

ZODIAC

Vol. XXV No. 4

Summer 2016

EDITORIAL

Best of luck to all our Junior Cert and Leaving Cert pupils sitting their exams in June.

Enjoy the holidays everyone!

Schedule of Reopening 2016/2017

School re-opens for Staff on Friday, 26th August

School re-opens for First Years on Monday, 29th August

School re-opens for 5th Years and First Years on Tuesday, 30th August

School re-opens for all 1st Yr., 2nd Yr., 3rd Yr., 4th Yr. & 5th Yr. on Wednesday, 31st August

School re-opens for all Year Groups and Transition Year and LCA on Thursday, 1st September

Success for CCS at Trash 'n' Fashion 2016

Well done to all our students who participated in the Trash 'n' Fashion Competition in aid of Jigsaw on 19th May in Mount Errigal Hotel.

Commander of Elegance - Claire Doherty 4D, Amy Callaghan 4C and Emma Gill 4A.

Opulent - Michelle Grant 4F, Holly Moore TY and Shannon McKinley TY.

Vision - Catherine Devlin 4G, Emma Doherty 4D, Dylan Butter 4E.

Double Denim - Shauna Doherty 4B.

Lady Rebellion - Shauna Doherty 4B, Rachel McLaughlin 4D and Conor Devlin 4H.

The Gladiator - Carrie Bonner-McLaughlin 4D, Sophie McWeeney 4A, Sarah Streete 4H and Seanan Doherty 4G.

Bannón na Blathanna - Caoilinn Diver 4D.

Dimensions - Niall Kelly 4E and Lauryn Meehan 4B.

Azure - Jennifer Hirrell 4E, Hannah Doherty 4H, Niamh Moyne 4D.

Roseau Tisser - Ellen Owens 4E.

Bouclé - Niall Kelly 4E, Julie Quinn 4E and Grainne Doherty 4D.

The following teams featured on the Grand Final Runway - Commander of Elegance, Opulent, Vision, Roseau Tisser, Dimensions and Azure, with Niall Kelly, Julie Quinn and Grainne Doherty crowned overall winners of Trash 'n' Fashion 2016 with their dress "Bouclé". It was an amazing night for the pupils and the school. The pupils were exemplary and their performances were outstanding.

Girls GAA

Well done to all the girls on the U14 and U16 teams for their hard work and dedication at all training sessions and matches throughout the year. Congratulations to Aoife mcColgan, 4th year, who won the Division Two League a few weeks ago. This was a great achievement for Aoife at such a young age. Congrats also to Nicole Gordon, 5th year, who got the Championship call-up for the Donegal Senior Ladies team. Best of luck to both girls in future.

JCSP News

Another successful year and well done to all the students who have participated in the programme. We have completed the following initiatives: Artist in the Classroom, Outdoor Pursuits, Celebrity Chef, Drama, Make a Book, Woodwork, Digital Storytelling, Christmas Celebration, Summer Celebration, Maths For Fun, Literacy Scrabble. Congratulations to class 1B who won the Scrabble Competition - representing the class were Elisha Moyne, Adam Kirkland, Darragh McGeogheghan and Emma Doherty. Good luck to 3rd and 5th years in the June Exams. Have a Lovely Summer. *Elaine Farren*

Chaplaincy

Prayer for exam students:

Trust in God

Often your tasks will be many,
And more than you think you can do...

Often the road will be rugged
And the hills insurmountable, too...

But always remember, the hills ahead
Are never as steep as them seem,
And with Faith in your heart start upward
And climb 'til you reach your dream,
For nothing in life that is worthy
Is ever too hard to achieve
If you have the courage to try it
And you have the Faith to believe...
For Faith is a force that is greater
Than knowledge or power or skill
And many defeats turn to triumph
If you trust in God's wisdom and will...
For Faith is a mover of mountains,
There's nothing that God cannot do,
So start out today with Faith in your heart
And "climb 'til your dream comes true"

North Inishowen School Completion Programme

Attendance

Attendance initiatives are ongoing and every student benefits from these. The aim is to raise awareness of the importance of good attendance and punctuality among students and parents, and to emphasise the link between attendance and academic performance.

