

CASTLEKNOCK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ATRIUM



Courtesy..... Respect
..... Responsibility

CoIáiste Pobail Caisleán Cnucha
DoI an Ōige agus Tíocfaidh SÍ



Educational Aims



- *To enable and encourage the full growth and development of each student intellectually, creatively, physically, morally and socially.*
- *To create a caring, safe and supportive environment in which each student will have the opportunity to fully develop her/his aptitudes and talents.*
- *To promote gender equity, self-awareness and responsible attitudes in personal relationships, while encouraging dignity and respect in all our endeavours.*
- *To foster consultation and the involvement of parents in the development of school policies, and its social and recreational activities.*
- *To engender feelings of self-esteem and the creation of sensitive, caring and politically aware members of society.*
- *To create opportunities for parents and other adults to further their academic or social education by the provision of a community education programme.*
- *To aspire towards excellence in all areas of work and involvement, thus promoting an image and a reputation for our college, which will command the respect and the pride of the community.*
- *To be true to our motto “Mol an Óige agus Tiocfaidh Sí” and thus instil a feeling of self-esteem within all students.*
- *To provide a pastoral care programme that is central to the life of the college.*
- *To provide for the cultural and aesthetic needs of the community through the arts.*

Message from College Principal John Cronin

A Chara,

Tá an-áthas orm deis a bheith agam arís chun labhairt libh san eagrán seo. Táim an-bhródúil as ucht na hoibre iontach atá ar siúl i gColáiste Pobail Caisleán Cnucha. Is mór an sólás croí dom féachaint ar an éacht oibre a chuireann an fhoireann múinteoireachta, daltaí agus tuismitheoirí uilig isteach lá i ndiaidh lae.

Is údar mórtais dom chomh maith agus a éiríonn le daltaí an Choláiste go hacadúil, in imeachtaí eischuraclaim agus go sóisialta. Nuair a bhreathnaíonn tú ar an leabhrán seo, tá mé cinnte go rachaidh an méid imeachtaí atá ar fáil anseo go mór i bhfeidhm ort.



The last year has once again proven to be a very successful one for the College. It was a source of great satisfaction to witness the blessing of our **Rainbow Garden**. This sacred place has already become a place of quiet reflection for the community of our College. The success of this project was ultimately due to the partnership of the parents, students and staff of the College. Another project that came about this year due to the partnership between the school and the parents association was the **Past Pupils' Reunion** which was hosted in Castleknock Hotel in October. The occasion allowed the classes of 2000, 2001 & 2002 to come together to catch up and reminisce. It was wonderful to meet so many past pupils who have achieved success.

The College along with the Parents Association continues to be proactive in dealing with the issue of bullying, especially the threat posed to our students through **Cyber-bullying**. Since December we have been proactive in promoting Cyber-bullying & internet safety workshops to our junior students. I was very proud to see how our Senior Mentors assisted with the delivery of these workshops to individual classes with the aim of enabling and encouraging our pupils to keep safe online. At a follow up information meeting for parents the senior mentors were on hand with laptops to provide practical assistance to parents and to guide them through some important steps in promoting internet safety. The ultimate success of this project rests with the senior students who were enabled through peer teaching to promote a strong message.

As a College we have always recognised the wonderful sense of community that exists in Dublin 15. In November the College's **Spirit of Community Award** was presented to **St. Francis Hospice Blanchardstown** in recognition of the huge contribution being made to the community by the Dublin 15 Hospice Movement. In accepting the award on behalf of the Hospice Movement, **Fr. Dan Joe O'Mahony** praised the generous and committed spirit of our students who have established a strong tradition of fundraising for local and international causes.

The College's strong and vibrant extracurricular programme realised more success for our students. In **Camogie** we achieved the double with wins in the Junior and Senior Divisions. We also had great success in Hockey, orienteering and boys & girls' basketball. Our **Debating**

students once again achieved great success with Leaving Certificate student Aodhán Peelo representing Ireland in the world championships in Turkey where he was ranked eighth in the world. Our senior **Public Speaking** team have also reached the National Finals of the Mental Health Public Speaking Project. We also achieved great success in the **Fingal Enterprise Awards** when the senior business team took first place for their winning design of a musical app that teaches you how to play the piano by numbers.

In the world of music we returned to the **Draiocht** theatre for the fourth time to host a truly magnificent festival of music. Performances from the past and present pupils, the four College Choirs and the newly formed show choir thrilled the audience over two nights in December. Once again the College musicians represented us with pride in the National Concert Hall in March at the annual **VEC Festival of Music**. The musical year would not be complete without the staging by our TY students of our annual talent show, Starsearch. Yet again the students of TY and the many performers excelled in their roles.

Following the magnificent success of our art students in the 2012 state examinations the Art department hosted a wonderful exhibition in November, showcasing the artistic talent of the Junior & Leaving Cert Art Classes 2012. We are delighted that the **Art Department** have created artistic spaces in the College to display the rich array of our students' art work.

The College was one of forty Schools to be chosen as part of the **New Junior Cycle Framework** in preparation for the New Junior Cycle Programme which will commence in 2014. Teams of teachers are working on different aspects of the new programme and are working closely with a number of Primary Schools in developing **a transfer of learning policy** – from primary school to Castleknock Community College. This exciting initiative will ensure that the many and varied learning experiences that students are exposed to at Primary School are built on in a meaningful and purposeful way as they make the transition to Castleknock Community College.

I am very proud of the great work that has been done by the teachers in the area of curriculum development and once again this work has been endorsed by the Inspectorate.

This year the **History Department** received a history inspection and the findings of the Department Inspector will soon be available to view on the Department of Education & Skills website. The report was very affirming of the professional standards that were evident in the history department:

“The overall quality of teaching and learning observed was of a very high standard. Assessment practices in the subject are outstanding and there are very good student outcomes in certificate examinations. A highly professional and collaborative team of teachers teach the subject. Subject planning is at an advanced stage and of a very high quality. Very good planning for students with additional educational needs was evident.”

As the academic year draws to a close we can look back on another successful year at Castleknock Community College. Despite the many challenges that exist in our world today it is a source of enormous pride to work with a team of teachers who continue to honour their profession on a daily basis. We are also blessed to be entrusted with students who remain so full of hope, enthusiasm and ambition. In partnership with the parents of the College we will continue to work together to provide the best education for our young people.

John Cronin Principal

Student Chaplaincy Team

As we write this article for Atrium we are putting the final touches to our preparation for the Open Day on 13th March. That day we will welcome young people and their parents to the Meditation Room. We have created a Prayer Journey so that people can experience various ways to pray during their visit. One example from the Journey is where we will invite people to take a moment to reflect on their lives, write a prayer and place it with the prayers of others. We all need to do this at times.

We joined this group because we wanted to be more involved in the College. First Year was a great year for us and we wanted to give something back to the College. It was also important for us to develop our spiritual lives. Over the past six months we have been on a journey which has been fun and enjoyable. This is the first time that the College has had a 'Student Chaplaincy Team' and we really like our meetings on a Thursday lunchtime when we plan new activities. We get lots of work done and it does not feel like work.

Among our activities were: planning for, and participating in, the Christmas Carol Service; contributing to the 'Thought for the Week'; reading the Prayer at First Friday announcements and preparing prayer for 2nd Year Assembly. We have also supported the work of the Chaplain on other occasions of prayer and reflection in the College. We look forward to having more opportunities in the coming months to remember our College community in prayer. We think especially of those students doing exams.

Kate Finnan, Ellen Farrell, Aoife Howard, Izel Erdem , Damia Syeda, Cormac Kavanagh and Jack Greene Byrne.



