



# *ST. JOSEPH'S SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER*

**Proud of our Past, Confident of our Future**

May 2012  
Vol. 13 Issue 7



## Principal's Message

St. Joseph's Secondary School was founded in 1858 and has a proud tradition in offering an excellent teaching and learning experience to second level students in the local and wider community. The school is under the trusteeship of Edmund Rice Schools Trust.

We offer a Junior and Leaving Certificate curriculum and the Transition Year programme. Our academic courses are complemented with a wide range of extra-curricular activities which are detailed in this newsletter. Our medium term plans

include an extension to the school to accommodate additional workshops and a laboratory. This will facilitate offering additional subjects at Leaving Certificate. It is difficult to portray in this newsletter all that happens in St. Joseph's and you are welcome to call to the school, or you can download our prospectus from our website.

Best wishes,

David Madden, Principal.

## Extension to School Approved

The Department of Education and Skills has given approval for an extension to the school building commencing in the 2014-2015 school year. The new extension will include two additional woodwork/construction studies workshops, two technology workshops, wood machine workshop, an additional art room, two science labs, resource suite, eight classrooms and additional office space. The new facilities will enable us to offer Construction Studies and Technology at Leaving Certificate level and offer additional school places. The project is currently at the design stage with the Building Unit in the D.E.S.



**Check out the latest news on our School's Website  
[www.droghedacbs.ie](http://www.droghedacbs.ie)**



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## **Peadar Mc Cann Awards**

St. Joseph's CBS Past Pupils' Union hosts their annual Peadar Mc Cann Awards evening in the school in the first term of each school year and celebrate the achievements of students of the previous academic year. On Monday Nov 28th 2011 the Past Pupils Union hosted the evening and guest speakers were past-pupils Dr. Conor McMahon and Louth GAA centre-forward, David Reid . The following is the list of prize-winners.

### **Leaving Certificate Winners**

Peadar Mc Cann Award for best Leaving Certificate 2011 went to Ronan Califf

Gold Medal Winners:

Jonathan Dunphy, Leaving Cert. 2011

David Stephenson, Leaving Cert. 2011

Carl Dunne, Leaving Cert. 2011

### **Junior Certificate Students**

Peadar Mc Cann Award for best Junior Certificate 2011 went to Ross Murphy,

Gold Medals Winners:

Emmet Murphy, Junior Cert. 2011

Seán McConnell, Junior Cert. 2011

### **Sports Awards**

Paddy Hallinan Cup: Ross Nally for Most Promising Young Gaelic Player

PPU President's Award went to Conor Young

Br. Hunt Sport Star of the Year: Leo Mc Grane, 6th Year



Ross Murphy, Ciarán Brennan and David Coffey, previous recipients of the Peadar McCann Award for academic excellence

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### **Parents' Council**

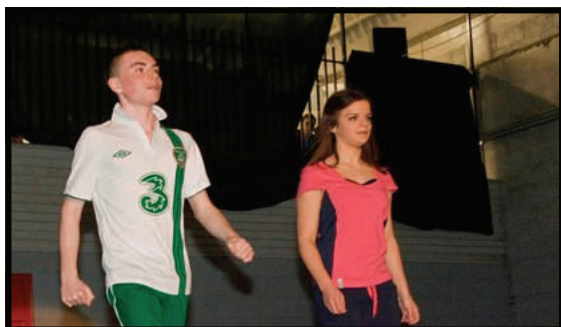
The Parents Council has had a very busy year. In addition to supporting the work of the school, the council has organised financial support for the school's sports clubs and activities. The following fundraising was carried out:

Soccer Team Kit €500; Basketball Kit €350; Rugby €350 and Golf €250.

In addition the council supported other activities that students participate in such as the School's India Project (€1,000); the Breakfast Club (€500) and outdoor benches (€650) for the Memorial Garden and School grounds for use of the students.

The Parents' Council ran two fundraisers this year, the Christmas Card Project yielding €1,000 and the very successful Fashion show which netted €8,500. (picture below)

The officers of the Parents' Council are Ms Bernie Reilly, Chairperson, Ms Eileen Butterly, Secretary and Mr Ray Mitchell, Treasurer.



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### **The Students' Council.**

The Students' Council plays a very important part in the life of the school because it lets the students have a say in what is happening in the school and allows them to give their own ideas about what can be improved in the school.

To be a member of the Students' Council one has to apply in writing and this form is signed or endorsed by three teachers. All the applicants are divided into their year groups and it is up to the students in the year group to elect the candidates from their year group. At the end of the elections the eight successful candidates are interviewed by a teacher and a parent and the four successful applicants are appointed to the Council for the year. Already this year the Student's Council has achieved the following:

- Reduced the cost of evening study
- Organised a Jersey Day in aid of the St. Vincent DePaul
- Organised a pool tournament which is reaching its final stages at the present time
- Organised the location of more litter bins around the school.

Our plans for the next year include the seeking of vending machines and the making of a school calendar. But all of this could not have happened without the help, support and generosity of Mr Madden and the staff of St. Joseph's.

Christopher Savage, Students' Council

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## Helping First Year Students to Settle In

It has been an exciting and eventful year for the ten senior prefects appointed this year to assist incoming First Year students to make a successful transition from primary to secondary school. After a thorough application, interview and selection process, the ten of us attended a special training day with Chris Glavey from Marino Institute of Education. Working closely with the School Guidance Counsellors, Mr O Briain and Ms O Doherty, as well as Form Tutors and the Year Head, we have been visiting First Year classes, meeting with students and organising various events to help new students settle in, to make new friends and participate fully in school life.

