



TULLAMORE COLLEGE

our **autumn** edition VOL. 11 NO. 1

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NEWSLETTER

6th Year Biology Ecology Field Trip

On Thursday, 4th October the leaving cert biology class took a trip to Salthill to do our field study. We started the day by doing our field study on the rocky seashore and collected all the data we needed. After lunch we went to the aquarium. We got a guided tour and found out about all the fish and sea life in the aquarium. We generated static electricity over one tank by rubbing our hands together to attract the ray fish. To conclude the tour we got to hold star fish and a spider crab. A brilliant day was had by all.
Michael Mc Mahon



6th year Biology students at the Aquarium Salthill.

Electricity Road show

1st years science students will have the opportunity to attend an electricity road show in Kilkenny as part of science week. More to follow. There will also be a number of activities taking place during lunchtime during the week. Be sure to get involved.

Local Entrepreneur Seanie Morris visits the 6th Yr LCVP class.

For our LCVP class, we invited a local entrepreneur from 'Dezynamite', Seanie Morris. This is a local web design and printing company. It was set up by two brothers Seanie and Jesse Morris. Seanie gave us an insight into the difficulties, entrepreneurs face when setting up a business such as finding finance and working long hours. They are a very successful company and have won many awards from the Offaly C.E.B. We really enjoyed the talk, as Seanie was very enthusiastic and interesting. He displayed all the characteristics of an entrepreneur. We got to ask him questions at the end, that we prepared prior to his visit. We can also use the information we learned in our LCVP exam. We would highly recommend Seanie Morris to future LCVP classes as he gave us a great insight into the life of an entrepreneur.
Chelsea Henchy and Kelly Gorry

The Irish Junior Science Olympiad

Congratulations to Christina Ignatova, 5th year who was chosen to take part in the junior science Olympiad in Dublin. This is a science competition for students who excelled in their junior cert science and maths results. We wish Christina every success.
Ms. Flynn

LC1A visit to Tullamore Town Library

LC1A students recently enjoyed a visit to the newly renovated Tullamore Town Library. On arrival, students were welcomed by Senior Librarian Mr. Bracken who kindly gave us a tour of the Library. He highlighted the wonderful services available in our local library. Facilities ranged from audio books, newspapers, Irish and local history collection to the myriad of books available for all age groups. Students were impressed by the availability of x-box games and free internet access to library members. Students enjoyed a rare opportunity to read a microfilm of Tullamore Tribune newspapers dating back to 1985. All students agreed that the library is a valuable resource to have in our local area. Thanks to Ms. Coyne and to the Tullamore Town Library for making our trip a great success.
Ms. Sheerin

German Department

The German department was happy to welcome Julian Reske and Nicola Walter to the school. They both worked as interns in all the German classes for a month. The students enjoyed their oral participation and cultural presentations. Ms. Stack will be bringing fourteen students to Sandhausen in November. We are all looking forward to the exchange.
Ms. Stack



German intern Nicola Walter being presented with a watercolour by Ms. Áine Stack (Teacher).

Science Week 2012

Science week runs from November 11th to November 18th. This year's theme, "Science Week 2012 – Everyday Experimenting" aims to demonstrate that you are a part of science and that you are constantly experimenting every day.

As part of science week this year, we have a number of activities planned in the science department:

Science for Fun

In liaison with Ms. Finlay (HSCLO), our annual "Science for Fun" will take place on Friday 9th and Monday 12th November. This is a very exciting part of the Transition Year calendar whereby 6th class students from local primary schools attend our science laboratories during the course of the day. They take part in various experiments as set out by the transition year students. It is a fantastic opportunity for our transition year students to show off their teaching skills! They are currently very busy preparing for this at the moment during their science classes.

CAREERS CAREERS CAREERS

All LC2 students have undergone extensive study skills training over the month of September and should have detailed study planners for the period from October to the Mocks. It is essential that work is organised in this way to ensure that all courses are covered in time and if your son/daughter does not have a study timetable then encourage them to organise one immediately.

