



Summer, 2017

Merlin Branches

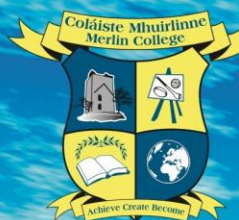


Coláiste Mhuirlinne/ Merlin College
Doughiska, Galway
Summer, 2017

Merlin Branches

Coláiste Mhuirlinne/ Merlin College Newsletter

Summer 2017



**Coláiste Mhuirlinne
Merlin College**

School Office: 091 769000
www.merlincollege.ie

Achieve, Create, Become.

*Wishing our 3rd Year Students the very best
of luck in their Junior Certificate Exams.*

*We would also like to thank parents
and guardians for the support
they have given to our school
since we began in 2013.*

A Word from our Principal

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

What a year it has been? It could in fact be called the year of The Flags!

The 2016/17 academic year saw the school being awarded three flags for excellence in totally different aspects of school life. We were presented with the Amber Flag for promoting positive mental health in our school, we were awarded Gaelbhrathach status or the Purple Flag for our promotion of the Irish language and we were also awarded a World Passport Flag for our commitment to Development issues around Ireland and the World. These Flags are incredibly difficult to get and it's a testimony to our teachers and students hard work and dedication.

This year also saw the first TY Year group to graduate from Merlin College. It was a wonderful occasion for students and parents and was hopefully the beginning of many more pleasant graduations at Merlin College.

Next Year we will have nearly 500 students and are possibly one of the fastest growing schools in the country. This is wonderful news for our community as our 5th Years begin senior cycle for the first time at the school. May there be many more students over the years from our community that will reach the heights of Leaving Cert education and beyond.

Until we see each other again in September may you all have a restful and happy summer,

Yours,
John Cleary,
Principal.

Congratulations to all who received an award at our end of year ceremony on May 26th

<i>Award</i>	<i>Winner(s)</i>
<i>Student of the Year</i>	Markian Yarema & Alike Vilenson
<i>Spirit of the School</i>	Eric Onofrei
<i>TY Student of the Year</i>	Danielle Caffrey
<i>Sports Student of the Year</i>	Hamsley Okomah & Alexandra Soukhikh
<i>The Arts</i>	Sylvia Ukwuoma
<i>Science and Innovation</i>	Maja Lawkowska
<i>Music</i>	Choral Group
<i>Languages</i>	<i>Irish:</i> Erika Ligeikaite <i>French:</i> Expoir Kuaku <i>Spanish:</i> Carolina Poskrobko <i>English:</i> Abby Smyth
<i>Personal Achievement</i>	Joe Forkan
<i>TY Language Student</i>	Paris Ediagbonya
<i>TY Outstanding Contribution</i>	



Congratulations to the Coláiste Mhuirlinne/ Merlin College students who received a GRETB Award for their contributions to various aspects of school life.

Award Category: Healthy Eating and Wellbeing - Seth Harrison

Award Category: Sport - Anthony Loye

Award Category: STEM - Kinga Neumann and Reuben Street

Award Category: Innovation and entrepreneurship - Denis Soukhikh

Award Category: Overcoming Adversity - Abby Smyth

Science and Maths Success in 2016/2017

2017 got off to a great start with third year student Ian Mc Donagh winning the Jack Restan Displays Award at the **BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition** in January. This special award is for the project which presents the concepts, details, images, research findings etc. in the most clear, interesting and professional manner. This was Ian's second time to represent our school at the prestigious competition. Last year his project on mares and the lunar cycle was awarded second place in its category. Ian's project for the 2017 exhibition was entitled: *A Scientific Investigation of the Cures and Folklores of the Irish Travellers* and he catalogued 29 separate remedies that are still in use by the Traveller Community.

His project attracted plenty of media attention while he was in the RDS. Ian was interviewed by the Irish Times, the Irish Independent as well as TV3's Vincent Browne show and RTE radio's Countrywide.

Ian already has plans to extend his research and he hopes to travel the length and breadth of Ireland during his Transition Year next year to write a book on the Cures and Folklores of the Irish Traveller.

