



Monaghan Collegiate School

Mid Year 2014/2015

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Welcome to our Newsletter



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With the passage of time from the beginning of January the memory of the fervent resolve fades and the reality of everyday concerns comes into focus. The examinations, both mock and state begin to concentrate our minds on what our core business is, and the necessity for young people to grasp every opportunity on offer becomes apparent.

I am glad to say that the dedicated group of young people involved in the production of the School Newsletter are seizing the moment. I watched them interview our guest speaker at Prize Day, Dr Anne Lodge, and was thoroughly impressed by the inci-

siveness of their approach. I want to encourage them to continue to expand their horizons, confident that the skills acquired in Room 16 will have a genuine longevity. My thanks also goes to Ms Mc Caffrey for her oversight and direction of the team, and to the other members of staff who also support the production of the Newsletter.

I would like to thank everyone who supported the school over the Christmas period, from the Sale of Work to the Carol Service, to the production of "Gregory's Girl". The sense of community and spirit of cooperation is a real expression of the

Christmas message, with the money raised this year going to cancer charities totalling €1,548 and bringing hope to others.

I wish everyone a very pleasant and successful 2015, I commend to you our Newsletter and look forward to another year of working together.

Yours in education,

Johnstone Reid

Principal



Dates to Remember

- * HEAR & DARE forms for CAO due by 1st March.
- * Change of mind closes 1st March €10.00
- * 1st May to 1st July—change of mind free. Exception—Restricted Courses.
- * Further information available from Careers & Guidance Depts.
- * Easter Service 26th March 1pm in the Sports Hall. All welcome.



The Newsletter Committee

The Newsletter committee met again in September 2014. The articles that have been published were submitted by Amy Allister, Darren Brown, Naomi Condell, Tracey Farrell, Rory Gallagher, Emma Hall, Amber Harrison, Sophie Knox, Aimee Mc Caffrey, Victoria Mc Elwaine, Pamela Mc Mahon, Rachel Smyth, Carolina Lucas Souz, Pedro Spisla, Natasha Wilson

and Soyoung Yoon.

The committee would like to extend their thanks for the encouragement from Ms. Mc Caffrey and Mrs. Siobhan O' Connor.

We would also like to extend our appreciation for the contributions made by the current TY students, to the newsletter. Finally, thank you to those who contributed and helped with the articles in

anyway.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Monaghan Collegiate School Newsletter.



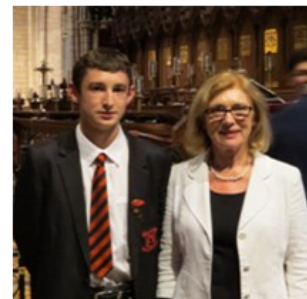
The General Synod Board of Education (RI) Second Level Schools' Conference

—Emma Hall Form 6

On September 25th 2014, the fifteenth Thursday after Trinity, 27 Protestant Secondary Schools were invited to attend The National Cathedral and Collegiate Church of Saint Patrick, Dublin. This was for an opening service to start the new academic year where all members of management, teaching, Parents' Association and students were welcome. Prior to the service, the students were entertained by playing games and listening to an inspirational talk. Monaghan Collegiate students attended in large numbers, accompanied by members of staff.

The service commenced with the procession of The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, the Minister for Education, Jan O' Sullivan and leaders of Anglican and other reformed traditions. The Most Reverend D.R. Chillingworth, M.A. Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, gave the sermon. Throughout the service the talent of the Saint Patrick's Cathedral Choir amazed us, as it was a Choral Evening song service.

During the day, representatives of the school management bodies attended a seminar on school ethos. All the students and staff who attended enjoyed it. It brought the different



Protestant schools from the comprehensive, free and fee paying schemes together. It was an enjoyable experience for all involved.

