



Coláiste Iognáid S.J. November December 2019



Principal's Welcome

As I reflect on my brief tenure as Principal of Coláiste Iognáid, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support, encouragement and kind wishes that you have extended to myself and our Deputy Principal, Claire Lohan.

On my arrival I was, and am still, heartened by the calm, warm and friendly atmosphere that prevails among the students and the staff. The ethos of the 'Jes' is well known and admired in Galway and it has been wonderful to experience it first-hand.

I must acknowledge that we are privileged to have a dedicated, enthusiastic and supportive teaching team in the school and as you are aware our primary focus is on the holistic development of every student to reach their full potential. There are a large number of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities in which all students are encouraged to participate. Student Leadership and Student Voice are enduring features in the daily life of the school.

Claire and I wish to build on this wonderful environment to ensure Coláiste Iognáid continues to meet the challenges of an ever changing world. In recent months, we have implemented a number of important changes which include streamlining the care-team structure, expanding the Kairos retreat and most importantly stipulating particular conditions in relation to students entering and leaving the school. All students leaving early must present a note to their year-head and sign out at the main office in the Andrews building. In line with our Code of Behaviour we have also asked teachers to be more vigilant regarding the practice of mobile phone usage during class time. I would like to compliment the students who have responded very positively to these changes. I ask for your support in these matters as it is by working together that we will achieve the best outcomes for all of our students.

I look forward to working with you closely over the coming months and years.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and many thanks to all the contributors.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh

David O'Sullivan

JESUIT SCHOOLS: A LIVING TRADITION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The Head of the Jesuits worldwide has just released a new document which outlines a vision for Jesuit education in the 21st century. It will help shape our strategic planning for Coláiste Iognáid and how we maintain our valued Jesuit Ethos into the future.

Here is an extract from Fr General's letter;

Today I want to present a new document, Jesuit Schools: A Living Tradition in the 21ST Century – An Ongoing Exercise of Discernment.

Click the link to the document -<https://3eh4ot43gk9g3h1uu7edbbf1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/documents/2019/11/Jesuit-Schools.-A-Living-Tradition-in-the-21st-Century.pdf>

The document follows this tradition of assisting our educational apostolate in reflecting and discerning the challenges and opportunities of our time. It continues the necessary process of renewal, innovation and re-imagining that our education requires during this change of epoch that we experience today. The best tribute that we can offer to our long tradition in education is to explore new models, creative and imaginative ways to offer our spiritual vision and educational experience to our students and their families. Thus, the title of the document reflects well its purpose: to renew our living tradition in education as an ongoing exercise of discernment.

Now, the challenge is to make the document an effective tool to animate the necessary discernment for our apostolate of education. I ask that the document is introduced, to ensure that it is widely known, distributed, used and discussed by all educators and everyone involved in the schools to inspire the ongoing discernment on how best to conduct our education today in the local, regional and global realities in which we serve.

We will seek ways to delve into this document in Coláiste Iognáid over the months and years ahead. While it is lengthy, take some time to read it if you can and become familiar with it.

Fr. Peter McVerry Visit to Coláiste Iognáid

We were very lucky to get to see and listen to Fr. Peter Mc Verry when he came to visit us in December. I've always heard of him in the news and at school and he has been a person for others for decades.

He spoke to us about homelessness in general and his work throughout his life. He told us of some stories and situations that were eye – opening and very upsetting. It put things into perspective and made us realise how lucky we are and how good a life we all live.

He explained that the majority of the homeless people had addictions to both alcohol and drugs but that many people were also homeless 'just because they couldn't afford the rent'. The most upsetting part of the story is that this is not improving and in fact that the number of homeless in Ireland is increasing and is in all walks of life.

Fr. Peter McVerry is dealing with these scenarios on a daily basis. He said that at least once a month he has to bring someone to Dublin Port to flee the county from drug lords and gangs. I always knew the drug scene in Dublin was bad but I didn't know the full extent of the situation 3gain I heard Fr. Mc Verry's talk.

What I took away from his talk was that every homeless person has feelings and is just like everyone else. Now anytime I pass someone homeless on the street in town I make a conscious effort to smile and say hello. A lot of us ignore them because our lives are 'too busy', but in fact it would hardly take thirty seconds out of your life to smile and say hello. It's only something very small but it can make a homeless person's day.

