



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As the curtain closes on the 2016 - 2017 academic year, we can reflect with satisfaction and pride on another fulfilling and thoroughly eventful year in the life of CBS Kilkenny. I would like to thank our Board of Management, Parents Council, Student Council, school staff, the student body and their parents for their continuous endeavours in sustaining our school's high standards in academic achievement and in extracurricular success.

Since Christmas, our sports stars and musicians have performed very well in their respective fields, and this month our Awards Nights have recognised excellence in these and in many other fields. Our students have enjoyed foreign trips to Germany and France, and in recent weeks the school community came together for a very successful Fun Run and then for a glorious Sports Day at the Watershed on May 9th. To date, 2017 has been a very good year for CBS Kilkenny, and we look forward to a successful conclusion for all our examination students.

In March CBS Kilkenny hosted its inaugural **U10 Hurling Blitz**. This significant undertaking was held at Dicksboro GAA grounds which played host to twenty four young teams from Kilkenny Clubs. All of those in attendance enjoyed a terrific day of competitive hurling.

As is the case every year, CBS students thoroughly enjoyed the **annual foreign trips** to Paris and Bavaria. Many TY students identify the German trip as the highlight of their year, while our young First Year students are often experiencing a first foreign trip away from home when they travel to France in Spring. Both trips were hugely successful making plenty of memories for years to come.

Meanwhile, our **music department** continues to nurture new talent in all areas. The highlight of the year is always the Kilkenny Music Festival. This year, CBS Kilkenny put forward seven choirs to perform at the Festival. The Senior Choir won First Place in the Male Voice Choir competition, with the TY Choir coming in second. The Sixth Year Chamber Choir also won First Place in the Chamber Choir competition, for their rendition of "The Longest Time" by Billy Joel. This performance has gone on to have over 25,000 views on YouTube! Many instrumental players also enjoyed success in solo competitions over the course of the festival. The combined choirs of TY/5th Year and Senior Choir embarked on a trip to the Navan Choral Festival, where almost sixty boys took to the stage to represent CBS Kilkenny. This turned out to be a fantastic experience and a most enjoyable day for all involved. Meanwhile, the CBS Jazz Band, under the direction of Mr Eamon Cahill performed in the Watergate Theatre on May 6 2017, bringing the house down with Joe Delaney as soloist for "That's Life" by Frank Sinatra.

The school community came together for two healthy and competitive events recently, the annual **Fun Run** and the annual **Sports Day**. The 5km Fun Run took place in the beautiful grounds of Castle Park. This is always a hugely popular event in the school year, and the proceeds are used to fund and improve all sporting activities in the school. It was a beautiful warm day in the Park and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the outing. All of our students then enjoyed a terrific day of sportsmanship, competition and fun at the Watershed grounds for Sports Day. There were events for all interests and abilities, while the competitive athletes were tested also!



Each year the school hosts **Awards Night for TY** students who excel in different areas during their year. This year, there was a most impressive range of talents and achievements on display. There to congratulate the students was **Mr. Conor O'Loughlin**, Senior Humanitarian Manager with Trócaire and former student of CBS Kilkenny. Conor engaged all present with an outline of his life journey to his current role. Whilst all of the TY students demonstrated an incredible range of talents and competencies, the deserving winner on the night of the top award, Spirit of Transition Year, was **Tommy Walton**.

The main **Awards Night** was held in May and recognised student excellence in many fields. **Michael Maher**, Professor of Radiology at UCC and past pupil of the CBS spoke eloquently of his pride in the school and of the happy years he spent here. He congratulated the award recipients and presented the 2017 McFadden medal to the well-deserving recipient, **Conor Flynn**. Conor has contributed in numerous ways to life in CBS Kilkenny and has represented the school with distinction in many fields over the past six years.

In all, 2016 - 17 has been a busy and successful year for CBS Kilkenny - one of which we are justifiably proud. We look forward to the summer months as a time of reflection, renewal, and relaxation with family and friends. We wish all of our exam students the very best of luck in their endeavours and great happiness in their future lives. We know all of their hard work will be rewarded. Together with all members of the CBS Kilkenny school community, I wish you a healthy and happy summer, and we look forward to meeting up again in August.