Among the many highlights of the year were the Fun Quiz for Charity held for First Year students in the gym at Christmas.

The year has come to a very successful and enjoyable conclusion with the Senior Prefects organising a trip for the students to Funtasia where a splashing time was had by all.

The Senior Prefects have also played an ambassadorial role, helping out and representing the student body at many events including Parent Information Evenings, Parent Teacher Meetings, School Assessments and Career/Guidance Activities, as well as working closely with the Students' Council.

Being a Senior Prefect has enabled us to achieve great leadership, communication and team-building skills. I have really enjoyed working with the First Years and getting to know them so well. On behalf of the ten of us - Christopher Savage, (Chairperson), Ross Murphy, Peter Hand, Andrew King, Ronan Mc Quaile, Sean McLoughlin, Sean Hodgins, David Sharkey, Mark Hoey and myself - I would like to thank the school for offering us the opportunity to grow as individuals.

Cathal Thornton, Senior Prefect



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## St. Joseph's Secondary School Acclaimed as the Top Ranked All-Boys School in Louth

ST JOSEPH'S Secondary School has been acclaimed as the top ranked all- boys school in Louth and one of the best in Leinster in a league table of schools according to an Irish Times report in November 2011.

The ' feeder school' table, which ranks schools in terms of the volume of students who complete their Leaving Cert and go on to Third Level education, saw the Joe's with a percentage of 85, just one per cent below the highest scoring all-girls school in the county, the Sacred Heart. 99 boys from last years Leaving Certificate are now in 16 different colleges, from Cork to Letterkenny and Dublin to Maynooth and Waterford.

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## St. Joseph's one of Two Hundred Schools to receive Rollout of 100Mbit/s High Speed Schools Network

Our school is to avail of the 100 Mbit/s High Speed Broadband announced by the Dept of Communications last month. This will greatly enhance the E-Learning capabilities in our school. The benefits of this Rollout:

- Greater Broadband capacity, faster download and upload of data. Now the upload and download speeds will be the same, and will allow for the use of Cloud Computing.
- Business class quality which is equivalent to capacities experienced by industry and more computers will all be able to achieve high quality broadband simultaneously.
- It will allow more efficient streaming of videos like RTE player, more efficient video conferencing e.g. Skype and online virtual tours.

Work will commence in the coming months and it is hoped to have it up and running by Christmas 2012.

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## Past Pupil Represents Ireland at World Skills Competition

Colin Callaghan, a past pupil of our school represented Ireland at the 41st World Skills Competition held in London last October. The Irish team of which Colin was a member competed against 48 countries and 827 competitors. Colin achieved a Gold medal in Aircraft Maintenance. The Irish team obtained 3 gold medals and 5 medallions for Excellence. Congratulations to Colin.



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## **The India Project - Challenging our Lifestyles**

In October 2011 7 students and 2 teachers set off on the long journey to Shillong. In India, we witnessed at first hand the harsh reality of poverty. We spent three weeks in Calcutta and Shillong visiting hospitals and shelters and helping in schools, learning to care, teach, befriend and serve. When I joined St. Joseph's Secondary School in 2007 I was made aware of a very interesting project , the India Immersion Project. Through observing and supporting the work of former groups that travelled to



India a seed was sown. Those lads told me about the amazing work they had done, teaching the children and learning from them too. I knew this was something I wanted to participate in.

I wanted to challenge the perception held by many that young people are spoiled and pampered and develop a greater insight into the conditions in which others live and their daily struggle through life. I felt this was something I HAD to do- to do something good for others. Indeed this was a common aim for all of us.

The immersion experience is not one for those who are attached to their comforts. It challenges our life-style, it questions us on the meaning of our lives, and it can, if we let it, draw out of us everything that is best in a human being, a spirit of self-sacrifice that our sense of solidarity with the oppressed and the underprivileged requires from us.

Caoimhín Seery, 5th Year

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### **The KEY Programme**

I wanted to go on the Key Programme as soon as I heard about it , and it turned out to be one of the best experiences of my life. We have been on the four residential and each one was great.

The KEY Programme has helped people overcome fears and develop confidence through activities which helped us improve our enterprise skills and understand about money and business. On Residential four, each business group had to make a product and sell it in a shopping centre. It was interesting to see the competition between the teams.

But the best thing about KEY is the people. We have made friends from cross-border schools and across the political and religious divide and hopefully we have made lifelong friendships. I would like to thank the instructors, mentors and the staff of Lorne House in Hollywood and our teacher Ms. Flood for bringing us there , and for giving us the best time of our lives. Hopefully some of us can be seen on the Apprentice and Dragons' Den as the entrepreneurs of the future!

J.P. Kierans, 2nd Year

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### **The LET Programme**

After applying to Ms Finnegan by letter the group were chosen and it was time to go to our first residential in Derry on Oct 17th to 19th 2011. While there we got involved in outdoor activities like kayaking, orienteering and other challenging pursuits which were very enjoyable. During the second residential between Jan 16th and 18th we were more involved in training about business but still found time to become involved in GAA , Soccer and Rugby coaching. But we were also involved in outdoor activities like having to build a shelter and canoeing on the River Bann.

During the third residential from March 26th to 29th we were involved in learning archery and hill climbing. We also went on a cultural visit to Todd's Leap. We were involved in enterprise training and as teams had to set up an enterprise or company. Our task was to develop a prototype, to set up a website and a marketing plan. On the second last day we were invited to a gala dinner and disco. The last day came and it was time for the awards presentation. Jack McCarville won the Enterprise Award, Michael Janik won the Greatest Achiever Award, and Jake Flemming and Declan McNamara won the Dance Award. Killian Grant was the King of the Disco. The LET Programme helped us gain confidence and develop social skills.

