2000-2001 to four pupils recently, to Christopher Barry, Nicola Breen, Orla Dorris and Melissa O' Donovan.

Their's is a fine achievement by any standard. It represents exceptional commitment and determination because, in the nature of things, there just must have been days when these young people were indisposed for one reason or another but still turned up for their days work. They are, in fact, an example to us all and we are delighted to acknowledge that. A word of thanks must go to the Cork Committee for School Attendance which provides these Certificates each year to eligible pupils across the city.

Go raibh fada buan iad eile! Dr. F.J. Steele, Principal



Pictured receiving their Certificates for Unbroken Attendance in 2000-2001 were, Christopher Barry, Nicola Breen, Orla Dorris and Melissa O' Donovan accompanied by Dr. F.J. Steele - Principal & Mr. D. Kingston Guidance Counsellor

### *Edel scoops award at U.C.C. Prize Giving*



Former pupil of St. Brendan's Girls' Primary School, **Edel O'Herlihy** was a member of the graduating class of 1998 at St. Aidan's. She has had a brilliant academic career, at St. Brendan's, St. Aidan's and U.C.C. On the basis of her Leaving Cert. results, Edel

won the Co. Cork V.E.C. Leaving Cert. Awards Medal and an entrance Scholarship to U.C.C.. At U.C.C., she studied Law and attained First Class Honours in her examinations in each of her three years.

On foot of her results in her final degree examinations, she was awarded an Entrance Scholarship to study for a Master's Degree in Commercial Law at University College, Dublin. She was also awarded the Matheson Ormsby Undergraduate Information Technology Prize and the Conway

Kelleher Tobin Prize.

Throughout her years at St. Aidan's, Edel was very much involved in the life of the College. She was Manager of the T.S.B. School Bank, an active member of the Irish Club and, for two years running, staged and danced lead part in the College production of 'Riverdance'.

We are, naturally, very proud of Edel and we wish her every blessing and continued success for the future

Dr. F.J. Steele, Principal



## St. Aidan's Annual French Tour.



Above: Transition Year students who recently visited France on a four-day trip along with their teachers; Ms. Downey, Ms. Scanlon, Ms. Kelleher & Ms. Hickey

A brilliant time was had by all Transition Year students who recently visited France on a four-day trip during the Easter holidays. 34 students travelled in all accompanied by 4 teachers.

In the days which followed all of the sights were experienced including Eurodisney, a boat trip on the Seine, Ice Skating, Flea Markets, The Louvre - which is home to the Mona Lisa and several more.

It was agreed that the highlight for a lot of the students was the guided tour of 'Stade de France'.

A very enjoyable time was had by all and a lot of thanks must go to the teachers who generously gave up their time to accompany the students on the tour

Ms. G. Hickey

## World Record Caterpillar

Transition Year students recently travelled to Dublin to take part in a bid to break the record for the world's longest human caterpillar.

A total of 1925 transition year students from all over Ireland gathered in the Phoenix Park - their aim was to beat the previous record of 1719 students. The record was successfully broken and 100,000 Euro was raised for the Arthritis Foundation of Ireland.

In conjunction with the challenge a CD was recorded and released - "Ain't nothin' gonna break my stride" featuring the original artist Matthew Wilder and the Caterpillar crew. The crew were chosen from 400 applicants but reduced down to 20 students from different schools. It included two from St. Aidan's, Dearbhla Kelleher and Bernard Curtin. The CD is in the music charts at the moment hoping to reach No. 1.



Above: A number of participants in the recently organised Adult Gardening Class pictured with Grace Hickey, Home - School Liaison Officer

## STUDY CENTRE

The Study Centre is inviting applications for September 2002. If you want your child to have a less stressful and more successful school life perhaps the Study Centre, Monday to Friday - 4.15 - 6.15, is the answer.

