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St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork,
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The A-Team



Congratulations to the above students all of whom scored one or more A's at higher level in the Junior Certificate Examination.

ARE YOU PROUD OF US, SIR?

This was the query put to me by a pupil on Wednesday, 18th August, 1999, as the results of the Leaving Certificate were being distributed and digested. We boast of those pupils who attain outstanding results in the Leaving Certificate, who gain very high points and, occasionally, coveted university scholarships. I have always been utterly convinced, though, that it is important to celebrate everyone's successes and, in the understandable excitement over really special results, never to overlook the attainments of all the pupils and of those, in particular, for whom school has been one long

struggle, each examination a bigger headache than the last.

I was delighted, therefore, to tell my interrogator that I was hugely proud of her and of every single one of her companions in the Class of '99. I was proud of those whose points were up there with the very best in the country. I was proud of those parents who took their courage in their hands; who came back to school to sit the Leaving Certificate; who attained there-in remarkable grades in one year. I was proud, above all, of the huge percentage of pupils of different capacities right across the year-group who left St. Aidan's in 1999 with Leaving Certs of a higher standard than they themselves would have though possible six years ago when they started with us.

I am especially proud of these because, despite the attention the media naturally give to the highly gifted few, they are the real test of a school's capacity to deliver and their presence in such generous abundance this year affords us ample evidence of our ability to accept all comers as we find them and to work constantly to help each one of them to follow their own particular star.

Class of '99, I am indeed proud of each and every one of you and I wish you God's blessing and every success on the road of life as it now opens out before you.

F. J. Steele, Principal.

Canadian Maths Competition Success for Aidan's



Certificate winners pictured with Principal Dr. Steele and Maths teachers Ms. J. Hough and Ms. M. Heneghan O Sullivan

Congratulations to the Fourth Year students who participated in the 1999 Cayley Mathematics Contest for Grade 10 Students. This was part of a prestigious international competition, organized by the Mathematics and Computing Department of the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Students from all over the world including the U.S.A., Australia, Japan, U.K., Germany, Italy, as well as from many parts of Ireland take part each year.

St. Aidans C.C., as part of their 4th Year Mathematics Programme, have been involved in this contest for many years. February 1999 was no excep-

tion, with this year's students top three scores achieving a very impressive joint World Ranking of 13th for the College.

The following ten pupils were awarded certificates on the basis of being placed in the top 25% internationally: Justin Molina, John O'Sullivan, Darren Cunneen, John Sheridan,

Benedette O'Mahony, Christopher Ryan, Denis Buckley, Stephen Crowley, Niamh Goulding, James Sheridan.

Justin Molina, having achieved the highest grade in the school, is further awarded the Gold Medal.

Maths Enrichment Class U.C.C.

The U.C.C. Department of Mathematics each year offers a Maths enrichment class to senior pupils, the purpose of which is to create, stimulate and sustain interest in the study of Mathematics and its applications, and to develop problem-solving skills among Secondary School students. Ten students from St Aidan's made the necessary commitment for the year '98/'99. This involved attending class at U.C.C. every Saturday morning for three hours, taking home several 'problems' for the week, sitting for the American High School Mathematics Examination and the Irish Mathematical Olympiad. Two fifth year pupils were accompanied by eight pupils from fourth year and great credit is due to all for their dedication and commitment.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK BOUND

Having completed her Leaving Certificate in St. Aidan's this Summer, Geraldine Murphy has won herself a place on the prestigious Materials and Engineering Technology course at the University of Limerick. There are only thirty five places made available to Leaving Certificate students each year so Geraldine is very pleased with her achievement. We look forward to her qualifying with a B. Tech Degree in Education in 2003.



Comórtas Sóisearach Matamaitice Eireann 2000

First year pupils of St. Aidan's C.C. are looking forward to the Irish Junior Mathematics Competition, the first round of which will be held in the school, early in the New Year.

