



## Successful year for St. Mel's College

2010 was a very busy and successful year for St. Mel's College. Our students enjoyed great success academically and in all of their extra curricular activities. The standard of Junior and Leaving Certificate results was very high with and we congratulate Muhib Ahmed, Ciaran Devine and Joseph Mc Gowan on winning University scholarships based on their exam results and sporting achievements. Ciaran was also named Student of the Year at our annual presentation day in May while Mark Hughes won the Fr Manning Medal.

Sport plays a major part in the life of St. Mel's College and win, lose or draw the boys compete with great passion and enthusiasm. Our Soccer, Gaelic, Basketball, Rugby and swimming teams all brought home silverware last year. The u14 and u16 Soccer teams won the West Leinster Leagues and are currently training hard for two in a row. There were great celebrations for trainers Jimmy Gacquin and Ed-

### St. Mel's College

die Collins when the senior team beat St. Pats of Navan to take home the North Leinster Title for 2010. A prestigious event in the local sporting calendar is the Fr Mc Gee Cup and the senior team under trainers Jimmy Gacquin and Declan Rowley brought the Fr Mc Gee Cup back to St. Mel's again this year, making it a three in a row! Not to be outdone the U14 Gaelic team won the North Leinster Championship under the watchful eye of Fr. Joe Mc Grath. Captain Adrain Duffy and his team brought great pride to the school as it was the first time to win this in a number of years. Darragh Greene and Daniel Mimmagh represented the college in The All Ireland Schools Swimming Finals and both brought home silverware. On the Athletic front DJ Sokumbi and Robert Yorke competed in the All Ireland Finals in the 100 and 800 metres. Mick Murphy and the

basketball teams were busy also and achieved great success as both the U16 and U19 teams both won the Midland Regional Basketball Tournament and later in the year the senior basketball team got to the All Ireland play offs. Both Longford RFC and the college were delighted when Joseph Mc Gowan was selected to play with the Leinster U19 squad. This has been a great inspiration for our successful rugby teams. Hurling has made a welcome come back to the college this year as the students compete in the Leinster Schools Championship.

Off the sporting field Mel's students excelled also. The Transition Year "Ever Energy" project won the county final of the local schools enterprise awards and then went on to represent Longford at National level where they put on a spirited performance. It was a great achievement as this

was only the colleges second time to enter this competition. Success also for Ronan Mc Gowan from 4<sup>th</sup> year who competed in the National Ploughing Championships. During Science week Jonathan Magan, Robert Yorke, Michael Reilly, Gavin Dorrigan, Stephen Mc Loughlin and Dermot Brady took part in the ISTA Science Quiz and also amazed us with a science fair in school that week. Elsewhere in the school, students fundraised for local and national charities by having coffee mornings, football blitzes and also the creation and design of Christmas cards in aid of St. Mel's Cathedral.

The fire at St. Mel's Cathedral on Christmas morning had a huge impact on our College. While sharing a name, we pass it each day as we walk to school and can see its imposing spire from our classrooms and so it was with great sadness that we returned to school after Christmas. We then took pride in the fact that our school was to be-



Students from St. Mel's College pictured with St. Mel's Cross.

come the centre of worship for the parish while our beloved Cathedral is being restored. During the months of January and February we saw our Sports Hall and small College Chapel take on new life and we now enjoy our own school liturgies in St. Mel's

Cathedral Centre. We experienced many changes this year also with the retirement of Hal Carey and John Moloney both long-time, highly respected members of the teaching staff and parish community. With these retirements we welcomed

new members of staff: Emma Dempsey, Rachel Masterson and Siobhan Mc Morrow.

As 2011 approached St. Mel's College looks forward to a year that will bring health, success and happiness to its students, staff and parents.



Pupils of Templemichael College

## Busy year in Templemichael College

As we commence the new academic year of 2010/2011 we look back at another very busy year in Templemichael College. It was a year of steady progress and achievement in both curricular and extracurricular activities. Once again our Junior Cert. and Leaving Cert. examination results were excellent. They reflected the hard work of our students, the support of you their parents and the dedication of an extremely diligent and caring team of teachers who are on a daily basis constantly making sure that every opportunity is put in your child's way.

As you are aware life outside school is experiencing unprecedented change. Education in somewhat uncertain times must also be about creating successful, young and resourceful confident students who can recognize opportunities and have the confidence to pursue them. We in Templemichael College recognize this need and provide many opportunities for our students to develop these skills. Our motto is "Unlocking Potential and Creating Opportunities". We look forward to a successful 2010/2011 and we invite parents to work along with us here in Templemichael College to achieve the best future possible for our students.

**Student Council** - Our student council mainly coming from the higher years have been doing excellent. They have held two

### Templemichael College



Sorcha Nic Dhonnacha, new Principal at Templemichael College.

meetings so far this term and have elected their Chairperson and Treasurer.

**Green Schools** - We are all happy to be making such progress to continue having our school clean and neat.

**Photography Classes** - Different classes in the school are at present participating in a photography class which is being run by local photographer Paddy Phibbs. The classes are a great success and students are learning a lot about different processes involved in using a camera and Photoshop.

