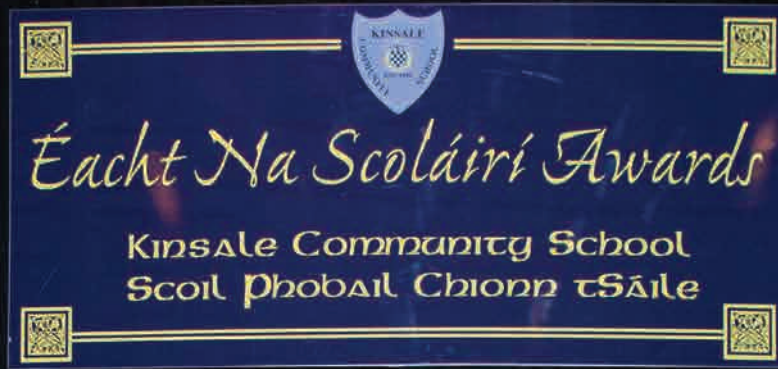


NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2012



TEL: 021 4773174
FAX: 021 4773184
E-MAIL: INFO@KINSALECOMMUNITYSCHOOL.IE
WEB: WWW.KINSALECOMMUNITYSCHOOL.IE



SCHOOL AWARDS 2012

From the Principal's Desk

Looking back over the activities in which we engage I am reminded of how deep the school has put down roots in our community. We are fortunate that in Kinsale there are so many people and organisations who wish to enhance the lives of our pupils. A good example is the work of Pádraig Fitzgerald and the Kinsale Peace Project. Courtesy of the Peace Project we were privileged to welcome two very strong women into our school, namely Sr. Stan and Sr. Consilio. At times of economic depression it's good to see that there are people who care for others and seek no personal reward. It's also important for our students to note that despite the complexity of modern life individuals can make a difference. Sr. Stan got stuck into issues such as homelessness, social innovation and the rights of immigrants and thus quickly became a household name. Sr. Consilio has seen at first hand the ravages caused by drug addiction and alcohol abuse. To have two women of such talent and determination address our students is a unique privilege and one that is deeply appreciated.

A regular visitor to our school for many years was GAA coach Joe McGrath who absolutely idolised the children that he taught. He constantly informed me that we were the best school in the country and there was nothing he wouldn't do to advance our cause. He delighted in our successes on the sports field and was never slow to put his hand in his pocket to reward the young hurlers and camogie players in our midst. Joe of course knows the world and his mother and it was through his good offices that we were able to convince Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh to visit us for our annual awards event Éacht na Scoláirí. What a night that turned out to be. The hall was packed and as soon as our guest walked in the door the excitement was palpable. Thank you Joe for all you have done for us. You are one of the extra players on our team.

As a school we are conscious that we should enrich those in our care by exposing them to those who have diverse skills. I am thinking especially of the experience that transition years had in September courtesy of the Kinsale and District Lions Club. They spent two days in the Trident Hotel discussing possibilities of innovation and entrepreneurship. They were well tutored by businessmen who generously shared their expertise with them and though the work was arduous the



benefits were significant. Leading that team from the Lions Club was their president Denis Healy. He was quite nervous appearing in front of 108 teenagers and thus he prepared meticulously for the occasion. That preparation paid off and today our students are wiser people because of his efforts. Tragically Denis at the young age of 55 died a short few weeks after the event. He is an immense loss to his family and community and we realise that we have lost a true friend. May Denis rest in peace.

Though the road ahead is long and difficult I want to assure all readers that the economic downturn shall not disadvantage our pupils. We are not alone in the task that we face. We have allies who have the wherewithal to assist us in giving a well rounded and holistic education to our students. We shall not be beaten.

Seán Ó'Brien

Kenyan Ambassador Visit



On Thursday the 20th September, we were honoured with a visit from the Kenyan Ambassador, Her Excellency Catherine Muigai Mwangi. She was invited to Kinsale by a local and newly set up charity "Support and Nurture" for their official launch. Support and Nurture was founded in 2011 and works to connect the community of Kinsale with communities such as Kibera in East Africa. The TY students formed a guard of honour for her Excellency outside the front entrance of the school. Everyone was excited and waiting in anticipation of her arrival! Her Excellency received a warm welcome from TY students, Mr. O'Broin, staff and founding members of "Support and Nurture".

While Her Excellency was signing the visitor's book in the reception area, students of third and fourth year began to assemble in the school gymnasium. Mr. O'Broin and Sr. Rita began by welcoming Her Excellency to Kinsale Community School and thanking her for taking the time to visit the school and the area of Kinsale. The presentation continued with both past and present students speaking about their first hand experiences in Kenya such as teaching in local schools and helping at local hospitals.

Mr. O'Broin then invited Her Excellency up to the podium



where she acknowledged the welcome she received from students, staff and charity members and spoke of her work as Ambassador in promoting Kenya to the Irish people. The speeches were then followed by a fantastic performance by the Traditional Irish Group who played a series of jigs and reels and were also accompanied by two Irish dancers. It was a very humbling experience for all who attended.

That night the official launch of the charity "Support and Nurture" was held in the school at 8pm where a wonderful array of handmade Kenyan jewellery, keyrings, baskets etc were displayed and sold to raise funds for the charity. The public also had the opportunity to view an exhibition of personal photographs taken on past trips to Kenya. A very heartfelt presentation was given by one of the founding members of the charity which really gave us an insight into the amazing work that these people do.

We really appreciated the time the Kenyan Ambassador took out of her busy schedule to come to visit Kinsale Community School and also to support our local charity "Support and Nurture". We also hope that "Support and Nurture" continues to do well in the future, changing lives one by one.

Méadhbh O'Leary and Elizabeth Keogh (TY3)



SCIENCE IN



On Monday the 12th November, students currently studying science in my year group were invited to attend a 3D Science Show. When we arrived in the lecture theatre, there was a lot of specialised equipment set up and each student was given a set of 3D glasses. The presenter, Robert, explained to us how the 3D glasses actually work. Then he hit the lights and started the show.

He began by showing us an overview of Space and Earth and we learned how the seas cause the planet Earth to appear round, but our planet is actually shaped like a potato! Robert then explained to us how everyone uses space on a daily basis, for example, mobile phones use satellites to communicate with one another. It then moved on by expanding wider into space looking at the sun and the many planets of our solar system. After learning that it would take approximately 1.3 million of planet Earth to make the size of the sun, we moved back a couple of steps to have

a look at Biology. We were shown an image of DNA and a cell in detail which Robert would occasionally throw out towards our faces. The show continued by looking at the sun in more detail. We learnt about different suns that have been discovered and how they got bigger and bigger until our Sun looked like a little dot. The different suns included Rigel (The Blue Supergiant), The Pistol Star (The Blue Hypergiant) and Antares A (The Red Supergiant). The biggest known star to us today is VY Canis Majoris (The Red Hypergiant). This star has a frightening diameter of 2.800.000.000 kilometres! This means if you were to fly around its surface, even at 900km/h it would take 1100 years to circle it one time! Now I'm 5 foot 11 but this "Red Hypergiant" made me feel tiny!

I really enjoyed this show, it was really interesting and the 3D made it fun!

Tadhg Mc Carthy 2A5

BOTTLE CAP COLLECTION

Last year I discovered that a young girl in Roscommon was in need of a wheelchair and I was looking for a way that I could help her. After speaking with a few people, I found out that a company that supplies wheelchairs would donate one if a child's weight in bottle caps could be matched with the weight of a wheelchair. I mentioned this to my friends and my teacher, Ms. Fleming last year and she encouraged her class to collect bottle caps. It was a great success and by the end of term in 2012 we had collected thousands of bottle caps.

This year we decided to do it again but on a bigger scale and we hope to build on the success of the campaign from last year. At the beginning of term, I visited each of the first, second and third year classes in the school to inform them of the campaign and explained how a simple task of keeping bottle caps and bringing them into school would help such a needy cause. I also helped designing and placing posters around the school area to inform students and staff about the campaign. We also placed bottle cap collection boxes around the school so that students could easily drop in the bottle caps.

On behalf of myself and Ms. Fleming I would like to thank everybody who has contributed to the cause and encourage each and every student and staff member to keep on collecting.

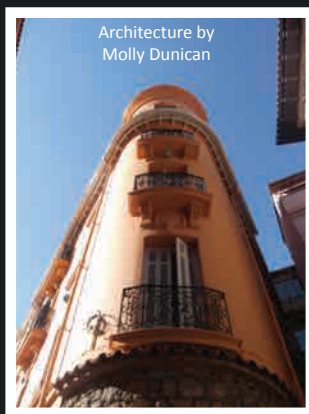
Caroline Wright (TY3)



Camera Club



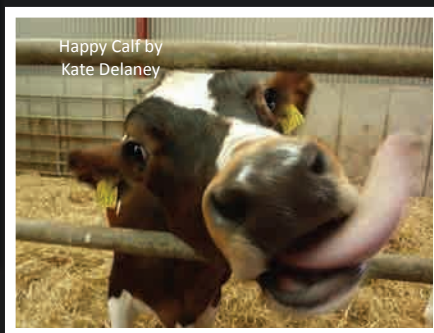
The Camera Club is back in action this school year and has been busy shooting some wonderful shots this term. This is a selection of scenes photographed this term by some of our students here in Kinsale Community School. It is a wonderful opportunity to show creativeness and skills. The Camera Club meets every Friday at lunch time in E03 under the guidance of Mr. Diarmuid O'Donovan. The door is always open and new members are always welcome.



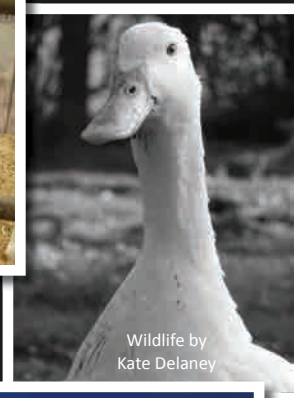
Architecture by Molly Dunican



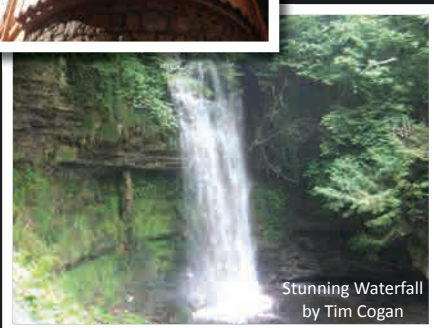
Buzzing Bees by Tim Cogan



Happy Calf by Kate Delaney



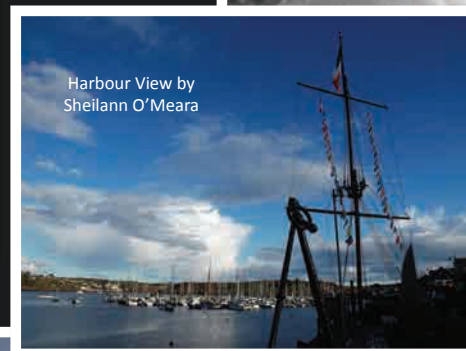
Wildlife by Kate Delaney



Stunning Waterfall by Tim Cogan



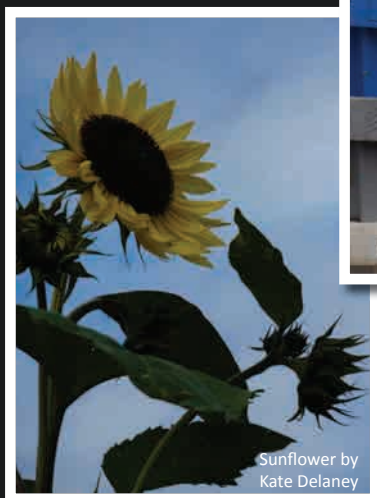
Foggy Morning by Molly Dunican



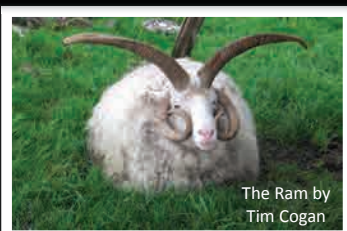
Harbour View by Sheilann O'Meara



On the Docks by Sheilann O'Meara



Sunflower by Kate Delaney



The Ram by Tim Cogan



Rolling Green Hills by Jessica Sheehan



Yellow Waterpump by Tim Cogan



Wonderful Nature by Tim Cogan



Scenic Kinsale by Jessica Sheehan

Open Night

Our annual Open Night took place on Tuesday 16th October and yet again it was a vibrant and very busy school. Over 140 eager and energetic primary school students along with their parents had the opportunity to take part in guided tours around the school building led by members of staff. Parents and potential students soaked up the school atmosphere and entered our classrooms where they were greeted with a wondrous array of displays including textbooks and samples of students work. Here they were provided with information about various school subjects from English and French to Physics and History.

Along the A Corridor, visitors could hear the musical notes flowing from the Music Room. Music is an important part of Kinsale Community School and the department have been very busy in recent weeks preparing for events such as the Kenyan Ambassador Visit, school mass and Awards Night. The Religion room gave the visitors an insight into the programmes in place in the school in a reflective atmosphere. Visitors could also see the vast array of mechanics, machinery and drawing equipment in the Metalwork and Tech Drawing Rooms. The Art room exhibited numerous pieces of work such as paintings, batiks and pottery. In A09 the Resource Room, Ms. Gail Mullaney was on hand to talk with parents of incoming first years who had any queries about psychological reports, learning support and resource hours.

