

# News Archives - 2006 / 2007

## Monday, 18 December 2006

### ENGLISH: LEAVING CERT. STUDENTS ATTEND A PERFORMANCE

#### Review of "How Many Miles to Babylon." Aislinn O'Byrne and Katie McCann report:

On Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, the sixth year students attended a performance of "*How Many Miles to Babylon*" at the Helix in Dublin. The performance lasted just over two hours and dealt thoroughly with the text of Jennifer Johnston's book.

The play is centred around Alec, a wealthy young man living in 1914 rural Ireland with his unloving parents who disapprove of his friendship with Jerry, a local Irish boy. With the outbreak of World War I and family tension, Alec decides to enlist in the army along with his only friend, Jerry. They soon discover that things are no different in the army and that social class still dictates their friendship.

The story of the play was carried out through a series of flashbacks and narrations by the main character Alec. The characters were introduced cleverly through use of the set. Music and lighting helped to create an effective atmosphere throughout.

Strong performances were given by all, in particular by the actors playing the roles of Sergeant Glendinning and Alec's parents, Frederick and Alicia.

All in all, it was a good performance of a difficult text with adaptation to stage done very well. Well worth the trip!

#### DRUGS TALK: Laura Finnerty and Eithne O'Connor report:

On 9<sup>th</sup> November, a group of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students gathered to listen to the wise words of Tony O'Carroll, teenage counsellor. The subject for discussion was the controversial use of drugs and alcohol among teens. His approach to the topic was fresh and unquestionable. All students felt it was a valuable learning experience and one which we can bring with us through our college years and beyond. Tony was assisted by a courageous young woman, a former addict whose story further enforced the important message. All were left with a clearer understanding of the contentious issue.

#### SPORT: Mr. Gannon reports on Basketball and Rugby Trip:

Basketball: Congratulations to the U-19 girls who won the U-19 South Eastern Region Final on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December last in Waterford against New Ross Vocational School on a final score of 32 points to 12. The final score did not reflect the intensity and tightness of the game. This group of Transition Year students have now gone through the year undefeated with wins over Presentation, Wexford, Stella Maris, Tramore and Colaiste Pobal Osraí in Kilkenny along with New Ross Vocational School.

The final was a tight affair with Loreto steaming to a 10-0 lead in the first quarter with some excellent scores by Emer O'Gorman and Katrina Sinnott. The second quarter was another tight

affair as Loreto struggled to break down a tight zone defence. Some excellent moves resulted in scores for Liz Lacey and Victoria O'Malley Moore, leaving the score at half time 20 – 2. Loreto got off to a blistering start in the second half with two excellent scores by Lynn Bradley. This was added to by Aoife Walshe who was a constant threat. Finally, the excellent Fenagh Davey intercepted a pass and ran the length of the court to score one of the baskets of the year. The final quarter was a tight affair with New Ross finally finding their shooting boots. However, it was Loreto who had the final say with a basket from Liz Lacey.

After the game, Emer O'Gorman was presented with the cup and heaped praise on New Ross for a great game and on her colleagues for their commitment throughout the season. This team will, hopefully, progress and perform in the Senior C division next year.

Team members: Emer O'Gorman (capt.), Victoria O'Malley Moore (V. capt.), Aoife Walshe, Liz Lacey, Katrina Sinnott, Lynn Bradley, Fenagh Davey, Ciara Wilson, Kiara Walsh, Sarah Nolan, Maria Healy, Karen Meyler, Aoife Morrissey, Sue Atkinson.

### **Rugby Trip:**

On Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, a group of 40 TY students went to watch the Leinster V. Agen Heineken Cup match in Lansdowne Road. This trip was the first time many of the students had been to a rugby match in Lansdowne Road and this was the last Heineken Cup game there before the stadium closes for renovations. An enjoyable day was had by all and all witnessed a marvellous hat trick of tries by Brian O'Driscoll.

## **Monday, 4 December 2006**

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:**

#### **Jennifer McGuire 1.3 writes:**

We would like to thank all the girls who put in their time and effort into making the Christmas shoeboxes. The girls gathered up all sorts of toys, clothes, sweets and greeting cards and put them in a simple shoebox wrapped in Christmas paper.