Guidance & Counselling Service

*T*he Guidance & Counselling Department while working to the schools mission statement, has a remit to help students make informed personal, educational and career decisions, set realistic personal and career goals and develop the skills necessary to accomplish these goals. The service also offers students support in coping with personal problems or academic concerns.

The Guidance & Counselling department provide an open door policy to students, teachers and parents. All students are informed of the services provided at the beginning of each term and are encouraged to use the service. They can request an appointment by filling out an appointment card. Referrals are also made from teachers or parents on behalf of the student.

The department has a fully resourced careers and information library with internet access. This is open to all students on Monday & Tuesday at lunchtime.

During the 2012 / 2013 school year the department provided or participated in the provision of the following services and events:

- Information evenings
- Access to colleges including those in UK
- CAO and UCAS applications
- Presentations from colleges including DCU, NUI Maynooth, DIT, IT Blanchardstown
- Facilitated attendance at College Open Days
- Post-Leaving Certificate courses and FETAC links
- Financial supports i.e. grants and scholarships available
- Study & Organisational Skills
- Stress & Time Management Skills
- Dats tests and Career Interest Tests
- Subject choice
- Primary School visits
- Curriculum Vitae and Interview Preparation
- Referrals to outside agencies e.g. clinical psychologists, Teen Between Teen Counselling, Pieta House,

Students also accessed personal counselling on a wide range of issues.



Educational Trips



1st Year History Trip

On the 18th of April 2013 our class Rang Redgrave went on a history trip with our two teachers Ms Dunne and Mr McCorry.

We started our day at Dublinia. Here we got a guided tour of their Viking Displays. The models of the Vikings were extremely realistic and were really enjoyable! We got to see things such as; remakes of their houses, clothing and a Viking Longships. We also saw displays based on the Medieval Period, which we have studied as a part of our First year History course. We got to walk through medieval streets. We got to experience a Medieval Market and play medieval games. We saw examples of the tools a Barber Surgeon would've used. We also got to see the types of work done by Archaeologists. We saw a model of what Dublin looked like in Medieval Times. We got to visit the gift shop.

Then we went for lunch in McDonalds on Grafton Street. It was yummy!!

We then made our way to the National Museum where we viewed the bog bodies and also had a guided tour from Jennifer on some of the Artefacts from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Era's. Here we saw famous artefacts such as the Ardagh Chalice and Broighter's Collar. We also saw the displays of The Hill of Tara and a Passage tomb modelled on Newgrange. We saw examples of the Lunalaes and Sun discs from the Bronze Age, these are made from Gold and their purpose is unknown. We also got to visit the gift shop here.

Overall, this was a very enjoyable trip and we hope to go on another similar trip in Second Year. We enjoyed this trip because it educational and it was nice to experience history outside Room 6! We found it helpful towards our revision for the summer exams. We would like to thank Mr McCorry and Ms Dunne for taking us on the trip. It was a great History lesson!

Claire Nulty and Niamh Langton



Caffrey's Chocolate Factory Trip

This year our 5th and 6th year LCVP students visited Caffrey's Chocolate Factory in Walkinstown. The morning began with an informative talk applying the theory of business and enterprise to the Caffrey's story.

This was followed by an introduction to the history of chocolate and chocolate production. Students then took a tour down 'chocolate avenue' which led to a glimpse into the factory floor. The fun really started when students had the opportunity to decorate their own chocolate bars and sweets to then package and bring home.

A very chocolate filled and enjoyable day was had by all'.



T.Y Trip to Bundoran

The T.Y. students of 2013 greatly looked forward to the annual T.Y. trip to Bundoran, and for the majority it lived up to their expectations.

We headed off on a Thursday morning in April on the long bus journey from CCC to Donegal. On arriving to Donegal Adventure Centre we unloaded our bags from the bus and headed off to the La Sabbia restaurant for lunch. Everyone was ravenous from the long journey and tucked into their delicious lunch of pasta and pizza.

After lunch we got our introductory talk and were allocated rooms. The girls got to stay in the adventure centre while the boys stayed in the hostel nearby. We were split into groups and went off to do our activities.

All the groups did the same activities over the four days but at different times to each other. The water activities included surfing, cliff jumping and kayaking. They proved to be very popular and were the highlight of the trip for many. There were many activities which tested people's fear of heights such as the balance beam, all aboard, the leap of faith, jacob's ladder, rock climbing and abseiling. Some excelled at these and could even do it blind folded.

Teamwork was a huge factor in some activities such as the adventure challenge where two teams were pitted against each other in solving puzzles and tasks and the Viking challenge when two teams had to build a raft, which were then raced against each other.

Most of the students had already done nite-line in Carlingford but in Bundoran it was much more difficult and muddy! Students were blind folded and followed each other in a line around the course calling out to each other instructions on what was coming up ahead.

On our last night was surf chicks, which many looked forward to, especially the girls. The girls got to dress the boys as girls, applying make-up and styling outfits for them, to then compete against each other in a beauty pageant style competition.

This ended a great few days in Bundoran. The instructors were fantastic and made the trip even better. Hopefully next year's T.Y.'s will have just as much fun in Bundoran.



Derry Trip

On Friday 22nd of February, four teachers and 37 LC2 students set off from Castleknock CC to travel to Derry. The students are studying Politics and Society in Northern Ireland as part of their LC course and therefore this trip was of enormous benefit to them.

Our first tour was of the Museum of Free Derry in the Bogside. The exhibits and the curator, a brother of one of the victims of Bloody Sunday, told a harrowing tale of the events of that day. We held rubber, plastic and live bullets and also saw the bloodstained NICRA banner along with items of clothing belonging to the victims.

After this, we were brought on a tour of the Bogside. We saw all the gable wall murals and our guide explained the stories behind each one. We assembled at Free Derry Corner for a photo and we also visited the memorials to both Bloody Sunday and the 1981 Hunger Strike.

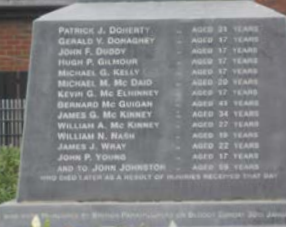
Our third tour of the day was to the Apprentice Boys Memorial Hall. We were shown a very informative DVD about the Siege of Derry and the Apprentice Boys organisation. Then we toured the building, which also houses meeting rooms for the Orange Order and the Black Preceptory. We were taken up to the roof which affords splendid views of the city. Our guide was very interesting, friendly and funny.

Then it was time to check into the Everglades Hotel and feed the starving masses! We spent a very pleasant night there.

Our last tour was the following morning and this was a walk around the walls. It is hard to pick which of the tours was the best but this was a strong contender. Everyone paid rapt attention to our guide who, as a local historian, knows everything about the city and its surroundings. Every gate in the wall tells a different story, some involving a very amorous bishop called Harvey! We revisited the Bogside and also looked down into the Fountain.

Back onto the bus and home! I think this trip is a must for students studying Northern Irish history. It really brings the Troubles to life. And it is fascinating and uplifting to see how the citizens of that lovely city are working together to present it as a very worthy holder of the City of Culture title. Well done to NST for organising a fabulous trip.

Sheila Cotter





Achievements

Awards

The College hosted its Annual Awards Evening in the Castleknock Hotel on November 28th 2012 when the success of students in the College and in the wider community was publicly acknowledged. Amongst the many recipients were:

- Christopher McMahon for his achievement of 12A Grades in Junior Certificate 2012.
- Michael Friel in recognition of his outstanding results in Leaving Certificate 2012.
- David McCabe, Brian Moran, Daniel O'Connell, Paul O'Neill, Patrick O'Reilly & Tadgh O'Shea, all members of the All-Ireland Champions, St. Brigid's Team
- Paul Winters & Tom Quinn, respective members of the Dublin Minors Hurling & Football teams.
- Jack Quinn, a four times winner of the World Irish Dancing Championships
- Aoife Simm, recipient of the Castleknock School of Music Scholarship for 2012-2013.
- Laura Bhasker, Lauren McEnroe, Marcus McKeogh & Caoimhe Rogers, all of whom achieved distinction in Leaving Certificate Applied 2012.

