



Monaghan Collegiate School

Mid Year 2015/2016

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Welcome to our Newsletter

Newsletter Forward

The range of weather conditions over the past few weeks somewhat mirrors the ups and downs of life at The Collegiate from the joy of Christmas holidays to the stress of examinations. It is however that ebb and flow of emotions that is the heartbeat of school life and tucked in there reporting it all is the Newsletter team.

This year's editorial team under the capable direction of Ms McCaffrey have again produced a very comprehensive and incisive look at the inner workings of The Collegiate. All the main events of the year are captured including Prize

Day and the Carol Service, and it is refreshing to get the view from the student's perspective.

I want to encourage all of the editorial team to continue to expand their horizons, confident that the skills acquired in Room 6 will have a genuine longevity, whatever career path they may follow. The ability to be able to observe, analyse and report a situation is a skill that is in high demand in most organisations and I have no doubt that the group of talented young people currently working on this production of the Newsletter will have enhanced their skills in this area.

I wish everyone a very

pleasant and successful 2016. For some classes it is just another year, for the exam classes it is decisive; for me it is yet another opportunity to enjoy the privilege of heading up Monaghan Collegiate School and to oversee the workings of our talented youth.

I commend to you our Newsletter and look forward to another year of working together.

Yours in education,

Johnston Reid

Principal

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Dates to remember

- * PTM 3rd and 6th
24th February
- * PTM 1st and 4th
10th March
- * International Day
14th March
- * Easter Service
15th March
- * Easter Break
17th March– 4th April
- * Summer Exams
26th May

The Newsletter Committee

The Newsletter Committee gathered once again in September 2015, focusing on a variety of Monaghan Collegiate School events. Articles in this bi-annual newsletter have been planned, researched and written by the committee including, Amy Allister, Darren Brown, Sally Burko, Naomi Condell, Hannah

Dudgeon, Rory Gallagher, Emma Geary, Amber Harrison, Sophie Knox, Lucy Mackarel, Beverly Mc Bride, Abigail Mc Geough, Lucy Nelson, and Tracey Patterson.

We would like to sincerely thank Ms. Mc Caffrey and Mrs. Siobhan O' Connor for all their work,

making the newsletter a success. Finally, thank you to those who contributed and helped with the articles in any way. We hope you enjoy reading this edition of our School Newsletter.



Carol Service by Hannah Dudgeon Form 5

The annual carol service was held on Monday 21st December at 1pm in First Monaghan Presbyterian Church. The service was opened by Rev. Ronnie Agnew. The service contained several beautiful carols and nine lessons. The Bishop of Clogher, John Mc Dowell was the guest speaker at the Collegiate's festive gathering.

A thought provoking reference to C.S. Lewis allowed the community to reflect on Christmas and their experiences with Christianity. It was stated that the 'difference between Christianity and other religions is

grace.' This quote originated with C.S. Lewis, but it was captured and brought to our attention by the Bishop. C.S. Lewis was not only a famous author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, a book we are all familiar with, but he was also a noted speaker about faith, with his father a Minister. These interesting references and reflections on the true meaning of Christmas made the address an enlightening experience.

The expertly crafted messages, diligent school choir, along with the traditional staff choir, left the school community feeling

full of Christmas spirit. Renditions of familiar carols warmed hearts and welcomed the holidays. In particular Katarina Klein in Form 5 and Rebekah Greer in Form 3 mesmerised with beautiful solos.

Refreshments were served afterwards in the hall, with a CSPE presentation awarded to Crocus Ireland and Monaghan Cancer Support, donations were also collected for Parkinsons Monaghan. This festive gathering marked the final event in the 2015 school calendar.

Christmas Jumper Day by Sophie Knox Form 6

On the 18th December, the school held a Christmas jumper day in support of 'My Canine Companion Autism Service Dogs'. Both teachers and students responded brilliantly to the cause by wearing a Christmas jumper or hat and donating to the chosen charity. The main purpose of the charity is to provide highly trained and skilled service dogs to provide independence, companionship and safety to children and

young adults living with Autism. Service Dogs make dramatic differences in the quality of life for children with Autism and their families. We had the opportunity to see first-hand the benefits a service dog can have on a family as Mrs. Quinn's son brought in his own service dog. Introducing the dog to fellow pupils and staff was a great way of informing people about a service dog's job and the training that they must under-

go. The day was a complete success, as everyone wearing festive attire donated generously to a very important charity while also getting involved in the festive spirit.



