



# Christian Brothers College Monkstown Park

## Newsletter

a positive environment where learning is valued



Well that has been a very busy first half term. We would like to congratulate our class of 2015 on a fantastic set of results in the Leaving certificate, we wish them well as they continue on their journey. A special mention for Eoin Downes who achieved the maximum 625 points.

We are now well into the first term and our 72 new first years are finding their way around the school including the newly refurbished F corridor, in which all of the classes are fitted with state of the art interactive data projectors and 100mb broadband. We welcomed a large number once again for our Open Night in September and our boys as always were the stars of the show. Congratulations to Head Prefect Jack McAteer (6KB)(right) and to his deputy Alec Byrne (6MK), both of whom came to us from St. Brigid's BNS.

## Literacy week

*'Great books help you understand and help you to be understood'*

- John Green

Our literacy week is all about promoting the written word. Being able to communicate within a vigorous and ever- changing language is a challenge to us all but also an opportunity. Reading stimulates the imagination, fortifies the memory, refreshes the vocabulary and feeds the soul. The art of writing is not something that is likely to go out of fashion any time soon. But what of the skill of reading? Here in CBC we believe it is imperative that all our students read widely and often. They must be equipped to evaluate and enjoy texts in equal measure.

Literacy and numeracy is of the utmost importance to us in the college and our Literacy week is just another brick laid on the foundation of the already great work done by our students and teachers.

We began the week with our Teacher Readathon in the study hub and continued with Story Time with our Juniors. We also had our photo caption competition and our CBC Literature Crossword challenge. Some of our current 5th years who took part in the BrainStorm writing project with Roddy Doyle visited our TY students to read some of their work and hopefully inspire them to create some more great writing.

Throughout the week we also featured quotes from our favourite writers and book recommendations on the school twitter page. In the coming weeks we hope to begin a writing workshop and drama group.

The written word is alive and well in CBC!  
Dermot Byrne

## Past Pupils



The Past Pupils Union held a ceremony to celebrate the achievements of some of our most distinguished past pupils.

The Past Pupils Frank McCabe (Senior Vice President of Intel), John Keogh (RTE Music) and Seán Barrett (Ceann Comhairle) were recognised for their lifetime achievement. They all enjoyed a tour of the new build and they recalled with fond memories their times spent in CBC

Their families and friends attended the ceremony which took place in the atrium of the new building. They all stressed that their success originated from the excellent teaching they received in CBC

## 1995 Reunion

Our class of 1995 had their 20 year reunion in the college recently with approximately 40 of the class turning out. It was great for the men to meet the boys of 20 years ago with some people travelling from Australia and the US to be present on the night.

It was a pleasure to meet with them and recall the great stories of twenty years ago. They were very impressed with the new building and the latest developments! "It is so clean!" was the quote of the night which served as a reminder of what they had experienced previously! For grown men to get excited about the classrooms they were in twenty years previously certainly took me by surprise! The Past Pupils Union was generous in their welcoming of the class on the night providing refreshments in the reception area. The class of 95 greatly appreciated the welcome received and thanked the PPU for its hospitality. Three students of the class of 95 who had passed on were remembered on the night with all present feeling their loss. May they rest in peace! Needless to say the group proceeded to a nearby venue to continue their stories of 20 years previously! It was great to see the boys and wishing them God's blessings for the next 20 years!



Dr. G. Berry

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## A chat with Ms. A. O'Connor

*We sat down with the newest of our three Ms. O'Connors to have a chat.*

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**So Ms. O'Connor, you've just started your second year in CBC, how have you found it so far?** I love working in CBC. The genuine sense of community makes CBC a great place to work and go to school. I'm looking forward to many more happy years spent working here!

**Did you enjoy school? What type of student were you?**

I absolutely loved school. I was a hard-working student and always strived to do my best. I played hockey for the As throughout my years in secondary school and was a prefect in 6th year.

**Where did you go to college and what did you study?**

I did my undergraduate degree in UCD, studying Italian and History of Art. I went on to do an MA in Italian after this, also in UCD. Following this I did my HDip in Education in Trinity College Dublin. A few years later I then went back to do a Masters in Education in Guidance and Counselling!



**How did Italian and Art lead you into working as a guidance counsellor?**

I loved studying Italian and History of Art. I had always wanted to learn and speak another language and History of Art went so well with Italian they were the perfect combination. After my degree I worked for some time and then went back to college to study my Masters in Italian. I had always thought I would like to be a teacher one day so after the Masters and some time away in Italy teaching I decided to go back to college to do my HDip in Education in Trinity. During my training I ended up working in a school in Dublin's inner city. This was a wonderful yet challenging experience. I worked with many inspiring teachers and gained great experience from this. When I was offered a job to stay on at the end of my HDip I jumped at the chance. After a year working in this school I realised that my interests also lay strongly within the pastoral role of teaching and I wanted to enhance my skills in this field so enrolled in a year long part-time evening course; the Maynooth University Certificate in Counselling Skills. Two years later I then enrolled on the Trinity Masters in Education in Guidance and Counselling and here I am.

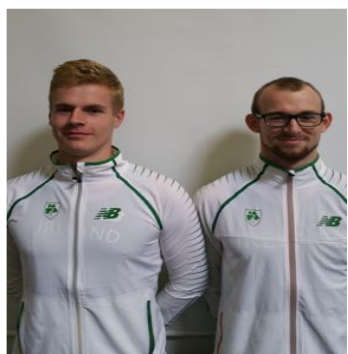
**What's your favourite thing to do outside of school?** I love practising yoga and go to class a couple of times a week. I love spending time with my family. I also love music, even though I don't play an instrument (yet!)

**What's the last book you read and movie you saw?** I'm reading a book at the moment called Nothing Holds Back the Night and the last movie I saw was Big Hero 6, which was hilarious and very heart-warming!

Follow Ms. O'Connor on twitter @cbcguidance or visit her blog <http://careers.cbcm Monkstown.ie>

# Sports Update

## Irish Athletes



Congratulations to Daniel McSweeney and Robert Ivers who represented Ireland in athletics during the summer. Daniel competed in the SIAB Schools International in Scotland and came 6th in the discus.

## Rugby

The Rugby Season is underway with all of our teams getting stuck in to training and matches.



Follow us on Twitter @cbcmonkstownpk to get more details on all of our matches

Congratulations to Rob Jordan (below) who has been selected as captain of The SCT for 2015/16.



Sean Power has been selected to captain the Junior Cup Team.

We wish them both and their teams the best of luck for the season ahead



## An Olympic Visit Rio2016

It was great to have Claire Lambe, recently Olympic qualified rower in to speak to our aspiring rowers and representative sportsmen. Claire recently qualified to represent Ireland in RIO 2016 and will be only the 3rd female Irish rower to compete at the Olympics.

Claire dispensed some wisdom and then jumped on the rowing machine to show the lads a thing or two!

Jack Reynolds (1<sup>st</sup> Year) was obviously inspired as he recently set a record for the Junior 12 2 minute row of 510 metre



## Past Pupils

It was great to see Past pupils Michael Courtney and Andrew Heffernan (both class of 2012) representing Trinity as they reached the Final of the World University Championships in London



## Golf

Congratulations to Sean Kestell (off 5) who came 3rd in the Gross Leinster Schools Senior Golf Championship shooting a 3 over par 75 in Old Conna, winning the net competition in the process.

If you have anything you would included in one of our newsletters,

please email [monkstownpark@gmail.com](mailto:monkstownpark@gmail.com)

[www.cbcmonkstown.ie](http://www.cbcmonkstown.ie)



# Transition Year

-Highlights so far

## Greystones to Bray walk



Our annual Greystones to Bray Hike was a wonderful day for all. The sun was out for a beautiful walk that was lead by Mr. Corcoran and our mascots for the day, the dogs Buddy and Sloane! After a tough hike we finished with a dip in the sea and fish and chips for all at Cassoni's on Bray promenade!

## CBCTY on the Big Screen

CBCTY will be appearing on our cinema screens next year! All the boys took part in the production of the film, 'Handsome Devil', starring Andrew Scott ('Sherlock' and James Bond's 'Spectre'), Michael McElhatton ('Game of Thrones') and Amy Huberman ('The Clinic'). Keep an eye out for us!

## Twitter Trail

The CBCTY Twitter Trail was a fun day for everyone as the year explored the local area, discovering more about its history and geography. Given a list of over twenty clues to find a location, the groups had to work together, plan their itinerary, and use their Twitter account to confirm their answers.

## Charity Work

A day in the city collecting for Temple Street Children's Hospital by all the boys was much appreciated. The overall tally was beyond the expectations of the hospital's organisers. Well done to everyone.

The CBC-Calais Refugee Solidarity was a fantastic initiative that a number of the Transition Years decided to organise. There was such an overwhelming response from the CBC community to the collection that the boys featured in a recent article in the Dublin Gazette. Well done to Jordan Brophy, Stephen Browne, Cian Butler, James levers, Calam Jones and Mark Nolan.

## Guest Speakers

CBCTY also welcomed speakers from the Order of Malta, Dublin Simon Community, the Calais Refugee Solidarity Fund, Temple Street Children's Hospital and a health professional who outlined the skills necessary for Social Placement.

## Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning for Blackrock Hospice was a great success driven by Michael O'Neill, Peter Jackson and Harry Shaw. Over €200 was raised for the hospice. The boys also organised donations from local businesses in Monkstown Village which made a big difference to the total amount raised.



## Social Placement

Social Placement began for 4RC very soon after the term began. The boys work one day a week in organisations in our community. Among others The boys assist in nursing homes...charity shops, among others. In C.B.S. Francis Street, working closely with Mr. Byrne, the boys coach rugby to the school's junior classes, 4KR take over the great work of 4RC after their Work Experience module.

To find out more and to see what's planned for November and December, follow us on our Twitter account @CBCTY or contact Mr. Ferguson