Guest of Honour on the night was Fr. Dan Joe O'Mahony who accepted the College's Spirit of the Community Award on behalf of St. Francis Hospice Movement.

Transition Year (TY)

The Transition Year Programme started in September 2012 and our students have taken the philosophy of the Transition Year to heart, and given their full commitment to getting the most from the year and giving the most in return.

Let it be said from the outset that inevitably, some activities will miss out on being mentioned; however to begin, it must be acknowledged that all of the students made great efforts to get to know each other and work as a group. Formed into three classes of twenty



four students, Rang De hÍde, Rang Hillery, and Rang Monnet, the students took on the challenge of starting the first of a three block rotation of subject -modules and electives. For some this would involve literally crossing swords with their colleagues, as they began lessons in the Art of Fencing . . . Zorros in the making!



Others found themselves teaching, as they helped grandparents and retired members of the community to really hone their IT skills, and to surf the Net as they had never done before! Looking in on the Log-On programme, it was very clear that experience was being shared as a two-way street, and everyone was learning more than just IT skills; they were sharing the joy of communicating across the generations.

Those students who found themselves in European Cultural Studies were broadening their grasp of what it means to belong to a wider community.

And so it went, because the students sampled these and so much else, from Construction Design to Art, to Home Economics, Steer Clear Programme, Sage

Accounting, languages . . . the list goes on.

While the students immersed themselves in these areas with great diligence and determination, it would be true to say that they also left in reserve great energy for the much anticipated overnight



trip to Carlingford, which took place towards the end of September. To write more about this would be futile, which is why photographs will, in this case and others of the activities which took place over the period from September to December, paint a thousand words.

This trip resolved all the earlier concerns about being in classes without friends from Third Year, and the group returned as a cohesive and loyal band of....Castleknock

Community College Transition Year students! The corridors of the College would come to know this band very well indeed over the days and months which followed, and always in a positive way. For many students this was also the time when they selected their activities for the Gaisce awards, a most significant feature of Transition Year.

From October the students of Transition Year began in earnest their preparations to fulfil their role as ambassadors of the College as they





offered their time freely to help with bag-packing for SVP, helped Christchurch Cathedral launch its Transition Year Bell-Ringing Programme, fund-raise for Temple Street Children's Hospital, and find work-experience. Some students got places in hospitals, or with on Garda Síochána, while others worked with ICTU and so on. All of them received glowing feedback from the employers, and were a credit to themselves, their parents and the College.

Next came the second block of modules and in-house examinations, guest speakers from Trocaire, The Gaisce Awards, Development Workshop. More requests for bag-packing came in than the students could accept, but again they were so willing to give of their time, and so they gave up Saturdays and Sundays to help raise money for good causes such as Our Lady's hospital for Sick Children in Crumlin.

One of the more significant challenges of this period was to market and sell a Christmas CD, and working with Teachers of Music such as Ms. Staunton and Ms. Conlon the students took to the streets of Dublin to raise as much as possible from sales of this CD, the proceeds of which went to the hospital. . On at least one of these days the students had to endure bitter periods of cold, and heavy rain showers, not to mention having to endure the sight of their Year Head cycling around and around the streets of Dublin in the latest fashion of glowing green cycling gear! In total between bag-packing and CD sales over €8,400 was fund-raised by the students.



The students were also involved in the college's Driaocht concerts and some travelled with Mr. Prosser to the Burren, and again in March a further trip to the Burren took place.

Very positive reports from employers have been coming back as a result of the final Work Placements by our students, and the college is most pleased and impressed by their efforts. We

are now working towards completing the final block of modules for the Transition Year, and preparations are underway for the Transition Year Graduation night.



TY Horticulture

As part of the Horticulture Transition Year Module, Rang De Hide were lucky to take part in a workshop hosted by visitor the school, Mr Paddy Madden, an environmentalist, scientist, educator and lecturer in Marino Institute of Education. Paddy discussed and demonstrated the science involved in Horticulture and showed the students how to test soil and make their own bio-degradable pots in which each student planted a pea, as well as demonstrating how to make a wigwam out of bamboo for the pea shoots to grow up along. Paddy also discussed with the students their hopes for CCC's first school garden and advised on the best way to go about it. It was a very enjoyable visit from a very knowledgeable and pleasant man and we hope to have him back to the school in the near future!





LCA2 Class Group



LCA1 Class Group

Leaving Certificate Applied

As is the tradition in the College, parents were invited in on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th of April to be with their sons / daughters as they opened the envelopes containing their certificate of results issued by the State Exams Commission. As befitting such a momentous occasion also present and ready to join in the celebrations were: the Assistant Year Heads, Year Heads and our Principal, Mr John Cronin.

Thursday 18th April was a happy occasion for the students in LCA Year 1. Credits were awarded for the completion of Key Assignments and The General Education Task. This year the students staged the LCA Christmas Concert as their Task. It was a very successful event and the wonderful results they achieved following their interviews were testament to this. At this meeting the parents got the opportunity to acknowledge the amazing success of their

sons / daughters. Targets were set for Session 2 and the students, feeling empowered by the great results from Session 1 are looking forward positively to the next set of results.

Friday 19th April was another day of celebrations, this time for the students in LCA Year 2. Credits were awarded for the completion of Key Assignments, The Contemporary Issues Task (students completed investigations into a wide range of issues such as: Eating Disorders, Autism, Bullying, Drugs in Sport, Heroin Addiction, Homelessness, Pollution, Travellers' Rights). The Practical Achievement Task (students attended Adult Education night classes to learn a new skill and once again the range was extensive: Indian Cookery, Interior Design, Tai Chi, Web Design, Healthy and Nutritious cooking) and the Vocational Education Task (this Task involved the specialism, I.C.T. and students produced booklets which saw them teach 1st year students how to use: Hotmail, Microsoft Excel, others produced booklets on Microsoft Paint, Introductions to Outlook.com, Powerpoint, while others created a booklet on ICT Theory). The students realised how important these results were and there was great excitement as they opened the envelopes and saw that they had exceeded the set targets. By doing this they now understand fully the need to excel in the State Exams so that their predicted grades can be realised. Overall, a wonderful 2 days for staff, parents and students.



Eggciting Easter trip to Butler's Chocolate Factory

As part of the 'enterprise' element of Office Administration and Customer Care, the students in LCA Year 1 enjoyed a day trip to this factory in Clonsaugh on Wednesday 20th March. The tour involved; watching a short movie on the story of chocolate, observing workers on the factory floor preparing for the busy Easter period and decorating their very own Easter bunnies. A great time was had by all as tasting of all the chocolates was compulsory!

Musical delights - LCA Concert

The students from LCA Year I, Rang Derg were very successful in organising the annual LCA Concert in November. Performers from all year groups took part and the concert was attended by the Transition Year students. It was an excellent concert which ran very smoothly. Rang Derg did themselves proud!

Drumming Workshop

Rang Derg participated in an African Drumming Workshop in March as part of a Key Assignment on World Music. It was an enjoyable workshop where the students were introduced to different types of drums and they got the opportunity to perform exciting African Rhythms.



Visit to Recording Studio

As part of a Key Assignment they also visited Salt Recording Studio in Sutton where they learned about: the Music Industry, recording studios, the job of a sound engineer and they got the opportunity to observe a real recording session in action. The students really enjoyed the experience.