This shoebox wouldn't mean a lot to us, but it will bring a small piece of happiness to those who live in poverty at this Christmas season in eastern Europe, Africa and Nepal.

Many girls took part but most of all, we would like to thank the First Years. Over all, the students brought in 134 shoeboxes. Thank you to Mrs. Ann Marie Murphy, mother of Carol (1.3) who kindly offered to transport the shoeboxes to the local headquarters.

Everyone who took part helped to give hope, happiness and a smile to those who need it most of all. It's all in the power of a gift!!

Thank you to Ms. Sills who co-ordinated the Shoebox Appeal.

### **TRANSITION YEAR DEBATING:**

#### **Ms. Jordan writes:**

Well done to Grainne Regan, Roisin Furlong, Amy Hayes and Sara Freeman who debated against St. Peter's College on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November in Round One of the National Concern Debates Competition. It was a very close contest but, unfortunately, two out of three adjudicators favoured St. Peter's. The next debate will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> December in Loreto against Enniscorthy Vocational School. The motion will be "The Bebo Generation cares little for the developing world." Loreto will be proposing the motion. Best of luck girls!

### **TRÁTH NA gCEIST :**

**Ms. Bolger writes:**

Ghlac dhá fhoireann páirt sa chomórtas: le "Feachtas" sa C.B.S.

1. Aisling Hearne, Ciara Gavin, Sadbh Tennant, Tara Kearney.
2. Lynn Murphy, Mairead Bardon, Maebh O'Connor, Jenny O'Keeffe.

Bhain siad go léir sult is taitneamh as.

**IRISH SCIENCE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION: Ms. O'Gorman reports on Science Quiz:**

Two teams competed in the Regional Final of the I.S.T.A. Science Quiz. One team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and the other finished 5<sup>th</sup>. The members of the team which finished 2<sup>nd</sup> are: Ailbhe Fitzpatrick, Maebh Horan and Natasha O'Malley Moore. The members of the team which finished 5<sup>th</sup> are: Fiona Rochford, Kate Tyrell and Bridget English. Congratulations to both teams on doing so well.

**BASKETBALL:**

**Ms. O'Gorman reports:**

The U-16A and U-19A Basketball Leagues have reached the knockout stages. The U-16 team were unlucky not to reach the semi-finals but well done to the girls for putting in a great effort.

The U-19 team won four out of their five pool games and have qualified for the South-East Shield semi-final. On the way to the semi-final, they defeated Colaiste Brid, Enniscorthy, Presentation, Wexford and Bridgetown V.C. In their final pool game they lost to Ramsgrange who were undefeated to date. The girls play Our Lady of Lourdes, Rosbercon in what should be a thrilling semi-final.

**HOCKEY:**

**Ms. Gahan writes:**

Well done to Eanna Horan and Zoe Codd who have been given trials for the Irish U-16 hockey team as a result of their performance in the Interprovincial Tournament in Belfast last weekend.

**BASKETBALL:**

**Mr. Gannon reports:**

The U-19 D team had two excellent wins in the last week. On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, they defeated Tramore 29 – 4 in Tramore. This was followed on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> with a 56 – 6 win over Colaiste Pobal Osraí in Kilkenny. This team will now play New Ross Vocational School on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December in Waterford in the South East Regional Final. If they succeed in winning this trophy, it will be remarkable considering all pupils are in Transition Year and play in a competition against teams that are up to two years older than they are.

The panel of players: Emer O'Gorman, Katrina Sinnott, Feenagh Davey, Elizabeth Lacey, Aoife Walshe, Ciara Wilson, Kiara Walsh, Sue Atkinson, Lynn Bradley, Sarah Nolan, Maria Healy, Victoria O'Malley Moore, Kara Meyler, Aoife Morrissey.

## **Tuesday, 21 November 2006**

**CELEBRATING NATIONAL MATHS WEEK IN LORETO, WEXFORD:**

**Ms. Storey writes:**

The week beginning the 16<sup>th</sup> October was Ireland's first National Maths Week. It will be held annually around this date which is the date on which William Rowan Hamilton, Ireland's most famous mathematician, discovered quaternions and scratched his formulae on Brougham Bridge over the Royal Canal in Dublin.