The B corridor was alive and thriving as crowds gathered to see our very busy and well equipped gymnasium which boasts a well-run PE programme as well as taking time out in our comprehensive and well stocked library. Our school is committed to literacy and our library is open daily at lunchtime. The library was open to the incoming students and their parents, displaying some of work completed in the English classes. The tour continued on to the C Corridor where visitors were transported around Europe to experience French, German and Gaeilge in the language rooms. Cultural aspects of all languages are also important in the school and visitors were entertained with a selection of French and German tunes and traditional Irish song and dance. We are very fortunate to have native French and German classroom assistants available to provide additional linguistic support. Our sports room gave visitors the opportunity to view our school jerseys and kits for sports such as camogie, hurling, soccer, gaelic football and basketball along with a display of school trophies won throughout the years. The CSPE room was full of displays and posters made by students showing the many concepts learned in the subject such as Human Dignity, Democracy and Law. CSPE students were also on hand to answer any questions and speak to parents about what is involved in the CSPE Action



Project for the Junior Cert. Finally in the C corridor, sweet smells of baking wafted from the Home Economics room. Here visitors were treated to a selection of foods prepared by our students as well as having the opportunity to view tremendous pieces of baking, sewing and knitting. Our young visitors were enthralled by the intricate decoration, hard work and effort that went into creating such wonderful and colourful cakes.

The D corridor was the next destination for our visitors where they could experience subjects such as Maths, Geography, ICT/ECDL, Physics and Chemistry. The Maths Department had on display a wide range of resources including the interactive whiteboard and digital calculator. This ties in directly with the new Project Maths course which has been rolled out across the country. Project Maths attempts to connect the theoretical world of mathematics to real life situations. Great interest was taken in the Geography room where visitors could view various types of rocks and fossils; equipment used during the Leaving Cert field study and also the school's seismometer that picks up detailed and valuable information from earthquakes occurring across the globe. Visitors were also able to try out the technology in one of our two computer rooms which has recently been re-equipped with over 30 new computers and software. The school website has also been revamped and is the first port-of-call for any news and events in the school. Finally the D Corridor ended with a fascinating display of science experiments in the Physics and Chemistry lab, which are very busy in preparation of this year's BT Young Scientist Competition.

The final destination was the E block where our young visitors had the chance to tour the Woodwork room where many pieces of marvellous workmanship were on display such as tables, book cases and clocks. Our own students were also on hand to demonstrate the various pieces of machinery that are used in the room. The Business room provided an insight into the world of Business, Accounting and LCVP. As part of Transition Year, students look forward to exercising their enterprising and business skills by setting up their own Mini-companies. One of our recently converted classrooms was also open to visitors which provides for our newly established ASD programme. The Biology lab was also teaming with visitors who could view and



interact with the many various resources available such as microscopes, DNA extraction, microbiology, bioviewers as well as the many anatomy displays. The young visitors were also given the opportunity to monitor their own heartbeat using the data logging equipment. The visit ended with a step back in time in the History room, where visitors could view local pieces of history such as original postcards, letters, photographs and hear about historical characters such as Pádraig Pearse and Michael Collins.

Once the tours had come to an end, parents retreated to the school gym where they were addressed by the school principal, Seán O’Broin. Parents were then addressed by Jane-Louise Condon (6th Year) and Marieke Buckley (2nd Year). The presentation ended with a selection of photographs which demonstrated various aspects of life at Kinsale Community School. Meanwhile, our young visitors assembled in B04/B05 and were addressed by the vice principal, Kathleen O’Brien. Excitement filled the room and the young visitors were treated to performances of song and music from our Music students which they thoroughly enjoyed. The evening ended with various speeches from Second Year student Niamh Twomey and Transition Year student Michael Sheehan along with the Head Boy Kevin Whelton and Head Girl Claire Murphy who each shared their experiences of school life.

It was a tremendous evening and we look forward to seeing the new first year class of 2013.

Ms Brosnan.

Selection of Speeches from Open Night

“Kinsale Community School caters for a huge range of sports including hurling, football, soccer, basketball and golf. The school has recorded many great sporting achievements, most recently the Junior Golfers who won the Under 16 All Ireland Final. The Senior Camogie players and Senior Hurlers both won All Ireland’s in recent years. The school has also had great success in basketball and soccer.

Last year I undertook the Junior Cert a very important stage in secondary school. Junior Cert was a fantastic year where we all learned to knuckle down and study. We learned that if you get down to work early you will be rewarded with great results. I am now in TY and loving every minute of it. We have already had many great activities including a 2 day computer course. We also had Drive for Life which opened our eyes to the dangers of careless driving practices and horrific results.

Last week the TY students went to Killary Adventure Centre in Co. Mayo, where we enjoyed one of the best weeks ever. We searched the wilds of Mayo while orienteering. We got covered from head to toe in muck during the Killary Challenge. We jumped from scary heights into the ice cool water of Killary lake. We in TY have many more activities to look forward to including the school tour to Barcelona, mini-company and others. I am delighted to be a student in this establishment and I would strongly urge you to send your son/daughter to Kinsale Community School”.

- Michael Sheehan, TY

“Since I started school in First Year I have had a very positive experience due to its student friendly atmosphere. This year as we drive towards our Leaving Cert much energy is devoted to our academic work. For example, we have extra help in French and we get an added bonus of having a native French speaker practice with us outside of our French class.

Throughout the years I have been involved in numerous school activities such as basketball, football and camogie. The teachers

are very dedicated to the teams and it really helps to promote a friendly and respectful student teacher relationship. I am also a member of the Irish traditional music group. This was introduced by Ms. Kearney the music teacher a number of years ago.

This year I am a prefect. This role involves being a member of the Student Council. Each Prefect has a supervisory role within the school where we are teachers’ assistants and also are in charge of setting up and running student centered initiatives such as Book Clubs at lunchtime here in the school. This is a great opportunity for me to exercise my initiative and develop my leadership skills. In the process of becoming a prefect I will undertake a leadership training day. This is a great asset because I can also carry what I learnt with me into my college years. It is an honor and privilege to be trusted by the school with these responsibilities. As a prefect I am conscious that I am a role model for the younger children.

You as parents are about to make an important decision regarding your child’s education. I can only speak about my own personal experience and the experience of friends and siblings who attended the school and I can honestly say that my own experience was so positive and I really feel that I have developed into a well-rounded young adult and have only warm memories of my schooldays”.

- Jane Louise Condon, 6th Year

“Kinsale Community School is a fantastic choice for your child, it was the best school to help me adapt to the changes I faced coming into First Year. A great amount of support is provided from the Year Head and Class Teachers, as first year did seem a little daunting, especially when your child has come from the top of a small primary school, to the bottom of a large secondary school. I’m sure most of you can relate to the nervous-but-excited feelings you had coming into first year too.

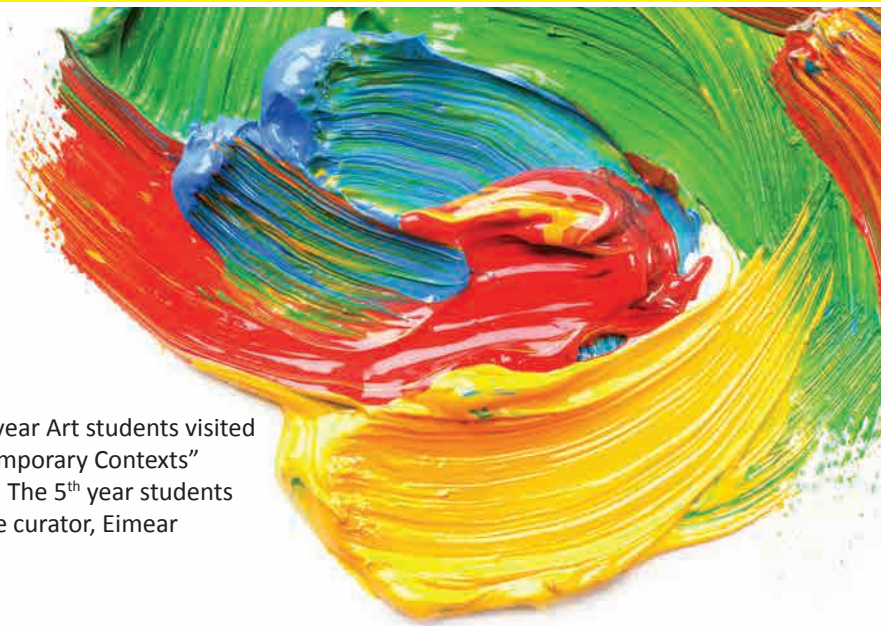
As you may know, Kinsale offers 3 rights to every student; the right to learn, the right to be different and the right to be happy. In first year, the main focus is on the right to be happy, and everyone in the school works hard to ensure new students have settled in and adapted. There are new teachers, subjects, classrooms and classmates to get used to, racing to classes and trying not to get lost- first year went by in a blur of excitement! I definitely grew up a lot last year, I felt old enough and mature enough to be able to manage a new school, and I can definitely say I was happy during first year, and though there are a few changes to face, it all works out!

The first week was the most challenging but exciting time of first year. I always had great support at home last year, and your child is going to need someone to talk to after a busy or stressful day- so just ask questions about their day, and what they feel about these new changes, or classes etc. A great way to make new friends is by the range of extra-curricular activities Kinsale Community School offers. I joined the basketball, camogie and gaelic football teams, and adore every minute of playing and representing our school (our teachers are absolutely fantastic for finding a way of getting us the homework we missed- it would be devastating having no homework!)

Basically, to sum it up, first year is all about finding your feet. Your son or daughter will learn to work at a new level, grow up and have fun. So, I hope sharing my experience has helped, and that your child experience as good a first year at Kinsale Community School as I did!”

- Marieke Buckley, 2nd Year

Art Gallery Trip



On Monday 22nd and Friday 26th October, the 5th and 6th year Art students visited the Crawford Art Gallery to see the “Sean Keating Contemporary Contexts” exhibition. It was a very enjoyable and interesting visit. The 5th year students were delighted to be shown around the exhibition by the curator, Eimear O’Connor.



Alive and Kicking in Kinsale

At the National Kickboxing championships this year in Carrickmacross, Danielle Mc Gregor won two All-Ireland titles in two different categories. This enabled her to go forward for a place on the Irish National Kickboxing team for the third year in a row. The Irish National Kickboxing team is the only recognised team by the Irish Sports Council and is currently ranked fourth in the world. Training in martial arts since she was five, it was her third consecutive year in a row representing Ireland abroad.

Last September Danielle travelled to Bratislava in Slovakia to compete in the World Kickboxing Championships. Her summer was spent training every day and travelling up and down the country for different squad training days. It was a long and arduous journey which involved commitment, determination and spirit but it all paid off for Danielle when she arrived at the World championships. For the last two years she had reached the quarter finals, at the World and European championships but this year was different. Danielle came up against hard draws from the different countries. Reaching the quarter finals and beating a very strong South African meant that Danielle had won her bronze medal. Danielle was very proud to achieve her first ever title of bronze. She is now third in the world at light contact kickboxing and is very proud to have represented her country and hopes to continue this success into seniors next year.



BT YOUNG SCIENTIST

Following on from winning 'Best Overall School' in 2012, Kinsale Community School has again kept up its high standards by qualifying 16 projects for the BT Young Scientist competition. There will be 33 students RDS bound in early January which is a huge number. Kinsale Community School continues to have a qualification rate of 70% compared to the national average of 30%. We wish the students continued success in Dublin.



French Exchange

Antibes was the destination for 30 of our Transition Year students who took part in a student exchange with students from our twin school Lycee Audibertie.

It is not easy to arrive in a strange country at ten in the evening to meet a teenager with whom you have only communicated on the internet and be whisked away in a car with your new family to a strange bed in a strange house, or apartment in most cases. But the initial apprehensions are overcome within a day or so as students realise that life is really the same wherever people live. Everyone gets up, eats, goes to school and comes home, eats and sleeps...same in France as it is here!!

School was an eye opener as students had to follow a heavy

timetable starting at 8am and finishing at 5pm. Everyone found the school canteen to be an interesting experience with a 3 course meal served for lunch and of course not wearing a uniform for a week in school was a once in a school lifetime experience.

The academic side of the exchange was complimented by school organised cultural outings to the Isle Marguerite where a guided tour of the fortress, not unlike our own Charles Fort, was given. Students also visited the world headquarters of cinema Cannes. A reception by the Deputy Mayor of Antibes in the town hall was a highlight of the trip.

The weekend was spent 'en famille' with many students attending family functions such as birthdays, visiting grandparents and doing the weekly shopping in 'Carrefour'...the French Tesco!

French and English languages were interspersed in conversation and communication improved as the week went on. The welcome afforded us by the Teachers and the Twinning Committee will be matched by a huge C ad M ile F ailte which we will extend to the French students who will come to Ireland in April for their highly anticipated return.