Michael Janik, First Year

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## Parents Satisfied with our School

Parents have expressed great satisfaction with our school in a survey carried out earlier this school year. 78% of the parents surveyed felt that they were recognised as partners in their sons education, and 93% felt that the school was welcoming to parents and students. 76% of parents felt that they received adequate communication from the school regarding their son's progress and behaviour. 75% felt that our school used positive methods to help improve student behaviour. For full details of our questionnaire log on to [www.droghedacbs.ie](http://www.droghedacbs.ie)

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## Timetable changes for September

The timetable is being changed in September from 40 to 45 classes per week. The additional classes are to ensure that the students have the correct contact time in each of their subjects as stipulated by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. The new class times each day will be as follows:

9.00 – 9.38; 9.38 – 10.16; 10.16 – 10.54

15 minute break

11.09 – 11.46; 11.46 – 12.23; 12.23 – 13.00

55 minute break

13.55 – 14.32; 14.32 – 15.09; 15.09 – 15.46

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## Celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge

Students thoroughly enjoyed their recent visit to the Seachtain na Gaeilge stands, hosted by the local branch of Bank of Ireland, Laurence Street, Drogheda last March. On show were local businesses, and also stands from Seachtain na Gaeilge, the local GAA clubs and a large collection of Irish language books from the Wise Owl Book Shop.



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## Staff Retirements

During the past 12 months we have had a number of retirements from the teaching and ancillary staff. Mr. Jim Mooney, deputy principal, teachers Mr. Oliver Tully, Mr. Peter Harrington, Mr. Cyril Gillen, caretaker Mr. Brendan Reilly and groundsman /gardener, Mr. Hugh Mc Gahy. We wish them a long and happy retirement.

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## Extra Curricular Activities

It is an important part of life in St. Joseph's to become involved in sports and other activities outside the class. The following are some of the activities offered by our school:

Football: Mr Lynch and Mr. McCole, Mr Vaughan and Mr. Sharkey, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Mathews

Rugby : Mr. McCreery and Mr. Webb

Soccer: Mr Heeney

Basketball: Ms Conlon

Hurling: U14 and U16 Mr. Ryan and

Mr Crummey

Athletics: Mr. Stephenson and Mr McCole

Pitch and Putt will be managed by a parent who will replace Mr Tully

Golf: We are looking for a parent who might manage our Golf team

Key Programme: Ms Flood

Lets Educate Together (L.E.T.): Ms. Finnegan

Music: Mr Vaughan

Wood Carving: Mr. Heeney

Green Schools : Mr Sharkey

Rainbows: Ms Flood

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## School Tour to Glasgow

On Saturday 31st March 2012, twenty five students accompanied by Mr. Lynch group leader, Mr. Heeney and Mr. Madden travelled to Scotland to see Celtic play St. Johnson in the Scottish League. The group departed from the school at 10.30am travelling overland to Glasgow.



After dinner in the youth hostel, bowling was arranged as the evening activity. The following day after breakfast we travelled to Celtic park for the early 12.45pm kickoff. A lot of green and white stuff was purchased in the supporters shop and then it was into the stadium for the match. Celtic came out on top, winning 2-0. After the game it was back on the coach and the long journey back to Drogheda. We arrived back in Newfoundwell close to midnight on Sunday 1st April 2012

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## **Drogheda Women's Refuge and Children's Refuge Centre**

### **Letter of Thanks for Food Appeal**

On Jan 12th Ms Theresa Woods from the Drogheda Women's Refuge and Children's Refuge visited our school to thank us for the donations to the food appeal organised and the 800 euro donated by the management and staff. Ms Theresa Woods reported that last year 23 children aged 4 months to 17 years spent Christmas in the Refuge and due to ongoing support, the important work of the Refuge can continue especially now in this time of recession.

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### **Breakfast Club Proving a Great Success**

From Monday January 30th a full breakfast has been offered freely to all students from 8.15 - 8.45. Sponsored by Kelloggs and Avonmore, it is hoped to provide a breakfast to early comers each morning. The venture is sponsored by our Parents' Council who are contributing 500 euro to start the project. Other fundraising included a successful fashion show in March, a soccer blitz and a concert later on in the term. We wish the project every success



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### **The Fashion Show**

A 'fab' night was enjoyed by parents, teachers and students at the recent St. Joseph's Fashion Show fundraiser. With an almost professional like command of the catwalk, the models did the participating shops proud. However it was probably the Haka staged by our P.E. teacher Mr McCreery that stole the show, while the neat moves on the ramp by Mr McCole and Mr Carolan were a close second. An astounding €8,500 was raised for the school's Breakfast Club. A great nights ambiance and entertainment was enjoyed by all present, and a special DVD is on sale in the school office for €10. Congratulations to all involved and to the schools Parents' Council who organised it.



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### **Enterprising First Years**

Mr Lynch's Business Class recently put their heads together and came up with the idea of an Easter Bazaar. Students carefully planned this very successful event, advertising the event in all the First Year classes. Each student brought unwanted items from home like books, dvds, games etc. and set up his own stall on the day. Although there were no overnight millionaires the bazaar was enjoyed by all. I thought that the idea of holding a bazaar was a good one as we learned a lot about selling and about dealing with customers. We also held a raffle during the bazaar and three customers won Easter eggs. We would love to organise another one next year

**Eoghan Callaghan**

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### **Visiting Dublinia**

Class 1R recently enjoyed a visit to Dublinia, a recreation of medieval living in Christchurch Dublin. The tour guide provided lots of information about Viking Ireland, the birth of Dublin, the Black Death and a series of historical events down through the long history of our Capital. Students enjoyed viewing the recreated model houses, streets and people of Dublin.



