Our Summer 2012 Newsletter brings the curtain down on what has been a hectic and thoroughly eventful year in the history of Kilkenny C.B.S.. At the outset I would like to pay tribute to the various groups of people who have worked tirelessly to ensure that 2012 has been such a tremendously fruitful year on so many fronts. I would like to thank the Board of Management, the Parent's Council, the Staff, the Pupils and their parents for their enduring efforts in sustaining our school's prominence in academic achievement and extra-curricular success. Among the student body this year both the Student's Council and the 'Cairdeas' group continued to do highly commendable work and well done to all concerned. The cut backs in education funding have been largely offset through the increased efforts of those associated with our school in ensuring that the educational experience of our pupils has not been diluted in any way. The determination to succeed has never been more evident in fact, when one considers the success of our Junior Hurlers in winning the Leinster title, the marvellous history-making Leinster Senior Soccer victory, a first All-Ireland victory of our Equestrian team, the burgeoning success of our choirs and musical talent, the gallantry of the Senior Hurling team in reaching the All-Ireland Final, the hugely successful production of 'Rabbit' by the TY Drama group, the First Year Paris Trip, another memorable TY German Trip, the ongoing development of the 'Primary School Pitch', the wonderful experience of the inaugural Zambia Immersion Project and the continued advancement of the IT facilities in the school…to mention but a few.

Happening times indeed on James's Street. 2012 also saw another hugely successful Transition Year programme which was clearly manifest at the TY Awards Night during which guest speaker Minister Sean Sherlock openly expressed that there was 'something special' going on in our school. I congratulate Richard Kelly on winning the TY Student of the Year award and all other TY Awards recipients. During the past academic year a number of our students gained national recognition in various pursuits. Sean Maguire and Robbie Slater represented Ireland in soccer, Billy Brett and Alex Broderick continue their rising profiles in canoeing, Sean Moran lined out for the Irish Schoolboys Rugby team, Simon Bluett won the SciFest award for his Technology Project and David McGeary won a silver medal in the Leinster Schools 110m Hurdles and will compete in the All-Ireland Finals in June. Allied to that our Senior Basketballers made the All-Ireland play-offs and the C.B.S. Choirs featured prominently this year culminating with the Chamber Choir, 'The Octaves', winning awards at the Kilkenny Music Festival. The collective talents of all our choirs is available on a recently produced CD "The Voices of Kilkenny C.B.S." which can be purchased at the school. Four of our TY Students demonstrated their IT skills at DCU in the National Finals of the Eircom Junior Spider Competition. Shaun Meighan, Richard Kelly, Alex Broderick and Dylan Dooley won the 'Best App' award for their website 'Quick Revise', a Science Revision site. At the whole School Awards Night we honoured many of our students in multifarious categories, curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular and well done to all recipients. Congratulations particularly to outstanding Leaving Cert. student Joe Bollard on receiving the McFadden Medal. Joe has been a wonderful student throughout his time in the C.B.S. and he exemplifies all that is positive about our school and is totally deserving of this prestigious recognition.

The annual Kilkenny C.B.S. Golf Classic took place on Friday 25th at Kilkenny Golf Club and many thanks to all who participated in another hugely successful event. The support from local businesses in difficult economic times was astounding and we very much appreciate the loyalty shown by the people of Kilkenny. Congratulations to all prize winners and thanks also to Kilkenny G.C. for hosting the event again this year.

We wish all our Exam candidates well in their upcoming Junior and Leaving Certificate tests and we look forward to selecting the second batch of Leaving Certs for the Tony O'Brien Business Scholarships to the Quinn School of Business in U.C.D. Mo mhile buiochas do phobal na scoile agus ta suil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as an samhradh.

Tom Clarke.

