

German Exchanges prove to be a big hit with students!



The Scoil Uí Mhuirí German Department were delighted to link up with Realschule Hilpoltstein for their 5th exchange in November 2015. Thirty one students from Germany arrived with their teachers on Saturday 14th November for a five day stay with their Irish host families. Among the activities were classroom visits and language learning activities, an introduction to Irish sport, a trip to the adventure centre in Carlingford, tours at Oldbridge and Drogheda and of course music and dance. A great time was had by all and the Irish students were delighted to go to Germany on a reciprocal visit on November 25th.

In Hilpoltstein, Bavaria, the Scoil Uí Mhuirí students had a great time with their exchange partners: visiting the school and attending classes, meeting the Mayor, ice skating, playing Olympic handball, visiting the Christmas markets, touring the Bayern München stadium and swimming! The introduction to German culture was fantastic for the students and living with their host families gave them a very real insight into German customs and traditions, as well as an immersion in the German language.

Thank you to all staff who organised the exchange and a sincere thanks to our families here in Dunleer and in Hilpoltstein. Our Scoil Uí Mhuirí families did us really proud! They went out of their way to extend a cead míle fáilte to our visitors and organised many additional activities for the German students in addition to those organised at school level.

George hands the keys to Shane!

Monday 31st August 2015 was a landmark day in the provision of caretaking at Scoil Uí Mhuirí as outgoing caretaker George Reynolds handed over the keys of the building to the newly appointed caretaker Shane Sweeney.

On behalf of all at Scoil Uí Mhuirí we would like to extend a warm welcome to Shane and wish him all the best in his new role. We would also like to wish George all the best for his retirement.



Scoil Uí Mhuirí
Post Primary School

Christmas Newsletter 2015

Leaving Cert & Junior Cert students excel once again

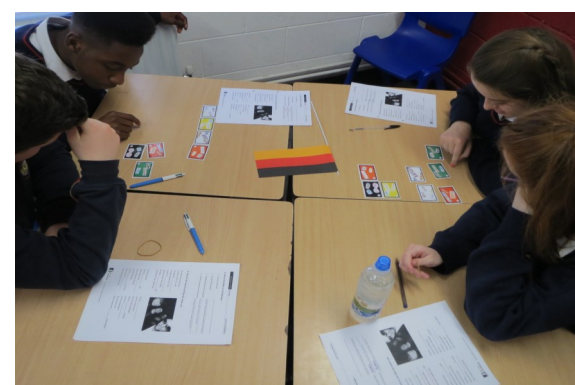


There was great excitement in Scoil Uí Mhuirí when the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate classes of 2015 collected their results. Once again this year, our students have excelled and the collective results of all our examination students are outstanding. Achievements like this demonstrate that commitment and hard work on the part of students is rewarded by fantastic results. 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.



Scoil Uí Mhuirí German students welcome the Deutschmobil

On Monday 5th October the 'Deutschmobil' visited our school. This is a joint initiative organised by the German Embassy and Goethe Institute in Dublin to promote the German language and culture in Irish schools. Our 1st, TY, 5th and 6th year German students had the opportunity to take part in fun, interactive German lessons which included topics like German music and a visit to Berlin. We look forward to welcoming the 'Deutschmobil' again in the near future!



Scoil Uí Mhuirí's LCA students link with Actavis Dundalk

Actavis (Dundalk) is making a commitment to assist and encourage **Scoil Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer** senior cycle students to complete their schooling by providing them with valuable first-hand insight and experience of the working world.

As part of the newly established partnership, students will take part in the Skills @ Work programme, where volunteer employees work with students on CV writing and interview skills and give them an insight in to the array of jobs available to students through 'A Day in the Life' session. The partnership has been facilitated by the Schools' Business Partnership (SBP) and is an initiative of Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI).



Actavis (Dundalk) have been established in Louth since early 2012 and employ 87 people at their site in the town. Representing Actavis (Dundalk) David Ussher, Associate Director, Stability, Actavis (Dundalk) commenting on the partnership with Scoil Uí Mhuirí as part of BITCI's Skills @ Work Programme said:

"It is extremely important that students are fully aware of potential job opportunities within their communities, as cities are not always the answer. This programme is beneficial for the local economy and can assure the future staffing needs of our company along with providing skilled workers for other local businesses and prospective businesses."