Awards

Attendance and Donagh Certificates were recently presented to students in the school library. Congratulations to all the students who received an award.

Numeracy Classes

After school Numeracy Classes for identified 3rd and 5th year students have been taking place on Thursday evenings. These classes focus on exam preparation and motivation. 29 students are currently taking part in the programme.

Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club run by Mr. Dessie Doherty is ongoing and is a great success. There are over 100 students availing of the service in the Coffee Dock every morning, and feedback from the students continues to be very positive.

North Inishowen Family Support Worker

The Family Support Worker, Helen McFarland, is currently working with families in the NISCP area. The families involved greatly benefit from this service.

HSCL

I just want to wish all our students a safe summer, and good luck to those that are finishing up their time with us here in CCS. I look forward to meeting our new students in September. Remember I am here to help parents, help their child. Please do not hesitate to contact me (086 822 2169). Thanks to all the students and staff for wearing the green ribbons to highlight positive mental week.

Mary Lafferty

LCVP

The leaving certs are all finished up, and hopefully the results in August will reflect all the hard work of the students and their

teachers. Forth years are heading out on work experience next week and should make sure the necessary documentation has been returned to their teachers. A big word of thanks to class 4A for their participation in the 'Business in the Community' project and the link with LYIT: A great time was had by all!

Matthew Duffy, Donegal Junior Bake-off Champion 2016

Congratulations to 5th year pupil, Matthew Duffy who won the 'Great Donegal Junior Bake Competition' on Friday, 20th May. The competition took place in the Highlands Hotel in Glenties in association with Paul Kelly, celebrity chef from the Great Irish Bake-off. As part of his prize, Matthew will spend a day with Paul Kelly in the 5-star Merrion Hotel in Dublin where he will get to see first-hand the workings of a professional pastry chef. Sweet!

Softball a Big Hit with Transition Years

Softball - a cross between rounders and baseball...But when it's played by 50+ TY pupils, it's a different game altogether. The TY PE groups, marshalled by Mr. Spencer and Mr. Bogan, were recently introduced to the great American pastime. While the rules were implemented loosely, and the number of players on the field was marginally high, there's no doubt that Softball is here to stay. Huge entertainment value!...The TYs LOVED it. But they couldn't have loved it more than their coaches, who took every opportunity to get in the game. Softball is now an integral part of the TY PE programme. It was originally introduced as a gesture towards our Sister City friends in St. Charles (St. Louis), Missouri. Who knew it would catch on? Sure, most of the key rules may never be used, but

that doesn't mean it ain't FUN! Thanks to Jim "Coach" O'Dell from St. Charles for the actual softball...which isn't soft at all...With the first swing of the Little League bat, the Carndonagh Cardinals were born!

Fourth Years Visit The National Gallery & The National Museum

On Tuesday, 3rd May, Fourth Year Art pupils visited both the National Gallery and the National Museum in Dublin. Despite some disruption in the National Gallery due to the highly anticipated Da Vinci Exhibition, the pupils were treated to an impressive display of fine Irish and European works. In the National Museum, the pupils got a close-up view of Ireland's most impressive archaeological finds. The experience of both the Gallery and the Museum will be of significance when the Leaving Cert finally arrives, so the notebooks and clipboards were out in numbers. Overall, it was an enjoyable and educational afternoon for the pupils. The trip was coordinated by Mrs. McDermott and Ms. McGee.

CCS Retain the Derryveagh Crystal Schools' Golf Title

The CCS team emerged the victors, for the second year running, in a very close contest, played out at Dunfanaghy Golf Club on Friday, 6th May. In glorious sunshine, all the finalists were still in the hunt for the title as the last few cards were handed in.

Carndonagh's Conor McColgan proved the difference, with a magnificent individual score of 41 points, enough to clinch the title for CCS and secure for himself the individual winner's prize. The

CCS team was an example of consistency, with all the boys scoring in the 30s.

