

## Principal's Message.

As we begin 2017 Athy College looks forward to the planning and construction of our new building project which will bring us to a capacity of 1000. Design and planning will commence this year leading to construction at the end of the year.

Athy College has grown dramatically over recent years and has expanded greatly its academic and recreational provision

This newsletter gives a small snapshot of some of the activities which take place in Athy College and I thank the staff, students and parents for their commitment to our ever increasing range of activities.

Richard Daly

## Athy International Concentrates

Athy College participates in the Schools Business Partnership Programme and we are fortunate to have Athy International Concentrates as our business partners for the past five years. The Schools Business Partnership enables our students to experience many aspects of the world of work including a Site Visit to the company, CV, Interview Preparation Workshops, Presentations Skills Workshops and Mock Interviews. This is an invaluable learning experience for our students where they gain an insight into the world of work and enhances their skills and knowledge. Our sincere thanks to Tom Malone, Amanda McGannon and all the team at Athy International Concentrates and Orla O'Dwyer from Schools Business Partnership, Business in the Community Ireland for their knowledge, skills, expertise and commitment to this Partnership Programme.



## Under 19 Senior Boys Basketball

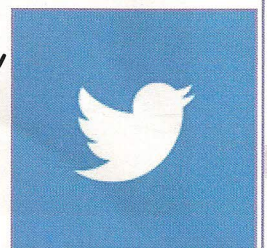
Pictured are the Senior Boys basketball team of James Adewunmi, Bernice Mbuyi, Stephen Badakin, Alex Moore, Allan O'Connell, Samuel Asuoha, Kevin Mulhall, Peter Adewunmi, Tyrone Dempsey and Hamish Munro.

The Senior boy's basketball team took part in the regional league where they narrowly missed out on qualification from the group stages. They showed tremendous team and school spirit in every match they played.



## Athy College on Twitter

Keep up to date with happenings at Athy College by using our new Twitter. Our Twitter feed is: [@Athy\\_College](https://twitter.com/Athy_College)



## First Year History visit to Heritage Centre

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2016 Cashel and Glendalough visited the Heritage centre in Athy to learn more about the town's history. We were divided into groups and had to complete a fact-finding mission. Before we started Margaret Walsh, the curator, gave us a brief history of Athy and pointed us in the direction of the different exhibitions that are contained in the Heritage Centre. The Centre brings the history of Athy to life, from its Anglo-Norman foundation, through the 1903 Gordon Bennett Race to Athy Men and World War 1 and the story of local Polar explorer Ernest Shackleton. There were also many display cases that included different kinds of artefacts and primary sources which included an original sledge and harness from one of Shackleton's Antarctic expeditions, a 15 foot model of Shackleton's ship 'Endurance' and an audio visual display featuring original film footage of his 1914-1916 expedition. Other films in the audio video room were about the Gordon Bennett road race and WW1. There was also an old car from the Gordon Bennett race. It was a really interesting and informative afternoon which helped develop our knowledge of Athy's history.