Tom Clarke, Principal



CBS Kilkenny U10 Hurling Blitz

SENIOR HURLING UPDATE

After winning the Leinster League before Christmas the Senior Hurling squad underwent a busy Championship preparation in December through January and up to the first round clash against Dublin North in early February.

A fine first half performance against a physical Dublin side meant that the CBS were eight points to the good at half time. Dublin North showed real fighting spirit in the second period, but in truth the damage was done in the first half and it was the CBS who prevailed. Next up was the **Leinster semi-final** against Good Counsel of New Ross. Played in awful conditions in Thomastown, it was sheer heart and will to win that helped CBS over the line against a very gutsy Good Counsel Side.

The **Leinster Final** against St. Kieran's College was a closely contested game, and it always looked like a goal for either team could prove to be the decisive score on the day. This was the case but unfortunately the goal did not come our way. It was a bitterly disappointing way to end the Leinster campaign. However feeling sorry for themselves was not an option as an All-Ireland quarter-final against Presentation Athenry was just days away. This tie was contested on an artificial surface in Abbotstown GAA complex and it was a real cracker. The lead changed hands on numerous occasions but a wonder goal from Sean Bolger meant the CBS had an All-Ireland semi-final against Dr Harty Cup champions, Our Lady's Templemore, to look forward to. An extremely focused CBS team gave everything on the day, but came up agonisingly short against the eventual All-Ireland champions.

Throughout the campaign the players worked extremely hard and gave their all for the jersey every time they took to the field. We wish them every success in their academic and sporting futures.

JUVENILE HURLING UPDATE

Training started this year on the second Wednesday of the first school term and will conclude shortly in late May. There were 110 players togged out under the guidance of 12 mentors. We organized an internal blitz from Sept-Dec focusing on all player involvement, and the basic skills of the game developed.

During the **league stages** in February and March we had comprehensive wins over Offaly schools but were narrowly beaten by eventual winners Dublin south. The Championship started in early April with a strong win over Banagher College in Offaly to qualify us for a semi-final against St Kieran's. There was very little between the teams throughout, with CBS showing great hunger and commitment but unfortunately losing out by three points in a nail-biting finish.

The **Rice Cup U14 panel** had a good year with excellent wins in Rice Cup qualifying rounds and a strong display against Árd Scoil Rís, but unfortunately losing out to Nenagh CBS in the semi-final.

To ensure that all 110 players get game time there has been a number of successful blitzes throughout the year. The first of these competitions is our own Jim Langton tournament. This is a **one day blitz** held in October which has been a huge success. In this year's competition we were narrowly beaten by an excellent Thurles team. Further blitzes include the **Br. Anselm Cup** organised by de la Salle in Waterford and the **Rice Cup B blitz** in Tipperary town.

Our Juvenile and Rice Cup teams generally train on Wednesdays up to Christmas and Mondays and Wednesdays from Jan-May.

CBS Kilkenny U10 Hurling Blitz



Action from the Senior All-Ireland semi final



Conor Flynn is presented with the 2017 McFadden medal by guest speaker Michael Maher





PARENTS COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parents Council meets approximately once per month. Being a member of the Parents Council makes you more aware of school life and strengthens the link between school and home. The Principal normally attends each meeting, as well as a teacher representative.

We invite a speaker to the AGM which is held in October each year. This year, a speaker from **"Children of the Digital Age"** spoke to parents on the very topical issue of internet security for our teenagers. This proved to be a very popular and informative session.

During the course of the year, collaboration continued between the school and the Parents' Council on the **TY Work Experience Database** which is a very useful resource for TY students. The Parents' Council adopted a new logo this year which embodies the role that parents can play as part of the whole school community. The Council also met with school representatives to discuss the allocation of lockers for the new school year and attended the Open Night for incoming First Year parents. Chairperson **Lucy Heary** spoke on the role of the Council in school life. An annual Parents' Council award is presented at the Awards Night to the students with the best Junior and Leaving Certificate results from the previous year. Upcoming events include a **"Meet and Greet"** for all new First year students in August 2017 and a **Careers Evening** for Senior Cycle students later on this year. We look forward to welcoming some new members in 2017 -2018!