THE COMENIUS PROJECT

Comenius is the name given to the European Programme in which the school is involved. Comenius provides a framework for multilateral partnerships between schools which enable the development of cross curricular projects. Schools, by being involved in such projects, learn by doing and translate the theory of European co-operation into concrete examples of good practice.

St. Aidan's has been involved as a partner in a Comenius project since 1996 in collaboration with BRG Kirchengasse, Graz, Austria, Bearsden Academy, Glasgow, and Istituto Tecnico Commerciale Di Vittorio, Rome. The project's aim was to explore 'Common Celtic Roots' and 'the Concept of the Hero' using various methods.

In 1996 and 1998 St. Aidan's hosted students from Graz, Austria. In October 1998, students from Rome joined their counterparts in St. Aidan's for classes, cultural activities, and an exploration of both the antiquities and living heritage of the Dingle Peninsula!

A group of Scottish teachers of various disciplines visited St. Aidan's in January 1999 to participate in classroom activities and to evaluate the progress of the project. While the theme of the project is research based, major emphasis has been placed on interpersonal contact by fax, e-mail and multilateral visits between staff and pupils.

Pupils from St. Aidan's have become very competent at entertaining European visitors and at displaying aspects of our culture and talents. From Ceili Dancing to Amhránaíocht ar an Sean-Nós, from Viennese waltzes to the 'Walls of Limerick', not only do academic benefits accrue from being involved in a research project, but the sense of pride in our own culture, language and traditions has been greatly enhanced; a sense of our individuality combined with the notion of 'ar scath a chéile a mhaireann na daoine agus muintir na hEorpa'.



Photos:

Top: St. Aidan's group visit Halstatt, Austria.

Centre: Performing at cultural concert, Graz, Austria.

Bottom: Relaxing at Schonbrunn Palace, Vienna.

FOCUS ON FIRST YEAR

A Caring Environment for First Years

The transition of students from primary to secondary level doesn't just happen on the first day of secondary school. In St. Aidan's our efforts for a successful transition begins a year in advance.

School Visits

The first introduction students get to St. Aidan's is when the Deputy Principal and the First Year Tutor visit their primary school in September/October.

Open Evening

This is followed by an Open Evening for parents and pupils in October in which they view the school facilities and meet the teachers, pupils and parents.

Enrolment Day

Enrolment day is usually in February when every prospective pupil and parent is interviewed.

Sixth Class to Secondary School

In May both parents and pupils visit the school again. Pupils spend a morning as a second level student experiencing a range of subjects in specialist rooms.



Photos:

Top left: Lyndsey Galway and Jenni Fouhy take time out from Music class.

Centre: William Roberts and Amy Duke at Computer Studies.

Bottom: First Year Pastoral Team: Ms. B. O'Donoghue, Ms. M. Scanlon, Mr. J. O'Donovan, Ms. M. Mc Namara, Ms. Anne O'Donovan, Rev. Fr. S. Furlong.

FOCUS ON FIRST YEAR

Parents Introductory Session

Parents meet the First Year Tutor, the Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator and parents of existing pupils.

Feedback to Staff

On the first day of the new school year both the Year Tutor and the HSCL Co-ordinator report the hopes, fears and expectations of parents to the staff.

First Day at Secondary School

Our new students join us the next day and spend the next two days establishing a relationship with their respective class tutors. During this time, pupils settle into their new surroundings and iron-out any remaining fears or anxieties.

By the end of September, we are confident that our new students are settled happily and are ready for the challenges of second level.

Informal Evening

The final stage is the informal evening for parents. Here parents get the opportunity to meet the rest of the First Year team in a relaxed atmosphere. We hope that at this stage you will feel free to discuss your child and our student. We value your information and hope that you value ours.



