



# Lantern

*News from Presentation College, Carlow*

## Prize Giving

Our annual prize giving ceremony was held on the morning of Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> May. **Ms Noreen O' Looney** extended a warm welcome to the students and staff who had gathered for this special occasion when we would celebrate the many achievements of our students throughout the school year. **Mr Ray Murray** emphasised the importance of the occasion in the school community. He stressed the need for students' willingness to embrace the opportunities available in our school. He also said it was an occasion to pay tribute to all the teaching staff for their hard work and commitment to the school.

Awards were presented to the students who had distinguished themselves in many categories including Sport, Music, Home Economics, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Young Ambassador Award, Computers, Construction Studies, Materials Technology Wood to name but a few. **The Sports Person of the Year Award** was presented to Sixth Year student, **Graham Power**. This is awarded for outstanding sporting ability and contribution to school life. **Cormac Walshe** was the popular and deserving recipient of the **Bridín Quinn Award**. **The Student of the Year Award** is one reserved for Sixth Year students and voted for by staff. This is a prestigious and highly-coveted award and **Oisín McHugh** was the deserved recipient.

The **Meitheal Leaders** were given special recognition for their work throughout the year and they, alongside the **Prefects**, made several presentations on behalf of the Sixth Years. They paid tribute to **Mr Murray, Mr Delaney, Ms Siobhán Doorley (Prefect and Meitheal Coordinator)** and **ancillary staff**.

The inclusion of beautiful musical performances, co-ordinated by **Ms Maeve Lyons**, enhanced the mood of the ceremony.

The ceremony concluded when Mr Murray thanked Ms O' Looney who was responsible for the organisation of prize giving and the fluidity of its progression. He wished everyone well, especially those who would be sitting exams in the coming weeks.

## State Examinations

Well done to all students who have just completed their Junior or Leaving Certificate examinations for all of their hard work over the years and in the Examination Centres. We wish them a relaxing holiday, tremendous exam results in August and September and every success for the future to the Leaving Certificate students!

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## Return to School

### Dates!!

Please note students will return to school as indicated below;

### First Year students (and Meitheal Leaders)

Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> August,  
8.50am – 1.05pm

### Third Year and Sixth Year students

Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> August,  
8.50am – 4.00pm

### Second Year, Transition Year and Fifth Year students

Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup>  
August, 8.50am –  
3.55pm

## Humourfit Drama Presentations

All Junior Cycle students in Presentation College had drama presentations on various social issues relevant to our times. The workshops were facilitated by **Mr Michael O'Sullivan**, Artistic Director with the excellent Humourfit Drama Workshop. First Years enjoyed a lively performance called 'The Mighty Bully Brady' with an anti-bullying theme while Second Years pondered on 'Hooked', a drama which dealt with a drugs issue. Third Years were entertained with a drama about dealing with stress and finding inspiration in 'The Importance of Breathing'. These dramas are organised by the Guidance and SPHE departments and seek to augment, deepen and compliment learning on the Social Personal and Health Education programme at school.

## Teen Spirit

Over fifty teenagers from various parishes from the diocese of Kildare and Leighlin performed in the recent Teen Spirit concert. The evening was a big success and the young performers received a standing ovation for their energetic and inspirational performances of popular and sacred songs including O Happy Day, Waterloo, Rolling in the Deep, Voice of an Angel and Stand By Me.

## 'Take Away My Way'

Congratulations to **Viktorija Vilcauskyte**, Transition Year who reached the All Island Final of the Take Away My Way Cookery Competition. This competition is run in by St Angela's College, Sligo in conjunction with Safefood Ireland. The competition asks secondary students around Ireland to choose their favourite take away dish and modify it to create a healthy take away dish alternative.

Viktorija's dish was a healthy take on KFC's chicken goujons and chips. She created a dish of quinoa coated chicken strips, served with parmesan and rosemary polenta chips. She achieved a very tasty dish which is lower in saturated fat, high in protein, vitamins, minerals and uses low fat cooking methods. Viktorija's creation was one of over 1,200 entries submitted to

the competition, where fifteen finalists were chosen to cook and present the dish in St. Angela's College, Sligo. The final was judged by Celebrity Chef **Neven Maguire**. Thanks also to **Ms Sinead Egan** for all of her assistance.

## U-17 Rugby

The Presentation College, Carlow rugby team played in a most enjoyable U-17 blitz in Carlow Rugby Club on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, organised by the Carlow Rugby Development Officer **Mr Wes Whitten**. The team played three matches, winning their first against Carlow CBS with tries from **Adam Dunne** and **Jack Hickey** but losing out to Bagenalstown and a very strong Baltinglass side. Player of the blitz for Presentation College was **David Aston**.

## Trip to Islamic Centre

Three Second Year classes went on a trip to the Islamic Centre in Clonskeagh, Dublin during April and May. They had a guided tour of the centre learning about the history of Islam and visited the adjoining mosque. They enjoyed lunch in Dundrum Shopping Centre on the way home.

## Debate

Congratulations and well done to all our senior and junior debating teams who took part in the annual "Ceist Schools Debating Competition", which was held in Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise. The teams debated a wide range of issues, such as "Should you be allowed to sell your kidneys" to "Should Shakespeare be taught in schools". The motions provided for some lively and sometimes heated debate, which was enjoyed by all. After a hotly contested Junior Final, Second Year student **Kate Mulhall** took the honours as the "Best Individual Speaker", while fellow classmate **Emma Lyons** was awarded third place, much to the delight of their English teacher, **Ms Christine O'Sullivan**.

## Active Days In Presentation College

Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> to Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> was Active School Week in Presentation College and the

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whole school was awash with activities which promoted physical education and co-curricular physical activity. Under the careful eyes of our P.E. teachers, **Ms Karen Kavanagh** and **Ms Elaine Cardiff**, students were introduced to new and challenging ways of increasing the amount of physical activity they can include in their daily lives. One of the big challenges of the week was for all students was to complete the so-called 'Pres Mile' – every student must attempt a one mile circuit, trying in the process to improve on their time from last year's run. Participation is the key element and every student is encouraged to take part whether in athletics, basketball, table tennis, tip rugby, soccer or uni-hoc. **Ms Monica Percy**, one of the leaders in Operation Transformation, was in the school during Sports Day and presented the medals.

### **Bliain na Gaeilge at Presentation College**

This year, being Bliain na Gaeilge, there was a stronger focus on Irish language activities at Presentation College. Some First Years in particular demonstrated a deep interest in the native tongue. At the end of April, Class 1A1 directed and performed the play 'Pluirin Sneachta' and it proved to be a most enjoyable experience for all. To add to the excitement, the results of the Seachtain na Gaeilge National Competitions were announced a week later and **Sadhbh Redmond**, a First Year student, was pleasantly surprised to see her name on the winner's list for the seanfhocal competition. Sadhbh got second place in the Junior Section and was awarded a cash prize and a certificate. Her entry was an artistic interpretation of the seanfhocal 'Ni féidir ceann criona a chur ar cholainn óg' ('you can't put an old head on young shoulders'). Comhghairdeas mór le Sadhbh!

### **Colm Cooper**

Kerry footballer **Mr Colm Cooper** visited Presentation College on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May as part of the AIB Build-A-Bank Competition. The GAA All-Star took a two hour training session with the school football teams displaying some of the finer points of the game.

### **Cecil Day Lewis Literary Awards**

Congratulations to **Aoife O'Sullivan**, **Alex Coyne**, **Clodagh McHugh** and **Kate Mulhall** from Second Year and **Viktorija Vilcauskyte**, **Aife Dolan** and **Dermot McGuill** from Transition Year who received awards and came highly recommended in the annual Cecil Day Lewis Literary Awards Competition. The awards ceremony took place in the Athy Community Arts Centre on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

### **Elverys Power Team**

On Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> the Elverys Power Team returned to visit all Second, Fourth and Fifth Year students in Presentation College, giving their expert advice to one and all on sport, exercise and healthy living. They provided an interactive presentation incorporating exercises and informing students on self-motivation, importance of sports, healthy living and POWER as an acronym - **P**ositivity, **O**ptimum Hydration, **W**holesome Diet, **E**xercise and **R**ecovery. All students took part in a workout comprising of a full core, strength and conditioning workout. This presentation and workout proved to be a most enjoyable and beneficial experience for the students with all receiving a goodie bag from Elverys on leaving.

### **Transition Year Graduation**

The final weeks of Transition Year were very busy with a trip to Waterford IT, a sleepover in the school gym and a retreat to Glendalough. The week was completed by an impressive graduation ceremony on Thursday night, 23<sup>rd</sup> May in which students displayed some of their work from the school year and received their certificates of graduation.

### **Leaving Certificate Graduation**

Sixth Year students bid a fond farewell to their schooldays in a moving ceremony on Friday night, 24<sup>th</sup> May. Mass was celebrated in Askea church by **Fr. Liam Morgan** and focused on a theme chosen by the students: 'Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars'. The

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ceremony was followed by 'tea and sandwiches' in the school library and 'a night out in town'! The Principal and staff wish the best for all students in their exams and their future careers.

### **First Year Ecology Trip by Olivia Pinska (1A2)**

All 115 First Year Science students from Presentation College went on an ecology field trip to Clogrennan Woods recently. When we arrived our teachers handed out sweep nets, pooters, beating trays and sample bottles. We were then given worksheets and split into our class groups. We all went our different ways through the woods and we had to identify plants and animals living in the woods using the special equipment we had been given. There were mostly beech trees in the woods and the area was covered in bluebells which gave out a lovely perfume. We also properly identified holly, ivy, thistle, daisy and buttercups and we found many insects such as spiders, ants, slugs, woodlice, worms, flies and butterflies but we had to work hard to get these by moving old logs and lifting up rocks to root around for the animals. We only saw one rabbit all the while we were there, but it was a lovely morning and very enjoyable walking the loop of the woods and identifying the living things. We left nothing behind except our footprints, but we took home great photographs and memories.

### **Athletics Report - Track and Field 2013**

The Track and Field has been in full swing for the past two months. We started in early May with the South Leinster in Kilkenny. This was held over two days with the younger athletes on Day 1 and the older athletes on Day 2.

Medal winners on Day 1 were **Niall Harvey** - gold in Minor 1100m in a new record time, **Laura Ward** - gold in Minor 1100m, **Jack Mitchell** - silver in Minor 500m, **Ayo Oke** - bronze in Minor 80m and high jump, **Leah Hutton** - bronze in Junior Triple Jump and **Ella Hyland** - silver in Junior high jump.

The Minor relay team of **Tom Pollard, Luke Fleming, Jack Mitchell** and **Ayo Oke** won silver.

The medal winners on Day 2 were **Ella Hyland** - gold in Junior Pole Vault, **Liz Brophy** - bronze in Inter hammer, **Owen Scully** - silver in Senior 400m, **Danny Lawler** - gold in Senior 800m, **Páraic Coughlan** - bronze in Inter 1500m and **Nathan Walsh** - bronze in Inter 400m. The Senior Relay Team of **Keith Noctor, Gavin Curran, Danny Lawler** and **Owen Scully** won silver. The U-16 Relay Team of **Liz Brophy, Megan Wynne Melanie Mynhardt** and **Leah Hutton** won bronze.

The next stage was the Leinster finals where the medal winners were **Niall Harvey** - gold in Minor 1100m, **Laura Ward** - gold in Minor 1100m, **Ella Hyland** - silver in Junior Pole Vault and High Jump, **Owen Scully** - bronze in Senior 400m, **Danny Lawler** - silver in Senior 800m and **Keith Noctor** - silver in Senior 400m hurdles. The Senior Relay Team of **Keith Noctor, Gavin Curran, Danny Lawler** and **Owen Scully** won silver.

The All-Ireland was as usual on the first Saturday in June. The school did not win any medals this year but had some very good performances. **Ella Hyland** was sixth in the high jump and fourth in the Pole Vault. **Danny Lawler** was fourth in the 800m but ran a very fast 1m 53s and the Senior relay team were also very unlucky not to win a medal, finishing fourth.

**Nathan Walsh** and **Ella Hyland** are part of the Leinster Tailteann Games team which will take part in the Schools Inter-Provincial at the end of June.

### **Happy Holidays**

Wishing all members of Presentation College school community a very happy, peaceful and relaxing summer holidays!

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