Team Captain, Scott McElhinney, showed he will have little difficulty playing off his new 7 handicap. Team stalwarts, Ben Collins, Stephen McGonigle and DJ Mc Geoghan will surely be destined for lower single figure handicaps by the end of the summer. Ryan McLaughlin and Oisin McGonigle will be feared by every team next year, as we watch their handicaps tumble. Recognition also goes to Conor Quigley who was unavailable to play in the final. Congratulations to all the boys!

(Team: Stephen McGonigle, Oisin McGonigle, Conor McColgan, Ryan McLaughlin, Ben Collins, Scott McElhinney, DJ McGeoghan.
Manager: Mr. Kevin McCarron.)

The National Mock Trial Competition 2016

The National Mock Trial Competition was held in the Criminal Courts of Justice on Saturday, 16th April 2016. The team comprised 10 pupils - 3 barristers (Maria Farren, Oisin Bowyer & Christopher Gill), 1 solicitor (Cathy Doherty), 1 courtroom registrar (Geraldine Brennan), 2 tipstaffs (Darragh McWilliams & Cathy Doherty), 1 defendant (Deaglan Farren as Pat Parker) and 5 witnesses (Casey Cavanagh as Alex Anderson, Geraldine Brennan as Jackie Ó Faoláin, Maria Farren as Seoirse Harney, Darragh McWilliams as Chris Connor and Cathy Doherty as Jo Johnson). There were also 3 full-time jurors (Tia McLaughlin, Casey Cavanagh and Aoife Houghton). The students owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mr. Donal McGuinness B.L. for his advice and his time, both on the eve and on the day of the competition. Thank you, Donal! We would also like to thank Ms. Maria McLaughlin, SNA who procured a Garda

uniform for us! We won 2 out of our 3 cases. All the pupils gave 100% - barristers and witnesses alike! You did us proud!

Iveagh Scholars Programme (Oisín Bowyer)

My name is Oisín Bowyer, a pupil in TYC. I came across an amazing opportunity that Ms. McGeehin highlighted to all TYs. It consisted of an essay competition entitled 'Honouring the Past, Imagining the Future'.

When I heard that the prize was a week with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Dublin, I immediately wanted to know more. I wrote an essay, sent it off and expected nothing. Luckily however, I was successful and secured a much coveted place on the programme.

The purpose of these internships is "to give secondary students the opportunity to share their views on Ireland's role in the world, and to get involved in the discussion about how the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade promotes abroad the values, interests and economic wellbeing of Ireland".

Each day at the Department addressed a different aspect of their work. For example, on day one we had a talk from the Directors of the Passport Division. They spoke to us about the regulation, legislation and production of these vital documents that we take for granted. Producing the passport is a timely process, not to mention it takes a €6 million machine to do the job! The underground production room was like a minefield of flashing lights and big buttons (clearly way above my own understanding)! I even managed a little chinwag with the Minister and he wasn't too

pushed on answering my questions regarding the direction that our next government will take! Nonetheless, I can thank him for the afternoon tea! Putting political exchanges aside, it was time for a talk from the 'Protocol' Division and what they do. We were tasked with organizing a state visit for Queen Elizabeth II. We had to arrange transportation, accommodation, seating and lots of other intricate details that have to be in place to accommodate such an event. So much can be packed into one day!

Day 2 dawned and the Consular and Communications Division briefed us on the untimely death of an Irish man in Magaluf. We were tasked with breaking the news at a press conference and informing his next of kin. This exercise really tested teamwork and organization! Then high ranking officers from the Defence Forces spoke to us about the role of the Irish Forces in UN peacekeeping missions abroad, the countries in which they are currently deployed and what it's like on the frontline.

Wednesday was spent in Belfast. Firstly, we paid a visit the Grand Orange Hall Museum. This was really educational and engaging, as my knowledge of the group was fairly limited. We learned about the organisation and what they stand for. We also had the chance to challenge Orangemen on their stance on issues such as flags, parades and violence. Moving on, we visited the Joint-Secretariat of the Irish Republic's Embassy to Northern Ireland, Ruairí de Búrca and discussed the peace process and in particular the way the Good Friday Agreement has affected life both nationally and globally. What an honest, dedicated and interesting man he was! Then were a bus tour of the Falls Road and Shankhill Road. The tension and hurt between both communities was very evident in both the high walls and the colourful murals. I hope in my lifetime we'll be able to demolish these walls.

