



TULLAMORE COLLEGE

our *autumn* edition VOL. 15 NO. 1

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NEWSLETTER

Joe Kenny, B.A., B. Comm. (N.U.I.G.)

Past Students and Teachers of Tullamore College were saddened to hear of the death of Joe Kenny, former Deputy Principal of the school. Joe was appointed Teacher of English, Irish and Commerce in 1954 and is warmly remembered as a brilliant teacher, a loyal colleague and a trusted friend. His engaging presence in the classroom was recalled by students who spoke of his ability to simplify the complicated, was full of passion for his subject, 'always fair' and had a subtle sense of humour. Some students talked about the English textbook they used for the Junior Cert which was written by their teacher, Joe. He had a great deal of common sense and often talked about why it was 'common' when it was so rarely found.

He became Deputy Principal in 1968 and served in that role until his retirement in 1992. A professional who made a huge contribution to the welfare of the school community and who was dedicated to the highest standards, he expected the same from all he came in contact with. He followed the successes of Past Students with pride and regularly spoke of their achievements. His deep involvement in so many community activities, ensured that he was never far away from the people he had taught.

A keen golfer, Joe spent many summer evenings on the golf course in Tullamore, was an elected Member of Council for many years and became Captain of the Club in 1985. He had a major input into the publication of a history of the Club in 2010 when he chaired the Committee. Such was his love of the game and his interest in Past Students that he was inspired to set up the 'Past Pupils' Golf Society', now 34 years old. At their recent outing in Tullamore, members competed for the trophy named in his honour when he retired, the Joe Kenny Cup. President of the Society, Michael Bryant, commented on his remarkable memory and also how he believed that maintaining friendships was more important than the standard of the golf that was played.

Favourite locations for Joe were the local Library, the Credit Union where he was a founder member, Radio 3 Broadcasting Studio and at his desk where his writing took on many forms. Not only did he project a strong, confident image in the classroom, he had a rousing singing voice as those who ever heard his 'The West's Awake' will remember.

The high esteem in which he was held was apparent at his funeral on 5th Sept when Students from the school formed a guard of honour in recognition of a man who made a significant contribution to the life of the school and to the development of education in Tullamore.

Brendan Kennelly in his poem, Light Dying, best creates for us a poignant memory of Joe:

'I hear you now, your rich voice deep and kind,
Rescuing a poem from time, bringing to mind
Lost centuries with a summoning word,
Lavishing on us who need much more of
What you gave, glimpses of heroic vision'
Thank you, Joe.



'Joe amongst friends at the demolition of the gym'.

Pictured from left to right: Diarmuid O'Neill, Michael Doolan, Des Walsh, Beatrice Quirke, Joe Kenny, Edward McEvoy, Helen Wilson and James Mooney.

The Late Joe Kenny

Joe was a very kind and patient teacher with a sharp wit. All students were treated with the same level of interest and curiosity, irrespective of whether or not they were good at or interested in Irish. You would have to be on your best behaviour in his class though, because if you arrived in late or were not paying attention, the spotlight would then be on you and you would see the sharpness of his wit! So generally we behaved in his class. He was very passionate about Irish poetry as I remember. Máirtín O Direáin comes to mind. The way he taught us I remember that there was no pressure or stress. It wasn't really about the exams, it was about learning about life in Ireland when Irish was the language spoken every day. He seemed very old and wise to me back then, but of course he was not really old. He had a great talent for bringing you back into an older time through his love of Irish poetry and his ability to convey what life was like back then in a very vivid and real way. He was a lovely man and I am glad he was my teacher.

Velma Burns (Past Pupil)

Embracing Change

Quite a change it is, a change indeed,
A new school, a new start for me,
I prepared myself, I knew what to expect,
After all it is only a bit of fun!
I got on well with all the others,
None of us had time to miss our mothers.
This is home for us now, home for a while,
So we will get on with it and always smile.
Everyday there's something new,
A new experience for me and you.
Tullamore College is in our blood,
Let's all pray this year goes good!!

Ronin Daly (1JB)

Midland Science visit

Midlands Science Festival hosted a Science careers day in the school on Tuesday, 4th Oct. Jackie Gorman, (Midlands Science) gave a few words about Midlands Science and the work that they do. Dr. Craig Slattery, toxicologist and science communicator from UCD (originally from Daingean) gave a talk about science careers. Anne Scally of Proactive Management gave a talk about science skills, jobs of the future, what companies look for etc.. In addition, eight of our students took part in video interviews on topics such as their view of STEM education, what influenced them to study Science and what more can be done to encourage students to take up STEM subjects.
(Ms. Howlin, Science Department)



Biology Ecology Trip

Our 6th Year Biology students went to the Phoenix park on the 6th October to carry out their Ecology Field Trip in conjunction with Dublin Zoo.

An enjoyable day was had by all while carrying out four mandatory experiments.

Ms E Howlin (Science Department)
Right: Ecology Trip to Dublin Zoo, 6th year group



'Tullamore College Leading the Field in Reading'

It's time to get your head into a good book again. The Great Reads Award is a debut book award judged by readers shortlisted by school librarians. So, Students, get on board and have your say in selecting the best read of 2016.

Shortlisted for the prize are: The Accident Season by Moira Fowley-Doyle, The Best Medicine by Christine Hamill, Knights of the Borrowed Dark by Dave Rudden and Anna and The Swallow Man by Gavriel Savit in The Junior Section.

