

MINISTER ANNOUNCES NEW SCHOOL PREMISES FOR COLÁISTE AN EACHRÉIDH BY SEPTEMBER 2014

SCOIL NUA DO PHOBAIL
AN CHOLÁISTE I 2014

Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairí Quinn, last September announced the future accommodation plans for Coláiste an Eachréidh. In his plans to address the increasing demand for school accommodation in the greater Athenry area and the need to add to the capacity of the existing VEC offices to serve as headquarters for the new amalgamated VEC (County Galway VEC, City of Galway VEC and Co. RoscommonVEC), the Minister is relocating Gairmscoil Mhuire to an alternative site and Coláiste an Eachréidh will move into the vacated premises.

Coláiste an Eachréidh's school community is delighted with the Minister's proposals as it will see the Coláiste in a permanent, fully equipped school building by September 2014 - the current first year pupils will be in their new school at the start of their Junior Certificate year. Ordinarily, it takes in the order of 15-20 years for a new gaelscoil to secure permanent accommodation, in this context it is remarkable that Coláiste an Eachréidh which was founded in September 2006, a little over 5 years ago, will have achieved this mile stone within an 8 year time-frame.

The new school is only 3 minutes walk from the Coláiste, and currently students go there for practical classes in woodwork and metalwork. Our new premises was built in the 70's to cater for a school population of 350-400 pupils - in addition to general classrooms and offices our new school also boasts 3 science laboratories , 2 domestic science kitchens, 3 woodwork rooms, 2 metalwork rooms, art rooms, library and study hall. Complementing those fantastic facilities the Coláiste's new school will also have a full sized indoor basketball court, gym, playing fields, outdoor courts and a canteen with hot kitchen facilities. Wonderful news indeed for all associated with the Coláiste which is going from strength to strength and whose future is now very promising indeed.

COLÁISTE SCOOP NATIONAL AWARDS



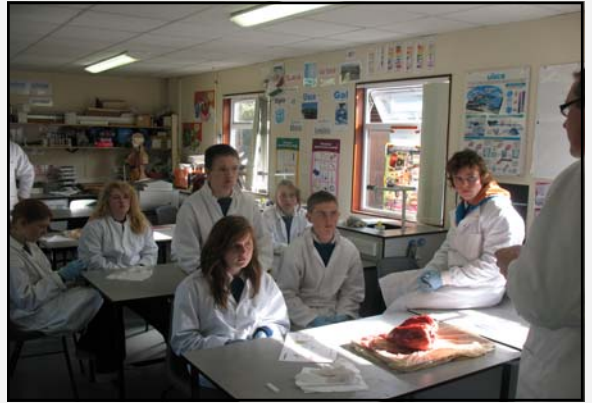
Hannah Ní Ghormaile, Bliain 3 and Seán Pokall, Bliain 5, were both winners in their respective

categories at the National OIREACHTAS Awards held at the Croke Park conference centre on the 27/09/11 where each received a €300 first prize cheque. Comhghairdeas libh beirt!

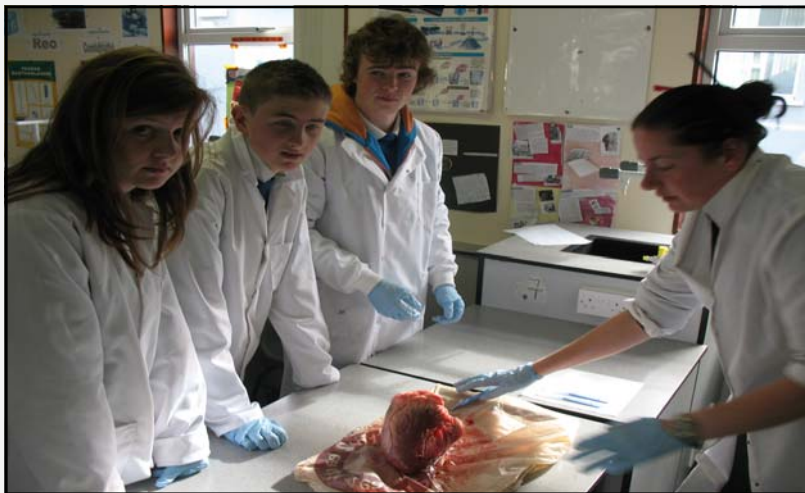
TRANSITION YEAR REPORTS Medtronic

On the 30th of September Eddie and Paul, two employees from Medtronic, came in to demonstrate a dissection of a heart with us. We were split into groups and each group got a cow's heart to dissect, cut up and explore.

