

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter. The whole College community wish you and your family a happy and peaceful Christmas. May you enjoy a time of hope, faith, fellowship, friendship and care for each other. The blessing of the Christ child be upon us all.

Board of Management

The Board of Management wishes everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas.

The Board is made up of four Governors: **Mr. Richard Codd (Chairman), Dean Katharine Poulton, Mr. Jim Brown, Mr. Tony Cooper**; two parent nominees: **Mr. Derek Beattie, Mrs. Shelly Stokes** and two teacher nominees: **Ms. Valda Langrell and Ms. Maria Cuddihy**. The Principal Mr. Simon Thompson is Secretary to the Board.

The Board wishes to pay tribute to all staff, parents and pupils for making 2016 another very special and successful year.

Our College is a community in which the unique character of each student sits at the centre. Everyone working here is focused in their professional responsibility in providing a secure, enriching environment for all students. We work to aid our students in coming to an understanding of who they were created by God to be. It is the slow outworking of this process, which naturally occurs incrementally over time, that underpins the living expression of our Ethos. At this reflective time of Christmas we give thanks for the unique contribution of each member of our College Community during this year.

Communication

You can now get daily updates on life at Kilkenny College via our website, www.kilkennycollege.ie and you can also follow us on twitter at [www.twitter.com/kilkennycollege](https://twitter.com/kilkennycollege). Since Nov. 2011 there have been over 3957 individual "tweets" and 1664 followers on Twitter, which is a very useful way to keep in touch with what is happening in the school every day. In the age of the smart phone, this type of communication is very convenient. A weekly Newsletter outlining events taking place that particular week and upcoming events is emailed to all parents/guardians every Monday, should you wish to receive this weekly Newsletter please send your email address to info@kilkennycollege.ie. The Weekly Newsletter is also on our website. Reminders of upcoming events sent by web text will frequently refer you to our website for full details. To keep up to date on Transition Year activities, log on to TYeye.ie.

We also encourage you to register with the Parents' Association section of the College website.

Prize Day

This year we celebrated one of our most successful years ever in academic and sporting achievements. We were honoured to have **The Right Rev. Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory** as our guest speaker who addressed the large gathering and presented prizes. The Ripieno Society Chamber choir and senior choir added much to the enjoyment of the large gathering.

Leaving Certificate 2016:-

The major prize winners at Prize Day this year were:-

The Parents' Association Prize

**Sarah Morrow /
Daire Pryal**

The Mayne Cup & Past Pupils' Prize

Glenn Dudley

The Guinness Trophy

Alvin Stanley

The Bill Corrigan Memorial Award

Matthew

McRedmond

The Bishop's Prize

Zara Beattie

The Philip Gray Prize

Iseult Cahill



Very Happy Leaving Certificate students

Junior Certificate 2016:-

The major prize winner at Prize Day this year was:-

Matthew McRedmond



Very Happy Junior Certificate students

Academic and Co-Curricular Achievements

Congratulations to the following Leaving Certificate Class of 2016 students for their outstanding Academic achievements:-

The year group achieved an average CAO Points Score of 424 points – a record for a year group. As importantly every member of the year competed the Leaving Certificate cycle with success. It is the annual objective of the staff at the College that we work with each senior cycle student and their family to guide them through completion of the State Examinations and onward into the next phase of their lives.

Three Entrance Scholarships were awarded by Trinity College Dublin to members of the class of 2016. **Sarah Morrow** and **Daire Pryal**, two of the recipients, both achieved 625 CAO points in the Leaving Certificate 2016. Both Sarah and Daire are now studying Medicine. **Sophie Cairns**, who attained 605 CAO points, is now studying Engineering.



Sophie Cairns, Sarah Morrow and Daire Pryal

Scott Levie, Sarah Young, Alvin Stanley, Sean Landers, John Drought, Glenn Dudley, Eoin Halton and John Ridgeway have been awarded Entrance Scholarships at U.C.D.

Mike Healy has been awarded an Ad Astra Scholarship at U.C.D. where he is studying Agricultural Science and is continuing his involvement in Modern Pentathlon.

Sophie Cairns and **Scott Levie** have both been awarded a Naughton Foundation Scholarship for the study of Engineering Science's and Technology. These scholarships are awarded on a one per County basis across Leinster, Scott was the award winner for Co. Tipperary and Sophie was the award winner for Co. Wexford.

Katelynn Walsh has been awarded a JP McManus Scholarship at the University of Limerick for six years of Third Level study.

Also congratulations to **Luke Douglas, Craig Blakeney** and **Niall O'Connor** whose Technology Projects from Junior and Leaving Certificate reached the National finals of the 2016 ETTA Competition.