**Scott Murphy Class 1R**



### **The John Paul II Awards**

Five students are participating in the Armagh Dioceses Awards, The schools John Paul Award Group is doing great work in helping to organise flag days creating social awareness, participating in Church readings and activities. The Group has also been involved in doing paired reading in Primary Schools. The students involved are



Andrew Newman, Ryan Gargan, Jack Reilly, Peter Durnin and Gerard Floyd. The aim of the award is to involve young people in their parish and the in the wider community. The school leader is Ms Flood and the group also works with a member of the local parish. Andrew Newman and Ryan Gargan, Fifth Year

### **Seniors Visit Galway Health Clinic**

Over thirty senior students, who expressed an interest in a career in the medical or health care fields, were treated to a full-day tour of the Galway Clinic by its owner and director, Dr. James Sheehan. The tour was facilitated by Past Pupil, Peter Durnin, working in close collaboration with Seán Ó Briain, School Guidance Counsellor.

Our picture shows:

Students James Morgan, Darragh Murtagh and Corey Murphy with Dr. James Sheehan, Director, Galway Clinic



### **St. Joseph's Past Pupils' Union**

Are you interested in joining the school's Past Pupils' Union? New members are always welcome.

St. Joseph's has a vibrant Past Pupils' Union which was first established in 1958. Its members meet on a monthly basis during school term.

Among the many activities which are organised by the Past Pupils' Union are:

- Establishing strong links between the school, businesses and the local community through the past-pupil network.
- Peadar Mc Cann awards for academic achievement and numerous other awards in the area of sport, extra-curricular, community activity and social justice.
- The presentation of a defibrillator for the school community.
- Fun Quizzes to raise money for Edmund Rice projects abroad - including the India Project.
- Donating funds, supports and resources for the students.
- Assisting the school with work placements, mock interviews, guest speakers, career visits and other learning opportunities.
- Presenting specially commissioned past pupil ties to each of the Leaving Cert students.
- Supporting the school in its educational endeavour.
- Organising school re-unions.

The following officers were elected for the current year:

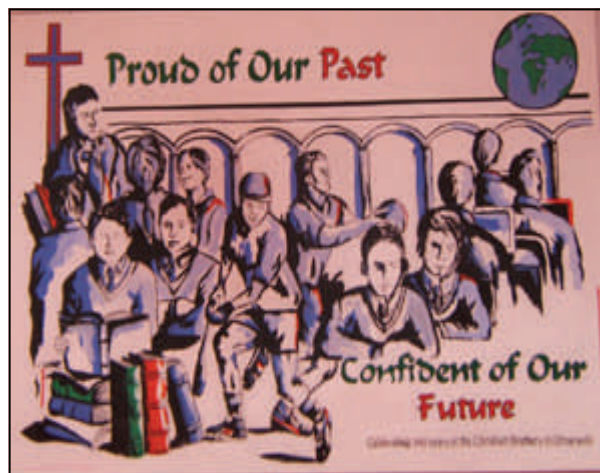
President: Seán Ó Briain, Treasurer: Pat Shields;