Photos.
Top: Ian Morey taking first steps on the Information Superhighway is carefully watched by classmates John Ross, Conor, Amy, William, Nicola, Jill and Alicia.
Centre: Enjoying music class.
Bottom right: Assembly-all lined up and ready to go.
Bottom Left: Stephen Crean and Nicola O' Driscoll at P.E.



GIRLS' GROUP



Last year saw the development of the Girls Group in St. Aidans's. Initially, the group was made up of Fourth Years who met weekly under the supervision of Ms. Dineen (Girl's tutor) and Ms. O' Donoghue (HSCLC).

This year the group will expand to cater for the needs of additional year groups with the aim of encouraging the more senior girls to act as mentors and leaders for new members.

The aim of the group is to provide an open-forum to discuss a wide range of topics and issues of relevance to teenage girls, to encourage personal development,

decision-making and inter- personal skills, and above all, to encourage students to become more responsible and independent members of their communities.



The group engaged in a number of activities throughout the year culminating in a hill-walking trip to the Galtee Mountains on a very wet and windy Sunday afternoon.

The group invited the guest speakers, including self presentation consultants. New friends were made, plenty of fun was had and we look forward to an enjoyable and productive '99-2000.



St. Aidan's Study Centre

The Study Centre, for the past three years, has catered exclusively for the needs of Junior/Leaving Cert students. In response to suggestions, this year we are making a limited number of places available to those in all other year groups on a first come, first served basis. The centre operates every school day 4.15pm to 6.15pm. For further information please contact Dave Kingston.



Fourth Year pupils with teacher Ms. O' Connor on a trip to Motorola as part of the Transition Year Junior Achievement Programme

CORK BRANCH INSTITUTE OF GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS

SPECIAL SESSION FOR PAR-
ENTS/GUARDIANS

Tuesday 12th October from 7.30
p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Rochestown Park Hotel,
Rochestown Road,
Cork.

Career Options (Cork) Organising Committee has been organising Careers Exhibitions for the Senior Cycle students of Cork City and County and bordering areas since 1984. This year it will hold a special session for parents/guardians who would like to attend for themselves. This parent's session will be held from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. on Tuesday 12th October 1999. The admission fee, which can be paid at the door, is £2.50 for one or both parents. Topic 1: "Choosing a Career" - Seamus McEvoy, U.C.C.

Topic 2: "Career Opportunities 2000 & Beyond" - Seamus O Connell, Fás. Both talks will begin at 7.30pm and will be repeated at 8.30pm. Parents should also take the opportunity to visit the careers stands, of which there will be over one hundred, which will provide you with information to help you assist your son or daughter in making a more informed career choice. Transition/Leaving Cert groups will attend one of the daytime sessions provided for students.

*Dave Kingston,
Organising Committee.*

GRADUATION '99



The Graduation Ceremony for the class of '99 was an important rite of passage. It was a moving occasion for all involved and the high level of participation from parents, pupils and teachers was a palpable indication of the central importance of such an occasion for Muintéaras Aodáin.

Photos: Top-part of the large crowd in attendance.

Centre: Alan Moore performing his song 'Our Six Years.'

Bottom: Lorraine Barry receives her graduation certificate.

THE GOODBYE WE'LL NEVER SAY.

This is where we say
goodbye,
farewell to the years past.
It's where it all ends
today,
When 'So long' is all that's
left to say.
But this is where we said
'hello',
In the years a lifetime past.
It's where we learned more
than books,
It's where we learned our
life.
This is where it all began,
where the friendships started
out.
This is where we laughed
and cried,
so we'll never truly say...

Goodbye....

*Mark William Horgan
6th year*

OUR SIX YEARS

Six years, it's been a long time
since we started.

Our lives, on this night will be
departed.

We'll go our separate ways,
take our different roads.

The places that we'll see,
And how far we'll go.

In six years we've learned a
lot and it's showing,
taking time to think about
where we're going.

Good times, with one another,
bad times with some others,
never forget, these are the best
years of our lives.

We had a good time.

