

Douglas Community School

Douglas, Cork

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Summer 2012



SILVER FOR DCS AT NATIONAL FIRST YEAR MATHS COMPETITION

Pictured with his maths teacher Ms. D. Burkley is Krzysztof Wroblewski, First Year student at DCS, who came a very impressive Second Place at the **IMTA First Year Maths Competition**.

Out of 5,000 students nationwide who took part in the first round of the competition, 500 were invited to take part in the final, held simultaneously in twelve centres around the country. Three of our own DCS First Year students who are all involved in the highly successful DCS Maths Circle, qualified for the final – Sean Barber, Sean Grace, and Krzysztof. On the day, students had to attempt 25 problem-solving questions over the course of an hour. Sean Grace scored a very respectable 100 out of a possible 150 marks, while Sean Barber managed 133, to leave him on fourth place, just outside of the medals. Krzysztof was the best placed of the DCS students – answering 24 of the 25 questions correctly, he scored 144 out of 150, missing out on First Place by the narrowest of margins. Well done to the students on such results in such a keenly contested competition.



DCS STUDENT SCORES HIGHEST MARKS IN IRELAND IN L.C. CHEMISTRY

First in class: Shane O'Sullivan

Douglas Community School extends its warmest congratulations to Shane O'Sullivan who sat his Leaving Certificate Examinations last year. Shane scored an extremely impressive double: he was awarded the *Institute of Chemistry of Ireland Medal* for attaining the highest marks in the country in Chemistry, and he was also awarded an *Entrance Bursary to Trinity College Dublin*.

6272 students sat the Higher Level Chemistry paper in June 2011 – Shane scored the highest mark in the country, an accolade he shares with just one other student. Shane's First Place in Chemistry is a testament to his application to, and flair for, the sciences. It is also a testament to the exceptionally high level of science teaching in the school, which is helped by ever more well-equipped laboratories and specialist teachers in each subject.

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

It has been a very busy and rewarding year for all at Douglas Community School. Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate students have commenced their practical and oral examinations and final preparations are underway for the main exams which commence in a couple of weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of our students the best of luck in their endeavours.

I would like to congratulate the class of 2011 on the fantastic results which they achieved at both Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate. I would particularly like to mention Shane O'Sullivan and Cian Mangan. Shane achieved 1st place in Ireland in Leaving Certificate Chemistry and was awarded an Entrance Scholar award to Trinity College Dublin. Cian achieved a remarkable Leaving Certificate and was also awarded a Scholar award to University College Dublin. Douglas Community School is very proud of these achievements and of all the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate students of 2011.

While academic success is very important in the life of the school, it is not the only barometer by which we measure success. The wide ranging choice of extra-curricular activities available to our students and the successes achieved are outlined in this newsletter.

My congratulations go out to all the students involved and also the members of staff who give so generously of their time to help the boys achieve their all-round potential. I would also like to thank all parents for their support not only to the boys but also to the school in general through the year.

Jim Long, Principal



ADI ROCHE VISITS DCS TO HIGHLIGHT NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING WEEK

Pictured with Principal Mr. Jim Long, Mr. O. Casey and some Transition Year students is Ms. Adi Roche of the Chernobyl Children International Charity. Ms. Roche delivered a presentation on the invaluable work of the charity in helping the people of Chernobyl. Students were informed of the various projects supported by the charity for over twenty years since the disaster in 1986, since its establishment in 1991 the charity has raised over €91million.



DCS Science

HOMWORK CLUB AND HOLIDAY SUPERVISED STUDY AT DCS

This year Douglas Community School Third Year and Sixth Year exam students were able to avail of week-long supervised study sessions held within the school over the mid-term breaks and Easter holidays. Students attended during normal school hours and were assisted in getting down to some serious study in a structured and focussed atmosphere with the compilation of individual study plans. The sessions were a big success with many students feeling that they emerged very much better prepared and focussed on their forthcoming exams.

Earlier in the year a Homework Club was established within the school to specifically help First Years in adapting to second level study. Organised on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays students were offered the opportunity to avail of this service immediately after classes finished with volunteer teachers giving advice and guidance on homework application and organisation.

DCS COMPETES IN FORMULA ONE TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE



2012 saw Douglas Community School compete in the **Formula One Technology Challenge**, for the first time. F1 in schools, as it is known, is a global

multi-disciplinary competition that challenges secondary school students to design, build and race miniature compressed-air powered balsa wood Formula One cars. The competition inspires students to use IT to learn about physics, aerodynamics, design, manufacture, branding, graphics, sponsorship, marketing, leadership, teamwork, media skills and financial strategy, and apply them in a practical, imaginative, competitive and exciting way.

