



MERCY COLLEGE
COOLOCK

NEWSLETTER 2016

TEL: 8480014 / 8480888 / FAX: 8480163 / EMAIL: info@mercycoolock.ie
www.mercycoolock.ie

ROMA 2016



INSIDE:

THE LATEST SPORTS NEWS, STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARDS,
MERCY 5K CHALLENGE, HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY TRIPS,
YELLOW FLAG AWARD, UNITY AWARDS AND MUCH MORE!



Principal's Remarks

"Whatever we accomplish belongs to our entire group, a tribute to our combined effort"

It's hard to believe that another summer holiday is upon us. As I write, the 'exam weather' has arrived and we have said goodbye to our graduating class of 2016, urging them to believe in themselves and to bring with them the values they have in abundance - generosity, kindness and compassion. They will remain part of our community and will always be welcome in Mercy College.

The pages ahead form a wonderful picture of the many events and activities that took place over the school year - a yearbook of achievement, success and effort that sets the Mercy College community apart. It forms an A to Z of school life. Students and teachers enjoyed adventures in Munich, Rome, Wicklow and Wexford, to name a few. We celebrated our national identity and history during our 1916 centenary celebration in March and the diversity of our school population with the achievement of the Yellow Flag Award in April, one of the few secondary schools in the country to do so - a fitting reflection of Ireland in 2016.

The talents and qualities of our students were to the fore throughout the year, whether on paper, on canvas, on the sports field or on the stage. In all that the girls achieved, they were ably taught, guided and cared for by a wonderful team of teachers and support staff, each of whom works tirelessly on behalf of our students. I want to thank them for their commitment, level of care and work rate.

Once again, the wider Mercy community welcomed new life and we congratulate Ms Byrne and Ms Scully on the additions to their families - Faolan and Donagh. The summer will bring more celebration as Ms Dorgan and Ms McQuaid marry their respective partners. I wish them every happiness.

May I take this opportunity to wish students, parents, staff, members of our Board of Management and all associated with Mercy College a relaxing, hopefully sunny, summer break. Here's hoping we'll have celebrated some Irish success at the Euros and the Olympics before we meet again in the autumn!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We are delighted that our past pupils enjoy success in so many walks of life. Below is a catch up with some former Mercy College Coolock girls and where their journey has brought them. We hope to include this feature in future editions so if you are a past pupil let us know what you are up to.



Noirin O'Sullivan
Class of 1982
Garda
Commissioner



Patsy Lenane
Consultant
Dermatologist
Mater/Tempel St.



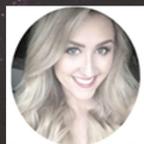
Jennifer Good
Class of 2004
Barrister-at-Law



Melissa Hickey
Class of 2002
Science & Maths
Teacher



Suzanne Blake
Class of 2006
Senior Assistant
EditorEgg Post
Production



Aisling Keenan
Class of 2006
Deputy Editor
Xpose



Tricia Mooney
Class of 1997
Owner
Devine
Fitness



Emma Roche
Class of 2009
Chef



Suzanne Alcock
Director
Asu Nail &
Beauty/Training
Academy



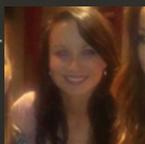
Leonora Doyle
Class of 1988
Legal Counsel
UCD



Aisling McMahon
Class of 1996
Marketing & Ops
Director - Strata3



Jayne Howard
Class of 2006
Administrator
Cornmarket



Jennifer Hurley
Class of 2007
Community
Support Team-
Manager -
RNLI



Ursula Anderson
Class of 2007
Training &
Development
Specialist - Bristol-
Myers Squibb



Caroline Carney
Class of 2008
Barrister-at-Law



Jane Last
Class of 1998
Group Head of
News - INM

MERCY COLLEGE AWARDED **YELLOW FLAG** FOR DIVERSITY

Mercy College was awarded the Yellow Flag on the 26th April. The Diversity Committee attended the event in Liberty Hall. The event was co-hosted by Dil Wickremasinghe and Diana Bunici. Musician and Voice of Ireland coach Bressie addressed the audience as well as the Ombudsman of Children Niall Muldoon. Mercy College was one of 13 schools awarded on the day. First year music students accompanied by two 5th year students opened the event.



The following represents how Mercy achieved the flag:

Mercy College is a welcoming, all-inclusive environment. During the last academic year we introduced the Yellow Flag Programme. Our Diversity Committee which includes students, staff and the wider community is trying to raise awareness of the diversity within our school.

WHAT IS DIVERSITY?

Diversity means that there are lots of different kinds of things. Just as there are lots of different makes of cars, bikes, washing machines, balls or just about anything you can think of, so there is diversity among people. Every single person is different! People can be diverse in how they look (hair colour, eye colour, height etc.), the language they speak, their religion and beliefs, their culture and traditions, the type of house they live in, the job they have, their ability, their sexual orientation or how they identify themselves. The great thing about diversity is that it makes the world an interesting place to be, and full of interesting and different people!

WHAT IS INCLUSION?

Inclusion means that everyone is made feel welcome. In our school inclusion means that every student, teacher, parent and visitor is made feel welcome. We can show inclusion by celebrating all the things that make us diverse or different. This is what makes our school an interesting and exciting place to be.

24

countries and cultures are present in Mercy College and our focus during the year was to further our efforts in achieving Mercy College's first Yellow Flag.

For more information on the Yellow Flag Programme see:

<http://www.yellowflag.ie/home>.

Yasmin Smith 3rd year



DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

DAILY VISIT

On Wednesday the 24th of February students of the Diversity Committee attended a tour of Dail Eireann. Students were given an insight into how our system of government operates and also a brief history of our government from 1916 until the present day. Students were intrigued due to the pending election at the time.

The girls were fascinated to learn that the design of the Oval office in the White House was based on that of the Seanad. It was also interesting to learn about the efforts of Irish men in the American Civil War as part of the 69th Regiment and how the commemorative flag



came to Ireland. Our tour guide Brendan provided a great deal of insight into Irish history which was particularly relevant with respect to the 1916 Rising centenary. In particular, students were fascinated to learn about the strong female efforts during the rising and the history of the Irish republic most notably that of Countess Markievicz.

DIVERSITY DAY

On the 4th of March 2016 the Diversity Committee held an awareness day. This was organised to celebrate diversity within the school and to highlight the work completed by the committee as it works towards achieving the Yellow Flag.

The event took place in the school hall where students and visitors could view displays, made by the students, about different cultures and religious traditions found within the school. There was also a video display made by students as well as the official unveiling of the Diversity Art Mural created by TY students with the support of Ms Cassidy. Food from different cultures was served throughout such as Vietnamese rice-paper rolls, massaman curry and spaghetti bolognese as well as buns, cake, tea and coffee. The day also celebrated Irish culture with Irish dancing performed by Chloe Duffy, Sophie Garnett and Georgia Curtin (first years), Katie Greene (second year), Ciara Henry (fifth year) and Ms. Wickham.

There were a number of special guest visitors on the day including TD Aodhán Ó Ríordáin who delivered a speech alongside the Diversity Committee chairperson, Sarah Kennedy (sixth year). The event was broadcast live by NearFM radio station. Throughout the day students, teachers and guests were interviewed as part of the live broadcast.

The day was a success enjoyed by students and guests alike.

YELLOW FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

As part of our involvement with the Yellow Flag Programme the Diversity Committee organised a football tournament for first to fourth years. Each class was assigned a different country that is represented in our school.

The matches were organised in a World Cup style, with different form groups playing against each other. Matches were played at lunch time. The final took place during Diversity Week and was between third year Aylward who played as Spain and first year McNamara who played as China. China was the overall winner of the tournament and received a trophy and medals for their efforts. Each class completed a project on their assigned country and learned a great deal about their country. The classmates supported their team by cheering and making posters. A special match between teachers and sixth years was played at the final. Teachers played as Ireland and sixth years played as England. There was great rivalry between the two teams!

THE TEACHERS WON 3-2 !