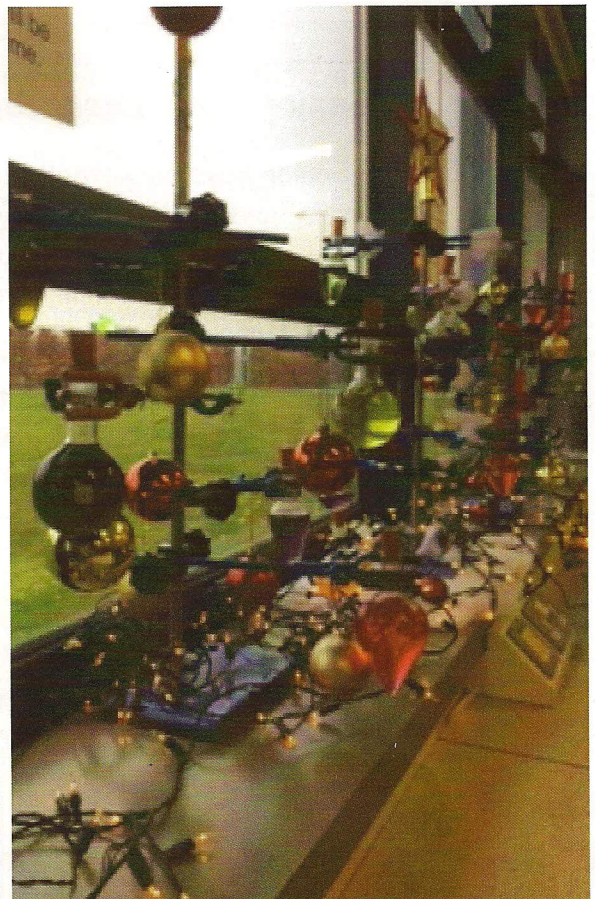


## 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trip to Dublin Zoo

On the 12th of December a 3<sup>rd</sup> year class group, Mumhan, alongside their tutor Ms McEvoy and their C.S.P.E. teacher Ms Delahunty, went to Dublin Zoo, as part of their action research project for C.S.P.E. We went to a 'Zooardship' module based on stewardship. We focused on the snow leopard and learned how the zookeepers look after their animals. We went to the education house and learned about ex-suite and in-suite. The students learned about good and bad zoowardship. The students had the opportunity to see a range of animals in the zoo. The students travelled by bus and were given a guided tour of Áras an Uachtaráin, the Garda headquarters, the American Ambassador's house and the cross where the Pope visited.

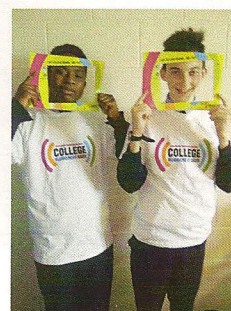


## Christmas Chemistree's by Skellig

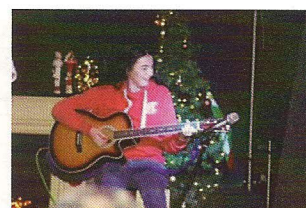
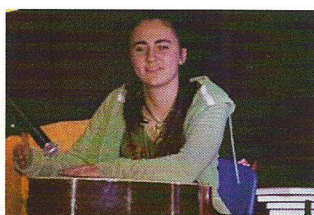
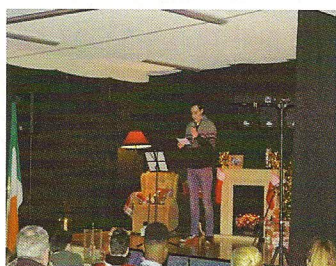


## College Awareness Week

Senior cycle students received daily presentations from both Universities and Colleges. Some colleges set up lunch time stands which were available to all students from 1st to 6th year. Speakers came from Dublin City University, NUI Maynooth, Carlow IT and Waterford IT. We also enjoyed a presentation from industry thanks to a STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths) speaker. Junior cycle students also learned about higher level educational opportunities during their SPHE classes. The week was a great success and we look forward to see what College Awareness Week has in store for us next year.



## Winter Song



## Gaisce

The President's Award. During Senior Cycle, all students are given the opportunity to take part in Gaisce. This year, nine 5<sup>th</sup> year students are aiming to achieve their Bronze Award and four 6<sup>th</sup> year students are aiming for their Silver Award. There are 4 parts to the Gaisce award. At Bronze level, the students must commit to one hour a week for 13 weeks in the three areas of community involvement, personal skill and physical recreation. They must then select one of these areas to do for an additional 13 weeks. The final requirement is the Adventure Journey, this involves a 25km hike over two days. Silver level is double this commitment. Some of the activities in which students are participating this year are: assisting with the Homework Club, coaching, lifesaving, photography, cooking, music lessons, knitting, basketball, swimming and kayaking. The students are well on their way to achieving their goal.

## Science Week

Science week was a great success this year. Our Science department held periodic table bingo at lunch times and our students were invited into the lab to solve the daily brain teaser using their knowledge of Physics, Chemistry and Biology. On Friday of Science Week, the students were invited into the lab for a display of some fascinating experiments.



## Maths Week

Maths Week took place from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> October. The students took part in a wide range of activities which were chosen to promote numeracy, to emphasise the importance of maths in everyday living and most of all to have fun! The activities kicked off on Monday morning with Drop Everything and Sudoku. The main event for first year students was the annual maths table quiz, huge thanks to the LCA students who helped to correct the answers and compile the scores. Second year students got a taste of code breaking by trying out ciphers and creating their own ciphered messages. Second years also used the iPads to search with "Maths Eyes" around the school campus, finding examples of patterns, geometry, statistics and numbers. Third year students competed in online games on the Mangahigh website. Fifth year students compiled a timeline of famous mathematicians from all corners of the globe and along with sixth year students they completed a maths trail around the school.