In Loreto Wexford we had three events to mark the week: a lecture, a puzzle corner and a quiz.

A lecture given by Michael Brennan in WIT on the mathematics involved in "Conkers, darts, trains and carts" was attended by 4<sup>th</sup> Years.

The notice board outside the Art Room in Teach Mhuire was designated the "maths puzzle corner" for the week. A list of puzzles was posted there and prizes were awarded to the first and best answers in each year. The winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Yr.: Nicole Fleck, Nicola Ryan, ;Runner-up : Louise Barry. 2<sup>nd</sup> Yr.: Ruth Murphy, Helen Wallace; Runners-up: Gemma McGuire, Anna Mealy, Lisa Sarsfield. 5<sup>th</sup> Year: Aoife Fleming, Jessica Ryan, Runner-up: Fiona Scallan. 6<sup>th</sup> Yr. Ciara Morris.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Years took part in the Maths Quiz. The highest scorers in each of the five classes were: Rachel Corish, Ciara Daly, Claire Fortune, Lynn O'Neill and Sally Hayes. High scores were also achieved by Aoife Fleming and Laura Ebrill.

Well done to all who took part in the events of the week.

### **MS. DEMPSEY RETURNS TO SHARE HER EXPERIENCE IN MOLDOVA**

A 4<sup>th</sup> Yr. student writes:

Ms. Dempsey came to speak to all 4<sup>th</sup> Year students about her recent visit to Moldova. She helped out in an all-girl orphanage. She showed us footage of the orphanage as it was in the 90's and as it is to-day in 2006. It was good to see how things have changed for the better.

### **JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP:**

#### **Ms. Jordan reports:**

On 27<sup>th</sup> October, the Justice and Peace group held a "No Uniform Day" and successfully raised €1,025. A small sum of this will be going towards registering the school with *Amnesty International* for the duration of the school year. The remaining money will be donated to Concern's *One World Campaign*. This campaign aims to bridge the gap between the First and Third World. With the school's support we are that bit closer to achieving this end. Many thanks to all who contributed.

### **TRANSITION YEAR STUDENTS EXPERIENCE GRAFFITI THEATRE:**

#### **Emma Jeffers reports:**

On Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> October, Graffiti Theatre from Cork came to Loreto to perform their latest play: *CLOSED CIRCUIT* to all TY students. It was an exciting and educational theatre performance that looked at violence, the tragic effects of alcohol and the relationships between family and friends. One TY student's response was: "I enjoyed the play because it kept me interested throughout and I enjoyed taking part in the workshop after the play. I would definitely recommend the play to a friend because the theme is one that is relevant to teenagers."

### **SPORT**

#### **Hockey:**

#### **Ms. Gahan writes:**

Good luck to Maebh Horan, Eanna Horan and Ashling Veale who travel to Dublin on Friday to play for the South East in the Interprovincial Tournament.

**Yoga** classes with Eileen Rowe are starting this term.

### **Basketball:**

#### **Ms. O’Gorman reports:**

U – 19 A Basketball Team have won all their matches to date. Recently they had good wins over St. Mary’s, New Ross: 26 – 14 and Colaiste Brid 27 – 20.

U – 16 A Basketball Team were unlucky to lose to St. Mary’s, New Ross: 19 – 23. They defeated Colaiste Brid 29 – 16.

### **Football:**

#### **Mr. Cummins writes:**

The Under 16 footballers played their first match in the Leinster Championship against Colaiste Bhríde, Enniscorthy on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November. The match was played in horrendous weather conditions at the Shamrocks GAA ground in Enniscorthy.

Loreto won the toss and elected to play with the strong breeze in the first half. The opening minutes were tense with both teams playing the game with fierce intensity. It took five minutes before Loreto full forward Emma Carroll opened the scoring with an expertly taken goal. Enniscorthy responded with two points before Carroll struck again to leave the score 2-0 to 0-2 at the end of the first quarter. Loreto then began to take a stranglehold on the game with Eimear Dunne and Roisin Murphy dominating midfield and Katrina Parrock firing on all cylinders at centre forward. Emer O’Gorman and Lynne Bradley were also combining well along the right side and Loreto began to create a number of scoring opportunities. Katrina Parrock slotted over two great points before Emma Carroll scored two more goals to finish the half with an incredible personal tally of 4 goals. The half time score of 4-2 to 1-3 gave Loreto a cushion that they would never relinquish.