Learning Support

As usual learning support is very busy. Student's get lots of opportunities to develop their skills both in learning support classes and in mainstream with their peers. Here we see two of our students enjoying taking part in a drumming session as part of their music option. It was a particularly enjoyable experience for all including our dedicated team of SNAs.

The department continue to support students with a diverse range of skills throughout the school in preparation for their in-house and state exams. We have an open door policy and we welcome any communication from parents.



Debating/Public Speaking

The College Debating Society has enjoyed another very successful year thanks to the enthusiasm & commitment of its Auditor, Daire Boyle and its many members. Amongst the highlights of the past year were:

- Ailbhe Kelly reaching the finals of the Leinster Schools Junior Competition for a second consecutive year.
- Conor O'Malley & Karl Rochfort being ranked 2nd & 4th respectively in the Matheson National Mace Competition and being amongst the eight finalists from an initial entry of over two hundred speakers.
- Aisling Tully & Christopher McMahon winning the Wesley Senior Mace.
- Aodhan Peelo being selected for the third consecutive year for the National Team that reached the Semi-Finals of the World Schools Championship in Turkey.
- Society hosting two very successful Mace Competitions, the Junior Final having Aodhan O'Riordan TD as its Guest Chair.
- Senior Public Speaking Team of Daire Boyle, Aodhan Peelo & Joseph Gregory qualifying for the Grand Final of the Mental Health Ireland Competition on April 27th in Trinity College.



Music



The Music Department have had another busy year:

- Inter-faith Celebration – This is an annual event where we welcome our first year students to the College.
- This year again, we were delighted to work with the Castleknock School of Music to award a scholarship to a second year student, Aoife Simm. She is currently taking classes in clarinet and is enjoying the experience.
- Draíocht – Following the success of the 10th Anniversary Concert in April 2005, the Musical Evening in 2008 and the celebration marking 15 years in the community in 2009, the staff and students of Castleknock Community College were proud to present a feast of music, song and dance on the 5th and 6th of December in the Draíocht Theatre in Blanchardstown. The programme was wide and varied and included Irish traditional, classical, choral and modern genres, giving the students and past pupils an opportunity to perform and showcase their talents. They were two wonderful nights of entertainment.
- We were delighted this year to be involved in a project to record a new Christmas song entitled 'I Believe in Christmas Once a Year'. The composer, Brian Coleman, who is a parent of a past pupil of the College, worked with the Music Department and the College Choir in the production of the CD. Proceeds raised from the sale of this CD went to Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin.
- Christmas Carol Service – The College Choir and the Chamber Choir performed a selection of Christmas Carols. This event was attended by members of the student body, staff, parents and friends of the College.
- Our annual LCA Concert also took place in December. This concert was organised by the Leaving Certificate I Applied class, Rang Derg and was attended by the transition year students. Performers from all year groups took part and once again did themselves proud!



- Our 3rd year and LC2 music students who sing and play guitar took part in workshops with teachers from the Salt Recording Studio in Sutton. This was a very worthwhile session which focused on vocal technique, performance and composition.
- Our LC2 Music students visited the Salt Recording Studio in February and recorded individual and group performances. They each received a CD of these performances and were presented with them at the Leaving Certificate Musical Evening which took place in the Kevin Barry Room in the National Concert Hall in March. Here, the students each performed a selection of the pieces they presented for their Leaving Cert practical for family, friends and staff. It was a wonderful night of entertainment.
- Drumming Workshop – Our first year and transition year students and the Leaving Certificate I Applied Class took part in a drumming workshop in March. This was a very enjoyable workshop where the students participated in various rhythm exercises and were introduced to the different drums and their cultural background. They performed a complete piece of African origin.
- The students took part in the annual Co. Dublin VEC 'Festival of Music' in the National Concert Hall in March. Molly Murphy-O'Kane, Oisín Murphy-O'Kane, Joseph Gregory, Daire Boyle, Mark Sheridan, Dylan O'Driscoll, Conor Maguire, Keith Farrell and the Show Choir were involved in solo and group performances on the night. Performances were of a very high standard and they were wonderful ambassadors for the College.
- Our 3rd and LC2 music students completed their practical examinations in April and they all achieved a very high standard of performance.
- Our Transition Year and LC2 students are currently preparing the music for their graduation ceremonies in May. We wish them all the best!



Congratulations to all the wonderful singers and musicians of the Show Choir as they brilliantly performed a repertoire of songs in various languages (English, Irish, Spanish, German, French and Zulu) on Friday 22nd March as part of the Intercultural Festival in CCC; "Music Knows No Frontiers".

Thank You, Merci, Gracias, Danke, Go Raibh Maith Agaibh!!
V. Tison & R. Glynn





Traditional Music Group

The goals of the College Traditional Music Group are to promote the enjoyment of Irish Traditional Music among students and to make a musical contribution both internally in the College and externally in our locality. In the past number of years, there have been many enjoyable events that they have been a part of such as the National Ploughing Championships, the Curragh races and playing support to performers such as Mick Hanley, Eleanor Shanley, Paul Kelly, Frankie Lane and Seamus Begley in Draiocht last May. This year, they performed at the Graduation of nurses at Connolly Hospital and at the LCA Concert in December. They also performed at the musical evening in Draiocht and for the Grandparents and students on Grandparent's Day in the College.

The Trad Group gave great performances in a variety of venues:

The focus before Christmas was the concerts in Draiocht where the Group were warmly received.

On a windy Sunday morning in January we participated in Temple Bar as part of Dublin's TradFest!

We accepted an invitation in March to be part of IBM's "Green Day" and Irish Dancers Orlan Nilan, Rosheen Cobbe, Ellen Tolan and Jack Quinn joined with the Group to provide the entertainment.



Art Department

On November 14th the Art Department hosted a very successful Art Exhibition providing a wonderful opportunity for the community to see first hand the excellent creations from the Junior and Leaving Certificate art classes of 2012.



Traditionally these works of Art have been kept under lock and key and exposed only to the State examiner before been taken home by our talented pupils. Our Art teachers, Ms. Bennett and Ms. Brady agree that this has always been something of a lost opportunity! Hence the idea of the exhibition was born to showcase the student's creative talent.

It was a very proud night for the student's involved and a wonderful occasion, one we hope will become an annual event.

This year also saw another wonderful success story develop in the Art Department. Second Year student Paul O'Neill entered a very accomplished design for the extremely popular 'Doodle 4 Google' competition. This is a national competition where students are invited to enter a design based on the infamous Google template. This year's theme was 'My Invention....'.



After 2,300 entries and 95,000 on line votes, Paul's design was selected as one of the 72 finalists. I think that you would agree that this was a wonderful achievement. On 15th April, Paul accompanied by his mother and Ms. Bennett, had the brilliant opportunity to attend the prize giving event in Google Head Quarters in Dublin city centre. Here Paul was afforded the fabulous opportunity of meeting the head 'Doodler' or illustrator in Ireland.

The Art Department would like to extend their congratulations to Paul for achieving such admirable accolades and for encouraging and inspiring his fellow classmates.





Sports

Sports in C.C.C.

Once again the College has had an astounding year of participation and involvement in a vast array of sports. Students participated in Gaelic Football, Hurling, Camogie, Hockey, Basketball, Cricket, Rugby, Tennis, Equestrian Events, Cross Country, Track and Field, Orienteering and Swimming.

With such a wide variety of Sports on offer, there is something for everyone to try! Many of our students have excelled on the sports field bringing many trophies home in the process. These include titles in Camogie, Gaelic Football, Basketball, Hockey, Cross country, Track and Field, Orienteering, Swimming, Equestrian and Rugby. It was indeed a very busy year but also a very rewarding year too.