THE CHOIR

During Diversity week the school was involved in a community radio broadcast for Near Fm. The school choir took part in the broadcast and sang several lively African chants. The first year music classes also sang Falling Slowly from Once as our Irish piece for the broadcast. They were accompanied by some first year ukulele stars; Chelsea Condon, Megan Carroll, Katelyn Christie, Amy O'Connor, Kelly Joyce and Jodie Daly! Our thanks to our fifth year guitarists Taylor Magennis and Ciara Murphy for joining us too!



THE GREEN COMMITTEE

twenty fifteen to twenty sixteen

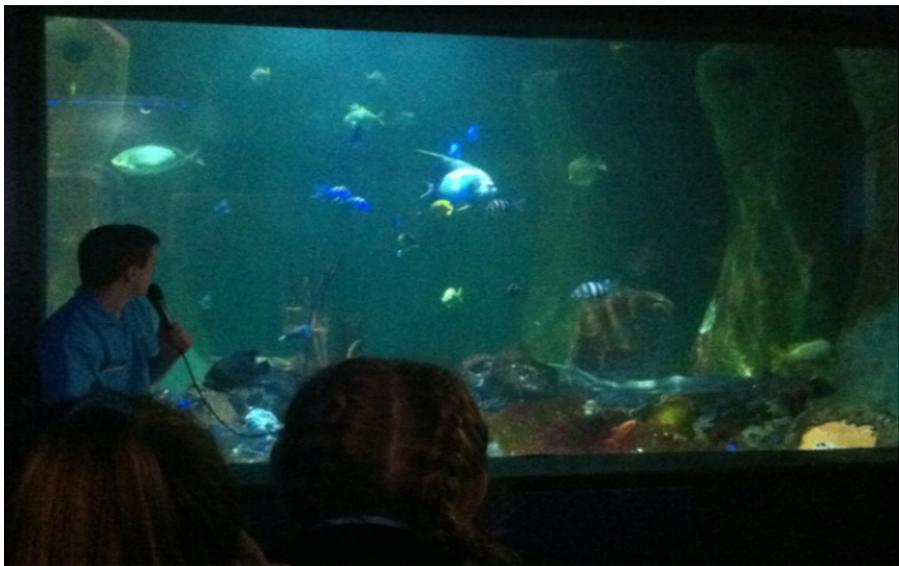
This year we applied for the third green flag under the theme Water. We wanted to make students more aware of water consumption in our school community. This was done by making students aware of water saving tips through learning and fun activities such as poster campaigns, presentations, surveys, competitions and much more. During the year we carried out water audits, monitored our water consumption drafted an action plan with the aim of reducing our water usage. We would also like to remain a green school with the help and support of students, teachers and staff. Do your bit for the environment at home and at Mercy by recycling, turning off lights in classrooms and turning off taps when they are not in use. Help us achieve the green flag for water.



Students also attended a workshop on Water from Eco-Unesco. They worked together in teams to present their ideas on how to conserve water and much more during the Workshop from Eco Unesco.

GREEN SCHOOL TRIP TO BRAY AQUARIUM

The Green School Committee and 2nd yr students from Curie enjoyed a trip to Bray Aquarium in February. This was as a result of the great work carried out on the Water Theme in our school. All students really enjoyed the train journey on the DART down to Bray, a walk along the promenade and then a guided tour around the Aquarium. Students got to touch star fish, get splashed by rays and see tropical fish up close. We all had a great day.



WATER AWARENESS DAY



The Green School Committee and 2nd yr students from Curie worked together on the Water theme as a part of Green Schools and a CSPE Action Project. Together they worked as a team and made students in our school more aware of water usage and conservation through a variety of activities such as Water experiments, giving a water presentation, Intercom Messages on Water usage, Water Quizzes, a Water Survey, Message in a Bottle Treasure Hunt & Water Poster competitions. Well done to all students for taking part in our water campaign and competitions.

GREEN SCHOOL WATER FORUM 2016

Our Green School Committee students (Shauna O'Callaghan (4th yr), Aoife Thornton (4th yr), Taylor Richardson (3rd yr), Nicole Dixon-Smith (3rd yr), Aislinn Jones (1st yr), and Sophie Garnett (1st yr) attended a Green Schools Water Forum in January. This was a great opportunity for green committee students from different schools around Dublin to share their ideas on saving water in our homes and schools. Our Green Committee took part in a number of water experiments, discussions, presentations and created an action plan on the water theme for our school.



YSI

YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS

As a part of Young Social Innovators (YSI) transition year students from 4.1 decided to promote the importance of Mental Health in our school during their awareness week from 16th - 20th November. **Here are a few of the activities:**

We have created a mental health notice board to increase the awareness of mental health issues. We completed a survey to get student thoughts and opinions on mental health. We have increased knowledge on mental health by distributing booklets, leaflets, brochures etc We gave a presentation on mental health to each year group at Assembly. We set up a Happy Thoughts Board so students could write down activities/things that make them happy. We had a cake sale and raised €270 for Pieta House We showed film screenings and animated video clips on Mental Health at lunchtimes in the language lab. We asked all SPHE teachers and students to get involved in our activities during SPHE class. We organised word searches, crosswords, posters and a scavenger hunt at lunchtime. We have invited speakers from Aware, Reachout and Bodywhys. We have made the students here more aware of how to cope with mental health issues and depression through our daily intercom messages on mental health. Thanks to all for helping us bring a positive vibe to our school on mental health issues.



From the success of last year's 4.1 YSI Project 'Gender Inequality in Sport', two students were invited along to a film studio at Smock Alley to speak out about their opinions on Gender inequality in Sport. This video footage was for the launch of a new YSI video in conjunction with their new sponsor Ulster Bank. Katie Wilson (5th yr) and Amy Kavanagh (5th yr) had the privilege to represent all (former) 4.1 and were exposed to the full film production environment including hair, make-up and wardrobe. The girls did themselves and the school proud at the film studio.

To see the 3 minute video go to the YSI website www.youngsocialinnovators.ie – it's called 'Meet the fearless creators embracing social innovation'.

The video was launched at the CHQ Building by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny & Sister Stanislaus Kennedy, co-founder of Young Social Innovators. By engaging our young people in programmes such as Young Social Innovators we are not only creating more caring and engaged citizens but those with the skills to tackle the very serious issues facing us at local, national and global levels. This year 20,000 young people are participating in the YSI programme throughout Ireland. Good luck to this year's 4.1 YSI group speaking out about Mental Health and 4.2's YSI Project on the Danger of Sun-beds and Skin Cancer.

SPORTS

IN MERCY COLLEGE

VOLLEYBALL

We had huge numbers playing volleyball from 1st to 6th year. We had two senior teams which played league. Both teams played well having gone up in a division. The two cadette teams made up of girls from 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th were also in league action and performed well. At junior level we had 25 1st year girls playing volleyball and 20 second years training twice a week. We had a large number of senior girls helping out with coaching which is really good for all the girls. The girls also competed in Spikeball competitions after mid term and did very well with 2nd year team reaching the All Ireland playoffs in UCD.



FIRST AND SECOND YEAR AND SENIOR MERCY COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL TEAMS

BASKETBALL

Ms. Tyrrell a past pupil of Mercy, looked after the 1st and 2nd Year girls. Ms. Tyrrell is now teaching in Mercy, has a vast knowledge of basketball and is currently playing division 1 with DCU Mercy. It was great to see so many girls training at lunch and after school. Both 1st and 2nd year teams performed well in their leagues. The senior team was coached by Laura Ryan another past pupil and they had huge success winning the Dublin Senior Schools League. The girls were unbeaten all year and beat St. Dominic's Cabra in the final.

Senior Basketball Team Members:

Nuwriya Abdallah (captain), Tia Kelly, Maria Petrakova, Clodagh Hudson, Lisa Gilligan, Sinead Murray, Rachelle Tauro, Khiara Fields, Munashe Kandiwa.

GYMNASTICS

The school got a lot of new gymnastic mats this year and all students from 1st to 4th have just completed a 5 week block in gymnastics. This sport has proven hugely successful with so many girls involved in dance outside of school.