Ms Ann Marie Flavin and Mr Tony Cierans



GERMAN EXCHANGE

Kinsale Community School got some international visitors this September, when a group of German students participated in the annual exchange to Ireland. The twenty-three students, from a gymnasium (high school) in Karlsruhe, in southwest Germany, arrived tired but excited after their long flight to Kerry International Airport, and a subsequent bus ride to Kinsale.

It is a well-known fact among all who took part in the exchange that the week was far from uneventful, the first of the activities occurring on the very Friday that they arrived. Between half-five and half-six, most of the exchange students and their partners met at the Dock Beach near James' Fort. Despite comments made beforehand, only a small handful of solely Irish students braved the icy waters of the bay that afternoon. Back on land, the German students as a whole seemed to express equal amounts of shock and amusement at their partners swimming in the obviously cold Atlantic.

The group broke up into a number of smaller parties over the weekend, with a large congregation deciding to face the winds of Garrettstown on Saturday. Dressed warmly, the German and Irish alike enjoyed the day immensely, their chats and jokes obviously defeating the oceanic chill and leaving them all tired but, once again, happy. The remainder of the group found plenty to do as well, though. Some simply stayed at home, getting to know their partners and their families, a number ventured into town, while I personally joined a friend of mine and his exchange partner in Mahon.

On the educational side of things, the exchange students spent the first two classes of each day practicing their English, and spent the remainder with us throughout our everyday school routine. At lunch they mostly met up with their classmates from Karlsruhe, and each day at ten to four they returned to our homes with us, as per usual.

"It was awesome," said my own exchange-partner, Nils Osenberg, "But what we can all agree on is what part was the best part – paintball." A paintball session was indeed held over

the course of two-to-three hours on Wednesday of that week. Irish were pitted against Germans – who, admittedly, beat us hands-down – much to the amusement of both teams.

Plenty of memories were created on that first leg of the exchange, but now that the Transition Year trip to Killary is over there is one thing clearly at the forefront of the minds of the Irish exchange students: our own trip to Germany this coming March.

John Cullen (TY1)

First Impressions

"When I arrived at the airport I couldn't wait to see Ireland".

"My host family were awesome cooks! Of course there were potatoes every day, like in Germany, but I loved all the Irish dishes".

"I love the area of Kinsale! The small harbour, the beaches and the friendly people!"

"It was really fantastic to see the pupils talking to the teachers. I think that the relationship between the pupils and teachers is much better than in Germany".

"All in all the entire trip was awesome and incredible and I wish I could stay longer!"

"I thought the Germans ate a lot of potatoes but it is nothing compared to the Irish".

Gaisce

The President's Award

Every year a number of senior students in our school partake in the Gaisce President's Awards Programme. Our school has a good history in this awards scheme with 9 of our past pupils having obtained their Gold medals. This year was no different and November saw 2 of our current students presented with their silver and 23 bronze awards. At present in the school there are a number of students working towards their Bronze medal while 7 of last years participants have continued on to silver level.

The Gaisce awards challenge the dedication and commitment of the young people in Ireland. To earn an award you must partake and complete an activity in each of 4 challenge areas:

- Personal Skill
- Community Involvement
- Physical Recreation
- Adventure Journey

Students in our school take part in a vast array of activities across these areas, from GAA coaching to volunteering with the Red Cross or learning musical instruments to teaching computer skills to the elderly, whatever it is the students give it a try. The awards give participants the opportunity to challenge



Ms Leona Forde & Aisling Judge themselves and their character.

Probably the most arduous task set is the adventure journey. Students must plan prepare and complete a hike lasting from 2 to 4 days (dependent on the award sought). This year the 4 students participating in the silver challenge went on a 3 day trek during the Easter holidays. With the aid of the KOEC, the students canoed from Bandon to the Speckled door, stopping overnight in Shippool woods and Sandycove. It was cold and wet and took a lot of planning but they completed the challenging task.

Gaisce aims to push the limits of the individual and show them what they can achieve for themselves and for others. Recently at our School Awards Night, 27 students were presented with their bronze and silver awards, a very proud moment for each student. We would also like to extend congratulations to one of our past students, Aisling Judge, who received her gold award from President Michael D Higgins on September 27th 2012. She is pictured here with the President and our Gaisce co-ordinator Miss Leona Forde.



Maureen Judge, President Michael D Higgins, Aisling Judge & Eamonn Judge

ASD Programme

In September 2012 we opened a new classroom at Kinsale Community School. This converted classroom, E05, is home to our newly established ASD programme. The classroom is homeroom for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in first and second year. Currently we have 5 students who utilise the room.

The ASD programme run at Kinsale Community School is exactly that, it is a programme very much part of the whole school. Students have lessons in both E05 and in mainstream classes; the amount of time they spend in each is dependent on their academic, social and sensory needs. We have a student centred approach to teaching and learning at KCS and our first priorities for our students are, how does this student learn? What does this student need to learn? And how can we support this student in the best possible way?

Our programme encompasses a wide variety of subjects



including French, English, Maths, Religion, Computers, PE, Art, Motor skills, Life skills, Social Skills and Home Economics to name but a few. Students are supported both in classes and at lunchtime by our excellent team of teachers and special needs assistants. Students from our sixth year prefect group spend lunchtime in E05 playing games and talking to the students.

KCS is an inclusive school catering for all aspects of the community in Kinsale and surrounding areas.

It is our hope for the future that we will have two specialist classrooms built in our extension and that our ASD programme will continue to go from strength to strength.

Ms Joanne O'Connor

Visit of Garda James O'Mahony

As part of our CSPE (Civic, Social and Political Education) Action Project, our class invited Garda James O'Mahony to visit our class to talk to us about Law. Law is one of the concepts that we study as part of CSPE. To organise the visit, we were split into a number of committees, each with a different job.

On the day Garda O'Mahony visited the school, we asked him questions that we had brainstormed in class and we learned a lot about the importance of Law. After the presentation, we presented him with a card and chocolates and thanked him for giving us his valuable time. It was a really enjoyable experience.

Emer Hickey (3rd Year)



Sailing to Success

On Friday 16th November students and staff at Kinsale Community School were excited and honoured to receive a visit from Aidan McLaverty and Ben Fusco, two of our former students who were part of the Irish team who won the Student Yachting World Cup in La Rochelle, France. The Irish crew claimed victory by the largest margin ever recorded by an Irish team competing throughout the 32-year history of the event. Team skipper Aidan McLaverty and teammate Ben Fusco fought hard in testing conditions, however, by the end of the regatta the Irish team lead by 12 points and they were presented with the prestigious trophy. We congratulate them and wish them the very best of luck in their future efforts. Pictured are Aidan McLaverty and Ben Fusco with the winning trophy.

Baker's Oven

Visitors to Kinsale Community School Open Night on the 16th October last, were enchanted with the parade of animal and cartoon characters that emerged from the ovens of the Home Economics Room.

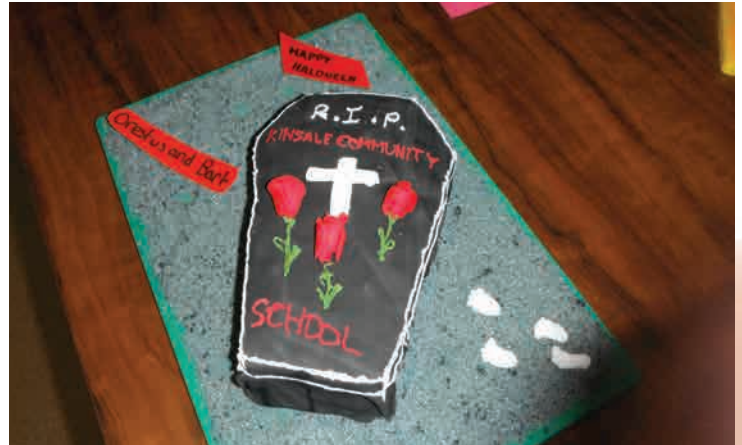
The outstanding display was the work of Second Years, Transition Years and Leaving Cert Applied students. Their creations as illustrated here speak for themselves.



Birthday Cake by Melissa McCarthy



Bunny Rabbit Cake by Marieke Buckley



Coffin by Orestas Kalvaitis & Bartoz Bloch



Halloween Cake



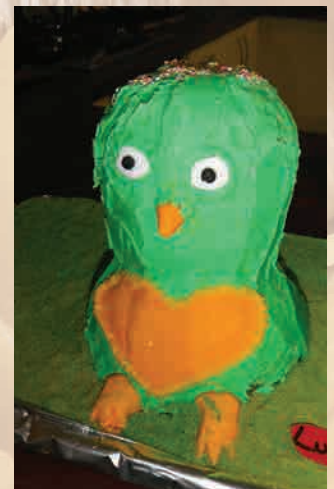
Monkey Cake by Terence Cowhig, Sean Ahern & Conor Roche



Princess Cake by Jennifer O'Leary & Sarah Hurley



Colourful Penguin by Jake O'Neill



Penguin by Luke O'Leary



Selection of Cakes



Turtle by Emily O'Brien



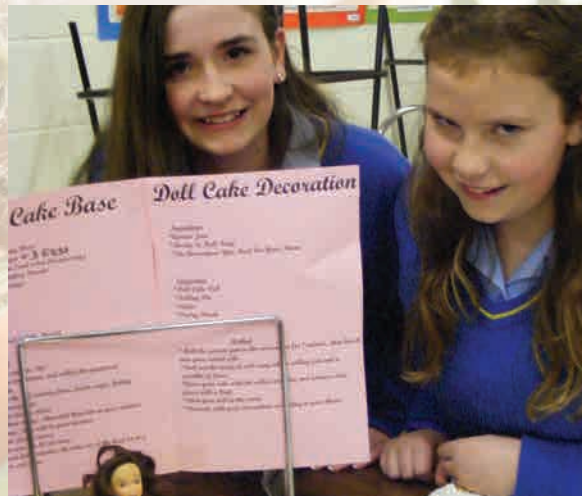
Tuxedo by Jakub Kurzawa



Unicorn by Eva Davies & Joy Tarronas



Katelyn Campbell & Melissa McCarthy



Jennifer O'Leary & Sarah Hurley



Holly Keohane & Ciara Forde



Sarah O'Callaghan & Zoe Fennell



Laura Murphy & Jane Kidney

A piece of local history

As part of the Leaving Certificate examination, students are required to undertake a History research project which is worth 20% of the examination. One of our pupils, Rachel Sheehan achieved an outstanding result as she attained an A grade at higher level. Rachel researched the Toureen Ambush during the War of Independence which can be read below.

Toureen Ambush

Up until the ambush the Third West Cork Brigade had not engaged the British troops stationed in County Cork in a proper battle. The brigade had finished training and to get ready for combat they looked to take on the British soldiers. They needed this in order to get them used to battle and prepare them for bigger more widely known ambushes such as at Kilmichael and Crossbarry. They made attempts in Dunmanway and Coolcullitha, two miles east of Innishannon, but no enemy appeared on each day.

The Essex Regiment of the British Army was deployed to West Cork and were a hated enemy to the West Cork IRA. They had a reputation for violently raiding the houses throughout the countryside and arresting people believed to be involved in the IRA. They used also torture their prisoners in order to find out about the flying columns. It was a well-known fact by all the brigade members that the Essex Regiment travelled the road from Bandon to Cork City every morning and returned in the evenings. This road went through the town land of Toureen, this is where the third west cork brigade would be stationed and it was decided to attack this column of the regiment as it made its way to Cork City on the 21st of October 1920.

The first problem the column faced came before the Ambush, a grave military blow was revealed on Monday 20th of October. Jack Fitzgerald and Mick O'Neill of Kilbrittain had been captured. They were two highly heroic and experienced officers and the arrest of both of them at the same time was a huge setback. The column was presented with a special problem. The two men were in custody in Bandon Military Barracks and there was no possibility of rescuing them there. They would not be kept in Bandon for long and would be moved to Cork City so if the column continued with their planned ambush at Toureen there was a high chance they could be responsible for the deaths of their comrades. This was not a risk they could take and it was decided to delay the ambush until further notice from Bandon.

Eventually news came that Fitzgerald and O'Neill had been taken to Cork. On the night of October 21st the column of 32 riflemen stationed at Dan Delaney's Ballinphellic. The column were woken at 2:30am for a hearty breakfast from the women of the house and they moved off at 4am via Crossbarry and the Kinsale branch railway line to take up position at Toureen, on the main road seven and a half miles from Bandon and twelve from Cork. They arrived at 7am and took over a large house owned by a Mr Roberts. The occupants of the house had been taken prisoner and evacuated to a safer neighbouring house. They were accompanied by two armed men to ensure the column would not be attacked from behind and that no one would leave the neighbours house. The plan was outlined to all volunteers and the signals were explained.

The column was divided into three sections, Charlie Hurley had the section in the middle inside the wall in front of the farmhouse, this was where the mine was laid to blow up the leading lorry and signal the rest to attack. Ropes were then pulled as the first lorry passed and five men kneeling and five standing would be ready to fire, this procedure was practiced half a dozen times to ensure they were ready to deal with the second lorry. The section in the West was commanded by Tom Barry and Liam Deasy had the section in the East. They were prepared to attack a convoy coming from either direction once unarmed men signalled the oncoming lorries and the explosion of the mine signalled the general attack. By 8am all men were posted and ready for the enemy attack.