Our team consisted of Conor Powell, Alnis Balchaites and Edvard Calyj. Their aerodynamic design used "defusers" to help reduce drag. Their design paid off, with the car winning all its races, except against the eventual winners on the day. We are already designing for next year's challenge. Mr. G. McNamara



School Tour

Dept. of Education and Science Inspector's Report: Douglas Community School

"Students were courteous and respectful of their fellow classmates and of their teachers in all lessons. An atmosphere of mutual respect and commitment to learning was clearly evident.....These were very effective and successful lessons."



Pictured are some of the DCS students who travelled to Madrid this year on DCS's ever popular annual school tour. Recent tours have including skiing trips to Slovakia and trips to Italy.



Basketball in DCS is going from strength to strength with unbelievable commitment from all players of all ages. The U16 and U19 teams this year trained two mornings a week from 7 to 8.30am while the 1st and 2nd yr. teams started training early under the supervision of Ms Allen with the help of Kiran Chopra, Sean Keating and Nierjius Saltones.

The U19 team started the season well with an undefeated run in League and Cup beating such teams as the North Mon AG, Colaiste Choilm, Presentation College and Rathangan Secondary School. In the semi-final of the All Ireland Cup against Pres. Bray, DCS were to narrowly lose despite every player giving it their all and the game going to two extra times.

Sadly this was to be the last game Erbie Underwood would play for the school, as shortly before we were to head to the All-Ireland Quarter finals Erbie passed away and left a massive void in his team.

The U16 team had a formidable season reaching the Cork league final, the All Ireland League and Cup final. Unfortunately we were unable to bring home the silver wear but the team did themselves and the school proud, losing the All Ireland League final by a single point. The year ended with Liam Harris and Jack O' Mahony making the Irish U15 team.

Congratulations to All DCS basketball players for an outstanding year and we look forward to bringing home the Silverware next year!!! Ms. R. O' Callaghan

FRENCH BREAKFAST - LE PETIT DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS

Once again students and staff were tempted by the delights of some French Cuisine at the now annual French Breakfast held at the school recently. Key phrases were taught at the beginning of the morning and the students then practised their language skills throughout the morning as French became the language of the day. C'était délicieux et bravo à tous!



Pictured are the teachers of the French department Mrs C. O' Mahony, Ms. C. Moylan, Mrs A. Goulding and Ms. K. Daly.

YOUNG AT HEART GROUP AND DCS STUDENTS ENJOY LIFELONG LEARNING QUIZ

To celebrate Lifelong Learning week a quiz was recently organised by DCS Transition Year students, held in the school's library. The students came together with the Douglas based Young at Heart Group to enjoy a morning jam packed with challenging questions and spot prizes. It was a great experience to witness young and old minds working together as a team. The perpetual trophy was sponsored by Douglas Credit Union, and this year's winning team were David Antis (DCS), Dan Gorman (Community Garda), Bill Rohan and Mary O' Callaghan. The winning team are pictured with the Lord Mayor Cllr. Terry Shannon and the Lady Mayoress.



Dept. of Education and Science Inspector's Report: Douglas Community School

"The standard of individual planning for lessons is commended in all subjects. The preparation of worksheets, handouts, visual presentations using ICT and other teaching materials helped enhance the quality of the lessons and had a positive impact on student's learning."



Douglas Community School



FIRST YEAR ENDEAVOUR AWARD: LUKE LEWIS



JUNIOR GRADAM RECIPIENT: JONATHAN O'CONNELL



SENIOR GRADAM RECIPIENT



BEST LEAVING CERTIFICATE 2011: JOINT WINNER SHANE O'SULLIVAN



DRAMA: JORDAN SMITH



F1 RACING:

The annual Douglas Community School Gradam na Scoile for the academic year 2011/12 were presented on Friday evening, the 18th of May. Keynote speaker and prizegiver Mr Simon Coveney T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine was welcomed by Mr Jim Long, Principal of Douglas Community School.

The awards recognise the excellence, achievement and endeavour of the students of DCS in many diverse spheres of school life. Outstanding academic success and extra-curricular activities in a broad range of talents, abilities and achievements were recognised. Awards were presented in such diverse disciplines as Young Scientist, Cricket, Athletics, Robotics, Gaelic Football, Log On, Learn and Rugby to name but a few.

Prizegiver Minister Coveney commended the students on the outstanding success they have enjoyed and Mr Coveney also commended the staff of Douglas Community School who volunteer considerable amounts of time and effort enabling students to pursue their interests.