To quote my own mom 'Fr. Peter Mc Very is like a living saint'

Niamh Murphy



Extra-Curricular Updates

Rugby



SCT 2019-20

'Jes' rugby has had a hectic term with League commitments for the Senior and Junior team. Our Seniors, coached by Bernie Kelly, Luke O'Donnell, and Andrew Browne and managed by Mr Parkinson have had to deal with a lot of injury problems and player unavailability. Despite this they qualified for the league semi-finals. If they manage to get their full squad on the field for the Cup which starts in January they could go a long way in the competition under the leadership of captain Gary Kelly.

The Junior squad, managed by Ms Anthony and Mr Harrison and coached by James Heaslip have had mixed results in a very strong league. They have had difficulty getting their strongest side out consistently. While they may not qualify for the final stages of the league they will be very competitive come Cup time.

Finally the under 14 squad have enjoyed a good start to their schools rugby careers. They have trained with great enthusiasm under the guidance of Mr Kennedy and Mr Parkinson and have played two league games so far the highlight of which was an exciting 24 all draw with our neighbours the Bish.

Mr. S. Parkinson

Ladies Gaelic Football



U14s LGF Team

Coláiste Iognáid got their championship off to a great start with wins over Taylor's Hill, Headford and Oranmore. As a result, the girls have topped the group and are into the knockout stages of the competition. After beating Claremorris the girls have qualified for the semi-finals and will play

Strokestown of Roscommon in the New Year. There will be greater challenges to come but the team is working well and improving game by game.

Mr. N. Sherry



Junior LGF Team

The all-conquering Jes under 16 team have played five matches and defeated all teams who took the field against them. Team captain Caoimhe Cleary has been inspirational in leading the team. Victories over Taylors Hill, Coláiste na Coirbe, Presentation College Headford, Coláiste Éinde and Salerno have given the team a perfect start to the season. The girls have now qualified for the Connaught quarter final and will play this match towards the end of January.

This is an exceptional team with players of the calibre of Nessa Daly, Alex Sheppard, Aoife Nash, Saoirse Moore, Mary Rooney, Zoe O'Toole, goalkeeper Ruby McGrath, Peggy Forde, Ailbhe Tarp, Siobhain McManamon, Daria Brennan, Caoimhe Ni Aodh, Sarah Parkinson, Roise McMahan and the excellent Rachel Kelly. Kate Thompson and Hannah Glynn have both had Irish international soccer trials this year. Special mention also goes to the three first year students on the team, Mary Biggins, Suin McGoven and Aoife Quinn.

It has been a pleasure to manage such a brilliant and dedicated group of young ladies.

We would like to thank our sponsor (and assistant manager) John Daly for the new set of jerseys and all his hard work with the team.

Mr. A. O'Loinsigh

First Year Boys Gaelic

Our season kicked off with tough encounter with St Enda's. It was quite clear from the start of the game that our boys were not switched on and before we knew it, we were a dismal 17 points down at half time. With an inspiring half time talk from Mr Lavelle and with nothing to lose in the second half – the Jes boys pulled up their socks up and played to their potential narrowly losing by only 4 points in the end. Some stand out performers: Calum Elwood (Captain), Stephen Parkinson, Cormac Quinlan and Dermot Ford.

Our next game was against Coláiste na Coiribe. Again, the Jes started slow and found themselves trailing at half time. It was a half of missed chances and poor decision making. The second half was a certain improvement. However, like the first half, some gilt edge chances were missed and we paid the full price – losing by only 3 points after a late attempt by Calum Elwood to salvage the draw. Best performers on the day: Calum Elwood, Michael Hussey (Captain) Dermot Ford and Ben Wall Cooke.

With two losses it leaves us in a precarious position. Undoubtedly, there are some fine footballers in this group. Our day will come!

