

**Coláiste Mhuirlinne
Merlin College 2015/16**

Might Cards Results!

Cedar	94
Copper	109
Cherry	196
Cypress	188
Chestnut	166

BT YOUNG SCIENTIST & TECHNOLOGY Exhibition
Driven by Innovation, delivered by BT

Achieve, Create, Dream

Merlin Branches

Coláiste Mhuirlinne/ Merlin College Newsletter

Summer 2016

A word from the Principal

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

I hope you are enjoying the summer holidays and are getting plenty of rest.

It is hard to believe that our 3rd Year students have nearly completed their Junior Certificate exams- a first for Merlin College. Where did the time go? It is hard to believe that they embarked on their academic journey 3 years ago. Before you know it they will be doing their Leaving Certificate as the next three years will go even faster.

For those of you whose child is relatively new to the school I hope it was an enjoyable experience, whereby, they made new friends and started to develop as an independent learner. The many extra-curricular aspects of school life at Merlin, we hope, has helped your child on their path to personal and academic success.

It has been a busy year. Many activities took place to ensure your child was learning about the world and how to remain safe in it while at all times being encouraged to become a hard working student. Let's ensure together that this ethos, based on hard work, commitment and respect continues into the future. Best of luck to all for 2016/17

Yours Sincerely,

John Cleary, Principal

Best of luck to our Third Year Students in their Junior Certificate Exams!

Transition Year 2016/2107

We are delighted to announce the details of the school's Transition Year (TY) programme which begins in the school for the first time in September 2016. The school is equally delighted for Mr. John David Kearney, the newly appointed TY co-ordinator at Merlin College who has also just recently been given the role as Galway U21 Hurling Coach.

TY is a mandatory part of school life in Merlin College, allowing for the continued development and growth of students which is reflected in recent ESRI research that shows very positive outcomes for students who engage in TY including attaining higher points in their Leaving Certificate and progression into third level.

The core subjects of English, Irish and Maths along with Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Business / Accountancy, Spanish or French, cultural studies, computer programming and technical subjects such as DCG will form the main structure of the course. Coláiste Mhuirlinne/ Merlin College wishes Mr. Kearney the very best of luck both with TY and the Galway U21 team.

Student Awards 2015/2016

Congratulations and well done to all the students who received Awards this year.

Award	Student	Year
Student of the Year	Aleksandra Delatowska (Female) Dennis Soukhikh (Male)	3 rd Year
Spirit of the School	Sylwia Skzup	3 rd Year
Personal Achievement	Kyle McDonagh	2 nd Year
Sports	Anthony Loye (Male) and Angel Myobi (Female)	2 nd / 1 st Year
Arts	Antonia Loye	2 nd Year
Music	Teniola Olayeye	1 st Year
Science & Innovation	Ian McDonagh	2 nd Year
Languages	Dylan Buckley (Spanish) Danielle Caffrey (French)	3 rd year

STUDENTS AWARDS 2015/2016



Top Row, from left to right: Antonia Loye; Danielle Caffrey; Aleksandra Delatowksa and Dennis Soukhikh;
 Middle Row, l to r: Sylwia Szkup; Angel Myobi; Dylan Buckley
 Bottom Row l to r: Ian McDonagh; Anthony Loye; Kyle McDonagh



Show Racism the Red Card: a group of Coláiste Mhuirlinne students who travelled to the Aviva Stadium for the Show the Racism the Red Card Awards Ceremony

Red Card Against Racism

Another first for Merlin College was our entry for the Show Racism the Red Card Creative Competition. The competition called on young people to develop creative messages about racism and integration using written, visual and audiovisual means and prizes were awarded for entries ranging from songs and raps to posters, videos and social media campaigns. We decided to create a school video to raise awareness of our school's diversity and our dedication to showing racism "the red card". 70 students took part in creating and editing the video which can be viewed on YouTube. A group of 20 students went on to attend the awards ceremony in Dublin's Aviva Stadium in early May. We were delighted to be awarded Highly Commended for our video entry and one student Richard Kamson won a table during the event. For more information and highlights from the awards ceremony **check out this link:**

<http://www.theredcard.ie/news/?p=2350>

Our video can be viewed on YouTube at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwr1imxMSIo>

Many thanks to all the students and teachers involved in the Show Racism the Red Card project.

