

Douglas Community School

Douglas, Cork

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Summer 2010

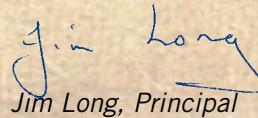
PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

The last couple of months have been busy and rewarding for the pupils of Douglas Community School. Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate students have commenced their oral and practical exams and continue to prepare for the main examinations which commence on June 9th. I would like to take this opportunity to wish them well in their endeavours. They have prepared well and should see the fruits of their labour in late summer.

Recent months have been very successful for the school with teams performing very well in various quiz and literary competitions. These successes are chronicled throughout this newsletter. The school held a development day to celebrate the visit of the teachers from our twinned school in Uganda. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin was present on the day and was extremely impressed with the work done by both the boys and staff of DCS.

Douglas Community School has had two outstanding successes on the sporting front in recent weeks. The school athletics team won the All Ireland title and finished fifth in the World Championships in Slovakia. This was a fantastic achievement and reflects all the hard work done over the past few years. Our 1st Year basketball team brought home another All Ireland title in recent weeks while the 2nd Year team were only beaten at the semi final stage. These performances augur well for basketball in the years ahead. There are many other notable performances in the extra curricular life of the school and I am very proud of all those involved.

Finally, I would like to wish students and teachers a very pleasant summer and enjoy a well deserved break.


Jim Long, Principal



LORD MAYOR RECOGNISES MOMENTOUS ACHIEVEMENTS OF DCS ATHLETES WITH CIVIC RECEPTION AT CITY HALL

In recognition of the magnificent achievement of finishing fifth overall in the World Schools Cross Country Championships, Lord Mayor of Cork, Dara Murphy staged a civic reception for the athletes recently at the City Hall offices. Pictured with the Lord Mayor are athletes Patrick Coleman, Ian Tobin, Cullen Lynch, Mark Seacy, Andrew O'Keeffe, Jamie Sullivan and Billy Murphy. The DCS team were also recently named Jurys Sport stars of the Month in recognition of their historic achievement. See inside for a detailed report of the championships in Slovakia.

MINISTER VISITS DOUGLAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY EXHIBITION

Pictured with Principal Mr Jim Long is Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Micheál Martin at one of the numerous Development Day exhibitions on display at Douglas Community School Library recently. See inside for a full report on the exhibitions, speakers and talks delivered on the day.





DEVELOPMENT DAY HELD AT DOUGLAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Organised in conjunction with the World Wise organisation a very successful Development Day was held at the school recently. The main aim of conducting such days is to raise awareness of development issues among Irish students, teachers and the wider community. Talks were delivered on the day from representatives and aid workers from several NGOs. These included Unicef, Bóthar, Oxfam Ireland, Gorta, Mission Alive, Christian Aid, Chernobyl Ireland, the Presentation Brothers, Missionaries of the Scared Heart and Sight Savers. Pictured with the guest speakers are Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Micheál Martin, Principal Mr Jim Long and teachers Mr Neil Bronks, Miss Roseanne O' Callaghan, Mr Ted O' Sullivan and Mr Cian O' Mahony.

OIREACTHAS MEMBERS DISCUSS CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND POLITICS WITH DCS STUDENTS

Pictured are prominent local political representatives Ciarán Lynch Labour Party TD, Deirdre Clune Fine Gael TD, Senator Jerry Buttimer of Fine Gael and Micheál Martin Fianna Fail TD and Minister for Foreign Affairs attending a discussion seminar held at Douglas Community School recently. The Oireachtas Youth Committee was attending Douglas Community School for an open forum on the running of the Oireachtas. The discussion workshop was held throughout the morning of May the 7th and was attended by all of the third year DCS students. An enjoyable and educational morning was had by all as students were able to quiz these public representatives on their own work on behalf of their constituents as well as the work of the Oireachtas itself.



DCS STUDENTS COMPETE EN FRANCAIS

Pictured with the teachers of the French department, Mrs Goulding, Mrs O' Mahony and Ms Moylan are the two DCS French Quiz teams competing at the Ambassador Hotel recently. The teams consisted of Barry Thompson, Jack Newton, Sam O' Mahony, Darren O' Connell, Mattia Stellacci, Paudie Marum, Sean O' Sullivan and Anthony Meaney. This unique quiz was open to senior students and conducted exclusively through the French language. Both teams acquitted themselves very well in such an interesting and testing evening displaying very strong language and general knowledge skills, well done to all involved.