ROWING

This year Mercy College Coolock is participating in the Get Going Get Rowing Programme. All 1st year girls are taking part in this programme. On the 5th, 6th & 7th of October all first year form classes went down to Neptune Rowing Club and went rowing in fours on the River Liffey. We have 16 fourth year girls also taking part in a rowing coaching programme. We currently have six rowing machines in the school and all 1st year girls are trained on these to help them compete on the 4 person relay in Trinity College which was held in November.



The school's annual 5km Race took place on Tuesday 15th of March. In early January all students completed the Bleep Fitness Test. In the seven weeks following this test all students took part in a 7 week fitness module. This module included one running class a week and some type of circuit/fitness training. This year we have linked up with Parnell's gym with the 5th and 6th year students training in their gym every Wednesday and Thursdays mornings. All students were given a sponsorship card and to date we have raised €3,000 for school equipment. The race this year saw more students jogging and running compared to last year which reflects all the students training in class and in Parnell's gym. On average students are improving by over two levels on the Bleep Test after completing the seven weeks of fitness training. Well done to all students.

The overall winners on the day were:

1st: Aoife Fairbrother (6th Yr), **2nd** Sinead Gribbin (3rd Yr) and **3rd** Rachel Douglas (6thYr)

Other top finishers:

1st Year: Shauna Quinn, Jamie Quinn, Kayleigh Downey.

2nd Year: Chantelle Dempsey, Kayla Brazil, Rachel Kirby/Kaitlin Kelly

3rd Year: Saoirse Talbot, Amy Cunningham, Melanie Murray

4th Year: Barbara Kelly Clarke, Katie Mooney, Lauren Niblock.

5th Year: Courtney Burnett, Ciara Symes, Reanna Behan

6th Year: Nicole Byrne, Angel Lowry, Shannon Byrne.

Thanks to the students, parents and staff who made the 5km such a success.

MEMBER 4383W 54 CHARLES 7843 4383W 39137843 39137843





MERCY
5K
CHARLEMAISE

SOCCKER

It was a great year for all of the members of Mercy College soccer panel. The girls hosted many games at home and travelled to Wexford in the cup but came up against a very strong team on the day. We had some success in the group going on to qualify for the quarter finals, but did not progress after a closely contested game. The teams are most definitely building year on year so we have a lot to look forward to next year. All new members will be welcome in September. Thanks to all of the teachers and students involved and best wishes to the sixth year players who showed great leadership and commitment during their time on the panel.



SENIOR TEAM 2015 - 2016

JUNIOR TEAM 2015 - 2016

BIN IT! ROADSHOW

The 'Bin it Roadshow' visited our school in October. The tour aimed to change students' attitude and behaviour towards gum litter to make a long-term positive change. All first year students attended the workshop and thoroughly enjoyed participating in their activities. It informed our students about the environmental cost and social issues surrounding discarded chewing gum. It encouraged students to take an interest in current issues, engage in discussion and debate, play an active role as responsible citizens in public life, and learn about their rights and responsibilities.

They learned that 374 billion pieces of gum are sold every year worldwide. Also, over a 10 day period 300,000 pieces of gum are irresponsibly dropped on O' Connell Street and it can take 17 weeks to remove, This could be avoided if gum was simply placed in a litter bin. They asked students to 'think twice' before throwing chewing-gum onto the ground.



French Theatre

JUNIOR PLAY

The French Theatre Group came to visit our school in January and they performed 'Le Rendez-Vous' to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students. The performance was amazing, fun and educational. Seven students took part in the play – Lauren Smyth (4th yr), Kaitlynn Jordan (3rd yr), Rachelle Tauro (3yr), Kerri Maher-Mitchell (3rd yr), Ola Padziak (3rd yr), Katelyn Mooney (3rd yr) Sinead Gribbin (3rd yr) and Julia Filipczak (3rd yr). The performances by these students were worthy of any west-end theatre or Hollywood Movie screen. Well done ladies. All students and teachers thoroughly enjoyed the production. We hope to have more French Theatre performances at Mercy College in the future.

SENIOR PLAY

We also had the pleasure of the French Theatre Group to perform 'Le Patron Insiste' to 5th and 6th year students. The performance was amazing, fun and educational. Seven students from 5th year took part in the play - Aoife Horgan, Shauna Marshall, Shannon Aherne, Leah Murphy, Shauna McGrath, Keava Loftus and Lauren Walsh.



SCULPTURE IN CONTEXT



On the 22nd September 5th year students visited the "Sculpture in Context 2015" in the Botanic Gardens. The exhibition is one of the most prestigious outdoor exhibitions in Ireland. It provides the students with the opportunity to view work from some of Ireland's most promising and well established artists. The sculptures were displayed throughout the gardens, in the greenhouses and some directly in the pond. Smaller pieces were



exhibited in the gallery above the coffee shop in the visitor's centre. The art ranged in subject matter, scale and media. The students sketched their favourite pieces on site specific sculptures.

BRU NA BOINNE

As part of the Art History course, on the 14th September 5th and 6th year students visited the World Heritage Site of Bru na Boinne in Co. Meath. Bru na Boinne known as the Palace of the Boyne is the name given to one of the world's most important archaeological landscapes. While there the students were given a guided tour of the passage tomb we know as Newgrange, experiencing what it would be like during the Winter Solstice when the passage and chamber light up at sunrise. The girls also explored the visitors centre and completed a worksheet. -Ms. Kearns & Ms. Cassidy

Christmas



Our Christmas Trade Fair was held on Friday 4th December in the Parish Hall, Coolock Village. 4th year mini company, Asdan students and students from the resource department sold a wide range of products. From September, the girls the Resource Classes had been working very hard making cards, gifts and much more for our Christmas Craft Fair. The photographs above show some of the many products on sale. The resource department raised in excess of €1700 and this will go towards furnishing the new polytunnel. We would like to thank all that helped on the day especially to Sophia, Elaine, Rosemarie, Angela, Georgina, Catherine and Grainne for organising the event and baking loads of lovely treats, as well as Ms. Higgins & Mr. McManus. Also, thanks to all in St. Brendan's for the use of the centre and the local people for their support. Looking forward to seeing you all again next year!

Trade Fair

TRANSITION YEAR 2016

FIRST AID COURSE

We learned a lot about first aid and were given details about how to administer CPR. We were also shown how to dress wounds, how to put people who were unconscious into the recovery position. In first aid it is all about prioritising the situation. You should always attend a person who is badly hurt and stem the flow of blood loss and most importantly call for help.

FIGHTING WORDS

This is a creative writing workshop attended by all 4th year students. The whole session was based around the students coming up with creative ideas and each group of students had to come up with a story and present it to the rest of the group. We all enjoyed this workshop and who knows some of us may be a famous writer of the future!

KICKBOXING

Every Thursday afternoon we attend kickboxing. We are mainly taught how to defend ourselves. It is a really great way to keep fit!

TY ROWING

A number of students volunteered to participate in rowing activities with 1st year students.



MOCK TRIAL

We have been involved with a very interesting law course. Barristers and people from the legal profession have come to talk to us and show us how the legal system works. They were able to show us the difference between a barrister and solicitor. On the 20th of November 4th year students went to UCD to do a mock trial. We arrived at UCD at 11 and were brought to the court room. The 4 barristers were there clothed in black robes and white collars. The students who were part of the prosecution and defence looked over their notes while the jury, also students, took their seats. Both sides read their opening statements and the witnesses were then called to the stand. Both sides did a great job in defence and prosecution and after the closing statements from both sides, the jury retired to consider their verdict. After about fifteen minutes, the jury came back to deliver their verdict. The accused were found guilty on all charges. This was a brilliant experience and we had an amazing day. We would like to thank the barristers and UCD for bringing to life what really happens in a courtroom. - Lauryn Smith - 4th year.

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME

During November one of our 4th year students Claire O'Brien attended a TY mental health programme in St Patrick's hospital. 20% of teenagers deal with a mental illness such as depression and anxiety. Social media plays a huge role where cyber bullying is one of the biggest triggers for anxiety and depression. Claire was also introduced to psychology and shown how different forms of therapy are used to help resolve problems.

THE BOSSY CHRISTMAS FAIRY

As part of the Transition Year music module 4.2 have been produced their mini-musical 'The Bossy Christmas Fairy'. Every Wednesday from September the students were busy teaching the third class students from Scoil Chaitriona the songs and dances from the play whilst making the art work for the set and the costumes back in Mercy College.