Mr J. Sheehan

Boys Junior Gaelic Football



Coláiste Iognáid managed to beat Coláiste na Coiribe 3:10 to 2:5, last week in Cappagh Park. The score was 1:3 to 1:2 at half time and the Jes would have been well ahead but for the excellence of the Coláiste na Coiribe keeper. The Jes boys managed to pull away in the second half with Ben O Malley scoring a goal from the halfway line! Ryan Kavanagh scored some well taken frees. Mathew Thompson and goalkeeper Conor Cooke Winters had excellent performances on the day.

The team is managed by Mr. O'Loinsigh and Mr. Leonard. We play Coláiste Éinde next and our final match is against St. Pauls, Oughterard.

James Harrison TY

Jes Hockey



Jes Hockey Club is in full swing again this year with full attendance at training sessions. Juniors train on Mondays and Seniors on Wednesday, plus fitness on Thursdays. With nearly 100 girls participating, the club is inclusive and enjoyed by all.

The Senior team, ably captained by Fiona Kelly (6th yr) came 3rd in the All Ireland Leahy Cup, held over three days in Sept at Crescent College Limerick, having fought off St Andrews, Dublin to win 3rd place. Eight Jes players were selected to represent Connacht at U.16 and U.18 levels. Zara O Toole 6th year, captained the U.18 and Caoimhe Cleary was selected for Irish trials U.16 level, after her impressive performance.

At local level, our Senior A team have so far beaten Salerno 4-3 and Taylors Hill 3-0, in the Costello league. Fingers crossed their continued hard work will pay off in 2020. Our Senior B team are

likewise playing strong and are due to play in the Semi Final of the Ward Cup in January.

Many thanks to the dedicated coaching and management team of Richard Malone and Mrs Clodagh Mitchell for all their work with senior Jes Hockey. Thanks also to Anna O D. for assistance with Goalkeeper coaching.

Many thanks to Ms Ruth O'Brien for her work with Jes Junior Hockey. Together with Donal Dempsey and Ger MacMinimen, all are working tirelessly at developing Junior Hockey here at the Jes. The U.16 team reached the semi-final of Griffin Cup, which will be held in coming weeks. Thank you also to Aoife McGovern, Anna and Molly for their support.

The first and second year hockey matches are due to start mid-January.

Many thanks to all Voluntary coaches involved at all levels, including the inspiring Brenda Flannery. We are all very grateful to Jimmy, Joe O Toole and Christy, the bus drivers. Our sincere thanks also go to our Principal David O Sullivan and Vice Principal Claire Lohan for their continued interest in and support of Jes Hockey.

Jes Hockey Dept.

Rowing Club News



The Rowing Club welcomed over sixty first years to an introductory rowing camp in August of whom at least fifteen are continuing rowing at the club. At the first outing this year on the 26th October at Castleconnell Head of The River eighty Jes rowers participated, with significant wins in the Men's and Women's under 18 Coxless pairs.

The next event was the Indoor Rowing Provincial Championship in UL Limerick with many personal bests by our entrants, while Tom Maye came third overall in the under fifteen event. At the Shannon Head of The River on the 7th December there were successes at Junior 8 Boys, Junior Quad Girls and the Junior 16 Doubles.

Well done to all involved.

U16 Girls Basketball



Congratulations to the Under 16 girls' basketball team who qualified for the All Ireland Play Offs after winning their regional final against St. Josephs, Castlebar.

Best of luck to the girls who will be representing the School in Portarlington in January!

Ms. E. Hennelly

Golf



After a number of years absence, Coláiste Iognáid returned to the fairways for the under 19 senior boys Connaught Golf team event played at Ballinrobe on October 2nd 2019.

The team was the youngest in the competition and exceeded all expectations – we had played a practice round prior to the competition at Galway Golf club who were kind enough to facilitate the team and this round together proved invaluable at the competition.

The team was led by Oisín Quinlan who was our lowest handicap player and he played some fantastic golf during the round. The youngest competitor in the field was Cormac Quinlan brother of Oisín and who posted a fantastic score of 37 points. Raef Forde and 'Mr. Reliable' Alan Conneally played exceptionally well and the final member of the team was Cillian Lally who plays out of the Athenry club and he also played really well.

The team came 4th overall out of 30 teams which was a massive achievement for the school.

We will be back!!!!