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

The extensive range of co-curricular and extracurricular activities provided by a dedicated staff is one of the great strengths of Douglas Community School. The variety of activities on offer ensures a high level of participation among students. Among the many co-curricular activities provided are visits to the Blackrock Observatory, theatre, galleries, museums, cinemas, libraries, the Dail, local enterprises, science exhibitions and lectures.



DCS CHESS CLUB

Pictured is Third Year student Shane O' Sullivan (right) concentrating hard on his next move competing for Douglas Community School during a match held at the DCS library recently. Established for a number of years the DCS Chess Club not only successfully enters teams in regional and national competitions, but also meets regularly to practice and improve their skills. Open to all students from Grand Master to novice level, the DCS Chess Club welcomes all new members at any of their regular meetings.

DCS STUDENTS SHINE IN CHEMISTRY QUIZ

Pictured are the DCS Chemistry Quiz Team of Brian Murray, Cillian Braken, Damien Randles and Kieran Donegan. The team competed recently in the Annual Pfizer Chemistry Quiz held at the Pfizer Sports Club in Ringaskiddy. The DCS team were to emerge in a very commendable 5th place finish in a competition contested by a total 26 teams.



UGANDAN TEACHERS VISIT TO DCS

Pictured receiving a warm welcome from DCS students are teachers Joseph Matovu and Anne Grace Nakuya during their week long visit to DCS to experience school life outside of their native Uganda for the first time.

The teachers spent several days at the school listening to the pupils and patiently answering questions about their home and school. They also taught staff and students some phrases in the Ugandan language and gave an insight into Ugandan life and culture.

At the end of a great and educational visit they carry back all our best wishes to Uganda and begin what we hope will be a long and fruitful period of co-operation between both schools. Mr Neil Bronks



Dept. of Education and Science WSE 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.



TRANSITION YEAR STUDENT EXPERIENCES LIFE AS A FULL TIME UNIVERSITY STUDENT FOR A WEEK IN UCC

Transition Year student Paul Creagh reflects on his taster of life as a Computer Science student in University College Cork recently: On the first day of the course I turned up at UCC's Western Gateway Building, where they have most of their computer rooms. I was greeted by a room full of transition year students, we had assigned seats and we got brown envelopes with paper, pen, and loads of information on the week ahead.

The week was filled with lectures including:

- Animation on Google
- How to take apart a PC bit by bit
- Web Page Design
- Using motion sensing equipment
- An outline of the content of the various courses available at UCC

The lecturers all did their best to hold our interest and they did a really good job. We attended lectures with full time students from a range of lecturers including the head of the Computer Science Department.

Overall, it was an amazing week. I'd advise anyone who can work a computer to try and get on this course. The lectures are good, but it was also important to have a laugh. Study, enjoy, socialise, and take up coffee, I'm already looking forward to returning to College life!

DOUGLAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATION SEEKING YOUR VIEWS IN 2010-11

"Nobody makes a greater mistake than he who does nothing because he could only do a little"
Edmund Burke

The Parents Association exists to bring the views of parents to the school. The Association does this mainly by meeting one a month during school term (about six meetings a year). Parents can bring to these meetings any praise, thanks, concerns or questions they have about the policies and activities of the school.

- You don't have to attend every meeting
- You needn't have an issue to sort out in order to attend.
- You can sign up just to receive the notes from the meeting as a way of keeping up to date
- You won't be asked to get involved in fund-raising
- You won't be pressured to take on other voluntary activities

The Parents Association wants to ensure it properly represents the views of all parents. At the moment we

only have one parent contact for each year attending the meetings and we feel this is too small a number to be representative; we'd like to see at least one parent from each class at our monthly meetings.

The meetings are:

- a chance for you to hear about the activities and policies of the school
- a way to hear about courses such as parenting for teenagers, drug awareness etc..
- a chance to raise any concerns that are affecting your son's class/year
- short, they last under an hour and are held six times a year
- sociable – a good way to meet other parents – we hope to run some social events in 2011.

Please contact me if you can come along to the meetings for 2010/11 or if you would like to be kept informed of meeting dates/agendas.

Email: Sheila.oflynn@infovalues.com
(Secretary to the Parents Association)

Text only to: 087 9718130



LOG ON LEARN, DCS STUDENTS OPENING UP NEW HORIZONS

Pictured are some of the recent mature graduates and their DCS mentor/instructors on completion of one of the Log On Learn programmes recently conducted in Douglas Community School. Log On Learn is a wonderful initiative supported by Intel, Microsoft, an Post and Douglas Community School.