The Skills @ Work programme at Scoil Uí Mhuirí has commenced over the last few weeks. During the year employees of Actavis (Dundalk) will talk to the students about the real-life skills required in the workplace, such as CV writing and interview preparation. They will run 'A Day in the Life' session, to assist the students in recognising the value of completing the leaving certificate and help them explore possible career paths. The students will also be brought on a site visit to the Actavis (Dundalk) and witness the many career opportunities that exist in the Pharmaceutical Industry.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí's Choir and Music Groups Update

The school choir presents an exciting opportunity for students from first year to sixth year to sing and perform at public and school events. This year the choir has welcomed many new members including some members from first year and a member of our teaching staff Ms Jennifer Kelly.

Every Tuesday lunchtime students and teachers, including the music teachers: Ms Shields and Ms Morrison-Reilly, along with ukulele players from the 3rd year music class, recorder players from the 2nd year music class and the band (Ciaran on electric guitar, Noah on bass guitar and Blaine on drums) gather to practice for upcoming events which include a trip to a senior citizens home organised by Ms Shield's CSPE class (1 Inis) and the up and coming school CD.



Student Council Christmas Fair 2015

On Friday 18 December 2015, the Student Council, along with their Liaison Teacher, Ms. Caroline Murphy were delighted to host the school's annual Christmas Fair for students, staff, parents and members of the local community. This event was a combined effort on the part of many of the subject departments across the school including technology subjects, home economics, modern foreign languages department and art department to name but a few. Our school choir, singers and musicians were on hand to entertain the crowds and students from An Chrannóg, Scoil Uí Mhuirí's class for students with Autism made their debut at the event by selling some festive shortbread treats which were made as part of their Home Economics course.

Those attending had opportunities to enter raffles, pick from a lucky dip of prizes, purchase arts and crafts, Christmas logs, wood products, sample some French, German and Spanish traditional foods and enjoy some hot chocolate while listening to our wonderful choir and musical groups. The stand that proved to be a big hit this year was the 'Staff Baby Photos' display where students were challenged to identify their teachers from a myriad of baby photos!!

All proceeds from the event are going into Student Council funds to assist with development of a lunch area for students along with other student related activities. Sincere thanks to all those who donated spot prizes for the event and congrats to all students and staff who made this a very special event once again this year.

History/Geography students enjoy trip to Poland during October Mid Term

During the October mid term break 2015, History and Geography students enjoyed an activity filled educational outing to Poland.

Activities included a guided tour of the old town of Krakow, a visit to the Wieliczka Salt Mines, a visit to the Jewish Quarter and visits to the Auschwitz Birkenau Concentration Camp and Schindlers Factory.

Thanks to all staff who facilitated the trip and we hope that students have plenty of practical information and examples to apply now in their History and Geography courses.



Scoil Uí Mhuirí welcome the Louth Ladies Junior Football Champions

Scoil Uí Mhuirí were delighted to welcome members of the Louth Ladies Junior Football team to the school recently to celebrate their recent success.

There were strong links between the team and Scoil Uí Mhuirí with past pupils Grace Lynch, Sarah Byrne, Eimear Murray all members of the team and the school's, PE teacher Ms. Susan Byrne also playing number 11 on the day.

Ms. Kindlon, Principal and Mr. Donagh, Deputy Principal, told the packed gym how proud they were of the team's achievements and how honoured they were to have a member of staff and past pupils represented on the team. Ms. Grace Lynch addressed the students and spoke to them about the importance of fitness and involvement in sport.



Busy Times for our Healthy Eating Committee



The first term was very busy for our newly formed Healthy Eating Committee who are busy researching healthy food options in an effort to ensure that we continually strive to improve the range of healthy meals on offer at Scoil Uí Mhuirí and locally in our shops where students frequent for lunch.

Our committee comprises students from 1st – 6th Year, Ray Donagh, Deputy Principal, teachers Lorna Finnegan, Gordon Magennis and Gemma Murphy, contract caterer Peter Grimes, Rumbles, Julie Kirwan and Mairead Elmaadi, parent representatives and many of our local businesses including Centra in Dunleer.



To date the committee have completed online surveys for parents and students which were available to download via our website and they are currently analysing the results of this research. A representative group from the committee visited The Happy Pear in Greystones, Co. Wicklow in December 2015 to sample some food options and thanks to the Parents Association for sponsoring the mini bus for this trip.

