From the Principal’s Desk

At a time of economic recession it is difficult to write about anything without referring to our dire financial condition. Schools have not escaped the ravages of the cutbacks and thus it would be easy to spend the entirety of this article lamenting the reduction in educational investment. It might be more in our interests however to use our energy so as to devise methods by which we can cope with our present difficulties.

Nobody can deny us access to ourselves. Nothing that is happening in this country will prevent a student from working hard in school or studying diligently for the upcoming examinations. Previous generations of Irish people suffered far harsher circumstances and survived. We must stress to our young people that the best visa for international travel is the visa of academic success. It is recognised in virtually every country around the world and will give our young people the opportunity to experience new ways of working and perhaps more importantly new ways of thinking.

We cannot afford to fall behind in our overall objectives and thus it is heartening to see that there is so much activity in the school that is recession proof. Let me just refer to some quiet work that is being done with the minimum of fuss. As I write this article there are upwards of thirty students here in the school building during the Christmas holidays preparing for the Young Scientist Competition. They and their teachers have done tremendous work so far and have invested huge amounts of time in researching a plethora of topics. After school activities are as strong as ever and it’s good to see a squad of 25 camogie players training under the supervision of their teachers during the holidays. They are preparing for some very serious competition in the new year and are not letting the festive season interfere with their ambitions.

The most important game of all will take place next June in the examination hall. All of us worry about the welfare of those in our care. Will they cope with the pressure? Will the paper be a fair one? Will the student recognise the central issues demanded in each question? These issues can be distracting and use up our energy. Action and worry however cannot co-exist. Thus I want to remind parents that there is much work being done both within school time and after school time that will equip our students to cope with the hard work that lies ahead. This raises an interesting question: compare teachers and sport stars…who’s doing the more important work?

In October fifth and sixth-year Art students visited the Crawford Gallery in Cork with their teacher Ms Fitzpatrick to see an exhibition entitled Gravity. The exhibition included over 50 works by 29 artists working in a wide variety of mediums including drawing, painting, photography, film, print and performance. It explored the perception of gravity and looked at the relationship between art, science and spirituality. A tour guide helped the students understand the works and the visit was thoroughly enjoyed by all.
Diospóireacht an Phiarsaigh 2011


D. Ni Dhíomsaigh

The latest in technology equipment has arrived in the Engineering room of our school and it is known as the BFB-3000 Plus 3D Printer! What this piece of high-tech machinery does is to allow Engineering students to be far more creative in their design and manufacture of projects. The printer brings 3D CAD drawings to life so once the student is able to design a product or a part, this machine is able to make it.

Both the Metalwork and Engineering courses seek to link observation and action with ingenuity and creativity within a problem-solving context. In order to do this it is important that students in the school have access to the most up-to-date equipment available to them and this is definitely the case in the school's Engineering room where the printer is only the latest addition in available technology.

Engineering News

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Kinsale Community School held its annual awards ceremony, Êacht na Scolaírí, on Friday 11 November. Nearly 500 students, parents and staff packed into the school hall to honour the achievements of the students in a variety of areas.

Guest of Honour for the night was Dr Linda Buckley who is a composer and who lectures in music in Trinity College Dublin. She is a native of the Old Head and is a past pupil of the Holy Rosary School in Kinsale.

In her address on the night Dr Buckley praised the work of the school and recalled with fondness her own schooling and how it influenced her career progression. She exhorted the students to choose and study what they like and are passionate about and that the rest will fall into place.

On the night, students received awards for a host of achievements and activities ranging from year awards to sporting awards to academic awards. Pupils from the Leaving Cert class of 2011 were honoured for their outstanding results with the Senior Academic Award being presented by Dr Humphrey Moynihan of Eli Lilly to Catherine O’Brien who is now studying Physiotherapy in UCD. Catherine O’Byrne Memorial Award for German which was presented to Michelle Fenton who is studying Nursing in UCC. The Killian Ryan Memorial Award for the Arts was presented to Alesha McCallum for her participation in various school shows.

Lorraine Stanley, Manager of the AIB, presented the Junior Sports Award to Ken O’Callaghan, whilst Conor Brosnan, Manager of the Bank of Ireland, presented Alan Gould with the Senior Sports Award. A special presentation was made on the night to Orla Finn for her outstanding achievements in athletics, in which she has won many national titles, and for her success in Gaelic football.

This year the Bank of Ireland initiated and sponsored two new student awards. The first award acknowledged Robert Crowley’s exceptional piece of craftsmanship which he completed for his Junior Cert whilst the second award went to Stephan Graef for displaying entrepreneurial endeavour in his setting up a surf board repair business.

The success of our Young Scientists who did so well in this year’s competition was also acknowledged and fittingly on the day of the inauguration of President Michael D. Higgins fourteen students were awarded their Bronze Gaisce Award whilst eleven received a Silver Award.

In his address on the night, Mr Ó Broin thanked the various...
organisations who support the work of the school in a very practical and meaningful way. He stated, ‘One of the reasons why we are such a successful school is because so often we have an extra player on the field and this enables us to give a better service to our community.’

The full list of nominees and winners is as follows:

**First Year**
Martin Cooney, Liam Cronin, Christopher Galvin, Adam Gleasure, Liam Griffin, Sophie Healy Thow, Alana Healy, Emer Hickey, Emma Moriarty, Karen Nyhan, Marie O’Keeffe, James O’Leary, Aidene O’Mahony, Jack Reardon, Evita Volginaite, Ciara Walsh
Overall Winner – Ciara Walsh

**Second Year**
Kevin Collins, Shauna Daly, Eva Douglas-Davies, Tori Gimblett, Shane Hackett, Anna Hannon, Eoin Hurley, Shane Lanigan, Sophie McCallum, William Mulcahy, Fergal O’Brien, Mark O’Brien, Micheala O’Connell, Cliodhna Walsh, Kelly Walsh
Overall Winner – Eoin Hurley

**Third Year**
Martha Brennan, Timmy Broderick, Julie Cateysson, Jane-Louise Condon, James Desmond, Sonia Gleasure, Amy Harrington, Barry Hogan, Christine Keohane, Daniel Lawton, Amy Morgan, David O’Keeffe, Indre Riaukaite, Michelle Ryan, Joan Tyner, Alice Whelan, Laura White
Overall Winner – Daniel Lawton

**Transition Year**
Timothy Cogan, Therese Collins, Patrick Curtin, Aoife Keating, Eoin Kingston, Liam Lanigan, Jenny McAuliffe, Marley McCallum, Szymon Mozolewski, Claire Murphy, Danielle Murphy, Kevin Nyhan, Brian O’Leary, Louise O’Leary, Jennifer Ryan, Kevin Whelton
Overall Winner – Liam Lanigan

**Fifth Year**
Overall Winner – Dawid Mozolewski

**Sixth Year**
Deirdre Allen, Jody Buckley-Coogan, Colm Coleman, Colm Daly, Craig Hackett, Anna-May Keohane, Liam Lee, Vivienne Maher, Cathy Moir, Jacinta O’Callaghan, Kate O’Callaghan, Selina O’Donovan, William O’Kelly, Neasa O’Leary, Aisling Santry, Bart Tocki, Kate Tyner
Overall Winner – Jody Buckley-Coogan

**Junior Sports**
Josh Arnopp, Timmy Broderick, Georgina Buckley, Chelsea Campbell, Nicola Coleman, Brian Collins, Darren Collins, Linda Collins, Joseph Cronin, Liam Cronin, Seán O’G Gately, Eoin Healy, Aoife McCarthy, Kenneth O’Callaghan, Mateusz Rudak, Claire Tyner
Overall Winner – Ken O’Callaghan