Sophie Cairns and Scott Levie

15 out of 120 students who sat the Leaving Certificate in 2016 have received a National Award based on their attainment in the State Examinations.

Congratulations to the following pupils who were awarded a BSTAI award in recognition of achieving an 'A' grade in their Junior Certificate Business Studies exam:- **Mariann MacIver, Andrew O'Brien, David O'Brien, Joseph Quirk and Jennifer Young.**

It is a great credit to these students, their teachers and families that they have achieved such high standards. We are proud of each one of them and wish them continued success in their academic study.



Congratulations to the following students for their great Extra-Curricular achievements:-

- The **Senior Girls Hockey** squad won the League
- The **Junior Boys Rugby** squad are now through to the League Final
- **Ellie McLoughlin, Ciara Orr, Isabel Bourke, Jessie Wagenaar, Iseult Cahill and Faye Neill** selected for the South-East U16 Inter-provincial Hockey squad.
- **Lenka Halpin, Maddie Brennan, Grace Donald, Yasmin Pratt, Sophie Thomas, Hilary Balding, Emma Young and Ellen Atkinson** selected for the South-East U18 Inter-provincial Hockey squad.
- **Adrienne King** and **Louis Bourke** retained their places with the National Youth Orchestra as Violinist's and **Isabel Bourke** on gaining a place as a Cellist.
- **Ruby Millet** came 2nd in the U17 Inter Girls All Ireland Schools combined events competition and went on to participate with the Irish Schools Team for the International combined events recently. **Ruby** then represented Ireland in Athletics in a 4 Nations International Tournament in December
- **Ross Daly** came 13th in the Inter Boys All Ireland Schools competition.

- **Rachel Kavanagh** competed in The Acrobatic Team Trophy in Gymnastics. Rachel competes with a partner at Grade 5 level against Gymnasts from all over the Country.
- **Charlie Tector**, along with his team, won the U16's Wexford County Hurling Final.
- **Sophie Thomas** and **Mariann MacIver** winners of the Kilkenny U16 Camogie Championship with Danesfort.
- **Sam Driver** who set a new U18's National record in Bench Lifting 130 kgs. In the IDFPA Championships.
- **Sarah Bergin** won an All-Ireland Camogie Medal
- **Charlie Hackett**, Form 1, had his letter published in The Farmer's Journal and was subsequently interviewed on 'Countrywide' on RTE Radio 1. The theme of Charlie's letter was 'Farmer's look on the bright side of life'.

Past Pupils

Congratulations to **Nicola Fryday** who was selected for the Irish Women's Rugby team to play against Canada.

Rugby

Congratulations to our JCT Rugby team who won their League semi-final in Donnybrook recently against Castleknock College. They will now play in the League Final against Newbridge College at Donnybrook in January (**Date to be confirmed**).



Joe Schmidt, Ireland Head Rugby Coach, was a welcome and popular Special Guest at Kilkenny College on Wednesday 7th December. Joe made time in his busy schedule to travel to the College and speak to the assembled school community before rounding off his visit by meeting as many students and staff as time permitted.

Upon arrival Joe was met by a group of junior cycle students who are captains of their respective sports teams. He was shown the Irish representative jerseys from a variety of sports worn by former students of the College which hang in Red Square. There was an atmosphere of celebration in the College Sports Hall upon Joe's entrance reflecting the success of the Irish team's recent achievements in defeating South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

Joe then spoke to the students and staff reminding them that excellence is achieved through repeated practice and preparation. It is not given to anyone. He emphasized that a group or team succeeds best when each person within it is working to be the best that they can be. It is then that the combined effort will achieve the best possible results.

The captains of the four senior girls and boys rugby and hockey teams then made a presentation of thanks to Joe, including a Kilkenny College rugby jersey. Joe's natural warmth and empathy shone through during his visit. A Whole School 'Selfie' and a lap of honour around the all the year groups brought the Assembly to a conclusion. Joe was gone, but the halo lives on.

Girls Hockey

Congratulations to the Girls 1st on winning the League, beating Loreto Kilkenny 5 – 1 on December 14th.

Form 1 Hockey Squad



Boys Hockey



Equestrian

Thanks are due to all those parents and family members who give so much of their time in supporting the activities of the Equestrian Club. As ever, Mr. Cuddihy is unfailingly generous in ensuring the good organisation of all equestrian activities.

Debating

The College was represented at the Mace Junior Debating Competition by **Fufu Emeordi, Rukky Etaferi, Zeta Ashmore, Destiny Ewohime, Evan Lewis, Joshua Good, James Hannon** and **Mollie Murphy**.