Log On Learn is a program devised to “buddy up” Transition year students with an older person in their community in order to share their skills with each other. Conducted over a six week period at

DCS, students share their knowledge of how to use a PC and mouse, basic word processing and internet use. Older people are encouraged by practical one to one demonstrations and practice to dispel their “fear factor” of new technology and access the convenience of ICT technology use and the internet. In return the older person is able to share their own memories and life experiences, enabling the younger students to increase their appreciation of their community. Congratulations to all concerned in making such a positive change in the lives of people in the community.

DCS STUDENTS TEST THEIR KNOWLEDGE IN HISTORY QUIZ

The annual Junior Certificate History Quiz took place this year at Mount Mercy College, Cork. Organised annually by the Cork History Teachers Association, it has become a favourite for students and teachers alike. Full of thrills and tension, this year’s competition did not disappoint. This year saw two fine Douglas teams enter the competition. NE3 represented by Trevor Barry, Shane O’ Sullivan, Karl Horgan and Shahrukh Nawaz rose to the occasion, coming in joint 5th out of 31 teams. The NS3 of Greg Mullamphy, Eoin Conroy, Stephen O’ Sullivan and Otto Cronje also shone on the night. Well done to all the history scholars!



SCHOOL BANK OPENS IN DCS

Six 5th Year students have recently opened a school bank at Douglas Community School. The bank will be run by Jack Newton (Manager), Nimesh Chopra (Assistant Manager), Conor Dowling (Auditor), Aidan Heffernan (Marketing), Gary Black (Teller) and Aaron Hurley (Teller), Mr Alan White will act as co-ordinator. The bank is open for business every Friday from 1-1.30 pm. Since opening the bank has had a very positive response from students with membership growing steadily. The school bank recently competed in School Bank Regional Finals held at the Sheraton Hotel in Fota. Great credit is due to the students, who despite their relative inexperience, acquitted themselves very well against some more established banks.

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

The standard of individual planning for lessons is commended in all subjects. The preparation of worksheets, handouts, visuals presentations using ICT and other teaching materials helped enhance the quality of the lessons and had a positive impact on student’s learning..... Subjects are very well resourced.



DCS FRENCH STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



Pictured are some Transition Year DCS students touring the historic city of Lorient during the recent DCS student French exchange programme. The students travelled to Lorient in Brittany, France to participate in a student exchange with students from Lycée Notre Dame du Voeu in Hennebont. In the course of the week the students attended and participated in classes, experienced daily French life and food with their host families and visited cities such Lorient, Vannes and the renowned Hennebont horse stud. The Irish students were met with great warmth and kindness which made their stay all the more memorable. Strong links have now been forged between Douglas Community School and Lycée Notre Dame du Voeu and we hope to make this exchange an annual event.



IPSWICH ACADEMY - 4

DOUGLAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL - 4

Pictured with Irish footballing legend Roy Keane are the DCS senior soccer squad with coach Mr. Kevin Ronayne following DCS's highly commendable 4 all draw in a challenge match at Ipswich Town FC recently. Fulsome in his praise for the DCS team's professionalism, skill and (of course) competitiveness, Roy was to spend most of the day chatting with the team, giving advice and answering questions. Such an unforgettable experience was just reward to such a talented and successful DCS team.

DCS STUDENT SPENDS A MONTH IN COLOGNE, GERMANY

DCS student, Jason Maloney recently returned from a highly enjoyable and educational one month student exchange visit to Herder Gymnasium School in Cologne, Germany. In operation for the past 14 years students spend two weeks attending lessons at the Herder School followed by two further weeks of work experience, further immersing students in the German language. Students experience working life in such diverse areas as cafés, hotels and even a school for the blind. Jason is pictured above hard at work at his Cologne hotel with one of his German host students and DCS teacher Ms Zoe O' Mahony.



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

Classroom management was good in all cases. In general, students were attentive, interested and participated well in the learning process... Inspectors universally commented very favourably on student-teacher interactions and on the general atmosphere in classes. The courteous and respectful attitudes displayed during lessons were noted.



PRESTIGIOUS LITERARY AWARDS FOR TWO DCS STUDENTS

Two DCS students, Nikesh Chopra and Robert Bolton, were recently recognised for their literary talents at Cork City Library in the Graphic Novel and Short Story categories respectively.

