

Douglas Community School


Douglas, Cork

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Autumn 2009



The Year of the Cuts - 2008 -2009

 The year began well at Douglas Community School. Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate results were exceptional with DCS bucking the national trends by achieving many times the national averages of A' in a number of subjects including Mathematics and the Sciences. A number of new young teachers had just joined the staff. Our new computerised school management system was up and running and teachers were getting used to their new laptops. Data projectors had been installed in all rooms. We were planning a number of other improvements in school facilities. We looked forward to a good year - students and teachers working together.

The first signs of economic storms came with the collapse of a number of large American Banks followed rapidly with our own Irish banking crisis. Over a few months we discovered that our Irish banks were in deep crisis. The Government's finances began a rapid decline into crisis about the same time.

Then came the cuts. The education cuts abolished funding for our Transition Year and for our Book Loan Scheme. The grants to promote Chemistry and Physics were also abolished. Schools were not allowed to employ substitute teachers for teachers on short term sick leave. Schools were not allowed to employ substitute teachers for teachers taking students to school events such as games, Young Scientist competition etc. All these were implemented by January 2009. We coped well and all school events went ahead, with minor changes in schedules, with the cooperation of all our teaching staff.

While preparing to meet the challenges of these cuts we were also preparing for a Whole School Evaluation (WSE). This evaluation by a team of six department of education and Science Inspectors was carried out

during the month of January. The report which was very complimentary to the students, staff and management of the school found "that the students were friendly, well behaved and courteous and that the atmosphere within was one of calm and relaxed industry." The report on the WSE, together with subject inspections on English, Chemistry and Science, Mathematics, French, Geography and Guidance Counselling will be available on the Department of Education and Science website.

The greatest cut to hit schools was to reduce the number of teachers in all schools from September 2009. This presents a serious challenge to us to maintain subject choice and class sizes at present levels.

The Teachers, Principal, Deputy Principal and Board of Management of Douglas Community School are all resourceful and imaginative people. We face the difficulties of the school year 2009/10 with a deep commitment to do everything possible to avoid any cuts in service to our students and to minimise the effects of the cuts we cannot prevent.

We are committed to delivering the same high levels of educational service and support in 2009/10 as we did last year.

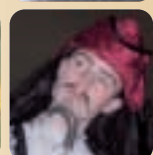
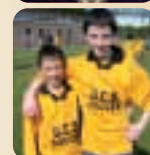
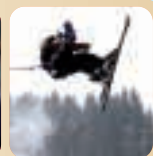
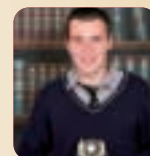
Douglas Community School is well prepared to meet the difficult times ahead - the school building and facilities are all in top class condition and up to date. The staff are well educated, committed and enthusiastic. Our students are well aware of the challenges they face. Working together - teachers, students and parents - we can ensure that our young people get the same high quality education in the years ahead.

Bernard Horgan, Principal

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Le Chéile South Pole Expedition 2008/09



Daragh Horgan, Past-pupil of DCS



GRADAM NA SCOILE

The annual Gradam na Scoile awards and prizes were presented on Thursday 23rd April by Past-Pupil of Douglas Community School Daragh Horgan, Member of Successful Le Chéile South Pole Expedition 2008/09 and Fund Manager.

It's a great privilege and a huge honour to have been invited here tonight - I'm surrounded by a room full of achievers across a myriad of pursuits and disciplines, be those sporting academic or extra curricular.

When I was asked to present the prizes this evening, I was obviously thrilled to be involved in such a prestigious event in the school's calendar; but I did think that they'd got the wrong person as I can't possibly be gone from the school long enough to be invited back - - and then I realised it's been twenty years since I left.

When I was invited to come here, I wondered how different, how changed is the school? Is the essence of Douglas, its DNA, still the same?

You see, in my day, we were very proud of our achievements - our victories on the field, in football, soccer, hockey or athletics; our debating wins (did I tell you we had a great debating team?); and our academic results were no mean feat either. So I thought to myself that this generation couldn't possibly match that, could they? Sure, weren't we the golden generation?

Well, just one look at the school's website or the list of achievements being recognised here tonight and it's clear that my generation would struggle to even be silver!

Your achievements are numerous and staggeringly good, and so it is only right and proper that they be honoured and highlighted here tonight. Let's just remind ourselves of just some of those achievements:

- All-Ireland champions in the intermediate cross-country running
- Two international cross-country athletes
- Winners of the CEIA robotics competition
- Munster champions in the U16s soccer
- Munster finalists in the U14s soccer
- Munster quarter-finalists in the U16s football
- Winners of the All-Ireland German debating competition
- National semi-finalists in the Mental Health public speaking competition

As if that isn't enough, the depth and breadth of



the school's activities surpasses what we did with things like an active school choir and an annual musical production whose reputation draws in the crowds to pack out the sports hall.

On the academic front, let me remind everyone of what Douglas is all about:

In last year's leaving cert, Douglas achieved

- 7** 7 times the national average of A1s in higher level chemistry
- 5** 5 times the national average of A1s in higher level construction studies
- 4** 4 times the national average of A1s in higher level accounting
- 3** 3 times the national average of A1s in higher level physics
- 3** 3 times the national average of A1s in higher level economics
- 2** 2 times the national average of A1s in higher level maths, geography and history

Past pupils like me are very fortunate that we can bask in your reflected glory; we have great reason to be proud of you, your parents have great reason to be proud of you, but more importantly, you have every reason to be proud of yourselves and your school.

But half of the equation in any great school is the teaching staff and it is very clear that here at Douglas the staff is doing an excellent job in guiding you to your successes and achievements and in providing a well-rounded education. And so this too we should recognise tonight for the valuable contribution that it is.

It is very obvious to me from being here this evening that the spirit in the school of friendship and camaraderie is as strong as it has ever been. Many of you too exhibit the same philosophy and attitude that I'd like to think I left Douglas with 20 years ago. That can be summed up in just three words; three words which might surprise you; three unexpected words which need a little explanation: "Sure, why not?"

This is one of the most powerful and positive ways of looking at things. It's a question which challenges us to push the boundaries and allows us to face challenges and difficulties head on.

One of the great fixtures in the school calendar nowadays is the musical, and with such a production it is all too easy to ask 'Why should I get involved'? Yet enough of you continue to ask 'Sure, why not' each year and that makes it the perennial success it is today.

One of the classic examples of the 'Sure, why not'

attitude is to be found in the actions of two of your fellow students. Just before the All-Ireland cross country championships, Patrick Coleman had just flown in from Australia and must have been significantly jet-lagged; Ian Tobin had been ill for several weeks before the race and had been unable to train. It would have been all too easy (and understandable) for each of them to resign himself to asking, why dig a bit deeper in this race, sure it's lost already as we're jet-lagged and untrained. Yet they asked themselves the question, 'Sure, why not give it a bash?' and both put in great performances of grit and determination alongside the rest of the team to help them take the All-Ireland.

But I have to admit that asking the question 'Sure why not' can sometimes land you in trouble and in places you never expected to be in. I kept asking myself 'Sure, why not' and found myself in November of last year in the Shackleton Bar in Punta Arenas in Southern Chile wondering 'Why, oh why, oh why was I about to embark on a trek on foot from the coast of Antarctica all the way to the geographic South Pole.'

As I trekked across almost 1,000 km of the planet's most inhospitable terrain, facing temperatures as low as -55C, freezing headwinds ever hindering our progress and dragging as much as 85 kilos of supplies and kit, there were many days when I again wondered, 'Why, oh why?' On days like that, it was the knowledge of the support at home of my friends and family willing me on that kept me going; the knowledge that so many were watching my progress online and urging me forward. Also the thought that the expedition was raising so much money for SPARKS, the children's medical research charity and I deeply appreciate and thank you Douglas Community School boys who raised so much for that charity. It was thoughts like these which kept me going.

After 41 days on the ice we reached the Pole and the Le Cheile team and I became one of just 160 people ever who have completed this journey unsupported; the achievement of that goal was answer enough for me to the question 'Sure, why not?'

It only remains for me to say one final thing: it's said that when you enter the doors of Douglas as a 1st year, you come in a boy and then six years later, going out those same doors, you leave a man. Well, I can honestly say, looking around me this evening, you will all leave as very fine men indeed. Thank you.





GRADAM NA SCOILE AWARDS

First Year Class Awards:

Scott Buckley, Kevin O'Leary, Robert O'Reilly, Eoin Conroy, Azim Bhayla, Shahrukh Nawaz, Brendan O'Brien, Stephen O'Sullivan.