Six years, the end of an era,
tonight is the night we'll all
say see ya'.

We'll see each other again,
Sometime in our lives.

And if we don't see each other
again, Have a good life.

Alan Moore 6th year



ST. AIDAN'S COURSES FOR ADULTS

The Women's Group meets every
Wednesday morning in the Par-
ents Room, from 10.30a.m. to 12.00
noon. Topics vary from week to
week. Last year's topics included
Stress Management, Gardening,
Flower Arranging, Reflexology, and
Image and Style. This year the first
few sessions on **Personal Develop-
ment** will be with Mary Scanlon.

A course in **Conversational Irish
for Beginners and Improvers** will
commence on Fri. 5 Nov. at
10.00a.m. **Computers for Beginners
and Improvers** will start on Tuesday
12 October at 7.15p.m. This is a nine
week course and each class is of two
hours duration.

If you are interested in any of the
above classes, please contact Brenda
O' Donoghue on 307486.

Congratulations to all the parents
who sat the Leaving Certificate.
We were delighted with their
achievements. Classes in
English, Geography, Home Econom-
ics commenced on Monday 13 Sep-
tember. Last year's group returned,
and were joined by many new mem-
bers. Best of luck to you all!

Congratulations also to
the forty one adults who
successfully completed
all seven modules of the
European Computer

Driving Licence and who received
their ECDL certificates recently (see
photo overleaf). Feedback from last
year's class has been extremely posi-
tive and the course is being offered
again this year. Due to the huge
demand we are running three sepa-
rate evening classes.

Following the successful implemen-
tation of the ECDL as a programme
in Transition Year last year the
course will again be offered to Fourth
Year students this year.



It is in Giving that we Receive

Over the Lenten period, St. Aidan's Religious Education Department organised various Third World awareness initiatives. These included the visit of Séan Farrell, a Columban lay missionary, who has spent the last four years working in a shanty town in the Philippines. This led to some students getting involved in a letter-writing campaign to promote justice for farmers who are on hunger strike for land reform. Séan himself had been on hunger strike for 30 days and his visit had a major impact in raising awareness of the Trocaire 24 hour fast which was being promoted within the school at the time. Over one hundred students took part resulting in £1775.65p being raised. A cheque was handed over to Eleanor Murphy, a representative of Trocaire, who visited the school and presented a lecture on Third World issues. Eleanor stated that this was the highest amount raised by any school in Cork, so well done Aidan's!

Home Economics students display their culinary skills



ECDL Evening Students



Triumph at Turner's



St. Aidan's u-14 team came out on top in a pulsating Cork cup final at Turners Cross. Against the run of play, a swift break away from Deer Park lead to a spectacular strike to put them one goal up. The reply came almost immediately when a beautifully



flighted corner was powered home by Shane O'Donoghue. Aidan's, bursting with confidence, piled on the pressure and, with ten minutes remaining, man of the match Eoin Geaney curled home a magnificent effort to win the cup for Aidan's, their third in

as many years. An entourage of five busloads of supporters from the school had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. Compliments must go to all these students who added to the atmosphere of the occasion and behaved in an exemplary fashion. Best of luck to this year's under fourteen team who have a proud tradition to follow, and also to the u-16 and u-18 teams whose campaigns begin shortly.



Aidan's enter Harty Cup

St. Aidan's have decided to enter a team into the most prestigious competition in Secondary School Hurling. A Harty cup medal is one of the most-sought after prizes in the G.A.A. world. Many intercounty players with senior All-Ireland medals have one regret, the failure to win a Harty cup medal. Though we have a small playing population in comparison to other schools, we are confident of our ability to compete and advance in the competition. The team commenced the season in fine form with a well deserved victory over the North Mon. in the quarter final of the Cork Colleges' Dr. O' Callaghan Cup.

Our management, players and supporters are determined that St. Aidan's presence will be felt in the coming weeks as we look forward to a challenging and rewarding season's hurling.