Just after 9am lorries could be heard coming from the Bandon direction and the scouts signalled the approach of the enemy. All men waited confidently for the explosion of the line that was to engage them all in battle. However no explosion came. The first lorry drove past unharmed; Liam Deasy's section went to the road and shot after them, not knowing if they hit anyone. This lorry drove on and did not stop until they arrived in Cork City, the Essex left their comrades and made no effort to help them and were found guilty of shameful desertion. The Brigade Commander who had made the mine was disgusted at the failure of it and the escape of the first lorry. He had pressed the exploder handle when the front of the lorry passed over the charge but there was no explosion. The sound of Liam Deasy's rifle-fire however slowed down the second lorry. Immediately Charlie Hurley and his section opened the gates and opened fire on the driver and the lorry skidded into the ditch. The soldiers leaped out, led by their officer Captain Dickson and the first fight of the third West Cork Brigade flying column and the British troops was under way. Simultaneously, Tom Barry and his section came out onto the road and lying flat fired at the Essex. Continuous volleys were fired at the enemy, Captain Dickson was first shot in the shoulder, caused by a rifle bullet. He was then shot again on the left nostril, that according to the 'Irish Independent of October 28, 1920' was inflicted by a revolver from close range, after this more of the enemy were killed and wounded. The Essex tried to compete with the Column and keep up with their steady fire but eventually they broke and a shout arose as the British survivors surrendered. Immediately the Brigade Commander blew the whistle to cease fire.

All soldiers were instructed to strip the enemy of their armament and equipment and remove them from the lorry, which was then set on fire. The wounded were tended to by their comrades, the column helped by supplying bandages and making them comfortable. It is interesting to note that in the 'Times' on the 22nd October the report stated that no assistance was given to the wounded. Five of the men were dead, including Captain Dickson, four were wounded and six were unhurt. The unwounded Essex were lined up and the volunteers outlined to them that their beatings of helpless prisoners and their terrorism of innocent civilians was noticed by many people and would not be forgotten easily. They were also reminded of the brutal murder of an unarmed Bandon man who was arrested, held and then murdered a week later. They were told that after the ambush they had been treated like soldiers but if they continued their "ruffianism" they would only be treated as murderers in the future. An Essex sergeant thanked the IRA for their fair treatment and said he would pass the message on to his comrades.

The column gathered all ammunition found and moved off to a field near the Robert's house. The column was paraded and checked. A significant amount of arms and equipment had been secured from the enemy. It had originally been planned that they would return to where they had come from after the ambush, then move westwards to Newcestown. But because the ambush had been unsuccessful in that one lorry had got away and they would inform the enemy in Cork, Bandon and Kinsale of the engagement, because of this the route had to be changed. They decided that they would go southwards to Shippool and meet the Bandon river opposite Kilmacsimon Quay, they would cross the river there then continue on to Ballinadee and Kilbrittain. Their good knowledge of the countryside proved them well and was invaluable in the kind of guerrilla warfare they were carrying out against the enemy who had raid transport. After dumping some of the captured arms at Skough Cross they marched on and reached the river at around 1am where they met Liam Deasy's brothers who were waiting with a large boat, just as the last member of the column stepped ashore at Kilmacsimon a convoy of military from Kinsale passed through Shippool in the direction of Innishannon, while another convoy from Kinsale went to the scene of the ambush with the intention of encircling Toureen and containing the column there. The column resumed their march by road and fields to Ballinadee and on to Kilbrittain where they stayed for the night.

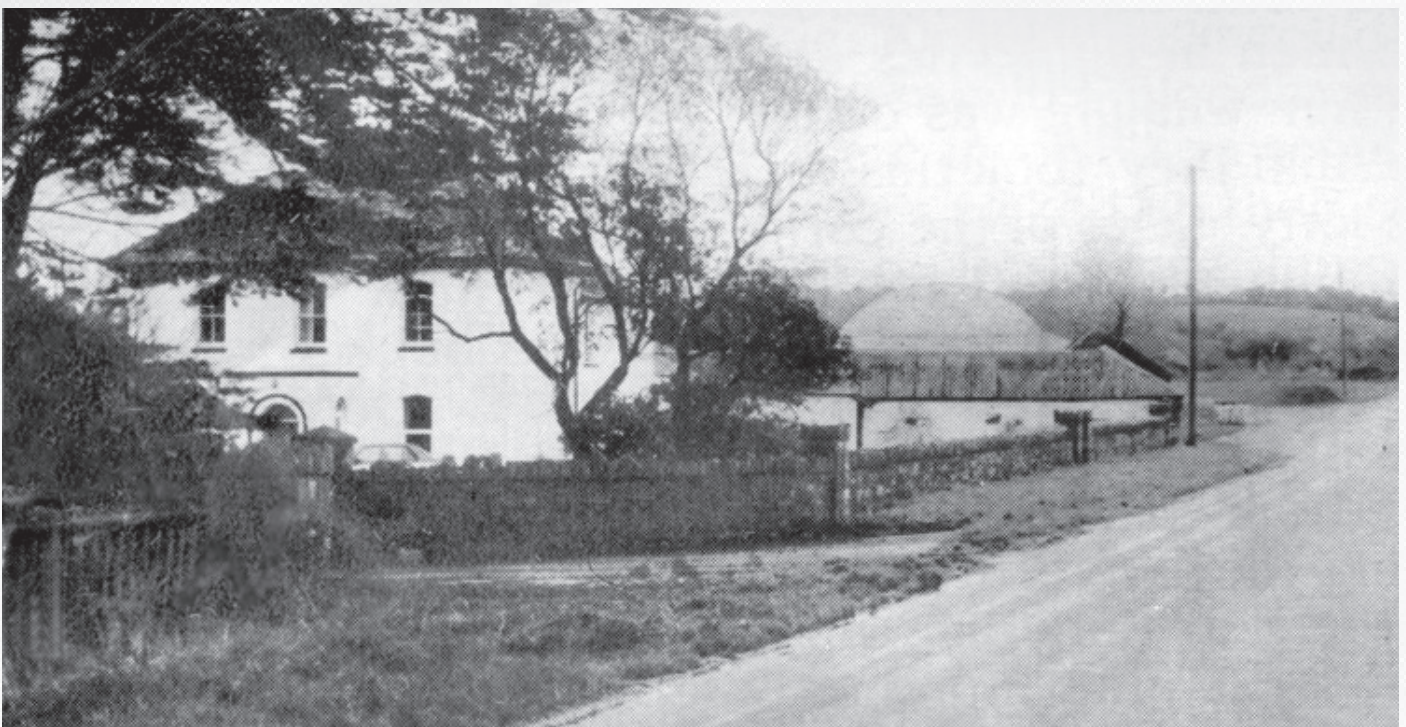
Meanwhile, the lorry that escaped arrived in Cork and immediately a search was arranged, with blood hounds being sent to the Toureen area. They picked up a scent which took them back to Clougheendane and on to a man called Mick Desmond's house in Rigsdale. It was later found out that a local boy had been involved in the ambush and as he travelled back from Toureen that morning he went in the back gate of Mick Desmond's house, he went down the steps at the back of the house and through the fields to Ballyheeda where the school is. The hounds picked up his scent and the Black and Tans searched the house but found no one there. They fired two petrol bombs into the house and burned it down to the ground. They then went on to Ballyheeda school and the hounds jumped up on a young boy there, he was grabbed by the Black and Tans who

intended to take him out into the yard to shoot him until the master intervened. He told them that the boy was innocent; he had not been at Toureen that morning as he had been in school. The Black and Tans then proceeded in beating up the master in front of the children who were roaring and crying. Eventually they left unsatisfied. It was later learned that the master had live bullets in his socks which he had picked up a few days before. He moved them from his pocket when he heard the Tans were coming.

The Toureen ambush was an important phase of the War of Independence in West Cork. The weeks before the ambush had been continuous service with two weeks of intensive training, three attempted ambushes and one successful one. The Toureen ambush went a long way in preparing the men for bigger and more widely known ambushes at Crossbarry and Kilmichael. They looked at their mistakes and made sure they would not happen again in future attacks. Two major mistakes had been made. Firstly, the Eastern section had not been informed that there was a possibility the mine would not explode, if they had they could have opened fire and stopped the first lorry from escaping. Secondly, the fact that Tom Barry threw the large bomb at the moving lorry was another fault. It put the column in danger as there was a high likelihood the bomb would hit the lorry or soldiers then drop back onto the road and explode by the feet of the IRA party.

However, on the other hand, the discipline of the men had been excellent and it showed what they would be capable of in future ambushes on the enemy. They were constantly gaining experience from their successes and their failures, which they showed in their later victories at Crossbarry, which is less than three miles from Toureen, and also at Kilmichael. Therefore Toureen was a huge training exercise for these men and a great test of their abilities. This was only the beginning of what was to come, it shows the support they had from the local people and the spirit and will of all people involved to secure freedom for the country.

Rachel is currently studying Occupational Therapy at UCC.



KILLARY CHALLENGE

What a week!! The long anticipated Transition Year trip to Killary Adventure Centre in Co. Mayo is billed as one of the highlights of the year and once again this year it lived up to expectations. The centre is located in the idyllic setting of Killary Fjord and the panoramic windows provide the ideal viewing platform for amazing sunsets and for the ever changing skyline.

This 'Teens in the Wild' experience is a week of adventure, activity, achievement, group bonding and most of all fun. Groups were pushed to their physical, psychological and often emotional limits as they manoevered the High Ropes Course, mounted the 25 meter Climbing Wall, engaged in the Team Raft Building Challenge, waded through mud on the Killary Bog Challenge and fought on the battlefield in Quasar simulated war games.

Little energy was left at the end of each day of the week-long event for evening activities where students were entertained

with a table quiz, disco and the now infamous Miss Killary Competition.

The main reason for the Killary trip is to bond the Transition Year group together in an intense week of team building activities. This time round we can certainly say that the mission was accomplished with new friends made and old friendships renewed and everyone returned with a feeling of satisfaction at having survived the gruelling week in the wild.

Thanks to all teachers who came along and without whom the week could not go ahead, Ms Brosnan, Ms Leahy, Ms O Mahony, Mr Cierans and Mr Hayes.

Ms Niamh Hay, TY Co Ordinator.



Kenya

On a follow up to our previous visit, I, my mum Maura, my younger sister Caoimhe and our friends May and her daughter Micheala went to Kenya in December 2011 for two weeks. My mum and I had been to Kenya the

year before and we wanted to continue our projects over there, this gave Caoimhe, Micheala and May the opportunity to experience the amazing country and experience volunteer work, which they had always wanted to do.

We lived with a local family that we had stayed with on our first trip. There was the mother and father, who were both pastors and their five children. These pastors owned and ran a school and orphanage. We spent some time teaching in the school. It was a great experience to be able to do this and it was very beneficial for us as we could see the children improve day by day. The children were extremely happy and positive, they loved coming to the school and especially when us three teenage girls came to teach them and give them sweets.



We continually provided food for this school. The school was called SODA Academy and is run by an inspiring and dedicated woman, Dorcis, who educates 300 students in a small, confined area along the railway line of Kibera slum.

The major thing that made us all fall in love with Kenya was the people. They are so optimistic and always happy and smiling. They are so grateful for everything they have and they don't take anything for granted.



We also worked in a mother and baby clinic with Irish nuns. We spent our days weighing little babies and recording information. Caoimhe and Micheala weighed almost 300 babies in one day! It was amazing to see these mothers and their tiny babies and also to see the work these nuns dedicate their lives to. It was very rewarding to be a part of the experience.

We also spent our time in an impoverished school in Kibera.

Going to Kenya changed our lives; we will never forget our experience and the inspirational people that we met. Kenya was a valuable experience which I would urge young people to pursue in the near future. I hope to return to Kenya very soon as it is somewhere I always feel at home and as it is where I would like to continue dedicating my time to!

Eimear Reilly (6th year)



ÉACHT NA SCOLAÍRÍ

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS



Kinsale Community School held its annual awards ceremony, Éacht na Scoláirí, on Friday 9 November. Nearly 500 students, parents and staff packed into the school hall to honour the achievements of the Kinsale students in a variety of areas. Guest of Honour for the night was former RTÉ commentator, Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh. In his address, he expressed a certain envy at the very high results achieved by last year's Leaving Certificate students. He was delighted that such high standards could be achieved whilst at the same time, students engaged in a variety of activities outside of the classroom.

On the night, students received awards for a host of achievements and activities ranging from Year Awards to Sporting Awards to Academic Awards. Pupils from the Leaving Certificate class of 2012 were honoured for their outstanding results with the Senior Academic Award being presented by Humphrey Moynihan from Eli Lilly to Isabelle Hanrahan who is now studying Arts in UCC. Showing the gender balance in Kinsale Community School, the Junior Certificate Academic Award was presented to both Eoghan Gilleran and Méadhbh O'Leary. Other notable awards on the night were the Sinéad Barry Memorial Award for Business which went to Michael Cronin and the Catherine O' Byrne Memorial Award for German which was presented to Niamh McCarthy. The Kilian Ryan Memorial Award for the Arts was presented to Joseph O'Leary. Lorraine Stanley, Manager of the AIB, presented the Junior Sports Award to Nicola Coleman, whilst Conor Brosnan, Manager of the Bank of Ireland, presented Chelsea Campbell

with the Senior Sports Award.