SU Dinner Dance by Lucy Nelson Form 5

On Thursday the 19th of November the students who attend Scripture Union got suited and booted to join Armagh Royal and Cavan Royal schools for the annual SU Dinner Dance in the

Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan. It began at 7:30 with a delicious three course meal. Afterwards, the live band 'The Braces' played while everyone enjoyed themselves on the crowded

dance floor and took pictures out in the foyer. Even the staff, Mrs. Sloan, Ms. Murnaghan, Mr. Lovett and Mrs. Hollinger bust a few moves! The night was truly enjoyed by all.

Sale of Work by Committee

On the 27th November 2015, the annual Sale of Work was held in St. Patrick's Hall. There was a wide array of products on sale including the Transition Year



mini company products. Each year the mini companies are inspired to create and promote their crafts by Ms. Murnaghan. Students are guided to create original products which are purposeful and unique. Some of this year's products on sale

were, the luxurious homemade bath bombs, lip balms and lip scrubs, perfect for the colder weather. There were also festive homemade candles to brighten up any mantelpiece and the original and attention grabbing origami stall, which presented a unique holiday gift. These stalls reflected the diversity and commendable work ethic that exists among the TY's. There was the traditional selection of enticing cakes and the wonderful hand crafted products from the craft club in school to peruse also.

Ms. Murnaghan noted that it was 'a great success, stalls were set up quickly and a lot of time and effort had gone into setting it up.' The atmosphere on the day was buzzing and everyone

was very supportive. It was truly a success once again with the school community raising over

€5,000 towards school development. Thanks to Rev. Stephen Mac Nie from Ballyalbany Presbyterian Church who opened the annual event. Praise must be awarded to the mini companies and their teacher, Ms. Murnaghan. Thanks also to the Parent's Association and the parents who helped. Finally, thanks to Ms. Wright who organises the event each year.



Choral Evensong Amy Allister Form 6

On the 24th September, ninety seven students and five members of staff travelled to Dublin to congregate with over twenty other Protestant ethos schools in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. We celebrated a special religious service which marked the commencement of the new school year. The Choral Evensong Service was attended by

the Archbishop Michael Jackson, former chairperson of the Board of Governors and the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys. An enjoyable trip was had by all.



The Higher Options Conference by Sophie Knox Form 6

On Wednesday the 16th of September, the sixth year students had the opportunity to go to the Higher Options Conference in the RDS Dublin. The Higher Options is an event sponsored by The Irish Times newspaper. The event runs over three days. There were over 170 colleges, universities and institutes of third level education, that took part in this year's fixture, making it one of Ireland's biggest student events.

The day proved to be a great success as students had the chance to meet and speak directly with representatives from all of the main Irish universi-

ties and colleges. This was extremely important for sixth year pupils, who begin to apply to the CAO system after the 5th of November. Universities and colleges from the UK, Europe and further afield were clearly illustrated at different stalls in specific locations of the RDS.

Before entering the establishment, students were given a map of the area and the different locations of each stall. This meant pupils could plan their route around the hall to stands they wanted to view as the hall was packed with students from all over the country.

Not only was there third level representatives, but the event even had a variety of talks and lectures throughout the day including, 'The CAO application process' and 'Working in Science', which were delivered by distinguished bodies. The day proved to be a great success as one MCS student commented, 'I really enjoyed the day, it allowed me to ask questions I was concerned about regarding particular colleges', while another student thought, 'getting the prospectus gives me the chance to study different courses I am interested in.'