Second Year Class Awards:

Robert O'Neill, David Sheehan, Niall McCarthy, Kevin Twomey, Cian Ryder, Stephen Walsh, Paul Creagh James Kelleher

Third Year Class Awards:

Sam O'Mahony, Barry Thompson, Michael Forrest, Pdraig Leahy, Sam Cronin, Peter Hanrahan.

Junior Gradam Awards:

Conor Dowling
Paudie Marum

Student of the Year:

Junior Certificate 2008:

Cian Mangan

Fourth Year Class Awards:

Cillian Bracken, Kieran Gleeson, Brian Murray, Brian Nolan.

Fifth Year Class Awards:

Aaron Daly, Michael Carroll, Robert Creagh, Ian Falvey, Richard Quirke, Aidan Murphy, Andrew O'Reilly, Ayman Hafez, David M Murphy.

Sixth Year Class Awards:

James Burke Niall Mulcahy Tadg Quilligan, Christopher Pinfield

Senior Gradam Awards:

Michael Crowley
Peter Neville
Richard Murphy
Students' Student of the Year
Richard Barrett

Student of the Year Leaving Certificate 2008

Patrick Hanrahan

Principal's Award for Outstanding Achievement

David O'Connell



GENERAL AWARDS:

Chess Award:

Cian Mangan

Young Scientist Awards:

Cillian Bracken, Ronan Doyle and Garrett Kidney.

German Exchange Award:

Cillian Bracken

German Debating Team Awards:

David Winning, David Bourke, Michael Crowley and Ian Falvey

Transition Year Play Awards:

Tony Healy, Alan Smith, Kieran Nevin, Darren O'Connell, Ronan Kelly, Aaron Canty, Ian Seymour, Colin Moloney, Michael Lyons, Brian Nolan, Greg O'Riordan, Jamie Glavin, Andrew Neville, Stephen Neville, David Quirke, Ciaran Fleming, Eoin Freaney, Daniel Glavin, Keith O'Donoghue, Evan Lacey, Eoin O'Sullivan, Elliot McCarthy. Damien Randles, Kieran Gleeson, Ferdia Dwane, Darren Johnston, Jack Casey.

Public Speaking Awards:

Andrew O'Reilly, Aidan Murphy, Kevin Tobin and Benjamin Coughlan

CEIA Robotics Competition Awards:

Robert O'Neill and Glenn Walsh

Junior Certificate Projects Awards:

Aidan O'Leary, Ciaran O'Leary, Anthony Falvey, Barry Thompson, Colm Coleman

Leaving Certificate Projects Awards:

Niall Mulcahy and Lukasz Gorlowski

SPORTS AWARDS

Athletics Awards:

1st Year Athlete of the Year- Emmet Bracken

Junior Athlete of the Year

Patrick Coleman

Senior Athlete of the Year

Craig Murphy



Team of the Year

Inter (u17) Team - Peter Hanrahan, Patrick Coleman, Adam Kelleher, David O'Keeffe, Marc Tobin, Brian Murray, Conor O'Brien, Alan O'Brien,



Special Award

Robert O'Neill

Basketball Awards:

Henry O'Donovan and Klaus Ozolins



Soccer Awards:

Chris Fahy, Robert Creagh, John Forrest, Sean Moynihan, Edward Finn, Eoin Murphy, Stephen McCarthy, Graham Cullinane and Robert Lehane.



Tennis Awards:

Seniors: Stephen Neville, Kieran Gleeson, Fionn Cronin and Eoin Burke.
U-16: Cian Hammond, Ferdia Dwane, Ian Tobin and Eoghan Murphy.

Table Tennis Award:

Jason Moloney



Rugby Awards:

Chris Lyons and Padraig McSweeney



Gaelic Football Award:

Andy O'Connell

Hurling Awards:

James Browne, Paul O'Brien and Martin Barry





School Athletics

Congratulations to Craig Murphy, star of our Athletics team of 2007/08 who won athletics scholarship to Dublin City University. Craig chose DCU over scholarships from US Universities.

It has been an incredible year for Douglas CS athletes with the team winning an astonishing ten cups in Cross-Country and Track & Field competitions. The overall squad now comprises 50 athletes and continues to grow.

The year began with Douglas CS travelling to Dublin City University for the annual **DCU Schools Invitational Cross-Country event**. Here the Inter team finished 1st, the junior team 3rd and the senior team 4th, minor team 8th.



The week following the DCU Invitational three Douglas CS athletes Patrick Coleman, Cullen Lynch and Mark Seacy travelled to Belgium to take part in the **Hannut International Cross-Country event**. Patrick, Cullen and Mark all lined up in the boys u18 international race. With all three running an age up it was going to be a tough race. Racing over 4,600m, all three ran superbly over the flat mucky terrain. Patrick produced one of his finest ever runs to finish 6th (3rd u17). Behind him Cullen Lynch was having a great run also and finished 22nd (13th u17). Mark Seacy battled well throughout and ran a great race too finishing 30th (22nd u17).

The first major championship event of the season was the **South Munster Schools Cross-Country championships** held at Middleton CBS. Brian Murray and Adam Kelleher led the field in the senior boys 5000m from the start setting a strong pace. Brian battled well throughout and eventually finished 2nd with Adam Kelleher a fine 3rd. They were backed up well with superb runs from Alan O' Brien 4th, Richard Quirke 5th and David O' Keeffe 7th. Douglas CS easily won their 5th consecutive



senior boys team title with 14 points. The Douglas minor team finished 3rd led by the inspirational Brendan Couch in 6th place and Captain Alan Ring in 9th place. The Junior boys team raced over 2,500m and again the team from Douglas CS easily won their 5th consecutive team title led by Eoin Bourke 2nd, Billy Murphy 3rd, Michael McLaughlin 7th and John Durcan 8th. Finally the inter boys team towed the line racing over 4,500m. They started on their quest for All-Ireland glory with a convincing 4th consecutive intermediate team title for Douglas CS having 8 athletes in the top 15. The team was led by an inspirational run from Patrick Coleman who had a real battle with teammate Peter Hanrahan for the title. This was a superb run from Patrick after his fantastic 6th place finish in the previous week's international cross-country event in Belgium. Peter was a great 2nd and other super runs came from Captain Cullen Lynch 4th, Mark Seacy 6th, Conor Foley 7th and Emmet Bracken 9th.

Next up was the **Munster Schools Cross-Country championships** held in Tramore Racecourse Co. Waterford. The Junior boys team raced over 3,500m and took the bronze medal in a very competitive team contest. The inter boys team were without the services of South Munster Schools champion Patrick Coleman who is holidaying in Australia but still put in a dominating display winning the team contest easily. Peter Hanrahan had a fine run finishing in 3rd place and with great runs from Cullen Lynch 9th, Andrew O' Keeffe 12th, and Mark Seacy 13th they easily took the gold medals. The senior boys raced over 6,500m and had a mighty battle with Thurles CBS for the team title. The Douglas CS team was minus two of their top men due to exams but battled to a team win. Douglas CS was also awarded the best overall school cup for the 5th consecutive year.

Next up Douglas Community School had athletes competing at the **Ras na hEireann International Cross-Country** in Drogheda and the Munster Juvenile Indoor T&F championships in Nenagh. At the Munster Juvenile Indoor T&F championships in Nenagh,





Alan O' Brien was the schools sole representative running in the boys u19 800m and had a superb win. Robert O' Neill also recorded a fine win in the boys u17 race walk. Fourteen athletes and coach Steven Macklin travelled to Drogheda Co. Louth for the Ras na hEireann International Cross-Country championships. The school had two teams in action u15 and a combined u17/u19 team. First into action was the boy's u15 team who were running without the services of two of their top runners. Billy Murphy once again had a superb run finishing in 8th place and with other great runs from John Durcan 11th, Michael McLaughlin 13th and Brendan Couch 14th they won the team title.

two of the top 10 finishers were over age. Behind Patrick, Peter Hanrahan had a fine run coming 13th and captain Cullen Lynch a superb 30th. The performance of the day came from Ian Tobin who had been ill for most of January and had little training done coming into this race. Ian showed true guts and determination in picking his way through the field and finishing an outstanding 34th and thus winning the team title for Douglas CS. Congratulations also to Mark Seacy, Emmet Bracken, Andrew O' Keeffe and Conor Foley on their great performances also. The senior boys race was held over 6,500m and here the Douglas CS lads battled bravely to a 7th place finish.