**Senior Sports**
Paul Allen, Rickard Cahalane, Colm Coleman, Paula Collins, Andrew Daly, Colm Daly, Orla Finn, Alan Gould, Aisling Lee, Alice McCarthy, Niall McCarthy, Aisling Moloney, Celia O’Driscoll, Ciara O’Leary, Daniel O’Leary, Jillian O’Leary, Miriam Reardon
Overall Winner – Alan Gould

**Bank of Ireland Student Awards**

- **Junior Award for Exceptional Craftwork - Robert Crowley**
- **Senior Award for Entrepreneurial Endeavour - Stephan Graef**
- **Sinéad Barry Award – Peter Graef**
- **Catherine O’Byrne Award – Michelle Fenton**
- **Kilian Ryan Award – Alesha McCallum**
- **Civic Virtue Award – Gearoid O’Leary**
- **Special Sports Award – Orla Finn**

**Young Scientist**
Ciara Judge, Royanne McGregor and Sophie Healy Thow
Ali Hill and Katie Wall
Faye Murphy and Caoimhe Hill
Ciara Boyle
Melissa O’Neill and Lucy O’Donovan

**GAILSC**

- **Bronze Awards**
  - Aine Barry, Timothy Cogan, Liam Lanigan, Ashling Lee, Jenny McAuliffe, Laoighse McCarthy, Liam McCarthy, Kevin Nyhan, Theresa O’Donovan, Brian O’Leary, Ciara O’Leary, Jillian O’Leary, Jessica Sheehan, Orla Finn
  - **Silver Awards**
    - Amy Buckley, Ánna de Bont, Tessa Kingston, Claire McCarthy, Rachel McCarthy, Claire Moynihan, Aileen O’Brien, Jessica O’Donovan, Lucy O’Donovan, Emily O’Leary, Alice O’Sullivan

**ACADEMIC AWARDS**

- **Duncan Bowden (RE)**
- **Christina Boyd (Art)**
- **David Briscoe (English, RE)**
- **Jody Buckley-Coogan (Geography, History, Irish)**
- **Colm Coleman (Chemistry)**
- **Paula Collins (Biology)**
- **Mark Eaton (Engineering)**
- **Michelle Fenton (German)**
- **Orla Finn (Chemistry, Irish)**
- **Alan Gould (Construction)**
- **Peter Graef (Business)**
- **Zoe Greenway (Art)**
- **Elizabeth Hankard (English, French, Irish)**
- **Stephanie Kearney (French)**
- **Alesha McCallum (French, Music)**
- **Aisling McCarthy (Chemistry, Irish)**
- **Niall McCarthy (Physics)**
- **Virginia McKeown (German)**
- **Cathy Moir (Irish)**
- **Daniel Morgan (Applied Maths, Biology, Physics)**
- **Sarah Mulcahy (Biology, Chemistry, Irish)**
- **Katy Mullins (RE)**
- **Jessica Mundy (German)**
- **Ria Noon (Biology, Chemistry, Home Economics)**
- **Catherine O’Brien (Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Irish)**
- **Jacinta O’Callaghan (Biology)**
- **Selina O’Donovan (Irish)**
- **Liam O’Keffe (Music)**
- **Chloe Sheehan (Accounting, Irish)**
- **Jeremiah Wright (DCG)**

**Junior Academic Award – Eimear Stanley**

**LCA Award – Margaret Fogarty**

**Leaving Certificate Award – Catherine O’Brien**
Y1 Winner Ciara Walsh

Y2 Winner Eoin Hurley

Y3 Winner Daniel Lawton

TY Winner Liam Lanigan

Y5 Winner Dawid Mozolewski

Alesha McCallum accepts the Kilian Ryan Award

Junior Sports Winner Ken O’Callaghan

Senior Sports Winner Alan Gould
Michelle Fenton receives the Catherine O'Byrne Award

Recipient of the Sinéad Barry Memorial Award Peter Graef

Robert Crowley accepts the BofI Award for Exceptional Craftwork

Stephan Graef receives his award for entrepreneurship

Junior Academic Winner Eimear Stanley

Senior Academic Winner Catherine O’Brien

Academic Award Winners
Bronze Gaisce Winners

Junior Sports Nominees

Senior Sports Nominees
Head Girl and Boy, Tessa Kingston and Barry O’Leary, make presentations to Sr Rita, Chairperson of the Board of Management and to Dr Buckley

Silver Gaisce Winners
Orla Finn played a pivotal part in Cork winning their sixth senior All-Ireland title this year. Success is nothing new to Orla who has an outstanding record in a number of sporting disciplines. Here we ask Orla, who just completed her Leaving Cert last June, to reflect on her time in Kinsale.


What were your favourite subjects in school? Irish and Chemistry were my favourite subjects. My love of Irish came from primary school but it blossomed in secondary school. I always enjoyed Chemistry because we did a lot of experiments which gave us a break from the theory and allowed us to chat to each other during class!

What did you enjoy most about being in Kinsale Community School? I really enjoyed the atmosphere that there was in the school. Everyday going to school you were guaranteed that you would be greeted with a smile from a friend or teacher. We were never denied a laugh during class or lunchtime and the teachers were always up for the craic! I made some great friends during my time in the school and I will always have lovely memories of it. As the years in school progressed I began to enjoy school more and more as everyone got to know one another better. Leaving Cert for me, even though it is the most stressful year, was the best year in school and I bet anyone of my classmates would agree with me.

Any funny incidents or stories that stand out from your time in school? One thing that I remember was when I was in TY we were doing an experiment in the Chemistry lab. It was the flame test experiment so we were all using Bunsen burners. I suppose we got too involved with the experiment and wanted to test as many salts as we could and next thing we knew the fire alarm was going off and the whole school had to be evacuated. The best bit was seeing Mr Ó Broin running down to the lab thinking that there was a fire and all of us laughing away.

Were you involved in extra-curricular activities? Yes, I played a lot of sport with the school. Ladies football and athletics were the two main sports that I played but I also played a bit of soccer and basketball. I enjoyed every minute of them. They were also great to get time off school going to matches, even though at the time I didn’t admit this! Being involved in these sports enabled me to develop as an individual as I not only progressed at the sport but I also learned how to be disciplined and have the right attitude towards sport. I began to see that the more you put into something the more you will get out of it.

What are you doing since you left school? Did school or things to do with school influence you in any way in your choice of study? I am currently studying to be a primary teacher in Mary Immaculate College in Limerick. I suppose I picked the course due to the positive experience I had in school. Most of the teachers I was lucky enough to have teaching me were inspiring and encouraging and I would like to return this to children in the future. Also, my love of Irish was another reason. The brilliant foundation in Irish that I received in Kinsale Community School encouraged me to continue my studies of it in third-level, as you know how important Irish is in primary school.

What advice, if any, would you have for students who are currently in Kinsale Community School? I would tell them to enjoy their school days as they are meant to be the best days of your life. Make as many friends as you can as the years will fly, even though some people probably can’t wait to be finished! I guarantee that when you do finish you will miss several aspects of school life. Get involved in all the sport and extra-curricular activities that are available. Work hard at whatever you are doing because that’s the way you will succeed! Choosing a career path may be difficult but I would advise anyone to choose a career from the subjects they like in school. My final piece of advice to anyone is to always set your standards high and aim high as this is the only way you will reach your full potential!
Vincent Hurley is an accomplished sportsman. This year he was awarded Man of the Match for his unflinching performance in Courcey Rover’s magnificent win in the Premier Intermediate Hurling Championship and is pictured above (on the left) receiving the 103FM Sports Star of the Month Award. He is accomplished in many sporting codes and last year netted €10,000 for Courceys when he won the national Surenem Challenge in Dublin beating no less a star than Derek Lyng from Kilkenny in the final!