The next step is to consider the further development of canteen facilities onsite and plans are already underway to transform this space in the school.

TY Trade Fair Launch December 2015



Full house signs at CAO Information Night during College Awareness Week

Tuesday 24th November was an important night for all our Leaving Certificate students and their parents/guardians with Mr. Aiden Matthews, Guidance Department facilitating a talk on the CAO system.

The session provided clarity for those in attendance regarding points, application process, offers of places and also on the DARE and RACE schemes.

Mr. Declan Clarke, HSCLO also made a presentation on the SUSI grant system.

We were delighted this year to welcome personnel from DkIT, DIFE, OFI and UCD to attend the event. Each of these colleges set up information stands on courses and college facilities and personnel were on hand to answer any questions from students and their parents/guardians.

Members of the Parents Association were also in attendance and indeed the Parents Association and the HSCL and Guidance Departments had worked collaboratively to host the event.

- Further information on CAO may be obtained on www.cao.ie,
- DARE scheme, www.accesscollege.ie/dare,
- HEAR scheme, www.accesscollege.ie/hear
- SUSI grant system, www.susi.ie

A reminder to all 6th Year students and parents/guardians to regularly check for updates on our guidance blog, <http://guidanceatscoilumhuiri.weebly.com>.

You can also connect to this page via our school website www.scoilumhuiri.ie



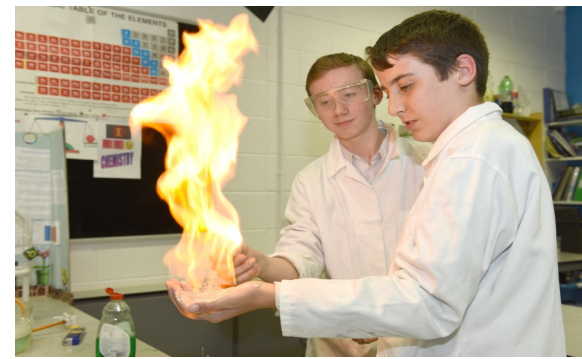
Open Night

On Thursday 8 October 2015, Scoil Uí Mhuirí opened its doors to 5th & 6th class students and their parents/guardians from local primary schools. Those in attendance were very impressed with the state of the art facilities, ranges of programmes and courses on offer and the level of support provided by the school to ease the transition from primary to post primary school.

Visitors to the school had an opportunity to visit classrooms and meet with subject teachers and students to find out more about specific subjects on offer at the school.

Games, experiments, demonstrations, worksheets, displays of work and practical hands on workshops were just a sample of the activities on offer during the evening. Visitors to the school also had an opportunity to listen to musical treats courtesy of our choir, recorder orchestra and music students.

Congrats and thanks to all our staff and students for their work in preparation for open evening.



An Enterprising Enterprise Week in December 2015

Monday 30th November 2015 was the first day of Enterprise Week at Scoil Uí Mhuirí. Once again this year a range of activities were scheduled for the week including quizzes, competitions, visits out to enterprises and a range of visits in by entrepreneurs including Gabriel Matthews, Swift Composite Prototypes Ltd, Niamh Sherwin Barry from the Irish Fairy Door Company and Keith Agnew from MVI Cleaning Services Ltd. Keith who was awarded Louth Young Entrepreneur of the Year spoke with the 6th Year LCVP students. In order to create awareness of social enterprise in action in the community we were also delighted to welcome Rose and Marian from SVP Dunleer who presented an overview of the work of SVP to our students.

The Bank of Ireland were also represented during the week with students being facilitated to open bank accounts to build up their savings and thanks to local manager David Duffy and his team for facilitating this. Business students visited the Guinness Factory in Dublin and Meade Potato Company Ltd, Lobinstown, Navan during the week in order to see first hand business theory in practice.

The highlight of the week for all was the TY Trade Fair on Monday afternoon and we were delighted to welcome Ms. Orlaith Carmody to open the Trade Fair. Orlaith is the author of 'Perform as a Leader' and the Managing Director of mediatraining.ie. Following an early career as a broadcast journalist with RTE, Orlaith became a serial entrepreneur and is a director of a number of SMEs in media, recruitment, production and education.