The u17/u19 boy's race was combined and held over a 4000m distance. Peter Hanrahan continued his recent impressive form producing an outstanding run against some top competition. Peter led for most of the race and had a titanic battle with two South African athletes. He found himself in 4th place with 400m to go but produced a great sprint to finish 3rd and narrowly pipped for 2nd on the line by one of the South African athletes. Behind Peter, Emmet Bracken was having an outstanding run finishing 12th and with Andrew O' Keeffe 16th and Conor O' Brien 18th the team came 2nd.



The final Cross-Country event of the year took place at the end of March with the **AVIVA SIAB Schools International Cross-Country championships** being held in Wales. Here Douglas CS had two representatives on the Irish team in Peter Hanrahan and Patrick Coleman. This was a

very tough race with some very talented athletes towing the line from England, Scotland and Wales. Peter produced his most impressive ever run in his Irish debut finishing a superb 15th and 3rd Irish man across the line helping the Irish team to the bronze medals. Patrick ran a solid race also to finish 25th.

The biggest day on the schools athletics calendar took place at the University of Ulster Jordanstown where the All-Ireland Schools & University Cross-Country championships were held. Douglas CS travelled to the championships being the only boy's school in the country to have three teams qualified for the event.

Two other Douglas CS athletes Robert O' Neill and James Kelleher, also represented Ireland at an international race walking event in Switzerland. Robert had a superb race to win the individual title and James produced a fine race also to finish in the top 10. Robert also finished a great 4th at the All-Ireland Indoor T&F championships in the u17 boy's race-walk event.

First into action were the junior boys racing over 3,500m. The Douglas CS team took 7th place in the team contest. No doubt this team will be battling for medal in the inter race in two years time. Next up were the inter boys team who were seeking the schools first ever team title in any age group. This team is a very special group of guys and the fight and determination portrayed by this team was something special to witness. Racing over 5000m the team was to have a real battle with Knockbeg College Carlow. Patrick Coleman only home from Australia two days before the race epitomized the determination of this team. Patrick had spent 20 hours travelling home from Australia and then travelled to Belfast and raced superbly to take 10th place and a place on the Irish team as

The athletes also enjoyed a weekend training camp at Banna Beach in September and a nine-day warm weather training camp at Easter in Monte Gordo in Portugal.

Overall it has been an outstanding year for Douglas CS on the athletics front winning ten cups, four athletes representing Ireland and the intermediate team winning the schools first ever All-Ireland team title. Congratulations to all the team on their magnificent achievements!!!



Sports Day 2009

On a damp Wednesday Douglas Community School held its annual student Sports Day. (We were lucky that heavy rain held off) This much enjoyed event was once again organized Ms. Rosanne O Callaghan. The students participated in a range of sporting events, both competitive and novelty, such as athletics, tug of war, tag rugby, long jump, sack race, egg and spoon race and long puck. Each student was awarded points for finishing 1st, 2nd or 3rd in his chosen events. The class achieving the highest points total from each year group was rewarded with a class trip to the Leisureplex to play bowling.

U-14 Soccer:

The 1st round draw in the Munster cup saw Douglas take on Presentation College. A strong team performance saw Douglas emerge as 1 goal victors with Patrick O Sullivan, Eoghan O Connell and Sean Walsh putting in excellent performances. The 2nd round draw saw Douglas take on Clonmel. Despite dominating possession and playing some excellent football Douglas found themselves behind going into injury time. A Sean Walsh strike from the edge of the box found its way into the bottom corner and sent the match into extra time and then penalties. Douglas held their nerve and converted all their penalties to earn a well deserved win. The quarter final draw saw Douglas take on Col. Spioraid Naoimh. An

excellent defensive performance and a strong counter attacking display earned Douglas a 1 - 0 win. Despite being under pressure for most of the 2nd half Douglas held firm and earned a hard fought win. In the Munster semi-final Douglas played Mayfield C.S. Despite going behind early in the 1st half Douglas continued to play a good passing game and got a deserved equaliser with a converted penalty from captain Brian Lane. Douglas pushed on for the win but were caught on

the counter attack to go 2-1 down midway through the 2nd half. As Douglas again pushed on for an equaliser some outstanding saves from man of the match Mark McTugue kept Mahon at bay. Douglas failed to find the goal they needed and were disappointed to get knocked out at the semi-final stage.

U-14 Football:

The first round of the County competition saw Douglas take on St. Aidans. A rusty 1st half performance left Douglas trailing at half time. Captain Sean Walsh led from the front in the 2nd half and late scores from Daniel Savage, Eoghan O Connell and Paul Lehane earned Douglas a dramatic 2 point win. The 2nd round match saw Douglas take on Rosscarbery with a much improved performance. Douglas dominated the game from start to finish and secured an impressive 5-5 to 2-4 win with Gary McCarthy, Jimmy Burke and Patrick O Sullivan getting their names on the score sheet. A number of first team injuries meant the 3rd round match against Mitchlestown was a much closer affair. Douglas showed their strength in depth and in front of goal to run out 4-8 to 3-7 winners despite losing stand-in captain Daniel Savage to injury early in the match. The 4th round match against Youghal saw Douglas dominate from start to finish. An impressive 4-2 from Paul Lehane and 3-3 from Eoghan O Connell gave Douglas an easy 9-6 to 2-5 victory. The county semi final match against Skibbereen again saw Captain Sean Walsh give an



outstanding performance in attack. Despite strong defensive performances from half-backs Charlie White and Sean Keating Skibereen were never really out of the competition. Long range points from Captain Walsh and goals from Daniel Savage kept Douglas in the driving seat and eventual 5 point winners. The County Final saw Douglas take on Mallow in a pulsating match. Douglas dominated possession but were wasteful in front of goal and went in trailing at half time. An exceptional performance from half-forward Daniel Savage got Douglas going in the 2nd half and a well taken goal soon had them 4 points in the lead. However Mallow rallied and a fortuitous goal got them back in the match and soon had them in front. In the end Douglas were made to pay for their wastefulness in front of goal and despite having a number of late opportunities to draw level they failed to convert and in the end lost by 2 points.

U-14 Soccer:

The County Cup draw gave Douglas a home 1st round match against Col. Choilm Ballincollig. An early goal from Ballincollig was cancelled out with a stunning free kick from captain Adrian O Connell which left the sides level at half time. In the 2nd half Ballincollig again took the lead which seemed to spark Douglas into life. A strong performance in midfield from Kevin Hayes-Curtin got Douglas pushing forward and with time running out a looping shot from Gavin Buttimore found its way into the top corner to draw the teams level. Douglas then applied the pressure and when the ball broke to Paul Horgan at the edge of the box he made no mistake and slotted home the winner. The semi-final draw pitted Douglas against Col. Mhuire Cobh. Douglas dominated 1st half possession and creating some good chances but couldn't finish leaving the teams level at half time. The 2nd half continued in a similar fashion with winger Sean Walsh hitting a thunderous strike off the post. Despite being on the back foot Cobh took the lead with a cool finish at the backpost. Douglas again took control and were camped in the oppositions half for the remainder of the match but couldn't find the equaliser giving a disappointing end to a promising campaign.



Young Scientist 2009

The students and science department of Douglas Community School have again surpassed themselves this year with a record 26 students entered in the BT Young Scientist Exhibition 2009. The school has a long and successful history of entering the most prestigious and largest extracurricular activity at second level. This success has included top prizes in all categories and age-groups as well as the Best Overall Individual Project.

Speaking on the incredible level of participation which exists in the sciences in the school, biology teacher Cian O' Mahony said "The school recognises the importance of investigative science to the economy and jobs market and our annual participation in the BT Young Scientist Exhibition is only a small part of the strategic emphasis we put on enjoyment and achievement in the sciences. I have been involved with the exhibition for 8 years, and almost all of our boys who have entered have gone on to study science, engineering or medicine at third level. It is a fabulous and sociable experience which helps prepare the students for Leaving Certificate and focuses them on their career beyond school".

This year, the students of Douglas Community School entered projects on such diverse topics as Japanese Knotweed, Unsecured Wireless Networks and Students Impressions of the Extent of Misinformation on the Internet. The preparation work began in earnest in September and continued until early January. One 2nd year group of Stephen O' Sullivan, Eoin Conroy and Luke O' Leary were Highly Commended (4th Place) in the Junior Technology Category.





All Ireland German Debate

The All Ireland German Debates are organized by the Department of Education and Science, The Goethe Institut and the German Teachers of Ireland. The debates are sponsored by Siemens and approximately 40 schools take part. Teams from Douglas Community School have been participating in the debates for approximately



twelve years. The 2009 team comprised Aidan Murphy (captain), Ian Falvey, Ayman Hafez and Robert Twomey are to be commended for reaching the third round. They debated topics such as "The School Uniform Should Be Abolished" and "The Irish are Cosmopolitan".

