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KILKENNY

2017

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ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE PAST PUPILS NEWSLETTER

Christmas Newsletter



Message from the President

Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan

The Christmas story reminds us that God became man. I think part of the reason that the divine became human was to teach us that, with his help, we can partake in the divine. Such is the potential of our humanity. If I have failed to learn this from the Christmas story, I could not avoid it here in St Kieran's College.

We are blessed each day to see our students and staff going about their business with immense dedication and commitment so that all here can fulfil their potential. Our mission tells us that we will do everything academically, spiritually, physically and emotionally so our students are encouraged to strive for all that is possible in the relentless pursuit of perfecting their individual gifts and talents. The recent report from this year's Department inspection of our school affirmed that "this mission is lived out in practice". This newsletter, then, offers more evidence of that wonderful spirit that is St Kieran's. A spirit that was created by generations of you, the past pupils, and one that we try to live up to today.

I want to thank all those who make this possible: the College Trustees, our Board of Management, the Parents and their Association, the Students and their Council, our staff and the Past-Pupils Alumni. We have a great community, in the school and beyond it, and we wish you all a most blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Outstanding LC Results



Eamon Fennelly (left) 1st in LC Chemistry and Ciarán Lennon (right) top 3 in LC Maths results in Ireland.

Science & Maths Olympiad



Eoin Morgan - Top 1% in Ireland, Science and Maths JC Results. Represented Ireland at International Science Olympiad (Bronze Medal).

Maximum Points in LC



Eamonn Fennelly, Ciarán Lennon, Kieran Lucey and Brian Hennessy. Absent from photo: Jack Manning. All received 625 points in their LC Results 2017.

Message from the Principal

Mr Adrian Finan

Bhúr gcéad fáilte go dtí nuachtitir na Nollag 2017. It has been a busy and rewarding year so far for all at St Kieran's College and this publication affords us the opportunity to thank our staff and students (past and present) for all their hard work during the course of the past few months and all of our parents/guardians for their continued support, particularly during our recent and very successful WSE-MLL which will be published in the coming months.

I congratulate our students for their efforts in so many academic, sporting and cultural activities. Our students continue to bring great honour to the College and its tradition through their outstanding achievements. It is our great privilege to work each day with such talented and enthusiastic young men and we are justifiably proud of their many successes, none more so than the exceptional results achieved in the Leaving Certificate by the class of 2017.

I would also like to acknowledge the Trustees, the members of the Board of Management, the Parents' Association, the Students' Council and the Past-Pupils Alumni for all their ongoing efforts for the benefit of everyone in the school. On behalf of the whole school community I'd like to wish our staff, students, parents/guardians, past-pupils and friends a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

2017 news



Leaving Cert Students who received Entrance Scholarship Awards in UCD: (l-r) Ciarán Lennon, Gary Moore, Enda Keneally, Eamonn Fennelly, Cian Burke, Conor Dyson, Brian Hennessy, Eric Mahon, Conall Whelan.



Entrance Scholarship Awards at DCU: (l-r) Jack Manning, Mr Liam Smith, Diarmuid Minnock.



Trinity Entrance Exhibition Award: (l-r) Kieran Lucey and Peter Mullan.



P McManus Scholarship Award: (l-r) Brian Hennessy & Kieran Lucey.

LEAVING CERT RESULTS 2017 & SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Academically, 2017 was another highly successful year for St Kieran's College students. Five students received the maximum 625 points while 52% received over 400 points. Eamonn Fennelly got the top result in Ireland in Honours Chemistry while Ciarán Lennon came in the top three in Ireland for Honours Maths. Some students have already received scholarships in their chosen Third Level University based on their excellent Leaving Cert results.

Any familiar faces?