From what years did you attend Kinsale Community school?
I attended Kinsale Community School from 1996 to 2000. I had spent two years in the convent before the community school opened. We were the first set of Junior Certs in the new school. That’s what I put my bad results down to - a settling in period!

What were your favourite subjects in school?
I suppose PE would have been my favourite. Outside of that I found Tech Drawing, Engineering and Maths to be enjoyable. I also thoroughly enjoyed first-year German with Ms Lordan teaching us!

What did you enjoy most about being in Kinsale Community School?
Going home afterwards!!! No seriously though, the facilities were excellent and I suppose coming from the convent like we had, any room where the tiles weren’t coming off the floor or the paint coming off the wall was a novelty to us! So to have state of the art facilities available was a big thing as was having proper equipment. Also it was great fun. You would spend most of the time there laughing or joking about something and you were with your friends for most of the day. I’m afraid that doesn’t last forever so enjoy it while you have it!

Any funny incidents or stories from your time in school?
I always laugh when I see a Mini. Back in the convent there was a one way system in place on the road around the school, as the road in parts was very narrow and only one car would fit through. Other parts were wider and so the teachers would park their cars in these wider parts. The cars would be parallel parked. I remember walking out after school and seeing a group of the sixth-years lifting one of the teacher’s cars - a Mini - and facing it the wrong way. I thought it was genius! Outside of that there would have been a few other incidents, like individuals being duct-taped to goal posts, Newcastle jerseys being the new uniform and a few other bits and pieces that I really shouldn’t get into. Ye should be STUDYING!

Were you involved in extra-curricular activities?
Yeah I got involved in the school plays with Mr Bergin and Mr Cleans and had great fun participating in these plays. The rehearsals were brilliant craic - a very enjoyable experience.

What did you do when you left school? Did school or things you did in school influence in any way your choice of course of study or job?
When I left school I went to CIT were I did Software Development and Computer Networking. It’s as fun as it sounds! Having completed a year of that I switched to Computer Applications and had a year to go to finishing my degree when I had a chance of joining the Gardai. It was never something I planned or thought of when I was younger, but during college a friend persuaded me to apply so that I would at least keep my options open. After doing the aptitude test I kept getting through to the next stage. I wasn’t thinking much about it until I received a phone call to take it or leave it and so I said I’d give it a shot.

Looking back I’d say KCS did influence my choice of course, however I would say to anyone trying to decide what course to do to research it as much as possible. I was never any good at Physics (understatement of the year contender) and in first year of Software Development there was a subject called Telecommunications which was basically Physics. Needless to say this donkey wasn’t aware of this when choosing the course, and it wrecked my head for the year!

What would you say about your work as a Garda?
It’s fine. I look on it as a job the same as any other job. It’s quite a sociable job in that you are interacting with the public all of the time. As a job it’s not too stressful 95% of the time, but it’s the other 5% that is tough. Telling people bad news about loved ones, dealing with horrific scenes from road accidents etc. is not easy and not good for the mind. There’s also a good balance in that you’re not tied to a desk every day nor are you outdoors every day. It’s an alright job, but if I had to chose all over again, I think I’d just be a billionaire oil tycoon!

What advice, if any, would you have for students of Kinsale Community School?
For those going into fifth-year (and I should know as I did it twice) getting your subject choice right makes a big difference. At my first effort at fifth-year I got my subject choices and levels all wrong and I struggled all year. When I repeated I picked subjects that were better suited to me and subjects where the Leaving Paper was more structured. I then found fifth and sixth-year to be the two most enjoyable years I had in school. Facing into the Leaving Cert I found that having a good idea of the structure of the papers allowed me to concentrate on exactly what I needed to know and what subjects that I didn’t need to concentrate on. It made the Leaving Cert year enjoyable and not too stressful.

Is there anything else you’d like to say?
School is the best time of your life! You’ve heard this a million times before, but frighteningly it’s true. Enjoy it! It can be great fun if you want it to be, as where else in life are you going to be surrounded by your friends all day, having a laugh and a joke? Get yourself half-organized with your school work and you’ll find that the tests and exams will take care of themselves and you’ll be able to enjoy the rest of the experience!
Given the success of our students and the school in the BT Young Scientist Competition it might be easily forgotten that to have an entry accepted for the exhibition is an achievement in itself! However, this year before the competition even began, our school was justifiably proud of the fact that it had a total of 17 projects accepted for exhibition in 2012. This is a record not only for the school but it was also the greatest number of projects accepted from any school in the country and proves the adage that ‘Success builds upon success.’

In 2011 Kinsale Community School maintained its unrivalled record in the competition by claiming its third national title when Royanne McGregor, Ciara Judge and Sophie Healy-Thow claimed runner up position in the Best Overall Group section. This was a fantastic achievement for the school following on from the successes of 2006 and 2009 when Aisling Judge, Liam McCarthy and John D. O’Callaghan claimed the overall prize.

In this year’s competition the 31 students involved put incredible work and thought into their projects under the watchful eye of their mentors with the result that a wide range of topics were under the microscope!

Lucy O’Donovan, for whom this was her fifth successful entry, undertook ‘A statistical analysis of people’s attitudes towards disabilities including those with Down Syndrome, learning disabilities and wheelchair users.’

Faye Murphy and Caoimhe Hill, who are also no strangers to the competition did ‘A statistical study of the impact of environmental taxes and people’s attitude to these taxes.’

Perhaps being inspired by our school’s success in hurling and camogie Aidene O’Mahony decided ‘To investigate cooling technology to cool down the head while playing hurling.’

Meanwhile Hugh Whelan and Ciara Boyle decided to look at headstones in cemeteries so as to assess ‘The impact of changes in urban fuel use on lichen populations.’

Emer Hickey undertook ‘A statistical analysis of attitudes and awareness of safety and risks associated with routine alcohol consumption in Ireland.’

Eimear O’Donovan decided that she wanted to find out more about ‘Adolescents’ attitude and knowledge of feminism in modern society.’

Marie O’Leary, Rachel Butler and Lisa-Marie Desmond presented a project on ‘A statistical study of the public’s attitude to commercial chemically treated food and whether genetically modified alternatives are preferred.’

Learning might be very different according to Cathal Whelan’s and Brendan Boyle’s project on ‘Competitive gaming as a novel approach to improving learning.’

Luke Henderson, Paul O’Donovan and Aine Brett undertook ‘A statistical analysis of people’s attitudes and awareness towards seatbelts and headrests and the role they play in road safety.’

Keeping with the topic of road safety Allanah Humphreys and Ciara Manning did their project on ‘People’s attitudes regarding the wearing of high visibility clothing.’

Given Kinsale’s history as a fishing town it was encouraging to see Sarah O’Callaghan, Sophie Lisson and Zoe Fennell do ‘An investigation of the impact of the salmon drift netting ban on salmon stocks in County Cork.’

Michaela O’Driscoll’s project was on ‘Fingerprints: Inherited or not?’

Ciara Judge decided to undertake ‘A statistical investigation of the influence of plant extracts on invertebrates’ physiology.’

Sophie Healy-Thow’s project was on ‘Public awareness of the implications of dietary choices on future health.’

Lara Butler, Aoife McCarthy and Chloe Condren did an analysis on ‘The influence of media on the decisions of young people in Cork today.’

Eoin Hurley and Emily McCarthy looked at ‘Society’s attitude and knowledge towards eating disorders in adolescents.’

Daisy Pemble and Karen Briscoe did ‘An investigation into the use of the antimicrobial properties of silver nanoparticles in household cloths.’