My favourite experience by far were the visits we made to embassies. Our group visited the Spanish, Mexican and Ethiopian embassies throughout Thursday. This proved hugely interesting as we got to meet with the ambassadors and discuss Ireland's relations with their home countries, whether it was bilateral trade agreements, aid programmes and other cultural links. I certainly enjoyed it!

Unfortunately, all good things come to an end, so Friday was emotional. After meeting the Secretary General, Niall Burgess and Minister Charles Flanagan T.D, there was a luncheon reception to celebrate the end of the week's events. Comments were made on how Department staff felt that 'the future was in good hands' should any of us decide to take a career in diplomacy. I certainly gained insight into a totally different field of work; diplomacy. Diplomats do so much more than just deskwork. Often you're on the ground doing the dirty work. One ex-ambassador told of how she saved an Irish woman from an armed militia group in Pakistan. Clearly the department plays a huge role in protecting us and our country's best interests wherever it may be! Diplomacy is almost like a vocation and not just a job!

I am just so lucky and grateful that I was afforded such an opportunity to get up close with Department officials and chat with them. You meet so many likeminded people and really make new friends. From trying out mock exercises of that style of work, to dining with the great and good, it's an experience I won't forget for the rest of my life! To any prospective Transition Year student who thinks this might interest them, I strongly urge you to enter the competition. Who knows, perhaps you could be as lucky as I and twenty-nine others were this year!

Lorraine O'Carroll Fourth Year Pottery Workshop

Lorraine O'Carroll (Peninsula Pottery) recently visited Mrs. McDermott's and Ms. McGee's Fourth Year Art classes to demonstrate "pottery throwing". While pottery throwing may sound like antisocial behaviour, it actually takes great skill. The pupils learned the basics of fashioning pots out of clay on a wheel. They clearly had some fun in the process. Many thanks to Lorraine for her visit.

Class 2B Commended for their "White Ribbon" Trócaire Campaign

McGonigle and Clara McLaughlin (2B), represented CCS on Thursday, 21st April for the church's Year of Mercy at the Diocesan celebration in St. Columb's College Derry. The event was led by Bishop Donal McKeown and Richard Moore from Children in Crossfire also spoke on the theme of mercy in life. Class 2B led the school's 'white ribbon' campaign in aid of Trocaire during Lent this year, raising much needed funds for charity. Their work was anchored by their CSPE teacher Mr. Paddy Doherty. Thanks to all involved and well done to Class 2B.

Niamh Grant Proclaimed Easter Parade Competition Winner

Congratulations to Niamh Grant, TYC who won 1st prize in the Carndonagh Easter Parade Committee essay competition. The essay

title was '1916 - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow' with a word limit of 500 words. Niamh won €50 for her efforts and also had the honour of reading out the Proclamation of Independence in Carndonagh on Easter Monday. Thanks to Ms Sandra Leeper and to the Carndonagh Easter Parade Committee for affording the TYs the opportunity. Thanks also to Mr Colm Doherty and Ms Majella Doherty for selecting the winning essay.

Junior Cert History Pupils Get the 1800s Experience

History pupils from 3A and 3F went back in time on Tuesday, 26th April as they paid a visit to the Ulster-American Folk Park outside Omagh. It's only a slight exaggeration to suggest that the Folk Park experience is akin to time travel. The tour began with a wander around an 1820s Irish village, complete with, among other old-fashioned bits and pieces, authentic period-style shops, a pub, a schoolhouse and a blacksmith. The blacksmith proudly demonstrated his art and allowed a couple of the pupils to try their hands. After visiting several inhabited cottages, the pupils were left well aware of the hardships of the early 1800s. But they also got a taste of the routine jobs of the era that these days would be considered niche skills.