Boys' Basketball



Senior Boys

The Senior Boys' Team has had an extraordinary year so far, winning five of their eight matches. In the league the team beat Claregalway College and Coláiste Éinde to qualify for the Regional Semi-Final, where they beat Coláiste na Coiribe to qualify for the All-Ireland Playoffs in January. Unfortunately they lost to St. Joseph's College (The Bish) in the final but put in a very strong performance.

In the All-Ireland Schools Cup, the team had two very impressive wins over Cork opposition, beating Christian Brothers Cork followed by Douglas Community School. It did not go according to plan in the following round where they lost to last year's finalists Mercy Mounthawk from Tralee.

Overall, it has been a very good start to the season for this team. They have shown they are at the top level of A Schools Basketball and have only lost to The Bish and Mercy Mouthawk, two of the top teams in the country.

The team has been ably led by captain Ben Kelly, who is also in the Irish Under-18 Squad. Neil Kelly and Comhghall McCormack have shot the ball superbly well. Darragh Gleeson and Riain Kelly have been able to play on the perimeter and inside, which gives a versatility to the team, while Colm Finnerty and Mark Morgan have continued to improve immensely this year. The Leaving Certificate duo of Jason Maughan and Kevin Toner also bring a dedication and enthusiasm to the team that will be difficult to replace, and as for Kevin's 3-pointer against Coláiste na Coiribe...a thing of beauty!

Under-16 Boys

The Under-16 Boys' Team, predominantly made up of third years, got off to a winning start. In fact, for the third years on the team it was their first ever win with Jes Basketball. However, it has been their only win with losses to The Bish and Coláiste Éinde knocking them out of the competition.

They are a fantastic team, with an outstanding attitude. This can be seen in the fact that Matthew Thompson has been promoted to the Senior Team recently. They will go on to play in a Regional Plate Competition in January and will have a great chance of a bit of silverware, which is no less than they would deserve.

1st and 2nd Year Boys

The Minor (1st Year) and Junior (2nd Year) Competitions do not start until January, and both these teams have been given a tough draw. However, both teams will have good chances of qualifying out of the Region and into All-Ireland Playoffs.

The 1st Years did have a blitz competition in NUIG Kingfisher in November and performed very well in their matches over Calasactius College, The Bish and CBS Ennistymon. Time will tell if this team continues to improve over the next few months.

West Boys Under-15 Regional Team

Diarmuid Hayes, on the 2nd Year Team (and Under-16 Team) represented the West Region Under-15 Team in their All-Ireland success at the 'Tom Collins' Post-Primary Schools Inter-Regional Competition in October.

Mr. A O'Neill

Jes Debating



Jes student Ellie Concannon debating her way to the top at the Connacht Mace

With the annual Christmas Debate declaring that the Jes felt that Jesus would be proud of what Christmas has become, the Coláiste Iognáid debating society conclude an active and successful term. In addition to the weekly debates (16 this term), pupils have debated and won inside the Pale as well as beyond. Third Year Ellie Concannon won the Blackrock debate as well as the Connacht Mace with Pippa Gorey, Clara O'Gorman got to the final selection day for the National team and twelve Jes debaters qualified for National finals in March.

Liam Carton and Stephen Hynes have led the society with great responsibility and restart next term with the controversial 'This House Would Allow Open Experimentation on Humans' and the Sixth Year debate will also take place in March.

Congratulations to all our competitive debaters but also to regular audience members who make each Thursday evening such an entertaining event.

Chaplain's Notes

1st, 2nd and 3rd year pupils have all participated in their annual class group retreats. The first year retreats were held over four days in Esker, Athenry. Two themes – 'community' and 'building a friendship with God' were explored. It was important that first years were given the opportunity to come together, early in the year, so that new friendships and bonds could be made. The introduction to The Daily Examen, the walk in the woods and the personal sharing were just some highlights of their retreats.

The second years looked at the theme of 'identity masks'. This topic encouraged pupils to soul search and to reflect on their own masks. In addition, the concept of Jesus and masks was also explored. Although a very challenging theme, the second years embraced the day.

In November, the third years investigated the theme of 'peer pressure'. They discussed the negative impact of peer pressure on alcohol/substance use, social media, friendships and relationships. Through open and honest discussions/debates the pupils recognised the importance of good decision making and maintaining good communication with their parents/guardians.