There were two performances of this play on Tuesday the 1st of December and Thursday the 3rd of December. The shows were a great success and this success is a result of all the hard work since September. Later in the year a second collaborative production took place to produce 'Giraffes Don't Dance'.



BOOK BUDDIES PRIZE WINNERS IN THE STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARD - DUBLIN

Congratulations to Book Buddies winners of the perpetual trophy awarded at the student Enterprise Awards held in the Print Works, Dublin Castle. I would also like to congratulate our other enterprise company Fado Fado who did an excellent presentation and was mentioned by Minister Bruton in his speech. Book Buddies did colouring books in Irish, French and Spanish and proved to be very successful. Many thanks to Hacketts for their sponsorship. Fado Fado produced frames with sayings in Scrabble letters. Well done and I hope that you continue with your innovative ideas in the future.



The girls of Fado Fado with Minister Bruton and the winners of the Margaret O'Farrell award, Book Buddies.



TOUR GUIDING PROGRAMME

4.2 participated in a programme designed to show and develop the skills of being a tour guide. The class went to Glasnevin Museum where they firstly had a tour of the graves of the most famous people in the cemetery. Then the tour guide made a presentation about the skills that are needed to be good at this job. The girls were given a list of topics to prepare. When the class went back in November, the students had to stand at the grave of their chosen person and deliver their speech. The people chosen by the class included Michael Collins, Grace Gifford and Daniel O'Connell. Sophie Bonney, who delivered an excellent speech about Roger Casement, was invited back to participate in a competition among all the schools that had participated in this programme. Unfortunately the date clashed with the 4th year trip to Carlingford and so she could not attend.



TRANSITION YEAR MATHS EYES

This year the Transition year students from Mercy College teamed up with the fourth class students in Scoil Chaitriona to participate in a new initiative called "Maths Eyes". This programme involves students looking for mathematics in their everyday environment through their "maths eyes". The fourth class students enjoyed navigating their way around the grounds of Mercy College and identifying all of the shapes, lines, angles and numeracy that we use everyday. Thanks to all of the teachers and students involved in organising and running an enjoyable new experience!





MINI COMPANY

Well done to 4.2 for their innovative ideas. The above photographs show some of the girls and their produce.



UniTY

UniTY which is part of DCU's access programme, offers a multi-media course to Transition Year students. UniTY tries to make university (Uni) life a possibility for Transition Year (TY) students. All Transition Years were given the opportunity to create a video, which was uploaded and shared on Youtube. There were three categories in the competition between seven local schools: Local Hero, 1916- 100 years on and Cancer in My Community.

Our group chose Cancer in My Community. We made a video about our principal, Ms Dwyer. We interviewed Ms Dwyer and asked her questions about her battle with breast cancer. At the UniTY awards in DCU our video came 2nd place and we were so delighted to have come somewhere as it meant our hard work paid off. We really enjoyed this project and appreciate how open Ms Dwyer was with us about her illness.

Two other videos won awards on May 5th "Teenline" were runner ups in the Local Hero category, Teenline is an organisation which teenagers can contact and speak to about their worries and concerns.

Another video called "Laura's Story" won the category of Local Hero, it was based on the daily life of Laura Taranu, a Transition Year student who has a hearing impairment. This video allowed others to see the challenges that some people face on a daily basis, but yet still remain positive and upbeat.

The school entered ten videos in total. We had great fun recording clips and putting our videos together. We learned lots about team work. Thanks again to Darran Heaney from DCU's UniTY programme. Videos can be viewed at www.unitydcu.ie/unity-awards-2016/ - Ellenore Smith and Sophie Bonney

STEM_



Back in January a number of 4th years were invited by Accenture to attend a Girls in STEM event in the Convention Centre. The aim of the event was to encourage girls to develop more interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. As the girls arrived they received goody bags with selfie sticks, earphones and lots of other goodies. The day started off with a Social Media Panel with representatives from Google, Facebook, Twitter and CoDerDojo. The well known Facebook Vlogger Cian Twomey was also there. Throughout the day the girls took part in workshops, a hackathon and spent time in the innovation lounge which showcased all things 'cool' and 'innovative' in the area of STEM. The girls were also encouraged to use Social media throughout the day.

PUBLIC SPEAKING



As part of the TY public speaking class we linked up with an international IT Recruitment Company, called ComputerFutures. The company is based in Harcourt Street and we made two trips to their offices. The itinerary for the day was to talk about the role of a recruitment company, interview techniques, tips for completing CV and the role of women in the work place. We had presentations from a number of young employees about their experiences, highlighting how the girls could go about obtaining their career goals and also helping them to prepare for part-time jobs. It was a very useful trip and hopefully one that will benefit the girls in their future.





CAUSEY FARM

During May a group of TY students spent a day down on the farm! The girls spent their day making bread, milking a cow, trying unsuccessfully to catch chickens, set dancing and of course, the highlight of the day, bog jumping!! A wonderful day was had by all with a few budding farmers in the making.



SONG SCHOOL

On the 3rd and 4th of February both 4th year classes took part in a song school workshop. After splitting into groups of ten, we had to compose a song. On the second day we started recording our songs, as well as an interview with all the members of the group. We all really enjoyed it and it was a great experience to write our own songs. We would both recommend it to next year's 4th years. Our songs can be accessed on itunes and YouTube.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

The talk we were given on Breast Cancer Awareness was very informative. We learnt that breast cancer can affect anybody and how it is very important to check ourselves regularly. We also learnt how to check ourselves for any abnormalities or lumps. We were told ways to reduce our risk of getting breast cancer like exercising regularly and eating the right foods. The speaker we had was very helpful and was open to any questions we had to ask. I found the talk very beneficial and eye-opening.

CARLINGFORD

During April, Transition year students visited Carlingford in Co. Louth. We left school at 5pm on a Tuesday evening and arrived in Carlingford at around 7.30. We started our trip by learning circus skills. After that we settled into our rooms for a good night's sleep. The following morning after a lovely breakfast, we went canoeing. We had an amazing time and a lot of us spent more time in the water than in the canoes. We then went for a lovely lunch in the Adventure Centre. After our lunch, we went down to a challenge course in the sky park. After evening dinner we went for a blind folded walk in the forest and we had to use team skills to help and guide each other through the darkness. On our last day, we returned to the sky park to do high ropes. This involved putting on a harness and being put on a zip wire. This was an amazing experience and not for the faint hearted!! Finally, we went back to the forest and got into camouflage suits and had to shoot each other with laser guns, it was great fun. We would like to thank Ms. Harrison and Ms Rooney for bringing us and to all the staff and team leaders in the adventure centre.

ZUMBA

Thursday afternoon was fun time with all 4th year classes attending zumba classes. We had a brilliant time and feel a lot healthier and fitter.

POETRY SLAM

In March all TY students participated in a Poetry Slam, a poetry workshop with a difference. Students worked individually or in groups of their choice and wrote poems about various topics. A brilliant day was had by all and for most students this was one of the highlights of Transition Year.

TRANSITION YEAR STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR PRODUCTS IN THE BANK OF IRELAND ENTERPRISE COMMUNITIES DAY.

On Saturday 21st May Bank of Ireland hosted Enterprise in the Community. This was held in Chanel College showcasing enterprise in the local community, It included Transition Year students from both Chanel and Mercy. Mercy exhibited several products including produce from our Pollytunnel. Guest speakers were from LEO, Mattress Mick and Johnny Giles as well as the CEO from Amhdel. One of our mini companies, Book Buddies was awarded an enterprise award. Many congratulations to all my transition year students, you did your school and yourselves proud. *P. Higgins*



Food Studies **TRIP**

As part of the Food Studies course work in Leaving Cert Home Economics students had to complete an assignment on ice cream production.

We visited The Chocolate Garden in Tullow Co. Carlow which produces chocolate and ice cream. Students were given an informative demonstration on the process of making ice cream which included lots of tasty samples! Following this students were given a tour of the production area. A very enjoyable day had by all!



GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIPS



On Monday the 12th of October, we all headed off to Glendalough for a day of fun and education. We saw the round tower, old church, the beautiful waterfall and the miners' village. It was really interesting and we learned a lot for our Junior Cert course!



6th Years working during their field trip to Portmarnock. McAuley working on their 3rd year volcano project.

MATHS WEEK

There was a whole host of activities taking place in Mercy College to celebrate Maths Week. These include bingo, Countdown, card games and the Million Euro Drop. Some of the Transition Year students got the opportunity to attend a lecture given by Professor Des MacHale in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra. Professor MacHale told us all about George Boole and the Boolean Algebra that forms the basis for modern day technology. Thanks to all the teachers and students involved in making Maths Week such a success!

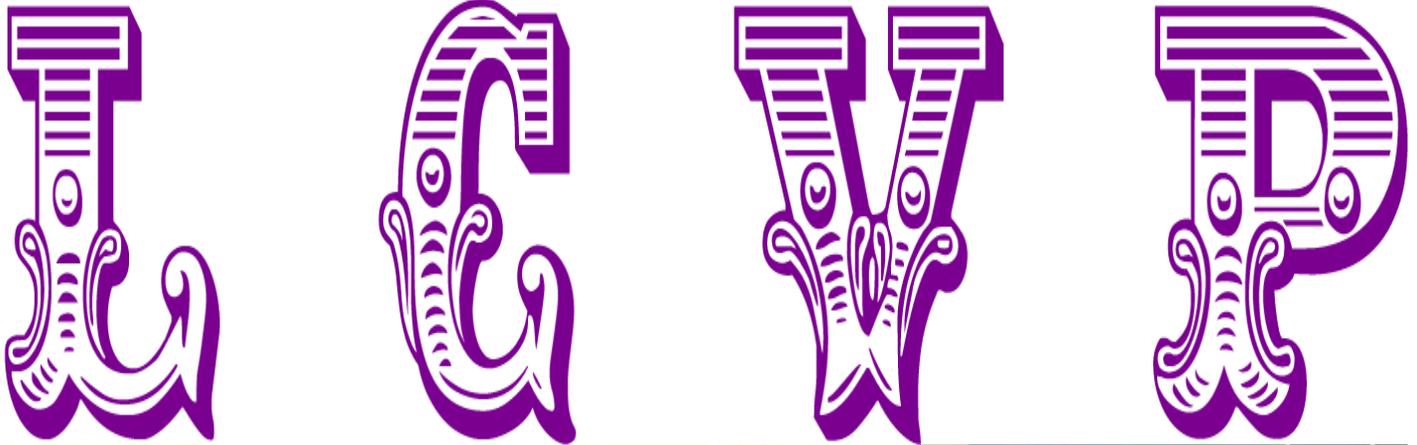


science week

Winners of Science quiz:

Alex O'Rourke (2nd year), Niamh Bolger (2nd Year) and Sophie Smith (5th Year).

Second and third year students had the opportunity to hear about the research and advances which are taking place in the world of genetics. Dr. Nora Lieggi from Dublin City University gave a very interesting lectures on the work being done in DCU and around the world



All first year students were invited to take part in a quiz hosted by 6th year LCVP students. Each first year was charged €2 entry fee which will be donated to charity. The members of the winning team were Chloe Vickers, Shakira Aherne, Megan Carroll, Nicole Ward and Lauren Baker. There were also prizes awarded for 2nd and 3rd place. In between rounds, there were also spot prizes. The majority of questions were general knowledge, TV, celebrities and sport. There were 10 rounds with 6 questions in each.

Laura Baker and Chloe Vickers 1st year

OFFICE DEPOT VISIT

As part of our LCVP course we went on a site visit to Office Depot in Rosemount Business Park, Dublin 15. We were accompanied by Ms. Moran and Ms. Boyle. We were greeted by the Human Resource Manager Kirsty and her assistant Ella who gave us a presentation regarding the workings of Office Depot. We had the opportunity of interviewing different managers and we found out a lot about their roles in the organisation. We also visited the warehouse and were able to listen to customers. Everyone made us feel very welcome and we were also treated to a lovely lunch. Overall, it gave us a very good insight into how a business is organised and we found it very interesting.



4TH YEAR STUDENT MOLLY BANNON / MONICA, LAURIE AND KAITLIN AT CROKE PARK

EGGCELLENT EGGCUPS



Many thanks to Leah Kelleher, Jade Fullard and Amy Kelly who contributed their profits from their mini company 'Eggcelent Eggcups' to Autism Ireland.

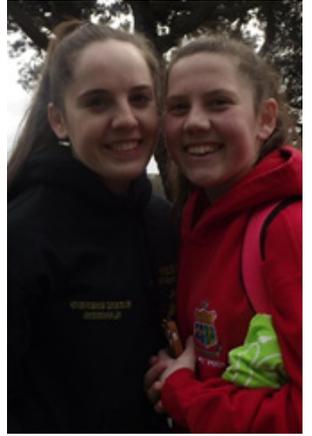
STAFF NEWS

With teachers always promoting the value of lifelong learning to students, it was wonderful to see so many of our staff practice what they preach by undertaking further training this year. Ms. Cassidy and Ms. Fitzgerald completed level 9 postgraduate studies in 21st Century Teaching and Learning in Trinity College. Both Ms. Feighery and Ms. Kelly undertook postgraduate certification in the area of special educational needs. Ms. Boyle has just completed her training in Guidance and Counselling in NUI Maynooth, while Ms. Harrison is pursuing a Masters degree in DCU, also in guidance. Ms. Doherty is on the final stretch of her Masters degree in Christian Leadership through Marino Institute of Education and the University of Limerick. Added to this were the many further education and continuous professional development courses undertaken by staff over the course of this year, including mindfulness training and numerous subject and programme related modules – all of this in their own time. Another example of the commitment and work rate of our excellent Mercy College staff!

Congratulations to Ms. Katrina Harrison who received a DCU/CTYI Teaching Award recently. Congratulations also to Ms. Jane Kelly whose choir came second in the internationally acclaimed Cork Choral Festival in May.

SISTERS SAY GOODBYE

Sisters say goodbye – three of our junior students - Katie, Sophie and Emma - with big sisters Becky, Emma and Shannon who are sitting Leaving Certificate this year! Also leaving younger sisters behind will be Nicola, Chloe and Leah, with Danielle, Sarah and Karen maintaining the family tradition in Mercy.



SNAPS FROM THE SCHOOL YEAR





Home School Community

This has been a busy year in the Home School Department. We have run many classes and courses for parents. We work in partnership in these courses with our local schools. These include Scoil Chaitriona, Scoil Chaitriona Nai, St Brendan's and Chanel College. These have included Healthy Eating, Gardening, Pottery, Art, Irish, Yoga and Interior Design. These were very successful and I look forward to developing these classes for parents. If there is any class or activity that you might have a particular interest in please feel free to contact me on 0860241797.

We had a very interesting and informative talk from Dr Fergus Heffernan on Thursday 5th May. Dr Heffernan topic was "The Emotional well-being of a teenager". Many parents found this extremely helpful and we hope to continue next year in supporting parents on this topic. Many thanks to all those who attended.

BOOK CLUB

Our book club continued this year with our very valued members of the community who help with our paired reading programme. We meet once a month to discuss the book we have read. In May we read *Fallen* which is the book for Two cities , One Book initiative. It also fitted in with our recent commemoration of the 1916 Rising. Members of the Book Club also kindly read some of the books that will be read in English class in Junior Cycle. They then gave feedback to the English Department. We hope to continue this next year.

PARENTS RELIVE 1916

On Friday 6th May the Parents' Association spent the day in the city centre reliving some of the events of 1916. They took the tour bus from O'Connell Street stopping off at St Stephens Green and Ship Street to hear accounts and experiences of the 1916 Rising. A great day was had by all.

1916



2016

We welcomed our incoming 1st years to Mercy College on Wednesday 11th May. They spent the day learning about life in Mercy College and were involved in many different activities. They learnt about how to follow a school timetable. They met with their new classmates and spent time getting to know the layout of the school. They performed their dance from Grease at the end of the day. We look forward to welcoming them into our school community.