History of Art Trip to Newgrange

5000 years ago, the Neolithic Irish, equipped with no more than basic stone tools, created a



passage tomb that remains today, an international attraction shrouded in mystery. 4th and 5th year students

were recently fortunate enough to visit this monument known today as Newgrange. After a 6am start we arrived at this international heritage site. Our tour guide gave us an in-depth explanation of Newgrange's interesting and unsure history. A multimedia demonstration of the wonders experienced in the tomb on the winter solstice left a hushed silence in the historic carved stone structure.

A detour to Monasterboice and the high crosses provided us with further examples of early Irish art. The round tower and churchyard were steeped in history and provided us with an interesting insight



into the wonders of early Christian art. We returned to school with a newfound understanding of Irish art and history.

Imagine 2009

In January we entered a competition called IMAGINATE. This exciting design competition was open to all 12-18 year old secondary school students in Ireland. The main objective of this competition was to promote creativity and innovation at an early age. We were asked to "DESIGN AN OBJECT FOR THE CLASSROOM OF THE FUTURE" and to produce a poster illustrating our design. Winning posters were determined by a public vote combined with a rating given by a panel of judges.



A design by Douglas Community School students; Azim Bhayla, Oisin Dwane and Brian McKeogh received a Highly Commended award.

Defibrillator Course

At 9am on Saturday April 25th a group of twenty dedicated teachers gathered in the Library of the school to complete a CPR and Defibrillator training course run by the HSE. The course consisted of a three-hour session in which the group was instructed on general CPR followed by a further three-hour session



on the use of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Many of the staff were inspired to seek certification following the successful use of the schools AED when a colleague suffered a cardiac arrest in January. Following on from a previous training course for twelve staff held in 2008 there are now over thirty members of staff trained in the use of an AED.





Young Social Innovators

This year, Douglas Community School entered a fourth year group into the Young Social Innovators programme; an initiative to spread awareness about social issues affecting young people. A group of forty, also involved in "Peter Pan", set about organising drama workshops for primary school students in our local area.

Each Thursday morning, for three periods, local primary schools visit Douglas Community School to be taught drama by our fourth years. Supervised by teachers, our boys teach the visiting students drama skills through various games. The idea of the workshops is to increase confidence in both our students and the students of the other schools. It also teaches them the many other benefits from involvement in drama.

As part of the YSI Project, our fourth year team visited City Hall, where they performed their "Indian Mo Dance" in front of screaming crowds of secondary school students. The performance was a huge success, with the judges agreeing that they'd never seen anything like this before. It was commented that people were shocked to see a group of boys, dancing and enjoying themselves so much, and it's for this that our fourth years should be admired.

Following the success in City Hall, our YSI team now submitted a fourteen-page report on the importance and effects of our drama workshops. Impressing the YSI organisers again, Douglas Community School was one of the hundred projects (out of four hundred and twenty one projects submitted) invited to the National YSI Showcase in the RDS on May 6th, where the boys presented their project at a display stand. The boys were also among five schools chosen to perform (their "Indian Mo Dance") at a special guest reception at the Showcase.

At the Showcase's award ceremony, Douglas Community School's project, "Moving Up A Stage" was highly commended for its originality and uniqueness, with judges especially impressed that the project was carried out by an all boy's school.



Mental Health Public Speaking- Trip to Paris

The 2007-08 Mental Health Public Speaking team consisting of Andrew O Reilly, Kevin Tobin, Aidan Murphy and Ben Coughlan enjoyed a well deserved four day trip to Paris in September. The students achieved



remarkable success in last year's public speaking competition by reaching the All Ireland semi finals. They defeated many competitive teams along the way including Rochestown College, Boherbue Comprehensive Community College and Mount St. Michael Rosscarbery. As the pupils were so successful in the competition, the Cork Mental Health Association decided to reward the participating students with a trip to Paris. A great time was had by all

Horticulture

Transition year students in DCS get an option to take a 7 week module in horticulture. The course is very practical and hands on in nature. Weather permitting students do practical work outside. The work varies according to the time of the year. In autumn we do leaf mulching, composting, propagation and naturalising bulbs. In spring we concentrate on propagation through cuttings and raising plants from seed. Students also learn about garden design on computer and planting techniques.





School Tour 2009 Pec Pod Sněžkou in the Czech Republic

Our 2009 skiing trip to Pec Pod, Czech Republic took place during the Mid-term (14th-21st of February). We began with an early start on Valentine's Day morning, leaving the school at 04:30. Forty students were accompanied by Ms. Clarkson, Mr. Fahy, Mr. Ronayne and Mr. O Leary.

We first had a bus journey to Dublin airport and from there had a two hour flight to the Czech Republic. Upon arrival in Prague airport we had a further three and a half hour bus drive to Pec Pod, Snezkou. Finally we had another small journey after collecting our skiing gear, in a specially designed vehicle called a CAT, to our hotel "Lyzarská".

Our skiing lessons began the following day. We were split into four groups of ten and each group was assigned a different instructor. There was one advanced group who went over to the advanced area straight away while all the rest remained by the hotel on the first day to learn the basics. By day two all of the skiers had progressed to the main ski area. We continued with our lessons throughout the week and most progressed quickly through the various stages. Being the first time many had ever skied before this was pretty good, especially as the weather conditions were tough on the third and fourth day with the temperatures reaching -12 C with wind chill.

Our instructors for the week really deserve credit as they really made the whole trip worth while. They stuck with us even when we were pretty bad and always helped anyone who fell along the way, as well as being genuinely nice guys to talk to!

In the hotel there was a games room that had a pool table as well as table tennis so this helped occupy us on a couple of evenings and there were also some nights when we made our way down to the main village to buy food etc. On the last nights we went to a disco with our teachers. Everyone got involved dancing - even some of the teachers!!

Another thing that I have to say that I loved about Pec Pod was the countryside and its surroundings. Everything was so surreal at times. To have come from a country that rarely sees an inch of snow a year to be in this place was hard to come to terms with at times!



The skiing itself was brilliant fun! Everyone enjoyed it. Being my first time doing it I found that I, and most others, really caught on quickly! It'll definitely be a trip that I'll never forget!!

Article written by Sam O Mahony 4th year.





DCS Uganda School Twinning Project

Douglas Community School has recently completed an extensive application process for funding to facilitate a twinning relationship between DCS and Cardinal Nzunga Catholic Secondary School in Jinja, Uganda. This funding is made available through the Irish Aid Worldwide programme for secondary schools. The official name of this twinning project is the DCS Uganda School Twinning Project. It is hoped that as many members of the school community as possible will become involved in the twinning in the coming school year.



The Cardinal Nzunga Catholic Secondary School includes a Junior secondary section, which is four years and a Senior secondary section which includes two years leading to A level. The school recently performed much better than previous years at O level and A levels and has celebrated this. They have a large number of children orphaned by AIDS who live full-time at the school. This school is a church supported school. The link began with a visit to DCS, by Dr. Margo O' Sullivan, together with the Director of the Ugandan Ministry for Education, and a lecturer at Kyambogo University (see report on the visit on the school website www.dcs.cork.ie) in May 2008.

They made a presentation on education issues in Uganda with the LCVP class and met with staff. This led to a request from Dr. Margo O' Sullivan, via Fr. Tom Smith, an Irish priest working in Jinja in Uganda, for the strengthening of links between DCS and a school in his parish.

We at DCS are excited at the prospect of this novel twinning relationship and the benefits for both DCS and our African friends.

Last year we raised more than 2600 euro which was used for building dormitories. These will prove very important as some students have to walk over 10 miles to school every day. This year the LCVP classes in 5th year are organising a Staff/Student soccer match, and hope to match the amount raised in 2008.

Interculturalism in DCS

Over twenty four nationalities are represented in the school with more than sixty students having been born outside Ireland. In total nineteen languages can be spoken by our students. In Douglas Community School we realise how important it is to recognise all the various cultures that come together in the school and to appreciate the diversity it brings.

Languages spoken: English, Irish, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Pashto, Croatian, Mandarin, Nepalese, Latvian, Yoruba, German, Urdu, Hungarian, French, Lithuanian, Thai, Africaans, Gujarat, Hindi, Punjabi, Italian, Swahili.





Log on, Learn



Congratulations to a talented group of Transition Year Students who took on the task of teaching senior members of our community basic computer skills through a programme called LOG ON, LEARN. This collaboration between Intel, Microsoft and An Post provided 26 older people the opportunity to come to Douglas Community School every Wednesday morning to enjoy a two-hour computer session. Each transition year student was matched with an older person using a buddy system in a unique educational experience where student became teacher. There were two 7-week courses run since Christmas which culminated in a presentation of certificates to all involved. The course proved to be highly successful and enjoyable. Everybody involved can now e-mail, surf the net and book those all-important holidays to the sun! Many thanks are due to the ever enthusiastic Phil Goodman and the



organization, Young at Heart for their involvement. Well done to both young and not so young who learned valuable lessons in patience, respect and common understanding.