In the coming months the fifth years will be exploring the theme of 'reconciliation and relationships'. The fourth years will look at the theme of 'Journeying with God' and the 6th year's theme will be 'reflecting with gratitude'.

6th year Mentor Program

This year's mentor program has involved sixteen of our sixth year students kindly volunteering to mentor the incoming first years in a "buddy" style approach.

The mentor program kicked off early morning on Thursday 22nd August. The mentors played a significant role in our first-year orientation day. Through offering support, guidance and presence the mentors ensured that their new "buddies" would not be overawed by this significant transition to secondary school. Over numerous days in September the mentors offered support and advice to the new entrants.

One day which certainly stands out is the Activity Day. The mentors organised activities/games for the first years to participate in. This gave the first years an opportunity to bond with others and their mentors in fun and relaxing atmosphere.

Following on from the Activity Day; the first years went bowling. Again, offering another opportunity for the first years to bond. Over the coming weeks and months, the mentors will continue to guide and support the first years.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2019

I would like to thank the first and second year pupils who participated in this year's Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2019. The pupils really show that they put their words in to action i.e. "Men and Women for Others"

Mr J. Sheehan

Transition Year Notes

Bíonn dris chosáin le sarú 12gain ag tús gach scoil bhliain ach is dóigh liom go bhfuil 12gai sáraithe go maith againn faoi seo. Transition Year Activities have got off the ground in the past few weeks. Social Outreach is up and running for most students. It can be difficult to get placement for everyone and the Garda Vetting and Child Protection regulations can cause delays and make the process difficult.

St. Joseph's and Claddagh N. S. are our solid partners over the years and I am grateful to the Management and teachers in both schools for their co-operation and commitment to our Social Outreach Programme. The Fr. Bob McGoran Unit is a vital component also. Ruth, Zara, Fin and Mercedes provide an exceptionally rich learning space for the students involved. We welcome Pam Dolan to the project also and Art class in the Bob Unit is a creative and lively place every week. I would encourage teachers to drop in to see the great work being done there.

Swimming at Leisure Land with the students from St. Joseph's and Claddagh is a very positive and sometimes challenging activity for our TY pupils. Without the physical assistance they provide, many Special Needs students would not be able to get their weekly swimming session. Our students quickly realise how important it is not to miss this part of their Social Outreach and make every effort to find a substitute should they be unable to attend themselves. I am aware this can cause some disruption to the original lists, but it is vital that no Special Needs student be deprived of the swimming session.

So far we have had trips to: The National Ploughing Championships, Cong Woods & Boda Burg, Lough Key Forest Park as well as local visits to Cinema and Bubble Soccer. The late issue of the Junior Cert results (on Friday Oct 4th) meant our usual first TY trip to Inisbofin could not happen. We hope to make this trip before the end of the year. We have had some brilliant days on Bofin where the sun usually turns up for our visit.

Eileen Ní Dhonncha organised a communications workshop for all the students and the feedback has been very positive. We hope to run some more in the new year

Vinnie O Sullivan is involved again this year doing a short film with each class group. Students find this a very exciting venture but it does mean missing some class time. Four of our students collected 140 euro for Enable Ireland on a very wet Friday and a group of around fifteen students, in conjunction with Irish Water, engaged in a clean-up on South Park beach. They are highlighting the scourge of baby wipes and how they don't biodegrade quickly. There will be more community projects like this conducted during the year.

Work Experience week began on Monday 21st Oct and I want to thank parents, Ms Parslow and Ms Hanley-O Byrne for their great effort in putting together a list of possible work experience venues for our students.

At the moment I am liaising with former Mayor Cllr. Niall Mc Nelis to organise a survey among all TY students in the city to investigate the needs of young people today.

I want to thank my colleagues for co-operating with me by going on trips and accommodating me during the initial setting up of the various activities. Their patience and understanding makes it possible for us to provide a wealth of experiences and opportunity.

To David and Claire, I wish you both every success in your new roles and look forward to a strong partnership with you in my role as TY Co-ordinator. Go néirí an tádh libh beirt amach anseo. Beir bua.

Mr. C Ó Conchúí

The School Show



The Grand Finale!

