



Scoil Uí Mhuirí  
Post Primary School



**Annual Report**  
**2012 - 2013**

# Introduction from Principal



I am delighted to present the Scoil Ui Mhuiri Annual Report 2012/2013. This report marks another year of exceptional progress and success for all the Scoil Ui Mhuiri school community.

We in Scoil Ui Mhuiri can take great pride in our achievements both academic and non-academic during the 2012/2013 academic year. As we reflect on the school year, we also have fond memories of successes in state examinations, enterprise competitions, musicals, debating, science competitions, sports including soccer, gaelic, basketball, rugby, athletics, to name but a few.

This Annual Report contains an outline of the main activities, developments and initiatives that took place in Scoil Ui Mhuiri during the 2012/2013 academic year. It provides a flavour of the main curricular, co-curricular and extra – curricular activities that members of the school community have engaged in over the course of the year. The Annual report provides you with a snapshot of a school year, therefore, we invite you to visit the school website, [www.scoiluimhuiri.ie](http://www.scoiluimhuiri.ie), on a regular basis to gain an insight into current highlights and developments at the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge and thank the staff, both teaching and non-teaching at Scoil Ui Mhuiri. Our staff team are extremely committed to our students, their welfare and their learning. They have worked so hard throughout the year to ensure that our students achieve their full potential, whatever that may be and they have also given of their free time regularly to ensure that our students have opportunities to excel and avail of and participate in a variety of extra – curricular activities.

A word of thanks to our parents/guardians, the Board of Management and Co. Louth VEC for their continued support and co-operation throughout the school year.

We in Scoil Ui Mhuiri are very proud of our students' achievements both in school and outside during the 2012/2013 academic year. Our students' exemplary performance and achievements have brought great joy and huge sense of pride to the school, their families and the local community. We look forward to continued success in the 2013/2014 school year.

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## SECTION ONE

# Introduction to and Overview of Scoil Uí Mhuirí

Scoil Uí Mhuirí is a vibrant, dynamic Post Primary School situated in the heart of the growing community of Dunleer, Co. Louth. The school opened its doors for the first time in 1954 with a student population of 55 pupils. Since then the school has grown rapidly with a current student cohort of over 600 students and a teaching staff of over 40.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Post Primary School is owned by the Department of Education and Skills and is administered as a Learning Centre by Co. Louth VEC. It is the policy of Co. Louth through the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr. Pádraig Kirk, to devolve responsibility for the day to day running of the school to the Board of Management and the Principal, Ms. Fiona Kindlon and the Deputy Principal, Mr. Ray Donagh.

The school provides all of the Department of Education and Skills Programmes and proudly serves the areas of Annagassan, Clogherhead, Togher, Fieldstown, Walshestown, Tenure, Philipstown, Dromin, Kilsaran the growing area of Dunleer itself.

In Scoil Uí Mhuirí we are a learning community committed to the development of the whole person within a context which values each of its members. In Scoil Uí Mhuirí we have a vision that all of our students will develop a love of learning and a keen sense of social responsibility through a positive and happy school experience.

Our aim in Scoil Uí Mhuirí, in line with our Mission Statement, is to foster academic, social, moral, personal, positive mental health and physical development in students so that they can take their place in society as well developed, well educated, responsible citizens with pride in their community. The development of the whole person is based on personal responsibility, inter-dependence, respect for people,

respect for community and respect for property. Our school seeks to instil good manners, honesty and integrity. It also seeks to teach our students to value discipline and to strive for excellence in both academic and non-academic areas.

We do this in partnership with parents/guardians whose role in supporting the school in their children's education is fully acknowledged. We place a strong emphasis on partnership with parents/guardians to ensure the best possible progress through education for each student. Education is viewed as a joint effort between students, staff, parents and school. Great emphasis is placed on mutual cooperation. Our caring and dedicated staff is committed to helping each student achieve his/her potential.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Management and Staff also continue to maintain and develop strong links with local education providers, community groups and local enterprise to enhance the learning experience for all students in our school.

We in Scoil Uí Mhuirí are very proud of our students' achievements both in school and outside of school. Our students' exemplary performance and achievements in curricular, co-curricular and extra curricular activities have brought great joy and a huge sense of pride to the school, their families and the local community. We look forward to continued success in the coming years.





### Our School Name

Our school, Scoil Uí Mhuirí is named after the late Fr. Larry Murray who was Parish Priest in Dunleer from 1937 – 1941.

### Our School Uniform

Our school uniform consists of a white shirt, navy trousers/skirt, a navy jumper with the school name and crest, navy/black shoes and a navy blue school rain jacket. Our students also designed our PE uniform which consists of a polo shirt, navy blue tracksuit bottoms and a navy blue tracksuit hoody and all the PE uniform items must have the school PE crest.

### Our School Logo

Our school logo evolved from a joint 'artist in residence' project which was co-ordinated by County Louth VEC and funded by the Arts council. At the time an artist specialising in sculpture design was appointed to work with students in our school and a design theme of 'Newgrange' was agreed for the Scoil Uí Mhuirí students. The winner of the project was former student Mr. Cathal Kierans. Our logo is based on the Newgrange solstice. If you walk around our sculpture you will eventually see through from one side to the other, if you see the light! Local company, Darby Engineering were selected to manufacture the final product. It was produced in sections and finally welded

in place – not where it is today but in front of the old original school building. It was moved to its current location when the school was being extended in 2006.

### Student Enrolment

Enrolment at the school continues to rise and the current student numbers stand at over 600. The ratio of boys to girls at the school remains at approximately 60% boys and 40% girls.

### Our Results and Progression to Third Level

Our students have opportunities to take a range of subjects at all levels across the school. Our Junior Certificate students currently take ten subjects for examination purposes and our Leaving Certificate students currently take eight examinable subjects. There continues to be an increase in the number of our students taking higher level papers across all subjects areas including Maths, English and Irish. The school continues to celebrate successes regarding student results with many students achieving over 500 points at Leaving Certificate level. There continues to be a high percentage of our students who progress to Third Level education. Staff at the school review all results annually and make comparisons to previous years' results and to national averages.

## Our Staff

Our highly qualified and experienced staff team comprises Principal, Deputy Principal, teaching staff, SNA, administration and ancillary staff.

## Our State of the Art Buildings and Facilities

The Scoil Uí Mhuirí campus has grown rapidly since the opening of the school in 1954. At present the school has the following state of the art facilities:

- General Classrooms fully equipped and resourced with up to date ICT Facilities
- Home Economics Room
- Two Science Labs and One Demonstration Room
- Design Communication and Graphics Drawing Rooms
- Construction and Woodwork Room
- Engineering Room
- Art Room
- Music Room
- Gym Hall & Fitness Suite
- Computer Suite
- Guidance Offices
- Pastoral Offices
- Special Education Needs Suite
- Parents Room
- Playing fields
- Tennis & Basketball Courts

## The School Journal

Each of our students has a school journal which is an official document which they use to record homework and use as a method of communication between home and school. The student's journal must be available for inspection by staff and parents at all times. In recent years, we have changed the design of our student journal to include photos of a selection of student successes during the year on the cover. This give students ownership of their journal and displays to parents and students the range of opportunities available to students at Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

## Promoting the Scoil Uí Mhuirí Community

Our school website, facebook and twitter pages provide the most accurate and up to date information on the extensive range of subjects and programmes on offer at the school. They also provide a flavour of the main co-curricular and extra curricular activities that members of the Scoil Uí Mhuirí community engage in on a daily basis. These communication tools are updated regularly and we invite you to peruse same through our main website **[www.scoiluimhuiri.ie](http://www.scoiluimhuiri.ie)**

## School Contact Details

Our school address is Barn Road, Dunleer, Co. Louth and a google map link to our school is available on our school website **[www.scoiluimhuiri.ie](http://www.scoiluimhuiri.ie)** .

You can also contact us on

- t 041 6851344 and/or
- e [info@scoiluimhuiri.ie](mailto:info@scoiluimhuiri.ie)



## County Louth VEC

Scoil Uí Mhuirí is one of the many post primary schools under County Louth VEC. The Offices are currently located at Chapel Street, Dundalk and Abbey Road, Navan. Contact with the Dundalk Office can be made on **042 9334047** and with the Navan Office on **046 9068200**. You can also find out more about Louth VEC by logging on to their website **[www.louthvec.ie](http://www.louthvec.ie)**





# SECTION TWO

Programmes & Subjects







## SECTION TWO

# Department of Education and Skills Programmes 2012/2013

Scoil Uí Mhuirí provides all Department of Education and Skills programmes and these are well planned and co-ordinated.

These programmes include:

- The Junior Certificate (JC)
- The Junior Certificate Schools Programme (JCSP)
- Transition Year (TY)
- The Leaving Certificate Established (LC)
- The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)
- The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

Core teams have been established for each of the programmes, JCSP, TY, LCA and LCVP and these teams regularly engage in review of these programmes in collaboration with management in an effort to ensure that all resources are utilised efficiently and effectively in the provision of these programmes at the school. The LCVP continues to be the Leaving Certificate of choice for the majority of Leaving Certificate students. A minority of Scoil Uí Mhuirí students are not eligible for the LCVP due to their subject choice and the DES requirement for students to be engaging in specific Vocational Subject Groupings (VSG's). Those particular students engage however with the content of the programme over the course of the two years in order to acquire the skills and competencies which the LCVP promotes. The characteristics of each of these programmes is outlined on next page.



The Junior Certificate is a three year programme. First year students in Scoil Uí Mhuirí take twelve academic subjects thus offering them a wide range of subjects. Students choose their four option subjects after they have had an opportunity to sample all optional subjects from August – October each year. This process should ensure that students choose those subjects in which they are most likely to succeed. First Year students in Scoil Uí Mhuirí also engage in two periods of ICT each week as part of the school's commitment to ensuring that students have the ICT skills necessary to make the best use of the technology available to them in the school during their five/six years in Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

## 1. Junior Certificate Subjects 2012/2013

English	Civic, Social and Political Education	Business Studies
Home Economics	Social, Personal and Health Education	Science
Irish	Geography	Environmental and Social Studies
Metalwork	Art, Craft and Design	
Mathematics	Physical Education Technology	
Materials Technology (Wood)	Religious Education	
ICT	Technical Graphics	
History	French / German / Spanish	



## 2. The Junior Certificate Schools Programme (JCSP)

The Junior Certificate Schools Programme (JCSP) is a national programme of the Department of Education and Skills. It aims to provide a curriculum framework that assists schools and teachers in making the Junior Certificate more accessible to those young people who may leave school without formal qualifications. It attempts to help young people experience success and develop a positive self-image by providing a curriculum and assessment framework suitable to their needs. On completion of the programme students receive a profile which is an official record of their achievements from the Department of Education and Skills. Following the Junior Certificate, pupils may opt for Transition Year or go straight into 5th Year to follow one of the Leaving Certificate Programmes.



