

# St. Aloysius' Secondary School

## Sharman Crawford St, Cork



### WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL: MS. RICHEL LONG

Welcome to the Transition Year newsletter from St. Aloysius Secondary School 2015-2016. Our Transition Year newsletter is now in its 2nd year and once again we have had a wonderfully successful publication produced by Ms. Aileen O' Callaghan and the TY students.

In this newsletter we will remember and celebrate all of the achievements both personal and academic made by the TY group throughout the past year. Here in St. Aloysius we aim to provide a challenging, varied, fun-filled and adventure packed transition year programme that allows its participants to develop the skills needed to progress through to the Leaving Certificate and the important decisions that go along with that. During our recent Whole School Evaluation, the inspectors reported their observations of our TY programme as "The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum and includes successful TY programme for students. Students also have the opportunity to get involved in a wide range of extracurricular activities and after-school study possibilities are provided."

As a staff we have worked very hard to create a varied, dynamic and challenging programme for the TY group, a programme that has enabled students to develop lifelong skills which will prepare them for their transition into fifth and sixth year and the challenges that lie ahead in the Leaving Certificate.

It has been an extremely busy year for the Transition Year group culminating with their graduation ceremony on May 11<sup>th</sup> 2016. Thank you to all staff, students and parents for their involvement and support of the Transition year activities in 2015-2016 in what has been a very successful year for the school. We wish our TY students good luck as they move on with the next chapter of their lives now.



### MESSAGE FROM MS. FRANCES O CALLAGHAN – TY COORDINATOR

The Transition Year students of 2016 will be remembered for a long time to come. They were a pleasure to teach and guide as the year unfolded. They are a very diverse group of young ladies, ranging from budding scientists, to talented performers/artist, to gifted writers and natural born leaders. I have yet to experience a group of girls who committed themselves to team effort, which resulted in them gaining the title of All Ireland Champions!

I wish them all the best as they embark on the final stage of their schooling at St. Aloysius, and thank you the parents for the love and dedication you give to your daughters, they are a credit to you.

Frances O Callaghan

TY Coordinator

## PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS



On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2015, TY students set off for a day at the Ploughing Championships, held in Ratheniska, Co. Laois. The girls had an action packed day out, where they shopped, engaged in agricultural activities and events, and even got to participate in a wellie throwing competition! Some of the students and their teachers were featured on RTE's coverage of the events at the Ploughing Championships that night. The girls thoroughly enjoyed this outing, and agreed that it was a great bonding experience to have at the beginning of Transition Year.

## ENTERPRISE EDUCATION



As part of the Enterprise Education module, each class set up and ran a mini company. In December mini companies from both classes participated in the Cork City Trade Fair in Merchants Quay. They had the opportunity to sell their products to the public and to see the ideas other schools came up with. One of our students, Laura O Sullivan, Managing Director of CoCo Cosmetics took an active role in promoting this event, being interviewed on U.C.C. Campus Radio, as well as on Corks own 96F.M. She did a fantastic job and received very positive feedback from the PR Company involved. Wardrobe Wizards were delighted to be chosen as one of the top three companies on the day and went on to participate in the Regional Final of the Company Competition in March. They did us proud publishing an excellent report and preparing an impressive PowerPoint presentation. Well done to all involved.



## LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT....ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONS!



TY students took part in the All Ireland 15 minute Light Entertainment Festival, which took place in The Briery Gap Cultural Centre, Macroom on the 26<sup>th</sup> February, and were well-deserved winners! TY students first competed against 7 schools in early February, where they were successful in reaching the All Ireland Finals. On the qualifying day, the students entertained the audience with “All that Jazz” from the musical “Chicago”, a light comedy sketch, an S Club 7 dance, an Irish song, Mo Ghile Mear, and a modern dance to popular song “Shut Up and Dance”.

Students were well prepared and confident for their performance on stage at the All Irelands. TY students were ably accompanied by Lauren O’Hora (5<sup>th</sup> year) playing tin whistle, Diamond Nzekwe (1<sup>st</sup> year) playing trumpet, and two second year students Niamh Courtney and Faye O Donoghue, who did a fantastic job on sound and lights. Students once again performed “All That Jazz”, as well as a spectacular rendition of “Cell Block Tango” from Chicago. Sinead O’Sullivan and Karena Walsh danced a lively Irish slip jig, which certainly impressed both the audience and the judges. Students sang Mo Ghile Mear, and finished up with their dance to “Shut up and dance”.

In addition to winning the Donal Buckley Perpetual Trophy, students were also successful in winning the “Best Costume” prize on the night. A big thanks to Karena Walsh and the Joan Denise Moriarty School of Dance for their support in providing the wonderful costumes.

## DEERPARK DRAMAFEST

Seven of our Transition Year girls were chosen to take part with Deerpark School in the hosting of their annual Dramafest. Aoife O Sullivan, Laura O Sullivan, Amy Larkin, Salome Gverdcitely, Hannah Schroder, Jade Seymour, and Breanne Mellerick were selected from auditions involving several schools. The girls had been rehearsing from the beginning of the academic year and we congratulate them on all their hard work. On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of March, all TYs visited the Dramafest to support their classmates.



On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of March a TY group of girls and a second year student entered the Deerpark Dramafest Competition. Laura O Sullivan, Aoife O Sullivan, Jess O Mahony, Caoibhne McSweeney, Salome Gverdcitely, Nicola Power and Emma O Donnell performed an original script, “Out”, written by Laura O Sullivan. The girls won the Best Social Drama award and the Original Script award.

## TRIP TO KENMARE

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, twenty-four TY students travelled to Kenmare, Co. Kerry, where they took part in outdoor activities for two days. The activities included kayaking, mountain biking, paint balling, archery, orienteering and mini golf. Their two teachers Ms. M Judge, and Ms. H Lynch accompanied students for the trip away.

On arrival on Monday morning, students began with a competitive game of mini golf, followed by paint balling. Students were out on the lake for the afternoon, where they got to go on a banana boat, a trampoline, and a cruise!

Day two saw students playing archery, as well as taking part in mountain biking. In the afternoon students went kayaking for two hours, which they thoroughly enjoyed. That night, students got the opportunity to go night orienteering, accompanied by their instructors.

Students spent an hour or two strolling around Kenmare town on Wednesday morning, before wearily heading back for Cork city in the afternoon.



## BT YOUNG SCIENTIST

In October, with the help of Physics teacher Ms. S. O'Donovan, Emma O'Donnell and Caoibhne McSweeney qualified for the BT Young Scientist competition. For the next four months the girls worked diligently on their project. The project was a comparative study of UV light and blue light on microorganism development.

Final preparations involved attending school during the holiday period before setting off for the R.D.S. in Dublin, accompanied by their teacher Ms. O'Donovan. Here, they competed from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of January – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of January. During this experience, the girls were fortunate enough to be introduced to dignitaries including President Michael D. Higgins, TD Jerry Buttimer, and rugby sportstar Brian O'Driscoll. During the four days, the two students enjoyed viewing projects and investigations, all of a high standard. This was a unique experience to have at secondary level, and the girls' work was most definitely rewarded as they won a display award for their stand.

Emma and Caoibhne's fellow students in TY travelled to Dublin to support the girls in the competition on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January. It was an enjoyable, educational trip away for all involved.