It is now December, yet three teachers along with over one hundred 5th year students are still suffering from some serious 'post show' blues. Coming back to earth after a two-month rollercoaster ride of excitement, exhaustion, exhilaration, frustration and even more excitement is tough!

This year's production of Little Shop of Horrors took the Jes stage by storm for three heady nights this November, but the 5th year's journey began with auditions back in September and through the weeks that followed orchestra, acting, dancing and singing rehearsals rolled out daily. The students took these seriously, filling up hours of their own time after school, at lunchtimes and even early mornings. They diligently turned up when asked and worked hard singing, acting and drilling dance routines over and over until heads and feet ached. Through it all they took direction without complaint both on stage and off – they organised costumes, sets, rehearsals and each other with an impressive attention to detail. Whether it was another coat of paint on the stage, researching exactly the right style of graffiti for the set or creating a 'Sew it Yourself' costume space at the back of the hall – they dedicated themselves readily to the task at hand!

For us, there is a particular joy in seeing new talent emerge both on stage and off. During show time, students who may not yet have had a chance to shine in school astound you with abilities and skills you never knew they had. When the entire cast filled the stage for the final number and 'Don't Feed the Plants' resounded around the hall the energy was electric - and you knew that the joy that the collaboration of music and dance can bring to your life was quite literally zinging through their veins. The 5th years were not the only year involved – from September right through to that unforgettable final number a smaller, but incredibly talented group of TYs worked tirelessly and consistently alongside Ms Carney to score and orchestrate the show. Without their efforts and their incredible music, the show could not go on!

We are so proud of every one of these students as ambassadors for our school. Proud of their determination to lift the performance that bit higher each rehearsal and ultimately each show night. And we are incredibly proud that they have held the very best parts of this tradition up for another year and reminded us all what the Jes show is all about: collaboration, learning, friendship and most definitely – fun!

Sinead Anthony, Rian Carney and Mary Scahill

Music Department Notes



Do you play traditional music?

Do you want to be part of a trad group?

If so, please come and talk to Ms. C Keville -Guitar players/accompanists also welcome.

Carol Singing in the Rain



"Ms Carney and Ms Anthony would like to thank the members of the music department who sang outside Brown Thomas on a wet and windy Wednesday December afternoon for children living in direct provision. Not only did they manage to raise €560 but they also managed to reignite Ms Carney's Christmas spirit!"

Student Council Notes

The Jes Student Council have been active both in the school and in our local community in this past term. At a local and national level, our Council has sent representatives to the AGM of Comhairle na nÓg na Gaillimhe, and the ISSU (Irish Second-level Students Union) Regional Meeting, where our Chairperson, Katie Ryan, was elected as one of the Regional Directors. We attended talks on the topic of Diversity held in the Claddagh National School in partnership with the 'Erasmus+ Mobility Project'. We also ran a Halloween fundraiser encouraging people to dress up in costume and to then bring donations towards the Peter McVerry Trust. The total collection of €400 was given to Fr. McVerry in person over the past few weeks.

Within the school, a 'no phone' lunch was organised for sixth years and first years to help promote a healthier atmosphere during school lunch periods. An initiative was put in place for the 'BelongTo' awareness campaign in support of the LGBT+ in the Jes. In relation to issues brought up to us by the wider student population, our council has secured the upgrade of the water fountain in the Andrews building. This is part of our goal to reduce the use of single use plastic water bottles on campus. Our students have represented the student body on issues to do with the availability of After-school Study and permissions for future fundraiser days and events. We are proud to represent the student body in every way we can and will continue to work on their behalf.

A reminder that all issues or proposals can be brought up to any member of the Council either in person or by writing the enquiry in paper form and submitting it to our suggestion box (located on our notice board on the top floor of Griffin Building).

Clara O Gorman, Coláiste Iognáid Student Council

Quiet Space

Mr Ryan and Ms O Hara have recently opened a reading room at lunch time on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This will provide an opportunity for students to take time out during lunchtime to read, study or just to listen to music.

Contact Mr. Ryan for details

Science Dept Notes

BT Young Scientist

Congratulations to TY student Clara O Gorman who qualified for this year's BT Young Scientist with her project "The mathematical connection between our gardens and the environment". Congratulations also to first year students Riain Kennedy, Andrew Gordon and Reuben Florisson who qualified with their project "Bottle shot - A nudge in the right direction".