### 3. Transition Year

The Transition Year (TY) offers pupils a broad educational experience with a view to the attainment of increased maturity, before proceeding to further study. It provides a bridge to help pupils make the transition from a highly-structured environment to one where they take greater responsibility for their own learning and decision making. Pupils participate in learning strategies which are active and experiential and which help them to develop a range of transferable critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills. Transition Year should also provide an opportunity for pupils to reflect on and develop an awareness of the value of education and training in preparing them for the ever-changing demands of the adult world of work and relationships.

In Scoil Uí Mhuirí TY remains an optional programme with a total of 24 places being offered to students for each academic year.

#### Transition Year Subjects/Programmes on offer in Scoil Uí Mhuirí 2012/2013

English	Religious Education	Paired Reading (Primary School & First Year)
Mathematics	History	Design & Communication Graphics
Irish	Physical Education	Personal Development
Home Economics	French/German	Art
Biology & Physics	Information Technology & E-Learning	Agricultural Science
Business & Enterprise	Geography	
Music & Drama		

### 4. The Leaving Certificate Established

The Leaving Certificate Established Programme is a two-year cycle offered to students. All Leaving Certificate subjects are offered at Higher, Ordinary and Foundation levels where applicable. In general, students study seven academic subjects for examination. In 2011/2012 we expanded our curriculum to include Construction Studies at Senior Cycle.

#### Leaving Certificate Subjects on offer in Scoil Uí Mhuirí 2012/2013

English	Home Economics	Career Guidance
Design and Communication Graphics	Mathematics	Technology
Irish	Link Modules	Engineering
Art	Business	Construction Studies
French	Religion	Agricultural Science
History	Biology	Music
German	Physical Education	
	Physics	

\* Agricultural Science was offered through Co. Louth VEC's Evening Class Programme



### **5. The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)**

The LCA is a modular based Leaving Certificate incorporating a high proportion of Work Experience. It is a very popular route for students who may have more of a vocational orientation. It is an ideal progression route to PLC Courses and is highly regarded in the world of employment. The Leaving Certificate Applied was introduced to recognise the talents of all students and provide opportunities for development in terms of responsibility, self-esteem and self-knowledge. It is an innovative programme in the way students learn, in what they learn and in the way their achievements are assessed. The advantage of Leaving Certificate Applied is that it focuses on the talents of each individual student and helps students apply what they learn in the real world. The two-year programme consists of four half-year blocks called 'Sessions' and achievements are credited in each of these sessions. Student engaging in the LCA are also rewarded for their attendance as part of the programme.

### **6. The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)**

The LCVP is an enhanced Leaving Certificate programme. Students who have specified subject combinations of subjects (VSGs) qualify to engage with the two LCVP Link Modules, Enterprise Education and Preparation for the World of Work. The LCVP therefore combines the established Leaving Certificate with the Link Modules. Active Learning Methodologies are the key to the success of this programme. There are many benefits of taking the LCVP for students whether they intend going to college, taking up employment or indeed setting up their own business. A distinction in this programme is the equivalent of a grade 'C' on a higher level paper and is therefore very valuable for students when calculating points for college.

# SECTION THREE

Personnel







## SECTION THREE

# Personnel 2012/2013

### Teaching Staff 2012/2013

#### Staff Member

#### Subject Departments

Frances Beard	Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator
Martin Cassidy	Technology Department
Aileen Carey	Maths & Science Departments
Declan Clarke	Business Department
Melissa Clarke	English & Resource Departments
Nicola Clarke	Business & Maths Departments
Therese Clinton	Maths & Religion Departments
Maire Conneely	Science & Maths Departments
Mary Cox	Science & Maths Departments
Ian Cumiskey	Modern Foreign Languages Department
Gillian Curran	English, SEN & Resource Departments
Peter Devin	English & History Departments
Ray Donagh	Deputy Principal
Lorraine Duffy	English & History Departments
Fiona Duggan	PE & Geography Departments
Geraldine Friel	Home Economics & Religion Departments
Martina Farrell	Business Department
Lorna Finnegan	PE & Geography Departments
Michael Gurn	Maths Department
Colin Heaphey	Technology Department
Miriam Howard	Irish & Modern Foreign Language Departments
Niamh Hughes	English & Religion Departments
Alan Hurley	Technology & Maths Departments
Niamh Keenan	Modern Foreign Languages Department
Valerie Kelly	Business Department
John Kenny	Maths Department
Anne Marie Kirk	Maths & Science Departments
Noeleen Lyons	Modern Foreign Languages Department
Jackie Matthews	Irish & Modern Foreign Languages Departments
Gordon Magennis	Technology & Religion Departments
Bernadette Martin	Art Department
Aiden Matthews	Guidance Department
Brian Matthews	Technology Department
Francis Moore	Maths Department

Ciara Morrison Reilly	Religion Department
Anna Mc Cready	Business Department
John Mc Gahon	Technology Department
Maria Mc Geough	Irish Department
Pamela Mulroy	English & Irish Department
Caroline Murphy	Irish & Religion Departments
Gemma Murphy	Home Economics Department
Fiona Ni Chonaill	Irish & English Departments
Kathryn Shannon	English Department
Fiona Shields	English & Music Departments

#### Special Needs Assistant

Debbie Faye

#### Administration & Ancillary Support Staff

Audrey Dorian	School Secretary
George Reynolds	School Caretaker
Agnes Reynolds	School Cleaning Services

#### School Completion Programme

Paula Mc Cabe	Deeside School Completion Programme, Project Worker
Paul Rosbotham	Deeside School Completion Programme, Co-ordinator

#### Canteen Staff (Provided by Rumbles)

Tracey	Rumbles Catering
Yvonne	Rumbles Catering
Anne	Rumbles Catering
Marie	Rumbles Catering

#### Job Bridge Intern

Eileen Murphy  
Paddy Harmon

## Student Council 2012/2013

Year	Students
1st Year	Leah Brady Cian Thornton
2nd Year	Aoife Smyth Shane Bowhan
3rd Year	Rebecca Howell Dean Clarke
TY	Peter Carron Ciara McGrory
5th Year	Christopher Ronan Katie-Leigh Reynolds
6th Year	Connor Duggan Niamh Fussey



## Assistant Principals 2012/2013

Post Holder	Duties
Kathryn Shannon	Year Head 6th Year • Pastoral Care Co-ordination • Library Development
Maire Conneely	Year Head 1st Year • 1st Year Mentoring Programme • Mock Examination Paper Co-ordination
Martin Cassidy	Year Head 2nd Year • Stock Control • Annual Awards Ceremony
Frances Beard	Year Head 3rd Year • Peer Education Programme • State Examination Fees
Valerie Kelly	Year Head 5th Year • Financial & Budgetary Administration

## Special Duties Teachers 2012/2013

Post Holder	Duties
Lorraine Duffy	Assistant Year Head 6th Year Student Lockers, Enrolment Day Procedures
Geraldine Friel	Assistant Year Head 3rd Year Relocation of Classes for In School Exams, Co-ordinator of Events for EAL students
Jacqueline Matthews	Assistant Year Head 5th Year Website Maintenance, Co-ordinator of Anti Bullying Procedures
Mary Cox	Assistant Year Head 2nd Year School PR/Liaison with Press, First Aid
John Mc Gahon	Assistant Year Head 3rd Year Co-ordinator 1st Year Sampling Programme, Assistant Health and Safety Officer
Fiona Ni Chonaill	Assistant Year Head 1st Year Timetabling of In House Exams, Induction and Mentoring of New Teachers
Caroline Murphy	Assistant Year Head 5th Year Student of the Month Awards, Liaison with Student Council
Alan Hurley	Assistant Year Head 1st Year Co-ordinator of LCA, Co-ordinator of ICT Department, Assistant Timetabling
Martina Farrell(Acting)	Assistant Year Head 2nd Year Liaison with local Business and Community Organisation, Compilation of Annual Report

## Programme Co-ordinator

Miriam Howard	Co-ordinator of Transition Year Programme & Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)
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## Links with other Agencies

Name	Duties
Pól Bond	School NEPS Psychologist
Miriam Hilliard	School SENO
Maria Kieran	EWO
Nuala Colton	SEWO

## Parents Association 2012/2013

Name	Details
Kevin Murray	Chairperson
Mary Feely	Secretary
John McConville	Treasurer
Julia Keane	PRO

## Board of Management 2012/2013

Name	Details
Liam Reilly	LMETB Representative
Tomas Sharkey	LMETB Representative
Benny Devlin	LMETB Representative
Colm Markey	LMETB Representative
Fiona Kindlon	Principal & Secretary to the Board
Miriam Howard	Staff Representative
John Mc Gahon	Staff Representative
Terri Callan	Parent Representative
Peter Keane	Parent Representative
Derek Devlin	Community Representative
Kevin Matthews	Community Representative





# SECTION FOUR

Student Supports







## SECTION FOUR

# Student Supports

### Care Support Team

At Scoil Uí Mhuirí, the Care Support Team meet once a week to consider how the school community is responding to the overall needs of the school community but in particular the student and more specifically those students dealing with particular challenges. At these meetings decisions are taken regarding allocation of supports to these students with a view to monitoring the implementation of same and review of the effectiveness of the supports at a later meeting. The Care Support Team at the school comprises the Principal, Deputy Principal, HSCLO, the Guidance Counsellor, SEN Co-ordinator, SPHE Co-ordinator and the SCP Project Worker.

### School Completion Programme

The School Completion Programme (SCP) was set up as part of the Department of Education and Skills (DES) DEIS Strategy – Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools. Its aim is to increase the numbers of young people staying in primary and second level school and in doing so improve the numbers of pupils who successfully complete the Senior Cycle, or the equivalent.

