

SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER

THANK YOU

As the 2014-15 school year draws to a close in Coláiste Éamonn Rís, it is time to reflect on another busy and eventful one. I would like to thank Mr. Hegarty, Deputy Principal, for his hard work, help and support in the running of the school. I would also like to thank all the teaching staff for all their hard work in guiding, instructing and inspiring our students during this school year. Special thanks to the many teachers who gave of their free time to undertake class tutor or year head duties or who volunteered for the various staff committees. It would also be remiss of me not to mention the various teachers who facilitate the provision of an array of extra-curricular activities on offer in the school. These activities add significantly to the educational experience of all our students and greatly enhance and embellish school life. I would like also to record my thanks to Bernie, Colleen and Edel, our SNAs, our canteen staff Martina and Geraldine and our caretaker Derek for their work and support during the last year.

BEST WISHES

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Leaving Certificate class of 2015 the best of luck in the Leaving Certificate. One hundred and sixteen students will sit the Leaving Certificate here this year. Many hours of study and homework have been spent over the last five or six years in preparation for this exam. I hope it bears fruit over the next few weeks.

The school's mission is to develop responsible individuals in a Christian environment, who will participate fully in a changing society. I trust that our Leaving Certificate students' future lives will bear witness to our success in this regard.

I would also like to extend best wishes to all our Junior Certificate students. One hundred and one students will sit the Junior Certificate here this year. The Junior Certificate exam is an important milestone in their educational journey.

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of all staff and students, I would like to express our deepest sympathy to any family in the school community who were bereaved in the past year and to the following in particular: to Mrs Sinnott and her family on the death of her father Desmond Burke; to Mr Hurley on the death of his sister, Bernadette Hurley; to Ms Cathy Murphy on the death of her mother Mary Murphy ; to Eoin Hickey (Fifth Year) and the Hickey and Morris families on the death of his mother, Jackie Morris.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management has had another busy year in guiding the fortunes of the school. I would like to thank Mr. Gerry Forde (Chairperson) and the other Board of Management members for their support and ongoing commitment to the school. The current board's term of office ends in October 2017. Dr

Tom McLoughlin has decided to retire from the Board this summer after twelve years service. I would like to express our thanks to Dr. McLoughlin for his service and commitment to the school over this period. He will be replaced as a Trustee representative on the Board of Management by Mr Dara Lynott.

PARENTS' COUNCIL

The Parents' Council has also been very supportive of the school in the past year. I would like to thank the members of the Council for their efforts. Much of their work in endeavouring to further enhance our educational provision goes unheralded. This year the council co-sponsored the Gaeltacht scholarships in conjunction with the board of management. The Council also helped to fund the homework club. The Council has an important role to play in the running of the school. Active participation in the Council's affairs by even more parents would be welcome. I would particularly like to thank them for the fantastic work done for this year's Graduation reception in the school gym.

Six Gaeltacht scholarships were awarded this year. Four Second Year students (Fionn Roche, Ryan Healy Eoin Bergin and Cian Foley) and two Fifth Year (Adam Barnes and Adam Carroll) will be heading to Coláiste na nOileán in Galway over the summer.

Roinn na Gaeilge once again organised a three day trip to Coláiste Acla from 5th -7th May to improve the linguistic skills in our native tongue and to help promote the language as a living one among the school cohort. This year ten Transition Year and nine Fifth Year students travelled. Bhain said sult as an turas!



IMMERSION PROJECT

Sixteen students, Ms J. Roche, Mr. Whitty, Ms Barnwell and Mr. Joe Hore will be travelling to Kawbe in Zambia as part of our Immersion Project. The sixteen students are as follows: Joe Redmond; Adam Barnes; Dillon Broaders; Ryan Byrne; Enda Doyle; Daniel Lynch; Liam Hore; Rob Donnelly; Adam Baziz; Jack McGuire; David Gaule; Lee O'Connor; Brendan Furlong and Conor Larkin. The students and teachers have been actively engaged in fundraising for the last year in particular. All the funds raised for the Project will be used to help complete the building of the new Sables Centre which helps orphaned and vulnerable children. The Sables Centre provides food, shelter, education and counselling for these at risk children and aims to eventually integrate them into the normal education system. Whilst in Kawbe, the group will also engage in home visits, hospice visits and help in the classrooms to educate the children. The project has always been a huge success and the communities they visited have greatly appreciated their work and kindness.