**Award Winning Project in Templemichael College**

- Congratulations to Andrew Stewart a past pupil of Templemichael College for receiving first place in area four. (Longford, Leitrim, Sligo and Roscommon) of the Young Engineers Competition. The competition is organized by the Engineering Technology Teachers Association (ETTA) to acknowledge excellence in the field of leaving certificate engineering projects. Best of luck to Andrew in the National Finals in Cork on the 26th November '10. We had a great evening in the school with prize winners and their parents to celebrate the event.

**Congratulations** - Con-

grats to Emilia Malec in second year who won first prize in the Aisling Children's Festival Art Competition.

**Retirement** - We would like to take this opportunity of wishing long and happy retirement to the following staff who retired in recent times: Mr. Eamon Tynan - Teacher Mr. Tommy Donnelly - Caretaker; Ms. Josephine McCabe - Teacher Mr. Charlie Hilliard - Caretaker; Ms. Monica Tynan - Teacher; Ms. Rose Farrell - Teacher; Mr. Brendan McDermott - Teacher; Ms. Mary Mullins - Teacher. A function was held in Viewmount House for those who retired earlier followed by a function in Lough Rynn Castle for teachers and caretaker who retired more recently.

Our Principal Mrs. Ann Hefron has retired more recently and we would like to wish her every good luck in her retirement. She has done great work in Templemichael for the past 18 years. We would also like to welcome Sorcha Nic Dhonnacha who was recently appointed to the role of Principal. She has taken over the role with enormous energy, enthusiasm and commitment and has already made many positive changes.

**Tastes of Christmas at Templemichael College** - On Tuesday night the 22nd of November Templemichael College hosted a presentation of Festive Cooking with Broadcaster and

Chef- Instructor Frank Moynihan. The event was a huge success with over 200 people in attendance on the night. Frank prepared mouth-watering dishes including Pate, Soup, Main Courses and delicious Desserts. Templemichael students therefore should not be surprised if mum's traditional Sage and Onion stuffing is replaced with appetizing Apricot and Pistachio stuffing this Christmas Day!

Local Christmas produce was on sale on the night with a beautiful range of gifts from pottery to poetry, from personalized Christmas baskets and cards to decorative centre-pieces. Freshly baked, home-made produce was also available from the local country market stall. A most enjoyable and informative evening was had by all. Proceeds from the night go to Templemichael Development Fund and Longford Carer's Association. We would like to thank everyone who supported this event.

Templemichael College is following its ethos of supporting locally produced produce and companies. At this time this is more important than ever. We must encourage indigenous companies if Ireland is to prosper again. We have a strong record of entrepreneurship and this is evident from the amount of local business people who are past pupils of our college.

### Scoil Mhuire

## Concern 'Festival'

This year, Concern has developed and emphasised the newly organised Concern festival. It is the fast that thinks it's a festival. In addition to the traditional 24hour fast, there will be festivals nationwide. These will vary from school to school. The transition year students of Mean Scoil Mhuire Longford will be organising a Santa's grotto on the day of the fast. The fast will be taking place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November. The aim of Concern is to raise 1,000,000 euro through nationwide Festivals in order to stop childhood malnutrition. Best of luck to all "fasters" concerned.

**Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal** - In the weeks approaching Christmas, we should always remember those less fortunate and that is exactly what students of Mean Scoil Mhuire Longford intend to do. We recognise Christmas as a time of giving. Each year, Transition Year students collect shoeboxes filled with presents for children in developing countries. The generosity of those who contributed is greatly appreciated. Overall, we managed to collect 190 boxes.

**Shanghai Trip** - The "Windsong Harpists" had the privilege of representing Ireland at the "World Expo" in Shanghai during the mid-term break. Among them was our very own, Annemarie Devine, a 6<sup>th</sup> year student of the school. The World Expo is held every three to five years in different cities all over the world. Here, the group got to showcase Irish culture and brought a varied programme ranging from traditional Irish music, South American tangos and jazz to Shanghai. Annemarie herself said the experience was amazing and that it effectively put Longford musicians on the world stage.

**Junior Golfer of the Year** - Caolinn Bushell golfed her way to gold at the under 18's Junior Golfing competition that took place in Sea Point Co. Louth recently. She claimed the top spot with a score of 41 points at the final of the event.

**Concern Debates** - Our school has always been a friend of the Concern Debating Programme which is Concern's flagship schools' activity. Again this year we have a team comprising of Rachel Ward (TY), Laura Whitney (5<sup>th</sup> Year), Henrietta Bisi (5<sup>th</sup> Year) and Ciara Moloney (5<sup>th</sup> Year). The students aim to promote a greater awareness and understanding of global issues ranging from Poverty to Human Rights. This year's team won their opening round and will meet Castlepollard tonight.

**Bake Sales** - Our Second Year students have been busy holding Bake Sales as part of their Junior Certificate CSPE Action Project. Students baked a range of chocolate and fruit delights and raised 118 euro. They decided to donate the money to County Longford Hospice Homecare for the much needed service and support that they provide.

**FAI School Girls' Interprovincial Soccer Tournament** - The Interprovincial FAI soccer schools' tournament takes place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November. This is a designated weekend on the FAI international calendar and Clare Farrell 2<sup>nd</sup> Year is representing Leinster at this competition.