Further down the road, the pupils bought sweets from an authentic shopkeeper circa 1835. Then it was straight on the boat for a six-week voyage to the land of opportunity and the American dream. But, as the captain pointed out, this was not going to be plain sailing... The trip (six weeks if you were lucky) would be beset by cabin fever, sickness and quite possibly death. The human cargo was consigned to the belly of the boat at all times. The unpleasant conditions were graphically described. And when the question of

toilet facilities arose, the pupils were left with a vividly grim picture of transatlantic travel during the mid-1800s.

All the pupils managed to reach America safely (through a special door). There they were greeted by the American equivalent of an Irish village. They learned of the opportunities afforded those fortunate enough to survive the voyage westward - trade agreements, thriving industries and all the land you could handle.

The concept of the Ulster-American Folk Park is to paint a real-life picture of the hardships and opportunities in Ireland and America during the 1800s. It certainly did that. The pupils will be able to add an extra dimension to the Junior Cert history answers in a few weeks' time.

Emerging Designer (and past-pupil) Oliver Doherty Visits CCS

Past-pupil, Oliver Doherty, now regarded as a "top-10 up-and-coming Irish designer" visited CCS on Monday, 18th April to showcase his techniques to senior Art pupils. Oliver's concepts marry contemporary and traditional styles together, with Donegal-based hand-weaving playing a significant role in his creations. The pupils were more than impressed to learn that the costumes worn by Game of Thrones characters "North of the Wall" are devised by Oliver. He is clearly well on the way to joining the elite in the fashion industry.

Deaglan's Future in Physics Only a Matter of Time...

Deaglan Farren TYB participated in the Physics/Nanoscience Workshop in TCD on Tuesday, 1st March 2016. The Trinity College School of Physics hosts a number of outreach events during their academic year. Their popular Transition Year Physics Experience (TYPE) is held in November. It lasts a full week and introduces secondary school pupils to nanophysics and astrophysics. Deaglan was unlucky in the lottery for the week in November but undeterred, he secured a place on the one-day workshop in March with a choice between physics, nanophysics or astrophysics. Deaglan took the workshop on physics. He enjoyed his time with the School of Physics and the experience of college life. Well done, Deaglan!

Dedicated Followers Applaud CCS Fashion Showcase

Friday evening, 15th April saw months of organisation bear fruit as "Showcase of Donegal Fashion" hit the catwalk in the Áras. An eclectic mix of traditional and contemporary clothing was unveiled in front of over 250 appreciative fashion followers. The line-up, introduced by compère Jackie McGavigan, included Oliver Doherty, Edel MacBride, Fisherman Out of Ireland, Movice Clothing, Ann McGonigle (Glendowan Craft Studio), Luke Barber, Audrey Doherty Millinery, Crana Handknits, Carndonagh ICA, Material Girl (Clonmany), Creative Sewing (Clonmany), Stephen McLaughlin, Trash 'n' Fashion and Junk Kouture. Following the main event, the showcase continued in the New Tech as the fashionistas headed for tea, treats and mingling. Overall, it was a really entertaining

evening for all involved. Many thanks to all who helped make "Showcase of Donegal Fashion" a success. Special thanks from the Home Ec. Department to the TY pupils who helped create the baked goodies.

From Nutrition Task to "Come Dine With LCA" in Four Months!

On Tuesday, 20th April, weeks of planning and hard work came together remarkably well as Fourth Year LCA hosted "Come Dine With Us" in the Fourth Unit kitchen. Parents and staff were welcomed to the dinner party, offering a choice of Irish stew, chicken curry, Thai curry or chili con carne. (A few members of staff naturally opted for all four...) The culinary masterclass was spearheaded by Peter Doherty (Saddler), who was quick to point out that the pupils took complete control on the big day. The initiative was funded by the Inishowen Development Partnership, who were represented by Denise McCool and Kate Wilkinson. The whole operation couldn't have happened without the person who has to thank everyone else. Well done to Ms. Elaine Meehan, who made sure everything was in order from day one.