The SCP operates in 470 primary schools and 224 post-primary schools including Scoil Uí Mhuirí Post Primary School. There are 124 local SCP projects employing 248 full-time, 627 part-time and 2,211 sessional and other staff. Each of the 124 local SCP projects is led by a management committee comprising school principals, HSCL co-ordinators, parents and voluntary and statutory agencies. At a national level, SCP is supported by a national leadership team within the Senior Management Team of the Educational Welfare Services of the Child and Family Agency, with responsibility for overseeing the operation and work of the local projects.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Post Primary School is a member of the Deeside School Completion Programme which consists of seven schools at both primary and post primary level in rural Louth and Meath. At post primary level

the other schools in our cluster are O' Carolan College, Nobber, Co. Meath and Ardee Community School, Ardee, Co. Louth. SCP Project Workers work closely with staff in these post primary schools on a daily basis to ensure that our young people are supported and encouraged to reach their full potential.

In Scoil Uí Mhuirí, SCP work focuses on targeting and providing supports to young people identified to be most at risk of early school leaving and includes:

- Identifying and supporting children at risk of not reaching their potential in the educational system because of poor attendance, participation and retention via initiatives such as breakfast clubs; homework clubs; after school supports; mentoring programmes; and therapeutic interventions
- Ensuring that schools have in place the appropriate procedures to monitor, identify and respond to attendance, participation and retention issues
- Implementing transfer programmes to support young people transitioning from primary to post-primary school

Our SCP Project Worker, Paula Mc Cabe works with students in individual and small group settings. As part of her work, Paula builds trusting and supportive relationship with students and their parents/guardians with the aim being to create a positive school experience for all. To enhance their work the SCP team also work closely with other agencies and groups within the community. This collaborative work ensures that our students, their families, our school and our community can gain access to and gain benefit from the range of support services locally and regionally.

During the 2012/2013 academic year, SCP at Scoil Uí Mhuirí worked closely with the Child and Family Agency of the HSE, St. Vincent de Paul, the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB), the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), the Irish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC), Youth Work Ireland, An Garda Síochána and the Juvenile Liaison Officers (JLOs).

## Home School Community Liaison Scheme

The Home School Community Liaison Scheme (HSCL) is a Department of Education and Skills (DES) initiative that was set up to combat educational disadvantage in accordance with the DEIS initiative (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools).

The scheme works by developing partnerships between parents, teachers and the community to improve pupils' learning opportunities and assist their retention and participation in the educational system.

The HSCL Scheme is managed and coordinated by a national leadership team within the Senior Management Team of the Educational Welfare Services of Child and Family Agency. Their role supports just over 400 HSCL Co-ordinators, serving 605 schools. In Scoil Uí Mhuirí the HSCLO for 2012/2013 was Ms. Frances Beard.

During the 2012/2013 academic year, Ms. Beard visited many families to discuss challenges emerging and to consider any supports that could be put in place to

ensure that students remained in the education system and were supported within the school environment.

The involvement of parents is key to the HSCL's service vision. Parents are provided with an opportunity to be involved in their child's education through community initiatives, designed to support literacy, numeracy and positive engagement.

Initiatives currently operated by HSCL coordinators for students and parents include:

- Literacy and numeracy initiatives (e.g. Maths for fun, Maths Eyes, Science for fun Reading for Fun, One Book One Community, Storysacks)
- Structured information briefings/courses pertinent to the life of the child in school e.g. transfer from primary to post-primary, cyber-bullying and health issues etc
- Supports and courses such as parenting skills, speech therapy and FETAC accredited courses, e.g. Maths, Irish Language, IT., Child Care. During the 2012/2013 academic year a range of courses were provided for parents.





## Guidance Department

Our Guidance Department engages in a range of activities over the school year including:

- **Counselling**  
Helping students to explore their thoughts and feelings and the choices open to them; giving care and support to students learning to cope with the many aspects of growing up
- **Assessment**  
Helping students to obtain self-understanding through the use of psychometric tests and other inventories
- **Information**  
Providing students with objective and factual data in education and training opportunities, occupations, labour, market information, entitlements etc
- **Advice**  
Making suggestions based on the advisor's own knowledge and experience and the information available at the time.
- **Educational Development Programmes**  
Facilitating the transfer of knowledge and skills relating to studying, examination performance, choices of subjects and levels.
- **Personal and Social Development Programmes**  
Facilitating the transfer of knowledge and skills relating to a student's personal and social development, self-awareness, decision-making and planning.

## SEN Department

The SEN department at the school provides a range of support for students with Special Education Needs at the school. This includes the following:

- Identification and application for support hours for students requiring additional support as identified by the Special Education Needs Organiser (SENO)
- Identification of students in need of additional learning support and resource teaching subject to the availability of resources
- Profiling of students' needs and liaison with subject teachers regarding differentiation of curriculum and discussion around learning goals and targets for individual students
- Learning support for students who are on a reduced timetable
- Literacy, Numeracy and Social Skills training for individual and small groups of students subject to the availability of resources
- Processing of referrals from subject teachers
- Timetabling supports for students including individual one to work sessions, small group support, team teaching and shadow groups for particular subjects
- Liaison with Parents of students with Special Education Needs
- Links with Primary School Principals and 6th Class teachers
- Liaison with school support personnel including the SENO, the school's NEPS Psychologist, visiting teacher for the Deaf and the Education Welfare Services of Tusla
- Preparation of documentation regarding SEN Policy and allocation of teaching supports to students
- Identification and participation in CPD to strive towards best practice in allocation and implementation of SEN resources at the school
- Liaison with Special Needs Assistants at the school



## Year Head

The Year Head has a vital function of leading, co-ordinating and inspiring the students of a particular year group and liaising with the class teachers involved as well as with the Principal and Deputy Principal. The responsibilities of the Year Head include the following:

- Encourage all students to achieve their potential
- Acknowledge improvement and success within the Year Group
- Monitor attendance, punctuality, school uniform and general progress
- Take morning assemblies and registration
- Follow up on students not making progress
- Deal with more serious or persistent breaches of discipline
- Support Class Tutors in relation to raising standards

## Class Tutor

The Class Tutor is assigned to a particular tutor class and has a special role in the life of that class for the entire year. He/she aims to create a well motivated, happy class group where each member is valued and where high standards in all aspects of the student's life are encouraged. In the relationship of trust and respect that develops between the Class Tutor and the tutor class, there are opportunities to discuss and deal with concerns of a general or an individual nature. The role of the Class Tutor is primarily pastoral in nature.

He/she will:

- Develop a good relationship with his/her Form Class
- Work with Form Class to raise standards in terms of academic achievement and general behaviour
- Monitor, encourage, advise, guide and set targets to encourage success.
- Support Class Teacher if requested
- Give instruction on the correct use of the School Journal
- Monitor the School Journal on a monthly basis or more often if necessary
- Sign off on the examination reports home for their class groups

## Class Teacher

Each teacher not only instructs students in the course content of the particular subject but works to ensure that each student is enabled to derive the maximum benefit from the class, develop a good pattern of study and homework and reach the highest standards possible.

## 1st Year Transfer and Transition Programme 2012/2013

The transition from primary to post primary education has been noted as a critical educational step for many children. Transfer Programmes assist in the transition from Primary to Post Primary, as they provide information on the new system and structures which the young person will encounter. They prepare the child by encouraging them to identify strategies which will assist them in overcoming the difficulties which may arise and they also provide a forum for the young person transferring to express their concerns, fears and also hopes they may have during the change process.

In Scoil Uí Mhuirí, the transfer and transition programme for 1st year students is facilitated by the School Completion Programme Personnel. The following transfer and transition activities took place during the 2012/2013 academic year:

- One day induction for 1st Year students in August 2012
- Follow up review sessions for 1st Year students in October 2012
- Review for 1st Year students in May 2013
- One day Transfer and Transition Programme for incoming 1st Years September 2013 in May and June 2013

The main aims of the transfer and transition days were to provide opportunities for the students to get to know the school and each other, to reflect on the positive and negative experiences in primary school and to identify possible negatives and positives about commencing post primary school. During the programmes students also had opportunities to explore time tabling at second level, use of the student journal and content of the various school policies and their role and responsibilities as students.

Students also had opportunities to listen to the experiences of the current 1st Year students.



## Mentoring System

As part of the transfer and transition programme from primary to post primary school for 1st Year students, we assign senior students as mentors for our 1st Year students.

During the 2012/2013 Year, a number of our 5th Year students volunteered to become mentors for the year. Each mentor completed a training programme and during the year they played an active part in the lives of our 1st Years as they were available at break and lunch times to offer support, guidance and friendship during that crucial transition period from primary to post-primary education. Our mentors also play a very important role in ensuring that Scoil Uí Mhuiri's Anti Bullying policy is applied right across the school.





# SECTION FIVE

School Policies, Planning  
School Self Evaluation





## SECTION FIVE

# School Policies 2012/2013

### Child Protection Policy

The Board of Management of Scoil Uí Mhuirí has adopted fully and without modification the Department of Education and Skills Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary schools as part of the school's overall Child Protection Policy.

The Board of Management of the school has appointed Ms. Fiona Kindlon, Principal, as the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Mr. Ray Donagh, Deputy Principal as the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL). The DLP will continue to act as a liaison with outside agencies and as a resource person to any staff member or volunteer who has child protection concerns.

The Principal in her role as Secretary to the Board of Management, as requested by the Department of Education and Skills reported at each meeting of the school's Board of Management on the number of cases in which advice was sought and the number of referrals made to Tusla, the Child and Family Agency.

Child Protection Information notices have been placed at various points through the school and information has been provided to parents and all staff on the school's Child Protection Policy.

### Admissions Policy

Our Admissions Policy is available to download from the school's website [www.scoiluimhuiri.ie](http://www.scoiluimhuiri.ie) and is also available on request from the main office at the school. It is intended that our Admissions Policy should provide clarity for parents/guardians on all issues related to the enrolment of pupils in the school and to facilitate the enrolment process. Our Admissions Policy also outlines the process for parents/guardians who are applying for a transfer place for their son/daughter from another school to Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

### Attendance Policy

Our Attendance Policy is available to download from the school's website [www.scoiluimhuiri.ie](http://www.scoiluimhuiri.ie) and is also available on request from the main office at the school. The rationale for our Attendance Policy includes ensuring that students benefit fully from the range of opportunities available to them in Scoil Uí Mhuirí and ensuring that all students, their parents/guardians and staff are aware of their responsibilities to ensure high levels of attendance. We also wish to encourage and promote best practice regards regular and punctual attendance by all students and to create an awareness among the student body that a good school attendance record enhances opportunities in the area of training and employment

### Code of Behaviour

Our Code of Behaviour is available to download from the school's website [www.scoiluimhuiri.ie](http://www.scoiluimhuiri.ie) and is also available on request from the main office at the school. The Code of Behaviour of Scoil Uí Mhuirí has been devised to encourage positive behaviour and to create the best environment conducive to teaching, learning and personal development. There are three strands to the Code of Behaviour: The School Charter, the Parent/School Contract and the Discipline Procedures.