The teachers and students would like to thank all those who helped or contributed to the various fundraisers held in advance of the trip. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

I would like to thank the Students' Council for its contribution to school affairs during the last year. I would like, in particular, to thank Conor Lynott (chairperson) and the other Sixth Year members of the council who will be leaving us this year for their efforts on behalf of the student body. Ryan Healy, James Freeman and Eoin Hickey attended a very useful workshop for ERST (Edmund Rice Schools Trust) Students' Councils' in Dublin on 25th March.

SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT

We are awaiting the go-ahead to commence construction on the new school re-development project. Work is ongoing behind the scenes to advance the project. We will keep you updated when we have any further news. The initial part of the work involves construction of the new gym, computer room, storerooms and language laboratory. Work will also commence in installing temporary accommodation to facilitate the demolition of the front parts of the school to make way for the main school building.

SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION-SSE

A/LITERACY

We have just completed Year 2 of the school's School Improvement Plan focusing on Literacy. The SIP is available on the school's website. All parents are asked to encourage their sons to read. Thank you to all the first year parents who returned the recent literacy survey. The feedback from parents on the various initiatives was very positive and a number of interesting suggestions offered. Initiatives which have been put in place in the school to encourage reading among our students such as Drop Everything and Read and Book in the Bag will continue in the new school year. The continued support and co-operation of

parents will be vital to their success as the school strives to further improve literacy standards in the school.

B/NUMERACY

We have just completed Year 1 of the school's School Improvement Plan focusing on Numeracy. A number of initiatives have already being implemented such as the Numeracy Moment.

C/TEACHING AND LEARNING

2015-16 will see the SSE focus broadening further to include Teaching and Learning. As you are aware, the school received a very positive evaluation from the Department of Education Inspectorate during the recent WSE-MLL (Whole School Evaluation-Management, leadership and Learning). The report is available on the school website (www.wexfordcbs.ie) or on the DES website (www.education.gov.ie) .

We are now actively working on building on the recommendations in the report to further enhance the quality of educational provision in the school.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Given the cutbacks in funding for education, parents' contributions are as important as ever. High insurance, electricity and heating bills combined with the reduction in the capitation grant to the school over the last number of years, means that it will be harder to pay the school's bills next year. I would like to thank those who have given generously this year and I would appeal to all parents to make an extra effort next year to contribute to the voluntary contribution at the beginning of the school year. Your financial contributions are greatly appreciated.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The success of last year's Public Speaking team has inspired the growth of debating and public speaking within the school. We now have an active debating society. I would like to congratulate the students involved for their efforts throughout the year and to thank Mr Whitty for all the work he puts in preparing the various teams.

ENROLMENT

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are reminded to submit Intention to Enrol forms for younger male siblings if they haven't already done so.

TRANSITION YEAR

There will be three Transition Year classes next year. Seventy-two students will take the Transition Year programme which will provide them with many educational challenges both within and beyond the school walls.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGES 2014-15

This year four of our students travelled to Lourdes to represent us on the Ferns diocesan pilgrimage. They acted as helpers on the pilgrimage and all found the experience to be a very rewarding one. Adam Barnes, Kevin Bierney, Eoin O'Shea and James Freeman travelled on the diocesan pilgrimage as part of the Ferns delegation. I received very positive feedback from the group leaders on the students' contributions. They were a credit to their families and their school.



JUNIOR ENTERPRISE AWARDS 2014-15

Coláiste Éamonn Rís was well represented at the X-Cel Enterprise Awards Co-Final 2015 in White's Hotel. Well done to Ryan Kavanagh who went on to represent his school in the All-Ireland finals in Croke Park. Well done to all the students involved and to Mrs. Barry, Mrs. Codd and Mrs. O'Brien for their work this year in promoting and fostering entrepreneurship in the school.