Virtually all College Open Days are on Saturdays this year, a calendar outlining all the dates is on display on the noticeboard opposite the school canteen. With the exception of Athlone I.T., students are advised to collect a questionnaire from me before they attend any Open Day. This helps to ensure that students ask the right questions when they visit the Colleges. As so many students will want to visit AIT, a bus will be organised and we will all go together.

Our annual CAO information evening will take place at the end of November, you will receive a letter with the exact date. This year the talk will also include information on alternative access routes to College including DARE – for people with disabilities, including dyslexia and dyspraxia, and HEAR for people with certain income limits. Applications by these routes may result in a student getting onto a course on reduced points and so is very important.

Finally, each student has been offered an appointment for a one on one meeting with myself to discuss their options for next year. Students spend vast amounts of time studying for their exams but spend very little studying career options, so please encourage them to go onto the websites they have been given and discuss a variety of possible career paths with them. International surveys indicate that it is still the parents that have the biggest influence on a young persons career choice.

Ann MacNamara, Guidance Counsellor.

First Year Trip to Birr

We went on a trip to Birr Outdoor Education Centre in September. When we got there we were split into four groups. We did Archery, Indoor Rock Climbing, Tug of War, Nightline and other games. It was good fun and it helped everybody to get to know each other. The staff at the Outdoor Education Centre were very funny and helpful. When we got back we were all tired but happy.

Ciara Cahill



1st year girls try archery in Birr.

First Year Reflections!

The first day of first year was full of fun.

We met our new tutor and chatted to everyone.

We picked our new subjects like French,
Art and Tech Graphics.

Lunchtime with our new friends is really such a laugh.

There are sports after school outside and in the hall.

You should really try them out because
we have such a ball.

The teachers are really nice once you follow the rules.

We're really glad we picked Tullamore College
as our new school.

Lydia Coyne, Sophie O'Meara and Alan Black

Starting Secondary School

The first day of school, I felt such a fool.

Now knowing where to go,
what to do and what to say.

But now it's alright, I got over it in one night.

And I'll say it is a good feeling,
being all grown up and all!

Kathia Dmitruk

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R eflex

Team Building at ASPIRE

My initial reaction when I was told about cycling to Clara was close to panic. 'Can I still ride my bicycle?' I asked myself. It had been years since I was on a bike. However I was excited about the adventure ahead and the activities that we were going to be involved in. What I'd heard about ASPIRE was that it requires good physical ability and stamina, attributes that I wasn't sure I possessed, and although it would be tiring, we were assured of a very gripping experience.

What we were told about the trip in advance was that it would increase our teamwork skills through various trust-building challenges during the day.

What does ASPIRE stand for you may ask. Well, ASPIRE stands for Advanced Sports Performance Ireland.

The journey to Clara had both highs and lows. The best part was the thrilling challenge of trying to cycle to the peak of each hill. I must admit that the lowest point was the fact that I pushed myself too hard and felt the pinch.

Some of our tasks when we arrived at ASPIRE included a trek through the grounds orienteering and looking for clues in teams of six, this helped to improve our teamwork skills and we also splashed our way through a lake where the water was higher than my waist.

What I LOVED was our blindfolded trudge through what seemed to be a vast forest of obstacles yet turned out to be a garden with trees, a pond and a child's set of toys. This improved our teamwork skills because we needed to trust the person in front of us who was our guide.

What I found difficult was attempting to climb over the log that was in the lake. It was as high as my head.

I learned that I'm not overly fit but I do genuinely enjoy running around and prefer messing in the rain to lounging in the sun.

I felt really good just after I completed the obstacle course as my height proved to be an obstacle in itself! I got a great sense of achievement.

The journey home was much easier than the cycle over because, even though we were all exhausted, most of the slopes were downhill. Just before we arrived home, I did hit the side of the path and fall off my bike but I could only laugh at myself!

Overall, the whole experience was amazing and I would definitely recommend it to everyone in search of a thrilling adventure. I would suggest, though, that they bring a towel to shower afterwards. I forgot mine! I hope I get the chance to return in the future.