Log on, Learn Quiz

In order to celebrate Lifelong Learning Week a group of Transition Year students joined with a group of over 65s from the Douglas organization "Young at Hearts" for a table quiz in the school library. Each team consisted of two TY students and two Young at Hearts. Retired teacher Mr. O Matharbhui acted as quiz master and kept the gathering of ten tables challenged with questions varying from sport, music and general knowledge with the winning team receiving book tokens for their efforts. A great afternoon was had by all.

U-18 (Senior) DCS Gaelic Football Team 2008-09

The Senior football team had a successful year, ultimately just failing to win the County B senior final in a close-fought encounter with Mitchelstown CBS.

The year started with a Munster Quarter final against Kerry opponents Milltown. After a tremendous first game which was drawn after extra time, we were unlucky to be narrowly defeated in a replay.

Attention then switched to the County Championship, where after a drawn County Quarter Final versus Coláiste an Chroí Naofa, Carraig na bhFear, DCS were victorious after extra time in a tremendous replay, despite being down to 14 men for over twenty minutes of normal time.

This was followed by a great semi-final away win over a talented side from Mount St. Michael Rosscarbery, who we defeated on a score of 4-11, to 1-15, helped by early goals from James Browne, and great performances around the field from the likes of John Forrest, Mark Ryan and both Michael Carrolls (from 5th yr & from 6th yr).

The County Final versus Mitchelstown CBS was played in Watergrasshill on a freezing January day. In a close, hard-fought game DCS were unlucky to come out the wrong side of a 1-8 to 0-7 scoreline. Top performers on the day were Rob Creagh, Eoin O'Mara, Edward Finn, Ciarán O'Herlihy, Philip Doherty & Eoin Murphy. Unlucky to be out injured were Andrew Neville, Fionn Cronin, and Stephen McCarthy.

David O'Leary



U16 Soccer

A very successful year for this talented bunch of young men resulted in the squad emerging as Munster champions. Sixty four teams enter the U16 Munster competition each year and it was through dedication to training and hard work amongst other qualities which saw this squad triumph in the end. Training began in the second week of September and at the time this went to print the squad were still in training for the All-Ireland semi-final.



Irish U15 international Rob Lehane. This was truly a magnificent squad effort though, with the back four of Jack Wilkins, Michael Forrest, Andrew Lehane, and Luke O' Sullivan outstanding throughout. Captain Graham Culliane was pulling all the strings in midfield with his by now customary exceptional display, while his midfield partner Andy O' Connell was linking up well with our strikers. On the wings Eoin Cremin and Eoghan Murphy worked tirelessly, and when in attack were a constant torn in the Limerick side. While up front Darren O' Sullivan who had scored two unbelievable goals in the original fixture,

netted an even better volley and Paul Koffi ran himself into the ground. While in goals 'Gunter' was commanding and always in control. Absent through injury on the day were Shaun Healy, and Paul Beale, while Josh Kra was also in recovery along with Jack Buckley.

Well done to all the squad and hopefully further success at senior level will follow.

The squad in full: Grahame Cullinane (Captain), Cian Hamond, Padraig O' Flynn, Martin Barry, Jack Wilkins, Luke O' Sullivan, Michael Forrest, Paul Beale, Shaun Healy,

Stephen Bunney, Andrew Lehane, Jack Buckley, Adrian O' Connell, Josh Kra, Eoghan Murphy, Conor O' Donovan, Andy O' Connell, Eoin Cremin, Darren O' Sullivan, Cormac McCarthy, Robert Lehane, Paul Koffi

Success in Munster came with many outstanding victories along the way. Victories over Colaiste Choilm Ballincollig, Ashton, Cashel and Christians saw us reach a Munster semi-final against an extremely talented St Pauls team from Waterford city. With the score line at one nil to St. Pauls defeat looked inevitable with seconds remaining, but this squad had been through so many tough games and never really know when they are beaten. With the last kick of normal time, Padriag 'Gunter' O' Flynn our superb goalie launched one last attack, his free made it all the way to the edge of the St. Pauls box where up rose Andy O' Connell with an outstanding header to equalise and send the game into extra-time. Extra-time couldn't separate the teams so penalties followed with DCS emerging victorious and progressing onto the Munster final.

In the final we faced the might of Limerick CBS, a school with a very successful record in all school soccer competitions. Having missed out on penalties two years previously in the Munster final against Sprioid Naoimh our lads were solely focussed on bringing home the trophy. Again the Douglas team were simply brilliant in both the original and the replayed fixture emerging as champions on a 3-1 score line. The goals came courtesy of an outstanding free kick from Andy O' Connell, a thunderous volley from striker Darren O' Sullivan and the clincher from substitute and

U18 Soccer Cork County Cup - Senior Soccer DCS - Path to Victory.

First-Round: DCS 3 - Ballincollig CS 1
Quarter-Final: DCS 2 - Dunmanway 1
Semi-Final: DCS 4 - Colaiste Choilm 2

Final: DCS 3 - Mayfield 2

The final played in Turners Cross in December certainly lived up to its billing with a great game of attacking football. DCS took the lead when Dean Kelly scored directly from a corner, lucky some would say yet if you were to ask the player himself he'd probably say he meant it! Mayfield showed what a good team they were though by coming back strongly and applying some serious pressure twice hitting the crossbar before deservedly equalising. The score at half-time was 1-1 with DCS marginally shading it in terms of quality and possession.



In the second half our boys showed their undoubted class and created chance after chance through the outstanding midfield duo of Graham 'Graz' Cullinane and Sean Moynihan, whilst the back four of John Forrest, Rob Creagh, Andrew Neville and Eoin 'Potsy' Murphy were rock solid whilst at the same time getting forward at every opportunity. Eventually the goal came when Mark Parkes volleyed home from a Chris Fahy cross. It truly was a great strike from Parkes who along with strike partner Jamie Cullen worked tirelessly all day up front. Again Mayfield came back at us, and again they equalised, yet DCS were not to be denied and as the game looked destined for extra time up popped Dean Kelly to fire home a thunderous volley ala Steven Gerard from the edge of the box. It finished 3-2 to DCS and the cup was ours.

For most of these players this is nothing new, with this particular bunch having now won 3 Munster titles, 3 County Cups, and a magnificent All-Ireland title as well. For many it was their last game for the school and players such as Captain fantastic John Forrest, Rob Creagh, and Martin O' Sullivan, Chris Fahy, and Potts who have given so much commitment and pleasure to those watching them will be sorely missed, along with the likes of Cian McGrath, Dan Couglan, James Brown and Philip Bunney who were vital pieces of this successful squad. Special mention and praise must also go to Edward Finn aka Munster's number one and Steve McCarthy who were both unavailable through injury on the day, just like those mentioned above for six years these two have given everything at opposite ends of the pitch with Finn outstanding in goals while McCarthy an exceptional talent up front. This victory was for them.

The entire squad truly are a wonderful bunch of lads whom the school are extremely proud of. On behalf of all those in the school who have worked with the team including Ted 'I Love Training' O' Sullivan, and Chris 'I won the lot' Hickey as well as current manager Kevin 'The Special One' Ronayne congratulations on all you have won for the school and best of luck in years to come.

Squad in full: Martin o' Sullivan, Edward Finn, Mark Ryan, Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, John Forrest, Olan Bermingham, Rob Creagh, Michael Lyons, Andrew Neville, Jason Murphy, Chris Fahy, Dean Kelly, Sean Moynihan, Michael Carroll, Graham Cullinane, Mark Parkes, Cian McGrath, Steven McCarthy, Jamie Cullen, Darren o' Sullivan, Ronan Kelly, James Brown and Philip Bunney.

Manager: Mr. Ronayne



Basketball

This year has been one of the most successful school basketball years for some time. It also was a sad one with the untimely passing of our team manager Eoghan Cotter.



Eoghan was a third year student who for the past three years has been the schools team manager for basketball. Due to a heart condition he could not play the game but loved it nonetheless. He would attend every training session and match, always willing to give his witty opinions and advice. He would do the score sheet for every game. More than the players, it was always Eoghan who would find you out in the school to discuss the next fixture. But on the 8th of December Eoghan lost his fight with his heart condition. Coach Cotter will be sorely missed.