Great co-operation was shown between school and clubs, teachers and parents, coaches and students and this was equally matched with the support and commitment shown by the school Management Team. Many of the activities would not have happened without the generous financial backing of the P.T.A. For the good will show by everyone involved, we wish to say a huge thank you! Together we create a very positive atmosphere and environment in which the students of Castleknock Community College can grow and develop their talents.



With so many of our students involved in sports and extracurricular, a friendly and happy vibe is very evident when you walk around C.C.C. In September, we welcomed our new first years into the heart of the sporting life of the college with the usual initiatives of "Sports-hour", 1st Year Hikes "Colours Day" and Inter-class Leagues. It was not too long before they showed their fine sporting abilities and they have taken the college to new sporting heights winning titles in Basketball, Camogie, Cross-Country Running, Orienteering and Track and Field. With such fine

and enthusiastic sportsmen and sportswomen in our midst, it is safe to say that the future is indeed very bright for Castleknock Community College.

Orienteering

This is the 5th year that the College have been competing in the Leinster League and Leinster Championships. As always, this sport continues to prove as popular as ever



with any number between 80 and 140 students taking part in any one event. To try and offer Orienteering to as many students as possible, places are offered to a different set of students at each event. There are a group of very interested and talented students who have been competing at each of the events over the last few years and they have experienced great success this year. This year the events were located in St. Anne Park, Tymon Park, Marley Park and Hell Fire Wood Rathfarnham. Students participate in the Orienteering in all weathers with great enthusiasm and determination. Courses can be tricky and challenging but it is always enjoyable and a great day out with friends. We are very proud to take our students to these events and have received many compliments from the organisers regarding the high numbers participating and their exemplary behaviour. We are very grateful to Frances Murphy, parent, for her continuing support of the Orienteering Programme in the school and to all the other parents who have helped with supervision during the season. Their support and help is invaluable.



Best results over the past year were:

Eoin Mc Cambridge	1st in 1st year Leinster League
Mairead Griffin	1st in 1st year Leinster League
Luke Kearney	1st in 2nd/3rd year Leinster League
Ailbhe Healy	1st in 2nd/3rd year Leinster League
Katie Brown	2nd in 2nd/3rd year Leinster League
Aoife Simm	3rd in 2nd/3rd year Leinster League

Leinster Championship:

Ailbhe Healy	1st in 2nd/3rd year Leinster Championship
Jean O'Brien	2nd in 2nd/3rd year Leinster Championship
Aoife Simm	3rd in 2nd/3rd year Leinster Championship
Mairead Griffin	
and Molly O'Neill	Joint 2nd in 1st yr Leinster Championship
Luke Kearney	3rd in 2nd/3rd yr Leinster Championship

Cross Country

This year's teams competed very strongly in the West Leinsters, which were held in the Phoenix Park in February. In all, 7 teams competed in Minor, Junior, Intermediate and Senior competitions. All teams ran with great pride and spirit. Our 1st year girls' team took 1st place in the team event. Junior girls team finished 2nd place while Intermediate



girls finished 3rd in the team event. Junior boys finished 3rd place while Senior boys also finished in 3rd place. Some fine individual results were recorded by Tara King, Eve Reilly, Paul O'Neill, Daire Walshe, Niamh O'Neill, Emma Johnson, Rachel Murray, Séan O'Malley and Oisín Murphy O'Kane. All qualifying teams went on to represent the college in the Leinster Schools in Santry Demense and acquitted themselves very well despite freezing cold conditions and a very tough and challenging course.



A further 4 teams competed in the Confined Schools Cross Country Event in the Phoenix Park in late February where Maeve Stynes, Luke Kearney and Patrick Mulhair particularly excelled. The standard improves every year and it is encouraging to see so many students willing to go out and run for their school. It certainly helps to build character in our students.

Track and Field

The Track and Field commenced early this year with the Medley Relays in early April. 7 teams represented our school from Minor through to Senior. The distance the 4 runners ran was a 500m, 300m, 300m and a 600m run in the last leg. All teams competed very well against stiff opposition. As many as 15 schools competed in some of the races. 1st year boys had a superb win with James Tolan bravely holding on to 1st place position on the finish line. Our Junior girls team took silver while Intermediate girls finished in 4th place, Junior boys, Intermediate boys and Senior boys had fine performances in what proved to be very competitive fields.

The West Leinster Track and Field Championships were held over 2 days, 23rd and 25th April. With many of our younger students training with local Athletic clubs, our teams overall performance was greatly boosted and enhanced. The school's distinctive green running vest has become a very familiar sight on the track as most of our athletes reached the final stages of their particular competition. Indeed many teachers from other schools complimented our students on their team strip and their exemplary behaviour.



Some outstanding results were recorded over the two days most notably from triple gold medal winners Jack Rudden Kelly and Aoife Simm. Jack won gold in 75metre Hurdles, High jump and Minor Boys Relay. Aoife won gold in High Jump, Hammer and Junior Girls Relay. Other outstanding achievements were:

Alex Clarkin

Gold in Long jump and Javelin

Ailbhe Healy

Gold in Pole vault and Junior relay

Eve Reilly

Gold in 75metre Hurdles

Phillip O'Ceallaigh
Sebastian O'Hanlon
Sarah Murray
Matthew O'Rourke

Silver in 1200m Walk
Bronze in 1200m Walk
Bronze in the Intermediate Javelin
Bronze Minor Discus.

Many other students were unlucky to just miss out on medals coming in 4th, 5th and 6th position but gained valuable points for our team. All of our students who competed were a credit to themselves, their families and we are extremely proud of them and their efforts. We look forward to another successful year next year and wish all those who qualified the best of luck in the Leinster Championships

Girls Hockey

This year proved a successful year for hockey at Castleknock Community College.

2ND Year girls gained entry into the final of the Dublin league after a close semi final against Skerries Community College. Our defence was constantly tested during this match and some excellent keeping skills were displayed by goalie Sarah Smith maintaining the score at 1.0. The team went on to compete against Holy Faith Clontarf in the final. This was a very tough match that saw excellent play by Ellen Farrell, Jessica Knox, Eimear Lyons and Caoimhe Sherlock. 1st Year Niamh McCrea stepped up to the daunting challenge of playing goalie. Unfortunately the girls lost 4.0 but their spirit was not defeated and Captain Sarah McIntosh handed out the silver medals to her team mates with great enthusiasm!

1st Years quickly rose to the top of their league with victories over Malahide Community School, St Wolstans, Manor House School and Mount Temple. They played Holy Faith Clontarf in a very tight semi final replay with a score of 1.1. After sudden death with extra time the score was still equal and the girls stepped up to a stomach churning penalty shootout. The 5 girls Sarah English, Meadhb Stynes, Niamh Langton, Kate Harrison and Jessica English who all braved the penalties secured the teams place in the final. The girls had really earned their place in the Dublin League final! Thankfully their winning streak was on a roll when they earned the title Dublin Champions in another very tight match against



Clontarf in Pembroke. The score was 2 v 1 with excellent goals from our centre-forward Sarah English and right mid Meadbh Stynes. The girls carried the trophy back to CCC with great pride and lots of singing and cheering on the bus.

Ms. Dunne, Ms. O'Connor and all the CCC hockey girls would like to say a huge thank you to the Irish Hockey Association, St Brendan's Hockey Club and Castleknock Hurling and Football Club for all their support. We would also like to express our appreciation to five special parents whom without their continued support, dedication and enthusiasm this hockey milestone would not have been possible - Louise Knox, May English, Bairbre Langton, Aisling Olden and Olga Smith.