The students and staff were also delighted to welcome Mr. Martin Naughton, founder of Glen Dimplex to their Trade Fair and were delighted to meet with Mr. Naughton and explain their business ideas to him. An engineer by profession, Mr. Naughton has overseen his company to become the world's largest manufacturer in domestic heating appliances. Mr. Naughton also took time to visit our state of the art Technology Department facilities which we opened in 2011 at Scoil Uí Mhuirí.

Our local business dragons also attended the event and we thank them most sincerely for investing in our mini companies and providing our budding entrepreneurs with much valuable business guidance and advice.



World renowned inventor of Mind Mapping visits Scoil Uí Mhuirí

Students and Staff at Scoil Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer were delighted to welcome the world renowned inventor of Mind Mapping, Tony Buzan to the school on Friday 25 September. Tony who is an expert on mindmapping, the brain, memory, speed reading, creativity and innovation facilitated a very interesting and stimulating workshop for all 3rd Year students at the school.

Tony has been named as one of the world's top 5 speakers by Forbes magazine and through over 40 years of research into the workings of the brain, Tony Buzan is dedicating his life to developing and refining techniques to help individuals think better and more creatively, and reach their full potential. He has awakened the brains of millions worldwide. Described as "one of the most influential leaders in the field of thinking creatively", Tony utilises his accredited training courses to build a network of highly specialised experts in creative thinking, memory and speed reading techniques.

Mindmapping has huge benefits for students and indeed has helped many students change the way they make notes, improve their memory and prioritise information. Mindmaps can help students improve their study skills quickly and easily. The mindmapping workshop at Scoil Uí Mhuirí provided the perfect launch for the school's annual Study Skills Week which took place from Monday 28th September – Friday 2nd October 2015 inclusive.



LMETB Student Art Competition launched in Scoil Uí Mhuirí

LMETB chose Scoil Uí Mhuirí as the location to launch their new Art competition. The competition is open to all LMETB schools in Louth and Meath and the purpose of the competition is to enable LMETB students to display their artistic creativity and talent.

The idea for this competition came from Declan Clarke, HSCLO, SuM, Deirdre Harrington, Art teacher SuM and Paul Mc Cann, Art teacher in O' Carolan College, Nobber. The committee are delighted to announce that they have secured the services of internationally renowned artist Robert Ballagh to judge the entries.



The prizes include an iPad for the winner of the Junior and Senior categories and hampers of art supplies which have been kindly donated by Cregal Art Supplies Ltd. There is no set theme and entries will be judged on their creativity and artistic proficiency.

It is intended that the winning entries and those selected for special merit will be exhibited in local Art Centres early in the New Year. Best of luck to all those students from Scoil Uí Mhuirí who have entered the competition!

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Leaving Certificate High Achievers honoured at LMETB Awards Ceremony in Navan

Friday 11th September 2015 was a special evening for three students from Scoil Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer who received awards for outstanding performance in the Leaving Certificate Examinations 2015. With a student population of over 650 students Ms. Kindlon, Principal stated that the collective results of all students were excellent but Friday 11th provided an opportunity to award the highest male achiever, Michael O' Hare, the highest female achiever, Niamh Murray and the LCA student of the Year, Anne Marie Woods.



Ms. Kindlon explained that during their time in the school, these students were exemplary students who were enthusiastic, talented, focused and committed and who consistently worked to a very high standard. They excelled in academic and non academic areas both within and outside school. They brought enthusiasm to all aspects of Scoil Uí Mhuirí life and they were always willing to help in whatever way they could. Their teachers considered them to be excellent students who were a pleasure to have in the classroom. They were well respected among management, staff and students at Scoil Uí Mhuirí and at all times were found to be caring, courteous, co-operative, reliable and helpful young people.



Ms. Kindlon congratulated the students on their achievements to date and wished them well in the future as they head off to college. Michael O' Hare has taken up a place in DCU to study International Business, Anne Marie Woods commences her training in DIFE around Antique Furniture restoration and Niamh Murray has commenced her Teaching Degree in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin.

Ms. Kindlon also paid tribute to the students' teachers for their efforts in ensuring that Scoil Uí Mhuirí's students avail of high quality teaching and learning thus enabling them to progress their career when they complete their Leaving Certificate.

Congrats to all, a very proud moment for the students, their families, their teachers and the wider Scoil Uí Mhuirí community.

Scoil Uí Mhuirí Website

For regular updates and the latest news please log on to our Scoil Uí Mhuirí website:
www.scoilumhuiri.ie