It was very interesting and we learned a lot about how the heart works. Once we had finished with the dissection, the guest speakers spoke about their work with Medtronic and how the devices made by the company help people all over the world. They showed us some examples of products made by the company to help hearts work better and therefore save lives. Their motto is **'Every 5 minutes someone's life is saved or improved by Medtronic.'** They also spoke of the various types of employment available in science and in Medtronic. We found this to be a valuable learning experience.



Ar an 30 Meán Fómhair, tháinig beirt as Medtronic dárbh anim Eddie agus Phil. Tháinig siad isteach chun cabhrú linn croí bhó a ghearradh suas. D'oibrigh muid i grúpaí de cheathrar agus bhí croí ag gach grúpa.



Thaispean Eddie na codanna den croí duinn msh, na matáin, vena cava, aorta, agus na comhláí &rl. Freisin dúirt siad linn go bhfuil neart postanna sa saol anois bainteach le Fisic agus Ceimic. Thaispeáin said cineálacha trealamh atá in úsáid chun cabhrú le daoine le fadhbanna croí. Bhí sé an-suimiúil agus bhain muid an-taitneamh as an seisiún oiliúna. Cheap muid go raibh sé níos easca foghlaim faoin croí nuair a bhí sé os ár gcomhair amach ná mar a bhíonn sé i leabhar.

For more reports, log on to Coláiste an Eachréidh and follow the link to Transition Year News



Bliain 1 — Turas to Petersburg Outdoor pursuits



Coláiste Junior Football Team — full update on all sports in the next newsletter

GOING TO COLLEGE THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

‘Not a lot of people have Japanese, so it will be useful’

Irish Independent Monday 9 January 2012

Gaelscoil an Eachréidh past pupil Niamh Ni Ghoill is proof of how going to college opens your mind. Soon after she arrived in the University of Limerick (UL) in the autumn, she made an unplanned leap into the study of Japanese. “I was always interested in languages, especially since going to Coláiste an Eachréidh, an all-Irish secondary school,” said Niamh, from Turloughmore, Athenry, Co Galway.

She was in the first Leaving Cert class to graduate from the local Coláiste an Eachréidh, last June and it was there that her skill in, and love of language was nurtured. “I want to travel and language opens a lot of doors,” she said

When she selected Applied Languages UL for her third-level studies, Niamh presumed Irish would be one of her chosen subjects. She also had French in her pocket from the Leaving Cert and was simply planning to add Spanish to the two languages with which she was already familiar. That all changed when she arrived in UL:



“I wasn’t going to do Japanese, I was going to do Irish, but before making our choices, we were advised to try every language: German, French, Irish, Japanese, Spanish. Japanese was an instant hit. It was so different and the lecturer is amazing. Not a lot of people have Japanese so it will be useful”.

The course, which aims to produce graduates with a high level of competence in at least two languages combined with a specialist knowledge of the societies in which those languages are spoken, also includes other electives such as politics, marketing and international relations. Niamh is still not 100pc sure what she will do when she graduates *“but it will something along the lines of translation or interpretation. “I’d love to work in Brussels or the UN, or some other global organisation, or an international company”.* Niamh describes studying in UL as *“brilliant”*. She is one of six sharing a purpose built student house. *“They put you with other first years, so it is easy to make friends. I now have friends from everywhere.”*

Príomhoide, Brian and all the staff wish Niamh (CAO-555 points for entry to UL) and her former classmates at Coláiste an Eachréidh the very best in their chosen studies. Indeed, contrary to the inaccurate information (the error was acknowledged the following week) carried in the Irish Independent supplement on feeder schools where only entrants to UL were recognised, we are very proud at the Coláiste that all the pupils are currently enjoying their 3rd level courses at UL, GMIT and NUIG. Suffice to say at this point that quality of education and ranking are often at odds.

Furthermore, the fact that Niamh is now studying Applied Languages, including Japanese, and that we also have a past student who was accepted on the highly sought after B.Sc in Furniture Design (restricted entry course, 24 entrants only due to demand) is testimony to the very successful delivery of a broad based curriculum at Coláiste an Eachréidh.