Queen's University by Naomi Condell Form 5

On the 10th of September, the current sixth years had the privilege of going to the Queen's Open Day. We were taken by Ms. Murnaghan and Mr. Lovett. We were given guides to the campus and

the timetable for the lectures. There were various talks on about student life, finance and student events that take place throughout the year. There were also seminars on various different career paths; science, engi-

neering, social work, mathematics and business talks. The staff were all very helpful. It was very beneficial for us all to see the campus, where we could possibly be going to college in the future.

Harper Adams University by Adam Garland Form 5

On Wednesday the 7th of October, Basil Bayne the representative from Harper Adams Agricultural University in England came to give a talk to interested students from fourth to sixth form. The talk took place in Ms. Murnaghan's room at 12.20 pm. Basil delivered a short yet, extremely informative talk to us. Some of us

stayed to find out more about this wonderfully vivid Agricultural university. I felt it was pity the Mr. Bayne didn't have longer with us. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and informative talk, given by a brilliant character. Thanks are necessary for those involved in organising it.

These events are worthwhile in guiding our choices after school.



Prizegiving by Darren Brown Form 6

Prizegiving is a memorable day in the Collegiate's busy calendar where we get to show praise and recognition to the people who work very hard and excel at their exams. The introduction of the Proficiency Cup shows off the very hard workers in the Collegiate community also.

of our school have are worth noting.

A very informative and inspirational talk was given to the crowd by the former captain of the Irish cricket team, Kyle Mc Callan. After the service had finished I got the opportunity to



speak to him. I asked him what advice he would give to a current 6th year student like myself. He replied 'you reap what you sow'. These are inspirational words that resonate with the current Form 6. It re-

enjoying college life and the fruits of their labour. Students have gone on to study in a wide range of universities and which is an inspiring message to relay.

'We take time to congratulate and encourage students who have 'gone the extra mile' academically during the year.'
Mr. Reid



St. Patrick's Church was filled with students, staff, families and friends of the Collegiate. It was great to see so many people arriving to embrace the success of others. Not only did we see the hard work of the students and teachers academically but also the time put in by the staff and choir members. The immense talents that the students

minds us that as a year we should continue to work hard, that it will pay off. We will encounter setbacks but it is our perseverance that will lead us to succeed.

We also welcomed back a number of past pupils who won prizes for their Leaving Certificate results. They reported back that they were



Staff and Students on the day



Hamlet by Tracey Patterson Form 5

On the 19th November, all Form 5 students went to the Helix Theatre in DCU to see a production of Hamlet. We left the school at 9:00 in the morning and after a brief stop for food, we travelled to the theatre. The play began at 1:00 pm, when we all took our seats in the theatre and realised there were only three actors in the play! The play began with the cast informing us where Shakespeare's inspiration for Hamlet came from; a play called Amleth by Saxo Grammaticus. The actual play then began, and we got to see how Cyclone Rep, the production company, interpreted and decided to direct and portray Hamlet. The actors each played several characters, and two of the actors both portrayed the same character in

different scenes, although they always addressed and informed us of these changes in creative ways. The cast incorporated many things into the play, as they stopped to discuss what was happening and they would even explain what a particularly confusing line meant, without us getting lost in what was happening. They discussed themes and characters throughout the play, and kept us all very interested, and they used humour to make us laugh while we were learning. At one point, Marcus, one of the actors, asked the audience to think of fun ways the characters could be played. After he received ten suggestions for two characters, he had the other two actors do improvisation and incorporate our suggestions into the scene.

After witnessing Hamlet being portrayed as a Power Ranger and Connor McGregor, the play began again. Then, when we reached the final scene, volunteers were taken from the audience to take over the roles of certain characters, so the audience was included very well. Overall, it was a very worthwhile day out, as not only did we all have an excellent day, we also had a better understanding of the play and we got to see what a live production was like, so it was a great opportunity.



An Triail by Rory Gallagher Form 6

On Thursday 12th November, the Fifth and Sixth Year Higher Level Irish classes went on a school trip to Dublin to see a performance of 'An Triail' in Belvedere College. We are studying the play for our Leaving Cert Irish exam and thought that going to see it being performed on-stage would make it easier for us to understand and write about. We were accompanied on the trip by Mr. McDonauld and Ms. Ó Donnghaile.