Ms. J.L. Dunne.

Girls Basketball 2012-2013

Castleknock Community College fields teams that compete in the eastern region of The Basketball Ireland Post Primary Schools League. We enter teams into the Senior (under-19), Cadette (under-16), Minor (2nd years), and Junior (1st years) competitions. Each team competes against various secondary schools in the Eastern Region. This year the teams competed against Loreto Dalkey, Loreto St. Stephen's Green, Colaiste Chiarain (Leixlip), St. Joseph of Cluny, and Holy Family Newbridge. At the end of each team's league schedule they will compete in The Dublin (Eastern Regional) Playoff if they qualify. If the team reaches the final of that playoff they advance to The All-Ireland Schools League Cup.



This year our Senior and Cadette teams reached the Dublin Playoff's while the Minor and Junior teams barely failed to make the playoff.

The Minor and Junior teams were mainly composed of beginners or players with 1 year of basketball experience. Their improvement and progress with their individual skills as well as their team development has been at a high level. Much of this improvement is due to the hard work of their coach, Fiona Clancy, who

has brought them along with much time and enthusiasm. We were lucky to have 2 senior students, Georgina Duffy and Aisling Tully who mentored a "B" team in each of these age groups. These teams gained invaluable experience and skill sets both individually and as teams.

Our Cadette Team, coached by Fiona Clancy had a very successful season. Their enthusiasm and sense of joy for the game were clearly observed as they achieved

a place in The Dublin Playoffs. They were barely beaten by St. Joseph of Cluny in the semi-final. This team should be proud of their achievements this season.

Our Senior Team had a very successful season. The team finished in 1st place in The Dublin League and progressed to The Dublin Playoff where they were edged out by St. Joseph Cluny in the Championship game. In advancing to The All-Ireland Schools League Cup they travelled to Dingle for the Quarter Final Pool. Here they were beaten by 5 points by the eventual winners of the pool.

Our Senior Team also entered The All Ireland Schools Cup. Here the team beat teams from various areas of the country to reach The Final Four National Semi-Final which was held at The University of Limerick. The team fought a very tough Presentation Ballyphenane team from Cork but lost the national semi-final. After the game they were awarded 3rd place national medals. This team, coached by Ron Antoniotti, looks forward to next year as the team will lose only 2 players from this year's team.

Congratulations to Whitney Moia, a member of our Senior Team, who has progressed to the final stages of try-outs for The Irish National Under-17 Team.



A great year for Camogie in CCC

Camogie in the College has had a meteoric rise since its inception in 2010. This year we won both the Senior C and Junior C Dublin Colleges League. While many of our initial matches saw our teams enjoy comfortable leads, both finals were a true test of character and determination.

The Junior final was played on the Ballyboden St. Enda's All Weather Pitch on a day of gale force wind. Playing with the aid of the wind in the first half saw us with a lead of 5 – 4 to 1 – 0 by half time. The second half was a battle of wills with St. Mary's, Naas, coming back into the game and scoring three goals in quick succession. Our players defended solidly, repeatedly supporting each other and the forwards built on this with some clinically taken scores. The final score of 9 – 4 to 5 – 4 did not reflect the competitive and closely contested nature of the game.

The Senior final, played in Russell Park, had our opposition from Coláiste Cois Life, Lucan, get off to a great start. In the opening twenty minutes we struggled to get to grips with the game. During this period Coláiste Cois Life scored 2 – 1 and in the final minutes of the half we were fortunate, through good combination work in the forward line, to score a goal. This score gave us great hope for the second half and our players responded well by levelling the score mid-way through the half. With good pressure being applied by our forward line the Coláiste Cois Life goalkeeper was forced to bring off some good saves. Finally, we got the vital goal and with five minutes left to play our backline stood up to a wave of focused attacks by the Coláiste Cois Life forward line. The final twist in the game came with a rasping shot from a Coláiste Cois Life forward hitting our cross bar and being cleared under pressure by our goalkeeper. On the final whistle the score line of 4 – 1 to 3 – 1 was richly deserved given the spirited and determined efforts of our players.

As we go to press our U 14 team are competing in Division A in the Dublin Colleges League. This division will provide tough competition and we are delighted to have the opportunity to pitch our skills against the best in Dublin. All of us involved in camogie in Castleknock Community College are very grateful for the wonderful work put in by the mentors and coaches in both Castleknock Hurling and Football Club and St. Bridget's G.A.A. Club. We are also aware of the generosity of both clubs in allowing us the use of their facilities for matches and we thank them for their on-going support.





Special Events



Starsearch

Congratulations to all involved in this year's Starsearch Talent Competition which was produced and hosted by a team of dedicated transition year students in early February. Each year, TY students who elect to become involved in this annual event, do so as part of the 'Community Involvement' aspect of the Bronze Gaisce Award.



Under the tutelage of Ms Stokes and Mr Sutton, this year's team attended weekly production meetings which began in September. They ran auditions and chose finalists for the show itself, which is never an easy task with such fine CCC talent to choose from! They also worked exceptionally hard to produce what year on year, proves to be a sell out event and highlight of the school calendar for TYs and the student body alike.

Ciara Keegan (LC1) and Joseph Gregory (LC2), who raised the roof on both nights of the show, succeeded in winning Starsearch 2013, performing their own song 'No Included Batteries'. Jack Quinn, a 2nd year student, came second with a fine display of Irish dancing. Niamh Kiernan (LC1) and Daire Boyle (LC2) came third with their fantastic version of 'Little Talks'. This year's guest act featured the College's own show choir, led by Mr Glynn. The show choir is currently in its inaugural year and they've had great success, performing in Draiocht and more

recently in the National Concert Hall, proudly representing CCC in the VEC Festival of Music in March. They certainly went down a treat with the audience on both nights of Starsearch, as they performed a few hits which kept us all entertained while the judges made their deliberations!

The proceeds of Starsearch 2013 went to two very worthy causes this year, the Jack and Jill Foundation based here in Ireland and the Nhambia School Project in Mozambique.

As always, we encourage students from first year right up to LC2 to audition for the show, so if you think you've got what it takes to entertain the masses next year, go for it! . . . See you at Starsearch 2014!

Ms V. Stokes





LC1 Retreat in Dalgan Park

As a part of our fifth year religion module, myself and a group of students went to Dalgan Park, Navan co. Meath. Dalgan Park is home to the Columbian Missionaries who travelled the world helping the poor and spreading the word of God.

We were greeted by Gerard Clarke. Gerard leads Retreats and cares for the ecological development of the woodland around Dalgan Park. He has set himself the goal to have the residents of Dalgan Park self-sustainable in the near future. He started our day off with a short quiz that we were told was a Department of Education regulation! The quiz was something to get our minds moving and to get us reading between the lines.

We then put on our coats and got ready to explore the wonder that is Dalgan Park. Gerard opened our eyes to things as simple as the architecture of the building itself. We explored further into the grounds of the park, stopping every so often to appreciate different trees, plants and animals. We were taught the different adaptations of plants and the uses of different leaves in medicinal purposes. If you think that doesn't sound all that interesting rest assured if you give a half hour of your time to Gerrard Clarke and you will be awe struck.

After our adventures around the park we went back inside to the house. We watched a movie on the creation of the earth narrated by Morgan Freeman. The movie explained how the theory of the 'Big Bang' happened and how we evolved into our race. This retreat would appeal to the nature enthusiast, the spiritual and the scientific. This retreat opened our eyes to all things nature, the beauty of it and the efforts we need to make to save it. All in all a trip to Dalgan Park is a day well spent.