CYCLE AGAINST SUICIDE

As part of the Cycle Against Suicide(CAS) awareness campaign, Coláiste Éamonn Rís took part in the Clonmel to Portlaoise leg on Friday 8th May 2015. The CAS route started in Belfast, moved north west into Derry and Donegal, before making its way through the midlands and back to Dublin for the final day two weeks later. The cycling club in the school set up regular training spins on Friday afternoons and weekend spins in order to prepare the students for the 110km leg of the journey, and what a journey it

was! The day started with a motivational speech from Jim Breen in Clonmel and from there the weather was blustery and very, very wet. Thermal blankets were a must have by the time the first 25km were over, but the whole peleton kept going and were met with a warm reception in Thurles and much needed warm food. Due to the adverse weather conditions, the cycle route was cut short for the day. However, all the partaking students were amazing on the day; their perseverance and positive attitude mirrored the purpose of the cycle as a whole.

We are delighted to be involved with the organisation of the Wexford CAS Spin-Off event which will take place on September 26th September in Wexford. See poster below. Going by our past experience of CAS events, this will be an exciting day and the cycle will cater for cyclists of all levels of ability. We will be looking for participants and volunteers on the day, so we ask as many as possible to spread the word and get cycling. As the CAS slogan goes, 'Shoulder to shoulder we can break the cycle of suicide on the island of Ireland'. Once again, I would like to congratulate and thank Ms Ivers for her trojan work in spearheading the initiative in the school and thank her, staff members and parents who were involved in the training runs and also to congratulate all the students who took part in the cycle.



Wexford SpinOff

**Saturday
26th September 2015**

Join us for a **60 km cycle**
followed by refreshments and a mental wellbeing event



The cycle will depart from
Wexford Quay and pass through,
Barntown, Taghmon, Waddingtown,
Baldwinstown, Kilmore Quay, Kilmore,
Bridgetown, Piercetown, Drinagh
and finish on Wexford Quay.

For more information on the
**Cycle Against Suicide
Wexford SpinOff**
whether you wish to participate,
volunteer, offer your company's
services or make a donation
email: noelbutler1@hotmail.com



For more information on Cycle Against Suicide visit
www.cycleagainstsucide.com



It's OK not to feel OK and it's absolutely OK to ask for help

TEXT MESSAGING

As you are aware, a text message is sent out to parents of students who do not present at 9.05am or at 1.45pm. Text messages are also sent to alert parents about staff meetings, parent-teacher meetings, late detentions, report card detentions etc. Please ensure that if you change your mobile contact number that you let us know. Similarly, if you change address, please let us know in order to change your contact details on the school administration system.

LUNCHTIME/SIGNING OUT

A reminder to all parents of Junior Cycle students that they are forbidden from leaving the school grounds at lunchtime unless accompanied by a parent or a teacher. No exceptions will be made. Junior Cycle students who leave the school premises without permission will face severe sanction. **Junior Cycle students must be collected if they need to leave the school premises during the school day for appointments etc. All pupils must get permission to sign out before leaving the school premises.**

BOOK FUND

All parents who require financial help with the purchase of text books should have received the Book Grant form. These should have been returned to the school office.

BOOKLISTS and EXAM TIMETABLES

The 2015-16 booklists for the various years are available on the school website. Copies have also been distributed to each student. The 2015-16 school calendar is now also available on the school website. A copy will also be posted to each parent/guardian. The Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate timetables are also available on the school website and the State Examinations Commission website www.sec.ie.

CHINA 2014-2015

Mr. Ahearne has already begun preparations for next year's Transition Year trip to China. This year's trip was another great success with twenty nine students and three teachers making the journey. They visited Beijing and X'ian for what was a wonderful educational experience. They visited the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace as well as celebrating St. Patrick's Day in the Irish Embassy in Beijing. They then travelled on to X'ian to view the Terracotta Warriors. I would like to thank Mr. Ahearne for his time and energy in making these trips possible and the Confucius Institute in UCD for its help in this regard.

GERMAN EXCHANGE

Mrs Sinnott is currently planning a school exchange, in conjunction with the Loreto Secondary School, to St. Ursula's Catholic Secondary School in Baden-Wurtenberg in south-west Germany in April 2016. Those travelling will experience life in a German secondary school and stay with German families for a week.

The students who hosted our students in February will be coming to Wexford in September. They will attend classes and get a taste of Wexford life, while brushing up on their English.

NEW YORK EXCHANGE

Mrs. Hayes is organizing an exchange with our fellow CBS school, Iona Prep in New Rochelle, New York, building on the strong links built up between the two schools over the last number of years. Our American friends will arrive here in late October, with our students making the visit to the States in spring 2016.

