



### FOREWORD

As we come to the closing stages of the academic year in CBS Kilkenny, we reflect on a year of progress, success and growth, but also one that has brought sadness. The passing in December 2015 of our scholarship patron **Mr. Tony O'Brien**, followed in March by that of our dear colleague **Ms. Caitríona O'Brien**, has cast a shadow of grief over our year. We are deeply saddened as a school community by our loss.

**Caitríona O'Brien** was a much loved and highly respected colleague, teacher and friend. She taught Geography and Maths for more than 25 years but did much more than that. Caitríona was a warm and caring person who had a fantastic rapport with her students and who worked very hard to enable them to achieve their potential. She had a number of passions, including equestrian pursuits, and she took great pride in preparing her charges for many Hunter Trials and Inter-school contests. She loved competition and was always thrilled when students from CBS Kilkenny were victorious. Caitríona brought a positive 'Can Do' attitude to all of her engagements, and she gave generously of her talents and her time. Her involvement in projects always had a common thread - Caitríona's wish for the best outcome for all parties involved. Caitríona's life journey has unfortunately been cut short, but she packed in a great variety of activities and experiences, and she touched many lives. She will be fondly remembered by all who engaged with her, RIP.

**Tony O'Brien** was a friend and benefactor of CBS Kilkenny. A native of Piltown, Tony lived most of his life in Dublin but never really left Kilkenny. His greatest thrill was to witness his home county win another All Ireland Senior Hurling Final, and both his working and leisure life were organised around the first Sunday in September. In his working life, Tony was a leader in business. Among his numerous prestigious roles Tony was Chairman of C&C until his retirement in 2010 after forty years with the group. C&C plc established the Tony O'Brien Scholarship Fund in CBS Kilkenny to honour him. The school is privileged to have been the recipient of this generosity since 2011, availing of significant scholarship funding for students of UCD's Quinn Business School. To date, nine students have been worthy winners of this prestigious award. Tony was a very generous and philanthropic supporter of CBS Kilkenny, RIP.

The year has brought curricular success in several areas, particularly **Technology, Gaelige, German and English**. **Cathal O'Dwyer O'Brien** was awarded third place in Ireland in 2015 LC Technology, while our **Tráth na gCeist** team progressed to the national finals in the eponymous national Irish Quiz competition. Meanwhile, **Szymon Karabin** won a summer scholarship to Germany, and first year student **Andrew Mason** was awarded first place from four hundred in the **Thomas MacDonagh poetry competition**. Alongside these achievements, the **School Improvement Planning (SIP)** process continues apace as we come to the end of our third year of reflection and self-evaluation. Having concentrated on the areas of Literacy and Numeracy, the next area for review and continuing school-wide improvement in 2016-17 is assessment.

In the realm of extra-curricular pursuits, 2015-16 brought great success for CBS in the areas of **Debating, Soccer, Golf, Athletics, Equestrian and Gaisce Awards**. Our Senior Debating team reached the semi-final stage of the prestigious national Concern Debating competition from an entry of more than 150 schools, while our soccer team progressed to the semi-final of the FAI Leinster Senior Boys Cup. Meanwhile, out on the course the senior CBS golf team recently won the Leinster Inter Schools League Matchplay title, having already been victorious in the Leinster Senior Schools Singles Matchplay in March. Individually, **Mark Power** excelled by winning the Peter McEvoy U18s stroke play trophy at Copt Heath in England. In March, first year student **Andy O'Donnell** won the All-Ireland Inter-Schools Hunter Trials in Carnew, while **Conor Cantwell** was crowned national winner in the PE EXPO competition where students present their own PE related projects. In spring 2016, forty students completed the Gaisce Award challenge at Bronze level, with two students progressing to silver level.

As is the case every year, CBS students thoroughly enjoyed the annual **foreign trips to Paris and Bavaria**. Some of our young first year students often experience their first solo foreign trip when they travel to France in spring, while many TY students enjoy the annual trip to Bavaria. Meanwhile back at home the academic year was peppered by numerous **themed weeks** which focus students' attention on areas such as Mental Health, Catholic Schools,

Numeracy, Literacy, Motivation and Seachtain na Gaeilge.

From further afield, former Principal of CBS Kilkenny, **Brother Mick O'Donoghue**, provides regular updates from **Zambia** regarding the progress of the Christian Brothers' work there. His Twalabuka accommodation project is progressing apace, and he is always very appreciative of the immense support he receives from CBS Kilkenny.