In April two second year students made it through to the finals of Sustainable Energy Ireland's **One Good Idea Competition**. Kinga Nuemann and Reuben Street have created a SCRATCH Computer Game on the topic of Food Miles called "Food Doesn't Fly". Kinga and Reuben's easy to use game calculates your carbon footprint as you shop in a virtual supermarket. Their aim was to show people in the community how one good idea can make a difference to ourselves, our pocket and our planet!

One Good Idea is SEAI's competition for primary and post primary schools. Students are asked to come up with 'one good idea' that will inspire lifestyle changes in the people around them, that will save energy and help tackle climate change. Merlin College's entry was one of the top 20 projects that was exhibited at the National Finals which took place in 16th May 2017 in Croke Park, Dublin.



There was more STEM success for Merlin College in May with first year students Elbira and Emmani winning the Sustainable Energy Award at SciFest in GMIT for their project on wind turbines.

Jason Doherty, SEAI presenting Merlin College students Elbira Kiki and Emmani Kazadi with their award at Scifest.

The Science Department has been busy hatching a plan to bring learning to life for its students!

Some of our students from Oaks, our ASD unit, undertook a collaborative project with our LCA students to manage a chicks coup in Ms.Cunningham's lab.

The chicks began to hatch in May much to the delight and amazement of all of our students.



Maths Competitions

Congratulations and well done to students Teniola Olayeye and Shine Sujith who competed in Maths competitions this term. Teniola (2nd year) represented our school in the final round of the Pangea Maths Competition in Trinity College Dublin. Shine (1st year) competed in the Irish Maths Teachers Association (IMTA) competition which was held in Dominican College, Taylors Hill, Galway.

The Maths Department collaborated with Transition Year students this term to organise a peer-teaching event. TYs were put into groups and each group designed a

lesson plans and resources to teach a 1st Year class.

Topics covered in the lessons included: probability, percentage, fraction bingo, and matching of times from am/pm to digital.

Feedback from first year students was really positive.

Many remarked that they found the lessons very interesting and fun.

Peer Teaching 2017



Tá Gaelbhratach bainte amach ag Coláiste Mhuirlinne/ Merlin College!

Coláiste Mhuirlinne/ Merlin College have been awarded the Gaelbhratach!



*Is scéim ghradaim í **Gaelbhratach** a thugann aitheantas do scoileanna a ghníomhaíonn le húsáid na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn tríd an scoil ar fad. Tá Gael-Linn i mbun Gaelbhratach sna scoileanna i gcomhpháirt le Conradh na Gaeilge ar an dara leibhéal agus Coláiste Mhuirlinne ag glacadh páirt í mblíana don chéad uair.*

I mbliana d'eagraigh Roinn na Gaeilge réimse iontach d'imeachtaí ar nós ceardlann damhsa ar an sean nós, aoi-chainteoirí, Gaeilge 24, turais chuig an Ghaeltacht srl.

Anois leis an Ghaelbhratach bainte amach againn tá sé mar chomhartha aitheantais don obair ghníomhach ar fad a rinne an scoil le húsáid na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn.



Thaisteal roinnt d'ár múinteoirí Gaeilge go Bhaile Átha Cliath le grúpa scoláirí ón idirbhliain ar an 29ú Bealtaine chun an brat a bhailiú. Bhí an lá acu agus bhuail siad le roinnt daoine mór le rá ar nós an grúpa ceoil Seo Linn agus Eoghan McDermott as RTÉ 2FM!

Comghairdeas le Roinn na Gaeilge agus gach duine, idir scoláirí agus foireann, a chabhraigh leo an éacht seo a bhaint amach!

The Gaelbhratach is an award that recognises schools who actively and continuously promote use of the Irish language in all aspects of school life. The organisation Gael Linn administer the scheme in conjunction with Conradh na Gaeilge. This was our school's first time to enter the scheme. During the year the Irish Department organised a range of fantastic events including Sean-Nós dancing workshops, guest speakers, participation in Gaeilge 24, tours to the Gaeltacht region to name but a few!