Digital Storytelling Workshop

On Wednesday, 6th April a group of students were given the opportunity to have an all-day workshop in Digital Storytelling using iPad Animation & Green Screen technology. The students were put into groups of 3/4 and taken through the animation process: idea, scriptwriting, character development, storyboarding, animating. Each group then produced a short animation on a theme of their choice using iPads.

St. Patrick's Day Parade - Dublin 2016

What a way to spend St. Patrick's Day! Forty TYs travelled to Dublin in the early hours of Thursday morning to participate in the annual parade in Dublin. These students displayed many talents on the journey down - face painting, eyebrow shaping, eyebrow painting, cheek enhancing, eyelash tinting, lip enhancing, eyeliner flicks and costume change - and that was just the boys. Once off the bus the students were treated like royalty and got the paparazzi treatment for the day. Thankfully the weather was fantastic and the students did CCS proud.

Seachtain na Gaeilge - First Year Céilí Mór

The First Year Céilí Mór was held in the Áras on Wednesday, 16th March. Irish dancers and the school's traditional music group provided the entertainment. All first year students took part. Thanks to all pupils and staff who made the céilí a fun-filled event.

Fair Trade Week - Transition Years Lead the Celebrations

The school celebrated Fair Trade Week in March. What better way to kick-start the event than by a presentation by Mr Patsy Toland from Self-Help Africa? The Coffee Dock, bedecked with balloons in the FT colours, posters, banners and bunting was home for the week to the FT Crêperie girls: Niamh Grant TYC, Aoife Hands TYC, Kiara Callaghan TYB, Tegan McDaid TYD, Megan McCreanor TYC, Clare McCarron TYA and Tara Kelly TYD. The girls gave up their

break times and lunchtimes to cook for the hungry masses but managed to get in a bit of dance practice for their Paddy's Day routine behind the counter too!!! Thanks to all the pupils who helped spread the Fair Trade message with the shoppers in Supervalu during Fair Trade Week: TYA - Geraldine Brennan, Shauna McBride, Catherine Diver, Sarah Monagle, Kim McCloskey, Alannah Shovlin, Clare McCarron Shauna McLaughlin, Aoife Houghton Tia McLaughlin & Casey Cavanagh; TYB - Cathy Doherty, Gemma McCormick, Rebecca McCarron, Bethany O'Leary; TYC - Kate Gallagher; TYD - Aishling McKinney and Áine McCallion.

To mark the 20th anniversary of FT in Ireland, there was an event called the Big Breakfast organised for Saturday, 5th March in the Colgan Hall. Local Carndonagh businesses were able to demonstrate their ongoing commitment to Fair Trade by supplying breakfast made up entirely of Fair Trade produce. TY girls, under the supervision and guidance of Ms Caroline Gallagher and Ms McIntyre, baked delicious FT goodies and served them at the CCS stand in the Colgan Hall on the day. Delicious Banana Bread, Chocolate Brownies, Tea Brack, Cup Cakes and Coffee Cake were among the delicacies on offer. To TYC's Micheala Donaghy, TYD's Holly Moore, Aishling McKinney, Paula McElhinney and Chloé Donaghy - a HUGE thank you!!!! Four ex-TYs Aoife Doherty, Cliona Ivers, Emma Doherty and Lydia Johnson - key players in CCS's successful application to become a Fair Trade school last year - were also at the event as ambassadors of CCS. On Thursday, 10th March Oisín Bowyer TYC and Maria Farren TYD were exemplary representatives of CCS at the Ladder Workshop on Development Education Training with Mr Patsy Toland at Carndonagh Council offices.

It's Business as Usual for Junior Cert A-Graders

Congratulations to Michaela Harkin 4B, who was elected to represent the four students who received an A-grade in their Higher Level Business Studies in June 2015. The students are Savena Crossan (4E), Chloe Donaghy (4A), Michaela Harkin (4B) and Sarah Monagle (TYA). Michaela, accompanied by her parents and Mrs Lorraine McDaid, attended a presentation ceremony at NUI Maynooth on Tuesday 9th February where she received a certificate of achievement for the school along with individual certificates for the other students. Well done to the four girls and keep up the great work!