PRODIGY LEARNING AWARD

The school was presented with a 'Centre of Excellence Award' by a representative of Prodigy Learning recently in recognition of the fact that over 250 module exams of Micro Office Specialist (MOS) had been successfully taken by the 2014-15 Transition Year students.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The Transition Year Awards ceremony was held in the school's G.P. room on Wednesday 20th May. This gave the Transition Year students an opportunity to showcase their year's work to their parents.

Our tenth Annual Awards Night took place on Monday 25th May in the Riverbank Hotel. This year the guest speaker was Mr. Eamonn Hore. Mr. Hore is Director of Services with Wexford County Council and is a past pupil of the school. The awards ceremony is held to recognise and affirm the efforts of those of our students who have set high academic standards, those who have worked to the best of their ability and those who have set sporting standards in the school. They seek to affirm the positive and are a celebration of our students' academic and sporting excellence.

Academic Award Winners 2014-15

First Year

Euclid: Shane O'Leary, Glen Murphy-Butler, Jakub Pakula

Euclid (Special Merit): Paul Leonard and Ciaran Carty

Hamilton: Manus Harte, Chris Flood, Andrew Mythen

Hamilton (Special Merit): Eoin Corish and Jason Malone

Newton: Adam Mahon, Richie Lawlor and Adam Feery

Newton (Special Merit): Sam McQuaid and Adam Moriarity

Pythagoras: Cormac Sinnott, Ian Sweetman and Joe Barrett

Pythagoras (Special Merit): Richard Browne and Luke Crosbie

Second Year

Ash : Gary Hall-Roche, Urie Sanin, Aaron Breen

Ash (Special Merit): Tre Kehoe-Long and Sean Reck

Birch: George Gould, Gary Carroll, Eoin Bergin

Birch (Special Merit) John Brady and Dylan French-Corish

Cedar: Fionn Roche, Philip Cullen and Shane Moore

Cedar (Special Merit): Aaron Clancy and Cian Dempsey

Oak: Cian Foley, Kian McCormack, Ryan Healy

Oak (Special Merit) Adrian Morris and William Cole

Third Year

Boland: Conn McIntyre, Tony Wilde, Jack O'Leary

Boland (Special Merit): Shaun Hartigan and Conor McGuckian

Heaney: Martin Kehoe, David Corish, Cormac Monaghan

Heaney (Special Merit): Danial Bin Azaharan and Philip Rawson

Meehan: Angelo Miculescu, Ben Butler, Cathal Crowe

Meehan (Special Merit): Jason Moore and Cathal Kirwan

Yeats: Sam O'Neill, Adam Flaherty and Christopher O'Dowd

Yeats (Special Merit): Andrew Gibbons and Matthew Currid

Transition Year

Spirit of Transition Award Winner 2014-15- Brian Sweetman

Fifth Year

Irish (H): Christopher Cash

Irish (O): Conor Ruttledge

English (H): Dillon Broaders

English (O): Daniel Graydon

Applied Maths: Daniel Lynch

Maths (H): Eoin Hickey

Maths (O): Aidan Breen

History: Ryan Byrne

Geography: Alex Lohier

French: Dale White

German: Dillon Broaders

Accounting: Adam Carroll

Business: Kevin Reddy

Physics: Dillon Broaders

Chemistry: Eoin Hickey

Art: Jack Smyth

Construction Studies: James Freeman

Design & Communication Graphics: Darren Sills

Biology: Adam Buckley

L.C.V.P.: David Okegbile

Music: Noah Santchi-Cooney

Religion: Kevin Birney

Classical Studies: Chihun Lee

The Sixth Year Graduation Mass and Awards was held in the G.P. room in the school on Thursday 21st May at 7.30pm, celebrated by Fr. Michael O'Shea. All Sixth Years and their families were invited to attend. The Parents' Council provided some refreshments in the gym afterwards. I would like to thank all associated with the end of year awards and ceremonies for all the hard work in making the night such a success.