1988/All-Ireland



Leaving Certs 1992



Leinster Soccer Cup Champions 1993



Juveniles 1968



Leaving Cert 1981

Diary Dates

JANUARY

- Wednesday 10th: Leinster Senior Hurling Championship V KK CBS (Round Robin) - see website for venue and time.
- Sunday 21st: St Kieran's College Tractor Run - Cillian Hill 9.00 am. (See website for any changes closer to the date)
- Friday 26th: Retired Garda Mass. (See website for times and any changes closer to the date)

- Monday 29th- February 2nd: Catholic Schools Week.
- Monday 29th- February 2nd: TY Work Experience (expect some calls looking for placement!).
- Monday 29th- February 2nd: Mock Examinations.

FEBRUARY

- Monday 5th - 9th: TY Work Experience (Expect some more calls looking for placements!).
- Monday 5th - 9th: Mock Examinations.

MARCH

- Thursday 1st: St Kieran's Day Mass - St Mary's Cathedral 10.00 am.
- Saturday 10th: Entrance Assessment Test - Incoming First Years.

MAY

- Monday 21st: End of Year Awards Evening - Watergate Theatre 8.00pm.

JUNE

- Saturday 30th: Golf Classic (TBC) - keep an eye on the social media for updates.
- Saturday 30th: Reunion of all years with specific focus on the Leaving Cert classes of 1988, 1992, 1993 (a lot repeated those years!) and 1998. (TBC)

Message from the St Kieran's College Alumni Chairperson Alan Buckley

The year 2017 saw the newly formed St. Kieran's College Past Pupils Alumni Association commence a programme of activities that brought a large number of past pupils together, many of them for the first time since they left the College. Our objective has been to establish an active and vibrant Association for the benefit of current and past pupils and we were delighted to be able to host our inaugural annual event on the grounds of the College in June of this year.

A large number of past pupils attended, some of whom travelled from across the world to attend the event and it was great to see the pride in re-connecting with the College evident over the course of the weekend. The dedication of a Plaque to the late Fr Tommy

Maher by the legendary Míceál Ó Muircheartaigh was a particular highlight, but all who attended thoroughly enjoyed meeting up with old friends over the course of the weekend.

Our plan for next year is to continue to grow the Association and provide former students with an ongoing active link with the College. It's been a privilege to be part of such a great school and now as former pupils we have the opportunity to continue this connection into the future.

I'd like to thank the President, College Staff, pupils and Alumni committee for their assistance and support during the year and wish them all a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Alumni Weekend 2017



High School Musical

The male cast of High School Musical

**The Musical is back!
Remember the days of West Side Story and Smike!**

St Kieran's College TY students, in association with Loreto Secondary school are excited to announce their production of High School Musical, which will be showcased in May 2018. The students are working tremendously hard in rehearsals, singing, dancing and acting. This thrilling musical composed by Walt Disney will be filled with familiar sing along songs such as 'Wildcat Cheer' and 'Start of Something New'. Massive thanks to all students and staff who are so dedicated in producing a memorable musical experience. Remember Wildcats "We're all in this together!"

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



We are very lucky to have two Chaplains working to support the students, Ms Rebecca Loughnanne and Mr Fergal Brennan. As a support and guide for students, staff and management, the chaplains are intrinsic to the fabric and mission of the school in order to promote and nourish the spiritual, social and personal development of students in our care. This year, as well as the continuous care of our students, the chaplains have organised the opening year mass, November remembrance services, liturgies for the Christmas carol services, first, second and third year retreats, Christmas Shoebox Appeal, the 'Cairdeas' programme helping first years to settle in, the development and sustainability of the 'Amber Flag' mental health awareness programme while also contributing to many other aspects of school life. If any past pupils feel they can contribute to the school Chaplaincy programme, get in touch with Mary in the school office.

ALUMNI BOARD: Pat Gannon, Eddie Keher, Diarmuid Healy, Peter Barry, Shane Doyle, Dermot Ryan, Willie Maher, Cathal Fitzgerald, Liam Smith and Alan Buckley. All suggestions welcome. Email: pastpupils@stkieranscollege.ie

Sports & Extra Curricular Activities

As always, there is a great amount of sport and extra-curricular activities happening in the school.

