

# Athy College

School and Community News



Spring/ Summer 2012

## U 14 Gaelic Champions



The Athy College U14 team, with trainer Mr Damien Murphy and team captain Conor Germaine, won the South Leinster Championship 2012. Congratulations to all the team members who played so well.

## First Year Boys Basketball



Congratulations to the first year boys' basketball in their opening season with Athy College. The team experienced the fun and competitiveness of school basketball — seen here with trainer Mr. Billy Higgins.

## Shackleton Challenge



The Shackleton Challenge is an initiative to help develop entrepreneurial skills among post primary students emulating the leadership and exploratory skills of explorer Ernest Shackleton. The programme is being developed and piloted in Athy College for the Athy Shackleton Committee and it is hoped that it can be rolled out to further schools after its development stage. Students are divided into groups and posed with challenges of developing and producing prototypes of different products with a polar theme - food, article of clothing, drinking vessel. Each group assigned a mentor who motivates and directs the team.

## Leaving Cert Graduation



Well done to all of the students from the Leaving Certificate classes in Athy College who marked their graduation with a prayer service in the college hall on Friday the 4th of May at 7pm. The theme of the service was "Dreams for the future" and the students prepared readings, reflections and music which represented their time in Athy College over the past five years and their dreams for the future. Rev. Cliff Jeffers, Fr Gerard Tanham and Fr Morty O' Shea led the service with wonderful interludes of music and readings from several students. See overleaf for more.



## Academic Scholarship



An academic scholarship is awarded annually to the highest academic achiever in our entrance assessment. This year Teigan Mellor, a pupil of Newbridge Educate Together National School, was awarded the scholarship. The scholarship covers the cost of books and uniform for the first year and a laptop computer. Congratulations to Teigan.

## B1 Dail Trip

B1, second year students set out to visit the Dail on Thursday 19th April. Local T.D. Jack Wall greeted the lucky students and organised for them to get a tour around the inside of the walls of the Houses of the Oireachtas (Dail Eireann and Seanad Eireann). Students were also given the privilege of sitting in the gallery of The Dail where they listened to political debates of the day. Students were impressed with the deep history surrounding the buildings and learned a thing or two about past Taoisigh as well as elected government representatives. This visit was organised in order to deepen students understanding surrounding the CSPE coursework on "Democracy" and to make students more aware of the work undertaken by Dail and Seanad members. Many thanks must be expressed toward Mr. Wall for being so giving of his time and energy towards hosting these second year students.

## Leaving Cert Graduation

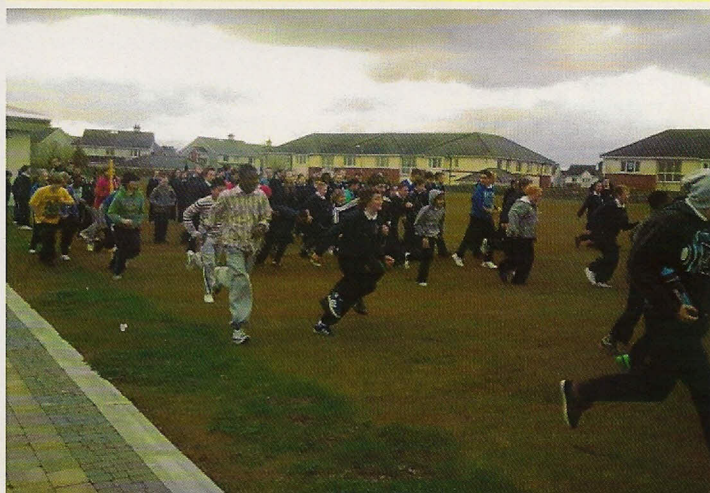
Ciara Mackey led the opening procession where students carried a variety of gifts to the altar which represented the class of 2012. These included artwork, technology, seeds and a plant as well as textbooks and a college prospectus. The students also presented a framed photo of Mrs. Nora O'Connor, a former teacher at Athy College, who passed away last summer and reflected on the influence she has had on their lives. Sam Johnson presented a bouquet of flowers to Ms Gilsenan, to thank her for her hard work and dedication as she prepares to retire from teaching. The students were then presented with their Graduation Certificates by their Year Heads, Dr Sunderland and Mrs Brennan. Mr Daly concluded the service by imparting his own inspiration to these students on the threshold of adult-life by drawing from the work of "Desiderata". We wish the students luck in all their endeavours.

## Congratulations



Congratulations to staff members Tina Whelan and Triona Carroll on their completing their most recent advanced Diploma qualification, at the Church of Ireland Teacher Training College.. Well done to both.