Sixth Year Academic Award Winners

Irish (H): Gearoid Finn

English (H): Nicholas Lawlor

Applied Maths: Sean Gayer

Maths (H): Hwan Lee

History: Conor Lynott

Geography: Conor Bolger

French: Hwan Lee

German: Aaron Scahill

Accounting: Robert Scully

Business: Nicholas Maloney

Physics: Patryk Dluznski

Chemistry: Gearoid Finn

Art: Evan Dempsey

Construction Studies: Shane Doyle

Design & Communication Graphics: Sean Gayer

Biology: Christopher Doyle

Music: Dylan McDonald

Edmund Rice Award Winner: Ross Long

Kathleen Fahy Award Winner: Aaron Scahill

Performing Arts Award Winner: Jack Robinson and Andrew Berry

SPORTS AWARD WINNERS 2013-14

U.19 Soccer- Darragh Rossiter

U.17 Soccer-Ryan Byrne

U.15 Soccer-Kallum Broaders

Golden Boot-Todd Hynes

Futsal Player of the Year-Ciaran Carthy

Senior Football- Shaun Donohue

Junior Football- Jack O'Leary

Juvenile Football-Gary Hall-Roche

First Year Football-Ciaran Carthy

Senior Hurling-Nicky Lawlor

Junior Hurling-Cormac Byrne

Juvenile Hurling- Shane Doyle

Senior Rugby-Connor Fenlon

Junior Rugby-Kyle Long

First Year Rugby- Jack Abrams

Senior Athlete-Shaun Donohue

Intermediate Athlete-Luke O'Neill

Handball-Glen Murphy -Butler

Golfer of the Year-John Brady

Basketball- Angelo Miculescu

First Year Table Tennis-Lorcan Brennan

CAREER GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING – Ms. Barnwell

CAO:

6th year students are now in a position to review their CAO course choices for college through utilising the CAO 'change of mind' service. This facility allows students who have applied for CAO to add to, delete or alter the order of their course preferences. Changes can be made on line and it is advisable to do this as opposed to filling out paperwork as it helps avoid any mistakes. This facility will remain open

until July 1st. After this date it will not be possible to amend selections. It is vital that every student enters their selections in genuine order of preference so as to avoid disappointment when offers are released in August.

On this note, it is important to note that CAO offers will be issued in August a number of days after Leaving Certificate results have been released. Offers are usually issued at 6am on the CAO official website on the student's individual account and can be accepted online. There is usually a week's grace period within which students must decide whether they will accept the offer made. It is important to note that if a student fails to accept an offer and subsequently receives no further offers should there be a second round, they will have no entitlement to then accept the first offer. Second round offers are by no means guaranteed so it is advisable to accept first round offers. Should a second offer arise, the student may then accept it if they wish and it cancels out the first offer. If there are any queries whatsoever on this process, students & parents can contact Ms. Barnwell on cbswexgc@gmail.com . There is also a contact facility for CAO which can be found on their website www.cao.ie .

Grants:

All 6th year students have received information on how to go about applying for both fee and maintenance grants. All applications are now centralised through SUSI. Information on eligibility, income limits, candidate status etc. can be found on the official website www.susi.ie . A contact number for the SUSI support helpline as well as an email address for same can also be found on this website. Should parents/guardians wish to view a step by step guide on how to make a grant application, a video tutorial can be found by logging onto www.youtube.com and entering 'susi video' in the search bar. This will show a 15 minute clip on the stages of the application and can be extremely useful especially for first time applicants. Various documents are needed to support the application and these are outlined in this video. Finally, applications opened at the end of April and will remain open for the summer. Applications must be made through www.studentfinance.ie and I would advise that they are made as soon as possible so as not to risk any delays in payment once a student has enrolled in 3rd level or further education.

Note: Grant applications may also be made for students intending on pursuing a PLC course upon leaving school.

RDS Higher Options seminar September 2015:

Every September, The Irish Times Higher Options brings a world of study choice to students. For three days, students are offered a unique opportunity to meet directly with over 150 representatives from universities, colleges and education institutions from Ireland, the UK, Europe and beyond. This year, on September 16th (Wednesday) Ms Barnwell will be taking a group of 50 students (next year's 6th years) to this great event. It will provide an invaluable experience in terms of information gathering and fact-finding for students exploring their options upon leaving the CBS. There will be various talks running

throughout the day on different career paths as well as stands from each institution whereby students can pose questions to the relevant people on their courses of interest.

Throughout the year it is intended to also have numerous guest speakers from numerous institutions come into the school to speak to next year's 6th year students.