The second half was a much tighter affair with the Enniscorthy girls rallying to the cause with a spirited performance. This meant the Loreto defence was really tested and they passed with flying colours. The full back line of Grainne Waters, Liz Leacy, Ruth Barry and later, Aine Foran played some outstanding football and couldn’t be faulted for any of the Enniscorthy scores. In the half backs: Grace Cardiff, Aoife Morrissey and Clare Donnelly played exceptionally well and on top of this, Caroline Curran pulled off a series of fine saves between the posts.

At the other end, scores came from the reliable boot of Katrina Parrock (1-2) and from the energetic Emer O’Gorman (1-1). Around them, Aoife Sheil, Mary Hayes, Rachel Moran, Eimear Power and Ciara Wright played very well also. In the end, Loreto prevailed on a scoreline of 6 – 5 to 3 – 6.

The girls now play St. Leo’s of Carlow in their next encounter and will need another big performance to overcome a side that are particularly strong at this grade.

## **Monday, 23 October 2006**

### **ENGLISH:**

#### **Eithne O’Connor’s winning poem: *Births, Deaths and Marriages***

*The coughing and spluttering  
That was her one companion  
Came frothing from her mouth,  
Tinged with blood and mucous  
And fell into a silver pail that had seen  
As many loaves of bread made as children sick.*

*The angelus tolled on Radio Eireann  
As she whispered and muttered under her breath  
The words that came as habitually as a child's need for her mother.  
Her broad shoulders that had been used to so much labour  
Heaved with the coughing,  
Her ninety-year-old lungs groaned and wheezed with effort.*

*Visitors came and outstayed their welcome  
As her family served them tea and wiped her brow,  
Mutterers of "she lived a long life" were commonplace.  
But what should it matter if she lived nine or ninety years?  
Was that meant to comfort?*

*The candle of hope burned brightly in the hearts of the young  
While the adults exchanged knowing glances,  
The children took turns in brushing the thin, grey hair  
As she slept, while others sang songs.  
Her skin, so white, was stretched across the bone  
And the nails, worn down with work, like feathers.*

*And the last few words through fits of sleep –  
"Is my tart still in the oven" –  
Weighed heavily upon my heart.*

*The coffin stayed closed, the cakes were eaten  
And the last dregs of tea were drunk.*

*The top of the newspaper page read:  
"Births, Deaths and Marriages"  
(Times New Roman)  
More births than marriages, I thought.  
Ninety years in five short sentences or forty lines.*

*Until one day I said to myself,  
"She did live a long life."  
And the stars did not stop spinning.*

#### **JUNIOR CERT ART DISPLAY:**

##### **Ms. Byrne writes on behalf of Ms. Roche and herself:**

There is a wonderful display of Art Work in the Foyer this week. It was completed by this year's Junior Cert Art students for their Junior Cert examination.

There is a great variety of ideas, from pencil portraits to mixed media paintings of Fantasies, animals and people, some explored through animation. Due to lack of space, only some of the 3D sculpture pieces were displayed.

The exhibition brings so much colour, interest and curiosity, not just to all students but to teachers, parents and visitors to the school.

Well done girls on your results!

#### **SPORTS:**

##### **Junior Camogie - Mr. O'Sullivan reports:**

Loreto, Wexford v Presentation , Kilkenny: Result: Loreto 1 – 03; Presentation: 0 - 03

Our Junior Camogie Team had a hard fought win over Presentation, Kilkenny in Dixsboro GAA Club on Thursday last.

Heavy underfoot conditions ensured this was going to be a dogged affair.

Entering the final ten minutes, the sides were level and the team needed someone to stand up and grab the game by the scruff of the neck.

Up stepped Rachel Creane who rattled the net and ensured victory for Loreto.

Lisa and Linda Bolger, as well as Maria Leacy and Marie Doran were outstanding.

Congratulations to Linda Bolger and Mary Hayes who were voted as vice-captain and captain respectively by their team mates.