### Anti Bullying Policy

The Board of Management of Scoil Uí Mhuirí has adopted fully and without modification the Department of Education and Skills Anti Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary schools as part of the school's overall Anti Bullying Policy.

Every student in Scoil Uí Mhuirí has the right to enjoy school without fear of intimidation or harassment. Every staff member has the right to a work life free from intimidation or harassment. Every parent has the right to feel that their children are safe from bullying while at school. The whole school community, staff, students and parents has a responsibility to ensure that all members feel safe and happy at school. In particular people who witness bullying behaviour or who know that it is happening have a responsibility to report it so that it can be stopped. Our Anti Bullying policy is available to download from [www.scoiluimhuiri.ie](http://www.scoiluimhuiri.ie) and is also available from the main office at the school.



## Homework Policy

In Scoil Uí Mhuirí we believe that homework is an integral part of every student's learning. We believe that homework has a major role to play in consolidating work done in school and in allowing students develop as independent learners. Our Homework Policy aims to ensure consistent approaches to the setting and reviewing of homework and to ensure an equitable distribution of homework and to reduce pressure on students from homework overload.

Our Homework Policy is available to download from the school's website [www.scoiluimhuiri.ie](http://www.scoiluimhuiri.ie) and is also available on request from the main office at the school.

## Computer and Internet/Email Acceptable Use Policy

Our Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is available to download from the school's website [www.scoiluimhuiri.ie](http://www.scoiluimhuiri.ie) and is also available on request from the main office at the school. The aim of our AUP is to ensure that pupils attending Scoil Uí Mhuirí will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the school's computer resources in a safe and effective manner. Students are expected to follow the rules of our AUP and all legal requirements in the use of the school's computer system.

## CCTV Policy

Our CCTV Policy is available to download from the school's website [www.scoiluimhuiri.ie](http://www.scoiluimhuiri.ie) and is also available on request from the main office at the school.

CCTV systems are installed both internally and externally in premises for the purpose of enhancing security of the building and its associated equipment as well as creating a mindfulness among the occupants, at any one time, that a surveillance security system is in operation within and/or in the external environs of the premises during both the daylight and night hours each day.

The purpose of this policy is to regulate the use of Closed Circuit Television and its associated technology in the monitoring of both the internal and external environs of the school premises.

## Critical Incident Management Plan

In keeping with our School Mission Statement, the Board of Management is committed to the care of staff and students in our school. Our Critical Incident Management Plan (CIMP) refers to the response taken by this school should a Critical Incident occur. As each Critical Incident will require the school to respond in a manner appropriate to that particular incident at that time, this CIMP is intended to serve as a general outline of procedures to be followed in the event of a Critical Incident occur.





### Educational Tours Policy

Scoil Uí Mhuirí accepts that the objective of an educational tour should be that it should provide a significant benefit in the educational, intellectual, cultural and social developments of the students. In line with our Mission Statement we recognise that engagement in a variety of experiences and cultures is part of a holistic education.

Our Educational Tours Policy is applicable to all members of staff who organise such trips and to the students and parents/guardians who are participating in these activities.

Our Educational Tours Policy is available to download from the school's website [www.scoiluimhuiri.ie](http://www.scoiluimhuiri.ie) and is also available on request from the main office at the school.

### Health and Safety Statement

Scoil Uí Mhuirí is committed to achieving and maintaining high standards of health and safety for all staff, pupils, visitors and others. There are a range of policies and procedures which underpin our safety management system. Our Safety Statement is not intended to be final or exhaustive but addresses the fundamental aspects of maintaining a safe environment and systems of work.

### Pastoral Care Policy

Scoil Uí Mhuirí realises its core aims and goals through a variety of means, including our Pastoral Care Policy. We understand pastoral care as an approach to education which endeavours to value and develop each member of the school community. It promotes learning at every level of the student. Each member of the school community has access to the relevant pastoral care structures and procedures, each is invited to play their part in contributing to the pastoral ethos of the school community. More than anything else we seek to nurture positive relationships as the core resource in developing a pastoral approach. Our Pastoral Care Policy endeavours to put in place the framework necessary to underpin and support this approach.

### Special Educational Needs Policy

We the staff in Scoil Uí Mhuirí value each individual and educate towards an inclusive society both in our school and in the local community. Our mission statement is based upon a commitment to inclusion which is expressed through the idea that all students are valued, supported and their strengths are recognised; there should be open communication based on mutual respect and trust; we should actively seek to bring about the best possible outcomes for all of our students; and supporting individual achievements is an integral part of improving school effectiveness.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Special Educational Needs Policy has been developed from a number of documents to ensure that students with Special Educational Needs are given the opportunity to achieve their full potential in school.

### Work Experience Policy

Work Experience allows for students to experience the world of work, learn new skills, become motivated in their attitude to school work and be more informed about career choices.

Our Work Experience Policy applies to all programmes with a Work Experience element in particular LCA, LCVP and TY. Our Work Experience Policy is designed to meet the official requirements of these Senior Cycle Programmes as specified by the Department of Education and Skills.

### DEIS Plan

Scoil Uí Mhuirí is a DEIS School and as part of our DEIS status we continually plan to meet targets in eight areas which include attendance, retention, literacy, numeracy, attainment, progression, partnership with parents and partnership with others. Various initiatives and strategies are put in place to enable us work towards our targets and regular review and evaluation takes place to monitor progress. Our 2010/2013 DEIS Plan is in its final year of implementation at the school. The plan is being reviewed and evaluated at present.

### School Self Evaluation

School Self Evaluation (SSE) is a collaborative, reflective, inclusive process of internal school review. During SSE, the principal, deputy principal and teachers, under the direction of the board of management and the patron and in consultation with the parents and students, engage in reflective enquiry on the work of the school. School self-evaluation is primarily about school improvement and development. School self-evaluation enables schools:

- To take the initiative in improving the quality of education that they provide for their students.
- To affirm and build on what is working well.
- To identify areas in need of development and to decide on actions that should be taken to bring about improvements in those areas.
- To report to the school community about the strengths in the work of the school and its priorities for improvement and development.

Teachers reflect on their work and on the learning that their students achieve as part of their daily professional work. School self-evaluation places greater emphasis on collecting, examining and sharing evidence about the work of the school when making decisions about what is working well and what areas need to be improved and developed. School self-evaluation improves students' learning.

As outlined in the Department of Education and Skills Circular Letter 0040/2012 all schools must engage in an SSE Process. Presently, at Scoil Uí Mhuirí we are engaging in SSE in the areas of Literacy, Numeracy and Student Engagement in Learning. We are currently designing a new section on our school website for our school self evaluation information and reports.



# SECTION SIX

Teaching & Learning at  
Scoil Uí Mhuirí



## SECTION SIX

# Teaching and Learning at Scoil Uí Mhuirí

### Subject Departments

In Scoil Uí Mhuirí subject specialists place a great emphasis on collaborative planning and review by working closely together in subject departments. Each subject department appoints a Subject Convenor who is responsible for co-ordinating the department for an academic year. Generally this role of subject convenor is rotated among department members from year to year. Formal and informal subject department planning meetings take place on a regular basis and subject departments are encouraged to use these opportunities to discuss a range of items including subject syllabi, resources for teaching and learning, CPD, research on best practice in the subject area, differentiated strategies, assessment approaches including formative and summative assessment, inclusion of students with Special Educational Needs, subject department approaches to literacy and numeracy and integration of ICT into teaching and learning.

### Membership of Teacher Professional Networks

Subject teachers at Scoil Uí Mhuirí are encouraged to become members of their Subject and Programme Specific Teacher Professional Networks and/or Subject Associations. Department members find these networks and associations extremely beneficial for keeping them up to date with the latest developments, changes, resources and assessment techniques. These meetings and national conferences also provide an opportunity for networking with teachers from other schools.

### Teacher Based Classrooms

Teacher-based classrooms are the norm at Scoil Uí Mhuirí and each classroom is fully equipped with a PC, data projector and high speed broadband connection. In the practical classrooms there has been a massive investment in specialised equipment and resources to ensure students have access to high quality teaching and learning in those subject areas also. Subject teachers are encouraged to display students' work in classrooms and to use posters, charts, newspaper articles etc as an aid to teaching and learning.

### Rapport between Students and Teachers

A warm relationship between teachers and students characterises lessons in Scoil Uí Mhuirí. Teaching staff take time to get to know their students' names and to identify teaching and learning strategies to include all learners in the classroom.

### Supporting students with Special Educational Needs

All teachers at Scoil Uí Mhuirí play a key role in bringing about the successful inclusion of students with SEN in our school. Students with SEN are welcomed and we work actively and collaboratively to ensure that these students are integrated quickly and effectively into the relevant classroom. Teachers make themselves aware of the special educational needs of students in their classrooms at the outset and regular communication takes place with colleagues in the Learning Support/Resource/SEN Department. Their expertise and input is crucial in ensuring that we are customising our lesson plans to meet the diverse needs of these particular students.



We strive to create a supportive, caring environment for SEN students and we avail of opportunities to affirm them in their ability to learn and participate in school life. We also ensure that we enhance the support available to those students in our school who are receiving learning support/resource hours. Advice sought could relate to teaching and methodologies which would support teaching and learning for these students, textbooks, in class seating preferences of individual students, setting homework, formulating tests/assignments/resources, accommodations for in house assessment and reporting procedures for such students.

If any teacher feels that a particular student may benefit from learning support/resource hours within the school, referrals are made to the Learning Support/Resource department in the school.

All teaching staff has access to a copy of the Post Primary Guidelines on 'Inclusion of Students with Special Education Needs' on the Teachers Drive on the server and they are encouraged to reference this when planning for teaching and learning with SEN students.