The U19 and U16 teams started the season. The U19 team travelled to Kilkenny for their first cup game which they won convincingly; next we faced CSN who proved too strong for us. In the league the U19 got to the quarter finals of the Cork leagues where they were defeated by Fermoy. Cian O Flynn played his final game for DCS - his outstanding basketball skill and ability to dunk will be sorely missed.





President's Gaisce Award

In U16 the team reached the Cork league finals, playing our rivals CSN. It was a highly charged final as it was the team's first game without Eoghan. All players had EC printed on their warm up tops and wore black bands in his memory. They played like a team possessed, or with an extra player and to the surprise and delight of all there, they overcame the CSN team, winning the Cork U16 B School league. After the game the team presented Eoghan's parents with a signed jersey, it was a highly emotional affair and a fitting end to the session. All players had a phenomenal session, Peter Mullane, Niall Mc Carthy, Paul Creagh, Chris O Flynn, Darragh Fleming, Klaus Ozolins, Michael Keating and Guermo Olonzo.



After Christmas it was the 1st and 2nd years turn. Both teams went from strength to strength. With the first years coming top in their pool, they faced Colaiste an Phiarsaigh in the semi final in Neptune. This was a one sided affair with Sean Keating, Eoghan O'Brien and Daniel Condon putting in a strong performance. On the same day the team faced CSN in the final of the league. This was a highly charged game with both teams playing out of their skins. However CSN came out on top by one basket. The team was disappointed to lose but what a great start for this team and we look forward to more success throughout their time in DCS.

Last but definitely not least is our 2nd year team. Having lost to Mallow's Davis College in the pool games, the team went on to play Fermoy in the playoffs. They won this game convincingly and headed to Neptune for the semi finals. Winning this match well, they met Kinsale Community School in the final. Three point shoots from Darragh Fleming and strong drives from Klaus Ozolins and Kiran Chopra won the game for us. Next was a trip to Thurles for the All Ireland Quarter Finals. The team won all three games comprehensively, winning their final game by 20 points.

The All Ireland semi finals were played in Limerick's Basketball Arena. The team went down by 7 points in third quarter but amazing defence from Robert O'Reilly, Brian Mc Auliffe, Klaus Ozolins, Darragh Fleming and Kiran Chopra brought the team back. Klaus played amazing offence driving through the defence, scoring brilliant lay ups. The team are now through to the All Ireland Finals to be held in the National Basketball arena in Tallaght!



The President's Gaisce award has been running for 8 years in Douglas Community School. Since then we have had on average 20 students a year receiving their Bronze and some receiving their Silver Gaisce award. This year Ms O'Callaghan was awarded a Civil Merit Award which was presented to her by President Mary McAleese in Dublin Castle. This was awarded for being a PAL (President Award Leader) for over 5 years.

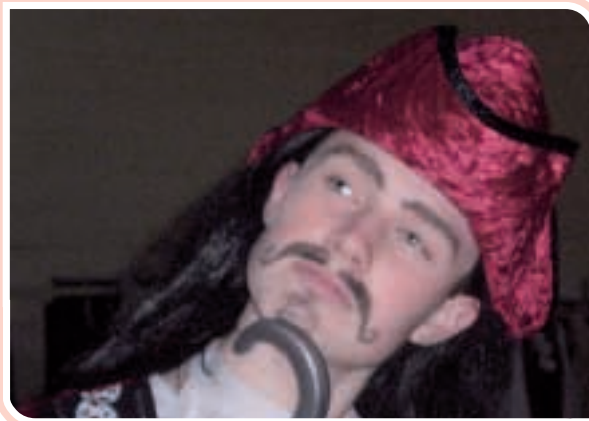
This year 31 students from 4th and 5th year will receive their Gaisce awards, having completed the four areas of the award. The Adventure section involved the 31 covering 28km during two days in Kenmare. It was a great trip and all students involved should be commended on their outstanding behaviour and good humour even through some torrential rain showers.





Annual School Show - Peter Pan

This year, the school's drama department was faced with the difficult task of putting on a show with less preparation time than previous years, when the Musical Director fell ill and forced the drama department to change their choice of show.



When the decision was taken to put on "Peter Pan" it was all hands on deck with everybody giving their full commitment. When rehearsals commenced there was a great air of excitement around the school.

Pressure grew when, with one week left, the actor, cast as Captain Hook, also fell ill and had to pull out and be replaced at the last minute. However, nothing fazed the fantastic group of fourth years who really surpassed themselves to produce one of the best shows the school has ever seen.

As with every school show, each year we try to top the last, and this year was no different. The band, consisting almost entirely of school musicians was led by Mr Ciaran O Connail. An extra performance was also added this year which meant that the show would be performed five times instead of the usual four.

For those of you who attended our production, we're sure you'll agree that "Peter Pan" pulled out all the stops and considering how little time the boys had to prepare it, they should all take another bow!

One of the show's highlights was the "Indian Mo Dance"; a dance medley towards the end of Act Two. The boys choreographed this particular routine themselves and shocked the drama teachers by putting it together in only an hour!

The boys were very appreciative of the work done



with them on the show by the drama teachers - Anne Moriarty, Rosanne O'Callaghan, Aaron Wolfe, Sean Fahy, Alan Gould and Ted O'Sullivan.

This year's fourth years should really be complimented for the time and effort they dedicated to the production. They had to pull off a show under difficult circumstances, and pull off a show they certainly did! Never before have we received such positive feed back from our audience, with a large postbag of letters arriving in the school and also appearing in the local press.



A Career Break in St. Lucia

I have been asked to share with the school community my experiences of volunteering as a teacher overseas. Both in our thirties and with 17 years of teaching experience between us, myself and my partner Lisa, a language teacher, decided last year that we would take a career break and do something different for a year. During the summer, we chatted often about the endless possibilities, about the benefits for ourselves and the possible benefits for those less fortunate than ourselves. We began to make a checklist of things that we wanted out of the experience including proximity to interesting flora and fauna, a different cultural experience, the option to travel elsewhere during the year etc.

After a lot of research and a series of coincidences, we became aware of the Presentation Brothers Volunteer Programme. Each year up to six Irish volunteer teachers, funded by Irish Aid, are sent to Presentation Brothers schools in the West Indies and Africa. The volunteers can spend up to two years working with disadvantaged young people and immersed in a different culture. We decided on the West Indies as Lisa has family in Grenada. Irish Presentation Brothers have had a presence in the West Indies since 1945. We were posted to beautiful St. Lucia, an island nation in the eastern Caribbean Sea on the boundary with the Atlantic Ocean. It is also known as the "Helen of the West Indies" because the island switched between British and French control so often it was likened





to the mythical Helen of Troy. The volcanic island of Saint Lucia is more mountainous than many other Caribbean islands with two mountains, the Pitons, form the island's most famous landmark along with a drive-in volcano. The local climate is tropical, moderated by northeast trade winds, with a dry season from January to April and a rainy season from May to December.

The small population of Saint Lucia is of mostly African descent (upwards of 95% of the population). Second only to bananas, tourism is vital to St. Lucia's economy and it is expected that economic importance of tourism will continue to increase as the market for bananas becomes more competitive. St. Lucia tends to be popular due to its tropical weather and scenery and for its large number of beaches and resorts. Despite this, St. Lucia still has an unemployment rate of 40% and the average income per capita places it 118th in the world, behind countries such as Romania, South Africa and Botswana. We were both teaching at the Centre for Adolescents' Renewal and Education (CARE). Second-level educational facilities in the West Indian islands have now reached a high level of excellence. However many young people who do not reach the criteria laid down for entry to this level are left with serious problems.

CARE focuses on the needs of semi-illiterate boys and girls who have a poor self-image and no sense of purpose. Unemployed and marginalised, they are vulnerable to drug abuse, violence and prostitution. The first year of the two year programme is devoted to self-awareness, family education, relationship skills, creativity, attitudes to work, and learning literacy and numeracy skills. The second year is devoted to training the young person in a skill of his or her choice. Over 85% of past students are now in gainful employment.

The year in St. Lucia was an incredibly exciting and challenging experience and we have absolutely no regrets about taking this refreshing year out of our own schools in Ireland. I must add that we are very grateful to students and colleagues alike for the kind way in which they facilitated our leaving and then returning to our respective schools. I would also like to thank all those who contributed to our fundraising, all of which was contributed directly to either students' families or school projects in St. Lucia.



French Quiz

An inter schools French quiz was held at the Ambassador Hotel in March by the French Teachers Association. A team consisting of Darren O Connell, Damien Randles, Anthony Meaney and Andrew O Reilly representing Douglas Community School participated in a successful and enjoyable evening.



