



## *Coláiste Iognáid*

### *January 2018 Newsletter*

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In the midst of so much celebration and success it was with deep sadness that the Coláiste Iognáid community learned of the sudden death on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018, of Catherine Godfrey, a Sixth Year student of the College. Catherine came to the College in Transition Year. Catherine exemplified that Ignatian value of being a 'person for others,' generously giving of her time to support the work of the Saint Vincent DePaul Society. We remember and hold in our thoughts and prayers Catherine's parents, siblings, grandmothers, family, friends, and the staff & students of Coláiste Iognáid at this time. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

*Fr. Shane Daly, S.J., Principal*

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#### ***All Ireland under 19s Playoffs.***



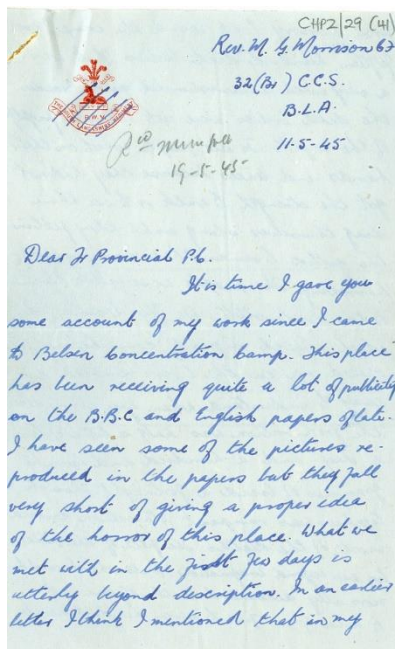
The Senior Boys' Basketball Team competed in the top level of schools basketball in Pool D of the Under-19 A All-Ireland Playoffs in Neptune Stadium on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January. With only one team to qualify for the All-Ireland Quarter-Finals it was always going to be a difficult task. The first game was against the host school, St. Aidan's Community College. The Jes started very well, but when St. Aidan's changed defence towards the end of the second quarter, The Jes were too slow to get to grips with it and ended up losing 69-59. The

second game was against Coláiste Pobail Setanta from Dublin. The Jes once again put in a very strong performance and got their first win of the day on a scoreline of 72-51. With St. Macartan's College, Monaghan, beating St. Aidan's by thirteen points, it all came down to The Jes against St. Macartan's, with The Jes needing to win by twelve or more points. The Jes put in an outstanding performance, probably the best performance this team produced all year, and when they led by 13 points with three minutes to go, it looked like an upset was on the cards. However, St. Macartan's came back with two three-pointers to reduce the deficit and qualify for the All-Ireland Quarter-Final. It was a great win for The Jes, on a score of 51-45, but there was a bittersweet feeling as they came so close to making it to the top eight in the top level of schools' basketball in the country. The school was promoted to the 'A' League three years ago, and the lads were outstanding in the All-Irelands, not only justifying being in the top division, but competing very strongly and nearly breaking into the top-eight schools in the country. The players can be extremely proud of their achievement and how well they played on Sunday. They showed intensity, aggression, control and pride. They deserved their two wins, and got rewarded for their efforts, not just this year, but over the past six years in the school.

-Mr. Adrian O'Neill, basketball coach.

### ***T.Y.s Social Justice Talks.***

Since September T.Y. students have had a series of talks on various topics around social justice. Peter Mc Verry spoke on homelessness in September. Other speakers included David Moriarty from the Jesuit Refugee Services spoke about the effects of direct provision on the life of a refugee and Eoin Carroll from the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice spoke about prisons. Eoin was accompanied by an ex-prisoner who spoke of his personal experience of life behind bars. A talk from history with relevance for our own day was given by Damian Burke, Assistant Archivist of the Irish Jesuit Archives as Stephen Hynes (T.Y.) explains.



On Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup> of January Damien Burke, Assistant Archivist of the Irish Jesuit Archives, kindly came to speak to us TYs about Fr. Michael Morrison SJ, a Jesuit priest and chaplain who was present at the liberation of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in April 1945. Taking place close to International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the talk was important to help us to understand the extent of the horrific events that took place at both Bergen-Belsen and other concentration camps. The talk also continued the theme of Jesuits and social justice that has been spoken about by many of our speakers this year. Michael Morrison was born in Listowel in 1909 and attended Mungret College S.J. in Limerick. He joined the British Army as a chaplain in 1941, and when he participated in the liberation of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in April 1945 he wrote about his experience in letters home to Ireland. These letters are now in the Jesuit Archives in Dublin and make for harrowing reading. Morrison himself was deeply affected for the

remainder of his life by what he saw at Bergen-Belsen. Many other interesting topics were also covered by Mr. Burke, such as the role of past pupils of the Jes in the Second World War. We spoke also about genocide that is going on today, such as that of the Rohingya people in Myanmar. The talk was exceptionally interesting and we all learned something about this dark but important chapter of human history.