### Active Teaching and Learning Methodologies

Teachers across the school use a wide variety of active teaching and learning methodologies to engage the range of student interests and abilities and to enhance student understanding and learning of the subject. Specific methodologies being used at present include:

- Pairwork
- Self Assessment
- Groupwork
- Peer Assessment
- Differentiated Worksheets
- KWL Sheets
- Project work
- Show me Boards
- DVD's
- Post its
- Mindmaps
- Quizzes
- You Tube Clips
- Cloze tests
- Teacher Tube Clips
- Powerpoint presentations
- Wordsearches
- Handouts
- Crosswords
- Graphic Organisers
- News Clips
- Interactive quizzes
- Discussion
- TV Programmes
- Debate
- Case Studies
- Newspaper articles
- Self Assessment
- Visitors to the classroom
- Peer Assessment
- Visits out
- Show me Boards
- Websites
- Teaching and Learning Apps
- Podcasts
- Timelines
- CD ROMs
- Wordwalls
- Journal articles
- Wall Charts
- Past pupils
- Student generated resources



## Use of ICT in Teaching and Learning

Teachers across the school use ICT in a variety of ways:

- 1 Planning for teaching and learning
- 2 During specific classes
- 3 Developing materials for use in the classroom e.g. quizzes, worksheets, crosswords, differentiated handouts etc
- 4 Generating a range of evaluative techniques for checking for student understanding
- 5 Student Attendance and Reporting
- 6 Communication via email, school website, twitter and facebook pages

The majority of staff are also using iPads in Teaching and Learning.

## Assessment at Scoil Uí Mhuirí

All members of the teaching staff recognise the importance of both formative and summative assessment approaches within their classrooms. Within classrooms, teachers utilise a range of formative assessment approaches including:

- Sharing Learning Outcomes
- Sharing Success Criteria
- Questioning – Open Ended and Closed Questions/ Targeted and Global Questioning Techniques
- Self and Peer Assessment
- Formative Feedback

Teaching staff appreciate and understand the inextricable link between the intensive use of formative assessment techniques within the classroom and the results which which students achieve after engaging in summative assessments.

Formal tests are held twice yearly and the results are communicated to students and parents through written reports. Every effort is made by teachers within the school to give students an opportunity to review test results and identify where they have done well and areas where they need to improve.

Parent teacher meetings provide an additional opportunity to discuss each student's academic and personal progress. If a teacher has a concern about

a particular's student's progress within a subject, a conversation takes place with the student and if necessary arrangements will be made to contact home and/or organise a meeting with the student and his/her parents/guardians.

In the case of all tests/assignments/project work etc teachers record the results achieved by the individual students in their teacher diary and on the online reporting system at the school.

## Homework

All subject department teachers are encouraged to regularly assign homework to students. The type of homework given may vary from class to class but at all times the homework assigned should be designed to support and re-inforce class learning. Examples of the types of homework assigned include question completion, reading texts, research in newspapers, research in the home, internet based research, project work etc. Students are facilitated in recording their homework in their school journals. Teachers across the departments also ensure that they are following and applying the school homework policy within their classrooms.

## **Department Results**

Early in each school year, department members meet formally to review the examination results of Scoil Uí Mhuirí students and to compare those results with national averages and with the previous year's results in that subject.

A template has been developed within the school for recording the relevant information. Observations are made and decisions are taken regarding any changes that need to be initiated. These changes may relate to teaching and learning of business subjects, promotion and uptake of subject at school level, options structure, timetabling and resources to name but a few. Where applicable the subject department co-ordinator may request a meeting with school management and/or prepare a submission for school management on the results from the department.

Marking schemes and chief examiners reports on subjects are also referenced by subject teachers. These documents can both inform discussion and debate among department members and are a vital resource in assisting with subject department and individual planning for teaching and learning.

## **Department of Education and Skills Inspections 2012/2013**

### **Incidental Inspection Science and Biology**

The Department of Education and Skills carried out an incidental inspection in March 2013. The Inspection activities carried out included: discussion with principal and teachers, interaction with students, observation of teaching and learning during lessons, examination of students' work and feedback to the principal and the relevant subject teachers.



# SECTION SEVEN

Selection of Student Achievements





## SECTION SEVEN

# Selection of Student Achievements & Awards 2012/2013

### Scoil Uí Mhuirí Annual Awards Ceremony 2013

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's annual Awards Ceremony took place on Tuesday 21 May 2013 at the school. The Awards Ceremony is one of the key events in our school calendar as it provides us with an opportunity to recognise and celebrate our students' achievements during this academic year. The range of awards presented on the day reflected all aspects of school life in Scoil Uí Mhuirí. Once again, 2012/2013 has been an enormously successful year for Scoil Uí Mhuirí and we as the Scoil Uí Mhuirí community can take great pride in our achievements both academic and non academic over the past year. We are really proud of our students' achievements and we wish them continued success in the years ahead both in school and outside of it as well. Our students' achievements bring great joy and a huge sense of pride to the school, their families and the local community. We encourage all Scoil Uí Mhuirí students to maintain their exemplary performance in the coming school year.

We would also like to publicly acknowledge and thank the staff, both teaching and non-teaching at Scoil Uí Mhuirí. Our teachers are extremely committed to our students, their welfare and their learning. They have worked so hard throughout the year to ensure that our students achieve their full potential, whatever that may be and they have also given of their free time at breaktimes, lunchtimes, after school, during mid term breaks and holidays to ensure that our students have opportunities to avail of and participate in a variety of extra curricular activities. We would like to thank all staff members and students involved in preparing for the Awards Ceremony and we would like to extend a special word of thanks to our sponsors for their continued support and commitment to the students, staff and management of Scoil Uí Mhuirí throughout the academic year.

### Student of the Month Awards

At the end of each month in Scoil Uí Mhuirí, our teaching staff have an opportunity to nominate students for the 'Student of the Month Award' and in doing so they consider a range of factors including rewarding students who consistently work to a high standard, students who co-operate and contribute in class, students who have made a marked improvement in their work and their attitude to school life, students who are positively engaged in extra-curricular activities and students who make a very valuable contribution to the life of Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

We in Scoil Uí Mhuirí would like to thank Dunleer Parish Credit Union who very kindly sponsor our Student of the Month Awards. Our winners in 2012/2013 were as follows:

Month/Year	Junior Winner	Senior Winner
September 2012	Ciaran Dunne	Leanne Geoghegan
October 2012	Alanna Dowling	Joe Sheard
November 2012	Glory Obe	Heather Walsh
December 2012	Lee Farrelly	Christina White
January 2013	Jake Murtagh	Michael Mc Evoy
February 2013	Robert Mc Evoy	Nadine Weldon
March 2013	Stephen Matthews	Niamh Fussey
April 2013	Thomas Brennan	Gideon Shobowale

Congratulations to all our winners and indeed to all those students who were nominated from each of our class groups throughout the year.





### **Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Niamh Fussey wins silver at All Ireland Championships**

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Niamh Fussey had every reason to celebrate after her outstanding performance at the All Ireland Schools Track and Field Championships which took place in Tullamore. Niamh, a 6th Year student at Scoil Uí Mhuirí, ran a personal best against a head wind to take the silver medal in the senior girls 100m hurdles competition. It was with great pride that Niamh took her place on the podium to receive her silver medal as her Athletics Coach and Scoil Uí Mhuirí teacher, Ms. Jacqueline Matthews observed this perfect ending to Niamh's Athletics achievements during her time at the school.

Niamh has been winning medals since she started competing for Scoil Uí Mhuirí in 2008. In her first year at the school, Niamh represented Scoil Uí Mhuirí in the Ocean State Cross Country event in the USA. Niamh started the schools track and field season with a gold medal in the North Leinster Schools track and field Championships in her favourite event, the 100m hurdles in April 2013. In the Leinster Schools finals in May 2013, there was cause for more celebration as Niamh earned herself a silver medal in the Senior girls 100m hurdles, and a place in the prestigious All Ireland Schools Track and Field Championships which took place in Tullamore.

On 21 May 2013, Niamh was presented with a 'Senior Athlete of the Year' award at Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Annual Awards Ceremony in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the sport since her first year at Scoil Uí Mhuirí. Niamh who is currently preparing for her Leaving Certificate Examinations at the school places great emphasis on her Athletics training and engagement with Athletics competitions. Indeed, Niamh states that her Athletics is great for relieving stress and keeping fit on a daily basis.

### **Barry Callan scoops top prize in Student Enterprise Awards**

Congratulations to 2nd Year student, Barry Callan who won the Intermediate Section of the Louth County Enterprise Board's Student Enterprise Awards which was held in the Fairways Hotel, Dundalk. Barry's business 'Barry's free range eggs' is proving very successful locally and his business customer base is expanding all the time. Barry represented Co. Louth at the National Finals of the Student Enterprise Awards which were held in the Croke Park Conference Centre in April 2013. Congrats also to Ms. Farrell, Barry's Business Studies teacher.

### **Scoil Uí Mhuirí TY students engage with SANDPiT Project**

SANDPiT is a novel intergenerational project whereby forty Transition Year students from Co. Louth VEC

schools and a number of older adult volunteers are working together to design and develop technology applications for tablet devices that are of benefit to both younger and older generations alike.

The project was co-ordinated by CASALA in collaboration with Co. Louth VEC and consisted of one workshop every month over the 2012/2013 school year, with project development taking place in between workshops. The specialised inter-generational apps were showcased at the Netwell Centre at Dundalk Institute of Technology on Friday 17 May 2013. The apps include an emotional well being app for young and old, an intergenerational quiz app, a community security app and a 'Don't Panic' app to get help fast for fall victims.

SANDPiT was also shortlisted for the EU's Go-Act award for best practice in inter - generational learning.

### **GAA All Star Award for Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Dean Matthews**

Congratulations and best wishes to Dean Matthews, 6th Year who has been awarded a GAA All Star Award. Scoil Uí Mhuirí would also like to congratulate Craig Devlin, Tiernan Hoey, Cathal Grimes and Sean Halpenny who were all nominated for All Star awards.

### **Scoil Uí Mhuirí Students awarded CLVEC Gaeltacht Scholarships**

Towards the end of the school year, Co. Louth VEC awarded Gaeltacht scholarship to students from Scoil Uí Mhuirí. These scholarships provided Scoil Uí Mhuirí students with the opportunity to immerse themselves

in the Irish language and by so doing acquire a love for the language, while also enhancing their language skills that will pay dividends in future examinations.

The scholarships covered the cost of a three week stay for each student during the summer in Coláiste Bhríde in Rann na Feirste in Donegal. Coláiste Bhríde has been operating since 1926 in the village of Rannafast overlooking the Atlantic, where Irish remains the spoken language. Students are accommodated with families where Irish is the first language. This total immersion in the culture provides the best possible opportunity to improve and enhance the spoken word.