The array and divergence of projects is testament not only to our students’ abilities and interests but highlights the central role of science in the school. As shown elsewhere in this newsletter the interest in science begins in first year and the school is grateful for the assistance and support Eli Lilly provides in promoting science amongst our students.
It was a very successful term for the senior camogie panel in the Munster Championship. The first round was against Cashel Community School at the end of October which was a very exciting game with the lead changing hands a number of times throughout the game before finally ending in a draw. The replay took place a couple of weeks later in Kilbehenney where Kinsale got off to a great start which it built upon to finally win with a score of 3-11 to 1-5. The quarter-final beckoned next against Rathkeale and Kinsale were comprehensive winners on the day with a score of 10-13 to 2-4.

The semi-final was against Kilmacthomas of Waterford on November 29 but this was a much tighter affair with Kinsale holding on to a four point lead at the final whistle. December 3 saw Kinsale meet St Mary’s of Midleton in the Munster Final in Riverstick. St Mary’s were hot favourites going into the game having a number of county players on their team. Kinsale showed great teamwork and determination throughout the game and led by 2-3 to 1-4 at half-time. The second-half was an even tighter and tougher test for the girls, each one displaying amazing skill and resilience to overcome an extremely good Midleton side and at the final whistle Kinsale were crowned Munster Champions with a score of 7-8 to 3-4. Kinsale now go on to the All-Ireland quarter-final on 28 January 2012, for the first time in the history of the school.

Our first-years and junior team have also represented the school during the term. The first-years were first out on 5 October at a camogie blitz in Ballincollig. There they played Christ the King, Coláiste Choilm and St Mary’s Charleville. They beat Christ the King and despite their best efforts were narrowly beaten by the other two teams. We look forward to this group of girls participating in the First Year league next term and also being valuable members of our junior camogie team.

So far this year the junior camogie team have participated in the Munster Championship where they drew their first game against Bandon on 14 November and narrowly lost the replay in horrendous conditions a few weeks later. Hopefully these games will stand to them when they next represent the school in the County Championship.

Well done to all involved!
Our U16 Girls Basketball Team succeeded in qualifying for their regional county final this year. Having defeated Schull Community College, Mount St Michael’s Rosscarbery and Coláiste Ghobnatan they went on to play Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál Blarney in the county semi-final.

Showing great determination and composure they defeated the Blarney team by a single point in what was a very exciting game. Unfortunately, on county final day they were defeated by a stronger St Aidan’s team. They now look forward to their All-Ireland play-offs in January.

Congratulations to Gearóid Finn, who is in sixth-year on his Man of the Match award for his outstanding performance in the Intermediate Football Final when Kinsale beat Castletownbere on a scoreline of 1-09 to 0-08. Gearóid, playing as corner forward, scored four points on the day and gave a fine display of football.

Since winning a county medal with Kinsale Gearóid has added to his collection of medals and awards by winning a Munster medal as part of the victorious Cork Vocational Schools team that defeated Kerry in the final.
From 21 to 23 October, five of us, namely Karen Briscoe, Eimear O’Donovan, Una McCarthy, Daisy Pemble and Alice Whelan all of fourth-year, participated in the Munster Regional Session of the European Youth Parliament. We were each allowed to select a ‘committee’ we were interested in and had to do research for the committee whilst we worked in our committee groups throughout the weekend. There was a wide range of interesting committees such as an Environment Committee which dealt with the area of GM foods and a Security and Defence Committee which dealt with internal terrorism in Europe. There was a topic to suit everyone’s interest and that is one of the many reasons why we would recommend students to participate in the EYP.

The session was held in St Angela’s School and in Christian Brothers College in Cork. Other students in fourth and fifth-year from all across Munster attended. Everyone stayed in a hostel in the city close to where the session was held. We arrived on Friday evening and quickly got to know all the other delegates who were very friendly. Over a hundred teenagers were staying in the hostel so it was very lively and really made our weekend unforgettable!

On Saturday morning it was time for the official opening of the session by Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Agriculture & Fisheries, who made an interesting speech which really got us thinking seriously about the work we were about to do. We then got down to work which involved writing up a solution to our issues just like real parliamentarians do. This was definitely not boring and it gave us an opportunity to voice our opinions. There were plenty of games also and on Saturday night we had a disco which gave us time to relax and have fun with the other delegates.

On Sunday we had a general assembly which was like a debate about all of our solutions. It was interesting to see how this worked. We got to speak in front of hundreds of people which was an invaluable experience. All of the Kinsale students performed very well and were sad to be leaving. EYP opened our eyes to the big issues in the world, improved our confidence, helped us to make new friends and understand that we can make a difference. We are so glad we took the advice of past pupils of KCS David Briscoe and Eoin O’Leary and got involved in EYP. We would like to recommend EYP to next year’s students.

Alice Whelan & Daisy Pemble

Positive Ageing and Carolling in Haven Bay

Many students from the school often make the short trip down the road to call in to visit the residents of Haven Bay Care Centre. Last September TY students were involved in various activities during Positive Ageing Week. Some of the students did a mime and provided the music for a paraliturgy to mark World Alzheimer’s Day on September 21. Others attended a mass and coffee morning in the Carmelite Friary on Tuesday September 27. In the conversations which followed many older people shared their faith story with the students. Some students helped older people with their computer skills at Elasnik on Wednesday September 27 and others helped out with activities in Sáile. A sincere thank you to all the students who made a difference in people’s lives that week.

Meanwhile as it came closer to Christmas some TY students wanted to do something for the residents and here one of the students writes about what they did.

On 13 December TY4 visited Haven Bay Care Centre with their teacher Ms Orla Prendergast to sing Christmas carols for the residents. We practiced for two weeks before going down and as we practiced we also made Christmas cards to give to the residents of Haven Bay.

Accompanied by guitar and tambourines we sang for half an hour and it was great to see the residents joining in with us. We could see they were really enjoying it and when we finished performing a resident stood up and thanked us all on behalf of Haven Bay. We all enjoyed the experience and were really happy to have brought a bit of Christmas cheer to Haven Bay.

Fiona O’Donovan TY4
Kinsale – Antibes Exchange

On Tuesday 11 October 2011 twenty-nine TY students from Kinsale Community School left for the south of France to participate on a French exchange for a week. They were accompanied by two of their French teachers, Ms Annemarie Flavin and Ms Nicola Thornton. The students flew from Cork to Nice and spent their week in beautiful Antibes.

The students were welcomed by the Town Council and the Twinning Committee and a reception was hosted in their honour on Wednesday 12 October. The students received gifts from the council and delighted our French counterparts by addressing the mayor and committee members in French. They attended school in Lycée Audiberti where they got an insight into school life in France!

The students were brought on two exciting day trips. They went to Île Marguerite where they visited a fort, which closely resembles Charles Fort in Kinsale. The following day they went to Cannes, the best known city on the French Riviera and host of the annual film festival. All students kept a French diary of their trip and a prize was given for the best one.

The exchange was a huge success. Not only did students benefit linguistically but they also enjoyed various aspects of French life from tasting French cuisine to shopping in the boutiques of Nice and Cannes! Students got on very well with their French exchange partners and many lasting friendships were formed.

Kinsale Community School will be delighted to welcome the French students and their teachers to Ireland for one week in May 2012. May the French-Irish relations continue to blossom!
On Friday 16 September twenty-seven students from Kinsale travelled to Kerry Airport to welcome students from Karlshru who were in Ireland for a German exchange. Each German student spent a week living with their exchange partners who over the weekend brought them to GAA matches, Garretstown beach, horse riding, Cork city and other places of interest so as to share Irish culture and our way of life with the German students.

During their week in school the students had lessons in English in the mornings and then attended their Irish partners’ classes. While they were here, we as a group organised to go on the ghost tour in Kinsale, to Oysterhaven and for the last night we all went out to dinner.