Achieving the Gaelbhratach is recognition of the effort being made in our school on a daily basis to promote use of the Irish language. A group consisting of some of our Irish teachers and TY students travelled to Dublin on 29th May to collect the prestigious purple flag at a special ceremony. A wonderful day was had by all and they even met with some celebrities including the music group Seo Linn and 2FMs Eoghan McDermott!

Congratulations to the Irish Department and all the students and staff who contributed to this great achievement!

International Day



Congratulations to 1st year student VÍKTOR (Mofe) Uruwa who was awarded the “best traditional costume” prize at this year’s International Day celebration. Mofe wore traditional male attire from Southern Nígeria.

Coláiste Mhuirlinne/ Merlin College Global Citizenship Committee

We are delighted to announce that our school has been awarded the **Emerging Global Citizenship Passport** for our work in integrating Development Education across numerous subjects and aspects of school life. This award is recognised by WorldWise Global Schools, an organisation that helps to enrich teaching and learning experiences for students and staff alike, and provide a powerful vehicle through which we can better understand the world we live in and seek to take action to change it for the better. Well done to the students and staff on our Global Citizenship committee who worked so hard all year to achieve this award for our school!



Ní neart go cur le chéile - There's strength in unity!

LCA & Transition Year



Our 48 Transition Year students graduated on Thursday 25th May. The students enjoyed a very active program, taking part in over forty different activities throughout the year. Their final activity was a two night residential trip to Petersburg Activity Centre. Congratulations to Danielle Caffrey on being named TY Student of the Year.

Well done also to our Leaving Cert Applied (LCA) class who have successfully completed LCA 1. These students have worked very hard all year and have completed some excellent work.

Mr. Kearney, TY & LCA Co-ordinator

Volunteering in Merlin Park Hospital.

This term Transition Year students volunteered at unit 5 & 6 in Merlin Park Hospital. The purpose of our time there was to help out with the elderly patients every Monday and Tuesday. We played games and talked to the people living there about how their day was going. We also helped them with reading or doing arts and crafts. We also brought them to the cafeteria or into town with other nurses.

I really enjoyed my time working in unit 5 & 6. This experience helped me to put it into perspective how much effort goes in to taking care of the elderly. In my time there I built many relationships with the patients. It was a very satisfying experience especially when I saw how excited they were every week to see me.

I would really recommend this experience for next year's TYs as it's a completely new, different, extremely rewarding and exciting experience.

By Ciara Fergus, TY student

Drama- behind the scenes and on-stage!

Our drama group performed a play recently called “The Wedding”. We prepared this play for 5-6 weeks and it was written by Ms Kelly and some of the group members.

I worked backstage. Those who work backstage play a major role in building the success of the play. They can be in charge of script writing, scene changes, costumes etc. The back stagers of our play were all assigned specific jobs, I was part of making the backdrops for the scenes.

Working behind the scenes, I learned that it’s really important that you know the “ins and outs” of the entire play so that, whether you’re in charge of scene changing, music or lighting, you know what’s meant to happen at all times. Being part of a play, even if you’re backstage is a huge commitment and it requires a lot of time and dedication.

One of the benefits of drama that I have noticed is that it makes people more open and comfortable with each other and with expressing constructive thoughts and opinions. Drama helps to form positive connections with everyone who participates, and although it can get stressful at times, when everyone pulls through and realises what they’ve created together, it becomes a truly rewarding experience. I would recommend to other students to participate in drama and don’t worry if being in the spotlight isn’t your thing, you can always go backstage!

By Paris Ediabonya, TY student

At first I was not too keen on joining drama because I was not confident in my acting abilities, but during our first practice session everyone was so positive and creative that I quickly became self-assured!

Our first few drama sessions were spent getting to know each other, playing games, and improvising different scenarios. We entered a drama competition and Ms Kelly helped us to write the script of the play. Everyone got a chance to input their ideas. After casting the various roles the backstage jobs were assigned and we were ready to start rehearsing. It took us six weeks in total to prepare for the play.