TRANSITION YEAR / IDIRBHLIAIN

This school year has seen another first for Coláiste an Eachréidh with the introduction of the Transition year programme. Log onto Coláiste an Eachréidh and follow the link to Transition Year News for an update on some of the activities to date. The page also has many links to helpful careers sites which students and parents are encouraged to browse for the most up-to date information on further studies.

Ceiliúradh Gaisce NOLLAG / Christmas Awards Ceremony



Yet again we had a very well attended Ceiliúradh Gaisce ceremony this year with many parents and family members present for the Christmas awards ceremony. Pictured here to the left, accepting their awards for **GAEILGE**– an acknowledgement of their efforts in promoting Gaelge in the Coláiste-Caitríona(4), Tomás(3), Seán(5), Samy(3), Gráinne (1), Sibéal(1) Nadine(1), Emer(4) agus Emily(4) Comhghairdeas libh go léir. Eamon Ó Tuairisc, Londis Athenry, generously sponsored the gift vouchers for the GAEILGE awards, buíochas leis as ucht a chuid tacaíochta.

TINREAMH / ATTENDANCE AWARDS,

These awards are given to pupils (pictured to the right) who attended each day (i.e. *in school everyday or all but part-of one day*) in recognition of their excellent attendance well done to Julienne(5), Eimear (1), Donagh (4), Ashleigh (3), Darrell (2), Muireann (2), Kelly (2), Méabh (2) Ciarán(3),



CEANNAIREACHT / LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Pictured left are:- Julienne (5), Méabh(3), Donagh(4), Róisín(1) agus Méabh (2) agus Saidbh (1) all of whom were nominated for the *Ceannaireacht* awards. This award recognises students' maturity, cooperation and in general their positive contribution to school life. Comhghairdeas libh ar fad.

OBAIR SCOILE recipients:- Kate (5) Heather (4), Seán (3), Eimhear (2), Muireann (2), agus Melanie (1) were presented with their certificates and vouchers in recognition of their application to their studies and class work.

Buíochas to all who attended and to our ceoltóirí (below) G-FACHTOR, who provided wonderful entertainment during the presentations.



G-FACHTOR '12:- Sibéal & Jade; Alannah, Saoirse, Muireann, Caitlín agus Saidhb; Donagh;Aoife & Holly

BUAICPHOINTÍ

Some Highlights 2011



Cian Lawless presents Eimear Ní Laigheann, winner of the annual Christmas raffle 1st prize, a hamper which was donated by his parents Siobhán and Paul Lawless of FOODS OF ATHENRY,



Eoin Ó Ceallaigh with Tiernan, Cian, Róisín, Sibéal, Eimhear and Declan, all winners of Christmas cakes and puddings kindly donated by Eoin's mother Anne Flanagan-Kelly.



Muireann Ní Bhaoill pictured with Tomás Breathnach winner of Greannán Art competition, her work (and that of Evan O'Toole) was published in SPRAOI



Tim McDonagh on board Cord'Alou on his way to a clear round and to win the European Cup for Ireland last summer in Portugal.

Comhar na nDaltaí– Students' Council



Among the many events organised by Comhar na nDaltaí was a fundraiser for the Special Olympics, the students are pictured above presenting a cheque to CEO of the Connacht Branch. The students are also on a shortlist of 12 schools nationwide for their entry in the GLÓR na nGAEL sponsored G-FACHTOR.



PARENTS' COUNCIL

At the last AGM, 20th Sept. 2011, there was a change in the committee officers. Maureen Berry, Mary McCrossan, Alison McCormaic and Pádraig Ó Flátharta were elected. The outgoing officers namely, David Quinn, Michael Silke and Rose McMahan were thanked for their dedication and contributions over the last number of years. The Parents' Council

meet at the beginning of each term and half-term and have a forum for discussion on educational matters. Guest speakers are often invited to address the meeting on topical issues. A team of speakers from Aids West made a most informative presentation last term on relationships and sexuality education, and sexual health matters. This term Garda Hugh Rodgers addressed the parents on social networking sites like Facebook and the law relating to cyber bullying. Parents are encouraged to attend the meetings and seminars.

Coláiste Students visit the DÁIL



Information re: examinations, meetings etc. log onto colaiste an eachreidh and follow the link to Transition Year news and from there to 'notices and events'