French Breakfast

"Un Petit Dejeuner Francais" was organized for the students by the French Department. The students got the opportunity to sample a typical French breakfast and enjoyed foods such as croissants, pains aux chocolat, crepes, brioches avec du fromage et du chocolat as well as chocolat chaud and jus d'orange. Great fun was had by all.





Choir

The school choir features students from first to sixth year, and was involved in a number of important occasions in the school year. The choir performed at the Advent Service, where they were joined by all of the first years to form a much bigger (and more vocal) group. They were forced to do two encores - unfortunately, as they had already sung all of the songs that they had rehearsed for the occasion, this meant that they had to sing two of them again. Thankfully, those present didn't seem to mind in the least.



Continuing a recently established tradition, a small group of choir members sang in St. Luke's Home before Christmas. They received a very warm welcome from the staff and residents, who joined in the singing of Christmas songs and popular tunes.

The choir also sang at the funeral of Eoghan Cotter, who tragically passed away in December. While the occasion was undoubtedly emotional for all who were there, the choir demonstrated great self-control in their performance and gave support and comfort to those present with their singing. The mass was concluded with the choir singing "Flying Without Wings", Eoghan's favourite song. The choir also performed at the Graduation Mass on May 21, as well as at a memorial mass for Eoghan on May 20.

Special thanks are due to the sixth years involved in the choir this year: Ross Harrington, Killian Duggan, Ian Falvey, Aidan Murphy, Michael Carroll and Dave Harrington.

Thanks also to those who played music with the choir: Michael Carroll (cello, 6th year), Brian Murray (violin, 5th year), Aidan Heffernan (guitar, 4th year) and Dylan Morris (drums, 2nd year).



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2009



Bhí atmaisféar bríomhar gaelach le mothú timpeall na scoile le linn sheachtain na Gaeilge 09'. Ag am lóin agus sna ranganna rinne na daltaí agus go deimhin na múinteoirí an-iarracht an cúpla focal a úsáid. Bhí comórtais agus imeachtaí éagsúla idir lámha againn, comórtais póstaer, comórtas cainte na ndaltaí agus na múinteoirí, tráth na gceist agus comórtais aistí ina measc. D'éirigh thar barr leis na himeachtaí go léir agus chuirfeadh an méid iarrachta a rinne daltaí agus múinteoirí bród agus gliondar ar na clocha fiú!

Comórtas na bPóstaer

Dhear daltaí na céad agus na dara bliana póstaer iontacha

agus bhí siad ar taispeáint timpeall na scoile agus sna seomraí Gaeilge ach go háirithe. Caithfear a rá go ndearna na daltaí uile sár-iarracht leis na postaeir, maith sibh!

Cómórtas Cainte

Cuireadh béim faoi leith ar labhairt na teanga le linn na seachtaine agus bhí duaiseanna iontacha ar fail do bhuaiteoirí na gcomórtais. Go deimhin caithfimid ard-mholadh a thabhairt do ghach dalta as ucht an deá-iarracht a rinne siad. Ba dheas an rud é an Ghaeilge a chloisteáil ar fud na scoile. Ag deireadh na seachtaine roghnaigh na múinteoirí dalta as gach rang a rinne sár-iarracht ó thaobh labhairt na Gaeilge le linn na seachtaine. Bronnadh duais agus teastais ar na buaiteoirí sin ag deireadh na seachtaine. Comhghairdeachas libh ar fad.

Comórtas Cainte na Múinteoirí

Chaith na daltaí vótaí don mhúinteoir a rinne an iarracht is fearr an cúpla focal a labhairt le linn na seachtaine. Bhí an-spórt agus spraoi sna seomraí ranga agus na daltaí i mbun vótála! Bhí an bua ag an Uasal Ó hIcidhe ag an ngnáthléibhéal. Bhí beirt in iomaíocht don chéad áit ag an ardleibhéal an tUasal Mac Tíre agus Iníon Uí Cheallacháin. Bhí an-chomórtas eatharthu agus neart vótaí faighte acu beirt ach ar deireadh thiar bhí an lá ag an Uasal Mac Tíre.



Comórtas Aistí

Eagraíodh comórtas aistí don chúigiú bliain. Thapaigh na daltaí an deis chun ubh cásca a bhuanachan agus chuaigh siad i mbun scríbhneoireachta. Bhuaigh ceathrar as an gcúigiú bliain duaiseanna sa chomórtas seo, is iad seo leanas na buaiteoirí; Kieran Gleeson, Anthony Meaney, Brian Murray agus .

Gabhann roinn na Gaeilge buíochas le gach duine a thug cabhair dúinn Seachtain na Gaeilge a chéiliúradh sa scoil.

Tá créidiúnt faoi leith ag dul don Phríomhoide an tUasal Ó hOrgáin a chuir iarracht as cuimse isteach san ócáid agus a thug air féin fógraí an lae a dhéanamh trí mhéan na Gaeilge ar feadh na seachtaine.

Ar an iomlán, bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge thar a bheith rathúil againn agus ní chreidfeá an spórt agus an spraoi a bhí againn go léir.

Beatha teanga í a labhairt!



An Fhoireann a bhuaigh an Tráth na gCeist Niall McCarthy, James Tyner agus Tony Ó Mahony



Buaiteoirí an Chomórtais aistí Brian Murray, Kieran Gleeson agus Anthony Meaney



Na buaiteoirí ón gcéad, dara agus tríú bliain



Buaiteoirí ón gceathrú, cúigiú agus séú bliain.





1st Year Soccer

Our First Years have had a very successful season in their U13 Munster Cup.. They are doing the school, their parents and themselves very proud. Our season got off to a poor start with a 2-1 defeat by Rochestown. The lads went on to beat Nagle CBS 6-0 to qualify for the knock-out stages of the competition. Goals from Paul Lehane, who scored an excellent hat-trick, Dylan Stanton and Sean Keating earned the lads a well deserved victory. A very pleasing feature in this game was the display and showing of the squad as a whole. The strength in depth illustrated by some great performances from Emmet Mc Auliffe, Killian Pumphrey, Brendan Couch, Ciaran Devine, Alan Ring, Charlie White and



Alex Alabi coming off the bench. This was followed by an excellent 6-2 victory against Cobh. It was Abbey CBS from Tipperary who were to be our next opponents and we won the game 5-4. The goals coming from our midfield maestro Eoghan O'Connell; Daniel Savage had a stormer and was a

constant threat, grabbing a brace for himself; Paul Lehane also got himself on the scoresheet and Stephen Beale got in on the act with a 40 yard screamer which was at this stage becoming his trademark! On we marched to the quarter finals with a home draw against De La Salle from Waterford. The game was truly a classic. We got off to a flying start when Emmet Mc Auliffe put us a goal up midway through the first half. De La Salle to their credit stayed positive and came back to lead 2-1 nearing the end of the game. Not for the first time this year though the lads dug deep and with the last kick of the game, left back Gavin Falvey scored from all of 30 yards to send the game into extra time with the score standing at 2-2! With neither side managing to get that vital break through in extra time the match would be settled by penalties. Yet again the lads found that extra something in them, kept their nerve and won 5-4 on penalties. Unfortunately, in the semi-final, Douglas came up against a formidable outfit in Clonmel CBS who went on to take the provincial title.



Christmas Fund Raising at Douglas Community School

Douglas Community School is renowned for its fund-raising history and this year has been no exception. The school would like to thank its students, parents and guardians and the wider community for its generous support at Christmas toward our charity raffles.

Over 60 wonderful prizes were donated to the raffle and approximately €2000 was raised for local charities. A separate raffle of three Christmas hampers also took place and we would like to thank



especially Kay Black (Florist) for her help and donations which have been ongoing for some years now.

Mrs. O' Mahony's French class was excellent in advertising and selling tickets for the event. So, until next year, thank you for your continuous support.



Robotics Competition

In Association with Cork Electronics Industry

The aim of this competition is to encourage students to pursue carers in Engineering and Technology.

Four second year students: Robert O'Reily, Abdullah Khan, Sharuk Nawaz and Andrew O'Keeffe under the guidance of Science teacher, Ms Catriona Barrett completed the task of assembling and programming a robot to enable it to complete certain tasks. Kevin O'Leary was the team artist who completed the poster and diary aspect of the competition.

The final took place in the Maryborough Hotel Douglas in February 2009 where all participating Cork schools presented their robots and competed against each other in a knockout competition.

There were 16 teams in total, the top 8 scores qualified from this first round. Quarter finals followed, out of which four teams made it to semi finals. DCS and Bandon grammar School made it to the final where DCS came out overall winners. Minister Micheál Martin presented the prizes on the night.