By Katie Deegan and Laura Bradshaw

National Model United Nations (NATMUN)

Twelve Castleknock Community College students took part in the National Model United Nations competition held in UCC over the weekend 9-11 November 2012. NatMUN sees delegations consisting of six students representing countries assigned to them in committees based on the United Nations' most important bodies e.g. the Security Council, the International Criminal Court, and the Economic and Social Council.

The Conference has two primary objectives: To increase awareness of the United Nations and international affairs in general amongst Irish secondary students, and to give students an opportunity to develop their speaking and diplomatic skills in this unique arena. CCC comprised of 2 delegations - France and Iraq - and our Transition Year students competed with 170 other senior students from across Ireland. So successful were they, that 3 of the students - Sean McGuane, Sarah Molloy and Aisling Tully were awarded Best Delegate in their committees at the closing awards ceremony on Sunday. The students involved were Deirdre Ni Cheallaigh, Brandon Byrne, Ciaran Maguire, Paul Molloy, Rebecca Armstrong, Georgina Duffy, Katie Deegan, Aisling Keaney and Yasmine Tadjine.

The Model United Nations format is new to Ireland, and lends itself perfectly to the expanding international awareness within CCC who have already been successful in sending numerous Transition Year students to the European Parliament in Strasbourg through their European Studies module.



French Department

*M*erci à notre sponsor Cuisine de France pour le Petit-Déjeuner français in aid of Childline (October 2012). And a Big Thank You to you the students who donated money; €2,020 was raised!!!



*D*écembre 2012.
Dégustation de Cassoulet et Escargots... Quelle aventure !!!!
Bon appétit !



*T*he ever popular French Play was held again this year on 13th and 14 of March for all 2nd year, 3rd year, LCI and LC2 students studying French.



Students help with Sports Day



Each year Transition year students help out with St. Patrick's Primary School's Sportsdays. This year Rang De Híde students took up the challenge and worked with the staff and students of St. Patrick's to ensure that both days were successfully organised, and everyone enjoyed themselves fully.

Student Council

The Student Council is made up of two representatives from every class in the school and our sixth year prefects. The Student Council offers the students a platform to voice their opinions and concerns. Since September, the Student Council has met five times to discuss the students' ever changing needs in our school. We have covered many topics including, but not limited to, cyber bullying, the uniform policy and we also worked on the denied proposal for our sports hall and new classrooms. Yet again the Student Council travelled to Westmanstown for our annual day-long seminar and dinner. The students of CCC are glad to have an opportunity to have a voice in the running of our school.

(Heather Fitzpatrick, LCI - Member of the Student Council)

A team of 20 LC2 students worked in the role of prefect during the academic year 2012/13. Prefects are responsible for chairing the Student Council meetings as well as assisting with lunch-time supervision and representing the school at important school events. This photo was taken at this year's annual Student Council seminar held in Westanstown on 15th April 2013. The prefects made a presentation to a past teacher, Ms Ada Broderick. Ms Broderick was responsible for setting up and running the Student Council and Student Leadership programmes in CCC. We thank the prefects for their dedication during the year and wish them well in their Leaving Certificate

(Oonagh Carroll, Student Council Facilitator 2012/13)



Grandparents Day - 15th March 2013

On the bright, clear morning of March 15th, the transition year students applied the finishing touches to the canteen and waited for the ninety grandparents to start arriving. Grandparents' Day at Castleknock Community College is an annual event that allows the grandparents of our first year students experience a day of school life with their grandchild.

The grandparents were directed to the canteen where the first year year head, Mr Eoin O'Maoileoin and grandparents' day coordinator, Mr Darran Breathnach, welcomed them to the college. They all seemed very excited about the day and enjoyed meeting new people.

So that they could experience the school day, they began attending classes with their grandchildren at eleven. Teachers and students spent the day learning about the differences between school then and now. Stories were told about punishments for answering questions wrong. The first years quickly realised just how different school is now.

The grandparents got to experience geography, C.S.P.E, P.E, religion and French, to name a few. During P.E. an exciting experience got under way. The grandparents were taught the dance to Gangnam Style. This was an extremely enjoyable experience for everyone involved and the highlight of the day for many.

After lunch and two more classes, a concert was put on in the canteen. The performers included, Mark Sheridan, Keith Farrell, Conor Murphy, Dylan O'Driscoll, Ciara Keegan who all performed at the National Concert Hall on Tuesday 12th of March and then many more of the musical students in school.

The Traditional Music group then performed as well as some Irish dancers from the O'Shea school of dancing. The grandparents seemed to really enjoy this section of the concert and clapped along with each tune.

The concert was a fantastic way to showcase the musical and dancing talents in Castleknock Community College. It proved to be an enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

At the end of the day a transition year student, Alex Hannigan, described the day as showing 'a great sense of community and togetherness in our school.'

All the Transition Year students were very proud of all the work they put in and hope that next year is just as successful.



Green Finger Inspiration from *Áras an Uachtaráin*

As a part of the Transition Year Module, Rang Hillery amongst a few others from De Hide took a trip to visit our neighbour, President Michael D. Higgins in Áras an Uachtaráin in the Phoenix Park. This was with thanks to Alan Molloy's mother who is one of the gardeners at the Áras. Unfortunately Mr Higgins was away on official state business in Italy so he couldn't show us around the grounds but he left us in the hands of his trusty head gardener John, who very kindly took us on a tour about the gardens of the presidential residence.

To the front of the house we were shown the two harp shapes that were created from box hedging that were filled with over 10,000 red tulips that were all planted by the hands of John's team of gardeners. Then we were shown the various oak trees that have been planted by visiting dignitaries to the state, such as the Queen and Barack O'Bama and we were told a few anecdotal tales about their visits. We were also shown where the President likes to hold his garden parties during the summer months situated on a vista which faces on to the Dublin mountains, and the colourful flowers his wife and himself favour in the garden.

John then took us to see the ceremonial trees which had been planted by various visitors to the grounds throughout history and then to a sensory bed he and his colleagues had planted for visiting groups with special needs to enjoy. Each of the plants that had been planted were to provoke the different senses of sight, smell, taste and touch. One such plant was called the Citronella tree, which when you rubbed its leaves you could smell a strong citrus scent from your fingertips.

We then visited the vegetable garden, which John informed us was certified organic and that it took a lot of manual labour to keep going, as all weeds had to be pulled by hand. All of the organic vegetables that are grown in the gardens are then used for cooking in the kitchens of the Áras. We were also shown the orchard, the hen house and the bee hives. Áras an Uachtaráin honey won the coveted prize of the best honey in Ireland this year through a blind tasting competition, and we were informed President Higgins likes to have it on his porridge every morning!

Not only did we get to see the gardens but we also visited the Garda Mounted Unit which is also located on site, where we got to look around the stables and meet some of the reliable Irish bred horses and luckily escaped having to muck out the stables which we discovered they have to do three times a day.

All in all a great day was had by everyone and the weather staying dry with blue skies and a slight bit of sunshine, added to the visit. Sincere thanks to John and Mrs Molloy for facilitating the trip, hopefully next time we will be able to go inside for tea and scones with the President.

M Brady (TY Horticulture)



What does my school mean to me?