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## *Rugby News – Senior Cup*



### 2018 Schools Cup Information

Head Coach: Bernie Kelly

Backs Coach: Morgan Codyre

Manager: Paul Kilraine

Captain: Jake Gallagher

### SQUAD

Ciarán Anthony, Conor Briscoe, David Burke\*, Ronan Burke, Julius Byrne, Liam Carton, James Costello, Adam

Cunningham, Tomás De Paor, Ruadhán Durkin, Cathal Forde, Jake Gallagher, Tomás Gillanders, Cian Gilroy, Daragh Golden, Jack Grealish, Niall Hanahoe, Dara Hanrahan, Luke Hurson, Gary Keane, Hugh Keaveney, Joe Kennedy, Evan Kenny, Dara Leneghan, Éanna MacGearailt, Aaron Mannion, Jack Madden, Niall Murphy, Dilean Murray, Rory O' Flynn, Rory O' Connor, Fiachra Parslow, Jack Power, Liam Smith, Patrick Smyth, Lloyd Solan, and Ralph Solan.

The senior squad have made an impressive start to the defence of their cup with a 65 -0 win against St. Gerald's Castlebar. They backed this up with an away win in the fortress that is Sligo Grammar School, our great rivals winning on a score line of 13 points to 19. The large squad of well over thirty has ensured great competition for starting places and plenty of choices for Bernie Kelly the head coach. The final pool game saw an injury depleted team take on Summerhill College. Summerhill were looking to make good on last year's defeat in the final. Having taken a commanding lead of 25-7 the Jes seniors held the game out in an exciting final quarter, with the final score of 28-26. We now look forward to a home semi-final against Marist College after the mid-term. Also congratulations to the Jes representative players

Connacht U18: Adam Cunningham, Dara Hanrahan and Evan Kenny

Connacht U19: Jake Gallagher.

- Paul Kilraine, Senior Team Manager



### *3<sup>rd</sup> Years at BT Young Scientist Exhibition*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> years travelled to Dublin for the BT Young Scientist Exhibition. A great day was had by all and their science teachers: Ms. Deirdre Herbert, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Molloy, Ms. Mitchell, Mr. Chuquihuara S.J. and Ms. Bannon. No doubt they were particularly supportive of the College's First Year young scientists. New projects are being planned for the 2019 competition.

## Reflections on the Sleep-out 2017

act and do something to help solve the problem of homelessness.

HARDER THAN EXPECTED

VERY WET AND COLD

EYE OPENING

EXPERIENCE

It was tough, I didn't realise how hard it is for the homeless to live in wet and cold conditions. but enjoyed the sixth year experience.

It was both physically and mentally exhausting. Even though I knew it would be challenging I never would have been able to truly see how tough the night would be beforehand.

It was the 22nd of December the night my class mates and I took part in the 2017 Cope Sleep out. We had absolutely no idea what type of night was ahead of us but all we knew was that it was going ahead no matter the weather. We set out that night with sleeping bags and lots of layers naively thinking the whole thing was going to be easy – we were in for a shock. The first few hours of the sleep out were fun as we all chatted together and had a few early visitors donating money and handing out sweets to keep our spirits up. By 2am everything was soaked and we were all piled up on each other trying to stay warm. At that moment we were all just thinking of how lucky we are to have beds and the hot showers waiting for us at home and it gave us the realisation of how real and scary the struggles are that these individuals face every night. At around 4am a few people went out and decided to warm up by fundraising with buckets up and down the streets catching the last few people still out. This gave some of us the chance to go out even for a few minutes to interact with others because the company was a much needed way to fill up the time at which at this point the 12 hours felt like two days. This experience was unforgettable because it made me appreciate how lucky I am and it gave me a better understanding of what it is like to be homeless and the vulnerability that comes with it. I feel I have learned something that cannot be explained through words only through actions and I hope to use these learnings to do more in my community to help the less fortunate.

- Grace Kavanagh, 6<sup>th</sup> Year.

*Student Reflections on the Experience*

*Think Before You Drink: Outstanding Achievement at the Young Scientist Competition*



Great success was had at the BT Young Scientist competition by Kate Owens, Aoibhe Briscoe, and Ellie Concannon winning first place in the Biological Ecological Category. Their endeavours also saw them pick up a Special Environmental Award for the Environmental Protection Agency. Congratulations to all and especially to Ms. Clodagh Mitchell who mentored and supervised the girls throughout the project.

“Microplastics: Think Before You Drink” is the project title, whereby the level of Microplastics in primary school drinking water in Galway city and county was measured. The girls found that 96.9 % of the 32 water samples tested were contaminated with microplastics, a potential health hazard. Microplastics are tiny pieces of plastic, which originate from larger plastics, microbeads used in cosmetics and from microfibers, released from synthetic clothing. High spec lab analytical equipment was facilitated by Dr Audrey Morley, NUIG. All analytical work done in NUIG was logged in the students’ report for Judging. BT young scientist has been an AMAZING experience. We have had so much fun. Since early September when Ms Mitchell mentioned it, we knew we wanted to do it. It involved a lot of hard work but was worth every second of it. Our time at the RDS was something that we will never forget we met so many new people, we got to talk about our project to people from all different walks of life, we met politicians and presenters, judges and journalists and budding young scientists. We thoroughly enjoyed every second of it, the icing was already on the cake but the thing that put the cherry on top was winning the awards, when they called our names we were fit to burst with happiness. We couldn’t have done this without all the support we had especially from the school. All the staff have been so amazing!

- Kate Owens, Aoibhe Briscoe and Ellie Concannon, successful Young Scientists.