I would like to thank CBS students for their very generous and positive response to all of the charity initiatives throughout the year and for their support of the Fun Run during Active Schools Week. The funds raised, together with the proceeds from our very successful Golf Classic, have enabled the Board of Management to upgrade the gym and playing pitch, to enhance IT facilities in the Technical Drawing room and to extend the Technology Room. I also take this opportunity to thank our representatives from the parent body, the Board of Management and school staff who have worked extremely hard to maximise our funding through the organisation of the very popular Golf Classic in May.

In all, 2015-16 has been an eventful year -one in which we can be proud of our many successes, but also one which is marked by loss. We look forward to the summer as a time of reflection, relaxation and renewal. We wish all of our exam students the very best of luck, and 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 look forward to meeting up again in August.

Mr. Tom Clarke, Principal.



Caitríona O'Brien, a dear colleague and friend

### *Caitríona O'Brien*

"She has achieved success who has lived well,  
laughed often, and loved much;  
who has enjoyed the trust of pure men, the respect  
of intelligent men and the love of little children;  
who has filled her niche and accomplished her task;  
who has always looked for the best in others and given them  
the best she had; who has left the world better than she found it."

*(Adapted from Bessie Anderson Stanley writings).*

Ni bheidh a leithéid in ár measc arís.



Seachtain na Gaelige Winners with Principal Tom Clarke

## CBS PARENTS' COUNCIL

The Parents' Council of CBS Kilkenny is an enthusiastic group of parents whose intention is to support the school staff and management and to keep in mind the best interest of our students. Monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month and the AGM takes place early in October. This year's guest speaker was Fergus Heffernan who gave an enlightening talk on the dynamic of family life, sharing with us his own personal story. Everyone left the room with insightful suggestions on how to nurture relationships with our teenagers. The Parents' Council funded this talk and also the recent 'Cracking the College Code' event. This informative evening was directed towards parents of senior cycle students. The practical advice of its author, Catherine O'Connor, was warmly received and provided much food for thought regarding the transition to Third Level Education.

Throughout the year, members of the Parents' Council are asked to review and ratify several key school policies, and this year also saw the beginnings of work on the Transition Year Work Experience database. In conjunction with the school and employers in Kilkenny, a wealth of information is currently being collated and analysed. The aim of this project is to help TY students to secure work experience which suits their interests and talents and which helps them consider their future career paths.

The CBS Parents' Council has had a great year and looks forward to welcoming new members for 2016-17.



Tony O'Brien (RIP) and his wife Frances



Andy O'Donnell, winner All-Ireland Inter-Schools Hunter Trials 2016.



Conor Cantwell wins PExpo National Title



Brother O'Donoghue's development work in Zambia continues apace

## CBS TRANSITION YEAR

On Thursday 19th May we marked the formal conclusion of study and endeavour by the 2015-2016 cohort of TY students with the Awards Ceremony held in the school gymnasium. An audience made up of teachers, parents, guardians and family were witness to the awarding of TY Certificates to all students who successfully completed the year. Special recognition in the form of individual category awards was afforded to a number of students for their efforts throughout the year in areas such as; Community Care, Enterprise, e-Learning, Drama, Music, History and Science. Forty students received the President's Bronze Gaisce medal while another group of students completed Level 1 of the Sports Leadership Award. The TY students will enjoy a less formal environment when they travel to the Special Ops Paintballing facility in Roundwood, Co. Wicklow and will then return to complete the last module of the TY Programme which involves two weeks of Work Experience. We salute their dedication and determination throughout this year. We wish them all well during the summer break and trust that they have gained from this unique educational experience and will return determined to achieve their full potential in Senior Cycle.



Flying the flag for CBS during the Fun Run as part of Mental health and Active Week



CBS Kilkenny Senior Debating Team  
Kevin Barrett, Jack Gargan, Cian Boyle, Jack Lawlor  
and James Foley-Walsh with their mentor Mr. O'Brien



Andrew Mason, winner of the Thomas MacDonagh Poetry Competition,  
with his teacher Ms. Lanigan

## HURLING IN CBS KILKENNY

Having reached the semi-final stage of the Leinster League before Christmas, the Senior Hurling squad underwent a busy Championship preparation in December through January up to the first round clash with Good Counsel in February. CBS prevailed in this fixture after a tough battle with their Wexford counterparts on the artificial surface in WIT. Next up was the Leinster semi-final where CBS beat Mountrath CC. to qualify for the Leinster Final against St. Kieran's, which proved disappointing for CBS. The match was keenly contested and overheated at times. The defeat meant a very difficult All-Ireland Quarter-Final against Harty Cup Champions, Ard Scoil Ris of Limerick City, where Ard Scoil demonstrated their greater experience by coming out on top at the end. Throughout the campaign the players worked very hard and we wish them every success in their academic and sporting futures.