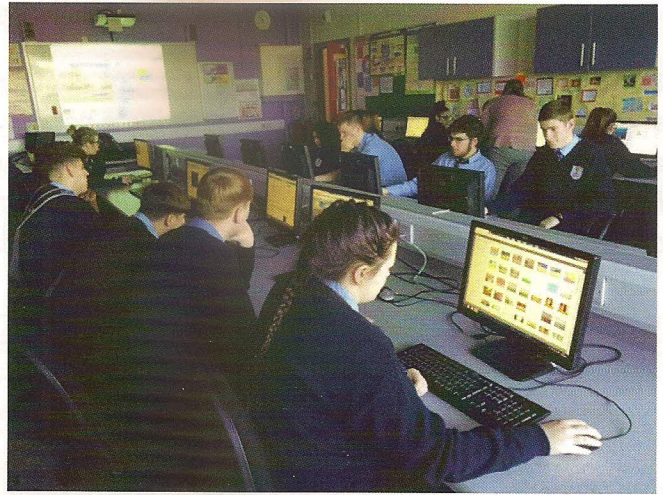
## Retreat

This year our annual retreat to Ovoca Manor in Avoca, Wicklow was a wonderful experience for our students. Every year our senior students get some welcome respite from the books, where they engage in outdoor pursuits such as the Leap of Faith and Jacob's Ladder. They also had a talk from the inspirational Dan Ram, a self-made entrepreneurial success. The opportunities for friendship and team building at Ovoca are great. The students came home tired but happy.



## Coding in Athy College

Between the 5th and the 11th of December many students in Athy College took part in an "Hour of Code" to celebrate Computer Science Education week. Students in 6th year in classes Newton and Euclid and classes in 5th year Glas and Dearg joined the coding website Scratch as an introduction to the world of code and problem solving. Scratch projects created by the groups range from unicorns dancing on the moon, to fish being chased by sharks. Despite coding having a scientific and mathematical basis it can be used to inspire creativity amongst students.



## Build a Bank Challenge

The Build a Bank Challenge, in association with AIB, is a competition where six students come together to create a bank. This competition is in its 15th year and this year in Athy College we have taken the challenge on board.

In October, interviews were held for 12 fifth year students to compete for 6 places on the bank team. The six students chosen by the AIB personnel were; Rebecca Munro: Bank Manager, James Adewoiumi: Executive Manager, Shauna Preston, Laura Vilka: Customer Relations Officers, Brooklyn Hyland-O'Keefe: Financial Controller and Samuel Asuoha: Digital Officer.

These students began their challenge by deciding on a name for their bank and a theme that would run through their banking ethic. After much debating and many surveys the name "Once Upon a Bank" was chosen and the theme decided on was Fairytale.

The work then began to create "Once Upon A Bank's" business plan. A timeline was drafted to decide on all the activities and events the bank would participate in. They decided they would not only develop positive banking skills in their fellow pupils but also involve the wider community of Athy. To do this they have decided to offer modules in banking and saving to the local primary schools and also the parents of these pupils.



## The Athy College Animation Station

Set up two years ago and based in the art room with Ms Seale, students experiment every week with stop motion animation techniques. Using a range of materials and processes they create new and exciting original animated works. Current members include: Jodie Reck, Aaron Byrne, Damien Mitchell, Adam Reck & Jonathan O'Donoghue. Christmas animation created by the team is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuxRVWLhfw8>

## Venn Coffee Morning

On Thursday the 8th of December, Venn opened their coffee shop for the school. This was part of a key assignment in Hotel Catering and Tourism, in which they had to organise a mini fast food event. Venn as a group decided that all money raised would be given towards the shoebox appeal they were doing for the homeless in Religion class. The day was very successful with cookies,



brownies, muffins, chocolate biscuit



cake and cupcakes all being produced in the Home Economics room that day. Venn were all given different jobs to complete and did brilliantly throughout the day, continuously working hard. All items were set up in G13 for the lunch time sale in which most baked goods were being sold for just 50¢. Venn's hard work and kind donations from staff members resulted in them raising over €250 for the homeless. Well done Venn.

## Open Day 2016

On Friday the 23rd of September Athy College was host to over 600 visiting students from local primary schools.

Accompanied by their teachers, the students arrived by bus all morning and were shown around our premises by Athy College students who were their hosts for the day. The visiting students got a brief taste of life in a post primary school and experienced demonstrations in many subject areas.

At the end of the tour students and teachers received refreshments provided by our school before returning to their own schools.

While it was a very busy day the atmosphere was wonderful and as always our students were a credit to themselves and their school.

The school was also open for visiting parents on Saturday morning to discuss options for incoming students with staff members.