Best of luck to all students who will be representing the school in the RDS in January.

Science Matters



Eoin O'Malley with Professor Ciarán O hOgartaigh

Coláiste Iognáid has won a top science award for high calibre science research carried out on Galway city's Air Pollution. 6th Year students, Roisin McGrath, Madeleine Mitchell and Eoin O Malley, together with science teacher Mrs Clodagh Mitchell, have received a University Science Award. This prestigious award was presented to the students and teacher by the President of NUIG, Professor Ciarán O hOgartaigh, Professor Colin O'Dowd and Dr Liz Coleman from the Climate Change Dept. NUIG.

The project entitled "Fools for Fuels: Air Pollution" involved collecting and analysing data over many months, using various methodologies including using a stationary air pollution monitor located at the school (collaboration NUIG, JES and EPA), hand held air monitors, 100 homes surveyed and interviews. The students also investigated any links with Air pollution & Asthma plus other respiratory diseases. The results of the study are worrying. The students' research provided evidence that indeed there are significant high levels of air pollution particulate matter (PM) around Galway city. In fact, pollution levels recorded were consistently far above the accepted EU and WHO levels of 20µm PM. The Highest recording of particulate matter air pollution in Galway, was on Christmas Day 2018, measuring a staggering 180µm PM. The team determined that the biggest contributing factor to this air pollution was from the burning of fossil fuels in homes, especially wood.

Philip Fogarty SJ



Philip Fogarty S.J was a member of a well-known Galway medical family, and grew up as a next door neighbour of Bishop Browne, the then Bishop of Galway. He and his three brothers all attended Coláiste Iognáid, before going on to Clongowes Wood College. Philip left Coláiste Iognáid in 1952 and like his brothers, did his final years in Clongowes.

He returned to Galway briefly in 1975 after ordination where he was a very popular member of the Jesuit Community and of the teaching staff. He was a farsighted and innovative educator, who understood better than most the momentous changes that were taking place in education throughout Europe in the wake of the student revolt in Paris a few years previously.

The Griffin building had opened five years before that, and the school had just taken the first tentative steps in Co Education. The Rang Gaeilge would remain all Irish in character and culture and the language of teaching would be Irish. It accepted boys and girls, while the other two streams changed, in keeping with the times and subjects were offered through English.

Philip saw that the future would require a knowledge and understanding of the world of television and telecommunication, therefore education should also include a knowledge of broadcasting and the skills of communication.

The building that previously served as the Boys Chapel, was converted to a video room and he had the relevant video and audio recording equipment installed, all of which was necessary to offer students some experience in the world of radio and television production. Whether as a result of this, or not, to this day we have many of past students working in the media world, Sean O'Rourke, Harry Mc Gee, Paul Melia among others.

Unexpectedly he was transferred to Clongowes Wood College where he later was appointed as Headmaster. Having completed six years in that position he was then transferred back to Galway, where he served as Headmaster and succeeded Fr. Paddy Greene S.J.

He was a popular headmaster and understood that his remit was to prepare for the appointment of a lay person to that position for the first time. In 1991 Mr. Frank Canavan was appointed to succeed him and Philip returned to his real love, which was writing. Thereafter he published many religious and spiritual books and spent much of his time in the USA.

For many years he was on treatment for a heart condition, he died peacefully in his sleep in the early hours of Tuesday morning, November 26th in the care of the CSJ Sisters at Sewickley, and he will be buried with them there in their community plot. He was 81 years old.

Ar dheis Dé do raibh a anam

Paddy Lydon

Voluntary Contributions

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who are supporting the school through the payment of the voluntary contribution and through the school covenant fund. As a school we do not receive the same level of funding as schools in other sectors. In fact, the funding shortfall is in the region of €200,000 annually.

The support we get from parents and friends allows us to develop our extra-curricular, pastoral and ethos programs. Your contribution also supports the general day-to-day running of the school. We are committed to providing a holistic education in the Jesuit tradition. Your support helps to make this a reality for all our students.

Míle Buíochas

David O'Sullivan