Our Junior Hurlers had a very encouraging campaign, and while it was bitterly disappointing to fall just short in the Leinster Final it is clear to see that if the boys continue to show the same levels of effort and commitment they will be picking up silverware in the near future. Qualifying for the Leinster final was a huge achievement considering the majority of the panel are young enough to play at the same grade again next year. The final versus St. Kieran's College was a fantastic game of hurling played in front of a large crowd in St. John's Park on a blustery afternoon. The match was hard fought and scores were difficult to come by. The lads can be hugely proud of their efforts but unfortunately we came up short on the day. Under the guidance of Mr Ruth the team undertook a rigorous flexibility and core strengthening programme in our newly renovated gym. The purpose of this programme is to help the lads to avoid unnecessary injuries as well as to improve their core strength for the sporting challenges that lie ahead. Any player who didn't feature in the "A" competition was afforded the opportunity to play in the newly organised Kilkenny League, which involves all of the Secondary schools in Kilkenny. This year we entered two teams in this competition which runs from mid-October through to the Christmas break. Entering three teams across all competitions ensures that every student who wishes to play hurling at this grade is afforded the opportunity to do so.

It has been a great year for the Kilkenny CBS juvenile teams. Our Rice Cup team reached the semi-final stages, losing out to Midleton CBS in a tight game 2-14 to 3-5. Over the course of the year they reached the Jim Langton Cup final and the Brother Anselm quarter-finals. They also topped their group in the qualifying stages of the Rice Cup and reached a Rice Cup semi-final. The campaign began back in mid-January. Performances in the U14 1/2 league improved throughout the league and we took this form into the championship. The squad defeated Mountrath to set up a semi-final clash again Good Counsel College, where unfortunately they came up short. Our teams reached two major semi-finals this year and the future looks bright for lads of the 2016 CBS Rice Cup and U14 1/2 squads.

## MUSIC IN CBS KILKENNY

It has been a busy term for the Music Department since the very successful Christmas Carol Service in the Black Abbey. Once again the CBS featured prominently at the Kilkenny Music Festival in February, coming away with several first place awards in both the solo instrumental/vocal awards and the ensemble/choral sections. This year the wonderful 1st Year Choir came first in the Unison Choir Competition, with the Senior Choir winning the Rena Brett Cup for Male Voices, while our very accomplished Jazz ensemble won First Place in the Senior Chamber Music section. Congratulations to all involved.



Senior Choir - winners in the Kilkenny Music Festival

## ATHLETICS AT CBS

A successful year for CBS athletes started in November with the Senior Cross Country team winning bronze at the Rice Schools Athletics Championships. The team consisting of Kelvin Ryan, Ben Tynan, Eddie Byrne and Craig Byrne had further success when they came third in the South Leinster Cross Country Championships in January.

The track and field season kicked into gear in March with the Rice Schools All-Irelands which saw Craig Byrne win bronze in the 800m and gold in the high jump, while David Murphy won gold in the U17 100m and 200m. Further success came in the high jump when Darragh Roberts won gold in the U17 and Peter Dunne won gold in the U14. The next outing was the South Leinster Championships and we had success with Craig Byrne getting silver in the 800m and third in the high jump, Zach Denieffe silver U17 hammer, David Murphy gold 100m and 200m and Peter Dunne gold in the U14 high jump. These results qualified the students for the Leinster Championships and it proved to be a great day out for the CBS where David Murphy won gold in the 100m and 200m and Peter Dunne won gold in the U14 high jump. Both David and Peter will represent the school at the All-Irelands in June



Peter Dunne Leinster Schools U14 High Jump Champion



David Murphy 100m and 200m Leinster Schools Champion



Mark Power, winner of the Peter McEvoy trophy in April



CBS Golf team -Kevin Power, Mark Power, Mackenzie Davin, Jack Walsh and Bobby O'Mahony with their mentor Sean Breathnach



Cathal and Mr. McCormack receive their awards from the Irish Techno Teachers Association



Junior Choir - winners in the Kilkenny Music Festival

## NEW BUILDING

The new building program is progressing apace. It is anticipated that the extension will be completed by June and we are very much looking forward to our new Bialinn (dining area) being fully operational in August. This will provide much needed recreational space for CBS students, and we expect that a very interesting menu of prepared lunches will be available. It is envisaged that all first year students will remain on the school campus from September 2016. This will extend to second and third year students in the following years.



Gaisce Award recipients 2016



First Years visit Parc Asterix during their Paris Trip

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

Meánscoil na mBráithre Críostaí, Cill Chainnigh.

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