The titles in Senior Category include: Weightless by Sarah Bannan, Orangeboy by Patrice Lawrence, The Art Of Being Normal by Lisa Williamson and The Serpent King by Jeff Zentner.

All eight novels are available in the School Library. Pick up your voting card and rate as you read Remember: Read to succeed.

The School Library is open every day during lunchtime 1.05 -1.30pm. All new members are welcome to join!

J Mc Ardle (English Department Co-ordinator)

T.Y trip to O'Donoghue's Bakery

On the 7th of October last our T.Y group went on a trip to O'Donoghue's Bakery to learn about their new 'Pure Bread' range.

We cleaned our hands and went in. We were first shown how all the bread is made. It was quite an interesting process. We got to see all the ovens baking the bread and the ingredients that were being put into the bread that we eat. Lastly we got to see the bread going into the tins.

After we had our tour of the bakery we got to make rock buns. This was an extremely rewarding and fun activity.

When we were finished our tour we were brought upstairs to talk to Louise about the bread that we would be promoting the following week and we received our t-shirts to wear while promoting the bread in the local community.

Overall we enjoyed visiting the factory and representing O'Donoghue's craft bakers.
Rebecca Guing (TY)

Irish Junior Science Olympiad

The State Examinations Commission identified Cian O'Mahoney as a high achiever based on his excellent results in both Maths and Science in the Junior Cert this year. Cian has been selected to participate in the Irish Junior Science Olympiad. Congratulations Cian and we wish you the best of luck in the competition.



Above: Cian O'Mahoney with his Science teacher Ms. Browne. Ms Lee was Cian's Maths teacher.

Healthy Living Week: 'A healthy body and mind is the best thing you'll find'

Our Transition Year students were delighted with the success of Healthy Living Week 2016. The annual event ran from Monday the 26th to Friday the 30th of September. During this week, we organised a variety of activities and talks for the students in the school to promote healthy eating, physical well-being, and mental well-being. Some of these included fitness sessions with Carina Haverty and Jean Brady, cookery demonstrations from local chefs, and talks from Mental Health Associations. Local businesses also got involved and sponsored fruit and yoghurts, which we distributed to students at lunchtime. The TY students also distributed fruit smoothies and hosted a range of competitions like the Lunchtime Soccer tournament, Puc Fada, and the Great Grape Challenge. The students were keen and eager to participate in all of the talks and the activities that had been organised for them and the teachers were very supportive and helpful to the TYs. To finish off a successful week, the students and teachers took part in a Whole School Walk. The students and staff walked down the canal line and back to the school together to promote physical well-being. Throughout the 5km walk, the TYs were dressed up as fruit and vegetables, each promoting facts about health and nutrition. Healthy Living Week 2016 was a huge success and we hope that this will give students a positive outlook and attitude towards healthy living.

Roisin O'Brien (TY)

Below: The TY group promoting 'Healthy Living Week' with their teachers Ms. Doolan and Ms. Dunstan.



Above: Fintan Hinch, Darragh Connolly, Samuel Wright and Kevin Mann distributing free fruit and yoghurts at break time. (A special thanks to Howell's fruit and veg shop and Glenisk for generously sponsoring Healthy Living Week)



Above: Head Chef Kenan from the Blue Apron restaurant giving a cookery demonstration.



Above: TY class of 2016 ready to embark on the whole school walk appropriately dressed as fruit and vegetables!



Above: First year boys been put through their paces in step aerobics

TULLAMORE COLLEGE - our autumn edition

Modern Languages Day

All language students united in Tullamore College to provide what was a wonderful celebration of all cultures. German, French and Irish teachers worked very hard to provide a rich tapestry of culture in the form of posters, food, banners and flags. Students and teachers prepared traditional cuisine for all to sample and enjoy. The day was a wonderful success and a clear indication that cultural awareness is thriving in our school.



Left and above: European Languages Day: Students and their teacher Ms Stack enjoying the cultural experience.

Sports News

'Champions of Ireland'

Congratulations to these Tullamore College athletes who completed in the World Marathon Relay Challenge in record time of **1 hour 57 minutes**. This time awarded them first in Ireland! Well done!



Congratulations to all athletes who proudly represented our school in this years **County Sports competition!** Overall we brought home **12 Gold medals, 13 silver medals and 11 bronze medals**. Well done to all involved!

Left: Sheer focus and determination; Conor Dunne competing in the relay at County Sports Day.



JCSP NEWS

All our JCSP classes are working hard and have got off to a great start. Folders have been distributed and work on statements is ongoing. A number of exciting initiatives have been applied for. Funding for paired maths and paired reading will hopefully come through aiding our literacy and numeracy efforts. This year we are working with the P.E. Department to develop outdoor education in keeping with our continued efforts to help with fitness and positive mental health. Thank you to Ms. Aine Brady for her work on this initiative and Mr. Moran for work with paired reading and paired maths applications.

M. O Connor JCSP Co-ordinator.

School Camogie Team

Our school camogie team consisting of players from first up to fifth year are currently participating in the Leinster Junior Championship. It has been a number of years since the school has fielded a team in the competition and players are working hard on their skills and fitness in preparation for upcoming games. Training continues every Tuesday after school and new players are always welcome!



Above: David Brazil competing in the High jump at County Sports Day.