Arts and Clubs

As well as in the areas of **Art, Music, Science** and **Home Economics**, the **Chess** and **Heritage Clubs** along with **Cumann Gaelach** have all been active recently.



Chaplaincy

It has been a busy and wonderful term in the Chaplaincy. The Chapel is open daily for a quiet moment in what is a very busy student daily schedule. There are regular and occasional services. Canon Susan Green, the College Chaplain is leading prayers at the College Assembly each week.



Compline

Compline is a night prayer, the short reflective service takes place on Thursdays at 6:40 pm in the Chapel and year group by year group boarding students are invited to attend. The service takes about 15 minutes.

Confirmation

Confirmation classes for boarding students have begun. The Confirmation Service will take place on April 23rd in St. Canice's Cathedral at 4 p.m. Day pupils are requested to contact their local clergy. The Chaplain can be contacted by calling the main school number or on susangreen@kilkennycollege.ie.

A new faith based group which has just started called 'Ichthus', meet in the Chapel. New members welcome.

Carol Service & Music

Following the very successful Carol Service, Christmas Lunch was served in the College to students, staff and many former colleagues who joined us on the day. We give thanks to our Catering staff for a most enjoyable meal. The Collection at the Christmas Carol Service raised €1,602.01. This amount is divided evenly between The Bishops' Appeal and The Amber Centre (The Kilkenny/Carlow/Laois Women's' Refuge).

Music and Choirs

Thanks are due to **Mr. Sexton (Music Director)**, **Ms. Harding** and the Music Teachers for the continued high level of involvement by students in Music.

The Choirs, musicians and readers ensured the Carol Service was a Sacred and Special lead into Christmas.



Singing Christmas Carols in MacDonagh

Thanks are due also to the Choristers who sang for Christian Aid, and raising €325.

'Dare to Scare' Hallowe'en Music Performance

A cast of musicians from 2nd Form and 4th Form produced and performed an excellent set at two performances held in the McAdoo Hall. The range of styles and abilities was warmly appreciated by two full houses. Congratulations to every performer and backstage assistant, Ms. Harding and to Mr. Sexton.

Yates, Butler and Wolfe House News:

The final week of term saw lots of activities kindly organised by the Boarding Houses staff each evening. Soccer Tournaments, Pizza Nights and Talent Shows all drew large roads of participants from among the boarders.

The Girls Talent Show showcased the talents of many boarder girls from 1st Form through to 6th Form.

Thanks to the students for their enthusiasm and to the boarding house staff for their commitment, patience and energy in seeing everyone happily through the build up to the Christmas break.

Christmas Bake-Off

Thank you to our fabulous Home Economics teachers who did so much work putting 'Bake Off' together.



Ms. Atkinson and Ms. Threlfall



WINNERS Rory & Robyn

Transition Year

4th Form / Transition Year Christmas Market

The Transition Year Market proved itself a success once again in bringing the Term to a festive close. The many stalls and novelty items gave the crowds in attendance plenty to see and participate in. Sincere thanks are due to all the 4th Form students who worked so hard to make the market a success. Likewise to Mr. Willis, Ms. Ryder, Mr. Dool and the other staff members involved a big 'Thank You' for the leadership and organisation given to bringing this large event together with such skill.



TY Christmas Market in full swing

Work Experience - The two weeks of Monday 6th February and Monday 13th February are the official two weeks set aside for work experience. Please ensure that **your** Transition Student returns after the holidays with everything fully organised. We will need contact details for placements as Ms. Ryan will be contacting some employers. **Work Experience outside allocated weeks** – There is a form on the College website which needs to be downloaded and signed by parent/guardian. It is only on receipt of this signed form by Ms. Ryan that the school insurance can be extended. Boarding students need to inform the Heads of Houses of absence for work

experience. All students will be provided with a work experience pack including a copy of the school insurance.

Form 6

The 6th Form students have demonstrated a mature approach to their year as the Term has progressed. For each member of 6th Form 2017 is the most important year of their second level study. We wish each member of 6th Form 2017 every success as they work through their Leaving Certificate. We offer each member of the Year support, encouragement and guidance and look to work with them and their families to ensure the fulfilment of their ambitions in the Year ahead. A calm, consistent approach is the best approach to ensuring this occurs.

Parents' Association

Thanks are expressed to all members of the Parents' Association committee for the time they give and their commitment to working on behalf of all the students at the College. Sincere gratitude is expressed also to all the members of the Parents' Association who organised a wonderful, well-attended Debs for the Class of 2016 at The Keadeen Hotel.