THE GREEN COMMITTEE AND GARDENING CLUB

The Gardening Club and the Green Committee joined forces on Friday 20th November to tidy up our courtyard. Both groups spent the morning weeding and tidying. We are very grateful to the Gardening Club for their assistance and they are welcome back anytime. Many thanks to Monica Heade for providing refreshments for all the workers.

For any parent interested in joining the Gardening Club they meet in St Brendan's School every Friday at 10.00am please contact 0860241797 for more information.



PARENTS FORUM

We held a parents' forum for 1st year parents in conjunction with our Parents Association AGM. There was a great turnout and many first year parents held discussions on how the transfer was going for their daughter. Many thanks to those who took the time to attend the meeting.

Reminder: We will have many more classes beginning in September. Thank you for your continued support and if there are any classes that you would like to see run in Mercy College please contact me on 0860241797 or hsclmercycoolock@live.ie.

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents of the students of Mercy College for their constant and continued support in my first year as Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator. Your support has made this year a very productive and very enjoyable year. It has been great getting to know you and building relationships. It is essential that we continue this into next year as parents are an essential part of our school community. Your time, input and points of view have helped us to build our partnership with parents in Mercy College.

Thank you



Guidance Department

The new academic year began for 5th and 6th Years with our annual trip to the R.D.S. for the Higher Options Conference. It was both enjoyable and informative and gave students an opportunity to gather valuable information about career options and chat in person to representatives from the Higher Education Institutions

We were lucky again this year to be invited to attend the " Education for All Fair " held locally and organised by Northside Partnership.



We had a busy time filling in C.A.O. applications and well done to the 6th years for registering early. This first step is the beginning of the process.

Students were also busy applying to Colleges of Further Education and Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) Colleges and interviews took place from January 2016 onwards. 6th years had a short seminar on preparing for interviews in late November 2015.

" -Good luck to our 6th years. May all your dreams come true. Well done on all your hard work applying to colleges, researching your courses, attending interviews and indeed for securing places for September. Remember you can change your mind on all your CAO choices (except restricted courses) up to July 1st 2016.-"

STUDENT COUNCIL

The new Student Council for the 2015-2016 academic year was up and running since early October. The Chairperson this year was our Head Girl, Laurie Murphy. The Council organised an event for "College Awareness Week" in late November. Council members organised a quiz and gave information about the new points system. 6th year members gave a demonstration on how to access information re careers and courses. Students were invited to feel like a graduate by dressing up in Graduation gowns and wearing mortar boards. The event was a great success and opened a debate for younger students.

THE 3RD ANNUAL STUDENT COUNCIL BREAKFAST TOOK PLACE IN LATE FEBRUARY 2016

The Council hosted breakfast for hungry 6th Years just before their mock Leaving Certificate exams. Over 600 sausages were cooked (**what would we do without the wonderful Monica !**) 14 sliced pans were toasted and tea was made for all. It was a lovely morning for all concerned.



THE STUDENT COUNCIL VISITED THE OMBUDSMANS FOR CHILDRENS OFFICE IN LATE MAY.

The Student Council visited the Ombudsmans for Childrens Office in late May. They enjoyed an informative workshop highlighting children's rights and the role of the Ombubsmans Office.

AMAZON

To celebrate International Womens Day a group of lucky Senior students visited the Amazon Office for a day. They enjoyed talks from employees highlighting various career options in the company and the importance of education for women. A big thank you to Angel Lowry's aunt, Mercy past pupil Nicola Walsh, who works in Amazon.



DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Twenty 4th and 5th year students were awarded Achievement Awards in the Helix on Thursday 3rd December. Awards ranged from Academic, Arts and Culture, Sport and Community Spirit. Robyn Richardson 6th yr did the school proud by singing as part of the entertainment programme. Abby Somers was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award for sport. Well done to all.



PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR BRAVERY

Congratulations to one of our 6th year students Katie McCabe, who was awarded the President's award for bravery. Katie and her two friends were responsible for saving a woman who fell on to train tracks while having an epileptic fit.

Katie is seen here on the left.



History Department

SUFFRAGETTES A VISIT TO THE ODEON

On behalf of all students, we would like to thank all the History teachers for inviting us to go and see the film Suffragettes. We really enjoyed the film and found it very interesting. We learnt a lot about women in history and how they won their right to vote. We felt very inspired by this movie.



VISIT TO GLASNEVIN CEMETERY

3rd year and 4th year students visited Glasnevin cemetery as part of their History programme. The students visited the graves of important historical figures such as Parnell and Collins. They also were told about grave robbing. They wandered around the museum and looked at artefacts from World War One. When leaving, the guide complimented the group saying it was the best group he had met over the last 6 years.

1916

remembered



SPORTS DAY 2016





Munich Trip



The 4th and 5th year students travelled to Munich, Germany on the 7th and returned on the 11th April. Among some of the many places we visited the highlights included Dachau Concentration camp, the BMW welt, a walking tour of Munich and the Museum of Fascination and Terror. Unfortunately, we couldn't get into the centre of Nuremberg due to a festival but we still got to see the Palace of Justice where the Nuremberg trials were held. We also had time in a water park. That was brilliant fun. Overall, we had an amazing but tiring time and we would like to thank Ms. O'Hanlon, Ms. Quinn, Ms Moran and Mr O'Mahony for taking us. We would definitely recommend Munich for future trips.



2ND YEARS VISIT ENNISCORTHY

The 2nd Years visited the 1798 museum on May 4th. The first part of the trip was to the museum where the students were able to handle weapons used by the United Irishmen in 1798. They were also able to try on some of the clothes they would have worn back in 1798. After lunch, the students walked up Vinegar Hill where the famous battle took place. Although it was very moving to walk on the ground where so many people had died it was also beautiful and the views were spectacular.



ROMA

After an early morning start leaving a dry and mild Dublin we arrived in a very wet Rome. In fact it was raining so hard it was like somebody throwing buckets of water on us! After we collected our bags, we went to the hotel got our rooms and then went on a walking tour of Rome in the rain. We visited the Colosseum. It was amazing to see. We had lunch, which needless to say was pizza! It was delicious and for €8 we got chips and coke as well, a bargain. After lunch, we visited the Vatican city and saw many wonderful sights, including St. Peter's Basilica. We visited the Sistine Chapel and saw all the paintings on the walls and ceilings that were painted by Michelangelo.

On the second day, there was no rain and the sun was shining. We went off to visit Rainbow Magic Land. This was a theme park with lots of rides. Our favourites were the Shock, the Drop, the Water Drop and the Haunted House. Then it was off for some retail therapy! The outlets were great and some of us did some serious shopping as things were so cheap. We had a really great time and would certainly recommend people to see the city. The hotel was very good but a little bit chilly as it was up in the mountains. We would like to thank Ms. Boyle, Ms. Devitt, Ms. Hickey and Ms. Dwyer for taking us.

Amy Tate, Leah Rooney, Rachel Nolan Byrne, Shauna Mc Cann, Alicia Scannell and Shauna Murphy Mc Grath.



6TH YEAR WALKING TOUR

The celebration of the 1916 rising has been a hugely important theme in Ireland this year, both inside and outside of school. To commemorate the events of Easter Monday in our own way, Ms O'Hanlon's 6th year history class took a walking tour around Dublin city on the 8th March. We visited several interesting sites related to the rebellion, including Liberty Hall and Collins Barracks.

We began our trip outside Liberty Hall, just as the Irish Volunteers and Irish Citizen army had assembled there on the sunny morning of

Easter Monday. The statue of James Connolly, one of the leaders of the rising, stood proudly for us to see across the road from the Hall. We were very interested to learn that the rebels had begun their day here, and had left this spot to take positions all around Dublin.

Following that we made our way to O'Connell Street, where we paid a visit to the GPO. As well as being one of Ireland's most famous buildings, this was also the spot where Padraig Pearse read out the Proclamation to a crowd of awestruck- and confused – citizens. Inside the GPO, we were disappointed to learn that the 1916 museum was still under renovation. However, we were excited at the prospect of visiting it soon. It was fantastic for us all to stand on the steps of the building, knowing that something very important to our culture had taken place there just 100 years ago.