The Cork City Library Graphic Novel Project was led by John Sexton who facilitated the creative writing, and Alan Barrett who advised as graphic artist. This year's graphic novel, entitled "SYZYGY", was contributed by one of our own students, Nikesh Chopra of 5th Year. He attended several workshops in the Cork City Library over the months of January and February and produced a story called "Twice At Once", about a teenage epileptic girl who traverses through two parallel universes through her epileptic fits. Nikesh attended the launch in Cork City Library and received an award for his participation and was also invited to a special master workshop with acclaimed graphic artist Marti Saiz. The standard of Nikesh's writing was praised with Evening Echo reporter Kieran Dineen describing his story as "thought – provoking."



Mr. John O' Leary

In February Cork city libraries announced its 3rd annual short story competition. Writers had to be between the ages of 13-18 and the entries could be between 1000-4000 words. Writers shortlisted would receive a written critique by local writer Kevin Doyle.

This was my first time entering into a creative writing competition, in fact this was my first proper short story. I was taken by complete surprise when I was notified a week before World Teen Day that I had received a prize. To celebrate the day various events were held at the Cork city library. Among these events was the announcement of the winners of the 3rd annual short story competition. I was delighted when Kevin Doyle announced I was one of five who was shortlisted and I received a written critique of my story!

Robert Bolton, 5th Year.

DOUGLAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DOES IRELAND PROUD IN WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS!!

Seven young athletes representing Douglas Community School and Ireland produced a spectacular performance at the World Schools Cross-Country Championships in Slovakia to finish in fifth place. It was a superb result for the team and coach Steven Macklin and Head of Delegation Mark Dineen. The team had to endure a 14-hour ferry journey to France followed by a 2,250km drive across Europe to reach Liptovsky Mikulas in Northern Slovakia for the championships. The boys event was won by Turkey followed by New Zealand in second and Australia third with the DCS boys representing Ireland



a mere 4 points behind the fourth placed British team. This was an outstanding achievement in a field consisting of 23 teams from all over the world. Top finisher was Patrick Coleman in a superb 9th followed by his teammates Cullen Lynch (21st), Ian Tobin (22nd), Mark Seacy (36th), Andrew O'Keeffe (61st) and Jamie Sullivan (77th) with the team completed by sub Billy Murphy. Lots of friendships were made and the school has been invited to compete in England, Malta and New Zealand next year. The team should be very proud of their performance and we all look forward to watching their progress over the next few years.

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The impressive ability of students to engage with higher order skills and questioning, demonstrating their level of understanding of the topics being studied, was highlighted.



SOCCKER BLITZ FOR LOCAL PRIMARY STUDENTS AT DCS

Pictured are some of the local primary school students in action at some of the one day soccer blitz competitions held at the new state of the art astro turf pitches at DCS. Students from local schools St. Anthony's, St. Columbas, Scoil Nicholás and Beaumont School took part over a number of days. Each group was assigned their own trained soccer coach from Transition Year and put through skill building drills before taking part in a fun competition at the end of the day.



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DCS Annual School Tour 2010: Skiing In Slovakia

Pictured enjoying a lot of exercise and having a lot of fun are Douglas Community School students on the school tour of 2010. This year D.C.S. travelled to Jasna in Slovakia for a week of skiing during the February mid term break. Forty students were accompanied by Mr. O Leary, Mr. Fahy, Mr. O Cuanachain and Mr. Hickey. The skiing was enjoyed by all with most of the first time skiers coming down a black slope by the end of the week which was a remarkable achievement for those students. The 2011 school tour is returning to the same resort and this is testament to the positive feedback regarding Jasna as a destination.

DOUGLAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL - ALL-IRELAND BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS!!

Douglas Community School were recently crowned All-Ireland champions at the All-Ireland Finals held at the University of Limerick recently. The Cork champions defeated St. Patricians High School, Oranmore and Coláiste Eanna on the way to the final against St. Josephs Secondary School, Galway. In a hard fought final the DCS boys were not to be denied however and ran out deserved winners. Joyous celebrations followed with the squad, their supporters and families marking a great victory. Great credit is due to such a talented squad coached by Miss O' Callaghan on such a fantastic achievement, well done to all.



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

Students have successfully participated in many competitions and quizzes relating to different subject areas such as Science Olympiads, the Young Scientist and Technology competition, Young Social Innovators, the President's Gaisce awards, a robotics competition, photography competitions, German debates, public speaking and maths and business quizzes