(Principal)
In addition to the school’s sporting successes, CBS Kilkenny has always been very proud to have cultivated many of Kilkenny’s finest young talents in music over the years, and now, for the first time, these talents have been committed to disc. The CD, entitled “The Voices of CBS Kilkenny”, is host to an abundance of diverse music to suit any listener’s tastes. From Eric Clapton to Ennio Morricone, from the Beatles to Bocelli, all of the school’s choral ensembles are featured: the CBS Junior Choir, TY Choir, 5th Year Choir and Senior Choir, as well as performances from Ronan Doheny, Conor Brassil, The Octaves and a special rendition of Toto’s “Africa” to mark the first CBS Kilkenny Zambian Immersion Project. The CD is available for sale in the school’s front office for €10.
The Kilkenny CBS Transition Year Awards Ceremony which took place on Thursday 10th May welcomed special guest for the evening Mr. Sean Sherlock TD, Minister for State at the Department of Enterprise, Jobs and Innovation and Department of Education and Skills. Indeed the invitation to Mr. Sherlock to attend this ceremony proved most apt as the evening proceedings would subsequently reveal the depth of the students experiential learning, academic diligence and dedication to innovative design undertaken as part of the TY Programme.

Under the direction of Music teacher Ms Mandy Dowling the TY Choir opened the evening with their rendition of Coldplay’s Viva la Vida. The TY Coordinator Mr. Gerard Morrissey then welcomed the audience of family and friends of the TY students and also other special guests, the Directors of various organizations and services who had facilitated the TY Community Care Social Studies Module throughout the year. Mr. Morrissey opined that although the evening was dedicated in the first instance to the awarding of Certificates and trophies to worthy recipients it should also be viewed as an evening in which the TY students themselves had the opportunity to entertain and enlighten the audience on the beneficial nature of this multi-faceted TY Programme.

Subsequently the audience was led on a pictorial and musical tour reflecting the students own unique personal experiences. The ebullient Joe Byrne TY3 stole the show when elaborating upon the skills required in becoming a confident orator he obliquely admonished Mr. Morrisey for lack of poise when leaning on the lectern. The entire event has since been dubbed the ‘Joe Show’ with Joe himself elevated further with the title of Ceann Comhairle.

In the keynote address special guest Mr. Sean Sherlock TD was genuinely fulsome in his praise for all that had been achieved by the students and paid tribute to their determination to avail of any opportunity to develop new skills and to develop as mature and autonomous members of our society. It was his considered belief that the development of such vocational, academic and interpersonal skills would stand them in good stead and would ultimately prove beneficial for Irish society as a whole in future years. Not forgetting populist approval, Mr. Sherlock’s final salutation was to exclaim, ‘Joe Byrne you're a legend’, to a rapturous round of applause.

The formal awarding of certificates to all students then took place marking their successful completion of the Transition Year Programme. Special category awards were also presented to a number of individuals with Frank Nolan, Dylan Dooley, Darragh Houlihan and Adrian Kapynski receiving awards for the best E-Portfolios in each of their classes. Special Merit Awards were presented to Cathal Boland for his efforts on the Zambian Immersion Project and Simon Bluett for his success in the Kilkenny Photography Society and Carlow SciFest Competition. Tommy Murphy was the recipient of the inaugural Community Care Social Studies Award which was presented to him by Mr. John Murphy, General Manager St. Patrick’s Residential Centre. Sean Grace received the Music Award for his contribution to the school choir and for his virtuosity as a pianist. The Enterprise Award was presented to Alex Broderick, Dylan Dooley, Richard Kelly and Shaun Meighan for their magnificent creation of the Quickrevise.com website which earlier in the year gained high profile success at the national Eircom Junior Spider Awards competition. The final prize of the evening was the highly coveted, ‘Spirit of Transition Award’, bestowed on that individual student who in the considered opinion of both the teaching staff and the TY students themselves had made the most dynamic contribution to the success of the TY Programme. The worthy recipient was the modest yet popular Richard Kelly who had exhibited the necessary leadership qualities, dedication and commitment to each and every endeavor undertaken throughout the past year.

The final words were then reserved for the collective voice of the TY Choir which brought a close to the formal proceedings when they, ‘took the midnight train goin’ anywhere’ and concluded the ceremony with the anthem, ‘Don’t Stop Believin’.

TY co-ordinator, Gerard Morrissey, principal Tom Clarke and Minister Sean Sherlock T.D. at the TY Awards night.
Providing a quality learning and living experience is a priority at C.B.S., James’s Street, Kilkenny.