### **Basketball**

#### **Ms. O’Gorman reports:**

U – 16 and U – 19 basketball teams began their league campaign against Bridgetown V.C. The U – 16 team lost but hopefully they will improve their performance in future games. Team members: Emma Furlong (capt), Sarah Wade (V. capt.), Sarah Noonan, Lorraine Byrne, Meabh O’Connor, Linda Hogan, Sarah Ryan, Joanne Eviston, Mairead Sutton, Emma Jane Maher.

The U-19 team beat Bridgetown 25 - 23 in a very exciting encounter with the outcome in doubt until the final whistle. Team members: Rachel Kumar (2), Ciara Roche (15), Amy Roche, Rachel Corish, Fiona Scallon (2), Deirdre Kelly (2), Helen Rowe, Mary Sutherland (4), Laura Redmond, Emma Sinnott (v. capt.), Natasha O’Malley-Moore, (capt.).

### **Basketball**

#### **Mr. Gannon reports:**

Transition Year : Senior “D league” Team:

Loreto, Wexford v. Presentation Wexford

Result: Loreto 77 Presentation 8.

Despite the fact that their opponents play in the senior league, Loreto had a comfortable win over Presentation, Wexford on Friday last. The final score of 77 points to 8 was a reflection of the dominance Loreto enjoyed throughout the match. Hopefully, this good form will be continued into their next game versus New Ross Vocational School on Tuesday 24 October at 1.15 p.m.

All pupils are encouraged to come out and support us.

Team : Emer O’Gorman, (Capt.), Victoria O’Malley-Moore, (Vice Capt.), Lynn Bradley, Liz Lacey, Catriona Sinnott, Maria Healy, Ciara Wilson, Aoife Walshe, Fenagh Davey, Sarah Nolan, Karen Meyler. Also Aoife Morrissey, Sue Atkinson, Kiara Walsh.

### **SPORTS DAY - FRIDAY, 6 OCTOBER:**

#### **Ms. Gahan writes:**

Congratulations to the following people who won prizes on Sports Day:

Long Jump: 1<sup>st</sup>: Aoife Shield 2.4; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ciara Morris 6.3; 3<sup>rd</sup> Fiona Brauneison 1.1

Special prize to Amy Hayes 4.3 for the *funniest jump!*

Clothes Line Game: 1<sup>st</sup> Ruth Hannon 1.2; 2<sup>nd</sup> Dearbhla Nimo 1.3

Long Puck: 1<sup>st</sup> Jesse Butler 6.1; 2<sup>nd</sup> Katie Power 6.4.

Suspended Rope Game: Julieann Murphy 2.3; Kate Caulfield 1.1.

Kick or Throw Game: Natasha Quigley 1<sup>st</sup> Yr. and Andrea Rath 1.4.

Tug of War: 1.3 Team

Dodge Ball: 5<sup>th</sup> Yr. students: Sarah Cardiff, Hazel Boxwell, Emma Rowe, Catherine Breen, Deirdre Collins.

## **Monday, 9 October 2006**

### **BEGINNING OF YEAR SCHOOL MASS IN OUR PARISH CHURCH, ROWE ST.**

Our School Mass took place on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> October and was celebrated by Fr. Jim Fegan (School Chaplain). It was a wonderful occasion as all 700 students and staff gathered to ask God's blessing on the school year. Ms. Walton and her newly formed School Choir lifted all hearts with the beautiful singing, accompanied by several instruments. At the end of Mass, prefect badges were presented.

Well done to all involved in the preparation.

### **TRANSITION YEAR NEWS**

#### **Trip to Dublin - Hannah Corboy reports:**

On Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, all TY students went to Dublin to see two performances in the "Fringe Drama Festival". We divided into two groups. I was in the group that went to see the play "The Grandmother" in Andrew's Lane Theatre while the other group went to see "Bear Hug." My group enjoyed "The Grandmother".

It was a heartwarming tale about the love between a grandmother and her grandchild. Thanks to powerful performances from the actors, we saw the change that spending a week with her grandson had on the grandmother and we saw how the frozen heart of this bitter old woman melted before our eyes.