Debutants of 2016

The Parents' Association have also been very supportive in funding various activities and equipment.

Student Council

The new Student Council has been elected; Representatives are: **Form 1** – Tom Kavanagh, Heidi McLellan, **Form 2** – Konke Mthembu, Eva Shirley, **Form 3** – Dara Scobie, Aaron Cantwell, **Form 4** – Jack Foley, Mariann MacIver, **Form 5** – Louis Carter, Stephen Claxton, **Form 6** – Aaron Baker and Mia Griffin

Day-Boarders

Afternoon activities and prep:- Day pupils participating in these programmes must be involved in a supervised activity or prep during the afternoon if staying on College grounds after 3:45 p.m. Afternoon leave out for Forms 2 – 6 pupils for **essential appointments only** must be notified to the Deputy Principal or school office by parents prior to the pupil signing out. There is no afternoon leave-out for Form 1 pupils unless collected by a parent. Day-boarders are to notify the school office if they are unable to attend an evening prep.

Dates and Information Diary

January 8th – Boarders return from 7:30 p.m.

January 9th – School reopens.

January 13th – Form 5 Parent/Teacher meeting **

February 6th – T.Y. Work Experience commences.

February 6th – Mock Examinations commence.

February 20th – 24th inclusive – Half term

**** Please note: January 13th is a Form 5 Parent/Teacher meeting and not Form 1 as indicated on our Calendar. Form 1 Parent/Teacher meeting will now take place on March 3rd.**

Please remember to complete and send the S.E.C. Grant form back to the S.E.C. Office well before the closing date of February 28th 2017 if relevant to you.

Scholarship Examinations 2017

Application forms for the 2017 Incorporated Society and Open Scholarships are available from the College office and some primary schools. The examinations will be held at the College on Thursday 9th March 2017.

Uniform – important notes

- Please use the Christmas holidays to check that uniform is in good condition e.g. repair torn jumpers, skirts and trousers and ensure that shirts/blouses have adequate buttons. Shoes may need replacing.
- Please note that school shoes need to be polishable black with black uppers.

The pupils know we expect a high standard. Please ensure that your son/daughter returns to school in January with the required uniform. **All school skirts must be worn on the knee.**

Please note that we reserve the right to decide whether a hair style/length is not suitable. The dyeing of hair is not allowed.

Please note that Boarders must travel on Sundays and Fridays, to and from school in uniform. We ask that no boarder returns before 19.00 hrs. on a Sunday. Day pupils come and go in full school uniform each day.

Absences:

It is essential that pupils attend every school day. It is essential that you send in explanatory notes and medical certificates as we have to report reasons for absences to the National Education Welfare Board. The procedure for notifying the College about absences for sickness and medical appointments is as follows: **For Day Pupils** - parents should telephone the School Office 056 7761544 or email info@kilkennycollege.ie on the morning of the first day of the pupil's absence, and pupils should bring in a written note to their class on their return to school.

For **Boarders** - parents are requested to inform their appropriate Head of House when your child is absent – Ms. Crampton (086 4055797), Mr. Cuddihy (087 2618927) or Mr. Farrelly (087 6834025).

Year Heads

The Year Heads are teachers who play a vital role in monitoring pupil academic progress and participation, behaviour and pastoral matters. They link the parent, pupil and College personnel. Please contact them regarding any of the above matters

Form 1 – Ms. S. Arnopp – 087 1953803

Form 2 – Mr. P. Cuddihy – 087 2618927

Form 3 – Ms. B. O'Keefe – 087 1953861

Form 4 – Ms. M. Wilkins – 086 0124505

Form 5 – Mr. K. Clayton – 086 0123899

Form 6 – Ms. C. Ryan – 086 3894889

The Kilkenny College Foundation

The Foundation has set out to raise funds for College Development to enhance our facilities. This is necessary to provide our pupils and staff with the very best teaching, learning and creative environment. Mr. Henry Yates and his team welcome your ideas and support.

The Foundation is continuing to raise funds to support the College Development Plan. The current priorities are:

- **A dedicated building for Music and Arts**
- **Support funding for the re-furbishment of the 'Old' Hockey pitch**
- **Re-furbishment of the Library**
- **New Changing Rooms for female and male students**

If you wish to be associated with contributing to the funding schedule of any of the above projects please contact Mr. Peter Dukelow at the College.



Thank you to all of our pupils, parents and staff for making 2016 a vibrant and successful year at the College. May 2017 be a good year for us all.

Beannachtaí na Nollag oraibh agus ar bhúr gcúram go léir

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year holiday