We also went to Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe in Middle Street for a dress rehearsal. A week later we went to St Andrews College in Dublin to go perform our play! The entire drama club worked hard and the audience loved our performance. Getting to be onstage and a part of drama club was a really fun experience and great way to make friends. I encourage more people to join 😊

By Jemima Ndombasi, TY Student



Sports Updates

Basketball

1st and 2nd Year girls played in a basketball tournament in New Inn recently. Both teams have shown huge improvement since the beginning of the year. The 2nd Year team reached the final of the competition where they received silver medals.



Soccer

Colaiste Mhuirlinne/Merlin College boys soccer teams had a very successful year in the FAI Connacht leagues. We entered three teams under 14's, under 15's and also under 17's. All three teams had successful campaigns recording a number of wins. Our under 17 team narrowly missed out on a quarter final place after a thrilling 3-3 draw with Glenamaddy in Mervue United. The teams are already looking forward to next season and hopefully enjoy similar

Boys Gaelic Football

Our boy's Gaelic football team had a very successful year winning their division in Galway. They went on to represent Galway in the Connacht semi final narrowly losing out to the eventual champions Mount St. Michael Secondary of Claremorris by four points.

Tennis

The Merlin College Tennis players enjoyed fantastic weather in the last few weeks of term. We are fortunate to have such wonderful tennis facilities on campus. Well done to all involved. All levels of ability are catered and we look forward to welcoming new members next year!



A special congratulations to 2nd year student Samuel Madden who won first prize and 1st year student Sophie McDonagh who was the runner up in the Young Society of St. Vincent de Paul Schools Design Competition. Students researched and responded to the brief referencing the core values of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul who provide support and friendship to those in need, aid self-sufficiency and empowerment and focus on social justice and building a fair world where everybody is given a chance. Samuel's work will go on to feature in some promotional material for the Young SVP. The winners received €100 for art materials sponsored by [Easons Galway](#)

and a €50 voucher [Supernac's](#). Thanks to Paddy Daly, SVP and Geraldine from Easons for presenting the winners with their prizes in Merlin College on Friday 12th May.



Student Council



Merlin College has a very active and enthusiastic Student Council that continues to evolve as the school expands. Many thanks to all the members of the 2016/17 Council whose term is coming to an end.

The Council has worked closely with School Management this year on a number of issues. They have been proactive in contributing to the school's healthy eating policy, uniform policy and have encouraged a higher standard of literacy amongst the students by promoting the use of the school library.

In their meetings they have learned about and discussed child protection policies and also become familiar with the school's restorative practice behaviour policy. In turn, they have brought this information to their individual class groups for discussion which has informed and involved the whole school community. They have also worked on suggestions for subject choices at senior cycle, proposed lunchtime out of school access and initiated an annual schools sports day to begin in 2017/18.

In January, they attended the Action Plan Conference on Education for invited guests at Merlin College, where they were involved in a Q&A session with the Minister for Education, Mr Richard Bruton which focused on wellness and wellbeing in the curriculum and demonstrated the school's ongoing commitment to encouraging mental wellbeing in Coláiste Mhuirlinne.

They also attended the ISSU meeting in Aras na Gael, where they met and exchanged ideas with members of student councils from across Galway's secondary schools.

The Student Council has held two non-uniform days this year and raised enough money to buy a set of blazers for the use of all students who will represent the school in the various activities they are involved in throughout the school year.

It has been another very productive year for MCSC and it is with great anticipation that we will continue to build on this work in 2017/18.

K Conway (Staff/Student Liaison)



A selection of photographs from our Awards ceremony.

All students pictured with John Cleary, Principal.

Top Row from left to right: Alik Vilenson, Female Student of the Year; Markian Yarema, Male Student of the Year; Danielle Caffrey, TY Student of the Year

Middle Row: Abby Smyth; Maja Lawkowska; Sylvia Ukwuoma; Hamsley Okomah & Alexandra Soukhikh

Bottom Row: Choral Group, Erika Ligeikaite & Carolina Poskrobko; Paris Ediagbonya