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

In January of this year the Student Council organised Motivation Week, which has always been a huge success in the school and this year was no different. We ran various different competitions and events for all years. We included everyone in this week to get them motivated for the year ahead. **Seachtain na Gaeilge** was organised in conjunction with the Irish department and was a great success. The use of the Irish language was enjoyed by everyone, through the many competitions that were held throughout the week.

Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST), the governing body of all CBS schools, has asked that schools develop their own 'student friendly charter' based on the **Edmund Rice Charter**. There are five elements in this charter. The Student Council, in conjunction with Ms Walsh and the Religion Department, has taken on the task of creating posters based on the elements of the charter. Each year group will be responsible for a different element.

On April 6th our Transition Year Representatives attended the ERST Student Council Conference, which focused on the theme of Mental Health this year. The conference was addressed by Dr Tony Humphreys, Clinical Psychologist and international speaker on **Mental Health**. We obtained valuable information on positive wellbeing and how we as a school community can look after our collective mental health. The students also shared ideas, thoughts and feelings with other students from CBS schools all over the country.

To celebrate the Edmund Rice Feast Day on May 5th the Student Council raised the Kilkenny CBS **Edmund Rice flag** in the front yard. The flag had been designed and presented to the school in recent weeks by ERST and it incorporates the individual crest of our school.

We wish next year's Student Council the best of luck, and we hope that they will continue the important work that has been done by all previous Councils.



Enjoying Sports Day 2017



Fun Run in the Castle Park



First Year Trip to Paris



TRANSITION YEAR UPDATE

Since Christmas, the TY students have undertaken with continued enthusiasm a wide array of activities. Immediately upon their return to school in January, they attended a careers exhibition in **Croke Park**. This was followed up shortly afterwards with a trip to the **Open Day in UCD** where they were escorted by ambassadors throughout the university to get a feel for campus life.

In mid-February a large number of TY students embarked upon the annual **TY Bavarian tour** which once again proved to be both an educational and an enjoyable experience. They visited Dachau Concentration camp, the Bavarian Alps, took in a game at the Alliance Arena and visited the sites of the Nuremburg rallies and Courtroom No 600 where the Nuremburg Trials took place.

TY students availed of interesting workshops facilitated by Personal Safety Ireland, which taught the students how to handle themselves in a potentially volatile situation. After Easter, they undertook a spiritual day retreat in St Fiacre's Parish Centre Loughboy facilitated by the **Mustard Seed Organisation**, which the students found very interesting and enlightening.

E-portfolio interviews were conducted in early May to review evidence of each student's academic, experiential learning and maturation through the course of Transition Year.

Finally, the TY Awards Ceremony took place on 11th May with special guest, former CBS Kilkenny student and now Humanitarian Manger with Trócaire, **Mr. Conor O'Loughlin**, in attendance. The evening was a mixture of music and song and included a poignant tribute to the loss of lives on Rescue 116 with a piece written by Joseph O'Connor performed by the drama group. Numerous accolades were bestowed on those students who had achieved honours in terms of involvement in An Gaisce, Sports Leadership, E-Learning, Drama, Music, History, Green Schools and Community Care. The ultimate accolade which is 'The Spirit of Transition Year Award' was presented in absentia to **Tommy Walton**, a worthy recipient.

The final undertaking of this year's TY cohort is their two weeks' end of year **work experience**. We wish them all well in their endeavours, particularly the six students embarking on the Ossory Youth Pilgrimage this month. May they all return in September with an enthusiastic academic focus after what we hope will be a safe and enjoyable summer holiday period.



Guarding the Castle during the Fun Run in Castle Park



YouTube Hit - For the Longest Time



Tom Clarke presents prizes at the CBS Golf Classic 2017



Tommy Walton receives the Spirit of Transition Award from Gerard Morrissey

Providing a quality learning and living experience is a priority at C.B.S., James's Street, Kilkenny.

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