As the week progressed we got to know the German students as they practiced their English. People had made such good friends that there were tears as the German students left to go back home. However, all of the Irish students are looking forward to going on the return leg of the exchange in February. It’s a really good way of learning a language and of making new friends!

Eimear Stanley TY
First-year students studying French were treated to a French breakfast on the week beginning Monday 21 November. They tuck into croissants, pain au chocolat, baguettes and washed it all down with chocolat chaud! They thoroughly enjoyed their tasty morning treats and hopefully will continue to enjoy all kinds of French cuisine in the future.

Local TD Jim Daly visited the school in October to talk with students about the importance of getting involved in politics. He gained the students’ interest by spuriously claiming that the government was going to change the law so that students would have to attend school on Saturdays! After much debate and voting on the topic Jim used the example as a way of showing how parliament works and how that it was his job to represent the views of his constituents but they needed to make their views known. The students felt it was a very worthwhile presentation and they definitely learned more about how the political system works and why they should take an interest in things. Of course they and their teachers were most relieved to discover that school on a Saturday is not on the political agenda!
The first adventure of TY was our trip to the Killary Adventure Centre in Leenane, County Galway. The trip lasted from 3 – 7 October and we took part in a wide variety of outdoor activities during the day, as well as games and quizzes in the evenings.

We arrived late afternoon on the Monday and got settled in. We were divided into different groups for the activities. The groups were chosen at random to try to encourage people to make new friends. Our first day of activities was on the Tuesday. The timetable for the week was an outdoor activity in the morning, then walking back to the centre to get lunch, another outdoor activity in the afternoon and in the evenings we did indoor games. The outdoor activities we did were kayaking, the cliff jump, gorge walking, raft building, archery, laser combat games, climbing wall, giant swing, high ropes course and the famous Killary turf challenge!

All of the outdoor activities were really fun but if I had to pick my favourites I would pick the high ropes course and the turf challenge. The high ropes course included a trapeze, which was so scary but one of the best things I’ve ever done. The turf challenge was just an excuse to get dirty! It consisted of jumping into bogs and sliding down muddy hills. It was brilliant!

As for the evening games, these ranged from quiet quizzes to the boys dressing up as girls! The ‘Miss Killary’ competition was definitely the highlight of the trip as everyone loved it and it was a great way to end the week. Carlos, otherwise known as Sabrina, was crowned Miss Killary and definitely deserved it!

On Friday, we all packed up and left Killary. We arrived back in Kinsale that evening, ready for much needed sleep. Killary has been a great experience that I’ll never forget, and we’d like to give special thanks Ms Murphy for organising the trip and to Ms Kearney, Ms Leahy, Mr Duggan and Mr Hayes for bringing us and making it great.

*Daisy May Pemble*
Kinsale Community School under the Microscope

Each year schools are externally evaluated to ensure high standards of education for young people in Ireland and this year Kinsale was no exception. The school received feedback in three major areas this year; from PISA, a Whole School Evaluation focussing on Management, Leadership and Learning and an Incidental Inspection. In this article Deputy Principal Ms Kathleen O’Brien tells us how the school fared.

PISA 2009 Feedback

Are students well prepared for future challenges? Can they analyse, reason and communicate effectively? Do they have the capacity to continue learning throughout life? The OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) answers these questions and more through its surveys of 15 year olds in the principal industrialised countries. Every three years it assesses how far students near the end of compulsory education have acquired some of the knowledge and skills essential for full participation in society. This year our school received feedback from the Pisa 2009 Study and the results were a superb reflection on the hard work of pupils and teachers in the school. To summarise:

• In the area of Reading Achievement, the school scored 532, which was far above both the OECD and Ireland averages of 493 and 496 respectively. The statistics also indicated that far more young people in Kinsale read for enjoyment as compared to other pupils in Ireland and other OECD countries.
• In the area of Mathematics Achievement the school scored 528, excellent when compared to the OECD score of 496 and the average of 487 for Ireland. All our Maths teachers in the school are fully qualified.
• In the area of Scientific Achievement, the school scored 545, again surpassing both the OECD and Ireland averages of 501 and 487 respectively. Unsurprising considering the school’s history at the Young Scientist Competition.
• In the area of Digital Reading Achievement the school scored 525, again this was above the OECD score of 500 and the score of 509 for Ireland.

To further build on this strength, we are now involved in the Learning School 3 Project which is focussing on enriching literacy in the school and planning ways to support parents to do the same at home.

WSE-MLL Feedback

A Whole School Evaluation is a detailed look by Department of Education Inspectors at all areas of school life and took place in the school in January 2011. The process lasts a number of weeks including inspectors spending three days in the school observing lessons and meeting staff members. The main findings of the inspection were as follows:

• The Principal and Deputy Principal form an effective senior management team and display complementary leadership styles in the management of learning and teaching.

• High levels of engagement and enthusiasm.
• Subtle use of humour by teachers
• Positive relationships where pupils were respectful
• Good use of ICT in teaching
• Evidence of group work and co-operative learning
• A good range of teaching strategies
• Well sequenced lessons
• Teachers making learning intentions clear
• Considerable expertise among staff provides a strong foundation on which to base a planning focus on learning and teaching.
• The board of management has identified and prioritised a number of planning issues and is active in advancing those issues.
• Increasing enrolment has necessitated the extension of the school as a planning priority.
• The atmosphere in the school is enhanced by good communication and good relationships among staff, management, students and parents.
• Appropriate mutual involvement is characteristic of the shared activities of the school and community.

Incidental Inspection Feedback

Incidental Inspections last one day and take the form of an inspector from the Department of Education arriving, without prior notice and investigating the school ‘snapshot’ style so as to evaluate teaching in different areas of the curriculum. On Tuesday 29 November the school received one of these inspections and I am delighted to say the feedback was very positive. The inspector commented on the orderliness of the pupils’ movement around the school, the relaxed but industrious atmosphere and evidence of good teaching practice was seen including:

• Teachers making learning intentions clear
• Thorough planning
• Well sequenced lessons
• A good range of teaching strategies
• Evidence of group work and co-operative learning
• Clear instruction
• Openness to pupil participation
• Well-resourced classrooms
• Good use of ICT in teaching
• Positive relationships where pupils were respectful
• Subtle use of humour by teachers
• High levels of engagement and enthusiasm.

2011 has been a busy and challenging year but external evaluation has affirmed our belief that at Kinsale Community School we provide the highest quality of education possible for the young people in our care. Looking forward to what successes 2012 will bring!

Ms Kathleen O’Brien
Leaving Cert Applied Activities

The LCA programme in the school continues to provide a first-rate educational experience for our students where the emphasis is very much on learning by doing. LCA students leave school equipped with many of the practical skills that employers want to see and having completed six weeks of work experience. Below are just some of the activities that LCA students have been involved in during the first term.
On Tuesday 22 November the TY Green Team were given an opportunity to learn more about renewable energy from an expert, Mark Donovan. We were aware of the damaging effects that fossil fuels can have on the environment. However, we knew very little about the wide range of renewable energy sources available. We were given an informative PowerPoint presentation on these different forms of renewable energy.

Firstly we learned about wind energy. We learned about the advantages and disadvantages of using it in Ireland, and were shown the internal workings of a windmill. After that we got to work on constructing our own windmills from the kits provided. This was very tricky but it really helped us to understand exactly how a windmill creates its energy by seeing it for ourselves as our windmills lit a light bulb.

We then moved on to geothermal energy and wave energy. Most of us had no knowledge of geothermal energy but we soon understood its uses and realised that it would play a very important part in our future as a source of energy. We then learned about wave energy and how it is being used, in Ireland and worldwide. Hearing about the effectiveness of wave energy and the massive power that even our own coastline has was amazing.