Teentech

Following on from the school's recent BT Young Scientist success, the Merlin College students were victorious once again at TeenTech in NUI, Galway in March. Savannah Okojie was awarded a prize for her project which was based on DNA extraction from her own saliva. A group of 10 students were presented with the Super Safety Inventor Award for their "Common Sense Car Sensor" device. Another group won the Most Fun Invention Award for their "Flashy Dresser" device.

International Day

International Day 2016 was held to coincide with the visiting band from New Jersey, USA. The Morris Knolls High School Wind Ensemble from New Jersey, USA, visited Merlin College in early April as part of their Irish Tour. The renowned band, who have previously played at the halftime show of the Super Bowl, wowed the Coláiste Mhuirlinne students with a 40 minute concert. Conducted by their teacher, Mr. Daniel Schwartz, the American students a mix of contemporary and classical pieces.

A wide range of activities were also organised by the school's Cultural Committee again this year to celebrate International Day.

In the morning a selection native foods were showcased at break so that students could taste a range of international foods like Jollof Rice, cabbage rolls from Romania, French sausage, Spanish omelette, Irish soda bread.

In the afternoon our annual talent show was held so that our students could display their many talents for the American visitors. There were performances from the school's choral group as well as solo performances, along with Irish dancing and hip-hop exhibitions.

The winners of the International Day Talent Show were:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 st | Terry, Tyrone and Anthony (2 nd Year)
Singing |
| 2 nd | Manoah (1 st Year) - poetry
Maya & Iremide (2 nd Year) -Dancing |
| 3 rd | Rachel (1 st Year) - Irish Dancing |

Scifest

Seven students from Coláiste Mhuirlinne/Merlin College exhibited their projects at the Scifest competition held in GMIT on the 12th of May. The projects ranged from the creation of flavoured inhalers to improve the usage of asthma medication in children to the testing of how a person's personality type may linked to their future career choice. The school was very proud of the efforts of all the students who put in a huge amount of work particularly after school in our Science Club.

Sports

Merlin College GAA Club (Boys)

The 2015/16 school year has been very successful year for Gaelic football. After a very promising year last year and a huge amount of effort put in, our fortunes were boosted by the intake of many talented young footballers in first year. As a group we have trained every week since September, with over 25 players consistently turning up to better their skills. We even went training before school in the winter so we could make the best use of our time. This shows how serious we are about trying to improve.

As a school we are working closely with Saint James GAA club, two of our players tasted success this year with Saint James, winning the Division One Féile county title.

Our goal at Coláiste Mhuirlinne/ Merlin College is twofold. Firstly, build a team from first year that can compete at the highest level in senior cycle. The development of the fundamental skills of the game of football is key to this. The main aim of every training session is to pick one skill and work on it, if it doesn't work for you, it will with perseverance. Secondly, we are trying to build a team of players, and not a group of individuals from different local clubs. There has been a lot of work done with the current group of players at the underage level in the school, and one can only admire the commitment and dedication these young players are reciprocating to the school. All this effort has to start reaping rewards at some stage in the future; hopefully it will be within their time here at Merlin College.

Fitness

Lead by Ms. O'Dowd, Ms. Cullen and Ms. Sheahan everyone for sure got their guns and tums worked out every Thursday after school. Girls from any year group were invited to take part in Aerobics-Circuits-Gym and Core work. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the class but not so much the aches and pains the following day...the girls really gave the teachers a run for their money with their endurance levels! Keep the routine up for the summer!

Soccer

By Mr. O'Connor

Colaiste Mhuirlinne/Merlin College boys' soccer teams had a very successful year in the FAI Connacht leagues. We entered two teams with the under 14 boys making it through to the Connacht Semi Final. The boys narrowly lost out to Coola Post Primary school, 3-1, in a tough e played in Sligo IT. The under 15 boys also had a good campaign making the Connacht quarter final against Glenamaddy Community School. Again, a close game with a final score of 3-1 played in Mervue Utd.

The teams are already looking forward to next season and hopefully enjoy similar success.