Application forms are available from the Guidance Counsellor Mr. D. Kingston

## ADULT EDUCATION ST. AIDAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**WHAT CAN I STUDY?**  
**JUNIOR CERTIFICATE SUBJECTS**  
**LEAVING CERTIFICATE SUBJECTS**  
**BASIC ENGLISH/MATHS**  
**BEGINNERS COMPUTERS**  
**ECDL**  
**COURSES AND ACTIVITIES**  
**TAILOR-MADE TO MEET YOUR**  
**NEEDS**  
**(SUBJECT TO LEVELS OF INTEREST)**

**WHEN WILL THESE CLASSES BE HELD?**  
**- PART-TIME/FULL TIME HOURS**  
**- FLEXIBLE HOURS**  
**- EVENING CLASSES**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE**  
**CONTACT:**  
**GRACE HICKEY**  
**(021) 4307486**



# Graduat

*“Follow your dream .... take one step at a time*



On Wednesday, May 22nd, the Leaving Certificate Class of 2002 graduated from St. Aidan's Community College. The evening commenced with Mass celebrated by Fr. Shem Furlong O.S.A., College Chaplain and the pupils themselves organized the music, singing and readings.

Then in the Graduation Ceremony, each pupil was presented

with a pen engraved with their name and year of graduation and a commemorative scroll.

Teamwork, collaboration and hope for the future were among the themes emphasised by pupils, parents and teachers. Memories of six happy years were movingly evoked.





# ion 2002

*and don't settle for less, just continue to climb"*



This night was truly a celebration of the multifaceted talents of the Class of 2002.

Guim beannacht Dé gach dea ghúí ar Ranganna Ardteiste na Bliana 2002, Breandán, Cainteach, Deaglán agus Eibhlís.

Ms E. Flanagan - 6th Year Tutor

Leaving Certificate Classes of 2002 pictured with Dr. F.J. Steele - Principal, Mr. J. O' Brien - Deputy Principal, Ms E. Flanagan - Year Head, Fr. Shem Furlong - College Chaplain, Ms M. Dineen, Mr. C. O' Brien, Ms B. Muldoon & Ms M. Queally - 6th Year Class Tutors





## Humourfit make a welcome return

Students at St. Aidan's were again treated to a powerful performance on the return of humourfit to the College this year. Performed by Jo Jordan and Michael O' Sulli-

van, the two one act plays on bullying and underage drinking, kept the audience captivated throughout. Though humorous, a strong message of awareness and consequence was delivered to the audience. This was evident in the student reaction afterwards: "I found it down to earth and very insightful. As well as being humorous and enter-

taining" (Julie Keating)  
"I thought the play was very real to life as it included the consequences of drinking and the hurt that bullying can cause. Overall I thought the play was excellent and really got the point across" (Brian O' Riordan)  
"It was serious and fun all in one" (Emma Buckley)



Across: Transition Year students, who recently travelled to Dublin to take part in a bid to break the record for the world's longest human caterpillar.

## Art Class view it first hand.

In April the Senior Cycle Art Classes went to Dublin on their Annual Art Trip. It was a revision packed day based on work already studied for the Leaving Cert...

Our first stop in Dublin was Trinity College to view the Irish Medieval Gospel Manuscripts, principally The Book of Kells, The Book of Armagh and The Book of Durrow. Next we visited the National Museum of Ireland for a guided tour of their many treasures. It was invaluable to see The Tara Brooch and The Ardagh Chalice in reality instead of pictures in a textbook. The highlight of the day was the Monet, Renoir and the Impressionist Landscape Exhibition in the New Millennium Wing of the National Gallery. It was a unique opportunity to see 69 masterpieces from the great collection of The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Among the Impressionist paintings were thirteen works by Claude Monet, as well as masterworks by Sisley, Renoir and Pissarro. We also viewed works by Irish painters studied, such as Jack B. Yeats, Walter Osborne, Roderic O' Connor and Sir John Lavery, to name but a few.

We returned to Cork at 8.20pm some 13 hours later, exhausted but with a successful revision of the Leaving Cert., Art History and Appreciation Course.

