

Principal's Report 2013-2104

This has been a very successful year on all fronts. The report from the Inspectorate on the recent MLL was very complimentary to our school. We were rated in second place non-fee paying school in Nationally in the Irish Times and Irish Independent polls (December 2013). On the extra curricular front there were many success at National and Local level. We have made great strides in the promotion of positive mental health. On the core business of teaching and learning we have positively contributed to the Droichead programme for teacher Induction. We have made significant inroads in the Implementation of active teaching methodologies in the classroom.

Teaching and Learning:

Two teachers and the Principal have participated in **the Mentoring programme** for newly qualified teachers. We were the only school in Mayo to be invited to participate in the **Droichead Programme**

Two teachers and the Principal have attended 2 rounds of **Instructional Leadership** and have presented a one day inservice to the staff on active teaching methodologies

As part of our **School improvement plan** for next year the staff will be focusing on creating a detailed **planning template** for each subject area. This will prove invaluable for **substitute teachers** and for student progression and will provide a method for teachers to **collate resources**.

Inservice has been provided to the staff on the use of **ICT in teaching**. The use of **Google Apps** for education will provide a means for teachers to **collaborate** online and share resources. This inservice will continue next year.

The introduction of **VSware** (administration package) will provide for better tracking of student progress. It will also provide a more up to date method of recording student behaviour and rewarding or reprimanding as required.

We have made major strides in the promotion of positive mental health and it is hoped that we will become an **ambassador school** for mental health next year. One of our students has been chosen to receive two days training as a mental health leader. The next progression will be to become a **health promotion school** in terms of Nutrition, physical and spiritual health. A Mental health talk has been scheduled for the start of the year for all staff.

The **Post Leaving Certificate** Programme continues to thrive and expand the latest advance has been the accreditation of this school as an **ITEC Centre**.

Despite dwindling numbers the **Leaving Certificate Applied Programme** has been a great success this year. Looking to the future we need to be mindful of the dwindling numbers.

Our **adult education** programme continues to be successful.

70 students completed the **Transition Year** programme this year and despite low numbers in 3rd year we will have the same number of students again this year. A wide variety of events have taken place in this programme.

A large group of students and teachers went to **Madrid at the Feb Mid term**. The reports of this tour were excellent. A tour to Paris is already being organised for next year.

English Irish and Maths are no longer blocked in First Year this is to come in line with proposed developments at Junior Cycle and provide for mixed ability teaching in 1st year.

The **school website** has been updated.

A very energetic and colourful **year book** has been produced this year.

The **schools prospectus** has been updated this year also.

Weekend study for leaving certificate students has proven very successful this year with many students availing of it in the month of May.

Extra Curricular Activities

We have an extremely dedicated and inspirational staff in this school and this is evidenced by the level of extra curricular activities provided:

In sport both boys and girls teams compete in the following sports:

Volleyball

Basketball

Soccer

Gaelic Football

Athletics

Table Tennis.

This year we won the senior boys Volleyball All-Ireland, Connacht finals in both boys and girls gaelic football, qualified for the all-ireland playoff in both boys and girls basketball, had pupils competing at regional level in athletics, won all-Ireland finals in both boys and girls table tennis and our girls represented Ireland in France at the world table tennis championships. One of our students has been ranked number 1 in Ireland and is competing for Ireland at international level in table tennis.

Our leaving certificate applied and TY students received three national awards at the National Young Environmentalist awards, scooping the overall winner in the senior category. These students also got to the national finals in the one good idea programme. Both events were held in the Mansion house.

In Debating and public speaking we competed in; Mental Health Public Speaking, The Soroptomists public speaking and in the concern debates where we finished up first in Mayo.

Junior cycle students participated in inter class debating, public speaking and spelling bee competitions.

Quite a few students have received National Awards in writing competitions this year.

There is now a reading club in the school, and resources have been sourced from the JCSP programme for this initiative.

The quiet room, co-ordinated by the student council is open every day and students are availing of this service.

The Mock continue to be administered on a voluntary capacity by staff members and this has reduces the cost to parents considerably.

The Homework club continues to be a great success.

The number of students availing of evening study continues to rise.

TY students presented their project to the Minister for Education at a National event in Galway.

The Big Brother Big Sister programme continues to develop, teachers give voluntarily of their time to this very worthwhile programme. A very successful day out to Lough key adventure park took place in May.

Thought for the Day continues each Day.

The Pastoral Care team meet every Thursday.

Junior science classes have gone on Ecology trips.

A student progressed to the national finals of a computer coding programme which was held in the Google offices in Dublin.

A group of students reached the All-Ireland Finals in the Formula 1 competition.

TY Students raised almost €4000 for the Philipines and part of this consisted of an all night sleep over on the Astro Turf.

We had very successful run of Mamma Mia the Musical this year.

TY students brought the Rosary beads that they produced to a National Gathering in Knock. Two students spoke in the Basilica regarding the John Paul 11 Awards

The annual Carol Service and Graduation mass were very successful events.

Two students represented the school at the Le Cheile conference in February.

The Parents association continues to grow and to meet on a very regular basis.

This is a summary of success and achievements in our school this year, there are many more.

None of this would be possible without the support and enthusiasm of our staff. It is a privilege to work in a school where there is such a high value on education and such a positive approach from the staff, both teaching and not teaching staff. None of this would be possible without the Trojan work that our Deputy puts into organising supervision and accommodating requests from Staff.