Ladies Football

By Ms. Dolan

The first years took part in the Spring League this year. We played 5 matches, losing 3 and winning 2. We had wins against Colaiste na Coirbe and The Dominican College, Galway.

The girls have improved with every match they played this year. We would love if the girls could start playing Gaelic Football with their local club St James' to improve their skills even more.

Congratulations to Angel who won Female Sports Star of the year in our recent school awards.

Basketball

By Ms. Sheahan

A busy year for basketball starting with the first years boys schools tournament where Coláiste Mhuirlinne/Merlin College won all 3 matches. The boys and girls went on to compete in the 1st year league however no trophies were brought home this time. There was great competition among the second year girls for starting places this year, however we were to come out the wrong side in our group qualifier.

Tennis

By Ms. Sheahan

We kicked off the spring term with male and female after school tennis. A very enjoyable activity open to all junior students wishing to take part every Wednesday and Friday. From the beginners to the 'Rodger Federers' we had some fierce contested doubles tournaments. Prizes given each week for the winners. Well done to all!

A Mad Breakfast

Coláiste Mhuirlinne/ Merlin College recently performed their very first stage production, 'The Mad Breakfast'. The students auditioned back in November to take part in this fun production. The Mad Breakfast is a short 35 minute one act play set in 1950's America. The scene is based in a boarding house, where one very clever boarder sees an opportunity to make a little cash. He cleverly invites a man by the name of Mr. Long to come and visit what he thought was an insane asylum. However, what it actually was, was a collection of eclectic characters. These included Lizzie, a lady longing for romance, Miss Smith (a lady destined for the stage), Mr. Hill (a keen magician), Miss Green (a budding artist) and some other interesting characters. All of the boarders have been given a different version of who Long is. What follows truly is a mad breakfast.

The following students tread the boards on Friday May 27th to provide the staff and students of Merlin College with a truly hilarious production: Kinga, Tyrone, Lorcan, Elberte, Rhoda, Terry, Stuart, Linda and Cordell. Well done to all! Both Ms. Hynes and Ms. Ní Chonghaile, the organising teachers, are really excited for future productions.

The Student Council

The main achievements of the Student Council this year:

- Green Schools Committee
- Healthy Eating Policy
- Non-Uniform Day fundraiser for ASD Unit
- Rewards System Suggestions
- Bake Sale Fundraiser for Library Acquisition Fund
- Book Purchasing Trip

The students used the 350 euros raised in the Bake Sale to purchase books for the library. Visiting Charlie Byrnes, Dubray Bookshop and The Book Exchange - each year group chose which books should be purchased.

Art Department

Another busy year for the Art Department here in Coláiste Mhuirlinne/ Merlin College. One of the highlights of this year's work was the a "Junk Couture" design project in the Second Year Art Class. The dresses, displayed at the Student Awards Ceremony, focused on designing dresses using recyclable materials.

After brainstorming ideas the students began drawings and collecting raw materials for construction. Students were asked to bring in things like bottles and bottle tops, ring pulls and newspapers.

The couture creations, detailed below, wowed the school community at the recent Awards Ceremony. We were thrilled when The Galway Advertiser chose to publish one of the photographs taken on the day as their Facebook cover photo.

To view the Junk Couture creations and other examples of work created by the Art Department visit the official blog

<http://333tree333house.blogspot.ie/>

Maths

Well done to first year students **Daniel Mackey and Cian Canning** who represented Coláiste Mhuirlinne/Merlin College in final of The Irish Junior Mathematics Competition on 7th May. To reach the final was a great achievement as this is the school's first year to compete in the competition. Although the boys did not finish in top place on the day, they were awarded certificates for their achievement in getting so far in the national competition.

THANK YOU!

MANY THANKS TO THE PARENTS, STUDENTS AND STAFF MEMBERS WHO SUPPORTED OUR RECENT RAFFLE IN AID OF OUR AUTISM CENTRE! €1600 RAISED TO DATE!

For more news and photographs check out our website
www.merlincollege.ie



The cast of "A Mad Breakfast", from left to right: Cordell, Linda, Lorcan, Stuart, Rhoda, Elberte and Terry.



Second Year Art, Craft and Design students modelling their Junk Couture designs at the Awards Ceremony. From left to right: Ephraim, Sarah and Caroline