Mr Sean O'Broin, School Principal commented that some time ago Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh wrote "A community spirit is one of the greatest assets that a locality can possess. The contribution that the GAA makes in creating that spirit throughout the parishes of Ireland is immense." One man who epitomises the GAA in Kinsale Community School and in our locality is the remarkable Joe McGrath who has been a key player on our team for many years. In his address, Mr O'Broin spoke highly of the continued support and contribution made by Joe over the years -

"He is far more than a GAA coach. His energy, enthusiasm and expertise conveys his love of Gaelic Games; coupled with these his respect for people and his modest generosity enable him to touch the lives of all those he meets.

Joe visited our school to work with Transition Years completing their GAA Coaching Module on a weekly basis. He worked closely with the PE Department, who frequently referred to the wonderful rapport that he enjoyed with the students. He was one of those who laid the foundations for our All-Ireland successes, carefully nurturing the skills of each child, encouraging every girl and boy to do their best.

The skills that Joe has fostered have yielded a rich dividend for all the young people who have been so fortunate to work with

him. These include: a sense of respect for oneself and others, the benefits of teamwork, the cultivation of our national games and the necessity for patient nurturing of the talents of others provide lifelong lessons that will remain with Joe's students to serve them throughout their lives.

Joe has made an immense contribution school life: he is a true Irishman; he is a devout Christian [and a Biblical scholar] and above all he is a most generous individual. On many occasions, and this would only be known to a select few, Joe McGrath put his hand in his pocket and instructed that his money be spent on our pupils. On occasions of All-Ireland victories Joe purchased a hurley for each team member and then insisted that they all be taken for a night out at his expense. And if that wasn't enough, when the Dept. of Education announced cutbacks Joe took me aside and promised that he would contribute to any financial shortfall that this school experienced."

As circumstances deprived us of Joe's presence on the night, his son Niall was invited to the podium to receive a special sports award on behalf of his father Joe McGrath.

In concluding the event, Mr. O'Broin thanked all those involved in another successful Awards Night. He specifically thanked Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh whom he believed added an extra flavour to the evening. He reminded the audience that our guest speaker is a wonderful example of a healthy mind in a healthy body and that he is living proof that one does not need the excess of alcohol in order to appreciate the finer things in life.

Visitors to the school participated in refreshments in the C-Corridor and this gave many the opportunity to have a good discussion with Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh. It is sincerely hoped that all those present had an enjoyable evening.



Y1 Winner Sharon O'Leary



Y2 Winner Brendan Boyle



Y3 Winner John Cullen



TY Winner Indre Riaukaite



Y5 Winner Eoghan Kingston



Y6 Winner Stephanie Kiely



Lorraine Stanley with Junior Sports Winner Nicola Coleman



Conor Brosnan with Senior Sports Winner Chelsea Campbell



Niamh McCarthy accepts the Catherine O'Byrne Award from Sheila O'Byrne



Michael Cronin accepts the Sinéad Barry Award from Helen Healy-Barry



Conor Brosnan with winner of the Junior Award for Community Involvement Caroline Wright



Conor Brosnan and Brid Kearney with Shane Dwyer Senior Award Winner for Music



Humphrey Moynihan with Junior Academic Award Winners Eoghan Gilleran and Méadhbh O'Leary



Humphrey Moynihan with Senior Academic Award Winner Isabelle Hanrahan



Humphrey Moynihan with Winner of the Leaving Cert Applied Award John Lynch



Sr Rita with Special Achievement in Sports Award Winner Anthony Broderick



Joseph O'Leary accepts the Kilian Ryan Award



Tessa Kingston accepts the Civic Virtue Award from Seán O'Broin and Sr Rita



Academic Achievement Nominees



Gaisce Bronze Award Recipients



Gaisce Silver Award Recipients



Junior Sports Nominees



Senior Sports Nominees



Y1 Nominees



Y2 Nominees



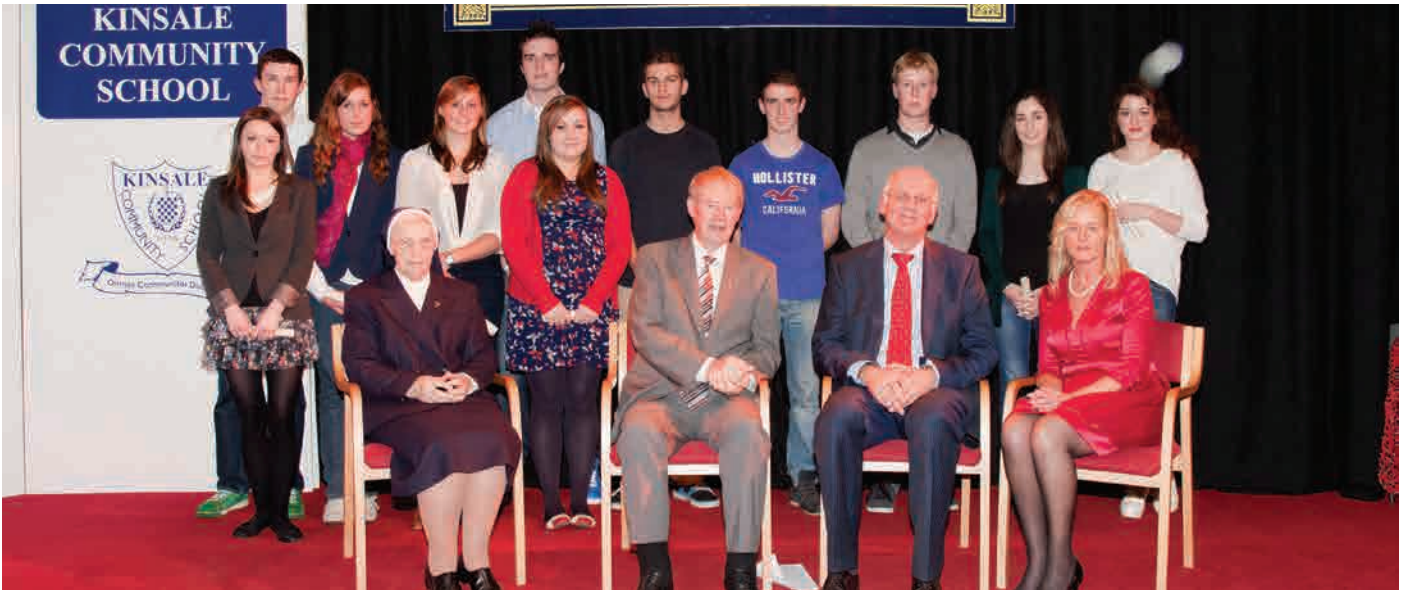
Y3 Nominees



Y4 Nominees



Y5 Nominees



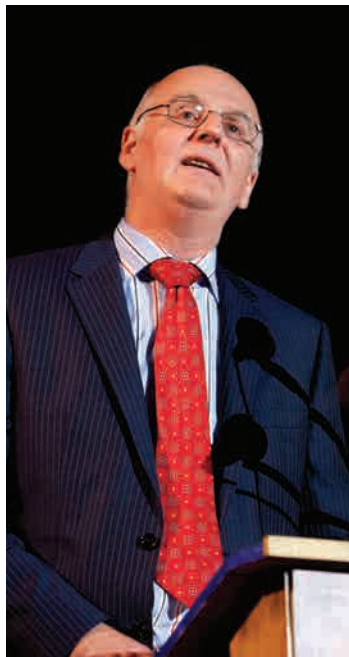
Y6 Nominees



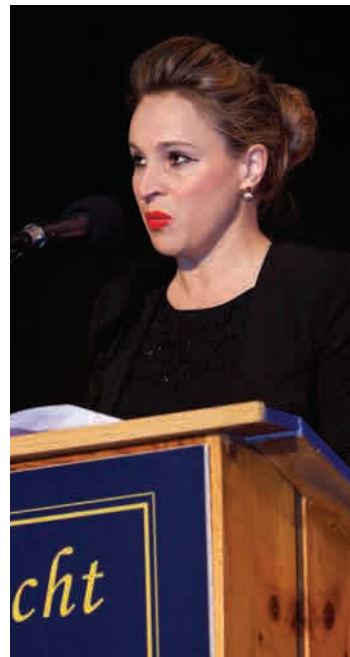
Young Scientist Winners



Guest of Honor Mr Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh



Mr Sean O Broin



Ms O'Brien



Sr Rita

THE FULL LISTING OF NOMINEES AND AWARD WINNERS IS AS FOLLOWS:

First Year:

Richard Barry, Frank Curtin, Luke Henderson, Adam Higgins, Charlotte Hurley, Abbie Jeffrey, Sheila-Marie Kelleher, Tadhg McCarthy, Clodagh O'Donovan, Gavin O'Leary, Marie O'Leary, Sharon O'Leary, Hannah Quinn and Anna Wawer.

The overall winner was Sharon O'Leary.

Second Year:

Ciarán Allen, Brendan Boyle, Eoghan Callanan, Saoirse Crowley, Dara Daly, Ali Hill, Sinead Keating, Scarly McGrahan, Arthur O'Leary, Michael O'Brien, Caoimhe O'Callaghan, Eimear O'Reilly, Cian Reilly and Hugh Whelan.

The overall winner was Brendan Boyle.

Third Year:

Aaron Clayton, John Cullen, Shannon Forde, Shane Hackett, Cara Hogan, Hannah Hughes, Egle Janusauskaite, Jakub Kurzawa, Tim Murphy, David O'Leary, Méadhbh O'Leary, Katy Poole, Katie Wall and Caroline Wright.

The overall winner was John Cullen.

Transition Year:

Darren Collins, Nicholas Dunne, Sonia Gleasure, Richard Hogan, Miriam Hurley, Daniel Lawton, Ailbhe O'Connell, Lisa O'Donovan, Niall O'Donovan, Sarah O'Donovan, Indre Riaukaite, Cian Ring, Jasmine Roberts and Eimear Stanley.

The overall winner was Indre Riaukaite.

Fifth Year:

Jack Archer, Áine Barry, Anna Henderson, Aoife Keating, Eoin Kingston, Laoighse McCarthy, Liam McCarthy, Ashling Moloney, Szymon Mozolewski, Claire Murphy, John D. O'Callaghan, Ciara O'Leary, Brian O'Leary and Jillian O'Leary.

The overall winner was Eoin Kingston.

Sixth Year:

Jamie Bowen, Jennifer Buckley, Jacinta Crowley, Shane Dwyer, Gearóid Finn, Shane Gallagher, Stephanie Kiely, Tessa Kingston, Dawid Mozolewski, Jessica O'Donovan, Patricia O'Driscoll, Barry O'Leary, Emily O'Leary and Seán O'Rahilly.

The overall winner was Stephanie Kiely.

Gaisce President's Awards:

Bronze Awards: Karen Briscoe, Grace Cronin, Rebecca Crowley, Sonia Gleasure, Amy Harrington, Paul Harrington, Caoimhe Hill, Alison Kelly, Christine Keohane, Kate McSweeney, Edel Moloney, Amy Morgan, Faye Murphy, Thérèse O'Donoghue, Eimear O'Donovan, Fiona O'Donovan, Lisa O'Donovan, Niall O'Donovan, Aisling O'Reilly, Daisy Pemble, Jack Prendergast, Michelle Ryan, Eimear Stanley and Alice Whelan.

Silver Awards: Laoighse McCarthy, Jillian O'Leary and Eva Wright.

Bank of Ireland Student Awards

Junior Award for Community Involvement - Caroline Wright

Senior Award for Music - Shane Dwyer

Young Scientist Competition

Ciara Judge, Faye Murphy and Caoimhe Hill, Sophie Healy-Thow, Allannah Humphreys and Ciara Manning, Daisy Pemble and Karen Briscoe, Michaela O'Driscoll, Cathal Whelan and Brendan Boyle.

Special Awards:

Sinéad Barry Memorial Award - Michael Cronin, Civic Virtue Award - Tessa Kingston, Kilian Ryan Memorial Award - Joseph O'Leary, Catherine O'Byrne Memorial Award - Niamh McCarthy and Special Achievement Award in Sport - Anthony Broderick.

Sports Awards

Junior Sports: Josh Arnopp, Richard Barry, Cathal Butler, Nicola Coleman, Linda Collins, Liam Cronin, Kevin Fitzgerald, Seán Gambier-Ross, Seán Óg Gately, Gráinne Hannon, Abbie Jeffrey, Joe Moriarty, John Murphy, Sharon O'Leary, Cian O'Mahony, Cathy O'Mahony, Eimear O'Reilly, Hannah Quinn, Clare Tyner and Gary Ward.

The overall winner was Nicola Coleman.

Senior Sports: Timothy Broderick, Richard Cahalane, Chelsea Campbell, Jacinta Crowley, Gearóid Finn, Daniel Healy, Aoife Keating, Daniel Lawton, Edel Moloney, Ashling Moloney, Julie Mulcahy, Ronan Nyhan, Chloe O'Callaghan, Sarah O'Donovan, Jillian O'Leary, Caron O'Reilly, Aisling O'Reilly, Alice O'Sullivan, Mateusz Rudak and Eoin Weaver.