'An Triail' is set in the conservative 1960's Ireland, when 'keeping up appearances' was more important to most people than following the teachings of

Christianity. The play centres around the life of Máire Ní Cháthasaigh, a teenage girl whose life spirals out of control when she unexpectedly becomes pregnant. Máire is thrown out by her family and abandoned by her lover, leaving her with no option but to venture out into the world herself. She then faces a hard and strenuous journey fraught with betrayal, injustice and mistreatment. The play concludes with a dramatic reunion between Máire and her ex-lover and a tragic finale.

I thought that the performance of 'An Triail' was very engaging and compelling. The actors in

the play portrayed multiple characters from the story in alternating scenes, whilst retaining their individual traits and personalities, which I found quite impressive. The use of the Irish language in a play was something I was unused to, but I still found the play to be understandable and enjoyable. Following the play, we went to the Pavilion Shopping Centre for lunch and some light shopping. Overall, it was a gratifying and memorable day out for everyone, both students and teachers.

Form 3 CSPE Action Project by Abigail Mc Geough Form 6

On the 5th November the current Form 3 students has a cancer awareness day in aid of cancer research. The third year pupils asked students to donate two euro each to help the cause. The two euro allowed the students to wear a yellow, pink or blue t-shirt to show that they supported the cause and had helped to raise much needed funds.

Form 3 held the event in the sports hall and had Dr. Jade Pollock, a past pupil, and Cathy Mc Kenna winner of The Great Irish Bake Off 2016, as a guest speakers. Dr. Pollock explained

her work with cancer cells and spoke about how cancer affects a person and how it can reproduce in the body. After her address, each year was welcomed to down to the Sports Hall. Students and staff were greeted by a large selection of cakes, buns and other treats. Tea, coffee and juice were also served on the day, it was clear Form 3 had thought of everything. Both staff and students were encouraged to donate what they could at the event also.

The Third Year students raised €1200 for Crocus and Monaghan Cancer Support and a huge achievement and they also successfully raised awareness for cancer research too. Well done to Form 3.



MS Readathon by Abigail Mc Geough Form 6

Form 1 and Form 2 students have participated once again in the annual MS Readathon. For over twenty five years the Readathon has been running in schools and libraries across the Ireland. For one month, children read as many books as they can, while raising funds to help people living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

The students began the Readathon

on the 9th of October and finished one month later, on the 9th of November, giving them a month to read and raise for this worthwhile cause. Students receive a booklet to record the books they have read and to record sponsorship. They are also given a bookmark and will receive a small gift for participation later in the school year. The pupils are also entered into a draw to win prizes, which is a

further incentive to read.

The Readathon was a great way to raise money for MS Ireland. The students raised over €500 this year. Well done to all those involved!



Open Night by Sally Burko Form 4

The 2015 Collegiate Open Night was a success. Plenty of parents and incoming first years attended on the night which was great to see. To kick off proceedings we gathered in the Sports Hall. The evening was opened with a talk from Mr. Reid. An overview of the school was given and parents, as well as students receiving clear information on the school. All that was left was to then inform them, in more detail, about the subjects and that's when we, the students, took over. Collegiate students covered the subjects the school had to offer in a comprehensive fashion.

The parents and the incoming students were placed into seven groups and tour guides brought their assigned group to each classroom, where the MCS students outlined the differing subjects. I was involved on the night, along with Sophie Knox, Lucy Mackarel and Abigail McGeough representing the school newsletter. As with other subjects and classrooms, when the groups were brought to the respective rooms they filled the room, which can be a daunting prospect when delivering a talk! But, it was delightful to see so many people attending.

In the end the night finished with all seven tour groups receiving refreshments and chatting about what they had learned about the school. From my experience those attending seemed to enjoy the evening which was great. I enjoyed the night too and in the closing stages I got to see some of the other classrooms present their talk and I feel the students involved did a fantastic job. It really brought me back to when I was visiting opening night as a 6th classer! How times have changed.



THE ENGLISH ROOM



THE ART ROOM



THE WOODWORK ROOM



THE HOME ECONOMICS ROOM