Jodie Bermingham T.Y.



Above: **Geography Field Trip**
L to R: Nicole Murphy, Donal Scally, Eric Martin.

After School Cookery Club

The After School Cookery Club will be starting following the October Midterm. The club is mainly for 1st and 2nd year students and is an opportunity to learn new cookery skills and simple healthy recipes. The class is open to all students and is not limited to home economics students. Ingredients are supplied by the school. Places are limited so students should contact Ms Finlay if they wish to attend.

Ms. Graham



Above: Ciara Dunne 1st year with 1916 weaponry.



Right: Conor Dempsey 2nd year in Armour.

History Comes Alive in Tullamore College

Irish renowned historian and dramatist, Michael Moylan visited Tullamore College for an exciting demonstration of modern Irish history and medieval history on the afternoon of the 20th September. Mr. Moylan gave an exciting interactive presentation to the first, second, third, T.Y. and senior history groups. The performance was held in the school gym. He gave a solo presentation of Irish history, World Wars 1 and 2 and also an overview of medieval history. Mr. Moylan allowed the students to don the many costumes he'd brought along and handle his many props and artefacts, including fire arms, army uniforms and samples of ammunition. He invited volunteers to come up and demonstrate the correct way to hold the assortment of once deadly, now defunct weapons. He acquired the artefacts over the internet over many years of persistent searching, he told his audience. Some of the uniforms students tried on included the Irish 1916 Rebels' regalia worn during the War of Independence with Britain. Uniforms worn by German soldiers in World War 2 complete with their infamous MP5 guns were also on display. It was interesting to remember that many of these same props were genuine artefacts used to kill and maim many years ago. The purpose of this display was literally to bring history to life, hence the title of the exhibition. The students who attended certainly experienced this. One student, Francis Oandansan remarked 'I thought the show was a great success. Mr. Moylan transformed history into an entertaining and exciting experience. It was definitely worth €2'. A vote of thanks to Ms. Coyne and Ms. Underwood who facilitated the event. Mr. Moylan also played a supporting role as an extra in the blockbuster 'Braveheart'. Dylan Harvey, T.Y.

Gaisce Hike & Award Ceremony

30 students from 5th and 6th year attended a hike in Birr Outdoor Pursuit centre on the 9th and 10th of October as part of their Gaisce Award. Everyone had a great time on the hike even though it was tiring and in the evening we got to be involved in team building games, rock climbing and archery.

Ms Graham, received her **Gold Gaisce Award** from President Mr. Michael D. Higgins in Dublin Castle on 27th September. Ms Graham was one of only 65 young people in Ireland to receive the award. Ms. Graham is currently helping 30 students in the school complete their Bronze and Silver Awards which they will be receiving at the end of October in the Radisson Hotel, Athlone.



Well done Sarah!

Above: Sarah McEvoy receiving her U.C.D. Entrance Scholars Award following her outstanding Leaving Certificate results. She is pictured with Mr. McEvoy and Dr. Hugh Brady, President of U.C.D.

County Sports

The annual County V.E.C. Sports was held recently at the Tullamore Harriers in good conditions. We came 3rd in the seniors, 3rd in the intermediate, 2nd in Junior and 3rd overall. The athletes put in brilliant performances and made the school proud. The people who participated and got gold medals were Lauren Gorry (100m), James Bracken (Long Jump), Thomas McDonagh (U16 Javelin), Paulina Auksoirile (U16 Discus), Darragh MacNamara (200m and 400m), Chris Todd (Long Jump), Emma Purcell (shotput), Eimear Buckley (100m), Cara Todd (800m), Laura Doyle (High Jump).