### **Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Lisa Mc Gowan nominated for Bank of Ireland Junior Dragons Den**

Congratulations to Lisa Mc Gowan, TY who took part in the All Ireland Final of the Bank of Ireland Junior Dragons Den competition for her mini company idea "Glics" .

### **Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Michael Mc Evoy produces winning poster**

There was great celebration in Scoil Uí Mhuirí in early 2013 when 6th Year student, Michael Mc Evoy, received news that he had produced the winning poster in the 'Go MAD for Peace' poster competition organised by 'Instruments of Peace' earlier in the school year. Michael's poster became the signature poster of the 2013 Peace Campaign in Ireland by Instruments of Peace for the celebration of the 32nd UN International Day of Peace on 21st September 2013.



An awards ceremony to mark Michael's achievement took place in the school. Michael was joined at the event by his parents, Johann and Gerard, brother Darragh and sister Emer as well as other family members, students and staff of Scoil Uí Mhuirí and representatives from Instruments of Peace and Kairos Communications.

Michael was awarded a certificate, medal and a cheque for his efforts. The Principal of Scoil Uí Mhuirí was also honoured to receive a certificate and a medal to mark the achievements of this Scoil Uí Mhuirí student. Michael's winning poster was utilised to promote the 32nd UN International Day of Peace.

Speaking at the awards ceremony, Ms. Fiona Kindlon, Principal, Scoil Uí Mhuirí said "this is a fantastic achievement for Michael, his Religious Education teacher, Ms. Geradline Friel, his art teacher, Ms. Bernadette Martin, Scoil Uí Mhuirí and for Co. Louth VEC. Michael is an exemplary student who consistently works to a very high standard.

### **Scoil Uí Mhuirí students win National Award in Mini-Sumo Robot Tournament**

There was great celebration on Friday 19th April 2013 when three Scoil Uí Mhuirí students Luke Halpenny, Simon Achoya and Jack MacConneran received a National Award in Galway Education Centre for their Mini Sumo Robot, called 'Hammer', which was judged to be the best designed and best programmed entry at Ireland's inaugural national robotics tournament.

All three students worked hard over the last few months under the guidance of their Technology Teacher, Mr. Cassidy in designing, manufacturing and programming their Mini Sumo Robot to compete in the first ever 'Irish National Sumo Robot Tournament'. The students of Scoil Uí Mhuirí have certainly taken to heart the words of Mr Bill Gates of Microsoft when he said that robotics is the new developing technology. Mr Declan Askin, chief adjudicator at the event, explained that he was amazed at the standard of the students' robot design and the complexity of their computer controlled programming skills. Mr. Askin added that 'Hammer' would be well capable of competing in the Irish third level tournament. Technology teacher, Mr Martin Cassidy, explained how the project demonstrated mathematical, information

analysis, teamwork, computer programming, computer aided design and manufacture, product development and troubleshooting abilities. "This broad range of skills", said Mr Cassidy, "makes them well placed to make a great contribution to the next generation of technological developments." Their achievements were even more remarkable considering that the first and second year students were competing against older Leaving Certificate students and sacrificed their own lunch breaks to design and build the robot at their schools 'Robotics Club'. Mr Cassidy and Ms. Kindlon, Principal congratulated them on their dedication and commitment to their robot's development.

### **Fundraising at Scoil Uí Mhuirí**

Students and staff at Scoil Uí Mhuirí have once again been very generous in contributing to a range of fundraising events which took place in the school during the first term of the 2012/2013 academic year.

Some of the charities which have benefitted include: St.Vincent de Paul and the Hospice Movement. Fundraising activities have included coffee mornings, no uniform day, teachers versus students charity basketball match and collection of food hampers for St. Vincent de Paul.



## Athletics News 2012/2013

The Scoil Uí Mhuirí Athletics team were actively training and competing since September 2012. The Louth VEC track and field Championships in September were very exciting as the Scoil Uí Mhuirí students competed in a range of events from high jump, javelin, shot putt and long jump to sprints, relays and middle distance events, winning medals in all disciplines. There was success also at the 1st year track and field sports in Navan.

There were cross country races in Drogheda and DCU in October and January respectively and the minor girls under 14 team came away with medals in Drogheda and a qualification from DCU for the Leinster Schools' Cross Country Championships in first year student Seoda Matthews. The Santa Mile was a great success in December and Craig Devlin (6th year) was a worthy winner of the event this year.

Next up was the North Leinster Schools' Track & Field event in Santry stadium and the in form Niamh Fussey (6th Year) must surely be in with a chance of a medal once again in the sprint hurdles. Niamh has had a great indoor club season and seeks to emulate her medal winning performances in almost every Championship since she started competing for Scoil Uí Mhuirí in first year. Others hoping for a medal will be Conor Faulkner and Lisa McGowan in the high jump, Liam Fussey, Conor Kirwan and Kaitlynn Smyth in the javelin, Tunji Ifaturoti and Adeola Ifaturoti in the shot putt and Niamh Murray in the middle distance events.

The Scoil Uí Mhuirí athletics team will be travelling to Boston in September 2013 to compete in the Ocean State Cross Country schools championship. The students are presently fund raising and training hard, hoping to improve on the 2008 medal tally of 3 individual medals.

## Leaving Certificate Students prepare for their Irish Oral Exam - Caith amach é

Once again this year, the 6th year gaeilge students had the opportunity to partake in the "caith amach é" workshop to assist them in gaining more marks in their forthcoming oral Irish exams. The students enjoyed this humorous approach to learning produced by Niall and Seán Mac Donnacha, who also work with TG4.

## TY Lá Ghaelach - Feirm Causey

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's TY students engaged in an educational outing to Feirm Causey beside the Rath Cairn Ghaeltacht in Co. Meath to practice their cúpla focal and partake in some cultural events. Activities students engaged in included a Bodhrán workshop, bread making, a Céilí workshop and a tour of the farm. Bog all go léir as gaeilge.

## Scoil Uí Mhuirí GAA News

It was another busy year on the GAA front with both the Lennon Cup and Flood Cup campaigns concluded. Unfortunately, neither team were able to deliver any silverware but both competed extremely well in their respective competitions. Dean Matthews, 6th Year was rewarded for his outstanding performances in the Lennon Cup by being named on the Lennon Cup All-Star team at an awards ceremony in DkIT. Dean is only the 2nd player from Scoil Uí Mhuirí to have gained a place on the All-Star team. 1st and 5th year blitzes also took place during the last term.

## All 1st Year students engage in 'Connect with Respect' Programme

On Wednesday 20th March 2013, Scoil Uí Mhuirí were delighted to welcome local Garda, Kevin Conway to the school to deliver the 'Connect with Respect' programme to all 1st Year students at the school. This new module of the Garda Schools Programme aims to help students understand the impact that cyberbullying can have on different people, and to recognise that cyberbullying is not acceptable. It hopes to prevent this behaviour from occurring and to enable people to respond effectively if it does.

## Themed Weeks at Scoil Uí Mhuirí 2012/2013

Scoil Uí Mhuirí students and staff were active during the 2012/2013 academic year engaging in a range of themed weeks including: Study Skills Week, Anti Bullying Week, Enterprise Week, Maths Week, Science Week, Positive Mental Health Week, Intercultural Week and Seachtain na Gaeilge.

During these weeks, students engaged in a range of activities including competitions, quizzes, crosswords, visits out to local enterprise, visiting speakers in to the school and poem competitions to name but a few. Our TY students also held a trade fair in the school on Monday 3 December 2012. Congratulations to all involved in organising these weeks and well done to those students who won prizes for their efforts. Further information on a selection of these weeks is outlined below:

### Enterprise Week 2012

The first ever Enterprise Week was held in Scoil Uí Mhuirí in December 2012. There was a wide range of activities organised for the week. Quizzes were organised for each lunchtime. The TY class went on a visit to Glen Dimplex where they learned first hand about production, marketing and sales. Various local businesspeople came in to speak to our Business and LCA students. First year Business students completed projects on local, national and international entrepreneurs. The highlight of the week was the Christmas Trade Fair which was hosted by the TY students. A total of nine companies set up stalls selling their products and services which they developed as part of their Enterprise programme in TY. Those parents and members of the local community who attended the Trade Fair in search of a bargain were full of praise for our innovative and enterprising students.

### 'Think Good, Feel Good' - Positive Mental Health Week 2013

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Inaugural, Positive Mental Health Week 'Think Good, Feel Good' week took place in Scoil Uí Mhuirí from Monday 14th to Friday 18th January 2013. The 'Think Good, Feel Good' week has been developed to enhance the range of supports already accessible to students in the school for looking after their mental health.

The organising team at Scoil Uí Mhuirí including Ms. Paula McCabe, SCP and Ms. Melissa Clarke, and the Student Council, scheduled a range of activities including random acts of kindness along with a series of classroom lessons and questionnaires around the theme of Positive Mental Health which were delivered to all students attending the school. A series of lunchtime classes in yoga, kickboxing and Kung Fu were also available to students.

On Wednesday 16th January, a variety of agencies and services including the Samaritans and Grow set up stands in the school and all students had an opportunity to visit the stands throughout the day. The purpose of this activity was to make students aware of the range of external supports available for looking after our mental health. A 'Think Good, Feel Good', t-shirt and flag were designed by students and staff and iRadio's iTeam joined us in the school for a special closing ceremony to the week on Friday 18th. A special word of thanks to Victory's Centra in Dunleer who sponsored spot prizes throughout the week. Congratulations to all involved in this event. A short video on our Positive Mental Health Week can be viewed on our website [www.scoiluimhuiri.ie](http://www.scoiluimhuiri.ie)

### Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge took place in Scoil Uí Mhuirí from 11th – 15th March 2013. Throughout the week, students participated in various activities within the school, including poster competitions, Tráth na gCeist, Toraíocht Taisce, Comórtas crosfhocail, Céilí, cluichí agus ceol sa rang.

Senior students had an opportunity to practice their cúpla focal on their lá Ghaelach trip to Co na Mí. Competitions for CLVEC Gaeltacht scholarships took place in the last term. Students from Scoil Uí Mhuirí had an opportunity to enter into a competition for a part scholarship to Coláiste Bhríde, Rann na Feirste, Co. Donegal.

## Co. Louth VEC Visit Scoil Uí Mhuirí

Co. Louth VEC held one of its monthly meetings in Scoil Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer on 18th April 2013. The committee was welcomed to the school by the Principal, Ms. Fiona Kindlon who was accompanied by a delegation of students including Adeola Ifaturoti, Nichola Landy, Shane Reilly, Paddy Smith, Nikita Fleming, Saoirse Parry, Rebecca Geraghty and Kim O'Brien. Co. Louth VEC last held a monthly meeting in Scoil Uí Mhuirí in January 2010.