Solar energy was also covered in the presentation. A few in the class were able to tell us about their use of solar energy in the home as they had solar panels. Then, using a miniature solar panel, we made a tiny car in our groups which would hopefully drive powered by solar energy. As we live in Ireland it was initially difficult to find sunlight! But eventually we were able to test out our cars and have a solar powered race.

The workshop definitely made my classmates and me more conscious of the environment. In the future we will make an effort to use renewable energy sources throughout our lives. We now know what a huge difference this will make to the environment. The workshop was thoroughly enjoyable and educational. Thank you to Ms Fitzpatrick for organising it and to our speaker. The Green Team looks forward to learning more this year and making a difference to attitudes to environmental issues within the school.

Alice Whelan, TY Green Team
Public Speaking Competition

On Wednesday 23 November our school hosted the preliminary round of the Cork Mental Health Foundation’s Public Speaking Project. Participating were Kinsale Community School and Mount Saint Michael’s of Rosscarbery. Adjudicators and Chairman Aidan Fahy were also present, as well as several supporters of Kinsale. Representing the school were speakers Karen Briscoe, Faye Murphy and Nick Dunne. The Mount St. Michael’s team and Faye decided to speak on the Winston Churchill quote “Where there is no vision, there is no hope.” Karen Briscoe spoke on the Marie Curie quote “Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood” and Nick spoke on the topic of “Our mental health is a gift - don’t abuse it.” Both teams spoke admirably and much was learned about mental health issues. It was a tough decision for the adjudicators but after much deliberation they chose Mount St. Michael as the team to advance to the next round of the competition.

A special word of thanks must be paid to our mentor Mr Power. Without his invaluable help and guidance, entering the competition would not have been a possibility. Congratulations to Mount Saint Michael’s and we wish them the best of luck to them as they advance further in the competition.

Faye Murphy

As part of their LCVP studies students received a talk from Jon Hynes who runs GTown Surf School in Garrettstown. They heard how Jon got into the business and what is needed in order to be a successful entrepreneur. Jon also spoke about some of the charitable work he organises in the surf school under the title of Surf2Heal which aims to help children with autism. Students found Jon and his talk to be most interesting and informative and gave them a real learning insight into the world of business.
As part of the launch of Kinsale Youth Support Services a poster competition was held. Here we print some of the entries with the front cover of this edition having been drawn by Jenny Buckley. The winners were:

- First-year - 1 Marecka Buckley 2 Kane Curtin 3 Natalia Bakula
- Second-year - 1 Clodagh Henderson 2 Saoirse Crowley 3 Nicole Corkery
- Fifth-year - 1 Stephanie O’Mahony 2 Ella Griffin, Erin O’Brien and Mary O’Dwyer 3 Ellen Hannon and Michelle Farrisey
- Sixth-year - 1 Anna De Bont 2 Jenny Buckley and Naomi McCarthy 3 Sophia Recks.

Pictured below are the winners after being presented with their prizes by Mr Ó Broin in the presence of Ms Honor O’Brien, Garda James O’Mahony and Ms Mariel Twomey (Secretary of KYSS). All poster entries can be seen on the KYSS Facebook page (www.facebook.com/KYSS.Kinsale).
From Kinsale to Kenya

Our students have always been most generous with their time and talents and last summer two of our students, Chloe and Jessica Sheehan, travelled to Kenya to do voluntary work with a local community. It was an experience of a lifetime which Jessica now describes.

Our trip to Kenya first began as an idea after watching a programme about Irish volunteers on television. Two of my classmates, Eimear Reilly and Jessica Cronin, had travelled to Kenya in January 2011 and their enthusiasm and positive experiences gave us the inspiration to go. Their advice and help was invaluable. So with mixed emotions of excitement and trepidation we set off on 27 July for three weeks.

Living with an African family in Kawangware, a slum area outside Nairobi, gave us an insight into their life, culture and food. We stayed with a lovely host family, George and Regina, who were both pastors and their five children. We were made most welcome in their lovely but modest home. The pastors ran an orphanage for 60 children and a school where another 200 children attended. I suppose what hit us first on leaving the airport was the volume of traffic - lanes and lanes of cars going on for miles on dirt roads and people walking everywhere.

On walking to the school the next morning the smell of the open drains and fires burning rubbish on the side of the roads or in front of the shacks really hit your senses. Yet despite the obvious poverty and poor conditions the children we met were the happiest, appreciative and loving children you could ever meet. Many of these children were orphans, HIV positive, or had TB and chest infections. It is a great achievement for them to even get to school. Working with these young children was a very humbling experience for us. They have so little but yet have great hopes and aspirations for the future. Facilities at the school are very basic, with hardly any books, pencils, posters, art supplies – all things that we take for granted here. Many families cannot afford to send their children to school as it costs around €200 per year for one child.

Both Chloe and I were given a class each to teach English and Maths. Chloe was put with the older children who had exams coming up and I was with 5 – 9 year olds. They were so eager to learn what they could from us and loved to hear about our life in Ireland. We showed them pictures of Kinsale and things that we did at home. One boy found it hard to believe that you could fish out at the bridge in Kinsale and take the fish home without paying for them! Another wanted to know why we didn’t take the salt out of the sea and sell it!

We worked at the school most days but also visited some other worthy causes. We visited Sr Bridie who is a missionary in Mukuru, another slum area outside the city. This was a clinic and dispensary for pregnant women. They also ran a programme to feed malnourished women and there was an Aids clinic where anyone could come and be tested or receive counselling for free.

Another day we visited the main hospital, Kenyatta and met the Chaplain Fr Eddie Lawlor who took us on a tour of all ten floors. It was pretty grim to see the conditions people endured. Fourteen or more people in a 6 bedded ward with bare mattresses on the floor and under the beds. The ward for children with burns was particularly hard to see as they were mostly toddlers with burns from their heads down to their toes. A lot of these injuries were caused by the open fires in the shacks or exploding fires. In one room a child lies screaming in his bed, we assume it is because he is missing his mother as he is alone but when Fr Eddie talks to him he tells him he is in pain. There was no pain relief to give him and once we left he started again and it was very upsetting and heart wrenching for us to walk away.

It was not all hard work though and we went on safari one weekend. This was an amazing experience and a welcome break. We travelled by bus the very bumpy seven hour journey to Maasai Mara for two nights and then on to Lake Nakuru. After a week of very bland food it was great to taste nice food again, have proper toilets that you could flush and have a hot shower!

The cost of the trip was funded by ourselves and involved flights, food, accommodation, vaccinations and safari. I decided not to go on the school tour to Barcelona and use the money instead to pay for my flight to Kenya. This was also going to be our family holiday. We organised a recycle clothes weekend in our local community which was hugely supported. Friends, family and local schools gave us donations to take out such as money, baby clothes, books, creams from local chemists and pencils with rubbers from Bandon Office Supplies for the whole school. We each took an extra case of older children’s clothes and shoes. We raised €3000 and most
sincerely thank all who supported us. Most of the money went on buying food and supplies for the orphanage/school and new mattresses for the girls’ dormitory. We also gave a donation to Fr Eddie Lawlor towards his great work and to Sr Bridie. We bought back a large amount of African jewellery to sell and forwarded on the money. Thanks to Mr Ó Broin for allowing us to sell this jewellery in the school gym one Friday lunch time and again we were well supported by our fellow students. We have since forwarded on this money which was used to buy a reconditioned photocopier for the school and more food supplies.

We have made great friendships in Kenya and hope to return there again sometime in the future. Since our return we have received lots of emails from our many new friends, not only Africans but the other volunteers staying at the house. We would encourage anyone to go and experience for themselves what life is like in Kenya and the great welcome which awaits you.