The overall winner was Chelsea Campbell.

Academic Achievement Awards: Alanna Allen (Accounting, Chemistry), Anthony Broderick (Engineering), Michael Cronin (Business, Physics), Jacinta Crowley (Biology), Andrea Donnelly (Biology), Shane Dwyer (Music), Ciara Mulholland-Fenton (Ag Science, Art, Biology), Shane Gallagher (Applied Maths, Maths, Biology, Construction Studies), Isabelle Hanrahan (English, French, Irish, Physics), Tessa Kingston (Art, Geography, RE), Jeff McCarthy (Construction Studies), Niamh McCarthy (German), Chloe Moriarty (Home Economics), Claire Moynihan (Irish, Music), Gary Murphy (Biology), Emma O'Donnell (Art, Biology, Music), Darol O'Donovan (Engineering), Barry O'Leary (Business, Engineering), Joe O'Leary (DCG), Melissa O'Neill (DCG) and Rachel Sheehan (History).

Junior Academic Award: Eoghan Gilleran and Méadhbh O'Leary

Leaving Certificate Applied Award: John Lynch

Senior Academic Award: Isabelle Hanrahan

POSITIVE AGING WEEK 2012

BY LCA5

Back in September Mr Cierans came into our classroom telling us about Positive Ageing Week. He told us that the school had invited members of the elderly from around Kinsale to the school for the afternoon. When he was finished talking he asked us would we like to help out by meeting and greeting down, bringing them to the Demo room and serving them refreshments. We had to do a key assignment as part of our Social Education class that tied into this so we all jumped at the chance to help him out. It was decided that we would show an old movie that the elderly would remember. The movie that was picked was Casablanca.

On the day arranged, Wednesday 3rd October, we all were a bit sceptical on how many people were going to show up! We all got told to meet up at the reception of the school at 1:45pm. We needed to ensure that we were prepared to meet any arrivals and be prepared to start the movie that was starting at two. 2:00pm came and there was one lady who turned up. We were very disappointed. Mr Cierans rang Haven Bay Day Care Centre and asked them were they coming up. We soon found out that the times were wrong on the information sheet! Instead we were now starting at 2.30pm.

Looking on the positive at least we had more time to prepare and get ready for the showing. Mr Cierans had bought all the supplies so we went down to the Home Economics room to make the tea. We had the pots ready, tea bags in but no milk! So Jake and Luke had to run down to Eurospar to get some. Fortunately they got back in the reception door and saw nobody so they sprinted down to the demo room and saw everyone. The sense of relief was immense! Other members of the class, Sean, Eva, Bart, Jakub, Orestas, Conor and Jordan had directed and helped people down to the Demo room.

The movie was started and everybody, students and guests, were enjoying it. Halfway through we had a break for tea and coffee and some biscuits. It was at that time that we had more of an opportunity to talk to the residents from Haven Bay and other guests. It was lovely to have a chat with people and find out about their lives.



We finished up the movie at around 4:00pm. It was a nice day for all the class and to make it better we had a bit of banter!

'It all worked out happily as they enjoyed it hugely. The only problem we had was keeping the teachers who were helping out away from the biscuits!'

'The day was really good and interesting because it was nice to do something good for someone like the old people. They were also really nice and seemed like good craic.'

'We took a small break whilst they were watching the movie and made tea for ourselves. We also had biscuits. Ms Fleming joined us. We had lovely time by helping out Mr Cierans.'

'I enjoyed the day with them because they're all nice and always smiling at me. I met a lady who was lovely. She was asking me a lot of questions all the way going to the Demo room, I also asked her how long has she been staying at the nursing home and she said nearly 2 years. She said she's happy there but sometimes she gets sad because she misses her family. And she also said she has never met such nice teenagers as us before.'

'If I ever get given a chance again, I would love to do that again. It was fun inviting the visitors from the nursing home. We got a chance to learn new stuff from the visitor's way back time. They're all lovely!'

Ms Fleming, Social Education teacher: 'I was very impressed with the students that day. They treated all our visitors with the utmost respect. They went out of their way to help them get to their seats and ensure that they had enough tea and biscuits throughout the movie showing. It was a pleasure to see the students talking to the residents of Haven Bay and really enjoying themselves. When the movie ended the students stayed around to help despite it being their free Wednesday afternoon to help out. 5LCA demonstrated what a credit they are to Kinsale Community School!'





RESULTS SUCCESS

Congratulations to all pupils at KCS who received their Leaving and Junior Certificate results this year, the grades were fantastic. Pictured here are Eoghan Gilleran and Méadhbh O'Leary (with Mr O'Broin, Principal and Ms O'Brien, Deputy Principal) who each achieved 10 A's in their Junior Certificate.

Table Tennis Success

Recently, students of Kinsale Community School participated in the Munster Schools Table Tennis League. James Barry (2nd year) captained the team who are currently at the top of their division. We wish James and his team every success in the final round which will take place in March.



IDEATION CAMP

TY students participated in an Ideation Camp in the Trident Hotel on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th September. This course, sponsored by Intel Ireland and organised by Kinsale Lions Club, was all about teaching young people how to improve their thinking strategies. During the 2 day camp they learned how to be independent thinkers whilst also worked on group and leadership skills. This will be of huge benefit to students in the challenging conditions of the current economy.

The facilitators were local, experienced, successful business people who wanted to share their expertise with young people. They have a strong belief that independent thinkers have greater opportunities open to them when they leave school.

The camp provided an opportunity for our students to work informally in a non-school environment and perfectly fitted the remit of the TY programme. The students found it hugely rewarding and they established a healthy group dynamic for the year ahead. The student's feedback was extremely positive and it will be remembered as a significant landmark in this year of change.



Rehearsals are underway for the 2013 school production of SISTER ACT.

We are currently sweating as we strive to meet the deadline of opening night on Tuesday Jan 29th. The school is full of life and bopping to the sounds of I Will Follow Him, My Guy, Uptown Girl and many other well-known hits.

This musical follows the story of Dolores Von Cartier a nightclub singer who witnesses a murder and is hidden away for protection in the convent of St Josephs. Here she doesn't exactly fit in and is appointed as choir mistress to rejuvenate the failing choir. The story unfolds from here.....expect the unexpected!!

Over 60 Transition Year students and Fifth Years are supported by a back up crew of a similar number drawn from all years. Tony Cierans directs, Brid Kearney is Musical Director and Kathleen Fitzpatrick is Artistic Director. Choreography is by Aoife O Byrne who also worked with us on Grease and Honey Honey.

Tickets will be on sale early in the New Year. Don't miss it!



Garda Youth Award

On Saturday 24th November, Aaron O'Sullivan of 5th Year Ballinspittle was presented with the prestigious Garda Youth Award for the Bandon region. Aaron has been recognised for his hard-work and dedication to his local community: through his involvement with training the local under-age hurling and soccer teams and providing assistance on a recent trip to Lourdes as part of the Kinsale Pilgrimage team. We wish to congratulate Aaron on this wonderful achievement. Pictured here is Aaron O'Sullivan and his mother, Jackie.



Local Democracy in Action



On November 15th 2012 Ms Sheehy's 2nd year C.S.P.E. students were taken on a visit to Kinsale Town Hall where they were greeted by Deputy Mayor Tony Cierans. This subject which replaced what many of us know as Civics aims to give students an indepth view into the government, duties of citizenship etc.

At the Town Hall the students assembled in the Council Chamber and sat around the table where the town councillors meet every month to make decisions on behalf of the people of Kinsale.

The Deputy Mayor spoke at length about the functions of the council. These he explained included management of water, sewage, parks and open spaces, road safety, parking etc. He explained the role of the elected councillors including the possibilities and limitations of the job. He also spoke about the Joint Policing Committee which is a body made up of police, councillors and members of the community who meet to discuss public order issues.

Students were not slow in asking questions regarding budget, expenses, council priorities etc. They were particularly articulate in voicing their opinion on the lack of a proper playground in Kinsale.

It is good said the deputy mayor to see young people showing such an interest in democracy. Few are aware that the monthly council meetings are open to the public and members of the public are encouraged to come along and see their elected representatives debate local issues. He encouraged all students to vote when they reached 18 emphasising that it is the people who elect those who make decisions so it is up to each individual to use their vote to express their preference.

The class representative thanked the Deputy Mayor for the warm welcome afforded to the group. Photos were taken and the students returned to school satisfied with having had the chance to avail of this behind the scenes insight into local government.

Ms Ger Sheehy

ECDL Success

Each year, as part of Transition Year in Kinsale Community School, students undertake the ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence) programme. This is an online computer-based subject which consists of 7 modules including Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Powerpoint, Databases and the Internet. The ECDL programme provides students with the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and skills in computer technology. Upon successful completion of all 7 Modules, students are awarded a Certificate in ECDL which is an internationally recognised qualification. A highly valuable asset to any CV!

Well done and congratulations to the students of TY 2011/2012 who worked with great determination and diligence to complete their ECDL qualifications.

Pictured are Transition Year students receiving their ECDL Certificates.

Ms Brosnan (ECDL Co-ordinator)



Sr Consilio's Address to TY and 5th Year Students

Throughout the academic year, many students and in particular the transition year students get the wonderful and enriching opportunity to experience a visit from many tremendous speakers from a variety of organisations and walks of life. In recent years, we have been lucky enough to receive visits from Sr. Stan (Visionary and Social Innovator), Paul Rusesabagina (Rwandan Humanitarian), Senator Davis Norris and Christina Noble to name but a few.

Recently, Sr. Consilio the founder of Cuan Mhuire visited the school and spoke to Transition Years and 5th Year students about her charity work. Since its formation in 1966, Cuan Mhuire has treated over 75,000 people. The organisation in which she is actively involved assists and treats people with alcohol, drug and gambling addictions and dependency. It is now one of the largest charity organisations in the country and this an indication of the depth of the problems facing our young people.

Sr. Consilio is also a qualified nurse and has worked tirelessly in hospitals around the country, in particular, St. Vincent's Hospital in Athy where she came into contact with many homeless individuals. The students were much impressed with the young woman who accompanied Sr. Consilio and who spoke eloquently to them about her own drug dependency and the ensuing difficulties that this caused.

Once again the school is very much indebted to Pádraig Fitzgerald and the Kinsale Peace Project. Pádraig always keeps us in the loop and we have been privileged to tap into the wealth of speakers that are invited to Kinsale. Ní neart go cur le chéile.



Diospóireacht an Phiarsaigh

Ar an 12ú Samhain 2012, bhí ár bhfoireann shinsearach díospóireachta san iomaíocht i gColáiste Regina Mundi. Bhí ceithre scoil ón gcontae páirteach – Coláiste Pobail Cholmáin ó Mhainistir na Corann, Méanscoil Chroí Naofa, Cloch na Coillte, Coláiste Regina Mundi agus Scoil Phobail Chionn tSáile, ar ndóigh. Rún deacair a bhí idir lámha ag na foirne – ba cheart go mbeadh cead ag Teachtaí Dála agus Seanadóirí a rogha éadaí a chaitheamh i dTithe an Oireachtais. Bhíomar ar son an rúin. Chaith na scoláirí a lán ama ag smaoineamh is ag pleanáil go cúramach. Ba í Sinéad Ní Riain an captaen agus thug sí oráid iontach uathí ar an oíche. Bhí Treasa Ní Choileáin ina dara cainteoir agus labhair sí le fuinneamh, neart agus údarás. Ba í Aoife Ní Chéitinn an cainteoir deireanach agus rinne sí gaisce, gan stró ar bith uirthi. Moladh agus buíochas ag dul freisin do na hionadaithe – Danielle Ní Griogair agus Ashling Ní Mhaoldomhnaigh. Ar aghaidh leo anois go dtí an chéad bhabhta eile mar a deirtear, tús maith, leath na hoibre.



D. Ní Dhíomsaigh

German Breakfast

Miss Dreelan's 2nd Year German class enjoyed a German breakfast morning in October. This event coincided with a visit from Frau Yvonne Bedbur, a German teacher on internship at Kinsale Community School. A traditional German breakfast consists of breads with cheeses, meats or chocolate spread most commonly Nutella. To drink people enjoy coffee, Kaba (a warm chocolate drink) or juice. This event was enjoyed by all students, who made a very conscious effort to speak German and practise their newly acquired vocabulary throughout.



Fun & Games at Oysterhaven

On Friday 14th September, the 5th year Leaving Certificate Applied students made the short trip to Oysterhaven Adventure Centre as part of their Leisure and Recreation course. They took part in a range of activities including team challenges, orienteering, obstacle courses and kayaking. It was a great team building exercise for the whole group and all the students had a very enjoyable day despite being covered in mud and getting soaked at times!



Mr Ger Hogan

Traditional Irish Music Group

In 2007, the Trad group was born in Kinsale Community School. It started with just six members, but today our group consists of over 25 members. When we first started the group it helped us to interact with students in other year groups. Over the years, we have gained great friends who are always there to give you genuine friendship and support.