CHESS: SHANE O'SULLIVAN



GOLF: RO

Dept. of Education and Science Inspector's Report: Douglas Community School

"It is to be commended that all students are encouraged to take higher level courses for the certificate examinations."



Gradam Na Scoile 2012



PIENT: MARTIN O'LEARY



BEST JUNIOR CERTIFICATE 2011: BRIAN CREAGH



BEST LEAVING CERTIFICATE 2011: JOINT WINNER
CIAN MANGAN



CONOR POWELL



LEGO ROBOTICS: PAWEL KULICKI



MATHS CIRCLES: PATRYK HADJUL



ROBERT COUGHLAN



RUGBY: TIM NOETZEL



SOCCER: SENIOR – BUSTER KENYON

Dept. of Education and Science Inspector's Report: Douglas Community School

"Teachers havecreated rich, colourful and stimulating learning environments...Subjects are very well resourced."



DCS SOCCER

The first year soccer squad have had a memorable first year in school soccer, eventually unluckily losing out on penalties to Mercy Mounthawk Tralee in the quarter final stage of the Munster Cup.

In the Cork County Cup the team has done brilliantly to reach the final, a 7-3 victory away to Ballincollig Community School a particular highlight.

Victories over Pres and Carrigaline saw the DCS under 14 team through to the quarter finals, where they travelled to Tipperary to play Carrig CS. The DCS team came from a goal down to force extra time. A tense penalty shootout was to follow and despite some heroic efforts DCS were to lose out on this occasion.

Following victory over Ballincollig CS and a thrilling penalty shootout victory over Knocknaheeny, the DCS under 17 team are through to the semi-finals of the County Cup.

The DCS senior team were again unfortunate to lose out to the eventual champions in their quest to lift the All-Ireland trophy. Nevertheless the lads can be proud of their efforts in this competition with some fine victories over Spioraid Naoimh and Crescent Community College Limerick. Cork City u19 duo Eoghan Murphy and Rob Lehane were their usual brilliant selves, both lads have had exceptional years again winning the league with Cork City u19 and Rob going on to represent Ireland in the Centenary Shield (pictured 2nd from left, front row). For many of this squad this was their last year but two Munster medals and the 4-4 draw with Ipswich will not be forgotten!

Mr. K. Ronayne



DCS STUDENTS SUCCESSFUL IN IRISH LANGUAGE GAEL TACA QUIZ

Pictured are DCS students Conor Fahy, Niall McCarthy, Paul Creagh and Fionn Bracken who recently competed entirely "as Gaeilge" at



a quiz night held recently at the Rochestown Park Hotel. Showing admirable linguistic skills in a highly competitive contest the students challenged throughout the night, eventually finishing in a very creditable 7th place in a field of 30 other schools. The event was organised by Gael Taca, a group which promotes the use of the Irish language in the community. The competition tests students through the Irish language in areas ranging from politics, general knowledge and geography. Comhghairdeas le gach éinne a ghlac páirt ann!



DCS Entrepreneurs

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING AWARD FOR DCS STUDENT

Brendan O'Brien of Transition Year did brilliantly to take 3rd place in the Munster Programming Competition held recently at UCC. Brendan has been attending the programming course each Saturday morning since September last year. He has successfully completed programming sections such as Java, C++ and web design. He was selected from a field of over 100 pupils in recognition of his proven all round ability in coding and writing of original programs. Graduates from this program regularly go on to study at high honours degree level at UCC. Great credit is due to Brendan for showing his commitment and skill in excelling in such a demanding program. Mr. N. Bronks



DCS PANTO: CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Ever since starring in her primary school's production of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", Ms. Moriarty couldn't wait to restage the Roald Dahl classic. However, this version would have a very DCS twist, with Charlie's grandpa changed to a pantomime Dame and the role of Slugworth extended into a typical panto villain.

Now in its ninth year, the DCS school show has become an integral part of the fourth year programme. Staged at Christmas, the school show runs for three matinee performances (with local primary schools invited to attend) and three night time shows. In all, roughly three hundred people attend each performance.

Just for the fourth years, a couple of memories that only they can fully appreciate:

Murty! Charlie White saying "Is it stuffed?" "He do, he do!" Gino's suit. Adam Dalton dressed as a woman. "Willy, what's with the cow?" Alan Ring 110% bud. Irene. "Apache pizza happy days". Dylan Black got us Dinos! "Surprise!" Everything Slugworth said: "It's because I'm GINGER!" "You're a CROOK!" Michael McLaughlin ruined the matinee - "My mother was a flower". Why did Mason use crutches not a wheel chair? Eric O'Neil during the fitness test. Dylan Walsh shouting "What is your profession?" Marco's scrumbiblyumptious bar...