Well done also to the group of eight Junior Certificate students who took part in the regional section of the Business Studies quiz, that took place in Letterkenny IT in November. They were Sally McKenna, Aisling McCarron, Rory McIlroy, Brigid Doherty, Ciaran Doherty, Ellen Simmons, Shaun Hirrell and Aidan Doherty. The students were accompanied by their teachers Ms. Emma Doherty and Mrs Mary Harkin. They did lots of preparation and extra classes at lunch-time with their teachers, so thanks for all the effort. They did the school proud!

Congratulations to Class 1B, under the tuition of Ms Roisin Diver, that took part in the 'Future Me' 6-week programme in association with AIB Bank. They covered the following topics - current accounts, budgeting, ways of banking and many more. The local Bank Manager from AIB came to the school to present the certificates. Well done 1B!

Ongoing congratulations to the Transition Years, under the supervision of Mr. James Humphries, who are working tirelessly at their Build-a-bank stand at lunchtimes in the technology building.

The Business Studies board is up and running! It is located between the second and third corridor on the left-hand wall. If you would like some information on different Business courses available and some upcoming revision courses, then feel free to take a look. It will be updated regularly with current information as we receive it! Keep checking the board!

More Boxing Success for the Clarke Sisters

Huge congrats to Labhaoise and Jessica Clarke who both picked up National Titles at the Irish Girls' Championships in May. Those in attendance reported devastating performances from both girls in their respective finals. For Labhaoise it was business as usual, stopping her final opponent in just 30 seconds! Jessica, who made short work of the step-up in class, now has two national titles while her senior sister has eight. There's just no stopping the Clarkes!

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Word of the Week

This was a great success during the year and there are plans to continue this Literacy Initiative next year. All suggestions gratefully accepted.

Drop Everything and Read

All classes, teachers and parents were invited to participate in this exercise this year and, overall, it was a great success. Every week we were reminded by the Prefects, over the speakers in the school, to DEAR. We plan to continue this worthwhile activity next year.

Literacy and Numeracy

Support programs were run again this year under the DEIS scheme. More than fifty students benefited from the extra tuition, especially in the skills areas. Thanks to the tutors for their excellent work!

Dyslexia Initiative

Thursday 8th October was Dyslexia Awareness Day, a pivotal day in the school for students with dyslexia. The school community has been kept updated with new ideas and initiatives. Students have new apps, new study techniques and renewed confidence in themselves as a result of the work done with them this year. 3rd and 5th Year students received a lot of extra guidance and they will feel the benefit in the Junior and Leaving Cert exams.

Testing

As part of the school's Literacy & Numeracy, all students in next year's 1st Year will be participating in testing in October to measure their skills in both learning areas. More information will be provided closer to the time.

Transfer

We are delighted with the transfer program for 6th Class pupils this year. The SEN Dept. worked very closely with HSCL and NISCP to make sure that students with SEN enjoyed a supplementary transfer. A special word of thanks to the 4th Year

Prefects who were excellent 'buddies' and they have committed to continuing this in Term One, next year.

JCSP

Congratulations to the 3rd Year students who have completed the JCSP program. They are very well-placed now to achieve very good Junior Certificates and we wish them well in their revision and exams.

Leaving Cert. Applied

The senior students in the school that have participated in this program have produced some fine work this year and are to be commended for their efforts. We also wish them well in their exams and in the world of work!

TYG Group

These students have reached several milestones in their education this year and we congratulate them all. Horse-riding and swimming continue to be popular activities and no-one ever refuses breakfast on a Friday morning! We farewell Sarah and wish her success as she progresses to 3rd level education and the world of work.

Reasonable Accommodations in Certificate Exams Reminder

The closing date for 2017 Leaving Certificate applications was 24th MAY 2016, so all students should have applied by now. There has been a delay in the arrival of the application forms until September.

The purpose of RACE is to support those students who have a Special Educational Need to be able to have equal access to the State Exams.