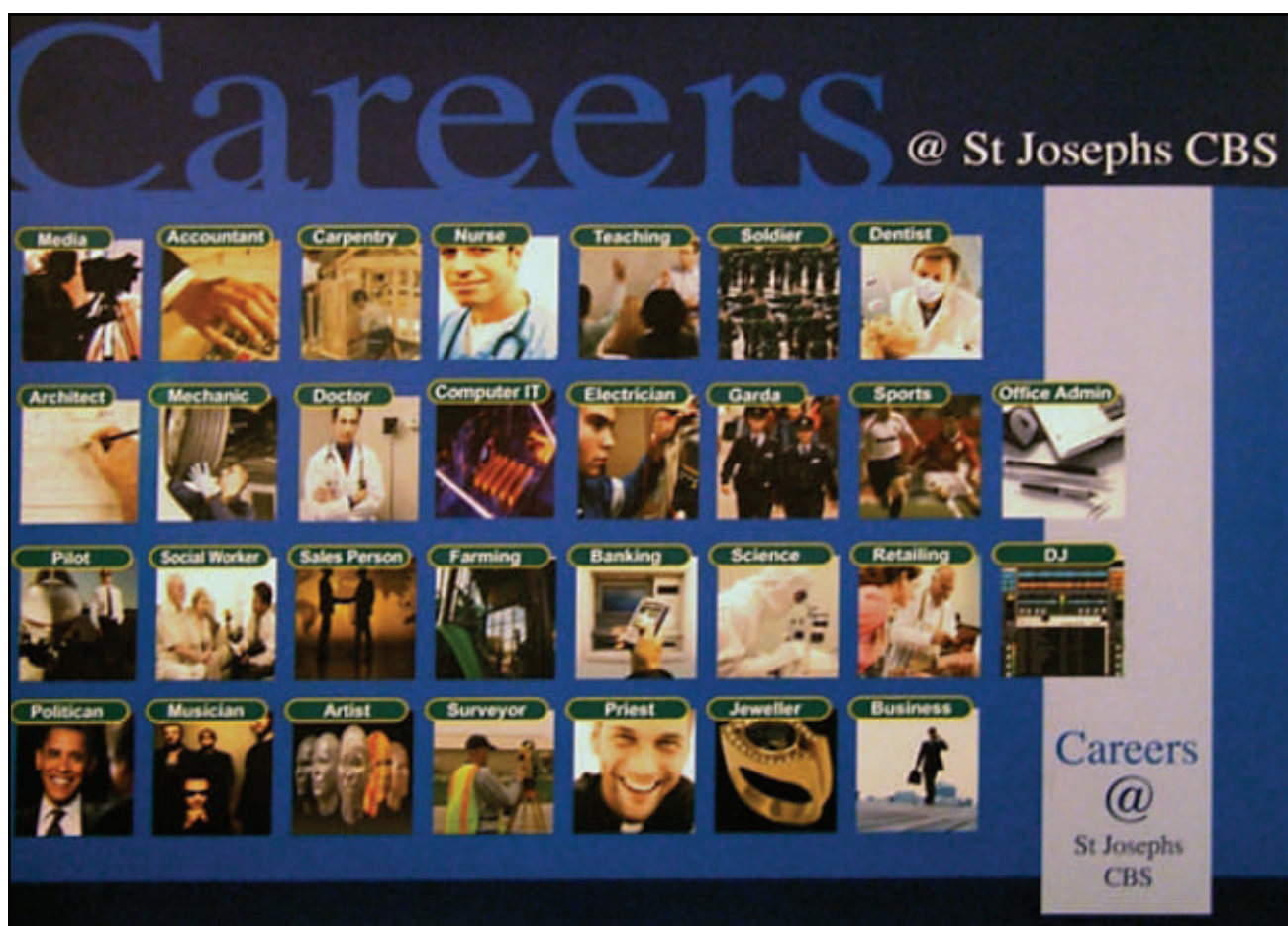
Secretary: Robert Quaile

Registrar: Peter Durnin

Members of the executive: Seán Ó Gréagóir, Tom Tallon, Frank Kelly, Paul Maher, Tommy Byrne, Alfie Woods, John Mc Donnell.

New members are always welcome. Please phone the school at 041-9837232 or e mail [cbsoff@eircom.net](mailto:cbsoff@eircom.net)





### Students Explore Their Options

Over seven hundred people attended a very successful Careers Exploration Evening, which was hosted in January of this year by St. Joseph's and organised by local members of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors from many of the town's second level schools.

With over sixty careers, colleges and course options represented, there was something there for everyone. The event was officially opened by Senator Feargal Quinn who commended the guidance counsellors from St. Joseph's, St. Mary's, St. Oliver's, the Sacred Heart School and Our Lady's College, Greenhills, for organising the event. He also congratulated the school's Senior Prefects who had done trojan work in preparing for the evening. He was later presented with a book on Irish Wildlife, which included photos taken by Drogheda-born Billy Clarke.

The evening proved a huge success for parents, students and staff alike and no doubt will remain a permanent feature in the Guidance Calendar for Third Year and Transition Year students for years to come. Mark Hoey, Senior Prefect



Check out the latest news on our School's Website [www.droghedacbs.ie](http://www.droghedacbs.ie)







## St. Joseph's Commemorates the Memory of Jamie Connor

On Friday Dec 2nd all of St. Joseph's School community, pupils and staff joined Jamie Connor's family and friends in a Mass to commemorate Jamie's life. All our students remember the sadness of Jamie's passing in September after a long illness. The theme of the Mass was "A Celebration of Friendship". Before the Mass Jamie's Family and friends along with students and staff participated in a ceremony at the front of the school where a tree was planted to commemorate Jamie's attendance in St. Joseph's.

### St Joseph's Music Group



The St. Joseph's music group meets every Friday at lunch time with Ms. Flood. It consists of a number of members from all years, all of whom either sing or play musical instruments such as drums, guitar, tin whistle, keyboard/piano and bass. We play all types of music and it's always good fun too! The group play at school related events throughout the year, which includes religious ceremonies and at special occasions. New members are always welcome!

Seán Doherty 5th Year

### Memorial Garden

Work on the school's new Memorial Garden is almost complete, thanks to the great efforts of Transition Year students and their teacher Ms. Finnegan.

It is hoped that the Garden will become a quiet place for contemplation for small groups of students with their teacher or mentor. The project was funded jointly by the school's Board of Management - and past pupil John C. McGinley, in memory of his dearly departed wife Mairéad.



### Looking After the Whole Community

When I got the opportunity to be part of the Students' Council I did not dream that I would have had the opportunity to help people outside of the school. But during my Religious Education Class I was researching the work of the Saint Vincent DePaul and how they try to help people in Drogheda. I

learned that people might need help but might not want to ask for it or might not want to tell people about not having enough to live on. After I finished my project I put a proposal to the Students' Council that we should have a fund raiser for the SVP. This was accepted by the Council and the Principal. We raised 875 euro and we did this because whom we all know someone who might need help. It also showed me about the importance of having a Students' Council which represents the students and has the power to organise a fund raiser like this.

Eoin Murphy 3S and Students' Council Member



## Under 14 Football

Another successful year for the U14 GAA panel in St Joseph's. Managed by Mr McCole our team won the North

Leinster Juvenile Football Title beating Scoil Dara Kilcock in Dunganny. Scol Dara got a perfect start with a goal up in the first few minutes, but a series of points by Ross Nally and Ciaran Downey settled our lads into the game.