- My school means that there is a place where I'm accepted. It's a place that if I were to disappear, they would notice. I am treated as an individual, not just a face in the crowd. It's a place where my achievements are recognised and celebrated and my problems are reducing with the support and encouragement of staff and friends. It's a place where hard work and enjoyment are always in perfect harmony. School means I'm a better person.
- My school is a place that I am extremely proud to attend. Along with the learning opportunities and the success of teams and clubs, it's a place to be with friends and make memories that I will never forget. Although, at times there's a lot of pressure and stress, all in all, I am very happy that I have the opportunity to go to school and such a great one at that. I really enjoy going to school. I love the atmosphere in school and the bond and respect I have for my teachers.
- My school is a place where everyone is included. There is a great sense of community which I feel every day. There are so many different clubs and activities available to us and everyone becomes extremely close. We have fantastic teachers that help us become well-rounded people. Everyone looks out for each other and you make friends for life. Even though we have rules, I feel that it all works out for our benefit. We are a close knit family that celebrates achievements and consoles each other when things are tough.
- For me, attending Castleknock Community College means much more than receiving an education. Since I've arrived in this school, I've matured and had the support of many teachers, who have all contributed to my personal development. I am very proud to be a student of CCC and hold the school in high regard. I've thoroughly enjoyed my six years in CCC and will be very sad to leave in May.
- This school has allowed me to develop through the years. I have made new friends, have learned so much and through my experiences here have matured into a young adult. Because of this school, I will be able to follow my dreams and my chosen career. I could not be any more thankful to the staff of my school and it will be genuinely upsetting to say goodbye.



- School is where you go to as a child and leave as an adult. CCC is an extraordinary place. You learn all the essential skills you need for adulthood and in my opinion, it has made me in to the person I am today. Everyone feels safe in this school and everyone, including teachers, has an interest in you and cares how you are getting on. They help you deal with the milestones. You learn more than subjects, you are taught life skills. CCC is a wonderful, vibrant, positive school that helps everyone.
- The school is a community, a support network of friends and teachers, where I feel comfortable, can have a laugh as well as learning the odd thing!

Cyber Bullying

With growing concerns around the issue of Cyber Bullying, the students of Castleknock Community College decided to take the initiative and embarked on a campaign to highlight the risks with students and parents. The students came up with the slogan “CCC says No to Cyber Bullying”. They developed a class activity that was delivered by the LCI Mentors to students through the SPHE class. These sessions took place in the Computer Room and students were taught by their peers how to stay safe online and when active on social media sites. This initiative was hugely successful and on 29th January, an information evening on the topic was held for parents with the mentors on hand to conduct workshops. The students worked very closely with Ms. O'Neill, Mr. Nolan and the Parents Association in developing this project. Well done to all the students involved!



Young Social Innovators (YSI) 2013

The Young Social Innovators programme is about enabling and encouraging young people to participate in creating a fairer, more caring & equal society. The program enables young people to come to grips with difficult social issues, campaign for reform and bring about change. This year, our YSI group decided upon suicide and mental health as the social issue that they felt most passionately about.

When the group came together last September they began the year getting to know one another and then they got down to the task of discussing social issues that they could explore, and hopefully bring about change in, as part of their YSI project. One week, during these discussions, we invited a guest speaker from Sonas Housing to talk to the class about one social issue in particular, domestic violence. From this visit we discovered the important work that this organisation does for woman made homeless from domestic violence. Following this, the class did a fantastic job organising a non-uniform day to raise money for the Sonas.

Ultimately, the group decided that they wanted to focus on trying to reduce instances of suicide and highlight ways for young people to improve their mental health. The next step in their project was to think of what they could do about this issue.

The class decided that social media would be the most effective way to get a message out to their target audience, that suicide is never the answer and what steps could be taken to help a young person struggling with feelings of depression. The group are currently working on creating a YouTube Channel and once this is created, they hope to encourage fellow students to link it to their Facebook page, thus spreading their message amongst the student body and the wider community.

In March our YSI group travelled to the Helix in DCU to present their project to a panel of judges at the annual YSI 'Speak Out'. This was followed up by a comprehensive report on our work to date. We recently got the results of our project and the class was delighted to see that their overall project scored a very good grade.





Fingal Enterprise Awards

There was success for CCC students at the Fingal Enterprise Awards, when 5 Transition Year students won the Fingal Student Enterprise Awards for their product 'Music by Numbers', a new user-friendly system for learning piano scales. The five students; Ciaran Maguire (Production and Finance), Paul Molloy (app and website design), Conor O'Ceallaigh (Head of Marketing), Alex Prosser (Head of Sales) and Brandon Byrne (Business Report), produced a book and an android app for Music by Numbers, and have had great success as the book is now stocked in 17 shops and schools throughout Ireland. They represented Fingal at the National Finals for the Enterprise Awards, and won a Special Merit Award. But it didn't stop there, as they were off to Barcelona for their prize after winning the Fingal Enterprise Awards. They spent 4 days in the historic city, where they took in all the sights, went to see the Barcelona v Real Betis match, presented a powerpoint to a local government organisation about their business and got plenty of sun of course!!



Germany 2013

On Monday 11th February 2013, Dublin Airport came alive with the excited rumblings of 80 LCI students destined for the early flight to Frankfurt, Germany. Mr. McCluskey led his troop of students and the accompanying teachers on this much-anticipated four-day trip. With a hectic itinerary taking in sites such as European Central Bank, Städél Museum, Frankfurt Stock Exchange and Frankfurt Modern Art Museum, the days flew by. Onward bound towards Heidelberg, where students experienced the essence of German architecture and the culture of this historic town. The snow even fell!!!! Strasbourg was our final destination where the group explored this wonderful historical city by night, followed the next day with a trip to the European Parliament. It is true to say that those who travelled on this trip, students and teachers alike, have experienced and explored some wonderful sites and definitely have unforgettable memories. A magical time was had by all.



Adult Education-Night Classes – a World of Education in your Local Community!

- Our Adult Education-Night Classes programme was first launched in 1999. Since then, the number of participants enrolled in our night classes has grown dramatically, as has the number of courses on offer. The current Director of Adult Education is Paul Mc Corry.
- There are two terms each academic year. The Autumn Term generally commences towards the end of September, with the Spring Term getting under way towards the end of January.
- An extremely comprehensive and diverse range of classes are available, with over 70 exciting courses on offer each term! Courses vary from professional qualifications such as the NUI Maynooth Certificate course in Psychology, right through to classes on gardening, flower arranging, cooking, psychology, painting, reflexology, spanish, italian, pilates, ta chi, yoga and ballroom dancing, to name but a few!
- Our brochures are widely available in the local area with over 10,000 delivered door to door each term. Copies of our brochure are also freely available in the school office and can be downloaded from the Adult Education Section of the College's website at www.castleknockcc.ie.
- Enrolment in our Night Classes is both flexible and easy! You can enrol in person at one of our Enrolment Nights or by post by availing of our simple and convenient Postal Enrolment facility. On-line enrolment, paying by laser/ credit card is by far the most convenient and hassle free way to enrol and is available via the Night Classes section of the County Dublin V.E.C. website at www.codubvec.ie.
- If there is any group of ten or more people in the community interested in any particular course currently not on offer in our programme, please contact the Director of Adult Education and we will do our best to facilitate you.
- Should anyone be interested in teaching a course currently on offer in our programme, or would like to teach a course not presently available, please contact the Director of Adult Education.
- If you have any queries concerning Adult Education, please feel free to contact us at any time. You can contact the college on 822 1626 or you can contact the Director of Adult Education directly on 812 9340 or by e-mail at nightclasses@castleknockcc.ie.
- Further information on the Department can also be found via the Adult Education section of the college's website at www.castleknockcc.ie.



Coláiste Pobail Caisleán Cnucha
Castleknock Community College
 Carpenterstown Road, Castleknock, Dublin 15

Tel: 01-822 1626
Fax: 01-822 1630
email: admin@castleknockcc.ie
School Roll No: 76062B

Principal: Mr. John Cronin
Deputy Principals: Ms Carmel O'Neill
 Mr. John Hopkins



COMITÉ GLANNUDEACHAIS CHONTAE AITHA CLAYTON
 COUNTY DUBLIN VOLUNTARIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE