



MOUNTRATH COMMUNITY SCHOOL LEAVING CERT CLASS OF 2024



Welcome to the May edition of our newsletter from Mountrath Community School for the academic year 2023/2024 bringing you updates on all the latest activities and achievements of our school and students. Included in this edition are the following

- Senior Achievement Awards
- Junior Achievement Awards
- TY trip to Italy
- First Year Hurlers
- Sports Day
- TY Gaisce Trip
- Future Leaders Competition
- Sixth Year Graduation Day
- MCS Sports



Student Activities

The Transition Year students of Mountrath Community School enjoyed an exciting cultural trip to Italy in May. The group visited Venice, Verona and Lake Garda. Day one and they hit the ground running as they embarked on their tour of Venice. Spirits were high as they boarded the Vaporetto and sped across the Venetian waters to the town centre. Beginning in St Mark's Square, the students took part in a guided walking tour of the town highlights including St Mark's Basilica, Doge's Palace and the bridge of Sighs.

Day two and the destination was Verona. The group were excited to visit Juliet's house, of Romeo and Juliet acclaim, which all had studied as part of Junior Cycle English. Then they made their way across to the Verona arena, a colosseum built in 30AD and is one of the best preserved ancient structures of its kind. Before heading home for the night, a competitive game of bowling rounded off a great day.

Friday, and everyone was ready for a day of high-speed twists, turns, and loops of all the roller-coaster's on offer in Gardaland, even the teachers got involved! A great day was had by all and more importantly, some fears were conquered. The final day was spent in sunny Sirmione beside the stunning Lake Garda, the students were treated to an unforgettable boat trip, followed by some lunch and even more gelato. On the way to Milan to catch their flight home the tour made a final stop for some shopping where they stocked up on some Italian souvenirs. Happy but exhausted they arrived back in Mountrath in the early hours having made some unforgettable memories.



Student Achievements

Gaisce - Transition Years head to Roscommon

Transition Year Gaisce students made their way to Roscommon this term to earn their bronze award. This was part of the 'physical recreation' section of Gaisce, and composed of an overnight stay in the Shannon River Adventure Center. Students were greeted by their guides and took part in a 17km walk. Students reminisced about their year in TY, quizzed the teachers on their life stories, and learned some Spanish from their guides who were in Ireland on work experience. Upon returning to the adventure center, students had a spontaneous swim in the lake (accompanied by their guides of course) and played a game of rugby before dinner. Once fed, they then took part in rock climbing and archery. To round off the day, students had a guitar session outside of their tents, along with some smores by the fire.

Early the next morning, students completed a further 8km hike and received lunch before heading home.



Future Leaders Competition

Congratulations to Cheola Danne and Eimear Meade in Transition year on winning the Future Leaders Competition for all their hard work this year.

The girls are now invited to Croke Park on the 8th of June for the Joe McDonagh and Leinster Hurling Final. Cheola will spend the day with the Stadium Operations Team learning about how events are run in this amazing venue and Eimear will shadow the referees and get to see the Hawkeye studio. The girls also won a pair of tickets for their parents and an O'Neills top.

Well done Cheola & Eimear and we hope you have a great day in Croke Park shouting for Laois!!



Sixth Year Graduation

Graduation 2024 by Ms. Catherine Walshe

Last Wednesday marked a significant milestone for our 6th Year students as they celebrated their final day of school and Graduation night. The day was filled with joy, camaraderie where they enjoyed their last school day together.

The festivities kicked off with tea and coffee followed by a fun quiz to warm up for the upcoming exams. One of the highlights of the day was the highly anticipated Teacher vs. 6th year student soccer match. As usual, the teachers clinched the victory through a thrilling penalty shootout. Everyone enjoyed the spectacle and the strong bond between students and staff was clear to see! Afterwards our 6th year students, joined by teachers, enjoyed a delicious barbecue provided by Bosco's Catering. Students were then joined by Annemarie Kelly at the Awards Ceremony where they were commended for their hard work and achievements. To finish off the lovely day students together with their parents and teachers marked their final day in Mountrath Community School with a lovely Graduation Ceremony organised by students and the fantastic Religion and Music departments.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the dedicated staff who have worked tirelessly over the past six years, guiding and nurturing our students. We also express our gratitude to the parents for their steadfast support and cooperation, and to the students themselves for their hard work and perseverance.

We are very proud of the Class of 2024. They are a group of capable, determined, and talented individuals, poised to achieve remarkable academic success in the upcoming exams and beyond. As these students embark on the next chapter of their lives, we wish them all the best for their exams and their future endeavours. The memories we've created together at Mountrath Community School will be cherished for years to come. Congratulations to all our graduates. We are confident that you will continue to shine brightly, whatever path you choose to follow.



Sports Day 2024

Our annual sports day took place on Tuesday the 14th of May. Fortunately, the weather was in our favour and the occasion went ahead without any disruptions. We had students of all year groups taking part in activities and games throughout the day. This was a very special day for our sixth years as they participated in their final sports day which culminated with a tightly contested Tug o' war competition.



Senior Achievement Awards

Wednesday, May 22 marked one of the highlights of the school calendar at Mountrath Community School as the school held its annual Student Achievement Celebration, an occasion where the contributions of students to school life is celebrated. Ms Annemarie Kelly was the guest at the awards. The afternoon was divided into six sections with some fantastic musical Interludes from Eoghan Slattery, Aoife Higgins, Ryan Collins and many other members of the school choir led by Ms Anne-Marie Lawlor. Amongst these different accolades given to were Class group Awards, Spirit of the School awards, Sports Awards, School Leadership Awards, Academic awards and Overall Awards.

Dion Cuddy received the Martin Moore Award for Senior Hurler of the Year and Katelyn Shore won the Orla Hickey Cup for best all-round sportsperson of the year. Eddie Fordjour Won the sixth year LCA student of the year Award. The sought after academic awards went to Erika Holland for Irish, Rain Pikulska for English, Charlie Meagher for History, Rachel Fitzpatrick for Art, Alex Power for Music, Tiernan O'Donovan for politics & Society, Kate Larkin for French, Slywia Szydłowska for German, Ava Guilfoyle for Home Economics, Cian O'Gorman for Geography, Eoin Brennan for PE and Construction, Karlijn Eyongakpa for Business, Naomi Senior for Accounting, Alison Parkinson for LCVP, Adam Dunne for Physics, Courtney Chambers for Chemistry, Tyler Kelly for Biology, Pdraig Carroll for Ag. Science and Engineering and Charlie Donnery for Maths.

Overall Student of the year went to Kate Larkin for excelling in her academic studies over her six years in MCS and the Sr. Mary Sheedy Cup - Student of the Year award went to Charlie Donnery.







Junior Achievement Awards

On Thursday 23rd May, the Junior classes of the school were invited to the gym for their Student Achievement Celebration. Mr. Edward Dunne was the guest speaker and he spoke to the students about his career path and gave them a very motivating speech. The music was exceptional, featuring a trad group medley, a piano solo by Batzorig Baatarkhuyagt, Songs by Josh Palmer, Jack Brennan and the 5th year music class.

The awards were divided up into class group awards, sports awards, leadership awards and spirit of the school awards.

Evan Burke won Athlete of the year, Basketball awards went to Ben Heffernan, Eoin O'Loughlin, Grainne Dolan and Farrah Flanagan. Camogie player of the year went to Chloe Lyons and Lauren Fitzpatrick. Footballer of the year went to John Fitzpatrick, Glenn Brady, Ciara Hilliard and Roisin Brennan. Hurler of the year went to Padriag Fahy and Luke Hynes. Rugby player of the year went to Daragh Mortimer and Conor Ryan. The Volleyball awards went to Viktoriia Lantsova, Batzorig Baatarkhuyagt, Hollie Cooper, Jamie Holohan, Eva Meally and Eugene Boleyko.

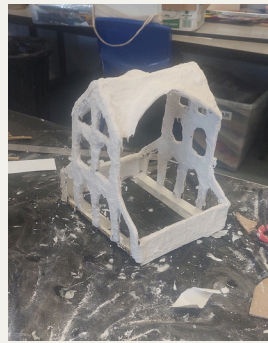
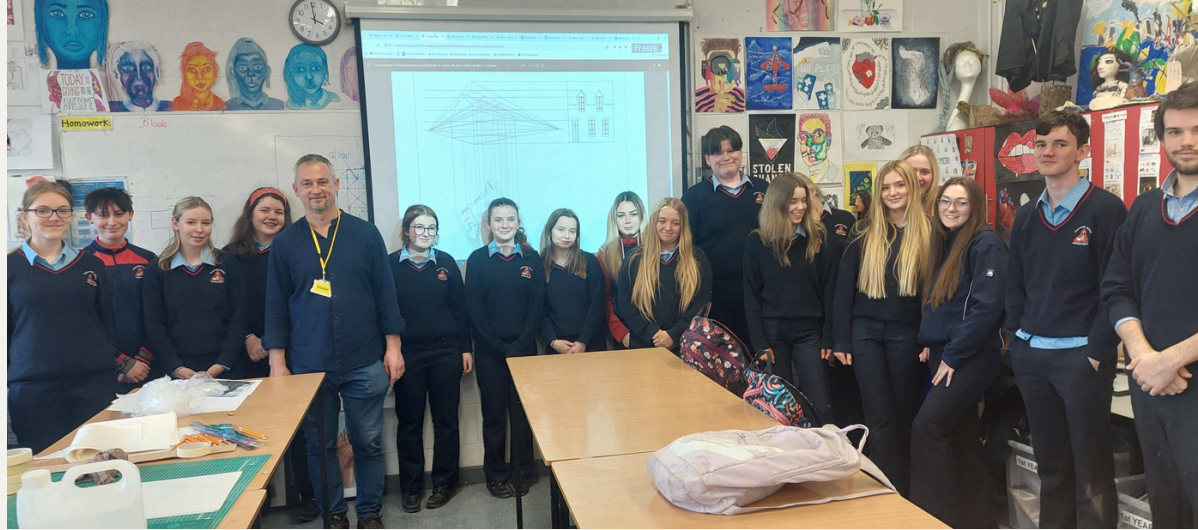
The Andrew Moore award went to Hollie Grehan. Well done to all the award winners.



Art Department

Well done to Lucy Kennedy in first year who received Highly commended in the Cre Ceramics competition. Well done Lucy.

BLAST Art Workshops- Romanesque & Gothic



Student Activities

First years head for the Zoo

First years had their end of term school tour. The entire year group along with their class tutors and year head set off for Dublin Zoo where they spent the first half of the day walking around looking at the different animals. They then headed off to Liffey Valley for an hour shopping before heading back to the school. A great day had by all students involved.



Pat Critchley visits MCS

There was great excitement among the students on Tuesday 21st when Pat Critchley came to award them with their Junior Hurling and Camogie with their Leinster medals. We were also delighted to welcome the Parents/Guardians and some family members of our players on the evening in acknowledgement and appreciation of the huge role they play in our extra curricular achievements. Well done to everyone involved.



MCS Sports

Keep up-to-date on all sporting events through our Social Media



1st Year Rugby

To end the year our 1st year boys rugby team participated in the "Laois 1st Year Rugby Blitz" which took place at Portlaoise RFC. The blitz involved playing 3 mini matches against St. Mary's CBS, Mountmellick CS and Heywood CS.

Our first match was against St. Mary's CBS - our biggest local rivals. Many of the lads from both sides play club rugby together so each team was desperate to win and have the bragging rights. The first half was tight with both teams scoring 2 tries each and we took a narrow 12 - 10 lead at half time. In the second we managed to take control of the match and scored 3 more tries and secured a comfortable 31 - 17 victory. The bragging rights were ours!!! Tries scored by Matthew Lynch, Daragh Mortimer (x3) and Tadhg Lowry.

Our second match was against Mountmellick CS - we knew this would be a tough match and it was very close last time we played them in the Harry Nicholls cup competition. In the first half we managed to score 2 tries through Daragh Mortimer and Darragh Hooban and lead 14 - 7 at the break. In the second half neither team could really get on top but we managed to score 2 more tries through Darragh Hooban and Dayne Byrne to win our 2nd match 24 - 14.

Our third and final match was against Heywood CS. We were feeling confident having won our first two matches but despite playing most of the rugby in their half we were down 12 - 7 at the break. It remained nip and tuck in the second half too and Heywood were leading 17 - 14 with only about 1 min left on the clock thanks to their 3rd try. However, right from the restart we managed to get our hands on the ball once more and headed closer towards their twenty - two through some good work from the forwards. We managed to keep the ball and Darragh Hooban managed to burst through the line to score our 3rd try. It meant we took victory once more by 21 - 17. Tries scored by Daniel Sheeran, Daragh Mortimer and Darragh Hooban.

It meant 3 wins out of 3 on the day and we can say that we are the best 1st Year Boys Rugby Team in Laois. Well done lads we are proud of you!! A special thank you to Mr. T Kirwan who has been helping out with the group while on teaching practice at the school.

Match Of The Year

On Wednesday 22nd, the annual Teachers V's Students soccer match took place at 11.00. This is always an exciting and dramatic affair. Both teams had put in lots of training and students even had enlisted the help of trainer and manager, Ronan & Caelum. The match was close and ended in a draw. Penalties were taken and the Teachers came out victorious on the day. Well done to all involved.



Check out @mountrathcs on Instagram, Facebook & Twitter

1st year Leinster Hurling Plate Final - May 16th 2024, Carlow Town Hurling Club

The Mountrath CS 1st year hurlers rounded off their year in impressive style last week when they captured the 1st Year Leinster Hurling Plate with victory over a gallant Creagh College side from Wexford. The game took place in Carlow Town hurling Club on a beautiful day for hurling and it was all action from the very start. Ryan Guilfoyle got MCS off the mark with a pointed free early on before Creagh College responded with a goal and a point of their own. The Wexford school looked very dangerous early on but David Peters, Tadhg Lowry and Leo Guilfoyle really got a grip of the game in the MCS half back line and laid the platform for a strong finish to the first half. Points from Guilfoyle, Darragh Mortimer and the lively Jack Higgins settled MCS and then Billy Lawless struck for two quick fire goals to put MCS in front at the break.

MCS hurled some great stuff in the second half with Luke Delaney, Daniel Meade and John Fitzpatrick all working really hard around the middle of the field. Jack Higgins looked dangerous throughout and added two well taken goals to his name. Points from Guilfoyle, Lawless, Bobby Callaghan and Luke Delaney kept MCS out in front. Creagh College kept at it though and attacked with real purpose until the very end. Pdraig Fahy, Daniel Sheeran and Ciaran Callaghan put up a great resistance in the MCS full back line and along with composed Goalkeeper Ben Heffernan managed to keep the opposition from any further green flags.

Matthew Lynch, Benjamin Peake and Fionan Phelan Dalton brought great energy from the bench also and helped MCS see out the game and allowed full back Pdraig Fahy and full forward Billy Lawless to receive the silverware on behalf of the team and panel. It was just rewards for a very committed panel of 37 players who have trained well all year with Ross Young from Laois GAA and MCS staff members Mr Bredin and Mr Coughlan. We look forward to seeing these talented young hurlers develop further over the coming years in MCS.

Team & Panel

Ben Heffernan, Ciaran Callaghan, Pdraig Fahy, Daniel Sheeran, David Peters, Tadhg Lowry, Leo Guilfoyle, Luke Delaney, Daniel Meade, John Fitzpatrick, Daragh Mortimer, Ryan Guilfoyle, Bobby Callaghan, Billy Lawless, Jack Higgins, Matthew Lynch, Benjamin Peake, Fionan Phelan Dalton, Billy Byrne, Dayne Byrne, Xavier Bennett, Jack Carroll, James Cullinan, Eoin Dollard, Callum Fitzpatrick, Ben Fitzpatrick, Darragh Hooban, Sean Hyland, Ryan Lanham, Jack Morton, Evan Murphy, Tommy Merriman, Patrick O'Connor, Calum O'Connor, Evan Rafter, Joseph Ryan, Harry Shore.





Best of Luck Aaron and Bryan and the rest of the Laois Senior Hurling Panel who take on Offaly in Croke Park on June 8th. Best of Luck and we hope you bring the Joe McDonagh Cup back to Laois!!!!



Mountrath Community School Alumni Association

We have recently set up a new association in the school and we are calling on all past pupils to sign up by emailing alumni@mountrathcs.ie or by filling out the form which is linked below. The school has a strong tradition of academic excellence and sporting accolades and are interested in reconnecting with all of their past pupils since the school opened in 2009.

If you have older brothers and sisters, cousins, or neighbours please let them know about his great new project that we have started.

LINK: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1L2_hdrRdr1Ju72OlZcWubvUrOVSB-l8_uiNbi5RhyU/edit

MOUNTRATH COMMUNITY SCHOOL



MCS Alumni Association

Mountrath Community School is calling all past pupils to get involved in the MCS Alumni Association



Would you like to...

Reconnect with old school friends?

Be part of a supportive network?

Attend social events with former classmates?

Inspire current students in their career choices?

We would love to hear from you, if you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Kay O'Shea at alumni@mountrathcs.ie

Check out @mountrathcs on Instagram, Facebook & Twitter