Ross Nally continued to cause problems for the opposition with a score of one goal and two points before he retired from injury. Mid-fielder Paul Matthews scored two more points giving our team the lead at half time. In the second half Ciaran Downey stretched St. Joseph's lead with an opening point, followed by another point. The final score was St. Josephs 1-9 to Scol Dara 2-2.

Our team progressed to the semi final of the Leinster Championship, but were beaten by a well fancied Enniscorthy team. Our team were playing against a strong wind in the first half and Enniscorthy built up a big half time lead. The Joeys had their moments in the first half and will be regretting not making the best of their few goal chances created. Nathan Seery scored an outstanding goal midway through that first half. The second half saw the Joeys well on top with Ciaran Downey and Nathan Seery scoring some excellent points. Despite their dominance our lads failed to get the lead down to lower than 6 points. On three separate occasions the Joeys had goal opportunities but were unlucky to see the chances hit the woodwork. The final chance to make it a grandstand finish came through a penalty but the excellent Downey saw his penalty superbly saved by the Enniscorthy goalkeeper. The final score was 1-16 to 3-16 in favour of Enniscorthy. Best for the Joes were Nathan Seery, Ciaran Downey, Jamie Kelly and Ahu O Bakhan.

At the moment our team was reached the semi final of the Louth League. Our success was not been due to the great work of the squad but all the teachers who have supported us throughout the year, especially Mr McCole.

Paul Matthews

## Sixth Year Student is Louth Colleges All-Star in Gaelic Football

Congratulations to Leo McGrane, Sixth Year who is Louth Colleges All-star in Gaelic Football. He won the title which is sponsored by DKIT. Other nominations from St. Joseph's were Barry McQuaile and Keith Boylan, also from Sixth Year.

## Under 18 Football

In a windswept pitch in Darver St Joseph's U18s clinched a decisive victory over Bush in the recent Lennon Shield Final when they beat them 2.8 to 0.7. Goals from Andrew Morgan and Sean Keogh sealed the match for St Joseph's. Despite facing into gale-force winds in the first half our lads managed to hold the opposition all square. In the second half our lads pushed ahead with scores from Rory Broderick, Andrew Morgan, Sean Kerr, Cormac McQuillan and Ronan Fitzpatrick put victory beyond the grasp of the Bush team.

## School Golf

The School again this year took part in the Leinster Inter School League Golf Competition. It was a case of mixed fortunes for the lads and while they all



played well they were out played in the end by slightly stronger teams. The lads represented the school in an exemplary way and here's hoping for better luck next year! The students who were part of the group representing the school were; Sean Fanning, Danny Burnell, Luke Maguire, Conor Gradwell, Shane O Keefe, Ciaran Tracey, JP Kierans, Graham Lynch and Ronan Hoey.

The school also organised a school golf competition for all the school golfers. The competition was played in County Louth Golf Club, Baltray and the lads enjoyed a great day. Cllr Oliver Tully, former teacher in the school who managed the school golf team for many years, was honoured for his commitment and dedication to the golfing students over the years when he presented the winning team with a perpetual trophy in his honour. Well done to all who participated.

We extend our very sincere thanks to the President, Captain and Staff of County Louth Golf Club Baltray for generously hosting all of the golf competitions.



## Another Busy Year on the Athletics Field

The Athletics season started with the Annual First Year Sports Day. Despite the wet morning over one hundred students turned out on Friday Sept 15th. The competition was keen in all the events - Gaelic football, athletics, soccer and rugby. The First Year Race took place the following week as the final part of the event and this was followed by the awarding of medals. On October 21st our School hosted the 25th Inter- Schools Athletics tournament. The highlight of the day was the presentation made to Mr. Mooney, former Deputy Principal, and a former coach to the squad. Our picture below shows Mr Mooney receiving his presentation.



### The Student Council sponsors Pool Tournament.

Over the past few months the Student Council has met a number of times and among the topics for discussion was provision of a pool table for the students in the Red Area. We have just completed a pool competition and there were 72 teams entered. Thanks to Mr Leonard who has helped in the organisation of the tournament. The Pool is so popular that big audiences of students come to watch as the competition reached the semi finals and finals. Daryl and Aaron McDonagh, Jason McKeown, Sean Carroll, Andrew King and Chris Savage were the top contenders, but the final winners were Jason McKeown and Sean Carroll. Congratulations to them.

Adam McGinn Second Year

## Our Athletes Visit Amsterdam

Twenty eight of our athletes visited Amsterdam for four days in mid November 2011 and visited Stella College, near Brussels

The highlight of the trip was competing in the International Cross Country event in Duffel, a small town in the Flanders Region north of Brussels, and our squad ran in four races and performed very well. The former Belgian athletics coach, Andre Boonen welcomed the squad and was delighted to see that we had great spirit as he examined the successes.

Aaron Hanlon finished second overall in the U17 event, with Aonghus Meehan, Mark Rogers, Sean Hodgins and Jamie Dyas competing well to allow our squad to finish second out of ten teams. Meanwhile the U15's came in fourth out of twelve teams competing, with Paul McArdle, Shaun Bannon, Paul Matthews and Ross Berkery leading the team for St. Joseph's. Thoughts now turn to our next foreign trip which will find us competing in North America planned for next year.

The squad now set its sights on the CBS Cross Country event at the end of November, as well as the Johnny McKenna Christmas Run coming up to Christmas.

By this time of the year we have moved to the track and field season and on March 21st we had a triangular match with Belvedere College and St. Fintan's in A.L.S.A.A. where we emerged the top team. On Wednesday April 18th we took part in the Rice Games in Santry where high jumpers Mark Rogers and Igor Slusargi won the final in spectacular fashion. Manuel Kaguako won the spectacular 100M final.