## Athy College Shoebox Appeal

This year Athy College took part in a Shoebox Appeal for the homeless in our locality namely Teach Íosa, Youth for Peace Ltd. This was organised by Ms. Costello and Ms. Denmead. Our LCA pupils both 5th and 6th year came together to create as many shoeboxes as possible.

The students collected over €300 through this fundraiser which was then put towards making 20 shoeboxes.

There was then an appeal made to all the students, staff and local community of Athy for the contents of shoeboxes; these items ranged from hats, scarfs, gloves, shampoo, shower gel, shaving foam, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, roll-on deodorant, chocolate and Christmas cards.



## Athy College Ladies GAA

This year our Junior team started off with a superb victory away over local rivals Castledermot. A great team performance was shown by the girls, which might have been down to our new look (navy and purple jerseys) with thanks to Athy Camogie club and Mr Daly. Final result Coláiste Lorcáin 5-3 Athy College 8-11. A sign of things to come for this team.



Our second Junior game saw us travel to Naas, where we played Gaelscoil Cill Dara who were a very young side like ourselves and a very tough task it turned out to be. The girls showed great determination and drive to get over the line, even if we did see a yellow card or two flash on occasion. In this game we saw the older girls of the team step up and lead us on our way to another victory. As they say "goals win games"! Final score: Athy College 4:7 Gaelscoil Cill Dara 2:5.

After a long break, our last Junior game of the year saw us at home to Pipers Hill College of Naas. It was played on a bitter cold December morning. Even though the conditions were tough on the day the girls played one of the best games of the year. We saw some great team spirit, skills and of course more goals! With 8 minutes to go Athy were 4 points down and a few decisions were not going our way. Then a break came our way with a well worked goal which saw us attack the next kick out and score another goal. We kicked another few points and all of a sudden the final whistle came. Athy College 9:4 Pipers Hill College 6:8.

Our Senior team had a mixed year, beating Monasterevin well at home, losing away to Pipers Hill College and also losing away to Celbridge. A mixed year but we have a young team and hope to make more progress in the Senior grade in the few years.

## School Fitness Challenge

A number of class groups have recently participated in the Schools Fitness Challenge with Irish Life Health during PE class. The aim of the challenge is that students will become more aware of their cardio-vascular fitness levels and challenge themselves to improve over six weeks. The fitness level was tested at the beginning and end of the challenge using the dreaded "Beep Test". It was great to see the majority of students beating their first test score.

## Sky Sports for Living

The sixth year group Euclid took part in the Sky Sports for Living programme where they worked through a 6 week block of tag rugby. They were assigned by a mentor, Lucy Mulhall, who was captain of the Irish rugby 7's team in 2015. As part of their project the 6th years organised and ran a tag rugby tournament for some second year classes.

Below is an account from a student's perspective on the programme:

"The main thing that I enjoyed from the project was that we were in charge. We, as a class, ran the tournament. I really enjoyed the collaboration and the teamwork that our class showed.

At the end of the day I was happy with what I did for my team. Being in charge and leading a team for the day was something I found really rewarding for my class and I. At the beginning it was difficult to understand how we would embrace our roles, but when we started to play gradually everything became easier. For most of us it was the first time that we led a team, which was one of the barriers we had to overcome. One of the barriers we had to overcome was commanding attention from our team as we were very close in age to them. It was an occasion that allowed us as a class to observe the different qualities we each hold that may not be seen in the classroom".

## Camogie



For the second year in a row Athy College have teamed up with Árdcoil na Tríonoide to make a camogie "Super" team. The team has been entered into the Carlow/Kildare Intercounty League. The girls have been training hard with many newcomers taking to the "Clash of the Ash" like they carried a hurl all of their life. So far the team have played St. Leo's College Carlow and were narrowly beaten by two points after leading for the majority of the game, losing out in the final minutes. Next up were the interlinked Presentation College/ Gaelcholáiste Cheatharlach. A special mention to senior players Olivia Dooley and Alice Dibenzi on making the Kildare County Minor Camogie team.

## Basketball

This year the Athy girls basketball teams were promoted to the Midlands C League due to their success at all levels last year. The Senior and Cadette girls were the first to take on this new challenge and both teams rose to the occasion. The senior team were narrowly beaten by Árdcoil na Tríonoide and Scoil Chonglais Baltinglass but they finished off their final match against Confey Community School winning by an impressive margin. The Cadette girls team won 4 of their 5 league matches and so reached the Midlands quarter final against Mountrath .