We then walked to Moore Street, where several girls from the class signed a "Save Moore Street" petition. We later walked past the Four Courts, getting a glimpse into another of Dublin's most important buildings. We then had to run for the Luas, so that we could reach Collins Barracks in time to embark on a tour of the 1916 Rising Museum.

The museum was the most enjoyable of our trip- apart from bags of chips we got from Burdocks! The museum was packed with artefacts and information relating to the rising, such as possessions of the Military Council members and important documents from the time. There were several videos regarding information about the rising and we were also shown an old wooden table that had been used for printing the first copies of the 1916 Proclamation. Uniforms were also on display. This day gave us the opportunity to see the stark contrast between the Dublin of 1916 and the Dublin we know today. We felt more connected to the history of our culture, and it was a brilliant experience for the entire class.

- Laurie Murphy 6th year Head Girl



MUSIC

The sixth years enjoyed a trip to the National Concert Hall with Ms McQuaid and Ms Kelly to see a performance of one of their set works Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique.





EMMANUEL

On the 29th February both second year music classes and their teachers took part in the Emmanuel concert in The Helix, DCU. The Emmanuel concerts take place every year but it was our school's first time to take part. It is the **Year of Mercy** and the girls were proud to take part in such an event. There were 15 schools taking part on the 29th February with nearly 400 students there on the day! The day was long starting at 9am leaving the school to get to Our Lady of Victories Church on the Ballymun Road for morning rehearsals, then a walk in the rain to DCU to eat lunch, before a full afternoon of rehearsals again! At 6pm all of the students (and teachers) got their dinner in the DCU canteen and then it was straight back to the stage for the concert! The evening was a great success with our girls singing their hearts out! They are all looking forward to taking part again soon!

HALLOWEEN FUNDRAISER

This year 6th year students collected money for Aoibheanns Pink tie. This charity provides support to parents and families of critically ill children. A lot of money was raised on the day and LCVP students who ran a 1st year quiz and 2nd year also donated their money. The total amount raised was €680 many thanks for all your support.



POLYTUNNEL

We would like to say a big thank you to Local Agenda and Dublin City Council for their kind donation towards the purchase of polytunnel and many thanks to parents and staff that have continuously supported us in our fundraising efforts. We are currently growing a variety of fresh vegetables including lettuce, potatoes, cauliflower, onions, garlic, rosemary, thyme and coriander.

On Friday 13th May, during the 4th year trade fair, the students who were involved with the polytunnel sold off some of the products that they had grown from seed, well done girls!



sky | ACADEMY

During May 32 5th year students went to Sky Offices in Burlington Plaza to attend the Sky Academy. When we arrived we were greeted by Megan who introduced us to the team for the day. Each girl was given an iPad (on loan) to do a quick test, the results of which indicated what characteristics/skills each student had. After this they were given a presentation by Ann Marie who was the Marketing Director and this was followed by questions and answers. The students were split into teams and were shown the different departments, all of which were open plan. They were also shown an occulat and each girl had a look at the 3D graphics. After lunch, they were given tasks to do and then present it back. Some girls chose to do the programming for a bank holiday weekend with a given budget, others did sports and news. Many thanks to the Sky team for a very informative and motivational day.



PARNELLS GAA

Pictured here are the 6th year girls working hard in Parnells at an early gym session! We are grateful to Parnells who kindly continue to provide their gym facilities for our 5th & 6th girls to use once a week.

This is a great experience and one that will develop a fitness ethos for their future !



Junior Cert Craft Project Cushion Covers: Hand appliqué and embroidery, 1st Year SNR Hand Embroidered Bunting

Seachtaine na Gaeilge



The 2016 Seachtain na Gaeilge was a great success. We had our annual ceili with the Junior Cycle, while the Senior Cycle took part in a quiz 'as gaeilge'. This year for the first time the girls were also invited to take part in 'Rith 2016'. Rith 2016 is a national relay organised by Seachtain na Gaeilge with participants taking part all over the country

The convoy, including a Garda escort, met us at the Spar across the road and we were passed the baton. The girls took turns carrying the baton until we reached Gaelscoil Cholmcille on the Oscar Traynor Road. There was craic agus ceol on the run. The sun was shining agus bhí an lá againn!

LOOKING Back

Back in school when I received these newsletters I would read this part thinking 'God they are so old' and now here I am writing my own piece about life after Mercy!

My name is Sinead Cumiskey. I finished in Mercy College in 2009, and if I could come back and do it all again I would. The fun, friends, laughs and of course education set me up for who I am today! Finishing school, I never really knew what I wanted, I still don't, but there are so many options and paths in this big bad world. As a sporty girl I always wanted to be a PE Teacher. That was the dream and I was happy doing anything to do with sport. I went to Colaiste Ide where I did a Level 6 qualification in Sports and Leisure Management, something I really enjoyed but, to my surprise, haven't used since.

My part-time job in college led me to hospitality, which is where I have been ever since. The people and buzz of it all is what drives me. I work for Nandos, which is a company that really cares about its people - 'It's the people who make the chicken'. I started my journey here at the bottom and I am now an Assistant Manager, growing and learning each day. It may not be where I thought I might be, but I am doing something I love and enjoy and for me that's the main thing!

Sinead Cumiskey

READING & LITERACY

There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book.

Frank Serafini

meetville.com



Given the importance of good literacy skills for life and exam success, Mercy College devotes time and energy to improving literacy skills and reading for pleasure among our students. A number of literacy initiatives are run each year. This initiative started in Mercy College ten years ago and has involved many adults who commit their time, skill and enthusiasm.

Students read aloud with a partner three times a week for a six week period. The partner is a volunteer from the local community.

Over the years we have found that this initiative has more to offer than just reading fluency. It develops social skills and creates a positive link between the younger and older generations in our community. The reading time finishes with a "cup of tea" which is hugely popular and is a great opportunity to develop communication skills.

SPEED DATING WITH MERCY COLLEGE AND CHANEL COLLEGE

Transition Year students from Mercy College and Chanel College all read the same book. The book selected was "The Perks of Being a Wall Flower" by Stephen Chbosky. Then the Chanel boys visited Mercy College and discussed the book with the girls. The format allowed each boy to speak to each girl, about the book, for two minutes. Apart from initial awkwardness, the meeting was a great success.

THE LIBRARY

Mercy College has a designated library which is home to over seven thousand books. It is a bustling room with students borrowing books, working on projects or having a little chill. It is open four days a week at lunchtime and manned by one teacher, a team of sixth year librarians and fifth year library monitors.



Accelerated Reader®

Accelerated Reader is a powerful tool for monitoring and managing independent reading practice, motivating your students to read for pleasure. Students

- select a book
- read the book
- take a quiz online either in the classroom or in the library
- complete their log sheet
- receive instant feed back

So far this year 2015/16 first year students have read 744 books during this initiative.

D.E.A.R.

Every year we literally Drop Everything And Read for 20 minutes each day for one week.

Keep your ears open and join us next year for DEAR.



ASDAN STUDENTS

OUR TRIP TO THE ZOO

On Tuesday the whole SNR Department went to Dublin Zoo. Sophie, Amy and I had to interview someone who works outside so we decided to interview a Zoo Keeper.

We went to the Zoo in the Garda Community van. That was great! We met Alan who looks after the new wolves in the Zoo. He answered our questions. We also met Elaine who looks after the elephants. It was good fun. My favourite thing was the lions. - **By Sarah Delahunty**

MY 21ST!

I was 21 in March!!

There was a surprise party in school! We had popcorn and cupcakes and sweets!

Georgina brought me a birthday cake. My friends in 6th year gave me highlighters and cool balloons. I had a great time! It was very exciting! I did a dance at the end when Ms Kelly played the piano.

I want to say thank you to everyone for my special day! - **By Amy Styles**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMY!



MY BOOK DIARY

All year Sarah, Amy and I have been working on our Asdan folders. It has been hard work but lots of fun too! We study English, Maths, Horticulture, Home Economics, Work Awareness, Computers, Art and PE. I have done some great projects. We visited different work places and interviewed people who work there. We went to Spar on Malahide Road and KidzFirst Crèche in Kilbarrack. I loved going to the zoo and Mamma Mia in St Paul's. My favourite thing this year was making the pots with Ms Cassidy.