Our most recent track and field event was the North Leinster Championships in Santry on May 2nd and 4th.





### First year Soccer.

Congratulations to the Mr Gaul's First year Soccer Team on their 2 - 1 victory in their first match against Colaiste Cholm. In an exciting display Cian Cluskey opened the scoring mid way through the first half after good work up the left wing by Sean Birch. Joey's lead was doubled on the hour with the impressive Eoghan Callaghan netting the ball from 30 yards with a free kick. Colaiste Cholm came back in the second half and deservedly pulled one back despite the best efforts of Luke Mitchell in goals. The team is currently training in preparation for some friendly games coming up in the next few weeks.

### Senior Soccer

The u-17 Soccer had a very successful year since starting up in September 2011. There was great commitment shown throughout the year by both the starting line up and the rest of the squad and there are high hopes that there will be another soccer team set up next year. The season consisted of a Leinster Cup which had 76 teams in it from all over Leinster along with a Co. Louth League Division. In the Cup we reached the last 8 in Leinster only to be narrowly beaten 2-1 by St. Kevin's in Clondalkin, Dublin. In the League side of things we reached the final and unfortunately were beaten by the Marist College from Dundalk. The fact that we had beaten them 5-3 in the Cup already may have led to us being a little over-confident going into the final. However a runners-up medal is still something to be proud of especially considering that it was our first season playing soccer in St. Josephs CBS.

The end of the season wasn't all bad however as we managed to hammer out a 3-1 victory over rivals St Mary's Diocesan School, Drogheda in what can only be described as a thrilling encounter at the school pitch in St. Josephs. There are rumours of a 'return leg' to be played in the near future with the Mary's having home advantage next time. All support would be greatly appreciated in what is a very exciting time for soccer in St. Joseph's!

Manuel Kaguako,  
U-17 Soccer Captain & 5th Year Student,

### Tredagh Boxing Club

Tredagh Boxing club has provided lunchtime boxing in the gym with Brian Kavanagh, John Black and Bernard Sharkey. All of them do Wednesday lunchtime boxing. Tredagh Boxing Club has a good year in the championships. We had a few winners like Zoe Kavanagh, Mason Moran, Jordan Gallagher and Sarah White. All the members are dedicated to the sport and we have a great fun at every training session and there is always a great turnout especially from the younger members. We have a few

champions in our club, three all-Irelands won by Zoe Kavanagh, and two Leinsters won by Jordan Gallagher and Sarah White, and many more Louth winners including the Michael Andrews Championship won by Mason Moran. Congratulations to all the winners. We have our sights on a number of clubs to compete with so watch out.



Mason Moran and Gary Dunne, Second Year

Congratulations to Mason Moran who won the Michael Andrews Championship, having gotten to the Semi Finals in the National Stadium, Dublin in October and won the Final at the same venue in the same month. In January Mason competed in the Louth championships and was defeated in the final. But he was not put off and in February he won the Meath Championship. In March he was beaten in the Semi final of the leinster Championship on a score of 5.3 by an all-Ireland champion. The next bout for Mason is in October when he will repeat his victory in the Michael Andrews Championship.



## 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Basketball

Both 1st and 2nd Year Basketball teams exceeded all expectation with their performances in the North East League in the sports first year in St. Joseph's. Both teams performed excellently in the group stages of the league, qualifying for the quarter finals, in what was the beginning of the knock-out stages of the league. Unfortunately, the 1st Year team was unlucky to be beaten by Boyne Community School in Trim in their quarter-final. Meanwhile the 2nd Years overcame Kells Community School in the quarter-final and St. Patrick's Classical School in Navan in the semi-final. This led to a close encounter in the North East League final against O'Carolan College, Nobber where St. Joseph's triumphed with a 1 point win to take home the cup in their first year. The 2nd year team went on the win the qualifying rounds on Sunday 29th of April in their home court to reach the All-Ireland semi-final which will take place on May 11th in the University of Limerick.

Adam Winters Transition Year



The Junior Basketball Team sporting the kit sponsored by Martin Butterly, pictured third from right in our picture

## Rugby

This year was the first year that our school fielded a Rugby Team at Junior and Senior levels.

Everyone was excited at the prospect of being in the squad and large numbers turned up for the training each Wednesday after school. The Rugby squad was supported by James Fay, the Leinster Youth Development Officer. James has had a distinguished career with Boyne RFC. While the Senior team lost in their first round, the juniors had a number of wins. However a member of our Senior Team, Jack Keogh (pictured below) has been picked for the Leinster team.

The first Junior match saw us beating Gormans-town with a further two wins against Laytown (Colaiste Inse) and Tullamore. This brought us to the semi finals of the cup and the game against Malahide was the biggest of the season, when we lost by just four points. But despite the fact that we did not bring home the cup this year we have a team which is a force to be reckoned with and we laid down a marker that next year we will take possession of the cup.



Adam Brodigan, Third Year



Members of our Junior Rugby Squad pictured holding the Heineken Cup which was received with great enthusiasm in our school in November 2011

## Transition Year Students Play Their Role in Europe

Three of our Transition Year Students, Sean McLoughlin, David Sharkey and Ryan Gargan under the guidance of their teacher Mr. Carolan participated in the Annual Model Council of Europe Competition. Schools from around the country represented different member states of the EU, and our students assumed the role of Slovakia. Using role play the students learned how the EU system works. This is the sixth annual event and it was held in Dublin Castle.