Principal Kindlon addressed the committee before the start of the meeting stating that it was with great pride that she welcomed the committee to the school. "We are extremely proud of our school and this meeting here tonight provides management, staff and students alike with the opportunity to showcase the school's excellence to the committee".

Ms. Kindlon briefed the committee on progress regarding the school's new €5m extension which is scheduled to be in place by September 2014. She informed members that a site notice had recently been erected at the school and that everybody was now looking forward to seeing contractors on site later in the year. She also briefed members on other school activities including its recent very popular positive mental health week, recent successes for the school's athletic team, a successful student trip to the USA, details of success had at the recent Louth County Enterprise Board Awards as well as its range of Green School activities. Ms. Kindlon paid tribute to the staff of Scoil Uí Mhuirí for their commitment to the school and their dedication to their students. She also paid tribute to the entire student body that were represented on the night by the welcoming party.

Cllr. Liam Reilly, Chairman of Co. Louth VEC, thanked the school on behalf of the committee for hosting the VEC meeting and indicated that the Committee looked forward to having the opportunity to return to the school at some point in the future.

## Scoil Uí Mhuirí welcome International Delegation

In May 2013, Scoil Uí Mhuirí played host to a visiting delegation of teachers and students from the Netherlands. Four teachers and thirty two second level students from the Utrecht region in the Netherlands arrived at the school on Tuesday morning, 14 May 2013 and were welcomed by the CEO of Co. Louth VEC, Dr. Pádraig Kirk and school Principal Fiona Kindlon.

The teachers and students were treated to a performance by the school choir before sitting in on lessons in the school alongside their Scoil Uí Mhuirí counterparts. Both visiting teachers and students experienced what it was like to attend school in Ireland and attended lessons in Maths, English, Geography, History and a range of other subjects. The visiting delegation also went on trips with Scoil Uí Mhuirí students to Croke Park, Oldbridge and shopping in Drogheda. A number of social evening events were also organised for the visitors. The delegation departed on Wednesday morning.

Before departing Dutch teacher and event organiser Eline Westerhout said, "we really want to thank Co. Louth VEC and everybody in Scoil Uí Mhuirí for the great time you gave us in Ireland. Your hospitality and kindness was overwhelming and touching and the organisation was perfect. Our students made many new friends in Ireland and we look forward hosting a delegation from Louth in Holland soon".

Eline last visited Ireland previously as part of an international delegation that attended the Asia Europe Classroom Conference hosted by Co. Louth VEC in collaboration with the Department of Education and Skills in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dundalk. Eline obviously couldn't wait to get back!

CEO of the VEC, Dr. Kirk paid tribute to the management and staff of Scoil Uí Mhuirí for hosting the delegation and organising a varied and action packed programme for the visitors. Ms. Kindlon congratulated and thanked all the students and staff involved in organising this very successful visit.



## Musical Activities at Scoil Uí Mhuirí 2012/2013

### The Corny Collins Show – TY Musical 2012/2013

Congratulations to our TY students who staged 'The Corny Collins Show' an adaptation of the musical 'Hairspray' in March 2013. Our TY students wowed audiences on both nights with their high quality production of this show. Thanks to all those staff members involved in working with the TY students on their musical. A particular word of thanks and congratulations to Ms. Howard, Ms. Clarke, Ms. Shiels and Mr. Cumiskey.

### School Choir reaches Final of Coca Cola School Stars Competition

Once again this year, the school choir, under the guidance and direction of Ms. Fiona Shields reached the final of the highly competitive Coca Cola School Stars Competition which took place in the TLT, Drogheda. Mr. Louis Walsh stated that he was really impressed with our choir's performances. One lucky 1st Year student, Dennis Woods had an opportunity to have a chat with Louis, get his autograph and his photo taken with the X Factor judge. Congrats to all involved. You have done your school proud.

## Year Group Graduations 2012/2013

On Wednesday evening 22nd May 2013, our 6th Year students, their Parents/Guardians and Scoil Uí Mhuirí staff members gathered in St. Brigid's Church Dunleer for our 6th Year Graduation Mass. The evening provided us with an opportunity to honour our 6th Year students and congratulate them on their hard work, commitment, dedication and achievements during their time at Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

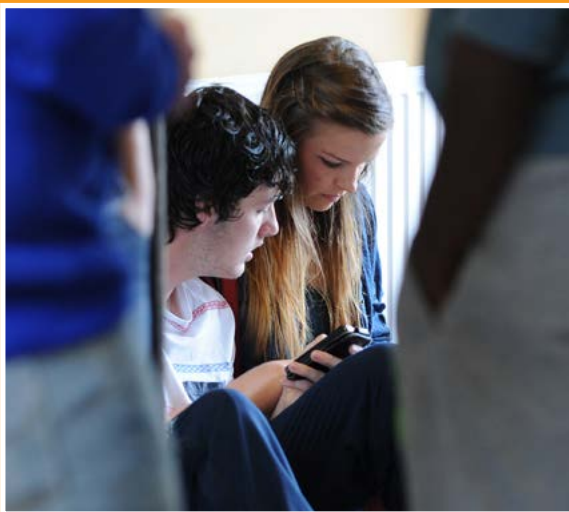
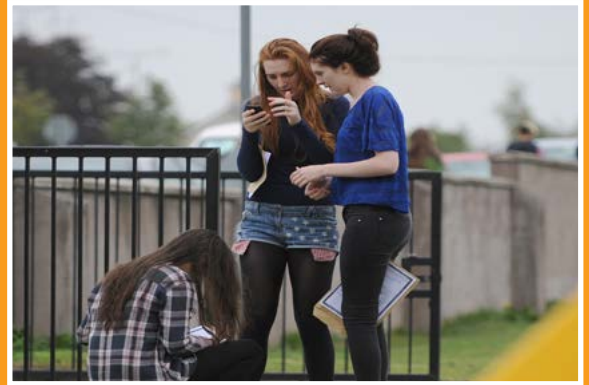
Towards the end of the evening the students were presented with their Graduation Certificate by Ms. Kindlon, Principal, Mr. Donagh, Deputy Principal and Ms. Shannon, Year Head. We would like to thank all students and staff members involved in preparing for this special occasion. We wish all our 6th Year students every success in their examinations and we look forward to welcoming them back to the school in August 2013 to collect their Leaving Certificate Results.

# SECTION EIGHT

State Examination Success









## SECTION EIGHT

# Scoil Uí Mhuirí students excel in State Examinations 2013

### Scoil Uí Mhuirí's students excel in State Examinations 2013

There was great excitement in Scoil Uí Mhuirí on Wednesday 14th August 2013 and Wednesday 11 September 2013 when the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate classes of 2013 collected their results.

Once again this year, our students have excelled and the collective results of all our examination students are outstanding. Achievements like this demonstrate that commitment and hard work on the part of students is rewarded by fantastic results. In general there was a marked increase in the numbers of students taking higher level papers in a range of subjects and this is a trend that should continue in the future.

Exceptional results were achieved in a range of subjects. A number of our Leaving Certificate students achieved well over 500 points and are currently pursuing courses and careers in a range of areas.

Our Junior Certificate students have progressed to Senior Cycle where they are engaging in either Transition Year, the Established Leaving Certificate, the Leaving Certificate Applied or the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme. An analysis of the school's Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate results has been completed by school management and subject departments and comparisons have been made with last year's results both locally and nationally. We would like to once again congratulate our students on their wonderful results and to publicly acknowledge and thank the highly committed, supportive and professional teaching staff at the school for the hard work they have done with our students in preparation for these examinations.

### Michael celebrates with 515 points in Leaving Certificate 2013

There was great celebration for Michael Mc Evoy, Leaving Certificate Class, 2013 when he opened his results to reveal several A and B grades resulting in an outstanding 515 points in his Leaving Certificate examination. We congratulate Michael on his excellent results. Michael was a hard working student who was highly committed and motivated throughout his time with us in Scoil Uí Mhuirí and his efforts have been rewarded with an exceptional set of grades. We wish Michael well as he pursues a career in Primary teaching.

### Sam & Moritz scoop National Awards for Technology

Scoil Uí Mhuirí students Samuel Conlon Mulroy and Moritz Ajayi were both awarded certificates of distinction in this year's National Technology Awards. Their success was in recognition of their outstanding work in the Design and Manufacture of their coursework for the 2013 Junior and Leaving Certificate Examinations in Technology. Samuel Conlon Mulroy was honoured with the award of 3rd place in Ireland for his Junior Certificate Technology project.

Congratulations to both students for qualifying for the National awards by winning in the area finals, which took place between all schools in Louth, Meath, Monaghan and Cavan.

The National Technology Awards for 2013 was held at the Monaghan Institute of Education on Saturday 17th November 2013. The awards ceremony is an important part of the Engineering and Technology Teachers Association's (ETTA) National Conference. ETTA recognises excellence in student performance in the State Examinations.





# SECTION NINE

Partnership with Parents







## SECTION NINE

# Partnership with Parents 2012/2013

Scoil Uí Mhuirí places a strong emphasis on partnership with parents to ensure the best possible educational experience and outcome for each student. Education is viewed as a joint effort between students, parents and school. Great emphasis is placed on mutual co-operation and as part of this process the school engages in regular contact with parents in a variety of ways. The following outlines some of the communications that took place during the 2012/2013 school year:

- Parent Teacher Meetings for all Year Groups
- Information Session for Incoming 1st Year Parents/Guardians
- Coffee Mornings for 1st Year Parents/Guardians to review the Transfer & Transition Process
- Senior Cycle Information Session for Parents & students
- Meetings with Management, Year Heads, SCP Project Worker, HSCLO, Guidance Counsellor, Class Tutors, subject teachers, SEN co-ordinator, LCA, TY & LCVP co-ordinators
- Phonecalls with Management, Year Heads, SCP Project Worker, HSCLO, Guidance Counsellor, Class Tutors, subject teachers, SEN co-ordinator, LCA, TY & LCVP co-ordinators
- Home Visits by the HSCLO & SCP Project Worker where appropriate
- School Reports at various intervals for all students
- Christmas, Easter & Summer Newsletters to all parents/guardians
- Student Journal
- School Website as a source of communication
- Letters to Parents regarding examinations, uniform, Anti bullying approaches within the school, code of behaviour, chronic health conditions and parent teacher meetings to name but a few
- Attendance at Parents Association Meetings & follow up meetings with officers of the Association
- Scheduling of day classes and courses by the HSCLO for parents/guardians
- Meetings with the SCP Project Worker, the NEWB EWO and parents/guardians regarding attendance at school

### Coffee Morning for 1st Year Parents/Guardians

In early October 2012, parents/guardians of all our 1st Year students were invited to a coffee morning in the school. The purpose of the coffee morning was to give those parents/guardians an opportunity to discuss how the 1st Year transition process had been for their son/daughter and also to have an opportunity to meet other parents/guardians of 1st Year students. We were delighted with the large numbers who attended the event.