After the play our teachers took us to the National Art Gallery. There we had a guided tour. We saw the work of the Impressionists and the Cubists including a painting by Picasso. Our trip was enjoyable, interesting and educational. Thanks to the teachers who organized it and accompanied us.

#### **Percussion Workshop**

#### **Ciara Hartigan and Catherine Hooper report:**

On Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, the TY students were brought to Wexford Art Centre to participate in a Percussion Workshop which was directed by renowned percussionist – Nicky Bailey. On the stage, Nicky had arranged a variety of drums including congas, bongos, Egyptian and African drums, also cowbells and different types of shakers.

He introduced us to each and all. Within a short time, he had taught us rhythms on all drums, cowbells and shakers. Soon he had us all doing rhythms on all the instruments at the same time. We often changed around to get the feel of all rhythms and instruments. It was great fun



and a learning experience. Thank you to our teachers who arranged it and thank you to Nicky Bailey.

## **SPORT**

### **Mr. O'Sullivan reports on Senior Camogie**

Our senior team had a comprehensive victory in the opening round of the Leinster Championship over Presentation, Kilkenny. Result: Loreto 5 – 15, Presentation, Kilkenny : 2 – 02.

From the throw-in, the girls showed great determination, fantastic teamwork and no end of skill as they brushed aside their Kilkenny rivals.

Our goals came from Katriona Parrock (2), Katie Fitzhenry (1), Anna Thompson (1) and Lisa Bolger (1). Elaine Morrisey and Liz Leacy stood out in defence.

Many thanks to Liam Morrisey for taking charge of the game and James Flood for the use of the pitch.

### **Ms. Gahan reports:**

Training for all sports got off to a good start this year with almost 200 students from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Yr. taking part in our combined FITNESS SESSION at lunch time on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

We hope this will be reflected in success in our various Competitions and also in a "Feel good" factor for those taking part. Girls who are not involved in Competitions sport in the school are equally welcome and encouraged to join and many are doing so already.

The warm weather in September encouraged us outside at lunch time. Now that the days are getting a little colder and wetter the sports coaches hope that all players will continue with the training they have started. It will make a positive difference.

Our EQUESTRIAN TEAMS have been involved in Showjumping and Eventing Competitions and are about to start their Winter League. Good luck to them.

The HOCKEY TEAMS played their first League Match last Wednesday and they are looking forward to the rest of the season.

The SWIMMING TEAMS are preparing for their Loreto Inter-School Gala in November in the National Aquatics Centre in Abbotstown.

### **ENGLISH:**

Congratulations to Eithne O'Connor, 6<sup>th</sup> Year, who won a poetry competition organized by the English Support Service Group. Her poem will be published in the next edition of "Teaching English" Magazine.

## **Friday, 22 September 2006**

### **School retreats**

#### **Emma Kelly, Sara Freeman, Niamh Crosbie and Lisa Bridges report:**

77 TYO students assembled in the Concert Hall for their Retreat on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> September. It was a well earned treat considering the pressure of the wait for the Junior Cert. results the previous day. Our retreat leader, Gerry Keegan, ensured it was a very meaningful and relaxing

day. His impressions of the trials and tribulations of being a teenage girl kept us thoroughly entertained! Gerry showed us how to accept ourselves for who we are and how to make the best of 4<sup>th</sup> Year. It truly was a magical experience and we thank Gerry very much for the wonderful day. Thank you to our R.E. teachers: Ms. O'Donoghue, Ms. Whitty and Mr. Kavanagh for organising the day.

On Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> September, 120 First Year students assembled in the Concert Hall for their retreat with Gerry Keegan. This was a very enjoyable experience for all and a much needed break from their hectic schedules.

### **Ministers of the Eucharist Course**

75 6<sup>th</sup> year students volunteered to do the course which began on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September. We wish them and their facilitator, Sister Carmel O'Brien, an enriching experience.

### **New School Choir**

Congratulations and good luck to Ms. Walton and the members of the new school choir from all the years. Their first public venture will be at the beginning of the year School Mass in early October.

### **Art Department**

Mrs. Byrne and Mrs. Roche are making preparations to display the JC Art practical projects in the Foyer. We all look forward to a display of creative and imaginative work which earned the girls their success in the J.C. Art Exam.