## Promoting Entrepreneurship in St Joseph's

Transition Year Students from St. Joseph's Secondary School and Our Lady's College Greenhills have been the only students outside Kerry who have been selected to participate in the Tralee-based Young Entrepreneur Programme (YEP) as part of an RTE 1 six-part series called "Local Heroes – A Town Fights Back". Entrepreneur Jerry Kennelly, who co-founded the Young Entrepreneur Programme, worked with the students to develop their entrepreneurial skills, as part of a wider job creation initiative for the town of Drogheda and its hinterland. The twenty - four St. Joseph's students along with their teachers Mr. Kevin Brogan and Seán O Briain attended the launch of the Entrepreneurial Programme in Tralee where students were given initial guidelines and advice on how to create ideas and develop them into a successful business plan. One of the main speakers at the event was Feargal Quinn, who alongside a team of experts in the area of employment, tourism, enterprise and entrepreneurship, is working with the citizens and businesses of Drogheda in their efforts to revitalise the local economy.

The progress of the young Drogheda entrepreneurial students was closely followed by a film crew from Animo television and their enterprising efforts were broadcast on RTE television in November.

By March 2012 our students had made two further visits to Kerry where they learned how to pitch their enterprises and draft Business plans. The Business plans were submitted, and David Sharkey's Business plan went forward to the next level. He took part in a presentation of his plan using Skype. He presented his plan and faced some tough questioning from the panel of three judges who were entrepreneurs. The students completed an exam online and each passed with flying colours. They will now receive Young Entrepreneur Certificates at the end of May.



## Evening Study

Supervised Evening Study takes place every week from Monday to Thursday from 4.00pm to 6.00pm. It only costs 8 euro per week or 3 euro per day. As a sixth year student who has done evening study for the last five years I would certainly recommend it to all students. Of course for exam years such as Junior and Leaving Certificate students I found it very helpful to get all or the most of my homework out of the way so I could start doing some revision when I got home.

However I would still recommend it for students even in non-exam years for the simple reason that it leaves you with a lot of spare time in the evening and you don't have to feel guilty about not doing any work when you get home.

John McEnaney, Sixth Year



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## Transition Year—a Great Experience

Transition year for me was a great experience. We had the opportunity to try out many projects which developed our skills, from making and cooking burgers, chicken goujons and even cheese cake in home economics, to deciding on own business idea, and developing a memorial garden. Going on trips was great such as Galway Clinic allowing us to examine different careers in medicine like that of a radiographer. Also subjects like English were more interesting, for example going to see a play in the Westcourt .

One of the best trips we went on was to Causey farm. The experience allowed us to get to know each other and it was definitely a lot of fun.

TY was great for developing the person. I grew in confidence. Before I did TY I was less willing to get involved in projects. But not anymore! I now have learned to work as part of a team.

And speaking of which, another highlight of the Transition Year was the development of relationships with our teachers. Before going into TY we did not get a chance to know them. They can relate to you differently and it's great having a laugh with them whether it's English or Media studies or Art or Religion. All our teachers are great and were always there to help us with the many projects. But my favourite part of the year was definitely the friendships that were developed as we worked together on different projects. Meeting new people and then becoming really good friends with them. Although we may all not see eye to eye we became great friends. I'm delighted to have been part of TY this year. I'm grateful that I experienced new things, met great new people

Jamie Branigan



Jamie Brannigan pictured in the front with Fergal Quinn at the YEP seminar in Tralee

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## Hurling

It was a tough year for the senior hurlers of St. Josephs, who had to manage with a number of younger players in the squad. The team was back-boned by players from St. Feckins, Glen Emmetts and Mattock Rangers, and contested the Dublin Schools League. The team lost their first game away to Rush CS but were missing a number of key players on the day. This was followed up by a great win over Balbriggan, which set up a must-win encounter with Swords in order to qualify from their group. Unfortunately the Dublin outfit were too strong on the day, putting us out of the competition. Best for St. Josephs were Colin Griffin, Sean McConnell, Conor Matthews, Caoimhin Seery and Patrick Lynch.

It was also a difficult year for the U-14 hurlers who contested a Leinster Blitz Competition earlier on in the year. However, they failed to advance from a group which contained Ashbourne, Athboy and Longwood. Stars for the future were Paul Matthews, Ian Conner, Michael Ryan, Ross Berkery, Cian Haughey, James Russell and Keelan O'Neill.

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## Launch of Leaving Cert Applied

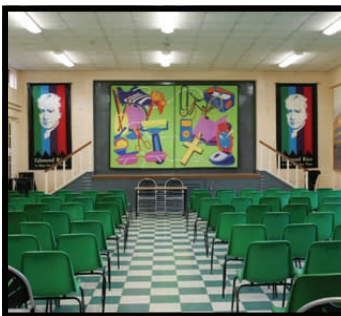
St. Josephs welcomes Leaving Cert Applied next September. It is an alternative to the traditional Leaving Cert whereby less emphasis is placed on a final exam, students accumulate two thirds of marks over the two years by completion of assignments.

The course places a significant emphasis on developing skills required in the workplace and in particular the esteem and confidence of students. Subjects on the course include Information Technology, Graphics and Construction as well as the traditional English, Irish, Maths. An opportunity to explore the world of work is provided through one day work experience each week.

On completion of the course students usually undertake a one year plc course available in colleges such as Drogheda Institute of Further Education enabling them to progress to third level.

Staff and students look forward to this new course which broadens the choices available.

# The Year in Pictures



Check out the latest news on our School's Website [www.droghedacbs.ie](http://www.droghedacbs.ie)