We, under the direction of Ms. Kearney, put a lot of hard work, effort and commitment into our rehearsals while preparing for school events. We have a wide range of instruments including fiddle, flute, piano accordion, button accordion, harp, guitar, concertina and banjo guitar. Ms. Kearney, our music teacher always accompanies us on piano.

We have represented the school at several events in the past few years. In 2010, we played during the twinning of Kinsale and a town in the South of France, Antibes. When the new RTÉ Dragon Sean O'Sullivan hosted an open house to help raise funds for Summercove N.S. we were more than happy to perform, as it's not everyday you get to play for a dragon!! We also played for the Kenyan Ambassador on the occasion of her visit to the school in September. Each year we also perform at the School Open Night and the Awards Night. However, the highlight for us is our annual Christmas visit to Haven Bay where we play for the elderly in our community. We always look forward to this event as it is a huge learning curve for us.

Claire Murphy (Head Girl) and Jane-Louise Condon (Prefect)



Farewell to Mr Peter Hyde

School opening was a bitter sweet event this year. While delighted that Mr Peter Hyde had been promoted to Deputy Principal in Deer Park C.B.S. we were none the less at a loss in Kinsale at the departure of a valued colleague.

Peter joined the school on its opening back in 1996 as Chaplain. His professionalism, care, Christian values, dedication to the students, staff and community helped the then new community to grow steadily. One characteristic that most will remember about him is his humour. Indeed one of his campaigns from the early school years was "Why not join us for 1 (decade of the rosary)".

Peter was also a teacher of history, religion, FETAC and his favourite, LCVP. About 6 years ago Peter decided that he needed a change. He grew a beard and trained as a guidance counsellor. Shortly afterwards he secured the post of guidance counsellor in the school and fortunately got rid of the beard. As with all of his endeavours he pursued his new position with energy and vigour.

He used his extensive knowledge of IT and computers to spread the 'gospel' of career guidance far and wide – to students, parents and the wider community. But apart from simple careers information, it was his care and concern for the student population that made him an exceptional guidance counsellor. He guided students through the minefield of educational and career decisions, he listened to their worries and problems and helped in any way he could. His door was always open whenever he was needed. We know that these qualities will stand him in good stead in his new role.

Peter was also responsible for organising and overseeing the school awards night for many years as well as producing the school newsletters and putting the last website together.



Indeed he looked after the P.R. for the school for many years. Peter went on many schools tours and trips to Spain and Prague to name but two. Indeed he loved most of all the water slides in Porta Ventura and even when he got soaked he was full of fun and never took himself too seriously. It is his ability to enjoy life that helped him bond with both students and teachers alike.

As a colleague Peter was excellent. He was willing to share his thoughts and listen to others. He had a huge knowledge and grasp of educational matters and was continuously pursuing his own professional development. He always had time to listen.

His love of all things Elvis would often surface on a staff night out and he was always willing to help someone out with a song. His performance as Elvis in the school rendition of Grease will go down in Kinsale town history. So to end in Elvis own words. From now on there will be "A little less Conversation" in the staffroom. While we are "All shook up" and he will be "Always on our Minds", we know that "It's Now or Never" and "He'll have to Go". Even the most "Suspicious Minds" could never say that he had a "Wooden Heart".

Best of Luck Peter and thanks from all in Kinsale.

Don O'Shea & Bernie Bowen

LCA Community Work

The 5th year Leaving Cert Applied students raised €717.31 in the Kinsale area for Cork Association for Autism, which helped to contribute to the overall Flag Day amount of over €25,000. In a letter sent to the school the Association wrote that "the students were polite, well presented and a pleasure to work with in every capacity".

This money will go directly to the provision of services on the front line supporting those with Autism and Asperger Syndrome. A big congratulations to all the students involved for their hard work and dedication to raise funds for such a good cause.



LCA 6 Fishing Trip



On October 2nd 2012 the 6th year Leaving Cert Applied class went fishing with 'Kinsale Deep Sea Angling'. We went fishing around the harbour and we went out towards the old head. Ms Prendergast and Brendan Barry accompanied us on the trip.

On The morning of the trip we met Carl at the Trident Hotel at 9:10 am. He told us about what we were going to be doing and where we would be going. Straight after that we got aboard 'The Harpy'. It was a large enough vessel. It had a handy sized deck and a heated cabin where we could sit throughout the journey.

We set a sail after a few minutes of Carl outlining the safety features of the boat and telling us what to do in case of emergency. Then he showed us inside the cabin and then we all got seated and we set off.

We went around Charles Fort and James Fort and he told us about the local history and gave us interesting facts about the castles. He told us a bit about the battle of Kinsale as well. Shortly after that we went fishing in the bay.

We started fishing and he showed us how to cast off. We stayed for a while but alas we found no fish. We then moved on again closer to the Old Head. Carl allowed Connor and Shane to steer the boat. We stayed there for a good while and at last Sean and Karen caught fish after nearly an hour. We then went further towards the Old Head and we then stopped again for a while. But our luck had run out there were no fish to be caught.

Then we turned around and we headed back to Trident but we stopped along the way again for some more fishing. On the way back the waters were very rough but people still managed to stay outside. The boat sped up which meant the boat rocked more so people returned inside but some people stayed outside for the craic.

When we arrived back at the Trident we came ashore and we collected our bags and we made our way back to the school. And then we went home as we were soaked to the skin. Ms Prendergast filleted the fish and froze them.

In our next home economics class we cooked and ate the fish. It was all an experience we will never forget for all the right reasons.

Robert Crowley & Yasmin O' Dwyer

Mini-Companies

TY2 decided at the start of the year to divide up into 3 mini-companies as they felt it would ensure that everyone in the class would get a good chance to maximise their involvement in the mini-company programme. Here is a brief outline of the activities of each company so far this term.

Winning Mini-Company by Linda Collins

We named our mini-company "Winning Mini-Company". We decided on this name as people know what it is about and people can relate to it. It features on a TV show where actor Charlie Sheen constantly uses the phrase 'winning'. We all like running our mini-company as we all get on really well and we enjoy working together. Everybody was assigned a position in the mini company at the start of the year. There are a lot of different positions in our company such as Managing Director, Secretary, Finance Manager, Promotions, Operations, Human Resources and Sales and Marketing. The whole team are working very hard together in order to make this company as successful as they can. Some of the activities that we've undertaken so far include selling wrist bands, organising a movie day for first years and selling TY hoodies. The following are our company members with their role in the company highlighted:

Tori Gimblett- M.D., Linda Collins – Secretary, Holly MacCarthy – Sales, Sinead Minihane & Mary O'Mahony – Operations, Simon Pindel – Finance Manager, Conor Cahalane – Promotions, Catherine O'Riordan – Marketing and Shane O'Dwyer – H.R.

#Hashtag Mini-Company by Sarah Power

Hashtag Mini-Company supplies students with pizza slices, toasted sandwiches and drinks every Tuesday lunchtime – we call this project #Sham Sandwiches. We came up with this idea as during winter time we felt an option for hot food at lunch time would appeal to students and so far business has been brisk! There are 9 people in our mini-company:

Sarah Power – M.D., & Secretary, Anna Cronin – Finance; Eimear Crowley & Tim Murphy – Sales & Marketing; Shannon Forde & Clíodhna Walsh – Public Relations; Sergi Vidal, Cristian Gomez & Siobhan Ashford O'Leary - Operations. Our aim is to sell tasty food at a reasonable price for all students. We also have a number of products coming for the Christmas market - so stay tuned in!!

TYtanium Mini-Company

After many hours considering a name for our mini-company we came up with TYtanium, we thought it sounded strong and positive for our team. Our aim is to run a profitable and enjoyable mini-company - so far so good. We are in the process of launching our newly designed sports watches on our target market. They are blue and yellow in colour with 'KCS' inscribed on the side – perfect for the sportsperson in your life!!! Prior to this product launch we have also set up an after school shop where we sell goods mainly to the students who are undertaking after school study. We have found running our own company busy, rewarding and good fun. Our team consists of: Gary O'Leary, Billy Mulcahy, Shane Cummins, Aaron Clayton, Kevin Ryan, Cillian Maguire, Aidan O'Neill and James O'Donovan.

Student Council



very smoothly this year thanks to the help of class 3A5 who did a huge amount of work in both organising and running the elections. Election Day is always an exciting day as the voters come to the Polling Station to place their vote and confidence in their fellow students.

We have a vibrant and active Student Council in Kinsale Community School. The Council is a means of communication by which the students can get their opinions and ideas heard regarding various aspects that affect both the students and the school. The Council aims to create an atmosphere of equality where the students' voices are heard.



This year's Student Council Representatives are as follows. Head Boy, Kevin Whelton; Head Girl, Claire Murphy; 5th Year Reps are: Faye Murphy, Joan Tyner and Rebecca Russell. 4th Year Reps are: Cormac Cowhig, Eimear Nyhan and Eoghan Gilleran. 3rd Year Reps are: Cian Reilly and Sinead Keating. 2nd Year Reps are: Katelynn Campbell, Sam Malone and Tadhg McCarthy. 1st Year Reps are: Natalia Ziegert and Shay Saunders.

The election process has been in full swing since the beginning of this academic year and every single student has voted for year group representatives who will represent them through the Student Council. It is a worthwhile process as each student from 1st to 6th year learns how to vote and will hopefully gain a sense of the importance of exercising this right. Election days are held for each of the year groups starting with 6th year and working down to 1st year. The election process ran

The first activity the Student Council will undertake is a Student Council Workshop where they will be trained into what it means to be a member of the Student Council and where they will be given an opportunity to brainstorm ideas and put together their objectives for this academic year. This leadership workshop will be presented by Mr. John Murphy.



Head Girl Claire Murphy & Head Boy Kevin Whelton

Art Attack

The Art department is busy working on pieces for competitions. Both 5th year Art classes are preparing posters for the "All Ireland Scholarship" awareness competition and various students are also working on "Doodle4Google".

Ms. Fitzpatrick's 1st year class have just finished work on this years "Positive Mental Health" competition. Here are a selection of pieces of the 1st year work. We wish them all the very best of luck.



Andrew McCarthy



Brian Cahill



Charlotte Howey



Chloe Wright



Clara McCarthy



Dominika Andron



Dylan O Shea



Ellen Kelleher



Julie Moynihan



Kate O' Driscoll



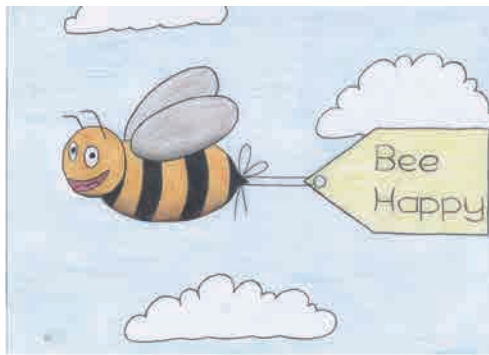
Laura McCarthy



Luka Phelan



Maggie Mullally



Michael Mcguane



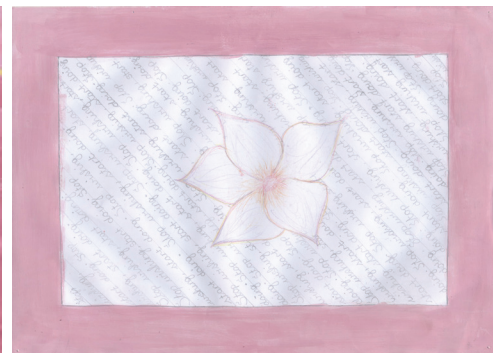
Niamh McCarthy



Rachel Callanan



Aine Cummins



Rebecca Daly

Literacy in the Home

Last year Kinsale Community School once again took part in the Learning School Project with great success. The participating teachers, Diarmaid O'Donovan and Tara Frain, developed a booklet for parents entitled 'Literacy in the Home: A guide for parents'. The guide was produced in consultation with parents to give practical tips and resources that could be used to encourage children and young adults to read for pleasure in the home.

Following the completion of the project, both teachers represented the school the Learning School Project presentation and evaluation event 'Ag Foghlaim le Cheile' on Wednesday 19th September in Charleville. With Literacy and Numeracy becoming key issues in Irish Education today, everyone who viewed the document was very impressed. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback on the booklet from the twenty five other participating schools as well as generating interest from members of the Learning School Project Steering Group and representatives of the Department of Education.



Choccie Mania

On Wednesday 7th November, 5th year LCVP students visited Katie's Chocolate in Bandon as part of their studies. The students met Katie Buckley who outlined the rewards and challenges of being an entrepreneur. She runs a successful café at the premises where she also manufactures and distributes chocolate products. Katie gave us advice and a great insight into the world of enterprise. This was a really enjoyable visit and a must for all chocoholics !!

Aisling O'Reilly (5th Year)

Visit to the Synagogue in Cork



Our Religion class recently visited the Synagogue in Cork I found that the visit was far more interesting than I had expected. It was interesting to be in a Synagogue for the first time and to get such a realistic insight into how followers of Judaism worship and live their lives.

We met Mr Fred Rosehill, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and I found it shocking that only two families remained of a community that had about seventy families in the Cork area. His own grandson Daniel has recently emigrated to London to study, and this has made regular worship even more difficult as ten males over the age of thirteen are needed for Synagogue worship. Mr Rosehill described Daniel's departure as shattering for this community.