The team won a squeeze box (electronic equipment to use with their ipod with a speaker system) and a laptop for the school.





Transition Year 2008-09

Going into the final term of the school year the Transition Year classes can look back at an extremely successful year's work and activity.

The year got off to a lively start. The reforming of the classes after Third Year meant that students found themselves with many new classmates and they quickly got to know them through their work in the wide variety of activities in Transition Year. These are comprised of academic work, activity modules, and community-based experiences.

The subjects English, Maths, Irish and French/German make up the core of the academic programme of the year and the students are able to discover new aspects of them, removed from the requirements of the Junior Certificate. In the first term all classes had taster modules in twelve optional Leaving Cert subjects and, following on a decision process with the Guidance Counsellors, started into their three chosen subjects in January. This allows them to become familiar with the subjects, building a good foundation for the Leaving Cert syllabus.

Activity Modules on Wednesday mornings this year have included First Aid (under the auspices of the Irish Red Cross), Horticulture, Fitness Training, Film-Making, Safe Food Certification, Car Maintenance/Road Safety, Art, Mini Company, Spanish, and Self Defence. Each student chose to

do four of these modules. In addition, many of the students are well advanced towards completing their ECDL certification.

Community Service continues to be an essential and hugely valuable part of the Transition Year and the reports back from the placements are very positive. There are students in the Lavanagh Centre in Ballintemple, at St Luke's Home in Mahon, at the Brook Dale Centre, at the Community Centres in Douglas, Ballinlough and Ballyphehane doing Meals on Wheels, in various charity shops and primary and special schools, working on the Log On Learn Computer Training for Older People and in other placements as well. In addition a number of selected charities have had students allocated to help with their flag-days in the city centre and in Douglas. In the final term each student will undergo a training programme in CPR and will get a training kit from the Irish Heart Foundation.

A large number of the Transition Year students are due to attend the UCC Spring Open Day after Easter, at which they can inform themselves of the range of degrees on offer and be better able to see what is required of them in the next two years in preparation for third level education. In this regard also a number of students have already attended a week-long Exploring Technology programme in CIT which allowed them to experience at first hand the work of the third level student in the Science, Engineering and Technology areas.



Buaiteoirí ón gceathrú, cúigiú agus séú bliain.





There is an extensive report on the Musical Production and the workshops for the local Primary Schools elsewhere in this publication, and this year again both of these activities have been enormously successful and enjoyable.

The level of student involvement and enthusiasm among this year's Transition Year classes is high and it bodes well for next year.

Student Council

Aidan Murphy and Ayman Hafez of the Student Council presenting a cheque in aid of children's charity SPARKS to past pupil Daragh Horgan who trekked to the South Pole in November 2008 to raise much needed funds for the charity.

The Student Council represents the students of DCS by becoming actively involved in the affairs of the school, working with school management, staff and parents for the benefit of the school and the students.

Over the past school year the Student Council has debated many different issues brought to us by the students of the school.

In line with Department of Education and Science procedures, The Student Council was required to review the DCS code of behaviour in 2009. Our recommendations

were sent to the Board of Management, where, along with recommendations from the Parents Council and the teaching staff the changes to the code of behaviour will be implemented.

The Council also took part in meetings with the Department of Education and Science Inspectors during the course of the Whole School Evaluation.

The issue of introducing a school tracksuit was brought to the attention of the Council and we are currently conducting preliminary research into

the costs of the proposal. We are also looking to introduce a range of healthier foods in the school shop.

The Student Council's new webpage on www.dcs cork.ie will give regular updates on Student Council issues. You can also contact the council directly by using our contact page on the website. Alternatively, if you have an issue or recommendation for the Student Council feel free to approach your Student Council representatives. Your input is what is needed to make the Student Council as effective as it can be.

The Student Council members for the school year 2008/2009 are:

1st Year: Emmet McAuliffe, Aaron Murphy

2nd Year: Killian Crowley, Azim Bhayla

3rd Year: Gerard Lewsley, Pdraig Wilson-McCarthy

4th Year: Robert Bolton, Eoghan Harris

5th Year: Gareth Kidney, Ronan Kelly

6th Year: Aidan Murphy, Ayman Hafez.





LEAVING CERT 2009

CLASS 6.1



6.1 Class Tutor: Aaron Wolfe

Back Row Left to Right:

Max McGrath, Sean Moynihan, Aaron Daly, Edward Finn, Donal Desmond, Mr Aaron Wolfe.

Front Row Left to Right:

David A Murphy, Stephen McCarthy, Daniel Coughlan, Eoghan O' Leary, David Dineen.

Absent from Photograph: Luke McCarthy, Julian Wong.

LEAVING CERT 2009

CLASS 6.2



6.2 Class Tutor: Mr. Chris Hickey

Back Row Left to Right: Mr Chris Hickey, Martin O' Sullivan, Ciaran O' Herlihy, Eoin Murphy, Jeffrey Rohu, Filip Joniec, Kamil Kasinski, Mateusz Cebula, Ian Falvey, Thomas Goulding, Brodie Thornton, David Nevin, Richard Stokes, Richard Quirke.

Front Row Left to Right: Gary Sisk, Christopher Lyons, Philip Bunney, Paul O' Brien, Ian Burke, Fionn Cronin, Michael Carroll, James Brennan, Grzegorz Kulicki.

Absent from Photograph: Dima Bacshun, Robert Creagh.





LEAVING CERT 2009

CLASS 6.3



6.3 Class Tutor: Ms. Anne Moriarty

Back Row Left to Right: Ms Anne Moriarty, Alex Lee, Paul Mason, Ciaran O' Keeffe, Rory Murphy, Philip Doherty, David Morrisson, Christopher Coleman, Gareth McGroarty, Cian O' Flynn, Ross Lane, Craig Hayes, Matthew O' Callaghan, Eric Bruton, Fabien Dubois, Craig Harrington, Andrew O' Reilly, Alex Kelly.

Front Row Left to Right: Killian Duggan, Aidan Murphy, Christopher Fahy, Sean O' Sullivan, Dave Harrington, Stephen McCarthy, Ben Coughlan, Denis Cotter, Aidan Cotter.

Absent from Photograph: Shane Bruton

LEAVING CERT 2009

CLASS 6.4



6.4 Class Tutor: Ms. Sabrina Mackey

Back Row Left to Right: Ms Sabrina Mackey, Alan Kenny, Jamie Byrne, Daniel Stout, Neily Mahdi, Robert Twomey, David M Murphy, Cian McGrath, Craig O' Sullivan, Daniel Radzik, Cian Hassett, Ben Collins, David O' Keeffe, Eoghan Flannery, Ciarán Corr, Peter Alabi, Steven Nolan, Kenneth O' Connell.

Front Row Left to Right: Ian O' Mahony, Mark Ryan, Ayman Hafez, John Forrest, James Browne, Joey Cronin, Chris Canniffe, Kevin Tobin, Ben Mullamphy.



STAFF PHOTO 2008/2009



Back Row Left to Right: Mr Stephen Lynch, Mr Dairhí O' Laoire, Mr Ger McNamara, Mr Shay O' Donoghue, Mr John O' Connell, Mr Abe Huggard, Ms Margaret Huggard, Mr Brian O' Connor, Ms Brigid Daly, Mr Michael Dolan, Mr Ted Coakley, Mr Pat Nyhan, Ms Breda Scannell, Mr Kevin Ronayne, Mr Richard Terry, Ms Anne Moriarty.

Middle Row Left to Right: Mr Jerry O' Mahony, Ms Catherine O' Mahony, Ms Joanne O' Connor, Mr Brian Pigott, Mr Cian O' Mahony, Ms Clare Moylan, Ms Sabrina Mackey, Ms Elaine Ní Neachtain, Ms Zoe O' Mahony, Ms Mairéad Carter, Ms Dympna Moran, Mr William Manning, Mr Ciarán O' Conaill, Mr John O' Leary, Mr Aaron Wolfe, Mr Ted O' Sullivan.

Front Row Left to Right: Mr Ger O' Connell, Mr Neil Bronks, Mr Seán Fahy, Ms Ber Clarkson, Ms Aileen Goulding, Ms Mary Thomason, Mr Jim Long (Deputy Principal), Mr Bernard Horgan (Principal), Mr Chris Hickey, Mr Ciarán Ó Cuanacháin, Ms Anne Daunt, Mr Owen Casey, Ms Mary Maguire, Ms Rosanne O' Callaghan.

Absent from Photograph: Mr Bill Leahy, Mr Alan Gould, Ms Imelda Matchett, Ms Hazel de Barra, and Ms Catriona Barrett.



DOUGLAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL, DOUGLAS CORK

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