### **Sports**

No news yet but it is 'all systems go' in the preparation and training.

## **Wednesday, 13 September 2006**

Dear parents and guardians,

I write at the start of the 2006/2007 academic year to bring you up to date with a number of important matters relating to our school, as follows:

### **Extension/refurbishment**

There has been major progress on our extension/refurbishment project over the summer. Our outline proposals have been formally accepted by the Building Unit of the Department of Education and Science (DES). We will be submitting detailed drawings to the DES in the form of a Stage 3 report at the end of this month. It is expected that we will then meet the Building Unit in October in the hope of agreeing this report. Should this happen, we will then be applying for planning permission. All going well, it is envisaged that work on this project could start next summer. Sketch drawings of the project are on display in the foyer.

### **Science labs**

Over the summer, both Science labs have been refurbished to current technical and design standards. Additionally, the library is being converted into a third lab in line with the longer term plans for the school. The library has been temporarily re-located to alternative classrooms pending the building of a new library under the extension programme. All of this work will cost €633,000 of which €31,500 must be paid by the school. All three labs are also being fitted with new teaching equipment costing €147,000 of which €16,000 must be funded by the school.

The school is very grateful to the DES for its generous funding of this work under the 2006 Summer Works Scheme.

### **Astroturf pitch**

The school has been granted planning permission to install an Astroturf pitch. The Board of Management is setting up a committee of interested persons to carry out a feasibility study into this project and to report back to the Board by Christmas 2006. Any parents/guardians with a particular interest in helping with this matter are warmly invited to contact me at once.

#### **Voluntary Contribution Scheme**

You will see from the above that the school's contribution to the improvement works in the Science labs amounts to €47,500. It is therefore more important than ever that every family would contribute to this year's Voluntary Contribution Scheme which is set as follows:

€140 for one student

€240 for two students

€270 for three students

I thank those families who have already contributed and call upon those who not yet done so to make their contribution as soon as possible. Every student in the school will benefit from the building improvements that are being made especially when the extension/refurbishment commences. Strong support in this matter will eliminate the need for fund-raising activities which can be very time-consuming and which deflect from the main purpose of a school.

All contributions should be addressed to the School Secretary and will be receipted by post.

### **Attendance**

I ask your help as parents/guardians to ensure that your daughter attends school with a very high degree of regularity. Such attendance is linked closely with improved academic performance.

Absence should only occur in the event of genuine illness, particular family events e.g. communions, weddings etc. or medical appointments. Indeed, every effort should be made to have such appointments outside of school hours.

Students have been asked by me to remember that once a class is missed the material covered by the teacher will not be taught again for the benefit of any absentee.

### **School website**

Your attention is drawn once again to the school's official website – [www.loretowexford.com](http://www.loretowexford.com). This facility has been upgraded over the summer and will be used increasingly by the school to communicate with all families as well as the general public. Please log onto it on a regular basis. I refer you in particular to the Current News and Career Guidance sections.

### **Parents' Council**

The Annual General Meeting of the Parents' Council will be held in the Concert Hall on Tuesday, 3 October 2006 beginning at 8.00 p.m. It is hoped that every family will be represented at this meeting.

### **School Planning Meeting**

Many of the staff will be involved in a School Planning Meeting on the afternoon of Monday, 25 September 2006. Accordingly, classes on this day will finish for all students at 12.50 p.m. With

the exception of those involved in supervised study, students are requested to go home at this time. Supervised study will proceed from 1.50 p.m. to 4.50 p.m.

Please refer to the website for regular updates on matters relating to our school.

Yours faithfully,

Billy O' Shea,  
Principal.

## **Monday, 11 September 2006**

Dear parents/guardians,  
I wish to confirm that the 2006 Junior Certificate results will be issued on Wednesday, 13 September.

Accordingly, there will be no classes for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year students on this day. Results will be available from Reception at 10.00 a.m.

I am happy to sanction a free day for these students in recognition of their fine achievement in securing their Junior Certificate.

I ask all students to enjoy the day in a responsible manner and to report for school as normal on Thursday morning.

Billy O' Shea,  
Principal.