For more information: www.education.ie Circular S40/94

Students who have been granted RACE in the Junior Cert and Leaving Cert. examinations are expected to stay in their separate centres for the entire duration of the exam and use the time to answer questions and check all work thoroughly. Parents, please encourage your child to make the best of this opportunity and to stay in the exam room for the entire exam time... not leave early!

Finally, a big 'Thank You' to the students and staff of the SEN Dept on another fine year's work and progress. Best Wishes to all students doing exams. Have a restful holiday and see you all again in late August!

TY News

Always a hugely popular with the students is the Pal or Public Access to Law Day. This workshop involves a barrister coming to the school and giving an overview of the Irish legal system in the morning and presiding over a mock trial in the afternoon. This year, we had two groups over two days - 7th and 8th April 2016. Mr Henry Lynch BL remarked on the performances of Luke Devlin in his role as a witness and Christopher Gill and Maria Farren in their roles as barristers. The pupils who took part sat an exam the following week and will be awarded a PAL certificate shortly. As always, the feedback has been excellent and the workshop was a very positive experience for the TYS.

A couple of week later and still in legal mode, the TYs went off to compete in the National Mock Trial Competition in the Criminal Courts of Justice on Saturday, 16th April 2016. The team comprised 10 pupils - 3 barristers (Maria Farren, Oisín Bowyer & Christopher Gill) 1 solicitor (Cathy Doherty), 1 courtroom registrar (Geraldine Brennan), 2 tipstaffs (Darragh McWilliams & Cathy

Doherty) 1 defendant (Deaglan Farren as Pat Parker) and 5 witnesses (Casey Cavanagh as Alex Anderson, Geraldine Brennan as Jackie Ó Faoláin, Maria Farren as Seoirse Harney, Darragh McWilliams as Chris Connor and Cathy Doherty as Jo Johnson.) There were also 3 full-time jurors (Tia McLaughlin, Casey Cavanagh and Aoife Houghton). The students owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mr. Donal McGuinness B.L. for his advice and his time, both on the eve and on the day of the competition. Thank you, Donal! We would also like to thank Ms. Maria McLaughlin, SNA who procured a Garda uniform for us! We won 2 out of our 3 cases. All the pupils gave 100% - barristers and witnesses alike! You did us proud!

Over the last few weeks, the TYs have all been busy preparing for their Portfolio Assessment interviews. This involves the TYs compiling evidence of their contribution to the TY Programme. It is a time for them to reflect on their achievements and to bask in the glow of success. For a few, it is a time to realize that perhaps had they put more into their TY year, they would have gained more from it. Some of the Portfolio Folders were exemplary in standard. Well done to all who gained a distinction or merit grade! I would like to thank the Class Teachers, Mr Spencer, Ms Diver and Mr Humphries for carrying out this labour intensive task for me.

Last night, we celebrated the success of the TYs at their Awards Ceremony in the Áras. Each pupil received their Portfolio of Certificates and there were special awards for pupils who had undertaken different challenges during the year. It all ended with a slide show of the highlights of a great year! Thank you Mr Bogan and Mr Collins for all you did! It was such a lovely evening! Well done to you all. I am so proud of all your achievements!

18 TYs set off this morning, Wed 25th May bright and sunny on their Gaisce Adventure Journey to Devenish Island, Co. Fermanagh

with Mr N. McGee and Ms F. McLaughlin. They will have to row 30 km, camp on the uninhabited island overnight and fend for themselves as best they can. The pupils are: Geraldine Brennan, Shauna McBride, Deaglan Farren, Alannah Shovlin, Gemma McCormick, PJ Walker, Oisin Bowyer, Joseph McGonigle and Darragh McWilliams. Watch out for the bears, guys!

Thanks to all the pupils who have completed their on-line evaluation of the CCS TY Programme. I understand that there is a problem with the link to the parents' on-line survey. We will have that rectified and make a new link available on the school website. Thanks to all the parents/guardians for support and to the pupils who were a pleasure to work with. On behalf of all your teachers and on my own behalf, as well as the Management of the school, I hope that you have a great summer and may the sun shine on us all!!!!