## Be Active Week



Leisure. 72 students undertook the physical challenge, either individually or in teams, to cycle 5km, run for 3km and swim 10 lengths of the pool. This event was a fundraiser for The Luke Renahan Trust and over €2500 was raised. Congratulations to everyone who participated and helped fundraise. Throughout the week lunchtime was extended and students had the opportunity to take part in basketball, soccer and rugby blitzes, many thanks to the referees from Kildare Sports Partnership. Great fun was also had during the novelty events with the welly throw competition providing much entertainment. The weather didn't manage to dampen spirits too much! The week ended with "The School Mile Challenge" sponsored by Aviva and Athletics Ireland. Athy College students were joined by students from Athy Model School, Gaelscoil Átha Í and Scoil Phádraig Naofa. In total over 300 students, along with some staff members, completed a mile loop around the campus and earned a coveted coloured wristband.



## Leinster Champion



Congratulations to first year student, **Jessica Ankers** who recently won the Leinster u14 500m at Santry. Jessica not only beat her own personal best but also beat the track record for the event. Well done Jessica.

## ICT in Education



Students are seen here working on their Apple Mac notebooks. The College also has three fully equipped computer rooms along with two movable trolleys of Lap tops. In the area of ICT many of our teachers have delivered national in-service to teachers from other schools both Primary and Post Primary and the college has long been recognised for its strengths in the new technologies. Most recently five of the teaching staff have completed NCTE training in e-learning with a view to further developing the role of ICT in education..

## Rith 2012



Comhghairdeas le ár múinteoirí agus scoláirí a bhí ag rith ciliméadar don charthanacht RITH ar son Coláiste Ath I. The "Rith" started in Gweedore Co. Donegal on 8th March and finished 669 km later on St. Patrick's Day on Inis Mór Aran Island. Each Km is sponsored by a club, school or organisation. Athy College were delighted to sponsor the Km starting at the Old Wall Board factory and carry the torch proudly to Athy. Our runners joined students, teachers and parents from the Gael Scoil and St. Michael's at Rathsteward to close the stage for the day at Emily Square.

## Junior Cert Cookery





## Student Council

As Student Council, our aim is to improve our school and student life. Our Student Council was founded approximately 8 years ago by Mrs Butler, who was the Home School and Community Liaison Officer. She has since retired.

As this is our first article about the Student Council, although most of the students are aware of the Council, we shall explain a little about what happens at a meeting and how one gets elected. Meetings are held frequently. Students are elected by their fellow student and teachers. Each class group votes for one male and one female representative and sub representative. The representatives attend meetings. If a person or a class has a problem they can inform their representative in full confidence. This will be discussed by the Council and reps may take any information back to their class.

Among the achievements of the Council are: Hand Dryers in the bathrooms and rubbish bins outside the school to encourage a litter free zone. On behalf of the Student Council, I would like to thank everybody that has contributed to the Council. I would like to thank our senior members, as this is their last year in Athy College. A special thanks to Amy O'Keeffe our Deputy Chairperson, as she has dedicated 4 years to the Council and also to Hannah Murphy our new Secretary, as she done immense work in organising and helping to run our meetings successfully. By Gary Kelly, Fifth year.

## Instructional Leadership



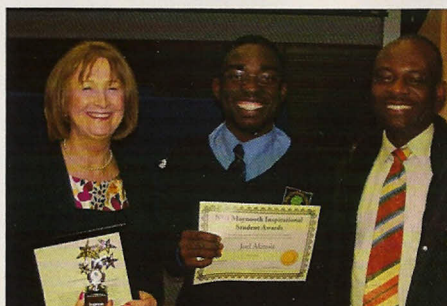
Minister Ruairi Quinn visited our second years to see Instructional Leadership in action in the classroom. Students showed the Minister how mind maps, teams games tournament, placemats and other techniques can assist students in engaging in their own learning. Seen here with teacher Ms. Deirdre Murphy at the national launch of the IL programme.



## Student Meals

At Athy College we operate a Breakfast Club where students are welcome to a simple breakfast each morning before school (tea/coffee/juice/toast/cereal) free of charge. At the morning break sandwiches and fruit are available for all students also free of charge. A subsidised lunch is available Mon to Thurs, at the cost of €2.50 per day. We ask students to pay in advance. Lunch consists of filled rolls and soup or a hot dish on some days.

## NUIM Inspirational Student and Teacher Awards 2012



Congratulations to this year's Leaving Certificate Inspirational students Amy O'Keeffe and Joel Akinola who recently received awards from NUIM. Amy nominated her English teacher Ms Shirley Doyle (above left) as her inspirational teacher and Joel nominated his Business teacher Ms. Marion Dunne, on left., and on right- Joel's father. Both students will be sitting their Leaving Certificate in June and we wish them the best of luck. On left students Joel and Amy with Deputy Principal Dr. Breda Sunderland.

Athy College has been chosen as one of 46 schools nationwide to pilot the new Junior Certificate.



Congratulations to fifth year student Gary Kelly who received The National Director's Award from the Order of Malta, - the first person in Athy to receive this award.