Ms. B. Muldoon, Art Teacher

## Chart Success for the future!



Dearbhla Kelleher and Bernard Curtin who were part of the 20 strong Caterpillar Crew which released the single; "Ain't nothin' gonna break my stride" recently. (see page 3)

## St. Aidan's goes hungry!

Fr. Ted Sheehan, who visited St. Aidan's on Friday 10th May, was presented with a cheque for 3070.18 Euro, which was raised by students during the Annual 24 hour Fast. Fr. Sheehan spent his day speaking to various classes about his work in Ecuador, South America.

Currently there are four Cork priests working in Ecuador in an area roughly half the size of Cork's North Side, with a population of 50,000. While their primary role is sacramental a large part of their time is spent putting structures in place, concentrating on both medical and educational. Fr. Sheehan has responsibility for a medical centre, which sees about 500 people a week. In many cases people cannot afford to pay to see the doctor or pay for medication and the money raised will be used to pay for the help needed for those who could not afford it otherwise.

Mr. C. O'Brien, Religion Teacher



Above: Students and Staff present a cheque for 3070.18 Euro to Fr. Ted Sheehan, proceeds from the 24 Hour Fast which took place recently.



### Leaving Cert.. Biology Trip to Fota

On 10th April the 6th Year Biology Class went to Fota to study the practical ecology section of the syllabus. The day consisted of an introductory class followed by practical fieldwork in the woods at the back of Fota House. The fieldwork was enjoyed by all even if some were not too thrilled at the idea of sucking up insects in a pooter. Lunch was livened up by a birthday cake for Laura Davis who was nineteen on the day. In the afternoon class the results obtained in the morning were analysed and discussed.

On 19th April the 5th years visited Fota House, Gardens and Wildlife Park, travelling there and back on the train. The House, which is being restored at the present (Ground floor basically complete), was enjoyed by all. It was obvious that wealthy upper classes in the late nineteenth century did indeed live in opulent surroundings. The incredible beauty and architectural detail impressed all, so much so that some of the class are looking forward to making visits in the future to see what the upper floor with the bedrooms will look like when renovated.

In the gardens it was undoubtedly the Orangery which fascinated most. The idea of growing oranges, grapes, pineapples and other exotic fruit in a greenhouse in the nineteenth century Ireland was an eye-opener. Other interesting plants seen were the Cork Oak and the Giant Californian Redwood (the biggest living thing ever!)

Lunch was eaten in the Wildlife Park. This came as a huge relief to many, with chips and cakes consumed in vast quantities. All enjoyed the afternoon in the park immensely, with the kangaroo and the young 'Joey' (baby kangaroo) in its pouch, providing the necessary 'aw, shucks, isn't it cute moment and, as usual, the 'Gravy Train' providing respite for tired legs!

Mr. J. Doyle  
Biology Teacher



Above: 5th Year students pictured with Mr. J. Doyle, Biology Teacher, during their Biology Excursion to Fota Wildlife Park in April.



Above: 1st and 2nd Year basketball players enjoying a fun filled weekend at Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre, Lough Gur. Indoor rock climbing, kayaking and orienteering were just some of the activities on offer



Above: Katherine Sutton, Alicia O' Driscoll, Melissa Gould, Nicole McIlwraith, Marguerite O' Mahony, Debbie O' Brien, Cornelia Shortt, Sharon O' Rourke, Therese McEnery & Rhonda Dillane all of whom received awards for their contribution to basketball throughout the year.



Player of the Year  
2001-2002  
*Cornelia Shortt*



# Blackpool Credit Union Limited



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Blackpool,  
Cork.

Tel.353+(21)4501757  
Fax353+(21)4505606



## Opening Hours:

Monday:	9.15am - 4.00pm
Tuesday:	9.15am - 4.00pm
Wednesday:	9.15am - 4.00pm
Thursday:	9.30am - 4.00pm
Friday:	9.15am - 12.30pm 1.30pm - 7.30pm
Saturday:	9.15am - 12.00pm

## List of Services and Budget Payments:

Gas	VHI	Foreign Exchange
Telephone	BUPA	Insurance Payments
ESB	Rail Tickets	Insurance Benefit
Multichannel	Gift Drafts	Financial Counselling

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