Well done to everyone one involved

Mr. A. Wolfe



TROCAIRE PAMOJA PROJECT AT DCS

DCS students Daniel Savage, Alan Buckley, Eoin McCarthy, Charlie White, Brian Creagh and Gavin Foley report on their efforts over the past months to highlight the importance of the work of the Trocaire organisation in Uganda. "Trocaire are aiming to raise awareness of the effects of Joseph Kony and groups like the L.R.A. and the Ugandan Civil War. Many Ugandans have been forced to flee northern Uganda to southern Sudan, fleeing the L.R.A. and Kony's bloody "Ten Commandments" policy. We invited Trocaire workers David and Una to the school to speak to First, Second and Fourth year students. The workers spoke on how aid from Trocaire is helping refugees, schoolchildren and farmers. David spoke about his work with the Facilitation for Peace and Development (F.A.P.A.D.) and explained how vital the aid is to people. The aid workers answered questions from the students and thanked them for supporting the relief efforts. We all really enjoyed working on the project and found it really worthwhile experience."



DCS ATHLETES WIN SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE TITLE TO EQUAL NORTH MON ATHLETICS RECORD... AND REPRESENT IRELAND IN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS!!

It has been a hugely successful few weeks for the Douglas Community School athletes on the competition front. At the IAAF Antrim International Cross-Country event the u17 team won the team event with a super display of running. At the South Munster Schools Cross-Country Championships the school retained the best overall school cup for a record eighth consecutive year, a superb achievement. The Intermediate team came first with the senior team winning the senior team title for the seventh consecutive year and in the process equalling the great North Mon's record of consecutive senior titles. The performances on the day were all dedicated to DCS student and close friend of the team, Erbie Underwood,



who recently passed away. There was a minute's silence before the start of the senior race and the team wore black arm bands in his honour. This season also saw DCS represent Ireland again at the World Schools Cross Country Championships held in Malta recently. The team were to finish a highly commendable 12th place overall. This feat was achieved despite the fact that a number of the team unfortunately fell ill in the days before the competition. Such commitment and competitiveness has become the cornerstone of DCS athletics teams, teams which have enjoyed unrivalled success on both the national and international stage.

Dept. of Education and Science Inspector's Report: Douglas Community School

"Individual planning for lessons was of a high standard. All lessons observed were effectively planned and many included the use of worksheets, visual presentations using the digital data projector, ordnance survey (OS) map sheets and rock samples. In all cases these planned materials enhanced both quality of the lesson and the students' learning. This level of preparation by teachers is to be highly commended."

HISTORY BROUGHT TO LIFE: ROMANS VISIT DCS !!

Pictured recently are DCS students interacting with a Roman re-enactment group on a recent visit to the school. Students were given a presentation on all aspects of Roman life in this hands on exciting experience.



DCS LINGUISTICS TEAM COMPETE AT DCU IN ALL IRELAND OLYMPIAD



Four students from Douglas Community School took part in the **All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad** Final in DCU on Tuesday 20th March. The DCS team qualified for the final by scoring in the top hundred in the country in the first round.

At DCU challenging papers were set for both individual and team competition during the day. Brendan O' Brien was to finish in seventh place overall, narrowly missing out on a place on the Irish national team which travels to Slovenia to compete in the International Linguistics Olympiad during the summer. The remainder of the DCS team, Stephen O 'Sullivan, Daragh Fleming and Eoin Burke each received commendations on the quality of their performances. Congratulations to all on their superb performances in such a demanding challenge!!

Mr. C. O' Conaill

DCS STUDENTS INVITED TO THE HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

Pictured with Ciarán Lynch T.D. and teachers Ms. M. Thomason and Mr. C O' Cuanachain are DCS students who were invited to attend the Dail recently in recognition of Seachtain na Gaeilge. DCS was one of only four schools nationwide who were invited to the Dail, furthermore DCS was the only school which was not a dedicated gaelscoil, highlighting the highest standards achieved by the students. Comhghairdeas le gach éinne arís.



DCS Rugby

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The full content of the Inspection Reports can be accessed via the inspectorate link on the Department of Education and Science website:

www.education.ie

Dept. of Education and Science Inspector's Report: Douglas Community School

"It is evident that members of staff are a professional and dedicated group of people, who show care and concern for their students....Many members of staff have furthered their professional development through a variety of post graduate and in service courses."