On a final note, just a reminder that careers, educational, or personal counselling appointments with Ms. Barnwell are available to all students in the school at any time throughout the coming academic year. Students who need assistance in any of these 3 areas are strongly encouraged to approach the Guidance office to make an appointment. Alternatively, any general queries, appointment requests etc. can be sent directly to Ms. Barnwell at cbswexgc@gmail.com.

PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING THE TRANSITION OF SDTUDENTS FROM SECOND LEVEL EDUCATION TO HIGHER EDUCATION

The Minister for Education and Skills has announced reforms aimed at improving the transition of students from second level education to higher education. The reform consists of four changes that **will impact on students sitting the Leaving Certificate in 2017 and beyond**. The proposed changes address the following issues:

- The extent of predictability in the Leaving Certificate examinations;
- A new grading scale for the Leaving Certificate examinations;
- Proposals towards a revised common points scale for entry into higher education; and
- Broader undergraduate entry to higher education programmes.

The proposed changes are set out in the document Supporting 'A Better Transition from Second Level to Higher Education: Implementation and Next Steps', which is available in electronic format on www.transition.ie. It is also available on our school website.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Re-opening dates:

Thursday 27th August 2015 First Year Induction Day 9.05am-4pm/Transition Year 10.00am-12pm

Friday 28th August 2015 2nd Year / 5th Year 9.30-12.00

3rd / 6th Year 1.15-3.15

Monday 31st August 2015 All Years

UNIFORMS

All students require a school jacket as part of the school uniform. If any current student requires a new jacket, his order should be placed with the school secretary.

Incoming Fifth Year and Transition Year students will require the blue polo short/ sweater combination instead of the blue shirt, tie and grey jumper. The jackets/polo shirts/sweaters are only available from the school. Orders will be taken on Friday 5th June from 10.30am-12pm with a view to having the merchandise on sale in the school prior to the opening of the new school year. Parents will be contacted by text re times and dates in August. Any incoming Sixth Year who requires a sweater, polo shirt or jacket should also order from Bernie in the office.

MEITHEAL LEADERS 2015-16

Congratulations to all the Fifth Year students who applied to become Meitheal leaders for 2015-16. Fifteen were selected from the applicants following an interview process held outside the school. The Meitheal leaders act as mentors for the first year cohort and play an important role in ensuring that each one of them has a friendly and accessible outlet to share and address any problem that may arise.

The successful candidates were as follows: Jack Smyth; Kevin Harte; Kevin Birney; Christopher Cash; Liam Hore; David Enright; Jack McGuire; Ryan Byrne; Niall Dempsey; Shay Cullen; Aaron Goodison; Adam Barnes; Joe Redmond; Domantas Sniezka; Eoin Hickey.



SCHOOL CLOSING

The school office will close on Friday 26th June @4.30pm and will re-open on Tuesday 11th August @ 9am. The Leaving Certificate results are due out on Wednesday 12th August.

PROCEDURES FOR VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

For health, safety and child protection reasons, all visitors to the school must enter the school through the front lobby and must wait there for attention. Any parent who wishes to meet with a member of staff should contact the school office and arrange an appointment. Parents are not to accompany a student to class under any circumstances.

ALL-IRELAND BUSINESS QUIZ

Well done to Martin Kehoe, Angelo Miculescu, David Corish and Con McIntyre who qualified for the final of the All-Ireland CIMA Business Quiz by winning the regional heat in Waterford. The boys acquitted themselves very well in the final which was held in LIT, Thurles, Co. Tipperary on 22nd April.

GREEN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE



Green Schools Initiative

- We have registered our school to apply for a green flag. The Green Schools Programme is a 7 step process to a better school environment. We plan to show the benefits of undertaking this for our school. The Green schools programme aims to increase environmental awareness among the school community. It's a long term programme that aims to improve the general environment around the school and the general community. In effect we have targeted the areas of litter and waste disposal in our school. This is a huge undertaking for the school and the students with the aid of the whole staff of the school will aim to improve the situation regarding litter and waste and increase the environmental awareness of the school. So far the departing transition year group have undertaken a number of tasks in relation to the project namely:
- Putting together a Green Schools Committee
- Forming a report on the schools' current environmental condition

- Forming a plan of action

The incoming TY's will become part of the committee and look to further develop our plan by:

- Monitoring the progress
- Integrating environmental awareness into the school's curriculum
- Involving and informing as many students as possible through a day of action
- Come up with a Green Code to act as a motto for our school

We hope to be successful in our goal of attaining a green flag for our school next April. There will be a lot of work to do but with the co-operation of all in the school community and its support we are confident that we can achieve.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN Coláiste Éamonn Rís

Coláiste Éamonn Rís is a Restorative school. This is an approach where our school community manages conflict, harm and tensions by repairing and building relationships.

Restorative Practices (RP) is an approach to problem solving that is based around three basic concepts-

- That when an incident (or wrongdoing) occurs, the focus is on the harm that has been done to people and relationships.
- When harm has been done, it creates obligations, liabilities and responsibilities.
- The way forward involves wrongdoers, victims and the school community in efforts to heal the harm and put things right so that all involved can move forward in a constructive way.

Traditional approach to discipline

- A violation against the rules of the school. Someone is found guilty and is punished in relation to rules and regulations i.e. What rule have you broken? What is the sanction for breaking that rule?
- Punishment alone for the offender offers little in the genuine way of accountability; does little to meet a victim's needs and does little to address the causes of the wrongdoing.

A restorative approach.....

- Demands that we think about what happens in terms of its negative impact on people and relationships i.e. Who is affected by this and how their needs might be met in the aftermath of the incident.

- Provides an insight for the offending student into the impact of his/her behaviour on others and gives an opportunity for the offending student to repair the resulting harm.
- Allows those affected to confront the offending student, to voice their feelings safely and be part of the decision making process Minimises the potential of further inappropriate behaviour.
- Involves family and significant others to increase greater accountability.
- Provides the school community with an appropriate response following disruptive and serious incidents.

| Traditional Discipline | Restorative Approach |
|--|---|
| Viewed in terms of rule-breaking | Viewed in terms of harm done to individuals |
| Focus on establishing blame or guilt | Focus on establishing responsibility and way forward |
| Authority figure with power to decide on penalty | Dialogue involving all parties in the incident |
| Accountability=getting punished | Accountability = working to put things right |
| Punishment to deter | Repair, apology and reparation |
| The needs of those affected are often ignored | The unmet needs behind the behaviour are addressed |
| Wrong doer feels hard done by and bitter | Wrongdoer has opportunity to face up to poor decisions |
| Victim has no involvement and feels powerless | Victim has involvement in process and contribution to outcome |
| Resentment, denial, anger, fear, revenge are common during and after process | Empowerment, honesty, openness, opportunity to move on, peace of mind after process |

Target outcomes of Restorative Practices

1. The victim is able to feel safe again.
2. The focus is on harm to people and acceptable behaviours. This reduces the likelihood of blame or denial.
3. The wrongdoer and his/her family are more likely to accept responsibility for what has happened.
4. The wrongdoer will develop a greater empathy from the conference experience and is less likely to re-offend as a result.
5. The offending student will be reintegrated into the wider school community.

SPORT

Extra-curricular activities play an important part in our educational provision here. Our existing activities were further complimented this year by the setting up of a water-polo team in the school to compliment the work of the swimming club. There was also a renewed interest in table-tennis this year with increasing numbers playing in the competitions organised by Derek Hatchell.

This year we also entered a number of First Year students into the Leinster Colleges handball championship. Glen Murphy –Butler won the 40x20 singles tile, while Richie Lawlor and Cian Kehoe won the 40x20 doubles.

The rugby and Gaelic football teams failed to qualify to the knock-out stages of the various championships, while the golf team failed narrowly to advance to the finals of the Leinster Schools Golf Championship.

The Under 15, Under 17 and Under 19 soccer teams had very successful seasons, with each team winning the Wexford/Wicklow league in the respective age-groups.



The U-15 Soccer Squad who won the 2015 Wicklow/Wexford League, beating Arklow C.B.S 5-4 on penalties after finishing 2-2 (aet).

SQUAD: Luke Moloney, Reece Murphy, Cian Foley(Capt.), Kallum Broaders, Tre Long, Justin Butler, Gary Hall-Roche, Ciaran Carthy, Shane Bergin, Leon Nolan, Todd Hynes, Gary Carroll, Scott Keeling, Cian Whelan, Jamie Dawson, Ryan Lynch, Dylan French, Shane O'Neill, Jack Byrne, David Harte, Liam Godkin, Josh Kavanagh.