Jessica Sheehan Y5

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Jessica sharing some news of home

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Ms McWhinney

Ursula McWhinney started her career in the Convent of Mercy in Kinsale 32 years ago in 1980. These early days saw lots of changes in the education system with new syllabi being introduced on an almost annual basis. It was at this time also that third level education became accessible to huge numbers of students whose focus was increasingly on achievement and points. Ursula embraced these challenges with enthusiasm and energy.

Her love of French was contagious and her open, caring approach to teaching was greatly appreciated by her many students. She maintained an ambitious and focused approach to teaching which saw her students consistently achieve excellent grades in French with many continuing to study it at third-level. Her classroom was always brightly decorated with posters which brought the reality of France closer to home. Ursula also introduced Spanish to the curriculum as a TY subject which once again broadened the horizons of our students in a European context.

Outside of the classroom Ursula was dedicated to Gaisce, the President’s Awards programme which she introduced to the school and which thrives to this day. Every year, under the watchful eye of Ms McWhinney, Gaisce students undertook challenges in areas of social, physical, intellectual and community interest, with the aim of putting themselves to the test with the ultimate goal of personal character enhancement. Several of her students, including Edward Judge, Aidan McCarthy and Gary O Donovan, achieved the highly sought after Gaisce Gold Medal and Ursula met with the President of Ireland on three occasions at the presentation of these awards. Currently in the school Gaisce students teach senior citizens computer skills on a weekly basis...skype, email, YouTube are no longer only for the ‘young ones’ but also for the ‘young at hearts’.

Ursula will be remembered as a caring, open-minded, non-judgemental colleague. Her sense of humour and stories of family and holidays entertained us on many dreary winter mornings. Her enthusiasm for France and Spain was infectious and her recommendations of resorts were in demand by us all. She was particularly welcoming to new arrivals on the staff, immediately treating them as equals and with whom she generously shared her resources and expertise.

Ursula McWhinney’s contribution to our school over 30 years is remembered fondly by all who knew her – both staff and students. She is missed on our corridors, in our classrooms and staffroom but is wished the very best for a happy, healthy and long retirement. Bonne chance dans l’avenir!

Tony Cierans

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Chloe offers to do some nails!
Last summer the school’s Home Economics room got a complete makeover and now proudly boasts top of the range facilities. The students who do this subject create the most wonderful pieces of craftwork and culinary delights and here we read about the work of two such students.

I'm a TY student in Ms Prendergast’s Home Economics class and over the summer the school got a brand new Home Economics room. Because I had been doing the subject for the past three years having a new room meant a lot to me. Anyway it’s just fantastic so for this year’s open night we felt like doing something different to highlight our new facilities.

Ms Prendergast asked her second-years to make marble cakes for us, which they did, and they were delicious! We wanted to make the cakes look like houses so we used sheet icing for the walls and roofs and used decorative icing to add all sorts of details. For a few days we cut cakes, built houses from them and iced them. We made loads of icing and just ate the leftovers!

After the houses had been built we made a village to place them in and so we made a village out of sweets. There were roads, roundabouts, driveways, cars, a football pitch and flower gardens. Nearly everything was edible except for some of the grass! It took a lot of time and effort but so many people helped out and we had a laugh in the process.

I would like to thank all who were involved for their amazing input and thank those who didn’t try and eat one of houses whilst admiring our village!

Alex Black TY

I've always loved Christmas and I love cooking and baking. I also love Friday mornings as I have a double class of Home Economics with Ms Mawe which I and my friends enjoy.

As I think there is nothing as heart-warming as the Christmassy smell of gingerbread wafting through the house I decided that I would bake a gingerbread house. I was delighted with the way it turned out and if anybody would like the recipe for it they can get it from me or from Ms Mawe.

Armelle Ogden Y1
Retreats
Sixth and third-year students took some time out in September and October to reflect on their lives, their relationships with each other, family and with God. The retreats were facilitated by Declan Brown and his team. They were held in the Carmelite Friary. Students were very positive about their experience and agreed that these days are worthwhile.

My Vision for Europe
Some TY students, under the direction of teacher Ms Moira O’Leary, produced and directed their own short video expressing their ideas, views and vision for Europe. The Kinsale students decided they would create a four minute film on the history of the EU communicated through the format of a fairytale.

The students shot the film in various locations in Kinsale such as the Town Hall and Fishy Fishy and because it was a fairytale this meant characters such as Shrek, Donkey, Rapunzel and Cinderella turning up in these locations! The results of the students’ efforts can be seen on YouTube.

Cleaning Up for Bóthar

Students from Ms O’Leary’s Geography class decided to do a sponsored Christmas Cleanathon in order to raise funds for to send an Irish dairy goat to a family in need in Africa. Students undertook to help out at home and in the process of doing so raised the necessary €300 in order to send the goat on its way!

News of Michael Murphy
RTÉ newsreader Michael Murphy visited Kinsale Community School in October and spoke to students on a range of issues. Not only did Michael discuss his recent illness which he wrote about in his book At Five In The Afternoon but he also spoke about his work as a newsreader and as a psychoanalyst.

If a talk to students ever demonstrated cross-curricular links it was Michael’s; it encompassed areas touching on health, sexuality, poetry, being yourself, religion, language, spirituality and the need to be honest with oneself and with others.

Michael fielded a number of questions from both students and staff and the students’ interest and attention were testament to Michael’s engaging and honest talk. The school is very appreciative of the work of the Kinsale Peace Project who brought Michael to Kinsale and scheduled his visit to the school.
Violin Virtuoso

Congratulations to Miriam Hurley, who is in TY, on her many awards and prizes for her violin playing. Miriam has won five scholarships from the Cork School of Music, has been a multiple award winner at Macroom and Midleton Feis, is leader of the County Cork Youth Orchestra, has played in Bantry House at the West Cork Chamber Music Festival and to cap it all off was declared the Junior Student of the Year in the Cork School of Music. No doubt Miriam has a very bright future in the world of music and we wish her all the best.

In the Dragon’s Den

The traditional music group in the school are always most generous with their time and talents, whether it is the school awards, the school Mass or some other occasion they and teacher Ms Brid Kearney are ready to perform. One of the more recent requests for a performance came through the new RTÉ Dragon, Seán O’Sullivan, who hosted an open house in his Kinsale residence in order to help raise funds for Summercove NS. The group were most happy to be invited to play and it adds another interesting venue where their music has won admiration and acclaim. It’s not everyday one gets to play for a Dragon!
Kinsale Youth Support Services (www.kyss.ie) consists of a group of local people who have come together to support young people and promote positive mental health in our community. Part of their awareness raising campaign was to organise an interactive workshop for all the pupils in our school. This awareness day was held on 10 October - World Mental Health Day. Each year group in our school attended the day for an hour.

Evaluation showed that students’ beliefs and attitudes towards mental health were quite positive as a result of the awareness day. Contributors on the day included Out and About Cork Mental Health, the Southern Drugs Task Force, Matt Talbot Adolescent Services, Samaritans, Bodywhys, Health Promotion Unit, local community organisations, Tabor Lodge, Garda Drugs Unit and Liam Doocey a community worker from Cork. Each visit concluded with a rap session with GMC a local Cork rapper with experience of working with young people who have issues with addiction and mental health problems. This lively performance was particularly well received by the students.

An art competition was also organised to raise awareness. The winning entries were displayed on the KYSS website, Facebook and also in Actons Hotel on both awareness days. Some of the entries are also published in this newsletter. A health promotion booklet titled, Mise My Life, was given to all students and the hope is that all the young people in our school and in the local area know that despite whatever difficulties they might be experiencing there is always someone who is willing to listen to them and help them.

