



# Athy College

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## An Tánaiste and Minister, Mary Coughlan Opens New Athy College



On Oct. 18th, An Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills Mary Coughlan, cut the ribbon and unveiled the plaque at the official opening of the new Athy College. An Tánaiste, seen above on left, with Principal Mr Richard Daly, and Kildare V.E.C., C.E.O., Mr Sean Ashe. On right, An Tánaiste is greeted by students as she enters the building. Speaking at the school, An Tánaiste said: 'I'm delighted to be here in Athy to celebrate the official opening of this impressive new school, which will enhance teaching and learning for students in the area, for many years to come.' An Tánaiste commended the VEC, the school's principal, Richard Daly, teachers, pupils and the local community for working so diligently, bringing the project to completion.



Athy College Senior Choir, shown here on left, enchanted all present with their beautiful rendition of "The Curragh of Kildare". All Ireland champion Irish dancer and Leaving Cert. student, Melissa Glancy on right showed her championship style when she danced "The King of the Fairies".



The musical prelude was performed by Nicholas Balaz. Welcome address was made by Amy Keogh. CEO Mr Seán Ashe said he was delighted to welcome An Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills, Mary Coughlan to our town of Athy, represented by Cathaoirleach Cllr James Mahon and our county represented by Mayor of Kildare, Cllr Brendan Weld. Principal Mr Richard Daly said that the new edifice, which was being opened, was more than just a school, but was the herald of a new beginning for our town. Cllr Willie Callaghan Chairman of Kildare VEC addressed the guests and expressed his satisfaction with the project. Students, Siobhan O'Rourke and Olivia Daly presented An Tánaiste with an Irish Bog Oak Sculpture, by Brian O'Loughlin, while students from Athy Model School presented An Tánaiste with a bouquet of flowers. The ceremony ended with a Choral Finale by Athy College's Senior Choir "Let Peace cultivate the Land". This was followed by brunch in the school library.



## Athy College Education Campus



MCOH were retained as Architects by Kildare VEC and the Dept. Of Education and Science in 2001 to design the new Athy College seen above. It was decided to arrange classrooms around an external courtyard allowing maximum penetration of light into the building. This external space is an integral part of the school, doubling up as an external teaching space. For this reason, the art room opens directly into the courtyard, emphasising the potential of the courtyard as an external teaching space. The main classrooms and specialist rooms are arranged in 2 two-storey blocks to the right of the main entrance, whilst the technology rooms and PE facility are to the left of the entrance, along the east side. The rooms are arranged within a single storey block allowing natural daylight from the east to penetrate the courtyard space.



Left to right, Mr. Sean Ashe, CEO Co. Kildare VEC., Mr. Richard Daly, Principal, Athy College and Mr. Willie Callaghan, Chairman, Co. Kildare VEC.



Ms. Mary Coughlan, Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills addressing the guests at the official opening of Athy College.

## Driving for Life Initiative for students



On Monday 6th Sept, sixth year students took part in a road safety workshop "Driving for Life". They were shown videos of car accidents and advised on how to prevent them. The most frightening was a video of an overturning bus, which emphasised the importance of wearing seat belts on buses. Students had access to a driving simulator, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority. There they experienced how difficult it is to drive with distractions, such as shown here on left. With some tragic accidents this year, it is hoped that initiatives like this may save lives .



## Ecology Field Trip



Fifth year students, accompanied by Science Teacher Ms O'Neill, headed out into nature with a field trip to Altamont Garden, to study the flora and fauna and even hug a tree or two.

## NUI Maynooth Academic Awards



Athy College students, pictured at the 3rd Year Academic Awards in NUI Maynooth, with College Deputy Principal Dr. Breda Sunderland on left, Prof. Gerry Jeffars, and Ann O'Brien, Director of Access (NUIM), Award recipients are Joel Akinola, Sam Johnson, Oyinda Adewale and Amy O'Keeffe. Congratulations to the recipients of these prestigious awards.

## Visit to Cuan Mhuire



As part of their Social Studies course, the Leaving Certificate Applied classes recently went on a visit to Cuan Mhuire. They were given a talk by some of the people in the rehabilitation centre about addiction to gambling, alcohol and drugs. They all agree that they learned a lot of interesting things about these problems and that it was a good experience for all involved.

## Congratulations Seamus



Past pupil Seamus Maloney, who now lives in Hollywood, has been working on the children's cartoon "Sean the Sheep 2" for the past 2 years. The series has been nominated for an International Emmy Award. Seamus is now in LA working on a film "Arthur Christmas" due for release before Christmas 2011.

## Congratulations Emma



Congratulations to Emma Bowden who recently graduated with a B.A. (Hons) in Exercise and Health Studies. Emma is a past pupil of Athy College and we wish her well.

## Open Days at Athy College

Recent Open Days held over a week end in Athy College saw over 600 visiting the college. This resulted in a surge in enrolment applications for 2011 and following years. The number of applicants has exceeded even the most optimistic expectations. The College hopes to be able to accommodate everybody and will be in contact with all who have lodged applications.



## Students enjoy College Sports Day 2010



## Mobile Classroom

Athy College just took delivery of a fully equipped trolley of 20 Apple laptops which add to the two already purchased trollies of notebook computers which are already in computer use. Despite the fact of having two equipped computer labs, the mobile laptop computers are a favourite with most classes as they can be brought to the classroom for so many subjects.



Students are now given individual college e-mail accounts to access the new Google Apps system where information between teachers and students is shared and exchanged online.



## Using the Technology

Despite the adverse weather which caused the college to be closed for a few days Athy College students were still able to keep up with assigned work by visiting the college website. The website contained details of material to be followed by students who could not make it in due to snow and many teachers accepted homework or questions from students via email. Each student has been assigned a college generated email which allows them to receive notes and updates from teachers and we are hoping to integrate more of the new technologies in future weeks