Our First Years have all participated in the Kilkenny County Board Hurling Blitzes and in the First Year Leinster Hurling League. There have been four hurling teams in action at U16 level and the Senior Hurling Team are now well up and running having won the Leinster League Title and are now concentrating on the championship. Our U14 Gaelic Footballers had a good run in the Leinster Championship and the U16s are going well. All soccer teams are

making good progress both on a local and national level. The Cross Country teams are busy preparing for their season which kicks off with the DCU Invitational in the New Year. St Kieran's hosted our annual Inter-schools Equestrian Event in November which was a great success. Basketball is now on offer in the school gym at lunchtime while our Chess team are also making good progress. Below are some of the main highlights of the year so far to give a flatter of the great work that takes place throughout the year each week in the area of extra-curricular work. We would like to thank all of the teachers who give so generously of their time in these areas.



The Junior Choir performing at Carols in the College - 12th December 2017.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR CHOIRS

Christmas is always a very busy time for our Junior and Senior Choirs and this year was no exception. Ms O'Connor had both choirs well prepared for three carol services and Carol Singing in the Town Hall for the Kilkenny/Carlow Home Care Team. Well done to all musicians and those in both the Junior and Senior Choirs on what has been another very successful Christmas season. We look forward to hearing more from both of our school choirs in the New Year.

Trad Group

The Traditional Irish Music Group also recently spent an afternoon with the residents of the Archersrath and TennyPark Nursing Homes. An enjoyable experience for all. Well done to everyone involved..



Some of the Trad Group Members performing at Archersrath Nursing Home recently: (l-r) John Canny, Adam Noonan, JJ Ryan, Peter Holohan.

Jazz Band

Alex Doheny, Sixth Year, received a High Achievers Award from the Royal Irish Academy of Music after obtaining a distinction in his Grade 6 alto saxophone examination. Approximately 42000 candidates take part in the RIAM instrumental music examinations nationwide each year, with high achievers awards being given to only 300 students. Alex performed with the St Kieran's College Jazz Band at the "Cream of Kilkenny Cats" Christmas Concert in the Watergate on Friday 15th December. Many thanks to our Jazz teacher Mr Eamon Cahill for all the hard work with the Jazz Band. we look forward to hearing more from this group in the New Year.



The St Kieran's College Jazz Band who performed at Carols in the Chapel and at the "Cream of Kilkenny Cats" Christmas Concert in the Watergate Theatre.

All-Ireland Handball

Eoin Brennan (Sixth Year) and Jack Doyle (Third Year) won the U19 All-Ireland and Leinster Colleges Doubles Handball titles this year.



Jack Doyle and Eoin Brennan U19 Doubles All-Ireland Colleges Champions 2017-18.

Leinster Golf Champions

The St Kieran's College Senior Golf Team won the Leinster Final in very difficult weather conditions on Thursday 14th December. The team have played well all year to date having won the regional final early in the school year. This is the first Leinster Title in Golf for St Kieran's and we wish the lads every success in the All-Ireland series which will take place in April 2018. Well done to all involved.



Senior Golf Leinster Champions: (l-r) Michael O'Shaughnessy, Shane Whelan, James Everard, Ms Anne Wemyss, Ned Kirwan, Patrick O'Shea, Seán Manogue.

Junior Hurling Leinster & All-Ireland Champions 2017-2018

Back Row: Stephen Barron, Peter Donohoe, Tomás Leahy, Alex Moore, Peter McDonald, Eoin Delahunty, David Conway. Third Row: Liam Barron, Padraig Foley, Ciarán Rice, Stephen Keoghan, Diarmuid Galway, Kieran Buckley, Darren Cuddihy, Ciarán Mullen, Andy Hickey. Second Row: Mr Brian Dowling, Jack Doyle, Ronan Lavelle, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Darragh Maher, Oisín Egan, J.P. Gamble, Thomas Nugent, Jack Sheridan, Mr Richie Ruth. Front Row: Eoin Guilfoyle, Jamie Harkin, Padraig Moylan, Conor Kelly, Harry Walsh, Killian Rudkins, Jim Ryan, David Fogarty, Denis Walsh, Conor Fitzpatrick.