Prize Giving -Natasha Wilson and Tracey Farrell Form 6

Monaghan Collegiate School's annual prize giving was held in St. Patrick's Church on Friday the 24th of October. It was a day of joy and triumph as all school members, teachers, parents and boards of governors



gathered together to celebrate the success of the students, both academic and non-academic from the previous year. It was an enjoyable day for all and an overall success at that. This year, we had the privilege of welcoming our guest speaker, Dr. Anne Lodge, Principal of the Church of Ireland College of Education Dublin, who provided us with an inspiring and motivating message when addressing the school community.

Mr. Reid commenced the service with a brief introduction and continued with his school report, encouraging us with a few words of wisdom, and a memorable quotation, "Why are you trying so hard to fit in, when you were born to stand out?". This was one of the highlights of the speech and remained with us and I'm sure the rest of the congregation for the day.

We were also inspired by Dr. Anne Lodge who gave us an insight into her career as a highly respected educationalist, "a leader with a vision for the future". The fundamental message of her motivating speech was to value the friendships formed in school. The message was also to value not only the educational aspect, as "It is relationships that really make all of us who we are". She explained how she remembered her own school days with great joy, and hoped all the students present would remember their own time at Monaghan Collegiate School as a happy one. Part of what forged happy memories of school

for her was not that students learned and achieved, but how they related to one another. She continued to say how evident it was that Monaghan Collegiate School's focus was on the holistic development of the person.

Dr. Anne Lodge ended on an optimistic note, leaving us with the inspiring life lesson, "Sometimes you can think that you don't count in a school with such a long history, but every single one of you counts and make a unique contribution to its history and learning environment".

The prize-giving ceremony remains a highlight in the school calendar and this year's event served, once again, to motivate and establish a desire to achieve in all areas of school life amongst our diverse student body.



Past Pupil Success—Jonathan Lester - Amber Harrison Form 5

Jonathan Lester is a past pupil of Monaghan Collegiate School. His exceptionally high grades were always consistent and he achieved the highest Leaving Cert results in Monaghan Collegiate School in June 2014. Along with the many cups, Jonathan's dedication was greatly rewarded when Mr. Reid presented him the Principal's Prize for outstanding performance on Prize Day. Not only was Jonathan recognised for his success within the school, but he was awarded the Naughton Scholarship by the Naughton Foundation. This foundation promotes the study of engineering, science and technology at third level in Ireland and it was a great honour for Jonathan to receive this award. At Prize Day, the newsletter got the chance to catch up with Jonathan to see how he is enjoying studying mathematics in Trinity College Dublin.

How have you settled into life at Trinity?

I've settled in very well and I'm really enjoying college life. Although it is definitely a massive change from life at the Collegiate! Moving to such a big college has given me the chance to get to know lots of new people and its friendly environment enables me to interact with people undergoing the same process as myself.

You were awarded the Naughton Scholarship, you must be very pleased?

I was delighted to receive this award and it came as a great surprise to me! The scholarship has been a major help as it has brought some financial relief to me as university fees have increased drastically in recent years. It has also enabled me to concentrate more on my studies as I do not feel pressured into working a part time job.

Can you give me a brief description of the work entailed in first year?

In mathematics we have five modules: statistics, calculus, numerical analysis, linear algebra and mechanics. I find them all very interesting but so far my favourite is linear algebra. As a mathematics student I have 17 hours of lectures a week.

Your Leaving Cert results were outstanding! Have you any good tips for the students sitting their Leaving Cert this year?

It can be very easy to put study off, but the best tip I can give other students is to start as early as you can. For me, working hard in fifth year gave me a good grasp of each subject and I know it stood to me in my Leaving Cert. Another tip is to take the mocks seriously as they give a great indication to the parts of the course you need to work on most.

How do you find college work in comparison to school work?

It is a lot more detailed and precise as I am focusing on mathematics alone. The work pace is definitely faster and we have covered a lot in the five weeks I have been at Trinity. Another difference is the amount of homework I get. In college there is not too much work as I only get three assignments every week which generally take about an hour and a half each. Although I feel it is important to do extra study because the lecturers move at a fast pace.

Have you got involved in any of the many societies to escape from the busy life as a student?

Yes, I am involved in a few different



societies which I really enjoy. I'm sure it doesn't come as a massive shock when I say I am a member of the Maths Society. Every week there is a different topic of maths discussed, which is both interesting and rewarding. I love working with technology and Netsoc is a fantastic society which I am involved in. They hold lots of events, tutorials and interesting discussions. Here I learn new skills from guest speakers who are involved in the internet and technology. The society which I enjoy most is the Trinity Student Management Fund (SMF). This organisation operates a real-life financial portfolio under the guidance of industry experts. It allows its members to gain invaluable experience in business analysis, investment and risk management. Trinity SMF is the first organisation of its kind in Ireland and I am happy to be very involved in it.

We hope Jonathan continues to enjoy life as a student in Trinity College Dublin and we wish him every success in his studies.

CSPE Cancer Awareness Project - Pedro Spisla and So Young Yoon Form 5



On the 23rd of October 2014, tea and coffee was served to both staff and students for a very worthwhile cause. The event was a result of Form 3 and their drive to complete their Action Project as part of their CSPE Junior Certificate coursework.

This year's project aimed to raise donations for the Irish Cancer Society by selling cupcakes, tea and donating the funds afterwards. The event was held in the Sports Hall and was attended by all staff and pupils present on the day.

The staff and students could also buy badges and donate extra money to wear a pink or a blue T-shirt for the day, as a symbol of awareness to breast and prostate cancer.

The students from Form 3 also delivered a short but effective PowerPoint presentation to explain im-

portant details about these types of cancer. This information was necessary and provided a context for the day's event.

This project successfully raised €869.70 and created awareness for the cause.

Thanks and appreciation goes to the 3rd year CSPE group and Mr. Pollock for organising the event and everyone who got involved.



Sale of Work - Committee Members Form 5

The annual Sale of Work for Monaghan Collegiate School is a valued tradition and a part of the school's Christmas celebrations. The event takes place in St. Patrick's Hall in the centre of Monaghan town. It is a wonderful opportunity for the Transition Year students to showcase

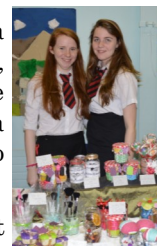


their Mini Companies and for the wonderful cakes and crafts to go on sale. The day is also a chance for parents and members of the local community to show their support for the school.

Our very generous supporters donated a delicious variety of cakes, and yet again no one went home empty-handed. The chocolate and Christmas cakes proved to be immensely popular amongst the customers. Ms. Murnaghan praised her Transition Year Mini Companies and congratulated them on their hard work and

effort. Lucy Nelson, a Transition Year student, said that "helping with the tea at the Sale of Work is a fun and festive way to serve the community".

We are delighted to report that the Sale of Work maintained its usual level of success, raising in excess of €4,200 for school development. We aspire to do as well, if not better, next Christmas. Thanks to Ms. Wright, Ms. Murnaghan and the dedicated team of men and women involved on the day.



International Students - Pedro Spisla and Carolina Lucas Form 5

Every year teenagers from all over the world come to Ireland to experience Irish culture, improve their English and enjoy a period of their lives in a foreign country. For the last eight years the Collegiate has been receiving international students and what began with only one, today has become 24 overseas students, from ten different nationalities.

Culture, friends and academic success are some of the international students'

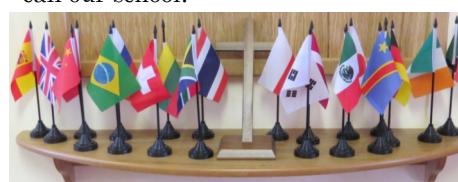
achievements after spending a period studying abroad. The students are generally happy, but it takes a while to settle in; they need to work hard to achieve in school, make friends and build a strong relationship with the host family.

"Overseas students enrich the school" said Mrs. Siobhan O' Connor, the administrator in the Collegiate, "it is a wonderful privilege to have the students join our school community".

Moreover, this experience is mutually appreciated: "I like the Collegiate because I know every day I learn new things and live new experiences. My life in Ireland is something I will remember forever" - Carlotta Laumann, a German student from 5th year.

Moving to a different country, to study in a different school, with different subjects and people, is a hard decision to be made. However, as international students we both believe that every effort to make this a new routine is worth it in our lives.

We also know that every support and help that was given by the students and staff in our integration was very important. The Collegiate was a place that at first was completely strange for us, yet, it is now a place that we can call our school.



TY Trips - Tracey Patterson and Beverley Mc Bride Form 4



On Friday, 3rd October, Transition Year Students went to the Natural History Museum and the Science Gallery in Dublin.

The Natural History Museum was overflowing with interesting exhibitions and collections of animals, some native to Ireland and others from all over the world. Almost every animal you could think of was there,

from giraffes to butterflies and even a twenty metre whale skeleton. Seeing all these different animals was an amazing experience, as we got to physically see animals, which are not native to Ireland, up close. This made it a memorable and enjoyable trip.

We also visited the Science Gallery, which was holding a weather exhibition at that time. We got to see the weather chart which was forecasted for D-Day. We also got to guess the temperature we thought it would be in eight days time to compete with

Met Eireann. We saw fake clouds made from helium which rose up and then disappeared after they reached a certain height. Overall it was an excellent and worthwhile outing overall. Thanks to Ms. Creighton and Mrs. Quinn for accompanying us on the trip.



Taste of Monaghan - Hannah Dudgeon Form 4

On 3rd of October the Taste of Monaghan Schools Cookery Competition was held. My dish was 'Leftover Pasta and Sausage Stir Fry'. The criteria for this year's competition stated that the dish had to be cooked in the space of the 30 minutes, with 50% of the ingredients consisting of leftovers. Mrs. Sloan provided me

with help on the day of the competition which was greatly appreciated. My peers were seated at the front and provided me with great support during the cooking. The judges kept a close eye on the entrants' culinary skills and cooking technique. There was plenty of competition on stage and each contestant cooked flavour-

ful dishes. The winner of the competition was awarded a prize, with the other competitors receiving a small token also. The day was a brilliant and an unbelievable experience. It is an event I would encourage future TY students to get involved in. Hannah is pictured on the right with her Mini Company team.



The Breakfast Club - Darren Browne Form 5

'Breakfast is the most important meal of the day'.

For some of the students attending school, they are required to get up and leave for school very early each morning for buses. They may not get breakfast because of the early rise. This year, the school has offered to provide breakfast every

morning for students that arrive in school around 8 o'clock each day. There is a very small fee of €2 each week. A number of staff and teachers volunteer to take over the kettle and toaster each morning. It is a good opportunity for friends to have a chat and still get the most vital meal of the day. It has proved a huge success for both the school and the students.

It is a welcome environment and an enjoyable club to be a member of. Thanks to all those who are involved.



The MS Read-a-thon - Aimee Mc Caffrey Form 6

From October 10th to November 10th 2014, our 1st and 2nd year students took part in the annual MS Read-a-thon. The MS Read-a-thon is a sponsored read organised by the charity MS Ireland, encouraging children to read as many books as possible and to collect a fixed

amount per book, from sponsors, if they wish. The 1st and 2nd years did exceedingly well this year and raised over €800 for the charity. The money collected goes toward MS Ireland's activities. Thank you to the English Department and all those who participated.



Sport - Pamela Mc Mahon and Rachel Smyth Form 6

It has been an eventful and victorious term in sports throughout the school. Our Under 16's Girls' Basketball team lead the North-East Regional Finals with the final score being 33 points to 7. They defeated Rathoath College, Co. Meath, in Kingscourt Community Centre which took place on Tuesday the 9th of December. This is the girls' second time in a row to claim this title.

The Under 16's Basketball's team captain, Kelly Mc Cormill was select-

ed to play for the North-East Schools' Basketball Team. The team members were specially selected and participated in the All Ireland School Regional Tournament which was held in Galway in October.

The 1st and 2nd year basketball competitions commence in January with preparations well and truly underway. The basketball coach Mr. Dugdale explained "from start to finish the Collegiate U16 girls dominated

the final game through a combination of superior team play skill and fitness. Well done to all the girls involved!"

The Under 16's Rugby team recently won against Cavan Royal School with the score finishing 27-7. The team had control from the first whistle and proved that fitness, skill and teamwork were skills that were evident within the players.



Running Club - Naomi Condell and Lucy Mackarel Form 5 and 3

The Running Club is one of many extra-curricular activities available to students in Monaghan Collegiate School. It takes place every Thursday at 1.10 pm during lunch time. Every year group is welcome to participate which makes it a very inclusive club. The running club has been led by Ms. Fleming and Ms. Caulfield with Mrs. Lynch, and the introduction of Mr. Scott this year. When lunch has been hastily eaten, the running club meet at the top of the avenue for some light stretches. This

serves as preparation for the 2km run to the roundabout and back.

Students participate in individual and team events, at cross-country events and at varying distances, with all runners given the opportunity to compete in school athletic competitions. The running club is a fun and enjoyable way to spend a lunch time, usually finishing around 13.40; this leaves plenty of time for students and teachers to make it back to class.



Congratulations must go to Emma Geary who qualified for the Ulster Schools' Competition; we look forward to cheering her on in future events. The Running Club also wish to congratulate Ms. Fleming on the birth of baby James and look forward to the return of both Ms. Fleming and Ms. Caulfield.

Open Night - Sophie Knox and Darren Brown Form 5

Open night was held on the 14th of October this year. It proved a huge success. The school offered an opportunity for prospective students to view a showcase of the wide variety of subjects they could avail from if they decided to enrol in the school for next year. The night also offered a chance for students to show off what they have accomplished, the new

skills they are learning in different subjects and the projects they have created to date. On the night, a student said that they 'enjoy representing the school' and this was confirmed by the number of students who volunteered to stay behind and help out.

Students play a vital role on open night and it was great to see so many eagerly involved. From the teachers perspective, it was said that, 'it is a good way to show parents how the syllabus is currently changing in many subjects'. It allows prospective parents to interact with the staff and get a feel for our welcoming and friendly school environment.

As we were involved with the Newsletter on the night we felt it was a great experience, being in front of the parents and incoming students of 2015. We would definitely recommend volunteering on open night to any student. We also felt it gave us the opportunity to display some of the extra-curricular work we are involved in. Overall it was a successful night with an excellent uptake in places and we were glad to get involved.

Thanks to all those who took part.



Carol Service - Ellen Mc Dermott Form 6

The annual Carol Service took place on Wednesday 17th December in First Monaghan Presbyterian Church. The service began with an opening prayer and warm welcome from Rev. Ronnie Agnew. The first reading of the service came from Nicole Wilson, thereupon the congregation joined in hymn with 'O Come All Ye Faithful'. In between readings from head boy Aaron Smith and head girl Lauren Nolan, the Staff Choir entertained everyone with a wonderful rendition of 'Let me tell you'. The Carol Service, as per usual, served to unite the school community in a warm and festive environment.

After a reading from Parents' Association member Mr. Allen McAdam, myself and Rebecca Breakey along with Natasha Wilson on guitar, performed 'O Holy Night'. There was no shortage of musical talent as we were also entertained with melodi-

ous pieces from the Junior Choir and the Junior Fiddle Group with 'I Heard Angels singing' and 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'. School pupils assembled to present their melodic 'Immanuel' to the congregation.

This year an energetic Christmas Address was presented to the congregation from Rev. Stephen McNie, who brought his bicycle with him for the occasion and put a smile on everyone's faces.



Readings throughout the service were also read by members of staff Mrs. Wendy Sloan and Mr. Martin



Killoran, along with Principal Mr. Johnston Reid. Closing this year's Carol Service was the Benediction from Canon Ian Berry. In reference to the music provided, special thanks is given to Mr. Ian Lovett and Mrs. Wendy Sloan as well as accompaniment from pupil Charlotte Reyburn. The proceeds from the collection at the Carol service have been given to two charities extremely important to us all, The Irish Cancer Society, and Monaghan Cancer Treatment Support.



The SU Dinner Dance - Tracey Patterson and Beverly Mc Bride Form 4



On the 20th of November 2014 the Scripture Union Dinner Dance was held in the Hillgrove Hotel in Monaghan. Tickets were available to the students that attended SU, and wanted to join together with other

members from different schools, including Armagh Royal, Armagh High, Cavan Royal and of course, Monaghan Collegiate School.

It commenced in the early evening when everybody took their seats and prepared for some pre-meal entertainment. The host of the night warmed us up by getting various people up to show off their unique talents. This was shortly followed by our delicious three course meal. After the meal the live band came on stage and got everyone to their feet.

After dancing for hours on end, and to the disappointment of many, the night was well and truly over. It was a great night, enjoyed by everyone

and we're sure that everyone can't wait until next year's SU Dinner Dance.





Gregory's Girl – Tracey Patterson Form 4

On 18th December 2014, Transition Year pupils from Monaghan Collegiate School performed their version of “Gregory’s Girl” in front of an audience consisting of school staff, parents, siblings and those just looking for some entertainment.

“Gregory’s Girl” is a romantic comedy about Gregory Underwood (Alan McMahon), a normal teenager who plays on the school football team. When the coach (Abraham Dixon) decides to look for new talent for the team, one of the students trying out is Dorothy (Charlotte Reyburn), who immediately catches Gregory’s eye. Gregory’s sister Madeline (Lynsey Forde) attempts to advise Gregory on how to ask Dorothy out and how to act around her. But after several twists and turns, will Dorothy still be the apple of Gregory’s eye, or will he find love in other places?

We had spent over a month preparing for the play, with the assistance of our teachers, Ms. McPhilips, Ms. McCaffrey and Ms. Creighton. We had been learning lines, collecting props, selling tickets and practising hair and makeup all for this one night when everyone would gather in the Sports’ Hall to watch us as we showed them what we had rehearsed. Almost everyone in Transition Year had the chance to act on stage, whether it was as a character with one line or one hundred lines, and everyone was so happy to be a

part of this wonderful adaption of Bill Forsyth’s original production. And of course there were those who weren’t on stage, but who played one of the most important roles, the prop masters and the prop builders. They had to make sure everything was on stage when it was meant to be, had to run from one end of the stage to the other carrying a table between scenes and had to know where the actors’ costumes were before they went on stage.

We had practised how to do our makeup several times, but finally came the time when every single actor had to be covered in foundation and eye shadow. There were Pan Sticks, blushers, bronzers, eyeliners and mascaras everywhere as Mrs. Rose Hastings, and Ms. O’Donghaile attempted to make us look stage-worthy. After hours of rubbing and layers of makeup, we were finished; then we had to do our hair. We had crimpers, we had straighteners, we had curlers, and we had lots

and lots of hairspray. All they girls and some boys had their hair altered in some way, to make us look suitable for being on stage. Eventually came the time, when our hair and makeup was finally completed. And then the nerves began.

When the audience had arrived, we could all hear the very first actor go on stage and speak his lines, and everyone was hoping for a successful and entertaining performance by all. Soon everyone got used to being on stage and acting in front of a crowd, and, before we knew it, the night was over.

We all had an amazing time and we were happy with how it turned out. One of the most important bonuses about undertaking this project: it helped us to bond as a year and as peers, and we are all grateful to have been given the opportunity. Thanks to all those involved and to Eric and Mr. Killoran for the assembling of the stage. Thanks to Mr. Lovett and the Choir for the choral performance and thanks to Waveform Sound for sound and lighting.