Well done to our athletes David McDonald, Shaun Donohue, Sam O'Neill, Luke O'Neill and Aaron Smith who qualified for the Leinster Schools Athletics Finals recently after coming through the South Leinster Finals. Unfortunately, none of them qualified for the All-Ireland Schools Finals.

Review of 2014-15 Hurling Year

Senior:

CBS, captained by Joe Redmond, competed at Leinster 'B' level for the first time in many years and acquitted themselves quite well. Coming off the run to the All-Ireland 'C' final last year, the momentum was with the team with a sizeable amount of players still in school.

Challenge games were played against St. Martin's minors, Abbey CC (Ferrybank) and St. Peter's College before CBS travelled to play Enniscorthy CBS in Belfield in the first round. It was a game which was ultimately lost by six points (2-18 to 2-12) but it was eminently winnable and that was the most disappointing aspect of it.

Having received a walkover from Wicklow Schools CBS were effectively playing knock-out hurling when they took on Gorey CS away in late November. After a great tussle in the first half, Gorey eventually made their class tell and won by 1-20 to 1-8. Gorey narrowly lost the final after Christmas to St. Fearghal's Rathdowney.

FCJ Bunclody were CBS's opponents in round 4 at Piercestown and after a closely fought battle CBS emerged with a 3-9 to 2-9 win. CBS finished third in the group but didn't qualify for the quarter-finals.

CBS are now established at Leinster 'B' level and are looking forward to next year's championship with great relish. It's a great opportunity for the boys to test themselves against some of the best schools in the county.

Wexford CBS also contributed many players to the Wexford Schools team which competed in the Leinster 'A' championship.

Ciaran Kirwan and John Hamilton were on the Wexford minor hurling squad with Ciaran playing in all three championship games at wing-back.

CBS travelled to Carlow for a TY/5th year blitz in March which was used as preparation for the 2015-16 senior team. The lads topped their group with big wins over Carlow CBS and Patrician College (Newbridge) before enjoying a big win over St. Peter's in the quarter-final. However the run ended with defeat to Colaiste Mhuire (Johnstown) in the semi-final.



We wish all the students leaving this every success in their future hurling careers at third level, with their clubs and their county.

Junior:

The junior team was also in the 'B' grade but found the going tougher. After a good battle with Gorey CS which was decided by the concession of some late goals by CBS, there were further defeats to Enniscorthy CBS and FCJ Bunclody. The team was quite young and it is expected to perform much better in 2015-16.



Juvenile:

The Juvenile team lost to Ballyhale VC in the 2014-15 South Leinster 'C' final by 0-3 so were still in the lower grade this year. A great effort was put in by the squad (36 in total – there was a B team for the first time in many years) with 29 training sessions, ten games and two blitzes.

However, after an opening round victory over New Ross VC, the lads ran into eventual champions Colaiste Bhríde of Carnew and suffered a large defeat. This resulted in CBS travelling to Bridgetown for the quarter-final and the home side had too much quality for CBS and recorded a comfortable win.

CBS played in the prestigious Rice Cup competition playing games against Kilkenny CBS, Thurles CBS and Mullingar CBS. They also competed in the county schools blitz and had games against St. Peter's B, Gorey CS, Enniscorthy CBS and Bridgetown VC.

The B team played lots of games at the same time as the A team and they also played Creagh College (Gorey), Meanscoil Garman and New Ross VC in the county schools blitz.

During the year challenge games were played against Good Counsel, St. Kieran's, Gorey CS and three games against St. Peter's College. St. Peter's also defeated CBS in the quarter-final of the Marty Barrett Cup.

The internal league was won by Clare captained by Conor Graydon with Josh McMahon winning the Man of the Match award. The vast majority of the first years are underage in 2015-16 so hopes are high for a fruitful year.



Congratulations also to Dale White (Fifth Year) who won four gold medals and one silver medals at the recent WKC National Championships and who has been chosen to represent his country in the World Championships which will be held in the United States in November. Well done Dale!

FINALLY

I would like to wish all our staff, parents/guardians and students a safe and enjoyable summer. Le gach dea-ghuí.

Michael Mc Mahon.