Honor O’Brien (School Chaplain)
The Science of Success

Whilst the school has an enviable record in the BT Young Scientist Competition it is important to note that throughout the year there are many events encouraging students to understand and appreciate the role of science. Here we feature three such events; a trip to Eli Lilly, a visit to the water treatment plant in Kinsale and a Leaving Cert Biology field trip.

Trip to Eli Lilly

On Saturday 19 November the first-years of our school were invited to visit Eli Lilly, a pharmaceutical plant situated in Dunderrow. Eli Lilly manufactures the active ingredients for a number of Lilly’s most important human health medicines. The products from Kinsale are shipped to finishing plants around the world where they are made into tablets, capsules and injectables.

When we arrived we had a general science quiz. After this we were divided into groups and taken to the laboratories where we were given lab coats, goggles and gloves. A member of the staff helped us to carry out the experiments to help solve The Mystery of Hayfield Manor. The experiments consisted of a salt analysis to determine the substance found on a footprint left at the scene and chromatography to find out whose pen matched the ink found at the scene. It was great fun and really cool to be working in a real laboratory.

There also was a magic show which included setting money on fire, skewering balloons and the grand finale was adding Mentos to a bottle of Diet Coke! To finish the visit everyone was presented with a ruler and a science book. It was a fantastic experience that made science fun!

Tadhg McCarthy 1A5

Kinsale Community School students were amongst one of the first groups to visit the newly opened water treatment plant in Kinsale. The visit was conducted by a member of Cork County Council water treatment staff who provided the students with an overview of the working of a treatment plant and gave an outline of the Kinsale drainage system. The visit linked directly with aspects of the Leaving Certificate Chemistry and Biology courses. The students on this occasion were delighted not to receive a goodie bag on leaving but thanked Mr O’Shea and Ms Dullea for organising the visit.

As part of the Leaving Cert Biology syllabus sixth-year students went on a field trip to Fota Wildlife Park, where they studied its woodland habitat. Students carried out several investigations in the woodland including surveys of various plant and animal species as well as measuring and recording the environmental conditions. In comparison to last year’s trip, the weather this year proved much more favourable for both students and the wildlife, thus making the learning a little more enjoyable. Hopefully the ‘seeds of information’ that were sown that day in October will be ready for harvesting next June!
Leaving Cert History Trip to Dublin

On Tuesday, 15 November the Leaving Cert history class embarked on a historical tour of Dublin city. Our tour was to involve visits to Kilmainham Gaol, Dublin Castle and Dáil Éireann.

We departed early, arriving at Kilmainham Gaol at 10 am. The visit here proved quite interesting and of particular importance to the periods of history being studied for LC level. We visited the 1916 corridor where the leaders of the Rising were held prior to their execution. The room where Charles Stewart Parnell was held was next on the list, although we were informed that he was given special privileges while imprisoned including leave to attend a function in Paris. The Stonebreakers’ Yard concluded our trip where the leaders of the Rising were shot.

Our next destination was Dublin Castle which, less than a week before, had been witness to the inauguration of Michael D. Higgins. It was interesting to see the royal insignia displayed throughout the Castle and we wondered how it had lasted so long. We stood in St Patrick’s Hall where President Higgins had stood days before, and indeed where Queen Elizabeth II had also stood in recent times.

Finally, we visited Dáil Éireann where we took a tour of the House and also got to witness the Dáil and Seanad in action. It was a busy day in the House with the resignation of Willie Penrose from the Labour Party so there was a certain buzz as we walked alongside people like Senator Fergal Quinn, Micheál Martin, Mary Lou McDonald and Charlie Flanagan. Indeed the scenes we witnessed while in the Visitor’s Gallery were played out later on news bulletins and for the students it proved to be the highlight of the trip. We were treated to tea and coffee by our local Labour TD Michael McCarthy who spoke with the students about his experiences as a TD and Senator.

The tour proved to be very worthwhile with all the students commenting on how ‘real’ it made history. A special word of thanks to Ms Bríd Murphy who organised our tour of Dáil Éireann. The journey was definitely well worth it.

New Music in Kinsale

Kinsale Music Academy is a new initiative in music education which began in Kinsale Community School in September 2011.

Tuition is offered in a wide range of instruments for all ages and levels of ability – including violin, cello, flute, saxophone, piano and guitar, to name but a few! There are also classes in musicianship available; “Little Maestros” caters for beginners (ages 4-6) and junior musicianship classes (ages 7-10).

The academy has had a very successful first term, with over 50 students enrolled and there are still places available places for lessons/classes!

For more information please visit www.kinsalemusicacademy.com or contact info@kinsalemusicacademy.com.

School Extension

Plans for our extension are continuing. The design team was appointed last August and much work has been done to date. It is the intention of the architect to modify the existing building and to turn many of the standard classrooms into specialist rooms. Virtually all of the standard classrooms will then be located in the new extension which is likely to be located in the present car park in front of the school. A new gym is also planned and that may be located at the back of the sports field. It is hoped that the present gym will be turned into a canteen but that it will maintain its use as for school shows and pantomimes. The building unit of the Department of Education and Skills is located in Tullamore and the Board of Management of our school has been invited to meet officials there in mid-January 2012.
This year the school is again entering the F1 in Schools Competition under the guidance of Mr Cathal O’Donovan. This competition demands that students design and build a Formula One car for the future. The team has to prepare a business plan and use 3D CAD (Computer Aided Design) to design the car and 3D CAM (Computer Aided Manufacturing) to evaluate the most efficient machining strategy to build the car.

The six second-year pupils involved in the project, all of whom are studying Technical Graphics, have worked very hard at designing and producing initial sketches of a scaled model of a F1 racing car. An initial five page plan was entered in the competition and the team succeeded in progressing to the regional finals which will be held in March 2012. The members of Team Tintreach are as follows: Sadhbh O’Hanrahan (Team Manager), Jack Reardon (Design Engineer), Timmy Keating and Michael O’Donovan (Marketing and Communication), and Rhona Hurley and Dara Daly (Graphic Designers). The team motto/mission is ‘Defeat the rest and be the best.’

The team have done exceptionally well to make it to the regional finals and will undoubtedly do themselves and their school proud as they have done so already.
For the fourth year in succession Kinsale Community School has been recognised for its outstanding Leaving Cert results with one of last year’s sixth-years receiving a prestigious scholarship awarded by the JP McManus All-Ireland Scholarship Trust. This annual scholarship scheme provides third-level education scholarships to the top 100 performing eligible Leaving Cert students in Ireland.

Jody Buckley-Coogan was presented with his scholarship in UL by Taoiseach Enda Kenny and it was a proud day for both Jody’s family and school principal Mr Ó Broin. Jody is now studying Arts in UCC and we wish him all the best for the future.

The Learning School Project 2

In 2010/11 our school participated in the Learning School Project 2. The school committed itself to mentoring its PGDE teachers and assisted them in their integration into the school. The school’s aim for the project was to develop an effective induction programme and define within this programme the roles of both the parallel teacher and the student teacher. It was felt that a more structured induction would enhance the learning experience of the pupils and ensure that pupils’ learning was at all times kept as the main priority. Ms Jean Gaffney and Ms Joanne Scobie were involved in the project.
SNAP HAPPY!

The School Camera Club has been on the go now for a number of years and Mr Diarmuid O’Donovan is the coordinator. He is always welcoming of new members who might like to learn a little bit more about photography and the use of software for editing pictures.

This year one of the club’s members, Molly Dunican, was highly commended for her entry in the Science Snaps Competition run in conjunction with Science Week. Molly had her photo exhibited at the Discovery Exhibition in Cork City Hall last November.

There are lots of photographic competitions for students to enter so any student wishing to get involved in the Camera Club can do so by coming along to one of the meetings at lunchtime in E03 on Fridays. Printed here are examples of some of the members’ work.