It was a new experience for everyone to be separated by gender and for the males to wear caps as a sign of respect in this place of worship. We were privileged to be able to learn about the building, religious practices and to view the scrolls.

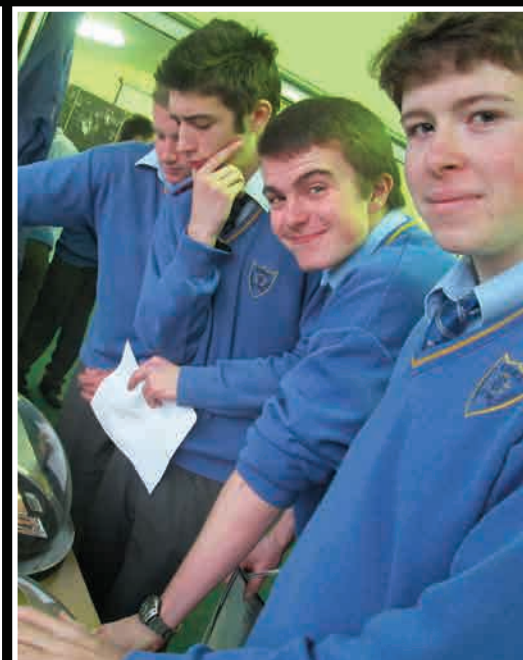
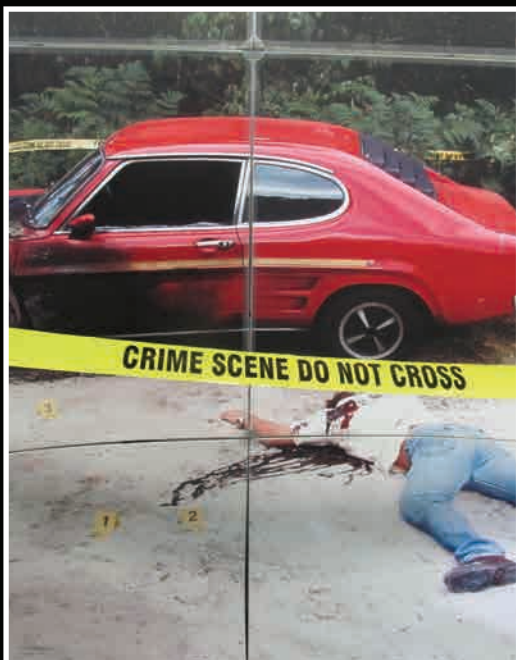
It was intriguing to learn about the Evening Echo Project in Shalom Park which will mark the Jewish festival of Hanukkah over the next fifty years.

Overall it was a thought provoking visit and in Mr Rosehill's words it was invaluable to "learn about fellow Irishmen and women who live in our midst."

Ross Curtain & Therese Collins (6th Year)

CSI: Kinsale

Recently the TY students were given the opportunity to test their forensics skills and understand the science and deductive reasoning used in solving murders that are often associated with popular television programmes such as CSI and Criminal Minds. Students must analyse information and evidence gathered to identify the suspect. Once again, it was a great success and students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



CTYI

Last June I travelled up to Dublin to take part in a three week summer course with CTYI, the Centre for Talented Youth in Ireland, in Dublin City University. CTYI is an organization which runs classes for academically gifted youths and I have participated in numerous courses run by CTYI since I was seven, including Japanese, Creative Writing, Mythology and, most recently, Social Psychology. The summer classes in DCU are separated into two three-week long sessions. I attended session one for the last three years and recommend it to any eligible student with the means to go.

To get into the programme, you must first sit the PSATs at the age of 13 or over, and the students who score within in the top 5% in the country are given the opportunity to attend the courses. There are many subjects to choose from, ranging from Novel Writing or Archaeology to Biomedical Diagnostics or Engineering. The summer courses may seem very focused on academia, with seven hours in the classroom each weekday, but the lessons aren't akin to classes in school. They're more like college lectures, with discussions and group work rather than note-taking and writing. The learning environment is one of the best I've ever experienced, being in a class with around twenty peers who are just as interested as you in learning about the subject at hand.



But the academic side of the course cannot compare to the social. I've made some of my best friends at CTYI, who I've kept in contact with for the last two years and plan to retain for the rest of my life. It's such a wonderful place to meet new people, because you live with them for so long and spend so much time with them that they become like a second family. I really think that these courses have had a huge influence on my confidence and social skills, and they were some of the best weeks I've had. I went on trips to the zoo and the botanical gardens; learned so much about Japanese, Social Psychology and Criminology; performed in the talent show each year, and did it all with some of my favourite people. My one and only complaint is that it had to end.

Ailbhe O'Connell (5th Year)

MEITHEAL

This year we are lucky to have a large Meitheal team and they are busy accompanying the First Year students through the challenge of settling in to life in post primary school. The members of the team are Caoimhe Hill, Faye Murphy, Therese O'Donoghue, Fiona O'Donovan, Aisling O'Reilly, Jack Prendergast, Eimear Stanley, Amy Roberts and Alice Whelan. All these students were trained at Scala in Blackrock. As a school community we really appreciate all the positive influence and support these dynamic students are contributing to the First Year students. Pictured are members of the Meitheal team on the recent training day.



Positive Aging Week

As part of the school's involvement in Positive Ageing Week some Transition Year students and some members of the school choir went to ten o'clock mass at the Carmelite Friary. Their presence and their beautiful singing really enhanced the Liturgy. All enjoyed the cuppa and chat afterwards. Miss Brid Kearney and Miss Honor O'Brien accompanied the students.

Company

I don't think I remember my mother – she died when I was little more than a baby, so this lack of recollection is hardly surprising. I spent my childhood and the majority of my teenage years living with my father, but we were never very close. Don't get me wrong, he wasn't a bad parent by any stretch – he provided for me, and I grew up comfortably in a large townhouse in the city.

My father, Ted, was a banker, and I remember him working long hours since I was only an infant. I didn't see him much, due to this, and he was a serious man, with a sense of humour akin to that of a goldfish, but I loved him in my own way nonetheless. I'm sorry to say, therefore, that he himself died of a heart complication when I was nineteen, and so, being an only child with my nearest relatives being my aunt Laura in Boston, and her elder brother Robert, who lived in Sydney with his wife and children, I grew quite close to my grandfather of eighty-three years.

Thankfully for you, dear reader, this is where my story may begin to interest you somewhat more. You see, my grandfather was a somewhat eccentric old man, but wealthy, having inherited a sizable fortune from an unmarried great-uncle of his when he himself was merely a young man. Apart from the copious amounts of money which he gained through this twist of fate, though, he also became the sole proprietor of a rambling old estate, situated on a couple of hundred acres of land up the country. This uncle, it seems, had held the title of "Lord Mayfeld" during his life, and so, this too fell to my grandfather.

During the decade-long gap between the loss of my father and the eventual death of my grandfather, I began to visit him increasingly frequently. I am a writer by trade, and the success of my novels grant me a lot of free time, you see, and besides, his home at Mayfeld Hall was grand indeed, and I was glad of the company. What first struck me as odd, though, was the fact that the old man himself had seemingly no problems when it came to loneliness. Despite the isolation of the house, and the surprising lack of maids or handservants in comparison to my grandfather's wealth, whom I would have presumed would have helped with the hall's upkeep, I never sensed any sadness or despair from a lack of company in the man. When I finally decided to broach the subject, though, the answer I received left me all the more baffled.

"I'm never truly alone," he replied, after a moment's pause, "Not really. Not with him around." This, of course, surprised me, as I had never seen anybody else on the premises, nor had my grandfather ever mentioned a companion of any kind to me, or to anyone else, as far as I was aware. Understandably, I decided to enquire about the identity of this individual, which drew a laugh from the elderly man. "It's strange, really," he replied with a curious twinkle in his eye, "I've never really gotten around to asking his name. He doesn't speak much anyway, so I doubt it would much improve our friendship." At this point, I truly was worried about whoever this person was that my grandfather conversed with on a seemingly regular basis, and so I asked whether I myself could meet him sometime. This shockingly, made the old man grow rather quiet indeed. After a few moments of silence, he explained that this friend of his was very reclusive, and would I mind not mentioning the truth

of his existence to anybody else. Needless to say, I left Mayfeld Hall with a deep sense of confusion mingled with apprehension that day.

Upon my return to my spacious apartment back in the city, I resolved to get to the bottom of this mystery, perhaps more for my grandfather's sake than for my own. Recalling that my aforementioned Uncle Robert had once been close to his father also, I decided to send him an email regarding close acquaintances that my grandfather may have had at the hall when he was younger. The response was short and somewhat blunt – I was to forget the conversation I had had with my grandfather, and I was under no circumstances to speak of this mysterious stranger again, either to Robert or his father. Apparently, said Robert, there was more than one reason why had wished to move to somewhere as far afield as Australia. I am sorry to say, though, that by then, my interest and concern were truly piqued.

Driving up to my grandfather's the following morning, I was shocked to see a sleek black Mercedes exiting the winding country road which led to his home, it's tinted windows glinting in the sunlight just as I turned the bend. Waiting until the car had turned the next corner and disappeared from view, I drove as quickly as I could down the overgrown lane which led to the driveway proper, a growing feeling of apprehension building in my gut. Sprinting from the car to the hall's great double doors, I hammered heavily on the brass lion's-head knocker which adorned it's oaken surface. In seconds, the door swung inwards, and I was greeted by my grandfather. For some reason, he seemed a lot older today. By the time we were seated in the first floor lounge, my patience had all but worn out. Before my grandfather could offer me refreshments, I had already blurted out my question regarding the Merc. I don't know how I gave it away, but he looked at me then, and somehow he saw it in my eyes; nervousness, maybe – or guilt. "I told you," he asked, his voice low and hoarse, "I told you not to tell." And then I was out in the driveway with the door slamming shut behind me, with nothing to do but face the long drive home, with nothing but my fears and doubts for company.

I never saw my grandfather after that fateful day. He made excuses whenever I suggested calling over, and on the few occasions that I arrived uninvited, he was out, or at least he pretended to be. He passed away quietly in his sleep three years later. I was twenty-nine, and I've never felt quite so regretful as I did at his funeral. It's probably worth pointing out that it was only a couple of my grandfather's surviving friends from overseas and I that arrived at his funeral, and they told me in hushed, saddened tones that they themselves hadn't seen the poor man in over a decade. Also, it may have been my imagination, but to this day I fancy that I saw a sleek black Mercedes pull away down the street as I left the church on that wet December evening. Despite our sharp final meeting, my grandfather left me Mayfeld Hall and it's titles in his will. I suppose I was the only one left at that point – the only one who had ever shown any real care in those final years. So, I suppose that I am Lord Mayfeld now, and that this hall will be my resting place, like it has been for countless Lord Mayfeld's before me, including my grandfather. He sleeps in the catacombs below the house, in the dark with nothing but the stone and the spiders for company. But what of me, you ask? Do I get lonely out here on my own? The simple answer is no; I feel no more lonely than my grandfather was when he lived here. Besides, I'm never truly alone. Not really. Not with him around...

John Cullen (TY1)

Looking at the Examination Results 2011/2012

Facts and Figures

- For the last two years, approximately 20% of pupils in the school have achieved in excess of 500 points.
- 100% of our students who sat the L.C. Religion paper last year took the H.L. paper (nationally 80%) and we obtained twice as many A grades as the national average.
- 3% of pupils nationally get A's in Honours Art, 13% of L.C. Art students in K.C.S. got A's at this level.
- 100% of our students who sat the L.C. Music paper last year took the H.L. paper.
- Last year 13% more pupils achieved an Honours grade in English than the national average.
- 100% of our pupils received an honours grade in German last year- the national average was 77% and pupils received on average 14 more points than the national average.
- 85% of our pupils that sat L.C. Home Economics last year achieved an honours grade, the national average is 75%.
- Over the past 5 years our Maths students have achieved higher than the national average. Nationally last year 22% of pupils took Honours Maths, 33% of our pupils did. In this subject pupils received on 7 points higher than the national average.
- Some students also do Applied Maths as an option. 90% of pupils received an honour in the subject as compared to 77% nationally.
- Last year KCS was awarded Best Science School in Ireland at the BT Young Scientist Competition. 10 of our projects were accepted and 31 pupils went to Dublin- no school in the country had a higher level of participation. This year 37 pupils will be travelling to Dublin. It makes sense that in all Science subjects



we perform extremely well and in Chemistry and Physics more points than the national average were awarded this year. In Biology last year pupils achieved 15 points more than national average. 27% of pupils achieved an A grade at HL (12% being the national average) and 30% achieved a B grade (the national average is 20%)

- 90% of LC students achieved an honour in the LC subject Construction last year- 75% is the national average and 10 more CAO points than average were obtained.
- In Business 11% more pupils took honours than the national average and 6 more points were awarded than the national average.
- In Accounting 21% more pupils than the national average took the honours level paper and 13 more points were achieved than the national average.
- 100% of our students who sat the L.C. History paper last year took the H.L. paper which is 35% higher than the national average and 100% A-C grades were achieved.