By Sophie Slein



CFES

COLLEGE FOR EVERY STUDENT

This year the school linked up with Trinity College, Bridge 21 and Trinity Access Programme (TAP) to take part in an initiative called College for Every Student designed for 2nd year students. The idea behind this programme was to start a conversation around going on to university or further education courses and what students need to be aware of if they want to get there. The programme was divided into 4 areas – Leadership, Mentoring, 21st Century skills and college awareness. The students took part in a variety of activities throughout the year to tie in with these areas. They had to do research, presentations, work in the community and with past pupils as a form of mentoring and preparation. Students had to investigate

careers they would be interested in pursuing after school. In doing this they became aware of subjects they need to do, points they need to achieve and what colleges that offer the courses. There were also activities for students to take part in during College Awareness week.



The girls went bag packing at Dunnes in Northside shopping centre to raise money for the school. This money is being put towards updating the breakfast/parents room. Some of the 2nd year art students then had to work in teams to come up with a suitable room design for the parents' room and present this to members of the team that use the room on a regular basis. The girls had a campus visit to Trinity College. They learned what was on offer to them in Trinity College, about student life and extracurricular activities. They had a tour of the campus to show them the different faculties, layout and workings of a third level college. The mentoring was a huge success for most of the students. The girls got to meet with a past pupil of the school and discuss different topics, get advice and talk about different areas of school and college they may have concerns about. The Mentors also enjoyed the experience and feel they also gained a lot of valuable insight and experience. All of the skills gained through this programme are to help students advance through school and in life after Mercy College.

Thank you to Ms Fitzgerald, Linda Devitt, the CSPE and SPHE teachers for all of their help and support throughout the year.

Ms. Cassidy

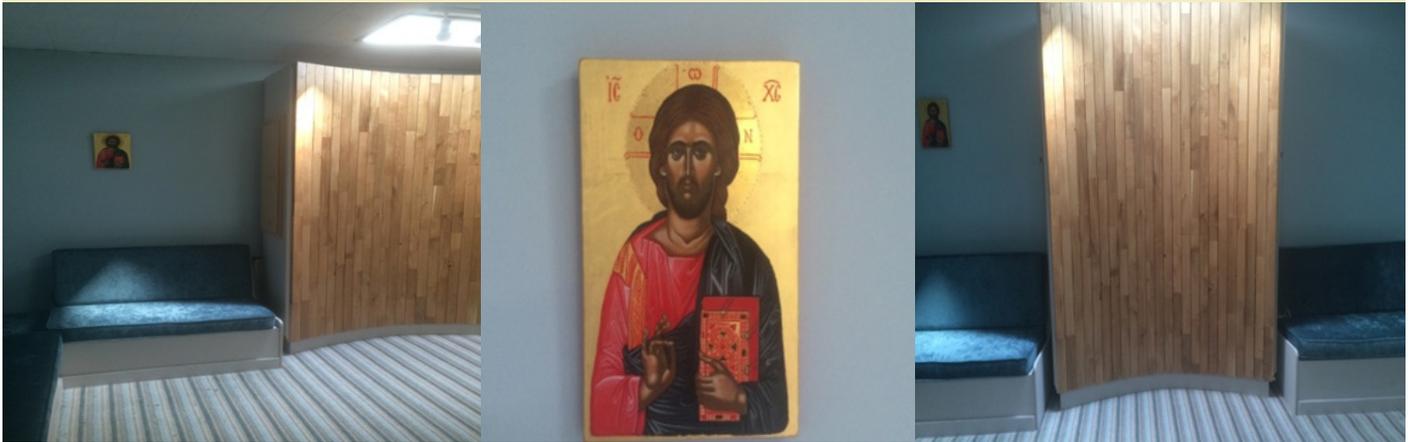
1ST YEAR HISTORY TRIP TO THE NATIONAL HERITAGE PARK IN WEXFORD

During May the 1st years took a trip to National Heritage park in Wexford. It took over two hours to our destination and we enjoyed our well deserved lunch before the tour began. The tour guide took us through the guided walk in which we explored Neolithic, Mesolithic and Bronze Age style camps.

This gave the girls a real sense of what it was like to live back then. As part of the tour we were shown the many features such as Crannógs, Viking Ships and the most exciting part of the tour which was the Fulachtaí Fia. The girls got to experience the art of cooking in Ancient Ireland. We had a great day and thank you too all the teachers and SNAs who came on the trip. - Miss Tyrrell.



Religion Department



THE PRAYER ROOM

For the past year many people have been involved in the restoration/ refurbishment of our prayer room in Mercy College. Our aim was to create a room of calm where all students and staff may find a space to pray and find a moment of peace in our busy, busy world! Many thanks to Ms, Dwyer and Mr O' Mahony for supporting this project from the beginning of last summer.

Particular thanks to Mr Brendan O'Kelly and Kevin who put so much effort into the practical details such as plastering, painting, making and upholstering the new seats. The curved wooden backdrop, used from recycled materials, is especially beautiful and helps to create a very peaceful atmosphere.

Our sincere gratitude to Sr. Rose Hogan, who was a Business teacher in Mercy College for many years. She gave us the wonderful gift of an icon which she made herself over many months. It enhances the prayerful nature of the room. We will always treasure this piece of religious art. Our work is not yet finished as we are still working on the restoration of a cross which will be the central feature in the room. Lastly, thanks to all pupils (past and present) and staff who came up with inspiring ideas and the energy to make this wish for the school a reality. -The R.E. Team

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

NOVEMBER – WE REMEMBER.

"I was sad, but it was nice to remember."
"Thanks for having that service this morning, I loved it." "That was lovely – thanks." These were just some comments from students, following our service of remembrance

During the month of November, it is part of our tradition to remember those who have died. Our prayer service on Tuesday, November 24th, offered the members of our school community an opportunity to light a candle in memory of those "who once graced our lives." Their names were gathered on our tree of memory which was placed in the foyer and remained a focus of memory and prayer for the rest of our school year.



5TH YEAR VISIT TO THE MOSQUE

The group of 5th Year students who visited the Mosque on South Circular Road during the Islamic Foundation's Open Day, learned a lot during the visit. Our hosts were more than happy to introduce us to the way of life of Muslims in Ireland – we even had an opportunity to try on a hijab! We learned about Muslim beliefs and prayer and were invited to join the community in the prayer hall. The students took away lots of mementos of their visit, including their names, beautifully calligraphed in Arabic, stunning henna tattoos and some great literature. We want to thank our hosts for making us so welcome and for the delicious food they had prepared for our visit.



SCP NEWS

BREAKFAST CLUB –

Our Breakfast Club is going very well this year. The Breakfast Club is open to all students, It runs every day from 8.00 to 8.45 in the parent's room. To give you an idea of how popular the breakfast club is, 1,840 breakfasts were served between September – November 2016. Students can have toast, cereal (Special K, Cheerios Cornflakes, Rice Crispies etc.), apple juice, orange juice, milk, fruit, yogurts etc. Regretfully we no longer provide chocolate spread however we do provide healthy alternatives. We would like to thank the volunteers who come in each morning (including the cold, frosty mornings in December) to help prepare and serve breakfast to the students.

HOMEWORK CLUB –

Homework Club takes place Monday to Thursday from 3.50 to 4.50 in the Study Hall. It is open to all first and second year students. If a student is having difficulty with their homework the teacher can help. It also means that students can leave the books they are finished with in their lockers so the school bag is lighter. Attendance this year has been particularly high.

THE IGNITE PROGRAMME –

This programme aims to promote positive change through personal development and it is the second year it has been run in Mercy College. It is run by Linda Devitt, Coolock SCP and Alison Donohue, North East Inner City SCP. The programme is specifically aimed at second year students and aims to help them see the benefits of remaining in the education system and to support them by giving them the skills and knowledge to navigate their way through the system. The programme asks students to reflect on their long term goals and what they want to get from their education.

If you interested in taking part in these lessons or any of the activities mentioned just pop into Linda, Co-ordinator Coolock SCP, her office is beside the Language lab.

Linda Devitt