During the coffee morning those in attendance also had opportunities to meet with the Principal, Deputy Principal, Home School Community Liaison Officer, School Completion Project Worker, Guidance Counsellor, SEN Co-ordinator and the 1st Year Year Head.

Towards the end of the event parents/guardians were asked to complete a Review and Evaluation questionnaire. Parents/Guardians have rated our Transfer and Transition Programme as being highly effective in ensuring a smooth transition for students from Primary to Post Primary school.

### **Evening Course for Parents 'Protecting our Children: Finding the Balance with your Teenager'**

We were overwhelmed with the demand for our six week course for parents: "Protecting our Children: Finding the Balance with your Teenager" which has been developed by Mr. Enda Murphy, Cognitive Behavioural Therapist in collaboration with Scoil Uí Mhuirí. The aim of the programme is to provide support, guidance and advice to parents/guardians by discussing issues including promoting positive mental health. The first group of parents completed their programme and a presentation of certificates evening took place in the school on Thursday 20 December 2012. A second group of parents completed the course in the new year.

### **Classes for Parents**

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's parents once again were able to avail of a range of classes for parents during the 2012/2013 academic year. Our 'Preparing your Child for Secondary Education' proved very popular along with FETAC Level 3 Computer Classes and our 'Maths for Parents' class. 'Maths for Parents' continued throughout the year and many of those parents who participated in this course intend sitting Junior Certificate Maths examinations in 2014. Parents are also reporting that this particular class is of huge benefit to them when supporting their son/daughter with Maths homework.

### **Parents Association 2012/2013**

The role of the Parents Association is to sustain and maintain a relationship with the school's Board of Management, Principal, teaching staff, students and ancillary staff so as to develop a learning environment that is beneficial to all. The Parents' Association works to ensure that parents have an opportunity to work with the school on a series of issues including policy development and resources provision for the school. Others include:

- Organising information/social events for new parents to the school
- Organising welcome events for new students to the school
- Arranging talks on topics of interest to parents, e.g. guest speakers on parenting/discipline
- Channelling parents views on school policy issues to the Principal/Board of Management
- Contributing to school newsletters and other school publications
- Helping to organise and supervise extra-curricular activities
- Organising Fund Raising events for the school

The Parents Association met regularly throughout the year and these meetings took place on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the school.

### **Parents Association AGM 2012**

The Parents Association held their AGM on Wednesday 10 October 2012. During the AGM, officers for the coming year were elected. Ms. Kindlon, Principal and Mr. Donagh, Deputy Principal also addressed the parents/guardians present on the evening. Guest speaker on the evening was Mr. Enda Murphy, a Cognitive Behavioural Therapist who spoke to Parents/Guardians on the topic: "Finding the Balance with your Teenager". Enda also outlined details of a six week programme for parents around the area of Positive Mental Health.

### **Senior Cycle Information Night 2013**

An information night on Senior Cycle Options for Parents/Guardians and students from 3rd Year and TY took place in the school on Wednesday 20 March 2013. Those in attendance had an opportunity to access information on options for Senior Cycle including subject choice, career possibilities, the TY, LCA and LCVP programmes. An information pack was distributed on the evening and those in attendance also had opportunities to ask questions on the transition to Senior Cycle. Promotional DVDs for the school's TY and LCA programmes were also launched on the night. Further information, including contact details for the various programme co-ordinators may be obtained from the school office.



# SECTION TEN

Business & Community Links





## SECTION TEN

# Business Community Links 2012/2013

### **Dunleer Parish Credit Union**

In Scoil Uí Mhuirí we continue to work locally with the Dunleer Parish Credit Union who kindly sponsor our Student of the Month Awards for our Junior and Senior Students. The Credit Union also sponsor our Business Student of the Year Awards at our end of year Awards Ceremony.

### **Bank of Ireland Dunleer**

Sincere thanks to all at Bank of Ireland for their continued commitment to the students of Scoil Uí Mhuirí throughout the 2012/2013 academic year. Bank of Ireland sponsored our overall Student of the Year Awards Academic and Spirit Awards at our annual Awards Ceremony at the end of the school year.

### **TY Dragons Den 2012/2013**

Once again this year our local Business Dragons joined us in the school for the Annual TY Dragons Den event. They included Mr. Thomas Clare, Thomas Clare & Co Certified Accountants, Joe Torris, Newsagents Dunleer, Michael Durnin, Durnin's Butchers, Anne Reilly, Paycheck Plus, Peggy Mc Glynn, Louth County Enterprise Board, Regina Kelledy, Laura Torris, Little Rascals, Dunleer and Jim Dunne, JF Travel

### **Sound Shop Drogheda**

Many thanks to Tommy and Patrick Leddy and all at the Sound Shop Drogheda for their sponsorship of our Annual Music Awards at our end of year Awards Ceremony.



## Collaboration with the Local Community

### Use of Facilities 2012/2013

#### **Scoil Uí Mhuirí hosts Louth Children's Services Committee Seminar**

In February 2013, Scoil Uí Mhuirí hosted the Louth Children's Services Committee (CSC) inaugural seminar. The seminar entitled, 'Growing Up in Louth – Making a Difference for Children' was attended by over 100 professionals working in the area of children and young people's services across Co. Louth, including teachers, parents, child care workers, Gardaí, youth workers and public service officials.

The highlight of the seminar was an address given by Mr. John Lonergan, former Governor of Mountjoy prison. John gave a very thought provoking and entertaining speech on the wide range of issues affecting young people in Ireland today, and those professionals that interact with them in addressing issues and problems as they occur.

For further information on the Louth Children's Services Committee see [www.louthcsc.ie](http://www.louthcsc.ie)

#### **Dunleer AC**

Once again this year our local Athletics club, Dunleer AC, have utilised our facilities for their weekly training sessions.

#### **PDST (t4) Teacher Professional Development**

Scoil Uí Mhuirí were delighted to open our facilities up to PDST (t4), the Department of Education and Skills National Support Service for training sessions in the evenings and at weekends for Technology Subject Department teachers across the region. Those in attendance had an opportunity to view and work in our exceptional Technology related specialised and well resourced classrooms.

#### **Co. Louth VEC Youth Work Course**

The school continued to host the Co. Louth VEC FETAC Level 5 Youth Work Course throughout the school year. This programme is organised by the Co. Louth Youth Officer, Ian Walker.

#### **LMETB Easter & Summer Camps**

Scoil Uí Mhuirí hosted Co. Louth VEC camps for 8 – 13 year olds.

#### **Music Generation Louth at Scoil Uí Mhuirí**

Music Generation Louth is a new music service for the county that aims to help children and young people access vocal and instrumental tuition in their local area. In 2012/2013, it was led by Co. Louth VEC and is part of Music Generation, a new national programme for music education initiated by Music Network with seed funding from U2 and the Ireland Funds.

Create Louth and Co. Louth VEC provided local partnership income. Since September 2012, Music Generation Louth has offered a programme of music tuition for children and young people in the Dunleer area with a selection of classes on offer at Scoil Uí Mhuirí in a wide selection of instruments and musical styles catering for beginners through to advanced level students.

Both individual and group lessons were available with prices starting at just €7 per class. Classes took place in the evening time. Instrumental hire was also available to those enrolling in classes with hire costs ranging from €15 to €45 per term, depending on the choice of instrument.

Full details are available on the Music Generation website: [www.musicgenerationlouth.ie](http://www.musicgenerationlouth.ie) For further information, and to enrol, call 042 9364635

#### **Let's Go Summer Camp**

In July 2013 we were delighted to welcome young people from the locality who were attending the Let's Go Summer Camp at the school. The Let's Go Summer Camp offers two programmes of activities, one for the 5-6 years olds and the second for the 7-13 year olds. The camp runs for one week at the school.

Do you wish to enquire about using our facilities? Should you wish to enquire about using our facilities at the school, please contact us at 041 6851344.



www.scoiluihuiri.ie Home

# SCOIL UI MHUIRI POST PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Welcome to Scoil Ui Mhuiri

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Welcome from the Principal and Deputy Principal

Welcome to Scoil Ui Mhuiri's website. Scoil Ui Mhuiri is a vibrant, dynamic Post Primary school situated in the heart of the growing community of Dunleek, Co. Louth. The school has grown and developed since its opening in 1964 when 55 pupils were enrolled. Today there is a student cohort of over 600 with a teaching staff of 45. In Scoil Ui Mhuiri we are a learning community committed to the development of the whole person within a context which values each of its members.

In Scoil Ui Mhuiri we have a vision that all of our students will develop a love of learning and a keen sense of social responsibility through a positive and happy school experience. We hope they will develop as caring, well-adjusted individuals, who will succeed in life and contribute positively to the wider community. Our caring and dedicated staff is committed to helping each student achieve his/her potential. The Scoil Ui Mhuiri community prides itself on providing a positive atmosphere for students' academic, social and personal growth. We urge all our students to work diligently and participate fully in school life to ensure that they benefit fully from the wonderful opportunities offered to them during their time here in Scoil Ui Mhuiri.

The school proudly serves the areas of Annagassan, Cloghanhead, Fleadstown, Walshestown, Tanure, Philipstown, Dromin, Kilran, Togher and the growing region of Dunleek itself. Having forged strong ties with the local community and industry, Scoil Ui Mhuiri is today rightly regarded as a leading light of education in the north east region.

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Website click on the link to

**Scoil Ui Mhuiri - Twitter**  
ScoilUiMhuiri RT @Education\_Ie: What can I do if I suspect my child is a cyberbully? Download a Parental Guide to Cyberbullying #0202015 http://i.co.uk Feb 09 - repost - @vorne  
ScoilUiMhuiri RT @Dunleek\_Ie: Parents - find out more about our Social Networking site &