Many others brought home silver medals: Kristina Sapovalva (Long Jump), Cara Todd (200m), David Brazil (High Jump), Rachel Jordan (Long Jump), Emma Purcell (Discus), Aslyhan Caliskan (Javelin), Emma Kirwan (800m), Clint Horan (400m), Shane Tierney (200m), Caitlin McDarby (800m and Long Jump), Caoimhe Griffin (200m). The people who brought home a bronze medal were Shane Tierney (100m), Marcin Przybysz (High Jump), David Brazil (200m), Kristina Sapovalva (100m). Others who came fourth contributed to the school's overall tally. Well done to everyone who participated.
Emma Purcell, LC2B

U16's Girl's football

Tullamore College has entered their first ever U16 girl's football team into the schools Leinster league competition. Their first match was against Oakland's Community College in Edenderry. Despite difficult weather conditions the girls played exceptionally well, with strong performances from Yoshi Nolan, Ciannait Goulding and Claudia Darcy. The team were extremely unlucky to lose by just one point. In the second round of the league they met Colaiste Iosagain where despite our best efforts we were met by tough competition on the day, as they were a stronger and more skilfully advanced team due to their involvement in this league over the years. Although Colaiste Iosagain was our most difficult challenge to date, a number of students from Tullamore College stood out from the team and excelled in their performance on the day, these include the following Laura Doyle, Jesse Nolan and Emma Kirwan. Their enthusiasm and skill is promising for the future games in the league this coming year.

Ms. Coyne

Tullamore College v Mountmellick

The Tullamore hurling team was young but strong for its age and after the U-16's beating Clonaslee in their opening game their confidence was high. Both Tullamore College and Mountmellick were looking forward to the fixture. The throw-in came and both teams fought over possession like two dogs over a bone. In the first half, it seems Mountmellick wanted it more with a 13 points to 1 lead at the break, our only score coming from a well worked point by Barry Keeley. With over half of Mountmellick's points coming from frees, it was clear what the problem was. After two inspirational and tactical speeches from Mr. Begley and Mr. Wynne, Tullamore College's mission was clear. Tullamore College came back with a ferocious hunger in the second half and tensions were high. With a masterful display by Dean Pierce in the half backline, it was clear who wanted it more in the second half. However, two goals from Aaron McDermott and Jack Dooley were not enough to catch the visitors. The final score was Tullamore College 2-4 - Mountmellick 0-15.

Daniel Paisley

Well done Karl!

Congratulations to Karl Dunne, Leaving Certificate pupil who was chosen at full back for Leinster Youths' Rugby Team recently. He played full back for the successful Leinster Youths' Rugby team that recently beat Ulster, Connaught and Munster. Karl has had a very successful rugby career to date and will be going for an Irish trial in February. He also plays hurling, football and golf for the school.

Mr. Magner

U16 Hurling

Tullamore College played Clonaslee V.S. in a Junior U16 hurling match on a cold day at the start of October. The game started well for Tullamore with Captain, Aiden Campbell scoring a point within the first two minutes. Joey Kinahan added a second just minutes later to give Tullamore the early lead. However things weren't so good for Tullamore when Clonaslee scored 5 unanswered points in a fifteen minutes dominant spell. However, a brace of Aidan Campbell points and efforts from Shane Tierney and Clint Horan soon had them back in front. It was Clonaslee however who had the lead at the break by a single point after two late first half scores. The second half started badly for Tullamore when a rare lapse in a solid defence allowed Clonaslee to get the game's opening goal, after a mad scramble in the goalmouth. Just as things were starting to look bad, some positional changes were made across the pitch, a move which quickly paid off. With 4 points in the game Aidan Campbell looked certain to be getting ready to be taking his point from a 45 yard free. The Clonaslee goalkeeper certainly thought so and was caught completely unaware after he was brilliantly lobbed to bring the game back to a single point. Campbell followed with his second goal minutes later, after catching a high ball in the full forward line; he turned his man and rasped a shot to the back of the net. He completed his hat trick not long after, another long distance free, this one better even than the first, as he fired a shot into the side of the net from an impossible angle along the sideline. After that the game was for all intents and purposes over, Campbell added two more points to bring his personal tally to 3-5. Clonaslee could only manage one more point on the dominant Tullamore College defence before Gavin Mooney put the icing on the cake with a skilful goal in the last minute. The game ended Tullamore College 4-8 - Clonaslee 1-8.

D. Fogarty

